



Several high school students attend the organizational meeting of the high school drama club. (Photos courtesy of Franky Mahannah)

High School Drama Club readies for first performance

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The new Raton High School Drama club met on Jan. 7, organized, planned, held auditions and is in rehearsal for its first performance of the year scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14 and 15 in the Shuler Theater.

The quick organization and scheduling of the first performance of the new drama club occurred because of the strong leadership skills and experience of the RHS Drama Club Sponsor, Bill Crary, Technical Director, Cian Hazen, and the Artist Director, Gail Dixon-Willden.

Crary, long-time music teacher in the Raton School District, has performed extensively in the Raton Choral Society musicals, and has performed in the annual holiday tradition of "A Christmas Carol" at the Shuler Theater since its inaugural performance in 2001. Hazen and Dixon-Willden both have many years experience in acting and directing theater in the Farmington area prior to moving to Raton in 2008 when Ms. Dixon-Willden directed the 2008 "A Christmas Carol", with Hazen as Technical Director.

The RHS Drama Club will perform "Why Do We Laugh," a



Director Gail Dixon-Willden speaks to the students at the first meeting of the RHS drama club.

one-act play about two people, Andrew and Meredith and how their relationship changes as they age. This poignant comedy follows the characters at the age of 5, 16, 45, and 65. Eight different students are cast to portray the characters at the different stages of their lives. Jeff Redlicke portrays Andrew at age 5 and Dale Proctor portrays Meredith at 6. Patchamannie Bernal plays Andrew at 15 and Liz Strnad plays Meredith at 16. Chirs Fissel plays Andrew at 44 and Stevie Hayden plays Meredith at age 45. Robert Garcia plays Andrew at 66 and Amanda Mehn plays Meredith at 67.

The crew consists of Seth

Romero as Stage Manager, Mariah Fleming as Assistant Stage Manager, Erica Hopper as Props Mistress, Synovia Duncan as Assistant Props Mistress, Peyton Richards as Costumer, Mallorie Salazar with Hair & Make-up, Amanda Mehn as Assistant for Hair & Makeup, and Marly Moore as House Manager.

In addition to the performances in the Shuler Theater, the RHS Drama Club will perform at the Eastern New Mexico Drama Festival in Portales at the end of February.

For more information about the performances, call the Shuler Theater at (575) 445-4746.



Harvey Shannon, of Des Moines, New Mexico, sits atop the desk of choice, a horse. Shannon, a cowboy runs cattle for a living. (Photos by Tim Keller)

Cattleman Harvey Shannon straddles the lines

By TIM KELLER
Special to the Chronicle

Harvey Shannon has lived almost two decades in greater downtown Des Moines, New Mexico (population 149, more or less), but he grew up and began work from his family ranch south of Kim, Colorado. He's an independent businessman, a cowboy running hundreds and sometimes thousands of cattle, but he hasn't owned land since selling his part of the family ranch years ago. And while his working hours are spent juggling the myriad details of a cattleman's life, sometimes at night Harvey has to step out of the shower to write down a poem that's just occurred to him.

"Yeah," he says, "I owned a ranch at one time." His parents had split the family ranch; Harvey sold his share to his brother: "I was younger and more adventurous. I tried to retire, for about six months." He went to horseshoeing school on the GI Bill and was the only horseshoer in southeastern Colorado for years. He worked as a Colorado brand inspector, a brucellosis technician, and he vaccinated calves. During slow times, he hired on to do highway construction. "But," he says, "it was ingrained into my soul to be a cattleman."

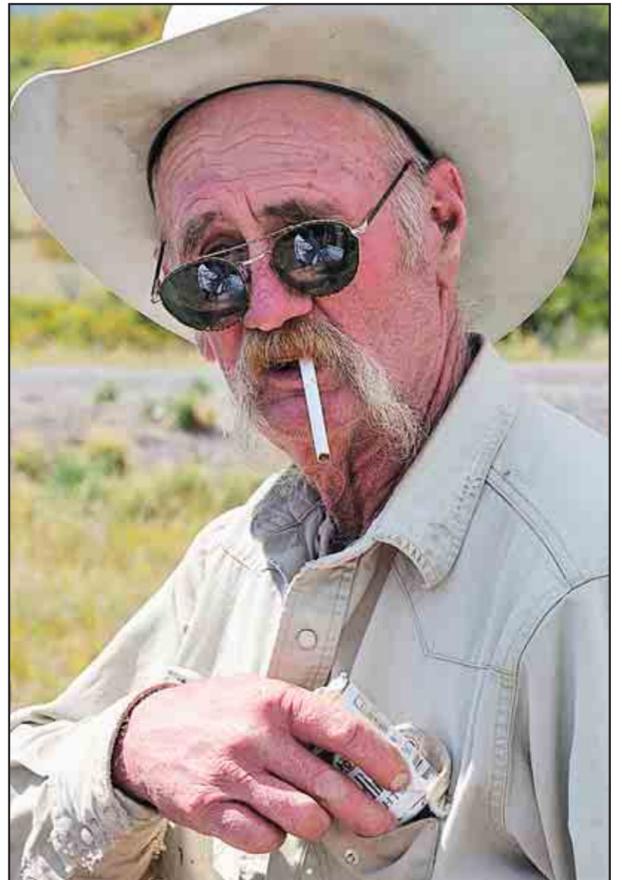
For 35 years, Harvey has bought and sold cattle every year, raising them on far-flung pastures that he leases. For the past two years he's partnered with Folsom's Ryan Brown, 32 years his junior; their leases vary over time from 10,000 to 80,000 acres, carrying 700 to 3000 cattle.

After the diverse experiences of his youth, Harvey got hooked on cattle. "The cattle business is one you become addicted to. It is more challenging than anything else in the world. It's an addiction probably worse than any drug. It's gambling at its best. You gamble your whole life savings on one year. You almost always get enough back to bet again. You have to be a business person."

Moving those cattle takes skill. "Ryan and I were actually taught by people that came out of the same era. My dad went on one of the last cattle drives from Clayton to Springfield, Colorado, around 1914, at age 16. Ryan's great-granddad was a famous cattleman. They were from a different era and knew more about cattle than today's cowboys do, because they didn't have trailers.

"Cowboys had to be smarter than cattle, because they had to make cattle do what they wanted without forcing them. Most people think cows are dumb, but they're actually smarter than a lot of people. It's easier to say the cows didn't do something because they're dumb than to say they outsmarted you.

"My dad told me when I was a kid, 'A cow will do anything you



Harvey Shannon

want her to do as long as you convince her it's her idea. But son, once you start taking that rope down, to rope that cow, you have admitted that she's smarter than you are."

Harvey and Ryan led a large cattle drive last fall that was featured in the January issue of Western Horseman magazine. Harvey also keeps a part-time tire business in his garage; there's only one sign, posted on the garage door, "Temporary Hrs - 3:30pm-6:00pm Aprox - Thank you. HLS."

Finally home for the evening, Harvey showers and sits down to dinner with wife Phyllis. But his

mind hasn't slowed. Like any good gambler, he's thinking of his next move. Then something funny happens. Everything comes to him in rhyme, little stories of the cowboy life.

Booked as the featured artist at Des Moines' monthly entertainment night Live at Studio C, Harvey parks his pickup truck, dressed in pressed jeans for the occasion, but he doesn't emerge from the truck for some time. He's just thought of another poem. He takes the time to write it down.

See more at TimKellerArts.com



Senior Tera Gonzales helps student Daniel with his homework during the Longfellow Elementary School after school program as part of her senior community service. (Photo courtesy of Mary Grace Rupert)

Seniors 'give back' to community

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Members of Raton High School senior class spent several hours last week in service work as a way of "giving back" to the community that has shown support for the students throughout their school years.

The seniors taught games, helped with reading skills, and did a little bit of cleanup at Columbian and Longfellow Elementary Schools, worked at the Senior Citizens Center, and helped at the high school as part of the career/college preparation week. Seniors, Sheila Valdez, Christina Ortiz, Tera Gonzales, Ricco Tapia,

Heather Candalaria and Vanity Huerta, who helped during the Longfellow after

school program, were treated to snacks with the students and staff.

New CEO of MCMC will begin duties in February

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join her husband in Raton and seek employment once they have purchased a home. Until then, Carter will rent and his wife will tend to the horses and their property in Douglas.

In a recent interview, Carter explained that he believes that the hospital is a valuable

resource to the community and is an "economic development engine". His goal is to give the community a trust in the facility and to maintain a transparent operation without conflict. He hopes to hold frequent meetings with the community and the press to build stakeholder confidence.

COLEFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

January

Jan. 24
Jack Ingram will be performing on Saturday, Jan. 24 in Angel Fire with Micky and the Motorcars at 7 p.m. For more information, call 800-633-7463.

Jan. 28

New Mexico Highlands University Raton will be having GED examinations taking place on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29. Please come by 130 Park Ave. for registration. The last day of registration is Jan. 26. The GED

examination is limited to the first 10 registrants. For more information, call (575) 445-0445.

Jan. 30

Red River Ski Area is hosting a 50th Anniversary Gala from 7-11 p.m. There will be dinner at the Main Chalet, drinks, dancing, fireworks, night skiing and more surprises. RSVP by Jan. 20. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jessica at (575) 754-2223 ext. 200 or Lauren at laurenhouse@redriverskiarea.com