

Parade winners announced

The winners of the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo parade have been announced by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

The court and royalty winner was Marissa Jacobson, the Spray rodeo queen. Owyhee Nite Dazzlers won the riders category. The Morrow County Health District assisted living float was the winner of the community float class and Bank of Eastern Oregon won the commercial float class.



Left, Marissa Jacobson, queen of the Spray rodeo won the court and royalty class. Above, Owyhee Nite Dazzlers were the winners of the riders category and Morrow County Health District assisted living won the community float class. Below, Bank of Eastern Oregon's float won the commercial class. -Photos by Bobbi Gordon



Siex receives excellence award

During the 2018 Oregon District Attorney Association summer conference on Aug. 16 in Bend, OR, Morrow County District Attorney Victim Assistance Director Deona Siex (pronounced SIX) received the 2018 Oregon District Attorney Association Excellence in Victim Advocacy award. The award is given annually to one victim advocate/director within an Oregon district attorney office who has demonstrated and provided exceptional support and service on behalf of crime victims, which demonstrates the individual's sustained service and exceptional advocacy on behalf of crime victims.

While presenting Siex with the award, Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson praised her advocacy for victims of crime in Morrow County. District Attorney Nelson recalled Ms. Siex's willingness to meet face to face with victims throughout Morrow and Umatilla counties, answering calls at all hours of the day or night and meeting victims at hospitals when requested by law enforcement.

When nominating Deona Siex for the award, Nelson shared a recent compliment that Siex received from a victim in a felony



Deona Siex pictured with her award.

domestic violence case:

"Without Deona, my daughter and I would not have been able to face the tragedy we faced. We were not alone. She was kind, caring, understanding, very knowledgeable and always gave me updated info promptly. She explained every step and made sure my daughter and I understood and were comfortable with any and all decisions made

on the case."

Justin Nelson said, "Morrow County is lucky to have Deona Siex as our Victim Assistance Director. Deona takes the time to work with our victims on a one-on-one basis to inform the victims of what is occurring in court and help the victims in any way she can. Many of our cases could not have been resolved without the tireless work of Deona."

Another successful Morrow County Fair and Rodeo ends



The Lindsay family performs at the Murray's Beer and Wine Tasting event.. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon



Pat Edmundson, Cathy Clark, Ned Clark and John Edmundson enjoy the activities at the fair. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon



Above, Charlee Schiller checks out the haul she made in candy at the parade. Left, Charlee and Vey Schiller wave back at the parade participants as they go by. Also pictured, grandma, Stacey Wainwright and mom, Jess Schiller. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon



Nate Botsford and his band provides entertainment at the Murray's Beer and Wine Tasting event.. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon

Russell meets with FDA Commissioner

By Don Russell

It all started with an offer to take a tour of the Tillamook Cheese plant in Boardman with Congressman Greg Walden. I had been on a tour of the cheese plant about 10 years ago, but as an elected county official always appreciate face time with my congressman. My daughter Sara, who lives in Reno, NV, was vacationing at our house and agreed to come along. Our touring group was small and afterwards we reconvened in a small conference room to sample Tillamook's products and have a round table discussion.

Sara, like many of my family members, suffers from Celiac disease, an autoimmune disease caused by a reaction to the gluten protein found in wheat, rye and barley, affecting approximately one percent of the population. As I looked at the allergen information on the packaged products, I asked Sara if she could consume anything because of her allergies. This started a conversation about food



Pictured (L-R): Commissioner Don Russell, Dr. Scott Gottlieb and Congressman Greg Walden.

labeling and the difficulty people with allergies, Celiac specifically, have when figuring out if they can consume a product. Sara pointed out that processed food was difficult, but you could always opt out, but the larger concern was with prescription medications. At this point we had Greg Walden's attention. Sara explained that typically, the doctor would prescribe the medication, and when asked if it was gluten free, would refer you to your pharmacist. The pharmacist can sometimes confirm the ingredients, but more often than not refer patients

to an internet search or, in rare instances, directly to the drug manufacturer. Congressman Walden commented that Dr. Scott Gottlieb might be visiting his district soon and offered a potential follow up conversation with him. I'll admit that I didn't know who Dr. Gottlieb was, and later learned he is the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. I appreciatively accepted the opportunity with willingness to travel, knowing that with Greg's expansive

-See RUSSELL/PAGE THREE

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