

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photo courtesy of Santa Fe Trail New Mexico National Scenic Byway Alliance

Tony Oliver, Vice-chair of the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway Alliance, presents information about the grant that will allow a large kiosk, several wayside exhibits, and directional signage throughout Clayton and Union County to community leaders during an organizational meeting in Clayton on Tuesday.

Santa Fe Trail Kiosk location determined in Clayton

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voiced her approval as well. This group will form the committee that will take the project to the next step by enlisting the help of other individuals and businesses in the area. The sight will require an EPA study prior to groundbreaking, and in the meantime, designs, interpretation and locations of other

signage will be determined. The Santa Fe Trail has very high name recognition not only in the United States, but with international travelers as well and the directional signage placed on every highway leading into Clayton would let travelers know that there is Santa Fe Trail interpretation and information ahead, thereby leading them to the museum.

The kiosk placed there would offer information to the visitors about the different historical, recreational, cultural, and natural sights of interest in the area. For more information about this project, contact the Hertzstein Museum at (575)374-2977 or the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway Alliance at (575)445-4174.



Photo courtesy of Santa Fe Trail School for the Performing Arts

'Forever Plaid' simulcast at El Raton Theater

Courtesy of Santa Fe Trail School for the Performing Arts
Special to The Chronicle-News

Whether you are an avid fan, a "Plaidhead," or new to the phenomena of Forever Plaid, you won't want to miss the live simulcast Forever Plaid concert at El Raton on July 9. Brought to audiences by the Santa Fe Trail School for the Performing Arts in cooperation with El Raton, this is an affordable and convenient venue for seeing all-star events, with no bad seats in the house. Audiences will be taken along on a wonderful, fun, nostalgic journey of song as the story unfolds about four guys, who dream of making it big in show business, and are

sure they are on their way to a big break when an accident changes everything. The group is allowed to come back to earth for that all-important one-time concert.

"Forever Plaid," which had a twenty-year off-Broadway run that generated over \$300 million, is being celebrated with a one-night simulcast performance across the nation in select theaters. Nearly four-hundred theaters across the country will broadcast this fun concert and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at El Raton in downtown Raton.

Original members of the off-Broadway cast will open the production with information about the movie during a red carpet presentation and some of the history behind it. The

broadcast will include songs from the 1950's hit parade, a fun sing-along, humorous bits reminiscent of such classic television programs as "The Ed Sullivan Show," and taped screenings of the movie in selected theaters.

According to Fathom Entertainment, "It's a show that has such a great history off-Broadway. We felt this was a great opportunity, working with Forever Plaid Productions, to create something really unique and special."

Tickets for "Forever Plaid" simulcast are available at the historic Shuler Theater, El Raton, and the Enchanted Grounds Espresso and Café. For more information call (575)445-4746.

Person Modified Scramble. Call 575-445-8113 or email nmswane@yahoo.com for more info. - Raton Golf Course

■ August 15 - 8:00 am Appleseed Shoot at NRA Whittington Center. Check Appleseedinfo.org look for the schedule and sign up! Women shoot for free!

■ August 16 - 8:00 am Appleseed Shoot at NRA Whittington Center. Check Appleseedinfo.org look for the schedule and sign up! Women shoot for free!

■ August 23 - 4:00 pm Music on Main Street with Johnny Rodriguez Retimo Y Los Diamantes - Ripley Park

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

July

■ July 12 - 4:00 pm Music on Main Street with Sid Masters - Ripley Park

■ July 18 - 10:00 am until 4 pm, "A Day in Paris" Art Festival - Enchanted Grounds Espresso Bar and Cafe. (575)445-2219

■ July 26 - 4:00 pm Music on Main Street with Drey Solano - Ripley Park

August

■ August 1 - 12:00 pm 2nd Annual Dog Show - Enchanted Grounds Espresso Bar and Cafe. (575)445-2219

■ August 2 - 4:00 pm Music

on Main Street with Halden Wofford & the Highbeams - Ripley Park

■ August 7 - : Raton International Tourney 3 Person Modified Scramble. Call 575-445-8113 or email nmswane@yahoo.com for more info. - Raton Golf Course

■ August 8 - : Raton International Tourney 3 Person Modified Scramble. Call 575-445-8113 or email nmswane@yahoo.com for more info. - Raton Golf Course

■ August 9 - : Raton International Tourney 3

Mandala Center's Gaye Brown to retire

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

When The Mandala Center gives its Executive Director Gaye Brown an open house and farewell party Thursday, July 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., Brown will be able to reflect on 35 years of service directing three programs in as many states. Although Brown says, "I'm retiring," the plan she describes sounds like semi-retirement at best.

"I really want to serve a church full-time. That's why I became ordained, so I could serve in a different kind of ministry," she explains. But she will slow down. "I want to go home to North Carolina. I have eleven beautiful acres there with an orchard I've been working on for five or six years. I've been going back twice a year. I have flower beds and I plant trees. If I don't do it now, I'll be too old to do it."

Since taking over leadership of The Mandala Center, on a high shoulder of Sierra Grande mountain three miles west of Des Moines, NM, in 2000, the ecumenical retreat center has more than doubled the number of guests it serves annually, while the number of overnight occupancies has increased by more than 400%.

Anna Wolfe, founder of The Mandala Center and President of its board of directors, provided The Chronicle-News with the following words of praise for what Brown has accomplished here:

"Gaye has been a transformative force at The Mandala Center for over nine years now, taking it from a good idea that no one knew about to a retreat center that is known in many parts of this country. She arrived in April of 2000 with enthusiasm to throw her heart and soul into bringing people here to experience the potential for personal transformation that can occur, and she leaves with an even greater appreciation for the place. Gaye recognized that The Mandala Center serves as a place of hospitality, where people can come and listen to "the small still voice", to find direction or possibilities for their lives, and she has done an amazing job of creating programs and promoting the Center. Attendance has increased greatly under her leadership, as people now come to the center not just from the region, but from all over the country. We will always be grateful for her dedication and hard work that has made all this possible."

Brown served as Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services in Arizona for ten years, managing a variety of church-based social service projects including refugee resettlement, child care centers, a food bank, reassurance programs for older adults, and health clinics. Prior to that, she lived Houston,



Photo by Tim Keller

As she approaches this month's retirement, Gaye Brown pauses at The Mandala Center to consider her lifetime career of service to a wide variety of people.

where for 15 years she managed programs for a large non-profit organization. She was responsible for long-range planning, proposal development and grant writing, budget development and management, staff selection, training and supervision, and the design and development of new programs. These experiences made her a perfect fit for leadership of the relatively new retreat center on the hill in northeastern New Mexico.

Asked to account for her success in dramatically growing the services of all three of the organizations that she has led, Brown says, "It's from putting together and sustaining a good work team, having strong outreach, emphasizing the importance of a ministry of hospitality and sharing God's love with all who come, paying attention to details in all aspects of our work, and offering programs of the highest quality."

She adds, "These are also essential to achieving church growth," - which perhaps doesn't bode well for an imminent life of leisure tending her North Carolina flower beds, harvesting the fruit of her orchard. Brown was ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church at Holy Trinity Church in Raton last December.

"I'll probably end up doing something similar in North Carolina to what I've done here in New Mexico," Brown admits.

"I have already found myself thinking, 'How can I bring this speaker, or that presenter, to North Carolina to give a program?' I love spending time with them and learning from them."

So, why North Carolina? She explains, "I grew up in North Carolina but I haven't lived there since I graduated from college. The land I have was my great grandfather's." Looking in any direction from her eleven acres, she'll be able to see the homesteads of relatives - her sister, cousins, second cousins and more cousins. She got a kick having a neighbor approach her in the store there recently to ask, "Say, aren't you one of the Brown girls?"

Not that leaving The Mandala Center is easy for her. "I've been writing my last newsletter. I've been saying goodbye. The way I say goodbye is to say 'Thank you.'" Brown says. "It's going to be hard to leave. The overwhelming feeling I have is gratitude."

Thursday afternoon, Gaye Brown will greet the friends she's made in northeastern New Mexico when The Mandala Center throws its "Open House and Farewell Party" from 3 to 7 pm. Along with refreshments, there will be lots of memories going around, and Brown will be both giving and receiving a constant refrain - "Thank you."

Raton Extension Club Members participate in District Cultural Arts Show

Special to The Chronicle-News

Members of the Raton Extension Club hosted the District II Extension Association of New Mexico (EANM) Meeting at the First United Methodist Church in Raton on May 5, 2009. Forty-one EANM members and guests from Union, San Miguel, Quay and Colfax counties, began the day by participating in workshops on making "License Plate Birdhouses" and "Birdhouse Garden Stakes", which were presented by Colfax County Extension home economist, Shelly Porter. An educational program, "Celebrating Birds in Culture", was also presented by Pat Walsh, NE Regional Interpretive Ranger, based at Sugarite State Park, to further carry out the meeting theme, "Birds of a Feather Flock Together". Karen Anderson, a Raton harpist, provided musical entertainment and an informative lesson about the harp during the ladies enchilada luncheon, catered by the Raton Extension Club members. The group's district business meeting followed the luncheon.

District EANM members also entered 110 arts, crafts and handiworks in the District Cultural Arts Show, 40 of which were made by Raton Extension Club members. All first, second and third place items will be eligible for the State EANM Cultural Arts Show to be held in conjunction with the State EANM Meeting in Silver City, October 21 - 23,

2009. Wilda Leatherman of Raton received overall "Best of Show" honors from the cultural arts show judges for her embroidered yo-yo baby quilt. Other Colfax County results are as follows:

Fine Arts:
Anna Trantham, Photo (fence post and chile), First
Anna Trantham, Photo (sunsets), First and "Best of Lot"

Knitting:
Jean Gilbert, Baby Booties, First
Jean Gilbert, Potholder, First
Jeannie Myers, Cap, First
Jean Gilbert, Cap, Second
Jean Gilbert, Headband, First
Jean Gilbert, Afghan, Second
Jeannie Myers, Dishcloth, Second

Crochet:
Peggy Campanella, Hot pad, Second
Cathy Grubelnik, Basket of Roses, First

Needlepoint:
Wilda Leatherman, Pillow, First
Embroidery:
Peggy Campanella, Cross stitched pictures, First and "Best of Lot"
Jeannie Myers, Cross stitched baby quilt, First
Peggy Campanella, Ribbon embroidered pillow, Second

Quilting:
Wilda Leatherman, Embroidered yo-yo baby blanket, First and "Best of Show"
Jean Gilbert, Potholder, Third
Virginia Bruce, Appliqued

Sunbonnet Sue quilt, machine quilted, Third

Jean Gilbert, Pieced quilt, hand quilted, Third

Jeannie Myers, Pieced quilt, machine quilted, Second

Miscellaneous:
Wilda Leatherman, Decoupage puzzle picture, Second
Helen Fontaine, Beaded necklace, First

Jeannie Myers, Spring wreath, First
Wilda Leatherman, Padded album, Second

Christmas Items:
Helen Fontaine, Snowflake tree ornament, Participation
Jeannie Myers, Tree ornament cloth, Participation
Wilda Leatherman, Angel decoration, First and "Best of Lot"
Peggy Campanella, Finger towel, Second

Jeannie Myers, Wooden tree, Participation
For more information on becoming a member of the Raton Extension Club and the Extension Association of New Mexico or learning more about educational programs offered by the Colfax County Cooperative Extension Service, call 575-445-8071. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.