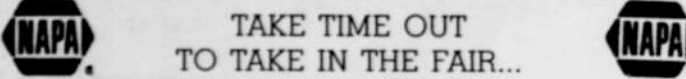


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# LET'S RODEO!



Dodge Bull Dog Face K-9

"Let's Rodeo" is the theme for the week-end at the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo at the fairgrounds in Heppner August 15-17.

With the new rodeo bleachers in place and enthusiasm running rampant among committee members, rodeo is on everyone's mind.

The PRCA rodeo draws top contestants from all over the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as our own local professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls: Tony, Kelly and Steve Currin; Jerry and Terry Gentry; Butch and Mary Knowles; Mike Mahoney; Brett McDowell; Sue Gibbs; Sid and

Randy Britt; Annie Hisler; and Marianne, Tiffany and Angela Munkers. You will be impressed with our own local talents, so grab your hats and cheer for your favorite cowboy or cowgirl.

Sure hope you bought your box tickets as these are the best seats in the house. Don't forget that our local "mutton busters" will be bucking one half hour before each performance of the PRCA rodeo. It's great watching, so come a little early and enjoy the kids.

The "Cowboy Auction" is at 8:30 on Saturday night at the Heppner Elks Club. The teams competing in the team roping event at the Morrow County Rodeo on Sunday will be sold to the highest bidder. If you ever wanted to own a team of cowboys, here's your chance--it's a lot of fun. If you have never

participated in a cowboy auction before, it's easy, we'll show you how, so come and join us at the Heppner Elks Club at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, August 16. All of the proceeds go to the bleacher project. We've got them up and now we have to pay for them--Donations and memorials are always welcome, so please help if you can.

Sunday is the Morrow County Rodeo and you'll see as good a competition as you can see anywhere. Morrow County kids can rope and ride with the best of them.

One of the highlights of the Morrow County Rodeo is the Stick Horse Race. The age groups for this event are three and under, four and five year olds and six and seven year olds. Every child is eligible to enter this event, so bring your friends, neighbors, cousins, grandkids, stick horses, stick bulls, broom handles and just plain old sticks and let's beat last year's arena record of 42 stick horse racers.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three winners in each age group. Stick horse racers can enter the day of the rodeo or pre-entertain any time by calling Sherree Mahoney at 676-5876.

To enter the Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo, call Marlene Currin at 676-9711 on Sunday and Monday, August 10 and 11 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Don't miss any of the exciting activities planned for rodeo weekend, August 15, 16 and 17.



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## Grand Marshal Miller presides over Fair & Rodeo



Tad Miller

The 1997 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Grand Marshal, E.H. "Tad" Miller, is a retired wheat farmer whose roots are firmly planted in Morrow County. Tad and his wife, Melba Crawford, were married in 1948 and they continue to live in their country home "doing what we like to do," says Tad.

Tad now dons his golf cap more often than he does his Stetson. But he has been a staunch fair and rodeo supporter through the years. Besides roping at local rodeos and Wrangler Club events, he served on the bodeo board for five years starting in 1964. In addition to serving as chairman, he also was a court director and arena director.

"We had a very cohesive board," says Tad. During his board years, the south grandstand was built and the old pole fence around the outside of the large arena was replaced. Tad laughingly remembers at that time the metal fencing was far from popular with those who preferred to watch rodeo events while perched on the old top rail.

It's taken tremendous efforts to continue with the local rodeo through the years, says Tad. Without the support of the community, this tradition could have been lost. Tad says he applauds the efforts of the present rodeo committee in the upgrading of the facilities to attract professional cowboys and provide outstanding

performances for spectators. Therefore, the Millers, along with other wheat growers, sponsor the added purse for the team roping event.

As a youngster, Tad attended Lexington and Heppner schools. He graduated from Beaverton High School after a two-year interruption when he enlisted in the Navy during World War II and served aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier "Takanis Bay." Tad also attended Oregon State University and Vanport College in Portland.

"Over the years I have tried to be of some service to the wheat industry and to the community," says Tad. That involvement at the local, state and federal level was perhaps due to a statement by his father, Harvey Miller. He told Tad that if he didn't like what was taking place, then perhaps he should

## New and hot!

Looking for something new and hot--really hot?

The Morrow County Fair will hold a jalapeno pepper-eating contest Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

Corinne Miles of Heppner has been growing the peppers this summer and has donated them for the contest.

Participants must be 18 or older to enter. First place will be a jalapeno basket of goodies and second place will receive a hot pepper wind stock.

For more information and to pre-register, call 541-676-9082.

## Morrow Co. Fair lists admission

Fair admission this year will be \$2 daily Wednesday through Saturday for adults; \$1 for children six-12; and children under six will be admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

A season pass is available for \$6.

Fair admission does not include the admission to the rodeo.

become involved and try to do something about it.

Consequently, Tad served 15 years on the Morrow County Grain Growers board. He became vice president and the 1977 president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. Meetings necessitated traveling to Washington, D.C., Hawaii and many other states. Tad also served five years on the board of the U.S. Wheat Associates. As a team member of the Foreign Marketing Development Association, three weeks were spent touring Central and South America. In addition, he served four years on the State Board of Agriculture, a policy making group. Another four years were dedicated to a seat on the board of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Tad's farming and rodeo interests have been passed down to the four Miller children. The eldest son, Mark, came back to the farm after graduating from the University of Idaho. Mark and his wife, Shannon Farley and their two children, Corey and Marcy, reside nearby. Since 1989, the Mark Millers have taken over the farm operation.

Another son, Steve, is an Oregon State University graduate. He recently hung up his spurs after spending time on the rodeo circuit. His rodeo mounts are relaxing at the farm with Dad as the caretaker while Steve is

employed with the U.S. Bank in Portland.

Daughter Michelle Burns, a BMCC graduate, was a princess and then 1971 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen. Michelle and her husband, Don, reside in Pendleton, where she has held the position of a legal secretary for nearly 25 years.

As old hands at transporting horses and court girls, the Millers took to the road again when daughter Nancy became active in horse events. Like her sister, Nancy was

queen of the fair and rodeo in 1981 and she was a court member for the 1984 Pendleton Round-Up. Nancy and her husband, Mike Weinke, are ranchers in the Pilot Rock area. They have a two year old son, Austin, and are expecting a 1997 addition. Nancy also teaches at the Pilot Rock grade school.

Farm, family and fellowship round out the lifestyle of Grand Marshal Tad Miller. With this year's theme, "Boots, Jeans, and Cowboy Dreams," Tad will be dressed in style as he heads up this year's parade.

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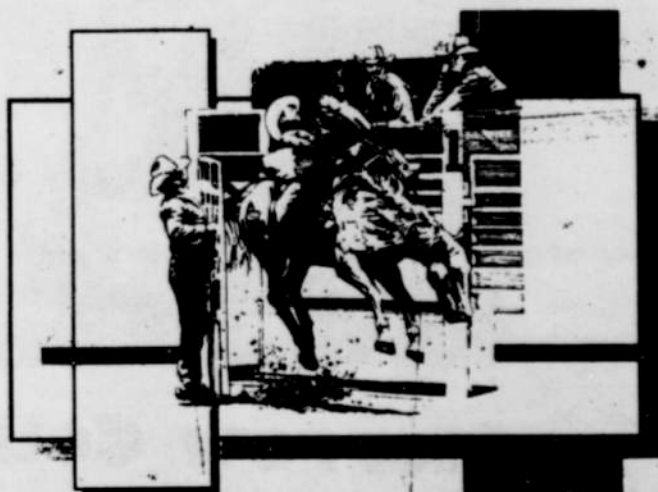
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