

Police investigate assault

Continued from page 1

the room. The man left and the victim went to bed.

The man of interest later went back to the victim's room forcing his way into the room and then allegedly throwing the victim onto the bed, forcing the victim into doing sexual acts to the suspect, then the suspect sexually assaulted the victim with a coat hanger.

The man then dragged the victim into the bathroom filling up the bath tub, put the victim in the tub and then the suspect allegedly attempted to drown the victim. Then he tried to throw a hair dryer into the tub to electrocute the victim.

The suspect dragged the victim back into the room where

he tied up the victim with a telephone cord.

The victim was found the next morning and taken to Mt. San Rafael Hospital.

Authorities needed a sign language interrupter to get information from the victim about the assault.

Watlington was interviewed by police about this incident and he denied any involvement or knowledge about the it.

Results from a rape kit sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation are still pending.

If anyone has any information about this incident please contact the Trinidad Police Department 719-846-4441.

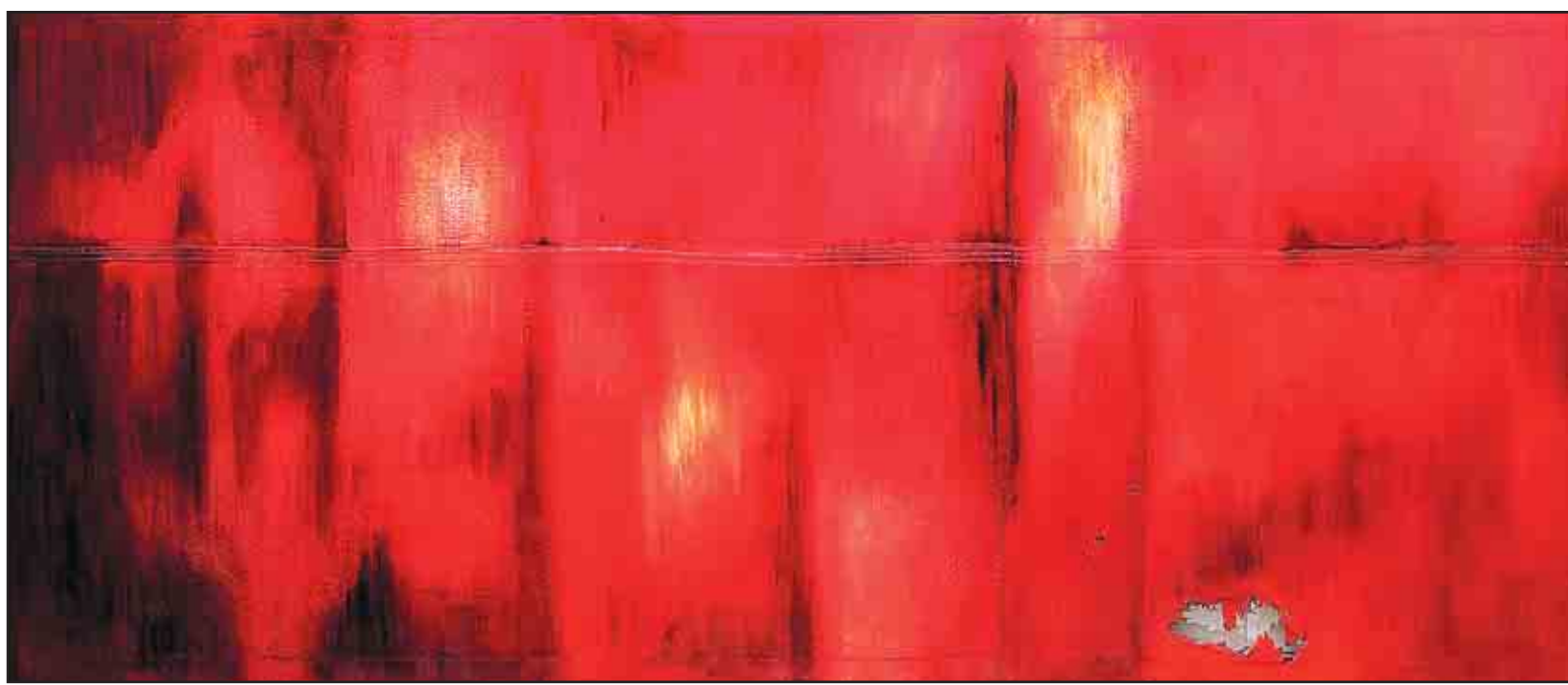


Photo by Tim Keller

Franklin's 8' abstract oil painting, "Prairie Fire".

MCMC board of trustees bids farewell to Dr. Byrch Williams

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

RATON - During the regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting last Friday, MCMC board of trustees announced the resignation of Dr. Byrch Williams. Dr. Williams has served on the board since 2007, filling the physician position on the five-member board as required by the bylaws. The other positions on the board are filled with two miners, and two community members.

Dr. Williams had practiced medicine in Raton as a twenty-year resident before moving to Albuquerque to work in the Department of Family & Community Medicine for the University of New Mexico. He stated his increased work load and the distance for meetings as reasons for his resignation. Many times, as was the case during the meeting Friday evening, Dr. Williams would attend the meetings via speaker phone when unable to attend in person.

Each of the board members spoke with Dr. Williams and expressed their disappointment that he would be leaving, but thanked him for his years of service, and the dignity and the knowledge that he brought with him. In a later interview, Mike Carter, Chief Executive Officer for MCMC stated, "We have really appreciated his expertise and knowledge in medicine, which has been a real benefit to the board."

The position will remain unfilled until Governor Bill Richardson appoints another physician to the board as required by state statute. Officers Roy Fernandez, president, Randy Rubin, vice-president, and Jenny Garcia, secretary-treasurer were re-elected to their positions on the board.

Chief Financial Officer Albino Martinez reported that the financial situation at

MCMC has not improved and that \$7.8 million had been drawn from the trust with the increase in expenditures rising from \$12.4 million last year to \$13.5 million this year. Although the hospital continues to improve in collection with the new automated billing system, the expenditures continue to outdistance the revenues generated. The long-term care facility, which is running at only sixty-one percent capacity, should be at a minimum of eighty-five percent. And, the increased revenue that would be generated from becoming a critical access hospital is necessary for the hospital's health.

"It is critical that we become a critical access hospital!" explained Martinez. It costs \$80,000 a day to operate both facilities. According to Martinez, the facilities cannot generate that kind of income unless we make the change to critical access, continue to become more efficient in reimbursements, and by filling the long-term care facility.

The board is looking at the requirements for entrance into the long-term care facility, which states that the entrant must be a miner, and have lived in New Mexico for at minimum of one year. The definition of a miner has come into question as it pertains to those who worked at a mine in a job that was crucial to the operations of the mine, but not necessarily as an underground worker who actually worked at extracting the coal or other minerals. Families of two potential residents of the long-term care facility were on hand at Friday's meeting for clarification on whether or not their loved one would be eligible to enter the facility. The board is waiting on word from the State Attorney General's Office for the latest definition of a miner before making their decision.

Franklin's art challenges, then rewards

Continued from page 1

salvaged tent canvas, and five large, heavy sculptures, two of which are illuminated fountains. The large works make a rich show despite being few in number.

The fountains, titled "Resolute" and "Subtle", may be the first works to sell, despite their \$1000 price tags. In each, a long heavy rock stands from a three-foot-square base containing creek-worn stones and clear bubbling water. The deep burgundy-red rock of "Subtle", tapering upward from a wide base, stands about three-feet tall; area residents will recognize the four-foot tall standing rock of "Resolute" as native stone. Franklin has drilled a 1" hole straight through the center length of each rock, the waters quietly spilling over the tops and back down the tall-standing rocks. They're both impressive and peaceful.

From century-old local farm machinery,

including a plow blade, Franklin has fashioned standing sculptures surprising for the elegance of their lines. He sees them as commentaries on the hard lives, resourcefulness, and craftsmanship of the area's early settlers.

Although one of the paintings on display is only 6" square, the others range from three-feet to eight-feet long. Rather than avoid the seams and holes in the salvaged tent canvas, Franklin incorporates them, adding fascinating elements and, like his sculptures, reminders of the passage of time and the hardy people who came before us.

Using richly-saturated splashes of colors, Franklin intends his abstract paintings to evoke the natural phenomena he observes from his isolated ranch house north of Des Moines. His titles explain. "Prairie Fire." "Last Light." "Summer Sky." "Shape of the Wind." For each, the

artist has etched his signature into a 3" strip of blackened steel and affixed it to the lower right corner of the canvas.

Casual visitors to Studio C might easily dismiss Franklin's work. Once the attention is caught - perhaps by one of the standing sculptures in the main gallery, or by the revealing artist's statement posted at the entry - one is drawn in. The longer one looks, the more intriguing, even mesmerizing, become the individual pieces. It's a show that rewards the time spent on it.

After the serpentine "Fire Bent Steel" was installed on the sidewalk outside, a local ranching couple was overheard as they approached Studio C's entrance. "What's that junk heap doin' out front?" he asked. His wife said, "That's art, the way it's situated." He replied, "Well, hell, I got a bunch of that out back of our barn." "Well," she told him, "maybe you can be an artist."



Photo courtesy of Jeannie Barnes-Warren

1st annual Jeannie Barnes-Warren Horsemanship school goat tying finals held in Springer, N.M., Friday, July 24. Left to right, Champion: Ashlee Mills of Eagle Nest, Reserve Champion Morgan Daughy of Raton, Jeannie Barnes-Warren, 3rd place winner Sydney Main of Raton and 4th place Ashlee Mills of Eagle Nest.

Raton commission approves ordinance changes

By MARTY MAYFIELD
The Chronicle-News

Raton commissioners started down a long list of agenda items Tuesday night, beginning with the contract for the Lodgers Tax Sole Source Vendor, with little fanfare.

At past meetings, there were a number of issues raised by concerned citizens on this touchy topic, yet no one showed up to object to the contract. City Manager Mileta noted that all the concerns raised during past meetings had been dealt with in the contract, but had caused delays in bringing it before the commission for approval. Commissioners approved the contract with Sophie Martin Public Relations LLC. Establishing a LLC company deal with the one issue of a contractor falling under the auspices of a city employee under IRS tax codes. Martin also told Mileta that she would seek an office space outside of a city facility.

The contract calls for quarterly reviews on several fronts to assure compliance and plan for the next quarter. The contract will begin as soon as all

parties sign it.

Sunny Fence Company was the low bid for the game fence around Crews Field, with a bid of \$269,967; removal of the existing fence is included.

Commissioners then approved an agreement between Children Youth and Families Department, and the city of Raton, for a Juvenile Justice grant. Funding for the grant has been cut, so the department will be looking for additional funding. The commission also approved the professional service agreements with Ron Harris and Judy Rodgers, to continue with the programs covered under the JJAC grant. One of the programs covered is to help keep troubled juveniles out of jail and in school. Commissioners approved an ordinance amending chapter 153 which deals with the local economic development plan. The amendments bring the city's ordinance into compliance with state regulations concerning economic development. It also gives the city the options to be more flexible in approving industrial revenue bond applications, and the kind of industries the city can

deal with. Commissioners also approved amendments to chapter 152 of the Code of Ordinances, which deals with flood control. At the request of the New Mexico Flood Plains Coordinator the changes made to the ordinance will bring it in compliance with state standards.

Fire Chief Dave Pasquale informed commissioners that 1997 was the last time the fire code was updated. The new proposed code will follow the 2009 International Fire code. By this time next year, the State Fire Marshall and Building Industries will also be using the same code, making it easier for contractors and inspectors alike. The new fire code was introduced so that it can be voted on at next months meeting.

The city will also make plans for dumpster consolidation in north Raton. There are 150 dumpsters in the area with approximately 85 having bear hooks. The area of concern is north of I-25 and from North Third east to east Stevens. The city consolidated dumpsters in the country club area and has found alleys are cleaner and the

area more manageable for city sanitation crews. It has been estimated that it takes a four-man crew, four hours a day, to pick up bear trash in the north Raton area. Trash pick up in the area occurs on Thursday.

Due to computer issues, City Manager Mileta requested that items 10 and 11, which deal with budget adjustments, be handled Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The CDBG project in north-east Raton has received additional funding from both GRIP money and federal stimulus funding. The problem, however, is the additional money also comes with additional environmental assessments. So far the city has spent \$30,000 for environmental studies dealing mostly with underground tanks and cesspools that maybe in the area. Legion Park, currently reseeded, is now being watered by reclaimed water. Signs have been posted to effect, and Mileta noted, even with that, people continue to walk, or try to ride a bike, though the area.

Commissioners will meet again on August 11 for their next regular meeting.

RATON POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTED:

- 07-21-09- Victor Trujillo, III, age 27 - Arrest Warrant out of Magistrate Court for forgery (14 counts)
- 07-22-09- Armando Beltran - restraining order violation
- 07-23-09- Paul Martinez - battery on a household member
- 07-27-09- Emmanuel Welborn - Arrest Order for the State of New Mexico for violating conditions of parole
- 07-27-09- Jesus Perez - disorderly conduct and resisting/refusing an officer
- 07-27-09- Mario Ortega - aggravated assault on a peace officer and resisting or obstructing an officer (3 counts)
- 07-28-09- Kevin Montoya- Bench warrant out of Magistrate Court for failure to pay fines or costs previously imposed.
- 07-29-09- Alexander Muniz- Resisting/evading/obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia.

INCIDENTS:

- 07-22-09- Marc San Roman - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-23-09- Rochelle Mittleider - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-23-09- Agatha Martinez - victim of battery on a household member
- 07-23-09- Jonni Valdez-Silva - victim of forgery
- 07-27-09- Randy Requa - victim of burglary
- 07-27-09- Gloria Tafoya - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-27-09- Magistrate Court - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-27-09- Lacey L. Wilson - victim of burglary
- 07-27-09- Naomi Trujillo - victim of breaking and entering, criminal damage to property and assault
- 07-27-09- Jacob A. Valle - victim of

criminal damage to property

- 07-29-09- Celestine A. Phillips- victim of criminal damage property
- 07-29-09- Albert Garcia- victim of criminal damage to property

CITATIONS:

- 07-21-09- Kathryn Montoya - illustrative enumeration
- 07-21-09- Toby Muniz - criminal damage to property
- 07-21-09- Carol Vattestad - careless driving and no proof of insurance
- 07-22-09- Benny Sanches - seat belt violation on children
- 07-22-09- James Marques - dog at large x2, no city tags x2, and vicious animal x2
- 07-27-09- Christopher Sanchez - careless driving and seatbelt violation
- 07-27-09- Keanu Trujillo - driver to be licensed
- 07-27-09- Mark Marshall - obstructed view and driving while status is suspended (driver's license)
- 07-27-09- Ricardo Uribe - no tags and dog at large
- 07-27-09- Nayeli M. Ali - no tags and dog at large
- 07-29-09- Julio Chavez- red light violation
- 07-29-09- Louis Mestas- careless driving

ACCIDENTS:

- 07-23-09- Yolanda Encinias - reported a hit and run on her unattended vehicle
- 07-23-09- Raquel Tafoya - reported a hit and run on her unattended vehicle
- 07-27-09- Christopher Sanchez - struck an unattended vehicle owned by Western Wells Service
- 07-27-09- Julie Ridenour struck an unattended vehicle owned by Sandra Delaho causing slight damage
- 07-27-09- Unknown - struck a vehicle owned by Carl Patty