

Keizer Chamber of Commerce honors residents

JILLIAN DALEY Statesman Journal
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Clint Holland had a surprise visit at last week's Keizer Rotary Club meeting.

A group of people, including Keizer Chamber of Commerce employees, walked in during the meeting and told Holland he was the 2008 Keizer First Citizen.

"I was shocked," he said. "I was speechless."

Three other people found out they had won Keizer Chamber of Commerce awards last week. The awardees also will enjoy a banquet in their honor Saturday during the 50th Annual First Citizens Banquet at Keizer Renaissance Inn.

The selection process works like this: A friend or colleague nominates someone for an award. A panel of past years' winners picks the honorees, except for the President's Award winner, which the Keizer chamber president chooses.

First Citizen: Holland is vice president of sales at Paulson Investment Co. in Salem. He is involved in Little League in Keizer — and in Salem, where Holland Youth Park bears his name.

Holland currently is working on the Keizer Rapids Park outdoor amphitheater, to which he devotes much of his time.

"You want to visit Clint, you go to Keizer Rapids Park," said Holland's friend, Mike Whittaker, who nominated him.

Merchant of the Year: Rich Duncan owns Rich Duncan Construction and co-owns Fitness Together with his wife. Past Merchant award winner Susy Riches nominated Duncan, listing reasons such as his construction company's help with the Habitat for Humanity blitz build last year in Salem.

"He cares about the community and gives generously of his time, money and services," Riches said.

Service to Education Award: Debbie Koller won for her volunteer work in music programs at McNary and other schools.

"At McNary High School, we view Debbie Koller as nothing less than a hero," said school principal Ken Parshall, who nominated her.

President's Award recipient: Steve Clark, a Key Event Services sales representative for 15 years, helps with the Keizer Iris Festival and hanging the holiday lights around town.

"He's very respected in the community," said Annie Barkley, a Key Event sales rep.

If you go

WHEN: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Keizer Renaissance Inn, 5188 Wittenberg Lane NE

COST: \$50 per person

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