

Hitting the court running

After seven years at Koogler Middle School, Kenny Adam brings coaching experience to Aztec High. **Page 16A**



CURTIS RAY BENALLY/Special to the Tri-City Record

How much technology is too much?

Forward-facing sonar raises questions about why people go fishing and whether the fish can survive. **Page 8A**



MARK VANCEAVE/Associated Press

Newsroom tips (505) 592-0182
 Delivery information (505) 592-0183
 Classified advertising (505) 592-0185

Copyright 2024, The Tri-City Record



Farmers markets open throughout San Juan County



DEBRA MAYEUX/Tri-City Record photos

LEFT: Vernon Bridgewater of Bridgewater Farms helps a customer purchase greens from him. **RIGHT:** Niki Hilbers of Happy Pear Honey and Produce prepares a sale of honey for a customer at the Grower's Market in Farmington on Saturday. Regulatory changes from the New Mexico Department of Health have prevented Hilbers from selling some of her staple honey goods, but she is working with the department to get the proper licensing in place to bring them back to market.

Farmington bazaar is season's first to offer produce, handmade goods

BY DEBRA MAYEUX
 AND DAVID EDWARD ALBRIGHT
 TRI-CITY RECORD

It's produce season, which means its market season too. Farmington Grower's Market was the first of several farmers markets to open, with others planning to start the season in the coming weeks.

The Farmington Grower's Market opened for the summer season on June 6 in the parking lot of the Farmington Museum at Gateway Park.

It was the earliest seasonal opening for the market, which has diversified, according to Tanya Kluender, secretary of the board for the market.

"We've definitely grown," she said, adding there are 75 vendors with fresh grown produce, baked goods, drinks, soaps, lotions, candles, honey, meats and jewelry.

Kluender owns Buttercups Handmades, and she specializes in soaps, lotions and balms.

"I have regular customers and people I meet from out of town," Kluender said.

A group of young ladies stopped at her booth Saturday to check out the different fragrances of soaps.

"I didn't know the market was open," said Catherine Davis, who decided to check out the market with some young girls while her husband went into the Farmington Museum.

"They're just pulling me along."

Justin Schiess, owner of J&J Micro-Bakery, bakes artisan sourdough. He brought 75 loafs of bread, 48 bagels and 60 English muffins to the market Saturday, and he was sold out before 11 a.m.

"We've never not sold out," he said.

Schiess said he spends about 40 hours during a two-day stretch preparing to sell at the market.

"I do it all by hand in my home oven," he said.

Vernon Bridgewater of Bridgewater Farms regularly brings fresh produce and homemade soft-serve ice cream to the market.

"We're off to a good start," he said. "It's been a good turnout."

Another regular is Niki Hilbers of Happy Pear Honey and Produce.

"We're selling honey," she

said. "The market is great, and we're doing really well."

Hilbers said she is known for her hot honey, flavored honey sticks and throat coat honey, although she has not been able to sell them this year due to regulatory changes from the New Mexico Department of Health.

She told customers on Saturday she is working with the DOH to get licensed to bring those items back to the market.

Kluender pointed out that everyone who sells at the market owns a local small business, and shopping at the Farmers' Markets helps local families.

It helps the families that own businesses, but it also helps families who are on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food assistance program, said Luci Begaye, social media manager for the

See **FARMERS MARKETS, 3A**