



Chief Joseph Days Rodeo

Joseph, July 26-31

Deep in the heart of scenic Wallowa County, Chief Joseph Days has earned a reputation on par with many of the top rodeos in the country. Along with the Round-Up, the Calgary Stampede and Cheyenne Frontier Days, Chief Joseph Days earned a spot on Western Horse & Gun magazine's Top 10 Must See Rodeos of 2016.

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo

Heppner, August 19-20

The Morrow County Fair features a little something for everyone. After the professional champions are crowned at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo on Saturday, local amateurs will get a chance to test their mettle in front of a hometown crowd at the Morrow County Rodeo.

More rodeos

- May 14, **Challenge of Champions Tour**, Hermiston
- May 14, **North American Stock Saddle Bronc Championship**, Pendleton
- May 28-29, **Spray Rodeo**, Spray
- June 9-12, **Eastern Oregon Livestock Show**, Union
- June 18, **Mountain High Broncs & Bulls**, Enterprise
- July 6-9, **Elgin Stampede**, Elgin
- August 10-13, **Grant County Fair And Rodeo**, John Day

Western style

Stapleman's Boots and Leather

Pendleton has become a well-known destination for custom-made Western craftsmanship. Whether it is a pair of custom cowboy boots, a one-of-a-kind saddle or a unique hat, it can all be made to order by artisans who have been in their craft for most of their lives.

Richard Stapleman, owner of Stapleman's Boots and Leather in downtown Pendleton, specializes in custom one-of-a-kind boots that, while they go on your feet, fit like a glove. He started leatherworking around 1984, making things like chaps, tack and rodeo equipment. In 1999, he decided to make his first pair of cowboy boots. He bought some books on boot making and simply taught himself through trial and error.

Making a pair of custom fit-boots is a long process. A normal pair of boots takes Stapleman around 40 hours to complete. He starts off by taking a series of measurements including an outline of each foot, then the top bone, the arch, the waist (or circumference), the ball, and finally ankle measurements. These measurements are transferred to paper, which are used to trace out the pieces of leather needed build the boots. A "last" is a form for shoemaking that is molded to the

dimensions of the measured foot and used to shape the leather sole. A typical cowboy boot is made with four pieces of leather, but Stapleman explained that the most intricate boots he ever made were crafted from a single piece of leather, which he spent over 100 hours making and carving intricate designs.

There is no typical leather that goes into making a cowboy boot. Stapleman's has almost any color imaginable from hot pink to blue or green. Cowhide is certainly used for the majority of a boot, but more exotic leathers include alligator imported from Puerto Rico, ostrich, snake and even turkey hide. Stapleman remarked that no two leathers, even if they are from the same animal species, are the same; it is a "living" fiber. The quirks and unique features of each piece of leather are part of what make his craft so interesting and a constant learning process.

In addition to boots Stapleman makes men and women's dress shoes, wallets, bags, purses and chaps. He says that he will attempt to make anything as long as he thinks it is within his abilities as a leatherworker.

Stapleman's Boots and Leather is located at 7 S.E. Court Ave., and open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Annie Margarita Studios

Open Tuesday-Saturday

141 S. Main St., Pendleton / 541-215-2022

Annie Margarita combines her incredible leatherworking abilities with her painting skills to create beautiful bags and purses, fly fishing rod tubes and reel cases. Her store opened in 2015 and she has quickly become a cornerstone of Pendleton's unique Western Craft scene.



Annie Margarita sews an end piece onto a leather fishing pole case at her shop in Pendleton.

At Montana Peaks, you can get pretty much any kind of felt hat imaginable. From cowboy hats to fedoras, they can make it all. They use antique French measuring tools to create a fit that cannot be replicated elsewhere, and can even match the style of your favorite childhood cowboy.

23+

Open Monday-Friday, select weekends

201 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
360-600-6038

Pendleton's newest leatherworking studio sells belts, book covers, purses, wallets and more, including custom orders.

Hamley & Co.

Open Sunday-Saturday

30 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton / 541-278-1100

Hamley's has been selling saddles in Pendleton since 1905 and are world known for making "the finest hand made saddles money can buy." The storefront sells hand-made saddles and tack, as well as Western clothing, art, gifts and jewelry.

Montana Peaks Hat Co.

Open Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat

24 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton / 541-215-1400

Severe Brothers Saddlery

Open Monday-Friday

1413 N.W. 49th Drive, Pendleton

541-276-2961

Internationally known for making the highest quality saddles, the Severe family has been making saddles in Pendleton since 1955. Duff Severe was the first leather craftsman to be recognized as an artist by the Smithsonian Institute.