

# Boys and Girls Club honors youth

by Sue Price  
Mail Staff Writer

About 200 people attended the fifth annual Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Friday honoring recipients of the elementary age Kid of the Year, middle school Youth of the Year and Family of the Year.

The event was also an organization fund-raiser. Executive director Brett Haydin acknowledged contributions are down, but thanked the community for being supportive.

"We can't do it without your support. We really need you to rally support and dig a little deeper, if you can," Haydin said.

"We have a bold vision that success is within the reach of every kid. We believe in providing a safe place for them to learn and grow, develop ongoing relationships, have access to programs and character developing experiences," Haydin said.

"We believe every child deserves hope and opportunity."

Counting Salida and Buena Vista, Hayden said the club has 720 active members. Nearly half of all Buena Vista students are members.

Committees selected honorees through an application process using criteria of positive attitude, active engagement in the club and positive relationships with peers and staff.

"We believe in creating a strong home unit, so this year we initiated the Family of the Year program," Haydin said. "Honorees today are the first role models for club families."

Buena Vista family award honorees, Mic and Mollie Heynekamp, were unable to attend.

The Salida honoree, the Spino family, was doubly honored. Brad and Rebecca Spino were named Family of the Year, and their daughter, Faith, 10, was selected as Youth of the Year.

Piñon Real Estate Group-Salida presented her with a \$500 savings bond.

Jane Pinto, former Piñon owner, said, "Faith is a kind, beautiful kid. She is really, special. That's what this club does. It helps kids find what is special about them and encourages it."

A three-year member, Faith said, "The club is definitely what I recommend as a place to have fun."

Her motto is, "live for today" and she wants to be a pediatrician when she grows up. She participates in Smart Kids, Girls on the Run and Knitting Club.

Salida Kid of the Year honors went to Jackson Law, 7, the son of Doug and Kelly Law. Jackson has attended the club a year and "brings a smile to all staff and club members," club personnel

said.

Jackson loves time with family, skiing and playing golf. When he grows up he wants to be a "rockologist," who discovers new types of rocks.

The Buena Vista Kid of the Year is Ruby Skubella, a fifth-grader at Avery Parsons Elementary School. She participates in Tech Club and River Watch and is part of student government at school.

Also recognized were Salida Kid of The Month honorees, Ella Potts, Kiara Tischer, Jed Marsh, Ripleigh Potts, Dylan Layh, Alejandra Godina, Blake Kreps, Sara Wilson, Chase Abbott, Aon Wongsa, Kyle Knickerbocker, Kelsey Peter, Thomas Myers, Epi Torrez, Tala Cox, John Office, Mychaela Ellsworth and Justin Cripe.

The Buena Vista Kid of the Month honorees were Jackie Cline, Elliott Greenwall, Maya O'Hara, Quinn Bosanko, Adam Velasquez, Kimber Saevert, James Winterswolf, Cody Sternlicht, Kelley Vernon, Abby Stephens, Bailey Stokes, Kenneth Griswold, Caitie Lockett, Caleb Stephens and Autumn Johnson.

Guest speaker Nathan Ward of Salida presented a slide show of his travels in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

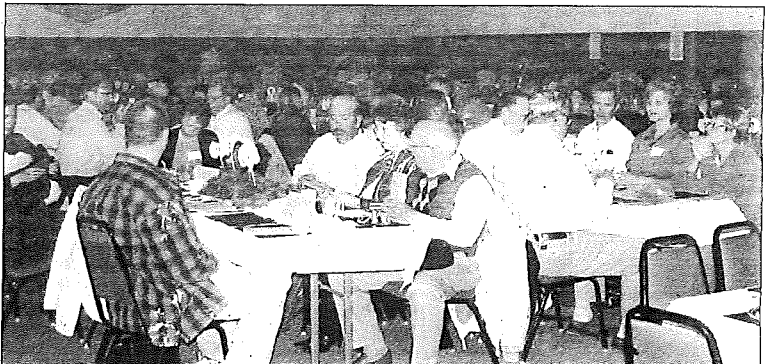
As a writer, photographer and adventurer, Ward encouraged children to "learn as much as possible about other parts of the world. There's a huge world out there and it's a world of opportunities. It's all very possible to follow your dreams."

The breakfast was sponsored by Central Colorado Title and Escrow, Piñon Real Estate Group-Salida, Carquest, Doug and Jessica Adams, Towhead Properties, Chipeta Counseling Services, Fleming and Associates LLP, Lifestream Water Systems, Rocky Mountain Glob-



Photo by Sue Price

Brad and Rebecca Spino are named Family of the Year, while Faith Spino, 10, is selected as Youth of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Friday.



About 200 people attended the event honoring Kid of the Year, Youth of the Year and Family of the Year during the Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Friday. Officials said strength of community support was evident.

al Trade, and Simple Foods Market.

Organizations donating goods or services are Buena

Vista Optimist Club, Vista Inn in Buena Vista, First Presbyterian Church, Patio Pancake, Safeway, Salida

Café, Salida High School student volunteers, Salida Rotary Club, Scanga Meat and Variations Catering.



Ruby Skubella is named Buena Vista Kid of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Friday. She is a fifth-grader and has been a club member more than a year.



Pixie Oversole, the 2008 Youth of the Year eats breakfast before making her presentation at the Boys and Girls Club Breakfast Friday.