

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Raton MainStreet kicks off summer with second annual street fair

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 street fairs like those found in Grand Junction, Colo., where the annual downtown Art and Jazz Festival draws more than 10,000 visitors. According to MainStreet board president, Mike Kowalski, the secret will be in longevity. The organization realizes that many events start out small, but can continue to grow. The Grand Junction event has been ongoing for twenty years, and with patience, he hopes this event will have the same level of success.

The street fair was one of



Visitors to the second annual Raton MainStreet street fair stroll down south second street where vendors' tents lined the street.

many events held on Saturday. The annual kid's fishing derby, sponsored by Raton Kiwanis, in cooperation with Sugarite Canyon State Park, was scheduled Saturday morning from eight until noon. The second annual Wine and Art Festival, sponsored by the Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Inc. in the Raton convention center started in the afternoon of the same day. The Raton MainStreet street fair was capped off by a well-attended street dance on Cook Avenue, between First and Second Streets, later in the evening.



Photos by Laura L. Brewer

Youngsters throw basketballs at the NM National Guard hoop-throwing station.



Several children bounce and slide on the Action Air balloon which was set up on Cook Avenue during the Raton MainStreet street fair.



June Stephens of Trinidad helps out at the quilt booth where raffle tickets were being sold for a beautiful, sampler quilt.



A few customers visit shops on shady First Street during the Raton MainStreet street fair.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

- ARRESTED**
 ■ 06/03/09- Elaine Mares- Aggravated battery on a household member
- INCIDENTS**
 ■ 06/04/09- Randall Requa- Victim of burglary
 ■ 06/04/09- Enchanted Grounds- Victim of burglary
 ■ 06/05/09- David Wantling- Victim of burglary
- CITATIONS**
 ■ 06/04/09- Joshua Sanchea- Driver to be licensed
 ■ 06/04/09- Kevin Garcia- Driver to be licensed and careless driving
 ■ 06/05/09- Ernest Cordova- Shoplifting

- 06/05/09- Sherry Casas- Accessory to shoplifting
- ACCIDENTS**
 ■ 06/04/09- Henry Celina and William Voegle were involved in a crash and both vehicles sustained moderate damage.
 ■ 06/04/09- Unknown struck a parked vehicles owned by Ernest Vigil causing moderate damage to the driver's side.
 ■ 06/04/09- Unknown hit a vehicle owned by Debra Anderson causing slight damage.
 There were 1014 calls of service through Raton Dispatch for the month of May.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

- June**
June 12 - 6 until 8 p.m. Early Bird Show-n-Shine and early registration for 22nd Annual Car Show - Sonic Drive-in
June 12 - 7 until 9 p.m. - 22nd Annual Raton Car Show Cruise Night - 2nd Street, Downtown Raton
June 12 - 8 p.m. Ground Effects Competition and Judging for 22nd Annual Car Show - Downtown Raton
June 13 - 9 a.m. until noon - Registration for 22nd Annual Car Show - Ripley Park, Downtown Raton
June 13 - 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., 22nd Annual Car Show Show-n-Shine - Ripley Park, Downtown Raton
June 13 - 10 a.m. until noon - Car Show Poker Run - Downtown Raton
June 13 - 4 p.m. Free showing of the movie Grease - El Raton Theater, Downtown Raton
June 13 - Noon until 2 p.m. Judging for 22nd Annual Car Show with Winner's Circle Awards Ceremony following at 3 p.m. - Downtown Raton
June 13-14 - Team Builders Men's Softball Tournament on June 13th and 14th. Sign up deadline June 12th by 12 noon. Contact Patience Romero at 445-3557 from 8-4pm and Edward Romero at 445-3679 after 5pm. There will be concession stand with plenty of food and drinks. Also a prize for the Home Run Derby will be given away.
 June 14 - Raton MainStreet - Music on MainStreet - "The

- Fireballs" - Ripley Park
 June 14 - 7 a.m. Raton Golf Course— "S.O.Y. Annual Golf Tourney, 2 Person Scramble Call (575) 445-8113 or email nmswane@yahoo.com for more information - Raton Golf Course
June 15 - Noon Colfax County Health Council - "Diabetes & Obesity Prevention Meeting" - YES Office
June 15 - 9 a.m. Colfax County Health Council - "Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Meeting" - CYFD Office
June 18 - 6 p.m. MCMC Board of Trustees Meeting - Long Term Care Facility - Conference Room
June 20 - 8 a.m. St. Jude's Bike-a-thon sponsored by St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus. Rider sheets can be picked up at Cimino Bros. Ford - Location to be announced.
June 22 - Noon Colfax County Health Council - "Maternal Child Health Meeting" - MCMC
June 25 - 1:30 p.m. Colfax County Health Council - "Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting" - YES Office
June 28 - 7 a.m. Raton Golf Course— "Tiger Paws Benefit Scramble" 2 Person Scramble Call (575) 445-8113 or email nmswane@yahoo.com for additional information - Raton Golf Course
June 30 - 1 p.m. Colfax County Health Council - "Suicide Prevention Meeting" - Methodist Church



Photo courtesy BOABH.

The entire outfit on the Best of America By Horseback ride posed by a river in southern New Mexico last month.



Photos by Tim Keller

Tom and Patty Seay and Mark Laney pause by one of many elaborate horse trailers at Jeffers Ranch Friday evening; the three are leaders of the Mexico to Canada ride.



Nancy Jewell, Bobby Horton, and Nancy Kacvinski enjoy evening shade after Friday's 20-mile horseback ride from Capulin Volcano to the Dry Cimarron.

Mexico to Canada horseback ride enters Colorado

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

Following the Dry Cimarron River out of Folsom, N.M., Friday evening, past Folsom Falls toward Toll Gate Canyon and the road to Branson, Colo., it's impossible to miss Jeffers Ranch. Normally a beautiful and placid spread at the mouth of a long river valley that runs east into Oklahoma, this evening the Jeffers pens, stables and open grounds are crowded with more than three dozen large pickup trucks, most pulling even larger horse trailers.

Spread out over a quarter mile are countless horses being tended by almost as many people. The entire outfit constitutes the Mexico to Canada Trail Ride which left the Mexican border 625 miles ago from the remote Santa Teresa Ranch April 21. After a day of rest Saturday, they'll finally depart New Mexico when they cross into Colorado near Branson Sunday afternoon.

The trail ride doubles as a moving television series, Best of America by Horseback, whose shows are broadcast on RFD-TV via satellite and cable three times each week. Host Tom Seay is the show's executive producer and the ride's trailmaster. His wife Pat Seay is along every step of the way as producer and director of the TV episodes, planning and

filming segments on the go. The Seays have assembled an impressive leadership team to take care of everyone's needs on the ride. The show's website, www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com, includes a complete list of team members with biographies and responsibilities.

They and the other riders come mostly from states spread from Texas east to the Carolinas and Virginia and north across Indiana and Kentucky all the way to New Hampshire. After a successful cross country ride coast to coast, the Seays first plotted the Mexico to Canada ride while sitting over a map in their Virginia home. Then they Googled the route. Last October they drove it. They explored the most remote back roads available, noting names on ranch mailboxes, stopping into isolated post offices. They compiled a notebook more than two inches thick.

"We try to avoid the county roads and go cross country as much as we can," Tom says. "We cross private land as much as possible, always by invitation. One rancher calls the next, and it just keeps going that way. It's the ultimate networking." Hayward Simmons of Allendale, S.C., leads the riders every day beginning at 7:30 a.m. Speaking of the ranchers along their way, he says, "Everyone's been amazing.

They all want to help. They want to show you their place."

A good example was Friday's ride from Capulin Volcano. The riders never did follow any road. They went cross country over different ranches, even crossing over the mesa beside Emery Peak, far above Folsom Falls, before coming down steep switchbacks on a rough trail to the Jeffers Ranch.

Approximately 40 riders range in age from their 40s to their 80s. Some join for a day or a week, others are along for the entire distance, making a point of not missing a single mile. Camped in the shade of big juniper at the Jeffers place are three of those "core riders" - Nancy Kacvinski ("Nancy K"), a rancher from Palestine, Texas; Bobby Horton, owner/operator of Big River Grain Company in Cleveland, Miss.; and Nancy Jewell ("Nancy J") of Comanche, Texas. Their horses are put up and the three are enjoying the evening quiet away from the crowd.

Nancy K says, "I'm always looking for trail rides. I found this one on the Internet and it sparked my interest." Bobby adds, "I had ridden with Tom once before for a week up in Tennessee. I was pleased with what I saw that time. I think I first found Tom through an article in Trail Rider magazine.

Nancy K says, "I like riding my horse. I like being outdoors. I like the challenge, the adventure, and the people." Bobby amplifies Nancy's "challenge" comment, "This is not a cakewalk. We get up at 4:30 a.m. to feed and tend our horses, feed ourselves, and get ready for a long day. We ride 16-20 miles, about 6-7 hours each day, then they drive us back to get our rigs and bring them along."

Nancy K points to the mud caked on their trucks and trailers. They were hit by a heavy hail storm two days ago. "It's not about beauty, it's about endurance," she comments. She keeps a regular blog, available at the Web site, but she hasn't posted anything for more than a week. "We haven't had any connection!" They've barely had any cell signals, or even radio. Tonight they've found KRTN-FM out of Raton, 40 miles west.

After a rest day at the Jeffers Ranch Saturday, the group rides into Colorado Sunday, staying over in Branson before continuing on to the Kim rodeo grounds. The schedule and exact route are flexible, but they're excited about pulling into the La Junta rodeo grounds Friday afternoon, when they will celebrate the passage of 100,000 miles accumulated by all the riders together. It will be just one of many milestones as they pause on their journey to Canada.