

PENDLETON

# Micro-distillery fires up pizza oven

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

The latest entry in Pendleton's pizza market is also the city's only micro-distillery.

Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery will open a restaurant to complement its liquor-production business Sept. 5 and pizza will be a significant part of the menu.

While there are already many places to grab a slice in Pendleton, Oregon Grain Growers aims to occupy its own niche.

"It's a little less *pizza Americano* and a little more traditional," said chef Chad De Young, who used to lead the Pendleton Coffee Bean & Bistro kitchen before it closed.

De Young said his pizzas reflect the Oregon Grain Growers ethos of making something that's handcrafted and locally sourced whenever possible. Additionally, each pizza is cooked in a woodfire stove dual powered by gas.

To reflect this ethos, De Young has put unconventional toppings like grilled peaches and figs and included Oregon Grain Growers' vodka in the cream sauce of his "Bloody Mary" pizza.

While Oregon Grain Growers will have the choice of several different types of pizzas, they'll also be given a "roll the dice" option that gives the pizza makers the liberty to experiment with the pizza and its toppings.

If customers like the improvised pizza, De Young can incorporate it into the menu. If not?



Photo by Antonio Sierra

Co-owner Rodney Bullington, left, and chef Chad De Young prepare pizzas at the Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery Friday in Pendleton.

"If people really hate it, it's on us," he said.

The distillery has softly opened their restaurant and served pizza at catered events and De Young said the menu will serve more than pizza when the restaurant opens officially. While the menu hasn't been finalized, De Young said it will be inspired by Mediterranean cuisine and change seasonally.

Beyond the restaurant,

Oregon Grain Growers continue to forge ahead with their locally produced spirits.

Having already started producing a vodka and corn whiskey, Oregon Grain Growers co-owner Rodney Bullington said they're introducing a gin into the line-up.

The distillery team is also working on a whiskey in time for Round-Up. Bullington said it will be called "Umatilla Gold" in

reference to the way the county looks golden from above because of the acres of wheat crops.

Oregon Grain Growers is located at 511 S.E. Court Ave. and is open Tuesday-Thursday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Friday, 1 p.m.-9 p.m., and Saturday 12 p.m.-9 p.m.

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

BRIEFLY

## Standard Plumbing expands

PENDLETON — Standard Plumbing Supply recently supersized with a \$400,000 remodel that moved the store from a relatively narrow inventory of wholesale plumbing items to a wide array of home improvement products for the general public. Last weekend the business, located at 4216 Westgate, celebrated with an open house and ribbon cutting.

"We were just plumbing before. We've become a full-service hardware store," said manager Dan Logman. "The company has put a big investment into Pendleton."

He said the makeover quadrupled the store's footprint and tripled the inventory. On the shelves are products ranging from flanges and fans to filters and pipe fittings, locks and barbecue supplies, smoke alarms and sealants, doorknobs and dowels. In the northwest corner of the store is a showroom featuring sinks, tubs and other kitchen and bathroom fixtures. In another corner of the building is the brand new paint department.

Pendleton's Standard Plumbing store is one of almost 100 branches in the western United States. The company is based in Utah.

## Class in Pendleton addresses house buying safety

PENDLETON — A class that provides personal life safety information for real estate agents and homeowners during the selling/buying process will be presented in Pendleton.

Hosted by The Columbia Basin Board of Realtors, Jo Becker will offer the NAR Realtor Safety course Thursday, Aug. 10 from 1-4 p.m. in the Aldrich Room at the East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission fee.

The session will address safety concerns and precautions related to identify theft, data security, office, open house, showing safety protocols, safety-minded marketing strategies and social media best practices.

People can register for the class at 800-252-9115 or [www.oregonrealtors.org](http://www.oregonrealtors.org). For more information, call Becker at 503-765-6979.

## U.S. Cellular sets customer appreciation events

Customer service celebrations are planned in the Pendleton and Hermiston U.S. Cellular stores.

Both stores will offer a variety of giveaways for anyone who visits. Also, a mobile prize wheel provides customers an opportunity to use their smartphones to spin to win prizes that include accessory discounts, bill credits and other items.

The free events are:  
•Friday, Aug. 11 and Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1923 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton.

•Friday, Aug. 11 and Saturday, Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 650 N. First St., Hermiston.

For more information, contact Katie Frey at [kwinger@gardcommunications.com](mailto:kwinger@gardcommunications.com) or 773-355-3275.

## Seminar focuses on reaching goals

HERMISTON — A workshop that provides insight for organizations and individuals on overcoming fears in order to reach goals is being offered in Hermiston.

Sponsored by the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer McClure, an international leadership coach, teacher and speaker, will present "Stepping Out of Stuck: The Safer Way to Overcoming Fears."

The leadership and professional growth seminar is Thursday, Aug. 17 from 8-10 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The cost is \$30 per person.

To register, contact McClure at [jensurgeon11@yahoo.com](mailto:jensurgeon11@yahoo.com). For more about the Hermiston chamber, call 541-567-6151 or visit [www.hermistonchamber.com](http://www.hermistonchamber.com).

# How much better can jobs report get?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A drop in the unemployment rate to a 16-year low raises a tantalizing question about the job market: How much better can it get?

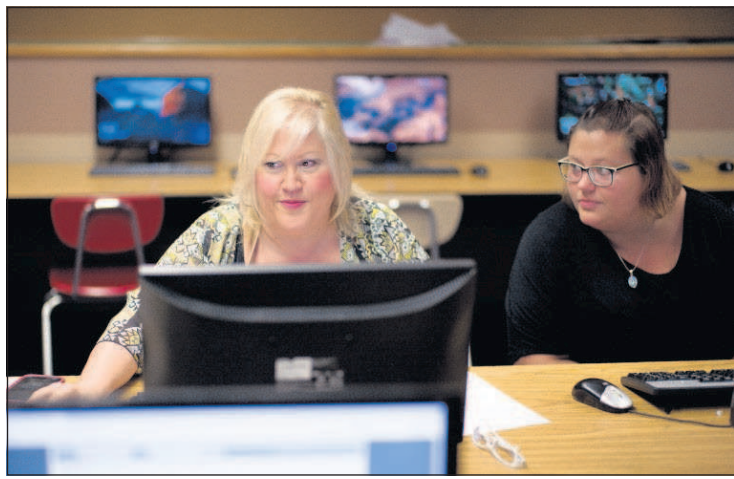
Earlier this year, economists worried that the low unemployment rate meant businesses would struggle to find workers and that would drag down the pace of hiring. Those fears were heightened by a tiny job gain in March and modest hiring in May.

Yet Friday's jobs report suggests such concerns are premature. Employers added 209,000 jobs, after a solid gain of 231,000 in June, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.3 percent, from 4.4 percent, matching the low reached in May.

The U.S. economy is benefiting from steady growth around the world, with Europe and Japan perking up and China's economy stabilizing. Corporate revenue and profits are growing too, and the stock market has hit record highs.

Economists were particularly encouraged by the fact that more Americans are coming off the sidelines and finding jobs. For the first few years after the recession, many of the unemployed stopped looking for work.

Some were discouraged by the lack of available jobs. Others returned to school or stayed home



AP Photo/Nati Harnik

In this Thursday photo, Cheryl Bast, left, is accompanied by her daughter Liz Pierson, as she works on an application for a position with Omaha Public Schools, during a job fair held at Omaha South High School in Omaha, Neb.

to take care of family. The government doesn't count those out of work as unemployed unless they are actively searching for jobs.

That trend began to reverse last year and has continued into 2017. To many economists, that means robust hiring could continue for many more months, or even years.

"There's more people willing to work than the unemployment rate would have you believe," said Nick Bunker, a senior policy analyst at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, a liberal think tank.

President Donald Trump celebrated the data in a tweet shortly after the numbers were released. "Excellent Jobs Numbers," he

wrote, "and I have only just begun."

Trump technically tweeted too early: His comment was posted at 8:45 a.m., just 15 minutes after the report was released. Federal rules specify that White House officials should wait for an hour before publicly commenting. The rule is intended to allow the data to be released without political spin.

President Barack Obama's former top economic adviser, Jason Furman, noted the slip-up, calling it a "minor transgression."

The pace of hiring so far this year, while solid, is pretty much the same as it was last year under Obama. Employers have added an average of 184,000 jobs a month

through July, compared with 187,000 in 2016. Monthly job gains topped 200,000 on average in 2014 and 2015.

The steady hiring is adding up. In July, the proportion of Americans aged 25 through 54 who had a job or were looking for one rose to 81.8 percent, up a half-percentage point from a year earlier and the highest since December 2010.

Economists focus on that age group because it filters out the impact of retirements by the huge baby boomer generation and excludes younger workers who are more likely to be in school.

That means more Americans are optimistic about the job market and launching job searches. But that proportion is still substantially lower than the all-time peak of 84.6 percent, reached in January 1999.

The unemployment rate fell to a three-decade low of 3.9 percent the following year, in April 2000. That represented the best of all worlds: A low unemployment rate with a lot of people working or looking for work.

Economists doubt the jobless rate can fall that low again without touching off inflation, as employers are forced to offer higher pay to attract workers from a dwindling supply of unemployed. That, in fact, is why the Federal Reserve has raised short-term interest rates three times in the past seven months, which they hope will forestall future price increases.



## THANKING OUR SPONSORS

The Umatilla County Historical Society extends a special thank you to the sponsors of our 2017 Agricultural Heritage Tour. Their support enables this tour to be an outstanding signature event for the Historical Society.

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We also thank the hard-working volunteers, who make this event possible



"Our Roots Run Deep in Morrow County"  
August 16-20, 2017



FAIR: [www.co.morrow.or.us/fair](http://www.co.morrow.or.us/fair)

**Wednesday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Reptile Man & Kid Zone  
Scarecrow Contest

The Junebugs



4-H Food Contest  
4-H/FFA Small Animal Showmanship  
Ice Cream Social  
4-H Archery Shoot  
RDO Tractor Pull  
Cory Peterson Band



**Thursday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Reptile Man & Kid Zone  
Old Time Fiddlers  
Talent Show  
4-H/FFA Conformation  
Murray's Wine Tasting

Featuring:  
Joe Lindsay  
Nate Bosford



OTPR NPRA SLACK

**Friday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Reptile Man & Kid Zone  
4-H/FFA Showmanship  
Ballet Performance 4-7 yrs.  
Master Showmanship  
Adult Showmanship Greased Pig Contest  
OTPR/NPRA Rodeo  
Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions

**Saturday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Reptile Man & Kid Zone Parade FFA Awards  
Buyers Luncheon  
Livestock Auction OTPR/NPRA Rodeo  
Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions

**Sunday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>**

All Exhibits Released  
Morrow County Rodeo

Fair Admission: Ages 8 & Up \$4 daily or \$10 week  
7 & under FREE (must be with Adult)

Rodeo Admission: 13 & up \$10  
7-12 yrs. \$6  
6 & under FREE

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