

EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF 16 ONPA AWARDS IN 2021

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PARADE KICKS OFF ROUND-UP WEEK



A Main Street Cowboy hands out items to paradegoers Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, at the Main Street Cowboys' Dress-Up Parade in downtown Pendleton.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

After a year of uncertainty, Round-Up is back

By NICK ROSENBERGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Colorful attire, rides and costumes exploded onto Pendleton's streets Saturday, Sept. 11, for the Main Street Cowboys' Dress-Up Parade to kick-off the long-awaited return of the Round-Up after a canceled year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite high COVID-19 case numbers and a smaller than average showing, it's official: Round-Up week is here.

"People are ready to have fun," said Rod Thompson, a Vietnam veteran who has been attending for 40 years and said it felt good to be back.

Thompson said he had learned a long time ago to do whatever your town does, explaining that if you live in New York City and want to be happy, to visit the theater. If you live in Minnesota, you go fishing.

"When you live in Pendleton," he said, "you come to the Round-Up."

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pendleton Round-Up Queen Josilyn Fullerton rides along Southwest Court Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, during the Main Street Cowboys' Dress-Up Parade.

2021 Dress-Up Parade Results

The winners for each category is as follows:

- Queens & Courts:** 1st, Happy Canyon Indian Princesses
- Dance/Drill:** Jr. Jam
- Horse & Buggy:** 1st, Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame
- Civic/Service Clubs:** 1st, Main Street Side Saddlers
- Autos (Classic/Antique):** 1st, Blue Mountain A's
- Floats:** 1st, American Legion Post 37; 2nd Moe Pho Noodles & Cafe

Special Awards

- Larry Wahl trophy:** Pendleton Pupcakes
- East Oregonian trophy:** Eastern Oregon Philippine-American Community
- President's Choice:** Chief Gary Burke and Riders
- Equestrian:** 1st, Chief Gary Burke
- Autos (Miscellaneous):** 1st, ZOM-B13
- Neighborhood Float:** 1st, Academy Mortgage



Chloe LeValley/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin
According to Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer, a sting operation last week was a result of close collaboration and had to be executed with perfect timing because of the many moving parts and people involved.

M-F Police key to biker gang arrests

Local chapter of the Pagan's Motorcycle Club operated in Milton-Freewater

By JEDIDIAH MAYNES
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA — A months-long investigation wrapped up with a massive law enforcement operation Thursday, Sept. 9, as two Milton-Freewater, men were arrested for allegedly being involved in violent crimes connected to a nationwide biker gang. One of the men arrested was working as a corrections officer in Walla Walla.

According to the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office and Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer, the sting operation was a result of close collaboration and had to be executed with perfect timing because of the many moving parts and people involved.

Ultimately, the two Milton-Freewater men, Charles Montgomery, 29, and Dustin Wendelin, 40, were arrested on a grand jury indictment out of Spalding County, Georgia. They're alleged to be local leaders of the outlaw motorcycle gang the Pagan's Motorcycle Club. The Pagan's is a "1%er" or "One Percenter" club — the 1% of motorcycle clubs that operate outside the bounds of the law.

The gang is known for violent crimes, including bombings, shootings, assaults and homicides, according to the sheriff's office, which also reported Montgomery and Wendelin hold leadership roles in the gang.

Wendelin, who worked at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, appeared in Walla Walla County Superior Court Sept. 10, and waived extradition to Georgia. Montgomery was arrested in Umatilla County and was slated to appear in Umatilla County Circuit Court. Requests for information on Montgomery's waiver status were not returned.

Wendelin had few words in the extradition hearing before Judge Brandon L. Johnson.

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Area veterans enjoy Umatilla fishing event

'Signature event' for town on the Columbia River draws capacity participation

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

More than 100 area veterans and fishing guides converged Saturday, Sept. 11, on the Columbia River for the sixth annual Fish'n the Brave.

Tony Fisher of Fishers Catch Outfitters founded the angling event and once

again organized Fish'n, with the help of volunteers and sponsoring organizations.

Early in the morning, he was directing volunteers at the starting point, the Umatilla Marina & RV Park, when he spoke of his feelings as they pertain to veterans. Not a veteran himself, Fisher still values veterans. He said his father was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

"I honor him and appreciate him," Fisher said. "This (event) is a simple way for us to give back. A lot of these guys and gals have had some experiences. This gives them a way to get away

for the day, go out, have a good day and clear their thoughts."

The men and women who served America's armed forces deserve respect, he said. In their service to the nation, they made our freedoms possible. Those freedoms include fishing, he added.

Thirty-three boats, captained and prepped by volunteers, carried the veterans. The captains, who also were experienced fishing guides, took the veterans out for sturgeon, salmon and walleye.

The starting time was 8 a.m., with the singing of

the National Anthem and a prayer, though veterans arrived hours earlier and chatted with one another. Breakfast — turnovers, cinnamon rolls, doughnuts, and more — was provided for them, as was coffee. Lunch and dinner also were provided, as were prizes. Fisher wrapped up the event at 5 p.m.

Participants and volunteers

As they participated in the event, the veterans articulated their gratitude for labor and resources given, making Fish'n the Brave possible. Meanwhile, the

volunteers also gave their appreciation for the sacrifices the veterans made for their country.

David Stockdale, Umatilla city manager, said he is happy for his city's involvement. Umatilla has hosted the last four of the six annual Fish'n events. Though not a veteran, he has family members who have served.

"This event means a lot to me and to Umatilla," he said. "It's an opportunity for our community to say thank you to our vets. It's great."

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