

Morrow County Fair offers country fun

Event returns next week in Heppner

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — With a theme of Morrow County Country Strong, this year's Morrow County Fair starts Tuesday, Aug. 17, and runs until Aug. 21. The fair is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and features open class displays, live music, a hypnotist and the traditional fair activities involving youth livestock projects.

The Morrow County Fairgrounds are at 74473 Highway 74, Heppner. Admission is free.

Fair secretary Ann Jones is excited to again offer free entry to the fair. She said they have worked hard to obtain sponsorships so people can merely walk through the gates.

"It just helps people out so more people can get out and enjoy the fair," Jones said. "They can spend their money elsewhere, like at the food vendors or to support the 4-H kids with the auction."

Highlights of the fair, Jones said, includes lots of live music. Aug. 18 will feature Fat Bottomed Girls at 7 p.m. The evening also will include a best dressed '80s-themed contest. The evening of Aug. 20 features Olivia Harms, playing country music.

Portland-based country-rock musician Nate Botsford takes the stage Aug 19 at 2:30 p.m., with an ice cream social featuring the Tillamook brand at 3 p.m.

Botsford has performed at the Morrow County Fair several times, and Jones said he's a crowd favorite. And the feelings are mutual.

"He loves to come to Heppner," Jones said. "He said it's one of his favorite places to play music."

The fair board, Jones said, was looking for something new to bring to this year's fair — and decided on Justin



Andrew Wenberg of Heppner savors a bowl of ice cream at a past Morrow County Fair. This year's ice cream social at the fair is Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.



Kolby Currin of Heppner shows a feeder hog for a friend during a past Morrow County Fair. This year's event runs Tuesday through Saturday, Aug. 17-21, 2021, in Heppner.

James, a comedian and hypnotist who has performed in Las Vegas. After watching a few of his videos, they decided his interactive show would be fun. James will perform a couple of shows a day Aug 18-20.

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo performances are Aug. 20 and 21, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$6 for ages 7-12 and free for ages 6 and under. For ticket information, call 541-256-0217 or visit www.oregontrailprorodeo.com. Featuring local cowboys, the Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo is

Aug. 22 at 1 p.m.

After the nightly rodeo performances, Dan Burns 3D Productions will turn up the tunes and people can dance the night away. Attendance at the rodeo isn't required to enjoy the music afterwards.

A parade is set for Aug. 21 at 10 a.m. in downtown Heppner. And the youth livestock auction gets underway at the fairgrounds at 2 p.m.

For more information about the fair, visit www.co.morrow.or.us/fair/page/country-fair or call 541-676-9474.

New president will lead Threemile Canyon Farms, state's largest dairy

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

BOARDMAN — Threemile Canyon Farms has hired a new president following the unexpected death of founder and general manager Marty Myers in December 2020.

Bill Antilla, of Longview, Washington, was selected to lead the operation, which includes Oregon's largest dairy and 39,500 acres of cropland. His first day was Aug. 9.

For the last seven years, Antilla served as general manager at Crown Companies and Crown Iron Works in Blaine, Minnesota, a world leader in oilseed processing technology. There he oversaw all aspects of global business, including financial performance, engineering, sales, research and development, marketing and supply chain.

Previously, Antilla spent 26 years at Cargill Inc., a Minnesota-based global food corporation, serving in various leadership roles including food ingredients,

food production, agricultural processing and bio-renewable industrial technologies.

In a statement, Antilla said he was drawn to Threemile Canyon Farms for its culture, values and location. The farm is about 15 miles west of Boardman.



Antilla

"I'm eager to build upon Threemile's success of innovation and dedication to the team, animal welfare and sustainable practices," he said.

Established in 1998 by R.D. Offutt Co., Threemile Canyon Farms is well known for its large dairy operation, with 35,000 milking cows and approximately 70,000 total cattle. The milk is sold to the Tillamook County Creamery Association — makers of Tillamook cheese — which has a factory at the nearby Port of Morrow.

Myers served as general manager from day one. He pioneered the farm's "closed-loop system," whereby nitrogen-rich manure from the dairy is mixed at agronomic rates and sprayed onto the surrounding farmland to grow potatoes, onions,

blueberries, carrots and other crops.

The farm also grows alfalfa, hay and triticale for animal feed, which goes back to feed the dairy cows, thus completing the closed loop.

Last year, Threemile Canyon Farms was one of three dairies nationwide recognized for Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability at the 2020 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards, lauding management practices that "demonstrate outstanding economic, environmental and social benefits."

R.D. Offutt CEO Tim Curoe said Antilla's lengthy career in agribusiness and food processing, combined with his love of the Pacific Northwest, make him uniquely qualified to serve Threemile Canyon and build on its strong foundation of sustainable agriculture.

Antilla has a bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a master's of business administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He has a wife and two grown children, and will be relocating from Minnesota to Oregon.

IN BRIEF

Wyden holds online town hall on River Democracy Act

PORTLAND — Sen. Ron Wyden announced he will host an online town hall Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 1 p.m. to discuss his River Democracy Act with rural Oregonians.

The act was introduced alongside Sen. Jeff Merkley in February and is aimed at protecting nearly 4,700 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon. It also focuses on expanding recreation access to promote local economies, protecting drinking water, limiting wildfire and sustaining endangered fish and wildlife.

"I very much look forward to throwing open the digital doors of democracy on Aug. 31 to hear from rural Oregon's county commissioners, river enthusiasts, small business owners and more so the River Democracy Act continues on its path to provide clean drinking water for families, build an even stronger outdoor recreation economy in every nook and cranny of our state, and improve wildfire resiliency," Wyden said in a press release.

Upon introducing the act in February, only 2,173 out of 110,994 total miles of rivers and streams in Oregon are protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wyden initiated the public process in October 2019 to acquire recommendations from Oregon residents on rivers that deserve protection. Oregonians submitted approximately 15,000 nominations by January 2020. During the past year, Wyden has met with county commissioners to discuss the list of protections and address any concerns.

Wyden has hosted more than 900 in-person town halls statewide, following his pledge to hold at least one town hall in each of the state's counties at least once a year.

Since the start of the pandemic, Wyden has continued hosting the town halls virtually.

People's Town Hall will host the virtual town hall meeting on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/events/244904110829033/.

Chamber to offer update on Pendleton Comes Alive

PENDLETON — The Pendleton City Council agenda is light with action for its meeting Tuesday, Aug. 17, but there will be a report on a key tourism initiative the city is sponsoring.

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce will be delivering a presentation on Pendleton Comes Alive, a tourism effort backed by \$500,000 in city money. Since June, the chamber has begun using the money to add concerts, pop-up bars, Round-Up tours and other new attractions to draw tourists. Supporters have promised an increase in tourists in exchange for the money, which was derived from the latest round of COVID-19 relief stimulus from the federal government.

Beyond the presentation, the council also will consider approving the stimulus-funded purchase of a vehicle for the Pendleton Public Library as a "pop-up bookmobile." Before the council meeting, members will meet as the Pendleton Development Commission, where they will discuss the urban renewal district's finances.

The commission meeting is at 6 p.m. and the council meeting starts at 7 p.m. Both meetings will in city council chambers at Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave. Audience members also can attend the meeting through Zoom, which can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3yGKX3o>.

—EO Media Group

State discloses workplace outbreaks

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Oregon Health Authority in a weekly report disclosed nine COVID-19 workplace outbreaks, several of which came from facilities that had been previously disclosed but continue to see cases rise.

The state publishes an active outbreak in nursing homes if the facility reports more than three cases, according to the state. The outbreak is considered resolved if no new cases are reported within 28 days of the last case. The local assisted living facilities are:

- Regency Hermiston Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Hermiston, has reported three COVID-19 cases since July 3.

- McKay Creek Estates, Pendleton, has reported 16 COVID-19 cases since July 21. That's eight more than last week's report.

In addition, the state publishes a workplace outbreak when five or more cases are reported at a facility with 30 or more workers. Like assisted living facilities, the outbreak is considered resolved if no new cases are

reported within 28 days of the last case.

The Oregon Health Authority reported local workplace outbreaks occurred at the following:

- Keystone RV, Pendleton, reported 27 cases between its first reported case on July 28 and its most recent onset case coming July 31. That's 16 more cases than was reported last week.

- Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston, reported 21 cases between its first reported case on April 26 and its most recent onset case coming July 30.

- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, reported 11 cases between its first reported case on July 12 and its most recent onset case coming Aug. 2. Due to the spread of COVID-19 in the community, the institution is at tier level 3, meaning visitation is paused indefinitely and no public access is permitted.

- Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, reported 11 cases between its first reported case on July 21 and its most recent onset case coming July 27.

- Lamb Weston, Inc.,

Boardman, reported seven cases between its first reported case on July 18 and its most recent onset case coming Aug. 2.

- Walmart Supercenter, Hermiston, reported five cases on July 30.

- Walmart Supercenter, Pendleton, reported five cases on Aug. 2.

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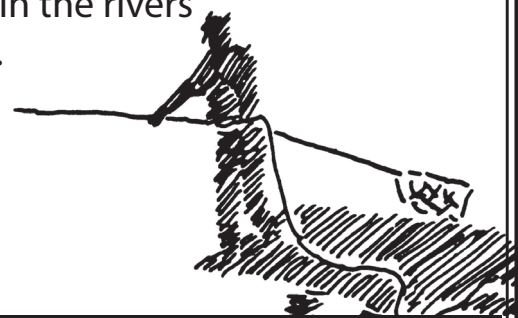
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To see complete position details, visit:
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Position closes August 31.



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