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GETTING THEIR CRAFT ON

Hundreds gather in Pendleton for return of leather show



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Leather craftsman Jim Linnell leads a workshop on inverted figure carving Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, at the Pendleton Leather Show in the Pendleton Convention Center.

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Hundreds of leather enthusiasts and exhibitors traveled from near and far last week to attend the annual Pendleton Leather Show at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Pendleton's culture was on full display at the event, as cowboys, tribal members, artists and teachers meandered through the exhibits, shopping and talking shop about the selection of goods.

"I love it out here," Todd Salzman, a sales manager for Hermann Oak Leather Co. from St. Louis, Missouri. "This whole industry is a unique culture. One of the friendliest industries you'll find out there."

Row after row of exhibits filled the center with leather, saddles, stirrups, conchos, tools and dyes. Attendees took leather work and knife wielding classes in rooms outside the main event. Many people said they were glad to be out with a sizable and welcoming crowd of folks.

"It shows our heritage," said Rosa Hays, a Pendleton resident and enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Her son, Tyson Hays, added that the event is especially important for teaching younger generations about



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

People wander the Pendleton Leather Show on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, at the Pendleton Convention Center.

their heritage. They purchased a bag full of string for braiding. Each said they were glad to have an event in their own backyard after the pandemic had them cooped up at home.

The event also featured a new Northwest Leather Masters Competition, where competitors could show their saddles, handbags, or chaps for a chance to win more than \$3,000 worth of prizes, according to Misty Shaw, the owner and publisher of Shop-talk! Magazine who organized the event.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Leather chaps sit on display Friday, Nov. 8, 2021, at the Pendleton Leather Show at the Pendleton Convention Center.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Herb Bork, a 100-year-old World War II veteran, flips through a photo album of his years of service Nov. 2, 2021, in his Pendleton home.

Time for a change

Herb Bork, 100, departs Pendleton and reflects on World War II service

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Herb Bork had just arrived in Guadalcanal when the bombs began to fall.

It was June 1943, more than 18 months after the United States entered World War II. The U.S. armed forces moved more than 100 tank-landing ships to the island in the South Pacific. In all, less than two dozen ships made it through the initial bombardment from Japanese forces, Bork said.

Bork was aboard one of these ships when a group of bombers attacked. He watched as gasoline containers burst into flames around him. He reached toward one of the anchors and lowered himself into the water below.

What he hadn't noticed was the proximity of the anchor to the propeller. It churned and nearly pulled him under. He almost drowned when a man with a life raft swam out and grabbed him. Don't fight, the man said. Just paddle.

"I was very fortunate to get out alive," said Bork, a 100-year-old Pendleton resident and well-known metal caster.

For the rest of his service during World War II, he slept to the sounds of nightly raids.

His was not a service on the front lines of battle. Drafted into the medical division, his focus was a silent killer — mosquitoes.

At least 1,600 U.S. troops were killed during the battle for Guadalcanal. But tropical diseases such as malaria killed thousands more.

Bork's goal was to control the spread of disease. By jeep, he and other scientists traveled around the island with what he called a "dipper," surveying the area and spraying mosquito breeding areas. He checked thousands of men for disease and handed out mosquito nets and medication. Many soldiers didn't heed their warnings and even mocked them while they moved through camp. Some, he said, paid the price.

Regardless, Bork said he was fortunate the work kept him off the front lines. Other troops around him were caught, tortured, shot, killed or sent home legless, armless or with post-traumatic stress disorder.

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POSTAL HOLIDAY REMINDER

Due to the postal holiday, we will not publish a paper on Thursday, Nov. 11, but have included comics for Nov. 11 in today's paper. We will publish our next edition on Saturday, Nov. 13.

Student-led conferences a hit at Hermiston High School

"They're doing great things," says principal

ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Caitlin Anderholm was one of several Hermiston High School students who were showing off a wide range of interests and skills at student-led conferences last week. The event, Monday and Wednesday, Nov. 1 and 3, was created to "provide more community outreach," according to a Hermiston School District press release.

The conferences included a career and technical education showcase, club booths and musical performances.

Anderholm, an 18-year-old senior, gave visitors information to

the school's computer-aided design program. She stood next to engineering equipment — the laser engraver and the 3-D printer — and demonstrated how they work.

She said she especially likes making stickers and Christmas ornaments with these machines, but she has made larger projects, too. Through her work at the school's CAD and construction programs, she is helping to build a house.

This is officially her fourth year in the CAD program, she said, but her experience with it started a few years prior to that. Her sister, who is three years older and an HHS graduate, used to allow Anderholm into the school to see the equipment, she said.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Caitlin Anderholm removes a keychain from a laser cutter Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, while demonstrating the machine at a career technical education night at Hermiston High School.

