

# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photo courtesy of First National Bank of New Mexico

## The First National Bank of New Mexico wins best of the best award from PHH Mortgage

COURTESY OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NEW MEXICO  
Special to The Chronicle-News

**Raton, NM** -Mark Franks, Account Manager for PHH Mortgage, a subsidiary of PHH Corporation (NYSE: PHH), presented The First National Bank of New Mexico with the prestigious "Best of the Best" award.

The "Best of the Best" award recognized the top 13 of PHH Mortgage's clients based on factors such as loan quality and commitment to customer service.

Banks who earn the "Best of the Best" distinction receive a reduction in certain administrative fees and preferred client access for quicker responses to their customers, as well as other rewards and benefits.

"This award recognizes the strong relationship that The First National Bank of New Mexico has with PHH Mortgage and acknowledges the bank's standard of excellence in performance," said Craig Dodds, vice president, wholesale and correspondent sales, PHH Mortgage. "It is also a symbol of their commitment to their customers and their

passion for serving their customers."

"To win this award for the 3rd year is an honor. Working with PHH Mortgage allows us to offer a full range of competitive home loan mortgage programs with a person-to-person experience for our customers," said Janet Iacobelli, senior vice president of The First National Bank of New Mexico.

The First National Bank of New Mexico, with bank offices in Angel Fire, Clayton, Logan, Raton, Santa Rosa and Tucumcari, NM, is an equal housing lender and member FDIC.

**About PHH Mortgage**  
PHH Mortgage is the industry's leading provider of private label mortgage services and the top originator of mortgage loans by phone. A subsidiary of PHH Corporation (NYSE: PHH), PHH Mortgage provides mortgage services to financial institutions, real estate brokers, affinity groups, credit unions, corporations, and government agencies. In 2006, PHH Mortgage provided \$41 billion in mortgage financing for American homes.

**About PHH Corporation**  
Headquartered in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, PHH Corporation is a leading outsource provider of mortgage and vehicle fleet management services. Its subsidiary PHH Mortgage is one of the top ten retail originators of residential mortgages in the United States, and its subsidiary, PHH Arval, is a leading fleet management services provider in the United States and Canada. For additional information about the company and its subsidiaries please visit our website at [www.phh.com](http://www.phh.com).

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Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Royal Quint - First National Bank of New Mexico, Frank Cimino - Cimino Brothers, Gus Mascarenas, Ed Fidel, and Richard Gonzales - Knights of Columbus pose with this year's winners of the bike-a-thon fund-raising for St. Jude Children's Hospital, Dylan Query, Briana Pais, and Brianna Marquez.

## Winners of bike-a-thon fundraising announced

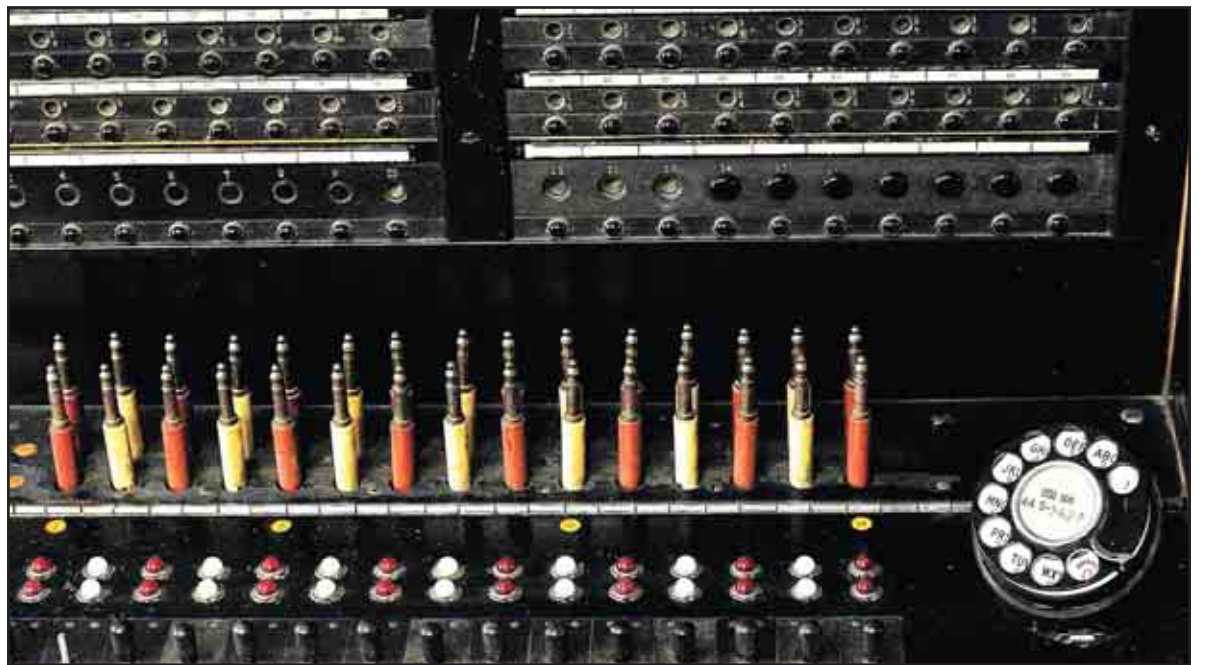
By LAURA L. BREWER  
The Chronicle-News

The St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus, the First National Bank of New Mexico, and Raton K-Mart employees, who collected their own money to pay for a bike as a donation, provided three riders, who participated in this year's annual Bike-a-Thon with brand new

bikes as the top fund-raising entrants. Twenty-one entries raised a total of \$5262 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The winners of the three bikes, a Huff, a Stratus Pacific, and an Evolution Pacific, were: Briana Pais, 12, who turned in \$1314; Brianna Marquez, 9, who collected \$1000; and Dylan Query, 12, who raised \$400. This was

Dylan's first year and Brianna, and Briana competed for their second time.

Winner of first place, Briana Pais, will take home the traveling trophy, which is currently residing in Maxwell. The traveling trophy was started last year with the donation of a trophy by Sports Arena for the event.



Photos by Tim Keller

Top: This old telephone switchboard, with its 445-exchange, is on display in the Folsom Museum.

Left: Eleanor Krusi spent her 4th of July readying the Folsom Museum's branding fence for next Saturday.

Right: Doherty Mercantile's three safe doors were recently opened for the first time in decades.

Bottom: The Folsom Museum took over Doherty Mercantile, leaving much of the old store intact.

## Folsom Museum throws a branding party

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

The Folsom Museum is throwing its 2nd Annual Branding Party Saturday evening, July 11, from 5 to 8 pm. A \$10 donation gets a ticket that includes dinner, entertainment, an auction, admission to the museum, and the opportunity to add the family brand to "The Branding Fence".

Last year's museum fundraiser was so popular that they ran out of food. They're making extra this year, but they hope people will call the museum, 575-278-2122, to give them a preview of how many to expect.

The dozens of ranch brands added to the fence last year include several that were registered in the 1800s, when Doherty Mercantile Co. was a thriving market center for the region. The store survived the 1908 flood that decimated Folsom, finally closing in the 1950s. The Folsom Museum took over the building in 1967 with much of the original store still intact.

Two years ago, the Doherty family donated the property to the Folsom Museum Board of Directors, who set about in earnest to restore the building to its full potential. Since then, they've been roofing, plastering, refinishing floors, remodeling, landscaping, and safecracking. (More on safecracking in a moment.) They're using volunteer labor, applying for grants, and throwing fundraisers to support their ambitious goals for the museum. Last year's Branding Party drew a big

crowd. The activist museum board consists of Abbie Reaves, Eleanor Krusi, Marijo Balmer, Mike Schoonover, Vanita Brown, Marilyn (Kay) Thompson, Pam Lyle, Linda Behrendsen, and Betty Short, who has been on the board continuously since its inception in 1967. They keep the Folsom Museum open seven days a week during the summer months, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Last Saturday, the 4th of July, the museum was crowded all day, mostly with tourists who paid the \$1.50 donation to spend the half hour or more it takes to see everything. Adding historical notes from Abbie Reaves, a retired Capulin Volcano park ranger and lifelong area resident, and some were there for well over an hour before moving on to the volcano or driving over Johnson Mesa to Raton.

One room was recently opened and is being made into a museum gift shop to sell locally-produced items, including books, arts & crafts, and gift cards. On the back wall of this room is a 4"-thick steel safe door that had not been opened in decades, the combination long lost. One day last year a visitor noticed some numbers scratched on the wall near the safe. He tried them - and the lock opened.

Just inside the heavy safe door was another, lighter steel door. A locksmith was employed to get the second door open. Inside was a storage room and a heavy free-standing safe. The Doherty family took many of the con-

tents as family memorabilia, while the Folsom Museum kept some for its displays. Now the walk-in safe is open for the public to see.

Among the hundreds of fascinating items on display, many of which have been donated by area families, is a Fischer piano made of rosewood in Germany and shipped to St. Louis, Missouri, on February 25, 1878. A letter from the manufacturer to the Folsom Museum presumes that the piano then reached New Mexico by wagon train from St. Louis.

The museum will be open - and busy - all day and evening Saturday, July 11, one of its busiest days of the year. Archaeologist Chuck Hannaford, from the NM Office of Archaeology in Santa Fe, will have three long tables set up out front all afternoon, beginning at 1:00 pm, to display and discuss artifacts from the Clovis and Folsom eras and from the nearby Santa Fe Trail. The public is encouraged to bring other artifacts to share and discuss with Hannaford.

The Branding Party officially begins at 5:00 pm with dinner, entertainment, auction, and branding of the museum fence. Many will drive over to Folsom from the Colorado side via Branson; others will cross Johnson Mesa on scenic Highway 72 from Raton, returning after the event as the sun sets. The museum itself is at the heart of picturesque Folsom, impossible to miss.

