



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS
 Dave Smith performs with dance partner Dani Dunmire Saturday night during the Dancing with the Hermiston Stars. Smith would go on to win the event.



Dave Smith celebrates winning the Dancing with the Hermiston Stars competition by holding up the Mirror Ball Trophy Saturday night at Hermiston High School.

DANCERS:
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and an eight, each out of a possible 10 from the judges. Hermiston Police officer Erica Sandoval won over the judges to earn the highest score of the night: a perfect 30 out of a possible 30. Smith said nobody was more surprised that he won than himself. "I wasn't expecting it at all," he said. Smith said he knows he wasn't the best dancer of the night, but that it was the community who turned out to support Campus Life and the other charities that made the event such a success.

"Erica (Sandoval) was technically correct and John (Wambeke) was an amazing actor, so I did not expect to win at all, but I think people dug deep for all the charities, and I must have come out on top on that," he said. "I am just grateful to be here, and it was a wonderful opportunity."

Hermiston School District librarian Kristi Smalley secured the runner-up spot. Dressed in a white ballroom gown and clear heels that replaced what would be glass slippers, she earned the second highest scores from the judges, who awarded her with three nines for her graceful performance of the "Cinderella" waltz.

Pursel joked that if there were more librarians like Smalley, literacy rates would be much greater.

"Cinderella certainly has found her slippers," she said. "That was fantastic."

Smalley said she was hap-

py with her standings, even though she missed out on the top placing, which Lowes said was "closer than he would have thought."

"You know what, (I'm) the bridesmaid, but not the bride," she said. "That is still a pretty darn good place to be."

Prior to taking the stage, Smalley said she was incredibly nervous, but her partner helped calm her down. She said she also targeted her inner princess, prayed a bunch and took a few deep breaths. She said, as a result, she had one of the greatest experiences of her life.

"I think this is one of the most fabulous experiences," she said. "Just being able to be a part of the group, and being able to see, behind the scenes, how a company like this is able to put something like this on is just truly amazing. Then, being able to support and promote a non-profit you believe in makes it so worthwhile."

Sandoval may not have received the greatest amount of donations from audience members, but her performance was memorable. During the break for intermission, as audience members cast their votes and donations, Sandoval was swarmed with

those congratulating her.

She said she couldn't believe she earned the only 10 of the night from the judges, let alone three of them.

"I am so ecstatically overwhelmed and happy — all smiles," she said. "It was so much fun."

Sandoval said the best part of the experience was getting to know her fellow contestants and her dance partner, who landed a surprise kiss on her during the last seconds of her dance of the mambo to a song from the movie "Dirty Dancing."

She said she couldn't pick one favorite aspect of the experience because she enjoyed everything.

The other four dancers said they most enjoyed the camaraderie between each other and the dance company members.

Eric Reise earned the score of an "R," fittingly for his role as the pirate Jack Sparrow in his performance of the pasodoble from Ettesvold, in addition to two eights and a nine. He said he enjoyed spending time with and getting to know everyone with whom he worked.

"It is a lot of good energy," he said. "We have had a lot of time to bond together."



Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan dances with partner Andre Farque Saturday night during the Dancing with the Hermiston Stars.

The other contestants agreed. Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan, who earned three sevens for her performance of the Charleston as Roxie Hart from "Chicago," said she enjoyed meeting and getting to know the dancers and would recommend the experience to anyone.

"It was scary but fun," she said. "The dancers are so nice."


Wambeke, who danced the foxtrot to music from "The Pink Panther" and earned two nines and an eight, said he would also recommend the experience to anyone.

After being asked by the

judges if he would give up his window-cleaning business to become a dancer, he replied in the character of Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

"We run a pretty clean ship, but sometimes dirt happens," he said in a French accent.

Happy Birthday, Brody Lee!
 What an awesome little man you are becoming! Have yourself a super fun 4th birthday celebration!
 As always, you are in our thoughts & prayers.
 Love, Grandpa & Grandma Powell

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