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INSIDE

PENDLETON ROUND-UP NAMES 2022 QUEEN AND COURT

Ride on, cowboy

Saddlemaker couldn't overcome lung damage from COVID-19

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Randy Severe was big on life.

The veteran saddlemaker never went long in conversation before throwing his head back for a delighted laugh. Severe, who died Sunday morning, Nov. 21, from the effects of COVID-19, often found humor in his world.

One story involved rodeo cowboy Larry Mahan getting bucked off in Severe's saddle shop. That day, Mahan, a six-time world champion bull rider, tested a saddle by hopping aboard one that was sitting on a saddle rack.

"He stuck his feet in the stirrups," Severe said, telling the story in a recent video. "When it started tipping, he couldn't get out of it and it bucked him off, right there in the shop."

On the video, Severe put his head back and laughed. Not a loud guffaw or a belly laugh, but delighted all the same.

Those who knew Severe will miss that laugh, along with the easy way he listened intently to everyone, treating each like the most important person on earth.

Severe spent almost two months on a ventilator in a Portland hospital struggling with the effects of COVID-19, which severely damaged his lungs. Upon his death at age 70, friends and family are focusing not on how he died, but how he lived.

Over the years, Severe built upward of 230 trophy saddles for champions of the Pendleton Round-Up. Severe is known for his artistry. Requests for saddles stream in from all over the place, but his priority was crafting trophy saddles for his hometown rodeo, where he had volunteered since he was a boy. As a man, he served as a Pendleton Round-Up director for 10 years, the last two as president.

Severe's shop is a step back in time. The smell of leather permeates this domain of cowhide and wood. Hundreds of tools line the walls, along with old photos, antlers, straps, stirrups and buckles. An ancient guitar hangs from a peg. The instrument is a gift from country singer Bonnie Guitar to his uncle Duff Severe, who taught

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Severe

THANKSGIVING IN EASTERN OREGON



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Volunteers package to-go meals Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021, for the Community Fellowship Dinner at Hermiston High School.

THANKSGIVING SPIRIT

Hermiston Community Fellowship Dinner persists despite missing much fellowship

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Volunteers stood beside containers of roast turkey dinners with all the trimmings Thursday, Nov. 25, Thanksgiving morning, minutes ahead of the Community Fellowship Dinner. Hundreds of meals were ready for distribution. To get them, all anyone had to do was drive up and reach out their hands.

It was an event that was emotional for some of the volunteers, including Heather Smart,

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MORE

For more local Thanksgiving Day coverage, visit eastoregonian.com.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Volunteer Dre Lozano organizes to-go meals Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021, at the Community Fellowship Dinner at Hermiston High School.

Pendleton Salvation Army dishes Thanksgiving meals

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Gregg Carter, left, picks up a Thanksgiving meal from Maj. Toni Halstad at the Salvation Army in Pendleton after working as a volunteer Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021, at the lunch.

PENDLETON — Gregg Carter has a mantra — think beyond yourself.

He said it time and again while volunteering Thursday, Nov. 25, at the Pendleton Salvation Army, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave. He helped the volunteers prepare as many as 150 meals for people in need on Thanksgiving.

Volunteers handed out tall stacks of meals made from the 25 turkey breasts, 30 boxes of stuffing, five large cans of green beans and countless amounts of mashed potatoes, candied yams, casserole and much more. They also delivered as many as 76 of them to people across town.

"I love being able to help others who need it," said Maj. Toni Halstad, who has been active with the Salvation Army for 25 years.

Carter, a 60-year-old former U.S. Marine, traveled the country for years getting by on odd jobs from carpentry to health care before coming to Pendleton six years ago. A self-described minimalist and "mad-hatter" who lost most of his ring finger in a wood-working accident, Carter said

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