

Green receives Progressive 15 honor

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Progressive 15—a coalition of counties that speaks with a single, unified voice on issues of mutual concern facing Northeastern Colorado—recently announced the recipients of its Alumni of the Plains Award for 2012. Included in this year’s group of inductees is Monte Green, a business owner and competitive drag car racer from Haxtun.

The Alumni of the Plains Award is given annually to five individuals who, after graduating from a high school in one of the Progressive 15 counties, has excelled in their profession or made a substantial impact to the region’s economic vitality.

This year’s winners, which were inducted at a ceremony that took place at the Progressive 15 fall conference in Greeley include:

—Perry James Blach, farmer and rancher from Yuma.

—Monte Green, business owner and competitive drag car racer from Haxtun.

—Carl Beverly “Bev” Bledsoe, former speaker of the Colorado State House of Representatives from Kit Carson.

—Joel Dreessen, tight end for the Denver Broncos from Fort Morgan.

—Russ Johnson, founder of Johnson & Associates, CPAs PC from Sterling.

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Haxtun business owner, racer excels

Green owns Green's Repair and Machine in Haxtun and is a competitive drag car racer, who in 2011 was a National Hot Rod Association NHRA champion in the top sportsman class.

The racing engine side of his business, Green's Racing Engines, even has customers from as far away as Australia.

After work, Green is an active volunteer in his community, where for seven years he served as head coach of the Haxtun High School girls' basketball team. During his tenure at Haxtun, the Lady Bulldogs went to the girls' state basketball tournament four times, earning second, third, fourth and fifth places.

Green started racing drag cars in 1979. Thirty years later, in 2009, he finished the NHRA season in sixth place. In 2010, he finished in second place in the points standings, before winning the NHRA's Division V Champion outright in 2011.

On his way to the championship, Green scored points at a number of racetracks in several states. In March, he won an event at the Texas Motorplex near Dallas, Texas. He then had a quarterfinal finish at SCRA Motorplex in Great Bend, Kan. and won a divisional event at Brainerd International Raceway in Minnesota.

Following that race, he posted a quarterfinal finish at Cordova Dragway in Illinois and made strong finishes at Firebird Raceway in Phoenix, Ariz., Tri-State Raceway in Earlville, Iowa and Bandimere Speedway in Denver. He clinched the championship with a total of 324 points at The Strip racetrack at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Recently, Green won an NHRA divisional race in Cordova, Ill., which means he is back in the running for the 2013 title.

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