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BANQUET DEDICATED TO THE "DON FATHER" DEEMED ONE OF THE BEST

What a night. We didn't run out of food. Greg Brown did a tremendous job of contacting finalists and getting a big percentage to the banquet...at least those who didn't have excuses like having wisdom teeth extracted that day. The emcee, Jim Haglund, was resplendent in his 'penguin' tux. Even *The Wenatchee World* was complimentary - they actually sent a reporter to the event for the first time in about half a decade. Clayton Holmes gave one of the best talks ever heard at the Sports Awards. Most importantly, Don Elliston's family was genuinely moved by the dedication of the banquet and the President's Award in his memory. Yes, indeed, it was for, and because of, you, Don.

Wenatchee North actually seemed to know what they were doing...although we know better.



Behind the scenes at the banquet...

Dodging the bullet as usual

Things tend to go afoul at almost every banquet like the year the featured speaker, Bruce King, slipped and fell hours before flying to town and left us with a huge hole to fill. Or, last year when the Wenatchee Center ran out of food. Well, the 41st was no exception -

- On the way home to prepare for the banquet, emcee Jim Haglund managed to drive over a spike of some sort which caused a tire to pancake. He pulled into a tire store on the way and had to wait, and wait, and wait. He finally called for a ride home, put on a tux and hitched his way back to get the car. Because of the delay, the penguin had absolutely nothing prepared in advance. He scribbled madly in a notebook, at the head table, and winged it from there.

- Matt Kearny did a tremendous job of announcing the finalists and their accomplishments for the 26th year. But he was barely able to do it because of a severe cataract that has developed rapidly in about four months time. The only way he was able to read the list was to close his clouded right eye. He was scheduled for surgery the morning after the banquet. A lot of people would have backed away...not Matt.

- Outlying Grant chair Greg Brown almost made off with a thousand bucks meant for the Cashmere School District. Martin Barron had to remind Brownie that the check was in his pocket. Such is the life of a fly on a skillet.

- A power outage occurred at about 11 p.m. one night when Jeff Mertes was working on the program. In the dark, Mertes decided to call it a night, and proceeded to fall down the unlit back stairs of his office. Skinned knees weren't the worst of it - several pages hadn't been saved. Unfortunately, one of those included the Sports Awards Team. In the redo, Randy Zielinski's name was omitted as Advertising Chairman. Sorry, Z-man.

Prez 'Alice' doesn't have to put tongue in splint after all

The prediction that our illustrious President Ellis would "step on his tongue" didn't come to pass. Instead, 'Alice' gave a fine accounting of himself. It was good practice for him because the one and a half termers will have to do it again next year.

Two long-time Northerners call it quits

The club was informed that Marco Azurdia and Chip Small will be leaving Wenatchee North. Marco is relocating to Vancouver, WA after accepting a position as Executive Director (Commissioner) of the NWAAC. Chip, meanwhile, is transferring to the Downtown club for unspecified reasons. We'll miss them both.

Next meeting is July 6 at WVC

Wenatchee North will be going to college for the foreseeable future. As per a vote of WNR members, the club we'll meet on Wednesdays at Wenatchee Valley College.

Our roots go way back to 1890

Since we grew up with Chelan and Douglas Counties, we're part of its history.

Nobody knows the area better.

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