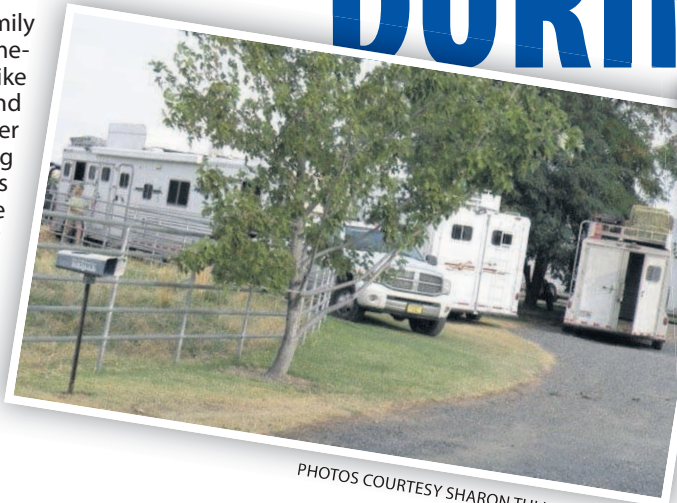


LOCAL FAMILIES 'ADOPT' CONTESTANTS DURING VISITS

The Tullis family driveway sometimes looks like a horse and travel trailer lot during the summer months as the Tullis family plays host to contestants traveling between rodeos.



PHOTOS COURTESY SHARON TULLIS



Calf ropers Ryan Jarrett and Hunter Herrin and another man stack hay for the Tullis family during one of their stops in Hermiston.

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

When rodeo season rolls around each summer, many cowboys who hail from outside the Pacific Northwest use Umatilla County as their home base.

Farm-City Pro Rodeo board member Jon Gill said Hermiston in particular is centrally located to several rodeos in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. There's no official program to put up rodeo cowboys and their horses in Hermiston during rodeo season, but Gill said a variety of competitors have made friends with locals who give them "a place to hang their hat" each summer on days they're not riding bulls or roping steer in an arena.

Gill said those cowboys in turn shop at local stores and eat at local restaurants as they use Hermiston as a home base for a couple of months.

"A lot of spin-off business is created by the rodeos," he said.

Sharon Tullis is one of the locals who hosts rodeo cowboys and cowgirls on her property for about six weeks each summer.

"You'll see encampments all over if you just drive around the rural roads," she said. Tullis said there used to be

Kids learn by example. Make sure you're setting a good one. Find out how your Umatilla Electric Cooperative can help at TogetherWeSave.com.



THEY'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG
TO START SAVING ENERGY.

U.E.C. UMATILLA
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM