

# Happy Canyon announces 2022 princesses

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Marley Johnson and Samantha Craig-Allen have been named as Happy Canyon princesses for 2022.

The duo will serve as ambassadors for the Happy Canyon Night Show, Oregon's official outdoor night pageant that happens alongside the Pendleton Round-Up, according to a press release announcing the princesses.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have these two talented local young women represent Happy Canyon this next year," Happy Canyon President Tanner Hawkins said in the press release. "Their family roots run deep in local tribal history and in Happy Canyon, so we're honored to have them serve as our representatives in 2022."

Johnson, 20, is the daughter of Micah Johnson and Julie Rowell of Portland. A descendant of Chief Joseph's sister, she is of Nez Perce, Cayuse and Walla Walla descent and has attended Happy Canyon and the Pendleton Round-Up nearly all of her life.

Johnson, who began competing in junior American Indian pageants at age 3, took third place in the Senior American Indian Pageant in 2019. As a Happy Canyon princess, Johnson will continue a family legacy. Her

aunt, Drew (Johnson) Rivera, served as a Happy Canyon princess in 2000. Her grandfather, William Johnson, was the first tribal member to pass the Oregon State Bar and has been chief judge at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Court for more than 30 years. The moccasins Johnson will wear as a Happy Canyon princess have been in the family for more than 100 years.

Johnson graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Portland. She is a sophomore at Mt. Hood Community College, where she plays basketball and softball. Her goal is to complete an associate of arts Oregon transfer degree at Mt. Hood and transfer to a university to pursue athletics and a degree in journalism or communications.

"I am proud and humbled to be selected as a 2022 Happy Canyon princess," Johnson said in the press release. "Being selected as a Happy Canyon princess means so much to me. It allows me to act as a role model for youth and the honor to represent Oregon Natives, specifically my indigenous urban community. I look forward to giving back to the community as well as gaining new experiences."

Craig-Allen, 19, the daughter of Sandra Craig of Pendleton and Sheldon Allen of Culdesac, Idaho, is a 2020 graduate of Pendleton

High School. She is of Umatilla, Cayuse and Nez Perce descent and an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the press release stated. Her maternal great-great-grandfather, Dick Johnson, was with the Nez Perce band during the War of 1877, as well as her great-great-grand uncle, See Ya Kun Iip Iip.

Craig-Allen plans to enroll at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, where she'd like to improve her skills in writing, dance and acting. She works at McDonald's at Arrowhead Travel Plaza and said she applied to become a Happy Canyon princess because of her late grandfather, Fermore Craig Sr., who was a part of Happy Canyon for more than 75 years. According to the press release, Craig-Allen cherishes the memories she has of participating in Happy Canyon with her grandfather before his death and looks forward to continuing the tradition in her family.

"What I am excited about being a Happy Canyon princess is being able to get in touch with my culture even more and making my family proud for representing our tribe, Happy Canyon, and, most of all, my families," Craig-Allen said in the release. "Also, I'm looking forward to all of the traveling and making new friends, experiences and getting to know (fellow princess) Marley more."



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian  
Samantha Craig-Allen and Marley Johnson pose Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at the Pendleton Convention Center after being introduced as the 2022 Happy Canyon princesses.

# Hermiston resident finds artistic outlet in painting

By ERICK PETERSON  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Donna Anderson, of Hermiston, experienced back pain so intense she thought she would never be able to do anything interesting ever again.

Then she discovered an artistic outlet. Now a painter, and the owner of her painting business, Acrylics by Donna, she is creating and selling her works.

Anderson, who was married to the late Andy Anderson, a former Hermiston chief of police, said her back pain was excruciating. She had a 12-hour surgery, and there was little she could do afterwards, she said.

Two years ago, she started painting on a whim,



Erick Peterson/East Oregonian  
Donna Anderson, of Hermiston, discusses an angel painting on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021. It was one of many paintings that she made and brought to a bazaar at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston.

first watching videos on the subject and then practicing. Now, after a couple of years of making pictures, her home is crowded with paintings.

At a Saturday, Dec. 11, Our Lady of Angels Catho-

lic Church Christmas bazaar, as she stood at a booth where she sold her paintings, she explained her situation. She said she was running out of room in her house. Her children had been telling her to

sell them, she said, but she never felt that she was good enough. She lacked confidence that people would want to buy her paintings.

After some thought, however, she decided to sell paintings at another recent bazaar. She sold 10 paintings. That encouraged her to plan appearances at other bazaars, including the one at the Catholic church, she said.

Early Dec. 11, she already had sold paintings, she said. She had brought 50 paintings, and though she said she did not expect to sell them all, she said she would be happy to sell some of them. She also was pleased, she said, to have received a lot of compliments on her work.

"It's stroking my ego,

making me feel good," she said.

Anderson said her style is varied, though she tends toward abstract styles. Realism is not of much interest to her, as she said it resembles photography too much. When one is painting abstract works, they can convey something special and unique, she said. Also, she explained that her mood comes across in her paintings.

"Sometimes you can tell my attitude at the time. If the painting is bold, you can guess that I was stressed. If I'm painting something nice, like a nice, sweet flower, I'm feeling good. It just comes out that way," Anderson said. She added she often gets

caught up in her work. One day, she recalled, she was painting and thinking about grocery shopping. After painting for some time and thinking about apples, she looked down at her painting and noticed a big apple in the center of the canvas.

This made her laugh, she said. She had not intended to paint an apple, yet there one was.

Painting is unlike other art she has done, she said. For a while, she was making fairy houses. But no one was interested in her little houses, she said. In contrast, she said, people are showing excitement for her painting.

"I can see myself doing this for a long while," she said.

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