

HARVEST SEASON

Airlie Winery makes the best of a sunny fall day to bring in the bounty of 2017

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

AIRLIE — Harvest season has started, stopped and started again this fall at Airlie Winery.

Some of the 2017 vintage is in barrels, while another part still hangs in the vineyard, said winery owner Mary Olson.

Monday, a harvest crew took advantage of sunny conditions to pick grapes and haul them to the winery. They may only have a few days before rains return.

Olson said the growing season has been unusual, with a wet spring, hot summer and now late-season rain.

"It's been weirder than normal, but there is no normal," she said as she plucked grapes from the vines.

Seasons like this make her grateful for the talents of the vineyard's winemaker, Elizabeth Clark.

"Not very often, but once in a while, you get a perfect vintage and all you can do is mess it up," she said. "But most of the time it takes a lot of skill, not only in the vineyard, but in the winery, as well."

Clark said this season's fruit is different that the last couple years' harvest, which produced some "big, burly wines." She likes the challenge this season presents.

"I would imagine more winemakers prefer the fruit that is coming in because it is more acid-driven, which makes more delicate flavors," she said.



Leaves on trees and vines are changing color at Airlie Hills Winery. A picking crew took advantage of favorable conditions to pick grapes on Monday. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



One of Mary Olson's dogs takes a break on Monday. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



Airlie Hills Winery owner Mary Olson was among those picking grapes on Monday. She said pickers are in high demand on the ever-more infrequent dry days this season. JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Keep Up On Your Community!

Online subscriptions
ONLY \$20 for an entire year!

Subscribers to the Itemizer-Observer newspaper receive ONLINE ACCESS at no additional cost.

To subscribe call us at 503-623-2373 or go online, www.polkio.com



Polk County Itemizer-Observer

147 SE Court Street • PO Box 108
Dallas, OR 97338 • 503-623-2373

Highway 22 Storage

Salem's Premier Storage Facility

Offering first month's rent FREE!*
New heated units starting at \$56/mo.
Ranging in size from 5x5 to 10x30.

*Subject to change

130 50th Ave NW, Salem
503-566-8300 • www.22storage.com

Dallas Aquatic Center presents

Pirates of the Rickreall Creek

The search for Captain Jack Lantern

Saturday, October 28
"G" version - 5:30 - 6:30pm
"PG" version - 7:00 - 9:00pm

Blue Bayou Cafe
Cake walk
Carnival games

Cost
\$7 individual
\$25 group of 4
\$6 additional group member
Aquatic Center Members will receive \$1 off admission
Paid entry gets you unlimited expeditions

Come find my treasure!
Swim, paddle, and slide your way past swashbuckling creatures and spinetling obstacles in search of Captain Jack Lantern and his treasure!

503.623.9715 • 1005 SE LaCreole Dr.
www.dallasor.gov/dac

Fill the Pantry Pay the Rent

Thanks to the tremendous community support
Dallas Food Bank Sponsors contribute \$17,863

GOLD SPONSORS

- Trinity Lutheran Church • Van Well Building Supply
- First Presbyterian Church • St. Phillips Catholic Church
- King's Pumping Service • Ann Gorden • Vicki & Dave Bailey
- Chuck & Sandy Pierce (N. Perrydale) • Dallas Foursquare Church
- Oregon Family Health • Eddie Nelson • John Grewe

SILVER SPONSORS

- Bollman Funeral Home • Evangelical Bible Church
- James & Carolyn Nestingen • Lane & Francine Shetterly
- Thrivent Financial • Robert & Sally Davies • Home Comfort, Inc.
- Chamber Brothers Door & Frame Specialties • John & Karen Davenport
- Rita Nagel • Jerome & Synthia Noble • Salem Health West Valley

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Charlene Huntley • Beverlee Linn • River of Life House • Citizens Bank
- Del & Trish Westover • Dr. Carlos & Mona Ordonez • Arlene Smith
- Focal Point Photography • Washington St. Steakhouse & Pub
- Stan Schmidt Insurance Agency • Willamette Acupuncture & Wellness
- Williamson & Aebi, LLP CPA • George & Kimber Jagodnik
- Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Thank you Trinity Lutheran Church for the fantastic fundraiser!