



Bill Morris, left was honored for his Search and Rescue service. Sgt. Dwight Johnson and Sheriff Terry Rowan presented him with the award.

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Umatilla County Search and Rescue volunteers honored at annual banquet

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STAFF WRITER

In 2018, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue responded to 21 active searches. Each of those calls was handled by a crew of volunteers, who were honored for their service on Friday.

Among those honored were Volunteer of the Year Julie Hendren, and Bill Morris, who received the Mission Hour award for responding to 16 missions, with a total of 75 volunteer hours. Four

volunteers were also recognized for their contributions to the unit's rope rescue program: Josh English, Travis Lundquist, Craig Russell and Kevin Scheibner.

Umatilla County Search and Rescue has 25 volunteer members who assist with missions, as well as meeting at least once a month for additional training and preparation. That includes lessons on tying different kinds of knots, as well as quickly assembling and dismantling different types of rescue equipment.



Julie Hendren, left, was named Umatilla County Search and Rescue Volunteer of the Year. She is pictured with Sgt. Dwight Johnson, Sheriff Terry Rowan and Search and Rescue Coordinator Jan Good.

Contributed photo

Umatilla County seeks utility rescue vehicle

HERMISTON HERALD

Umatilla County Emergency Management is shopping for a new rescue vehicle.

The county board of commissioners on Wednesday voted 3-0 for emergency manager Tom Roberts to seek bids on a new utility task vehicle, or UTV, with a patient transport skid and tracks, as well as a trailer for transporting the unit and supplies.

Roberts told the board the county won a \$48,383 State Homeland Security Grant to purchase the equipment, which will allow rescues in rough terrain. Emergency management has been trying to get the grants for a couple of years, he said, and at that time the funds would have been paid for everything. He said the department is looking to

buy everything in one package and will accept bids up to the total of the grant.

The board of commissioners also allowed the Public Works Department to buy a 2015 asphalt roller for \$34,125 and approved the legalization for a section of South Edwards Road, Hermiston.

Matt Kenney, Umatilla County Public Works surveyor, told the board the road has a "severe bend" between East Harding Avenue and East Loop Road, but that was not reflected in the county's record alignment of the road, which meant parts of the road were outside of the record right-of-way location. The legalization centers the right-of-way on the road's actual location. It's an administrative fix and there are no plans to work on the road.



HH file photo

A barn owl, named Helen, sits with other educational birds at a presentation from Blue Mountain Wildlife

Volunteering goes to the birds

Blue Mountain Wildlife is hoping to increase its volunteer efforts.

The nonprofit organization's mission is to preserve wildlife and the habitats in which they live. Services include wildlife rehabilitation and public education. Its primary center is located five miles south of Pendleton at 71046 Appaloosa Lane, but the nonprofit takes in wildlife from around the area.

Currently they are searching for a volunteer coordinator. Executive director Lynn Tompkins said the volunteer position would require a person who possesses some free time as well as organizational and people skills.

For more information, contact Tompkins at lynn@bluemountainwildlife.org, 541-278-0215 or visit www.bluemountainwildlife.org.



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