

On frozen pond

by Jennaye Derge

Typically a pastime reserved for the Great White North, it's a little known fact that ice fishing enjoys a home right here in La Plata County. A mere 30 minutes from Durango, Vallecito Reservoir offers a plentitude of winter fishing opportunities for those willing to put in the time and pile on the layers. Last Sunday, the Vallecito Conservation & Sporting Association sponsored its annual Ice Fishing Tournament, drawing sportsmen, women, and children from throughout the area casting their lines in hopes of hooking the big one. Cash prizes were awarded for the biggest trout, pike and for the longest stringer (i.e., the most fish caught). For a few lucky trollers, the fish were biting, for others, it was simply a beautiful day to be out on the ice.



Doggy ice-capades



Not a winning catch, but lucky nonetheless.



Tyler Diehl drills a new hole in search of better luck.



Clusters of fisher folk gather at Vallecito Reservoir on Feb. 21 in hopes of reeling in the prize money.



Who knew competition could be so relaxing?



A rainbow trout meets its fate.