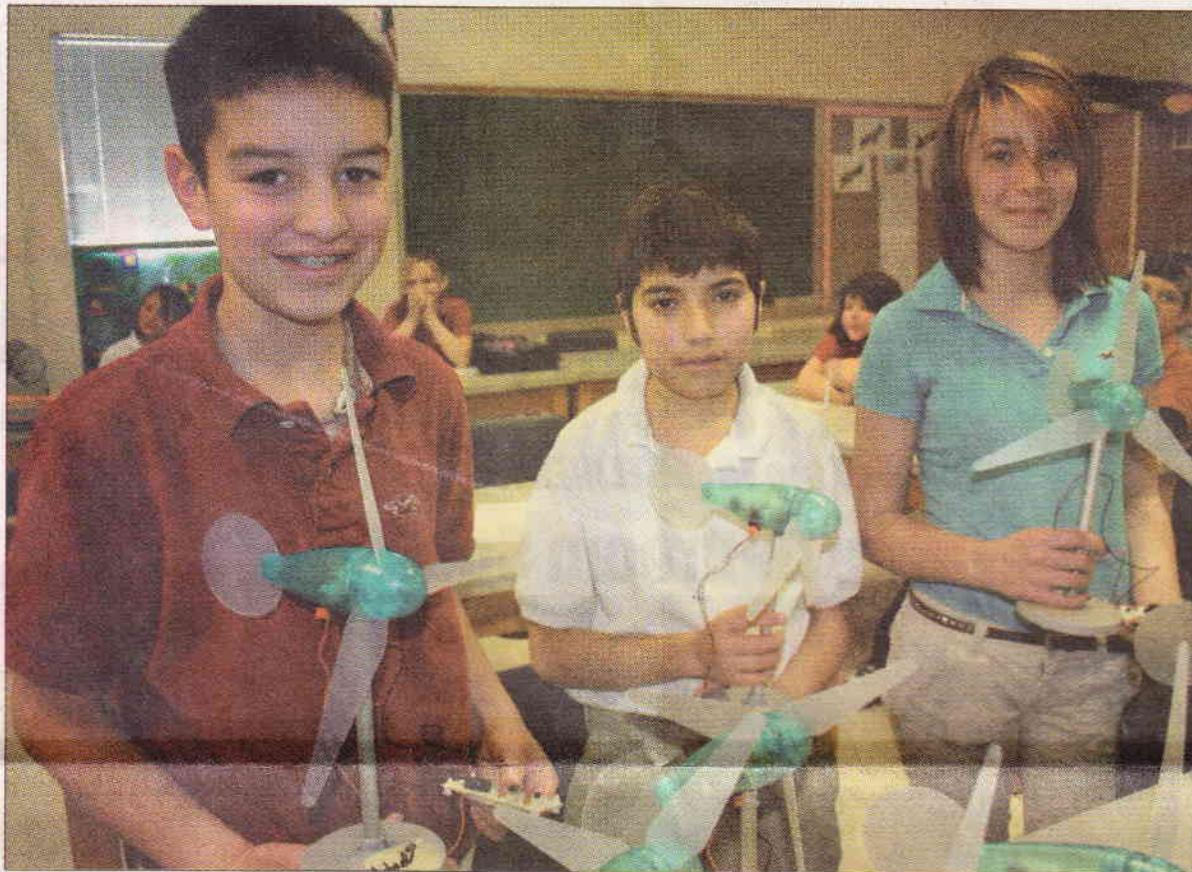


# ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES



Don Pace/Optic photo

**Chris Quintana, Jonathan Ortega and Megan Gallegos** hold small wind turbines they built from a kit made by the Kid Wind company. Donna Martinez's sixth-grade class are learning about alternative energies, including wind and solar power.

## Memorial Middle School goes green

By Don Pace

Las Vegas Optic

At Memorial Middle School, students don't just talk about the environment — they get hands-on lessons.

The Memorial Middle School agricultural science center emphasizes agricultural, horticultural and natural resource science. Students are learning about science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, as they grow their own fruits and vegetables, build wind turbines and learn about solar power.

Shirley Marlow, 4-H STEM specialist, said the school was one of five in the state chosen by the Department of Energy and Minerals to receive the solar panel that produces 634 watts of electricity a day that powers the greenhouse.

"Our students are being



The solar panel outside the greenhouse at Memorial Middle School provides enough power to operate the facility. It is also connected to the PNM grid and the school is paid for some of the energy that is produced.

learning how batteries are charged using solar power.

Another project that has students excited is the building of their own wind turbine, a kit made by the company Kid Wind. The fan sized turbine

all kinds of activity; there are vegetable, row crop and fruit production in different stages of growth.

Peter Skelton, working the City Schools as part of a joint partnership with New Mexico

## Five Wes to l chee

### Official theft pr

By  
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Five West cheerleaders team this week alleged shoplifting at a store in Albuquerque last Wednesday.

Superintendent confirmed that the team stole a King macaroni from the cheerleader's locker with the coach.

The girls' shoplifting at Coronado Mall after a basketball tournament, the girls had gone to the mall. The girls weren't near the store when they were caught.

John Walker, Albuquerque superintendent, confirmed the girls' theft at Coronado Mall. He said he didn't provide any other information, unclear what the girls did.

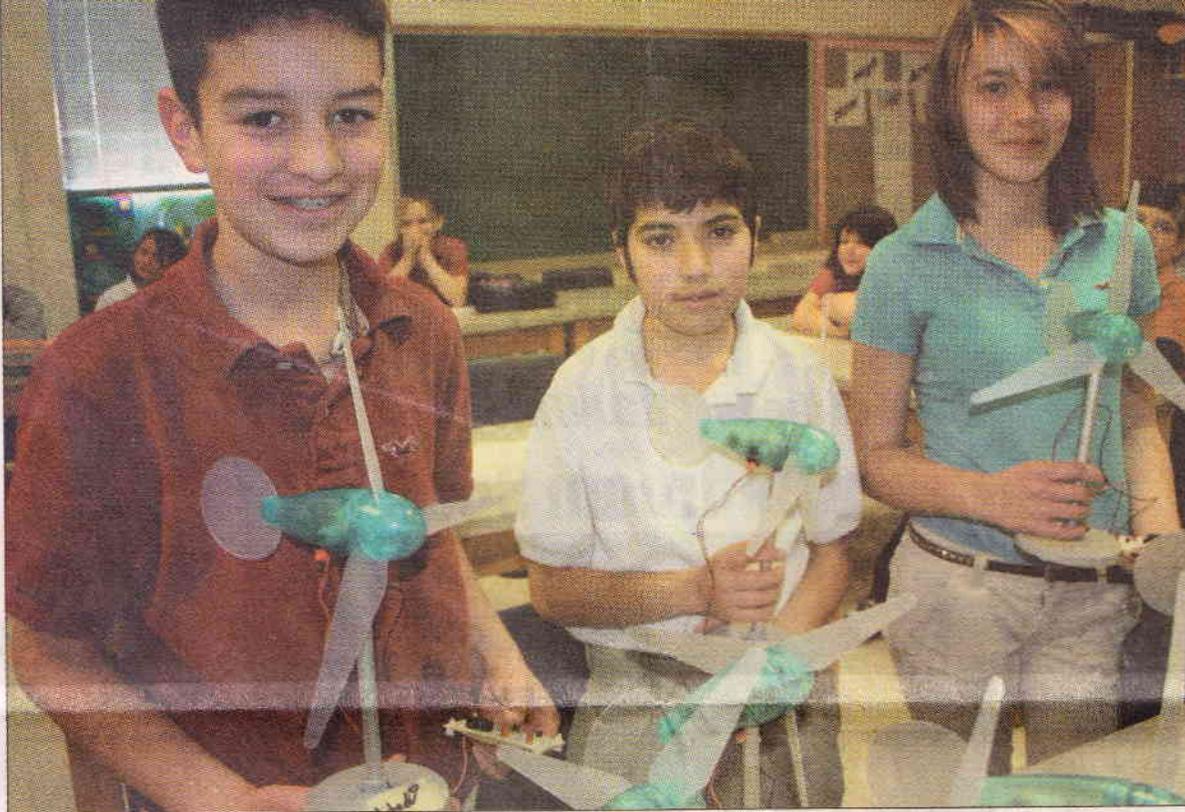
The whole incident was much discussed at Coronado High School. The incident was an accomplishment for the girls, having done well.

"I'm sorry about this stuff do

## Coun plan walk

By  
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San Miguel County a long-term



Don Pace/Optic photo

**Chris Quintana, Jonathan Ortega and Megan Gallegos** hold small wind turbines they built from a kit made by the Kid Wind company. Donna Martinez's sixth-grade class are learning about alternative energies, including wind and solar power.

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Shirley Marlow, 4-H STEM specialist, said the school was one of five in the state chosen by the Department of Energy and Minerals to receive the solar panel that produces 634 watts of electricity a day that powers the greenhouse.

"Our students are being trained in photovoltaic (solar) panels, what they're made of and how they work," Marlow said. She said kids are also



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learning how batteries are charged using solar power.

Another project that has students excited is the building of their own wind turbine, a kit made by the company Kid Wind. The fan-sized turbine provides electricity for a small music box and a light.

Walking around the school and the greenhouse, one sees

all kinds of activity; there are vegetable, row crop and fruit production in different stages of growth.

Peter Skelton, working the City Schools as part of a joint partnership with New Mexico State University, explains that water catchments and storage

See Green, Page 2

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Official  
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won't need manufacturing until next year," said Chief Executive Officer Peter Green.

Advent, which began

closed their eyes in a circle at a "Prayer for Peace" ceremony while the sound of traffic and blaring boom boxes clamored behind them.

## Green

From Page 1

tanks have been set up courtesy of another grant.

"We can pump the water from the tanks using a small solar panel to pump the water out to our garden beds and demonstrate to the students that you can capture, store and reuse water in a low-water environment. We also demonstrate the technology to them at the same time so that they can see multiple applications of the technology," Skelton said.

Skelton said if this program grows, there will be more opportunities to work with the other schools and get all students in the district engaged in this type of teaching and learning model.

Principal Sandra Madrid said one of her goals is to get elementary school students involved and excited about all of the things going on at her school so that when they get to middle school, they will be ahead of the game in wanting to learn about science and math.

Madrid said fifth-graders from around the district will soon be taking field trips, and Memorial Middle School students will be manning booths explaining

things like a solar array, fuel cells, how a solar oven works and wind energy.

Skelton said the wind turbine kits came from the Los Alamos National Labs Foundation.

Skelton said getting his young learners up to speed in these important areas would be critical to their futures.

Sixth-grader Megan Gallegos said using all the alternative energy sources, including wind power, would help solve America's energy problems.

"I've learned that the wind turbine can store up energy and be used to power anything that uses electricity," Gallegos said.

Teacher Donna Martinez said her class and other classrooms are learning about different sources of energy.

"They're learning about fossil fuels, a source of energy that is finite and will not exist in coming years. That will be affecting my students in their adult lives, so they need to understand what other forms of energy are out there for them. We know of renewable sources that are clean and that are important for the environment. It's also important because they may have one of these wind turbines in their backyard to power their homes," Martinez said.

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