

Nasdaq 1463.14 -26.50 (-1.78%) | S&P 500 821.75 -20.87 (-2.48%) | NYSE 5190.45 -138.23 (-2.59%) | Crude Oil 34.05 -3.33 (-8.91%) | Natural Gas 4.82 -0.16 (-3.21%)

VIEWPOINT

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Forecast Today for FARMINGTON, NM



Now 24°F
High 45°F
Low 19°F

Quality Center for Business celebrates success of a county

Staff Writer
Posted: 01/12/2009 12:00:00 AM MST

—By Debra Mayeux—

Journal editor

It really doesn't surprise me that San Juan County continues to succeed despite a nationwide recession. That is because this community is packed full of forward thinkers who constantly work on ways to create and retain jobs.

Those people are the ones who brought you the San Juan Economic Development Service 20 years ago and the Quality Center for Business with its incubator program 10 years ago. At the time these organizations were developed these people were in positions of trust. Tom Taylor was Farmington's mayor. Jim Henderson was the president of San Juan College.

Both moved on to bigger roles in government — Henderson is the chairman of the San Juan County Commission, Taylor our state representative, and they continue to work for the people.

They are joined by those now in charge of these organizations — Margaret McDaniel, of the San Juan Economic Development Service, Jasper Welch, of the San Juan College Enterprise Center, Nancy Sisson, of the Business

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and Industry Training Center and Carmen Martinez of the Small Business Development Center. Each of these individuals loves what they do. They love promoting San Juan County and its people.

Why would they not? This is a terrific place to live. Farmington recently received a ranking as one of the safest places in the U.S. to live. It also is beautiful and close to a lot of national parks and large cities.

San Juan County has a lot to offer with its metropolitan status and a small-town feeling.

We have land rich in culture and natural resources. That means we have jobs of all shapes and sizes. The natural gas industry thrives, as well as the coal and power industry. These provide high-paying jobs to our citizens, giving them opportunities not found in other parts of the country.

Because people have money to spend, the retail industry remains strong as well as the restaurant and service industry.

There are jobs in San Juan County if you look for them, and that is thanks to the foresight of people like Henderson and Taylor, as well as the hard work of people such as Welch, Sisson, McDaniel and Martinez.

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