

SCHOOL NEWS

Aguilar's new principal

By Leslie Simpson Velarde
The Chronicle-News

Walking through the halls of Aguilar School, one would not only see finely dressed students but a man who makes it his business to connect with everyone. Joe Vergilio is Aguilar's new principal. He has been in education for fifteen years and has brought that experience to Aguilar School. Mr. Vergilio has taught every aspect of learning from preschoolers to adult learners. His point of view as a teacher and now as an administrator intensifies his effectiveness and has created an environment of positive learning.



Principal Joe Vergilio in his office, proudly displaying Denver Broncos memorabilia.

Photo by Leslie Simpson Velarde

When Aguilar School announced its need for a principal, Mr. Vergilio immediately applied. He was officially hired on July 1, 2009. At that moment Mr. Vergilio became an Aguilar Wildcat. With his wife and two children's support, he makes the long commute from Pueblo to Aguilar each and every day. His presence among the students has proven to be an immeasurable asset.

Mr. Vergilio has signed a yearly contract with the desire to stay as long as possible. He has come to love Aguilar as he has bonded with the staff and the students on a personal level. He knows each member by their first name and he is able to communicate with everyone. His greatest challenge is to reach each level of learning. Mr. Vergilio approaches each new task through the eyes of a teacher as well as an administrator. He champions the voices of students so they may be heard. On a regular basis, Mr. Vergilio meets with the Juniors and Seniors

to hear their opinions about themselves and the school. This meeting resulted in the enjoyment of "Spirit Days." The staff and student body were able to wear sport jerseys to support Aguilar sports. Mr. Vergilio eagerly showed his own support for Spirit Days as well as his support of the Denver Broncos. The second day that week, everyone wore their pajamas, including Mr. Vergilio.

Clearly Mr. Vergilio is well suited for his position. He has a very simple policy: His love of teaching and teaching kids to love learning. One incredible example of his dedication to teaching came many years ago when he taught a group of fourth and fifth graders from Pueblo. He made such a remarkable impact on that

group, that years later when those students were preparing for graduation, they sought out Mr. Vergilio in Michigan where he was teaching. They graciously invited him to their graduation. Mr. Vergilio describes that moment as one of the greatest events in his teaching career. Mr. Vergilio's "hands on" approach has benefited everyone in his path.

The visibility of Mr. Vergilio has instilled his dedication to the Aguilar Wildcats. He regularly attends extra-curricular school events and proudly includes his family in all Wildcat activities. Mr. Vergilio has clearly made Aguilar his future. His investment in each student will only accelerate Aguilar's performance in every area of study. Mr. Vergilio is a true Aguilar Wildcat and plans on maintaining his Wildcat Status.

Raton Junior Arts Council thinks creatively

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

As the new school year at Raton High School approached in August of 2008, incoming freshman Mariah Fleming visited with her grandmother, Raton Arts & Humanities Council (RAHC) board president Sue Fleming. Together, they hatched an idea and a club. The Raton Junior Arts Council (RJAC) was born.

Now in its second year, Mariah is a sophomore and the council's secretary. Her younger sister, freshman Tessa Fleming, is the president, while seven other members share various responsibilities. Senior Amanda Mehn says, "The council's goal is to promote youth involvement in the arts." She lists accomplishments in the young club's history. "We produced a play, 'The Princess and the Pea', at the Shuler Theater in March. We presented splatter painting and chalk graffiti at the re-opening of the Old Pass Gallery in July. We help the Raton Arts & Humanities Council in any way we can."

A good illustration of what go-getters these young people are: their one-year-old club has an historian - Ms. Mehn, who was the first to join Mariah Fleming in forming the council. Rounding out the executive board are the vice-president, sophomore Peyton Richards, and treasurer, senior Jeffery Redlick. Additional members are seniors Mallorie Salazar and Matthew Taylor, and freshmen James Angeli and Marisa McCarty. The students credit



The Raton Junior Arts Council spreads out. From top left: Mallorie Salazar, Peyton Richards, Mariah Fleming, Jeffery Redlick, Amanda Mehn, Matthew Taylor, James Angeli, and Tessa Fleming.

Photo by Tim Keller

local artist Cindy Montoya, a member of the RAHC board, with being the closest thing they have to a sponsor; although all the members attend Raton High School, the council is not affiliated with the school itself.

The RJAC has just embarked on its next project, hatched by the members themselves. Mariah Fleming explains, "During middle school, we used to go visit the people at the local assisted living center. A lot of them don't have any family left. This semester, we thought it'd be nice to visit them for Christmas."

They just enlisted a professional photographer to donate

creative photos of the club members, which they plan to use in making Christmas cards to distribute to residents during the club's December visits.

Meantime, they helped out during the International Art Exhibit and Sale at International Bank in downtown Raton last month, and they continue to meet twice monthly, rotating locations while they search for a good long-term meeting location.

With a majority of the club consisting of freshmen and sophomores, it's a good bet these young arts activists - and the club they've founded - will be an active force in the community for a long time to come.

THE FINE PRINT

Continued from page 1 Trinidad Rotary Club

Weekly Luncheon and Meeting - Thurs. at 12 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. This week's guest speaker is Susie Davis an ER Nurse from Mt. San Rafael Hospital. She will present information needed to be able to speak to doctors about emergency room situations and end of life choices.

Raton Red Cross

Monthly Meeting - Thurs. 6 p.m. - United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall - Raton. New members encouraged to attend this training for winter disaster prep.

FRIDAY

Al-Anon Family

Family Group meets at 6 p.m. Fridays, Presbyterian Church, 801 San Pedro, in the basement. Info call: Sharone 719-846-9999. No charge.

Narcotics Anonymous

WEEKLY MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Eagles #179

Eagles Regular Meeting is Fri. at 8 p.m. in Eagles Hall.

SATURDAY

Gideons

Fisher's Peak Gideons - 7 a.m. Saturday Prayer Meeting. Call 719-846-4044 for location.

La Casa Breakfast

La Casa Monthly Breakfast - 7 a.m. to Noon - Saturday at La Casa Lodge in Jansen.

SUNDAY

Guadalupe Society

Guadalupe Society will meet for an 11 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Church on Sunday with a potluck and Rosary at 12:45 p.m. before the meeting at Holy Family Hall. Any questions, call Rose at (719) 846-3647.

La Casa

La Casa winter jacket giveaway - Sunday at 1 p.m. - La Casa Lodge in Jansen.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Flu Clinic Cancelled

The Las Animas Huerfano County District Health Department is currently out of Seasonal Flu Vaccine. The Flu Shot Clinic on Tuesday, October 13 has been cancelled. We anticipate receiving more vaccine for the later scheduled clinics.

Military Family Group

New Military Family Support Group now forming in Trinidad. Initial meeting slated for Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce conference room - 136 W. Main St., Trinidad. Open to all family, friends and community members who wish to gather and support our deployed military service men and women all over the world. Info: 719-846-3438 or 719-240-8126 (Arianna) or email: navywife4mylife@yahoo.com

VFW

Veteran Motorcyclists - Eligible to be a member or are a VFW member - come ride with the "VFW Warriors." Info: Bob @ 859-0743 or Robin @ 845-1625

Senior's Inc.

Looking for a Volunteer to work with the SMP Fraud Program. Call Alberta or Nina at 719-846-4414 for more information.

District Health Dept

The Las Animas-Huerfano Counties Health Dept is anticipating a busy flu vaccine season. We are looking for individuals who can give us their time, talent, and effort to help keep our population healthy. We are especially interested in nurses and people with a health care related background. If you are interested please contact Kristy at the Trinidad office (719) 846-2213.

Electronics Recycling

Recycle electronics at the rehab center, one stop past UPS on Freedom Road, M-W-F 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. A small fee is charged. For other recycling opportunities, pick up ReGroup's green and white bookmark at the library.



Photo by Laura Brewer

Students from Kearny Elementary School check their drawings of architecture styles after a session on Historic First Street for their art class.

Kearny students study architecture in historic district and make sketches

By Laura Brewer
The Chronicle-News

During a walking field trip to downtown Raton, several students from Vivian Frey's fourth-grade class learned about art in architecture while sketching the wonderful Victorian-style buildings on historic First Street.

Art instructor Phyllis Trujillo, who visits each of the Raton elementary schools throughout the school year teaching art styles, forms, and history, explained that the students' sketches will be composed into a collage and later displayed in the window of the Discount Office Supply retail store in downtown Raton on

Second Street. Earlier in September, during the International Art Show at the International Bank, art instructor Melissa Goetsch-Medina joined Trujillo, fifth grade teachers, and several parent helpers, at the exhibit in order learn about the various medium and styles of fine art on display.



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