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Student, Teacher Soar Together

By Jim Shiley
 SENTINEL

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It was in the sixth grade, when Landen Bilyeu sat in Perry Holdman's history class at T-or-C Middle School, that the two first talked about flying. "From the first time I met him, and we talked," Mr. Holdman said of his former student, "he said he was going to be a pilot. And look at him now, he did it."

On November 23, in the blue morning skies over Sierra County, came the culmination of that childhood dream. A teacher's mentoring and friendship with his former student was brought full circle, as Landen explained to Mr. Holdman what each step in the process of taxiing, taking off and flying entailed. Student had become teacher, and teacher was, on this morning, the enthusiastic student.

Landen, now a senior at Hot Springs High earned his pilot's license this past summer, as the next step in his lifelong goal of turning his love for flying into a career. "I got my private pilot's license, the most basic and versatile pilot's license, allowing me to fly anywhere with anyone so long as I used a single engine airplane."

As for the mission of the day, a morning flight with his former history teacher, Landen went on to explain, "Since I met him in my 6th



(SENTINEL Photos/Jim Shiley)

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - The handshake said it all, at the end of the flight. Middle school teacher Perry Holdman thanks his pilot and former student, Landen Bilyeu, for the aerial tour of T-or-C, while Landen thanks Mr. Holdman for his years of support in reaching for his dreams.

grade year, he seemed amazed by the idea of flying. He mentioned several times that he had wanted to fly with me. So several years later, after much planning and several thousands of dollars spent, I got my private pilot's license. Throughout the whole experience I had a very clear goal, to take Mr. Holdman flying."

Though only 40 hours of flying time are required to obtain a private pilot's license, Landen put in 50 hours in earning his. "Since that time, I have about 20 hours of flying time in, for a total of about 70 hours piloting a plane." With the purchase of his own plane currently out of reach, Landen explained the rest to us. "I joined a Non-Profit flying club in Las Cruces and got checked out in their airplane, allowing me to fly it whenever I wanted."

The plane Landen typically flies and used for this flight was a Piper PA-28 Cherokee 180. It is a four-seat, 180 Horsepower trainer aircraft that, while a little cramped at capacity, can seat four, with a combined payload of 870 pounds. Built in 1968, it has been extremely well maintained.

With membership in the flying club, and access to a plane secured, Landen could put in motion the remainder of his plan. "I got with Mr. Holdman and made a plan. On November 23rd, just 3 days

(SOAR' Continued On Page B3)

El Cortez To Show Christmas Movie

By NaNi Rivera

What a year we've all had! Thanks again for the tremendous community support for our film festival. We learned a lot during the three action packed days and really want to acknowledge the help of Paul Tooley to make it a safe and enjoyable event.

We're currently in the process of upgrading the fire exits, signs and finish adding the two-hour firewall where required. The push bars are en route.

I'm as anxious as anyone and look forward to being open again for first run movies, and we have already received our first feature from one of our distribution companies, ready to go. We were aiming to show it on Thanksgiving weekend, although the shipments of the door handles make it look more like Christmas; safety must be our first priority.

We will be providing a Christmas movie December 10 that I produced as a gift before the pandemic. Our non-profit will throw in a small popcorn and hot chocolate for all kids 12 and under. Time is TBD.

Santa Fake stars a couple of kids from the TV show, Glee: Judd Nelson and Jeff Fahey. It's a perfect movie to kick off the holiday season.

Stay tuned for exciting news on our first run shows coming soon. See you at the movies!

Holiday Food Drive Underway

A non-perishable food drive is being held now through Dec. 17 at Cortez Gas, located at 415 E. Third Ave., to help those in need in our community for Christmas. If you are able, please drop off a can or two of veggies and/or fruit or a non-perishable food item when you come to get propane.

There is also a second drop off location at Sun Valley Hardware Store, which is located at 400 Smith St. in Truth or Consequences.

Your help is greatly appreciated. The last day for donations is going to be Dec. 17. For information call 575-894-2433.

QUIET MOMENTS

Dear Lord, we know you are here. We trust in Your presence, Your power, Your goodness and Your complete control over everything we're facing. Help walk us through the questions, assured of Your answers, even though they're still unclear to us. We know that even now, when we don't understand all the answers, we have You with us, and that is all that matters. Please give us increasing eyes of faith to trust what You are doing, even - and especially - when we don't understand. We love You, trust You and know You are always walking with us. We pray these things in your sweet name,

Amen

Police Make Multiple Arrests

By Joe Baird
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MAN ARRESTED ON SEVEN COUNTS OF BURGLARY

A Sierra County Sheriff's Office deputy on patrol in Elephant Butte on Nov. 25 observed a suspicious vehicle in the vicinity of Buddy's Storage and Mr. G's Storage. Officers immediately made contact with Marc Martinez, Jr., 31, of Elephant Butte.



MARTINEZ

A short time later, deputies checked the area and discovered footprints near a fence and a camper inside the fence that appeared to have been broken into. Upon checking inside the storage area, more footprints matching those outside the fence were located.

Deputies eventually discovered that three campers had been broken into and appeared to have been gone through. Deputies also discovered a number of sheds and a building on the property that had been broken into.

Martinez was stopped again on Highway 181 by officers. He denied ever being inside the fenced storage area of Buddy's Boat and RV Storage. However, when officers checked the bottom of Martinez' shoes, they matched the prints at the storage lot.

Martinez was subsequently arrested and booked into the Sierra County Detention Center on seven counts of burglary, two counts of attempting to commit a felony, tampering with evidence and criminal trespass.

FOUR ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS

By TCPD Chief Rodriguez

Four individuals were arrested at 617 Garst after officers with the Truth or Consequences Police Department (TCPD) were dispatched to the location reference trespassing at the property.

Officers arrived at the property just after 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 25 to find four individuals trespassing on the property.

Located in a mobile home on the property were Richard Ellis, 33, of T-or-C, Tiffany Simeral, 42, of T-or-C, Michael Johnson, 53, of Elephant Butte, and Iva Harrison, 50, of Williamsburg. All four were arrested for criminal trespass after the owner stated no one had permission to be on the property.

As the cold weather approaches, the TCPD has responded to calls of individuals entering and/or residing on abandoned or vacant properties within the community. Property owners are reminded to place "No Trespassing" signs around their properties, and to make sure they or someone they trust keeps watch over their property. If structures are located on the property, make sure the structures are secured.

Property owners can report any concerns or suspicious activity on their property by calling Central Dispatch at 575-894-7111.



ELLIS



HARRISON



JOHNSON



SIMERAL

To report suspicious activity 24/7 call Sierra County Regional Dispatch 575-894-7111

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Sierra County Lake Levels
 Lake Elevation (12-3-21): 4,313.39 ft.
 (1 Year ago): 4,345.73 ft.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

	HIGH	LOW
November 26	59	39
November 27	65	42
November 28	65	42
November 29	67	41
November 30	66	41
December 1	67	42
December 2	66	43

Extended Forecast

- Friday, December 3**
Sunny - high 74, low 40
- Saturday, December 4**
Mostly Sunny - high 72, low 38
- Sunday, December 5**
Sunny - high 68, low 39
- Monday, December 6**
Mostly Sunny - high 68, low 40
- Tuesday, December 7**
Partly Cloudy - high 70, low 39
- Wednesday, December 8**
Partly Cloudy - high 63, low 39
- Thursday, December 9**
Mostly Sunny - high 65, low 42
- Friday, December 10**
Partly Cloudy - high 67, low 41

