

## 6 Southeast counties receive tourism funds

Grants will be used to promote tourism in Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties.

By **PETER ROPER**  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Department of Interior officials have awarded a \$130,000 grant to the Southeast Colorado Heritage Tourism Program to support tourism in six southeastern counties.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., requested the funds and made the award announcement Thursday. She said first lady Laura Bush and Interior Secretary Gale Norton made

the grant award.

The money will be used to support tourism programs in Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties, which have such historic sites as Bents Fort and the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.

"The several hundred jobs lost recently is devastating, especially in small rural communities," Musgrave said in a statement. "This portion of Colorado has a lot of interesting and historically significant locations that will help draw visitors from around the nation."

The grant was made from Interior Department's Preserve America program, which was established at the urging of Mrs. Bush.