

Auction:

Continued from Page A1

While most animals had a market value of around \$100-200, the steers saw market values ranging from about \$1,200 to a whopping \$1,810 going to Brielle Youncs of Pendleton, who also happens to be a princess of the 2021 Umatilla County Fair Court.

For many of the youth in attendance, it was their first time raising and auctioning off their livestock. Madeleine White, a member of the Farm City Wranglers from Hermiston, said the fair was a hectic experience for her first time. But she said people were supportive and helped her out.

"I got a lot of support from a lot of different groups," she said.

Lillian Waldher, an 11-year-old out of Athena who brought her two lambs Daisy and Bo, also had her first experience at the auction and won a ribbon for showmanship.

"I did a lot of work," she said, adding she practiced



Chandler Sexton, left, marks Tanner Duff's market lamb after its sale at the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, in Hermiston.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

with Bo a lot and worked on his leg hair and clipping him.

With the earnings she made from selling her livestock, she said she would be

able to buy another sheep and save up for college.

"Leading up to it (the sale), it's just tiring in the morning," said Ayrin Davis of Hermiston. Ayrin marked

her fourth time attending this year and said it was hard and sad, but she will keep coming back and is heading to Pendleton next.

A bidding war broke out

in the balmy air as seventh grader Quinn Duff showed his goat named Murr. The winner of the Grand Champion Showman ribbon from Milton-Freewater, the

13-year-old Quinn has been showing goats for more than half his life, starting at 6 years old.

Raised on a 40-head farm that also breeds horses, Quinn has spent his life around animals and intends to stay with animals in the future. He said he had put a lot of time and effort into Murr over the last six months, who had a listed market value of \$259.48 going into the auction.

"At least three times a week I would wash his legs to get the leg hair growing and blow them out," he said.

Tanner Duff, Quinn's younger brother, also was in the auction and won the Reserve Grand Champion ribbon for his own goat. He said it felt good to compete with his brother, who he's been able to practice with and get tips, while also competing with each other.

Tanner, who has been showing for around four years, said he's sold two goats this year, with the first sale taking place in Milton-Freewater.

"It's sad," he said, "but I'm feeling really good."



Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorran fields bids Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction in Hermiston.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian



Quinn Duff, of Milton-Freewater, shows his grand champion market goat Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction in Hermiston.

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Members of Fortaleza De Tierra Caliente perform Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, during Latino Night at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

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Tunes:

Continued from Page A1

Latino music alone is a vast genre that spans continents and centuries, with sounds ranging from modern pop and reggaeton, which blends hip-hop and dancehall, to sounds such as banda, bachata and duranguense.

Miguel Velasco, the main Latino talent scout for the fair for more than a decade, looks at what groups people want to hear and groups that have a good following, said his son Mike. The Velascos, who own Velascos Used Cars in Hermiston and sponsor the event, formerly owned a nightclub in Hermiston where the Ixtapa Mexican Restaurant stands. Through their contracts and connections from the nightclub, they are able to find acts for Latino Night.

As long as it falls within their budget, Wagner is happy to let Velasco do his thing and pick acts he thinks are a good fit. After reaching out to promoters, Velasco "gets contracts, tells us what they need, how it's gonna work and then we're good to go," Wagner said.

As for the genres they pick, "It just

depends," Mike Velasco said. "Every year is different."

But, he mentioned they aim to get a variety of groups and something that everyone will like. This year's headliner, Tierra Cali, which is comprised of five brothers from Michoacan, highlights the regional genre called Tierra Caliente — the band's namesake.

The genre has origins in technobanda and heavily uses keyboards, drums and bass. Alfa 7 is similar to Tierra Cali, said Velasco, but it does a lot of romantic music as well.

"They've been around for a long time," he said. "They have really good music."

Diana Reyes, meanwhile, is a well-known singer throughout Mexico who performs duranguense — an upbeat genre with a type of dance that has people moving and spinning with partners.

Fortaleza de Tierra Caliente, the local band from Hermiston, plays a little bit of everything, from romantic to Tierra Caliente and more, said Velasco. He mentioned there is a reason popular Mexican songs stay in demand here.

"You really have to make a hit in Mexican music," he said, "for it to stand the test of time."

Lawsuit:

Continued from Page A1

"with his hands in the air in a surrender position."

The lawsuit came after an indictment against Astarita that alleged he had lied about firing twice at Fincium's truck. Oregon investigators concluded that neither of the shots hit Fincium. Astarita denied firing his rifle.

State troopers shot Fincium three times after he walked away from his truck and reached for an inner jacket pocket, where police later said he had a loaded 9mm handgun, the investigation said.

Mosman denied the challenge to the government's handling of the arrests.

"Here, Plaintiffs take issue with the FBI operation that ultimately led to Mr. Fincium's death. But an 'undercover national security operation is a textbook example of discretionary action that Congress meant to insulate from judicial second-guessing,'" Mosman wrote.

An investigation by local law enforcement authorities found the state police shots that killed Fincium were justified.

A federal jury in 2018 returned not guilty verdicts in the trial of Astarita, acquitting him on making a false statement and one count of obstruction of justice.

Relay:

Continued from Page A1

While Marshall has been in remission for four and a half years, she said the support from those around her is just as important as ever, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You scream, you holler, you have a great day," said Marshall of learning of her remission. "But, you know each time that anniversary comes around — of getting another blood test or having to have another colonoscopy — anything could happen, no matter how strong your faith is."

For Marshall, her anniversary came during the pandemic, which meant, while she was able to get her annual blood test, her colonoscopy was postponed.

"Until you have that colonoscopy," she said, "It's a worry."

Even years later, Sims and Marshall still get emotional thinking of the experiences they shared.

"You just keep trying to uplift somebody else, you don't know what your story is going to do

for somebody," said Sims. "Your willingness to tell your story — there might be that one person out there who really needs to hear it."

Marshall said she was inspired by Sims and tries to help others and raise awareness however she can, including Relay for Life of Umatilla and Morrow Counties, where she spent Saturday, Aug. 14, listening to others stories and running a donation campaign.

Despite lower-than-expected turnout due to the heat and poor air quality, Marshall and event lead Carol Preston were happy the event could go on at all, adding that any opportunity to support even a few people was incredibly important.

Preston, an 11-year survivor of breast cancer, said the opportunity to be out in the park and make the cause of fighting cancer known to others meant the event was a success, even in low numbers.

"You just meet people that you would never normally meet," said Preston. "We are just grateful to be here for each other."



A Relay for Life sign sits above Roy Raley Park, Pendleton, on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, for the annual event.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Preston extended her thanks to the volunteers, businesses and community members that helped put on and donate to the event, adding that their support is what keeps it going, even after many Relay for Life events, which once dotted cities across Umatilla and Morrow counties, have disappeared.

"We've had such great help from the community," she said.

For Preston, her motivations for Relay for Life extend beyond that of her own experiences and to others fighting cancer or who have loved ones battling cancer.

"There are survivors out there and that helps," she said. "That's what it means to be out here."