

Chamber celebrates excellence

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By Guen Tucker-Smith
Staff Writer

Dr. Herbert Rowland was honored as Man of the Year, and Nancy Tucker as Woman of the Year during the 2007 Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Awards Presentation Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Antlers. The event was catered by Pruett's Food.

The gala drew a large crowd including dignitaries such as Choctaw Nation District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, State Rep. R.C. Pruett and his wife, Barbara, Randal Erwin, Push County Clerk Jane Dunlap, Mark Virden, Supt. Of Schools, Sheriff Jim Duncan, Mark Rogers, hospital administrator, nearly the entire Antlers City Council and many more.

Charles Uhles, Chamber president and the 2006 recipient of Man of the Year, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Butch Morris and Melba Kenzer assisted with the awards presentation.

Winners were as follows:

Business of the Year, Sharpe's Department Store with Chance Baker accepting the award.

Employer of the Year: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with Jack Austin accepting the award.

Public Official of the Year: Rep. R.C. Pruett.

Educator of the Year: Mark Virden.

Most Improved Building: Pruett's Food, with R.C. Pruett accepting the award.

Law Officer of the Year: George McFarland of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Horned Screamer: Jerry Speck with the Pushmataha County Health Department, Turning Point Coalition and S.P.I.T Program.

Uhles presented three additional awards.

Presidential Merit Award went to Steve Burrage, accepted by Mike Burrage.

Community Service Award: Little Dixie Community Action Agency, accepted by Randal Erwin.

Excellence in Community Service: Raymond Louogh who was unable to attend.