



Businesses and good neighbors recognized by the Imperial Chamber last week included, from left, Brenda Ledall, Alex McNair, Merylyn Leibbrandt, Matt Fisher, Leslie Carholm, Larry Talbott, Marcy Nesbitt, Rex and Amy Prior. Not pictured—Kristi McNair, Mike Nesbitt, Greg and Lori Owens. (Republican photo)

Businesses honored for contributions to community

The Imperial Chamber of Commerce recognized a number of businesses last week for their contributions to the city.

During the Business Recognition and Expansion event at Pinnacle Bank, Brad and Jill Moline of Imperial Super Foods emceed the event May 8.

The following awards were presented:

Rising Star—Priority Seating. The business offers a rental solution for people needing tables and chairs. They have seating for 200 and tables to go with it. Rentals are available by the event, or by the piece if the rental is local.

Best Store Front/Most Improved Business Property—Owens True Value. Greg and Lori Owens held a grand re-opening in April to show their extensive interior remodeling project which included new shelving, lighting, flooring, painting and signage. This also enabled them to expand their merchandise line-up.

Customer Service—M&M's Natural JAZ.

Best Foot Forward—M&M's Natural JAZ. Marcy and Mike Nesbitt received a pair of awards. They were recognized for their customer service at their store which offers soups, sandwiches, daily specials, breads, cakes and other baked goods. They were also recognized for their comeback from storm damage last summer that closed the store for nearly 3 months. They restored the building, expanded seating in the basement and added new equipment.

Special Recognition—21st Century Equipment. They completed a 20,000 square-foot expansion to their facility in Imperial. It included a new combine service facility, new merchandising showroom, offices and covered outside display area. They employ nearly 30 people here in Imperial and more than 300 at their 11 locations.

Good Neighbor—Alex and Kristi McNair. The high school sweethearts were recognized for their support of youth sports activities in Imperial, especially the basketball, volleyball

and soccer programs.

Chamber Hall of Fame—Merylyn Leibbrandt. She has been a devoted Chamber member since joining in 2001. She has served as a board member, treasurer for seven years and is currently second vice-president. She is also an active member of the Chamber's promotion committee.

Partners in Success—Chase County Schools, Mid-Plains Community College Imperial Extended Campus and City of Imperial. The trio has worked actively together to promote entrepreneurship and local opportunities among local high school students. They sponsored their second career fair showcasing 10 local businesses. They also conducted a bus tour for juniors and seniors to allow them to get a first hand look at nine local businesses.

Chamber President Jana Pribeno said that there are so many businesses in town that give 100 percent throughout the year. The Chamber wants to recognize outstanding service through these awards, she said.

