

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Wallowa County sophomore has eye on national titles

By KATY NESBITT

For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — In a county well known for its pro rodeo the last full weekend of July, it's no surprise to find a pro rodeo cowboy in the making. As a high school freshman, Hanley Miller is already a state champion and asked to perform at the 2022 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

This spring, Miller won the tie-down competition at the state rodeo finals. With that title, the Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association paid for his PRCA card; at 15, he was too young to compete, but allowed to test his skill against the pros as an exhibitionist.

Just before Chief Joseph Days, Miller placed 29th in the tie-down aggregate at the National High School Rodeo finals

in Gillette, Wyoming. With three more years in high school and two until he is old enough to hold a PRCA card, he has ambitious goals.

"I want to win a national title in tie-down and qualify for the NFR (National Finals Rodeo)," he said.

Miller, an incoming sophomore at Joseph High School, fought hard for that state championship in tie-down. He said he had a tough go in the second round of state finals after being very consistent all year.

"I had to forget about it and move on," he said.

The excitement of the crowd carried him through, and his mother, Dena, said, "He took care of business" and got the win.

This past year he team roped with partner Bayli Ladner, of Klamath Falls.

The pair placed fourth at the Oregon State Finals Rodeo in Prineville. This coming year, Miller said he is adding steer wrestling to his events, with an eye on earning points toward the all-around competition.

The high school rodeo season is three competitions in the fall and four in the spring. Miller said up to 80 of the points earned from the eight best rodeos to the state finals.

Miller said he had a rope in his hand as a toddler and was horseback by the age of 3. It wasn't long before he was a regular at local junior and ranch rodeos and a hand at Chief Joseph Days, either untying calves at timed event slack competitions or cooling down the pickup men's horses.

See Miller, Page B2



Contributed Photo

Hanley Miller, an incoming sophomore at Joseph High School, is the 2022 Oregon State tie-down champ. This July he ran with the pros as an exhibitionist at Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Teams celebrate golden summer

Local Special Olympics program earns gold in golf and bocce

By ANNIE FOWLER

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics program finished its summer season with a haul of gold medals in bocce and golf.

The golf team finished its season Aug. 7 at Meadow Lakes Golf Course in Prineville, with Jason Cargill of Pendleton leading the way with a gold medal in singles.

In the two-man best ball, the Hermiston/Pendleton program swept the medals.

Unified partner Mark Smalley paired with athlete David Andrews for golf. The silver medal went to unified partner Javier Garcia and athlete Jose Angel Garcia, while unified partner Kris Neustel and athlete JP Kinsel earned bronze.

"We have several new athletes in the program this year and they worked very hard improving their skills as they trained at Echo Hills Golf Course over the last four months," program communication manager Kristi Smalley said. "Our hats are off to Echo Hills for allowing our athletes to train free of charge."

The bocce team competed at a state sanctioned regional tournament July 31 at Hillsboro Stadium.

Unified partner Jessica Finn and athlete Martha Hesla earned gold in doubles.

In traditional doubles, athletes Jilli Smalley and Mary Jones earned gold, and a sportsmanship award.

Also in traditional doubles, Bobby Phillips and Christina Williams teamed up for a gold medal, while Austin Carvalho and Misty Larsen won a bronze medal and a sportsmanship award.

"I was so proud of how our athletes conducted themselves, especially with the high temperatures," Smalley said. "The Oregon Special Olympics staff members on site did a stellar job of keeping the tournament moving along so that we were able to conclude the competition before things really heated up."

Bowling and aquatic signups are Monday, Aug. 22, 4-6 p.m. at the Umatilla County ARC building in Hermiston.

Pendleton's Corbett signs with Whitworth tennis

She finished fourth at 5A state tournament

By ANNIE FOWLER

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Olivia Corbett was all set to start college this fall at Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, but a fortuitous turn of events will have her starting classes this fall at Whitworth University in Spokane, where she also will play tennis.

"It was kind of random," Corbett said. "I was set on going to Blue Mountain. I went to a tennis tournament in Spokane at Whitworth and my dad contacted the coach and let her know I'd be playing there. She was out of town and sent her former coach. I had no idea he did that."

Her father is Robb Corbett, Pendleton city manager.

Not long after the tournament, Whitworth coach Rachel Aldridge contacted Olivia Corbett.

"They came back and said they would like to have me play for them," Corbett said. "It was just like July. I was behind on applications and getting things ready."

Corbett decided to take Whitworth up on the offer.

"If I decided to go to BMCC, I would regret not taking the opportunity to play at Whitworth. What kind of tennis career could I have had? What opportunities am I missing? I would regret not taking the opportunity."

BMCC does not have a tennis program, and waiting two years would



Robb Corbett/Contributed Photo

Pendleton's Olivia Corbett recently signed her letter of intent to play tennis at Whitworth University. She placed fourth at the 2022 5A state tournament in girls singles.

push Corbett off the college radar.

"I would have been playing for fun at BMCC," Corbett said. "The

coach at Whitworth said having an athlete for four years is better than getting a player as a junior."

Youth pheasant hunts planned

EO Media Group

SALEM — Youth hunters, age 17 and under, can sign up now for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's free pheasant hunts happening around the state starting in September, with an additional few hunt dates in October.

ODFW and partners stock pheasants at these special hunts that give youth a head start on regular pheasant seasons, which don't begin until October.

There are multiple dates and hunt locations to choose from and some events have multiple hunt times to choose from. Register by logging in to the youth's account at MyODFW's Licensing page. Then go to Purchase from the Catalog and look under the Category/Class/Workshop/Outdoor Skills. Hunts are listed alphabetically by city name. Registration is only online, and it is not available at license sale agents.

These events are open only to youth who have passed hunter education. Volunteers bring their trained hunting dogs to some events. Some events



The Observer, File

Youth hunters will have the chance to hunt pheasants Sept. 17 and 18, 2022, at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area near La Grande.

also host a shooting skills session before the hunt.

The hunts are free, though participants need a valid hunting license (\$10 for youth 12 and older, free for age 11 and under) to hunt. Youth hunters age 12-17 also need an upland game bird validation (\$4). Purchase before the event, online or at a license sales agent. Licenses and validations will not be sold at the events.

Some areas will host the event both Saturday and Sunday. Youth who register for one day are welcome to hunt stand by on the other

day.

"Youth pheasant hunts are a great chance for young hunters to find early success and put the lessons learned in hunter education to work in the field," said Jered Goodwin, ODFW hunter education coordinator.

See page 26-27 of the Oregon Game Bird Regulations for more information, or see myodfw.com/workshops-and-events for the local contact for each hunt. For help signing up, contact Myrna Britton at 503-947-6028 or by email at Myrna.B.Britton@odfw.oregon.gov

Labor Day Spectacular revs up in Hermiston

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Racing action returns to Hermiston with a two-day event. The Labor Day Spectacular is Saturday, Sept. 3 and Sunday, Sept. 4. The gates open both days at 4 p.m. and racing starts at 6 p.m. at Hermiston Raceway, 81236 N. Highway 395.

Day 1 features Oregon's Speedweek, Betteral 100 Pro Lates, Inland Sprints, modifieds and mini stocks. And Day 2 brings the Atomic 125 Northwest Super Late Model Series, the Inex Legends Regional Qualifier, bombers, hornets and Bettarel Hobby Stocks. Both days include street

stocks and AMCA.

Day 1 tickets are \$20/ general admission, \$15/teens, \$12/children, \$17/special (seniors, military, veterans) or \$60/family pass (two adults, three kids). Day 2 tickets are \$25/ general, \$17/teens, \$12/children, \$20/special or \$70/family.

Also, two-day combo passes are \$40/general, \$28/teens, \$20/children, \$35/special or \$100/family. In addition, Speedy's Grill offers a variety of food and beverages.

Advance tickets are available via www.hermistonraceway.com. For questions, contact 509-845-5510 or info@hermistonraceway.com.

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