

Queen Josie Miller follows a family heritage of 'Showin' and Ropin'

2007 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Josie Miller not only grew up with a love of animals and the rodeo, but she also follows a family heritage. Her mother, Sheila (Sieler) Miller was a member of the court some 20 years ago.

"I always enjoyed junior rodeo and 4-H horse projects," says Queen Josie. "And we have so many pets-everything under the sun. We have a small hobby farm and raise cattle, sheep and goats. We are also raising bottle calves this year." Josie also has a border collie puppy, Grizzly Adams, who is almost a year old, and a black cat named Jinx. Her

official mount is Ricky, a 21-year-old quarter horse dun gelding that she has been riding around nine years now. "Ricky is a little ornery," says Queen Josie, "but maybe that's why we get along so well. He's a little stubborn, but he will do anything I ask."

Queen Josie has been a busy girl. Besides serving as Morrow County royalty, she works full-time during the summer as a teller at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione. During the school year at Heppner High School, where she will be a senior this coming year, she works at the bank through the school's work-study program. She is president of

the HHS FFA Chapter and is district secretary for the FFA Blue Mountain District. She plays volleyball, is a member of the Ione Cardinals' tennis team, volunteers as a junior fire fighter with the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department and the Ione SMART reading program. She has been a member of 4-H for seven years. She also enjoys photography and shop projects during her "spare" time.

She is also an honor student at HHS. After high school, she plans to study for a degree in agricultural education at Montana State University.

Queen Josie's favorite court outfits this year, a luncheon skirt and a parade shirt, have a special significance because her grandmother, BonnaRae Miller of Heppner, made them with her. The luncheon skirt is a "real simple" Ultrasuede Western skirt—a chocolate color for her princesses, Makayla Anderson, Jessica Kiery-Lee Hamilton and Becky Schiller, and a buckskin color for her. The shirt is maroon silk with gold trim for the princesses and black trim for her.

Josie and her court just returned from a trip to Redmond, which, so far, has been the favorite experience of her reign. "It was very enjoyable," says Josie. The Morrow County Court rode in the parade, took part in the rodeo and had fun socializing with community members and royalty from other courts. It was especially fun for her because her family lived in the Redmond area before returning to Heppner two years ago. Josie says the Redmond rodeo is the largest PRCA event they attend.

In addition to parents, Reid and Sheila Miller,

Lexington, Josie has a lot of support from grandparents, Joe and BonnaRae Miller, Heppner, and George and Myrna Sieler, Lexington, and especially from her brother, Jarreid, 14, who is serving as a pennant bearer this year. "He's amazing," says Josie. "He's been a great support."

Josie is especially looking forward to the bull riding and barrel racing events at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, Friday and Saturday, August 17-18, and the Morrow County Rodeo, Sunday, August 19, this year. "These events are intense and exciting and take a lot of talent," adds Josie. She and Princess Becky Schiller will be competing in cow riding at the Morrow County Rodeo.

"It's been a wonderful year," says Queen Josie of her reign on the Morrow County Court. "It's been an honor to represent our community. The (court) girls are great."

Queen Josie invites everyone to take part in all the exciting fair and rodeo events.



Queen Josie Miller



Queen Josie Miller with brother Jarreid Miller, who is a pennant bearer on this year's court

Don't Forget To Enter The MORROW COUNTY JACKPOT RODEO

How To Enter: Call LynnDee Ramos
Monday-Thursday, Aug. 13-16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

676-9451 or 422-7559 (eve.)

Fees are due Saturday, August 18 by 1 p.m.

Fees may be delivered to the Rodeo Office
or mailed to OTPR, P.O. Box 113, Heppner, OR 97836

(Contestants must be one year Morrow County residents
or Morrow County school graduates ONLY)



Queen Josie Miller and Grizzly Adams