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Gil de Rubio said the city General Fund was running a \$122,236 deficit for the first three months due to the 23 percent decline in city sales tax revenues. City General Fund expenses are running 3.2 percent under what the 2011 budget projected. Despite the significant sales tax revenue decline and General Fund deficit, Gil de Rubio wasn't ready to push any panic button. "I think we're still holding our own and for this time of year that's a good point to make since we still have a major part of the year left to balance our budget."

Other city departments were a mixed bag of deficits and meeting their budgets.

He said the Power and Light Fund finished March about \$50,000 in the negative, but "is starting to level off. We had to refund the ratepayers a significant amount in January and February. We have a net cash balance of \$946,701." He said the city needs to keep its monthly Arkansas River Power Authority bill in the \$400-\$500,000 range.

The city Gas Fund, which now includes deferred gas costs that have risen to \$780,599, shows a March 31 ending negative fund balance of \$289,531. "We have a net cash balance of \$1.5 million."

Gil de Rubio said the Water Fund has a positive fund balance as of March 31 of \$142,483 with a net cash balance of a little over \$6 million.

The Sewer Fund remains a work in progress with a negative balance of \$224,560 over the first three months and an overall negative cash balance of \$366,000, he said.

Beatty reported that the city's proposed building code adoption ordinance has been finalized and will be presented to council at next Tuesday's work session. He said 35 local building contractors attended last week's orientation ordinance building code seminar at TSJC that led to incorporating a few minor code amendments and revisions.

He noted that the proposed ordinance does not seek to replace the state inspector for plumbing and electrical work. "While I was there at the morning session I didn't encounter much negative feedback, whatsoever," he said. "I was approached by a few master plumbers who were concerned that we were attempting to take over plumbing inspections from the state inspector and they voiced their reservations about that circumstance."

Council also approved Wayne Pritchard and Sam Coker to the city Board of Appeals.

Hunnicuttt tops RHS art winners

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

Sophomore Autumn Hunnicutt took top honors at Raton High School's 41st annual art show Thursday night. Her pencil self-portrait, "Autumn Rose," won Best of Show at "Youth in Art 2011."

Art club sponsor Kathy Vertovec turned the microphone over to club president Chelsea Chavez, who presented 60 awards consisting of ribbons, certificates and cash prizes provided by community patrons. This year's judges were artists Shannon Foltz and Christina Boyce.

Best of class awards went to senior Samantha Iacobelli, junior Arissa Maldonado, sophomore Hunnicutt, and freshman Iesha Romero.

Listed in descending order from First Place, other winners included Tess Neary, Leah Vigil, Amber Garcia, and Ila Raine Medina in the Acrylic/Oil category. Haley James, Peyton Richards, Lakken Medina, and Lime Thompson won Watercolor awards.

In the Drawing category, Mikayla Vertovec, Chelsea Chavez, Lakken Medina, and Ila Raine Medina won awards. Scratch Board winners were Peyton Richards, Joshua Trujillo, and Peyton Richards.

Samantha Iacobelli, Arissa Maldonado, and Mikayla Vertovec won Abstract Art awards, while Lakken Medina, Santana Rodriguez, Autumn Hunnicutt, and Dominique Zamora were awarded for their pastel art.

An artist residency by Cimarron photographer Yvonne O'Brien this year resulted in strong field of entries in the Photography Awards category, with winners including Breanna Schutte, Arissa Maldonado, and Amber Garcia.

Master Study awards went to Lakken Medina, Kelli Ortiz, and Autumn Hunnicutt. Haley Gansz won the Computer-Aided Design category. Chelsea Chavez won a Pointillism award for her "Girl with a Pearl Earring."

For their children's book illustrations, Caitlin Romero, Autumn Hunnicutt, Josh Trujillo, and Santana Rodriguez won Illustration awards. In the Perspective category, winners were Lakken Medina, Mikayla Vertovec, and Chelsea Chavez.

The judges selected 16 additional works for awards irrespective of media or class. In addition to some of the artists listed above, Judges' Awards went to Augusta Ahlm, Lucas Cimino, Allison Cruz, Shelby Leyba,



Photo by Tim Keller

Raton High School sophomore Autumn Hunnicutt won Best of Show honors with her self-portrait, "Autumn Rose."

America Astorga, Caleb Sedillo, Arriana Gonzales, and Callie Wilson.

In addition to taking home their award ribbons and cash prizes, many of the young artists earned proceeds from the sale of their works right off the walls of the show.

Bayliss leads Raton writing awards

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

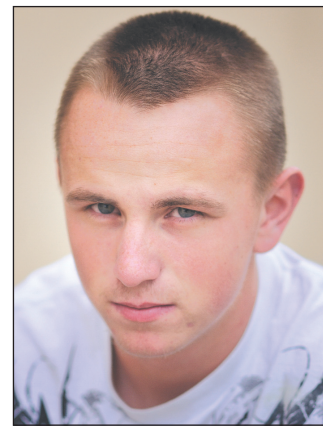
In a recent ceremony attended by hundreds of students, parents, and community supporters, Students for Students Publishing presented its annual Through the Eye of the Tiger writing awards to young writers from throughout the Raton Schools.

RHS senior Samuel Bayliss took top honors as the 2011 Whited Foundation Writer of the Year. It was the first time a non-fiction entry had taken the top

prize. Bayliss's award included an envelope containing cash, as did all of the night's awards: community donations provided winning writers with a total of \$1,500 in prize monies, a record high.

In the festively-decorated John Krivokapich Media Center at Raton High School, a standing-room-only crowd cheered as sponsor Kathy Vertovec turned the night's proceedings over to student leaders of Students for Students Publishing.

Winners in the poetry division were Brittini Garcia, Dariela Aleman, and Augusta Ahlm. Other poets honored were Mathew Ortiz, Malachi Morphew, Jordan Garcia,



BAYLISS

Caleb Stolarczyk, Sara Ortiz, Ouray Chastin, Katie Village Center, Arthur Armijo, Chelsea Chavez, Blake Washburn, Chante Valdez, Demi Trujillo, Keanu Trujillo, Amber

Garcia, and Peyton Richards. Many of the young poets read their poems aloud for the crowd.

Winning children's book entries were created by Tristan Swagerty, Ella Sanchez, and Mackenzie Ebell. Other children's books were written by Destiny Menchaca, Holli Wood, Brianna Marquez, Baylor Walton, Daniel Vigil, Rachel Hull, Camryn Mileta, Skylin Encinias, Sevin Garcia, and Tyler Neurauter. Each of the children's books were illustrated by an RHS art student and published in paperback, available for sale at the awards ceremony.

Winning entries in other categories will be published in a hardbound compilation next year. Last year's compilation went on sale at this year's awards ceremony and remains available, along with the children's books, from Vertovec in the RHS Art Department.

Winning the class book category was Barbara Riley's third period class from Raton High School, followed by Marion Ray's Longfellow Elementary School class.

Arthur Armijo won the non-fiction category, followed by Haley McCarty; both are RHS students.

James Neary took the fiction division, followed by Tegan Thompson, Haley McCarty, and Tess Neary; all are RHS students.

This year's judges included Karen Walton, Thayla Wright, Christina Boyce, Arthur Armijo, Dennie Gum, Mike Higgins, and Anna Caruana.

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RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

STATE BRIEF

Associated Press

Survey: N. Colo. snowpack hits record levels

DENVER — Federal officials are reporting record snow levels across northern Colorado, but below-average snowpack in the southern part of the state.

The snow on Buffalo Pass in the mountains northeast of Steamboat Springs was more than 200 inches deep, or about 16.6 feet, at the start of May, the Natural Resources Conservation Service said Tuesday. That's an all-time record for total snowpack at any individual site in Colorado.

The water content of the snowpack was 72.6 inches, also a record. The overall snowpack for the Yampa/White river basins was 165 percent of average, or 65 percent above average.

"Even many of the old-timers have never seen some of the depths measured across northern Colorado this month," said Allen Green, state conservationist with the federal agency.

Snow in one spot in Poudre Canyon northwest of Fort Collins was 160 inches, or nearly 13.5 feet, according to the conservation service.