

Umatilla County Fair

NEWS RELEASE

Below you will find a courtesy copy of a news release by the Umatilla County Fair office. Please feel free to forward to others who would be interested in this information. If you have any questions, please direct them towards Peggy Clough, acting Umatilla County Fairgrounds Manager at (541) 567-6121; or Cell 541-379-8321 or email to: peggyc@umatillacounty.net

Umatilla County Fair Announces Saturday Night March 13, 2010, Grand Marshall, Volunteer of the year and Logo Contest Winners

PRESS RELEASE:

Chrysanthemums are often called hardy mums because not only do they thrive in less than ideal conditions, but they flourish if placed in the best location.

Jari and Sheila Boettcher, owners of Westwinds Nursery, have proven to be like the sturdy perennials. And the **Umatilla County Fair** Board of Directors has taken notice - naming them grand marshals of the 2010 **Umatilla County Fair** during Saturday's fair appreciation dinner at the fairgrounds in Hermiston.

In addition to honoring the Boettchers, the fair board also recognized the Hermiston School District as volunteers of the year and officially installed Rebecca Lindstrom as queen of this year's fair court and Katie Primmer, Amy Howland, Kylee Jensen and Krysten Powell as princesses.

The artistic talents of Lois Douglass will become quite familiar by the time the fairgrounds opens its gates from Aug. 10-14. The Hermiston woman's logo design based on the theme, "We've Got a Good Thing Growin'," was chosen from among more than a dozen entries.

GRAND MARSHALS



Sheila Boettcher smiles as people clap when Buzz Brazeau, Umatilla County Fair board chairman, announces she and her husband, Jari, will serve as grand marshals for the 2010 fair.

Photo by Tammy Malgesini

"The county fair's highest honor that can be granted is the grand marshals," said Dan Dorran, a fair board member. Dorran, out-going board member, Don Miller, and Peggy Clough, temporary fairgrounds manager, agreed.

Dorran said "the couple has been a driving force in assisting with improvements at the fairgrounds. Bit by bit, Jari and Sheila are leaving their mark on the fairgrounds". "Every year we look at something and we say, 'Wow, look what Jari and Sheila and Westwinds did.' And you have to remember, it's been, 'Wow, look at this' for as long as we can remember," Dorran said.

"They have gone beyond the call of duty on anything we need at the fairgrounds," Clough added. Sheila Boettcher said she sees a lot of people that are worthy of the honor - providing services and giving of their time. "What we do is very visual, so people see that, but there are lots of people who give their heart and soul and time to the kids," she said.

Miller said what the Boettchers started sprouted and began to spread throughout the fairgrounds - everything from laying sod to landscaping and hanging flower baskets. "It makes it an inviting place and that's primarily because of what Jari and Sheila had shown us could be done," Miller said.

However, mum was the word as soon as the board determined the humble duo would be recognized. "Everything Jari and Sheila do is totally altruistic," Dorran said.

Dorran and the rest of the board feared Jari and Sheila would skip out on the appreciation dinner. "They definitely don't do it for the recognition," Dorran said.

"They truly love the community and children. They just do an awesome, awesome job," Clough added.

Last year the Boettchers were among the inaugural group to have street signs erected on the fairgrounds in their honor. Westwind's Loop is located near the sheep, beef and small animal barns - where the Boettchers work tirelessly each year with 4-H and FFA youths.

Although Jari was unable to attend the event, Sheila Boettcher accepted the honor on their behalf. "I used to look at all the grand marshals and think that was great, but I didn't think I was old enough," she said.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

The phrase, "community partners" is synonymous with the Hermiston School District.

"When you talk about the school district, you are talking about a partner that collaborates with the **Umatilla County fair**, both in the production of the fair and year-around activities," Board member Dan Dorran said. Volunteerism throughout the district is infectious. Whether it's students, teachers, coaches, counselors or administrators, Dorran said they're always willing to answer the call. Children, teens and adults affiliated with the school district do everything from hosting meals to working together in a spirit of cooperation in regards to fencing, security and irrigation.

Additionally, Outgoing Board Member Don Miller said if it wasn't for the school district and its willingness to offer up West Park Elementary School's playground as a massive parking lot, he doesn't know where all the fair-goers would park. "The number of different faces that have participated is amazing - it's actually very amazing." Don Rankin and Ginny Holthus accepted the award on behalf of the school district's board of education.

During the evening, out-going fair board members, Don Miller and Jill Perrine, and last year's fair court received roses and a round of applause for their service as ambassadors for the county.

In the spirit of appreciation and recognition, the fair board also thanked all the sponsors, current and previous fair superintendents, previous volunteer award winners, past grand marshals and

past board members.

Board Chairman Buzz Brazeau announced the Main Stage entertainment for each night of the fair. They are Craig Morgan, Joe Diffie, Gallagher, Uncle Kracker and Jack Ingram.

MEDIA ADVISORY

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