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For the St. Paul Rodeo

HEAD OF THE CLASS

St. Paul Rodeo awards annual scholarships

St. Paul, Ore. (May 22, 2024) – Two St. Paul (Ore.) High School seniors have been awarded scholarships from the St. Paul Rodeo Association Foundation.

Gracie Koch and Sierra Stoltenberg are recipients of \$5000 each for higher education.

Koch, the daughter of Todd and Jennifer Koch, is a four-year participant in volleyball, basketball, softball, and track and field. She is a four-year member of FFA, FCA, St. Paul Business Leaders, and Key Club and held offices in FFA, Assisted Student Body, and FCA.

Stoltenberg, the daughter of Mark and Kristi Stoltenberg, played volleyball, basketball and softball for four years and participated in track her senior year. She was part of FFA, Assisted Student Body, St. Paul Business Leaders, Key Club, and Art club, holding offices in Assisted Student Body, Key Club, St. Paul Business Leaders, and Art Club.

Both young women volunteered at the St. Paul Rodeo, like all St. Paul High School student athletes do.

Each sport takes a shift at parking vehicles at the rodeo, and with involvement in four sports, each woman worked four different days. For Stoltenberg, the parking work is her favorite job, because she can get a tan at the same time as she works.

Both women also work in the concession stand, and have since they were middle schoolers. They've done nearly every job there is: serving drinks, hot food, making strawberry shortcake,, taking payments and making change.

Proceeds from the concessions stands go to the St. Paul High School Booster Club.

Koch will attend Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Ore., working towards a nursing degree. She will play collegiate volleyball. After her associates degree, she hopes to attend Eastern Oregon University in La Grande and get a bachelor of nursing. She'd like to be a labor and delivery nurse.

Stoltenberg will attend the University of Hawaii to study environmental design and sustainability.

Both women enjoy watching the St. Paul Rodeo, which is considered the Nation's Greatest Fourth of July Rodeo.

Koch appreciates the skill and talent needed for the rodeo athletes to compete. She likes to watch the bareback riding, which is what her older brother Rawley does, and what her dad used to do.

For Stoltenberg, she likes seeing the reactions of the crowd. "I've seen the rodeo so many times, but every time it's like a new thing."

Both women have 4.0 grade point averages and are among the five St. Paul High School seniors who have the same GPA.

The St. Paul Rodeo Foundation awards two scholarships each year; one to a graduating senior of St. Paul High School and one to a child of a St. Paul Rodeo Association member. Stoltenberg is the graduating senior; Koch's father is a rodeo association member.

The St. Paul Rodeo runs July 2-6, with performances nightly at 7:30 pm and a 1:30 pm matinee on July 4.

Tickets are available online at StPaulRodeo.com. They range in price from \$20 to \$60.

For more information, visit the website or call 800.237.5920.



Gracie Koch is the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from the St. Paul Rodeo Association Foundation. The St. Paul High School student will attend Blue Mountain College in Pendleton, Ore. this fall. Photo courtesy Laney Brentano

Sierra Stoltenberg was awarded a St. Paul Rodeo Association Foundation to further her studies at the University of Hawaii this fall. Photo courtesy Gracie Shafqat.