



Margo Lulich, Clatsop County's interim public health director, was the recipient of the Skip Hauke Spirit of Business Community Supporter award.



Montealban Mexican Restaurant received the business achievement award.

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will soon have its first graduate.

"It was really challenging, but we survived," said Denele Sweet, the owner of Encore Dance Studio. "I'm not going to lie, I came home crying many times, saying, 'I'm locking the doors, not going to do it.' (I'd) wake up the next morning, like, 'these kids gotta go somewhere,'" she said. "It's just we've been through a lot, and the kids have been thriving. It's been amazing."

Montealban Mexican Restaurant in Astoria received the business achievement award. Owner Sara Maya thanked the business community and the Small Business Development Center for their support, helping her turn her love of cooking into a thriving business.

Brian Olson of Beachcomber Vacation Homes was awarded business leader of the year for South County. Olson thanked his team and other businesses in the eight years since he started the business.

Holly McHone Jewelers won business leader of the year for the north county. CEDR highlighted Holly and Kevin McHone's community involvement in the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce and various downtown events.

In the large business category, Mo's Restaurant won for community impact for its community fundraising campaigns.

Columbia Bank received the economic impact award for a large business for the bank's facilitation of the Paycheck Protection Program and their work with local businesses to forgive loans.

J.M. Browning Logging received the large business innovation award, and CEDR noted their efforts to operate safely, efficiently and with an environmental focus.

The Ocean Lodge took home the award for customer service for a large business. CEDR pointed to



Lisa Reid, right, owner of Lucy's Books, received the exceptional customer service award for a small business.

its five star reviews and high ranking on the travel website Tripadvisor.

This year, CEDR created the Skip Hauke Spirit of Business Community Supporter award to honor the late CEDR co-founder.

Margo Lulich received the award for her work as Clatsop County's interim public health director during the pandemic. Lulich prerecorded her speech, which was played for the audience.

"I create community by connecting systems. And I think that's what we all do," she said. "And I think that's part of what Skip's work has been."

"And for me, what this award means is that it's representative of all of the work that we have done to navigate this pandemic."

Pacific County honors businesses with awards

LONG BEACH — The Pacific County Economic Development Council hosted its annual awards ceremony in late May at the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, with Bank of the Pacific being named Business of the Year.

The bank, founded in Long Beach 50 years ago, serves Pacific and Clatsop counties, with branches and offices from Salem to Bellingham.

Other Economic Development Council award winners

- Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development to Kathy Spoor, Pacific County administrative officer, who retired earlier this year.

- Emerging Leadership Award: Chinook Indian Nation for ongoing efforts toward federal recognition and ongoing community involvement.

- Leadership Award for Community Service to Katie Lindstrom, director of Pacific County Health and Human Services, "for outstanding leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

- Pacific County Economic Development Council President's Award to Guy Glenn Jr., "for years of service leadership to the ports of Ilwaco and Chinook, and to the Pacific County Economic Development Council."

In addition, several Pacific County merchant groups presented awards

- Tokeland-North Cove Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business of the Year: Knock on Wood, owned by Jeffro Uitto.

- Willapa Harbor Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business of the Year: Alder + Co., owned by Jeff Karnatz.

- Ilwaco Merchants Association 2021 Business of the Year: Fish People Seafood.

- Long Beach Merchants Association 2021 Business of the Year: Peninsula Pharmacies, co-owned by Jeff Harrell.

- Ocean Park Area Chamber of Commerce: The Ocean Park Area Chamber of Commerce Board made the unprecedented decision to nominate all chamber business members as annual Pacific County Economic Development Council Business of the Year recipients.

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