

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

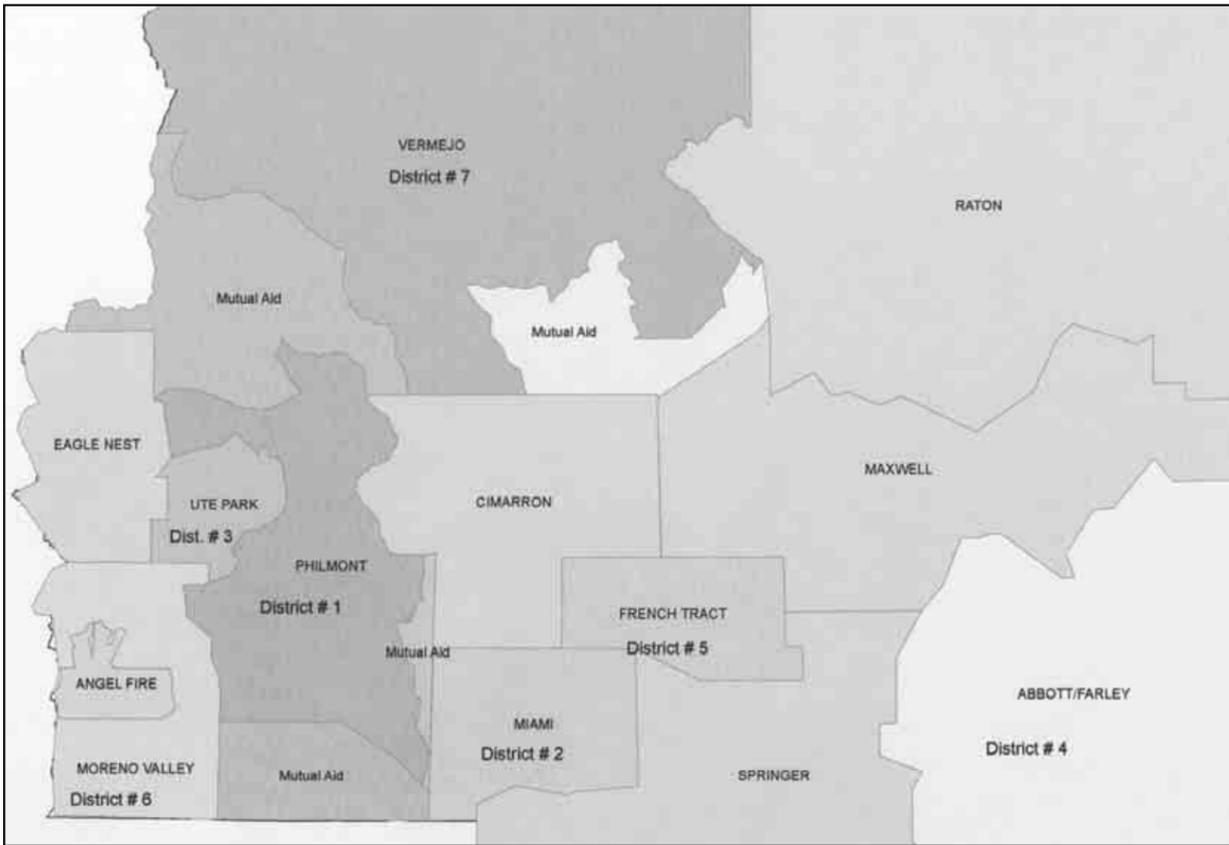


Photo by Laura L. Brewer

The new Farley District Tanker is on display in front of the Colfax County Courthouse during Tuesday's commission meeting.

Farley District in Colfax County gets new tanker

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Colfax County Commissioners got an up close look at the Farley district 3000 gallon T-300 Kenworth Tanker at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

The tanker, which was purchased solely through a grant from the New Mexico State Fire Protection Grant, was purchased from Fouts Brothers in Smyrna, Georgia for \$148,000. Farley was one of several departments that applied for the grant which is open to ISO class 9 or 10 departments and is used to improve its ISO rating. The rating, which determines risks for fires and other damages, is used to determine insurance rates. With the addition of the tanker in the Farley district, the risk is lowered and therefore would improve the ISO rating,

meaning a possible revenue savings for the county.

Colfax County Manager Don Day informed the commissioners that the entire county, except for portions in the Philmont Fire District and Moreno Valley district, is under a fire ban because of the extremely dry conditions. Vermejo Park has requested that it be placed under the same fire ban. The ban prevents any open fires in these areas until further notice.

During a special budget workshop that followed the regularly scheduled meeting, the commissioners consulted with Jeff McWhorter, a certified public accountant who has been contracted by the County for the audit that it is undergoing, about implementing a better system of managing its inventory. Commissioner Hite suggested

that a stamp be used in the office that would allow information of date received, inspection date, and when each item is added to the county's inventory. McWhorter stated that the county needed an accurate baseline of inventory, equipment that costs more than \$5,000 and that equipment between \$1,000 and \$4,999.99, so that depreciation values can be listed and compared. Manager Day told the commissioners that his office is currently securing that information, but Commissioner Hite stated that he believed each department head should be responsible for supplying an accurate listing of its own inventory and should be completed on a regular basis, perhaps monthly. The goal of the commissioners is to have a complete inventory of each department before May 1.



Photo courtesy MTV.com

MTV's Diggity Dave.

Raton DWI Student Task Force plans big fundraiser Friday

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DWI Student Task Force members going to Washington April 5-9 include Erin and Haley Gansz, Heather Romero, Christina Harrison, Shana Trujillo, Tamara Johnson, Aaron Stevens, Jordan Valdez, Justin Apodaca, Ben Trujillo, Megan Holland, Jessica Vertovec, Arissa Maldonado, Amy Grubelnik, and Chelsea Chavez. They'll be accompanied by Trish Romero and Colfax County DWI Program Coordinator Mary Gansz. During a busy week in Washington, the Raton group

will be studying evidence-based methods for their programs to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

The DWI Student Task Force sponsors many peer-education and prevention programs each year, including public service announcements and tent cards for the prom and homecoming, an annual mother-and-son dance at Valentine's Day, and a Halloween Carnival. Task force members are looking forward to a big crowd Friday - they're selling 500 tickets - for an exciting program when Diggity Dave arrives at the Raton High School gym.

Bingaman bill would help strengthen Medicaid, save taxpayer dollars

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman today renewed his effort to pass legislation that seeks to protect and strengthen Medicaid while saving taxpayer dollars.

More than 50 million Americans rely on Medicaid, the federal-state funded health initiative for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid plans are administered by states and/or managed care organizations contracted by states. Unlike states, Medicaid managed care organiza-

tions currently are not eligible for rebates on generic and brand name prescription medications and therefore they are being charged a premium price for those drugs.

To ensure that states and the federal government are not overcharged for medications, Bingaman today introduced the Drug Rebate Equalization Act of 2009. This legislation will allow health plans run by Medicaid managed care organizations to receive rebates on prescription medication just as states do. Not only will this legislation ensure that health plans maintain a comprehensive care coordination system

for their patients, but it also has the ability to save the federal government as much as \$11 billion over 10 years.

"This bill will not only allow Medicaid beneficiaries' rebates on prescription medications, but it will also save taxpayer dollars," Bingaman said.

The Medicaid drug rebate ensures that State Medicaid programs receive the best price for prescription drugs for their beneficiaries. This policy was included in President Obama's 2010 budget request that was released two weeks ago.



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Work begins in the Round House Memorial Park, west of Longfellow School, on preparation for the aquatic center, the first phase of the Raton Recreation Center.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

MARCH

March 11-12

Raton Child Find, free screening for children ages birth to 5, Longfellow Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Target areas: vision, hearing, cognitive, language, fine and gross motor screenings. Parents may register pre-K children for kindergarten, but must provide a birth certificate and immunization record. Continues March 12, same times. Appointments: Carolyn (575)445-7918. Sponsored by High Plains Regional Education Cooperative #3 and Raton Public Schools.

March 13-14

Free movie at the El Raton, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, "The Cat in the Hat," sponsored by State Oil Co. The Princess and the Pea presented by Raton Junior Arts

Council at the Shuler Theater starting at 7 p.m.

March 16

Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Meeting- 9 a.m. at CYFD office
Diabetes & Obesity Prevention Meeting- Noon at DOH office.
Suicide Prevention Meeting- 1:00 p.m. at Methodist Church fellowship hall.

March 23

Maternal Child Health Meeting - Noon at the Sands Restaurant.

March 26

Health Council Meeting - Noon at International Room of International Bank.

March 27

Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting - 10:00 a.m. at YES office.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

CITATIONS:

■ 03/10/09- Preston Martinez, 13,- Unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon, i.e. a pocket knife.
■ 03/10/09Grika Martinez- Failure to stop at an intersec-

tion and driver to be licensed.

INCIDENTS:

■ 03/10/09- Nine criminal damages
■ 03/10/09- Pat Vigil reports the burglary of a vehicle