

MERA

Continued from Page 1A

“They respect the environment,” Chambers said of the majority of MERA’s users.

He noted that when there are heavy rains, recreationists stay off the trails system because they know the trails are vulnerable to damage when it is wet and muddy, and when trails are new, users are careful about traveling on them because they realize they are more sensitive.

Work on MERA’s trail system began about 10 years ago. All told, about \$460,000 has been spent creating MERA’s trail network. The total includes \$332,000 from Recreational Trails Program funds and about \$128,000 in matching funds.

Much of the matching funds

are from in-kind labor, Chambers said. He explained that Union County MERA received \$18 in credit for each volunteer hour worked. The hours were tabulated and then the Recreational Trails Program provided a match for every volunteer hour worked.

“Without the volunteer labor, we never would have been able to leverage that (Recreational Trails Program) money,” Chambers said. “We would not have even tried.”

MERA was established by Union County in 2008. It is managed by the Union County Parks Department and the MERA Advisory Committee and has 45 miles of non-motorized trails and 40 miles of motorized trails, according to www.meetmera.org.



Sean Chambers, manager of the Mount Emily Recreation Area, installs a new map at a MERA trailhead on Saturday. He is with his daughter Chloe, right, and son, Treyson (hidden).

Dick Mason/The Observer

CRYSTAL

Continued from Page 2A

every child every bit of herself. She sees the whole child and has a gift in helping children be the best they can be.”

Molly Smith

Smith is North Powder’s principal and is completing her 20th year with the school district. She is credited with

being a leader who always demonstrates passion, compassion and professionalism, and with taking steps to recognize students including the Super Badgers program she started. Smith, according to her nomination letter, consistently checks on staff to see how they are doing on self-care, ensuring “her staff is well taken care of so they can take care of their

students in return.”

UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT Greg Poor

Poor is completing his 23rd year as a science teacher at Union High School. He was praised for having an exceptional ability to explain lessons in many ways so that all students can understand them. Poor is also credited with relating well to students and having

an upbeat demeanor. One of his students wrote, according to his nominating letter, “I’m thankful for Mr. Poor and for making my learning experience a lot easier for me and for helping me graduate.”

Shaunna Ransdall

Ransdall is a special education teacher who has worked at Union High School for six years. She is able to calmly resolve con-

flicts and handle difficult situations with patience and admirable tact, according to her nomination letter. Ransdall is also credited with being organized and professional while projecting a warm, unbiased and helpful attitude to students and families. “With her work ethic and positive outlook, Shaunna brings out the best in stu-

dents, so they can continue to succeed,” her nomination letter stated.

The 2019 Crystal Apple Award sponsors are: Mid-Columbia Bus Company, CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Elkhorn Media Group, First Community Credit Union, Red Lion Hotel Pendleton, Rotary Club of Pendleton and Wheatland Insurance.

POWERS

Continued from Page 1A

Board of Directors and is currently an alternate delegate for the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians to the National Congress of Delegates.

“I travel to Salem and Washington, D.C., regularly,” she said. “In fact, I just returned from D.C. on May 24. Just as my relationships with my patients are important, so are my relationships with our legislators.”

Powers strives to communicate how legislators’ health policies impact their constituents, and this helps legislators understand what is needed in Eastern Oregon to

help ensure healthy communities, she said.

One of her greatest achievements, she said, is being a part of a team that always puts patients first, and as a result, Winding Waters has been leading the Patient-Centered Primary Care Home movement for more than a decade. The clinic was recognized in 2017 as the first clinic in the state to achieve the highest-ranking PCPCH status.

Powers attended Vassar College where she earned an undergraduate degree in biology in 1999. She then studied at Stanford University’s School of Medicine and earned a doctor of medicine degree in 2003. She was a family medicine resident at Oregon Health and Science

University, graduating in 2006. She completed two clinical rotations at Winding Waters Clinic in Enterprise during her residency.

The following year, Powers joined the Winding Waters team as a full-time physician. She continues to work as an OHSU clinical instructor and instills passion for family medicine by mentoring and teaching students and residents. In 2018, she became Wallowa Memorial Hospital’s chief medical officer.

The elite Oregon Family Doctor of the Year award is selected from among excellent family physicians across the state, each of whom has been nominated with support of colleagues, practice staff and patients. Powers was described by her nomi-

nating colleagues as someone with “passion, contagious enthusiasm, being a consummate professional and indomitable force.” Others described her as being “dedicated, smart, engaged, compassionate, empathetic, incredibly thoughtful and well spoken.”

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians adjudged her to be a leader and model to her staff, other health professionals and medical students as well as a regional and national leader. She is admired for taking an innovative and inspirational approach to her practice and personal life.

Powers chose to practice in Wallowa County partly because of the great example her father set, as a

family physician, in caring for his own community.

“When deciding about my first job after my specialty training, I was looking for a community of my own,” she said. “My husband and I wanted to live and work in a place where we could put down roots, a place to raise our family. We found that place in Wallowa County.”

Powers is the wife of Nic Powers and mother of their two sons, Malaki, 10, and Atticus, 5. Immersing themselves enthusiastically in their community, the couple enjoys volunteering at the local ski hill, playing music at an annual Fiddle Camp, cheering for their sons at soccer games and attending school choir performances.

STIHL

REAL FATHERHOOD

“Daddy time is my third job and it’s the most important one. That’s why my trailer is full of STIHL. I don’t have time to mess with anything else.”

BRETT RUSSELL
Landscape & Firefighter

GIVE DAD THE GIFT OF STIHL

SAVE \$20*

MS 170
CHAIN SAW

16" bar

WAS \$179.99 SNW-SRP

★★★★★

THE PRICE AND RELIABILITY ARE OUTSTANDING

- SPENCERFORHIRE755

\$159⁹⁵

SAVE \$100*

WITH THE BUNDLED PURCHASE OF THE FSA 56 TRIMMER AND RMA 460 SET

NOW JUST

\$519⁹⁰

WAS \$619.99 SNW-SRP

RMA 460 SET INCLUDES AK 30 BATTERY AND AL 101 CHARGER.

SAVE \$50*

HS 45
HEDGE TRIMMER

18" blade

WAS \$299.99 SNW-SRP

★★★★★

VERY AGILE TO HANDLE AND CONTROL

- STIHLUSER209

\$249⁹⁵

<p>Baker City D & B Supply 3515 Pocahontas Road 541-523-6442 dbbakercity.com</p>	<p>Baker City Thatcher’s ACE Hardware 2200 Resort Street 541-523-3371 thatchersace.us</p>	<p>La Grande D & B Supply 10101 East First Street I.C. 541-963-8466 dbrlagrande.com</p>	<p>La Grande Thatcher’s ACE Hardware 2212 Island Avenue #290 541-605-0152 ThatchersAceHardware.com</p>
---	---	--	--

*Offers valid through 7/7/19. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. Check out these reviews and others on the product pages at STIHLdealers.com. ©2019 STIHL SNW-521-142468-6

STIHLDEALERS.COM