

**PENDLETON**



Staff photo by Phil Wright

**Pendleton Round-Up director Carl Culham poses with the models of Pendleton Bike Week at Friday's announcement of the forthcoming motorcycle rally.**

# City readies to let 'er rev

## Motorcycle rally coming July 22-26

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Pendleton's next big thing is rumbling into town this summer — Pendleton Bike Week.

Think throttles, not pedals.

Eric Folkestad, one of the event's founders and organizers, told a room of local officials and bigwigs at the Hamley Steakhouse that Pendleton could draw 5,000 people for its first motorcycle rally July 22-26 at the Pendleton Convention Center. It will include free concerts, poker runs and a large motorcycle show "with every kind of motorcycle you can imagine."

Pendleton has a lot to offer motorcycle enthusiasts, he said, and the area's history and peoples dovetail with the kinds of folks who like to ride. And he said the organizers hope a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation would hold a blessing ceremony for the bikes.

"Motorcycles and Indians go together — it's like peanut butter and jelly," Folkestad said.

Most of the crowd for Pendleton Bike Week would come from Puget Sound, Washington, he explained. So building buzz there is important. And motorcycle businesses in the Tri-Cities are already willing to pack up their shops for a long weekend in Pendleton. The event, though, needs sponsors to cover the costs of entertainment, trophies and more.

Riders tour throughout the county, he said, and a tribute ride from Salem and from Olympia, Washington, would honor Til Taylor, the Umatilla County sheriff who was killed in a jail break in 1920. The money raised from the run would go to the city of

Pendleton to offset costs associated with the event.

Folkestad, of Camas, Washington, is a lobbyist for the drone industry in his day job and makes frequent trips to Pendleton's range for remote-controlled flying vehicles. He said city of Pendleton economic development director Steve Chrisman and Travel Pendleton coordinator Pat Beard comered him some months ago about the possibility of a motorcycle rally.

Now the clock is ticking to make an event good enough that people will want to come back. And the riders who show, he said, are the kind who can plunk down \$35,000 for a motorcycle and are likely to stay in hotels and keep restaurants busy.

"It's not going to be a bunch of crazy people coming in and breaking up the town," he said. "That's not what we're gonna do."

After the announcement, Folkestad said he was involved in the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally in Baker City for 14 years, but last year sold off his interest in that and now is focused on Pendleton. He said Boise is the main feeder for the Baker City event, and it draws about 8,000 people. That's also about all the small city can handle, he said, but Pendleton has much greater capacity.

Beard said motorcycle touring has become popular, and Pendleton Bike Week is an opportunity for thousands to see what Pendleton has to offer.

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# MILTON-FREEWATER Couple makes award history

By MARCIA AKES  
For the East Oregonian

While several couples have earned Milton-Freewater's top honors, Larry and Jennifer Anderson are the only ones to achieve the distinction in the same year.

Jennifer was completely surprised when last year's winner, Linda Hall, called her name Thursday night at the Community Building. Hall referred to Jennifer as "Lady of the Year," noting that she is a beloved and dependable member of the community who always has a smile and never says "no" when asked to help.

Larry, visibly pleased with his wife's recognition, was shocked when a few moments later Mike Garton named him as Man of the Year.

The Andersons have been promoting Milton-Freewater and volunteering since they arrived in town over a decade ago. From their tax consultant business to their hobbies and volunteer work, the two basically do everything together.

Their vast number of volunteer hours are spread among the M-F Senior Center, The Breadbasket, Citizens TV, annual community festivals and events, and as members of the M-F Chamber Ambassadors.

The Community Building was packed for Milton-Freewater Area Chamber of Commerce's 67th Annual Banquet, "An Evening In Paris — A Tribute to Those that Shine the Brightest."

The program kicked off with 2014 Chamber President Vicki Lee giving the President's Award to Chamber Executive Director Cheryl York and Chamber Administrative Assistant Taridy Robertson. Lee noted that without them the chamber wouldn't be what it is.

2015 Chamber President Gina Hartzheim was introduced and Master of Ceremonies Art Hill, vice president of Economic Development at Blue Mountain Community College.

Sharame Marlatt was honored as Junior Citizen of the Year. Shawn Kralman described the winner as "helpful, cheerful, honest and caring ... always willing to jump in and help." From volunteering



Larry Anderson  
Man of the Year



Jennifer Anderson,  
Woman of the Year



Tom Hinton  
Golden Pioneer Award



Dorothy Hinton  
Golden Pioneer Award



Sharame Marlatt  
Junior Citizen of the Year Award



Bob Brown  
Agri-Business Award



Liz Cahill  
Educator Award



Morgen Brown  
Youth of the Year

in youth sports to helping families in need, she is a "go-getter." Sharame cares deeply about the community and in 2014 organized a Parents' Prom to raise money for a playground in memory of her 2-year-old daughter, Emily Kay Marlatt.

The Golden Pioneer awards went to long-time volunteers Tom and Dorothy Hinton. Both have been involved with the M-F Junior Show, where Dorothy was fair secretary and Tom the sheep superintendent, for over 30 years. Both have been heavily involved with 4-H and FFA, and are charter members of Friends of Mac-Hi FFA. Dorothy is an OSU Master Gardener and Tom played guitar at the Stateline Grange dances for 40 years.

Orchardist Bob Brown was recognized with the Agri-Business Award. Brown is an owner in the family businesses of Watermill Winery, Blue Mountain Cider Company, and Earl E. Brown & Sons Inc. where he is the warehouse manager. He has a degree in agricultural economics and serves on the Northwest Fruit Exporters Board of Directors and the Oregon Department of Agriculture

Advisory Board for Commodity Inspections. Bob has also been involved with youth sports and helps with the needs of the local schools.

Described as a "difference maker," Morgen Brown was picked as Youth of the Year. Among her many activities, including Key Club and National Honor Society, the young woman organized a project that caught state-wide attention. Morgen noticed there were students who came to school without a backpack or school supplies so she started "Fill a Backpack, Make a Smile." With a goal of 25 backpacks, her fund-raising efforts ended up with 122. The second year she gave 187 backpacks to community students and earned a Governor's Volunteer Award for her caring project.

McLoughlin High School social studies teacher Liz Cahill received the Educator Award. She was referred to as a highly motivated and student-centered instructor who is an incredible asset to the students and school. "Extremely dedicated to her students...and constantly strives to prepare them for success after high school."

## Hermiston to pilot college savings awareness program

East Oregonian

Parents and students will get an extra push toward saving for college next year as Hermiston School District is one of a handful of districts in the state to pilot a program called Be College Ready.

Superintendent Fred Maiocco said the program will be another tool in Hermiston's toolbox to help point students to a post-secondary education.

The goal of Be College Ready is to use presentations, activities and free school supplies printed with information to encourage students and their parents to start realizing in elementary school that it is possible for them to afford college if they plan ahead.

Dr. Michelle Jensen, a school counselor who did her dissertation for her Ph.D. on empowering students to go

to college, said most students have already decided whether or not they will go to college by seventh grade, meaning it is important to reach the younger grades. She said students internalize talk around the house about finances and decide their families can't afford to support them at school and so they shouldn't go.

The school district works with students to find scholarships and financial aid, but Be College Ready focuses on

another tool: Oregon's 529 College Savings Plan.

John Valley, outreach coordinator for the Oregon 529 College Savings Network run by the state, said the government tries to make it as easy as possible for parents to save. There are no start-up or annual fees, no minimum balance, no requirement to contribute a certain amount on a regular basis and it only takes a \$25 contribution to start the investment account. Money contrib-

uted to the account is tax-deductible and interest earned isn't taxed as long as it is used to pay for some sort of higher education. He said earning even a small amount of tax-free interest would be better than taking out student loans.

"You want compound interest to work for you instead of against you," he said.

For being part of the pilot program the state will donate \$529 to each Hermiston elementary school's PTA.

## Calling all Creative Types!

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