

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

146th Year, No. 109

WINNER OF THE 2022 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



INSIDE LABOR DAY SPECTACULAR RACES IN HERMISTON IN GO!



Pendleton High School students make their way inside the school Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, on the first day of fall term. Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

'NICE TO SEE KIDS' FACES'

For more first day of school news, see A3

Pendleton High School returns to normalcy

By DAKOTA CASTETS-DIDIER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The 2022 school year is back to buckin' at Pendleton High School, where students and teachers readily expressed their excitement to be back in a normal school environment.

"We're still coming out of the pandemic, but obviously we've all learned how to live with it," Principle Pat Dutcher said. "It's nice to start

the year with not having mandates of chasing down kids in the hallway about wearing proper masks and all that. It's just nice to see kids' faces, their smiles, and just have a normal start of the year where we can all enjoy getting to know each other."

Though he's been back on Pendleton High School grounds since the middle of July, Dutcher expressed that the energy of having the students and staff back was "just awesome, the vibe of the kids and staff, I'm looking forward to a phenomenal start of the school year."

After nearly three years of the coronavirus pandemic, some students have become accustomed to protocols to help curtail the spread of the virus, and some have been outside of Pendleton High's classrooms their entire high school careers — until now.

"I think it's hard, even for our seniors, this is their first normal year of high school," PHS guidance counselor Madeline Stuvland said. "So, I think some of them are anxious,

See School, Page A6



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Pendleton High School freshman Marilla Holden, 15, expresses her excitement about getting back to normalcy Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, for the first day of fall term.

GOLF

Pendleton's Greb gets invite to play the Epson Tour event

Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic is Friday through Sunday

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — One of the top female golfers to ever come out of Pendleton High School will tee off at the Epson Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic this weekend.

Haley Greb, a 2017 Pendleton grad, was extended a sponsorship



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Pendleton native Haley Greb, 23, was helping teach youths how to golf Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, at Wildhorse Golf Course in Pendleton. Greb, the 2017 5A state champion, will play this weekend in the Epson Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic.

exemption to play in the tournament Friday through Sunday, Sept. 2-4, at Wildhorse Golf Course.

"I'm so excited for the opportunity, and now I'm here," Greb said. "It's great to be in front of all the locals. It was definitely not a big thought process. I had school, but I made that work around it. If you know someone (in the tournament), you might be a little more interested. It's really cool that Wildhorse is able to do this. I hope people come out and support it."

The \$200,000 tournament is the 17th stop on the Epson Tour. The winner's share is \$30,000.

Greb, who won the 2017 5A individual state title, finished fifth as a freshman, third as a sophomore, and finished tied for second as a junior.

She then went on to play at Colorado State University and transferred to the University of Tulsa for her final three years. She is finishing up her masters in business administration.

All 132 players will be on the course Sept. 2 and 3, with the top 60 (plus ties) advancing to the final round Sept. 4.

See Golf, Page A6



John Tillman/East Oregonian

Cari Broker, owner of Dean's Pendleton Athletic in downtown Pendleton, helps customers Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, during her going-out-of-business sale. Broker has worked at Dean's for 30 years and owned it since 2015. "I've sold cleats to parents to whom I sold cleats when they were kids," she said.

Pendleton losing two Main Street businesses

Changes to corporate deals, downtown, retail, pandemic and more add up

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Two prominent Pendleton Main Street stores are going out of business.

The windows of Sears Hometown Store, 124 S. Main St., and Dean's Pendleton Athletic, 249 S. Main St., displayed high-visibility, lime-green closing sale signs on Monday, Aug. 29.

Sears Hometown Store moved

into the former J.C. Penney Co. premises in February and opened in March.

"It's a big disappointment to me," said Gary Vaughn, redeveloper of the building. "It was very well received by the community. The fire department, my business partner Jerry (Immland) and my son-in-law have all bought appliances there."

Sears' local manager declined to comment, and its district manager has not returned calls seeking comment.

Transformco, the privately-held parent company of Sears and Kmart, has been closing stores of

See Closing, Page A6

