

# Pendleton Round-Up announces 2022 president, new directors

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up Association at its annual stockholders meeting Tuesday, Nov. 23, elected Karl Farber as president to lead the iconic Oregon event into its 112th year.

Farber has been on the Round-Up Board of Directors seven years and has served as concessions (three years) and as security director (the past four years), according to the press release from the Round-Up Association. Competitive Events Director Nick Sirovatka was elected vice president, Sponsors Director Tiah DeGroff was voted in as secretary and Office/Ticketing Director Kevin Jordan will serve as the



Farber

association's treasurer. Two new directors, Stuart Roberts, of Pendleton, and Nick Michael, of Pilot Rock, were elected to four-year terms on the Round-Up Board of Directors.

Roberts served as chief of the Pendleton Police Department for 18 years, retiring from the position in December 2020. He is a graduate of Pendleton High School, served on numerous boards and committees, including governor-appointed positions, and served as president of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and as vice-chair of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Police Policy Committee.

Roberts works as a law



Roberts

enforcement risk management consultant for City County Insurance Services of Oregon where he supports 130 police departments and sheriff's offices statewide.

He and his wife, Lisa, an elementary school child development specialist, will have been married 30 years in August. They have two children, Lauren and Cooper. Lauren is a first grade teacher at Washington Elementary School in Pendleton, and Cooper attends Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, where he pitches for the baseball team.

Michael was born and raised in Pilot Rock. He joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1998 and served there until he retired in 2020. He had 22-1/2 years of service and spent 30 months deployed in support of operation Enduring Freedom and other campaigns. He met his wife, Allie

Wilgus, in 2007 and they married in 2014. He has worked in different roles in the high voltage electrical industry since 2000. He works for the Bonneville Power Administration in the substation operations group.

He and his wife also raise and sell performance horses. Michael has been an active Round-Up volunteer with the hay and barns crew for 21 years.

The other Round-Up Board of Directors are: Publicity Director Pat Reay, Indians Director Dr. Harper Jones, Let 'er Buck Room Director Tim Smith, Livestock Director Justin Terry, Arena Director Berk Davis, Queen and Court Director Jason Hill, Grounds



Michael

Director Casey Currin, Concessions Director Jason Graybeal, Programs and Ushers Director Rob Burnside, Room 17 and Medical Director Dr. Brad Adams and Parades Director Tim O'Hanlon.

According to the press release, the Round-Up Association reviewed multiple successes during the 2021 fiscal year ending Oct. 31. In addition to the recap of 2021, reflection on the success of the Let'er Buck Cares Fund that provided nearly \$1 million in community, essential partner and local business assistance during the pandemic. The 2021 Round-Up also had an increased media presence with the Rural Media Group showing the events on the Cowboy Channel. The media agreement allowed for continued growth in contestant payout

and the quality of livestock provided.

The Round-Up also was nominated for the Women's Professional Rodeo Association Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year. Further, the association was informed regarding their selection as a finalist for the 2021 Massey Ferguson "Sowing Good Deeds" Award. The winning rodeo committee will receive a new Massey Ferguson tractor and will be announced Dec. 1 at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Annual Convention in Las Vegas.

In addition, there are several other contract personnel that contribute to the success of the Round-Up. The PRCA announced several contract personnel who are nominated for awards in bullfighting, pickup men, secretary, timers and photographer's categories.



Bryce Dole/East Oregonian

Shoppers and employees of Scentsy, a fragrance company, talk about holiday products Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, at the Hermiston Christmas Bazaar. Raquel Rodriguez, a Hermiston-based consultant for Scentsy, said the bazaar is one of the biggest events of the year for sales. She said the event is essential for local businesses to connect with clientele.

## Bazaar sees big turnout

Organizers had to turn away at least 40 vendors as the event overflowed

By BRYCE DOLE  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — It's Christmastime in Hermiston.

For some, that means it's time to shop. More than 1,000 people flocked to the Hermiston Community Center and The Arc Umatilla County on Saturday, Nov. 27, for the annual Christmas Bazaar.

The event featured more than 60 vendors, and some "overflow" vendors were moved to The Arc Umatilla County nearby, according to Diana Picard, the city's recreation coordinator and the manager of the community center.

Picard said this year's bazaar was the biggest yet — so big that organizers had to turn away at least 40 vendors. Picard said she was unsure why this year saw so many more vendors, but she assumed that many people had taken up creative hobbies during the pandemic and were ready to put their products on display.

Vendors remarked on the bazaar's bustling atmosphere. Crowds of people meandered through the center browsing ornaments, woodwork, paintings, jewelry, crochet hats, bath bombs and other types of goods. The air was filled with the smell of holiday fragrances and baked goods. Shoppers said they were excited to be out supporting local businesses after months where the pandemic shuttered them and brought both supply chain and hiring woes. Many purchased holiday gifts for loved ones, noting the special feeling of shopping local rather than buying online through Amazon and other shopping websites.

"This is a way to connect with each other," Picard said. "It's a place to see the people you haven't in a while."

And shoppers were eager to buy. Stephanie Walchli saw that firsthand. Next to her crochet table, she watched as her parents' wood tables were completely sold out before 11 a.m., hours before the event was scheduled to end. By noon, the tables were clear and her family had left.

Walchli's day was busy, too. She said she typically makes around \$200 at a bazaar, which she had successfully made halfway through her day on Nov. 27.

A substitute teacher, Walchli taught herself to crochet. She enjoyed seeing other creative artisans reap the benefits of their hobbies at the bazaar.

"You see the results of months of work," she said.

Some vendors said the bazaar is one of their biggest sales days. And this year was even more important after the stresses the pandemic placed on small businesses.

That was the case for Raquel Rodriguez, a Hermiston consultant for the fragrance company Scentsy. During pandemic shutdowns, Rodriguez said she was unable to hold "home parties" to showcase products in a home. That slowed business, and made Rodriguez all the more grateful for the community

support on a busy Nov. 27. "It has not stopped," she said as a half-dozen customers approached.

Among the bazaar shoppers was April Huckstep, from the Tri-Cities. A weekly bazaar shopper, she had checked out food, salsa, handcrafts and other homemade gifts at the event. To her, shopping locally is a more personable experience. It makes holiday gifts meaningful. On Nov. 27, she purchased for her daughter a wooden Mickey Mouse ornament to remind her of a recent trip to Disneyland.

A few feet from Huckstep stood dozens of stacks of paintings. They were Donna Anderson's, who was showing her work for the first time at the bazaar. After surgery last year left Anderson immobilized, painting became her "saving grace," she said.

"It gives me peace," she said.

Now, Anderson's house is filled with countless paintings, so her family convinced her to start selling. That's why she came to the bazaar, where she said she sold a few paintings. She said she enjoyed the friendly atmosphere, chatting with locals about what they're buying and with vendors about their passions.

Mary A. Johnson, Ph.D., wife of the late Jim Hanks and former Pendleton resident, announces the publication of her second book, **LOVE AND ASPERGER'S: Jim and Mary's Excellent Adventure**, a Memoir, set mostly in the Pendleton area. Available on Amazon.com



## Sex abuse case comes back to Umatilla County on appeal

Higher court found trial was a 'credibility contest' involving no physical evidence

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A former Pilot Rock man is getting another shot at defending himself against sexual abuse charges after the Oregon Court of Appeal overturned verdicts against him.

Hussein Ibrahim Hassan, 68, is out of state prison and again in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, awaiting a new trial.

A jury in 2019 convicted Hassan on two counts of first-degree sexual abuse of a 13-year-old girl. He appealed, and the higher court heard the arguments in the case on Jan. 26, and issued its ruling Oct. 27.

The appeals court found two reasons to remand the case back to Umatilla County.

The jury voted 10-2 to convict on one count. That meant the case was coming back to the county in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against nonunanimous verdicts.

The jury on the second count was unanimous. But the appeal court found Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen erred during the trial when he did not allow the defense to posit a theory that would have cast doubt on the accusations.

According to the 12-page ruling, Hassan and the 13-year-old girl lived in different halves of a duplex in Pilot Rock, and the duplex shared a backyard, according to the ruling. The girl accused Hassan of kissing her and touching her right breast while they were alone in a yard.

During the trial, the girl

testified to Hassan kissing her and touching her right breast. She also told the jury this prompted her to move from Pilot Rock back to Pendleton where she had lived for "pretty much (her) whole life," because "we didn't feel safe at home anymore."

The forensic evaluator who conducted the abuse assessment of the girl also testified. During cross-examination, the defense asked the evaluator about why the girl was not living with her mother. The prosecutor objected on the basis of relevance, and the defense responded, "Goes to bias."

Lieuallen allowed the defense to pursue the line of questioning outside the presence of the jury to determine whether to sustain the objection. The defense asked the evaluator if it was correct the child said she was not living in Pendleton due to allegations of theft. The evaluator confirmed that.

The defense explained its theory of relevance: That after getting into trouble for stealing a phone, then moving to a different town, the girl made up the sexual abuse claim to get out of trouble with her parents.

The prosecutor continued to object on the ground that the two matters were not related. After further testimony, including from the mother and the girl, the judge sustained the prosecution's objection. Lieuallen explained, "I don't think there's sufficient relevance, relevance to that. She's not under any further restrictions, punishment at the time of the incident. While it may be 30 days, it'd come and gone. ... There may have been lots of choppy stuff earlier some but (it had) all been worked out and smoothed out. ... I guess it doesn't appear (to) me there was anything to avoid at that time, and therefore no reason

to make up, fabricate a story, anything of that nature, so."

The jury ultimately convicted Hassan on the two counts of first-degree sexual abuse.

But the appeals court found the judge should have allowed the defense to explain its theory of why the girl may have fabricated the account, even if the theft of the cellphone had little effect on the girl by the time she made the accusations.

The general rule, the appeals court explained, is all relevant evidence is admissible, and relevant evidence is "evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence." To meet the test of relevance, the ruling stated, "bias or interest evidence 'need only have a mere tendency to show the bias or interest of the witness.'"

The court's error in not allowing the defense theory also was not harmless.

"This case involved a credibility contest in which there was no physical evidence of abuse and no eyewitnesses who testified other than (the girl). The evidence regarding the phone incident and subsequent move would have been defendant's only evidence of (her) motive to fabricate the allegations, and he was denied the opportunity to advance that theory and to meet the prosecutor's closing argument that (the girl) had no bias, motive or interest in falsely accusing defendant of abuse."

Hassan has a pretrial conference Tuesday morning, Nov. 30, at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. Lieuallen is presiding.

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