

# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

## Carol Crary gets mulish for Raton Choral Society

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she donated it to the cause.

Redlick and Salazar are members of the newly-resurrected Raton High School Drama Club and won their parts in open auditions at the Shuler Theater in February. "Bill and I have seen so many of these kids grow up on stage," Crary says. "It's fun to watch them, seeing them

at school being almost introverts, then seeing them go out on stage. It's fun."

Crary herself shuns the stage, preferring to work behind the scenes, though she's often appeared onstage singing in choruses, and the 2007 Shuler production of "A Christmas Carol" pressed an acting part on her. She's making props and sets for "Man of La Mancha", which

will be performed at Raton's Shuler Theater May 7, 8, 9, and 14, 15. The musical, based on Miguel de Cervantes classic novel "Don Quixote", will star Clint Henson in the title role, Rick Trice as his faithful companion Sancho Panza, and Brenda Ferri as the fair maiden Dulcinea. Carol Crary will be where she likes it, in the dark running the lights.

## COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

■ **April 11**  
"Kids Paranormal," youth grades 7-12 to discuss paranormal topics, Angel Fire Community Center, 71 Valley Road, noon - 4 p.m. Free. Information: Janet Sailor: (575)377-2667.

■ **April 13 - 14**  
Auditions for Raton Youth Theater performance of "Arabian Nights." 3:30 p.m. in the Shuler Theater. Grades 2 through 12 eligible.

■ **April 13**  
Suicide Prevention Meeting, 1:00 p.m. United Methodist Church.

DWI meeting, noon at K-Bob's. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ **April 14** -

Retired Public Employees of N.M., Chapter 18, Raton Senior Citizens Center, 440 S. First St., 2 p.m.

■ **April 18** -  
Raton Optimist's "Under the Sea" Extravaganza. Call Desiree at (575) 445-9680 or Michelle at (575)447-9681 or April at (575)445-4000.

■ **April 18 & 19** -  
Spay-neuter-shots clinic. The Saturday clinic will be held at the Eagle Nest Community Center and the Sunday clinic will be at th Cimarron E.S. Gym. Registration begins a 7 a.m. For more information or to make an appointment call, 575-445-8756.

■ **April 20** -  
Diabetes and Obesity

Prevention Meeting, noon at YES office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ **April 20** -  
Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Meeting, 9 a.m. at CYFD office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ **April 23 - 18th**  
Annual Family Health Fair; Raton Convention Center, 9 am - 4 pm. For more information call (575) 445-8071.

■ **April 27** -  
Maternal Child Health Meeting, noon at the Sands Restaurant.

■ **April 30** -  
Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting, 10 a.m. in YES office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

## Fort Sill Apaches start paper bingo gaming

DEMING, N.M. (AP)  
The Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma is offering paper bingo at its casino in southern New Mexico, marking the tribe's latest attempt to establish gaming at the site.

The gaming started Thursday evening under the watchful eye of state police.

Tribal chairman Jeff Houser told the Las Cruces Sun-News earlier that the tribe feels its within its rights to offer paper bingo and is ready to take legal action, should police or federal gaming officials attempt to block the move.

Houser said the tribe's goal in starting with paper bingo is "to return to New Mexico with full sovereignty and ultimately open a casino on that property."

Last year, the tribe attempted to begin electronic gaming but Gov. Bill Richardson sent state police and threatened to block-

ade the casino if gaming began.

The National Indian Gaming Commission followed with a letter indicating it didn't believe the tribe had authority to game in New Mexico. That letter was followed by a formal legal opinion that laid out the agency's stance, though federal officials retracted the document last fall.

The tribe has argued that it has legal grounds to begin paper bingo — or Class II gaming, which is a step below Vegas-style poker and other gambling. Tribal officials say they don't need federal permission for Class II gaming.

State police spokesman Peter Olson said officers went to the casino Thursday night only to talk to tribal officials and to observe what was happening. The officers plan to write a report and share it with the New Mexico Gaming Control Board.

"They are obviously well edu-

cated about their operation, gambling and Indian gaming," Olson said of the tribe. "Their intent is to continue with Class II paper bingo."

A spokesman for Richardson, who has opposed the casino, did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The tribe purchased the land near Deming in 1998 and it was taken into trust by the Interior Department for the tribe a few years later. Federal law prohibits gambling on Indian lands taken into trust after October 1988, except under certain conditions.

Members of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe are descendants of the Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apaches, who lived in parts of New Mexico, Arizona and northern Mexico but were removed in the 1880s and sent first to Florida and later to Oklahoma.

## Salazar: Roan Plateau suit may soon be settled

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a "new direction."

Salazar, tapped by President Barack Obama to head the Interior Department, was in Colorado to mark a new law designating most of Rocky Mountain National Park as wilderness. As a senator, he co-sponsored a bill to set aside the park 70 miles northwest of Denver as wilderness.

While in the Senate, Salazar also supported Gov. Bill Ritter's alternative plan for drilling on the Roan Plateau. The BLM rejected the proposal, which would have kept more land off-limits to direct drilling and would have leased the land in phases over several years.

Ritter said he believed phased leasing would generate more money for the federal and state governments, which share royalty revenue.

The BLM auctioned off all the available parcels for a total of \$114 million last summer. It was the agency's highest-grossing sale of onshore leases in the lower 48 states.

The plateau about 180 miles west of Denver is prized for its wildlife and pristine backcountry as well as its oil and gas deposits.

The BLM has defended its plan, saying it was developed after several years of study, public meetings and input. Federal officials say the plan

contains several safeguards, including spacing well pads at least a half-mile apart, with "development to be constrained on existing roads and ridges on top of the plateau."

The BLM's 20-year management plan for the plateau projects 193 well pads and 1,570 wells on the public land over 20 years, including 13 pads and 210 wells on top.

Salazar is taking another look at the Bush administration's plan for commercial oil shale development in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Salazar and other Colorado officials previously criticized pushing forward with regulations and a plan for oil shale while the technology to free the oil from the rock is still being tested. Industry officials acknowledge that commercial development is at least a decade away.

Critics say the oil shale plan doesn't adequately address the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of development. There are questions about how much water and energy will be required for production.

Salazar said he supports continued research and testing of oil shale technology to find some of the answers.

The Department of Energy has estimated that the shale in the three states contains a total

of up to 1.8 trillion barrels, with about 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil. The largest reserves are in western Colorado.

One thing he's not reconsidering, Salazar said, is his belief that coal will continue to be an important energy source. His recent remarks about the potential of wind power riled the coal industry and Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, whose state is the nation's top coal producer.

Salazar said during a public hearing in Atlantic City, N.J., this week that if fully realized, wind power off the East Coast could produce about 1 million megawatts of electricity, or the equivalent of 3,000 medium-sized coal-fired power plants.

Freudenthal on Wednesday said the prospect of wind power replacing coal in the nation's energy portfolio "ain't going to happen."

Salazar, an advocate of renewable energy, said Thursday that he was talking about wind power's potential. He said he also supports developing technology to capture and sequester greenhouse gas emissions from coal plants.

"Coal provides 50 percent of the country's electricity," Salazar said. "There's no doubt it's going to continue to be an important part of the energy portfolio."



Photo by Tim Keller

Des Moines student athletes line up to receive their packets of Bingo Night tickets from school secretary Debbie Martinez. Each ticket comes with two bingo cards. Each athlete is expected to sell five tickets in the fundraiser for the Des Moines School Athletic Fund. Pictured from left are Ann Vincent, Shayla Martin, Martinez, Emilio Cisneros, and John Gilbert.

## The irony of success: Des Moines School athletics sponsors Bingo Night

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

The Des Moines School Athletics Fund is throwing a Bingo Night fundraiser Friday night, May 1, at 6:00 pm in the high school cafeteria. Ironically, the need for a late season fundraiser grows out of the unplanned successes of Des Moines' athletes this year.

Business manager Justin Sumpter explains, "Athletics gets all of its money from fundraising, mostly gate receipts and concession stands. This year we budgeted \$13,996 for the entire program, and that

would have been enough had we not been so successful. Our girls' volleyball team made it to the state tournament, both girls and boys basketball teams went to state, and we've already had qualifiers for the state track meet. All that takes more money. We didn't budget for this much success!"

Administrative assistant Debbie Martinez distributed packets of five Bingo Night tickets to each Des Moines athlete Thursday. With 40 athletes, that's 200 tickets to sell. Each \$25 ticket gets the buyer two bingo cards at the door, with the

option to purchase additional bingo cards at a dollar apiece. As if the bingo games and helping the athletic fund weren't enough incentive, the event will award \$25 to every tenth ticket drawn. The next to last ticket drawn will win \$50, and the last ticket drawn will win \$250. If that's still not enough, refreshments will be served, though they won't be enough to hold everyone over until the athletic banquet, which will be held in the same location on Thursday evening, May 14.

## New Mexico police, feds bust Tennessee gang

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

Thirty-five members of a gang police call the "Memphis Mob" have been arrested on murder, robbery, burglary and drug-trafficking charges in New Mexico.

Albuquerque Police Chief Ray Schultz said the mob began moving to Albuquerque three years ago to set up a cocaine-trafficking network. Investigators have linked the gang to three homicides and dozens of armed robberies.

"Every law in the book, they broke," Schultz told The Albuquerque Journal.

His police department's special investigation division

began noticing a Memphis connection among felony suspects about two years ago and connected them with cocaine distribution between the two cities.

The department set up an informal partnership with agents from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Marshals Service and Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office.

Police say they believe they have caught the majority of the gang and 12 other people associated with it since November. The Albuquerque Journal

reports some gang members already have been prosecuted.

"We have been and will continue to prosecute them and the entire organization vigorously," Deputy District Attorney Mark Drebing said.

Three murder suspects already in custody have been tied to the gang. Those suspects, police said, were involved in the Nov. 5, 2008, shooting deaths of Ervin Samuels and Lemmarrus Washington and the April 24, 2007, shooting death of Maurice Johnson.

One suspect told police they relocated to New Mexico because its sentences for felons are "lax," Schultz said.

## Chu visits Los Alamos National Laboratory

DEBORAH BAKER  
Associated Press Writer

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) —

He's the U.S. energy secretary and the new boss, but Steven Chu was all scientist as he launched a two-day visit to New Mexico with a stop at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Chu chatted informally with lab scientists about their ongoing research into climate modeling, hydrogen storage, nanotechnology, HIV and other issues on Thursday.

In a large hall in the lab's computing center, he scrutinized displays of the programs, listened intently to explanations, then peppered lab employees with questions that made it clear he was a fellow scientist.

"He knew a lot about our field — which was dazzling," said Bette Korber, a theoretical biologist who is researching HIV.

"It's great to have a conversation with a secretary of energy who actually understands in great detail what your problems are and what the solutions you're proposing are," said Kevin Ott, director of the Chemical Hydrogen Storage Center at the lab.

Chu is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who was director of

the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

The Los Alamos laboratory is one of the government's premier nuclear weapons research facilities, but it also conducts other research.

It was Chu's first visit to the lab since he was named energy secretary by President Barack Obama.

"The focus of this visit is broad science," said Thomas D'Agostino, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the nuclear weapons complex.

Chu knows that "you have to have good scientists not just to maintain our nuclear stockpile, but also to address all these other problems," he said.

The lab's scientific capabilities have wide applications in other energy-related areas, said D'Agostino, who accompanied Chu on the tour.

Obama in Prague a few days ago called for ridding the world of nuclear weapons and a global effort to secure nuclear material.

"You have to do it with people that know how to work with nuclear material, and those are people here. ... The point is, nuclear security is not just nuclear weapons. It's nuclear nonproliferation, it's nuclear forensics, it's nuclear emer-

gency response, it's intelligence analysis," D'Agostino said in an interview.

Chu didn't take questions from the media, but reporters were allowed to accompany him for about half an hour as he talked with scientists. Then he headed for a classified session that included a briefing on the lab's nuclear weapons program.

Chu has been a vocal advocate of more research into alternative energy, saying a shift away from fossil fuels is essential to combat global warming.

Under Chu, the California laboratory was a center of research into biofuels and solar energy technologies.

He shared the Nobel Prize in physics in 1997 with two other scientists for his research into ways to cool and trap atoms using laser light.

But he has little experience in nuclear weapons research or in maintaining the nation's stockpile of nuclear weapons — activities that consume about two-thirds of the Energy Department's \$25 billion budget.

Chu was to be at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque on Friday, where he was to deliver a speech on "The Role of Nuclear Security Laboratories in Meeting National Challenges."