

Friday, April 18, 2008

## College instructors attempt to unionize

### SJC president: Proper procedure must be followed

—By Lindsay Whitehurst—  
The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — A year after the faculty passed a no-confidence vote in the San Juan College president, union officials claim the administration is blocking instructors' attempts to unionize.

College President Carol Spencer said the school wants to make sure the union follows the proper procedure.

The petition to form the union was filed with the state's labor board, Spencer said, but it should have been filed with the college's own labor board.

"The process, as I understand it, is to keep the activities closer to the

workplace," she said. "I think the concept is that representatives live locally, and they understand the local working conditions."

Nancy Sheehan, local director for the National Education Association, said she thought the local board was inactive.

"There is no reference in any of the policy manuals and no communication on how to do it," she said.

"How we heard (about the local board) was through the rumor mill."



Spencer

See **College** A6.



A man strolls to class at the college Thursday. A month after a majority of faculty members endorsed forming a union, union officials say the school administration may be hindering their attempts to organize.

Lucas Ian Coshenet  
The Daily Times

The Four Corners Information Leader

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ROADRUNNER CASH  
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PICK 3  
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## RACING DAY

Horses poke their heads outside the "pony pins" after their morning exercise Thursday at SunRay Park. Racing begins today with the first group of horses coming out the gates at 2:15 p.m. The season runs through the end of June. For more on the upcoming season, see the sports section.

Lucas Ian Coshenet/The Daily Times

## Three locals honored as outstanding women

—By Lindsay Whitehurst—  
The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — Three local women will be honored this year by the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Hazel Dayish, of Shiprock; Tina Deschenie, of Farmington; and Rena G. Martin, of Bloomfield, will receive the Outstanding New Mexico Women Award on May 2 at a ceremony in Albuquerque.

They are three of 21 women to win the award out of the 80 nominees.

Dayish, the secretary and treasurer at the Shiprock Chapter, was recognized for her work with the Navajo Nation Head Start Program and a tutoring program for special needs children in the Kayenta, Ariz., Bureau of Indian Affairs school.

"Hazel Dayish is a resolute woman and gives of her personal time to serve her community," her governor's commission biography states.

Deschenie, the editor of the Tribal College Journal for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, was recognized for her activism, writings and education on behalf of traditional American Indian values.

In 2004, Deschenie helped form a San Juan chapter of the New Mexico ACLU.

"Her whole being radiates with pride and self-confidence as a Diné woman," her biography reads. "Tina is exactly the

See **Outstanding** A6.



Dayish



Deschenie



Martin

## Many polygamist families blend in to modern society

—By Paul Foy—  
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The neighbors knew Anne Wilde as a divorcee with three children, but she had a secret: She was married to a polygamist, a man who divided his time among his various wives, visiting her once a week at her house in the suburbs.

"We'd play games — he'd park his car at a grocery-store lot and I'd pick him up" so that other people wouldn't see his vehicle parked in front of her home overnight, said Wilde, now a 72-year-old grandmother whose husband died five years ago.

The neighbors had their suspicions, but they never questioned her.

While the raid on the West Texas sect earlier this month has focused attention on polygamists who live in communal

### Polygamist locations

Fundamentalist Mormon groups have an estimated 37,000 members and have spread out across the West and up into Canada in the course of the last century.

### Active Polygamist group locations



fashion and dress like 19th-century pioneers, many polygamists are very much part of the modern world, and live right next door in cities, suburbs and small towns across the West.

At least 37,000 men, women and children live in

polygamous families from Canada to Mexico, with most of them in Utah, according to Wilde, who has become an activist for plural marriage. Law enforcement agencies do not dispute her figures.

While some men in rural

**Related story:** Texas polygamy hearing turns into farce  
See **B6**

Utah build large barracks-style houses with separate entrances to accommodate multiple wives, many of the state's polygamists are unattached to any particular sect or clan and live almost invisibly, under rather conventional-looking circumstances.

Each wife gets her own house; the men sneak around, often without a home to call their own. Mothers hold themselves out as single parents to PTA or school officials if they have to explain. But that is not usually a problem in a state where many lifelong residents can trace polygamy in the family tree, and where law enforcement

See **Polygamists** A6.

## Get ready for the Apple Blossom Powwow

—By Alysa Landry—  
The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — Dancing and drumming are the only items on the agenda Saturday for the 29th Apple Blossom Powwow at the McGee Park Memorial Coliseum. The event draws participants from more than 100 tribes across North America, organizer Darrell Morris said.

Morris, who heads the Native American Center at San Juan College, said 4,000 spectators gathered for last year's powwow, which has grown every year since it started.

"It's so colorful to see all the different regalia, the dances, the styles of bead work and the orig-

**IF YOU GO**  
**When:** 10 a.m.  
**Where:** McGee Park Memorial Coliseum  
**Cost:** \$5, \$4 for senior citizens or people with disabilities and \$1 for children 5 and younger.

inality of the dress," he said. "The drumming and the dancing is relieving, it's rejuvenating. The powwow is both a social and spiritual gathering."

The powwow opens with gourd dancing at 10 a.m. and includes two grand entries at 1 and 7 p.m. The dancing is expected to continue until midnight, Morris said. Dancers will compete by category, like the

fancy dance and the grass dance for men and the jingle dress dance and fancy shawl dance for women.

Powwows were created by Plains tribes as a traditional gathering, said Francis Mitchell, a local medicine man and gourd dancer. The style of dance changes depending on where the tribe is located.

"There is an imaginary line across the United States, dividing the northern and southern styles of dance," he said. "The culture varies depending on which hemisphere you live in."

The Apple Blossom Powwow is symbolic of the changing seasons, Mitchell said.

See **Powwow** A6.



Alyssa Jishie of Lukachukai, Ariz., twirls her colorful shawl during the fancy shawl dance at the Apple Blossom Contest Powwow at McGee Park last year.

File photo by Lucas Ian Coshenet  
The Daily Times

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