

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS

Live @ Studio C! opens its 2009 entertainment season

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Studio C in Des Moines opened its 2009 entertainment season Saturday with a show almost Vaudevillian in its variety. The format – an “open mike” followed by brief “spotlight” act(s), then an intermission followed by a feature act – almost guarantees a wide spectrum of entertainments. After two seasons as “Live Poetry!”, the name changed this year to better describe what occurs at 5:30 p.m. on the

last Saturday of each month: “Live @ Studio C!”.

Some open mikes are all one thing – lots of poets, or lots of singer/songwriters. This one is a potpourri, whatever shows up. And there’s not even a microphone, so technically it’s an “open podium”. Or floor. The room, an art gallery of all white pine floors and white walls, seats only 24. In the past they’ve had dancers, African percussion instruments, a cappella singers, cowboy poets, story-

tellers – of fact or fiction – and the room’s piano has gotten good use on many occasions.

Saturday opened with Folsom octogenarian Betty Short reading two of her folksy humorous poems. Audience members were still arriving, mostly from Raton, throughout her presentation. They arrived in time to join the laughter to Short’s “Sweet Revenge”.

Next came young Ben Bresee of Massachusetts. Once a student at Studio C’s Summer Art! program, Bresee returned to the venue to play two original compositions on his alto saxophone. The first was more improvisation than composition, while the second he had carefully composed, though neither had yet received a title. Bresee cited tenor saxophonist Lester Young as a favorite influence.

Raton artist Ashley Bauer, one of the late arrivals, added her name to the open mike list and took the podium to recite dramatically her long poem “My Neighborhood”, published in 1988 when she lived near John Cougar Mellencamp in Indiana. It couldn’t have been more different from Short’s opening poems – and that’s typical of Studio C’s mix.

Studio C’s own Christina Boyce closed the open mike portion of the evening with two composed “prayers” from a series she wrote to accompany her five tall grass pastel artworks. Both evoked wishes



Photo by Tim Keller

Ashley Bauer recited her poem “My Neighborhood” at Studio C.



Former Studio C art student Ben Bresee returned to Des Moines Saturday to play some saxophone solos.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED

■ 04/27/09- Cecil Dipert- Suspended revoked license

■ 04/27/09- William Frank Cordova- Leud, obscene, immoral acts and bench warrant out of Magistrate Court for failure to appear for charge of concealing identity

■ 04/27/09- Paul Tarango- Resisting, refusing obstructing an officer

CITATIONS

■ 04/24/09- Antonio Vigil- Criminal trespass and drive to be licensed

■ 04/24/09- Shae Clancy- Resisting, evading and obstructing

■ 04/24/09- Elisha Martinez- Speeding

■ 04/27/09- Mark Muniz- No insurance, careless driving

■ 04/27/09- Bradley Rodriguez- Display of current registration, driver to be licensed, speeding and no insurance

■ 04/27/09- Cecil Piper- Suspended revoked license, open container, seat-belt violation, no valid insurance.

INCIDENTS

■ 04/27/09- Julia Fernandez was a victim of criminal damage to property

CRASHES

■ 04/27/09- Leroy Sandoval and Christina Ortiz causing moderate damage



Photos by Tim Keller

SGLA Secretary Carr Vincent uses a map to make his point Sunday.

SGLA forms to organize and inform region’s landowners

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

There’s nothing to see yet, nothing but words on paper and reddened squares on maps, but commercial renewable energy and the transmission lines to deliver it are coming to our region. You can bet the ranch on it.

Down the length of eastern New Mexico, 22 landowner associations have formed to represent the interests of landowners in jockeying for position as big renewable energy approaches. Member landowners gain information and influence, with energy developers and in the political arena.

Heard of the oil boom of a century ago? A similar boom is coming, but this time it’s in solar and wind energy. The New Mexico Coalition of Renewable Energy Landowner Associations, headquartered in Tucumcari, has recently formed to represent the 22 new associations, two of which may be larger in acreage than any other association in the United States, although this is unconfirmed. An association in southeastern New Mexico represents approximately 350,000 acres. The next largest association represents the upper right corner of New Mexico.

Based at offices in the old A&M Trading Post in Des Moines, the Sierra Grande Land Association (SGLA) was created one year ago by a steer-

ing committee of 13 industrious area landowners who created an interim board of directors and an operating agreement that required a general membership to elect a formal board of directors a year later. Members have been joining and paying dues ever since. The land represented currently stands at 228,000 acres and growing.

Sunday night the SGLA held its first annual membership meeting to elect its board of directors to gather information and represent the group in negotiations with state and federal agencies and with energy development companies. 21 people attended, not all of whom were members, and several members were not present. Barry Hittson was elected president, Boyd Burchard vice-president, Carr Vincent secretary, and Rob Ellis treasurer. The four had served in the same positions for the past year on the interim board.

The membership voted Sunday night to keep membership open until June 1, after which board approval will be required. The SGLA is trying to develop effective corridors of land to attract north-south lines of energy development, then assist individual landowners in their negotiations with energy developers. Ultimately, each owner will sign his or her own contracts with companies; the SGLA owns no land and will sign no energy contracts.

Hittson reported that the group could soon issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs), but suggested the group wait for an optimal time. “For one thing,” he said, “I’d like to see where the stimulus money is going first.”

Of course it was the change in administrations in Washington, D.C., that threw all this activity into hyperdrive. Last month Hittson said that he foresaw the coming of commercial wind development to the area by the years 2015-2017, but since the election of Barack Obama, and especially since the passage of the huge stimulus bill weighted heavily toward green power, Hittson felt that the timetable had been greatly accelerated.

One of the landowners’ greatest competitors in New Mexico is the state itself, which is signing leases of state land for development of renewable energies – sun and wind – often at lower rates than landowners are hoping to get. This is one of many reasons landowners are banding together into associations. Sunday night’s SGLA meeting brought together owners from Clayton to Capulin, New Mexico, and north to Branson and Kim, Colorado. There are more questions than answers in this fast-moving arena, but through the SGLA, the area’s landowners appear to be moving into good position to negotiate and have some control of their futures.

and images of healing, growth, and kindness with imagery sometimes specific to the grasslands of northeastern New Mexico.

At intermission, Studio C’s lights went up and it briefly returned to its day job as art gallery. Patrons mingled, coffee or tea in hand, holding conversations or looking at a collection of art as eclectic as the entertainment of the Saturday evening programs.

Then Boyce introduced the evening’s featured performer, an actress from Raton by way of Mexico and Minnesota. Kathryn Engel performed her short one-woman show “Two Women of Tennessee Williams”, playing the three parts herself – Amanda Wingfield from the play “The Glass Menagerie”, Blanche

DuBois from “A Streetcar Named Desire”, and a narrator.

If Engel was subject to stage fright, as the audience had been led to believe, it didn’t show. The actress walked through the curtain as Blanche DuBois talking to her sister Stella about the high costs of death. “Death is expensive,” she said. The narrator explained to the audience that Tennessee Williams’s characters “suffer persecution by life, men, society, and themselves.”

Amanda Wingfield was typical Williams but quite different from Blanche DuBois. The only costume change was the addition of a hat as Engel portrayed Wingfield, from “The Glass Menagerie”, who says, “I know what happens to

unmarried women who aren’t prepared to occupy a position in life.”

Engel closed her show with Blanche DuBois speaking of “the long way home”, which is death. Tennessee Williams gave Blanche his own personal death wish, to be sewn into a clean sheath and dropped “into an ocean as blue as the blue of my first lover’s eyes.”

Live @ Studio C! takes place at 5:30 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month through November. May’s featured performer is Clayton singer/songwriter and pianist Russ Ballew. He’ll be preceded that evening by Raton’s celtic harpist, Karen Anderson – and by whatever surprises the open mike may bring.

Raton Chamber & Economic Development Council, Inc
Cultural Affairs Committee Presents

Raton’s Annual Cultural Celebration

May 2nd & 3rd

Saturday, May 2nd

10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies with Guest Speaker Danny Griego and General Kenny Montoya

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Vendors, Food and Fun!!!

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DJ Danny Griego

11:45 a.m. Guest Speaker for The Free Choice Act

12:00 p.m. Chihuahua Races sponsored by Raton Nursing & Rehab
8 lbs or less, 2 owners must be present
For more info contact Lorenzo 445-7000

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Damn Band

2:00 p.m. Children invited to crack the Fiesta Piñata

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Nueva Vida

Sunday, May 3rd

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Vendors, Food and Fun!!!

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Tobacco Road

12:15 p.m. Guest Speaker for The Free Choice Act

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Broken Spoke

2:00 p.m. Children invited to crack the Fiesta Piñata

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. No Limit Band

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- Mc Donald’s
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- Sands Restaurant
- N.M. National Guard

For More Details Contact
Raton Chamber and
Economic Development Council, Inc.
(575) 445-3689

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