



EAST OREGONIAN

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HERMISTON

Serving up a meal for all



Volunteers Taylor Greene, Karree Lucas, and Bryan Virgil, all of Hermiston, plate food on the serving line for to go meals during the Community Fellowship Dinner Thanksgiving meal on Thursday in Hermiston.

Volunteers work overtime to make Fellowship Dinner

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

The first volunteers for the Community Fellowship Dinner got to the kitchen at 6 a.m. Thursday and got to work sterilizing pans, carving turkey and putting food in the ovens for the hundreds of people that would soon gather at Hermiston High School for a Thanksgiving meal.

Not 24 hours earlier, they'd been staring at a problem: clogged drains, which stopped

Inside

Salvation Army meal serves 200 in Pendleton/ 3A

them from washing dishes and prepping turkeys.

With 40 birds to prepare for the next day's Community Fellowship Dinner, they didn't miss a beat, instead working ahead on other parts of the meal until plumbers arrived.

Despite the hiccup, things were running smoothly again the next morning, with volunteers bustling in the kitchen and finding things to do.

"We are so far ahead it's scary," said co-kitchen man-

See MEAL/10A



Jennifer Hollenbeck, left, uses wooden dowels to squeeze mashed potatoes out of a bag held by Jeff Sparks, both of Hermiston, on Thursday at the Community Fellowship Dinner Thanksgiving meal in Hermiston.

Retailers adjust to shifting landscape for holiday retail

Thanksgiving Day sales, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday spread out deals

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Black Friday just isn't what it used to be.

For years, the post-Thanks-

giving shopping extravaganza used to mean waking up at 4 a.m. to snatch up cheap electronics and deeply discounted designer shoes.

Over the past decade, however, Black Friday has been joined by Thanksgiving Day sales, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. This year, retailers like Amazon and Best Buy were offering "early Black Friday" sales before Thanksgiving week even began.

Randy Smith, who owns Smitty's Ace Hardware and Smitty's Outpost in Hermiston with his wife Tammy, said the morning of Black Friday itself has taken on less significance in recent years as sales have been spread out over November and December.

"It's taking a different form," he said. "The urgency isn't what it once was, but the deals are as good as ever."

Ace Hardware started its

sales early, but Smitty's Outpost saved some specials for Black Friday.

Smith said diluting the holiday shopping rush has pros and cons for retailers.

"There's not as much pressure, but it was also exciting and different, and the drama was kind of fun to manage," he said.

The Smiths are third-gen-

See RETAILERS/9A

PENDLETON

Council approves land agreements for airport hotel and apartments

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

At a meeting two days ahead of Thanksgiving, the Pendleton City Council found themselves in a more giving mood with one large-scale development than the other.

The council unanimously approved a land lease with Makad Corp. to build a 74-unit hotel at the

Pendleton airport and the sale of a Westgate property to I & E Construction to build a 204-unit apartment complex.

The former had all of its incentives stripped and new assurances that it would complete the project on-time and as-described inserted into the lease contract. The council didn't touch the latter's incentive package, which is worth thousands

of dollars.

The 50-year airport hotel lease agreement, which is between the city and a subsidiary of the Vancouver, Washington company called Horse Valley LLC, had gone before the council for approval three times heading into Tuesday. At the last meeting, the council rejected the lease 4-3.

The lease was able to win over the no votes by including several

concessions and assurances from Makad Corp.

The rental agreement was changed from a percentage of gross revenue to a flat \$7,500 per acre per year. The rent will rise each year based on the consumer price index, but no larger than 2.5 percent. Construction must start within a year of

See COUNCIL/9A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton Round-Up President Dave O'Neill speaks during the annual Round-Up stockholders meeting on Tuesday night at the Let'er Buck Room.

Round-Up stockholders raise voices over director qualifications

Rodeo reports record revenue, expansion projects

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Round-Up is often described as a big family comprised of hundreds of volunteers.

Like any family, this one occasionally clashes, especially at large family gatherings such as the annual stockholders meeting.

Tuesday evening started out on a buzz. Round-Up Association President Dave O'Neill lauded the accomplishments of the past year. The rodeo in December 2017 was named Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year (for the fifth time) by the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association. True West Magazine awarded the title of Historic Rodeo of the Year. The rodeo learned this week it is a finalist in the Massey Ferguson Sowing Good Deeds Award.

Record sales gave evidence that the event has evolved into a smoking hot tourist destination. Stockholders had heard talk that the Round-Up had shattered revenue records over the past weeks, but now they gazed at actual hard numbers glowing from a screen.

"We had a banner year," said Jason Graybeal, director of office and administration.

Ticket sales exceeded \$1,300,914, compared with \$1,164,136 in 2017. Ticket holders numbered 53,284. Trademark income increased 16 percent over last year to \$2,145,434. Numbers are preliminary. Accounting firm Moss Adams will crunch them and create official financial

See ROUND-UP/10A



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Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred.

