

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Enough misinformation from liberal pundits

A.P. news Jan. 15 asserts Chris Briels, "the county fire chief—a sympathizer of the armed group—resigned over the county's refusal to a (public) meeting." Blatant misinformation designed to protect the local county judge and sheriff and distort vital facts the public has to know.

Chris Briels, Burns fire chief since 1978 and county fire chief since 2010, was not a sympathizer of the local militia until he discovered two armed undercover FBI agents posing as businessmen in Burns.

Sheriff David Ward had issued a public warning that armed militia members were "following local law enforcement members and community members and harassing and scaring local citizens." Turns out the local armed citizens were undercover FBI agents, something Sheriff Ward had to be informed about. Fire Chief Briels resigned because Judge Grasly attempted to censor and silence instead of support him and expose this deceit.

You lose your credibility, E.O., when you print A.P. articles and liberal pundits that deliberately twist the truth and protect government officials that are undermining our American and Oregonian liberty and freedom. No wonder the Bundys and fellow militia are making a public stand for our heritage and constitution. If law-abiding and salt-of-the-earth Oregonians can be harassed, threatened, sent to prison for standing up for their western heritage, who will be next? Is this the plan, East Oregonian? Use the government to intimidate Americans so they will cower and lay down their blood-bought heritage and way of life. You have underestimated the intelligence, character and courage of Americans and Oregonians. Give us the honest news so the public can make informed and healthy decisions. You are wasting money and space with your liberal pundits that feed and cover for an out-of-control government, now threatening our very way of life. Fortunately, nobody reads them or is influenced by their nonsense.

(s) Stuart Dick, Irrigon

CLC to hold encore movie night; announces change in schedule

Christian Life Center will be showing an encore presentation of the movie "War Room" at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. There is no charge for the movie, and concessions will be available.

After the movie the church will remain open to allow an opportunity for anyone interested in participating and experiencing the Prayer Journey that has been incorporated into the church's sanctuary.

"It is worth it. This journey is encouraging, healing and breath-taking and helps us to move past the static in our life," said Senior Pastor Tony Long-Drew.

The Prayer Journey will remain available before and after services and is open to the public during normal church office hours Tuesday through Friday,

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact the church office at 541-676-5814 for questions or scheduling.

In addition, the church has announced a change in its Sunday morning children's schedule. Beginning in February, they will be eliminating the 9:30 a.m. Sunday school time for children's ministry to focus on a specialized children's church model from 10:45 a.m. until noon each Sunday.

The church will continue to provide transportation for those children who wish to join them on Sunday morning. Anyone who wishes to have a child picked up for services, please contact Barb Collin at 541-422-7539 or the church office at 541-676-5814. Adult Sunday school will continue to meet at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

TOWN & COUNTRY

-Continued from PAGE ONE

The St. Patrick's residents would be lost without her, and so would the Heppner Housing Authority."

Youth Recognition

Those who nominated Youth Recognition recipient Patrick Collins used words like integrity, character, disciplined, kind, dependable and humble. Those words ring true when compared to his involvement in organizations like student council, National Honor Society, 4-H, sports, youth group, FFA, choir and Future Business Leaders of America.

"Patrick has always shown a desire to 'do better,'" stated one person when nominating Collins. "He is not satisfied with where he is at and strives to improve daily. He is noted as being kind and considerate when no one is looking and well-respected by other students."

Award presenter Beth Dickenson also noted that Collins was a "semi-professional volunteer," with more than 300 hours of community service logged. Many who nominated him also pointed to his good character and kindness toward others.

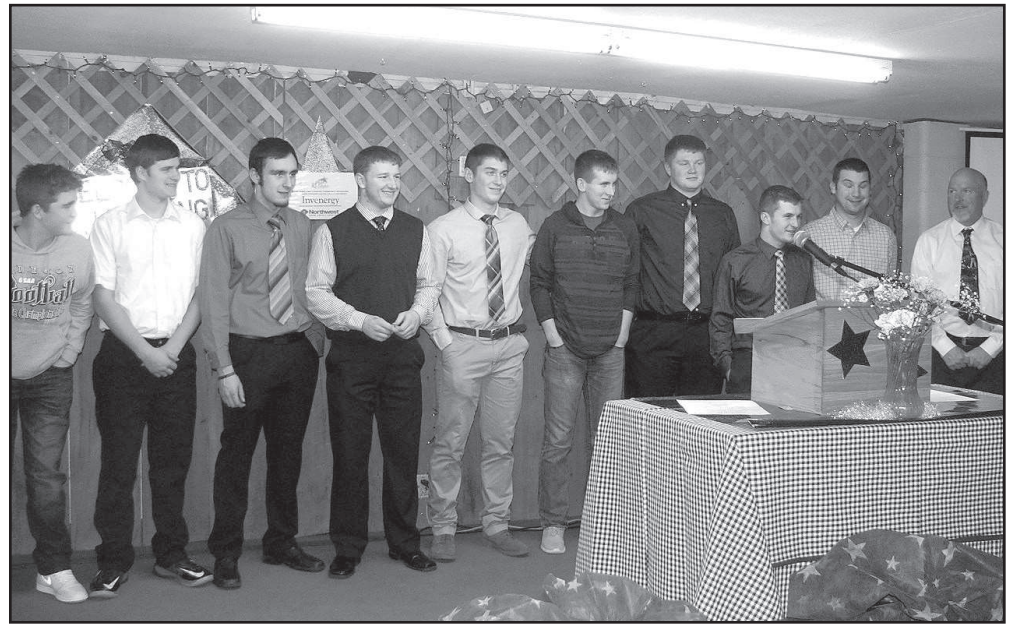
"This student will continue to give back throughout (his) life," said Dickenson. "He knows what he wants to accomplish, and based on the levels of success he has reached in the first 18 years, I cannot wait to see the impact he will continue to have in the world for years to come."

Citizen Educator

"She is an experienced educator with great passion for her work and especially for the students that she serves," said Dieter Waite of Citizen-Educator recipient Melissa Coiner. "She leads by her example and her involvement in all aspects of what goes on daily at Heppner Elementary School."

Coiner, currently head teacher and sixth-grade teacher at HES, has served in many roles during her 11 years with the Morrow County School District, including math teacher, Special Education Director and third-grade teacher. She also was recognized for her participation in numerous school committees, including the safety committee and parent teacher club. She has led various reading programs and been involved in planning for Tupper Outdoor School. As if all that and a family weren't enough, she is also taking classes to complete her licensure as a school administrator. Finally, Coiner was also recognized for being very organized and always prepared.

"Much of the credit for our strong curriculum and



The Heppner Mustang football team also received special recognition at the Town and Country awards. -Photo by David Sykes

teaching practices falls on her shoulders," said Waite.

Business of the Year

Those who nominated Business of the Year recipient Adams Distributing described owner Tim Adams with words like class act, flexible, supportive, generous and hardworking, as well as "very annoying positive attitude."

"He not only makes deliveries of his bread and Twinkies," said presenter Dean Robinson of Adams, "he delivers happiness, which is really contagious."

While Tim Adams is the face of the business, wife and partner Terra Adams is described as the brains and backbone of the business.

"She keeps late nights while running a calculator or receiving roadside service calls," said Robinson.

Aside from their partnership, Terra Adams works full time at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, while Tim Adams raises birds and operates a successful bird hunting business and works part time at the OHV Park. He is also a skilled woodworker.

"They have been in business for 30 years," said Robinson. "Long shifts, miles of driving and countless deliveries made before most people even start their workday."

"This business would not be where it is today without the partnership of this husband and wife team. A lot of love and commitment and support of each other has gone into this business to make it a great success."

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Joe Miller moved to Heppner with his family in 1977 and established himself as a family man, business owner and active community member, which he remains today. Miller and his family transformed Heppner's original blacksmith shop-turned-welding shop into a multi-faceted enterprise that has lasted into the next

generation despite many challenges.

"Yes, even though Joe is 'retired,' and Ryan is running the business, he still goes to work every day, because, in his words, 'I like to keep busy,'" said award presenter Molly Rhea of Miller.

The Millers' business has employed many over the years, and Joe Miller is recognized for several product developments, including custom flat beds for pickups and a prototype no-till seed drill. He also was active in the community, supporting projects with money, equipment and staff, and serving on Heppner City Council and the Morrow County Planning Commission. He is known as a good neighbor, as a man of "strong opinions," voicing his opinions but always ready to follow through with a lending hand when necessary, and as an active church member, serving in every capacity—even in an apron.

"Joe inspires us with his humility; he loves it when friends, family and community band together to accomplish great works, or in his words, 'just be,'" said Rhea.

Not present at the ceremony was Miller's wife, BonnaRae, who passed away last September.

"With our recent loss of BonnaRae it's bittersweet to be honoring Joe," concluded Rhea. "On this evening we are thanking and

honoring both of them."

Special Person Recognition

"This special person we are recognizing tonight does not live or work in Heppner. She isn't related to anyone in our community and isn't married to anyone's relative in the community," said Sheryll Bates when introducing the recipient of the night's Special Person Recognition, East Oregonian reporter Tammy Malgesini. "She is someone who takes her job seriously and represents her company well when she does the great job that she does."

Malgesini, who lives in Hermiston, will be moving away from the area soon, but Bates recognized her for her hard work and dedication in covering Heppner events during her time there. Not only has Malgesini covered the Heppner area during her tenure as an EO reporter, but she also accepted a role in the Dinner in the Cemetery play commemorating the 110th anniversary of the Heppner Flood, being a good sport as she played a reporter rather than reporting on the play.

"She has become an important member of our extended community and we will miss her when she moves on to the next phase of her life," concluded Bates. "If we are lucky, we will have her visit...but if not, know that we have appreciated the hours you invested in Heppner."

WCVEDG plans annual luncheon

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) will hold its annual luncheon next Wednesday, Jan. 27, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Gateway Café in Heppner. The meal will be hosted by WCVEDG and prepared by Alvin Liu.

Guest speaker Bruce Sorte will provide an update on business retention

and expansion projects as selected by the WCVEDG board.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to RSVP to heppnerchamber@centurytel.net by Friday, Jan. 22. Anyone who would like to become a member of WCVEDG may contact Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536 or David Sykes at 541-676-9228.

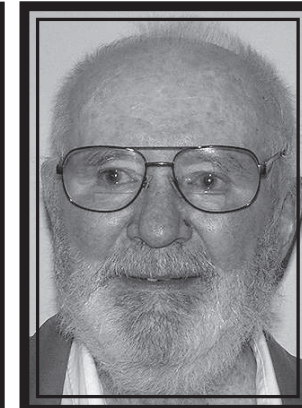
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Kathy Turner



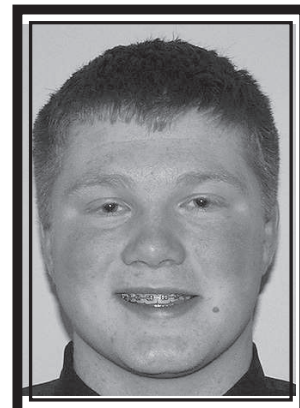
Melissa Coiner



Joe Miller



Jim Kindle



Patrick Collins



Tammy Malgesini



Tim "The Bread Man Adams" and Terra Adams of Adams Distributing.

HEPPNER LES SCHWAB
CONGRATULATES THE
2016 TOWN & COUNTY
AWARD RECIPIENTS!



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