

Hold on to those bracelets

Again this year, the fair will hand out bracelets as adult and child passes instead of paper ones. This was done to make it easier for people manning the entry gate.

Everyone who receives a bracelet is asked to hold on tight and keep it on his or her wrist throughout the fair; anyone who loses a bracelet will not receive another one.

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2012 OTPR Champion Barrel Racer buckle to be given in memory of Janice Davis

By Susan Gibbs

Barrel racers will compete this year at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo for a buckle in memory of a determined, courageous, competitive cowgirl, Janice Healy Davis.

Davis' love for barrel racing, rodeo and livestock started at the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo at a very young age. Being the fifth of six girls, Davis learned to work hard and pursue her love of horses. With father Bill Healy on the rodeo board and mother Kite Healy as her 4-H leader, she not only had the horse power under her, but also had the support to achieve her dreams.

After graduating from Heppner High School in 1978, she achieved the All-Around Cowgirl title for Oregon's high schools. She continued her talents in college. Davis attended Blue Mountain Community College and Eastern Oregon State College on rodeo scholarships. Her riding highlights included placing third at the National College Rodeo in barrels. She competed in the World Cup barrel race as a team of three in Calgary with Randy Rae Britt and Jerita Belyea. In 1979 and 1980 Davis was a princess, then the queen, of the Pendleton Round-Up. Her ultimate pageant title was in 1981 as Miss Rodeo Oregon, riding a beautiful and well-trained palomino named "Brandy." She finished her college education with a secretarial science degree.

Davis continued competing and barrel racing until the day of her death on June 11, 2011. She was always fierce competition on the Columbia River Circuit, the National Pro Rodeo Association and the Greater Columbia Barrel Racing Association. Davis loved to compete and share her knowledge, techniques and a warm smile, and her work ethic stood above all others.

The Champion Buckle will be custom made by Ralph Maynard this year. This fine craftsman said he was honored to create the buckle in her memory because he bought the beautiful Brandy



Janice Healy Davis

from the Healy family after Davis' reign. The connection is special and unique. The one-of-a-kind Ralph Maynard buckle will be given by Davis' mother Kathryn Healy Thorne; children, Hailey and husband Jason Minor, Paige, Brooke and Zane; and Grandson Wyatt. Her sisters, Patti Adair, Joan Hays, Susan Hisler, Mary Knowles, Maureen Crossley, and extended families are also proud to present the champion barrel racer of this year's OTPR a buckle that represents Davis' roots.

Davis loved what the Morrow County Fair and rodeo represented for herself and her family. This buckle, in the Heppner Arena, will honor Davis' courage and determination as a cowgirl, mother and friend.

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