

Plant your gardens

Spring has sprung, and it's time to start planting your gardens for the upcoming growing season. If you are interested in taking part in the community/farmers market, please let us know, as the future of this market depends on your participation. Selling fresh produce is a great way to make some extra cash, and involving your kids will create memories for a lifetime.

Artesia MainStreet is currently planning the annual 2010 Artesia Community/Farmers market. The market provides the community with fresh produce, fruits, honey, nuts, berries, art, jewelry, handmade crafts, home baked items and much more. The

MainStreet Downtown Lowdown

By Rebecca Prendergast



market is planned to return to Saturday mornings beginning in June – September 2010. More vendors are needed to continue this event. In addition the public, other organizations are invited to assist us in demonstrations, entertainment and educational exhibits free of charge. Those that are interested in vending or providing exhibits for the market

can contact Rebecca Prendergast at 746-1117 or Tammy Ingram at 308-3846 or visit www.artesiastreet.com for details and applications.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Rebecca Prendergast is the manager of Artesia MainStreet, 510 W. Main St. She can be reached by calling 746-1117.)



Emil Whitis photo

Chase Foundation donates to BBBS

Pictured are Michelle Madrid, community coordinator of the Artesia Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southeastern New Mexico program, and Ginny Bush, associate director of the Chase Foundation. The Chase Foundation recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Artesia Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. "This money will help to present a positive change in the lives of Artesian children in need of role models," said Madrid. She said the program has recently experienced an explosion of volunteer "Bigs." For more information or to volunteer, contact Madrid at 746-6455.



Tyler Green photo

Kathy Kolt awards the Brannans with a trip to Ruidoso they won by purchasing a raffle ticket from Kiwanis.

Kiwanis promotes good behavior in kids

By KATHY KOLT
Guest Columnist

Kiwanis in Artesia has two programs to promote better behavior in our youth. Every month we go into five grade schools, in the fifth grade classes, and do our TERRIFIC KIDS Program. Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, and Capable Kids.

Joe Schiel and I are the lucky ones who get to pass out Kiwanis T-shirts, pencils, kitchen magnets with our logo, bumper stickers and pins. I can tell you from experience, we have wonderful principals and teachers in Artesia, and gorgeously

adoptable kids. I want to take all of them home.

Our other program is BUGS, bringing up grades. This works really well. We have a party with ice cream sandwiches and drinks, thank you Fenn's for helping us out. We also give out a bag of prizes, one of which is a youth meal from Burger King. Many thanks to Burger King for helping us out. When one student gets to go to the party because of bringing up his grades, his buddies and siblings don't like being left out, so they work at bringing their grades up so they can join in the fun.

We recently had a raffle to make money to pay our

expenses. Kiwanians sold tickets for a night at a hotel, \$50 dinner money, and two tickets to the Spencer Theater in Ruidoso to watch the Drifters. We Kiwanians always meet at La Fonda for a lunch meeting every Thursday, and we had our favorite waitress, Nicki, pull the winning ticket. I'm just thrilled because I sold the winning ticket. Jack Brannan and his wife will be going up to Ruidoso on April 24.

Marbob came through for us and helped with \$200 towards our expenses. If you're interested in improving the lives of young people, join us at La Fonda on Thursday at noon.

GOP has more challengers in NM legislative races

SANTA FE (AP) — Democrats have maintained a majority in the state House of Representatives for nearly 60 years, but Republicans hope to chip away at that this year.

Democratic incumbents face GOP candidates in 25 legislative races — the most Republican challengers in a decade.

"What we're doing is looking at how many seats have been targeted in the past and realizing that we need to start fielding more candidates and winning where we can," said state GOP spokeswoman Janel Causey.

The elections are critical because the Legislature will redraw boundaries of House and Senate districts next year using population data from the 2010 census. The new districts — and whether they favor candidates from one party — will influence elections and legislative actions for the next decade.

Democrats hold a 45-25 advantage in the House. Senators aren't up for re-election until 2012.

To seize control of the House, Republicans need to avoid losing any seats while taking 11 currently held by Democrats — a

huge task if past elections are any indication.

The largest recent GOP gain came in 1994, when it picked up seven House seats. That same year, Republican Gary Johnson defeated Democratic incumbent Gov. Bruce King. The GOP padded its numbers in the next two elections — 30 House Republicans were seated when the 1999 Legislature convened.

The GOP last enjoyed a House majority after netting 19 seats in 1952, when World War II hero Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, won the presidency. Democrats regained control of the New Mexico House in the next election.

Democrats remain confident they'll keep a House majority.

"It would be ludicrous for us if we didn't spend a lot of time and energy defending our 20-seat majority we have in the House," Democratic Party executive director Scott Forrester said.

Typically, incumbents have a significant advantage in fundraising and name identification, but they could face a political headwind this year.

Lawmakers, particularly Democrats, have cast potentially

unpopular budget-balancing votes to raise taxes and cut spending on schools and other governmental programs. During a special session that ended in March, the Legislature approved the largest tax increase package in more than two decades. Only one House Republican voted for the main tax increase measure. Six Democrats opposed it.

"All our incumbents are going to work their butts off. They are aware it's a difficult environment," Forrester said.

Three of the GOP-targeted races will be among the most competitive — Albuquerque-area seats in which Democrats defeated Republican incumbents in 2008.

More than half of the targeted Democratic incumbents are in districts with strongly Democratic voting patterns. But longtime New Mexico pollster Brian Sanderoff likens campaigns to the lottery, particularly for long-shot candidates.

"You can't win, unless you play," Sanderoff said.

Democrats have fielded challengers against eight GOP House members, although most of those are in solidly GOP districts.

Program helps shooters improve their rifle skills

By KATHY KOLT
Guest Columnist

Here's another great opportunity to improve your shooting skills, and if you are a woman, military, elected official or a young person under 21, it's free. The Appleseed Project is dedicated to helping all of us improve our ability to handle a rifle. It will take place at the Roswell Gun Club on April 17 and 18; you can register at 8 a.m., shooting starts at

8:30 a.m.

I guarantee you to come away from this with better shooting skills. You will need to bring with you a .22 rifle, and it is helpful to have a scope and a sling, 250 rounds of ammo, eye and ear protection, elbow pads are good, a mat or padded ground cloth, lunch, snacks and water. You will need sunscreen and a hat, this is New Mexico. Along with the shooting skills, the boys will

give you some interesting Revolutionary War history.

Gentlemen, walk on fee is \$80 for the two days, \$45 for one. You can save some money by pre-registering at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/567975831>. For more information, you can go to www.appleseedinfo.org or contact Sam Damewood at 575-491-1889 or at Damewood@q.com.

Artist wins license plate logo contest

SANTA FE (AP) — The image of a largemouth bass jumping for a lure has been selected as the winner of a contest for a design logo on New Mexico's new bass fishing license plate.

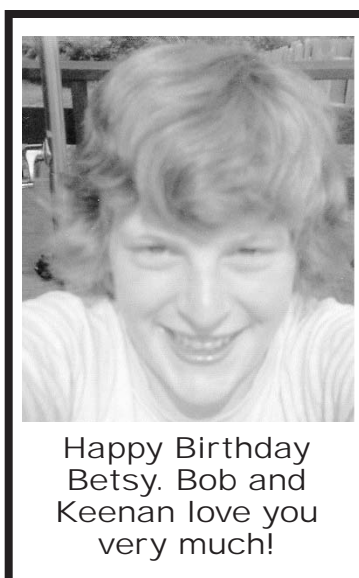
Artist Gregory Lucero de Scargall of Santa Fe had the winning entry.

He gets \$500 along with his design on the license plate.

Motorists will be able to buy the plate for a one-time fee of \$25 and an annual fee of \$10 in addition to regular registration fees.

All but \$10 of the fees will go to the Bass Habitat Management Program of the state Game Protection Fund.

A bill passed by the 2009 Legislature authorized the Motor Vehicle Division to issue the special bass fishing plates.



Happy Birthday Betsy. Bob and Keenan love you very much!

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