

Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
The flag led the Westward Ho! Parade marches down Southwest Dorion Avenue on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, in Pendleton.

**MORE WESTWARD HO!
PARADE PHOTOS INSIDE
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EAST OREGONIAN

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\$1.50

'IT'S IN OUR BLOOD'



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Andrew Whiteman rides Dusty Dan into the final horse exchange Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, during the Indian Relay Race at the Pendleton Round-Up.

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

Indian Relay Race showcases skills, thrills

PENDLETON — He careened around the bend, dismounted his horse and, in a blink, leaped spread eagle onto his final horse, Thunder.

It was during this very exchange on Wednesday, Sept. 15, his team was disqualified after his hand got caught in the

reins during the dismount, pulling his horse over the inside rail and nearly ripping his bloody fingers off.

Now, a day later, his team lifted him up for the final lap.

He sped past other teams fumbling over the exchange under the gaze of thousands

of spectators. For much of the race, they lagged in third place, but he flew around the first turn and into the lead. Thunder galloped hard, a blur down the back straightaway. The rider's hair whipped in the wind. His competitors were right on his heels.

He hugged the final bend and headed down the straightaway. It's over for the others. He looked toward his team — Cayuse Express — and held up the finger signaling victory. Andrew Whiteman of Nespelem, Washington, screamed as a thunderous roar erupted from the Pendleton Round-Up grandstands.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Rose Bowman, right, age 9, Lily Jokinen, 11, and Amelia Thompson, 13, perform to attract attention to the Jr. Jams Dance Co. soft drink stand Thursday, Sept. 17, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. This and other nonprofits rely on the Pendleton Round-Up to fill their coffers.

Local vendors attempt to rebound from rodeo-less '20

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up is a nonprofit that feeds an ecosystem of smaller nonprofits.

During Round-Up week, various community groups sell concessions, manage parking lots and cook meals with the goal of bolstering their own budgets until the next rodeo.

At several stalls across the concourse on Thursday, Sept. 16, young dancers from Jr. Jam Dance Studio performed short routines to entice attendees to buy soft drinks. Like many of the other vendors, Jr. Jam had been on the grounds since Sept. 13, when Round-Up week kicked-off its rodeo activities with Xtreme Bulls. Jr. Jam volunteer Julie Thompson said business was good so far.

Toward the center of the concourse, Pilot Rock Seniors were slinging Philly cheesesteaks as the start of the rodeo approached. Margaret Moffet, a booth volunteer and the mother of a Pilot Rock High School senior, said she hadn't worked the booth previously, but from what she knew, sales were going well. Should the booth continue its success, Moffet said it would put the group in a good position to fund the high school's senior class trip to a destination of their choosing.

Just a few booths down, Athena Christian Church anticipated it could set a record by the time the Round-Up ends on Saturday, Sept. 18.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Lizzy Huskey runs one of three spotlights Friday, Sept. 15, 2021, from a catwalk above the Happy Canyon Arena during the beginning of the Happy Canyon Night Show.

Lights, sounds and action

Focus and passion key to Happy Canyon Night Show

By **NICK ROSENBERGER**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — From those in the spotlight to those behind the spotlights, the Happy Canyon Night Show is a labor of love for the roughly 750 participants — from the actors and those making sure they look the part to the light and sound technicians.

The show, which has been running longer than a century, takes many late

nights, an ability to multitask and a good eye for detail to keep the show running smoothly, or as smoothly as the frenzied and energetic show can manage.

"There's not one person that can make this happen," said Allen Waggoner, who has been involved since around 1988 and whose wife Becky is this year's show director. "It takes every person and every person has a very vital, important role. Regardless of the size of it, it is critical for all of it to work."

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Manufacturing, hospitality among worst hit industries

Unemployment in Eastern Oregon has dropped significantly, but shortages at two top industries remain

By **JAYSON JACOBY,**
SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
and **ALEX WITTWER**
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Tyler Brown's family owns one restaurant in Baker City that hasn't served a meal since before the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Baker County.

But the Browns' challenges to keep enough workers to run their two other restaurants are so daunting that



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Restaurateur and business owner Tyler Brown poses for a photo Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, inside Sumpter Junction, one of his restaurants, in Baker City.

they can't begin to plan the reopening of the closed business.

That's the Sumpter Junction restaurant, off Campbell Street near Interstate 84. The Browns closed the

restaurant in March 2020. Inside rest the memories of customers who once frequented the restaurant, told quietly by a single butter knife resting on the edge of a booth table.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the third in a five-part series by EO Media Group looking at the issue of the lack of workers for jobs in Central and Eastern Oregon — why workers are not returning to previously held jobs and how businesses are pivoting to function without being fully staffed.

A newsstand is stacked high with Baker City Herald issues blaring the headline "Coronavirus Closures." They're dated March 14, 2020. It was three days before Gov. Kate Brown banned dining inside restaurants. It was the last paper delivered to Sumpter Junction.

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