



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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## Heppner hosts another successful Morrow County Fair and Rodeo

By Chris Sykes

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo was a success this year, drawing visitors from all over Oregon, the United States, and even from across the globe. The small town of Heppner came alive with excitement and tradition as both familiar faces and new visitors joined together to celebrate the much-anticipated event.

The festivities kicked off on Wednesday with Morrow County residents eagerly participating in the fair. The exhibition halls were filled with an impressive array of entries, including photographs, baked goods, Legos, flowers, drawings, and quilts, all vying for the coveted ribbons. It was a true showcase of the local talent and creativity that the community has to offer.

The FFA and 4-H kids, who had been diligently caring for their pigs, chickens, rabbits, steers, and sheep for months, finally had their moment to shine. The dedication of these young participants was evident as many of them, along with their parents, rose as early as 4 a.m. each morning to prepare their animals for the showings. With great pride, they displayed their animals, hoping to earn top honors. The animal auction at the end of the week was an emotional event for many, as some of the young participants shed tears while saying goodbye to the animals they had nurtured for so long.

Thursday night brought



**MOCO All Around Co-Winners, Coy Patterson and Shayla Currin. Award knives sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Center, Presented by OTPR President Tanner Britt.**



a different kind of celebration as Murray's Beer and Wine Tasting event took center stage. The evening was filled with laughter, live music, and, of course, a fantastic selection of beverages that kept the crowd in high spirits. The event featured live performances by Caitlyn Ochsner and Joe Lindsay's band Musically Unstable adding a lively and entertaining atmosphere to the night.

As the weekend arrived, the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo became the highlight of the fair. On Friday night, the stands were packed as spectators enjoyed the action under the warm summer sky. The rodeo events featured crowd favorites such as steer wrestling, bucking brones, bull riding, and barrel racing, showcasing the impressive skills and bravery of the cowboys and cowgirls. Saturday brought a surprise wind-

storm, causing some fans to briefly seek shelter, but the storm quickly passed, and the resilient crowd returned to watch the rest of the rodeo unfold.

No fair would be complete without its mouth-watering food vendors, and this year was no exception. The enticing aromas of elephant ears, hamburgers, fried Oreos, kettle corn, and corndogs filled the air, drawing visitors from all corners of the fairgrounds. Whether it was a quick snack or a full meal, there was something to satisfy every craving, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Spur'em Barn, known for its cold adult beverages and lively atmosphere, was a popular spot throughout the weekend. The atmosphere was cheerful, and everyone seemed to be having a fantastic time, enjoying the camaraderie that the rodeo weekend



always brings.

Sunday's Morrow County Rodeo was blessed with perfect weather, as sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s set the stage for a thrilling display of local rodeo talent. Kids were especially excited to participate in traditional events like mutton busting, breakaway roping, barrel racing, and the always-exciting cowhide race, showcasing their budding rodeo skills to the cheers of proud families and friends.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on this incredible event. Their dedication, from organizing the various activities to ensuring the smooth running of the fairgrounds and cleaning up afterward, did not go unnoticed. The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo once again proved to be an unforgettable event, bringing together the community and visitors alike for a week of tradition, fun, and shared memories. As the dust settles and the fairgrounds return to their quiet state, the town of Heppner is already looking forward to next year's festivities.

## Worden wraps up 4H career with a staggering 574 awards



**Arianna Worden finished off her 9 year 4H career with 286 ribbons, 1 medal and 1 buckle! She had 6 state fair champions, 1 state fair medal, 63 county fair champions, 27 reserve county fair champions, 152 blue ribbons, 26 red, 3 white, and 8 cloverbuds! -Photo by Kelsey Worden**

## MOCO special fair awards

### Clothing and Textiles

Judge's award Adult - Nancy Arnson

Judge's award Youth - Anna Jepsen

### Needlework

Judge's award Adult - Gayle Gutierrez

Judge's award Youth - Richard McNamee

### Quilts

Grand Champion - Cheryl Hobbs - Sponsored by Mama Bears Quilt Shop  
Judge's Choice - Patricia Hughes.

### Floriculture.

Judge's Award - Jannie Allen

Timeless Beauty - Andrea Nelson - sponsored by MCGG

Just Imagine - Jannie Allen - Sponsored by Country Rose/Murry Drug  
Superintendent's award - sponsored by Wheatland Insurance - Jannie Allen

### Creative Kids

Superintendent's Choice - Kinasyne Rietman of Ione sponsored by Miller wheat.

Judge's award - Mikal Duncan, Anna Jepsen and Ryder Worden

### Arts

Judge's choice - Hanna Brannon

### Crafts

Judge's Choice - Birt Keziah

### Canning

Judge's Choice - Jannie Allen

Superintendent's Choice - James McNamee  
Outstanding Exhibitor - Jannie Allen

Pickle Award - Myrene Birt, sponsored by Molly Rill Family

Vegetable Salsa - Julie Sak - sponsored by the Elguezabal Family

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## Greater Idaho Movement has grown to 13 counties

By Andrea Di Salvo

Crook County is the latest to join the Greater Idaho movement, which continues to carry momentum in eastern and central Oregon.

That was the message Mike McCarter of La Pine, OR gave the Morrow County Board of Commissioners during its regular meeting Aug. 7 in Heppner. McCarter is president of Move Oregon's Borders and Citizens for Greater Idaho.

The Greater Idaho movement began putting votes to counties in 2020 and seeks to move the Oregon/Idaho border westward so that the traditionally conservative eastern counties would join the state of Idaho, which the movement says better matches eastern Oregonian values.

According to its website, the group believes that moving the border would create a win-win situation for both Oregon and Idaho by better matching voters to state governance, and would lower political tension across the state.

State lines can be moved through a process called an interstate compact. The change would require the approval of both states' legislatures, as well as the U.S. Congress.

In 2023, the Idaho House passed a memorial resolution inviting the State of Oregon to begin border talks.

McCarter spoke to the BOC about the Greater Idaho movement as part of an ongoing discussion of the issue. In the November 2022 election, 60 percent of Morrow County's voters mandated that the board of commissioners discuss the potential move three times per year. This is the second of three discussions for 2024.

In May of this year, McCarter said, Crook County passed a similar measure, though by a smaller margin of 53 percent. McCarter said there was a lot of opposition from the Portland area regarding the Crook County measure.

He also said that the unusual thing about the Crook County measure was that it was brought forward by the people rather than a measure provided by the Greater Idaho leadership, as was the case with most counties.

"It was not our measure that put it on the ballot," he said. "The people went to the county commissioners and put it on there because they wanted to have the opportunity to vote."

Crook County commissioners also became the latest to formally request action from the Oregon legislature concerning moving the Oregon border. Crook is now the eighth county in Eastern Oregon to send such a letter.

The passage in Crook

County makes 13 eastern or central Oregon counties that have voted to discuss seceding from Oregon to join Idaho—or, in some cases, moved beyond discussion to actual votes for secession. Two counties so far have voted to secede, while the other 11, including Morrow County, have simply voted to discuss the issue.

Wheeler County is one that voted to secede.

"There seems to be a lot of unrest about the way the Oregon legislature and leadership is treating Eastern Oregon, and people are starting to speak up about it," McCarter said.

McCarter said Move Oregon's Border is currently traveling throughout Eastern Oregon to provide updates on what's happening with the movement. He said a Morrow County meeting should be upcoming.

"If we've got 13 counties now in Eastern Oregon where a measure has passed to begin negotiations or discussion or get the talk going, you would think that our state representatives would pick that up and start talking about it in Salem," McCarter said. "Why is this problem going on? What's creating it?"

"But to date, it's just been stonewalled," he added. "They don't want to talk about it."

McCarter, though, said

the grassroots movement will continue. His request for the county commissioners was to "pass the message up the line" when they met with other county commissioners or legislators.

"It doesn't have to be about moving the border. Start talking about the issues that are giving us the problems here, where Oregon's leadership are driving hard on what they think are the problems in Western Oregon, that have a negative effect on us in Eastern Oregon.

"We want to get some discussions going in the state legislature about the way they're treating Eastern Oregon, and they're more or less ignoring us."



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