

PENDLETON

Round-Up and Happy Canyon's general manager announces retirement

Beard was "the right guy at the right time"

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Round-Up's first-ever general manager announced he will retire in May.

Casey Beard started managing the rodeo just after the organization's second century kicked off. He was hired to oversee the Round-Up and Happy Canyon Night Pageant, along with other events such as Professional Bull Riding events and music concerts.

The pair of organizations have many moving parts. In 2014, the two boards decided that time had come for a general manager to oversee both organizations and tie them into a cohesive whole. At the time, Round-Up President Tim Hawkins called Beard "the right guy at the right time as we move into the next 100 years."

Beard, an easy-going retired Army officer with master's degrees in international business and strategic studies, got started. He brought with him lessons learned as director of grants at Blue Mountain Community College, management of his family's rodeo livestock business and director of safety programs at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

Beard's ties with the rodeo go back decades longer than his stint as general manager. His grandfather raced stagecoaches at the Round-Up.

According to Round-Up President Dave O'Neill and Happy Canyon President



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Casey Beard, first-ever general manager of Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon organizations, announced he will retire in May.

Cory Neistadt, both organizations benefited from Beard's nurturing.

"Casey has done a truly outstanding job as our first general manager," O'Neill said. "Among the many important projects he helped spearhead were revitalizing our east-end facilities, including the 1910 Room and Section DD Bar, achieving record attendance and retail sales, improving relationships with the city, expanding our facilities, creating a vibrant social media presence and winning the PRCA Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year award three times."

Beard also benefited Happy Canyon and the community, Neistadt said, smoothing the way for additional events, such as the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest, helping expand brand recognition through a strategic partnership with Travel

Oregon, facilitating the Happy Canyon Court's participation in the National Finals Rodeo's Cowboy Christmas and lobbying for Happy Canyon's iconic paint horse, Chinook, to go to the National Finals Rodeo to stand solemnly during the national anthem (along with rider Bryson Bronson).

"What (Casey) has accomplished in his years with us has been amazing," Neistadt said. "His contributions will be felt for years to come."

On Tuesday afternoon, Beard sat in his office tucked under the north side grandstands and gave an easy-going grin. Two huge images flanked his desk. One showed a saddle bronc rider, freshly tossed to the dirt. In the other, a Happy Canyon princess rides a horse. Beard glanced around the room and said he'd miss the space and his day-to-day reality as

general manager, but he's ready for something different. He said the last almost five years flashed by at a dizzying speed.

"Going in, we had ideals and operational goals," he said. "Things happened faster than we anticipated. Our six-month plan was obsolete by the end of the first month."

He treasures the rodeo's recognition as PRCA's Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year and other milestones. He credited "a loyal, creative and dedicated staff."

"It has been an honor to serve as he first general manager in the long, illustrious histories of these world famous events," Beard said.

In the coming months, a search committee will select Beard's replacement.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Man arrested after firing gun near school

East Oregonian

Zachary Lincoln of Milton-Freewater ended up on the shocking end of a stun gun before landing in jail.

Staff at the Milton-Stateline Adventist School, 53565 W. Crockett Road, Milton-Freewater, called law enforcement on Monday morning to report hearing a gunshot from across the street, according to a written statement from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

A deputy responded and contacted school officials. Two Oregon State Police troopers also responded, and school officials took the precautionary measure to place the school on lockdown.

While law enforcement was on the scene, Lincoln, 27, came out from his residence across the street

from the school and yelled at officers to leave.

"Mr. Lincoln admitted to discharging a round from a handgun while trying to fix it," the sheriff's office reported.

"He voluntarily surrendered the gun. He said he was upset because of the police presence and that they were on his property."

Officers talked to Lincoln and determined he was not a threat to the school nor anyone else. But during the conversation, according to the sheriff's office, Lincoln allegedly pushed the deputy in the chest, and one of the troopers fired his Taser on Lincoln.

The deputy then arrested Lincoln and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for the misdemeanor charge of second-degree disorderly conduct.

Film chronicles American Indian land lawsuit

PENDLETON — The public is invited to view a documentary film about the largest class action lawsuit against the United States government.

The movie, "100 Years," shares about Louise Cobell, who filed the suit in 1996 and won a \$3.4 billion settlement for 300,000 American Indians whose lands were mismanaged by the U.S. Department of Interior. The free screening is Wednesday,

Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. in ST-200 at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge.

The movie, which was released in 2016, has been featured in numerous film festivals. The unrated film is 76 minutes long.

For more information, contact Annie Smith, BMCC Native American Liaison and Success Coach, at asmith@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5935. For more about the film, visit www.100yearsthemovie.com.

PENDLETON

First Draft welcomes Oregon's poet laureate

Kim Stafford to present at arts center

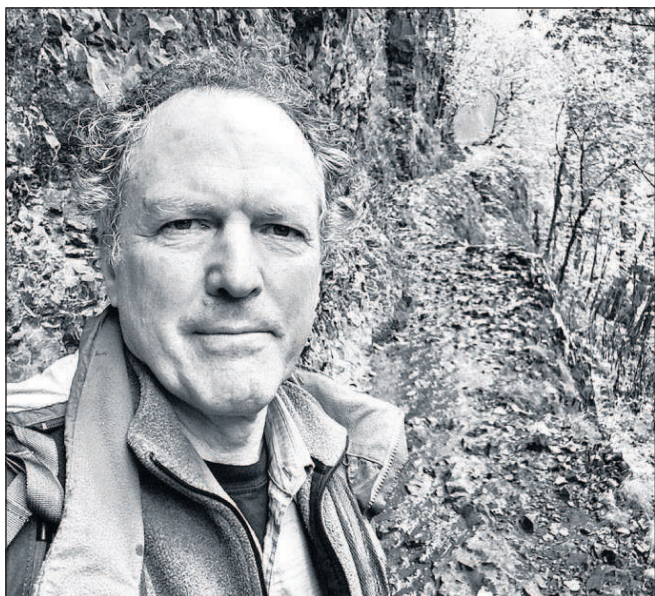
East Oregonian

The First Draft Writers' Series at Pendleton Center for the Arts will welcome Oregon's poet laureate Kim Stafford as its headliner this month.

He will read from his newest works Thursday at 7 p.m. at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. The event is free and open to the public.

A poet and essayist, Stafford is the founding director of The Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis & Clark College, where he has taught since 1979. Stafford comes by writing naturally — he is the son of William Stafford, Oregon's poet laureate from 1974-89. The younger Stafford was appointed by Gov. Kate Brown earlier this year as Oregon's ninth poet laureate since 1921.

Stafford grew up in Oregon, Iowa, Indiana, California and Alaska — following his parents as they taught and traveled. He is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose, and holds a Ph.D. in medieval literature from the University of Oregon. Stafford has worked as a printer, photographer, oral historian, editor and visiting writer



Contributed photo

Kim Stafford, who was appointed earlier this year as Oregon's poet laureate, will read Thursday during the First Draft Writers' Series at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

at numerous colleges and schools, and offered writing workshops in Italy, Scotland and Bhutan.

His book, "Having Everything Right," won a citation for excellence from the Western States Book Awards in 1986. Stafford has received creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to Oregon's literary culture, and his work has been featured on National Public Radio.

"Poetry is our native language," Stafford said. "In

a society of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, poetry builds community."

In addition, a poetry writing workshop follows on Friday from 9-11:30 a.m., also at the arts center. While it's also free, those who plan to attend are asked to register in advance.

Titled "Poems for a Better Nation," it will explore the poet's work in these strange times. Participants will discuss how words can most matter for the good of our nation and Earth.

As Canadian poet Dennis Lee once said, in words

engraved on the outer wall of the Scottish parliament, we need to "Work as if in the early days of a better nation." Workshop participants will read and write poems that seed the future with truth and challenge, question and witness — from outright political poems to more oblique contributions to a better nation.

The Oregon poet laureate fosters the art of poetry, encourages literacy and learning, addresses central issues relating to humanities and heritage, and reflects on public life in Oregon. As part of his assignment, Stafford participates in public readings to inform people about the value of poetry and creative expression.

Showcasing notable Pacific Northwest authors, the First Draft Writers' Series meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information or to register for the workshop, visit www.pendletonarts.org. For more information, contact 541-278-9201 or director@pendletonarts.org. To learn about the poet laureate program, visit www.culturaltrust.org, and for more about Stafford, www.kim-stafford.com.

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