

Chamber *Continued from A1*


Sentinel nabs Business of the Year

her father, mother and sister who ventured into the teaching field before her and served over 40 years. She dedicated her award to the children she worked with and the teaching and support staff at Cottage Grove High School where she's taught and coached girls' basketball for over 20 years. Non-profit of the Year saw the field divided between South Lane Mental Health, South Lane Television, Cottage Theatre, Community Sharing and Family Relief Nursery. Each organization touted years of service to the city and network that branched out to help various sects of its residents. In the end, South Lane Mental Health earned the honor. Former Mayor Tom Munroe earned a standing ovation when he was announced as the winner of the First Citizen Award for his years of service to the city. The award was described as belonging to the person who, "participated actively in a variety of service projects and programs leading to civic improvement, human welfare and/or environmental enhancement." Munroe served on the planning commission, city council and most recently, as mayor for which he said, "I was honored that the Cottage Grove citizens voted me in and I was proud to serve. I don't plan on stopping, there's other things to do but right now, I'm going to

take a bit of a break." There was no break in the awards banquet, however, with video presentations created by local high school students paving the way for the announcement of several other winners including the Junior First Citizens Scholarship and its winners Hannah Albrecht and Tori Raade. Also taking home an award for Distinguished Service, local dentist Park McClung. The night concluded with a win for Gary Ackley for the P.A.C.E. award and finally, business of the year which went to the Sentinel. In presenting the P.A.C.E. award, Raade told the crowd that Ackley was a personal mentor and his years of service to Cottage Grove had made a deep impact on the community, earning him the rare honor. Sentinel General Manager Gary Manly accepted the award for business of the year on behalf of the staff, promising not to let the chamber or community down. Later, he noted, the newspaper was honored to accept the award from a field of equally deserving nominees.



Winners from the Chamber's 68th Annual Awards and Installations Banquet included: Hannah Albrecht, Tori Raade, Chris Heath, Kerry Clauson, Park McClung, Bohemia Foundation, South Lane Mental Health, Gary Ackley, Smith-Lund-Mills, Tom Munroe and the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Sponsors for the event included, South Lane School District and 22 table sponsors including the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Outgoing chamber board president Joe Raade acted as presenter for the majority of the awards and Master of Ceremonies Diana Knous presided over the event. Photos provided by Greg Lee above, and page A1.





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