

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Scouts build bird houses

By LAURA BREWER
The Chronicle-News

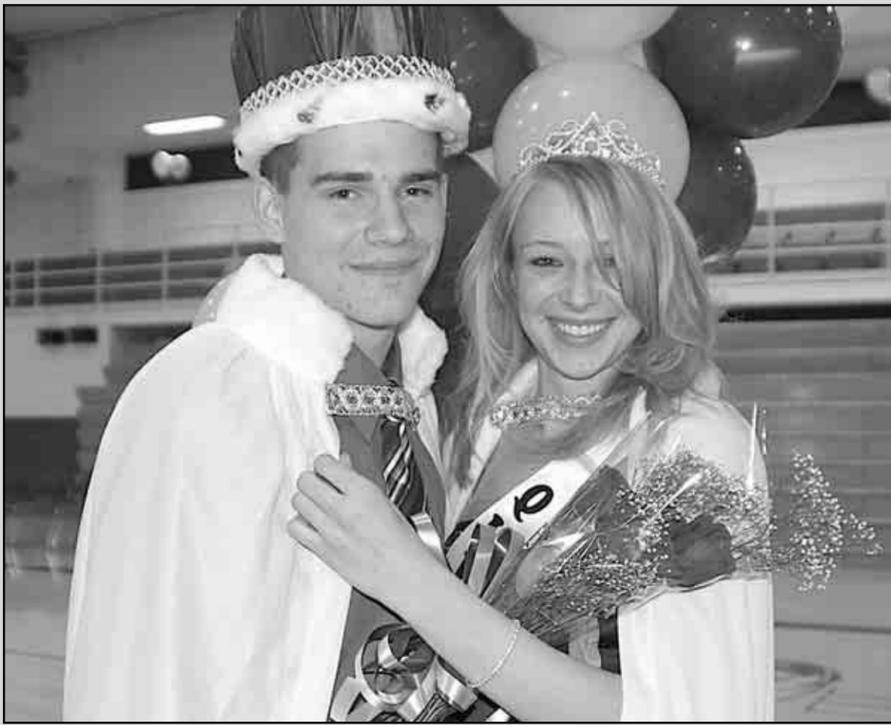
Bill Allen, RBS True Value Hardware, spent a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon explaining to young Scouts from Den 6 about the proper use of hand tools needed to make a bird house. The Scouts listened intently, and worked diligently during the session. Allen showed the boys a bird house that his own son had made when he was a Scout.

"It was great. I had such a good time." Allen exclaimed later. He had pre-cut pieces of wood to use, but left a simple cut for the boys to do themselves, and assisted them in constructing their bird house with hammer and nails. The workshop was set up to allow the boys an opportunity to use hand tools and to learn the art of simple construction.



Bill Allen shows a bird house that his son had made when he was a Boy Scout during a bird house making project.

(Photo by Laura L. Brewer)



Maxwell Homecoming royalty, Queen and Princess are sisters. King, Tim McCoy and Queen, Raelene Taylor.



Prince, Patrick Pacheco and Princess, Allison Taylor.

(Photos courtesy of Jeannie Barnes)

Raton SOS meeting well attended

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Stone explained that once a death has been reported, the autopsy is done immediately, either the same day, or by the next day.

Stone reported that OMI offers grief counseling, referrals to appropriate counseling agencies, crisis intervention

and other support to surviving family members at no charge. More information on OMI can be found at <http://omi.unm.edu>. SOS may be reached by calling the Colfax County Health Council at (575)445-8191. The next SOS meeting will be on March 16 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

February
Feb. 24

"On The Road To Living Well With Diabetes" classes to be held Feb. 24, March 31 and May 19, 2009 beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Miner's Colfax Medical Center (MCMC) Long Term Care facility (900 S. Sixth St) in Raton. Call (575) 445-8071 to pre-register.

The Colfax County Fair Association Board of Directors would like to announce the dates for the 2009 Colfax County Fair and Rodeo will be Aug. 10-

16, 2009. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact: Troy Sauble at (575) 375-2790 or (575) 447-0012; Marlene Nystul at (575) 445-3281; or by email at: colfaxcountyfair@hotmail.com

Feb. 28

7:30 pm - BYU Young Ambassadors. Shuler Theater. Presented by Raton Arts and Humanities and Woody's Furniture. Tickets at www.ratonarts.org or (575) 445-2052.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

Feb. 23, 2009
ARRESTED:

■ Robert Ross, 45-Bench Warrant out of Angel Fire, for failure to pay fines/costs previously imposed.

■ William Muniz, 37- Bench warrant out of Union County for failure to appear.

CITATIONS:

■ Nicole Marquez- Dog at

large, 2 counts; no city tags, 2 counts.

■ Daniel Vigil, 17- Criminal damage to property.

INCIDENTS:

■ Gloria Gonzales reports a stolen dog.

■ Michael Colangelo is the victim of criminal damage to property, being a tire.



Raton High School actors Jeffery Redlick and Dale Proctor play small children in a sandbox in the comedy "Why Do We Laugh." The acting ensemble won rave reviews for its performance in Portales Thursday night.



Liz Strnad and Patchamannie Bernal play phone tag onstage in "Why Do We Laugh." (Photos by Tim Keller)

Raton teens take their act to Portales

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Hot off the success of their Shuler Theatre production, Raton's teen thespians took their act on the road last week to garner awards at Eastern New Mexico University's annual Drama Festival.

After a final Shuler performance of Stephen Gregg's one-act comedy "Why Do We Laugh," Tuesday evening, the entire production by Raton Youth Theatre and the newly-resurrected Raton High School Drama Club was loaded onto the Raton High School activity bus early Wednesday morning and transported to Portales.

After Raton's 35-minute presentation Thursday evening, the Drama Festival's judges met with the troupe to give critiques and three awards. The production received the highest available rating, Superior, in Staging. Impressed that this young acting company was formed only last month, the judges created an award for "Excellence in the Formation of a New Theatre Troupe."

Finally, instead of giving acting awards to stand-out performers, the judges complimented the Raton group for their impressive ensemble work and gave their "Excellence in Acting" award to the entire cast.

The Raton teens also participated in a variety of acting workshops and saw plays performed by more than twenty other high schools from throughout New Mexico. One judge told the Raton group, "We saw lots of plays full of adolescent humor, going for the easy laugh, but your production was like "The Little Engine That Could": it just built and built, and it captured us. It built to a great climax. I loved your choice of play."

Another judge thought the play was a bold choice because it requires sophisticated work on the part of each actor. In "Why Do We Laugh", all eight actors are on stage the entire time. The judges praised their success at staying entirely in character throughout the play, even when faced with distractions like ringing cell phones and closing doors that can throw off more-sea-

soned performers. He said, "I could never see you thinking ahead, or thinking of your lines. All of you remained convincingly - impressively - in character."

Artistic director Gail Dixon-Willden praised her young cast and crew. "They did extremely well. They captured the audience's attention from the moment they started and held it all through the play," she said. "I'm really proud of them."

Actor Jeffery Redlick said, "The best thing I learned from this trip is that with teamwork and support from your friends and supervisors, you can do whatever you put your mind to."

The group will continue to meet at Enchanted Grounds Espresso Bar & Café in Raton every Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 pm. Open to all area teens, they are looking for new people to participate in acting or on the backstage crew. One of the questions to be addressed this Wednesday will be, "What's next?"

More at TimKellerArts.com