

Chamber of Commerce awards its

Best of the best

Comedy troupe presented awards

Local businesses honored for service in the community

By David Young

Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

It was a fun-filled night of food, drink, awards and Chicken Lips for local businesses Wednesday at the annual Loveland Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

Porter Industries walked away the big winner as Business of the Year for its good standing in the community, continuous service and going above and beyond the status quo.

"We were just thrilled to be nominated," said Marilyn Stone, co-owner. "The award isn't just for me, but for the whole company that brought us this far."

Employing 172 full-time workers, Porter is a local cleaning company that is celebrating its 40th year in business.

"This is the best way I can think of to start our 40th year," Stone said.

The Heart Award was bestowed upon Shay Eikner of First National Bank for providing excellent community service to customers — donating 50 to 75 hours each quarter to helping individuals in different groups.

Visitor Center Volunteer of the Year went to Laurel Benson for her work at the chamber's Visitor Center.

Marv Spanbauer of Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA took home Customer Service of the Year for an individual, while the Customer Service of the Year business award went to Huckleberry Gifts.

All awards were presented by the comedy troupe Chicken Lips, which entertained the capacity audience at the McKee Conference and Wellness Center with its impromptu comedy skits.

The evening included a speech by Miss Valentine Tiffany Stoddard, who shared her top 10 interesting facts about Loveland, including the fact that Loveland has 302 sunny days each year.

Chamber of Commerce Chairman Dale Roberts passed the gavel to incoming chairwoman Carla Hawkins.

"This is a time to celebrate," said Hawkins in her opening address, listing the chamber's 2007 goals as developing businesses' marketing and education skills opportunities.

Business of the Year: Porter Industries

Visitor Center Volunteer of the Year: Laurel Benson

Customer Service of the Year (individual): Marv Spanbauer, Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA

Customer Service of the Year (business): Huckleberry Gifts

Heart Award: Shay Eikner, First National Bank

Porter Industries co-owner Marilyn Stone raises her arms and exclaims "Ta-dah!" after receiving the Business of the Year award from Bob Wells, a member of the comedy troupe Chicken Lips, during the Loveland Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Wednesday night at the McKee Conference and Wellness Center.