

HEPPNER

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Town and Country award recipients honored

Dick Sargent was selected as Man of the Year and Sharon Harrison was selected as Woman of the Year at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country banquet held in Heppner on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004 at the Heppner Elks Club. Mary Ann Elguezabal was recognized as Citizen-Educator of the Year and Brian Hagewood, a Heppner High School senior, was recognized as Youth of the Year. The Lifetime Achievement award went to Cliff Green.



Dick Sargent-
Man of the Year



Sharon Harrison-
Woman of the Year

Extension agent Bill Broderick presented the OSU Extension Cooperator of the Year award to Morrow County Livestock Growers, which was received by Kyle Robinson. The 14k gold heart and diamond necklace donated by Peterson's Jewelers was won by Kay Fowler. Coronation of the 2004 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court also took



Brian
Hagewood-
Youth of the Year

place. Lexi Kennedy is this year's queen, while Emily Bergstrom and Jessica Wainwright serve as princesses. A Heppner resident since 1971 and an area resident since 1966, this year's "Man of the Year," Dick Sargent, has worked quietly behind the scene for years offering a helping hand to individuals to make their lives better. Sargent was born in Vermont but moved to Oregon at the age of two and had the opportunity to live in many different parts of the state. He graduated from Hood River and attended Oregon Institute of Technology. In 1955, Sargent met his wife, Lynnea at a feed store in Bend and they had two children. In 1966, the family moved to Kinzua after Sargent was offered the job as personnel manager. He was also very active as an ambulance driver, 4-H livestock leader and as a member of the school board in Fossil. Pursuing his dream of becoming a business owner, Sargent opened the Coast-to-Coast in Heppner in 1971.



Mary Ann
Elguezabal-
Citizen-Educator
of the Year

Even in the midst of enjoying his dream, Sargent continued to be a 4-H livestock leader and served on the Fair Committee. He was a member of the Lions Club and the Chamber before retirement. He has been active in his church and delivers meals to the shut-ins and volunteered as a driver for Senior Transportation. For many years he has been a mentor, assisting with young adults who needed reassurance and direction. He has an authentic 1876 Calvary uniform and volunteers his time by teaching of the history of the era. Adding spice and flair to the community, Sargent is the co-chair of the Cruz-In, an annual event during the St. Patrick's Day celebration. He also spends many volunteer hours bring wood to people who need it, organizing volunteers and building a fence at the swimming pool, cleaning up the cemetery and installing a gate to the assisted living facility so that residents could have access and working to keep the baseball program alive and running by caring year round for the field. Sargent believes in helping his neighbor and showing devotion to this community and his acts have not gone unnoticed. Shy, loyal, and teacher's pet, Sharon Harrison our "Woman of the Year" has always been actively involved in Heppner. Born and raised here, she later fell "madly in love" with an "out of town" who took her away to his farm. She spent many years helping on the farm, pulling rye, driving truck and taking care of four "bundles of joy." Having four children then led her into leading 4-H groups, teaching Sunday School, leading Cub Scouts and hosting children of all ages at her home. Harrison has also served the community as a fair



Cliff Green-
Lifetime
Achievement
honoree

Harrison has also served the community as a fair

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Lone community chips in to aid school

The Lone community has been vital in ensuring that projects are completed at Lone Schools, Lone Schools Principal Dick Allen told the Lone School Board at their regular meeting Monday night.

Allen said that numerous members of the community helped with snow removal and electrical and other facility repairs during the Christmas break, which was extended by several snow days. Acting superintendent George Murdock with the Umatilla-Morrow ESD told the board that when he visited the school during the break he saw five or six people working there.

Allen also told the board that heating problems are still plaguing the school, especially in the cafeteria, but added that the cold weather probably helped uncover problems that may not have been discovered until later. He said it has been determined that a coil in the cafeteria heating system needs to be replaced and anticipates repair in five to six weeks. He also said that if the heat in the cafeteria and gym were fixed, those areas would supply heat to adjoining areas.

The board heard from Terry Mewhinney of Lone who expressed concern about the board's letter to the editor in support of Ballot Measure 30 which would raise taxes to ensure that current school and state government services are maintained. Mewhinney said that he believes that the measure should be defeated so that state legislators are forced to solve state school funding issues. "A lot of use feel we have runaway spending in the state legislature," said Mewhinney. "We need to put the hammer on legislators to say we should have some real school funding." "I think they hold us hostage if we don't force them into real reform once in a while," he added. Mewhinney also told the board that the initial Measure 30 cost for him is not significant, but will be burdensome when added to other increases in state fees. The board says they support the measure because the Lone School District will suffer financially if it is defeated.

The board set an executive session for Monday, Jan. 26, to screen superintendent applications and set up interviews with applicants. Murdock declared a conflict and excused himself from matters concerning the superintendent search, since his daughter has applied for the position. The deadline for applications was Jan. 16, however, Murdock said that the district has received five applications and was anticipating at least one more. He added that the weather might have delayed the arrival of some applications.

In other business, the board: -decided that if more snow days are required they will be made up on Fridays. An additional radio station has been added to the information list and a list of contacts has been compiled in the event of further school closures. Allen said that the decision to close the school is usually made by 5 a.m., after he drives the roads around 3 a.m. and

contacts Mid Columbia bus system between 4-4:30 a.m. He said that with the school's new phone system, he can leave a message of a school closure or game cancellation, even by remote access from his home or cell phone, which can then be accessed by parents and others calling the school. He added that every family is contacted if students are sent home early. In a related matter, the board decided to examine a "no school, no practice" rule at a later date.

-learned that 150 students are currently enrolled in the Lone Schools.

-learned that windows which were to be installed during the Christmas break have been destroyed in a fire in a warehouse in Bend, which will delay installation.

-heard a report from Anne Morter concerning the Student Success Committee. She said that an alumni panel did a good job of informing students about college life and added that a scholarship workshop was also held.

-heard from Morter about the "No Child Left Behind" federal mandate. "There are a lot of ways you can fail and not too many ways you can win," said Morter. Murdock told the group that he believes success can be more easily achieved in smaller schools. "It's very easy for a large high school to fail," he said. Some modifications of the 60 criteria in the No Child Left Behind plan are expected.

-learned that the final payment from the Morrow County School District in the division of assets between the two districts is anticipated soon and commended Rhonda Lorenz, MCSD deputy clerk, for her cooperation and prompt resolution of the matter.

-learned that the board has received a letter with clarification from the teachers concerning their contract, but has not yet had time to review it.

-began anticipating the budget process and each board member was to bring to the next meeting the name of a person who has already agreed to serve on the budget committee. The budget committee members will be appointed at the February meeting.

-learned from Allen that the school computers are up and running. Allen said that soon parents will be given access codes and will be able to access grade reports on their child on-line.

-decided to discuss graduation requirements at the Feb. 16 meeting.

-learned that the Lone Education Foundation has \$140,000 and the IEF Board has approved \$20,000 for Level I funding, hopefully for each year Level I funding is dedicated for education, such as funding a teacher or special program. A proposal for Level I funding has to come through administration and then referred to the school board. IEF has also approved \$9,500 for Level II funding, which is approximately the amount of membership fees. Level II funding is designed to cover such things as school supplies and field trips.

-was recognized by administration and the Umatilla-Morrow ESD for School Board Recognition Month. Board members received certificates of recognition, notebooks from ESD and were treated to cake.

-set the next regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 16.

Fitness Center opens in Heppner



Kirk Looslie, staff member, (left) with owner, John Gochnauer.

Local business owners, John and Nancy Gochnauer, have recently opened a fitness center in Heppner. The Fitness Center located at 471 N. Main, shares the building with The Video Store and Hair I Am.

The Fitness Center has two rooms and a loft, with each room tailored to special needs. One room is complete with treadmills, stair steppers and a TV area for children, as children under 10 are not to be left unattended. Children will be able to choose a video, free of charge to watch while their caretaker is working out. The other room is set up with weight equipment and only open to patrons over 13 years old. Looking out over the weight room is a loft that holds treadmills and stationary bikes.

Staff will be on hand to help facilitate an enjoyable experience for all skill levels. Whether one is an avid exerciser or just beginning a regime, staff will be able to help tailor equipment to get the best results.

The site also offers changing rooms and lockers. Lockers will be available for long-term rental, with others left open for daily use.

Currently the Fitness Center will be operating Monday through Saturday, from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. Cost is \$5/day, \$12/week or \$36/month. Family prices are also available.

Many other plans are still in the works, according to the owners, John and Nancy Gochnauer. As needs or interest expands, they hope to offer other exercise activities as well.



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