



The Venice Area Chamber of Commerce has been honoring local businesses for 30 years. A new award is aimed at business owners between 21 and 40.

STAFF PHOTOS / E. SKYLAR LITHERLAND

# BUSINESSES GET VENICE HONORS

**T**he Venice Area Chamber of Commerce passed out its 30th annual Business of the Year awards Wednesday during a luncheon at the Plantation Golf and Country Club.

Melody Trimble, above, CEO of Venice Regional Medical Center, accepts the award for the large business category (more than 24 employees) on behalf of the company.

At left, Lisa Backer, president of Friends of the Venice Public Library Inc., accepts the Nonprofit of the Year award for that organization.

Other winners were:

■ **Small Business (1-10 employees):** Classic Creations in Diamonds and Gold Inc., family owned by Evan Duke and his parents, Sylvia and Charles Duke.

■ **Medium Business (11-24):** Ehrlich and Sallapudi DDS LLC, a dentistry owned by Jesse Ehrlich and Nitin Sallapudiw.

■ **Young Professional Business (a new award):** Ram Marine Service Inc., owned by Dave Lowell.

- Staff Report