

# COMMUNITY

## THE ARTS

# Keller's 'Unfiltered' show highlights Raton weekend

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

The light must be just right for photographer Tim Keller to produce the high quality images that he'll have on display and for sale at his "Unfiltered" art show, which will be held in the newly refurbished upstairs gallery in the Raton Museum. The opening reception for the show will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, and the show will run through May 16 at the museum, which is located at 108 S. Second St. The 44 images in the show range from small to very large — all in archival pigment prints, matted and framed — and represent Keller's vision of the rural New Mexico environment he's come to love and portray through his artwork.

Keller works as an English teacher at Raton High School. He made the plunge into professional photography in 2007, at a time when he and his wife, artist Christina Boyce, lived in nearby Des Moines, N.M. His artwork has been displayed in many galleries, and he's hosted several art shows throughout the state. A photojournalist of wide renown, he's had numerous articles and photos published in

shooting is unavoidable, but whenever possible photographers shoot in the golden hour surrounding sunrise and sunset. The light is dramatic, beautiful and almost horizontal," Keller responded.

"Clovis Train Yard" could only be shot in first light, well before sunrise, and I specifically scheduled the team roping photo shoot for sunset — both are absolutely dependent on their light; in fact, both are visually as much about their light as about their subject matter. 'Tanks,' by contrast, was shot in late morning with the sun already high, unavoidable since I found it along the highway during a drive of hundreds of miles. Sometimes midday shots work, but they take a lot more luck."

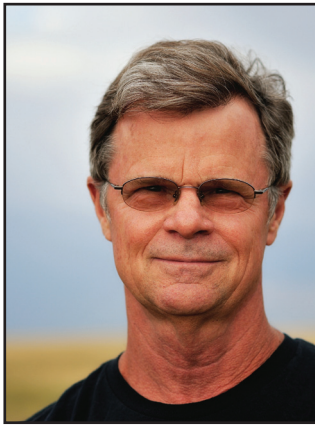
Keller's a California native whose dad had a strong interest in photography and helped Tim get summer jobs on nearby ranches, where he learned to appreciate the splendors of the backcountry and its people.

"Growing up at the beach in Southern California, I fell in love with the ocean," he said. "A summer spent surfing in Hawaii at age 14 convinced me that my future was there. But a Boy Scout camping trip to Joshua Tree National Monument in-



Photos courtesy of Tim Keller Arts

This photograph of the Clovis, N.M. train yard, above, and the breakaway cowboys, lower left, will be among the 44 photos featured at Tim Keller's upcoming Unfiltered Art Show in the gallery of the Raton Museum.



various magazines.

The American Southwest has long been celebrated for its glorious sunshine and remarkable landscapes, and Keller was asked via e-mail how sunlight impacts his photography and which times of day he prefers to shoot photos.

"Photography is painting with light," Keller said. "Instead of paints, the photographer has only light. Sometimes midday

produced me to deserts, which had much in common with the oceans. My first job, at 16, was building fence on a huge ranch where my grandpa worked. By then I was hooked on the American outback. It took me awhile and living in other states, but eventually I found my way to rural New Mexico and finally felt like I was home," he said.

"My dad was a professional photogra-

pher for awhile, and I studied photography in high school. By the time I took it up seriously in 2007, I was living in Des Moines, N.M., and I shot what was around me. I found northeast New Mexico to be rich with strong photographic subject matter, light and compositions."

Professional photography can be an expensive proposition and can require a major time commitment. Keller said, "Once I bought my camera in 2007 (a Nikon D300 with four lenses; I've since added a Nikon D4 with its own four lenses. I use both kits) I shot 10,000 frames in the first year, mostly landscapes at dawn or sunset," he said. "I set a lot of alarms to be out in the middle of nowhere when the sun rose and missed a lot of dinners to be out there when the sun set. I drove my four-wheel-drive pickup down endless dirt roads throughout eastern Colfax County and western Union County. I shot landscapes, abandoned homesteads, abandoned vehicles, graveyards..."

"Eventually I'd shot most of what I could find out there and started seeing diminishing returns for my efforts. I shifted toward two directions. One was portraits, which I still love doing. The other was storytelling, using my camera to convey narrative. That led to writing: It turned out that magazines needed words to accompany my photos,"

he said. "Photographing a four-day cattle drive from Yankee Canyon across Johnson Mesa to Des Moines landed me a big feature in Western Horseman magazine. That led directly to my freelancing for The Chronicle-News since January 2009, and lots more magazine work, especially in Western Horseman and New Mexico Magazine. I post all of my work at TimKellerArts.com."

He added, "By the way, the portraits I shoot are usually what are known as 'environmental portraits' — portraying the person in their own environment rather than some formal portrait setting."

He said he relies on his work as a schoolteacher to put him in contact with story ideas about the people, places and things that he can then turn into feature articles.

"Teaching inspires me, for sure, but I'm not sure it inspires me as an artist, per se. It does put me in the middle of countless people and stories, which I'm often able to take advantage of to produce newspaper and magazine features and some great photographs."

Keller's "Unfiltered" show will allow the public to see the magic that results when a talented photographer combines dedication, inspiration, technical know-how and an incredible "eye" to create poignant and amazing photographs.



Photo courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College

## COSTOMOLOGY

# Hair competition at Trinidad State

Trinidad State Cosmetology students pose with their Mannequin Hair Competition entries for special-occasion and fantasy hair. From left to right are Jeanna Pedri, Christina Sanchez, Evelina DellaVecchia and Reinda Rivale. The special-occasion hairstyle by Pedri placed first in the competition, and second place was a tie between entries submitted by DellaVecchia and Rivale.

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- ★ All children must be 5 years old by March 1, 2014.
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