

Pendleton Lions Club announces Peace Poster contest winner

By **BEN LONERGAN**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Viviana Martinez, 13, gleamed with joy as she accepted her first place award in the 2019 Pendleton Lions Club Peace Poster Contest at the Pendleton Center for the Arts on Tuesday night.

Martinez, an eighth-grade student at Sunridge Middle School, had been in this position before; last year she took home first place in the Pendleton competition with her poster. Martinez said that her win last year inspired her to work even harder to live up to the expectations she set for herself for this year's contest.

"I was so nervous last year that I played it safe on the poster," said Martinez. "This year I went all out."

Martinez said her poster was inspired by a series of themes that her art class were discussing prior to the contest. She said the idea for the ribbon came from a discussion about finding a "road to peace," while the remainder of the art



Viviana Martinez poses with her winning poster during the awards ceremony for the 2019 Pendleton Lions Peace Poster Contest at the Pendleton Center for the Arts on Tuesday night.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

piece came from ideas she had about what symbolizes peace.

"I wanted to use a ribbon of flags to symbolize peace," said Martinez. "I took that and I wanted hands to hold the ribbon to symbolize all of the people working towards

peace."

Martinez's mother, Gloria Corona, said she was very proud of her daughter for the back-to-back wins.

"She is very detailed and meticulous person and I know she puts a lot of time and

energy into making her art perfect," said Corona.

For her winning poster, Martinez will take home a \$300 prize and her poster will advance to the next level of judging. Kacie Atkinson, 13, took home the \$200 sec-

ond-place prize while the \$100 third-place prize went to Drew Hathaway.

In addition to their prize money, the winning students were invited to the Lions meeting next Thursday for a free meal for themselves and a family member, and the chance to share their art with additional members of the club.

Martinez's winning poster will advance to the district contest where it will be judged against others from throughout the region. While all of the posters were on display at the Pendleton Center for the Arts for several days leading up to Tuesday night's event, a reproduction of Martinez's poster, as well as a selection of additional posters, will be on display at Blue Mountain Community College in the coming weeks.

More than 100 Sunridge Middle School students submitted posters for this year's contest after working on them during class. The Pendleton contest, which is a part of the International Lions Peace Poster Contest, was open to

students ages 11-13 and sponsored by the local Lions Club.

While the poster contest revolves around a different theme each year, Sunridge Middle School art teacher Michelle Sickels said this year's theme, "Journey of Peace," was particularly easy for her students to grasp.

"There are a lot of very great posters this year and the kids worked very hard on them," said Sickels. "This year's theme was right on their level and proved easy for them to grasp."

Brian Purnell, an art instructor at Pendleton Center for the Arts and one of this year's contest judges, said he was impressed with the creativity and originality of the posters. He said that in judging he looked for the posters that communicated the theme most simply and clearly.

"No two were even remotely alike and that originality is something I try to foster in my own students," said Purnell. "I was really impressed with the work that I saw."

Higher temps mean finer wines

By **JESSICA POLLARD**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Columbia Valley region is nestled between Bordeaux, France, and Napa Valley, California, according to Dr. Kevin Pogue, professor of geology at Whitman College and grape farmer consultant.

Not actually, but in terms of grape growing and wine production. And according to Pogue, just a 2-degree temperature increase could have the Columbia Valley wine region in Oregon and Washington producing the same quality of Cabernet Sauvignon that put Napa Valley on the map.

Not to say that California's famous wine country will stop producing wines altogether.

"Farmers are not dumb," Pogue said. "They will adjust, and grape growers will adjust."

And they have. In California, some wineries have equipment that "de-alcoholizes" wine from grapes that have soaked up too much sun and produced lots of alcohol-forming sugars. Some wineries add water or acidify their wines to cope with the effects of a changing climate as well.

Pogue spoke last week during a fundraiser for the Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition, where he shared research about the future of Eastern Oregon and Washington wines in the face of climate change.

And, while according to a study published in 2016 by the European Geosciences Union, a global temperature increase of just 2 degrees could mean less fresh water; the destruction of coral reefs and the lengthening of heatwaves; it could also mean an increase in the amount of wine produced in the area, and at other more high-elevation locations like Spokane, Washington.

"A little bit of global warming, and you're going to have a viticulture zone right here in (Pendleton)," Pogue joked last week.

In Milton-Freewater, he said, orchards are being replaced with vines, which take less water to produce.

So what's making the area so great for growing grapes? The Columbia Valley region, which has an area of 11 million acres in Washington and part of Oregon, has a 10-month, frost-free growing season, which accommodates more grape varieties than a short season would. Accord-

ing to the Oregon Wine Board, hot days and cool nights ensure grapes preserve their acidity.

Watermill Winery in Milton-Freewater takes advantage of the extended growing season to produce grapes for Syrah and Cabernet wines.

"We have a nice long growing season," said Leonard Brown, the vineyard manager at Watermill Wineries in Milton-Freewater. "We get the ample heat we need for ripening, we also have some good soils around here, adaptable for wine grapes. Probably the worst thing we have here is our cold winters."

And those cold winter temperatures started early this year, according to Brown. Last month was the coldest October on record since 1905, which can be devastating for some grapes.

"Grapes can't tolerate cold temperatures," Brown said.

But as for increasing temperatures, Brown hasn't noticed much of a difference. In some vineyards, he said, they've laid down sod to cool off the soil.

"It hasn't concerned us," he said. "As far as climate change goes, it's definitely warming up. But it's also more drastic weather extremes and storms."

Warming Station needs volunteers

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Despite temperatures already dropping below freezing, the Hermiston Warming Station won't be opening any time soon if more volunteers don't sign up.

Teesie Hill, chairwoman of the nonprofit's board, said she needs about 200 volunteers before they can start taking guests in need of emergency shelter.

So far she has about 30 ready to go.

"Last year, we trained 200 people. We had about 165 actually volunteer for a shift, 145 return for another, but only about 90 volunteers who volunteered consistently," she said.

The station has three

volunteer training sessions left: Thursday at 9 a.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

All training sessions are at the warming station, a house at 1075 S. Highway 395 across from Tower Apartments. Interested volunteers don't need to sign up in advance.

Returning volunteers won't need to go through training or background checks again, Hill said — they just need to drop by and sign some updated paperwork to be approved for another year.

Volunteers can sign up online for whatever shifts or days they would like. Check-in shifts are from 7-9:30 p.m. Operations manager and kitchen manager shifts are from 7 p.m. to midnight. Overnight

volunteers can work from midnight to 4 a.m., or manage the kitchen or checkouts from 4-6:30 a.m.

Volunteers working with guests must be over 18, but volunteers younger than 18 can come during the day to assist with tasks, such as cleaning or sorting donations.

The Warming Station's season has been set to go from Nov. 25 through February, but Hill said they will start later than the 25th if they don't have more volunteers.

For people interested in donating items, she said their biggest need is cases of bottled water and packages of hot chocolate mix.

For more information, call 541-289-2150 or visit the Hermiston Warming Station Facebook page.

BRIEFLY

BMCC saves students \$1.1 million in textbook costs

PENDLETON — As a part of its quest to reduce textbook costs, Blue Mountain Community College announced it has saved students \$1.1 million since 2015.

According to a college press release, BMCC was able to do this by encouraging faculty to use open educational resources, or OERs.

OERs are learning material in the public domain or under open licensing agreements that instructors can assemble to offer low-cost or no-cost options for their students.

BMCC has used OERs since 2012, but the institution has increased its use as the Oregon Legislature passed bills requiring public colleges and universities to designate courses with low-cost or

ket those materials in their textbook affordability plans.

"Open textbooks can help alleviate the burden of textbook costs for students and provide faculty with content that can be utilized for their courses," BMCC e-Learning coordinator Bruce Kauss said in a statement. "Open textbooks are full, real textbooks, used by many faculty across the country, and licensed to be freely used, edited and distributed."

A quarter of all courses at Blue Mountain now use OERs, the press release states.

Kauss said textbook costs are rising at four times the rate of inflation, a fact that causes many students to wait until they receive financial aid to buy textbooks.

Kauss is offering a workshop to faculty interested in incorporating OERs into their courses on Nov. 15.

—EO Media Group

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