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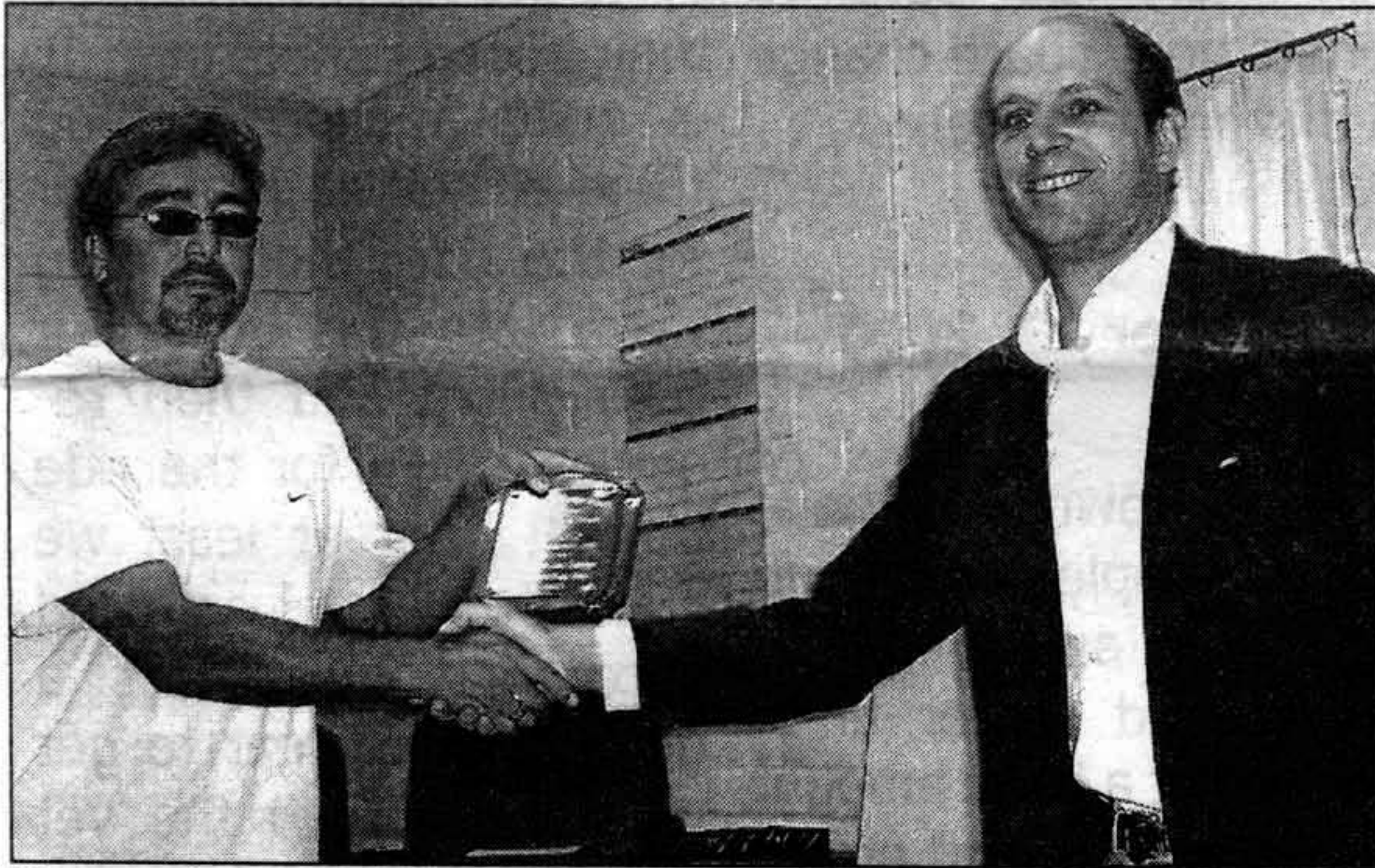


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MAYOR CRUZ RECEIVES AWARD



Mayor Cruz receiving Plaque from Robb Hirsch

On Tuesday morning, September 20th the Climate Change Leadership Institute presented Mayor Danny Cruz with the very first Climate Courage Award. The Mayor has chosen to stand with the children and future generations to preserve the Valle Vidal, one of New Mexico's pristine natural heritage sites, versus the short-sighted route of opening it up for coal, gas and oil prospecting. He has made this choice mindful of the fact that Springer, like so much of rural

America, needs economic development opportunities and jobs.

The Climate Change Leadership Institute is committed to compelling the United States to both take responsibility for our massive role in human induced global climate change and lead the world in pioneering bold solutions to the problem (see the [website www.takeresponsibility.us](http://www.takeresponsibility.us) for more about the organization). We

appreciate the bravery and wisdom of the Mayor's choice not to forego the long term health of the environment and people for short-term economic development gains. The truth is that we can do wonders for economic development and environmental health if we choose to base our economy on renewable energy and energy efficiency instead of exorbitantly harmful fossil fuels. Rural towns across America like Springer will benefit from and contribute to this new energy economy without having to sacrifice clean air and water, wild lands, the climate or human health in the process.

The American people need to be vigilant and far-sighted in these uncertain times and demand that our elected officials make climate change leadership a vital priority. The United States is the principal greenhouse gas emitter in the world and these emissions which come largely from burning fossil fuels adversely affects the climate to the point of contributing to a pervasive rise of extra intense weather patterns like more severe droughts and more severe hurricanes. With courageous choices, like that of Mayor Danny Cruz, present generations can begin the age of restoration and



Close-up of Plaque

eventually gain the integrity to look children and grandchildren in the eyes knowing we're doing our best to pass on a sustainable home on Earth.

With the Climate Courage Award comes a financial prize in the amount of \$1,000, which in this case at Mayor Cruz's insistence, will be split between the Coalition to Protect the Valle Vidal and the Philmont Scout Ranch. These non-profit organizations are fighting the good fight and demonstrating the hopefulness of local community spirit and determined action on behalf of future generations.

The following is the letter that

Mayor Cruz received along with the award:

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