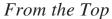
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### ALASKAN RUMBLE

Geologists say that long seismic tremors produced by Alaska's unique, symmetrical Shishaldin volcano could be signs of an impending eruption.

**EARTHWEEK, Page B6** 







WINSTON BROOKS APS Superintendent

# Celebrating a productive school year

t has been another very productive year for students and staff in the Albuquerque Public Schools. So, as the 2013-14 school year comes to a close, I want to talk about some of the highlights from the past year.

We started off the year with something that had not happened in more than 45 years in the district. We opened a new football venue for students — the APS Community Stadium on the West Side. The stadium, a 7,000-seat, \$38 million facility, also includes a 2,600seat track and field area, and will serve as the anchor for an entire sports complex for residents living in the area as both the school district and the city of Albuquerque add other fields for recreational activities.

In terms of facilities, the district also recently broke ground for a new school that will serve students in kindergarten through the eighth grade and will also have a city-run pre-school program for children living in the Southwest area of the city.

Speaking of the Southwest, the school district joined with Bernalillo County to provide a learning center for students living on the Southwest Mesa, where many homes do not have running water, sewer or electricity. The new center is a place for students to study before and after school with the help of tutors funded by the district.

The dedicated teachers and staff in our schools also continued to shine. Just last week, the APS Board of Education honored 52 teachers who received National Board Certification over the past year. Teachers, students, parents and administrators also deserve credit for raising the district's fouryear-graduation rate to its highest point ever, at 73.3 percent.

Laura Case received the New Mexico Nursing Excellence Award for her efforts as the director of nursing services for the district, overseeing the work of 136 school

On the national level, Andy Cook, a Spanish and Italian teacher at Manzano High School, received the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, the the honor and the \$25,000 cash prize that comes with it.

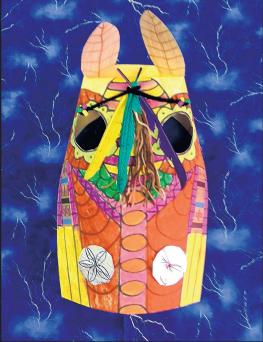
APS students Ceidric Platero of Del Norte High and Gabriel Reyes of Valley High were among the 1,000 students from around the country named Gates Millennium Scholars, which will allow them to pursue their degrees in any undergraduate major at any college or university without having to worry about the cost.

APS programs also received national recognition this year, starting with a visit by U.S. Sec. of Education Arne Duncan to Emerson Elementary as part of his backto-school bus tour in the fall. Duncan heard about how APS and the Albuquerque Teachers Federation have worked together to transform Emerson into a Common Core State Standards Demonstration Magnet School. In the fall, Emerson also became the first school in the region to have a Boys & Girls Club on site to provide after-school programs for students.

The district hosted the national conference of the Council of the Great City Schools,

**See CELEBRATING on PAGE B5** 

## STUDENT GALLERY



Kathy Tong, a fifth-grader at Mitchell Elementary, created this mixed-media horse mask. Kathy's art teacher is Rebecca Morgan.



Haley Marshall, left, and Ruby Quintana are among the thousands of New Mexico high school students who have taken advantage of the state's dual-credit program, which allows students to attend free college courses so they can earn college credits before they graduate from high school, thus helping them achieve their career goals.

# **FOR THE** PRICE OF

# Dual-credit program becoming increasingly popular



COURTESY OF APS

College and Career High School, an Albuquerque magnet school, graduated its first class this month. The students in dark blue are the magnet school students, while the others are Central New Mexico Community College students. The high school's focus is on dual credit.

By Jon Swedien

Journal Staff Writer

uby Quintana wants to become a police officer and, someday, a prosecutor. The recent graduate of Albuquerque Public Schools' Early College Academy didn't want to wait until after high school to begin pursuing the college degree she'll need to achieve her career goals.

So Quintana took advantage of the state's dual-credit program, which allows students to take free college classes that count for both high school and college credits. While in high school, she earned 40 college credits that she'll take with her to the University of New Mexico next fall

The program is open to any student at any high school in New Mexico and participation is booming — even at some lowincome schools where students might not otherwise consider taking a college class.

The dual-credit program's popularity has risen steadily since lawmakers passed it in 2007. Before then, students could take dualcredit classes, but they had to pay their own tuition.

Between 2008 and last year the first and last years for which data are available — student participation in the program has grown 42 percent, according to the state's 2013 annual dual-credit report.

Last year, 14,151 students participated in the program, according to the report. They took

32,716 dual-credit classes. And while there is no statewide data for this most recent school year, Central New Mexico Community College officials said the college has seen an increase in dual-credit classes.

During the fall 2013 semester, the college had 2,302 dual-credit students — a 20 percent increase over the previous semester. Dual-credit students now make up 8 percent of the college's total enrollment, according to CNM spokesman Brad Moore.

The cost of college tuition for dual-credit students is covered by the state, while the student's book purchases are paid for by the school district.

For Albuquerque Public Schools' College and Career High School, a magnet school located on CNM's main campus, the goal is for students to earn a college associate degree while in high school. The school this month graduated its first class, with nine students.

**See DUAL-CREDIT on PAGE B6** 

### **National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Winners**

Students from New Mexico are:

- Albuquerque Academy: Sarah L. Blog, Jessica C. Grubesic, Raya Rivka Koreh, Nikolai L. Lawton, Eric H. Li, Geordan A. Majewski, Logan T. Meredith, Allison H. Ogawa and Mara
- Armand Hammer United World College, Montezuma: Otto Zhen.
- Dora High School: Katie W. Bickley.
- Eldorado High School, Albuquerque: Yaqoob Qaseem.
- Los Alamos High: George M. Barnum and Colin F. Hemez.
- Sandia Prep, Albuquerque: William

# **IN BRIEF**

### Class of '74 reunion

The West Mesa class of 1974 will hold its 40th reunion on July 18-19. A dinner and dance will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. July 18 at Ladera Golf Course. Tickets are \$100 per couple and \$50 for a single person.

A family picnic will be held the following day, priced at \$6 per adult and \$5 per child.

RSVP to 720-3666 or 688-9466.



# **Online**

Will your summer be all about play, or will there be learning opportunities for your kids? Learn how to have both at ABQjournal. greatschools. net.