

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photo by Tim Keller

Ambrosia Trujillo makes copies in a workroom lined with cautionary posters in the Colfax County DWI Program office on 3rd Street in downtown Raton.

Colfax County DWI Program lays down the law

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DWI Student Task Force."

The Student Task Force consists of 22 students from Raton High School, a half dozen from Maxwell High School, and a few from Raton Middle School. They meet monthly and provide a variety of programs and services throughout the year. Earlier this month many of them went on a weeklong field trip to Washington, D.C., shortly after providing an assembly at RHS featuring MTV star Diggity Dave. They write letters to high school seniors and public service announcements and ads for radio and newspapers. "They learn leadership, time management, and public speaking," Gansz comments.

DWI Student Task Force members also provide peer-to-

peer education on mixing driving with alcohol or other drugs. Gansz offers a sample. "If a kid starts drinking before they're 15 years old, they're 400% more likely to have alcohol addiction issues as an adult." She acknowledges that recreational drinking is an endemic problem across the county, with too many parents allowing or even providing alcohol for their children. Those children grow up to do the same.

The ones who get in trouble behind the wheel come to Gansz and Trujillo. Trujillo is relatively new to the job - she started late last year - but representing the DWI Program at a recent DWI sentencing, she appeared confident and composed, all business. She enjoys her work, functioning as a pro-

bation officer whose clients all got in trouble through the abuse of alcohol.

Gansz is a longtime veteran of the program, having helped write the initial grant to fund the office and serving 11 years as program director. Trujillo's on-the-job training consisted largely of following Gansz around until Trujillo knew what to do. Now they work in adjoining offices as an effective team. Despite the serious nature of the work, there is laughter, too.

They are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping their client caseload isn't bumped up over the coming weeks by high school proms and graduations. That's one thing they're not laughing about.

LOCAL NEWS

PAW PRINTS

By SYLVIA CRISLER
Special to The Chronicle-News

We want you!

Yes, you. Join our exciting new group, Noah's Ark Angels. You can find the pamphlets around town and inside them you will find all the various ways you can be a part of the Ark Angels. Try dog walking, shelter cleaning, and even cat petting. The garden at the shelter needs care and fostering animals is a big necessity, too. Can you write grants? Help bring in more funding which is desperately needed. When we have events like Paws in the Park, the Blues Fest, the Peacock Ball or our low-cost spay/neuter mobile operations, you can be a part of those events or come up with other ideas to help bring money and more volunteers into the picture.

Noah's Ark Angels is an auxiliary of Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. You can contact Julene Gyde at 846-3300 for further information. The annual membership fee is only \$5 per individual or \$15 per family. If you become a volunteer, you'll get a free Noah's Ark cup which you can display and use to advertise your involvement. Get your friends to participate and you all can get together to perhaps transport pets to other shelters and spend the day socializing at the same time. Have a yard sale, sell our coloring books, share your ideas at a monthly meeting or

maybe put on a dog show at one of Trinidad's great parks. Join now and we can all look at new ideas, new input to bring more of our community into constructive action.

Consider another outstanding way you can help Noah's Ark. The shelter could win a \$20,000 grant if you vote for us online. That \$20,000 could help a lot of pets in need.

The Animal Rescue Site is hosting a special challenge for eligible Petfinder.com member, shelter and rescue groups. The grand prize is a \$20,000 grant and they will be awarding many other grants to rescue groups with the most votes - a total of \$100,000 in grants for animal welfare organizations. Help us win! All you have to do is click to help rescued animals and then vote in the Animal Rescue Site \$100,000 challenge. Both of these actions are absolutely free! You can vote once a day, every day from now through July 26, 2009. Every time you vote or tell a friend to vote you are making a huge difference for us.

Go to TINYURL.COM/3J3RJ2. Type in Trinidad, Colorado and that will display Noah's Ark and click to vote there. VOTE TODAY!



Photos courtesy of Larry Carnes

From left are Joyce Hill, Roger Brunelli, Carmen Whitney, Chantel Brunelli and Mike Sciortino.



Line of participants in the April 19 "Chain of Life" demonstration.

Community members celebrate 'Chain of Life'

Courtesy of LARRY CARNES
Special to The Chronicle-News

On April 19, area Christians participated a pro-life vigil in the 3100 block of Toupal near Wal-Mart. This "Chain for Life", was a peaceful and prayerful ecumenical event composed of parishioners from area

churches. Most participants were parishioners of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Christ in the Canyons in Cokedale. About 40 people showed up, holding signs and posters for people driving by to see and think about. In a closing prayer, Pastor Ed Richardson gave thanks that we all had parents that gave us the gift of life and that

we need to help others understand that. Another pro-life advocate noted that "life is sacred and efforts must be taken to stem acts of abortion". Plans are in place to continue to hold the Chain for Life twice a year, in the Spring and Fall. If you are interested in getting involved call 846-3268.

THS student accepted to prestigious writing program

Special to The Chronicle-News

THS junior Zach Harmes has recently been accepted to the prestigious University of Iowa Young Writers Studio. This program - designed by the world-famous University of Iowa Department of Creative

Writing - is intended for high school juniors and seniors with exceptional talent in both poetry and prose.

Students choose a single course of study - Poetry, Fiction, or Creative Writing (a survey that includes fiction, poetry, and creative nonfic-

tion)-as their focus for the duration of the Studio. Classes are kept small (12 or fewer students). The same instructor teaches both the seminar and the workshop and also serves as mentors. Individual conferences are scheduled to ensure that each student gets proper attention and develops as a writer.

This program is very selective. Only 400 students are cho-

sen for two sessions in June and July (200 per session) out of an application pool of over 4,000. Zach will be attending the June session and plans to study in the Fiction course. Zach was the winner of last year's TAAC Writing Contest in the area of prose, and has recently been announced as this year's winner in his division of the same contest. Zach is the son of Jim and Diane Harmes.

Council agrees to get second opinion, save Water Works Building

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potential mining and or other museum site. Aragon said the city needs a complete and full report on whether the building can be saved or not before deciding accordingly.

"I still believe it's a worthwhile project and I would hate to see us drop it now until we can look at it further," added Garduno.

Richard S. Beardmore, PE, along with Patrice Dye Berglund, PC, of A.E. Design Associates, PC, 526 W. College Ave., in Fort Collins, thoroughly inspected the building site earlier Tuesday and expressed optimism to council they felt the old building could still be saved using modern stone and rubble saving techniques and methodology that wouldn't require a costly tearing the building's walls completely down.

The city recently decided to halt that work when the contractor, Southern Colorado Construction, sought a \$100,000 change order after discovering major rubble and stone damage to the walls far greater than anticipated and felt the building would have to be completely torn down and built back up.

Beardmore said he was also optimistic that his firm could still convince the Colorado State Historical Society and its state historic funding affiliate to donate preservation grants to the project because of its historical importance to the state, assuming he can arrive at a viable and less

costly restoration plan. A.E. Design has also had success restoring and renovating other similar projects on state stone buildings constructed 100 or more years ago. Beardmore said the Water Works Building is "typical" to other antiquated stone buildings his firm has helped restore, citing notable restoration successes with the Miners Hospital in Telluride and Silverton's City Hall. "We've worked on eight buildings with similar construction. We always try to respect a building's history."

Beardmore said he also felt the building's exterior and its outer walls weren't so far gone into rubble that it couldn't still be resurrected and preserved with its original appearance without disassembling it although the southeast wall has sustained substantial collateral damage and wear and tear over the years.

While he outlined what could be some cost-saving measures if the project is done right, he couldn't give council a ballpark figure on what the project might end up costing the city until his architects and engineers have inspected the site and he completes his report.

But as Aragon pointed out, the city won't proceed any further and won't be indebted any more than the \$5,000 or so "letter of opinion" if Beardmore doesn't come back with a favorable report. Council would also likely be more inclined to give a green light

if he can secure substantial state historic preservation grants in addition to the DOLA grant the city already has in pocket.

Beardmore stressed that he won't proceed unless he is assured community leaders are all on the same page to move ahead with the project after giving their input in a public meeting.

The project's original architect, BVH Architects, and its consultant, RJC Consulting, have already gone on record, stating they didn't feel the building could be saved without disassembling all its walls and starting almost from scratch. That would likely push the restoration cost several hundred thousand dollars past the approximately \$1 million council has budgeted for the project.

In other action, council unanimously approved Trinidad Pumping Inc., owner Peters' plat application on his 1.60-acre tract of land at 821 E. Main Street that he is planning to use as a community-wide swap meet site.

Council also named Aragon as the new mayor pro tem to replace Garduno and her expired term after Rino and councilwoman Linda Velasquez turned the position down for personal reasons.

City Manager Jim Soltis also confirmed that city sales tax revenues were down 10.2 percent in February and 8.46 percent year to date.

You are cordially invited to the
Aquatic Phase Ground
Breaking Ceremony for the
Raton Community Wellness Center
10:00 a.m. Monday, April 27th, 2009
Raton Roundhouse
Memorial Park Gazebo
(Parking off of East 4th St. at Bonaboom Park)

In Case of Inclement Weather,
Ceremony Will Be Held in the Longfellow School Gym