

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Jan Pryor serves communities and saves lives

Continued from page 1

not enough for the fledgling EMS services of Des Moines, Folsom, Capulin, and Grenville. "We'd had a few bad runs," Pryor recalls. "Once, we had to stop in Dalhart to pick up a paramedic to keep someone alive to Amarillo - he didn't make it - and we just decided we needed our own paramedic."

Pryor had completed one year of nursing school back home in Iowa after graduating from high school. "I thought about it a long time. I wanted to get back into medicine but I didn't want to be in the hospital." She decided to go down to Albuquerque to take the rigorous EMT-Paramedic course at UNM's EMS Academy. That was 20 years ago, in 1989.

"The EMS Academy was resistant to enrolling me because of the remote community I'd be serving. They didn't think I'd use my skills frequently enough to remain proficient." Other rural communities with paramedics, such as Cuba or Questa, had medical clinics; northeastern New Mexico had nothing. "They'd never prepared a paramedic for a place that had no hospital between 85 miles. But I'd made some friends in the EMS Bureau in Santa Fe, including the director, and they were sup-

portive.

"The Academy made it rough on me. They really ran me through my paces, because they knew I'd be on my own out here." Pryor has made that approach her own in training other EMTs throughout northeastern New Mexico over the past two decades. Unlike most EMTs, who care for a patient in the minutes until they reach a hospital, Pryor's trainees care for their patients for an hour or more, sometimes much more.

She is northeastern New Mexico's primary EMT educator, training EMTs from Eagle Nest to Clayton, Raton to Mosquero, Des Moines to Wagon Mound.

Pryor didn't anticipate this life. She grew up on her family's farm in Gladbrook, Iowa, raising dairy cows, hogs, chickens, corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa. Just after high school graduation, her church group travelled to the Sierra Grande Cowboy Camp Meeting near Des Moines, NM, "to work in the kitchen and sing in the choir." There, she met nearby rancher Tom Pryor.

She returned to Iowa for nursing school, "which I hated with a passion", but married Tom the next summer and moved to his cow/calf operation beside Weatherly Lake. "We run 135 to

150 cow/calf pairs, depending on rainfall and everything else, and I used to do a little farming in the summer when Tom was off driving a truck."

She still works the ranch and grows a great summer garden, but she's known near and far as the region's paramedic. She has served since 1989 on New Mexico's DMAT - Disaster Medical Assistance Team - called to action at Ground Zero after 9-11, at the Northridge earthquake, the Cerro Grande fire, hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, Katrina, Ike and a couple dozen others.

DMAT pays for her services, and the New Mexico EMS Bureau pays her to train other EMTs, but when the emergency phone line goes off in the middle of a winter night - or any other time - Pryor is a volunteer just like all the other EMTs in the Des Moines, Folsom, Capulin, and Grenville emergency medical services. She's not only the highest-certified and -trained responder; she's also the instructor of every other EMT responding. And they're pleased to know that her four-wheel-drive SUV is flying over Weatherly Road just fast enough to put her at the scene by the time they arrive with the ambulance.

Full Moon Art Exchange off to an encouraging start

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The Main Street Galeria in downtown Raton opened its doors the evening of July 7 for the inaugural Full Moon Art Exchange. Down the center of the hall of the mini mall stood several tables end to end loaded with paintings, large and small by various artists. Individual office space, gallery, and retail doors were open to the public for this monthly event that will always coincide with the full moon. Future business space, that is still available for lease, was set up for refreshments, sales and exchanges. Framed art adorned the walls, empty frames and other art supplies were displayed on chairs and tables. Customers slowly perused the offerings, selected items of choice, and purchased them while enjoying refreshments and conversation throughout the more than two hour event.

Everyone is invited to attend and bring objects of art that they would like to sell, or exchange on the next full moon, or simply drop in for refreshments and a chance to meet some of the working artists in the area. As an example of this new exchange, organizers Rich Kuhns, businessman, and artist Ruth Brown asked those who attended the function on Tuesday evening to suggest ideas for future exchanges. Local artist demonstrations, watching films and enjoying favorite foods of famous artists, were



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Patrons and artists examine artwork on display during the inaugural Full Moon Art Exchange in the Main Street Galeria, Downtown Raton. From left to right are: Reed Bengé, Milbie Bengé, Phyllis Brown, Ena Sroat, and Shannon Foltz.

just a few of the suggestions. The next Full Moon Art Exchange will be on August 6, with following full moons occurring on September 4, October 4, November 2, and December 2.

Eric Montoya receives scholarship from Stolar Research Corporation

Special to The Chronicle-News

Eric Montoya, of Raton, is presented a scholarship from Lauren Ratliff of Stolar Research Corporation. The scholarship is in the amount \$1,000 for the 2009-2010 school year. The scholarship criteria is the recipient must attend New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the upcoming fall semester and major in electrical or mechanical engineering. Eric has chosen to major in mechanical engineering at NMSU and is also enrolled in the ROTC program at the university. Eric has displayed leadership and involvement in the community by his membership in 4-H Club for 10 years. He held the offices of Voting Delegate, Treasurer and Vice Present for Colfax County 4-H Council. He also held the offices of Treasurer, Parliamentarian and Vice President for the Johnson Mesa 4-H Club. Eric also showed initiative by enrolling in college courses through Santa Fe College for the past four years. Stolar is proud to award the scholarship to such a capable, driven young man.

NMSU is alma mater to many Stolar employees including Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Larry Stolarczyk and President and



Lauren Ratliff, left, presents Eric Montoya with a scholarship from Stolar Research Corporation

Chief Development Engineer, Jerry Stolarczyk. Dr. Stolarczyk was named outstanding alumnus at the 100th Anniversary of the NMSU College of Engineering. He has also been nominated to receive the National Technology Medal by NMSU for the development of the Radio Imaging Method (RIM) technology for tomography scanning of subsurface geologic structures.

Stolar started the scholarship three years ago in hopes of encouraging young people to

become engineers. Stolar is a radio geophysics company. Always at the forefront of electromagnetic imaging, the research and development company develops and manufactures unique proprietary products to solve problems for the energy industry and the U.S. military. These solutions use electromagnetic radio waves to penetrate the earth, detecting and imaging underground geologic formations and structures and enabling in-mine wireless tracking and communications.



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Marjorie Grussendorf volunteers her time at the Raton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Raton providing music to other residents.

Age no concern for volunteer Marjorie

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Marjorie Grussendorf, 92, spends a little time every week playing the piano and singing favorite Broadway

melodies, and well-known hymns at Raton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Raton. Marjorie will tell you with a mischievous grin that she took six piano lessons when she was ten years old,

and her brothers and sisters all play better than she. But, her love of music, and her experience as a preacher's wife gave her the opportunity to practice and improve.

Cimarron Canyon Spring disconnected

Special to The Chronicle-News

CIMARRON, N.M.—The natural spring in Cimarron Canyon will be disconnected as of July 7 following water quality tests taken July 6 that once again showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The spring has tested positive for coliform bacteria on three different required samples. The spring will remain disconnected, pending potential agreements between the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (which owns the spring) and local government entities to manage the spring.

"We regret having to disconnect the spring," said Game & Fish Deputy Director Robert Jenks, "but this is the prudent step as we work together to craft a long-term solution."

A public meeting about the status and future of the natural spring in Cimarron Canyon was held Dec. 3, 2008, with representatives from three state agencies—New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), New Mexico State Parks, and New Mexico

Department of Game & Fish. The meeting, which drew almost 60 attendees, was a forum to provide information, answer questions, hear comments and take suggestions from the public. The most feasible option discussed was a cooperative agreement between Colfax County and the NM Department of Game and Fish to operate the spring. This has not occurred; therefore State Parks is left with no option but to close the spring.

The natural spring is located near the eastern entrance to the Colin Neblett State Wildlife Management Area owned by the State Game Commission. Coliform bacteria are commonly found in the digestive tracts of animals, including humans, and do not necessarily cause disease but may indicate of the presence of other pathogens (disease-causing organisms).

The spring failed required samples in August, October and November 2008. Since that time, tests have been negative for the coliform bacteria presence until yesterday's special

test, indicating the spring is likely to fail its next required testing in July. Should there be a fourth failed test within the 12-month period that began in August 2008, NMED would be obligated to issue an administrative order for the spring to come into compliance with drinking water regulations. Therefore, NM State Parks must close the spring or face possible NMED penalties and an escalated compliance action by the NMED.

Cimarron Canyon State Park is owned by the State Game Commission and managed by New Mexico State Parks. The Environment Department regulates drinking water standards in New Mexico.

Cimarron Canyon State Park is a high mountain park located three miles east of Eagle Nest along U.S. 64 and is popular for brown and rainbow trout fishing, camping and hiking. For more information, call 575-377-6271 or visit www.nmparks.com.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED

- 07/06/09- Lawrence Mares-Bench warrant for failure to attend ATV counseling
- 07/06/09- Jason Duran-Aggravated battery, possession of marijuana, possession of controlled substance and resisting evading obstructing an officer
- 07/06/09- Angela Goss-False reports, resisting obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct
- 07/07/09- Charles Monarco-Warrants out of Colorado
- 07/07/09- Marlon Cordova-DWI 1st offense and driving while license suspended/revoked
- 07/07/09- Matthew Munoz-Arrest order violated his parole/probation condition
- 07/07/09- Richard Trujillo-Aggravated battery
- 07/08/09- Matthew Harold-Order of arrest out of Florida for failure to appear for docket sounding driving under the

influence

INCIDENTS

- 07/06/09- Valerie Martinez-Victim of criminal damage to property
- 07/06/09- Nicholas Granado-Victim of aggravated battery
- 07/06/09- Anthony Duran-Victim of burglary
- 07/06/09- Home Associates-Victim of criminal damage to property
- 07/07/09- Lance Romero-Victim of credit card theft
- 07/07/09- Derek Trujillo-Victim of aggravated battery
- 07/08/09- Kathy Honeyfield-Victim of criminal damage to property

CITATIONS

- 07/06/09- Cain Mora-Battery
- 07/06/09- Marjorie Duran-Battery
- 07/06/09- Nicole Marquez-Battery
- 07/06/09- Faith Blackmore-Battery

- 07/06/09- Ignacio Martinez- No proof of insurance
 - 07/06/09- Jamie Segura-Driver to be licensed
 - 07/06/09- Erlinda Sandoval- Not using headlights and letting juvenile drive
 - 07/07/09- Kareyl Valestad-No city tags on dog
 - 07/07/09- Joseph Mendez-No city tags on dog
 - 07/07/09- Theresa Ortiz-No city tags on dog
 - 07/07/09- Teddy Bernal-Possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and possession of alcohol by a minor
 - 07/07/09- Marlon Cordova-Driving while license suspended/revoked
 - 07/08/09- Mandy Montoya-No city tags and dog at large
 - 07/08/09- Dionicio Jajola-Following to close
- ACCIDENTS**
- 07/06/09- Unknown stuck parked unattended vehicle owned by Denise Ramirez causing moderate damage
 - 07/07/09- Eddie Thomas and Mark Chicarelli causing moderate and slight damage