

Banquet

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By Caitlyn May
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On any given day, the Cottage Grove Armory is, at best, a work in progress. The halls echo in the empty spaces, grounded by yet-to-be-refinished hardwood floors and reminders of its long-ago abandoned function are scattered throughout the building. But on Saturday, Jan. 20, the hardwood was covered in red carpet and workmen were replaced by men in tuxedos, women in ball gowns and crowds of well-wishers and do-gooders for the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce 69th Annual Awards & Installation Banquet.

The event has moved locations from the city's Catholic church to the Emerald Valley facility in Creswell before coming home to Cottage Grove and the armory. The transition from building under construction to red-carpet ready facility is facilitated by city crews and provides a stunning backdrop for one of the community's most popular events.

"This event gives us the chance to honor and recognize businesses who are doing more than just conducting business," Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer said. "These are people who are going above and beyond everyday business. They're doing more to make Cottage Grove a better place."

Nabbing 2017 Business of the Year was Territorial Seed. Handing over the reins was Cottage Grove Sentinel General Manager Gary Manly. "It was a shock to be named business of the year in 2016 and we were honored by the distinction," Manly said. "We are pleased to pass the torch to Territorial Seed."

In the last 30-plus years, the company has donated more than \$1 million in seeds to community gardens locally and around the world.

"After losing a valued member of our staff in 2015 to cancer, we established the Territorial Seed Company/Marleece E. Arthur Memorial Scholarship through the Cottage Grove Community Foundation," said Territorial Vice President Julie Johns of the company's continued efforts in the community. "This annual scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who plans to attend college to study business, agriculture or veterinary medicine."

Other winners included "First Citizen" Greg Lee who routinely volunteers his time to photograph community events, Jr. First Citizen Chelsea Armstrong and non-profit of the year, Family Relief Nursery.

"We really feel like no matter who wins, it's important to recognize all the nominees," Palmer said. Also honored were South Lane Teacher of the Year Sarah Drews and classified employee of the year, Pat Ware.

"The school district, I don't think they have an event or venue to do a teacher of the year or classified employee of the year so they're a sign part of the community and workforce in Cottage Grove and therefore a sign part of the chamber," said Palmer who also noted that the event was a success.

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Governor Brown declares Jan. 21-27 as school choice week

Gov. Brown has proclaimed Jan. 21-27 to be Oregon School Choice Week. She joins dozens of other governors and hundreds of state and county leaders in issuing official proclamations for the week.

Oregonians have planned more than 300 events to celebrate opportunity in education and raise awareness of the types of educational opportunities that parents have, or want to have, for their children. The school fairs, rallies coffeehouse meetups, festivals, and round-table discussions are designed to spark conversations about school choice.

More than 32,000 independently planned events will take place nationwide.

"We're excited to see the enthusiasm for school choice growing in Oregon and across the country," said Andrew Cam-

panella, president of National School Choice Week. "We're grateful that Gov. Brown has issued this proclamation to raise awareness of this important issue."

Held every January, National School Choice Week is an independent, nonpartisan, non-political public awareness effort designed to shine a positive spotlight on effective education

options for every child. Through thousands of independently planned events across the country, National School Choice Week raises public awareness of all types of educational choices available to children. These options include traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, online learning, private schools, and homeschooling.

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



CODE

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"They're not using any of the services and they make it difficult for people to use the services. So, if you're not using the services, you can't stay there."

Unattended children are also noted in the new set of rules with the code specifying that children will not be ordered out of the building but if the responsible party cannot be found, the Cottage Grove Police Department will be notified and take custody of the child.

Meyers said the code of conduct is meant to ensure that residents can use public facilities without disruption and have equal access to city services.

"We had an individual come in a few days ago and sit for a while, talking to himself and then he would get up and curse and scream and then sit down again and we just said, 'You can't do that here.'"

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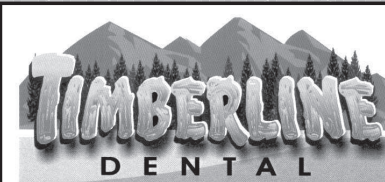
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