



HH file photo

Volunteers set up open class exhibit prior to a past Morrow County Fair. Admission is free for everyone Aug. 14-17 at the fairgrounds in Heppner.

Morrow County Fair highlights the best

Gate admission is free for everyone

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The Morrow County Fair is throwing its gates wide open.

Fair secretary Ann Jones is excited to offer free admission for everyone — thanks to support from Lamb Weston, Caithness Shepherds Flat Wind Farm and the Boardman Fire Fighters Association. The event is Aug. 14-17 — Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. — at the fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner.

With a theme of “Trea-

sure Chest of Morrow County’s Best,” the fair shines a spotlight on 4-H and FFA youth projects. In addition, open class exhibits showcase the talents of area residents of all ages.

Jones said Tillamook’s free ice cream social (Thursday, 3 p.m.) is always popular. Also, ventriloquist Vikki Gasko will perform multiple times daily Wednesday through Friday.

Stage entertainment cranks up with Trevor Tagle (Wednesday, 7-10 p.m.); Perry Gerber Band (Thursday, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 1-3 p.m.); and Dan Burns 3D Productions (Friday/Saturday after the rodeo) — people don’t have to attend the rodeo to enjoy the music afterwards.

Also, Thursday evening (6-10:30 p.m.) is Murray’s

Beer & Wine Tasting. It includes local musician Joe Lindsay & Friends and former Wallowa County resident Brady Goss, a wizard on the keyboards. With a fiesta theme, the meal features Mexican cuisine. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids 10 and under.

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. Mutton Busters kicks off both nights of rodeo action. Tickets are \$10 or \$6 for ages 7-12 and free for kids under 7 and under. Also, the Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo is Sunday at 1 p.m.

For more information and a fair schedule, visit www.co.morrow.or.us/fair. For more about the rodeo, call 541-989-8351 or visit www.oregontrailprodeco.com.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Mutton Bustin’ champ



Staff photo by Annie Fowler

Mason Hughes, 7, of Hermiston won the Farm-City Pro Rodeo mutton bustin’ title Saturday night with an 85-point ride.

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COLUMN

Some real food for thought

Less than three months ago, I was fresh from college and spending my days pouring lattes at a fast-paced coffee shop in downtown Portland. Next door to a nice hotel, fielding tourists at work was second nature to me.

People visit from all over the world to see Portland, the city I grew up in and around. On the surface, it’s a place known for its craft beverages and cuisine, spacious bookstores and live music. Most of my friends in Portland have moved there within the last five years from across the country.

Surrounded by people who triumphantly left their homes for life in Rose City, I myself couldn’t wait to get out and see something new.

And let me tell you, Hermiston is news to me.

The nearest neighbor from my apartment building has a cow. My two-bedroom unit costs less than most Portland studios. I’ve seen Trump 2020 stickers — which I didn’t even realize were in production — and petitions to recall Kate Brown. I’ve eaten two Hermiston watermelons in the last 10 days (with help), which adds up to approximately 100 times more watermelon than I’ve ever eaten in my life. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

I also just attended my first county fair: the Umatilla County Fair, which opened a whole new vault of fresh experiences for me.

And despite the fact that on Friday night, a lightning storm rained on my first-ever funnel cake, I’ve had a pretty good time. Mostly, I’ve been impressed with the

amount of knowledge that’s packed into the acres of the EOPEC fairgrounds.

Not only were there people who had the process of making elephant ears and manning large roller coasters down to an art, there were folks less than half my age leading cows and goats around the barns in a casual manner that felt unreal to me. People who knew how to care for animals with such precision and finesse, they were getting blue ribbons for it.

There were children and adults alike who knew more about food and agricultural systems than my bachelor’s degree in geography could ever have taught me, because they live it everyday.

In Portland, there’s a running Saturday farmer’s market, and often it was my only chance at getting local food at a reasonable price. I always want to feel connected to my food, and have many talking points about what I feel is sustainable eating. I can talk the talk about organics and free range beef, but I don’t walk the walk. And I think the same goes for many of my peers in cities around the country.

I can hardly imagine what it takes to care for a cow or tend to a field of corn. I’m also not likely to learn anytime soon. But it feels important to me to finally be in a place where so much of what we consume without a second thought in urban areas is produced.

The next time I head to Portland, and someone I’m with orders bacon on their burger, I’ll be thinking of you, Hermiston.

Jessica Pollard is the Hermiston Herald’s newest reporter, covering education and public safety.



JESSICA POLLARD
COMMENT

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PET OF THE WEEK

Blackie is a sweet timid tiny dog at approx.

6 pounds. He is healing from a back injury, but will do just fine once well.

He does great with dogs and kids, prefer no cats. He will need a secure fence and not

be allowed out unattended as he will try to escape a fence to be with his humans.

He will be neutered once healed, vaccinated and microchipped.



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