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News Release

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To access two downloadable, high quality image files from previous Wildhorse team roping championships, please click on this link, then click on one of the thumbnails.
<http://www.cleanpix.com/cleanpix/PublicViewSuitcase/a62178a8e59f8331e1cb4f057cbf0a55>

Pendleton, Oregon—With the biggest cash purse in the event's four-year history at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, the USTRC Oregon Team Roping Championships, June 9-11, is again inviting the public to watch some of the region's best roping teams vie for the opportunity to move to the national competition. In lieu of the pickup truck grand prizes of the past, the event will have more cash for divisional winners, with a total prize purse of \$300,000, up from 2005's \$250,000.

In addition competitors will win trophy buckles, saddles and blankets.

Wildhorse is expecting nearly 1,000 teams to enter the arena, located next to the resort's casino. As in the past Wildhorse will construct grandstands next to the full-scale arena to allow visitors to enjoy the spectacle, which begins at noon Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday-Sunday. Admission is free.

Winners in each of nine divisions gain qualification points for the USTRC's National Finals of Team Roping in Oklahoma City in October. Like the very successful Professional Bull Riders (PBR) tour, the USTRC travels to sites nationwide, followed by the ropers who hope to capture a berth in the lucrative national finals.

In addition to many local competitors, the event attracts future and past national champions, such as Mike Beers and his son, Brandon, of Powell Butte. Unlike the rough stock riding events in rodeo, team roping allows competitors to continue to enjoy the sport well into their senior years. Competitors at Wildhorse have ranged in age from 12 to 70.

◁Darrel and Joyce Sewell, partners in T&S Cattle Company, Clarkston, Washington, will again produce the Wildhorse Oregon Finals. T&S produces several USTRC championship events, including Idaho's finals and Winnemucca's Northwest Regional Finals, as well as events in New Mexico, Arizona and others. The company also supplies cattle to major rodeos, including the Pendleton Round-Up, Cheyenne Frontier Days, Logandale, Red Bluff, Clovis, Chief Joseph Days, and St Paul, Oregon.

Entry fees are \$80 per person per event. Friday will include the open, 13 and 15 divisions, Saturday the Gold Plus, 10, 11 and 12 divisions and Sunday the 8 Pick-Draw and 9 divisions.

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is the Pacific Northwest's highest paying casino, with a record \$9.3 million slot jackpot. The Resort includes a 24-hour casino, hotel, RV Park, 18-hole golf course and Tribal museum. It is located just minutes off I-84 at Exit 216, four miles east of Pendleton. For more information: 1-800-654-9453 or www.wildhorseresort.com. Wildhorse is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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