

Holiday gift helps Agape House

The **Columbia Basin Board of Realtors** presented a donation to **Agape House** during the holiday season.

Money was raised through an auction at the board's annual Christmas party. The \$1,500 check was presented Dec. 19 to **Dave Hughes**, Agape House executive director.

The yearly donation helps in restocking the shelves at Agape House in the spring, which get somewhat depleted following the holidays.

Based in Hermiston, Agape House provides assistance to those in need in Hermiston and surrounding communities. For more information, call 541-567-8774.



Agape House Executive Director Dave Hughes, third from left, receives a donation from Shirley Parsons, Nancy Walchli, Heidi Carver, Lezlee Gunsolley, Melinda Newman and Patsy Keimig of the Columbia Basin Board of Realtors.

Contributed photo

THANK YOUS

Hall of Famer thanks district for the honor

I just wanted to take a moment and thank the Helix School District for honoring the 1982 and 1983 Griswold High School girls state championship basketball teams. Being inducted into the school's Hall of Fame is an honor for all of us and it was a special night for those of us who played on those teams. And a special thanks to Wayne Miller, who put this event together. He is the heart and soul of athletics at GHS. A true Grizzly through and through.

The state titles we won would not have been possible without the support of our families and the people in our community. When we went to state I don't believe there was a person left in town. Looking across the gym at the sea of green in the stands at Baker High School is a sight I will never forget. When we returned with trophies in hand, the community was there to welcome us. These two championships not only belong to us, but the community of Helix.

It has been more than 30 years since we took the small-school basketball world by storm, and to see our championship boards on the wall of the gym and the trophies on display let us know that our hard work and dedication to the game, our school and our community has not been forgotten.

There is no future without a past. I can only hope that the Hall of Fame ceremony left an impression on the young women of this year's team and those to come. Success takes hard work, but the rewards are memories that will last a lifetime.

Go Grizzlies!

Annie Flerchinger Fowler
Griswold H.S. Class of 1984
Kennewick, Wash.



Tesla Crown, Alea Douglas, Elizabeth Gulden, Quinton Orr, Brooke Harrison and Colton Schock, Ukiah Middle School students, participated in a robotics competition Jan. 10 at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville.

Photo contributed by Teresa Veach

Ukiah students win robotics tournament

The Ukiah Middle School students didn't look like novices as they competed for the first time with VEX Robotics.

The group took first place among 25 high school and middle school teams during their first competition. The event was held Jan. 10 at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville.

Those competing included **Tesla Crown, Alea Douglas, Elizabeth Gulden, Quinton Orr, Brooke Harrison** and **Colton Schock**.

"With outstanding teamwork, they became the tournament champions," said **Teresa Veach**, business and math teacher at Ukiah School.

The group qualified for the Oregon VEX State Championship in March at North Marion High School in Aurora.

For more information, contact Veach at teresa.veach@ukiah.k12.or.us or 541-427-3741.

Symphony receives cultural coalition grant

Money from a **Umatilla County Cultural Coalition** grant will be used to purchase violins for an **Oregon East Symphony** program.

The symphony received

a \$1,000 grant award. The instruments, purchased through Pendleton Music Company, will be used for Symphony Strings, the symphony's beginning strings education program for

fourth and fifth grade students.

For more information about the Oregon East Symphony, call 541-276-0320 or visit www.oregoneastsymphony.org

BMCC administrator receives award of excellence

The Oregon chapter of the **American Association for Women in Community Colleges** recently honored **Diane Drebin** with the 2014 Campus Excellence Award.

Drebin, who came to BMCC Jan. 2014, is the vice president of student affairs. Nominated by her colleagues, she is the first person at BMCC to win the award.

The award is presented annually to individuals who demonstrate heartfelt caring and dedication toward their college community, and whose accomplishments make a difference for women in their community college.

Honored by the recognition, Drebin said she's grateful to be able to do the work she enjoys and to work side-by-side with quality people.

"The work we do in community colleges is at the heart of who I am and



Drebin

being nominated for this award by my BMCC women colleagues is sincerely affirming," Drebin said.

Cam Preus, BMCC president, also was excited to hear of Drebin's honor.

"We are so proud to see Diane receive this award as she well exemplifies the mission of AAWCC 'to inspire, champion, and celebrate the talents within each of us'," she said.

Athena crowns McMillian, Schmidtgall citizens of the year

ATHENA — A long-time resident of Athena and a native of the small city won the 2014 citizen of the year awards.

Doris McMillian received the first of the two honors, and **state Sen. Bill Hansell** of Athena presented her with the award. McMillian is an active community member who participates in the community Thanksgiving dinner, the annual cancer walk and more.

Melvin "Bud" Schmidtgall won the other citizen of the year award.

He was born in Athena in 1934, left the area for college and returned to become a community stalwart, having served 22 years on city council and three terms as mayor. **Dan Cogswell**, last year's citizen of the year, handed the 2015 title to Schmidtgall.

The annual ceremony to celebrate Athena's best was Monday night at the Catholic Church, and the guest speaker was **Dave Tovey**, CEO of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Taylor Entze and

Katie Schroeder, seniors at Weston-McEwen High School, were the recipients of the youth citizen of the year awards. Entze is the student body vice president and Schroeder is the student body president. Both are active in school sports and activities and have grade averages above an A. Schroeder also is Schmidtgall's granddaughter.

And the Athena Fire Department and **Mark Seltmann** received commendations for helping with the annual Athena Caledonian Games festival.

BIRTHS

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton
JAN. 20, 2015
MAJORS — Kariann Edmiston and Robert J. Majors of Pendleton; a girl, Aya May Majors.
JAN. 21, 2015
DOUGHARTY — Catherine M. Dougharty of Pendleton; a girl, Araya Sunshine Dougharty.
JAN. 22, 2015
GUTIERREZ — Sarajane Rosenberg Gutierrez and Nick A. Gutierrez of Hermiston; a girl, Emmeron Rose Gutierrez.
SMITH — Crissy D. Autry and Cody C. Smith of Umatilla; a girl, Addilynn Faith Smith.
JAN. 23, 2015
WEEMS — Candice L. Chapin of Pendleton; a boy, Cadrian Lee Weems.
JAN. 25, 2015

MONTEE — Amanda L. Berdahl and Michael W. Montee of Pendleton; a girl, Averi Lynn Montee.
JAN. 26, 2015
COMSTOCK — Rachel Comstock and Tim Comstock of Pendleton; a boy, Isaiah Timothy Comstock.
Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston
JAN. 21, 2015
FOX — Jennifer Reser and Russell Fox of McNary; a girl, Willow Ariele Maxxyne Fox.
JAN. 22, 2015
ROBLEDO — Stacey E. Robledo and Jonathan R. Robledo of Hermiston; a boy, Logan Jon Robledo.
JAN. 23, 2015
RODRIGUEZ-RUIZ — Miriam Ruiz and Joel Rodriguez of Boardman; a girl, Rose Marie Rodriguez-Ruiz.

Yellowhawk hosts three AA meetings

MISSION — There are three Alcoholics Anonymous meetings each week in Mission.

The group meets Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7-8 p.m. at the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, 73265 Confederated Way, Mission

For more information about area meetings, call 877-770-1670. For more about the organization, visit www.aa.org.



Pet of the Week

Rascal

9 1/2 Year Old, Neutered And Declawed Domestic Shorthair Mix

Just look at what a handsome boy I am. I am very affectionate and like attention. I am in need of a loving forever home where I can spend the rest of my years in peace and comfort. I have been gifted with a pre-paid adoption fee for the special family that wants to take me home.

Visit Rascal at the Pioneer Humane Society/PAWS
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