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EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

141st Year, No. 16

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One dollar

Ballot collection locations

Umatilla County Courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton

Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St.

Milton-Freewater City Hall, police station, 722 S. Main St.

Nixy'Aawii Governance Center, 46411 Ti'Mine Way, Pendleton

Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St.

Stanfield City Hall, 106 S. Main St.

Pilot Rock City Hall, 144 N. Alder Place

Athena City Hall, 302 E. Currant St.

Morrow County Courthouse, 100 S. Court St., Heppner

Boardman Annex, 101 N.W. Boardman Ave.

Irrigon Annex, 205 N.E. Third St.

Ione community garden, Spring Street

Lexington Public Works, 365 W. Highway 74

Have horse, will travel

Young barrel racer headed to Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian



Fourteen-year-old Lilly Picard and her quarter horse, Claire, are competing in the Indian National Finals Rodeo this week in Las Vegas.

Barrel racer Lilly Picard is a pretty low-key individual, not given to being chatty or effusive.

The 14-year-old freshman at Nixy-aawii Community High School doesn't need to talk much, though, to make a bold statement. She just gets on her horse and rides.

Lilly and her aunt Ashley Picard headed to the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas on Saturday. The pair spent the summer traveling the Pacific Northwest and Canada, spending almost every weekend competing at Indian and jackpot rodeos. Lilly entered both junior and ladies barrel racing events and performed well.

The pair, along with Lilly's grandmother Sarah Picard, racked up the miles. When they headed out from their Pendleton home in May for the first rodeo of the season, their Dodge 3500 pickup truck still had that new truck smell.

"The truck had eight miles when we started," Ashley said. "It has 17,000 on it now."

When they headed to Vegas, only Lilly's two horses were loaded into the trailer. Ashley and Sarah would share driving duties and support their girl.

Lilly and her chestnut quarter horse, Claire, proved a formidable duo this season as they topped standings in junior barrel racing for two regions — the King Mountain Indian Rodeo Association and the Western State Indian Rodeo Association — and climbed to second nationally among junior barrel racers.

Lilly doesn't recall a time horses weren't a part of her life.

"I really loved horses," she said. "I just wanted to ride."

"From when she was a baby who could barely walk, I put her on the horse with me," Ashley said. "She's always been drawn to them."

Lilly started participating locally at the Mustang Arena using a lead line

"Lilly's got as good a shot as anybody if she can keep the barrels standing. It'll be tough, but she didn't get to the national finals by accident."

— Ashley Picard, Lilly's aunt

See RODEO/8A

GOP has shot in tight Oregon races

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Turning the blue tide in Oregon's politics has been a near-futile effort for more than three decades. But two races may be within reach Tuesday.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh, elected in 1982, was the state's last Republican governor, and voters sent Republican Gordon Smith of Pendleton to the U.S. Senate in 1996 and 2002. No other members of the GOP have held state-wide office in that time.

This year, though, Republican state Rep. Dennis Richardson of Central Point could become Oregon's next secretary of state. The FOX 12-DHM Research poll of Nov. 1 showed Richardson leading Democrat Brad Avakian 32 percent to 27 percent. The poll also showed

See ELECTION/8A

HERMISTON

Potato farmers happy with harvest

Minimal impacts from October rain

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Whether mashed, baked, scalloped or fried, there should be no shortage of locally grown potatoes to serve up at this year's Thanksgiving dinner.

As fall potato harvest wraps up around the Columbia Basin, farmers are expecting above-average yield and quality thanks to an exceptional growing season.

Bill Brewer, CEO of the Oregon Potato Commission, said early spring conditions helped to jump-start the crop's growth, while summer cooled off enough to avoid stifling the plants. Most

farms finished harvesting ahead of schedule, Brewer said, with only minimal delays from October's record rainfall.

"The weather was actually very cooperative," Brewer said. "It ended up working out well."

According to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, 1.9 inches of rain fell last month at the Hermiston Municipal Airport, making it the wettest October on record. Downtown Pendleton also received 2.32 inches of rain, making it the third-wettest October there since 1900.

Soggy weather can make for a difficult time harvesting potatoes — especially spuds bound for the storage shed. If there's too much mud, it could block airflow to

See POTATOES/8A



In this Sept. 2014 file photo, potatoes ride a conveyor belt into a cold storage facility outside of Hermiston.



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