

# Merry month of Maying offers plenty to do

Cheerfully opening the Trinidad State Junior College 2012 Spring Sing Thing concert last week, the College/Community choir sang a 16th-century madrigal by Thomas Morley beginning with the words: "Now is the month of Maying, when merry lads are playing..."



**Cynthia Berresse Ploski**  
Special to The Chronicle-News

Trinidad is presently Maying like crazy — and a third of the merry month has already swept by us in 11 busy days.

We celebrated opening night of the Trinidad Triggers spring baseball season on Tuesday. On the 4th, there was an art reception at the TAAC Gallery on Main (Agua es Vida, honoring the first Trinidad water festival scheduled for May 17.) On May 5 the Mitchell Museum celebrated Cinco de Mayo and the beginning of another summer season with a colorful event named the Ranch Romance show.

The Trinidad History Museum threw wide its summer doors on May first.

Today it is celebrating National Public Gardens Day with tours. Children will be planting a salsa garden and pizza garden on May 19th. No, the children are not planting salsa and pizza; they are planting the herbs and veggies that will be part of their salsa and pizza making experience come summertime.

There was plenty of salsa and mariachi at the Miner's Memorial on Cinco de Mayo as well. Main Street was rocking with merry festivity.

Under the direction of Alison England and Sharon Suh, Trinidad State's Music Department presented its spring concert (referenced above) on May 3, with songs by the eight-member College/Community Choir; a choreographed medley of "Little Mermaid" numbers by the Middle School Glee girls, solos by talented performers and a duet that may change the way audi-



**Cynthia Berresse Ploski/Special to The Chronicle-News**

Trinidad Community Chorale members practice last week for the chorale's spring concert "Do You Remember When?" The chorale group, under the direction of Denis Hawley, will perform Sunday and Monday at the First Methodist Church.



**Cynthia Berresse Ploski/Special to The Chronicle-News**

This stoneware fountain, called "Rain Dance Kachina" by Trish Keck, won Best of the Agua es Vida show at the TAAC Gallery.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's a recap of what's coming:

- Tonight — "Spirit of Spring" opening reception, Mitchell Art Center
- Sunday, Monday — Community Chorale concerts, First Methodist Church
- Tuesday — Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre, Davenport Gallery
- Wednesday — Redhead Express concert, Massari Theatre
- Thursday — Trinidad Water Festival, TSJC campus
- Thursday-May-20 — Colorado Field Ornithologists Convention and Annual Meeting
- May 18 — CU Contemporary Dance Works, Massari theatre
- May 19 — Children planting salsa and pizza — Trinidad History Museum gardens

ence members think about principled Kay Evans and Cynthia Ploski forever.

And there is plenty more May-hem to come.

Tonight, an exhibition called "Spirit of Spring" will commemorate the launch of the Mitchell Art Center (formerly the First Street Gallery) at 150 East First St. It begins at 5 p.m. when Mitchell Museum members begin their mayhem, but the public is invited to join in the fun at 6:30.

On Tuesday, Our History Museum will honor the 100th anniversary of all that mayhem at Ludlow with an exhibit entitled "An American Icon: Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre."

It will be installed in the Davenport Gallery next to

the museum bookstore on Main Street.

Louis Tikas, a Trinidad resident of Greek birth, is installed forever in the memories of Trinidad people because of his great courage and sacrifice during those dark Coal War days.

The 16th of this merry month will offer entertainment from the great state of Alaska. The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre will be presenting its May live theater event, a touring family of redheads (parents and seven children) at the Massari at 7:30. This "Redhead Express" will provide an evening of high-energy songs and instrumental music to keep our life force flowing through southern

Colorado's often-eccentric spring weather.

Then on Thursday Trinidad will make a splash with its first water festival. The whole town will be swimming in water-related fun but the main event will be entertaining and educational outdoors and indoors festivities on the TSJC campus.

Since agua es vida — water is life — children, as well as the rest of us, will learn how to value and preserve water in our lives and our environment.

Because of the uniqueness of Trinidad's environment, its amenities and improved hotel infrastructure, the Tourism Board and Chamber of Commerce have persuaded the Colorado Field

Ornithologists organization to hold its 2012 convention in Trinidad May 17-20. Birders from all over Colorado will be visiting our hills, ranches and aquatic environments in search of "lifers," their personally prized sightings never before spotted.

UC Boulder will once again spread its arts curriculum to rural communities by presenting an evening of Contemporary Dance Works at the Massari Theatre on May 18, at 7 p.m.

This program will include performances by Trinidad's KINspire Pre-professional Dance Studio students, and Pueblo's Grupo Folklorico del Pueblo.

In the middle of all this Maying, there is a delightful chance for respite and emotional refreshment as our Community Chorale presents its annual free spring concert, a trip down memory lane entitled "Do You Remember When?"

There will be fun songs causing involuntary toe-tapping, such as "In the Mood," a "Beach Boys Blast," "I'll be Seeing You" "Rockin' Robin" and "It

Don't Mean a Thing if you Don't have that Swing." (doo wah doo wah doo!)

Our 35 lusty voices, merry lads and lasses singing and playing, have been practicing under the direction of Denis D. Hawley, with the accompaniment of James Elliot since the first of the year to give voice to their musical joy and share it with the greater Trinidad community.

You will be able to witness and enjoy their performance on Monday evening and Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., at the First Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. across from the Massari Theatre and the youth soccer field.

It's going to be wonderful; it's free (of course they will be grateful for donations toward buying new music for future concerts) and it will lighten your hearts. Don't miss it!

It seems that Trinidad's becoming an Emerging Creative District has let loose a veritable flood of activity.

Happy Maying and playing, everyone!

Submitted by Cynthia Berresse Ploski  
natan@hughes.net

# Dueling cellos to benefit Raton's ShortGrass festival

By Tim Keller  
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — Approaching its eighth season, the ShortGrass Music Festival is throwing itself a unique benefit concert at the Shuler Theater Saturday afternoon.

Cellos Two will feature Michael Kott and Mark Dudrow, a pair of cello-virtuoso friends who get together occasionally to create music that defies description.

ShortGrass producer Landon Young got the idea from the Shuler Theater's Bill Fegan, who has known Kott for years.

"Michael's a wild creature who plays cello very well," Fegan says. "I've heard him in clubs. Right now he's touring with Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company. We call him Crazy Michael."

Touring widely, Kott has also worked as

a professor at the College of Santa Fe. His friend Dudrow will meet him in Raton from his home just across the Colorado border north of Taos.

Dudrow has been playing cello since 1973. He plays a wide variety of musical styles including classical, bluegrass, Celtic, and rock & roll, citing influences as diverse as Bach and Black Sabbath, Del McCoury and the Dead Kennedys.

Kott, who has played cello since the age



**MARK DUDROW**



**MICHAEL KOTT**

of 9, bills himself as a trans-galactic electro-cellist. Of his occasional forays in Cellos Two, Kott says, "I can always depend on Mark to be up for anything, and ready to invent something new."

Dudrow adds, "Our approach is to pick up two cellos and start playing." No two performances are alike; everything is improvised on the spot.

The Shortgrass Music Festival depends entirely on donations, ticket sales, and ben-

efits to pay performers and concert production costs as well as performance workshops in the schools, free community concerts and scholarships.

The eighth season runs Sept. 21, 22 and 23 with shows by pianist Charlie Albright, folk harmony singers Anne & Pete Sibley, and Texas icon Gary P. Nunn.

Saturday's Cellos Two adventure will start at the Shuler Theater at 4 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$35. The performance will be followed by a reception next door at the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center, with food catered by "the divine Anne Wu."

Additional information is available at (888) 376-2417.

# Survivor of child abuse by brother wants to put past behind her

DEAR ABBY: When I was in sixth grade, my 19-year-old brother, "Ray," came into my room and fondled me late at night. I pretended to be asleep so I didn't have to deal with the situation. I told my mom afterward. She told me not to tell my father and bought a lock for my door.

Years later, when my sister found out what happened to me, she told me Ray had also done it to her. She told Dad and confronted Mom. Neither one ever said anything to Ray. They told us it was "in the past" and to leave it alone.

Because my sister is openly confrontational about it, she isn't invited to family events that he is attending. I am invited because I just ignore him,



**Dear Abby**  
**Jeanne Phillips**

him -- or with him and my mom, because I don't trust her anymore.

Should I tell my parents I don't want to hear about my brother and no longer want to be around him? -- WRONGED IN GEORGIA

DEAR WRONGED: Yes, if it will make you feel better, by all means do. That

but it's uncomfortable knowing my parents took his side over that of their two daughters. I won't let my daughter be alone with

your parents would ignore your brother's predatory behavior is appalling. By protecting him, your mother betrayed you and your sister.

You are also wise to be vigilant if he is anywhere around your daughter and to restrict contact with him to a minimum. No child is safe around your brother.

If you and your sister haven't had counseling to come to terms with what happened to you, please consider contacting the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN). The website is www.rainn.org, and the toll-free number is 800-656-4673. Nothing you say to the counselors will shock them, and they will be glad to refer you to someone quali-

fied to help you.

DEAR ABBY: I think my in-laws want my husband to divorce me because I have Asperger's syndrome and bipolar disorder. Sometimes I innocently say things that other family members take offense to. My mother-in-law then calls my husband, tells him what a "nut" I am and how upset "so-and-so" got. This results in huge fights between my husband and me, and it's hurting our marriage.

I have offered to educate my in-laws about bipolar and Asperger's, but they say I'm just making excuses for my behavior. I would like to explain to them that my thought processes aren't the same as everyone else's, so I am going to make mistakes

in what I say to people.

I am hurt by their judgment and lack of tolerance. I don't do "bad" things often -- maybe once or twice a year. But instead of overlooking it, they make a big deal out of it because I'm different. They should focus on the good. I do a lot of charity work and would help anyone in need. Their lack of understanding is ruining my marriage. I'm 25 and we have been married for five years. I don't want to throw that away. What do I do? -- AM HOW I AM IN ALABAMA

DEAR "HOW YOU ARE": That your marriage has lasted through five years of your mother-in-law's attempts to undercut it tells me the bond between you and your husband must be

a strong one. Does he understand how Asperger's and bipolar disorder affect the brain? If not, then the doctor who prescribes your medication should explain it to him so he can explain to his parents that what they are complaining about is not your fault. And if they don't "get it," a behavioral specialist should explain to them that they should be more patient and understanding with a member of their family.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](mailto:www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.