

PENDLETON



Clay Winton, owner of Crosshair Customs in Baker City, chats with customers Saturday at the Pendleton Gun Show at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Eastern Oregon's largest gun show packs benefits for local nonprofit

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton Gun Show promoter Mike Voss of Summerville had a problem.

Eastern Oregon's largest gun show was to open at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center, but a vendor from Indiana never arrived. Voss did not want a noticeable gap in the exhibition hall, so the three empty tables were used at the last minute for a display of military weapons from a local collector.

Even without the Indiana representation, the show had 48 vendors spreading out across 140 tables to offer everything from backpacks to collector guns to tactical weapons, including dozens of AR-15s.

The vendors were from throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho, Voss said, and is about twice the size of the next largest area show, which took place in La Grande two weeks ago. He should know — he organizes that one, too.

The Pendleton show is in its third year and is a big shot in the bank account of the Pendleton City Club, the charitable organization that provides grants to benefit Pendleton youth. Tim Simons, City Club president and Pendleton community development director, said close to 1,300 paid to get into this year's show and the club hopes to clear more than \$5,000. The proceeds help pay for a range of youth programs, he said, from sports to helping feed children.

"If it's something we think is a good activity for the youth, we generally give the money," Simons said.

The City Club used to operate the sportsman show at the convention center, but Voss and others said that declined in popularity when the event provided space to sellers offering homemade goods, such as candles and jams. Simons said the City Club reached out to Voss as a solution.

Voss said he was eager to have a show in Pendleton as long as he oversaw the vendors, and homemade



"TRUMP" and "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" are engraved on a handgun at the Crosshair Customs booth Saturday at the Pendleton Gun Show at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Pendleton City Club looks to grow membership

PENDLETON — The Pendleton City Club this weekend wrapped up one its biggest fundraisers of the year — the annual gun show.

City Club president Tim Simons said the event could bring in more than \$5,000 to the charitable organization, which in turn provides the funds to benefit Pendleton youth programs.

The club has about 50 members, he said, and around 20-25 are active. He said the club wants to grow those ranks and is looking for new members.

He also said there is a misconception the club members must work for the city of Pendleton. Part of that may stem from the fact Simons is the city's community development director and Bob Patterson, the city planner, is the club's vice president. Club members do not have to work for the city, Simons stressed.

To learn more about the club, call Simons at 541-966-0203, or email him at Tim.Simons@ci.pendleton.or.us.

goods were not going to be a part of the show.

Voss and the city club split the gate, and the club gets a portion from the show's sponsors. The club in exchange provides its insurance policy to cover the show, and its members lend their muscle to help vendors set up and tear down.

Simons said the club even handle clean-up instead of leaving it for convention center employees.

Voss said the vendors dig having the help and he likes giving to a local community. The show also has some economic benefit to Pendleton because only two vendors were local, he said,

and many of the rest were in hotels and dined out.

John Stewart and Amy Moody worked hard Friday night to set up the display for Crosshair Customs of Baker City, which makes guns and sound suppressors, commonly known as silencers. Stewart said owner Clay Winton started the business two years ago in his home and now owns a brick-and-mortar store that employs five people. The business also is looking to expand and add machinists.

"Those are quality jobs in Baker City, not just minimum wage," Stewart said.

Stewart said gun shows promote the retail side of the business, and they would like to make more than \$4,000 at a show. Selling four or five of their AR-15 rifles usually covers that.

Retired pharmacist Daniel Brown of La Grande came to Pendleton to sell from his extensive private collection of guns. He said his wife is forward thinking and does not want to bother with all the firearms if he were no longer around. While he had some newer, shiny pieces, he also had working guns from the 19th century, including an 1889 Colt revolver.

Brown said he parted with about a third of his collection at the recent La Grande show and for the right price he would sell everything on the table. He also said the days of a loophole for guns sales at a show are over. Any sales he makes have to go through a background check, which Oregon law requires, and takes place on the show room floor for \$20.

"As a vendor selling my private collection, I don't want to be nailed for breaking the law," he said.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.



The Department of Motor Vehicles office in Hermiston has moved to the Hermiston Plaza, 810 S Highway 395.

New DMV office opens in Hermiston Plaza

HERMISTON — The Hermiston DMV has moved into a new office.

The Department of Motor Vehicles office was closed for part of last week as it moved across the street to 810 S Highway 395. The new building, next to Shari's Cafe & Pies, is larger and has more parking than the former location, where the DMV has been since 1981.

David House, a DMV spokesperson, said the department has to relocate two or three of its offices per year that have outgrown their old building, and Hermiston was due for a change. While right now the number of counters, hours and personnel levels will stay the same there is

more lobby space and it gives the office room to grow with Hermiston.

"It was a pretty routine move and from what I understand it went pretty smoothly," he said.

For people who don't still don't like waiting in line in the larger lobby, House recommended they first visit www.oregondmv.com to see if whatever business they need to take care of can be handled online, or to print out forms and fill them out before they arrive.

He also said that days with no school — particularly spring break and summer vacation — tend to see the heaviest foot traffic because teenagers are coming in to get their learner's permit or first driver's license.



A fire damaged a home Monday near Mission.

Fire burns home on reservation

MISSION — A fire Monday afternoon damaged a home on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Umatilla Tribal Fire received a call about 4 p.m. for a house fire at 72490 Billy Road, just south of Interstate 84. Both Umatilla Tribal Fire Department and the Pendleton Fire Department

responded. According to Chuck Sams, CTUIR spokesman, emergency crews knocked down the blaze at about 5:20 p.m., but not after it tore through the single family home.

According to Sams, crews believe no one was injured. An investigation is underway and more information will be available Tuesday, said Sams.

OSHA investigating work site death near Hermiston

HERMISTON — The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) has opened an investigation into the recent work site death near Hermiston.

"I can confirm that we've opened an investigation in connection with the accident," according to Oregon OSHA spokesperson Aaron Corvin. "Under Oregon law, however, we do not discuss the details of active investigations."

Swaggart Brothers is a general contractor operating out of Stanfield. One man died Tuesday, March 6, at an industrial

site on Cottonwood Bend Road, Hermiston, where an Amazon facility is under construction.

Authorities have not identified the victim.

Corvin also said Oregon OSHA has 180 days to complete an investigation but typically finishes them in three to four months.

Preliminary information from Oregon OSHA shows there have been 17 workplace deaths in Oregon this year, with three in Eastern Oregon: one from natural causes on Jan. 26 at a Milton-Freewater appliance store; one in a crash Feb. 9 in La Grande; and the death on March 6.

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