

Stroll through history on the Bronze Trail

By Jennifer Colton

Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — Anyone who visits downtown Pendleton will likely notice the life-size statues along Main Street, but not everyone will know those are part of a route called the Pendleton Bronze Trail. The current version of the Bronze Trail has 22 stops, and many of them highlight people and places in Pendleton's history.

Many of the statues are along Main Street, creating a single walking path from the Pendleton Center for the Arts (PCA) to Heritage Station Museum, a loop that is a little less than a mile through downtown.

Starting at PCA, the first piece is "Sisters in Spirit," a sculpture of two intertwined horses symbolizing the relationship between Pendleton and its sister city, Minamisoma, Japan. Minamisoma has a matching sculpture, cast from the

PENDLETON BRONZE TRAIL

For a list of statues on the Bronze Trail, visit goeasternoregon.com.

same mold, which survived a deadly tsunami in 2011.

"It's really meaningful for a lot of the people in the community because our sister city in Japan has a matching one and it kind of symbolizes the resilience of the people in our sister city," said Roberta Lavadour, executive director of PCA.

Following the loop of the Pendleton Bronze Trail, travelers cross the Umatilla River and stop in Brownfield Park for former Pendleton High School Football Coach Don Requa before visiting the statues of Jackson Sundown, a Nez Perce championship rodeo rider, and Chief Clar-



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Jackson Sundown

ence T. Burke, the first Pendleton Round-Up Chief.

Many parts of the Bronze Trail exist off Main Street as well, including the oldest of the statues: Til Taylor in Til Taylor Park. The statue of the former Umatilla County Sheriff killed during a jail break was built in 1929. A statue of Esther Motanic, the first Native American Round-Up queen, stands nearby. In the extended version of the Pendleton Bronze Trail, which winds

throughout Pendleton, Til Taylor is the first stop.

Some of the statues, including the Let'er Buck Bronze and the Courting Blue Herons, stand in areas of significance, such as the Pendleton Round Up grounds and the Umatilla River Parkway.

In addition to the statues, visitors can also learn more about other public art pieces, including the "Western Heritage" mural and the Seth Thomas Clock and the Umatilla County Courthouse.

"The main thing about public art is that it allows people an opportunity to engage with a community in a cool way. It's a more dynamic way about learning about people who were important to the community," Lavadour said. "I especially love the trail part of it. It provides a great way of seeing public art and visiting all the little shops around town. It gives people a reason to walk in downtown."

Each statue of the Pendleton Bronze Trail has an information plaque nearby telling the history of the subject and about the artwork itself. Many parts of the trail also have short audio descriptions available on Travel Pendleton's website, so those interested in hearing about the statues can do so.



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