

# Pendleton man wins \$674,000 on Wildhorse penny slot machine

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian



Photo courtesy of Wildhorse Casino & Resort  
**Pendleton resident Matt Doherty gets his picture taken after he hit a \$674,096 jackpot at the Wildhorse Casino & Resort Tuesday.**

One push of the button sent a local man over the rainbow Tuesday thanks to a "Wizard of Oz" progressive penny slot machine at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Playing the themed machine, Pendleton resident Matt Doherty won \$674,096 — the biggest payout of its kind in almost five years.

David Rohn, Wildhorse director of slot operations, said the odds of winning that type of jackpot are akin to winning the lottery.

According to Rohn, the Wizard of Oz penny machine is considered a "wide area progressive" machine, meaning its continually mounting jackpot is not only drawn from players at Wildhorse, but from other casinos across the country.

Considering the thousands of people who come through Wildhorse every day and the millions more who patronize the other casinos, the odds of hitting the progressive jackpot are pret-

ty small. In its 20 years of existence, Wildhorse wide area progressive machines have produced only 17 winners, the last being a La Grande man who won \$2.29 million on March 23, 2010, almost five years to the day before Doherty won his own jack-

pot. When someone wins such a gigantic pot, taking home the money isn't as easy as stuffing the cash in a suitcase and walking out. Rohn said the manufacturer of the slot machine, which supplies the payout instead of the casino, sends a team to verify the win-

nings. Although verification can take up to 24 hours, Rohn said it only took about six hours for the team to confirm Doherty's jackpot.

Doherty declined to comment for this story. Even after confirmation, progressive jackpot winners don't immediately receive the money.

Winners receive 5 percent up front — approximately \$33,705 for Doherty — and are eventually sent a letter with the option to either receive the rest of the money in a long-term annuity or a smaller lump sum, minus taxes.

"No one expects to win," Rohn said. "They play for fun and when they win it comes as a surprise."

Being one of the largest tourist draws in Eastern Oregon means many slots winners come from outside the Pendleton area.

But for Doherty, there's no place like home.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

## PENDLETON

# Bike and board shop to open downtown

East Oregonian

Though Echo Bike & Board hasn't been located in Echo for about a year, the owners have no plans to change the name when they move their store to Pendleton next month.

Stephanie Myers, who co-owns the store with her husband Shayne, said the store's old name will stay for good reason when it opens on Main Street on April 1.

Echo Bike & Board is already a name customers are familiar with, Myers said, and they didn't want the new

store confused with Pendleton Bike & Board, which shuttered its doors several years ago. Pendleton Bike & Board's faded awning can still be seen on Main Street, over a storefront now occupied by Thur's Smoke Shop.

"We're filling a void in the market," Myers said.

Echo Bike & Board was opened in Echo in 2010. After moving to a bigger space in Stanfield last year, Myers said she and her husband were still storing stock in their house.

The search for an even larger space led the couple to

Pendleton, where their store will take residence at 253 S. Main St., next to Dean's Pendleton Athletic.

Myers said the move was made possible in part by the Echo Bike & Board's loyal customer base, which includes the bicycle club Pendleton on Wheels.

Chuck Wood, Pendleton city councilman and Pendleton on Wheels member, said he had a one-word reaction to the news of Echo Bike & Board's impending arrival — "Yippee!"

The club meets every Saturday morning April-Sep-

tember for various rides through Eastern Oregon, according to its website, but hasn't had a shop in town to get repair work done.

Wood said he's lobbied the owners for the last few years to come to Pendleton and now has his wish. Bicycle sale and repair will remain the focus of Echo Bike & Board at the new location, but Myers said their shop will also sell skateboards, scooters and running equipment.

Myers said the planned opening of the store is April 1.

## COMING EVENTS

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27**  
**WALKING FOR WELLNESS,** 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-276-8100).

**TODDLER STORY TIME,** 10:15-10:45 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-966-0380).

**HANSELL AND BARRETO TOWN HALL LUNCHEON,** 11:45 a.m., Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. Sen. Hansell and Rep. Barreto will give updates from Salem and answer questions. Tickets are \$14 for those eating lunch (RSVP requested), free for those not eating. (541-276-7411).

**STORY & CRAFT TIME,** 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 Bonanza St.

**AFTER SCHOOL STORY TIME,** 4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. Older siblings welcome. (541-966-0380).

**FABULOUS FISH FRIDAY,** 5-6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Hospital Blue Mountain Cafe, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. All-you-can-eat fish tacos with rice, beans and cole slaw for \$7.75 adults, \$6.50 senior and \$5 children; \$4.25 for clam chowder in a bread bowl; baked potato bar \$4 with toppings, \$3 for butter only.

**VFW BINGO,** doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**  
**FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST,** 7:30-10:30 a.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. Cost is \$4.50 per person. Proceeds benefit the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center project. (Peggy 541-567-3806).

**PILOT ROCK GUN SHOW,** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place. Admission is \$5 per person (children 12 and under free), \$4 if you bring a gun to sell, \$7 for both days. (Tom Hawk 541-420-5950, crrarms@yahoo.com or Virginia Carnes 541-443-5832).

**FREE FOR ALL,** 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Family art experience for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (541-278-9201).

**GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD CEREMONY,** 10 a.m., First Church of God, 712 S.W. 27th St., Pendleton. Paisley Schulte and Hayley Lemens will receive the Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouts. All current and former Girl Scouts are invited to attend. (Tamara Pahl 541-276-7115).

**HIP & HANDMADE,** 11 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in art project class for adults. (541-278-9201).

**"THE LOST FISH" DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION,** 1 p.m., Tamastlikt Cultural Institute theater, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Peppi Primitime @ the Museum presents "The Lost Fish: The Struggle to Save Pacific Lamprey." Following the movie, Aaron Jackson will provide a Q&A session on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Lamprey Program. Live lamprey will be on display. Refreshments will be served. (541-429-7700 or www.tamastlikt.org).

**SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILY TIME,** 3-6 p.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. For children who may need a quieter, less crowded environment. Free for members/\$1 for non-members. Registration required. (541-276-1066).

**"THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA,"** 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. showings, AC Houghton Elementary School, 1105 N. Main Ave., Irrigon. Irrigon and Boardman students will perform the classic fairy tale. Produced by the Missoula Children's theatre. (Angela 541-314-0166 or northmorrowcommunityfounda-

tion@gmail.com)

**BOB BAKER MEMORIAL TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER, BINGO AND BUNCO FUNDRAISER,** 5 p.m. doors open, Lone American Legion Hall, 325 W. Second St. \$40 poker buy-in, 6 p.m. signups, 6:30 p.m. games begin, rebuys until 7:30 p.m.; Bingo from 5-7 p.m., Bunco from 7-9 p.m., \$10 buy-in; sandwich and salad bar meal available by donation, beverages by Bucknum's; raffles for a .22 mag lever action rifle and 3 boxes of ammo, 2 halves beef, cut and wrapped, tickets available at the Lone Market, MCGG in Lone, Pettyjohn's in Hepburn and from American Legion and auxiliary members. (Jennifer DeBoer dlcjam@yahoo.com).

**AARON CARTER AND JONATHAN TRAWICK IN CONCERT,** 7 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Duo will perform roots/Americana fiddle tunes. Tickets are \$10, available at the door or by calling 541-278-9201.

**ELDON POTTS IN CONCERT,** 7 p.m., Columbia View Community Church, 1240 E. Highway 730, Irrigon. Potts performs a unique style of country gospel music suitable for all ages. Free admission, but a love offering will be taken. (Marilyn 541-922-3319).

## HERMISTON

# Layout of business can help deter crime

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Business owners can help deter crime on their property by simply installing a light, according to Hermiston Police Department's crime prevention officer.

Erica Sandoval gave a presentation titled "crime prevention through environmental design" at the Chamber of Commerce's monthly business luncheon Tuesday.

"What it boils down to is we want to make the bad guy more visible," Sandoval said.

She said most of the criminals HPD deals with are opportunistic. Instead of planning an elaborate scheme they merely act when the opportunity to steal or vandalize presents itself and no one is looking.

The trick is to design a property so it feels like someone is always looking.

Sandoval said shops and convenience stores with shelves no higher than five feet, for example, mean that would-be shoplifters don't feel invisible standing behind a tall shelf. She recommended designing buildings so that bathrooms are within the line of sight of an office or cash register, and praised apartment complexes and other buildings that incorporate stairways with gaps between each step so that no one can hide behind them.

"You create natural surveillance," she said.

Around the exterior of a home or business, Sandoval said keeping shrubs shorter than three feet and tree canopies higher than seven feet takes away criminals' ability to effectively hide behind them.

She said having proper lighting outside at night is "a huge one" for deterring crime. It doesn't have to be a glaring floodlight, she said, but rather appropriate lighting that doesn't create corners in deep shadow where people could hide.

Beyond that, Sandoval said it also helps if businesses use a line of low shrubs, rocks, a see-through fence or other landscaping to clearly delineate where public property ends and private property begins. They should also use signs, awnings and other tools to make it clear where their front entrance is so people aren't wandering around or loitering on the sides and back of the building.

"Let the public know that this is a business, and this is where you need to come in," she said.

Sandoval said that taking care of a property helps too. Weeding, trimming, cleaning, picking up trash and making repairs creates a sense of ownership and sends a message that someone cares about the property and is keeping an eye on it.

"It's going to make the bad guys stand out if they're throwing litter around or vandalizing," she said.

Finally, Sandoval said that traditional safety measures like keeping all doors and windows locked at night are still important no matter what the design of the property.

She said she is happy to work with business owners to do a certified assessment of their property and make suggestions for deterring crime. She can be contacted at 541-667-5112.

Contact Jade McDowell at [jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4536.

## BRIEFLY

### Library plans animal-themed fun

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Milton-Freewater Public Library is kicking off spring with animal-themed fun starting Wednesday. The library is located at 8 S.W. Eighth Ave.

Little Bunnies Night is Wednesday at 6 p.m., featuring spring crafts, refreshments and free books for kids of all ages.

And the library is teaming up with Ready2Learn to present a special Story Time with Elephant and Piggie on Monday, April 6 at 6 p.m. for children ages 0-8. Children that attend will enjoy stories, play games, sing songs and make Elephant and Piggie-themed crafts. Both activities are free.

For more info, contact Erin Wells at 541-938-8247.

## HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE

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