

# Senior wins Best of Show at Youth in Art show

By **Tim Keller**  
*Special to The Chronicle-News*

RATON — By the time judges Carol Crary and Cody Stowe had examined each of the 237 entries in the 42nd annual Youth in Art show at Raton High School's Krivokapich Media Center, one piece had risen to the top.

The judges awarded Best in Show to graduating senior Chelsea Chavez's pointillist ink drawing of Audrey Hepburn.

Meticulously created through dots applied by hand with a black extra-fine Sharpie pen, the drawing showcased the result of Chavez's years of art classes with Raton High teacher Kathy Vertovec. Chavez has spent her senior year as president of the school's art club.

But Vertovec shares the credit. "We had a lot of comments that the quality of work was higher this year," she says. "I think it's because this is the first senior class that's had art classes available for all 12 years of their education. Many of these students began their art studies with Melissa Goetz-Medina and Carol Crary in the lower grades. Some of the younger students are now studying with Phyllis Trujillo."

Vertovec suggests that the Raton Schools' commitment to the arts is playing a



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Chelsea Chavez won Best of Show at Raton High School's 42nd annual Youth in Art show with her pointillist ink drawing of Audrey Hepburn.

significant role in carrying forward into the future Raton's reputation as a hotbed for the arts.

Last year's Best of Show winner, junior Autumn Hunnicutt, won awards for photography, acrylic/oil painting, and computer-

aided design.

Best of Class awards went to senior Chavez, junior Tegan Thompson, sophomore Makala Vertovec, and freshman Mykala Sandoval.

The Most Popular Award, based on the votes

of patrons, went to senior Joshua Trujillo's "Game's End."

At last week's awards presentation, sponsor Kathy Vertovec gave out a total of \$1023 in cash and gift certificates donated by individuals and businesses

from throughout Raton.

Additional painting awards went to Kelli Ortiz, Bernice Martinez, Desiree Hyer, Lucas Cimino, Hunter Garcia and Delilah Benavidez.

Drawing awards went to Lakken Medina, Breanna

Schutte, Sara Ortiz, Makala Vertovec, and Chavez, Hyer, Cimino, and Trujillo.

Ila Medina and Peyton Richards joined Martinez in winning awards for abstract art. Vertovec, Ila Medina, Cimino, and Ortiz won pastel awards. Haley Gansz and Roxanne Armijo joined Hunnicutt and Ila Medina in the photography awards.

Master study awards went to Lakken Medina, Chavez, Vertovec and Ila Medina. Computer-aided design awards went to Thompson, Hunnicutt, Armijo and Tomi-Jo Valdez. Illustration awards went to Chavez, Richards, Ortiz, Lakken Medina, and Haley James.

When they'd finished deciding on the above awards, the judges made one more pass through the show to give honorable mention awards to works by Kristen Dye, Callie Wilson, Emily Berry, Kristin Vance, Ethan Washburn, Michael Thomason, Lizzie Valdez, Ila Medina, Lucas Cimino and Joshua Trujillo.

In addition to cash awards, many of the displayed artworks were available for sale. Between awards and sales, several of the artists enjoyed the first big payday of their young arts careers.

## Raton High School honors young writers at contest

By **Tim Keller**  
*The Chronicle-News*

RATON — Four young writers took home first place honors last week in Raton High School's annual Eye of the Tiger Writing Awards Competition.

Senior James Neary was named Writer of the Year, along with first place awards for poetry and non-fiction. His fiction entry won Honorable Mention.

Junior Marisa McCarty joined Neary and Tyler Coffey in winning a first place award for poetry. Other poetry awards went

to Ouray Chastain, Autumn Hunnicutt, Tyler Vertovec, Jarrett Trantham, and Noelle McDonald.

Callie Wilson's entry took first place in the fiction division. Other fiction honorees included Moriah Daniel, Breanna Trujillo, Tegan Thompson, and Ouray Chastain.

Caleb Stolarczyk and Jeffrey Condor won Honorable Mention for their non-fiction entries.

Raton's Pat Walsh judged this year's entries for the RHS organization Students

for Students Publishing. Ribbons and prizes totaling \$1000 were provided by Mark and Judy Bayliss and La Familia Primary Care of Raton, for the encouragement of writing by Raton's youth.

Raton High School's Culinary Arts Group catered the writing competition awards ceremony in the high school library Wednesday evening.

Sponsor Kathy Vertovec and her students provided a display of 13 new children's books published from last year's children's story

award winners, illustrated by this year's art club students.

A hardbound anthology of last year's writing awards winners was also available for purchase this year, illustrated with student art from last year's Youth in Art awards.

The annual writing awards program is held the night after the RHS Youth in Art awards show so guests are surrounded by the year's new student art in a celebration of youth creativity.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Marisa McCarty and James Neary were among four students winning first place writing awards last week. Neary was named Raton High School's Writer of the Year.

# Legislators trade charges as civil unions bill heads for defeat

By **Ivan Moreno**  
and **Kristen Wyatt**  
*Associated Press*

DENVER — Colorado's civil unions measure appeared headed for certain defeat Monday, as Republicans and Democrats spent the first day of a special legislative session pointing fingers over the proposal to give gay couples rights similar to married couples.

Republican House Speaker Frank McNulty blasted the civil unions bill as a waste of time and money for a special session, and assigned the proposal to a committee likely to reject it.

"We ought not and we should not be spending time on divisive issues when unemployment remains far too high," he said.

Democrats, meanwhile, blamed McNulty for keeping the measure from seeing a debate in the full House, where it would pass, and forcing a special session because several bills died when Republicans filibustered last week on civil unions.

Rep. Mark Ferrandino,



Associated Press

Dozens of civil unions supporters rallied outside the Colorado Capitol on May 8, directing chants of "Let them vote!" to Republicans who control the House and are divided over the issue. A bill to grant gays rights similar to married couples appears headed for defeat in a special session.

the Democrats' House leader and sponsor of the civil unions bill, said "Democracy was thwarted" last week.

"And while (McNulty) blames the governor for

calling this special session, he needs to look in the mirror and see who really caused this special session," Ferrandino said.

Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, said a special

session was needed to reconsider civil unions, which he called a "fundamental question of fairness and civil rights."

Civil unions would let same-sex partners make

medical decisions for each other and would enhance their parental and inheritance rights.

The Democratic Senate has approved civil unions more than once, but Democrats see no point in trying again in that chamber. That means the civil unions measure is unlikely to end up on Hickenlooper's desk this year.

Red-shirted gay-rights activists who thronged the state Capitol vowed to stay through the anticipated vote later Monday. They expected defeat, but as in years past, vowed to keep trying.

"It's going to happen eventually. I mean, there's no way in 10 years we don't have nationwide marriage equality," said activist Wiley Sherer, who was selling buttons that read, "Ignorance is forgivable. Pride in ignorance never is."

More than a dozen states allow either gay marriage or civil unions, including several that passed such laws this year.

The debate in Colorado is playing out at a time when President Barack

Obama became the first U.S. president to publicly endorse gay marriage. But North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment that bars civil unions and defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

Even after the civil unions measure is defeated, lawmakers have other tasks to complete before the special session ends, likely Wednesday.

Other bills on the agenda include setting a blood-level standard for what's considered too impaired to drive under the influence of marijuana.

Another bill involves \$70 million worth of water projects, some of which are aimed at easing drought concerns.

Legislators also will take up an unemployment insurance plan and a referred measure asking voters to repeal three laws deemed unconstitutional, including a 1992 voter-approved measure forbidding cities from passing anti-discrimination laws to protect gay people.

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