



Photo courtesy Debi Green

Pendleton Rhythmic Mode won the 2018 OSAA Dance and Drill State Championship March 17 in the state's 5A division. In addition, Pendleton dancers Paige Skinner, Terika Christensen and Kacey Robbins were named to the all-state team. It is Pendleton's eighth state championship. Hermiston Stardust finished third in the same division, and its dancer Makena Royer was also named to the all-state team.

Hamley's: 'We have two partners who can't agree on anything'

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Pearce's attorney, Timothy DeJong of Portland, opposed the request in a March 9 response. The two owners were in court Monday in Pendleton where their lawyers did the talking in front of Judge Lynn Hampton.

The Hamley's assets are between \$1.1 million and \$1.3 million in debt, Joseph said, and made just \$5,000 last year.

Woodfield in court filings claim the steakhouse made a \$140,000 profit in 2017, but the Western store lost \$135,000. The steakhouse increased gross revenues more than \$800,000 since 2010, he also stated, while the store's gross sales declined \$678,336, its inventory dropped by more than \$300,000 and it has debt exceeding \$100,000.

"We have two partners who can't agree on anything," Joseph told the court, and the lack of communication jeopardizes the Hamley's operations. Receivership, he said, "would put an adult in control of the situation."

Joseph said he was ready to have Richard Hooper, president of Pivotal Solutions Inc. of Renton, Washington, act as the receiver. He also asked Hampton to seal the details of the Pivotal offer,

which she ordered.

Hooper in a declaration he filed with the court in February stated his company has taken control of dozens of businesses in Oregon and Washington, including a plywood manufacturer in Vancouver, a commercial driving school in King County, Washington, and many apartment complexes. The paperwork lists no restaurant or retail stores, however.

DeJong told the judge Pivotal lacks the experience to run the Hamley's businesses and Woodfield's purpose for a receiver is to sell the company. He also argued Hamley's was not in "an emergency situation that required the intervention of the court."

That was because Pearce secured a new lender to take on Hamley's heavy debt. DeJong said HIPO, a Boise limited-liability company, is willing to negotiate a deal on the large loan.

Willamette View Funding of Portland carried Hamley's loan of almost \$1.2 million. Court documents show Howard Aaronson, principle of the company, warned Woodfield and others the money was due by Feb. 28 and there would be no extensions.

"Again I hope it does not come to be in default,"

Aaronson said in a Dec. 26 email.

DeJong said Pearce prevented that foreclosure. Joseph, however, contended Pearce acted unilaterally in getting a "buddy" lender and violated terms of the partnership agreement with Woodfield.

Judge Hampton said she would review the arguments and did not make a ruling. The next court date in the case is July 2, three weeks before it is set to go to trial.

DeJong and Joseph were back at it Tuesday morning on the phone in Hampton's courtroom to argue a matter stemming from Woodfield's second lawsuit.

Woodfield and Pearce are equal partners in Pearce Woodfield Development, a holding company Woodfield sued for not paying the balance on more than \$872,000 in loans. Court records show Hampton in February found Pearce Woodfield Development was in default. However, the company is broke.

Woodfield also claimed Pearce was personally responsible for the debt, and any entity operating under the umbrella of Pearce Woodfield Development is also on the hook for paying any loans.

DeJong asserted the loans of Pearce Woodfield

Development belong to the company alone, that Pearce himself is not responsible, nor can the company shift its debt to other companies. Hampton agreed and dismissed those ends of Woodfield's claim.

Pearce sat through that hearing and afterward said he hopes Hampton also rules against receivership. Hamley's employ around 75 people, he said, and he would like those jobs to stay. But if a receiver takes control and sells, Pearce said he would buy Hamley's.

In spite of the legal battle, Pearce said the Western store is looking to the future. While it lost money last year, he said that was because they invested heavily in setting up the new saddle academy, which has garnered plenty of interest. The store is also revamping its website to offer more goods and better compete online, Pearce said, and Hamley's now has a deal to sell Pendleton Woolen Mills products online as well.

And he said he does not want to sell to the tribes, primarily out of concern for employees.

Woodfield's court documents include an email he sent Jan. 26 to Pearce telling him the offer from the tribes remains good, and Pearce can make a counter.

But, Woodfield continued, "I know they will pay more."



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Sam Carpenter speaks to the Hispanic Advisory Committee while members Manuel Gutierrez and Hector Ramirez look on during a meeting Monday night.

Carpenter: Pushback at Hermiston Hispanic Advisory Committee

Continued from 1A

He repeatedly stated that under Trump, families are not being broken up and people are not being deported solely for their immigration status. When audience members contradicted him, he said they should not get their information from the news media, which he called corrupt. When someone brought up a recent, local instance they knew of where a man was taken into custody during a routine traffic stop, Carpenter said he wasn't there and neither was the person bringing it up so they didn't know for sure what happened.

Carpenter said his two children from a previous marriage are Puerto Rican so he is sympathetic to the Hispanic community. He said the country needs to stop focusing on divides between races, genders, sexual orientations and religions.

"I believe in small government and I believe individual rights are the ultimate minority, which means if you can't respect an individual's rights you can't respect anybody's," he said.

As audience members continued to pepper him on immigration issues, he said it was a federal issue anyway and what he could do was get Oregon's economy growing, which would cause a lot of other problems in the state to take care of themselves.

But the audience kept on.

"You're trying to distance yourself from the federal government, but you're embracing a slogan from someone who ran for federal government and is in a federal position," committee member Roy Barron said, referencing Carpenter's campaign slogan "Make Oregon Great Again."

"No I'm not," Carpenter replied. "That's my slogan."

Carpenter did say he supported Trump and praised him multiple times throughout the night, stating that the economy

was doing "things it's never done before" and that ISIS is now "gone" thanks to Trump.

When Barron and committee member Carlos Gallo said that Carpenter was making his support of Trump clear, and Trump had been very "blatant" in stirring up racial tensions and criticizing Latinos, Carpenter asked, "What has he said that is very blatant?" drawing laughter from the audience and committee.

Carpenter touched on a number of other issues Monday night. He said he is in favor of school vouchers, which would improve schools by encouraging competition between public and private schools, and said the state needed to stop wasting money on things like the failed Cover Oregon exchange and address serious problems like mental health, drugs and the "horrible" state of Child Protective Services in Oregon.

Many in the audience disagreed with his stance on unions, asking what it meant in his campaign literature that he wants to "stand up to public unions."

Carpenter said government employees are work for taxpayers and therefore it is a "conflict of interest against the people" for those employees to collectively bargain against the government. He said he wouldn't break up the unions but he disagreed with them.

Despite heated exchanges on issues like unions and immigration, at the end of the evening Carpenter asked the group to read his website with an open mind and remember the important thing was what he could do for the state's economy and its efficiency.

"The forests are burning down, PERS is going to bankrupt the state. A lot of what's been going on is bad management. I'm a manager," he said.

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Opioids: Hope out there for people addicted

Continued from 1A

and recovering opioid addict Alena Davis, Eastern Oregon prescription drug overdose prevention coordinator Mike Stensrud and Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts.

Opioids include illegal drugs like heroin and synthetic fentanyl as well as prescription pain relievers including oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine and morphine.

People who become ensnared by opioids don't fit a particular profile. The drug ensnares homeless people, soccer moms and people from every ethnic and educational level.

"Not only does it affect the poor, but high society and middle class," said Davis, a nurse who was addicted to prescription pain pills after hurting her back on the job.

Holeman is a Pendleton native and pain management expert who serves as the clinical lead pharmacist at the Mid-Columbia Medical Center in the Dalles. He also struggled with an addiction to pain pills in the late 1990s. Holeman described the opioid epidemic as extremely complex.

"We have three-headed monster," he said. "We have prescription opiates, synthetic opiates and heroin on the street."

Recent efforts to rein in prescription practices have curbed opioid abuse somewhat, but inadvertently

fueled an equivalent rise in heroin addiction. Addicts who can't access opioids sometimes turn to heroin in desperation.

Holeman gave a quick history lesson to explain why the problem has exploded.

Decades ago, doctors were urged to deal with chronic pain more aggressively. With increased prescribing, deaths from unintentional opioid overdoses increased dramatically. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, opioids such as hydrocodone and oxycodone were marketed as having a low risk of addiction.

Opioids, however, are incredibly addictive.

Rice, who helps addicts kick opioids, grabbed a dry erase marker and made a line drawing of the brain to explain why. He pointed to a cluster of cells under the cerebral cortex that he called the brain's pleasure center. Addiction actually hijacks the brain, he said. Drugs stimulate a flood of dopamine and the amygdala creates a conditioned response.

That's the Reader's Digest version.

The point? It's incredibly hard to break away without help.

"It's desperation," said Davis, who said she made an attempt on her life to escape the misery of withdrawal.

That's where Suboxone comes in. Rice combats addiction for his patients

using the drug, which he said is overdose-proof for adults. Hoffman does the same in his Baker City clinic. Though Suboxone is also an opioid, neither worries about trading one opioid for another. The drug, with active ingredients buprenorphine and naloxone, allows addicts to clear their brains and go back to normal thinking. As they steadily withdraw, they can simultaneously rebuild their lives.

Especially in rural America, there aren't enough doctors who have taken the eight-hour class required to prescribe Suboxone. Even when they get the free training, they are limited in the number of prescriptions they can write. The limit rises over time. Rice can write prescriptions for 275 patients at any one time, but he is always bumping up against his limit. More doctors are coming around and as of 2017, nurse practitioners and physician assistants are eligible to prescribe, too. But there is still a shortage.

"We're trying to get other physicians interested in prescribing," Rice said.

There is some hopeful news. Oregon is starting to turn a corner. Change in direction comes slowly like a cruise liner making a wide U-turn, but it's happening nonetheless.

"In Umatilla County, we've come down quite a bit," Holeman said. "In

Eastern Oregon, we're making progress."

A lot of scrutiny is being placed on the prescription pad. Northeast Oregon physicians are writing fewer narcotic prescriptions than they were several years ago, prescribing fewer addictive drugs or opioids and in smaller quantities. They are exploring other ways of managing pain.

"Research is showing that opioids are not any more effective for pain than non-opioids," Hoffman said.

Roberts worries about the influx of fentanyl, a potent synthetic painkiller that is 100 times more potent than morphine. Simply touching or inhaling extraordinarily small quantities of fentanyl can cause an overdose. An Ohio law enforcement officer overdosed in May after he got deadly fentanyl powder on his uniform.

"Fentanyl poses a significant risk to law enforcement," Roberts said. "Most agencies have said (to officers) you will not handle the pills."

Rice offered hope for the thousands of addicts out there.

"The people I know who have beaten addiction are the deepest, richest, most spiritual people on the planet," he said. "They've had to fight the devil."

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