



East Oregonian, File

Dancers fill the venue during the grand entry of the 25th Wildhorse Pow Wow on July 7, 2019.

Wildhorse Pow Wow returns

East Oregonian

MISSION — Following a two-year absence, the Wildhorse Pow Wow returns June 30, marking the event's 26th anniversary.

The gathering of American Indian dancers and drummers takes place at Wildhorse Resort & Casino on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton.

"Pow wows are a celebration of cultural and spiritual traditions by Native Americans and First Nations people through drumming, singing, dancing and competition," according to the announcement from Wildhorse. "The popular gathering attracts dancers and drummers from across the U.S. and Canada to celebrate their indigenous heritage. Pow Wows also provide an opportunity to pass traditions on to youth."

The Wildhorse Pow Wow welcomes individuals of any heritage to observe and enjoy the activities.

More than \$90,000 in cash and prizes are available to outstanding dancers and drummers in a variety of categories. Dancers will compete in Traditional, Fancy, Golden Age, Grass, Chicken, Jingle and more. Spe-

cial dances include Elder, Cowgirl and War Bonnet. Drummers compete in Hand Drum and Contest Drums.

The event kicks off with Pow Wow Comedy on Thursday, June 30, at 7 p.m., in the Rivers Event Center at Wildhorse. The show opens with Mark Yaffee, founder and co-star of the Pow Wow Comedy Jam; headlining is Tonia Jo Hall, known for her hilarious alter ego, "Auntie Beachress."

The first Grand Entry for the Pow Wow starts Friday, July 1, at 7 p.m. at the outdoor arena. Drumming and dancing continue daily through the afternoon of July 3. The full event schedule is online at wildhorseresort.com.

Host Drum for the pow wow is "Southern Style" of Montezuma Creek, Utah. Emcees are Jerry Meninick, Fred Hill and Thomas Morning Owl.

The Wildhorse Pow Wow features traditional foods, handcrafted Native American items and other merchandise available from visiting vendors and artists, including fry bread.

The outdoor arena is northeast of the Tower Hotel at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Parking is east of the arena. The pow wow and comedy show are free to the public.

Blockbusters a boon for Eltrym

By IAN CRAWFORD
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Fighter planes, dinosaurs and a space ranger have helped bring the Eltrym Theater out of the pandemic doldrums.

A trio of recently released blockbusters — "Top Gun: Maverick," "Jurassic World: Dominion" and "Lightyear" — have attracted big audiences to Baker City's historic movie house over the past month.

"We've been having our busiest June since 2004," said Terry McQuisten, who with her husband, Dan, owns the Eltrym. "We were hoping to get to 80% of our sales projections, but we're far over that for the month of June. It's been really uplifting for everybody."

"Top Gun: Maverick," the sequel to the 1986 Tom Cruise film, has been a boon for the theater industry nationwide, bringing in more than \$900 million worldwide.

The movie, which opened May 27, remains in the rotation at the Eltrym almost a month later.

"We've been so busy with 'Top Gun,' which we knew was going to be big but at the same time got pushed off three or four years," McQuisten said. "'Top Gun' is kind of different because it's a throwback, it brought a lot of varied and different people to the same space together, it brought back that escapism."

The film was originally scheduled to be released in the summer of 2020.

It was one of several major movies postponed due to the pandemic. The lack of new releases, combined with extended closures of theaters and occupancy limits even when they reopened, devastated the industry.

The Eltrym was closed for much of 2020, and it had to limit the number of patrons for a few months after reopening in March 2021.

McQuisten said in July 2021 that the theater's reveue had dropped 94% during the pandemic.

That made the Eltrym eligible for a federal grant.

McQuisten also submitted written testimony in support of a bill in the Oregon Legislature that would have offered grants to theaters. That bill didn't pass, however.

In her letter to the Legislature, McQuis-



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

The Eltrym Theater's marquee on June 24, 2022, showed the three blockbusters that have made this the busiest June for the historic theater since 2004.



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Eltrym Theater owner Terri McQuisten is considering expanding the mural on her building, shown June 13, 2022. Currently this wall is occupied only by "Movie Mouse," who has resided there for over a decade.

ten wrote: "We are determined to survive this pandemic. It has been a year, though, and we are now beginning to make payments on (loans). In effect, we've taken out loans to pay loans. All the while, we've been doing our best to adapt to provide a safe environment for our guests by investing in air scrubbers for our HVAC and devoting more staff time to cleaning."

A little more than a year later, buoyed by the blockbusters and the prospect of more to come, McQuisten is seeing the industry turn from diving to thriving, even with competition from online streaming services.

"I've always had confidence in the

industry, we saw what happened with streaming and it never really hurt us," McQuisten said. "What people get out of the theater is getting out of the house and getting an experience."

McQuisten said she was concerned about whether the movie industry, after shifting to streaming services during the first stage of the pandemic, would return to a more traditional release schedule.

"What I didn't have confidence in is what the movie studios would do with their streaming, like Disney+," she said.

McQuisten's business isn't immune to inflation, but thanks to the grant and to the recent influx of moviegoers, she hasn't had to raise ticket prices.

"We haven't changed prices since before the pandemic," she said, although she noted that supply chain issues have been a problem.

"It has me chasing down popcorn bags online, they're actually pretty difficult to find," she said.

McQuisten said her next move might involve lending space for public art.

She'd like to have custom posters installed in the showcase displays on the south side of the building, and she's also interested in having a mural painted by a local artist.

The art would likely complement the Banksy "Movie Mouse" anonymously stenciled on the alley wall on the west side of the Eltrym 13 years ago.

Nonpartisan survey shows Oregonians back gun control

By GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

BEND — A majority of Oregonians support stricter gun laws, according to a new poll by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

The nonpartisan independent research group on Thursday, June 23, released data reporting 59% of survey respondents say they believe the state's firearms laws should be stricter, which is in line with an April 2021 Pew Research poll finding 60% of Americans want stricter gun laws.

The beliefs center surveyed 1,446 Oregon adults between June 2 and 11 about gun regulations.

Last month, an 18-year-old

man in Uvalde, Texas, used an AR-15-style rifle he purchased legally to kill 19 children and two adults and injure 17 others in an attack on an elementary school. But with that tragedy so fresh, open-ended questions about guns were not asked during the survey because it was felt the answers would be unproductive, according to an email from Amaury Vogel, associate executive director of the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Among the groups most likely to want stricter gun laws are urbanites, women, college graduates, people 75 or older and people with household incomes above \$100,000 per year.

Slightly more than half of

respondents, or 54%, believe making it harder for people to obtain firearms would result in fewer mass shootings.

The survey found that nearly half of gun owners, 46%, think firearms laws should be stricter in the U.S., and 43% believe there would be fewer mass shootings if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns.

Women are more likely than men to want stricter gun laws, and also less likely to own a gun.

In Oregon, women are also

less likely than men to own a gun, 25% compared to 41%. This is again in line with the national level: a June 2021 Pew poll found that 22% of women and 39% of men own guns.

Deschutes County resident Pat Minney was among the survey respondents. She told The Bulletin there are "way too many guns" and would like to see a ban on military style weapons and stronger

background checks. She said she's long held those beliefs, but she's watched her husband, a military veteran, soften his pro-gun stance in recent years in response to mass shootings.

"Ever since the shooting in Springfield and the shootings out East, we've just watched it get worse and worse," Minney said, referring to the 1998 Thurston High School shooting.

The survey found 90% of respondents who identify as Democrats believe gun laws should be stricter, while only 24% of those who identify as Republicans feel the same. The results suggest Oregon is slightly more polarized on this issue than the national average. The April, 2021, Pew poll found that 81% of Democrats and 20% of Republicans favored more strict federal gun laws.

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Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

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★ JULY 1-7 ★

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU (PG)
The untold story of one twelve-year-old's dream to become the world's greatest supervillain

Fri - Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20
Mon-Thurs 4:20, 7:20

ELVIS (PG-13)
From his childhood in Mississippi to his rise to stardom in Memphis and Las Vegas, Elvis Presley becomes the first rock 'n roll star and changes the world with his music.

Fri - Sun 12:45, 4:00, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 4:00, 7:15

TOP GUN MAVERICK (PG-13)
Pete Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him.

Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:00
Mon-Thurs 4:10, 7:00

SHOWTIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL AHEAD TO VERIFY

www.eltrym.com (541) 523-2522

Grant County Committee Volunteers Needed
Applications are Due by WEDNESDAY, July 6th, 2022

Obtain a volunteer application from the County Court, 201 S. Humbolt, No. 280, Canyon City, OR 97820, online at [Committee Volunteer Application](#) or contact (541-575-0059) GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov.

Committees are formal public bodies required to comply with Oregon Public Meetings Law ORS 192.610.

- **Airport Commission (ORS 836.616)**
Five commissioners plus a County Court representative serve two year terms, meeting monthly. The commission acts as governing body for the Grant County Regional Airport. Applicants must be full time, bona fide residents of the county and be aircraft owners or pilots, or individuals with demonstrated interest in and knowledge of aviation matters.
- **College Advisory Board**
Seven members plus three ex-officio members serve three year terms and meet monthly to promote local educational opportunities and identify educational needs within the community.
- **Extension & 4-H Service District Advisory Council**
Eleven members serve three year terms, meeting semi-annually to provide guidance and assistance to local OSU Extension staff in planning, developing, and evaluating balanced educational programs directed to high priority needs of county residents.
- **Library Advisory Board (ORS 357.465)**
Seven members serve four year terms, meeting monthly to promote public awareness and support of library services, receive public input, review and update library materials, and coordinate activities with the Grant County Library Foundation.
- **Natural Resources Advisory Committee**
Nine members serve one and two year terms. Members must live in Grant County and constitute a representation of agriculture and livestock production, timber and wood products production, recreation, hunting and fishing, water resources, mining, cultural resources and advocates for natural resources stewardship through continuation of the customs, culture, health, safety and economic stability of Grant County.
- **Planning Commission (ORS 192.610)**
Nine members serve four year terms; two alternates serve two year terms. Meetings are held as needed to review land use and zoning applications, discuss city and county growth issues and site new facilities. Members must reside in various geographic areas within the county with no more than two voting members engaged in the same kind of business, occupation, trade or profession with agriculture designations of livestock/forage or horticulture/specialty crop production.
- **Senior Citizens Advisory Council (ORS 410.210)**
Five members serve three year terms and meet semi-annually to define the needs of older adults, promote special interests and local community involvement, and represent senior citizens as an advocate to the local, state and federal government and other organizations.
- **Southeast Area Commission on Transportation**
Five members, plus one alternate, serve three year terms as Grant County representatives. The alliance provides a forum for local government agencies and the private sector to discuss, understand and coordinate long range transportation issues affecting the south east Oregon region including Grant, Harney and Malheur counties. The alliance acts as the Area Commission on Transportation. Daytime meetings are held monthly or as needed, rotating among the three counties.
- **Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee (OAR 603-019-0015)**
Five members include one County Commissioner, two who own or manage livestock and two who support wolf conservation or coexistence. These members agree upon two business representatives to serve as additional members. The committee oversees the procedure established by Grant County for its Wolf Depredation Compensation Program. The current vacancy is for a business representative.

Blue Mountain Eagle Office Closure

Our office will be CLOSED Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Early Deadline for the July 6th issue: Thursday, June 30th before 3:00 p.m.

We hope you spend this day celebrating with your friends and family!

Grant County's newspaper since 1868