

MADDY: The bidding ended at \$50 a pound, but add ons are allowed from others

Continued from 1A

weight that steroids in her treatment had caused her to gain, and color returned to her cheeks.

"He gave her a purpose," Jenny said.

When fair time came, Maddy brought her lamb to the barns with the other youth and enjoyed a week at the fair. Like all 4-H students, when the youth livestock auction rolled around on Saturday she found it bittersweet.

"It was hard saying goodbye," she said.

Jenny said she had heard "rumblings" that community members at the auction were conspiring to make sure Maddy's lamb went for a little extra, but she thought that meant \$10 per pound. Instead, the price just kept rising as more people realized something special was happening and jumped in with bids of their own, then cheered on other bidders.

Both Jennie and livestock auction superintendent Marie Linnell described the atmosphere during the bidding as "electric." Linnell said that even auctioneer Ford Bonney started choking up as he continued to take bids.

"It was like electricity was running through the air," Linnell said. "The feeling there was incredible."

The bidding ended at \$50 per pound, but the fair also allows "add-ons" from people who didn't win an animal but still want to contribute to the youth who raised it. The add-ons came

pouring in, bumping it up to \$78 per pound that day. First it was adults and businesses, then other Umatilla County 4-H and FFA youths started contributing a portion of their proceeds. Linnell said as of Thursday support is still trickling in, but the 143-pound market lamb has brought in \$23,200 from more than 60 adults/businesses and 50 youth.

"We always say these 4-H and FFA kids are the cream of the crop," Linnell said.

Henry the lamb went on to resale, and Maddy said she is already looking forward to raising another lamb next year.

"It was fun," she said.

Meanwhile Jenny said the money raised from the sale (Linnell said the fair won't be taking a commission off the top) will help the family with medical and travel expenses, and some will be put into a college fund for Maddy.

She said in an email that the family has "decent" medical insurance that covers a majority of Maddy's medical bills — one three-week stay in the hospital earlier this year came out to \$500,000. But they have high deductibles to meet each year and their premiums "skyrocketed" once they switched to coverage that would pay for more of those bills. At the same time, Maddy's parents have had to miss a lot of work.

"We have been life-flighted twice and ambulated once from Kadlec to Seattle Children's," Jenny



Maddy Thomas, 11, stands with her market lamb Henry as the bids climb during the Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.

Photo contributed by Marie Linnell

Totals for all lots sold at County Fair

This year's Umatilla County Fair Youth Livestock Auction raised \$480,750 on 251 lots, not counting the \$23,200 raised for Maddy Thomas' lamb.

- The grand champion market hog shown by Damon Maddox and the reserve grand champion market hog by his twin brother Landon Maddox were each purchased for \$10/lb. by Pioneer Hay Company.

- The grand champion market steer by Isel Tejada Urenda was purchased by Meenderinck Dairy LLC for \$10/lb. and the reserve

grand champion by Macy Thomas was purchased by 9 Mile Ranch for \$4.25/lb.

- The grand champion market lamb by Macy Rosselle was purchased by Bracher Farms for \$8/lb. and reserve grand champion by Hunter Blake was purchased by All American Heating and Cooling for \$8.50/lb.

- The grand champion market goat by Michael Rosselle was purchased by Farm Equipment Headquarters for \$10.25/lb. and the reserve grand champion by Jace Otterson was purchased by All American Heating and Cooling for \$9.25/lb.

- The grand champion market rabbits shown by

Reece Gorham were purchased by Wilbur-Ellis for \$300 and the reserve grand champions shown by Kayla Humphrey were purchased by Mid-Columbia Producers for \$250.

- The grand champion market turkey by Landon Vandehey was purchased by Hermiston Rotary for \$525 with the reserve grand champion by Holden Summerfield purchased by English Hay and Gay and Alice Newman.

- Averages: 121 hogs at \$6.02/lb., 39 steers at \$4.20/lb., 66 lambs at \$7/lb., 10 goats at \$9.62/lb., 12 turkeys at \$393 each and 3 pens of rabbits at \$417 per pen.

wrote. "Every time we travel we have fuel, food, and hotel costs as she gets too tired to make a one-day trip ... We live with the unknown and never know when we will have to pick up and stay in Seattle for an extended time."

The small community of Echo has been "great" about raising money, she said. In February Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo in Stanfield raised \$4,534. But during lengthy cancer battles, Jenny said the fundraisers tend to dry up before the bills do, so the family is humbled and extremely grateful to get such a generous donation from the community a year after Maddy's diagnosis. Maddy also said she wanted to thank everyone for their support.

Linnell said she has never seen anything like what happened on Saturday, but the community has always been extremely generous at the youth livestock auction in her 12 years as superintendent. With Maddy's lamb, it was the highest grossing auction to date. Without factoring in Maddy's lamb, it was the second highest at \$480,750 on 251 lots.

Anyone who wants to add on a donation to Maddy's lamb before the deadline next Friday can email Linnell at mlinnell5@gmail.com or stop by the fair offices at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

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

Cuomo backtracks on his 'inartful' remark: 'Of course America is great'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Andrew Cuomo, running for a third term and a potential candidate for president in 2020, acknowledged Friday that he was "inartful" when he said this week that America "was never that great."

The Democrat went on to expound on something that few elected officials ever need to spell out.

"I want to be very clear: Of course America is great and of course America has always been great," Cuomo said on a teleconference

with reporters.

Cuomo's appraisal of the nation was somewhat different Wednesday when, speaking at a Manhattan bill signing, he critiqued Republican President Donald Trump and his slogan, "Make America Great Again."

"We're not going to make America great again — it was never that great," Cuomo told the audience, which reacted with gasps and laughter. "We have not reached greatness. We will reach greatness when every American is fully engaged."

The comment set off a wave of criticism of Cuomo.

New York Republicans demanded an apology and purchased Cuomo a one-way bus ticket to Montreal. Trump tweeted that Cuomo was having a "total meltdown." Cuomo primary

challenger and former "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon accused Cuomo of trying to sound like a liberal and failing. CBS late night host Stephen Colbert said the comment was "the dumbest thing you could say as a politician."

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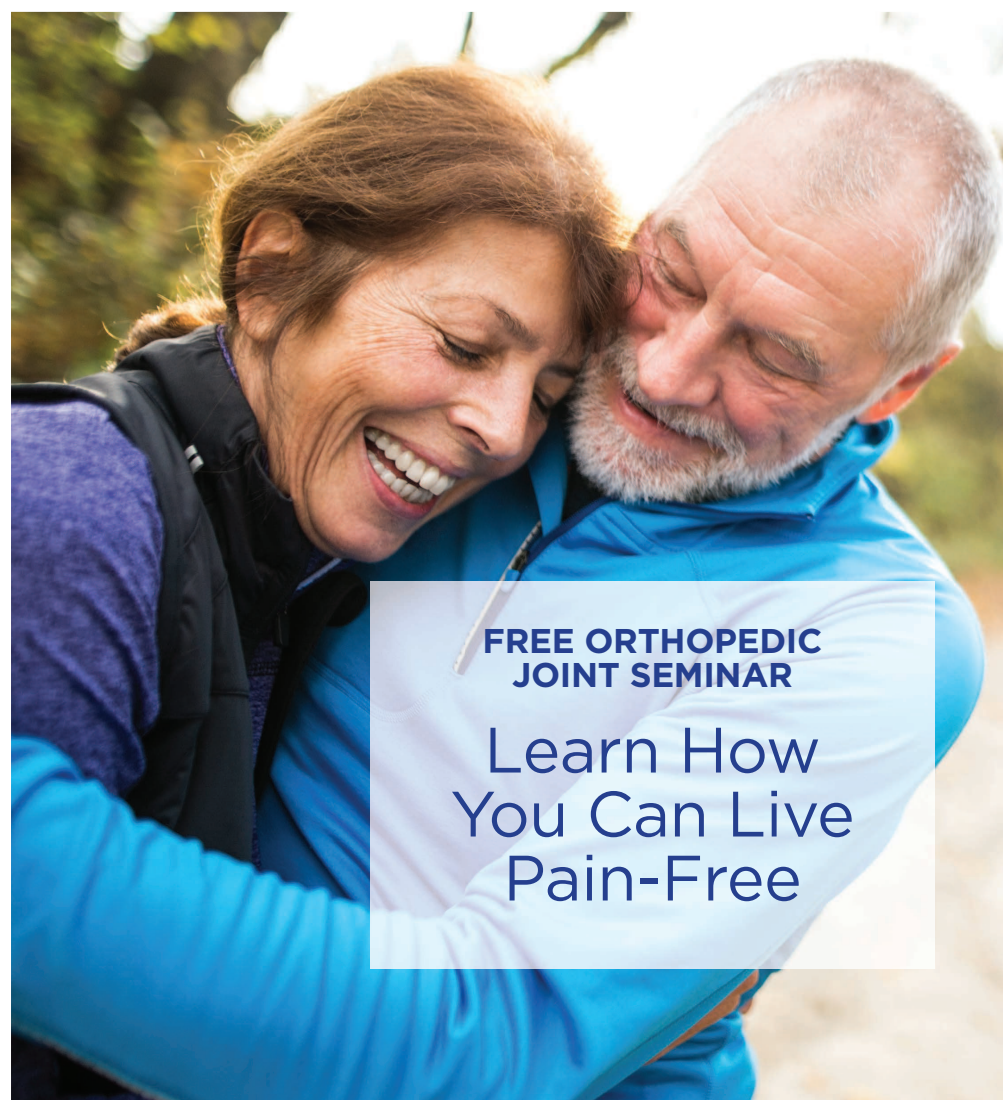
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