

Long-time volunteer Jim Voss announced as fair grand marshal

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

The night before Hermiston resident Jim Voss was named the 2015 Umatilla County Fair grand marshal at the appreciation banquet Saturday, Fair Manager Peggy Anderson said he was still planning what congratulatory card he wanted to get that person.

“Jim said, ‘I think I’ve got the perfect card for the grand marshal this year,’ ” she said.

Anderson said she told him as she tried not to smile, “Why don’t you wait and then tailor that card to tomorrow night’s recipient?”

Little did Voss know, Anderson said, was that he was going to be the one to receive the honor this year.

Fair board member Don Miller said that is just the kind of guy Voss is.

“What he won’t tell you is, during the fair, he is here working before 5 a.m. and never leaves until 11:30 p.m., midnight,” he said. “That is a lot of hours.”

Voss said he originally got interested in volunteering for the fair because he wanted to keep the event local.

“It started up because I wanted to see the community involved, and I (didn’t) want to see people coming from out of the county to work here and take our money away,” he said. “I wanted it to be a local function for all of the people here, have the local people involved into making it a success. I feel that is very, very important.”

Through the years, Voss has volunteered for a number of jobs at the fair, including checking in all of the animals, a bit of veterinary work and even some plumbing and construction. He said he is most proud of his involvement with parking for the fair.

“I started the parking lot system, and I designed it,” he said. “I did all the design work and the homework on it. I managed the people on it. That is probably what I am most proud of.”

Through the years, Voss has also taken pleasure in driving the grand marshal for the Umatilla County Fair Parade in one of his many classic and antique cars that he has worked to restore through the years. This year, however, someone is going to drive him instead. Last year, he drove 2014 grand marshal Gary Garrard to be recognized in the Umatilla County Fair Parade. Now, Garrard said he wants to return the favor.

Voss said he couldn’t be more thrilled with having been honored as this year’s fair grand marshal.

“I think it is a very dis-



Umatilla County Fair Board member Don Miller presents Hermiston resident Jim Voss with a plaque designating him as this year’s fair grand marshal at the fair appreciation dinner Saturday night.

tinct honor and a privilege,” he said Saturday night in Thompson Hall.

In addition to the grand marshal, the Umatilla County Fair Board presented fair volunteers and community members with a collection of other awards.

Anderson presented Hermiston resident Jamie Loiland with the Manager’s Award, which is not given every year. She said Loiland took over the youth department for the fair after organizers couldn’t find anyone to fill the spot.

“This department, she made it what it is today,” she said. “She continues to move forward with new displays, new ideas.”

Hermiston resident Linda Ware was presented with the Female Volunteer of the Year award. Ware started as an exhibitor and later decided she wanted to serve on the fair court, which she did in 1985. Ware has since been active in helping with horse showmanship and also volunteers where she is needed, Miller said.

“We appreciate all you continue to do for us,” Miller told Ware.

Irrigon resident Jim Lunders was presented with the Male Volunteer of the Year award.

“This is a gentleman that doesn’t even live in our county and comes every year a couple weeks before fair, starts doing stuff and never quits and is always ‘Is there anything else I can do?’ ” board member Gay



Umatilla County Fair princesses Catie Krumbah Kuhar, Milton Freewater, Elizabeth Olsen, Pendleton, Kaleigh Waggoner, Pilot Rock, and Sevana Patrick, Hermiston, speak to people attending the fair appreciation dinner Saturday night in Thompson Hall.

Newman said.

Lunders has also been crucial in helping out with the sheep and pig areas at the fair, even though the pigs aren’t his favorite.

“I don’t know if he willingly does that with those pigs, but he does do it,” Newman said with a smile.

Marianne Smith was named the winner of the fair logo contest for this year’s fair theme, which is “100 Years, What a Ride!” For winning, she will receive a season pass to the fair, two day passes and two reserve seatings at concerts. Her logo will also be on all the fair publications.

During the fair dinner, the fair board also announced that the Umatilla County Fair had won best poster in the media coverage category out of all the fairs in the state of Oregon. Fair board members and volunteers Norm Kessler, Dan Dorran and Anderson

were also recognized by the Oregon Fair Association.

The Umatilla County Fair princesses were also presented with their sashes. There won’t be a queen this year as the girls decided they wanted everything to be equal. The princesses are Sevana Patrick, Hermiston, Elizabeth Olsen, Pendleton, Catie Krumbah-Kuhar, Milton Freewater, and Kaleigh Waggoner, Pilot Rock.

Hermiston woman finds burglar in home

UCSO deputies following leads in investigation

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office deputies continue to investigate a case in which a Hermiston woman entered her home and found a burglar in her residence.

According to a media bulletin from Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office, at 12:05 p.m. Friday, a Hermiston woman reported a male was in her house on North Ott Road in Hermiston when she returned home, and he forced her to

lie on the couch while he ransacked another room. She reported he then left and told her to hide in a closet.

According to the bulletin, the woman described the person as more than six feet tall with dark hair, but he kept his face hidden. She said he was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans. She said she did not see a vehicle in the driveway when she arrived at the house and did not know what direction the male went when he left.

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield said Tuesday that the case is under investigation, and UCSO was “actively following leads.” He said more information would be released this week.

HHS student wins chance to record a new song

Hermiston High School senior Naomi Aguilar will have the chance to professionally record her own song after winning second place in Eastern Oregon University’s high school songwriting contest.

Her song “Bygones,” about high school heartbreak, impressed the EOU judges enough to award her second place out of 35 entries from high school students across the eastern half of the state.

“This song is about heartbreak and how to move on and not let it overcome and drag you down,” Aguilar said in a press release. “Many girls around my age helplessly fall in ‘love.’ Although they believe it will last, it sadly doesn’t, leaving them heartbroken un-

til they fall in love once again.”

She said she started writing songs her freshman year of high school but has become more serious about the craft lately. She said she wanted to thank Hermiston High School music teacher Joshua Rist for encouraging her.

As one of four contest winners, Aguilar will get a cash prize and the opportunity to record her song professionally at EOU. She will also perform with the university’s music department at a concert Tuesday at Hermiston High School.

People can listen to Aguilar’s winning entry online at eou.edu/music/songwriting-contest-winners.

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Tuesday, February 10th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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