

For Immediate Release:

May 13, 2008 – The selection of finalists has been completed for the 2008 Rim Country Business Awards. In the award category of Small Business of the Year the finalists are PostNet of Payson, Fossil Creek Creamery of Strawberry and *Rim Country Gazette* of Star Valley. Large Business of the Year finalists are The Door Stop and Payson Regional Medical Center. Finalists for Businessperson of the Year include Gerald Cruz, Manager of Maine Street Grille in Payson, John Naughton, publisher of *The Payson Roundup* and Jan Parsons, manager of Arizona Public Service.

The top award winners in each category will be announced during a luncheon on May 29, 2008 at the Best Western Payson Inn. Payson Mayor-Elect Kenny Evans will present the awards and join Emcee Dan Haapala in honoring these eight finalists. Tickets for the lunch prepared by Gerardo's Bistro are available for \$25.00 or \$175.00 for a table of eight. Tickets are available at the Chamber or call 928-474-4515. You may also contact PREDC at 928-468-6659.

Presented by Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation, Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce and Town of Payson Department of Tourism and Economic Vitality, these awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and community service of business in Rim Country. Attend and show your support for our local business community!

Ken Volz, Executive Director, Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation

John Stanton, Chamber Manager, Rim Country Chamber of Commerce

Cameron Davis, Director, Town of Payson Department of Tourism and Economic Vitality

2008 Rim Country Business Awards Application

Presented By

Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation & Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce

Extended Application Deadline: May 5, 2008 - 5 PM

Please complete the nomination form and provide the information requested.

Nominee Category: (Check One)

Small Business of The Year _____ Large Business of the Year _____ Businessperson of the Year _____
(1-9 employees) (10+ employees)

Nominee Information:

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email/Website: _____

Type of business: _____

Owner(s)/Principal(s): _____

Year Established: _____ No. of employees: When established - _____ Current - _____

Business Profile and Information: Please write and attach a short essay addressing the judging points for this award category. (For example, why should this business or person be recognized for this award? How does the nominated business or person meet the judging criteria points for the award for which it is nominated? How does this business contribute to the economic vitality and advancement of Rim Country? Which community organizations does this nominee support?)

You may attach any relevant and supportive documentation, articles or list of accomplishments along with your nomination. Please do not submit any materials you would like returned. Nomination materials become the property of PREDC and Chamber.

Please complete the following:

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Return application form, essay and any desired supporting documentation to:
PREDC, P.O. Box 1771, Payson, AZ 85547 or drop off at 600 S. Green Valley Parkway, Payson.
Deadline: May 5, 2008 – 5 PM.**

2008 Rim Country Business Awards

Presented By

Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation & Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce

Purpose

The 2008 Business Awards is an event honoring companies and persons for outstanding business practices and community involvement in Rim Country.

Award Categories

There will be three awards presented in the following categories: Small Business of the Year (1-9 Employees), Large Business of the Year (10+ Employees) and Businessperson of the Year.

Criteria

Any for-profit business Rim Country may be nominated. The nominee must be the owner, partner or major shareholder of the business and active in its day-to-day operations. All nominees must be in good standing in the community and with regulatory authorities, possess a current business license and agree to be nominated. They must be willing to attend the awards luncheon on May 29, 2008 in Payson.

Nomination and Judging Process

Nominations for the 2008 Business Awards are open to all companies located in Rim Country. All nominees must satisfy general requirements as well as specific award criteria. Nominations may be made by anyone, including the nominee. Nominees will be notified they have been nominated and will be asked to fill out and return an acceptance of nomination. There is no limit to the number of nominations one can submit. After evaluating all applications, three finalists will be chosen in each category for final judging. At the panel's discretion, the procedure may include an on-site visit or interview. The award recipient in each category will be announced May 29, 2008 at the Business Awards luncheon.

Judging Points

Business Growth and Performance	Community Involvement and Support
Business Standards and Practices	Employee Relations/Culture
Customer Service Practices	Quality of Products & Services offered
Business Challenges	Environmental Responsiveness
Unique or Innovative Methods or Products	Entrepreneurial Spirit

Participant Incentives

Nominees receive: Letter acknowledging nomination, recognition in PREDC/Chamber communications, local area media, highlighted on PREDC/Chamber websites as Nominee.

Finalists also receive: Complimentary seating at Business Awards Luncheon, recognition in program and a profile at the Business Awards Luncheon, Award certificates for display.

Timeline

Nomination Applications Due: May 5, 2008

Nominees Announced: May 12, 2008

Business Awards Luncheon and announcement of winners: May 29, 2008

For more information please call PREDC: 468-6659 or Chamber: 474-4515