HONORS

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He contributes his expertise as an engineer to numerous projects including the David Wheeler Memorial footbridge, the towers and T-Bar at Ferguson Ridge ski hill, and the courthouse gazebo.

He is, as Bombaci pointed out, "an inspiring quiet achiever."

Business Leaders

David and Jessie Schmidt of Wallowa, owners of Integrated Biomass Resources won Business Leader of the Year, nominated by Mike Hayward, former County Commissioner and current general manager of Wallowa County Grain Growers.

David and Jessie Schmidt came from Canada in 2009 to find a place to make a difference and recognized Wallowa County as that "place" almost immediately.

They wanted a community they could help, and that had the right kind of direction and depth of knowledge to help itself and were soon convinced that Wallowa County was that place.

"Their vision for an integrated biomass center, utilizing raw material previously with a market, and creating products such as firewood, post and poles and energy has turned into a biomass campus employing 24 people and significantly contributing to the economy of Wallowa County," Hayward said.

The Schmidts operate on the old D.R. Johnson Mill site in Wallowa, building from their original purchase of UpStream21.

The Schmidts are so dedicated to their county that Jessie became a U.S. citizen this year and the pair are will welcome their first Wallowa County native (child) next summer.

Employee of the Year

Mike Goss, owner of the Dollar Stretcher in Enterprise, nominated his assistant manager David Nelson of Wallowa for Employee of the Year. Goss could not sing Nelson's praises enough and said that Nelson could be Employee of the Year every year as far as he was concerned.

Leader in the Arts

Catherine Matthias nominated Tom Clevenger of Joseph for the Chamber Leader in the Arts Award. Clevenger, who could have won an award for his volunteer and civic work in other areas was honored for his huge contribution to the Joseph Festival of Arts as both a donor and organizer. Clevenger began his second (or third or fourth) career as a segmented woodcarving artist in Joseph and displays his art at Stewart Jones Designs.

"When one considers how this incredibly talented and successful artist sets ego and pride aside, every year without fail, and jumps into the fray, freely offering his time and energy to ensure that we have a successful Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts event and that his fellow artists all have the best possible foundation (display panels) on which to display their creations ... well, it just makes us all appreciate and respect the man and friend, Tom Clevenger, even more than we do the artist, Tom Clevenger," wrote Jeff Costello, director of the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts.

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Tom Clevenger, here with nominator Catherine Matthias, won the Chamber of Commerce Leader in the Arts Award.

Nonprofit Leader

Maria Weer of Lostine was nominated for Chamber Citizen Award for Nonprofit by the Building Healthy Families Leadership Team represented by financial officer Marilyn Dalton of Joseph.

Maria Weer works two full-time jobs as executive director of Building Healthy Families and lead teacher for the Alternative Education Program. In addition to helping both programs become well known and admired statewide, she was also instrumental in developing the Building Healthy Families Leadership Team.

"Few people truly embody the altruistic spirit of giving for the betterment of others like Maria Weer," her Building Healthy Families Leadership Team wrote in their nomination. "While her skills, abilities and accomplishments are impressive and easy to describe, it is ultimately her heart-centered leadership and passion for people that is most admirable."

"Being around her inspires everyone," said co-worker and early Head Start Teacher Brandy Tilden.

Leader in Education

The Chamber of Commerce Leader in Education Award went to an astonished Nancy Maasdam, a 4-H leader who manages the Golden Arrow 4-H Livestock Club, who has affected the lives of more than 800 kids during her 28 years as 4-H leader. Every year she manages 30 to 40 kids and their animals and hosts a weekly showmanship day at her home. With over 6,000 hours of teaching and organizing training activities, her volunteer hours value come to $138,000, but cost the youth of Wallowa County nothing.

Leader in Ag/Natural Resources and Timber

Heather Melville was honored as Chamber of Commerce Agriculture/Natural Resources/Timber Leader of the Year for her work both as a wheat farmer and a professional forester. Melville has a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. Previous award recipients Roy Gartner, Bruce Dunn and Bob Zacharias nominated her for the Chamber award.

The extended Melville family includes the Hammacks, longtime residents of Wallowa County and timber landowners of 400 acres on Alder Slope. With Heather as a professional forester in the family the management of the family property has benefited from programs to reduce insect damage and disease, improve species composition and increase overall stand vigor. Heather is also an active participant on the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) and a member representing private landowners on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan revision committee.

President's Award

Gail Swart won the President's Award for a lifetime of service to her community.

"As leaders the greatest gift we have to give back to the community is our time," said Joe Wanner, Chamber president

Swart has given most of her life to community service as a teacher for over 40 years and a member of the Hospital Foundation for 20 years. Swart continues to volunteer in a dozen different ways, playing piano for plays and presentations, donating to causes, and encouraging others to become involved in local events.

Past President's Award

The past president's award went to Joe Wanner who is president this year.

Cynthia Warnock read a brief memorial honoring the late Pat Wortman, a former member of the Board of Directors.

The executive officers of 2017 Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce are: Joe Wanner, president; Jessie Cunningham, vice president; Ruby Lathrop, secretary/treasurer; and Cynthia Warnock, past president.

Directors are Jenni Word, Michael Vali, Tammy Strampe, Kathy Casper, Bridget Brown, John Williams, Liz Neveau, Marc Stauffer, Nancy Rudger, Cheryl Couglan, Heather Tyreman and Doris Woempner.

Chamber goals for 2017 include: customer service trainings, recognition of customer service distinction and workforce development. The Chamber will also focus on social media online trainings, bring back the barn tour and broaden Wallowa County's presence at tradeshows and fairs.

The Chamber spent $32,000 in advertising last year and processed $29,000 in Buckskin bucks.

RATES

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Gauntt also mentioned several other factors that could contribute to higher bills: The cold weather results in increased usage even if you use wood heat. For example, according to josephoregonweather.com, the average monthly temperature for December 2016 was 15 degrees, while December 2015 clocked in at 25.7 degrees.

"That's probably the main thing," Gauntt said.

These lower temperatures mean the water coming into your house is colder and the hot water heater works harder to warm it. Keeping your home temperature at 68 degrees at below-zero temperatures is also a drain on electricity and adding a space heater to a room is very costly, according to Gauntt.

Inclement weather can cause a delay of meter readings for a few days, which can add to bill totals as well. This usage is prorated. For example, a house with 34 days between billings would have to use 1,117 KWH before being charged the higher rate mentioned above.

Gauntt said if the bill doesn't make sense after considering all the factors, customers can call 1-888-221-7070 to have a service representative go through the bill. This is also the number to call for financial hardships.

Community Connection of Northeastern Oregon, located at 702 NW 1st St. in Enterprise, also offers energy assistance through two programs. Its Low Income Energy Assistance Program is available for those who meet income criteria.

Oregon Energy Assistance is also available for those meeting guidelines. Call Community Connections of Enterprise at 426-3480.

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If You Bought a TV or Computer Monitor That Contained a Cathode Ray Tube ("CRT"), During the Years 1995 through 2007, You May be Affected by This Litigation and May Benefit from a Settlement.

Please read this notice carefully as your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act.

PARA UNA NOTIFICACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAMAR O VISITAR NUESTRO WEBSITE.

The Oregon Attorney General filed a lawsuit against certain manufacturers of Cathode Ray Tubes ("CRTs"). The lawsuit alleges that CRT manufacturers illegally agreed upon the pricing of CRTs. The Attorney General filed this action in her law enforcement capacity, and on behalf of the State of Oregon and Oregon natural persons, and sought equitable relief, restitution, civil penalties and injunctive relief.

Oregon has settled with five defendants for a total of $3,645,000 ("Settlement Fund"). The State of Oregon and Oregon natural persons may be entitled to a portion of the Settlement Fund. "Oregon natural persons" means a human, not a business.

Who Is Included?

The State of Oregon and Oregon natural persons who indirectly purchased at any time during the years 1995 to 2007, for their own use and not for resale CRTs incorporated in TVs or computer monitors. An indirect purchaser is someone that purchased products containing a CRT from someone other than the company that manufactured the CRT component, such as from an electronics retailer or a device manufacturer other than one of the Defendants.

What Are My Rights And Options?

Exclude yourself: Oregon natural persons have the right to exclude themselves from this action. The State of Oregon cannot be excluded. If you opt out, you will not be legally bound by the litigation or these settlements, but you will not get any money or other benefits from this action or these settlements. You will retain any rights you currently have, if any. Please note that under Oregon law, authority to bring antitrust actions for indirect purchaser claims, like this action, was limited to actions by the Attorney General until January 1, 2010.

To opt-out, complete the opt-out registration online at www.OregonScreenSettlement.com or send a written letter stating that you want to be excluded from the case: *State of Oregon, ex rel Ellen F. Rosenblum v. LG Electronics, Inc. et al.*, Multnomah County Circuit Court case no. CV 120810246. The letter must include the case name, your name, address, telephone number, and signature. The letter must be **postmarked on or before March 18, 2017**, and mailed to: Oregon CRT Settlement, c/o GCG, P.O. Box 10240, Dublin, Ohio 43017-5740.

File a claim: Only Oregon natural persons need to file a claim to obtain benefits from these settlements. Claims can be completed online or by mailing the claim form, available for download at www.OregonScreenSettlement.com, to the Settlement Administrator. The Court has not set a deadline for filing claims, as the case has not concluded.

Do nothing: If you do nothing, you will continue to be represented by the Oregon Attorney General in the action. You will be bound by the terms of the settlements, and will release Defendants and related entities from any claims you may have relating to the allegations in this lawsuit. Oregon natural persons that do not file a claim will not be entitled to any benefits in this matter and will be bound by the terms of the settlement.

Who Represents Me?

The Attorney General of Oregon represents the State and Oregon natural persons. You do not have to pay the Attorney General. The Attorney General will request the Court approve attorney fees and litigation costs from the Settlement Fund. Additional costs to administer the Settlements will also come out of the Settlement Fund. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, and have that lawyer appear in Court for you, you must exclude yourself and hire an attorney at your own expense.

How Do I Get More Information?

This Notice summarizes the lawsuits and the Settlements. You can get more information about the lawsuits and Settlements, the claims process or obtain a claim form at www.OregonScreenSettlement.com, by calling 1-877-940-7791, or writing to: Oregon CRT Settlement, c/o GCG, P.O. Box 10240, Dublin, Ohio 43017-5740.

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