

# TOP OF THE TRADE

Nine Clatsop County businesses honored at 6th annual award ceremony



PHOTOS BY LUKE WHITTAKER

The annual CEDR Awards ceremony was held at Patriot Hall at Clatsop Community College on March 21.

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**A**STORIA — Nine Clatsop County businesses were honored for their service, innovation, entrepreneurship and community impact at the 6th annual Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 21, in Patriot Hall at the Clatsop Community College.



"Thank you for letting me dance with your kids!" said **Denele Sweet**, owner of Encore Dance Studio, after accepting her award for entrepreneurship.

## Entrepreneurship, small business

Denele Sweet, owner of Encore Dance Studio, won an entrepreneurship award for small businesses.

Sweet described how, as a new mother and former competitive dancer, she had received a phone call about teaching a dance class and built a business with at least 15 teachers in Gearhart. She had to overcome some setbacks along the way, including once being denied a bank loan.

"I went home and cried to my husband and said 'maybe I shouldn't do this.' And here I am now," Sweet said. "Teamwork makes the dream work and I couldn't do this without my husband — and thank you for letting me dance with your kids!"