

# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

## Dads and Daughters enjoy time together at annual Valentine's Dance

By LAURA L. BREWER  
The Chronicle-News

For the past thirteen years, dads and daughters have been able to spend some quality time together during a memorable evening provided by the St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Raton. The annual Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance was started by the church in order to give young girls an opportunity to be treated as young ladies by very special dates, their dads. Moms and dads hope that their daughters

will remember the experience and realize that they should always be treated like young ladies.

Jean Rose, this year's organizer of the event, donated her time as owner of Joef's Balloon-o-Rama to decorate with the help of many mom volunteers. Balloons, streamers, ribbons, and stuffed animals transformed the Parish Hall into a magical ballroom. Volunteers helped make corsages, candy roses and crowns for the guests, and spent more than three hours on Thursday and Friday decorating.

This year's event was co-sponsored by the First National Loan Production Office and the First National Bank of New Mexico. Bennetts, LLC provided the helium for all of the balloons, and several ladies baked scrumptious cakes. Nobie Gomez was hired as the DJ for the evening, providing the smooth tunes and musical variety. Father Jesse was on hand with a digital camera to memorialize the event for the couples. A small fee was charged for the photo, which went into the fund for next year's dance. As Rose explained, the event, with the help of the volunteers, the sponsors, the cost of the tickets for the dance, and this year's photo fees help the event to be fabulous every year, and self-sufficient. This year 317 dads and daughters shared the wondrous evening that will forever hold fond memories. The annual event is generally held the Friday before Valentine's Day, but because February 14 was on a Saturday, this dance was held on Friday the week before.

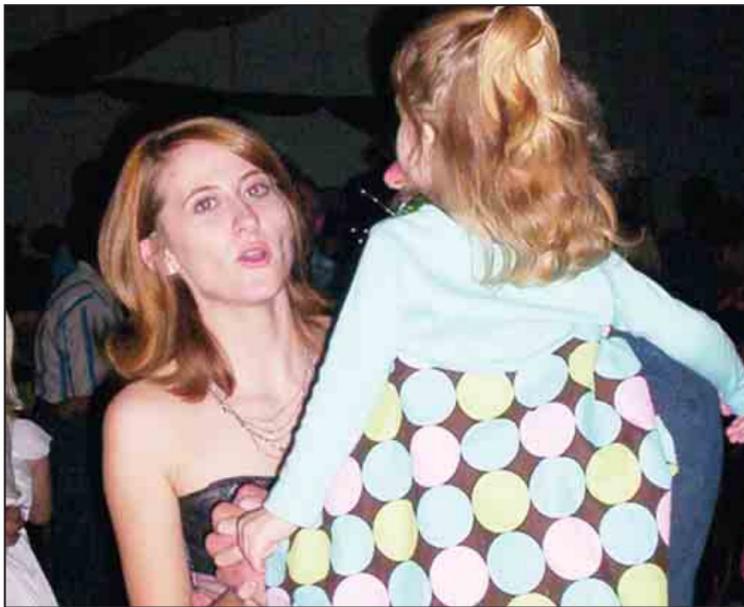


Several fathers step out on the dance floor for an easy, slow dance with daughters.

(Photos courtesy of Jean Rose)



Local KRTN Radio personality, Buddy Springer, dances with his daughter, Hannah at the Father/Daughter Valentine's Day Dance at St. Joseph's/St. Patrick's Parish Hall



Jason Rose does double-duty with daughter Amber and granddaughter Emilia

## City address Neighborhood Watch concerns

By MARTY MAYFIELD  
The Chronicle-News

Commissioners heard from citizens of the Raton Neighborhood Watch Association that started a discussion about what to do and how to prepare for the upcoming spring when weather warms and the potential for crime goes up.

Sue Martin spoke for the group and urged the commission to look at writing new ordinances to battle the drug and possible gang activity in town. It was also noted that kids who are out late at night probably aren't up to any good yet the State Supreme Court has ruled that curfew laws are unconstitutional. It will take the cooperation of the citizens of Raton to work together and take their community back.

Lawrence Quintana representing Luna Community College, who is also a member of the Las Vegas Mainstreet program, indicated that he has heard the same comments in Las Vegas and that he felt one of the solutions to ending the problem is education. Quintana was at the meeting to inform the commission about the

progress they are making at setting up a campus in Raton. Luna is working with the Raton Schools to use their facilities to bring in welding and building trades courses to Raton.

Ron Gonzales with Luna noted that the Armex building is a good location and that the president of Luna has made a commitment to Raton. Mileta noted that a 2002 NM Labor Department study talked about education and that it is 2009 and Luna is bringing the education that the study talked about to Raton.

In other commission news commissioners approved the New Mexico Department of Transportation coop program application to do improvements to sidewalks, crosswalks on Tiger Drive from Letton Drive to south 2nd street.

Commissioners also approved the NMDOT Municipal Arterial Program application to build Santa Fe Trail between Grant avenue and Hwy 72. Santa Fe Trail is basically the dirt street that runs from Hwy 72 along the railroad tracks that will be used to improve traffic flow through the area of the new

aquatic center and Roundhouse Park. This will also give Raton another route through town in case of a downtown emergency.

Commissioners then heard about two requests for Lodger's Tax contingency funds for advertising this year. The Lodger's tax committee approved both applications, one from the Raton Rodeo Association to advertise the Raton Rodeo in June and the other from St. Patrick's St. Joseph's Catholic Church to promote their Pentecost Celebration in May. Both requests were approved by the commission.

Commissioners approved the introduction of an ordinance 940 which is a supplement that contains all the ordinances that have been enacted since ordinance 940.

Commissioners then approved the cancellation of the February 24 regular meeting since most of the commission will be in Santa Fe for the Municipal Day at the Legislature.

City Manager Mileta then updated the commissioners on the legislature, noting that



Raton Fire and Emergency services were honored Tuesday evening with a proclamation complimenting them for a terrific job during the El Portal fire. The proclamation indicates that 21 Raton Fire fighters confronted, controlled, and ultimately extinguished the blaze in an extremely professional and timely manner. No injuries were sustained despite the dangerous conditions in the building including a back draft explosion that threw a firefighter off his feet pushing him back through a door.

The proclamation went on to say that Raton is so fortunate to have such a well equipped and well trained department. Front row L to R is Frank Rizzo, Rick Acedo, Gary Cruz, Mayor Joe Apache, Aaron Myers and Fire Chief Dave Pasquale. Back Row L to R is Commissioners Chuck Henry, Tressa Kagen, Sara Kowalski, and Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Johnson.

(Photo by Marty Mayfield)

most seem to be waiting to see what the trickle down effect will be from the federal stimulus package.

The commission will meet again on March 10 unless there is a need for a special meeting before then.

## Des Moines recycling takes a step forward

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

A community collective calling itself Recycle Des Moines made the round of board meetings Tuesday night, making a presentation to the Des Moines Village Council and placing itself on the March agenda of the Des Moines School Board.

Science teacher Heidi Karr, Business Incubation Center director Sunny Hill, and arts coordinator Christina Boyce all work at Des Moines School. Janice Morrow, of Janice Morrow Marketing & PR in Capulin, a fourth member of Recycle Des Moines, is currently spearheading much of the group's effort.

Meeting at Des Moines Village Hall in their regular monthly session, the village council heard a proposal to co-sponsor a community recycling center that would

be housed at the Des Moines School to serve the entire area, including Capulin, Folsom, Grenville, and surrounding areas.

Boyce gave an overview of the proposed project, then Morrow spelled out details. Recycle Des Moines would be responsible for writing a grant application, assisted by the New Mexico Recycling Coalition. The grant, from New Mexico Environment Department's Solid Waste Bureau, would fund all the start-up costs, including a trailer and recycling bins, other infrastructure and capital equipment as needed, education, and promotion.

The Village of Des Moines would own the equipment and receive 15% to 19% of the funding to cover administrative costs. Working through the Business Incubation Center at Des Moines

School, students would manage the site and equipment; they would also create promotional and educational materials and programs to promote widespread participation in the program.

Nearby Capulin Volcano National Monument has a recycling program in place; Recycle Des Moines members have discussed with monument employees possible ways of coordinating efforts such as transporting the recycled materials to transfer station. One advantage gained by the village and surrounding areas is that recycling can dramatically reduce the volume of solid waste deposited at dumps and landfills.

Mayor Lee Dixon posed several questions about equipment and liability. Morrow said she would do the research to answer his questions. Council member Raymond Cisneros spoke enthusiastically of the proposal.



Recycle Des Moines group confers between meetings Tuesday night. In the Board Room at Des Moines School are, from left, Janice Morrow, Sunny Hill, Christina Boyce, and Heidi Karr. (Photo by Tim Keller)

Supervisor of the Des Moines district of the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Cisneros said they've been recycling at the district yard for a long time but have had trouble

moving out their recycled materials.

Since the grant application deadline is April 5, Dixon placed the matter as an action item on the council's March agenda, when questions will be answered

and details discussed and, potentially, approved. The same night, Recycle Des Moines will walk the proposal over to the Des Moines School board with hopes of gaining approval for the school's part in the plan.

### COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

February  
Feb. 16

6 p.m. - Raton Red Hot Mamas and Foxy Ladies Mardi Gras party. K-Bobs. RSVP Fonda at (575) 445-9783 or Linda at (575) 445-8697.

Feb. 22

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Enchilada Dinner. St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Diane at (575) 445-7123 or the Parish Hall at (575) 445-9763.

2:30 p.m. - Robert Post Comedy Theater. Shuler Theater. Presented by Raton Arts and Humanities and Title Services, Inc. Tickets at www.ratonarts.org or (575) 445-2052.

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: colfax-countyfair@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