

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photos by Tim Keller

Left: Teagan Thompson accepts her 2nd place award for acrylic/oil. Right: Erica Hopper accepts her Best of Show award Wednesday night.

Raton student art awards draw packed house

Continued from page 1

Town America", Liz Strnad for her photograph "My Music", and Jessica Vertovec for her illustration "Josh & Ezekiel". Joann Ford won the abstract award with "Close Up", Angelina Romero the master study award with "Umbrellas". Heather Romero and Beki Henson collaborated on the winning computer-aided design, "Guess Who" and Darla Vigil took the Scratch Board award with "Butterfly".

Unprecedented generosity from the community resulted in

an award fund of over \$2000 this year. Cash awards were presented through fourth place in almost every category. In addition, Class Awards went to the top work in each class with Jessica Vertovec taking the senior award for her "An Exclamation of Youth", Heather Cochran the junior award for "Pears", and Caitlin Romero the sophomore award with "Tulips". The freshman award went to Peyton Richards for "Birds", the mid-school award to Autumn Hunnicutt for "Columbine".

The judges for the show were pastel artist Cindy Montoya and photographer Kathy Longinaker, both of whom show their works at Little Bear Gallery in Raton. Not content with giving the 44 scheduled awards, they added a dozen additional "Judges Awards", bringing the number of student works winning cash prizes to 56.

RHS Art Club officers who ran most of the show for sponsor Kathy Vertovec were president Jessica Vertovec, vice president Heather Romero, secretary Erin

Gansz, and treasurer Tamara Johnson.

After the awards presentation, people were still trying to squeeze into the room to see the student art. Many were shopping and bought pieces that were priced for sale. By night's end, it's safe to guess that many young artists had redoubled their commitments to their own talents and creativity thanks to the generous support of the community of Raton



Bayliss tops winner list at Raton writing awards

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Thursday evening's Through the Eye of the Tiger writing awards presentation in the International Room at International Bank in downtown Raton honored 32 young writers from throughout the Raton Public Schools. In addition to elaborate award ribbons, this year's awards included a record \$1700 in cash prizes donated by patrons from throughout the community. Six judges carefully read and evaluated 260 entries from students in grades one through 12.

Top honoree was junior Hilary Bayliss, Writer of the Year for her short story "Lance of Roseetter," the sequel to a story that won her a judge's award in last year's competition. "I worked on character development and being more descriptive in this one," Bayliss said. The story succeeds at building an atmospheric medieval world in which six characters - Cane, Captain Raccor, Poet, Kindling, Morgan, and Sondar - encounter adventure in a forest:

"Fog pervaded the forest, wrapping around trees and obscuring the path. A high noon tide sun could not penetrate the cloud cover, causing the area to appear near dusk. Silence also reigned in the woodland, disturbed only by the soft drop of water and the rustlings of undergrowth. Suddenly, a startled deer broke free of the trees then leapt off

through the underbrush. Still, the oppressiveness of the forest did not lift." Thus begins Bayliss's compact 2000-word tale.

Asked how she came to writing, Bayliss responds immediately, "I like to read," as if that says it all. She adds, "It's pretty much the same thing." Reading and writing. She names American science fiction and fantasy writer Gene Wolf as a major influence, along with other favorites Brian Jacques and James Patterson. She regularly participates in an online "group writing" forum. Bayliss is the daughter of Mark and Judy Bayliss, who both work at La Familia Primary Care in Raton.

Sponsored by Students for Students' Publishing at Raton High School, the annual

Through the Eye of the Tiger Writing Competition results in a large hard-bound book collection of winning entries that also incorporate illustrations taken from award-winning images displayed at the art awards held at International Bank Wednesday night.

First-place writers Thursday night included Jeffrey Brabec for fiction; Samuel Bayliss and Rhiannon Barela for non-fiction; Michael Neurauter for music lyrics; Elizabeth Strnad, Augusta Ahlm, and Savannah Yakchik for poetry, and Alyssa Aragon, Shaya Candelario, and Silver Hunnicutt for children's books. Mrs. Pafford's class won the class book award.

Judges were Randy and George Whitman, Michael Anne Holland, Thayla Wright, Dr. Geraldine Jasper, and Steven Havill. Christalina Donovan edited works before they went to the judges.

Thursday night also saw a poignant presentation to Cody Leal's mother, Johnny Beth Spencer, of an illustration Cody made of himself surrounded by all the characters he had created during his senior year. A gifted illustrator and longtime member of Students' Publishing, Cody graduated from Raton High School last year; he passed away over the summer. From now on, the "Cody Leal Illustration Award" will be presented to the young artist producing the best illustration for a children's book.

Raton High School's culinary arts classes catered both the art and writing awards shows at International Bank Wednesday and Thursday nights.

With record-breaking contributions this year of \$2300 to the art awards fund and \$1700 to the writing awards fund, patrons, sponsors, teachers, and parents are optimistically hoping the community's youth will embark on a flurry of creativity this summer and next school year. The next awards presentations, for both art and writing, will be held in April, 2010.

Springer History Museum & Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center

Special to The Chronicle-News

The Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center/Museum in Springer, New Mexico May 2009 Family History Display will feature Emilia Aurora Thompson, one of the first AVON Representatives of the region. The display will be presented by Family History Display Chairperson Angela Esquibel, a great, great niece. Aurora was born to Juan C. Lucero de Godoy and Louisa Garcia de Nareiga in 1895 of Spanish decent. Aurora spent her last days with her daughter in Ogden, Utah before her death in 1988. From Kansas to Taos driving an ox wagon venturing the Santa Fe Trail, Augustine Lucero de Godoy, Aurora's grandfather, hauled one of the first coal stoves to Taos, New Mexico. Aurora's siblings were Nicolasita Padilla West of Springer, NM , Venes Padilla of Raton, Juanita Lopez of Ocate, NM and Domitila Neurauter of Raton, NM. Other nieces of the area are Priscilla Guara of Raton and Frances Esquibel of Springer. Aurora's motto was "There is a place for everything

and everything in its place." Display will be ready for viewing Friday, May 8, 2009 at the media center.

Admission is free on Saturdays throughout the year. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:30 am -12:00 pm and 1:00-2:30 p.m. The public and media are encouraged to visit the museum throughout the month to learn of the history of the Santa Fe trail and region area.

The display will change each month in order to feature another family history of the Springer/Colfax County and area region. If you are interested in reserving a month for

your family history display contact Angela Esquibel, Family History Display Chairperson,

at 505-913-1184. The months remaining for featured displays are June, October, November, and December. For information on volunteering or joining the "Friends of the Museum" call 575-483-5554. You may pick up a volunteer form and sign up during museum hours.

Gaming Commission request documents before proceeding with license approval

Continued from page 1

New Mexico Gaming Commission, according to Eric Culver, "Racing at Raton" general manager, has requested additional documents be submitted to the commission. The commission will submit a list to Culver this week of documents needed, and will schedule a special meeting sometime after May 11 to again consider the application.

"It's a lot of little details that they need. They are being very

cautious, and I don't blame them." Before giving approval of the casino in Raton, the Commission needs to make sure that all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. The application is more than eighty pages long and requires extensive documentation. The N.M. Gaming Commission will review the application once all the documents are received. Once the license is received, the ground-breaking will proceed.

Three Noted New Mexicans to be Inducted into Tourism Hall of Fame

Special to The Chronicle-News

The Tourism Association of New Mexico announced that its Tourism Hall of Fame will receive three new inductees during the 2009 Governor's Conference on Tourism banquet May 7, 2009 at the Farmington Courtyard by Marriott.

"This is always a much anticipated ceremony, with many from the inductees' communities attending the dinner to join in the celebration," said Tourism Association of New Mexico CEO Sharon Schultz. Tom Rutherford, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1999.

The Tourism Hall of Fame was established in 1997 and includes Conrad Hilton, Ernie Blake, Ben Abruzzo and Tony Hillerman. Individuals, alive or deceased, or an icon (such as Smokey Bear), who have enhanced New Mexico tourism may be nominated for the honor if they lived in New Mexico for more than 10 years and have made substantial and sustained contributions to the state's tourism industry through leadership and service.

The 2009 inductees are: Drew Judycki, Red River Ski Area (posthumous recognition); a 35-year resident of Red River and owner of Red River Ski Area since 1984. He died in May 2008.

Skiing was Judycki's guiding passion. During his first year in college he found work as a ski patrol for Sipapu, and then worked as a ski instructor for Red River Ski Area. He joined the Professional Ski Instructors of America in 1968 and earned his Level Two certification in 1971 and Level Three certification in 1973. After his college graduation, Judycki worked for Red River Ski Area as a ski school supervisor for two years, then was a ski school director a year at Angel Fire Resort before returning to Red River Ski Area where he ultimately worked for more than 30 years as ski school director, marketing director, general manager and owner. Upon his death, Judycki was sole owner, president, and general manager of Red River Ski Area.

Judycki was a longtime member of Ski New Mexico and served as president more than once, most recently in 1998, and on its board of directors. Recognizing that his ski area and local businesses were intertwined, Judycki also contributed to the growth and success of Red River by serving on the board of directors of the Red River Chamber of Commerce, on several town committees, including the Economic Development Committee, and as a town councilor 1974-78.

Cathy Gonzales: Vice President of Conventions and Tourism for the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce.

Gonzales has been heading this division for nearly 30 years, and has developed extensive contacts with national corporations and Hispanic executives nationally and internationally, promoting Albuquerque as a convention and tourist destination.

Beyond her position with the

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, Gonzales works with the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of the International Association of Hispanic Meeting Professionals, is a member of the Connected International Meeting Professionals Association and is an affiliate member of the National Council of La Raza.

Loretta Armenta, President of Qwest and former President of the AHCC said, "Cathy Gonzales' outreach has increased cultural and diversity awareness. She is respected by leaders within the political and business community. Her efforts in bringing conventions and tourism to Albuquerque have earned her national and international recognition plus numerous awards. She is a true ambassador."

Al Lucero, current chairman of the New Mexico Tourism Commission, owner of Maria's Santa Fe restaurant.

Lucero began a 30-year career in broadcasting while attending the University of New Mexico. After 20 years spent in Arizona, Lucero returned to Santa Fe in 1983 to put Channel 2 (Independent) on the air, serving as President and CEO until selling the station in 1985. He and his wife Laurie then purchased Maria's New Mexican Kitchen and became involved in many efforts to bring tourists to Santa Fe.

He organized several grassroots efforts to fill hotel rooms outside the July-August season, the most successful of which is the Santa Fe Wine and Chile Fiesta, which he spearheaded along the Gordon Heiss. It was the result of an effort to bridge the lull in visitors to Santa Fe between Labor Day and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, while establishing Santa Fe as an international culinary destination.

Lucero has served as chairman of the board of the New Mexico Restaurant Association, Santa Fe Restaurant Association, El Rancho de las Golondrinas Living Museum, and the city of Santa Fe OTAB. He is past president of Santa Fe Economic Development; founder, past president and current board member of the Santa Fe Wine and Chile Fiesta; member of the board of the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce; member of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Advisory Board for New Mexico State University; member of the Community Advisory Committee of KNME-TV; and was most recently appointed by Governor Bill Richardson as Chairman of the New Mexico Tourism Commission.

The Tourism Association of New Mexico (TANM) is a non-profit membership organization created over 20 years ago to unite the interests of the state's travel, tourism and allied industries, and works closely with the New Mexico Tourism Department, the New Mexico Lodging Association and New Mexico Restaurant Association. TANM works as an advocate for the tourism industry with both the executive and legislative branches of state government.