

# RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

## Piñon Canyon Art Project announces 2009 season

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extraordinary beauty of the area, the artists of the Piñon Canyon Art Project hope to demonstrate that beauty by showing their works where the public can view for itself what the U.S. Army hopes to turn into live-fire range.

Last year's gatherings and art-making culminated in a silent auction December 4-5 at the Standing Sun Art Gallery in Denver. Holdread chose Denver so the largest number of people could see the images of the Piñon Canyon ranchlands. 24 artists donated their works to the event with 100% of the proceeds, \$7000, contributed to the PCEOC. Every work sold.

Yesterday, Holdread expressed excitement about this season's activities. "One added dimension this year," he said, "is that poets are participating. We'll see how it goes, but we may incorporate a reading along with the art exhibition." Holdread said the group encourages any artist who is interested in participating. He invited artists of all types to contact him at pinoncanyon@gmail.com.

This year's activities begin May 30-31 at Rancho Largo east of Walsenburg, when painters and poets and photographers - artists of all stripes - will gather to meet each other, tour the landscape, eat and chat, but mostly to make art. Artists may participate for one day, though many choose to camp out and spend the night. They point out that the light in evening and early morning is best for art.

June 27-28 the group will meet at the Bieber property south of the current Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site. They'll skip July and August, meeting next September 26-27 on the Beatty Canyon Ranch on the



Photos by Tim Keller

Internationally-renowned watercolor artist Eric Michaels lives in Trinidad. Here, he paints a new work at last May's initial gathering of the Piñon Canyon Art Project.



The Piñon Canyon Art Project hopes to stop the expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Purgatoire River, then October 24-25 on the Robertson Ranch at Chacuacua Canyon west of Kim. Once again, an exhibition and fundraising sale is planned for Denver in December with all proceeds again donated to the PCEOC.

Meantime, there's an exhibition opening June 5 at the A.R. Mitchell Memorial Museum of Western Art in Trinidad. Plans

are also in the works to convert a large trailer into a traveling art gallery. "The idea is to park the trailer at rodeo venues, art venues, or just about anyplace where we can get people to take a look and learn about the issue," Holdread explained.

In fact, as in life itself, the Piñon Canyon Art Project continues to demonstrate that, out of the bad, much good is born.



Photos by Marty Mayfield

Seniors Robert Garcia, Elizabeth Strnad, Tera Gonzales and Alex Grine present Band Director Russ Woods with a token of their appreciation for coming to Raton in the middle of last year to help revive the band program.



Raton Middle School Tiger Orchestra



Raton High School Band



Raton Middle School Beginning Orchestra

## Raton Middle and High School bands give performance

By MARTY MAYFIELD  
The Chronicle-News

It was a refreshing treat to once again hear the Raton Middle and High School bands and orchestras perform in the historic Shuler Theater Thursday night.

This concert was like a preview or dress rehearsal for their upcoming performances later this month. The RHS band will travel to Bloomfield for the Northwest District Concert and Sight Reading Festival. Then three days later the group will travel to Los Lunas for the NMAA

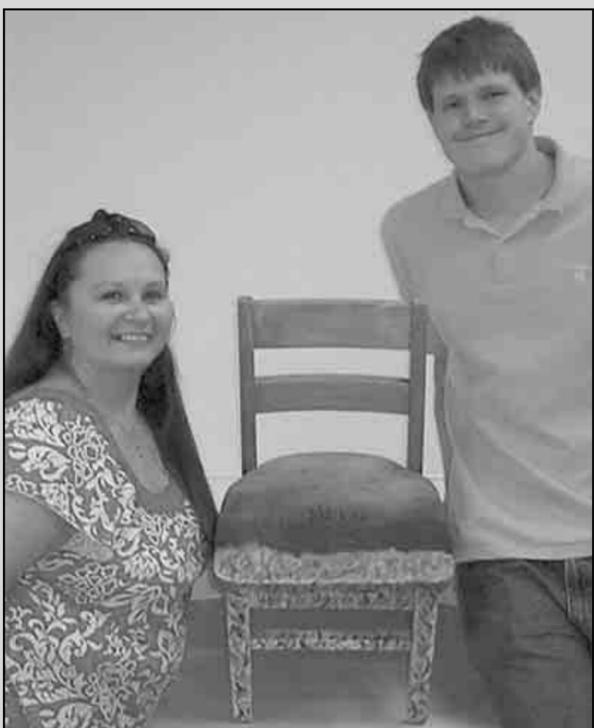
state concert band competition.

The concert was also the last one for the four seniors (Robert Garcia, Alex Grine, Tera Gonzales and Elizabeth Strnad) in the band before a home town audience. Band Director Russ Woods introduced the seniors and following custom the seniors then presented Woods with a crystal note and a tiger plaque for the new band room which the band should be in next school year.

With that the high school band finished the concert with a medley of Beach Boys tunes.

Photo courtesy of Jeannie Barnes

Rey Gaytan and Tania Kordis organized the "Artful Chairs" auction, held April 15 at the Cimarron High School. The proceeds benefit the fine arts programs and includes the music department within the school district. Shown is Lori Coca Smith who purchased the "elk" chair painted by art student Jake Arko. Thank you to all of those who purchased chairs.



Art Student Jake Arko with chair painted by Jeannie Barnes of International Bank and purchased by Mandy Wiseman of Paola, Kansas