



MONDAY  
JUNE 1, 2009

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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico

## THE FINE PRINT

### Fine Print Policy:

The Fine Print is a courtesy service offered by The Chronicle-News to inform the public of upcoming events. Fine Prints must be 30 words or less. We reserve the right to reword any submission to fit available space. Placement is not guaranteed and is subject to space available.

When possible, the Fine Print will run three times - the day of the event and two days prior.

Note: Fine Prints must be received by NOON the day before publication - no exceptions. Please e-mail Fine Print to news@trinidadchronicle.com.

The Fine Print section is not for advertising. If you wish to advertise an event, please call Aileen Hood at (719) 846-3311 ext. 5.

### Las Animas County Planning Commission

Las Animas County Planning Commission shall meet at 1 p.m. on Monday in Room 201 at the County Court House, 200 E. First St.

### Las Animas County Health Services District

Las Animas County Health Services District will meet from 5-6:30 p.m. on Monday in the John Building. Public invited.

### Continuum of Care

The Las Animas/Huerfano Continuum of Care meeting will be from 8-9 a.m. Tuesday at the Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. All newcomers with ideas for the less fortunate are welcome to attend.

### LA County BOC

The Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Commissioners' Chambers, Las Animas County Courthouse Rm. 201.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Tomorrow:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest.

**Tomorrow Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/29/09. South side priority #98 4/30/1884.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 479.49 acre ft.; Inflow, 438.07 acre ft.; Evaporation, 12.58 acre ft.; Content, 2,5793 acre ft.; Elevation, 6188.14; Precipitation, 0

Downstream River Call, Ninemile 5/10/1877.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Photos by David Santistevan Jr.

The Trinidad Aquatic Center is now open for children and adults of all ages located at 1309 Beshoar Drive in Trinidad right next to the Trinidad Community Center.

## Family Aquatic Center opens for season

Special to The Chronicle-News

The City of Trinidad's Family Aquatic Center hours of operation and pool schedule for June and July of 2009

### Monday

Swimming Lessons 10 am to 12 pm  
Closed from 12 pm to 1 pm  
Open swim 1 pm to 4 pm  
Family Swim 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Lap swim 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

### Tuesday

Swimming lessons 10 am to 12 pm  
Closed from 12 pm to 1 pm  
Open Swim 1 pm to 4 pm  
Family swim 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
Water Aerobics 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

### Wednesday

Swimming lessons 10 am to 12 pm

Closed from 12 pm to 1 pm  
Open swim 1 pm to 4 pm  
Family swim 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
Lap swim 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

### Thursday

Swimming Lessons 10 am to 12 pm  
Closed from 12 pm to 1 pm  
Open swim 1 pm to 4 pm  
Adult only swim (19 years old and older)

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Photo by Tim Keller

Steven Brooks, chief juvenile probation and parole officer, is concerned about a growing gang problem in Raton.

## To Be or Not to Be: Gangs in Raton

PBy TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

### Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

Driving up Tiger Drive to Raton High School, as you ease your foot off the gas at the railroad tracks, a large metal switching box stands off the road to the right, taller than a man. Its

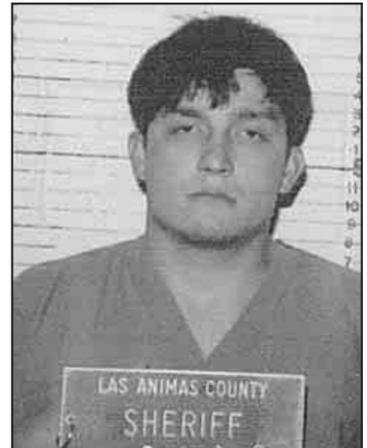
burnished surface is branded with an insignia applied in blue spray paint, the letters up to two feet high: WSL13.

Two miles across town, on Raton's north side, the overpass carrying North 1st Street across Interstate-25 is similarly branded, this time in tall silver letters on the concrete abutment: SUR SIDS13. Like the insignia on Tiger

Drive, this one has been here a long time.

WSL13 is branded in blue, the color of Albuquerque's West Side Locos, according to Steven Brooks, the chief of juvenile probation and parole for Raton and all of Colfax County; his jurisdiction extends into Union

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CN File photo

Eric Blocker

## Blocker said to be competent to stand trial

### CN Staff Report

Eric Blocker of Trinidad was found competent by doctors from a Pueblo Metal Health institution to stand trial for the Nov. 12, 2008 murder of David E. Doyle, 58 at the Doyle residence on the 34000 block of Old Sopris Road.

Judge Claude Appel gave the defense until June 25, to agree or disagree with the Pueblo Mental Health doctor's findings. Then on June 26 at 10 a.m. the defense will have a hearing to announce their decision.

A competency hearing before the

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# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

## To Be or Not to Be: Gangs in Raton

Continued from page 1

County as far as Clayton. He used to live on Raton's north side, where he daily passed the second sign, the brand of the Sureños, from Albuquerque's south side: SUR SIDE means south side, sur meaning south in Spanish. The E is turned backward as a sign of disrespect to another Albuquerque gang, the East Side Locos, whose own sign is ESL, often in green.

Though the gangs proclaimed in Raton are based in Albuquerque, both the West Side Locos and the Sureños use the 13 often associated with the violent Los Angeles gang born in El Salvador, Mara Salvatrucha 13, or MS-13. Brooks explains that the 13 refers to the 13th letter of the alphabet, M, though for the West Side Locos it also stands for 13th Street on the west side of Albuquerque. Another gang, the Norteños, uses the numeral 14, from the 14th letter of the alphabet, N. The numbers 13 and 14 are sometimes written X3 and X4, the X representing the 10 in a Roman numeral.

Brooks didn't learn all this in Albuquerque: he learned it from working with juvenile offenders, mostly in Raton. And he's concerned about what he sees as apathy throughout the community. "It's ridiculous that people say there are no gangs in Raton when I can walk around town and see the plaquing," Brooks insists. Plaquing – applying a plaque – also known as tagging, is one of many specialized terms one learns in gang lore.

"The biggest problem Raton has now is apathy. Too many people think there's no gang problem here," says Brooks, whose office has received 229 Colfax County referrals since last July. "About 80% of those referrals come from the Raton Police Department." Each referral is a juvenile who has been cited by police for a non-traffic-related criminal act.

Brooks explains that gang activity brings with it an increase in five categories of crime: burglaries, home invasions, property damage, drug use and trafficking, and peer-to-peer violence. He says the current escalation in all of these crimes in Raton is evidence that gangs are present.

Terry Sisneros is Raton's Chief of Police. He looks at Brooks's list of five crime cate-



Graffiti on Tiger Drive designates West Side Locos.

gories and agrees that each is a growing problem, although for one, home invasions, he says, "We don't get called to all of these, they don't get reported, but I don't doubt it." In fact, he says, all of these crimes are much more common than statistics would show since many of them go unreported.

Most of the gang-related activity is from juveniles, he and Brooks agree. The property damage is usually caused by the spray paint tagged onto surfaces. Larceny, such as theft and shoplifting, and burglaries are often committed to gain money to exchange for drugs, though Sisneros also believes the increase in these crimes is partly a result of the sinking economy.

Echoing a comment heard from many people in Raton, Chief Sisneros says, "Most of these kids are 'wannabes.'" He gives an example, "Here in Raton, an Eastside guy will

hang out with a Westside guy. If you're in a real gang, you don't do that."

But Brooks cautions, "The worst thing you can do is to tell a kid, 'You're just a wannabe.' As long as you tell a kid that, you're asking for trouble," because the kid will feel challenged or even provoked to rise above this status and do something to make himself a "real" gang member.

Brooks and Sisneros, who often work together, agree that some kids are "ranked in" – recruited into a gang – when they're away, ironically, for a juvenile detention stint ordered by the justice system. Sisneros says, "A good majority of them start out in gangs when they're sent through the juvenile justice system." Others are ranked in by a relative or friend. Many, Sisneros says, come from broken homes.

Brooks feels the amount of gang activity in Raton is too



Photos by Tim Keller

Raton's Chief of Police Terry Sisneros discussed Raton's gang situation with The Chronicle-News last week.

high to be explained primarily by juvenile detentions. "As far as sending them away," he says, "we send them to Taos, Santa Fe, or Tucumcari for pre-sentence detention. They stay there up to one month, but usually much shorter. We also send kids to various treatment centers around the state, and I am aware that kids get ranked in at those facilities as well.

"As far as YDDC, John Paul

Taylor, and New Mexico Boys' School (New Mexico's juvenile correctional facilities), kids get sent there by court order when probation has not worked or they are a great risk to the community or themselves," Brooks continues. "Obviously there is a lot of gang activity there; however, we normally send only 3-5 kids there per year, and I don't think that's enough to explain the rapid rise in gang activity in Raton and the surrounding areas."

Raton High School Principal Michael Sparaco says he sees kids go off to live in Santa Fe or Albuquerque, or he cites a student who went off to Albuquerque's YDDC, and they sometimes return with gang tattoos. "When they come back, they have all the markings." He sees gang signs, dress, and tagging. But, Sparaco says, "As far as anything that's organized around here, I don't see that."

Brooks points out that most of his juveniles on formal probation – 50 to 70 kids at a time – do not attend high school. "They go to GED classes because they've dropped out or been kicked out of high school." He also has an informal probation category affecting more juveniles. He estimates that about 5% of Raton High School students are in this group at any given time. ("If it ever goes to 10%, we'll be in trouble.")

Brooks and Chief Sisneros agree that sometimes a juvenile gang member arrives in the area when his family moves from a city such as Albuquerque or even from another state. Magistrate Judge Warren Walton sees enough "outsiders" through his Raton court that he's developed a protocol for his arraignments, which are usually conducted by video feed between his courtroom and the local jail, Colfax County Detention Center (CCDC). "When I'm considering bail, or if I see a tattoo, I have the defendant remove his shirt and turn a slow circle. I'm look-

ing for gang tattoos, and I'm assessing three things: Are they a risk to themselves? Are they a risk to the community? and, Is there a risk they will run?"

How else can gang membership be recognized? Brooks cautions, "You can't assume a kid's in a gang just because he wears a color." Or even by graffiti. Skaters have been known to paint the anarchy symbol – a jagged A inside a circle – and people tag or tattoo 505 or 575 – New Mexico's area codes – to express pride in being New Mexican. "Some kids won't admit to being in a gang," Brooks says, "while others are proud of it and they'll tell you." Chief Sisneros adds, "Very seldom will an adult tell us they're a gang member; only some juveniles will do that."

Raton Police Department gets occasional calls from citizens worried about gang activity. "Sometimes it's just that they see a guy walking down the sidewalk with no shirt on and a tattoo on their chest," Sisneros says. He says people should feel free to call the police whenever they have concerns. "We pretty much know who our bad guys are. But it's a matter of finding them breaking the law, and then proving it."

Gangs use hand signs: fingers forming a W means Westside; an S means South Side, or Sureño; an E refers to Eastside, and so on. But many juveniles use the same hand signs, whether they're in a gang or not.

Brooks uses five means to assess gang membership. He looks at dress, and at tattoos. He looks for the criminal history associated with gang membership. He interviews the juvenile. And he interviews the parents.

Then what? And what can Raton and surrounding communities do to address the gang problem?

Part 2 of our 2-part series will be in The Chronicle-News tomorrow.



This I-25 overpass on Raton's north side is tagged by the Sureños.

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### Continuum of Care

The Las Animas/Huerfano Continuum of Care meeting will be from 8-9 a.m. Tuesday at the Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. All newcomers with ideas for the less fortunate are welcome to attend.

### Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday. All pastors welcome to come and study the texts for Sunday and for support of each other.

### LA County BOC

The Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Commissioners' Chambers, Las Animas County Courthouse Rm. 201.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely after 9am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tonight:** Showers likely, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. North northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tomorrow:** A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Tomorrow Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 6/1/09, South side priority #96 11/23/1883.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 490.72 acre ft.; Inflow, 358.21 acre ft.; Evaporation, 12.49 acre ft.; Content 25425 acre ft.; Elevation, 6187.66, Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Ninemile 5/10/1877.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Top: James L. Romero Sr. says he became a polio victim after drinking water from a school fountain back on September 7, 1945. Romero was a poster child for the March of Dimes back in 1946, he has worked as a volunteer for the Easter Seals and the March of Dimes. Romero is shown here in front of an "End Polio Now" poster at Friday's event. Bottom: The Trinidad Rotary Club served more than 250 brown bag lunches last Friday behind the Coal Miners Memorial Park helping raise money in the fight against polio.



Photos by Tim Keller

Raton Police Chief Terry Sisneros and Captain Mike Gagliardi would like to implement gang prevention measures in Raton.

## Rotary fundraiser helps in fight against polio

By **David Santistevan Jr.**  
*The Chronicle-News*

For the fourth straight year the Trinidad Rotary Club held its annual Brat-O-Saurus Weenie Fest fundraiser for a local worthwhile charity. This year local Rotarians served over 250 people and raised \$1,300 in the "Fight to End Polio" at the Coal Miners Memorial Park last Friday.

According to some medical reports the world is on the verge of eliminating polio one of the most dreaded diseases of the 20th century.

Polio is also known as poliomyelitis.

Most local chambers, clubs, and nonprofit organi-

zations do something worthwhile to help out some other charities, the Rotary Club started this event to help out victims of Hurricane Katrina. In year two they raised money for a literacy project that gave dictionaries to every third grader in the county. Last year the Trinidad Rotary Club raised money for the Samaritan Clinic.

This fundraiser to end polio was started by Bill Gates who challenged Rotarians all over the world to put an end to polio. The Gates foundation gave \$355 million of his own money, then he challenged Rotarians

**Continued on page 2**

Photos by David Santistevan Jr.

## Tri-State paid 2008 property taxes of \$23.3 million in multiple states

*Special to The Chronicle-News*

Property taxes for 2008 amounting to \$23.3 million were paid by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Nebraska and Arizona, where the Denver-based wholesale power supplier owns and operates electric generation and transmission facilities.

In each of the five states, Tri-State owns, wholly or in part, various generating stations and transmission lines - which account for the largest portion of taxes paid - as well as other facilities such as substations, microwave towers and telecommunications equipment. In addition, the 44 electric cooperatives and public power districts that receive their electricity from Tri-State paid their respective shares of 2008 property taxes.

Rural communities rely heavily on property taxes to provide essential services, including public school and local government operations. Tri-State's property tax payments provide a stable source of revenue that helps fund rural school districts, counties, towns and special districts ranging from libraries to water districts, ensuring local residents have access to vital services.

Tri-State is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit cooperative. Its 44 member distribution systems in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska serve 593,000 meters at residences, farms, ranches, towns, businesses and industries over a 250,000-square-mile area.

In Colorado, Tri-State owns 24 percent of Craig Station Units 1 and 2, and 100 percent of Unit 3. It also owns the Nucla Station, combustion turbine plants in eastern Colorado and administrative offices and an operations center in the Denver-metro area. A total of \$12.5 million in taxes was paid in the state. In New Mexico, where the asso-

**Continued on page 4**

## Stocks rally after positive economic data

By **MADLEN READ**  
*AP Business Writer*

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The stock market began June with a big rally, thanks to another wave of encouraging economic data.

But some investors are nervous that the month, traditionally a weak one for stocks, may not end as well. The market's gains on Monday came despite signs that the economy might have a tough slog ahead of it, including rising interest rates and the nation's fourth-largest bankruptcy ever.

Traders homed in Monday on better-than-expected readings on manufacturing, consumer spending and construction spending. The Dow Jones industrial average and other major indexes rose more than 2 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index and Nasdaq composite rose to their highest levels this year.

But while the data suggested the economy's decline is moderating, a trend that has heartened investors this spring, the numbers did not indicate a rebound yet. Construction spending rose in April, but personal spending was down slightly. Personal incomes were flat and U.S. manufacturing activity contracted for the 16th straight month in May, although at a slower pace.

Monday also brought General Motors Corp.'s bankruptcy filing, the fourth-largest in U.S. history. The filing didn't come as a shock, but it did serve as a reminder of the government's heavy involvement in corporate America following the takeovers of American International Group Inc.

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## To Be or Not to Be: Gangs in Raton

By **TIM KELLER**  
*The Chronicle-News*

Part 2 of our 2-part series

What can Raton and surrounding communities do to counter the rise of gangs? Chief juvenile probation and parole officer Steven Brooks and Chief of Raton Police Terry Sisneros have each received extensive training on this. Answers are available.

Brooks cites three general approaches to fighting the gang prob-

lem. Number 1 is prevention, beginning at the elementary school level. Number 2 is intervention, working with gang members. Number 3 is suppression, police action and application of the justice system.

"Focusing solely on suppression backfires," Brooks insists. "Los Angeles focused on that in the 1980s: it was a total failure. Look at the gang problem now in Los Angeles. In contrast, New York City aimed more at numbers 1 and 2, pre-

vention and intervention. They haven't eliminated gangs, but their numbers have remained static, whereas LA's have skyrocketed."

"This is a community issue," Brooks says. "It's not just police, not just the courts, not just the schools." But at the present time, there are no programs in Raton to address the growth of gangs. "Sooner or later we're going to do something about it."

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# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Juvenile probation and parole officer Steven Brooks agrees says gang prevention programs will be better now than later.

## To Be or Not to Be: Gangs in Raton

Continued from page 1

It'll be a lot more cost effective now. And we'll save more kids." In other words, getting out ahead of the problem will be much more effective than waiting until everyone in



The Raton police chief's office displays this flag, left over from the days when Raton did have gang prevention - before the money ran out.

town agrees that there's a problem. By then, it will be difficult to handle.

"We need to start in the elementary schools," Brooks maintains. "There are 8-year-olds here in Raton who have gang signs posted on their MySpace pages."

Chief Sisneros agrees. In fact, from his own desk he looks at a large blue flag he's hung on the wall. The flag reads, "G.R.E.A.T. - Gang Resistance Education and Training." He recalls, "We ran that program here in Raton, at the middle school, from 1993 to 1996." Raton Police Captain Mike Gagliardi joins Sisneros to recall those days. "The G.R.E.A.T. Program is like the D.A.R.E. program," Gagliardi says, "but it's specifically aimed at gang resistance."

Why was the program discontinued? "Lack of funds," says Gagliardi. The best RPD can do nowadays, he says, is to send an officer to visit with a class when a teacher requests it. Chief Sisneros, a 1980 graduate of Raton High School, suggests a two-pronged approach that he believes would prevent gangs from gaining any further foothold in Raton.

"Re-institute the G.R.E.A.T. Program, and place a full-time resource officer in the Raton schools," Sisneros says. The resource officer is a position already common in large cities and a growing number of small towns. A police officer is assigned to full-time duty in the schools and throughout school programs. Sometimes the officer wears plain clothes, though identified as an officer, not undercover. Other resource officers remain in uniform. The officer gets to know the students, and vice versa.

Though the officer might engage in all three levels of combating gang activity - prevention, intervention, and

suppression - he or she often finds the greatest effect in the prevention stage, working with students in the schools. There's been discussion within Raton Public Schools during the past year about creat-

ing the resource police officer position, in conjunction with RPD. "We're looking into that," says Sisneros, "but at this point the problem is staffing." He means funding. He says there are federal grants available to support such a position but, again, he lacks the staff to devote someone to writing and pursuing the necessary grant applications.

As for the G.R.E.A.T. Program, that's still going strong - throughout the country, though not in Raton.

Steve Brooks maintains that if Raton doesn't act soon to address a growing gang problem, the costs will only grow much higher later. Those costs will be measured not only in dollars, but in damages to property...and to young people's lives. Chief Sisneros agrees, but he lacks the budget to do much. Yet doing nothing now may prove, in the long run, to be "penny wise and dollar foolish".

Brooks would like to see unified action from throughout the community - through



A railroad sign in Raton is tagged with the sign of West Side Locos.

the schools, from community organizations and businesses, and with the police. With adequate funding, Sisneros would like to place a full-time resource officer within the Raton schools, and he'd like to send one or two of his officers to receive G.R.E.A.T. Program training so they can again deliver the program's various components in Raton.

As posed by Brooks and Sisneros, the question is whether the community of Raton can afford to implement such proactive programs. Or, perhaps more aptly stated, can the community of Raton afford not to? This 2-part series is archived at [www.TimKellerArts.com](http://www.TimKellerArts.com).

school-based, law-enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum," reads the organization's introduction. "With prevention as its primary objective, the program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership."

G.R.E.A.T. has developed partnerships with nationally-recognized organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the National Association of Police Athletic Leagues, encouraging positive relationships among the community, parents, schools, and law enforcement officers. The program's lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems, offering a continuum of components for students and their families.

Steve Brooks maintains that if Raton doesn't act soon to address a growing gang problem, the costs will only grow much higher later. Those costs will be measured not only in dollars, but in damages to property...and to young people's lives. Chief Sisneros agrees, but he lacks the budget to do much. Yet doing nothing now may prove, in the long run, to be "penny wise and dollar foolish".

Brooks would like to see unified action from throughout the community - through

## RATON POLICE BLOTTER

### ARRESTED

■ 05/19/09- Joseph Garcia, 20-Bench Warrant out of Magistrate Court for failure to comply with conditions of probation of DWI offense

■ 05/26/09- Leo Jiron- Driving with suspended revoked license, Bench Warrant out of Bernalillo for failure to appear and Arrest Warrant out of Municipal Court for unlawful taking of a motor vehicle

■ 05/26/09- Joe Lopez JR.- Bench Warrant out of Magistrate Court for failure to attend Aspen Program, failure to complete MIP program.

■ 05/26/09- Joe Lope Jr.- Bench Warrant out of Municipal Court for failure to appear for possession of alcoholic liquor by minor, resisting obstructing

refusing to obey, unlawful use of license suspended revoked, larceny

■ 05/26/09- Brittany Sandoval- Arrest Warrant for probation violation for unlawful taking of a motor vehicle.

### CITATIONS

■ 05/19/09- Cesar Rodriguez-Holguin- Battery

■ 05/20/09- Toby Martinez- No proof of insurance

■ 05/20/09- Jerico Fernandez- Driver to be licensed

■ 05/21/09- Larry Montova- Dog at large and vicious animal

■ 05/21/09- Ricky Robinson- Speeding

■ 05/26/09- Domonic Apodaca cited for no valid insurance

■ 05/26/09- Jacob Fleming cited for stop/yield violation

### INCIDENTS

■ 05/22/09- Radio Shack- victim of shoplifting

■ 05/27/09- Shaeryn Chavez- victim of burglary

■ 05/27/09- James Baxter- victim of criminal damage to property

### CRASHES

■ 05/21/09- Ernest C. Vernon Jr and Savannah Martinez were involved in an accident causing moderate damage

■ 05/21/09- Kindred Thorton and Annette Pruett were involved In an accident causing moderate damage

■ 05/21/09- Raymond Muniz struck a fence belonging to the Raton Housing Authority, he swirled to avoid striking a dog that had run out In front of him.

■ 05/26/09- Jacob Fleming and Louis Profazi were involved in a crash and causing heavy damage to both vehicles



Photo by Tim Keller

RHS students Jeffery Redlick and Dale Proctor on the Shuler stage earlier this year

## Shuler issues casting call to kids for 'Little Mermaid'

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

The beloved children's classic "Little Mermaid" will be performed by a large local cast on Raton's Shuler Theater stage in two public performances Saturday, June 13. The only thing is, the cast hasn't been...cast. Yet.

Next Monday, June 8, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Shuler, a tour team from the Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) company will run auditions to cast 50-60 local students for "Little Mermaid". Eligible to participate are students entering 1st grade through 12th grade. There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play, but with more than 50 planned for the show it's clear that students showing up by 10:00 Monday morning should be pre-

pared and available for a busy week.

Rehearsals will begin almost immediately after auditions are completed and will last 4? hours each day Monday through Saturday. There will be a dress rehearsal Saturday, then public performances at the Shuler at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Not all cast members will be needed at every rehearsal session. Those who do rehearse the full time will be asked to bring a sack lunch, dinner, or snack. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed with cast assignments at the conclusion of the audition Monday.

The MCT team brings its own set, lights, costumes, props and make-up. All it lacks is a cast. It goes from town to town throughout the summer putting on its

productions. MCT is a non-profit arts organization based in Missoula, Montana, touring all over the United States and beyond. Next week's residency at the Shuler Theater in Raton is made possible by the Santa Fe Trail School for the Performing Arts with funding from the Peryatel family in memory of Iris Peryatel, and the Gatti family in memory of Ann Gatti.

The Shuler Theater asks young people to spread the word and bring brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends with them to the "Little Mermaid" auditions at the Shuler next Monday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m. This is a group audition: no advance preparation is necessary, although MCT says "a smile never hurts." Students are asked to just come and be ready to have a fun time.



Photo by Tim Keller

RHS students show off their awards from the prestigious National Spanish Exam. From left are Jimmy Carroll, Gloria Flores, Dale Proctor, Franko Donati, Nathan Aguirre, and Jesus Carbajal; in front are Angelica Saenz and Arthur Armijo. Aron Mott and Sara Mayes also won awards.

## RHS students excel in National Spanish Exam

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

By earning a grade of "A" for Spanish class in the fall semester, 20 Raton High School Spanish students qualified to take the 2009 National Spanish Exam administered by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The nation's best Spanish students, more than 115,000 students in grades 6 through 12, earn a berth at the test each year. Students scoring in the top half of those "A" students win special recognition and awards.

Half of Raton's delegation scored in the top half and brought home awards, led by Jimmy Carroll who won a silver medal for scoring between the 85th and 95th percentiles among

Spanish I students nationally. Gloria Flores won a bronze medal among Spanish II students in the "outside experience" classification, placing between the 75th and 85th percentile nationally.

Other RHS national award winners included Nathan Aguirre for Spanish IV; Aron Mott for Spanish III; Angelica Saenz for Spanish II; and Franko Donati, Jesus Carbajal, Dale Proctor, Arthur Armijo, and Sara Mayes for Spanish I.

Additional RHS students who earned a grade of A in the fall semester and competed in the National Spanish Exam were Steven Vanderpool and Alex Grine in Spanish IV; Hannah Stolarczyk and Claudio Saenz in Spanish III; Rebekah Henson in Spanish II; and Toni Sproule,

Mallorie Salazar; Hillary Roberts, Jarred Aragon, and Mariah Pilmore in Spanish I.

The exam was administered locally via computers in early March. Dr. Ed Hockett, Raton High School's Spanish teacher, credits Raton Schools Assistant Superintendent Paul Malano for providing the funds to pay for the exams for Raton's twenty participating students.

In addition to class levels, students are grouped for rating according to levels of experience with the Spanish language. The "regular" category has no special experience with Spanish. The "outside experience" category is for students who do have outside advantages. The final experience level is for "native/bilingual" Spanish speakers.