



# LeDoux riles up county fair crowds



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

**Ned LeDoux grins out at the crowd during the Grant County Fair on Friday, Aug. 11.**

## Show draws people from all corners of the county

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Ned LeDoux played long into the night at the Grant County Fair to the enjoyment of a rambunctious Friday-night crowd.

Many a beer bottle was raised in cheers during LeDoux's regular breaks between his songs when he espoused the virtues of rural America and the hardworking people who live there.

LeDoux played a handful of

his own songs as well as covers of his father Chris LeDoux's tracks. After breaking a guitar string, LeDoux took a brief break and let the rest of the band, Western Underground, take charge. The group included musicians who played and toured with LeDoux's father.

LeDoux was born into a musical family and recently released his first album, "Forever a Cowboy." He said he is working

See LEDOUX, Page B12



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

**Ned LeDoux reaches out to touch the crowd during the Grant County Fair on Friday, Aug. 11.**



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

**Justin Josey avoids a bull during a bullfight at the Grant County Fair on Saturday, Aug. 12.**

## Bullfighters risk life and limb for entertainment

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The grandstands were absolutely packed for this year's freestyle bullfight at the Grant County Fair on Saturday night.

Mud, hats and cowboys flew as bullfighters tried to stylishly avoid being gored by the massive animals.

Their attempts at evasion met with various degrees of success, but ultimately Justin Josey won the \$1,500 grand prize. This is Josey's second year in a row winning the event.

Despite the danger of the sport, there were no serious injuries at this year's fight.

James Hankinson, in his fourth year bullfighting, said there's nothing like it.

"I can't even explain it. It's the most natural addicting drug that you could ever do," he said. "When you're right there on their head and you have them right there in your back pocket and you're stepping around them, it's a really intimate feeling. You're on top of the world."



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

**Coy Kraut, 15, places his hand on a bull's head during a bullfight at the Grant County Fair on Saturday, Aug. 12.**

He's been injured in the arena but nothing severe, only torn ligaments, he said. He's passionate about the sport and loves it despite the danger.

"It's the love that keeps you going

forward," Hankinson said.

Besides bullfighting, he also does cowboy protection for bull riders.

See BULL, Page B12

## Cowpokes and superheroes join in Kids Day Parade

Kids enjoy sweet treat for participation

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Cowpokes, superheroes and kids dressed in their red, white and blue finest made their way down John Day's Main Street on Friday for the Grant County Fair Kids Day Parade.

A total of 20 children participated, along with parents and grandparents, in the event. All the kids received free Dairy Queen treats.

Several earned blue ribbons, including Brook and Brett Burrell and Coyle and Beau Van Cleave in Group One and Kara, Riley and Wyatt Hansen and Azadae and Mordecai Soupir in Group Two.

Sky Jisha and her dog Tia won first place in the Costumed Individuals division.

For decorated vehicles, Silas, Allison and Ike Fansler won first place, and Alexa and Kyra Averett won first as a business group float.

In the mounted division, Li'l Miss PRCA Rowdy Israel had a first-place finish.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Sky Jisha and her dog Tia walk in Friday's Kids Day Parade.**



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**A colorful crew of kids ride in Friday's parade through downtown John Day. See pages B2 and B3 for more parade and fair photos.**

## 4-H'ers impress at Grant County Fair Parade

Waddel wins judges' choice

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The 4-H youth were among the highlights at Saturday's Grant County Fair Parade in John Day.

From a large crowd of youth walking together alongside a float to a youngster leading his calf with his parents, the 4-H'ers and their leaders took the spotlight.

The parade theme "Red, White and Blue — This Fair's For You!" was evident throughout with colorful entries.

Parade coordinator Brenda Mosier said at times tears came to her eyes as the youngsters moved from the Grant Union Junior-Senior



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

**A dog on the Pioneer Feed float smiles at the crowd.**

High School parking lot, the starting point, to the street that morning.

"Fair, to me, is all about the 4-H kids," Mosier said.



**Grant County Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar and staff member Fusty Williams keep the kids running for candy at Saturday's fair parade.**

"Having every one of them riding and walking each year brings a sense of pride."

She was especially impressed with young Tate

Waddel, who led his calf Moo Moo down the parade route with the help of his parents, Simmie and Wade.

The sight "made all our



**Grant County Fair Grand Marshal Jean Kline waves to spectators as she rides with grandchildren and great-grandchildren in her late husband Dave's '66 Chevy, named "Ole Red."**

hearts melt," she said, adding the young man received the Judges' Choice Award.

There were 37 entries in all, and Mosier expressed her

appreciation for all who entered, as well as the team of volunteers who assisted her.

See PARADE, Page B12