

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Top left: Guest and Raton High School graduate Carl Ortiz tells of the tragedies alcohol caused him and his loved ones. Top right: Awaiting sentencing at Raton High School Tuesday are Luis Sanchez, Kathy Bacon, and Ricardo Calderon. Bottom left: Surrounded by a sheriff's deputy and her attorney Ray Floersheim, Kathy Bacon reacts to her DWI sentence. Bottom right: Judge Warren Walton holds court at Raton High School Tuesday morning.

Judge Walton brings emotional DWI sentencing to RHS

Continued from page 1
 was grateful that he had not caused injury to anyone. He told the audience that instead of going home to his children today, he was going back to jail.
 Walton sentenced Sanchez to 364 days, of which Sanchez must serve 30 in jail and the remainder on probation, for which he will pay \$30 monthly administration costs. He will also pay a \$500 fine and court costs of \$250. He must pay to have an ignition interlock installed on any car he drives during the next two years. He must complete 28 days of in-patient alcohol treatment or 90 days on an out-patient basis. He must complete 48 hours of community service. He's allowed no alcohol, nor to be in any bar or liquor store.
 And then he still faces the child abuse and third DWI charge.
 At the end of sentencing, sheriff's deputies shackled Sanchez's hands and feet. He was led out, to return to Colfax County Detention Center.
 Ricardo Calderon was Tuesday's second defendant. He was involved in a one-car accident in Raton on February 11, 2009. Police arrived to find his vehicle against a tree, the engine still running, Calderon sitting

inside next to a bottle of vodka. Because he refused a breath test, he was automatically charged with first offense DWI-Aggravated. He pleaded guilty before Judge Walton and read to the audience from a short prepared statement.
 Walton sentenced Calderon to a 90-day sentence, but suspended all but 48 consecutive hours of jail time. Calderon also received 364 days of probation. He will pay a \$500 fine and \$250 court costs. He must attend DWI school, serve 24 hours of community service, and install an ignition interlock on his vehicle(s) for one year. Like Sanchez, he was cuffed and shackled after his sentence was handed down.
 Cathy Bacon was driving in the Maxwell area when a state police officer pulled her over for a broken taillight. Her blood alcohol level tested at .24, three times the legal limit and 50% higher than required to have "Aggravated" added to her DWI charge. She pled guilty to DWI-Aggravated - 3rd Offense, and for driving with a license that had been revoked due to prior DWI convictions in 2004 and 2007.
 In her comments to the audience, Bacon emotionally referred back to the words of Carl Ortiz, saying his words

were the most important ones of the day. His experience, she said, should be enough to prevent anyone from combining drinking and driving.
 Judge Walton sentenced Bacon to 364 days, with 90 days in jail; the remainder of the sentence was suspended, but she will be on probation for three years. She must pay a \$750 fine and \$250 court costs. She was sentenced seven extra days for driving on a revoked license, and fined an additional \$300. Like Sanchez, she must complete an alcoholism program, install ignition interlocks, consume no alcohol, and stay away from bars and liquor stores. Like both Sanchez and Calderon, she was led away in handcuffs and leg shackles.
 District Attorney Donald Gallegos presented the charges against all three defendants. Raton attorney Ray Floersheim represented two of the defendants before the court. Walton selected participants from his active DWI cases, briefing them and their attorneys about Tuesday's program. Each defendant faced the possibility of a maximum sentence. In exchange for their participation in the program and talking to the assembled students about their actions, Walton agreed to

give them the mandatory minimum sentence.
 This was Walton second sentencing at Raton High School, and he is only the second judge in the United States to do this. He got the idea from his friend, Magistrate Judge Danny Hawkes of Belen, New Mexico, who conceived the idea and initiated it there three years ago. According to Walton, Hawkes has been approached by California and other states to come train their judiciaries and help get the program into their schools. It's not just states that are calling; Oprah Winfrey's TV show has expressed interest, too.

Judge Hawkes was one of several distinguished visitors who came to Raton Tuesday to see the program in action.
 The program's timing was not arbitrary: prom and graduation are approaching. Walton plans to continue the Raton High School program annually at this time of year. He notes that now is when teen drinking can escalate and cause increased tragedies.
 He's pleased. "The program's been extremely successful - both mine and Judge Hawkes' - we've had no repeat DWI offenders." As for the teens in the audience, Walton says, "Over and

over, we tell them. With this program, we're not telling them, we're showing them. These defendants are in cuffs and leg irons. This is the real deal."
 Carl Ortiz wishes the program had come to Raton High School three years ago, when he was a senior. In the parts of his life that he can recover, he's on the mend. He is beginning his studies in Albuquerque to become a paramedic. Perhaps it's a kind of penance: paramedics see no shortage of drunk drivers, and their passengers, scattered along roadways in the night.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED
 ■ 04/14/09- Brian Tapia 43- Three bench warrants for violation of probation for offense of fraud x 2 and escaping from jail
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 14- Unlawful taking of motor vehicle, poss of durg paraphernalia, conspiracy
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 15- Unlawful taking of motor vehicle, possession of marijuana, conspiracy, possession of drug paraphernalia

CITATIONS
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 13- Conspiracy, unlawful taking of motor vehicle.
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 13- Larceny
 ■ 04/14/09- Joe P. Lopez, 20- Larceny
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 15- Possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana, conspiracy and unlawful taking of motor vehicle
 ■ 04/14/09- A juvenile, 14-

Unlawful taking of motor vehicle, conspiracy, possession of paraphernalia
INCIDENTS
 ■ 04/14/09- Bertinda Maldonado reports fraudulent use of credit card
 ■ 04/14/09- Cunico Tire victim of larceny
CRASHES:
 ■ 04/14/09- Unknown hit a vehicle owned by Natalie Trujillo

FREE Screenings:

- **Community Blood Drive:** 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
 United Blood Services - Albuquerque (blood type & cholesterol results in a few days)
 (Donor card or driver's license required)
- **Eye Screenings:** NM Lion's Mobile Eye Van
 (Glaucoma, Cataracts, Macular Degeneration)
- **Hearing Test w/Video Otoscopy:** By DigiCare
 Hearing, Research & Rehabilitation
- **Child Development Screenings:** Birth - 3 yrs
 (Speech, language, motor, & cognitive development)
- **Fitness Assessments:** (3 min. step test for endurance, balance, pulse and general fitness)
 By Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy
- **Body Fat Analysis:** Curves for Women
- **Foot Pressure:** (for orthotics) **Sleep Disorder & Varicose Vein Tests:** By Lynco, Respirionics, Medi, and Del Norte Pharmacy
- **Private Well Water Testing:** Bring 1 qt. water in clean container (tests for nitrates, pH, conductivity, iron, calcium, alkalinity & fluoride) By New Mexico Environment Dept.

Blood Pressure
 Oxygen Saturation
 Pulse
 Blood Glucose

Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Prevention
 Alternatives to Violence
 Alzheimer's/Dementia/Parkinson's
 Assisted Living Services
 Breast Feeding / Pregnancy / WIC Info.
 Cancer Detection / Awareness/Support
 Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
 Counseling Services (youth and adults)
 Diabetes Awareness, Education and Counseling

18TH ANNUAL FAMILY HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, April 23, 2009
Raton Convention Center
 901 South Third Street

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 For More Information: (575) 445-8071

Sponsored By:
 The City of Raton, Colfax County Health Council, SW Border Food Safety & Defense Center, Raton Natural Gas, & The NMSU - Colfax County Cooperative Extension Service

REDUCED FEE Screenings:

Fasting is not required for blood tests, however for best results, fast at least 8 hours)

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel: \$45
 Lipid Profile (Cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL/LDL + more): \$45
 Complete Blood Count (CBC): \$25
 Total Cholesterol: \$10
 Thyroid Panel: \$60
 PSA Screening (prostate cancer): \$50
 Hemoglobin A1c (HBA1c - Two to three month average of blood glucose): \$25
 (Screenings above are provided by Colfax General Lab - Springer)
 Bone Density - Heel Scan: \$20
 (By Osteoporosis Diagnostic Center - Albuquerque)

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Family Planning / Immunization Info.
 Food, Nutrition & Physical Activity
 Foster & Adoptive Services
 Head Start Program
 Health Education & Information
 Home Health Care, Services & Equip.
 Long Term Care Services & Facilities
 Low-Income Public Housing
 Medicare Information and Status
 Mental Health Services & Disorders

Pet Therapy for Srs. / Nursing Home Safety / Emergency Preparedness Substance Abuse and Prevention Suicide Prevention Teen / Youth Empowerment Prog. Used Eyeglasses/Hearing Aids Veteran's Health Services Water Purification Women's Fitness Programs AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

NMSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Photos by Tim Keller