

COMMUNITY INTEREST

SHULER ENTERTAINMENT

Latin Comedy Jam returns stand-up comedy to Raton

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON – After the Shuler Theater’s first-ever show of stand-up comedy in March packed both auditorium and balcony with satisfied customers who laughed until it hurt, producer Mike Acquisto-Gotti said that he was so pleased with the Raton event that he would return with another show in the fall. True to his word, his Latin Comedy Jam pulls back into the Shuler Saturday night, Sept. 10, with three acclaimed comics on board.

The company regularly tours Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, with each show presenting three or four of a revolving cast of stand-up comics that sometimes includes Paul Rodriguez and Steve Treviño. The Shuler Theater show will present three comics well on their way to gaining that level of success.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Jerry Garcia, above, came from Pueblo, Colo. to entertain at the Shuler for Latin Comedy Jam last spring. The single father of two joked about fatherhood and Pueblo: “I thought I was Mexican. Then I moved to Pueblo. Man, those are real Mexicans there!” Mike Acquisto-Gotti, left, is the producer and, as Mike G., host of The Latin Comedy Jam, a revolving cast of stand-up comics in shows regularly touring Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. It took a hundred years for the Shuler Theater to get around to hosting its first show of stand-up comedy last March. How successful was it? It’s already coming back, with a new Latin Comedy Jam arriving Saturday night, Sept. 19.



With 55 reviews on Ticketmaster.com, The Latin Comedy Jam has scored an impressive average of 4.6 out of 5 stars. People like the show. Acquisto-Gotti says, “The humor is universal, and it’s been enjoyed by millions of people around the world. It’s a blend of situational and topical comedy from the country’s top Latino comedians.”

When he’s not producing his comedy tour, Acquisto-Gotti works in Hollywood movies; his acting credits include “Three Kings” with George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, and Ice Cube, and “Any Given Sunday” with Al Pacino, Jamie Foxx, and LL Cool J.

As Mike G, Acquisto-Gotti will host Saturday’s show and introduce each act, including two comics making their first visits to Raton and one, Jerry Garcia, who came from his home in Pueblo, CO, to entertain as part of the March line-up and returns Saturday night.

Garcia finds much to laugh about in being a single father of two children. In March, continuously pacing the Shuler stage from left to right and back, he plumbd the humor of fatherhood. “My kids are five and six. They’ve started bringing me homework from school. They asked me to help them learn to spell ‘spaghetti.’ I said, ‘Let’s save that one for later.’”

Some of his humor was local. “I thought I was a Mexican,” he said. “Then I moved to Pueblo. Man, those are real Mexicans there!”

He kidded the many white people

in the audience about how they name their children, citing someone with a kid named Hashtag. “I’m going to name my next kid Wi-Fi so when he’s arrested I can hold up a sign saying ‘Free Wi-Fi.’” He complained that someone recently said he’s a metrosexual. “I ain’t no metrosexual! I’ve only had sex on a bus one time.”

Latin Comedy Jam usually plays venues where alcohol is served and each comic riffed last March on playing for an audience that wasn’t drinking. The DJ/soundman in the loge box hanging over the stage interrupted host Mike G. once to apologize for laughing so disruptively. “I’ve never heard this show sober before.”

As he closed the show, Mike G. said, “You guys have been go great that we’re not going to allow drinking anymore at any of our shows.”

Making his Raton debut Saturday night, Dillon Garcia is the youngest comic ever featured on Comedy Central, and he’s also been a regular performer on Stand-Up Revolution hosted by Gabriel Iglesias. Rounding out Saturday’s program will be Javi Luna.

In March, the 90-minute show started at 8:15—late for the Shuler. Hispanics outnumbered Anglos in the packed auditorium and all seemed to enjoy the comedy equally. Appropriately, the audience was almost entirely adult, except for one infant that arrived in a stroller—duly noted by each comic. Judging by the laughing crowd, most of them will happily return for the second show of stand-up comedy in the Shuler Theater’s history.

The Shuler doors open at 7 p.m. Saturday night for general admission seating with tickets costing \$20. The front rows will be available to people who buy a \$25 ticket. The show is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Information is available at the Shuler Theater, 131 N. 2nd St., (575) 445-4746, www.shulertheater.com.

Huerfano County sheriff’s officers bust major illegal marijuana grow operation in San Isabel National Forest

... Continued from Page 1

team also found irrigation pipe, pesticides, flammable liquids, camping gear and trash at the site, according to a Thursday USFS press release.

Chris Strebis, USFS regional spokesperson, said in a Friday phone call that the marijuana eradication operation was one of the largest on USFS land in Colorado history.

“Some of the major impacts include public safety, because visitors might stumble upon a marijuana grow and not realize what it is or that they might be in danger by being in that area,” Strebis said. “The other serious impacts are on our natural resources, because an 11,700-plant marijuana grow would require diverting a great deal of water that shouldn’t be used for that purpose. Chemicals, including pesticides, are often associated with these marijuana grow operations, and they have no place on National Forest Service lands. Some of those chemicals should never be used on Forest Service lands. The illegal use of pesticides can cause extensive long-term damage to natural resources. For example, the supply

of public drinking water for hundreds of miles may be impacted because of one marijuana-growing site. Overall, the negative impact of marijuana sites on natural resources is severe. Human waste, trash and the use of pesticides are



Associated Press Photo

widespread, contamination from sites affects fish and wildlife habitats, and soil erosion is common. In addition, water usage is extreme because each marijuana plant is estimated to require a gallon of water per day – water that is critical to native vegetation,

wildlife and public drinking water sources.”

Huerfano County Sheriff Bruce Newman said in a Friday phone call that the hunters contacted his office first, and he then contacted the USFS and the BLM.

“We had eight of our of-

They were making breakfast near a lean-to when we got to the grow site, and we were able to arrest two suspects, although another three or four got away. It’s a big deal to be able to catch someone at one of these illegal grow sites, because there’s usually no one there when we get there.

“We’re almost certain they’re Mexican nationals, which is why it’s taking us a while to identify them. We estimate the street value of the marijuana that we eradicated to be about \$10 million. It’s definitely the biggest marijuana grow bust I’ve ever been involved in my 28 years in law enforcement. It was one of those days that make the job worthwhile.”

Sheriff Newman noted that it was an extremely sophisticated marijuana grow operation, with individual pipes leading from a nearby creek to each individual marijuana plant, with the pipes being equipped with individual shutoff valves. He urged people to stay away from the site until law enforcement agencies had the chance to complete gathering evidence for the investigation and thoroughly clean up the former grow site.

Anyone with more in-

formation about the illegal grow operation site can call the Huerfano County Sheriff’s Office at: 719-738-1600, or the USFS Law Enforcement Office at: 303-275-5266.

60 Obituaries

Karin E. (Price) Begg



Karin E. (Price) Begg 1962-2015

With deep sadness we mourn the loss of Karin E. (Price) Begg, an inspirational sister, mother, daughter, aunt, and friend. Karin died 18th June 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, where she was receiving medical treatment.

After she successfully lived with a bone marrow disease for over twenty years, it finally took her life. Her family, Tony, Tyler, and Jessica Begg, Jennifer and Jeff Cunico, and Phyllis and Fred Altenhaus, will be hosting a memorial on September 19, at the United Church of Santa Fe 1804 Arroyo Chamisa from 1-3 p.m.

Programs at the memorial will include more of Karin’s bio/information.

Instead of flowers, please consider donating to the Horse Shelter in Santa Fe, www.thehorseshelter.org, or another horse rescue of your choice, or to the Christus/St Vincent Cancer Center, or a Cancer Center of your choice.

65 Comi Funeral Home

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Thomas C. Badsgard
Thomas C. Badsgard, 84, passed away at his Pueblo home n February 23, 2015.

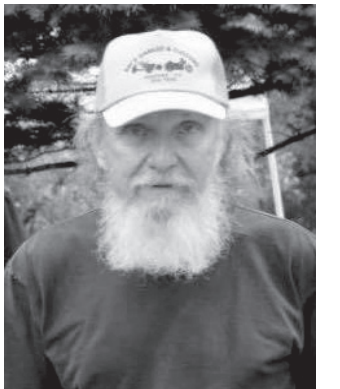
Gathering of family and friends will be held Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 1p.m. at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

Graveside military honors will be conducted by Ft. Carson Honor Guard.

Local arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

62 Memorials

Ray VanGorden
Celebration of Life



Ray has traveled to the biker bash in the sky. Ray was a man of few words, but always gave the best advice. Ray was always up for a mechanical challenge that included making a robot and go-cart for his grandkids.

Ray enjoyed camping, fishing on his boat, and just hanging out relaxing and having fun. Ray may have intimidated a few with his biker persona and his big woolly beard, but he had the largest heart and a passion for life.

In lieu of flowers and cards, the VanGorden, Apple, and Cerame families ask that you have a cold beer in memory of Ray’s life.

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<p>General Manager Allyson Sheumaker asheumaker@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>Classifieds, Memorials, & Circulation - Reagen Rico classified@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>Legals - Brad Gordon ktoci@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>Advertising - Adam Sperandio advertising@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>News Room Editor: Eric John Monson editor@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>Features Editor, Fine Print, Design & Layout Catherine Moser cathy@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p> <p>Reporter: Steve Block news1@trinidadchroniclenews.com</p>	<p>Subscription Rates Effective Aug. 1, 2013</p> <p>Home Delivery Trinidad</p> <p>1 Month\$7.00 3 Months.....\$21.00 6 Months.....\$42.00 1 Year.....\$84.00</p> <p>Las Animas County Mail</p> <p>1 Month.....\$12.00 3 Months.....\$36.00 6 Months.....\$72.00 1 Year.....\$144.00</p> <p>Outside County Mail</p> <p>1 Month.....\$18.00 3 Months.....\$54.00 6 Months.....\$108.00 1 Year.....\$216.00</p> <p>Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
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