

HERMISTON

First Cinco de Mayo queen crowned ahead of celebration

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

When Hermiston celebrates Cinco de Mayo this weekend, Sara Lomas will be carrying on a family tradition.

"My mom, when she was in Mexico, she was Cinco de Mayo queen," Lomas said.

Now Lomas, 17, is following in her mother's footsteps by becoming Hermiston's first Cinco de Mayo queen.

To win the honor of reigning over the weekend's parade and downtown festivities she competed in a pageant on Sunday. The pageant included a round of questions and a dance portion, where the teenage contestants were judged on their poise and confidence. The judges also factored in an essay that contestants submitted before the pageant on the origins of Cinco de Mayo.

Lomas, a junior at Hermiston High School, said she heard about the pageant on Hermiston's Spanish-language radio station, La Ley.

"I decided I was going to compete because I thought it would be good to try something new," she said. "I'm kind of a shy person so it was good for me to talk in front of people."

As this year's pageant winner she will ride in Sunday's parade, but she said she would like to talk to the event's organizers about taking her role further.

"I want to participate in other activities and represent the Hispanic community," she said.

Lomas said she wants to be a role model for volunteer work, encouraging more of Hermiston's Latino population to get involved in service.

She said through clubs like Generation College and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America she gets



Lomas



Left to right are Cinco de Mayo pageant princesses **Maribel Marin, Brissa Gutierrez, Hillary Fernandez, Jennifer Garcia** and queen **Sara Lomas**.

Contributed by La Voz

an opportunity to do volunteer work. She also signs up every time the high school sends out a general call for volunteers to act as servers at a charity dinner or pitch in some other way. Her favorite project was collecting change for the nonprofit No Kid Hungry.

This year only four other girls besides Lomas participated in the Cinco de Mayo pageant, but organizer Clara Beas Fitzgerald said next year she expects more participation as word spreads. She emphasized that the contest is "a well-rounded pageant where beauty is on the inside."

"They were judged on their stage presence, how well they interacted with the audience, their poise, their posture, how clear their speech was ... it's not just about looks, it's about self-esteem and confidence," she said.

As winner of the pageant, Lomas got a \$500 scholarship and a prize package from various sponsors. The four runners-up in order were Hillary Fernandez, Jennifer Garcia, Maribel Marin and Brissa Gutierrez.

All five girls will participate in Hermiston's Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 3.

The parade, which organizers say will be more than twice as big as previous years, will begin at 11:30 a.m. Following the parade, participants can enjoy free entertainment by the bands Banda Arkangel R-15, Broncos del Norte and Forasteros de Tierra Caliente downtown across from city hall until 9 p.m. as well as food, a beer garden, craft vendors and a carnival.

Lomas said she is excited for what she sees as a chance for people from different cultures in Hermiston to come together and enjoy each others' company.

"To me it's a big celebration for the community to get together, a party where everyone is able to get together and laugh and not worry and just have a good time," she said. "I just want to see people there enjoying it."

Contact **Jade McDowell** at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Plute loses in ruling to Pendleton Plumbing

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton City Councilman Al Plute lost his gamble to keep his business from paying more than \$61,000 to Pendleton Plumbing Inc.

Plute did not return a call for comment, and staff at Pendleton Plumbing said husband and wife owners Jeffery "J.T." Dooley and Michelle Dooley were unavailable due to personal reasons. But the ruling from Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton of Pendleton is clear: Temple Building Development, which Plute owns, must pay \$61,111 to Pendleton Plumbing.

Temple Building Development, a limited liability company, owns the St. George Plaza, a downtown Pendleton business and residential space that Plute renovated from 2009-2012. Pendleton Plumbing worked at the hotel during those years. In 2013, the company sued Plute and his business interests for not paying the final bill.

The case went to trial in November 2014 in Pendleton circuit court and the jury sided with Pendleton Plumbing.

The case went back to court on Jan. 28, when Plute's attorney, Will Perkinson of Pendleton, disputed whether the jury

determined anyone had to pay the money. Pendleton attorney Tim O'Hanlon for the plumbing company and the Dooleys argued that jury wanted Plute to pay the balance.

Hampton issued her four-page opinion and ruling April 23.

The jury found Pendleton Plumbing and Temple had a construction contract under Oregon Revised Statute 701.625, according to Hampton's ruling, and the unpaid balance of that contract was \$61,111. The jury also found Temple did not make final payment for the work.

"Therefore the jury's finding of an unpaid balance under the construction contract supports a judgment requiring Temple to pay that unpaid balance," the ruling states.

"Under all the circumstances of this case, plaintiff is the prevailing party," Hampton wrote, and is entitled to a judgment in the full amount.

Hampton also ruled that state law entitles Pendleton Plumbing to receive interest on the balance at the rate of 1.5 percent per month dating from March 7, 2011, and Pendleton Plumbing is entitled to costs and attorney fees, but Plute and his side are not.

Contact **Phil Wright** at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

BRIEFLY

Local student council recognized

UMATILLA — The student council at Clara Brownell Middle School was recognized by the Oregon Association of Student Councils.

The council was one of nine middle school councils designated as "high-achieving" at the association's spring conference April 26 in Eugene.

According to a news release from the association, the award was based on the council's goal-setting, unity, service, promotion of school spirit and participation in leadership development.

Olney Cemetery resumes mowing season, graveside policies

PENDLETON — With the mowing season upon us, Pendleton Parks and Recreation reminds the public of the policy for flowers on gravesites at Olney Cemetery.

From April 1 through Oct. 31, no artificial flowers or grave decorations are allowed. Live flowers are allowed year-round, but will be removed if they become unsightly. Any decorations currently on graves must be removed by Friday.

A special exemption is allowed around Memorial Day — from Thursday, May 21 through Friday, May 29 — which allows artificial flowers, grave decorations and live flowers. All items will be removed and disposed of by staff beginning Saturday, May 30 at 6 a.m. Anything the public wishes to keep should be picked up by dusk Friday, May 29.

For clarification or more information, call 541-276-8100.

AARP driving class available

PENDLETON — The new AARP Smart Driver course will be offered in Pendleton.

The enhanced driver refresher class is Saturday from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. A break is provided for lunch. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Members must present their membership card. All ages are welcome.

For more information or to register, call 541-861-0024.

PENDLETON

Cattle Barons busts out with mounted shooting

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Barby Cleveland gets a big bang when talking about cowboy mounted shooting.

The Pendleton woman learned about the sport a half dozen years ago when Cindy Griggs and Colleen Winfrey shared about it during a Pendleton Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The Hermiston sisters have been active with the sport for more than a decade. In addition to coordinating a spring shooting event at the Farm-City Arena for many years, Griggs and Winfrey have placed in the world finals of the event.

"I thought, 'Sure, I could do that.' I then went to a new shooters clinic and here I am today putting one of the largest shoots on in the Northwest," Cleveland said.

Sponsored by the Round-Up City Rangers, the event is part of the Pendleton Cattle Barons Weekend with competition rounds Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10 at 9 a.m. each morning in the Pendleton Round-Up Arena.



Photo contributed by Barb Cleveland

Debbi Black of Boise rides her horse, Hodi, while participating in a cowboy mounted shooting event.

There is no admission charge for those who would like to come and watch the action. The top participant in each of the 26 levels will win. In addition, the fastest overall cowboy and cowgirl will receive big prizes.

Described as "barrel racing with guns," competitors are timed as they ride through patterned courses and fire rounds of specially prepared blank ammunition at balloon targets. For the Pendleton Cattle Barons Shoot Out, the balloons

are orange to honor those charge for those who would like to come and watch the action. The top participant in each of the 26 levels will win. In addition, the fastest overall cowboy and cowgirl will receive big prizes.

When she found out Griggs and Winfrey weren't coordinating a spring event in Hermiston this year, Cleveland spoke with Pat Beard.

"I thought I could get a few people together to start a new club and put on a shoot during Cattle Barons," Cleveland said.

As of Monday, 122 competitors have registered

for the event, with registration continuing through Friday.

Mounted shooting is a sport for all ages — from the time a person can sit in the saddle to when they can no longer ride, Cleveland said. The kids include open and limited wranglers up to age 11. When competitors turn 12 they can start shooting with the adult competitors.

Adding to the event's overall fun, participants are dressed in period style from the late 19th century and early 20th century to the Silver Screen era.

For more information, contact Cleveland at 541-276-2276, 541-240-1910, tourguide_barby@hotmail.com or visit www.cattlebarons.net.

Contact **Community Editor Tammy Malgesini** at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539



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