



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

**Abe Huff learns of his award.**

## Awards: Chamber narrows field

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Tickets are on sale at the chamber office, 168 SW Court St., for \$40 each, or \$45 at the door, if there are any left.

Over the last few weeks, Shinn said he and chamber employees had a lot of fun notifying the winners, taking balloons to each recipient and making videos of their reactions to the unexpected news.

"The surprises are the best," Shinn said.

For more information or to see videos of Shinn notifying the award winners, go to [www.facebook.com/dallasoregonchamber/](http://www.facebook.com/dallasoregonchamber/).

## Roundabout: Studies show fewer crashes

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"The decision points are less," he said.

Nationwide, roundabouts experience a 37 percent reduction in accidents overall, and when they do occur they are less severe, Potter said.

"That crash is generally a side-swiping kind of crash, more of a glancing blow," he said.

Design elements, such as a curve in the road leading to the roundabout, will slow traffic, another safety measure.

ODOT and county officials still have significant tasks ahead of them.

ODOT has designated \$3.39 million for Clow Corner, not enough to finish the project. Potter said since establishing the partnership with the BOC last month, he's taken the request to his supervisors and has gotten support. He believes the money will be found, and preliminary work is underway.

He said he is fairly confident the work could be done

between three and four years.

The next challenge will be design. Potter said ODOT learned lessons from a roundabout recently installed on Highway 42 and Verboort Road, an intersection similar to Clow Corner in traffic volumes and the type of freight using it.

He said ODOT will enlist the help of freight companies and local farmers who move their equipment through the intersection.

"We are all in this together,

with the goal to improve safety and still have a functional highway," he said.

Another part of the plan is driver education, Potter said. Drivers in this area are not familiar with highway roundabouts, and it will take some adjustment and an education campaign before the intersection opens.

"Rural roundabouts, they are new in Oregon," Kargel said. "They are not new in a lot of other places. It's a learning curve for everybody."

## Falls City, KVCS request class 1A

**By Jolene Guzman**

The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The Oregon School Activities Association will hear Falls City and Kings Valley Charter School's request to keep its athletic co-op in the 1A classification for the 2017-18 school year.

The association's board meets Monday at 9 a.m. at its office in Wilsonville.

"We are not really appealing it. They've made a decision," said Dennis Sickles, Falls City's athletic director at the Falls City School Board's meeting on Jan. 24. "With the co-op in place, we are at the 2A level. What we

are doing is requesting to play down for an additional year."

OSAA will revise classifications beginning the 2018-19 school year, so the request would be for one year.

Sickles said the representatives from Falls City and Kings Valley are scheduled to give a presentation, but anyone may comment during a portion of the meeting. Falls City board members Larry Sickles and Bob Young and Dennis Sickles wanted to meet with Kings Valley officials before Feb. 13 to discuss what they would present to the OSAA board.

Young said it's important

Kings Valley is well-represented at the meeting.

"The ones who are going to lose are their kids," Young said. "They won't have a sports program."

Kelly Foster, associate director of the OSAA, wrote in an email to Dennis Sickles that the OSAA board typically denies requests to play down.

"You have a couple of options now: you can re-apply for the co-op to be accepted in to the new 2A league (or independent 2A status)," Foster wrote. "You can also elect to dissolve the co-op, and you will be placed into your regular 1A leagues."

If the request is denied,

Dennis Sickles said Falls City's coaches preferred the latter option.

"The consensus I'm getting from the coaches is that they would prefer to not go to 2A," he said. "They would prefer to stay and play 1A so they have an opportunity to go to the playoffs. I've talked to all the coaches."

Dennis Sickles acknowledged that the chances of OSAA granting the request are slim, but he said it's still worthwhile to make the argument.

"At least we will get our point of view on the record," he said. "I think that's important."

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