

EAST OREGONIAN

AUGUST 13 – 14, 2022

146th Year, No. 101

WINNER OF THE 2022 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

GRAIN CRAFT FIRE



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Fire erupts on the westside of Grain Craft flour mill Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, in Pendleton.

Farmers, customers scramble to make new plans

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

PENDLETON — Pacific Northwest wheat farmers are beginning to cope with the fallout from a massive fire on Wednesday, Aug. 10, that left the Grain Craft flour mill in Pendleton a “total loss.”

The company is working with farmers to handle the excess supply, said Natalie Faulkner, director of communications for Grain Craft, based in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The building was more than 100 years old, Faulkner said. Twenty-two employees worked in the mill. There were no injuries in the fire. Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram said the mill was a “total loss.”

The company does not disclose the production capacity of the building, Faulkner said. The extent of the damage and possibility of rebuilding are not yet known, she added.

“It’s still an active situation, we are still evaluating everything, just trying to understand the cause and circumstances,” Faulkner told the Capital Press.

Ben Maney, president of Oregon Wheat Growers League, farms north of Pendleton.

He doesn’t take his grain to the facility, but “a substantial amount of farmers” in the area do, he told the Capital Press.

“It’s been a staple for the Pendleton community for an awfully long time, generations, and it’s always been a central location (in) town,” he said.

The fire is the latest hit for growers, after experiencing severe drought last year, Maney said. Many crops had rebounded this year with spring rains.

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UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

Due to the avian flu outbreak, stuffed animals Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, replace many live birds at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Alice Dyer, barn superintendent, said the stuffed animals helped raise the spirits of “devastated” exhibitors.

Mackenzie Whaley/
East Oregonian



ANIMALS TAKE OVER THE FAIR



Mackenzie Whaley/East Oregonian

A young girl and her sheep take the stage Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, at the Senior Sheep Showcase at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

Avian flu outbreak limits bird entries to 4H and FFA

ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — While the afternoon and night at the Umatilla County Fair may center on the carnival rides, the curly fries and the outdoor activities, the earlier parts of the day are where the animals get to shine.

Hundreds of livestock and their eager owners participated in various competitions with their animals. Steers, lambs, goats, swine and fowl all showed in front of judges and potential buyers.

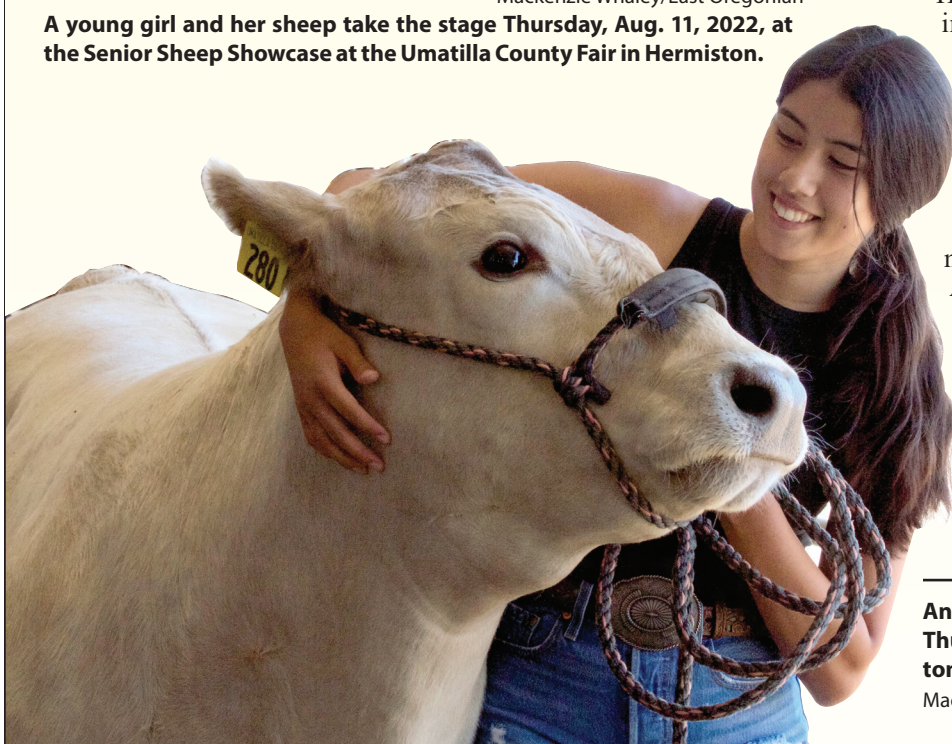
Hard work pays off

Annika Perez of Hermiston has been working with her steer, Rebel, since choosing him in October 2021. The 16-year-old Hermiston resident has spent the past months feeding, loving and preparing the cow for showing. Animals take part in several showings, with categories being showmanship and confirmation.

Perez said confirmation is all about the animal — specifically judging the market animal — while showmanship is about judging both the owner and their presentation of the animal. While showmanship also judges the owner’s handling, Perez was quick to give credit to her steer.

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Annika Perez, 16, of Hermiston, works with her steer Rebel on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Perez and Rebel placed fifth in showmanship at the fair. Mackenzie Whaley/East Oregonian



Let 'er rock

The voices of Pendleton's Rock & Roll Camp

By DAKOTA CASTETS-DIDIER AND YASSER MARTE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The pop of drums and the shredding of power chords resonated throughout the Arts on Thursday, Aug. 10, as students and counselors prepared for a concert just a week in the making.

In its 17th year, the Pendleton Rock & Roll Camp was in

full swing as attendees formed bands and began rehearsing the songs they had written during the week.

“We got our ethos when we started 17 years ago,” Peter Walters said.

Walters, 37, is a Pendleton native, camp counselor and co-founder of Rock & Roll Camp.

“I’d been to music camps as a kid,” he explained. “It was good, but very structured — here’s the music, here’s the parts. What I wanted with (the camp) was no sheet music, no preordained parts.”

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Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Addison Schulberg, 30, gives musical advice Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, to the band Popcornado during Rock & Roll Camp at the First Christian Church in Pendleton. Schulberg is the camp director.



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