

# Local

## A mix of religion and rodeo is coming to Baker City



Submitted Photos.

Riding High Ministries will present a unique performance courtesy of the Blue Mountain Baptist Church this Saturday at the BHS football field.

**BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH**  
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Todd Pierce, of Riding High Ministries, will be performing his unique presentation "Born Wild/Created to be Free" in Baker City at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 16th. The event will be held on the west side of the Baker High School football stadium at 2500 E Street. The presentation is free and open to anyone community-wide.

During the presentation, Pierce, a former bronc rider, saddle breaks a wild horse, using this as a demonstration of how we can go from slavery to sin to a life of freedom in Christ.

Blue Mountain Baptist Church is partnering with Riding High Ministries to bring this event to town. Andy Barr, whose small group is spearheading the effort, said the church is involved in all sorts of community outreach, including running bounce houses and handing out water at the Miner's Jubilee and Baker County Fair. They partnered with Riding High Ministries to provide a free event four years ago and are excited to get to bring it back this year.

Barr said this is a fascinating presentation. Pierce explains how, without God, we are like the wild horse, unruly and undisciplined. While talking, Pierce is running around the arena, doing groundwork and interacting with the horse. At the end, Pierce has the horse saddled and gets on and rides it. Joe Painter provides the halter-broken horses.

Barr said Pierce is an ex-cowboy who got smart and took up a "little safer aspect," though there is no guarantee he won't get crunched during the demonstration. Pierce is also a chaplain for the PBR and travels with them.

Brown Family Ministries out of South Carolina will perform music for the event. Barr said the group tours all over and has also worked with the Billy

Graham ministry.

More information on the presentation, Todd Pierce, and Riding High Ministries is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/RidingHighMinistries>, [ridinghighministries.org](http://ridinghighministries.org) and on Facebook.

Barr said that over seven days, Pierce will be doing eight presentations in Eastern Oregon and Idaho.



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