

Borderland Thursday, February 27, 2003

Band seeks help to pay for trip to capital parade

Erica Molina
El Paso Times

Members of the Oñate High School Royal Knight Regiment band in Las Cruces are looking forward to a Fourth of July to remember.

The 96-member band is invited to march in the nation's annual Fourth of July parade in Washington, D.C.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity," 18-year-old band member Kristina Barrio said. "I didn't believe it at first. ... We never got invited to do things like this before."

But getting there is going to be a challenge.

About 65 band members have signed up to go, and they need to raise about \$90,000 by early June to make the trip.

"We are elated, ecstatic, and hoping we can earn the money to make the trip," band director Barbara Lambrecht said. "The band had a really great fall, and I think that's why we caught their attention."

Oñate High School's band is the only one from New Mexico that will participate in the parade. No bands from Texas will go.

The Oñate band's money-raising efforts include performing at fund-raisers hosted by businesses, finding business sponsorships and raffling a PT Cruiser.

"We would really appreciate a broad-based support, and that's what we're really searching for," Lambrecht said. "But it would be really nice if we had one big donor -- a sugar daddy -- that would get us there."

The parade might be televised nationwide, and it is expected that more than 400,000 spectators will line the streets of Washington.

To help

- **The Oñate High School** band is seeking sponsors for its Fourth of July trip to perform in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

- **People interested** in sponsoring the band should call (505) 382-3222 or mail to 6800 N.E. Main, Las Cruces, NM 88011.

The band will also give a concert at the Jefferson Memorial and might perform at the National Cathedral.

The musicians will also visit the Smithsonian Museum and view the holiday fireworks display from the National Mall.

"It's really cool, and for us to get picked is an honor," Barrio said.

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