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## INSIDE\_JOURNAL

Thursday, August 25, 2011

### Economic development award nominees announced

Staff Writer  
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By Chuck Slothower

Four Corners Business Journal

FARMINGTON San Juan Economic Development Service has announced nominees for the annual EDGE awards in economic development excellence.

Each year, SJEDS bestows the awards on companies for Economic Development Growth and Excellence.

"It's our way of thanking and recognizing the economic base companies in San Juan County for their contributions to the economy," said Margaret McDaniel, SJEDS director.

The nominees are:

- ¥ Automation X Corp., Farmington
- ¥ Aztec Urgent Care, Aztec
- ¥ Baker Hughes Pressure Pumping Services, Bloomfield
- ¥ Envirotech, Farmington
- ¥ Herbert's Welding, Bloomfield
- ¥ Industrial Mechanical, Inc.-Electrical Energy Services, Inc., Farmington
- ¥ Key Energy Services, Farmington
- ¥ Rodi Systems, Aztec
- ¥ Western Tool Crib, Farmington

Herbert's Welding is somewhat typical of the field of nominees. Like most of those recognized, the company works primarily in the oil and gas industry, in their case, providing welding and roustabout services.

The

business, incorporated in 1996, is owned by Merlin and Janet Herbert.

"It's been a real struggle for him to get the recognition, and I think that he really has taught a lot of welders who are out in the field now," Janet Herbert said. "I'm proud of him."

Herbert's Welding recently was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a minority-owned business. Herbert is Navajo.

The welding company employs 22 workers, has five rig welders and mobile welding trucks. Herbert's Welding sports a clean safety record, with no accidents for years, Janet Herbert said.

"Our guys are really very highly skilled," she said.

Gov. Susana Martinez has been invited to speak at the awards ceremony Oct. 6 at San Juan College. The EDGE awards are celebrating their 10th year.

Last year, Raytheon's DinŽ Facility, Jack's Plastic Welding and BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal were honored. During the award's decade-long run, most of San Juan County's major employers have been honored, including Four Corners Power Plant, San Juan Generating Station and San Juan Regional Medical Center.

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