

Sandstone Grill, Big Red Feeds,  
Eddy, Fryzek & Holt  
Honored at 2007 Chamber  
of Commerce Banquet

The 2007 Burwell Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held Thursday evening at the Burwell Legion Club with over 100 community members in attendance, the highest attendance ever. The Master of Ceremonies was Mary Dobbins, 2006 Burwell Chamber of Commerce President. The evenings events included a review of the 2006 year by Mary Dobbins, the 2007 annual meeting and the 2007 chamber outlook by Lorrie Gaukel, 2007 President and the presentation of the 2006 Annual Awards.

Five (5) awards were presented, including the award for the 2006 Employee of the Year, 2006 Volunteer of the Year, 2006 Outstanding Youth of the Year, 2006 New Business of the Year and the 2006 Business of the Year.



The first award presented Thursday evening was the 2006 Employee of the Year Award. This award had been added for the first time by the Board of Directors his year, since businesses in the community exceed as a direct result of their employees. The 13 nominees for the 2006 Employee of the Year were Marge Beat, Amy Brunken, Gregg Casteel, Max Emerton, Darrell Fischer, Lynn Franzen, Lorrie Gaukel, Johanna Holt, Wanita Peterson, Evelyn Pinckney, Dr. Regina Rankin, Tonya Shank, and Marci Thoene. The 2006 Employee of the Year Award was presented to Johanna Holt. Johanna's nominee wrote, "No matter where she is, Johanna has a smile on her face and is always pleasant to visit with. In the short time that she has lived in Burwell, she has embraced the community with open arms and brings great enthusiasm to Burwell with her positive attitude and bubbly personality!"

Nominees for the 2006 Volunteer of the Year award included Jeff Anderson, Dwaine Birch, Kevin Brown, Jodee Burnham, Trisha Crandall, Mary Dobbins, Ray Doggett, Linda Fryzek, Janet Hanna, Teresa Seidel, Ron & Judy Simpson, Colleen Snell, Don Snyder, Bill Weber and Casey Weber. The winner of the 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award was Burwell's Postmaster, Linda Fryzek. Linda was nominated for this award by her fellow colleagues for her involvement in helping maintain a beautiful downtown business district. Rain, sleet, snow nor hail has stopped Linda from leading the pack to clean up Burwell's downtown area. Throughout the past year Linda has taken pride in volunteering endless hours to pull weeds, plant flowers and lay mulch in the downtown green spaces. In addition this past winter Linda lead the pack of community volunteers in hanging the holiday decorations in the downtown. Not only was Linda deserving of this award based on her volunteer spirit but also through her

integrity, honesty and commitment to the Burwell community. Linda was recently voted onto the Burwell Chamber of Commerce and will serve as the organizations Vice-President in 2007.

The third award presented Thursday evening was the 2006 Outstanding Youth of the Year Award. The 10 nominees for this award included Jessica Conrad, Lexi Eddy, Brett Gumb, Lindsay Gumb, Paige Hitchcock, Kelsie Hogmire, Kaci Nelson, Dillon Stutzman, Lydia Stutzman and Rory Thelen. Youth were nominated for this award based on their commitment to the Burwell community and school and for showing leadership and community pride in all they do. Youth were also nominated for this award based on their motivation, integrity, honesty and commitment to the Burwell community. The winner of the 2006 Outstanding Youth of the Year Award was Lexi Eddy. In 2006 Miss Eddy represented the Burwell community in the Miss Teen Nebraska Pageant. In addition Lexi is actively involved in youth congress, youth group activities, her church's Dinner Theatre, numerous school activities and the Burwell High School Drill Team. Lexi is a highly respected and valued youth in the Burwell Community.

During the 2007 annual banquet the Burwell Chamber of Commerce welcomed eight (8) new business to the Burwell community that opened in the last year. In the last year each business and their owner has invested time and made a financial investment to our community to provide new services and products to the area. The eight (8) new businesses honored during the 2007 annual banquet included Big Red Feeds, Burwell Floor Maintenance, Community With Wow! Newsletter, Heart In Your Hand Horsemanship, Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant – Rene McMullen, Midwest Country Clinic, Waddell & Reed Investment Firm and The Wagner Bunkhouse. The winner of the 2006 New Business of the Year Award was Big Red Feed. During the last year Jess made an effort to work with the Burwell Economic Development office and the Burwell Investment Club to provide an opportunity for himself to return to the Burwell community. Jess has brought a new business to the Burwell community, created new jobs and is excelling as an entrepreneur in Burwell.

The final award presented on Thursday evening was the 2006 Business of the Year Award. The 2006 Business of the Year Award was presented to a business that has contributed to Burwell's economy and its citizen, upholds the principles and standards of ethical business practices and treats employees and customers with concern, respect, and equity. Those nominated for the 2006 Business of the Year award were Ag-West Feeds, Aggies Acres, Barb's Diner, Burwell Livestock Market, Inc., Burwell Shurfine Food Center, Burwell Veterinary Hospital, Calamus Outfitters, LLC, Earthjunk's Historic Butter Factor, Hitchcock Funeral Home, Jeffres Sand & Gravel, Mr. J's Foods, Peterson Lumber Company, Pizza Palace, Sandstone Grill, TierOne Bank, and the University of Nebraska in Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties. The 2006 Business of the Year Award was presented to the Sandstone Grill. In December the Sandstone Grill celebrated their one (1) year anniversary and have proven to be a wonderful place to dine in the Burwell community. The owners of the Sandstone Grill have a vision for not only their business, but for the Burwell community. Both Tammy and Tenise are continually giving their time and efforts to the community and the Burwell Chamber of Commerce.