



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ellensburg Rodeo payout reaches record

Ellensburg, Wash. — This year's Ellensburg Rodeo is bigger than ever with a record payout projected to be more than \$500,000. The annual rodeo is a Labor Day weekend tradition in Ellensburg, and attracts the top contestants and performers in the country.

"The Ellensburg Rodeo has earned its place as one of the top 10 professional rodeos and we stay there by continually improving our events, attracting the best cowboys, livestock and a payout of over \$500,000," said Ellensburg Rodeo Board President Gene Dana.

The excitement starts on Friday, Sept. 4, and runs through the finals on Monday, Sept. 7.

This year's specialty act is the Chariot Outlaws. Announcer Justin McKee and clown JJ Harrison will be back, along with an expanded slate of musical performers at Behind the Chutes, including singer Chance McKinney.

But of course, all of the attention will be on the arena as more than 600 of the nation's top riders, ropers and wrestlers compete.

Highlights:

- The popular Wrangler Xtreme Bulls World Tour, which features more than \$100,000 in prize money, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 5. The top 40 bullriders in the world are vying for the championship, which ends in Ellensburg.
- A new high-stakes event, called the Cinch Shoot-Out, has been added to the schedule this year on Sunday, Sept. 6. Eight contestants compete in highlighted events, with the top four moving to a sudden-death round. Fans will see a champion crowned at the conclusion of the performance. Events include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, team roping (equal money), tie-down roping and barrel racing. The champion of each event will walk away \$10,000 richer. The total purse for the performance is \$80,000. To buy tickets and for more information, go to www.ellensburgrodeo.com.

ABOUT THE ELLENSBURG RODEO:

This year's rodeo runs from September 4 - 7, 2015. More information about its many competitions and events can be found online at www.ellensburgrodeo.com.

The Ellensburg Rodeo is one of the "old rodeos" and has earned its place as one of America's Top 10 professional rodeos. The Ellensburg Rodeo hosts the World Finale of PRCA's Xtreme Bulls Tour. Started in 1923 with the same volunteer spirit that still "fuels the fire" of today's volunteers, the rodeo has grown from a local competition among ranch hands to the Professional event of today with over 600 contestants and prize money in excess of \$400,000!

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