

White River Hosts High School Practice Rodeo Local contestants place well

By Joyce Glynn

The White River High School Rodeo Club hosted a practice rodeo on Saturday, May 30, 2020, where 89 contestants and their families came from across the state to compete, bringing a sense of normalcy to the community, and much needed revenue to local businesses. The date for the rodeo was originally scheduled earlier in May, but due to covid-19 pandemic concerns, was moved to the end of the month, resulting in higher entries than expected.

Members of the rodeo club include Miaken Adrian, Quincey Piper, Cody Earll, Tawny Gropper, Rhone Schmidt and Tashina Red Hawk. Club membership isn't limited to those competing, but open to all high school students who want to promote the sport and assist at the practice rodeo. In addition to high school students, 28 adults from the community stepped up to help make it successful event.

The WRHS Rodeo Club is proud to have the State High School Rodeo Association Queen as a local member – Tashina Red Hawk. She will be competing for her second year as queen during the state finals rodeo held later in June. Tashina competes in Barrel Racing, and as queen, carried the American flag during the Grand Entry. Carrying the South Dakota flag in the Grand Entry, was fellow club member Tawny Gropper. Tawny competed in Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Breakaway Roping and Team Roping. She placed 4th in Pole Bending with a time of 22.838 seconds.

Freshman Rhone Schmidt competes in Bull Riding, Team Roping – partnering with Tawny Gropper, Cutting and Reined Cow Horse. Rhone placed 3rd in Boys Cutting.

Local home-schooled student Tracer Olson competed in a number of events, including Steer Wrestling, Tie-Down Calf Roping and Team Roping, where he placed in each entered event: 4th place in Tie-Down Calf Roping, 4th place in Steer Wrestling, and 1st place in Team Roping with partner Wyatt Tibbets, from Hot Springs.

Jones County High School was represented by Wyatt Olson, who competed in Tie-Down Calf Roping and Team Roping. Along with partner Joey Carley from Philip, he placed 3rd in Team Roping.

In addition to the rodeo event competition, the Michael Glynn Memorial Coalition, which sponsors the rodeo each year, offered two \$500 scholarships to seniors for winning essays about what rodeo has meant to them, and how it has help mold them into the person they are today. This year's scholarship winners are Josie Stevens of Pierre, and Finn Hanson of Burke.

Complete results are as follows:

Bareback:

1. Chase Yellow Hawk, Sully Buttes – 64
2. Cooper Filipek, Rapid City – 54

Saddle Bronc:

No Qualified Rides

Bull Riding:

1. Peyton Sterkel, Cody-Kilgore – 55

Pole Bending:

1. Tatum Carey, Wolsey/Wessington – 22.360
2. Josi Stevens, Pierre – 22.388

3. Devin Hunter, Huron – 22.516
4. Tawny Gropper, White River – 22.838

Goat Tying:

1. Layni Stevens, Pierre – 8.93
2. Kate Weborg, Burke – 9.64
3. Josie Stevens, Pierre – 9.65
4. Laine Schonebaum, Burke – 10.00

Barrel Racing:

1. Shantell Brewer, Dupree – 17.555
2. Josie Stevens, Pierre – 17.805
3. Taylor Burgee, Sully Buttes – 17.968
4. Hannah Havlik, Kimball – 18.091

Steer Wrestling:

1. Finn Hanson, Burke – 9.04
2. Wyatt Tibbitts, Hot Springs – 9.67
3. Ty Moser, Sioux Valley – 13.39
4. Tracer Olson, White River – 15.64

Tie-Down Calf Roping:

1. Rafe Wientjes, Sully Buttes – 13.52
2. Ty Moser, Sioux Valley – 15.23
3. Ridge Ward, Bennett County – 16.31
4. Tracer Olson, White River – 19.09

Breakaway Roping:

1. Layni Stevens, Pierre – 2.51
2. Shantell Brewer, Dupree – 2.52
3. Abigail Richie, Webster – 2.68
4. Jenna Fulton, Miller – 2.88

Team Roping:

1. Wyatt Tibbitts, Hot Springs and Tracer Olson, White River – 11.16
2. Bodey Waln, Bennett County and Rafe Wientjes, Sully Buttes – 11.84
3. Wyatt Olson, Jones County and Joey Carley, Philip – 12.89

Girls Cutting:

1. Kylee Crago, Belle Fourche – 72
2. Josie Stevens, Pierre – 70
3. Saydee Heath, Colome – 69
4. Jenna Fulton, Miller – 68

Boys Cutting:

1. Kaden Pazour, Sturgis – 69
2. Jace Ullerich, Parker – 68
3. Rhone Schmidt, White River – 66
4. Dawson Phillips, Winner - 62 ½

Reined Cow Horse:

1. Dawson Phillips, Winner – 139
2. Saydee Heath, Colome – 138 ½
3. Josie Stevens, Pierre – 136
4. Jordyn Buettner, Rapid City – 130 1/2