

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Four arrested in Irrigon storage break-in

On the evening of Jan. 10, Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputies noticed something suspicious near Irrigon Mini Storage.

According to information from Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack, it was around 6:30 p.m. that evening when the deputies noticed a suspicious vehicle near the Irrigon business on Hwy. 730. Further investigation by MCSO deputies and Oregon State Police revealed that the security fence had been cut and someone had entered the RV storage area and forced entry into not one, but nine recreational vehicles.

Investigators found Noah Daley Weatherford,

38, and Sheri Leigh May, 33, inside one of the RVs. Weatherford was arrested on charges of Criminal Trespass II, Criminal Mischief I and II, and Burglary II.

May was arrested on charges of Criminal Trespass II, Criminal Mischief I and II, Burglary II, Supplying Contraband, and Possession of a Controlled Substance - Methamphetamine.

Both suspects were lodged at Umatilla County Jail with bail set at \$40,000.

In addition, police arrested Truman Loyd Chamberlain, 18, of Silver Lake on charges of Criminal

Trespass II, Criminal Mischief I and II, Possession of Burglary Tools and Burglary II. Chamberlain was lodged in Umatilla County Jail with bail also set at \$40,000.

Cylie Laylani Hepton, 22, of Hermiston was arrested and lodged at Umatilla County Jail on charges of Criminal Trespass II, Criminal Mischief I and II, Possession of Burglary Tools, Possession of a Controlled Substance - Methamphetamine, and False Information to a Police Officer. Bail was set at \$162,000.

Weatherford and May are both scheduled for pre-trial hearings Jan. 29. Investigation in the case is ongoing.



Noah Daley Weatherford



Sheri Leigh May

International children's choir, His Little Feet, to perform in Heppner and Ione

His Little Feet International Children's Choir will hold two local performances over Valentine's Day weekend in February. The choir will present at Saint Patrick's Parish Hall, 525 North Gale St. in Heppner, on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. His Little Feet will then perform in the Ione Community School cafeteria, 445 Spring St. in Ione, on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

For those interested in helping with these events, five host families are needed to take in two children and one chaperone each. Contact Leanne Lindsay at 541-989-8478 or 541-379-6331, or lindsayl@eou.edu for more information.

The choir children, ages six to 13, are orphaned and rescued from countries including India, Ethiopia and Haiti. While the children are a part of the choir, they participate in His Little Feet's nationwide "Light Your World" International Children's Choir Tour. Coordinators say this energetic, culturally unique, Gospel-centered presentation brings atten-

tion to the plight of millions of orphaned and vulnerable children living in the world today, and offers opportunities for people to respond and make a difference.

At each choir presentation, guests are asked to consider how they can personally reach children in need in practical ways. His Little Feet's nationwide campaign encourages people to get involved in at least one of four ways: Give. Sponsor. Go. Adopt. Attendees can take action on each of those opportunities at all His Little Feet choir tour events and by visiting www.hislittlefeet.org.

Founded by Michael and Christa Hahn in 2009, His Little Feet is a non-profit organization that exists to help, love and train orphaned and vulnerable children worldwide. In late 2010, the Colorado-based Hahns boarded a plane with some of the first Haitian children legally released by the Haitian and U.S. governments since the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. These children comprised the first His Little Feet Children's Choir, which presented

in more than 50 churches throughout 18 States, coast to coast, on the 2010-2011 His Little Feet Tour, impacting the lives of thousands of children in need worldwide.

Since then, children from China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, India, the United States and South Korea have participated in the choir, which has toured in more than 35 states.

The hope is that these children will someday become Christian leaders, making a positive impact in their communities. Each of the children has a dream. Some dream to become teachers, doctors, pastors and political leaders. The experience and training they receive as a part of the His Little Feet tour can enable them to make these dreams a reality. Their medical needs are being met and they attend the His Little Feet Life Training Academy, where they are taught academics, performing arts and valuable life skills.

To donate to His Little Feet or to learn more, visit www.hislittlefeet.org or call 1-866-252-3988.

Cabin Fever show in Ione on Sunday

John Wambeke and friends will be putting on a variety show filled with music and comedy this coming Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall.

The show will feature a number of local guests, including the Ione Pep Band, Joe Lindsay, Luke Basile and Eric Jepsen. A catered Dutch-oven dessert

is included in the program. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased in advance at either the Heppner or Ione branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Heppner holds Town & Country awards

Heppner Chamber of Commerce held its annual Town and Country Community Awards last Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The gala, sponsored by Portland General Electric and themed "Hooray for Heppner and All That Jazz," attracted a large crowd that gathered to celebrate local heroes and community icons.

The evening began with a photo presentation designed by Dale Bates and Sandy Matthews. Dinner catered by Cornerstone Gallery was followed by a welcome speech by Ken Grieb and the coronation of 2015 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Macy Gibbs.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the award ceremony for outstanding community members. The following awards were given out:

Youth Recognition, Maddie Lindsay; Citizen-Educator of the Year, Petra Payne; Man of the Year, Jerry Healy; Woman of the Year, Judy Healy; Business of the Year, Wheatland Insurance; and Lifetime Achievement Award, Howard Bryant.

Youth Recognition

"One of the great pleasures about being an educator is watching a student grow and mature not only as a student but as a person," said Petra Payne when presenting the Youth Recognition award to Maddie Lindsay. "I have had the distinct pleasure of working with this young lady; I have been amazed at how far she has come as a leader."

Lindsay, a senior at Heppner High School, is active both academically and in sports. She has participated in three sports all four years of high school but has also clocked numerous hours of service in the community, including playing Bingo at the assisted living facility, helping with canned food drives, organizing a blood drive and volunteering at the Neighborhood Center. Lindsay also participates in student council and the National Honor Society.

"She has learned the importance of being a leader and giving back to her community," concluded Payne. "This student loves Heppner and HHS; she exemplifies qualities that a high school senior should strive to have."

Citizen Educator

Aside from presenting the Youth Recognition award, Heppner High School teacher and coach Petra Payne took the stage for a second time during the evening when HHS Head Teacher Greg Grant handed her the Citizen-Educator of the Year award.

Grant credited Payne with accomplishing "many things as a teacher, coach, role model and citizen." Aside from her ongoing roles as Spanish teacher and softball coach, Payne has led a group of students to Mexico, and recently took on the role of senior transitions teacher, helping to prepare seniors for college and a career.

"She is selfless and



Past queen Kristen Powell crowns 2015 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Macy Gibbs. -Photo by David Sykes

fully engaged when interacting with students," wrote fellow teacher John Flaherty. "She challenges them to challenge themselves. She earns our students' respect not through gimmicks, or trying to be their friend, but because they sense her sincerity, leadership and integrity."

Man of the Year

"I swear he gets up in the morning with the idea that, 'I'm going to go out there today and help somebody,'" said presenter Pat Sweeney of Man of the Year recipient Jerry Healy. "He is always willing to help his neighbors or the community...and always quietly and without recognition."

Among the merits that earned Healy his nomination for Man of the Year were volunteering as an ambulance driver, working to help the elderly, seeking economic growth for the community through work with the Port of Morrow and Inland Development Boards, and helping with Willow Creek Park District, all apart from managing Columbia Basin Electric for many years.

"Jerry, I hope you keep doing what you do best, and this award tonight is proof of how much you're appreciated for what you do," concluded Sweeney.

Woman of the Year

"She's involved. She works hard; sleeps little."

That was how Rhonda Winters introduced Woman of the Year Judy Healy. Those descriptions seemed to play out in Healy's list of volunteer activities, which included the rodeo board; various St. Patrick's Celebration events including the motocross and Irish smoker; Heppner booster club; Colt, Pony and Mustang sports; and Lexington Grange...all in addition to working full time.

While Healy is a mother and grandmother in her own right, Winters also praised Healy's involvement with other children in the community.

"Many of our children have been helped and looked after by this wonderful woman," finished Winters. "Any community would be blessed to have her, but we are the lucky ones!"

Business of the Year

This year's recipient of the Business of the Year award was Wheatland Insurance, owned and managed by Nancy Snider. The business was selected both for the leadership exhibited by Snider and the community involvement of Wheatland's employees. Snider

and her employees are involved in FFA, local schools, Relay for Life, rodeo, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Awana Club and the Heppner Fire Department, among others.

"When I moved to Heppner and was looking to switch to a local insurance provider, I was fortunate to have been recommended to the manager of this business... the staff has been great to work with and they have always responded to my needs any time a question came up or when I have needed information," Jeff Bailey read from one letter of nomination.

"My experience doing business with them is always very pleasant, positive and a lot less stressful than previous insurance providers."

Lifetime Achievement Award

The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award went to 96-year-old Howard Bryant.

"The Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for members of our town that show support in a myriad of ways for an extended period of time. This year's recipient trumps all efforts. This person has supported all aspects for decades and decades," said Heppner City Manager Kim Cutsforth when introducing Bryant.

An outstanding high school athlete himself, Bryant has always supported local sports, even donating equipment for students who couldn't afford it.

"It is theorized that he may have attended more high school sports activities than any other one in the history of the school," added Cutsforth.

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Maddie Lindsay



Petra Payne



Jerry Healy



Judy Healy



Nancy Snider



Howard Bryant



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