

Activities planned for fair

Safety Day

Everyone is invited to come on out to the fair on Friday, August 15, for Safety Day.

One of the activities planned for Safety Day will be learning about drug awareness and meeting the Morrow County Sheriff's K-9 cop.

The Heppner Fire Department plans to have a "smoke house" so kids can learn first hand what it's like to be in a smokey house and learn the procedure for escaping.

The NRA has sent free literature on gun safety for the kids. Smokey the Bear will be there to help kids learn about our national forest and how to be safe in the woods. Wally Wisecracker will be on hand to teach us what to do in case of an emergency.

"We hope you will come to the fair and learn about safety issues," said a fair spokesperson.

Youth Parade

Bring your kids in at 11:30 a.m. Thursday to participate in the Youth Parade. The theme this year is "Boots, Jeans and Cowboy Dreams." All participants 18 and younger will receive a silver dollar for entering.

Twice Around Revue

The Twice Around Style Review, set for Friday, August 15, is being held with the cooperation of the United Church of Christ Thrift Store in Condon and the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center.

Come and enjoy the fun and see the many outfits you can find.

Fair Committee busy getting fair ready

The Morrow County Fair Committee has been busy the past months getting ready for the 1997 Morrow County Fair.

The Fair Committee was in the St. Patrick's Day parade in March handing out information on their new project this year, The All-Alaskan Racing Pigs.

The new project has been interesting and a challenge for the committee members.

The committee gave out pig programs and schedules at five parades hoping to get people to come to the fair and rodeo to watch the entertainment. Joe Yocom furnished his time and team for the committee at some parades.

The committee also had a new fair sign made which was put up by Larry Kennedy.

Committee members decided to see how artistic they were by making banners to hang on the hall and making schedules for display.

The committee said they enjoyed listening and reading

Seed Spitting Contest

The fair will have another favorite back from last year. The Watermelon Seed Spitting contest is planned this year for Saturday at 4 p.m. Come see who can spit the farthest.

There will be three age groups and prizes for the winners.

Street Dance & Karaoke

Friday and Saturday nights there will be Karaoke at 9:30 at the fairgrounds. Come kick up your heels and sing along.

Pedal Power

Kids may want to start building up their leg muscles for the Pedal Power Tractor Driving Contest, sponsored by Pioneer Implement of Hermiston on Wed., Aug. 13, at 5 p.m.

Pioneer Implement donates their time and furnishes all the prizes for this popular contest.

Oregon's Best prizes arrive

The prizes for the contest winners of the Oregon's Best recipes have arrived. Mugs, t-shirts, hats and coupons are some of the items that participants will win.

Oregon's Best recipes and requirements are found on pages 50-59 of the Morrow County Fair Premium Book. Recipes include appetizers, breads, cookies, cakes and pickles and there will even be a watermelon seed spitting competition sponsored by the Hermiston Watermelon growers on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 4 p.m.

different literature on performing acts and inviting them to come to the fair.

The committee would like to hear comments on the fair this year and ideas for next year's fair.

Everyone is invited to look at the entertainment schedule for more information on local talent performing this year.

New open class category for fair

A new classification will be found in several open class departments this year. The professional category has been formulated this year to enable professionals to display their items for the public to see and enjoy. These exhibits will not be judged.

A "professional" is defined in the premium book as "one who frequently accepts money for the teaching or selling of an item".

Master Gardener clinic slated for fair

The Blue Mountain Master Gardeners are conducting their annual Morrow County Fair Plant Clinic at the Morrow County Fair.

If you have any questions about gardening, a garden problem, weed or pest bring it to the fair on Thursday, August 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The booth will be set up in the picnic area. For more information, call the Morrow County Extension office, (541) 676-9642.

Fair phone numbers

The telephone number for the fair office is 676-9474. The 4-H office at the fairgrounds during fair week is 676-9451.

Plenty to eat at the county fair

Jan Coe and Pam Piper are once again organizing a busy crew this year to help feed the hungry Monday through Saturday at the 4-H Snack Shack during the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo August.

On their menu this year are the usual hamburgers, chicken strips, nachos and fries but this year they are also adding a variety of sub sandwiches to their menu.

They are also open for breakfast Thursday through Saturday.

Shalimar will back this year with his popular chicken fajitas, chicken or beef kabobs, Hawaiian chicken and fried rice.

New to the fair this year but not to Heppner is Bernard Lind. Bernard has been selling elephant

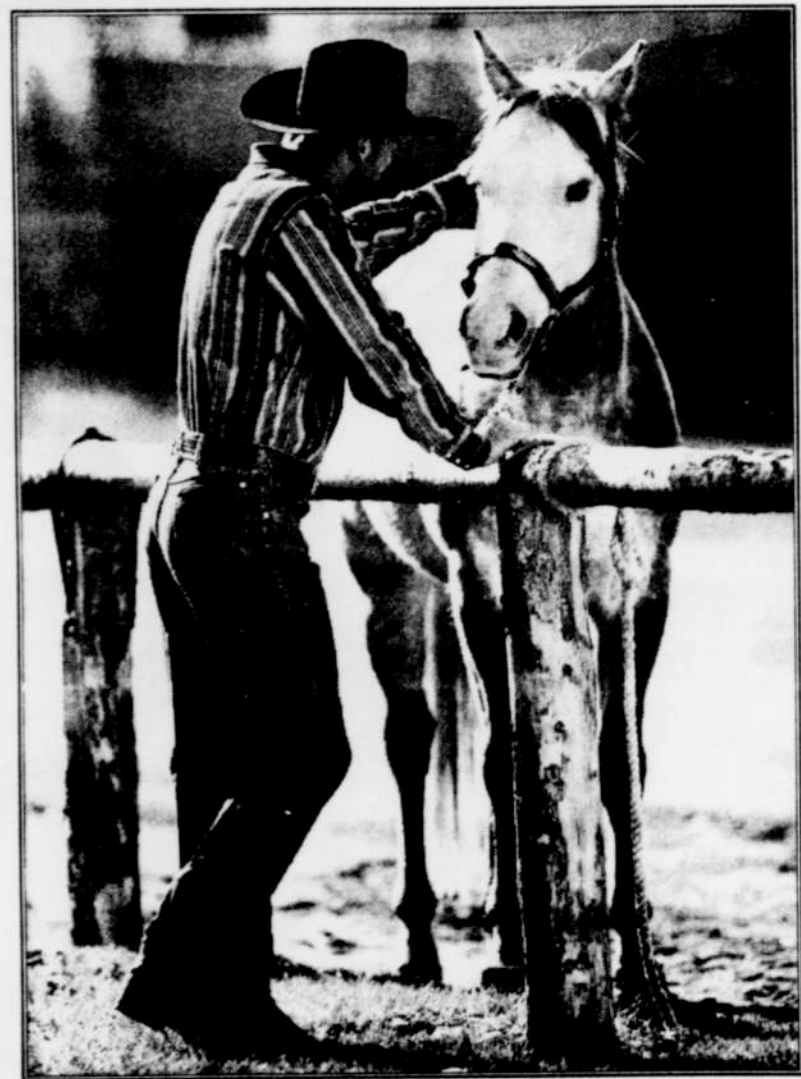
ears, caramel apples, frozen chocolate covered bananas, cotton candy and popcorn during St Patrick's weekend for several years and this year he is also going to be joining us at the fair.

CR's Hawaiian Ice Co. will have available fresh juice, apple cider, tropical tea, Hawaiian Coffee, shaved ice and Italian sodas for a nice cool, refreshing treat.

The Heppner Nazarene Church will be selling German sausages and sauerkraut.

Of course in the middle kitchen fairgoers will be able to purchase delicious homemade pie from the senior citizens and stuffed baked potatoes from Soroptimist International of Heppner.

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Boots, Jeans & Cowboy Dreams fabric of local life



Eva Padberg Griffith

By Merlyn Robinson

The 1997 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo theme "Boots, Jeans and Cowboy Dreams" depicts the fabric of Morrow County pioneering lifestyles. This fitting caption for what in recent years is known as the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, highlights the 75th year since the conception of organized rodeo held in Heppner. And the progression of this event has been witnessed by long-time residents.

In 1923, Eva Padberg Griffith was chosen as queen for the second year of this scheduled event. Her queenly outfit was a brown leather divided riding skirt and fringed vest provided by the rodeo committee, which was then passed onto the next year's queen. Jane Allstott was her attendant and they rode side-by-side horseback in the Heppner Main Street parade. They also attended the Pendleton Round-Up accompa-

nied by L.V. Gentry and C.W. McNamer, chief organizers of those earlier rodeos.

Eva says she was much too young at 14 years of age to appreciate her queenly role. However, she vividly recalls her disappointment when her mother, fearing an accident, forbid her to ride her horse in the pony races that year. Yet she was permitted to ride a high-spirited horse of her father's for her parade appearance.

Eva didn't grow up in a rodeoing family. But everyday ranch life in those days was always a challenge. "I was a tomboy," says Eva, who preferred handling animals and working outdoors. So it wasn't unusual to see Eva bringing home the milk cows while astride a mule bareback without so much as a halter.

And riding was also means of attending the country school-

Fair board members

This year's Morrow County Fair Board members are Alan Holmes, Kelwayne Haguewood, Shirley Adams, Gary Oberg, Sam Bellamy, Marlene Gray and Joe Yocom.

LaRae Kindle is fair secretary and Tom Hurtt is caretaker.

The fair committee consists of Chairman Ellen Kennedy, Denise Betsinger, C.J. Johnson, Patty McNary, Cindy Putnam, Stacey Wainwright and Renee Yocom.

County commissioners are Judge Louis Carlson, Raymond French and John Wenholtz.

house in Social Ridge some distance from the Padberg home in Clarks Canyon. Daily trips were made through all kinds of weather. But once when she was riding a mule to school that mule refused to cross a ditch filled with water from a thunderstorm. Eva bit the mule's ear, but failed to get his cooperation.

Following her high school years at Lexington, she attended college at Monmouth. She returned to Morrow County to teach grade school at a country school near Ione. Her salary was \$100 per month, of which she paid \$20 per month for room and board

with the Kincaid family.

In 1928 she married J.J. Griffith. Two daughters, Faye and Beverly, were infants when the family moved to a ranch in Kahler Basin. Four more children, Don, Rene, Shirley and Mac, were born to this union.

Participation in the Spray rodeos was a part of their country life. Eva's son, Don, remains active in rodeo affairs as the vice president of the Spray Rodeo Association. Her son Mac won the all-around title at the Pendleton Round-Up in 1962 and 1963. He was also the 1964 Ellensburg bronc riding champion shortly

before his untimely death.

Rodeo season brings back many memories, says Eva, who was selected as Grand Marshal in 1975. She recalls when bucking horses were snubbed and mounted in the open arena and the excitement of horse races before cheering crowds.

This modest lady, who is now enjoying a more luxurious retirement lifestyle in her home in Heppner, exemplifies the hard-working people of her generation. It's the western heritage of those early-day pioneers that helps keep the spirit of rodeo alive in the West.

Judge Carlson to start pig race



Louis Carlson

The Morrow Fair Committee has announced that Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson will be on hand Thursday, August 14, at 12:15 p.m. to start the first race of the All Alaskan Racing Pigs.

The committee brings this new attraction to the fair this year. Four races daily will be held August 14, 15 and 16.

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Heppner, Oregon

August 15th and 16th

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Friday, August 15th - 7:00 p.m.
Sat., August 16th - 1:15 p.m.

Morrow County Rodeo
Sun., August 17th - 1:15 p.m.

All Seats \$8
Children 7-12 \$5

Tickets Available at:

Gardner's Men's Wear Heppner, Oregon	RoeMark's Hermiston, Oregon
Green Feed Heppner, Oregon	Red's Clothing Co. Pendleton, Oregon
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Morrow County Fair
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