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FAIRFIELD

## Chamber honors business leaders

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By Eric Robinette

Staff Writer

**FAIRFIELD** — Fairfield business leaders honored the achievements of local companies during the Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner this week.

The chamber's Business Person of the Year was Linda Weil, owner of the M&G Body Shop in Springfield Twp., just outside of Fairfield. Weil is an Oxford resident who bought the body shop in 1999 with her husband, Darrell.

She spoke about the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated line of work.

"Everybody says when you start a business, you need to get out there, you need to network. I started out in a business with primarily men. I wasn't real popular when I started because I was a woman, so I didn't know anything about cars. But I knew a little bit about business," Weil said. "The car part I left to my husband."

As she became more familiar with her business, Weil discovered the importance of getting giving back to her community.

"For me, it's really important not only to meet people, but it's more to see my friends and keep up with what's going on in their businesses. It's more about giving back to people ... if you look and help other people, it will always come back to you full force," she said.

The keynote speaker at the chamber dinner was Rick Arquilla, the president and chief operating officer of Roto-Rooter. He is especially known for having appeared on a 2010 episode of the TV series "Undercover Boss."

As a result of the show, Roto-Rooter started a leadership program to identify talented people who have potential to be promoted.

"If I've done my job right, I've created a culture where lots of people can step in and do my job. It's not about me, it's about Roto-Rooter ... if all they can say about good old Rick is he made money for the company, and that's it, then I ripped the company off," he said.

Another success story at the chamber dinner was the Business Student of the Year, Rodney Thurner, of Fairfield High School.

Thurner developed a plan at Butler Tech's Senior Business Academy to manage a business called Morning Pit Stop. Students bought fresh doughnuts and sold them for \$1 a piece to students coming into the building. After only one week, Morning Pit Stop netted \$131. He received a plaque and a \$500 scholarship.

Thanking his schools and teachers, Thurner said, "Normally students don't think about this, but I really appreciate everything you guys do to help me be successful."

Also receiving an award was Carol Pllum, of MPC Construcit0n LLC. She won the President's Award for Volunteer of the Year.

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