

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Whited Foundation provides another avenue of art in Raton

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 movies, religious broadcasts, and live performances as well. Renovations on the stage will allow the screen to fly, making room for actors or musicians.

The Whited Foundation came into existence in 1996 after the passing of Leila and Jim Whited, two well-known Raton residents. As prominent, very talented members of the community and owners of the Whited music store, they were interested in promoting music in Raton, and according to Bill Fegan, long-time art promoter, the Whiteds bought the first band uniforms for the Raton High School Band. Jim, lead the city band for many years, and Leila provided piano accompaniment. The both traveled the world extensively attending Rotary conferences with Jim as the song leader. The Whiteds "intended that the Foundation be created and operated in perpetuity and for the specific benefit of Raton. Grants are awarded for events or programs in music, theater, education, culture, charity, philanthropy, literacy, and many other events and community projects. Scholarships in the arts are also available for Raton High School Students. Each grant or scholarship application is accepted and determined on its



The marquee reads "Gone with the Wind" in 1939 when this award-winning movie played in the El Raton. (Photo courtesy of El Raton Theater)

own merit.

Previous recipients of the Foundation's generosity have been the Raton Arts & Humanities, Council, Inc., Raton High School, Raton

Museum, Shuler Restoration Commission, Inc. and Raton MainStreet.

Members of the Whited Foundation board, who are meant to represent the commu-

nity at large, are: Mark Morris, Rick Trice, Jan Buttram, Bill Ratliff, and Dave Willden. And through the Foundation, the Whiteds continue to serve the community that they loved.



The Young Ambassadors of Brigham Young University (Photo courtesy of Brigham Young University)

Young Ambassadors to perform at Shuler

The Raton Arts and Humanities Council continues their 2009 performing arts season by hosting the Young Ambassadors of Brigham Young University this Saturday, Feb. 28. This special one night only performance by the world renowned group will be at 7:30 pm at Raton's Shuler Theater. The performance is part of the group's 2009 Western U.S. tour, and has been sponsored locally by Woody's Furniture and Appliance.

In this season's exciting new production, The New Music Makers, the world-traveled Young Ambassadors celebrate songs and dances that have delighted audiences all over the world. Focusing on music of the 1960s up through the present day, their new 90-minute musical revue features an exciting 10-piece show band and 26 singers and dancers. The New Music Makers showcases hits from Frankie Vallie and the Four Seasons, Carole King, Stevie Wonder, Diamond Rio, Billy Joel, and relives classic moments from today's Broadway stage. The Young Ambassadors guarantee that audiences will discover many of their favorites in The New Music Makers.

The BYU Young Ambassadors first entered the

international spotlight in 1970 with their appearance at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan. For nearly four decades, the Young Ambassadors have literally circled the globe with their unique brand of family entertainment. Whether this seasoned company is performing in major concert halls, hospitals, orphanages, or government palaces, with music and dance as their medium of communication, friendship is their message. The Young Ambassadors are produced by the School of Music in cooperation with the Department of Dance at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

This performance marks the fourth time the group has made its way to the Shuler Theater stage, having last appeared in Raton in 2004. Raton is especially fortunate in that the performers and band have agreed to schedule an afternoon workshop for area students in fifth through twelfth grades. The workshop will rotate between hands on activities in music, dance, and theater. The student workshop will be held prior to the performance, from 12:30 pm - 2 p.m. on Saturday at the El Raton Theater and Raton School of Dance studio in downtown Raton.



High five is given for a job well done by RHS students for Mock Trial competition. (Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

Raton High School mock trial team qualifies for state finals

BY TIM KELLER
 The Chronicle-News

When New Mexico's high school mock trial finals are held in Albuquerque March 20-21, the state's eight best teams will compete for the championship. For the first time ever, a team from Raton High School will be competing for the title.

Raton's nine-member team qualified through four rounds of competition at the Bernalillo County Courthouse in Albuquerque last Friday and Saturday, winning three rounds. Only Sandia Prep's undefeated "Silver" team - Sandia Prep entered three teams - was able to beat Raton. Raton scored eighth out of 27 teams competing. Most of the teams represented 4A and 5A schools with much larger enrollments than Raton's.

Teacher/sponsor Robin Smith was also

excited to see two seniors from his three-year-old program earn individual honors, another first for Raton. Amber Encinias won Honorable Mention as Outstanding Attorney. Aaron Stevens won Honorable Mention as Outstanding Witness.

The dictionary defines "mock" as "an imitation." Simulation would be a more accurate way to describe mock trial. All teams prepare and try the same case throughout the year. This year's case is a civil trial in which a high school girl is suing a boy for cyber-stalking via e-mail, chat rooms, and MySpace. The girl's grades fell and she lost opportunities including scholarships.

Each team consists of three attorneys plus three witnesses for each side. Raton's attorneys are Encinias, Jessica Vertovec, and Kyle Allen. Witnesses are Stevens,

Hannah Stolarczyk, Michael Neurauter, Claudio Saenz, Arthur Armijo, and Erin Gansz. While the attorneys may play star roles and must be prepared to represent either side of the case, the witnesses, too, must devote countless hours of preparation and practice for their key roles.

Raton's team has had a huge advantage this year: Raton attorney Steven McConnell and Magistrate Judge Warren Walton have both donated their time throughout the year, beginning their weekdays at Raton High School every morning to coach the team for one hour before going off to their own offices. Smith, the social studies department chair, has rounded out the coaching team.

With just three weeks to prepare for the state finals, the mock trial team and its three coaches will be doubling their efforts as the excitement grows.

Shady Brook and Pot Creek prescribed burns

Special to the Chronicle

Several prescription pile burn projects on the Camino Real Ranger District of the Carson National Forest that were postponed in late fall are scheduled to begin in early spring.

Both the 50-acre South Shady Brook and the 100-acre North Shady Brook projects consist of pile burning to remove debris which resulted from a three-year thinning project completed in the summer of 2006.

The South Shady Brook project is located 10 miles east of Taos off of State Highway 64 within the community of Taos Canyon and two miles west of the entrance to Forest Road 437 near Valle Escondido. The North Shady Brook project is located north of the entrance to Forest Road 437.

The Pot Creek project consists of a 200-acre thinning project of which 50 acres were

successfully completed in 2007. This project is adjacent to the community of Pot Creek and upon completion will create a fuel break between the community and the National Forest land. The Pot Creek project is located four miles south of Taos off of State Highway 518 just west of the community of Pot Creek.

These projects are being

implemented to minimize the risk of a large-scale, high-intensity wildfire spreading to or from the communities of Pot Creek, Shady Brook, and Valle Escondido and thereby reducing the risk to life, property, and natural resources. This will also provide safer conditions to allow firefighters to protect homes adjacent to the National Forest as well as

help improve overall forest health.

Signs will be posted to notify motorists of ongoing prescribed burns during times of ignition and are urged to proceed with caution and observe reduced speed limits.

For more information, contact the Camino Real Ranger District at 575-587-2255.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

Feb. 25, 2009
 CITATIONS:

- 2/24/09- Jami Lucero-No insurance and speeding
- 2/24/09- Raul Villegas-Speeding
- 2/24/09-Darren Garcia-Speeding
- 2/25/09-Oneigna Mon-dragon -Driver to be licensed and a seatbelt violation.

INCIDENTS

- 2/24/09- Monica Martinez was the victim of battery and aggravated assault.
- 2/24/09- Angel L Luksich was the victim of criminal damage to property.
- 2/24/09- Catharine Walker was the victim of criminal damage to property.
- 2/24/09- Vivian Lark was

the victim of criminal damage to property.

- 2/24/09- Ira Simpson was the victim of criminal damage to property.
- 2/25/09- New Mexico Game and fish is the victim of criminal damage to property.
- 2/25/09- Thomas Kosta is the victim of criminal damage to property.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

February
 Feb. 28

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm. Meet at El Raton Theater. Free student workshops in music, theater, and dance. Grades 5 - 12. Conducted by the performers and band of the BYU Young

Ambassadors.

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

County Commissioners rules against vacating County Rd. B21

By LAURA L. BREWER
 The Chronicle-News

County Commissioners heard a request from Danny Jentsch to vacate County Road B21 to private property. The road in question, according to Jentsch is located on his property, and only two-tenths of a mile is designated as a county road, although the county has never maintained that section since he purchased the property in 1992. The remaining road, which leads to his and other residents' homes, is a private road with an easement.

The residents, whose property is located behind Jentsch's, spoke against the proposal because in order to access their property, they must use the road which runs through the Jentsch property. Joe Roy Ray told the commissioners that he has fishing and hunting business, and that it is crucial that the road remain open for his customers, package carriers, and personal access. He was concerned that if that portion of the road that is now a county road is turned over to Jentsch as a private road, Jentsch may be able to gate the road and prevent easy access. Beni Jo Fulton and Juanita Mutz echoed the same concerns.

After lengthy discussions on both sides, the Commissioners voted to leave the road in question as a county road, but listed as no maintenance.

The Commissioners did approve the proposed Lebus Family road dedication in the Angel Fire area. The proposed roads have been built and maintained as a subdivision, which is sometimes called, "Lebusville," and would not require additional maintenance. The county already maintains the road which intersects the Lebus roads and will continue to maintain it, but will not include the proposed county roads in its maintenance schedule.

In other action, the county approved the Arterial Agreement Program for \$134,000, the Cooperative Agreement Program at \$80,000, and the School Bus Route Agreement for \$80,000. They also agreed to the change order for #1 Red Hawk Fire for an additional \$5,500 upon a satisfactory inspection of final work.

County voting rosters will be purged of registrants that are no longer living in the county by the appointment of the new Board of Registration at Tuesday's meeting.