

Rocky the Bus visits Head Start



Photos by Richard Sitts

Students ages 3-5 got a treat on Thursday when Rocky the Bus paid an informational visit to the Trinidad Head Start program on Alta Street. The Head Start students were enthralled by the talking, animated school bus that opened its eyes, spun around and flashed its lights while teaching the children about bus and pedestrian safety. Transportation Manager John Smith said he brings Rocky to the local Head Start for a safety presentation two to three times a year. "He draws them right in like a magnet," Smith said. Rocky shows off his warning lights and spins around to show the kids his emergency exit. He also tells the children to be aware of the bus's "danger zone" - a 10-foot area around the bus in which the driver cannot always see kids getting on or off the bus.

Des Moines School hosts poetry slam

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Poetry slam came to Des Moines Wednesday night. In what may be a first for northeastern New Mexico, the wordy entertainment was hosted by Manuel González of Albuquerque, one of two New Mexico cities - the other is Taos - where slam poetry has a big following.

González and Santa Clara Pueblo's Beata Tsosie were poets-in-residence at the Des Moines School during the week. English teacher Amy Burchard said she was amazed at what the poets were able to accomplish with her students. Every student wrote poems and shared them in classroom readings that built up to Wednesday night's poetry slam, which featured the professional poets as well as many students.

The audience in the Des Moines School Activity Center included students, parents, teachers, and members of the community, along with Superintendent Jaynee Burchard and school board member Alfred Newkirk. González employed his loud and infectious MC style to good effect, turning what might otherwise have been a sedate crowd into a raucous call-and-response cheering section.

Students reading poems from stage included Jordyn Bannon, Austin Vincent, Samantha Green, Diego Martinez, Ryan Martin, Aunna Walker, and Jon Cruz. Other readers included González, Tsosie, and Christina Boyce, the Des Moines arts coordinator responsible for bringing González and Tsosie to Des Moines.

Des Moines School used a grant from New Mexico Arts to contract with New Mexico CultureNet in booking González and Tsosie. New Mexico CultureNet's executive director, Alex Traube, drove up from Santa Fe, spending the night in Des Moines, just to see Wednesday night's poetry slam. After the event officially drew to a close, small groups milled in excited talk; one group discussed the idea of forming a local poetry club.

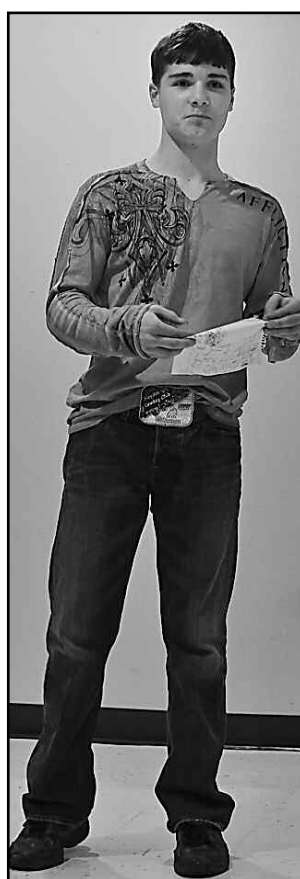
As they talked, a group



Poet-in-residence Beata Tsosie came from Santa Clara Pueblo.



Samantha Green



Austin Vincent

of four people standing on the stage found itself improvising a flamenco-styled accompaniment to a long rhythmic poem by Boyce. As it ended in laughter, people finally started filing out. One comment seemed to sum up the feeling of many. A local woman remarked, "Now that was something different!"



Photos by Tim Keller

Albuquerque poet Manuel González brought slam poetry to Des Moines.



Jon Cruz



Aunna Walker



Ryan Martin



Diego Martinez

REMINDER TO CITY OF RATON REGISTERED VOTERS

ELECTIONDAY I S TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010. Sample ballots are available at the Office of the City Clerk, the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton Senior Citizens Center and the City website www.ratonNM.gov.

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at 224 Savage Avenue or by calling 575-445-9451. The deadline for the Clerk to ISSUE absentee ballots is February 26, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. The Municipal Clerk will accept completed absentee ballots delivered by mail, or in person by the voter casting the absentee ballot, by a member of the voter's immediate family or by the caregiver of the voter until 7:00 P.M. on March 2, 2010.

Early Voting begins on February 10, 2010 and ends February 26, 2010. Voters wishing to vote prior to Election Day may come to the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours (8-5), Monday through Friday, file an application, and cast their vote by voting machine.

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