



Ellensburg Rodeo 2017 Royal Court announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ellensburg, Wash. (January 17, 2017) —The Ellensburg Rodeo is pleased to announce the selection of the 2017 Royal Court.

Brittney Skibeness was crowned 2017 Ellensburg Rodeo Queen. Jade Cotterill (*first runner up*) and Megan Ray (*second runner up*) were selected as rodeo Princesses'

Brittney Skibeness is a 2016 graduate of Ellensburg High School and is currently attending Central Washington University with plans to obtain a degree as a radiologic technician. She competed for ten years as a member of the Royal Riders 4-H club. She has is a volunteer at the Spirit Therapeutic Riding Center.

Jade Cotterill is a 2014 graduate of Ellensburg high School and is attending Central Ellensburg University, pursuing a degree in the apparel, textiles and merchandising Program. Jade has competed for many years as a barrel racer and pole bending in Junior Rodeo, the Kittitas County Barrel Racers and high School Rodeo. She volunteers in the community for many organizations.

Megan Ray is currently a senior at Ellensburg, is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, Future Farmers of America, National Honor Society, and Link crew. After graduation, she wants to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. She has shown horses for the past ten years and was past President and Vice President of the Royal riders 4-H club.



*Megan Ray, Brittney Skibeness and Jade Cotteril
(Photo -courtesy of Molly Morrow photography)*

The competition takes place over several months and includes Horsemanship skills, meet and greet skills, and a final presentation the night of the coronation.

Judging is conducted jointly by the following organizations: The Kittitas County Calf Ropers Association, Cattlemen's Association, Ellensburg Kiwanis, Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce, Ellensburg Rodeo hall of Fame, Kittitas County Fair Board, Past Royalty Association, Rotary Club, Ellensburg Top Hands, and the Ellensburg Rodeo Board of Directors.

Jeff Faltus, President of the Ellensburg Rodeo stated, *"The Ellensburg Rodeo is excited to watch these three young ladies market our rodeo with energy, enthusiasm and grace. They have an opportunity to talk directly with people about our community and our Ellensburg Rodeo. We're excited to watch these young ladies reach out to people and invite them to Ellensburg and enjoy one of the best rodeos in the world"*.

Rodeo Director, Brett Wachsmith commented *"This year's 2017 Ellensburg Rodeo Royal Court will serve as the face of our storied rodeo by attending rodeos and many other community events throughout Washington State. The three members of the court have decided to give back to our community by partnering with FISH Food Bank to support funding for their backpack program, which helps local children at elementary schools take food home. I'm excited to be a part of such a talented group of young women who will make a lasting impact in Ellensburg and Kittitas County."*

Together, Queen Brittney, and Princesses' Jade and Megan will be representing the Ellensburg Rodeo and community for 2017 throughout the northwest.

*The nationally recognized Ellensburg rodeo runs this year from Friday September 1st through September 4th .

For more information about the rodeo and events please visit <http://www.ellensburgrodeo.com>

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