

Equestrian drill team shines at state competition

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Roughly translated, the famous Latin phrase, "Omne trium perfectum," means, "A set of three is complete."

A satisfying sense of completeness surrounded Silverton High School's equestrian drill team as it secured first place at state for the third consecutive year. The magic of the "rule of three" wasn't lost on the three seniors on the team who rode their horses to OHSET victory for a third, and last, time in Redmond last month.

Elsie Guenther, Angeline Starrs and Nicole Kuenzi will graduate high school this month with the distinction of having led

Silverton's "6+" drill team to state gold in 2014, 2015 and 2016. A fourth member - junior Brienne Hook - helped secure the trio of wins too. Rounding out the squad for 2016 was Hannah Brunkal, a senior, and sophomore Hannah Zurbrugg, a sophomore.

Together, these six young ladies headed to the Deschutes County Fairgrounds, driven by hopes and dreams and followed by a load of pressure as heavy as expected for reigning champs.

"There was an insane amount of pressure," Elsie Guenther said. "With only six people on our team, it is hard to compete against teams with 10 or 12."

Eighteen other drill teams showed up to strut

their stuff against the Foxes on Friday, May 13. For Silverton, the night started with a shaky warm-up, Guenther recalled. This was followed by a rousing pep talk from coach Casey Rush. Then it was show time: five minutes of carefully choreographed horsemanship pushing the limits of technicality and difficulty.

"Our performance was intense. It was not perfect, but we rode like it was," said Nicole Kuenzi. "We rode with confidence and emotion."

"There were a couple of spots that could have been better, but our drill was much harder than any of the other teams, and we had a team unity that many teams just can't achieve," Guenther added.

The girls knew they'd done well, and they'd waited all year for this moment, but they had to wait a little longer. Results posted the next day: Silverton was state champ again, with a score of 2029. Behind them were Canby and Forest Grove high schools.

"We screamed with joy," Kuenzi said. "We had awards that day and got a team trophy. Each of us got medals and halters for our horses."

On paper, 2016 appears similar to 2014 and 2015, with their respective scores of 2030 and 2308. But each year has its own back-story, with details only the riders know.

"To me, (winning) represents everything that

we went through to get here," Guenther said. "All three years started out rough, and we went through quite a few challenges. There were several times when I didn't think it would ever come together, but it always did, and we came out on top."

Making 2016 extra bittersweet, drill coach Casey Rush, 25, announced she's stepping down. Her mother is head coach, but Rush, an equestrian champ herself, has shepherded the 6+ drill team to its three state wins. She plans to apply to Oregon State University, her mother, Sue, said.

"(Casey) kept us up late, got us up early and pushed us past anything we thought we could do," Guenther said. "She is the

reason we won all three years.

She has an extraordinary talent for bringing everyone's individual talents and combining them with routines that she spent hours and hours writing."

With seven seniors graduating, next year's younger team will push forward with Sue Rush at the helm.

Many are interested in riding drill, whether free-style fours or 6+, she said.

Rebuilding the team in 2016-17 is a process she expects with anticipation.

"Sometimes the chase is more fun than the win. It's easy to forget that," she said.

At state, overall, Silverton finished 12th. The meet ran May 12-15.

OBITUARIES

Amber R. Taverne

October 29, 1983 — May 25, 2016

Amber was born in Salem where she grew up and graduated from McKay High School in 2003. Amber recently graduated from the University of Western States. Upon graduation she was hired by the university's massage therapy program, and she had also started her own massage therapy business. She loved helping others and was always there for her friends and family. Amber was a loving mother to two beautiful daughters; her love for music was passed on to her daughter, Amy. The family she left behind includes her daughters: Amy Taverne and Ollie Swider; her partner: Nick Volkoff and his son, Jayson Volkoff; parents: Wilma and Hollis Reagor, and Don Williams; brothers: Chris Kennedy, Tony Currier-Reagor and James Williams, sisters: Shailla Reagor and Tiana Reagor; grandparents: Roy and Carol Kennedy, Don and Loretta Williams, Ray and Judy Reagor; and many other extended family members.

She will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her and those who appreciated her

unique spirit.

A celebration of Amber's life will be held at 5 p.m., Saturday, June 11, 2016, at Salem First Free Methodist Church, 4455 Silverton Road NE Salem, OR 97305. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Amber Taverne Memorial Fund at any Umpqua Bank location.

Bernice H. Dieker

March 19, 1928 — May 30, 2016

Bernice H. Dieker, age 88, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 30, 2016. Bernice was born in Salem on March 19, 1928, to Aloysious and Marie Duda. She grew up in Hazel Green, then in 1940 her family moved to Mt. Angel. She graduated from Mt. Angel Academy in 1946. On May 12, 1948, she married Harold Dieker. They celebrated 68 years of marriage. In 1955 Harold and Bernice and their family moved out to the family farm on Hook Road. Bernice worked at John F. Kennedy High School as a cook, retiring in 1990. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening, camping, fishing and spending time with friends and family. She was a lifelong mem-

ber of St. Mary's Parish, also serving in the Catholic Daughters and the St. Ann's Society. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Raymond and Leroy and her son Gary. She is survived by her husband Harold, her daughter Kathy (Gene) Luffman of Iowa Park, Texas, son Richard (Suzanne) Dieker of Yakima, Washington, her sisters Arlene (Dale) Kloucek and Loraine (Henry) Geshwill, 7 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandson. A special thanks to the staff at Heartwood Place Memory Care in Woodburn and Hospice Care of the Northwest. The family wishes to express appreciation to all who visited and supported her in the final months of her life.

A rosary was held on June 6, 2016 at St. Mary's Church. A funeral mass was held at St. Mary's Church at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Ann's Society would be appreciated.

Jean A. Moon

Sept. 21, 1925 — May 7, 2016

Jean A. Moon, our beloved mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 7, 2016.

Jean was born in Sil-

verton on Sept. 21, 1925, to Henry and Ruth Oveross. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert (Bob) F. Moon in 2007.

Jean grew up and lived in Silverton. She and her husband Bob and children moved to Canada in 1968. She always remained in touch with her family, friends and classmates from her Silverton High School class of 1943. Jean brought joy to family, friends and all who met her. She will always be remembered and held in our hearts.

Jean is survived by her three children: Curt (Carol) of Vancouver, British Columbia, Dale (Amparo) of Lake Oswego, and Monica of Naramata, British Columbia; and three grandchildren: Ryan (Teresa), Cameron (Aline) and Brandon; and extended family.

Memorial tributes can be made to SHS Alumni Association. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel in Valley View Cemetery in Silverton.

Harlan Delano Warnick

October 17, 1935 — May 28, 2016

Harlan Delano Warnick, 80, was called home on May 28, 2016.

He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Clarence and Josephine Warnick on October 17, 1935. Harlan moved with the family in

1941 to Richmond, California. He graduated from Golden Gate Academy where he met his future wife, Jean. He was an apprentice plasterer, and went on to become a general contractor, building homes in the Bay Area. In 1971, he and his family moved to Salem and started berry farming and building homes. Harlan was a very strong man of faith, loved his wife, children, and grandchildren. He and his family served a homeles ministry for 17 plus years. He loved traveling in their RV. Harlan was also a member of the Obsolete Fleet Chevy Club of Salem.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean; his daughter, Sharon (Ron) Hoyven, his son, Rick (Leslie) Warnick, grandchildren: Caleb and Marisa, sister, Claudia Le Moine, brother-in-law, Jim (Jan) Ford; and many nieces and nephews.

Celebration of life will be at 3 p.m. June 10 at the Emmanuel Bible Church, 8512 Sunnyview Road NE in Salem. Contributions may be made to the Emmanuel Bible Church Building Fund or Union Gospel Mission.

Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton.

Clarence "Buster" Richards

February 15, 1940 —

June 1, 2016

Buster was born in Broadus, Montana, to Chuck and Era Richards. Buster was one of nine siblings, married to Margaret Richards, father to Duane (Carolyn) Richards; Jolene (Theresa) Richards; Rhonda (Brett) Medalia; grandfather to 8, great grandfather of 11 and one on the way.

Before his retirement, Buster was a cook, had his own business and was well known as a handyman in the Silverton area. He was a jack of all trades, most known for his kind heart and sense of humor, always willing to help everyone. Buster never met a person he didn't like. He was a true friend to all.

Buster lived everyday knowing his best friend and love of his life for 56 years was always by his side. The most important thing in Dad's life was his family and he always put them first.

Service for Buster was held June 7 at The First Christian Church, Silverton. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to First Christian Church or a charity of your choice.

Joan Millie Hein

Aug. 8, 1945 — May 31, 2016

No services will be held. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton.

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