

HEPPNER



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## Queen Tammy Booth a real animal lover

### Queen Tammy Booth

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Brown

Age: 16 years old

Home-schooled

Parents:

Sherrie Smiley of Boardman and Woody Earl of Vancouver, Washington (Grandmother is Carolyn Lilly of Boardman)

Interests:

Animals, cow penning, riding, equestrian drill team

Not many people can say they were riding horses before they were born, but this was the case for Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Tammy Booth. Queen Tammy's mother, Sherrie Smiley, says that she was still riding when she was eight months pregnant with Tammy and exercised colts to buy baby clothes. "She (Tammy) got bucked off several times before she was even born," laughs Sherrie.

And it wasn't long afterward that Tammy began riding herself. "We didn't have a car when Tammy was little," said Sherrie, "so we rode horseback. We had a sled that we pulled behind the horse and in summertime we used a plastic toboggan. That's what we used to go to the grocery store."

Sixteen-year-old Tammy and her mom still share a close bond and enjoy many activities together. Sherrie has been in an equestrian drill team for around 10 years and Tammy has also become an integral part of it. After fair and rodeo are over, they plan to become active again. According to her mom, Tammy has ridden just about every position in the drill team and will be a "big help" in teaching newcomers to the team. The mother-daughter duo form a trio with Tammy's grandmother, Carolyn Lilly, a full-blooded Indian with Cherokee and Choctaw blood, who also rides in the drill team.

Besides drill team, the three generations compete in "sorting to cow pen". One year Mom and Grandma won the ladies open in cow penning at the Clark County Fair, while Tammy won reserve champion, high point and stock type in Western



Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Tammy Booth with her official mount Skip's Passing Fancy.

Pleasure, English Pleasure, Western Equitation, English Equitation, Showmanship and Trail in Vancouver. Tammy, only eight years old at the time, won the events against adults.

The three also enjoy hunting bear, elk and deer, although Tammy adamantly refuses to kill anything.

Sherrie is also Tammy's teacher since she is home schooled. Tammy has completed the equivalent of ninth grade and plans to complete 10th and 11th this year. Tammy is enthusiastic about her home-school experience. "I like it better because we get through everything quicker," said Tammy. "It takes about four hours a day and then you're done," said Mom. "You don't have to take time for recess."

"You get more interesting field trips and they also don't teach you how to hang IVs," laughed Tammy, who had a recent scary, but educational, experience with her horse, Skip's Passing Fancy (Fancy), a 10-year-old black Quarter Horse mare.

"She went down," said a spunky Tammy. "They still don't know what caused it. She had blood gushing out of her nose and I called the vet. The vet put an IV up and I got to sit with her

for two days. They think maybe she was poisoned. I almost lost her. She's doing fine now and she's carrying a baby."

Tammy and her mom got the mare a year ago in May, and she has been primarily a brood mare.

"I'm training her to run barrels and rope off her," said Tammy. "Now that we've taught her to ride," added Mom.

Fancy has been in all the parades and grand entries. "Our first parade was a little interesting," said Tammy.

"She's a card," said Sherrie. "She talks with her nose and when she gets excited, she really gets going. She's a real clown."

"One time she fell with me and I hurt my knee and my ankle and she actually stood there and let me crawl back on her and ride her home," said Tammy.

Tammy's other horse, Yo Yo, is a 21-year-old pinto. Mother and daughter can't help tearing-up when talking about YoYo because the versatile horse is now crippled. With the help of Oregon Trail Veterinary Clinic YoYo has a baby they call their "miracle baby", Heavenly Sent.

Luckily, Tammy's boyfriend is a horseshoer.

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## Record number of top PRCA cowboys to compete at rodeo



Billy Etbauer

By Sue Gibbs

A record number of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world leaders and past world champions will vie for the championship titles at the 79th annual Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo this weekend. The top ranked contestants will be facing tough competition from an outstanding representation of local talent.

The PRCA rodeo kicks off in Heppner with timed event slack beginning at 12 noon on Friday, Aug. 17. The Friday night show begins with mutton bustin' at 6:30 p.m., with the professional performance at 7:30 p.m. Women's Professional Rodeo Association barrel racing slack will follow the Friday night performance.

A second show will be on Saturday, Aug. 18, beginning with mutton bustin' at 12:45 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the gate. Adult prices are \$8 each and the cost for children seven-12 is \$5. Children six and under are admitted free.

Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19, will bring the Morrow County Rodeo with local residents or graduates competing for money and awards. This action gets underway with slack at 10 a.m. followed by the main event at 1:15 p.m.

Headlining the list of entries for the PRCA rodeo are four of the top 10 contestants and the current all around cowboy vying for the number-one back number at the Nations Finals Rodeo; representing the most money won in any event. Those contestants include Blair Burke, Durant, OK, with \$100,432 won this year and currently standing first in the world in calf roping. B.J. Campbell of Benton City, WA, has won \$84,122 and is sitting first in the world in the team roping event. Brad Goodrich, Hermiston, has a total year's earnings of \$71,311 and

## Lightning fires

A lightning storm moved through Umatilla County late Sunday and early Monday starting a number of forest fires. The largest, the Bridge Creek Fire, is burning in the Bridge Creek State Wildlife Management Area, seven miles south of Ukiah. It was 3,000 acres at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14.

An Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management team was brought in Tuesday morning to fight the fire. Fire fighting resources are in short supply with wildfires burning in several western states. For Tuesday, four dozers, and two large helicopters will be battling the blaze.

The fire is burning almost exclusively in grass and timber on the wildlife management area. It has burned through on small amount timber in Bridge Creek on the Umatilla National Forest.

The wildlife area is an important winter elk range and Oregon Fish and Wildlife managers are concerned about the fire destroying important thermal cover.

No structures have been burned, and none were threatened as of Tuesday morning.

is ranked ninth, following last weekend's win at the Farm City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston.

Competing with these world leaders is Joe Beaver, Huntsville, TX, the three-time all around world champion, and five-time world champion calf roper with current earnings of \$61,228.

Big Bend Rodeo Company of Ritzville, WA, will provide "top ranked" NFR stock to challenge an "outstanding" list of current world saddle bronc leaders: Glen O'Neill, Water Valley, Alberta, currently ranked second in the world and Dan Mortensen, Billings, MT, a past all around champion and five-time world champion, is close behind in third. Challenging for the OTRP title will be the current world fourth-place saddle bronc rider Rod Hay who is the Canadian all around and saddle bronc champion. They will be facing tough competition from three time, and current world champion Billy Etbauer, Edmond, OK; and will be challenged by Shawn Eng, formally of Heppner.

Rough stock contestants face tough challenges. Fifteen of stock contractor Donny Hutsell's animals were chosen to compete in the 2000 National Finals Rodeo. Big Bend Rodeo Company was honored at the NFR with Skoal's Spring Fling's second title as saddle bronc of the year. Hutsell was also awarded bucking bull of the year with Skoal's Border Patrol.

Expect to see the saddle bronc of the year and many other NFR bucking stock at this year's OTRP. Top 10 bareback riders challenging this stock will be Bobby Mote, Redmond, currently ranked fourth, and Joe Ketter, Roy, WA. Local talent Brian Knowles will be competing for high scores on this quality stock.

Steer wrestlers will be facing tough competition with five of the current top 10 world leaders. Heading the list is number-one ranked, Birch Negaard, Buffalo, S.D., Chad Biesemeyer, Stephenville, TX, Lee Graves, Calgary, Alberta, and Rodly Lyman, Victor, MT. Past world champion Brad Gleason, Touchet, WA, will also be competing for the title. Justin Matteson and Blake Knowles, both of Heppner, Emmett Evans, formally of Heppner, and Trevor McCain, Condon, will be applying their combination of strength, timing, technique and horse power for the fastest time this weekend.

Blair Burke, currently ranked number one in calf roping with \$91,574, Brad Goodrich, Joe Beaver, Matt Shiozawa, Pocatello, ID, Ty Hays, Weatherford, OK, and Trent Walls are world leaders vying for the coveted Mike Currin Memorial Buckle. They face tough competition from current calf roping champion Jerry Gentry, Heppner, Steve Currin, Columbia River Circuit all around leader, Heppner, Tony Currin, Dayton, WA, Jeff Coelho, Long Creek, current Columbia River Circuit leader and 2000 NFR contestant. The athletic skills of quickness and strength will be the key in the arena this weekend for the title.

Sunday's Morrow County



Mike Beers



Tom Sorey



Joe Beaver



Dan Mortensen

Amateur Calf Roping Saddle donated by Kinzua Resources LLC, will also be given to the amateur roper with the fastest time.

Twenty-seven bull riders will compete for the title. Vince Stanton, Weiser, ID, currently leading the Columbia River Circuit and ranked fourth in the world standings, Shawn Waite, Kuna, ID, J.C. Bean, Goldendale, WA, top Columbia River Circuit cowboys will be competing. The stock will challenge these contestants to their limits. You can expect to see past NFR bull of the year, Rapid Fire, and NFR bulls, Unforgiven and Two Spot.

A loaded team roping field includes the number-one ranked team of Richard Eiguren, Jordan Valley, and B.J. Campbell, Benton City, WA, Frank Graves, Poplarville, MS, and Monty Joe Petska, Turlock, CA, ranked third. Bobby Hurley, Ceres, CA, and Mike Beers, Powell Butte, Kyle Lockett, Ivanhoe, CA, and Chance Kelton, Mayer, AZ., Britt Bockius, Claremore, OK, and Charles Pogue, Claremore, OK. Local contestants includes Justin Matteson, Heppner, Tom Camarillo, Ione, Jim Ward, Heppner, Joe Talbott, Pilot Rock, Trevor McCain, Condon, and Willy Hart, Yakima, WA. Perfect timing between horse and rider is the key for this event.

Many top contenders enter multiple events to vie for the coveted all around saddle donated by Gardner's Men's Wear of Heppner and made by Rich Boyer Saddlery, Hermiston.

The barrel racing field will have 50 talented horses and riders competing for the fastest time in the OTRP arena. Expect to see four of the top 20 contestants in the world plus our local favorite barrel racers. Randa Kinchen from Arcadia, FL, Rayna Prewitt, Sidney, MT, Jennifer Wilson, Terry, MS, and Tara Polich, Canby are expected to run and improve their world standings. The competition is tough with our local favorites. Maureen Crossley of Hermiston has been on a winning streak with this year's Farm City Pro Rodeo barrel racing title. This year's title could go to any woman with the fastest time. Look for other local talents such as Candice Eng, Kelly Greg and Judy Pederson-Currin of Hermiston. Kelli Currin, formerly of Heppner, Randy Rae Britt of Echo, Shirley Martin of Lexington and young Jonie Nash of Pilot Rock are expected to run for the title and added money sponsored by Blue Eagle Travel and best dressed awards donated by Anipro distributors, Kyle Robinson.

The success of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is made possible by the corporate sponsors: The Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner; Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington; Klamath First, Heppner; Graybeck Distributing, Pendleton; Central Market, Heppner; Tillamook Cheese, Boardman, Electro, Inc, Vancouver, WA; Thunder Country FM 94.9; Morrow County Wheat Growers; Tad and Melba Miller, Mark and Shannon Miller, Lyle and Virginia Peck, John and Diane Kilkenny and Starvation Farms, and Les Schwab Tire Center, Heppner, who also sponsor the bounty bull money to the rider who can ride the animal.

The Rodeo Committee is looking forward to sell-out stands for the top name entertainment and competition this year. About one hour south of Hermiston, the drive promises quality entertainment and excitement. Handicapped parking is available and day activities will start at the fair for the family on Aug. 15. Don't miss the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, Aug. 17-18 and the Morrow County Rodeo, Aug. 19.

**MCGG will be closed Saturday, Aug. 18**

**WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE MORROW COUNTY FAIR & RODEO!**

**MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS**

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