

Heppner has 'an evening with the stars' at Town and Country event

Locals recognized for achievement, contributions to the community

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce's Town and Country Awards took place last Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

During the event, themed "An Evening with the Stars," several locals were recognized for long-standing contributions to Heppner and the surrounding area. Winners of the prestigious yearly awards were Susan Hisler, Woman of the Year; Representative Greg Smith, Man of the Year; Jason Palmer, Citizen-Educator of the Year; Madison Combe, Youth Achievement Award; Heppner Fire Department and Morrow County Health District EMS Team, Business of the Year; and Leann Rea, Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Woman of the Year, Susan Hisler, was described as someone who is constantly thinking outside the box and when she is involved with a project, she gives 110 percent. The number one trait that everyone mentioned was her deep love for children and sports. She was the inspiration behind the upgrading and updating of the high school track and is the leader of the Friends helping Friends Remembrance Walk. There are many things Susan does without anyone knowing. She is not the type of person that wants to be recognized; she does what she does for those in need.

Man of the Year, Representative Greg Smith, was selected because he is someone who is very dedicated to his family, job,



Susan Hisler



Representative Greg Smith



Jason Palmer



Madison Combe



Leann Rea



Members of the Heppner Fire Department and Morrow County Health District EMS Team

the county, the port and the communities that he serves. He is considered a gem of Heppner and Morrow County and is willing to listen to the problems and help find solutions. He has always been supportive and attentive to the Heppner community, which has greatly benefited from his dedication.

This year's Citizen-Educator of the Year award was presented to Heppner High School teacher Jason Palmer. He was described as having the patience of a saint and is always willing to lend a hand to those lacking in technology skills. He coaches track, volunteers for 4-H and volunteers in

the snack shack. He has also donated countless hours running the clock for sports events. He is described as smart, helpful, a leader, kind and a team player. A past student says he can teach anyone how to solve the Rubik's Cube.

Madison Combe was named as the recipient of the annual Youth Recognition award. Madison was described as being a natural born leader, not only in the classroom, but in other activities she participates in. She is respected by her peers and brings out the best in people with her 'git er done' attitude. Madison is a three sport athlete and has put in many hours of

community service. She is described as having a kind heart and soul.

The Business of the Year honors went to co-recipients this year; Heppner Rural Fire Department and South Morrow County Health District EMS Team. The fire department has been serving the community since 1894 and currently has 25 members, led by Rusty Estes and Steve Rhea. They are known for their organized response and ability to analyze the situation quickly allowing them to save structures and homes.

The South Morrow County Health District

EMS Team consists of EMTs and paramedics who provide critical services that require harsh hours, personal sacrifice and a deep sense of servitude. They are considered true public servants who serve and provide, regardless of the sacrifice.

The fire department and EMS team put in countless hours for training. When their pagers sound, they drop everything to protect and take care of the community. Going above and beyond is second nature to these brave men and women.

The recipient of this year's Lifetime Achieve-

ment award, Leann Rea, is considered a person with passion, loyalty, honesty and integrity. She takes her role in life seriously and has a high level of energy. She is described as having a contagious laugh and great sense of humor. Leann supports the way of life in a small community and has given a lifetime to community action and service, doing it quietly and respectfully without seeking recognition. She has touched many lives, accomplished much and continues to be involved and effective in her role as a leader, community member, volunteer and friend.

American Pickers to film in Oregon

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz and their team plan to film episodes of the American Pickers series throughout Oregon in April 2019. American Pickers is a documentary series on the History channel that explores the fascinating world of antique picking.

The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant



objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers

can spend the better part of the day looking through, send your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: american-pickers@cinetflix.com or call 855-OLD-RUST.

Making the best of a bad situation



Many residents decided to make the best of the recent weather situation by building some creative snowmen. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office's snowman is asking everyone to "have a bright, bright sunny day." Another snowman is dressed as a police officer and another is just hanging out in their wash tub. -Contributed photos.

Tax assistance available in Heppner

The AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program will provide free tax assistance and preparation in Heppner for a special three-day limited service this year. The tax service will be available at the Heppner city hall from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, Mar. 8, Mar. 22 and Mar. 29. There are no scheduled appointments and people are encouraged to arrive

early to get on the list.

For those unable to visit on those dates in Heppner, assistance is also offered in Pendleton on Mondays, Hermiston on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Boardman on Wednesdays from February through early April.

The assistance, provided through Tax-Aide, is available to those with low or moderate incomes, not just adults over 50. AARP

membership is not required.

Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure they are aware of the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. People are encouraged to check the website for current information and a list of what to bring when going to a Tax-Aide site.

For additional information, visit www.aarpfoundation.org/taxhelp.

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