

Chamber: Awards banquet honors area business and community leaders

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“You guys have embraced us tremendously. We’ve strived to bring very different products into Seaside that didn’t compete with other businesses but enhance the in spirit experienced at Seaside. And we continue to bring people back again and again. And we’re just super excited to be part of this community. So thank you for the recognition.”

The community impact award, delivered to the Seaside Coffee House, recognizes the business that has made a positive impact on Seaside above and beyond for the great benefit of the community.

Instead of a single volunteer of the year, voters chose the Seaside Fire Department overall.

Jason Schermerhorn, a volunteer, spoke on behalf of the firefighters in accepting the award.

“We’re honored to do it,” Schermerhorn said. “We really appreciate all your guys’ support and we really enjoy what we do.”

Justin and Vanessa Boone, who recently opened their second outlet, Burly and the Bean Coffee Roasters, were selected rising star/new business winners.

The legacy award, honoring members of the community and/or family who have been part of the chamber and business community for at least 10 years, was delivered to Marci Utti of Del’s Chevron. The family has operated Del’s for more than 54 years.

Business of the Year recognizes the business that has succeeded by going above and beyond with overall best business practice, exceptional customer service employee relations, superior marketing and social media community involvement.

In awarding the honor to Sadie and Andrew Mercer and partner Robin Montero of Maggie’s on the Prom, emcee Ken Heman of the Seaside Visitors bureau said, the owners “never stopped moving.”

“They’re always upgrading, improving and adding to their business,” Heman said. “In the past year they’ve bought new or brought new faces into the community. Their customer service is top of the



Sadie Mercer, Andrew Mercer and at right, Robin Montero of Maggie’s on the Prom, winners of Business of the Year, with chamber CEO Brian Owen.



Marci Utti of Del’s Chevron is presented the legacy award, honoring businesses who have been part of the chamber and the business community for at least 10 years.



Justin Boone holding son Shiloh, Brian Owen and Vanessa Boones. The Boones won the rising star/new business award for Burly and the Bean.



Mark Hopman as Capt. Jack Sparrow, Leah Ruett, Tiffany Pedersen and Debra Hudson of Best Western Plus Oceanfront Resort received the evening best costume award for their tribute to “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

line and they are the spot to go and Seaside for both locals and travelers from restaurants, hotels and catering.”

With many guests in costume to reflect the fairy tale theme of the evening,

Shrek, the Cheshire Cat, the Princess Bride and others vied for best costume — an award delivered to hotel staff, bedecked as Captain Jack Sparrow of “Pirates of the Caribbean” and crew.

Perhaps the night’s most emotional moment came when Robin Knoll received the chamber’s Byron Award.

The award, named for legendary volunteer Seaside’s Byron Meek, is pre-

sented to a member of the community who has shown outstanding qualities in community service.

Knoll couldn’t hold back the tears as he accepted the award.

“It’s pretty clear, tonight

is all about community,” Heman said. “That’s what we do here in Seaside. We support each other. We’re a community. We’re small enough yet big enough to be influential throughout the world.”

Housing: Banks eager to lend money for apartment construction, officials say

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navigate funding to increase the number and availability of residential apartments.

“We all agree we need apartment complexes and funding,” she said.

Barker suggested a liaison between contractors through the building and planning department to find grant programs and other sources of funding. “I feel as a group, that’s something

we need to look at.”

For now, changes to vacation rental rules to create additional affordable housing will remain unchanged.

In its Jan. 31 council meeting, the city tabled a motion to place a moratorium on vacation rental dwellings as a means of preserving affordable housing.

The city has six new VRD applications and 396 total transient rental units,

according to a report presented by Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Flory.

Since 2015, VRD business licenses have been issued to 474 individual addresses in Seaside. Of those addresses, 346 are still permitted or pending VRD conditional use permits. Since 2015, 128 addresses have given up their permits and are no longer operating as short-term rentals.

Data from the Seaside report shows a 1.5% growth in 10 years.

“From the City Council standpoint, I think we said we’re tabling the notion of having a moratorium and we’ll continue to leave it in the Planning Commission’s hands,” Wright said at the housing meeting.

“My perception of it is that Seaside has one of the strongest sets of policies to control this and to keep it

reasonable,” Wright said. “They’re not necessarily onerous rules, but it gives us a standard that everybody has to live up to. The places that are having a lot of problems just don’t have that. Anybody can do anything.”

To address housing needs, Wright suggested area and state coalitions to pursue common regional goals.

“There are no easy solu-

tions,” Wright said. “We need to continue doing whatever little things we can find to do, and that would include financing.”

The task force meets the first Monday of each month.

Future task force meetings will host Cannon Beach development director Jeff Adams, Rep. Suzanne Weber and representatives of the Tillamook Housing Authority.

Center: Will open above school campus

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moving the 1,500-square-foot trailer above the school campus.

When complete, one side will be a situation room, with work stations, conference table and furniture with the former school administration building on S. Franklin Street.

Dispatch, ham radio, storage, supplies and rest areas are designed for the opposite side.

The STARS radio group donated \$4,000 in equipment and \$2,000 in engineering support for ham radio at the site. Pacific Power moved and placed the two 80-foot communication poles into position.

A former American Red Cross trailer in need of repair was refurbished and put into use as emergency



The alternate emergency operations center began as an office trailer during Seaside Civic and Convention Center renovations.

supplies storage.

An additional parking area will allow room for operations and staging outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

The time frame for the alternate center’s opening has yet to be established, McBride said. “Our next project is to ground the poles

and place the four antenna brackets,” she said.

Mayor Jay Barber said the alternate center “makes us a much safer community. Even in the worst-case scenario, there will be people up there making sure that we’re communicated with. It’s a great thing to have in place.”



home is where the heart is

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CMH-OHSU Health cardiologists are here to help, ensuring access to some of the latest and most advanced heart care, right here in Astoria. Call 503-338-4087 to make an appointment.

WOMENHEART
Women of any age may join WomenHeart, a heart disease support group, for monthly meetings. Learn more: columbiamemorial.org/events.