

Pendleton Air Museum soars with history

By **Tammy Malgesini**
Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — With the goal of preserving Pendleton's aviation and military history, a group of enthusiasts initially formed a couple of decades ago. And in September 2017, they opened the doors to the Pendleton Air Museum, 21 SW Emigrant Ave. Current operating hours are Monday and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays noon-2 p.m.

The collection is tucked away in a 200-square-foot space, but the museum's 12-member board of directors has high hopes to spread its wings in the future. Debbie Rasmussen, museum coordinator, said they are in negotiations for a larger facility in an undisclosed downtown Pendleton location.

The museum board, she said, has been so successful in acquiring artifacts that there isn't adequate display space. In fact, the Pendleton Air Museum recently had to turn down the offer of an F-104 Starfighter that was part of the Oregon National Guard.

Because of space limitations, the museum regularly rotates its displays. Rasmussen said visitors can view items



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Korean War Army veteran Ken Garrett, 90, walks through the Pendleton Air Museum Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, while volunteering at the museum.

from several wars, including medals and memorabilia from World War II, newspaper clippings and other publications, gas masks, mortar shells and munitions, as well as military uniforms, including those worn by area residents during their active military service.

In addition, the museum often hosts special events, including its regular drop-in Operator Coffee. Throughout the month of March, visitors are invited to enjoy a cup of joe — featured coffees are Swat Command (saluting canine soldiers and their human partners), Night

HONORING VOLUNTEERS

Veterans Bob Stangier, 98, and Ken Garrett, 90, will be honored during the Pendleton Air Museum's annual meet and greet set for Thursday, March 24, 5:30 p.m. at Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 SW Dorion Ave. in Pendleton. All are welcome. Order food in advance by calling 541-278-5531 or online at www.macsbargrill.com.

Shift (recognizing doctors and nurses) and 2 In 2 Out (honoring firefighters). Rasmussen said during a special canine salute — March 13-19 — biscuits will be available for dogs and cookies for humans, and in observance of Vietnam War Veterans Day, all Vietnam vets will receive a service ornament on Monday, March 28.

Also, a pair of nonagenarians will soon be recognized as volunteers of the year. Bob Stangier, a 98-year-old World War II Air Force veteran, and Ken Garrett, a 90-year-old Korean War Army veteran, will be honored during the museum's annual meet and greet. Mike Short, one of the museum's founders, will be the special speaker.

The no-host event is Thursday, March

24, 5:30 p.m. at Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 SW Dorion Ave. in Pendleton. Order food in advance by calling 541-278-5531 or via www.macsbargrill.com.

Upcoming events offer a chance to have fun while raising money for the museum's building fund. They include:

- 80th Remembrance of the Doolittle Raid, April 18, 5 p.m. at BackFire Station, 911 SW Court Ave., Pendleton. Tickets for the 1940s-style dinner and silent auction event are \$30 each.

- USO-style Dance, April 23, 6 p.m. in the Let'er Buck Room at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. Tickets are \$25 for museum members and \$30 for non-members. The Brass Fire Band will play music from the 1940s and beyond. People are encouraged to don period style from the 1930s to 1950s, with door prizes presented to the best dressed.

The museum has gift shop items, including hats, ornaments, T-shirts, commemorative patches, the documentary DVD "World War II in a Wild West Town" and more. For more information, including a link to its GoFundMe building fund campaign, visit www.pendletonairmuseum.org. For answers to other questions, call 541-276-6156 or email pendletonairmuseum@gmail.com.



Spring Classes at Crossroads

www.crossroads-arts.org

Classes Starting in March

Portrait Painting with Acrylic
March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 18, 26

Beginning Clog Dance
March 28 - May 16

Adult Intermediate Wheel Throwing
March 30, April 6, Apr 27

Beginning Kumihimo
March 31

Crossroads is open Monday through Saturday
from 10:00am to 5:00pm

Ongoing Classes

Wednesdays Learn to Love Watercolor and Pastels

Fridays Young Artists' Studio

Saturdays Adult Open Studio

Children's Ballet

Tuesday Ballet I
March 29 - May 17

Wednesday Ballet II
March 30 - May 18

Thursday Ballet III
March 31 - May 20

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Baker City, Oregon
541.523.5369
www.crossroads-arts.org

