

REGIONAL NEWS



Tim Keller, who teaches English and Civics at Raton High School, is published in "Western Horseman" Magazine. (Photo courtesy of Tim Keller)

Raton High School teacher is published in national magazine

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Tim Keller teaches high school English and Civics, but has a passion for photography and a love of the southwest that is obvious in his photos. Several of his photos of a cattle drive, accompanied by his story "Driving on Blacktop," can be found in the January 2009 issue of "Western Horseman," a pre-eminent US horse magazine. His interest in photography came naturally at a young age when he began developing his own surfing photos which he had taken with a friend's camera. What started out as a hobby with borrowed cameras has become a serious pastime since his purchase of a Nikon300 digital SRL camera and several lenses. For several months he photographed everything and anything he could, amassing a wonderful collection of photos of northeastern New Mexico. Later, as the photography bug grew stronger, Keller began approaching several magazines that feature southwestern, New Mexico stories.

The "Western Horseman" sent Keller a writer's guide, which stated that they normally do not publish articles from freelance writers or photographers. However, someone was impressed with his work, and they decided to use it in the January issue. Keller's photog-

raphy was recently awarded the "Best in Photography" at the Raton Arts Council's annual International Art Show in Raton, the largest art show in northeastern New Mexico, and he has two photos in the finalist pool for New Mexico's Art in Public Places program, which was just announced this month. Keller will continue to pursue other magazines in which to publish his photos. His work can be seen in various galleries in Raton and Des Moines.

Keller lives in Des Moines with wife, Christina Boyce, owner of Studio C. They will be celebrating ten years of marriage, and twelve years together before that. According to Keller, they met in Santa Fe when he was organizing weekend entertainment for the Galisteo News, a coffee shop on the corner of Don Gaspar and Water Street. Christina, who was working on costuming for the "Taming of the Shrew" for the New Mexico Repertory Theater and with the Santa Fe Opera, came in one evening, and as they say, "The rest is history."

Now, one might ask how Keller got from being a surfer dude in California, to being a western photographer in Des Moines. And ones' questions would be answered by visiting Keller's newly published website at www.timkellerphotography.com.

Weather alert: frigid temperatures freeze pipes

Courtesy of State Farm Insurance
Special to the Chronicle

Thousands of families have one or more rooms in their homes ruined and their lives disrupted each winter by water pipes freezing and breaking, warns the nation's largest insurer of homes, State Farm Insurance®.

According to the Institute for Business and Home Safety, claim payments by all insurance companies over the past decade for these kinds of losses have exceeded \$4 billion.

When the outside temperature drops below 20 degrees

Fahrenheit (minus 6 degrees Celsius), water pipes in homes with little or no insulation are likely to freeze and break. In fact, a one-eighth inch (3-millimeter) crack in a pipe can spew out more than 250 gallons of water a day, destroying floors, furniture, appliances and personal items.

Homeowners can avoid frozen pipes by following these helpful tips:

- Make sure there is adequate insulation where pipes run along outside walls, floors and ceilings.
- Disconnect outside garden

hoses; wrap exposed pipes with insulating sleeves or tape, and seal foundation cracks that let arctic air freeze pipes in crawl-spaces.

If a severe freeze is predicted

■ Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to piping under sinks and vanities near exterior walls, and

■ Run a small trickle of water at vulnerable cold and hot faucets.

Before you go away for the holidays

- Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F (12°C).
- Ask a friend or neighbor to

check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing or

■ Shut off and drain the water system.

■ Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water.

For more information on avoiding the preventable disaster of frozen pipes, contact State Farm Public Affairs at (970-395-5252) or see our Website: statefarm.com/learning/loss_prevent/learning_loss_prevention_frozepipes.asp.

Projected Christmas holiday travel third largest since 2000

Courtesy of AAA Colorado
Special to the Chronicle

AAA Colorado forecasts 63.9 million Americans, or 21 percent of the national population, expect to travel during the Christmas period. Although travel is expected to be down 2.1 percent compared to last year, the number of Americans traveling this Christmas represents the third largest volume since 2000. In 2007 there was a record high of 65.3 million holiday travelers and 2006 had 64.7 million travelers.

Travel in the Western region will be down 1.9 percent with 15.5 million Western residents traveling more than 50 miles away from home. Travel by automobile will be down 1.5 percent from 2007 despite a gas price that is \$1.27 less than 2007. The average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas in Colorado is \$1.60.

Air travel will be down 6.7 percent in the Western region and 8.5 percent nationwide. Travelers should expect different trends in airfares depending on the week of travel. Airfares nationwide during Christmas week are down nine percent compared to 2007. Airfares for the week of New Years are up three percent. AAA Colorado advises air passengers to check with their airline or travel counselor about additional fees before booking a trip. Most airlines continue to charge fees for checked baggage and other previously complimentary services like beverages and snacks.

Nationwide, Americans can expect lower hotel rates and higher car rental rates throughout the holiday season. Similar to Thanksgiving, about two-thirds, 64.2 percent, of Christmas travelers plan to stay in the home of friends or family during their trip.

With Christmas falling on a

Thursday this year, it appears that travelers are looking forward to starting their holiday trip early. Almost a third, 32 percent, say they expect to begin their holiday travels on or before Sunday, Dec. 21. After a brief pause on Monday, travel departures pick up with 13 percent traveling on Tuesday the 23rd, and peak on Christmas Eve with 17 percent. One in ten holiday travelers are likely to travel on Christmas day, while 14 percent are planning to travel after Christmas through Dec. 31. Almost 10 percent of travelers are not sure when they will begin their holiday trip.

Travel projections for the Christmas holiday are derived from the Travel Industry Association's Holiday Travel Forecast Model. The model was developed based on consumer travel intentions and TIA's quarterly travel forecast data. The travel intentions data is collected through an

online survey of nearly 2,300 adults nationwide, supplemented by an additional 5,000 Americans surveyed from the top 10 states of travel origin in the United States. Historical travel volume and other economic data such as GDP, disposable income, employment and travel costs are also incorporated into the model. Analysis of the data and the forecasts are produced exclusively for AAA by TIA.

AAA Colorado has more than 525,000 in-state members and is an advocate for safety and security for all travelers. As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides nearly 51 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services, as well as member-exclusive savings. AAA can be visited on the Internet at www.AAA.com.

Sugarite Canyon State Park hosts 'Christmas on the Chicorica'

Continued from page 1

The Chicorica, for which the event is named, is the Chicorica Creek which flows from the spillway of Lake Maloya, travels past the visitor's center, through the ruins of the Sugarite Coal Camp, then eventually meets up with the Raton Creek about nine miles upstream from the Canadian River. According to Dye, Chicorica is a word used for "abundance of birds," which certainly applies to the Sugarite Canyon State Park.

David Frank, a professional photographer, has photographed the event over the years, and looks forward to attending the "Christmas on the Chicorica" again this year. Mr. Frank lives in Raton, N.M., and has his studio in Trinidad,

Colo. More of his work can be viewed at his website at <http://www.frankimages.net/page/page/2688215.htm>, or at 234 North Commercial, Trinidad, Colo. 81082.

A visit to Sugarite Canyon State Park for the "Christmas on the Chicorica" is a holiday event everyone should see. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 beginning at dusk. Reservations are not needed, and the park fees are waived. However, a donation to the "Friends of the Sugarite" organization would be appreciated. Volunteers for the event are always welcome. For more information about the event, or to volunteer, call Holly Robbins at (575) 445-7105 or the Sugarite Canyon State Park at (575) 445-5607.



The full moon sets behind the Oh Be Joyful ridge in the West Elk Mountain range near Crested Butte, Colorado on Friday morning, Dec., 12, 2008. (AP Photo/Nathan Bilow)

Fun Fact:

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Angel Daugherty and David Santistevan, Jr., of Trinidad, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter,

Jocelyn Page at 9:24 a.m. on October 14, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20.3 inches long. Jocelyn was welcomed home by big brother Brendan.

COG Transit expanded its hours and service to include Hoehne and Cokedale

For a complete schedule call 719-845-1127

South Central Council of Governments *It's time to ride!*

Public Notice

The Board of Directors for the South Central Council of Governments is soliciting Letters of Interest for an At large Board Member. Interested individuals must reside in Las Animas County and must be able to attend regular meetings of the Board of Directors. Please submit a resume attached to your letter of interest saying why you would like to serve on the SC COG Board. Unless specified differently, Board meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of alternate months beginning in January. Board meetings are held in Trinidad at the SC COG Early Center starting at 1:00 p.m. and generally conclude by 3:00 p.m. A copy of the By-Laws is available to any interested person.

Letters of Interest will be accepted until January 2, 2009 and may be submitted to the SC COG office at 300 Bonaventure Avenue, Trinidad, CO 81082

Discounted telephone service available

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyTel as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier or ETC within its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all Colorado citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

CenturyTel provides single party residential and business services. The rates range from \$10.97 to \$14.74 per month for residential customers and \$24.31 to \$36.79 per month for business customers. This includes access to long distance carriers, Emergency Services, Operator Services, Directory Assistance and Toll Blocking. Use of these services may result in added charges. Specific rates for your area can be provided upon request.

CenturyTel offers qualified customers Lifeline and Link-Up Service if you meet certain low-income eligibility requirements. Lifeline Service includes a monthly discount up to \$16.50 for basic phone charges (including a \$6.50 waiver of the Federal Subscriber Line Charge), as well as toll blocking at no charge and a waiver of the deposit if toll blocking is selected by qualifying customers. Link-Up Service provides a discount on installation charges and charges to move service. Residents of Tribal Lands can also qualify for the additional Federal portion of the Lifeline program.

Please call CenturyTel at 1-800-201-4099 or visit www.centurytel.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline/Link-Up programs. You may also call the Department of Human Services at 1-800-782-0721 or your County Social Services Office for more information on eligibility.

CENTURYTEL personal touch ■ advanced communications

lifelineCO SAU www.centurytel.com