

Lake County Examiner

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

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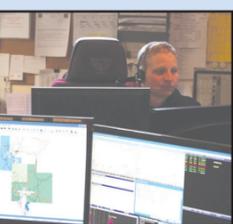
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Collins receives Operator of the Year for Barry Point work

By Eric Hedlund
Lake County Examiner

Collins Timber Company recently received the Eastern Operator of the Year for its work on the Barry Point fire clean up from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Collins continues salvaging timber on almost 2,300 acres burned in Oregon on their property.

The Lakeview community faced many challenges during the 2012 Barry Point fire and afterward. Collins worked with landowners, 18 operators, farmers, ODF Stewardship Forester Kellie Carlsen and Westside Elementary School to make the salvage operation a success.

Collins recognized heavy truck traffic would impact safety around the community, and emphasized the need for heightened safety precautions among its drivers. Collins worked with its drivers, the local sheriff, and state police to coordinate safe trucking strategies.

Collins did dramatically increase the number of trucks going past the Westside Elementary School and through the Westside community. However, as Resource Mgr. Lee Fledderjohann of the Collins-owned Fremont Sawmill stated, "We had 7500 loads come out with only one fender-bender." Fledderjohann also explained that Collins emphasized to their truck drivers that they must obey the posted speed limits and drive safely.

"Everyone has to get home each night," he said. The company also put up signs every half-mile along the gravel road leading to the timber harvest site. Truckers were required to announce their position as they passed each sign, which added another layer of safety.

Collins was nominated for the Award because, as Carlsen explained, "Exceeding the Forest Practices rules is part of what Collins Timber Co. does. It's part of their overall management objective."

The three Regional Forest Practices Committees each select an Operator of the Year and may also give Merit Awards. Private Forests Division Chief Peter Daugherty said, "These are the best of the many operators in Oregon who regularly go beyond the letter of the law to protect natural resources. We're pleased to honor this exemplary work."

New leadership coming to the Fremont-Winema National Forest

By Ryan Bonham
Lake County Examiner

New leadership will soon arrive to take the reins of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Connie Cummins, successor to Fred Way, will assume the duties as the Fremont-Winema's forest supervisor in the weeks to come, while Rick Newton's successor, Eric Watrud, will take over as the newest deputy forest supervisor.

Cummins is slated to arrive on Feb. 3, while Watrud's tentative date of arrival is later this month on Monday, Jan. 27.

Forest Supervisor
Connie Cummins



CUMMINS

Cummins is currently serving as the District Ranger on the Great Divide and Washburn Ranger Districts on the Chequamogon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin.

Cummins' experience includes more than 30 years on five national forests, having previously served as a forester and forest planner. She also spent 23 years as a district ranger on three different districts.

Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in forest management from Purdue University. Her two children are grown

and pursuing careers as a police officer and esthetician.

In her administrative role, Cummins will be involved with larger program pieces of forest, grazing, fire and timber, and actively involved with the local communities.

Cummins noted that she has worked in smaller communities over the course of her career; a personal preference, she said.

Cummins is also a fan of the outdoors, namely trail running, bicycling, skiing and hiking.

"I'm really excited about it," she said. "I'm really looking forward to the Lakeview community."

Watrud will leave his current post as regional silviculturist to take on the deputy forest supervisor position.

His prior experience includes experience as a forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Watrud's earned a bachelor's degree in natural resources management from Oregon State University.

Deputy Forest Supervisor Eric Watrud

By Ryan Bonham
Lake County Examiner

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Awards, food, auctions and more at Winter Gala

By Eric Hedlund
Lake County Examiner

Citizens and businesses of Lake County will be recognized at the 68th annual Lake County Chamber of Commerce's Winter Gala this weekend. The awards banquet and fundraiser for the Chamber will be hosted at the Lakeview Elks Lodge, 323 N F St. on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Dr. Steven Meneses, the executive director of the Klamath Community College Foundation, has been chosen as speaker for the event, with local Bob Kings, owner of the Lakeview Lodge, acting as master of ceremonies.

Meneses came to Klamath Falls from Chicago, Ill., where he worked as an entrepreneur, banker and president of a financial marketing company.

His presentation for the evening will be about 'Investing in Lifelong Education' and will be accompanied by PowerPoint slides.

Tickets are \$30 per person, and the evening will feature opportunities to win or bid on dozens of raffle and auction items including a two-person



MENESES

Scenic Bikeway group discusses questions from general public

By Ryan Bonham
Lake County Examiner

A group supportive of an establishment of a state-designated bicycling route held a public meeting in Plush on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Though no public arrived to partake in the meeting, members of the committee discussed questions channeled to them from the general public. The group also talked over planning efforts for the necessary dedicated plan that will be submitted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for their consideration of the route.

Those in attendance included Chris Bishop, Tule Chiono, Tillie Flynn, Roman Iacobucci, Rick Dumilieu, Marie Tucker and South Central Economic Development District Specialist Audrey Henry.

Public concerns included planning for mass numbers of bicyclists visiting the area, particularly in terms of their interactions with such occasions as cattle drives. Narrow roadways and curves were also discussed, in terms of bicyclist/motorist interactions, but

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ERIC HEDLUND/Lake County Examiner

Dan Michaelson, l-r and Barb Stephens were named the 2013 Senior and Junior First Citizens. They will be handing out the plaques for the 2014 First Citizen awards, which will be announced Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Winter Gala.

trip to Africa. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. and awards presented at 8 p.m.; the main course for dinner is New York Steak.

Awards this year will be the traditional Junior and Senior First Citizen Awards as well as a Special Citizen Award, Chamber President's Award, Educator of the Year Award, Merchant of the Year Award and a Community Improvement Award.

The 2013 Junior and Senior First Citizens, Barb Stephens and Dan Michaelson, will be helping to choose this year's awardees and handing out the plaques. First Citizens are nominated by the community for their

contributions to Lakeview and Lake County as local residents and citizens.

Corporate sponsors of the dinner are Pacific Power and CenturyLink. In addition to the regular raffles and auction, there will be a 50/50 raffle put on by US Bank, Branch Mgr. Aimee Kintzley to raise money for a Track Chair to give to a local disabled veteran.

Chamber Dir. Talulah Chiono said she is planning seating for about 150 people and that those interested should call the Chamber to check on seating availability.

The Lake County Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 541-947-6040.

Survey indicates most support smoke-free fair

By Ryan Bonham
Lake County Examiner

Round-Up & Fair weekend.

The end results of this survey reported that the majority of those polled supported a ban on smoking anywhere on the fairgrounds, or should be in designated areas only, according to a press release.

Registered Nurse Beth Hadley, who is also a coordinator for Lake County Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, reported 189 survey participants.

The demographic largely represented Lake County residents between the ages of 35 and 44 years, Hadley said in a press release issued Monday, Jan. 13.

Of these participants, 83 percent agreed that smoking should not be allowed anywhere on the fairgrounds, or in designated areas only. The vast majority of these respondents believed second-hand smoke is harmful and tobacco use shouldn't be allowed outdoors where children are present.

Hadley noted that given statistics reporting most smokers starting the habit prior to age, the results of the survey were not surprising.

"Because we know that 88 percent of adult smokers start before the age of 18, people are becoming more aware of the importance of modeling healthy behaviors and reducing tobacco exposure to our youth," she said. "This is particularly important in Lake County, where eighth and 11th grade tobacco use exceeds the state average."

The results were brought before the Lake County Fair Board in December, with discussions ensuing on how to proceed on the topic. Hadley said it is ultimately the board's decision, and said there are currently 16 county fairs in the state that place restrictions on smoking or tobacco use.

The tide is shifting, Hadley said, toward non-use of tobacco as a social norm.

In any case, with whatever the Fair Board decides, the survey was deemed successful in initiating conversations related to healthier choices, she said.

"It increased awareness and started conversations about creating a healthier environment for people who live, work or play in Lake County," she said.

For more information or a full summary of the survey results, contact Beth Hadley at Lake County Public Health at 541-947-6045.

At A Glance...

Happiness Is Not By Chance, but By Choice ~ Jim Rohn

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Lakeview Lions Club Meeting. Noon. Lake County Senior Center, 11 N. G St.
The Bottom Line Duo bass-and-cello combo concert, Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m., 619 N. 1st St.

Smoking Cessation Classes at Lake District Hospital 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Friends of the Library Bookstore open Noon - 4

p.m., 512 Center St.

Lake County Historical Society Meeting, 6 p.m. Western Villa
LHS Culture Night at the Gathering Place, 3 N. F St. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

Saturday, Jan. 18

68th Annual Awards Dinner & Winter Gala, 5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 7 p.m. Dinner, 8 p.m. Awards Elks

Lodge, 323 N. F St.

Mike's Estate Sales 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. across from the Fairgrounds, 2005 N. 4th St.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Lake County Horsemen's Association Awards Banquet - Potluck - 2 p.m. at the Lake County Senior Center, 11 N. G St.

Paisley High School's Drama Class presenting the play Cinderella! Cinderella! 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20

Spiritual Restoration Classes at the Gathering Place, 3 N. F St.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

"Thank Your Mentor" Tri Tip Dinner, 6 p.m. at the Gathering Place

Pilates Classes Noon to 1 p.m. Lake District Hospital
Childbirth Education Class 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Penn Wilbur Conference Room at Lake District Hospital