

DRESSAGE: Sisters youth has found her 'happy place'

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After Martin's first accomplishment, she went on to qualify at multiple recognized shows in Oregon, California, and Washington, where her scores qualified her to go to state and regionals

"I went to Tule Lake in California to another rated show and I won three 2nd places and a 6th place," Martin said. "It was by far my favorite show because you got to camp with your horses."

Oregon Dressage Society (ODS) state championships were at Devonwood, where she won reserve champion.

After winning state shows a youth participant moves on to regional shows, and at the region 6 Northwest championship show Martin placed 10th for her level. This was

the biggest show with the most participants for the year, coming from all over the Northwest.

Martin has recently received one of the highest honors in her class. The National Shining Star Award presented by the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) recognizes outstanding sportsmanship by youth.

"The Central Oregon Chapter of Oregon Dressage Society nominated Lauren for Shining Star award because she exemplifies team spirit, sportsmanship and overcoming adversity," Martin told *The Nugget*. "And in 2016 there were only 12 people in the nation nominated for the shining star."

"Dressage is my happy place," Lauren said. "It's the best thing in the world. You have a connection with your horse. It means focus, concentration and patience that are all rewarded by hard work. My goal is to earn all the medals from USDF."

HEARING: Council will decide whether to seat councilor-elect

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329 Jefferson Ave.

One of the requirements that must be met in order for a person to run for the office of City Councilor is that he must have been a resident of the city (within city limits) for 12 consecutive months prior to the election.

A number of questions from local residents came into City Hall prior to the election regarding Esterman's residency. Esterman told *The Nugget* in a September interview that his long-time residence in Tollgate has been used as his office for the past year and he has been living at the Oak Street rental. The Tollgate house was listed for sale in September of this year.

When City staff checked the City's water records, it

was discovered that no water use was recorded at the Oak Street house from April-October 2016. Following investigation by City staff and review by the City attorney, a letter was sent to Esterman indicating the questions raised by the City's findings.

In a detailed written response, Esterman argued he used water, but a small enough amount that it didn't show up on the City's records. He also noted that he did not use trash collection services because he disposed of his garbage by other means.

A hearing to explore this issue was then scheduled for December 15. Since that time, Esterman was elected to one of three open seats on the City Council, from a field of three candidates and one write-in candidate.

Any person may attend the hearing, as it is open to the public, but no public testimony will be taken.

Letters or relevant information may be sent to the Sisters City recorder ahead of time for inclusion in the hearing packet.

During the hearing, the City will present evidence that brings Esterman's 12-month required city residency into question. Esterman will have the opportunity to counter with his evidence of residency.

Following all testimony from the City and from Esterman, the current City Council will deliberate and decide whether or not Esterman met the residency requirements necessary to run for Council and, therefore, would be eligible to take his seat in January.

When contacted last week by *The Nugget* to see if he had any comment and to ask if he would have legal counsel at the hearing, Esterman declined to reply, stating simply, "Come to the hearing and you can report on what happens."

FLIGHT: Event offers a thrill to prospective pilots

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to \$15,000 on ground school costs if they were to pursue a license independently. Sisters School District administrators are working with Central Oregon Community College to provide college credit for the high school students.

Fendall and other teens gave the course rave reviews, and Fendall said he's always wanted to become a pilot.

Yeager told students and their parents prior to the flights that safety is always the program's top priority.

Judging from the excited reactions of the students after their flights, the day only whetted their appetite for flight.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to get a license later," Fendall said.

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