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Hydro Pure Technologies, Riley Industrial Services recognized as outstanding businesses

Debra Mayeux The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — The nation faces an economic crunch as the stock market drops and Congress turns to using taxpayer money to bail out failing businesses. While this news makes it sound like the economy is crumbling, that is not the case in San Juan County, where 10 area businesses are boosting the local economy by creating jobs and stimulating growth. Those businesses were recognized as leaders in business during the annual Economic Development Growth and Excellence Awards ceremony last Thursday at San Juan College.

Some 220 people turned out for the awards ceremony that recognized the successes of those 10 businesses and honored two as outstanding businesses of the year. They were Hydro Pure Technology and Riley Industrial Services, Inc.

"I was blessed to sit on this judging committee, and it wasn't easy," said Carol Spencer, president of San Juan College.

All 10 of the nominated businesses had to meet several criteria including community leadership, growth in the past three to five years, creation of jobs and excellent customer service. "All who were nominated deserve recognition," Spencer said.

Those nominated businesses were Carter Services, Dash Hot Shot Company, FastTrack Communications, Great Lakes Aviation, Hydro Pure Technology, Praxair, Inc., Raytheon Missile Systems, Riley Industrial Services, Inc., TRC Construction and Western Refining.

Hydro Pure Technology is owned by Joe Williams and received the **EDGE Award** for

a business with fewer than

50 employees. It is an oil and gas company that believes industry can be environmentally minded.

"All of our employees have played a big part in our receiving this award," said Mike Talovich, who received the award for Williams.

Talovich spoke about his employer living life by the Rotarian motto of "Service before self," and conveyed that Hydro Pure Technology is successful because of its ability to respond to the customer's needs.

Riley Industrial Services Inc., received the award for a business with 50 or more employees.

"This is quite an honor for us," said Sonny Riley, founder and owner of the company. "I came to Farmington in 1951 and lived in an oil camp."

Riley returned in 1962 with a Chevrolet and began his business that provides hydro-excavation and sandblasting services.

"We've used Riley for 20 years or more out at the power plant, and we're proud to have worked with them," said Russell Huffman, plant manager at Public Service Company of New Mexico's San Juan Generating Station.

Riley, however, was modest about the honor. "We have outstanding employees and a group of supporters," he said.

The Economic Development Growth and Excellence Awards are given each year to outstanding community based companies in San Juan County.

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