

Round-Up's latest pop-up similar to permanent proposal

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As soon as he saw the vault in the old bank building at 256 S. Main St., Pendleton, he knew he had to call it the Maker's Vault.

Oden and his business partner Justin Alps turned the vacant building into a mini-mall during Round-Up week, inviting high-end Western brands like Stetson to sell their wares in an area with heavy foot traffic.

In a Friday, Sept. 17 interview, Oden said both have experience in vending. Alps sells leather goods through Long X Trading Co. while Oden and his wife Karen operate Espuela Trading Co., an Amarillo, Texas-based bag vendor. Alps had the Pendleton connection, having once plied his trade at Hamley & Co. while Oden had experience organizing vending areas and large rodeos.

Oden said the group invested significantly to get the building ready for rodeo week. The Makers Vault also advertised on social media: anybody who followed one of the vendors on social media and got within a certain proximity of Pendleton would automatically see ads for pop-up. Behind the vendor

area, Oden and his partners installed a bar and TV, which broadcast the Round-Up.

Jordan Schnitzer's Harsch Investment Properties bought the building in 2016 and has filed it with a number of different pop-ups in Round-Ups past, including a Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts gallery and a Lucchese boot shop. Oden said the property was attractive to his group because of its indoor setting, noting the forecast called for rain on Sept. 18, but the vendors' goods would be protected.

Oden said the Makers Vault was successful enough early in the week that it planned to stay open later than its posted closing time during the final two days of Round-Up. While he would like to come back to the Round-Up next year, he's not sure if there's going to be a space for the Makers Vault to come back to.

The city of Pendleton has pitched Schnitzer on turning the vacant building into a permanent "maker's space," a place where artists and artisans could make and sell their products while drawing tourists to the downtown area. Under the proposal, the building would be renamed the "Jordan Schnitzer Western Guild Building" or "The



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
Cody Oden, who co-owns the Espuela Design Co. with his wife Karen, sports some of his own product on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at the Makers Vault, an old bank building in downtown Pendleton owned by Portland philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer.

Trailhead Building" and also include a bistro, outdoor dining and vacation rentals.

Pendleton Convention Center manager Pat Beard said he was initially involved in bringing the Makers Vault

to Pendleton, but he took a step back once he realized that the city wasn't going to take possession of the building before the Pendleton Round-Up started. Regardless, Beard said he thought

the success of the Makers Vault was a proof-of-concept for providing a similar service in the building year-round.

"That's exactly what I see as the building's highest

purpose," he said.

Beard said he was happy to hear the Makers Vault did good business, but he was hoping the building will have a permanent tenant by September 2022.



Erick Peterson/East Oregonian
Southern Twain BBQ will close at the end of September 2021 as the Hermiston Food Pod undergoes renovations.

Bigger, better Hermiston Food Pod in the works

Temporary closure begins at the end of September

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Food Pod will close temporarily starting Sept. 30, but it will return after about a month, bigger and better than ever, according to Clinton Spencer, planning director for the city of Hermiston.

The Food Pod is a group of mobile food vendors on Orchard Avenue in Hermiston, near McKenzie Park and the U.S. Post Office.

Spencer said the closure "will allow the city's contractor to go in and upgrade the utility infrastructure."

He explained there is one point of power connection and one water connection. All the users at the pod have to share this one connection right now, but the upgrades will create eight permanent water, sewer and electric connection points.

This will allow for as

many as eight vendors to each have their own utility point and dispose of wastewater on site, Spenser said.

"Adding this infrastructure will help attract more vendors," Spenser said. "We have seen a lot of interest in locating in the pod, but the lack of individual water connections, and especially the lack of wastewater facilities, keeps a lot of vendors from committing to the site."

Other improvements include more parking and fencing around the perimeter of the site, though the fencing may be installed later, possibly waiting until 2022.

Patrick Hunt, who has been involved with the food pod for three years, has been the site's manager and overseer for the past two years. He also operates Southern Twain BBQ.

It has been "such a long way from our first day on site, three years ago," he said. And he is excited about updates, which will bring internet, as well as more connections — for power, sewer and water.

He foresees eight to 10 new vendors, more than filling the pod, even with the upgrades. They are as follows: Southern Twain BBQ, Maguis Raspados, Bella Blu, Tacos Garcia, Philippine/Filipino, Rolled Ice Cream, Deli Sandwiches and Hispanic Hotdogs & Smoothies. There also will be smaller trailers or tents, and temporary daily use vendors.

Hunt said new power receptacles throughout the property will make musical performances possible, as small bands will be able to plug in their equipment.

Excited about these new developments, he said he will close Southern Twain BBQ for the duration of the pod's closure. He said he intends to spend time with his family, as well as deep clean and remodel his truck. He also will develop new food offerings.

He thanked the community, which has shown him a lot of support. High school students, in particular, he said, have been good customers.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Police arrest woman after finding drugs in vehicle

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police arrested a woman during a traffic stop on Thursday, Sept. 16, after a police dog found a sizable amount of drugs in her possession.

Oregon State Police reported trooper Charles Rohlf stopped Angela Marie Collins, 45, at 3:45 a.m. for several traffic violations and that he "observed criminal activity" while contacting Collins. Collins gave verbal consent for a search, read the written consent form and then denied consent, OSP reported.

Police used a dog to search the vehicle and found roughly a half-pound of methamphetamine, an ounce of heroin and a half-pound of blue pills that appeared to be fentanyl.

OSP arrested Collins on preliminary charges of possessing and delivering methamphetamine, heroin and creating or delivering counterfeit Schedule II controlled substances.

Umatilla County pandemic death toll climbs to 125

PENDLETON — Umatilla County reported two new COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, Sept. 17, raising the county's pandemic death toll to 125, according to a press release from the health department.

The newly reported deaths come as the county reported a slight decline in weekly cases, reporting 350 cases after seven consecutive weeks with more than 400.

Six Umatilla County residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have died so far this month. Last month, at least 21 died, tying the county's all-time record for reported COVID-19 deaths in a single month.

The county's 124th victim is a 63-year-old man who tested positive Aug. 29 and died Sept. 10 at CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. He had unspecified underlying health conditions.

The county's 125th victim is a 72-year-old woman who died Sept. 16 at a private residence and tested positive Sept. 18. She, too, had unspecified underlying health conditions.

County to decide on burn ban in bimonthly meeting

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners will meet for its bimonthly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22, with three items on the agenda, including the county's burn ban.

The board adopted burn bans in June in response to the record-breaking drought conditions that consumed Umatilla County.

The bans prohibited agricultural burning, burn barrels, yard and garden debris piles and small-scale residential burning

It includes all unincorporated areas of the county but excludes lands belonging to the state of Oregon, the federal government, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and areas that are in rural fire districts.

The board at the Sept 22 meeting will decide whether to lift the burn ban.

Also on the agenda is a presentation from the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at room 130 in the Umatilla County Courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative names new VP of finance, rates

HERMISTON — A longtime banking executive has joined Umatilla Electric Cooperative as vice president of finance and rates, a newly created position at the Hermiston-based business.

John Donner will work to develop and enhance financial and fiscal responsibilities associated with UEC's power supply obligations, according to a press release from UEC on Monday, Sept. 20.

Donner began his career in 1991 as a credit analyst at St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives in Minnesota, working with rural infrastructure borrowers in the Midwest. After that bank merged with CoBank in 1999, Donner worked with borrowers in the telecommunications industry as a relationship manager before changing his focus to electric distribution cooperatives in 2011.

According to the press release, Donner during the past 10 years has worked with cooperatives in 15 states and most recently managed a loan portfolio with balances in excess of \$825 million.


Donne holds a bachelor's degree in economics from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and a master's in business administration from the University of Rochester, New York. In his spare time, he is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.

"Umatilla Electric Cooperative is an innovative, rapidly growing and financially strong organization," Donner said. "I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to move to Oregon, join the team at UEC and begin the next chapter of my professional career."

—EO Media Group



Donner



The family of
Dolores White
would like to thank all who sent cards, flowers, made calls, expressed their condolences and attended the service. Your kindness will always be remembered.







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