

Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding individuals

Written by

Tuesday, 07 August 2007 20:13

Broyhill Inn was the place to be last night in Boone.

Area businesspeople from all over the High Country gathered for the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Event. According to the Chamber's Ginny Campbell, it was a resounding success.

With 299 people present- the 58th Annual yearly gathering was the biggest ever.

A silent auction and networking social hour started the evening- but last night was primarily about recognition.

Among businesses awarded for construction were Boone Dermatology and Paul Broyhill Wellness Center. Most improved businesses for 2007 were Dewoolfson Down and New River Showcase and Design Center.

Diane Cornett Deal was this year's recipient of the Ben Suttle Special Service Award for Volunteer Leadership. A leader in the area of farmland preservation and economic development, Deal was one of the founding members of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture.

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County Commission Chair Jim Deal was awarded this year's Wade Brown Award for Community Recognition. Deal, a graduate of Appalachian State University, ran for the Commission in 2004 and served on the Board of Education for years before that. Deal called the honor "quite a surprise," and, before a standing ovation of his peers, said, "I have no doubt that when I get to heaven it cannot be better than Boone."

Tweetsie Railroad operators Chris and Cathy Robbins were awarded this year's Sue Wilmoth Award for Tourism Advancement, and Rob Holton received the Alfred Adams Award for Economic Development.

The evening ended when departing BACC Board Chair Dick Jones passed the torch to incoming chair Sue Counts. Jones was in for a surprise, however, when Counts presented him with a rocking chair in honor of his year of service. The chair had an inscription that read, "a chair for a Chair's well-deserved rest!"