

ROUND-UP: Simons the only Pendletonian on the court

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ence, having served as the queen of Walla Walla Frontier Days Rodeo in 2016.

An agriculture business and animal science major at Walla Walla Community College, Fullerton was an all-state selection for volleyball, a member of the National Honors Society and a chapter president for the Future Farmers of America.

• Elizabeth Herbes, 19, of Union, is as skilled on her feet as she is with a horse.

A first-team all-state selection in cross country and track and field at Union High School who now runs track for Eastern Oregon University, Herbes also knows how to ride western style, English, sidesaddle and bareback.

She has carried pennants and ushered at the Round-Up since she was six, in addition to participating in the Happy Canyon Beauty Pageant and helping out with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cowboy Breakfast. Her sister was a princess in 2013 and



Josilyn Fullerton



Elizabeth Herbes



Kaelyn Lindsay



Charla Simons

her father was a Happy Canyon volunteer of the year.

• Kaelyn Lindsay 19, of Lexington, grew up herding cows and translated those skills to local competitions.

A Heppner High School graduate and Blue Mountain Community College nursing student, she earned a letter of support from Blake Knowles, a three-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier.

“Kaelyn’s kindness is a standout characteristic. She has a knack for lifting others up and

creating a positive environment,” he wrote. “When I think of the Pendleton Round-Up Court, I think of hardworking, talented cowgirls who have a way of bringing the Wild West to modern life with impeccable grace and integrity in all aspects of life. I could not think of a better young lady to represent the Pendleton Round-Up.”

• Charla Simons, 19, is the sole Pendletonian on this year’s court and has the Round-Up experience to boot. On horseback since she was

eight-years-old, Simons has carried pennants, participated in Tough Enough to Wear Pink and volunteered for the Cowboy Mounted Band.

Named to the all-state dance team while at Pendleton High School, she continues to participate in the dance and cheer team at Oregon State University, where she studies human development and family services.

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Forest Service weighs changes to protections for sage grouse

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service is rethinking protection plans for sage grouse in six Western states after a U.S. court agreed with mining companies and others that the agency illegally created some safeguards in Nevada.

The agency announced Tuesday that it’s working with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which also is reviewing its plans for the struggling bird following an order by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Forest Service spokesman John Shivik said the coordinated review makes sense two years after federal officials decided the chicken-sized bird shouldn’t receive endangered-species protections.

“Now is a good time to say, ‘How well is this working,’” he said Wednesday.

The agency is taking public comments in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming through Jan. 5. It says it will review the input before deciding if changes are needed. It’s not clear when the agency will make a decision.

The government in 2015 didn’t list sage grouse but imposed restrictions on land use that were based on multiple plans put forward by the Forest Service and BLM. Many of those plans include sagebrush focal areas that created additional restrictions in places considered key sage grouse habitat.

The federal court in Nevada in March ruled that the Forest Service’s creation of the focal areas in a part of that state violated federal environmental laws because the agency failed to give the public enough information to participate in a meaningful way before creating them.

The focal areas added late in the process in 2015 are found in many states and generally considered one of the reasons sage grouse didn’t receive federal protection.

Focal areas were “a last-minute surprise to a lot of people, and that created a lot of ill will,” said John Freemuth, a Boise State University environmental policy professor and public lands expert. “Whether not doing them would have avoided a sage grouse listing is pure speculation.”

Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter has complained bitterly about the focal areas and filed a lawsuit shortly after the 2015 federal plan came out, contending the Obama administration acted illegally by imposing federal land-use restrictions. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit in January, but Otter in March appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. That case remains active.

Because the focal areas are in multiple states, Shivik said, the Forest Service decided to also review its plans outside of Nevada and look at more than just focal areas. Other topics the agency is taking public comments on include grazing guidelines, modifying habitat boundaries and land-use exemptions.

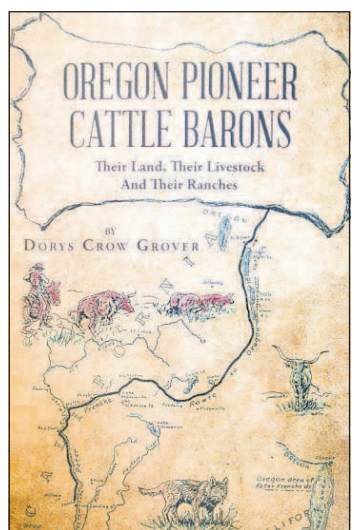
GROVER: Won the Distinguished Professor Award in 1990

Continued from 1A

Grover took a circuitous route to her latest gig of writing about Oregon’s cattle barons. At age 20, she worked as a civilian aide to the adjutant general at the airbase in Pendleton during World War II. She studied first at Oregon State University, then Washington State, University of Virginia, and Drake, before working as a literature professor at Texas A&M. In between, she worked five or six years as a reporter at the *East Oregonian* and a year teaching English at Griswold High School in Helix.

Perhaps her own personal feistiness led her to write about the cattle barons. Her book paints a picture of bold, sometimes ruthless men who ran thousands of head of cattle across the Oregon landscape.

Grover said the cattle barons fended off Indians, homesteaders and sheep ranchers to fill the “seemingly endless expanse of land” in Oregon’s open grasslands. The battle was sometimes fierce. One story tells of a shepherd who took



‘Oregon Pioneer Cattle Barons’ by Dorys Grover

his flock across a line set up by a cattle operation in the 1880s in Bear Valley, only to be murdered and his 1,500 sheep slaughtered. Sheep ranchers reciprocated by burning barns, haystacks and homes of cattlemen.

Grover devotes early chapters to four of Oregon’s most well known cattle barons — John S. Devine, John William

“Peter” French, Henry Miller and William Hanley.

Peter French ran cattle, about 50,000 of them by 1885, in the foothills of the Steens Mountains. A homesteader named Edward Lee Oliver rode onto French land and shot French dead on Christmas 1897.

Hanley, a personable man who ran thousands of cattle in Harney County, paid a \$500 fine in 1909 for fencing about 3,000 acres of government land. The cattle baron died in 1935, a day after he attended the Pendleton Round-Up and was honored by the Round-Up Association.

Henry Miller drove his cattle to Oregon from California during the Gold Rush era.

“He was a German immigrant who came over on a ship as an 18-year-old,” Grover said. “He was a butcher by trade and he knew the miners needed beef.”

John Devine, Grover said, was “probably the most colorful cattleman to ride into southwestern Oregon.” The 30-year-old reportedly “rode a prancing white horse with silver-

mounted trappings and dressed in the fashion of a Spanish don with a wide-brimmed black hat, tight trousers and a bolero jacket.” He ran cattle in the Alvord Desert, owned 150,000 acres at one time and went bankrupt in 1889.

Grover blames the decline of the cattle barons on brutally cold Eastern Oregon winters and the tendency to run too many cattle on the land.

Grover still owns a house on the family ranch on Tutuilla Creek Road. While at Texas A&M, she came home every summer to the ranch to visit her seven Arabian horses. She retired after 35 years at Texas A&M, but not before winning the Distinguished Professor Award in 1990.

After about 25 years of retirement, he brain remains sharp. She attributes this to the daily date with her laptop.

“I attribute it to writing,” she said. “I just keep writing.”

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