

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Horace Culley adds the shadow to his hand-painted sign for A & M Repair Co.

(Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

Sign painting not a lost art

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Horace Culley, professional sign painter, started painting signs when he was in his early twenties. Now, his trade is still in demand despite the use of billboards and signs that are created in print shops on nylon

fabric and replaced as they wear out.

Culley, who painted the A & M sign on Second Street twenty years ago, is painting the same sign this week, using the age-old tools, paint and paintbrush. Evidently after twenty years, its time to put on a fresh coat of

paint to brighten things up a bit.

Culley and his wife, Sybil, returned to Raton from Florida, where they spent about ten

years. Since moving back to Raton, Culley's skills are as popular now as they were several years ago. Culley can be reached at (575)415-7418.

New Mexico House delegation announces nearly \$28m to improve transportation infrastructure

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON, DC - Thursday, Representatives Harry Teague, Ben Ray Lujan, and Martin Heinrich announced the availability of \$27, 749,995 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for public transportation in New Mexico. The funding will be awarded to states and local transportation authorities to repair and build America's public transportation infrastructure.

"With this transit funding we're strengthening Southern New Mexico's infrastructure for the long term, creating jobs, and working toward a more energy efficient future," said Rep. Harry Teague. "In addition to the funding for housing, community development grants, and local law enforcement, these transit funds make an investment in our tribes and small and rural communities."

"Funding from the Federal Transit Administration will help New Mexico grow its transportation infrastructure and advance public transportation," said Rep. Lujan. "Investments in public transportation put New Mexico and our nation on a path towards a more sustainable future. It's encouraging that funding for these important programs is quickly flowing to key programs in the states through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

"This distribution for public transit is incredibly important because it's an investment in both our present and our future," said Rep. Heinrich. "Investing

in our public transportation puts New Mexicans to work now and it also moves us toward energy independence, decreased traffic congestion, and a healthier community for all of us. Public transit is also a tremendous incentive to lure new companies to locate in Albuquerque creating even more good jobs."

The funds awarded can be used for various programs that assist people in nonurbanized areas to access health care, education, employment, public services. The funding can also help develop and improve public transportation systems in rural and small urban areas. Funds can be used for capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software. All preventive maintenance and some Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit service costs are considered capital costs.

Read more about the program at this website: http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9118.html

Raton Junior Arts Council to produce first student-directed performance

By Peyton Richards & Tessa Fleming
Raton Junior Arts Council

The Junior Arts Council is taking involvement in the youth community by putting together a play for grades K-5. plan, "The Princess and the Pea," is a humorous fairy tale. When a prince cannot find his princess, a young troll steps in; when his princess finally shows up, doubt and devious schemes are presented and resolved.

The cast of the play is Shelby Cardenas, Tristan Cardenas, Austin Woods, Baylor Walton, Samantha Gusman, Claire Durant, Halle Medina, Ivy Lark McCormick Edwards, and Jusiv Edwards. The Junior Arts Council members, who are the directors and producers of the play, are

Amanda Mehn, Mariah Fleming, Tessa Fleming, Peyton Richards, Clair Willden, Kate Little, Jacob Sanchez, and James Angelli. The Raton Junior Arts Council is sponsored by the Raton Arts and Humanities Council and coordinated by the group's sponsor, Bill Crary.

The kids are enjoying their time in this production of "The Princess and the Pea". Please come and show your support on March 13 and 14 at the Shuler Theater at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be sold at the door: \$1 for students, \$2 for seniors and \$3 for adults. Please come and enjoy our youth here in Raton. After the play each night there will be a meet and greet session in the Shuler lobby.



Students for Students' Publishing club members show books they've published at Raton High School over the past year. From left, back row: Heather Romero, Tamara Johnson, Erin Gansz, Jessica Vertovec, Ashley Trujillo, Erica Hopper. Front row, Heather Cochran, Anita Rose, Hillary Bayliss, Kaycee Bustos.

Raton High School arts clubs raising funds for awards

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

As the annual arts awards season approaches, two student clubs at Raton High School are seeking contributions to bolster the pool of prizes and awards presented to young artists and writers for their winning works. The clubs have issued their calls for entries from students, but both clubs are waiting to see how much money is raised before determining and announcing the size of prizes.

The RHS Art Club will present its perennial Youth in Art show and awards presentation Wednesday, April 29. For the first time, the show will be presented in the International Room at International Bank in downtown Raton. The following evening, in the same room, with the art still on the walls, Students for Students' Publishing will present its annual awards for its "Through the Eye of the Tiger" writing competition. Art teacher and sponsor Kathy Vertovec says, "Our goal with the writing program is to promote literacy in our community through the arts."

Both contests are open to all students of Raton Middle School and Raton High School for works produced in a class or independently. The writing contest also includes the elementary grades. Awards are determined by qualified independent judges. Prizes include cash awards, gift certificates, and ribbons. Much of the art will be priced for sale, further demonstrating to the young artists the value of their talents and work. Winning writers will see their

work published by Students for Students' Publishing.

RHS Art Club sent letters this week to more than 120 past supporters, requesting contributions for this year's prizes. The writing program, just three years old, has thus far relied on a small core of supporters, including Holiday Inn Express's Roy & Georgia Pillmore and Lee & Anna Caruana, State Oil's Donnie & Ethel Romero and Shelly Wood, La Familia Family Care's Mark & Judy Bayliss, Nan Sue Rogers, Karen & Bill Ordemann, and Marianne & Paul Kastler. Both clubs welcome new contributors.

Past awards for 1st Place and Best in Class have been in the \$25-50 range while the Best in Show award has been around \$100. New contributions this year could provide larger prizes or additional awards. The art club awards prizes, usually 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, in up to eight categories plus five class awards and Best in Show. The "Through the Eye of the Tiger" writing competition provides prizes in six categories. Doing the math, that turns out to be a lot of prizes.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the prize funds may send contributions to the RHS Art Club or Students for Students' Publishing, Raton High School, 1535 Tiger Drive, Raton, NM 87740. Specify for which fund the contribution is intended. In addition to prize money, businesses may also contribute gift certificates which may be included in the pool of prizes. The clubs will send receipts by return mail.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

March 7

"Men's Room Breakfast," First United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 1501 S. Fourth Street, 8:30 a.m. Free. (575) 445-3262.

March 10

Retired Public Employees of N.M., Chapter 18, Raton Seniors Citizens Center. 440 South First Street 2 p.m.

March 11-12

Raton Child Find, free screening for children ages birth to 5, Longfellow Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Target areas: vision, hearing, cognitive, language, fine and gross motor screenings. Parents may register pre-K children for kindergarten, but must provide a birth certificate and immunization record. Continues March 12, same times. Appointments: Carolyn (575)445-7918. Sponsored by High Plains Regional Education Cooperative #3 and Raton Public Schools.

March 13-14

The Princess and the Pea presented by Raton Junior Arts Council at the Shuler Theater starting at 7 p.m.

March 16

Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Meeting- 9 a.m. at CYFD office
Diabetes & Obesity Prevention Meeting- Noon at DOH office.
Suicide Prevention Meeting- 1:00 p.m. at Methodist Church fellowship hall.

March 23

Maternal Child Health Meeting - Noon at the Sands Restaurant.

March 26

Health Council Meeting - Noon at International Room of International Bank.

March 27

Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting - 10 a.m. at YES office.

By MAGGIE SHEPARD
The Associated Press

The move to ban text messaging while driving gained momentum as the New Mexico Senate voted Thursday for the prohibition.

The House already has voted for its own version of a ban. Both bills bar composing, sending or reading a text-based message while driving.

According to the American Automobile Association, Washington, D.C., and seven states - Alaska, California,

NM ban on text messaging while driving gains speed

Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington - have enacted such bans.

The House bill fines violators \$25. The Senate bill, which passed on a 22-15 vote, includes a \$100 fine.

"I brought this issue out of my own personal experience," said bill sponsor Sen. Lynda Lovejoy, D-Crownpoint. "I have young adult children, and I have a whole slew of nieces and nephews, and when I travel with

them it is very frightening when they use their text messaging."

Lovejoy said although there is already a state law that provides penalties for inattentive driving and some cities have cell phone bans, a statewide ban would make the roads safer.

"It's about a safety issue," said Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, D-Dona Ana. "You are totally distracted, whether it is a cell phone or texting."

While opponents agreed text messaging while driving is dan-

gerous, they argued a state law already exists to punish distracted driving, which happens in many more ways than just texting.

"I think there are a lot of things we could amend into this: shaving, putting on eyeliner, eating french fries," said Sen. William Sharer, R-Farmington.

The Senate-passed bill now heads to the House. The House-passed bill is pending in a Senate committee.

The same version must pass both houses to reach the governor's desk for his signature.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED:

■ 03/05/09-Patrick Romero, 41- Arrest order for violation of probation, being intoxicated, after charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on 05-20-08.

CITATIONS:

■ 03/05/09- Wallace Goss, 41,- Criminal trespass and assault.
■ 03/05/09- Debra Zambora, 45,- Battery and criminal trespass.

INCIDENTS:

■ 03/05/09- Peena Sisneros reports criminal damage to property.