



NEWS RELEASE

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BUSINESS LEADERS HONORED AT EUREKA CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING – GREEN DIAMOND RESOURCE COMPANY NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Seven local business leaders have been honored by the Eureka Chamber of Commerce for meaningful contributions in 2011 to the best interests of the community and in furtherance of the Chamber mission. The awards were presented at the 122nd Annual Eureka Chamber Membership Dinner.

Chamber honors were presented in the categories of Excellence in Customer Service Award, Business Person, Small Business and Business of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, as well as the memorial, Tom Cooke Award. Special this year is a Lifetime Service Award that was presented to long time business leader John Winzler who opened his Eureka engineering firm in 1951. The company recently became a subsidiary of GHD which is an international network of engineers, architects and environmental scientists. Winzler was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the City and the North Coast region.

The awards were presented at the 122nd annual meeting of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce membership on January 26, 2012.

The Customer Service Award was presented to the business that best exemplifies a demonstrated commitment to making its customers feel welcome and an important part of its operations. The 2011 Award was presented to Redwood Capital Bank. This long time local business was recognized for setting a standard in responding to the needs of its clients.

The Tom Cooke Award is reserved for a public sector official who has demonstrated the understanding that business and government are not in conflict. Rick Martin, APCO of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District was honored with this recognition. This special Chamber award is presented in memory of former Fortuna Mayor, Tom Cooke.

The Business Person of the Year Award was conveyed to Barry Smith, owner of Barry Smith Construction. The vibrant Eureka building and home repair firm has been closely involved in many Chamber activities and events.

The Small Business of the Year Award went to Pachanga Mexicana for its longstanding support of Chamber programs and community involvement. Owners, Gary Barnard and Belem Espitia accepted the award in recognition of their deep dedication to the local community.

The Business of the Year Award went to Green Diamond Resource Company. Regional Manager, Neal Ewald has consistently demonstrated a genuine commitment to environmental responsibility, job creation and to making a difference in the local community.

The Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award was presented to Carole Crossley of the Original Basket Boutique, who is a long time Chamber volunteer. Chamber Ambassadors are business members who support Chamber programs in a variety of ways including, new business openings, Chamber mixers and new member development.

The Chamber Annual Dinner and membership meeting is held annually to provide an opportunity for local businesses to celebrate their collective investment in the local community through the Eureka Chamber of Commerce.

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Hey Justin,

CARLTON NIELSEN did the c.c.

for Monday for Gregg. He is the Greater
Eureka Chamber of Commerce - Board President.