

OPINION

LOS BAÑOS ENTERPRISE

Friday, June 22, 2007

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebration in the works

In response to a recent letter to the editor discussing our City's Centennial Celebration, I'd like to share some details about the Grand Finale of our City's Centennial Celebration. Reading the Enterprise and ourlosbanos.com we learned what many folks in the community wanted in a Centennial Celebration and have worked earnestly to fill the request. The Los Baños Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Henry Miller Wild West Weekend Oct. 12-14, at the Merced County Spring Fairgrounds here in Los Baños as the grand finale to our summer-long Centennial Celebration.

The event celebrates our cow town heritage, our legendary immigrant town founder, Henry Miller, 100 years of incorporation and 100 years of continued cultural diversity ... all in heritage dress of the late 1800s.

The event features three days of Best of the West Competitions; the California State Championships of Cowboy Fast Draw, Lefty Manzanedo Memorial Celebrity Shootout, Gunslinger's Alley, Westside Barbecue Challenge, Cowboy Chili Cook-off, Hot Dog Hoedown, Costumed Cowboy Karaoke, Saturday Night Social, Brand Master Contest, Cowboy Up Contest, Horshoes, an 1800s Bathing Beauty Contest and lots of old fashioned kids games, to name a few of our planned activities.

Our Passport to the Past includes Charles Sawyer's (Milliken Museum) hour and a half downtown walking history tour on Friday; we're working on western art displays, old farm equipment, covered wagons, water history and more.

There will be Cowboy poets, musicians, our local trick roper, and if Champ the Federale Chicken catches you doing the Chicken Dance when you hear the song, you'll win some chicken scratch which is redeemable for prizes. We'll have information booths, food booths, vendor booths ... all this, for the paltry admission fee of \$2 per person and \$5 per family, per day. Some

of the contests are free to enter, some are an extra cost.

If the Henry Miller Wild West Weekend sounds like something you'd like to be part of please start by logging onto our Web site (www.henrymillerwildwestweekend.com) and learning about the event. If you have great ideas, time and/or money, please share! Every dollar will help. Service clubs, churches, organizations are invited to use our event as a fund-raiser. If you're part of a cultural/ethnic organization or club, contact us to be sure your group is being represented at our event.

Henry Miller hosted an annual celebration for our town for many years; since there is no Henry Miller among us today, we, the people must host our own celebration. One hundred years later we honor Henry Miller and our history. We must do the work and we must pay. If each business in town can give \$100 and households \$10 or so, we'll have no problems making this an annual celebration. Be a part of the biggest event on the West Side in a long time; volunteer, participate, sponsor, attend, give us feedback. Visit www.henrymillerwildwestweekend.com, phone Big John Whala, 769-9649 or myself, 587-0573. If you're interested in cowboy fast draw, call Kent Sandhagen, 587-0572.

GENEVA BRETT
Los Baños