

Spring event in Raton adds taste of music

By Tim Keller
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — Raton MainStreet is taking over Raton's annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration, and it's planning to add a downtown parade and Ripley Park barbeque to the mix. Final plans will be made when the group sees how much money it has for the day's events. To add momentum, it is sponsoring beer- and wine-tasting festivities at Raton Museum Saturday afternoon.

Spring for Hops & Vine takes place from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at Raton Museum with tickets costing \$15 per person, which includes 10 samples of beer or wine provided by Mulligan's at Best Western Plus Raton Hotel. Everyone will get a free beer or wine glass, appetizers, and entertainment by multi-instrumentalists Willson & McKee. Patrons must be 21 or older to attend; IDs will be required.

"We had some Whited Foundation funding left from last summer's Music on Main Street program," Raton MainStreet director Stacie Hull says, "and we got their approval to apply it to this new event, to raise funds for some new Fourth of July festivities."

The organization's Promotion Committee chair, Sandy Solano-Langan, hopes that Saturday's beer- and wine-tasting event spurs a big Fourth of July for Raton.

"Raton MainStreet is taking over the Fourth of July from the Raton Chamber of Commerce," she says. "We hope to celebrate the holiday all day

'We hope to celebrate the holiday all day long with vendors and entertainment in Ripley Park.'

Sandy Solano-Langan
Promotion Commetti chair

long with vendors and entertainment in Ripley Park, a barbeque, and a parade, all as a lead-up to the always-amazing fireworks show." Solano-Langan hopes to see other organizations jump in with additional events.

Celtic music duo Willson & McKee will come from Colorado to help make the beer and wine tasting even better at Raton Museum Saturday. Trading off on guitars, Appalachian dulcimer, hammer dulcimer, accordion, Celtic harp, Irish bouzouki, and bodhran, Kim McKee and Ken Willson bring their road-proven show of Irish and Scottish music. They've toured ten western states for twenty years. McKee's talents have earned her a national dulcimer championship and won the song-writing competition at the Milwaukee Irish Festival four times.

Tickets for Saturday's Spring for Hops & Vine event are available at Raton Museum, Shuler Theater, Solano's Boot & Western Wear, or Sports Arena. Additional information is available from Sandy Solano-Langan at (575) 445-2632.



Photo courtesy Willson & McKee

Willson & McKee bring their multi-instrumentalist talents to Raton Museum Saturday afternoon in a benefit performance, part of the Spring for Hops & Vine beer- and wine-tasting fundraiser for Raton MainStreet's planned downtown Fourth of July festivities.

Sterling man arrested on several charges

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

A Sterling man was arrested in Trinidad on charges of criminal attempting to violate a child custody order and possible possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to the report, last Tuesday Paulette Martinez told the Trinidad Police Department that her 14-year-old daughter was about to run off with her biological father, Raymond Rocha.

Martinez said her daughter made plans to meet Rocha at McDonalds at 322 Nevada Ave., with the intent to go to Sterling where Rocha resides.

At 11:40 a.m., police spotted Rocha pulling into the parking lot of McDonalds

and, when confronted, Rocha said he was there to visit his daughter.

According to the report, the detective conducted a background check on Rocha and found he had an active warrant for his arrest in Logan County for failure to appear in court on a domestic-violence related charge.

Also, Rocha's driving privileges had been revoked because of habitual offender charges.

Upon entering the fast-food restaurant, Rocha was taken into custody by police.

The detective found no record of a restraining order on Rocha.

A pat-down search of Rocha was conducted and the officers found numerous syringes and a silver spoon with a burnt residue on it.

According to the report, Martinez said she and Rocha were divorced in 2001 and Rocha had not had any visitation time since the divorce.

During the marriage, Martinez told police Rocha beat her numerous times, was a known abuser of methamphetamine and did prison time in 2007.

Rocha was charged with possession of possible drug paraphernalia, driving with a revoked drivers license and criminal attempt to violate child custody, as well as the outstanding warrant in Logan County, which carries a \$5,000 bond penalty.

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State official praises low business fees in Colorado

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

Colorado has some of the lowest business fees in the country, Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler told local chamber members last week.

Speaking at the Trinidad and Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, Gessler said the state's business fees are among the lowest one-third in the nation, based on information from 10,000 non-profit organizations.

He also noted that the state has reduced business fees in five categories.

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Mike Albanese/The Chronicle-News

Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler speaks to the Trinidad and Las Animas County Chamber Wednesday.



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- feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
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- believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- wonder if you're the one who is crazy?

Does Your Partner:

- act excessively jealous and possessive?
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- keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- criticize you and put you down?
- treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends or family to see?
- hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
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