



Winners of this year's Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce awards were announced on Thursday evening, Oct. 28. Pictured above, in front, from the left are Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Theresa Reeves, Georgia Adams, Shellie Simmonds and Michelle Miller of Thacker Insurance, Vickie Oller of Davita Dialysis and Valerie Belusko of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation. In back are Curt and Natalie Thacker of Thacker Insurance, Brittany Kruse and Cindi Borgic of Davita Dialysis and Ellen Overton, Amanda Ford and Kimber and Bryan Deming of DC Waste and Recycling.

Journal-News Photo

Chamber Honors Local Businesses

While the Hillsboro Hiltoppers celebrated the annual Homecoming football game earlier this month, members of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce hosted a Homecoming-themed Business and Industry banquet to celebrate the hard work and dedication of local businesses in the community.

The Hillsboro Moose Lodge was all decked out in orange and black for the special occasion with a prime rib dinner, catered by Milanos Catering.

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Herschelmann welcomed more than 130 attendees to this year's banquet. John Galer, owner of *The Journal-News*, gave the invocation before the meal.

Continued on page 7A



Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Herschelmann took a pie in the face as part of the dessert auction fundraiser at the end of this year's Business and Industry dinner. *Journal-News Photo*

Continued from front page

After the meal, Herschelmann introduced the chamber's new executive director, Theresa Reeves, and the other members of the board of directors, including Vice-President Jessica Chappellear, Secretary Jason Miller, Treasurer Justin Holderread, Ken Meade, Lyn Buerkett, Greg Holcomb, Chris Sherer and Justin Ruppert.

Ruppert presented this year's New Chamber Member of the Year award to Thacker Insurance. Other nominees included the Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

Chappellear presented this year's Chamber Makeover Award to Davita Dialysis. Other nominees included Ken Meade Photography and Country Financial - Greg Holcomb.

Sherer presented the Chamber Person of the Year Award to Valerie Belusko, executive director of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation. Other nominees included Dr. Barb Muich and Earl Meier.

In accepting her award, Belusko said she was pleased to work together with the chamber to make the community a better place for everyone to live.

Herschelmann presented this year's Chamber Business of the Year award to DC Waste and Recycling. Other nominees included the Springfield Clinic and the Hillsboro Moose Lodge.

In accepting the award, Bryan Deming, owner of DC Waste and Recycling, thanked his great employees for all their hard work and said they work hard to provide excellence in all they do.

"I appreciate the community

for embracing our business, our family and our kids," Deming said.

Following the awards presentation, Tucker Aumann of GetTucker in Nokomis, hosted a dessert auction fundraiser for more than a dozen homemade desserts. The auction brought in about \$400 for the chamber, including the auction of the final item, a pie in the face for Herschelmann, presented by his wife, Mary.

Upcoming events for the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce include the annual Beer Pairings Dinner on Saturday evening, Nov. 4, at Gianni's in downtown Hillsboro, beginning at 6 p.m. This year's menu will be prepared by Vince Vitale and participants will have a chance to sample a variety of European beers. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce at 217-532-3711.