

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Des Moines mural celebrates six-year anniversary

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Eastbound travelers on Highway 64/87 from Raton to Clayton sometimes pull off the road in front of Des Moines Village Hall to look at the large and distinctive mural on the facing rock wall. Some get out of their cars for a closer look; many take a photograph. Then they pull out and continue east, their picture joining the slideshow of their travels.

It was six years ago today that the following announcement was published: "The Village of Des Moines, with funding from New Mexico Clean and Beautiful, has awarded 'Summer Art!' at The Mandala Center' the commission of a mural on the west-facing exterior wall of the Larkin building on U.S. 87 in Des Moines. The building is owned by the village."

Summer Art!, Christina Boyce's arts education program serving all ages - since moved to her Des Moines gallery, Studio C - had already created two large murals which have continued to hang in Des Moines Village Hall since their creation.

Volunteers from Capulin,

Folsom, and Des Moines - the Volcano Triangle - gathered at Des Moines Village Hall on May 3, 2003, to come up with a design concept. Participants ranged in age from, literally, 8 to 80. Boyce divided them into small groups, asking each to come up with a list of ideas, including rough sketches. Then the whole group met to share and combine ideas.

The group wanted the mural to "reflect the diversity and history of the region while incorporating ideas for our future," according to a published report at the time. Thus, wagon trains, the Folsom spearpoint, ruins and windmills - but also wind-turbines, which now seems prescient as commercial wind production is in the planning stages. Capulin Volcano is seen against Sierra Grande, along with a yucca, the Zia symbol, a New Mexico flag, and a waving American flag. All three Volcano Triangle communities are named.

Boyce took the group's ideas to create a maquette, or scale model, and presented it to group members and the Des Moines Village Council. Approval in hand, she scheduled the mural painting for the

long Memorial Day weekend. Pot luck meals were planned. Paints were donated by Isaacs Hardware of Clayton.

"I had hoped to have lots of help painting it," Boyce recalled this week, "but that turned out to be harder to make happen." With help from Charlotte Quigley and much assistance from Sheron Montoya, Boyce did the bulk of the painting herself, and it stretched well into June. When it was finished, the village trimmed back the adjacent elm tree so travelers could get the full view of the beautiful new mural.

Today, Boyce looks forward to seeing more murals along the highway in Des Moines, beginning with the east and west walls of her own gallery, Studio C. "I'm looking for other walls and other people to collaborate," says Boyce. Meantime, she gets to see the six-year-old mural - still looking brand new - every time she walks back to Studio C from the post office. She takes special pleasure whenever she sees a tourist pull over to take a picture.



Photos by Tim Keller

Christina Boyce holds the original marquette, or mock-up, of the mural beside Des Moines Village Hall this week, the six-year anniversary of the project's birth.



The mural's many contributors are credited on the wall beside the mural.

Many local Cultural Art Show entries advance to district

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and will include entries from Colfax, Union, San Miguel, and Quay County members. Those entries that receive at least third place will advance to the state level Cultural Arts Show, which will be held in Silver City in October.

The results of the Cultural Arts Show are in

■ FINE ARTS: First Place in Photography - Color (Sunsets), Anna Trantham. Second Place in Other: (Photo & Drawing of Fence Post & Chili), Anna Trantham.

■ KNITTING: First Place in Knitting/Clothing Accessory - White cap, Jeannie Myers; Second Place for Pink Booties, Jean Gilbert; Third Place in Clothing Accessory - Multi Colored Cap, Jean Gilbert; Third Place in Clothing Accessory - Headband, Jean Gilbert; First Place for -Blue Afghan - Regular, Jean Gilbert; First Place in Other - Yellow Potholder, Jean Gilbert; Second Place for Turquoise Dishcloth, Jeannie Myers.

■ CROCHET: First place for Granny Square Afghan, Cathy Grubelnik; Second Place for Home Accessory - Hot Pad,

Peggy Campanella; First Place for Home Accessory - Other (basket of roses) Cathy Grubelnik.

■ NEEDLEPOINT: First Place for Home Accessory -Green Flora Pillow, Wilda Leatherman.

■ EMBROIDERY: First Place for Stamped Cross Stitch - Eeyore Baby Quilt, Jeannie Myers. First Place for Ribbon Embroidered Pillow, Peggy Campanella; Second Place for Set of 2 Framed Stamped Cross Stitch Birds/Flowers, Peggy Campanella.

■ COUNTED CROSS STITCH: First Place for Home Accessory - Flowered Bell Pull, Wilda Leatherman.

■ QUILTING: First Place for Embroidered Baby Blanket with Yo-Yo's, Wilda Leatherman; First Place for Appliqued Sunbonnet, Virginia Bruce; Third Place for Machine Quilted Pieced Lap Quilt (Tan/Teal Stars), Jeannie Myers; Third Place for Pieced - Purple/Pink Quilt (hand quilted), Jean Gilbert; Third Place for Other - Potholder (Purple Southwest), Jean Gilbert.

■ MISCELLANEOUS: First Place for Spring Wreath, Jeannie Myers; First Place for Beaded

Jewelry Necklace, Helen Fontaine; Second Place for Decoupage Puzzle Picture, Wilda Leatherman; First Place for Red Bandana Padded Album, Wilda Leatherman.

■ CHRISTMAS ITEMS: First Place for Tree Ornament (Blue/White Snowflake), Helen Fontaine; Third Place for Tree Cloth Ornament, Jeannie Myers; First Place for Other - Large (Angel Table Decoration), Wilda Leatherman; Second Place for Other - Small (Finger Travel with Christmas Houses), Peggy Campanella; Third Place for Other - Small (Wooden Tree), Jeannie Myers.

■ OTHER HOLIDAY ITEMS: Second Place for Easter - Basket Spoon Picture, Wilda Leatherman; First Place for Valentine Heart Box (Red), Wilda Leatherman; First Place for Pink Fabric Hearts Valentine Wreath, Jeannie Myers; Second Place for St. Patrick's Wreath, Jeannie Myers.

■ PLASTIC CANVAS: First Place for Rose/Silver Vase, Wilda Leatherman; Second Place for Yellow/Blue Ribbon Crosses on Plastic Canvas, Helen Fontaine.

■ WEARABLE ART: First Place for Machine Appliqued Hummingbirds on White Shirt, Peggy Campanella.

■ FAMILY CLOTHING: Second Place for Cobbler Apron, Mary Ann Sintas.

■ HOME ACCESSORY/FABRIC - YARN: Second Place for Afghan - Tea/Black, Grey/Cream, Jean Gilbert.

■ OTHER: First Place for Air Doll Freshener Cover, Peggy Campanella; Third Place for Kitchen Towel, Jean Gilbert.

■ HOME ACCESSORIES - OTHER: Second Place for Framed Pink Rose Picture, Mary Ann Sintas.

Each item was judged on its own merit, and not against any other item. For more information about the Extension Service of New Mexico, contact Shelly Porter at (575)445-8071.

Colorado man nears end of international journey

By SUSAN MONTTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Six continents, 68 counties and nearly 70,000 miles.

Steve Shoppman rolled into Albuquerque on Tuesday after spending the last two years circumventing the globe in a sport utility vehicle that's now dusty, dented and scratched. His mission: to inspire people to explore and see for themselves what's really going on around the world.

"The only way to really get down to the bottom of something, to understand something is to actually go ask questions right there on the spot and then learn about it," he said during his last stop before heading home to Denver. "One thing I've realized is that my perspectives of the world that I had formed over the first 26 years of my life were grossly wrong in a lot of ways and my eyes have been opened incredibly."

Shoppman, who is now 30, expects to reach Denver on Wednesday. That's where he started planning the four-wheel drive expedition a few years ago after convincing his mother that he wouldn't end up dead in the middle of nowhere.

He talked his friend Stephen Bouey of Denver into joining him, recruited a few helpers, got Toyota and more than a dozen other companies to sponsor the expedition and they were on

their way to document snippets of life around the world.

Shoppman grew up taking road trips with his father and later spent time traveling from Africa to New Zealand and South America. He said only one-fifth of people in the United States have passports and even fewer actually leave the country in any given year.

"When you have a place that has so much influence over the world, I believe that more people should get out there and see what's happening for themselves instead of just reading what's in the news," he said.

The expedition went through friendly African villages, the Australian outback, South America's jungles and countries that were engaged in civil war.

The team endured sweltering temperatures in the Sahara Desert and lows that dipped to minus 40 in Siberia.

There were also some tense moments.

"In the Congo, we were stopped by some rebels there. They invited us to stay in their camp," Shoppman said. "You realize as much as it's scary when you have six guys surrounding you with AK-47s, if you can make them laugh and put a smile on their face they realize you're good guys."

Then there were the roadless areas in Mongolia.

"We would just use a compass and binoculars to navigate

because we didn't have a GPS," he said. "You thought you would be at the next small town to get some more gas and supplies but you had already gone 100 kilometers farther than you were supposed to and you get a little bit scared."

The two-year journey cost the crew about \$30,000 for fuel. Shoppman and Bouey had saved up for the expedition but much of the rest of the expenses were taken care of by sponsors and generous people they met along the way.

"I think that's an incredible thing, the generosity of the world," Shoppman said. "People saw that we were trying to do a good thing, trying to educate people and make people understand that the world is a great place and they wanted to help us out."

Shoppman, a multimedia designer and consultant, plans to write a book and put together a documentary about the trip. He has about 150 hours of video and 22,000 photographs. He also is scheduling a speaking tour at high schools and universities in hopes of inspiring more people to see the world in a new way.

After that? "We went to 68 countries," Shoppman said, "but there's over 200 in the world so there's still a lot of it that we didn't see." On the Net:

The World by Road: <http://www.theworldbyroad.com>

Pre-K enrollment, funding up; worry about economy

By JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Preschool enrollment is up and spending on state pre-K programs is up, too - but the economic downturn could spell trouble for the nation's youngest schoolchildren, says a report being released Wednesday.

At least nine states, it says, are likely to make cuts to pre-kinder-

garten programs, including some of the biggest - California, Florida and New York. Enrollment cuts and delaying expansion plans are some of the steps that states are considering, said one of the study's authors, Steve Barnett, director at the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University.

"A federal initiative is needed to support early learning and development," Barnett said.

The institute is urging the federal government to match state spending with up to \$2,500 for every additional child enrolled in state pre-K programs, as a way to grow preschool so that all of the nation's 4-year-olds can have access by 2020.

Currently, more than 80 percent of all 4-year-olds attend some kind of preschool program, according to the report. About half of those go to a public program, either state pre-K, Head Start or special education. The other half attend private programs.

Overall, the study found healthy progress among the states in expanding enrollment, with

more than 1.1 million children in state-funded preschool education for the 2007-2008 school year.

Oklahoma has nearly 90 percent of its 4-year-olds in a public education program, the best enrollment ranking, the study said.

At least seven other states - Florida, Georgia, Vermont, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and New York - have more than half of 4-year-olds attending some type of a public preschool program.

The researchers also ranked the quality of the programs, looking at 10 benchmarks such as class size, teacher-to-child ratios and whether the teacher has a bachelor's degree.

North Carolina and Alabama were the only two states that met all 10 benchmarks. Louisiana, Maryland, Arkansas, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington met nine of the 10 standards, said the report.

On the Net:
National Institute for Early Education Research: <http://nieer.org>

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

■ April 7

Colfax County Community Town Hall, First United Methodist Church, 1501 S. Fourth St., 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Youth Empowerment Services, Discussion of DWI, community safety and other topics. Information: Debbie Ortiz (575)445-8191.

■ April 11

"Kids Paranormal," youth grades 7-12 to discuss paranormal topics, Angel Fire Community Center, 71 Valley Road, noon - 4 p.m. Free. Information: Janet Sailor: (575)377-2667.

■ April 13 - 14

Auditions for Raton Youth Theater performance of "Arabian Nights." 3:30 p.m. in the Shuler Theater. Grades 2 through 12 eligible.

■ April 13 -

Suicide Prevention Meeting, 1:00 p.m. United Methodist Church. DWI meeting, noon at K-Bob's. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ April 14 - Retired Public Employees of N.M., Chapter 18, Raton Senior Citizens Center, 440 S. First St., 2 p.m.

■ April 18 - Raton Optimist's "Under the Sea" Extravaganza. Call Desiree at (575) 445-9680 or Michelle at (575)447-9681 or April at (575)445-4000.

■ April 18 & 19 - Spay-neuter-shots clinic. The Saturday clinic will be held at the Eagle Nest Community Center and the Sunday clinic will be at th Cimarron E.S. Gym. Registration begins a 7 a.m. For more information or to make an appointment call, 575-445-8756.

■ April 20 - Diabetes and Obesity Prevention Meeting, noon at YES office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ April 20 - Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Meeting, 9 a.m. at CYFD office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

■ April 23 - 18th Annual Family Health Fair, Raton Convention Center, 9 am - 4 pm. For more information call (575) 445-8071.

■ April 27 - Maternal Child Health Meeting, noon at the Sands Restaurant.

■ April 30 - Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting, 10 a.m. in YES office. For more information call (575) 445-8191.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

April 7, 2009

Arrested

■ Richard Clear, 38- Disorderly conduct and leud immoral, obscene acts

■ Jeffrey Joe, 22- Bench Warrant out of Municipal Court for failure to appear, pay fines or costs previously imposed, failure to comply with conditions of probation

■ Jonathan Encinias, 31- Bench Warrant out of Municipal Court for failure to obey notice to appear for citation unlawful use of license, method of turning at intersection.

Citations

■ Alfonso Ortiz, 20- Possession of alcohol by minor