OTPR contestants take home big payoff

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo (OTPR) boasted a grand total payoff this year of $25,493.10.

All-around cowboy Fred Whitfield, 1995-96 world champion calf roper, took home $1,195 in OTPR earnings.

The total calf roping payoff was $4,122.50; team roping, $5,674.50; steer wrestling, $3,977; bull riding, $2,842.10; saddle bronc, $2,376.50; bareback, $2,066.10; bull riding day money, $1,660; barrel racing, $2,774.40.

Whitfield was first in calf roping with a time of 7.8 and took home $1,195. Mike Beers from Powell Butte was second with 8.4 and $989. Other winners were Roger Branch, third, with a time of 8.5, $783; Richard Eiguren, fourth, 8.7, $577; Brad Goodrich,fifth, 8.9, $371; Jason Stewart, sixth, 9.2, $206.

Linn Churchill was first in steer wrestling with a time of 3.9 for $1,153. Local Marty Britt took second with 4.1 for $954. Other winners were Mike Jones third with 4.4 for $755; Todd Suhn and Ivan Teigen, a tie for fifth, 4.5, and $457 each; John Hall, 4.6, $198.

The team of Speed Williams and Rich Skelton took first in the team roping event with a time of 5.0 for $1,134 each. Vic Morrison and Shot Branham were second with 6.0 for $851 apiece; Dee Pickett and Brent Lockett were third with 6.2 for $567 each; and Guy Gregg and Wade Jess, fourth, 6.3, $283.

Leslie Cottrell captured first place in barrel racing with local Randy Rae Britt close behind. Cottrell had a time of 17.28 for $527and Britt had a time of 17.34 for $471. Other barrel racers placing were Petyon Raney, third, 17.38, $416; Jamie Richards, 17.39, $360; Kay Blandford, 17.41, $305; Kathy Petska and Caitie Pearson, a tie for sixth and seventh, 17.50, $221; Dawn Gibson, eighth, 17.57, $138; Heather Buchanan, ninth, 17.62, $83; and Jenna Beaver, 10th, 17.56, $27.

Glenn O'Neil earned 80 points to take first place and $935 in saddle bronc riding atop #11 Holly Skoal. Ryan Rodewald was second with 77 and $701. Third was Toby Adams with 76 for $467 and fourth was Gary Alger, 72, $233.

First place in bareback riding, on top of #41 Rawhide was Sheldon Ayres with a score of 82 for $826. Russel Devoogd came in second with 78 for $619; Matt Weishoff, third, 77, $413; and J.P. Sample and John Turney, tied for fourth, 75, $103 each.

Jason Jackson rode K9 Dog Face in the bull riding event for 86 points and $1,136. Jeff Jonas was second with 79 and $852; Gene Palmer, third, 75, $568; Jeffrey Kuykendall, fourth, 74, $284.

Steve Kenyon was announcer for the event. Judges were Wayne Bronson and John Gwatney and timers were Ellen Pederson and Evie King. Clowns and bullfighters were Danny Newman and Tim Vredenburg with barrelman Flint Rassmussen and pickup men Ricky Shannon and Deward Gill.

Big Bend Rodeos was stock contractor.

L-R: Jerry Gentry accepts buckle for Fred Whitfield, Judy Currin Pederson, court.

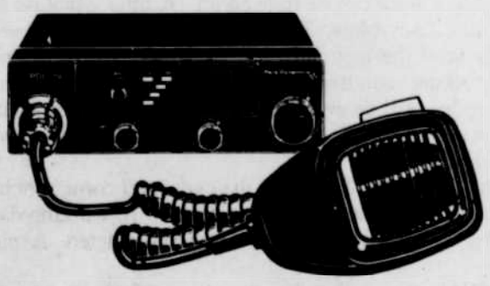
L-R: Ken Eckman, Mary Ann Munkers, representing OTPR Board, Brett Goodrich, accepting saddle for Fred Whitfield, Rich Boyer, saddlemaker, Roe Gardner, court; back, Mandi Gutierrez, Stormy Howard.

Heppner Preschool plans open house

Heppner Preschool has planned an open house at 330 Gale St., Thursday, Aug. 28, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This will be an opportunity to meet the teachers and familiarize parents and children with the preschool before actual classes begin.

Formal registration material will be available.



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Stick Horse Race a hit with audience

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo "Biggest Event of the Year", the stick horse race, packed the new Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo held Sunday, August 17, at the fairgrounds in Heppner.

The bleachers were packed, but they quickly emptied, as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors rushed into the arena to cheer on the 40-plus stick horse racers and watched them sprint to the finish line.

The three and under winners were: Chance Raver, first, Skyler Leasy, second, and Garret Gibbs. Four and five-year-old winners were: Kristen Joy Van Cleave, first, Brooke Davis, second, and Whitley Reese, third. Six and seven-year-old winners were: Katie Kilkenny, first, Emily Rietmann, second, and Ashley Kannard, third.

"Congratulations to all of the great horses that made it to the 'winners' circle'," said organizer Sherree Mahoney. "And to the horses that over-reached or ""sulled"" up at the starting gate, there's going to be another big race next year with more ribbons and trophies."

"If you didn't get to watch this tremendous race, you probably felt it, as I think it measured a 4.9 on the Richter Scale when the parents were jumping up and down and cheering for their favorite horse and rider," added Mahoney.

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen Dawn Boor and Princesses Maci Childers and Kara Miller presented the trophies and ribbons to owners of some of the "most famous stick horses" in the state of Oregon. Ken Bailey had the difficult task of judging the race and Kelly Boyer, Brooke Boyer, Jan McDowell and Donna Rietmann took entries for the Stick Horse Race and helped in the arena. Sponsors for this exciting event are Bob and Sherree Mahoney and Peterson's Jewelers.

Stick horse contestants.

Four and five year olds: L-R-Whitley Reese, Kristen Joy Van Cleave, Brooke Davis

Style Revue winners announced

Kristi Worden of Heppner captured the champion award for the senior division at the 4-H Fashion Revue held during the Morrow County Fair.

Worden also won the senior clothing style revue wool award.

Reserve champion in the senior division of the fashion revue was Dawn Sheirbon, Lexington.

In the intermediate division Jodie Carlson was champion and Macy Rhea, reserve. Rhea also won the intermediate clothing style revue wool award.

Kristi Danielson earned the champion award in the junior fashion revue and Sally, Calvert, Heppner, took reserve.

In the beginner division Julie Gordanier was selected champion and three girls, Kasie Peterson, Sarah McNamee and Hannah Close, tied for reserve.

In the "my favorite outfit" category, Brooke Boyer of Lexington and Jill Holmes tied for champion honors in the senior division. Mandi Gutierrez was reserve champion.

Three girls tied for champion and three for reserve in the intermediate division. Shannon Wetherell, Erin Crowell, Ione and Jodie Carlson, Heppner, tied for champion. Adrienne Swanson, Ione, Julie Proctor, Heppner and Sarah Beatty, ended in a three-way tie for reserve champion.

Kristi Danielson and Stephanie Turner tied for champion in the junior division and Sally Calvert, Heppner, was reserve.

Beginners Kelsie McKinney and Hannah Fry tied for champion. Julie Gordanier earned reserve honors.

Three and under: L-R-Chance Raver, Skyler Easy, Garrett Gibbs

Six and seven year olds: L-R-Ashley Kannard, Emily Rietmann, Katie Kilkenny

Register for school this week

Ione Schools office manager Cathy McCabe encourages students to register and pay fees this week before school starts.

For more information, call the school, 422-7131.

The offices at Heppner Elementary (HES) and Heppner High School (HHS) will also be open this week. Office staff at the two Heppner schools also encourage early registration, especially considering the first week of school will be extremely busy. For more information call HES, 676-9128, or HHS, 676-9138.

School starts in Morrow County on Tuesday, September 2.