

RATON ~ NEW MEXICO NEWS



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Students listen intently as Ashley Bauer explains the technique in one of the photos on display at the Old Pass Gallery on First Street.

Art appreciation students study Solano Photography Show at Old Pass Gallery

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The students in Ray Gaytan's Art Appreciation class at Highlands University in Raton spent the better part of an hour perusing the entries in the Ralph Solano Memorial

Photography Exhibit and Sale that are currently on display. During that time, Docent Ashley Bauer gave the students insight into how many of the photographic effects were achieved, and shared the judge's comments with them.

The show will remain on display through the end of July, at which time the gallery will present a show featuring local and regional artists. For more information call the Old Pass Gallery at (575)445-2052.



Raton Main Street hosts Syd Masters concert

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Though the thermometer sat above 90 degrees Sunday afternoon, a cooling breeze swept down from the Raton Pass and right under the generous shade trees of Ripley Park as 200 people spread out on blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy Raton Main Street's latest gift to the city. The free concert by renowned cowboy swing band Syd Masters & The Swing Riders combined well-received original songs with many classic cowboy songs that appeared to be enjoyed by people - and dogs - of all ages.

Masters formed his band 12 years ago and has now toured nearly half the states and 131 New Mexico towns. Based in Edgewood, NM, the band's constant touring and playing have honed its skills. The rhythms and harmonies were top-notch, with particularly fluid and swinging guitar work from "Uncle Bob", Bob Goldstein, who also played mandolin and harmonica and joined upright bassist Lance Quadri in providing Masters with tight vocal harmonies.

Masters had some imposing challenges to overcome. Raton Main Street had set up large

speaker columns that rose high and blocked the band's view of large portions of Ripley Park and the audience, who in turn had much of the bandstand blocked from its view. Then, the large concrete area immediately in front of the bandstand was in direct sun, and hot, so the audience sat in the lush cool comfort of the lawn under the big shade trees, creating a distance Masters worked hard to overcome.

He succeeded, with between-song banter and tales, repartee with his band mates, songs that got the crowd swaying...and yodeling. His grandstand yodeling on his own "Galisteo Highway" was a great crowd-pleaser and a highlight of the concert. Beloved cowboy favorites such as "The Streets of Laredo", "Leaving Cheyenne", and "Cool Water" were interspersed with Masters' own songs, including "Under New Mexico Skies", which was recently selected by the legislature and governor as "The Official Cowboy Song of the State of New Mexico. Masters also used frequent humor to help him win over the Ripley Park crowd. One of his songs had the lines, "Frying bacon in the nude/That is what I like to do/Because it reminds me of

you." Masters followed the song with the quip, "I was actually wearing chaps and a cowboy hat when I fried that bacon." Another lyric said, "The more people I meet, the more I like my dog." Before breaking into a three-part a cappella section of "You Are My Sunshine", Masters told the audience that a cappella is Italian for "I forgot the chords."

Progressive cities such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque have long seen the wisdom in providing their citizens with free outdoor concerts for all ages. Raton Main Street should be commended for its summer concert series at Ripley Park, which on Sunday attracted people from Des Moines, Cimarron, and other surrounding towns and had to make Raton look pretty attractive to visiting tourists.

Raton Main Street's published statement of purpose says, "We are committed members of the community dedicated to improving the quality of life in Raton by revitalizing our downtown area. We want to foster business prosperity and offer new economic opportunities. We seek to have a community where all generations can have a sense of pride in Raton and all cultures feel respect for their heritage." Sunday's well-

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED:

■ Joe Jeffrey - bench warrant out of Cibola County for failure to appear

■ Myra Murray - reckless driving

INCIDENTS:

■ El Paso Energy - victim of

larceny

CITATIONS:

■ Scott Ratzliff - no city tags on dog
■ David Licon - conspiracy, resisting/obstructing an officer, criminal damage to property, minor in possession of alcohol, burglary

COLFAX COUNTY CALENDAR

■ July 18 - 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. - "A Day in Paris" Art Festival - Enchanted Grounds Espresso Bar and Cafe. (575)445-2219

■ July 18 - 11 a.m. - The Corazon de Los Caminos Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association will meet at the Point of Rocks. A picnic lunch will be followed by a tour of the site. The ranch is located 7 miles north, on the Dorsey Road, C-52, of mile marker 24 at the rest area on US-56 between Springer and Clayton. The public is invited. For more information, please call Faye Gaines at 575-485-2473.

■ July 19 - 11 a.m. - Poor

Man's Yacht Race - check in for yachters. Noon - bribing of judges. 1:00 p.m. race begins. Deadline for entries was July 10. Call (575) 445-3194 or (575) 447-3194 for more information. Sugarite Canyon State Park

■ July 21 - 9:30 a.m. -Cooking and Nutrition, "I Can" classes begin in the Raton Income Support Office, 1233 Whittier St. Register at the Colfax County Extension Service (575) 445-8071.

■ July 23 - 6 p.m. - Regular Scheduled Board meeting of the Miners' Colfax Medical Center Board of Trustees. The meeting will take place at the

MCMC Long Term Care Facility, 900 South Sixth St., Raton, NM 87740 in the Long Term Conference Room. The agenda for the meeting will be available to the public at the MCMC Administration Office 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Individuals with disabilities, who need any form of auxiliary aid to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the MCMC Administration Office.

■ July 26 - 4 p.m. -Music on Main Street with Drey Solano - Ripley Park

■ July 31 - 6 p.m. - St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Catholic Church Fiesta & Barbeque Beef Dinner. Call (575) 445-9763 for more information or stop by the church office at 105 Buena Vista, Raton, NM.



Photos by Tim Keller

Top right: From the Ripley Park gazebo, the band looked out on a Sunday crowd of 200. Middle left: Syd Masters & The Swing Riders performed Music on Main Street at Ripley Park Sunday. Bottom right: A large crowd turned out to enjoy the music and shade at Ripley Park Sunday.



earned applause was for Syd Masters & The Swing Riders, but it should have also been for Raton Main Street, whose remaining free concerts in Ripley Park present Drey Solano July 26 and The High Beams August 2.



Syd Masters has toured most of the U.S. singing cowboy songs.

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