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Chamber honors distinguished residents

200 attend 40th annual awards banquet in Enterprise

By Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

About 200 people showed up Sunday, Feb. 23, to applaud the recipients of nine awards bestowed on members of the Wallowa County community at the 40th annual Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

Kellee Sheehy served as master of ceremonies for the gathering, explaining the Wizard of Oz theme of “there’s no place like home” as particularly appropriate to the county.

“We have everything we’ve always wanted here,” she said. “You don’t have to go somewhere ... where there’s a Wal-Mart.”

Among the awards bestowed was the new Leader in Health Care award. The award was new this year, and honored three physicians for their roles in instigating, developing, providing high-quality health care in the county.

“Today, we have 18 physicians in the county,” presenter Mike Hayward said. “That’s largely because these physicians worked with OHSU to develop an intern program here years ago. There is no other rural community in Oregon with a better health care system, and these doctors were the founders of that excellence.”

The recipients and their years of service were Dr. Lowell Euhus, 1972 to 2005; Dr. Scott Siebe, 1981 to 2013; and Dr. R. Devee Boyd, 1989 to 2017.

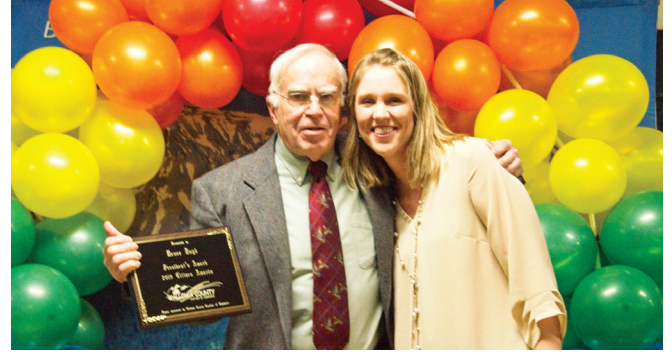
Boyd also was the recipient of the 2019 President’s Award, sponsored by the

chamber. In presenting the award, outgoing Chamber President Jessie Cunningham had numerous personal stories of Boyd’s effect on her life. Her doctor from the age of 5, she recalled him also serving as her basketball coach and that she needed his annual OK on physicals each year to play.

Cunningham went on to receive the Past President’s Award, sponsored by Community Bank.

Elwayne Henderson, of Henderson Logging in Wallowa, was named 2019 Business Leader of the

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Dr. Devee Boyd, now retired, receives the President’s Award for a lifetime of service in Wallowa County at the 40th annual Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. Jessie Cunningham, right, presented the award after telling her personal stories of his effect on her life as a basketball coach, adviser in her love life, adviser in parenting and as a spiritual adviser, as well as his help as her lifelong physician.

NO CAP & TRADE BILL

Republicans exit Oregon’s Senate

By Claire Withycombe,
Jake Thomas and
Sam Stites
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Senate, and effectively, the legislature, came to an abrupt stop Monday when 11 Senate Republicans disappeared.

For the second time in less than a year, they left the Capitol to protest a bill to cut the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Their departure prevents the Senate from taking votes.

‘DEMOCRATS REFUSED TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS AND DENIED EVERY AMENDMENT THAT WAS PRESENTED. PAY ATTENTION OREGON — THIS IS A TRUE EXAMPLE OF PARTISAN POLITICS.’

Senate Republican Leader
Herman Baertschiger
Jr., R-Grants Pass

The senators’ departure — or, as Gov. Kate Brown put it, a “taxpayer-funded vacation” — was long anticipated around the Capitol, ever since lawmakers convened in early February for a 35-day session that must by law finish on March 8.

The walkout throws into doubt the last two weeks of this year’s session. It could derail, or at least postpone, proposals to ease the state’s

homelessness crisis, boost funding for state troopers and tighten the state’s gun laws.

Brown told reporters that the walkout jeopardizes legislative work that could provide relief to the flood-ravaged Umatilla basin as well as money for community corrections.

The question, now, is what happens next. If Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, asks her to, Brown can call on the Oregon State Police to bring the wayward legislators back. But that’s an option Courtney has shown no appetite for.

The governor could later call a special session, which would have no mandatory end date, unlike the current session. But if there is a specific game plan, Brown was not telling.

“I think we want to let the next couple weeks play out,” said Nik Blosser, Brown’s chief of staff. “And then we’ll see.”

Republicans have been grouching over Senate Bill 1530, which aims to cap and shrink the state’s greenhouse gas emissions by creating a market for emissions allowances, which are essentially permits for companies to pollute. The idea is to nudge the economy away from fossil fuels and toward renewable sources of energy.

In a rare move Monday morning, Courtney took a seat on the legislature’s budget committee and voted to advance it.

Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger, Jr., pointed at Courtney’s maneuver as the trigger for the boycott Monday.

“Senator Courtney’s actions leave no other option for Senate Republicans but to boycott and deny quorum because cap and trade is on the way to the Senate floor,” said the Grants Pass Republican in a statement. “Democrats refused to work with Republicans and denied every amendment that was presented. Pay attention Oregon — this is a true example of partisan politics.”

Republicans are also upset that Democrats blocked their request to refer the proposal to voters, something that Democrats behind the bill refuse to do.

Democrats, meanwhile, counter that they have made a slew of changes to the plan since last year. For instance,

USFS LOGGING NOT JUST FOR FAIR WEATHER



A late-winter/early spring load of logs heads for the mill along Ore. Highway 82.

Ellen Morris Bishop

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County
Chieftain

It’s easy to think of logging as mostly a fair-weather practice relegated to the more balmy weather. But winter logging can offer a better option for protection of ground-cover and reduced soil compaction, among other benefits.

Clint Foster, the U.S. Forest Service silviculturist for the Eagle Cap Ranger District, noted one logging project on U.S. Forest Service land currently underway is the Cold Canal sale, on the Sheep Ridge Divide off of the USFS 39 road. Integrated Biomass Resources of Wallowa purchased the 877-acre sale that includes 2.7 mbf. Mbf is 1,000 times a 1-foot length of a board,



Ellen Morris Bishop

Winter snow cover helps protect ground cover, and cold temperatures and frozen ground minimize soil compaction from logging activities.

1 foot wide and 1 inch thick.

Foster said that ground conditions are the main reason that a few projects are stipulated for wintertime.

“Usually when we do wintertime logging, it’s to protect soil resources,” he said. “If, during the

planning or the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) phase of a project, if it’s determined that the detrimental soil conditions are expected to be greater than 20%, then winter logging is one mitigation factor we use.”

He added that three

or four units of the Cold Canal sale required winter logging because of impacted soils.

Foster also mentioned botanical resources as a reason for required winter logging. For example, he mentioned that the 275-acre Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project, which will allow for about 4.6 mbf of timber removal has a certain amount of wintertime logging because of the presence of the Moonwort plant.

Although they are not federally listed species, the plant is on the Region 6 sensitive species list, and identified as an outstanding remarkable botanical value in the 1993 Lostine Wild and Scenic River Plan. Also, logging in the popular tourist area is restricted

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