

Awards: Kleczek accepted award for La Luna Loca

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Business awards

Kevin Leahy, executive director of CEDR and the Small Business Development Center, announced the winners.

Kathy Kleczek, owner of La Luna Loca accepted the award for small business entrepreneurship.

"This award is also a representation of the people behind our success, the people that work with me and the people that spend their hard-earned dollars in our store for things that may not be the cheapest, but are made the best way possible," Kleczek said.

Owners of ice cream and french fry shop Frite & Scoop, Kevin and Lisa Malcom, were given the award for outstanding customer service for a small business. The business won a similar award recently in the Coast Weekend Readers' Choice Awards.

Lisa took over the acceptance speech after Kevin got choked up, thanking their staff and the community for supporting the business.

Kelly Truax, owner of Bruce's Candy Kitchen, took the award for business service to the community for a small business. The more than 50-year-old Cannon Beach and Seaside staple was granted the award for its efforts in the community, including donating candy for events, such as Easter egg hunts.

"We just give because we can, and it's a blessing that we're able to do that," Truax said.

Accepting the award for technological and manufacturing advancement were the owners of Airport Crabpot Co., Vern and Lisa Lamping. Their company previously got about 50 orders a year, Leahy said, but got an order for 800 units from Costco last year, thanks to a patented design. The owners then developed a new method for protecting the pots to meet the increased demand.

The award for entrepreneurship in a medium business went to Micha and Jennifer Cameron-Lattek, owners of Street 14 Cafe in downtown Astoria. The cafe has expanded and now has dinner offerings.

"We did start with just ... a handful of employees and now we have three or four handfuls of employees, and it's been really an exciting journey for us," Jennifer Cameron-Lattek said.

Outstanding customer service for a large business went to The Ocean Lodge in Cannon Beach. Wendy Higgins accepted the award for the hotel, which has consistently been ranked as the top hotel in Cannon Beach, she said.

Dale Brechlin, manager of the Astoria-Warrenton KOA accepted the business service to the community for a large business on behalf of the campground. Brechlin emphasized the KOA site's focus on the com-



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Kathy Kleczek, of La Luna Loca, walks up to the stage to accept the entrepreneurship award in the small business category during the CEDR Awards banquet at The Loft in Astoria on Wednesday.



Cliff Tuttle speaks after accepting the award for entrepreneurship in the large business category for Hampton Lumber Mill at the CEDR Awards banquet at The Loft in Astoria on Wednesday.



food business has an estimated local impact of at least \$105 million, Leahy said. Andrew Bornstein, accepting the award, commented that the diversity of product has allowed it to thrive.

CEDR leader honored

Skip Hauke, CEDR co-founder and past president, was honored for his contributions to CEDR and Clatsop County.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson hailed Hauke's vision in creating CEDR and his leadership of the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, which has grown significantly under his leadership, she said.

Accepting the award, Hauke said about the award, "I think the best thing about it is it recognizes CEDR and what CEDR has accomplished, and we have ... become a model for the state ... and our numbers prove that we're doing the right thing," he said.

munity, with programs for youth groups and elderly patrons at the campground.

Entrepreneurship for a large business was given to the Hampton Lumber Mill, with Manager Cliff Tuttle accepting the award. The mill, which can produce 200 million board-feet annually, employs 149 full-time employees.

The night's penultimate award went to P&L Johnson Mechanical for job creation. The company's co-owner Paul Radu accepted the award, and emphasized the company's commitment to educating its workers as part of its success.

Lastly, economic impact went to Bornstein Seafoods. The sea-

AWARD WINNERS

Entrepreneurship - Small Business: La Luna Loca
Customer Service - Small Business: Frite & Scoop
Business Service to the Community - Small Business: Bruce's Candy Kitchen
Technology/Manufacturing Advancement: Airport Crabpot Co.
Entrepreneurship - Medium Business: Street 14 Cafe
Customer Service - Large Business: The Ocean Lodge in Cannon Beach
Business Service to the Community - Large Business: Astoria-Warrenton KOA
Entrepreneurship - Large Business: Hampton Lumber Mill
Job Creation - P&L Johnson Mechanical Inc.
Economic Impact - Bornstein Seafoods



ABOVE: Kevin Leahy, executive director at CEDR, gives opening remarks during the CEDR Awards banquet at The Loft in Astoria on Wednesday. ABOVE LEFT: People mingle and eat dinner during the CEDR Awards banquet at The Loft in Astoria on Wednesday.

Warming center: It 'shows care and hope. It shows compassion'

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"We can't do much more on an all-volunteer basis. We've got no professional staff. We've got no paid staff," he said. "We just can't push ourselves to do more."

As an emergency shelter, the warming center exists to serve the homeless population when the temperature drops below 40 or the forecast is particularly nasty. Similar warming centers in St. Helens and Long Beach, Washington, closed late last month.

No other place

Volunteers dealt with more homeless people with untreated mental illness this year, Herzig said. "We were getting more people who were having various mental breakdowns in process," he said.

Some of them behaved erratically, talked to themselves, slipped into hallucinations and had trouble settling down.

"As long as they weren't a

danger to themselves or others, we were able to accommodate them, even though, sometimes, some of the other guests got pretty annoyed that their sleep was being disrupted. But there's no place else for them," he said. "If and when the respite center (in Warrenton) opens, that might be a place for some of these people to go. But, in the meantime, there is no place."

Katherine Rusk, the 38-year-old woman who died in an apparent hit-and-run in Boring earlier this month, was one of them.

"It was really sad to read about that because we had heard that somehow she got into Portland hoping to get better care there," Herzig said.

Though the center never had to call the police, volunteers did call Medix a few times when some guests showed up so drunk they couldn't stand.

"There have been a few complicated times where people get a little bit out of hand, and the staff's right on it," Hoss



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
City Councilor Drew Herzig serves up soup in the kitchen of the warming center in November.

White, a 67-year-old warming center repeat guest, said. "I can't express how good I think these people do."

Despite the occasional outburst, the center hasn't had reason to permanently remove a person. And, in any event, "for the most part, they're pretty respectful," Ami Lizarraga Hirsch, a center volunteer from Astoria, said.

"I think the staff is remarkable," White said. "To see some of the things they went through, and they still got a smile on their face..."

White — who now plans to camp outside of town, something he's used to doing — is grateful for the center, whose existence, he said, "shows care and hope. It shows compassion."

Spot treatment

The volunteers are climbing a learning curve, Herzig said. "Our guests teach us what they need."

They taught the volunteers, for instance, that they need large lockers so they don't have to carry everything they own at all times, so they need not hide their backpacks under bushes, so they don't have to risk their belongings getting stolen, so they can avoid endlessly pushing a shopping cart and subjecting themselves to mockery.

"It seems like an easy fix," Herzig said, "but we'd have to find a place who'd be willing to put that in, we'd have to fund it and we'd have to make sure we keep it managed."

The center volunteers also learned that, though warm clothing donations are nice and appreciated, the guests could also use waterproof clothing, for even the warmest of coats is useless when wet.

The church board struck an agreement with the warming

center to provide showers once a week for the homeless community through the year, though the finer points — including the timing and staffing — have yet to be arranged.

But the center, and all it can do for those in need, amounts to spot treatment on the larger homeless problem on the North Coast. The volunteers would prefer that the center simply went out of business for lack of need.

Hirsch said she has a younger brother now living in Los Angeles who is an addict.

"He generally has a place to stay," she said, "but I've often thought, if he didn't, it would be nice to have people like this around here."

"First you have to treat the homelessness, then you can treat the mental illness and the alcoholism and the diabetes and the this-and-that," Herzig said. "How can you possibly treat any other issues when they're having to deal with the daily trauma of surviving on the street?"

Seaside: Many affected employees will continue working with hospital's affiliate

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"To support a seamless transition for the patients, Providence home health nurses and therapists will be going to the scheduled

appointments with the CMH caregivers until the program ends," said Mary French-Peterson, a manager for Providence Home Health Services on the North Coast.

James Arp, chief execu-

tive of Providence Home and Community Services in Oregon, said the organization's scale allows it to more easily absorb additional patients.

Paulette McCoy, a spokeswoman for Provi-

dence Seaside, said it typically serves about 100 home health patients on the North Coast, but has had as many as 115.

Thorsen said the loss of jobs from ending the pro-

gram at Columbia Memorial Hospital will be minimal because of growth at the hospital.

"We are doing our best to find positions within other CMH departments for all the

impacted CMH employees," he said.

Many of the affected employees will continue working with the hospital's affiliate, Lower Columbia Hospice.