

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## INSIDE STILL TIME TO 'GET WILD' IN PENDLETON IN GO!

# SPRING RAINS LEAD TO BOUNTIFUL WHEAT HARVEST



By JOHN TILLMAN  
*East Oregonian*

**U**MAPINE — What a difference a year made to wheat growers.

The drought of 2021 caused near crop-failure conditions in some wheat-growing areas of the Pacific Northwest. Don Wysocki, extension soil scientist for Oregon State University in Pendleton, said last year's crop was 60% or less than usual in some areas. But 2022 has a bumper crop.

"This year is well above average in most areas, and the quality is really good," he said. "Last year it was low, with grain shriveled by drought."

Harvest should last a week to 10 days later than usual,

Wysocki said, thanks to the record-breaking spring rains and two recent thunderstorms. The Basin Agricultural Research Center near Adams received eight-tenths of an inch of rain from the storm on Aug. 11.

Wheat harvest should wrap up by the end of August in Umatilla County, he added.

"It's already over in the drier areas," Wysocki noted. "Conservatively, yield should be 20% above average. In some areas, 30% to 40% higher. Some growers say they cut the best yield they've ever had. And the price is better than last year as well."

All wheat planted in Oregon in 2021 totaled 720,000 acres, down 3% from the previous year, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported in January. Harvested area, at 705,000 acres, was also down 3% from 2020. Production totaled 31.7 million bushels, down 32%. Yield was estimated at 45 bushels per acre, down 19 bushels from 2020.

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A combine harvests wheat Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, on a field northeast of Pendleton off Highway 11. Don Wysocki, extension soil scientist for Oregon State University in Pendleton, says yield should be 20% above average.

Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

## Summer heat or the pandemic?

### Local museums discuss reduced attendance

By DAKOTA CASTETS-DIDIER  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — More than two years since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, some local tourism and culture centers still feel the pain of reduced traffic.

April Meadows, administrative assistant of the Heritage Station Museum, Pendleton, said this summer is better than last year, but numbers are not to pre-pandemic levels.

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### UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

## Youth livestock auction sets record

By MARCO GRAMACHO  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — The Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction achieved a record in sales this year.

Marie Linnell, who oversees the Youth Livestock Sale, said sales totaled more than \$1.15 million.

She explained one of the reasons for the greater success than the record of \$795,000 in 2021 is because of the higher number of youths participating. The 2021 sale had 219. This past fair, that jumped to 267.

"COVID-19 was still a big issue last year, besides the cancellation of the fair in 2020. We have achieved greater pre-COVID numbers again since the UCF Bump Program was started nearly 20 years ago," she said.

In addition to the prices received during the auction,



Erick Peterson/East Oregonian, File  
**Sandy McKay, left, and Ellery Jones look at work that needs to be done Aug. 11, 2022, in livestock pens at the Umatilla County Fair, Hermiston. The Youth Livestock Auction on Aug. 13 set a record with sales exceeding \$1.1 million.**

many individuals and organizations choose to provide add-ons in one form or another. Donations of more than \$62,000 from 48 businesses and/or individuals were pooled to "bump" the price/

pound for youth exhibitors who leave the ring with a price that is below average.

This year the bump brought each species up to a record high base price with lambs at \$14.69 per pound, hogs at \$12 a pound, goats at \$22.50 per pound, steers at \$4.58 a pound, turkeys to \$800 each and chickens to \$890 per pen.

"We greatly appreciate the 295 businesses and individuals who supported this year's event whether they purchased an animal, added on to an exhibitor and supported the bump program," Linnell said.

Youths selling steers were responsible for \$547,155.32. The sales of hogs represented \$429,100.23, lambs \$106,788.51, goats \$60,193.84, turkeys \$8,045, chickens \$2,250 and rabbits \$1,250. In all the sales totaled \$1,154,782.90.

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## Reaching out

### Milton-Freewater School District works to reconnect community to schools

By SHEILA HAGAR  
*Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*

MILTON-FREEWATER — School officials in the small agricultural town of Milton-Freewater are moving forward into the new school year by looking back at yesterday.

There was a time, not long ago, that communities such as Milton-Freewater revolved around its schools, meaning families were familiar and comfortable inside the buildings

and with teachers and other staff. Superintendent Aaron Duff said his school board is determined to reset the environment to reflect that environment again.

To that end, the Milton-Freewater Unified School District is adding to its push to reduce barriers between school and home and engage with parents as a primary way to connect youths to their education.

The effort began two years ago at McLoughlin High School, in a program overseen by Amanda Noirot, director of federal programs and bilingual education for the district.

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Greg Lehman/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin  
**Rico Graham, Amanda Noirot and Angel Palacios pose for a photo Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, at McLoughlin High School in Milton-Freewater. The team is the new root of the Milton-Freewater Unified School District's outreach program that uses nonteachers for extra support of students and families.**

