

Cowboy Storytime

By **CAROL PETRIE**
Free Press Correspondent

ELKO — A special toe-tappin' storytime presentation by Sones de México Ensemble member Juan Dies had children, parents and staff singing and dancing Thursday morning at the Elko County Library.

Dies, who has studied music in Mexico, Spain, and Kenya, co-founded Sones de México with Victor Pichardo in 1994. Over the past 13 years the group has toured hundreds

of schools performing quality English, Spanish and bilingual educational programs for children and adults of all ages.

Their hard work and dedication to their music has earned the group a nomination for a Latin Grammy for Best Folk Album of 2007 and a 2008 Grammy nomination for Best Mexican/Mexican-American Album with "Esta Tierra Es Tuya" (This Land Is Your Land).

Entertaining the audience with a variety of songs and dances, Dies ended his performance with a rousing rendition of "La Bamba."

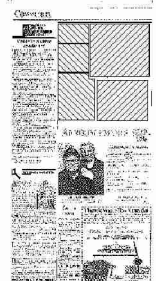
Regular storytime participant Bryce Spence, 5, said, "His music was really good. I liked the animal dances the best!"

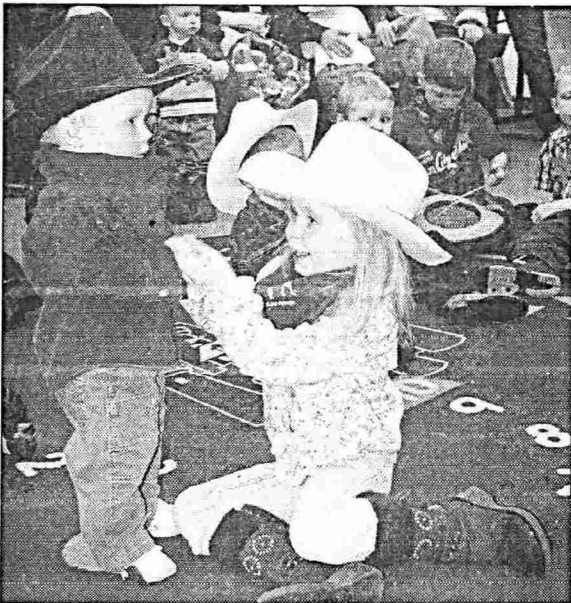
Dies said he appreciated the library allowing him the opportunity to share his music with children.

"The kids and the parents were very receptive of my music and dances," he said. "I hope to be able to return next year during the 25th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering."



Colter Walton, left, and Kennedy Cady, both 4 years old, watch in fascination as Juan Dies plays his guitar during a special storytime presentation.





Madisyn Davidson, 4, helps her 17-month-old brother Josiah through the song "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" during Thursday's storytime program at the Elko County Library.

*Photos by
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