



# BACK IN THE SADDLE

## NPRA rodeo planned in Grant County in September

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

What was looking like a dismal year for Grant County rodeo fans is turning into one of the best.

Although this week's Grant County Fair will not feature a Northwest Professional Rodeo Association event as it has in the past, an NPRA rodeo is being planned at the fairgrounds in September.

And, in place of the rodeo, the fair this year will feature a free freestyle rodeo bullfighting

competition at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 — "60 seconds of the most intense, extreme sport you will ever see," according to organizer Trevor Hamsher.

Trever's father, Jim Hamsher, who chairs the fair's rodeo committee, told the Grant County Court Wednesday the NPRA rodeo is being planned for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 and 10, the same weekend as an NPRA rodeo Saturday and Sunday in Burns. Contestants, he said, would be able to compete in both.

Fair organizers had chosen not to host a rodeo this year because the event cost more than it brought in. Jim Hamsher said the contract to provide the livestock alone cost \$25,000.

After the Grant County rodeo was canceled, however, the stock contractor, Lazy HK Bar, offered to provide the animals at a reduced rate because he hadn't worked enough rodeos for his stock to qualify for nationals. His new bid was \$4,850, "almost too good to pass up," Jim Hamsher said.

He said sponsorships could possibly be obtained to cover the stock cost before the rodeo even began, and even if not, several hundred attendees each night could easily cover the cost.

The county court, which oversees the fair, unanimously voted to allow the fair to move forward with the contract.

Fair Manager Mary Weaver said later that Lazy HK Bar has served the rodeo for the last six years.

"We're going to try to plan to have music, a bar and food," she said, "and we'll have ticket prices out as soon as fair is over."



File photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Riley Clark flies into action, competing in steer wrestling at last year's NPRA Rodeo during the Grant County Fair. The fair this year will feature a bullfighting event, not a rodeo, but an NPRA rodeo is being planned for Sept. 9-10 at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

# NEARLY PERFECT

Fierce competitors take on 4-H archery contest, earning 'fantastic' scores

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

This year, three youth earned almost perfect scores at Saturday's 4-H archery competition.

Out of 400 possible, Logan Miller scored 399, Summer Miller scored 398 and Ty McDaniel scored 397.

"Those are fantastic scores," said Mike Springer, who leads the 4-H archery program with Andy Day. "The judges, leaders and parents should all be very proud of each and every one of the participants."

There are 300 points available with an extra 100 points for no safety violations.

The event, held behind Winner's Choice Bowstrings, had 22 youth in junior (grades 4-6), intermediate (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12) participating. Five others participated on a separate day.

The 4-H groups were from John Day's Airport Flyers club, Prairie City Community Club and Monument's North Fork Community Club.

Most used compound bows and shot in the freestyle division, while others shot in the traditional division with recurve bows.

Competitors in the bear bow division used a compound bow with no sights.

Andy Day and Mike Springer were the range officers. Maxine Day and Shannon Springer kept the score and made sure the right shooter was shooting at the right target. All four judges scored the arrows and watched for any safety issues.

Their targets will be on display Wednesday through Saturday at the fair pavilion, along with 4-H shotgun and rifle targets.

"All the kids shot extremely well," Springer said. "The judges all agreed that there was a huge improvement over last year's scores and in overall performance. We also had another year with no safety violations."

### High scorers

Three archers nearly scored the highest score possible of 400.

**399**  
Logan Miller

**398**  
Summer Miller

**397**  
Ty McDaniel



Photos by The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Mike Springer and Maxine Day check out the targets after the competition, and Logan Miller pulls his arrows from his target.



ABOVE: Summer Miller, left, Dauna Bishop, Ty McDaniel and Logan Miller compete in Saturday's 4-H archery competition.

BELOW: In the lineup, competing, are, from left: Drew Wilburn, 14; Julianna Smucker, 16; Logan Miller, 15; Ty McDaniel, 17; Dauna Bishop, 17; and Summer Miller, 17.



## 5K honors memory of two brothers

### Brothers Run set for Saturday, Aug. 13

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Brothers Run 5K Run/Walk has been going strong since 2011, with friends, neighbors and others running with a couple Grant County brothers in mind.

This year's race is set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, starting and ending at Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

The event will be an opportunity to remember the late Arthur "AJ" Dickens (June 6, 2002-Dec. 10, 2015) and his brother Taner Gilliam (June 24, 1993-July 19, 2010), of Mt. Vernon, while also raising scholarship funds for Grant County students.

To date, the Brothers Run, organized by Megan Workman, Dickens and Gilliam's sister, has raised \$6,500 for 13 scholarships in Gilliam's name, and \$5,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Dicken's name.

Dickens had Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

This year, all proceeds will benefit the Taner Gilliam

Memorial Scholarships and AJ Dickens Memorial Scholarships.

"Let's all get together and raise some money for the 2016-17 Grant County graduates by honoring Taner Gilliam and AJ Dickens," Workman said. "We're really excited to see people participate."

Registration forms are available at Java Jungle, 142 E. Main in John Day, or participants can fill the form out just before the race on Saturday.

The cost is \$37 with a T-shirt; \$32 for all Grant County students with a T-shirt; and children ages 12 and under are free and, if they would like a T-shirt, the cost is \$22. Sweatshirts will cost \$33, and hats are \$15.

The pre-order for T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats has already been sent, and another order will be made after the race.

Anyone wanting to send a donation without participating in the race may mail it to: Megan Workman, P.O. Box 106, Mt. Vernon, OR 97865. Make checks payable to The Brothers Run or Taner Gilliam Memorial Fund.

For more information, contact Workman at 541-620-1822 or 541-448-2535.

## Cow Kids to stir up rodeo fun on Sunday

Free event is 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at fairgrounds

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Rodeo youth will compete for prizes at this Sunday's CowKids Rodeo at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

The action gets underway at 10 a.m. with cowboys and cowgirls through age 16 participating.

Youth can sign up for calf riding, steer riding, wooly bullies, dummy roping and breakaway roping. There's also pole bending, barrels, goat tail undecorating and tying and goat tying.

Age divisions include: peewee for ages 0-5, youth

6-9, junior 10-12 and senior 13-16.

Organizer Simmie Waddel said last year's event drew 86 contestants.

"I think they enjoy getting to be in the rodeo atmosphere," she said. "It is a little different from the (Cinnabar Mountain) Playdays rodeos because it has the rough-stock and the breakaway. It gives them an opportunity to compete and win prizes, and there's always a belt buckle for first place."

Waddel said those who'd like to compete need to fill out forms by Friday, Aug. 12, at the fair office, or call her at 541-620-0596.

To volunteer to be a timer or run the gates, call Waddel. "It's free to come and watch," she said. "The more spectators, the better."

**No Matter**  
**how big or small your trophy was**  
or if you just want to share a hunting adventure,  
**SEND OR DROP OFF YOUR BEST**  
**HUNTING PHOTOS OR STORIES to**

195 N Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 • kristina@bmeagle.com  
Your photos could be published in this year's EAGLE HUNTING JOURNAL  
Please have them to the Eagle by August 8.