

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photos by Marty Mayfield

Left: Photo city of Raton; The City of Raton was presented a plaque of appreciation for the work they did for the Run for the Wall earlier this month. City Manager Mileta accepted the plaque from Mayor Joe Apache. Center: Photo Raton PD; Raton PD was presented an plaque for their work during the Run for the Wall earlier this month. Raton Police provide addition traffic control for the riders as they move thru Raton. Chief Terry Sisneros accepted the plaque from Mayor Joe Apache. Right: Ron Schmeits was honored with a proclamation designating May 26 as Ron Schmeits Day. Schmeits who is president of International Bank is also chairman of the board of the NRA Whittington Center and has recently been voted into the position of president of the National Rifle Association.

City of Raton approves interim budget

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town of Springer (\$32,004) for dispatch services and a two year contract with the town of Cimarron (\$14,000). While the city is looking for ways to improve the bottom line city manager PJ Mileta indicated that the other communities in Colfax County are also feeling the pinch and that this wouldn't be a good time to raise the cost of this service.

Commissioners approved the GRIP 2 contract with WM Serazio for the project on

Legion and South 3rd street. Mileta noted that the contract was a bit behind as Serazio crews have already begun work in an attempt to get ahead of the rainy season and the water project going on in the area.

Parametrics was approved for environmental services in connection with the train depot and parking area north of the depot. It was noted that the money, \$1.2 million, was approved over nine years ago but hasn't been used and the city was notified by the feds that they needed to use it or lose

it. An environmental study which is required before any project can move forward is good for two years. A multi-modal center is being considered for the parking area north of the depot when and if the Rail Runner makes it to Raton.

The downtown master plan was discussed indicating that the plan is needed if the city is to apply for grants or other monies for projects. The master plan is a work in progress and is in no way a hard and fast plan for any given project. The plan is needed to prove to legis-

latures and others who make the decisions that Raton is planning for the future. The discussion lead into the next two items on the agenda one of which is a paving preservation project on second street.

The city is expected to receive \$1.6 million in stimulus money that is directed at pavement preservation projects on Second Street (\$1million) and Clayton Road (\$600K). In discussions with NMDOT the master plan was brought up indicating that the city is looking at parking bubbles and tree planting to

reduce speed in the downtown area. The stimulus money could be used for some of that. Yet the plan is needed to prove the city is planning for those purposes.

Commissioners then approved membership in the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District noting the good work the group has done for the city during legislative sessions.

Commissioners approved Jennifer Sparaco as the primary voting member and PJ Mileta as her alternate in the

Northeastern Regional Planning Organization (NERPO) which is a planning group for NMDOT district four.

Commissioners voted to cancel the June 9th meeting and will expect to see a special meeting next week or possibly June 8th.

Mileta noted that he received several compliments on how Raton looked over the long weekend. He complimented public works, the fire department and police department for their efforts.



Photo by Tim Keller

Raton High School's most successful students on the spring administration of the MAP tests gathered to reap their rewards Tuesday.

Nineteen RHS students honored for MAP test achievements

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

Tuesday morning at Raton High School, nineteen students were called to the lobby outside the school's main office and each was handed a \$10 bill. They also received lollipops and packets of sunflower seeds, but it was the \$10 bills that seemed to make the strongest impression.

The rewards were the latest in a successful series of events to encourage students to give their best efforts to their MAP tests - Measures of Academic Progress, taken in the fall, winter, and spring. Each freshman, sophomore, and junior tests in reading, language usage, and math. The test scores give an accurate reflection of how much the student has learned in the weeks and months immediately past. They also have a high degree of correlation with New Mexico's Standards-Based Assessments, another important measure used to evaluate students and schools.

RHS teacher Christalina Donovan has led the efforts of a prize award committee to provide consistent rewards for MAP

test successes. Rewards are always given in two categories for each test - highest overall score and greatest improvement - so all students have a chance at earning the rewards.

At a March awards ceremony for achievement on the winter MAP tests, students received gift certificates that had been donated by many local businesses, but the most popular prizes turned out to be cash prizes donated by teacher Mike Phillips and RHS Principal Michael Sparaco.

That spurred Donovan and the awards committee to solicit staff donations for the spring rewards program. Sixteen RHS staff members each donated \$10 to \$20, creating a prize pool of \$190. There were 18 prize categories, but one was a tie, so each of the 19 deserving students arrived at the office lobby to be presented with a crisp \$10 bill.

Participating staff members included Amanda Armacost, Myra Baird, Christalina Donovan, Kristen Forrester, Ed Hockett, Tim Keller, Mike Marez, Mary B. Mitchell, Christine Naccarato, Barbara Riley, Jan

Schumpert, Brenda Smith, Mike Sparaco, Steven Wenig, and Dennis Topping.

Students with the highest scores in their grade levels were James Neary, Alexis Abaza, and Franko Donati for reading; Blake Washburn, Christopher Fissel, and Sarah Record for language usage; and Blake Washburn, Riley Wilson, and Jimmy Carroll for math.

The most improved students in each class were Derek Martinez, Stevi Salazar, and Crystal Headley for reading; Dakota Redd, Carlos Muniz, and Vanessa Sanchez for language usage; and Dylan Aragon, Michelle Caruana and Mariah Pillmore, and Jeffrey Redlick for math.

The next MAP tests will be administered at RHS in September. The fall test often illustrates the difference between those students who give their brains very little work over the summer - their MAP graphs take a dive - and others whose learning never stops, regardless of school vacations: their graphs continue a steady ascent.



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 Pillmore 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.