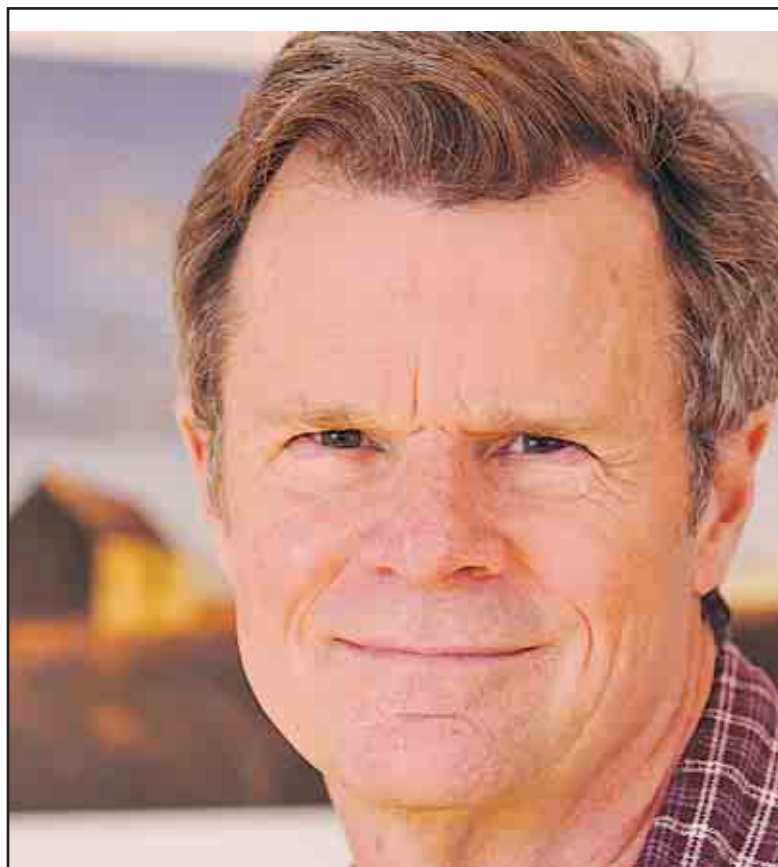


RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photos courtesy of the artists, Tim Keller and Rick Smith.



Mitchell Museum features two local artists

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The A.R. Mitchell Memorial Museum in downtown Trinidad is featuring two local artists' photography in this month's show titled, "Distance..... the Northeastern Corner of New Mexico." The show runs through May 23 with a catered reception on May 8 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. during which patrons and guests will meet the artists Tim Keller and Rick Smith.

The photography from the two artists that graces the walls of the museum for this show highlight the beauty, grace, ruggedness and some of the history of southeastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico. Keller's entries in the show include nineteen framed pieces that were all shot in New Mexico. They range in size from small, 6" x 9", to very large, 20" x 30" and include locations and events that many, who live in this corner of the world, will recognize. Titles like "Horses at Sierra Grande" and "Saddle in Storage" are self-explanatory and conjure up visions of dust, horses, and

thoughts of days gone by. Several of Keller's photographs were shot with the beautiful view of Capulin National Monument and areas surrounding the volcano. And, many of Keller's photographs include a ranching theme, like the "Driving on Blacktop" photos that have been featured in January 2009 Western Horseman magazine of a horse drive on Johnson Mesa and "Fuego," which captures the intensity of branding irons. The use of old machinery and single structures give Keller's pieces a feeling of the loneliness that must have been felt by many ranchers and pioneers over the years.

Keller grew up in southern California, riding the waves, and hanging out on the beach. His interest in photography started with borrowed, old 35 mm cameras, but really grew into more than a hobby when he purchased his first digital camera, a Nikon D300 digital SLR. He describes the process of photography as mostly coming from the "eye of the photographer," and being able to capture the feeling of the moment. New Mexico Arts has

announced the purchase of two of Keller's photographs for permanent public display, "Distance" by the city of Belen for display at its recreation center, and "Raton Junkyard 18" by Rio Rancho for one of its libraries.

Rick Smith, a native of Colorado, has over thirty pieces entered in the "Distance..." show at the Mitchell, many that he describes as "digital painting." Living in the shadow of the Spanish Peaks, outside of Trinidad, has given Smith an opportunity to capture the beauty of Fisher's Peak, which towers over the city, with his digital painting of "Fisher's Peak II". Smith says that he tries to capture on paper and canvas "some of the most beautiful and inspiring country in the world." And, he believes that "art is mainly about feeling, or I other words, seeing with the heart rather than with the eye..." Other western themes are suggested in "Indian Paint Brush," "Little House on the Prairie," "Western Gentlemen," and many others. He encourages patrons to "see the beauty through his eyes as he aspires

to preserve and document the passing of an earlier and simpler time.

Smith has an extensive background and education in art, including attendance at the Loveland Academy of Art, Loveland, Colorado, and art instruction under the tutelage of Jim McClelland, well-known Midwestern watercolorist and the late Irving Shapiro, a nationally recognized artist and member of the American Watercolor Society. Smith has shown his work in S.P.A.C.E. Gallery in La Veta, Colorado, and in New Mexico at the Old Pass Gallery and Little Bear Gallery in Raton, and the Buffalo Nickel in Cimarron.

The A.R. Mitchell Memorial Museum, 150 East Main Street, is open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and on Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m. New directors Joanie Hessling and Paula Little look forward to providing Trinidad, and the surrounding area, with fun, interesting, and beautiful art, with the interest of western life at its heart. For more information on this or future shows, call 719-846-4224.

NMAA Board of Directors resume all athletic/ activity programs

Special to The Chronicle-News

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - The New Mexico Activities Association Board of Directors met today in emergency session following an announcement yesterday from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Public Education Department that school closures in New Mexico are no longer necessary for health reasons.

The NMAA Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve practice as normal at the beginning of the thirty-five minute meeting.

The NMAA Board of Directors also voted upon and approved the following revised schedule for the Spring State Championship events.

Track & Field

Class A-AA
May 13-14 (State Championships- UNM Track & Field Complex)
Class 3A-5A
Class 3A-5A- Each district will determine the date of their district championship meet. All district championship meets must conclude by Monday, May 11.

May 15-16 (State Championships- UNM Track & Field Complex)

Baseball

Class A/AA
May 8 (Seeding Meeting for 16 teams)
May 11 (First Round- Albuquerque)
May 12 (Quarterfinals- Albuquerque)
May 15 (Semifinals- Albuquerque)
May 16 (Finals- Isotopes Park)
Class 3A-5A
May 7-9 (Two out of three games at home sites)
May 14 (Quarterfinals- Albuquerque)
May 15 (Semifinals- Albuquerque)
May 16 (Finals- Isotopes Park)

Softball

Regular season resumes

through Saturday, May 9
Class A-AA

May 10
(Seeding/ Selection Meeting)
May 15-16 (Class A-AA Championships- Double Elimination- Las Cruces)
Class 3A-5A

May 10
(Seeding/ Selection Meeting)
May 14-16 (Class 3A-5A Championships- Double Elimination- Las Cruces)

Golf

Districts will have a choice of having a district tournament. All district tournaments must conclude by Saturday, May 9 at 6:00 PM.
Class A-AAA

May 10
(Seeding Meeting)
May 11-12 (Championships- UNM Golf Course)
Class AAAAA

May 10
(Seeding Meeting)
May 12-13 (Championships- New Mexico Tech Golf Course)
Class AAAAAA

May 10
(Seeding Meeting)
May 12-13 (Class AAAAA Championships- N.M. State University Golf Course)

Note: The NMAA will not sponsor practice rounds at any Golf State Championship course.

Tennis

May 14 (Individuals Tournament- Albuquerque)
May 15-16 (Team Tournament- Albuquerque)

NMAA staff members will host a LIVE webcast at 9:30 AM this morning on www.nmaafilms.tv to provide additional information regarding the decisions of the Board of Directors this morning.

For more information pertaining to this announcement, please contact Robert Zayas, NMAA Director of Communications, at 505.977-5386.

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

- May 9 - 10:00 am Simulcast of the Metropolitan Opera performance of "Cenerentola" - a comic opera
- May 2-3 Cultural Celebration - 10 am until 4 pm daily - Ripley Park
- May 2 CMC board

meeting in Long Term Care facility meeting room. 9:00 am
■ May 7 Red Cross Meeting in Raton Convention Center 5:30 pm. Call (575)445-1413 for more information.

■ May 9 Simulcast of the Metropolitan Opera perform-

ance of "Cenerentola" - a comic opera - El Raton Theater 10:00 am

■ May 16 Girl Scout Troop 1091 Bake Sale in front of International Bank, downtown Raton. 8:00 am.

New Mexico State Parks hosts special events in May for Heritage Preservation Month

Special to The Chronicle-News

SANTA FE, N.M. - New Mexico State Parks announces its participation in the annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Month in May. Each year, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs, launches a month-long program to celebrate and draw attention to New Mexico's heritage and to community preservation efforts throughout the state.

More than 45 communities will sponsor almost 100 different special events during the 2009 Heritage Preservation Month, and NM State Parks is proud to be a participating partner. Six state parks will host special programs about the cultural heritage of our region. Most of these programs will not be repeated at other times during the year.

The schedule of Heritage Preservation Month events at NM State Parks is as follows:

May 7-10 - Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad hosts the 23rd Annual Mescal Roast and Mountain Spirit Dances. This award-winning cultural event brings Mescalero Apaches to the park to

perform traditional ritual observances and dances. Mescal, a type of century plant, was the staple of the Mescalero Apache diet and has spiritual and cultural significance to them.

The event begins on Thursday, May 7 at 10 a.m. with the Pit Blessing, when the heads of mescal are placed in the mescal pit to roast. Both Friday and Saturday feature a Native American arts and crafts sale, an interpretive roundtable at 2:00 p.m., and the Apache feast dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the Apache War Dances and Mountain Spirit Dances. The event concludes Sunday with the mescal pit opening at 11:00 a.m. and the mescal tasting and closing ceremonies.

May 9 - Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, Alamogordo, sponsors Heritage Preservation Day; 9 a.m.

4 p.m. The natural resources of Dog Canyon have enabled human occupation for 10,000 years. Discover the natural, cultural and historical resources of Oliver Lee Memorial State Park at this annual park event.

Experience the beauty and history of Dog Canyon and the Tularosa Basin.

May 16 - Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus presents

Pancho Villa's Motives; 10-11:30 am. Why did the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa raid Columbus in 1916? There are many theories behind the raid by Pancho Villa's troops and several of the most plausible will be reviewed in this oral presentation.

May 16 - Cerrillos Hills State Park in Cerrillos presents The Most Recent 34 Million Years; 9 a.m.: Historian Bill Baxter will lead an interpretive walk and present the fascinating history of Cerrillos Hills from their molten beginnings to Puebloan, Spanish and Territorial times. There are a lot of holes in these hills and visitors will hear the claim jumpin', shootin' tales behind these small mines. The walk is 2-3 miles at a leisurely pace but it is likely to be hot, so bring hats, sunscreen and water.

May 21 - Elephant Butte Lake State Park near T or C presents To Build a Dam; noon. This is a 45-minute slide presentation on the history of the construction of Elephant Butte Dam. No event had a greater impact on the Lower Rio Grande in New Mexico than the construction of Elephant Butte Dam. The program will cover three historic periods: actual dam construction

(1911-16); the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Roosevelt's New Deal (1933-41); and the current era of New Mexico State Parks (1965 - present). The presenter is Kevin Hansen, Southwest Region interpretive ranger for NM State Parks.

May 23 - Sugarite Canyon State Park near Raton hosts its Coal Camp Days Walk, 10:00 am. This is an hour-long walk through a 1930s coal camp to meet the local residents. Chat with a coal miner and the folks at the company store and ask the camp doctor about his remedies. Meet the woman who makes bread for the town and try her wares. Discover what folks really did at the clubhouse on a Saturday night!

To learn more about Heritage Preservation Month and for a full calendar of all events, visit <http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/OUTREACH/outreach-histpresmonth.html>. For more information about NM State Parks and additional events across the state, call 1-888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.

Bilingual Social Work Program hosts two Mexican Universities for exchange

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social work from the 4-year-old program. Thirteen more students will graduate from the innovative program in May, including Joey Silva.

"I think having the students and faculty here from Mexico enriched me and our social work program," Silva said.

Ortega said Highlands is also partnering with social work programs at the University of Texas at El Paso and Arizona State University to develop exchange programs. In

addition, the Highlands' program has become a model for other university's looking to develop similar programs.

She said graduates of the university's bilingual social work program are in demand, giving Silva as an example of just one student who has already received several job offers.

NMHU's School of Social Work is the oldest school of social work in New Mexico, dating back to 1974.

The Raton Choral Society
presents

Man of La Mancha

May 8-10, 15-16, 2009
Adults - \$8, Seniors - \$6, Students - \$4
Friday & Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
Historic Shuler Theater in Downtown Raton
For Tickets & Info call Shuler Box Office (575) 445-4746