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FULL REPORT ON A2

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# HILLSBORO ARGUS

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## Chamber honors Ness, others for achievements

The Greater Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards dinner Thursday night at the Tuality Health and Education Center and honored young and old alike for leadership and achievement in the business community.

- Emma C. McKinney Distinguished Citizen Award – Jerralynn Ness

Even before Ness became executive director of Community

Action in 1984, she channeled her compassion, commitment and resilient



Jerralynn Ness

spirit into alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty with the goal of all Washington County residents living with dignity and security.

- Distinguished Youth – Taylor Gerst

Gerst, a senior at Glencoe High School, has a 4.0 grade point average and is the first Hillsboro student to be chosen as the Metro representative on the Rose Festival Court.

- Agricultural Achievement – Forest Hills Farm

Forest Hills Farm started in 1955 as a modest 27 acre farm. Today, they have over 1800 acres and export crops as far away as Asia. The family-owned business is one of the largest blueberry farms in the region.

- Professional of the Year – Scott Palmer

Palmer is the artistic director for Bag&Baggage theater group. A dedicated advocate for the arts, he especially focuses on bringing more talent to Hillsboro and Washington County.

- Volunteer of the Year – Jim and Pat Frost

The Frosts have devoted much of their time to worthwhile causes, such as the Hillsboro School Board, Washington County Circuit Court, Jackson Bottoms Wetlands, Essential Health, Clinic and the SMART reading program.

- Organization of the Year – Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan

The Vision and Action Plan is a catalyst for many signature projects and programs including the Venetian Theatre and Bistro, Hondo Dog Park, the Civic Center and Tom Hughes Plaza, community gardens, enhanced after school programs, and the Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center.

- Business of the Year – Intel

With approximately 15,000 employees, the largest private employer in Oregon pays approximately \$30 million a year in county property taxes.

- Robert Herb Leadership award – Ron Powne

Powne is an active leader in the community, devoting time and energy to Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, Hospice and Palliative Care of Washington County, Portland Singing Christmas Tree, the Hillsboro Prayer Breakfast, Quiet Water and Selah West.

- Special Merit Award – Pat Ribellia

Ribellia has been the city of Hillsboro planning director since 2007. A leader in the urban and rural reserve process, Ribellia is a trusted voice for cities, counties and Metro looking into this critical matter that will shape the greater Portland area for the next five decades.

- Chairman's Award – Bruce Warner

Warner is the interim Hillsboro City Manager and formerly the executive director for the Portland Development Commission. He has more than 30 years of directorial experience in a broad range of public works, public administration, economic development, land use and transportation.

- Philanthropic Leadership Award – Dr. Gerald Gibbs and Shelie Hartman-Gibbs

Dr. Gibbs and Hartman-Gibbs have been tremendous supporters of worthwhile causes, including !Salud®, C.A.T. Walk and Fun Run, Tuality's Physician Cancer Campaign, Noble Woods, Hillsboro Library Foundation, Relay for Life and Women's Breast Health Center.