

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Homeschooled athlete is on a winning streak!

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

Megan Peterson, a homeschooled high-school senior, is an accomplished wrestler and equestrian on Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) teams and is also a long-time 4-H member.

Wrestling

Here are some of Megan's honors during her senior year:

- First place at Best of the West Wrestling Tournament
- First place and the Most Outstanding Wrestler awards at Girls Grants Pass Winter Kickoff tournament (second consecutive year).
- First in her weight class at Regionals and the Most Outstanding Wrestler award of the Regional tournament (second consecutive year).
- Champion at Folkstyle State tournament—the first Champion at State in 37 years for HVHS, and the first female Folkstyle State champion in HVHS history. At the awards assembly, the previous state champion, Dan Vidlak, presented her with his puck that he had received when he won State back in 1987. Megan also won Most Inspirational, Most Pins, Most Takedowns, the Principal's Award, and Athlete of the Month.
- Athlete of the Week, including an interview on KAJO radio.
- Fourth place at Reno Worlds National Folkstyle tournament.
- First place in Freestyle at State, qualifying her for the Fargo National Freestyle tournament for the third year in a row.
- Megan and a teammate, Kaydence Johnson, will be traveling to North Dakota in July to compete in the National Fargo Freestyle tournament. She is now fundraising for the trip, which includes a 34-hour train ride from Portland.

While a junior, Megan placed second in Folkstyle at State and third in Freestyle at State. As a sophomore, she placed fifth in Folkstyle and first in Freestyle at State.

Equestrian

For HVHS's equestrian team, Megan—riding her 16-year-old buckskin mare, Chai—has competed at State in multiple events, including the eight-person drill team, Canadian flags, and Birangle.

She also competes in individual events, including barrels, poles, keyhole, Figure 8, and individual flags.



Megan takes first place at state wrestling championship. Photo: Althea Core.



Megan and Chai at a competition. Photo: Ashley Lucas.

While a sophomore and a junior, Megan competed in an equestrian meet while simultaneously wrestling for State in Freestyle at the Jackson County Expo.

In May, Megan, along with her eight-person drill team, competed in Equestrian State in Redmond, Oregon, placing sixth out of 17 teams. Her Canadian flag team placed third out of 32 teams. In June, Megan and her team will compete in the Nationals for Canadian flags in Washington State.

4-H

Megan has been involved in 4-H for over seven years. Showing her pig for Livestock and Ag at this summer's Josephine County Fair, August 7-11, will be her final participation.

After graduation Megan plans on working fires during the summer, then taking a gap year. Because she loves working with horses, she is considering trade school to become a farrier. She also plans on being an assistant coach for the wrestling team at HVHS next season.

Barbara Holiday
barbara@applegater.org

ROCS first graders learn about bread and more at Rise Up!

BY JENNIFER PAYNE

The first-grade class from Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) went on an amazing field trip to Rise Up! Bakery. A very special thanks go to Jo Ferneau and Rosie Demmin for providing this wonderful learning experience for our kids and for providing such a high-quality bread for our valley!

At Rise Up! Bakery, students learned about:

- Engineering and construction. How straw-bale structures are made and the use of alternative building materials.
- Health and nutrition. How artisan bread, including sourdough, is made, including the ingredients and the process.
- Local economy. How supporting local businesses that provide sustainable wages for employees and sell their products at local employee-owned stores and farmers markets is important to the local economy.
- Local food. Producing and consuming food that is made locally and without preservatives.
- Science. The science behind the baking of bread—leavening, heat, and measurement of ingredients.
- Outdoor education/science. First-grade teacher Mrs. Brown led the students on two nature hikes where they observed and recorded all of the different bird species that they spotted. They did sound-mapping exercises (determining



First-graders learn the science behind sourdough starter at Rise Up!.



Students watch as perfect handmade loaves of bread come right out of the oven.

in which direction a sound is coming from) and identified trees, bushes, flowers, and scat.

Each student made a small, round loaf of bread using artisan baking techniques that Jo showed them. On the way home they ate their bread with ear-to-ear smiles.

It was a very special day!

Jennifer Payne
jenniferpayne@me.com

■ **LINCOLN VOTES** *Continued from page 18*

Elected delegates from Oregon to the Republican National Convention in 1860 were Lender Holmes, who had been the Republican nominee for secretary of state in 1858, Dr. Warren, and A.G. Hovey. Holmes was unable to attend, and Jesse Applegate convinced him to send his proxy to Horace Greely of the *New York Tribune*.

Greely carried a great deal of influence in the north at this time and Jesse had great respect for him. The Oregon delegation was encouraged to back Jesse's old friend and mentor Edward Bates to start with, but on the third ballot they switched their three votes to Lincoln, which gave him 231 votes, two votes short of what he needed for nomination, and that began a landslide of other states switching their votes to Lincoln.

Joseph Lane, from Umpqua County, was nominated for vice president by the Democratic Party's pro-slavery southern wing. He came home to Oregon to canvas for votes, believing he could carry the west coast. Jesse, realizing that the question of slavery and the Union itself were at stake, rode from his Umpqua farm to the Willamette Valley to canvas for votes for Lincoln. It is said that wherever he stopped, he left a Union man and a vote for Lincoln.

In 1860 in Oregon, 5,344 votes were cast for Lincoln, 36.2 percent of the total votes. John Breckenridge, the Southern Democrat, got 5,074 votes (34.37 percent), and Stephan Douglas, Democrat, got 4,131 votes (27.99 percent).

Leta Neiderheiser, Grants Pass

References: Oregon Argus and Jesse Applegate: A Dialogue with Destiny.

Ridiculous Rose by Salila Oldham



Fourteen-year-old Salila Oldham, creator of this cartoon strip, is homeschooled on her family's farm outside Grants Pass in the Applegate Valley. Salila wants to write, illustrate, and publish a children's book in a couple of years.