

**Interns:**

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“It’s turned into kind of like a friendly competition between everyone,” he said, “and that’s probably the thing that I like the most.”

One training opportunity, in particular, turned especially competitive and lasted seven-and-a-half hours, according to Tucker, who was born and raised in Sisters. To become certified to drive an ambulance, each intern had to pass a driving course with cones.

“It was a long, grueling day,” Tucker said.

According to Geddes, who moved to Hermiston from Maple Valley, Washington, they all struggled with driving the ambulance in the beginning. They couldn’t figure out what they were doing wrong until one person did it right, she said.

“We had to go through our cone course three times



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald  
**Resident intern Tyler Couch unloads a stack of hose from a fire truck Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, while running hose handling drills at the Umatilla County Fire District 1 training facility in Hermiston.**

without knocking over any cones or touching any cones,” Geddes said. “So every time somebody did it right, it was like the biggest celebration. They’d jump out of the truck just flailing their arms.”

These moments accumu-

lated, cementing the links each intern has with the other and with firefighting.

“That bond we have together makes it a lot more fun and it definitely balances out the hard work and makes the hard work fun,” Donahue said.

He mentioned that while it’s nice to have three days off every week, they already miss the program by Sunday and are excited to go back on Monday because they have so much fun.

For Tucker, becoming a firefighter was a deci-

sion to follow in his father’s footsteps. He had known Richard Cearns, Umatilla County Fire District 1’s division chief of EMS and training, through his dad, who is a member of the fire service. After visiting and sitting down to talk about it, Tucker said that he realized UCFD probably would be the best place for him.

Tucker said he loved the family aspect of the fire service and the community they’ve built. The bond with the community, he said, makes him excited to be there.

“Everybody’s excited to go fight fire and help people,” Tucker said.

Geddes, meanwhile, fell into the program after moving to the area to attend Blue Mountain Community College for its rodeo team.

Before moving into the station full time, Geddes brought a dog and two horses to the area and lived out of her horse trailer since 2019. She spent last win-

ter helping a family ranch in northern Idaho, living in sub-zero temperatures in her trailer, “which was absolutely terrible,” she said.

After finding out about the EMS program at Blue Mountain, Geddes was told about the fire internship program by one of the career firefighters at Umatilla County Fire District.

“I had a long talk with my instructor in the back of the ambulance talking about this program,” Geddes said, “and it was like the next day I put in my application for it.”

On top of being a resident intern, Geddes works at Dutch Bros. Coffee in Hermiston and goes to school full time. She spends the rest of her spare time with her (now three) horses and attending rodeos. She said she’ll fall asleep for two to three hours then wake up to repeat the process.

“Definitely,” she said, “the exciting life that I needed.”



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald  
**Jake Bartoschek, of Echo, shows her market lamb Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction in Hermiston.**

**Auction:**

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While most animals had a market value of around \$100-200, the steers saw market values ranging from about \$1,200 to a whopping \$1,810 going to Brielle Younces of Pendleton, who also happens to be a princess of the 2021 Umatilla County Fair Court.

For many of the youth in attendance, it was their first time raising and auctioning off their livestock. Madeleine White, a member of the Farm City Wranglers from Hermiston, said the fair was a hectic experience for her first time. But she said people were supportive and helped her out.

“I got a lot of support from a lot of different groups,” she said.

Lillian Waldher, an 11-year-old out of Athena who brought her two lambs Daisy and Bo, also had her first experience at the auction and won a ribbon for showmanship.

“I did a lot of work,” she said, adding she practiced with Bo a lot and worked on his leg hair and clipping him.

With the earnings she made from selling her livestock, she said she would be able to buy another sheep and save up for college.

“Leading up to it (the sale), it’s just tiring in the morning,” said Ayryn Davis of Hermiston. Ayryn marked her fourth time attend-

ing this year and said it was hard and sad, but she will keep coming back and is heading to Pendleton next.

A bidding war broke out in the balmy air as seventh grader Quinn Duff showed his goat named Murr. The winner of the Grand Champion Showman ribbon from Milton-Freewater, the 13-year-old Quinn has been showing goats for more than half his life, starting at 6 years old.

Raised on a 40-head farm that also breeds horses, Quinn has spent his life around animals and intends to stay with animals in the future. He said he had put a lot of time and effort into Murr over the last six months, who had a listed market value of \$259.48 going into the auction.

“At least three times a week I would wash his legs to get the leg hair growing and blow them out,” he said.

Tanner Duff, Quinn’s younger brother, also was in the auction and won the Reserve Grand Champion ribbon for his own goat. He said it felt good to compete with his brother, who he’s been able to practice with and get tips, while also competing with each other.

Tanner, who has been showing for around four years, said he’s sold two goats this year, with the first sale taking place in Milton-Freewater.

“It’s sad,” he said, “but I’m feeling really good.”

**Morrow:**

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After watching a few of his videos, Jones said they decided his interactive show would be fun. He will perform a couple of shows a day Aug. 18 through Aug. 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.oregon-trailprorodeo.com](http://www.oregon-trailprorodeo.com). Featuring local cowboys, the Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo is Sunday, 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.



Hermiston Herald, File  
**Janae Warren holds a La Mancha/Boar cross goat kid during a past Morrow County Fair. The 2021 fair runs Tuesday through Sunday, Aug. 17-21, at the fairgrounds in Heppner.**

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/county-fair](http://www.co.morrow.or.us/fair/page/county-fair) or call 541-676-9474.

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