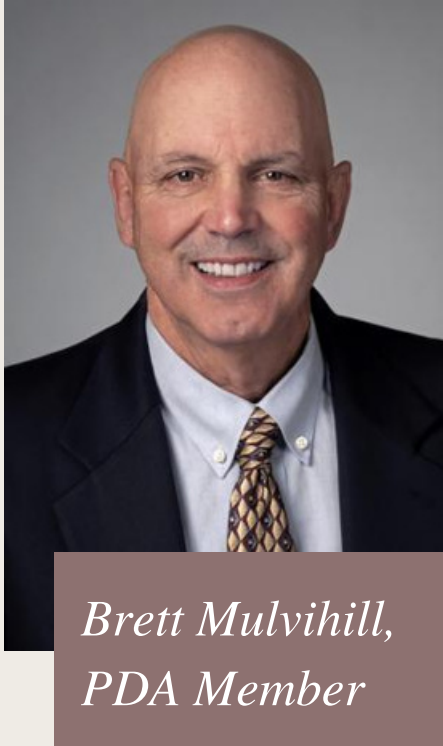


# NEWSLETTER

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## DOWNTOWN PENDLETON: A JEWEL THAT CONTINUES TO SHINE



*Brett Mulvihill,  
PDA Member*

When people think of downtown they're generally referring to Main Street - along with the nearby auxiliary streets with shops, restaurants, bars and other venues. A vibrant downtown is the heart of any city, and its layout is a public display of the community's priorities.

I moved back to Pendleton four years ago, after spending most of my adult life in Portland. I have family here, and there's definitely something about Pendleton that draws people back - even after extended absences like my own.

Brett's Books came into being after I purchased the Pendleton Book Company. While I know that bookstores are usually a labor of love for the owner, every town needs a good bookstore, having recently retired from a previous career I was guided by a call to give time and energy back to the community.

As a lifelong book nerd I thought owning a bookstore would be fun. I envisioned a comfy store, where people could wander the aisles checking out books and hopefully find a hidden treasure or two.

In keeping with my desire to help the community, I was elected to City Council representing Ward 3, and I'm honored to serve the citizens of Pendleton in my dual capacity as City Councilor and owner of the town's bookstore. Of course folks come into the store to talk about city issues, which I find encouraging.

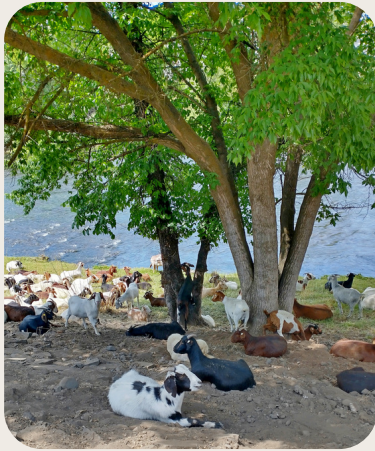
Brett's Books offers a large variety of works by authors both popular and obscure. I'm personally interested in classic literature and old books, and have been pleasantly surprised to learn how many customers share this passion.

We also host several evening book clubs, and have put on a number of well-attended book signings by local authors. I have so much respect for our local talent, and will continue to support and promote their work. Local Main Street supporters Stephanie Huffman and Joshua Brown have an upcoming reading in August from their book *Formosa Moon*.

Tourist and visitor traffic is certainly important, but the store could not remain in business without strong local support. I'm grateful for the continuing support of the local community, and the continued encouragement of our well-read, thoughtful residents. Let's all support downtown and ensure that this Pendleton jewel continues shining.

*Brett Mulvihill ~ City Councilor, Ward 3*

**Brett's  
Books**  
*new & used*



## Goat Watch 2025

Goats have returned for prescriptive grazing. The City's [Facebook page](#) will post goat watch updates when they reach the Umatilla River Parkway. There will be a temporary electric fence to keep goats and onlookers separated.

Although adorable, please remember the goats and their guard dogs are livestock and not pets.

## Path To Success selects two PDA Members as grant winners

Two PDA Members were among four businesses selected for the 2025 Path To Success program.

PDA Member [Pendleton Ceramics](#), owned by Tom Henderson, is located at 148 S. Main Street.

Another PDA Member, [Sage Hens Boutique & Resale](#), owned by Liz Gregory and Natalie Peck, is located at 418 S. Main Street.

Local business [7Gen Wellness](#) was also selected. Co-owner Acosia Red Elk was interviewed in the PDA [May newsletter](#).

New business Candy Cakes, owned by Kate and Shaun Montgomery, was the fourth winner. The couple plans to open a candy shop with a vintage vibe. Shop goodies will include candies, freshly baked goods and Tillamook ice cream.

The Path to Success program is a competitive process that includes business plan reviews, live pitches, and mentorship. A partnership between the Pendleton Development Commission and the BMCC Small Business Development Center, the program aims to revitalize the Pendleton's downtown.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



## Sage Hens

Boutique & Resale





## History Mystery

Love history? How about a good mystery?

Pendleton's Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Umatilla County Historical Society (UCHS) are calling on Historical Sherlocks to help solve local mysteries!

These two photos are part of a larger collection recently donated to UCHS. Unfortunately not much is known about them. Was this a local furniture factory? Who are the people featured in the photographs?



Photo courtesy of Umatilla County Historical Society

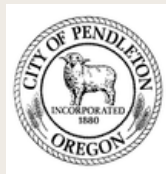


Photo courtesy of Umatilla County Historical Society

Please share your theories on the history of these photos. If you have your own photos of this business we hope you'll share them too.

The HPC and UCHS would love to hear from you.

Email your theories to [hpc@pendletonor.gov](mailto:hpc@pendletonor.gov)



The Heritage Station Museum recently renovated their patio area. This inviting space, featuring new seating, tables, and planters with blooming flowers, was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting last month.

The event also featured an opening reception for *Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine*, a traveling exhibit from the Oregon Historical Society. Regional winery Los Rocosos Vineyards provided wine tasting as part of the festivities.

The patio is open to the public and available for rent for private events.





## Pendleton Loses (Another) Pharmacy



It was with a degree of sadness that I found myself wandering the aisles of Rite Aid last Sunday, searching rapidly-emptying shelves for bargains along with other Pendletonians. As is now common knowledge, Pendleton has lost yet another pharmacy, leaving Walmart and Safeway as our only local option for filling prescriptions..

It's always a tragedy when a town loses a business, especially one so integral to the community's health and well-being. Rite-aid provided a vital service to Pendleton. Its drive through pharmacy was especially important. It's sad to think that its employees, people who have provided top-notch service to Pendleton over the years, are now unemployed through no fault of their own.

It's beyond the scope of our humble newsletter to examine what greater macroeconomic ripples have cost Pendleton yet another vital business. But it is worth pointing out the traditional role that drug stores have played in American towns as places not just for locals to pick up health related items, but also as centers of the community.

There are many examples of American drug stores of yore in film, television and literature as places staffed by local pharmacists offering not just health related products and household goods, but also selling comics, magazines and paperback books, items meant to be read at leisure over pie and coffee at the lunch counter also conveniently located within.



But we don't have to dip into bygone sitcoms for examples of the importance of Main Street drugstores to local communities. On your next visit to Hermiston, stop into Hermiston Drug, a thriving, locally owned Main Street drug store that's been serving our neighboring community for decades (and is currently accepting prescriptions from Pendletonians).

Might Pendleton manifest something similar? I think it's more than possible. Our Main Street has the space, the buildings, and the charm - and we have people who know how to run a pharmacy. And now more than ever, our community has the need.

Dear reader, can you imagine a Pendleton Drug on Main Street? Shoot me an email at [newsletter@pendletondowntown.org](mailto:newsletter@pendletondowntown.org).

~Josh Brown

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<https://www.pendletondowntown.org/>



Follow us!



Join the PDA  
<https://www.pendletondowntown.org/join>

Know of a downtown business that would be a perfect fit for the PDA? Share this newsletter with them!

## Chatting Tea with Maya Bamer of Morningstar Blends

*Your shop has an almost apothecary like vibe to it. What was the inspiration to open Morningstar Blends in Pendleton?*

I grew up around herbal medicine. When I met my husband and moved to central Oregon, I realized how few people had knowledge that, to me, was ingrained. The idea simmered on the back burner for twenty years, through a variety of amazing adventures with my family, adventures which eventually led us to the beautiful town of Pendleton. And when the universe shows you the way, you better follow.

*Where did you first learn the art of tea?*

Tea has always been a part of my life. I was raised to value herbal medicine over pharmaceuticals, so all my tea experiences are medicinal. Some of my earliest memories of tea are about foraging and processing tea leaves and learning about their medicinal properties from tribal members and other herbalists. I am always continually learning about tea, and am fascinated by the ceremony and ritual behind it.



*I've noticed some conversations on your FB page with people asking you for advice on teas - for example, what's a good blend for calming, for focus, etc. If you could recommend one book for people looking to learn about the health properties of tea, what would it be?*

I love books, and there are so many great books about tea. For someone just starting out, I'd recommend *Wild Tea* by Nick Moyle and Richard Hood. For something a little more in depth and educational, *Alchemy of Herbs* by Rosalee De La Foret gives more information about herbs and their benefits. For an advanced reference book, *The Encyclopedia of Herbs* is fantastic as well.

*You have so many different types of teas in your shop. Do you grow your own or source them from elsewhere?*



Most of our herbs are from various sources and farms throughout the Pacific Northwest. We have partnered with some local farms from the Tri Cities and Walla Walla for different herbs as well and we are always looking for more local sources. We also forage for a lot of herbs and plants that are in our teas and for sale by the ounce in the shop. These include Elderberry, Rose buds, Rose hips, Usnea, and Mullein, to name a few.

For spices and herbs that are sourced overseas, we try to remain consistent with Organic and Fair-Trade certifications. We want to provide the absolute best ingredients to our customers so that they can get the best results for whatever concoction they are making.

# Chatting Tea with Maya Bamer of Morningstar Blends



*Something that's always fascinated me about tea culture is how varied it is from place to place. Tea can be everything from casual to ritualized, even ceremonial. Are there any particular tea cultures that you find yourself particularly interested in? Have you spent time exploring other tea cultures, say, those of East Asia?*

Since I have been learning about ceremonial tea cultures, I have been fascinated with learning more about Sado, or the Japanese Tea Ceremony. All tea preparation can be a ceremony and a meditative experience if you allow it to be. The brewing of the tea, the warmth of the cup in your hands, and the pause that it brings you to sit down and enjoy that cup either in a quiet calm space by yourself or with good company.

*How is business so far, and what sort of folks are you seeing coming in as customers?*

We have been blessed with the warmest of welcomes from the community. I love how diverse the traffic has been as we have made a conscious effort to create a space that is welcoming for all.



*What else do you want folks to know about Morningstar Blends?*

We had our grand opening celebration the second week of June and had such an amazing response with our Tea Tuesday and Woodsy Wednesday deals that we decided to make them permanent! So now every Tuesday is Tea Tuesday with deals on all tea blends and Woodsy Wednesday is every Wednesday with deals on foraging equipment and reference books! We are all about getting people out into nature and exploring the world around them. That is just as healing as tea or apothecary!

I've also opened up Custom Tea Experiences for booking. This is a 30-minute session with me to help you create a custom tea just for you. I will write down the recipe and file it away for you so that you can call up or come by if you need some more! You can book a session online on our [website](#)!



# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



As July heats up, enjoy some cool community happenings.

## July 3

Library: July's Cook Book Club will feature recipes from *The Lost Kitchen: Recipes and a good life found in Freedom, Maine*. 6-7pm Free

Pendleton Center for the Arts: Art About Agriculture Opening Reception 5:30-7:00 pm Free  
This Oregon State University traveling exhibition runs July 3-August 16.



## July 4

VFW: Independence Day Parade. The parade route will be City Hall to Main Street to SW Court St to the Convention Center. 10am Free

City Hall: Community Celebration with yard games, face painting, dunk tank, chalk art walk. 11am-3pm Free

## July 5

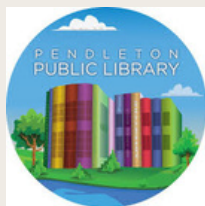
J and J Comics: Grand Opening. Enjoy refreshments, music and 10% off sales 11am

## July 18

Aquatic Center: Teen Night. Admission is for those 13-18 and includes games, music and two slices of pizza. \$10

## July 19

Library: Summer Sale. The library is clearing out their storage. Sale items include juvenile audiobooks and craft kits, wooden chairs, CD disk holders and more. 10 am



## July 26

Stitches Mercantile: Zuni Quilt Class Three classes total-\$40

## July - all month long

Pendleton Center for the Arts: Jam Night-Second Tuesday 7-8 pm Free

Teen Clay Class Tuesdays 4-5:30 pm Free

Youth Art Class Saturdays 9:30-10:15 am Free



Pendleton Farmers Market: Every Friday in June shop local on Main Street from 4-7 pm.

The Studio: Open Studio and Paint Your Own Pottery for elders. Summer Art Camp days for ages 5-13.

For more event listings  
download the Live  
Pendleton App from  
Google Play.





# Let's Go Gleaning

By Joshua Brown



Early summer is my favorite season in Pendleton, and it's all about the gleaning. We moved to Pendleton in the spring of 2021, and by early June we noticed a plethora of cherry trees in town literally ripe for the picking. Brief inquiry revealed that about half the homeowners responsible for the trees didn't have time to harvest their cherries, and were happy to have us take as many as we liked. "If you don't get 'em the birds will, and they'll make a mess."

We wound up with two five gallon buckets filled with cherries, some of which got turned into scones (half of these we delivered to the generous homeowners) with the rest frozen and dehydrated for later enjoyment.

Our neighbor's generosity inspired us to apply for an Amazon Change X grant in 2023 for a project called Let 'er Bloom, which funded the planting of a dozen fruit trees in publicly accessible areas around town. Two years later, many of these trees are starting to produce fruit.

As I write this in late June, there are still plenty of productive cherry trees around town. But everything has its season, and within a few weeks cherries will give way to apricots, plums and peaches, offering plenty of opportunities for gleaning. (If the trees are on private property, be sure and ask first. Many property owners will happily offer gleaning rights in exchange for a share of the harvest.)

But gleaning is about more than picking fruit - It's about knowing what opportunities exist to connect people looking to give with those in need. The internet is a tremendous resource, and there are several Facebook groups devoted to the concept of a gift-barter economy. Chief among these are the local Buy Nothing Facebook Groups (Pendleton has two), where you can post items you're giving away and things you're looking for, as well as finding food gleaning opportunities.

Finally, Pendleton has no shortage of brick and mortar resources to help those in need. The aptly-named People Helping People has a small food bank offering non-perishables, and also offers clothing and school bags for children. Linda's Thrift offers free clothing, shoes and other items to families who can't afford them during the school year. And the EOCIL Food Pantry on Court Street assists folks dealing with food insecurity.

But it's not just material items - our community offers myriad free opportunities of the experiential nature. Check out our Community Happenings calendar above for upcoming events around town.

Until next month!

~ Josh Brown

Got any gleaning tips you'd like to share  
(or other suggestions for future Let's Go columns)?

Drop us a line at [newsletter@pendletondowntown.org](mailto:newsletter@pendletondowntown.org)

