

White Mountain Independence

In consolidation with the Pinetop-Lakeside News

www.wmicentral.com • Apache County • Friday, September 13, 2013

Local Boy Scout achieves rare status



Karen Warnick
The Independent

EAGAR — Sixteen-year-old Chance Barnes has achieved what only slightly less than 200 other Boy Scouts have achieved in the 103 years the Boy Scouts of America has been in existence: he earned all 137 merit badges.

Barnes, who also reached Eagle Scout at the age of 13, said it took him about six years to get all 137 badges, and that the most difficult was the environmental science badge.

"I had to write a 10-paragraph essay on observations of nature," said Barnes. "It was the only one I had to go back and do over."

His favorite badge was welding and his least favorite was cycling. The most unusual badges, he said, were nuclear science and programming.

Coincidentally, Barnes said the Board of Review certified his Eagle Scout accomplishments on Oct. 10, 2010 (10/10/10), and his Eagle ceremony

was on Jan. 11, 2011 (1/11/11). He made the Order of the Arrow on Sept. 10, 2011 (9/10/11).

Barnes is a junior at Round Valley High School and plans to go to United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He has all the recommendations he needs, including one from former Sen. Jon Kyl. He lacks two Spanish credits.

The Navy pays for those accepted into the academy, provided they finish and commit to a six-year tour with the Navy. Barnes said he hoped to be an O5 (officer) when he finishes.

Scout Master Andy Salonic said that he and his former scout masters, Wayne Barsoess and Tim Rasmussen, are all extremely proud of Barnes' extraordinary accomplishments.

It's certain that Chance Barnes has the willpower to get what he wants and will be successful in whatever he decides to do in the future.

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Pastor Dennis Weiskircher of the bare shelves. The food bank has

For 1st time

2013-11-05 PM

Counter need

