

COMMUNITY

THE ARTS

Lip Sync extravaganza returns to Raton's Shuler

By **Tim Keller**
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The Chronicle-News

Lip Sync 2014 promises so much merriment and music making that it's spread across two nights at the Shuler Theater this weekend.

The 37th annual community benefit show pits local performers in a competition judged partly on synchronized "singing" to classic songs, but especially on the fun factor of costumes and immersion in the part. People who say they'll never get on a stage see this annual show and come back the next year disguised as Elvis Presley or Marilyn Monroe.

"It's a night of laughter and family entertainment," Eileen Gonzales said before last year's show. She started the fundraising event

in the 1970s when her mother was diagnosed with diabetes. The event's proceeds provide insulin, blood-sugar monitors and other medical supplies to diabetics throughout the area, stretching from Raton to Clayton to Cimarron to Trinidad. Gonzales lost her mother to diabetes, but the show has lived on.

Two-dozen acts perform Friday night, then do it again Saturday night. The Shuler Theater fills both the auditorium and the balcony both nights. The performers are so deep into their acts that the program names only the performer of the recording, not the actual local people on stage. Thus, when KRTN's Billy Donati defended his 2012 crown last year, he was listed only as "Huey Lewis and the News," accompanied by his fellow deejays.

"The Rondells," an impossibly cute group of four local elementary school girls, won last



Photos: Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

At Lip Sync 2013, "The Rondells," above, won the \$200 first prize over 24 other acts with a convincing performance of "Leader of the Pack," including classic lines such as, "I met him at the candy store." This weekend's 37th annual two-night event promises more of the same. Billy D defended his Lip Sync 2012 crown last year as Huey Lewis, center, singing "It's Alright," accompanied by his fellow KRTN deejays. This time out, it was only good enough for 5th place.



year's \$200 first prize with their "Leader of the Pack," complete with poodle skirts, a candy store stocked with Twizzlers and a tantalizing bad boy in black. The crowd often roared with cheering and laughter, encouraged by comedic emcees Sean Green and Robi Gonzales.

There's no limit to era or genre. Last year's \$150 second prize went to the Soggy Bottom Boys for their "Man of Constant Sorrow," while third prize went to Miranda Lambert for "Momma's Broken Heart." Sister Sledge, Pink, The Fireballs, Carmen Miranda, the Chile Peppers of New Mexico, and George Jones performed their hits. Elvis sang "Hound Dog." Marilyn Monroe sang "I Never Met a Wolf That Didn't Love to Howl."

Gonzales and her family and supporters go door to door signing up sponsors to raise funds to fight diabetes. Last year's list of sponsoring businesses numbered more than 100, filling two pages of small print in the program. There's no overhead—all of the money

goes directly to purchasing supplies and equipment for local diabetics.

The sponsors help Gonzales keep the admission price low—just \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children 12 and under. "I keep the price low because I want everyone to see the Shuler Theater! She's like a beautiful woman: She ages beautifully. Everyone can afford to come to this show. Relatives come to see relatives and neighbors come to see neighbors. Once people come, they keep coming back year after year," she says.

The complete show runs for two full nights, Friday and Saturday, August 15-16, beginning each evening at 7 p.m. Judges score every performance. After Saturday night's show, they'll tally the scores from both nights to determine the winners, who will be announced on stage after the show.

For further information, contact Eileen Gonzales at 575-779-3483 or the Shuler Theater at 575-445-4746.

GIVE PEAS A CHANCE

Snap Pea Jamboree grooves and soothes

By **Scott Mastro**
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The Chronicle-News

Earth Mountain Farm's 12th Annual Snap Pea Jamboree echoed off and frolicked in the mountains above Weston, Colorado this past weekend, with music, dancing, laughter, massage, yoga, barbecue, canning, crafts, and animals of the domestic-farm variety, as well as some wild ones too.

As the campfire ashes kindled, the music wandered into tents, teepees and sleeping bags, to begin again next morning at 11 a.m. when emcee, Walsenburg's Geno Hawkins, announced All That Jazz taking the stage to set the entrancing mood for the day and night to follow.

Under a teepee canopy, girls with garlands of flowers in their hair spooned macaroni salad and munched chocolate cake as Pueblo theater arts enthusiast, Tallula, entertained from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., reviving the Beatles and belting other classics to applause and cheers. "I mostly act and dance at Steel City, in Pueblo," she said.

Guitar wizard, Jaquie Gipson, followed from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. with her brand of out-of-the-box soundscapes. Johnny Watson joined her onstage then pounded the skins with his band, from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.



The sun was hot, the beer was cold and the crowd was appreciative.

Guitarist Bobbo Cordova was next to entertain. Cordova and his gypsy band did not disappoint. From 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. the musicians brought the blood, sweat and tears of the blues to the Snap Pea solar-powered stage.

Planet O, of Gardner, Colorado lifted off at 7:30 p.m., taking the crowd along for the ride. Brains tie-dyed and souls blossomed like wild lavender as drummer Bo Seawell, bassist Traemon McCabe, and guitarist Jug noodled electric funk and Rocky Mountain reggae, before stepping, waist-deep, into swamp rock.

The bonfire raged as the band played on.

Fly the Coop kept it bluegrass and folksy-sing-along until the solar lamps all fizzled.

Sunday morning arrived before the dawn as a lone drummer improvised under a pavilion tarp. After breakfast, yoga began and the summer morning mellowed like butter awaiting its piece of toast as a laid-back Daschund named Rocco clomped through camp, stopping to sip some ice water from a cup.

With bouzouki and acoustic guitar, Colorado Springs' Smith House threaded a musical tapestry of hope and vivation. After chowing down on watermelon, the group came back for



Photos by Scott Mastro / The Chronicle-News

Co-executive directors, Carter Morris and Joni Steiner, left, planned and executed their 12th Annual Earth Mountain Farm Snap Pea Jamboree this past weekend. The event was a huge success, as music, food and fun was the theme that surrounded the campground near Weston.

a second set and fended hovering rain clouds while joined onstage by young Orion Boyd on hand drum and harmonica

Earth Mountain Farm co-executive director, Carter Morris shared his thoughts. "Smokin' Rednecks Barbecue helped a lot with the food this year, instead of us doing it all. They finished that smoker two days before the festival, and the weather cooperated this year more than it has in the past. Next year we'll have a promoter and vendor coordinator."

By early afternoon the road out of Earth Mountain Farm was dusty with the vehicles headed home from the jamboree visions of next year's celebration already dancing in their heads.

For more information about the annual Snap Pea Jamboree or Earth Mountain Farm's educational programs, sustainable products, and volunteer opportunities, email: earthmountainfarm@gmail.com or phone 719-680-0215.

GOLF

Mt. San Rafael Hospital benefit held at TMGC

By **Doc Leonetti**
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The Chronicle News

The fearsome foursome "What a Grind" team of Guido Pachelli, Teddy Sakariason, Rich Merino and Jeff Monarco captured first place in the 'A' flight with a four person scramble 54 score in the Mt. San Rafael benefit golf tournament held at the Trinidad Municipal Golf Course last Friday.

The 'A' and 'B' groups were flighted by handicap. Fifteen teams participated, generating much needed funds for the local hospital.

"We all had a great time," said Pachelli, long time Superintendent of Greens at the links. "It was definitely for a good cause. Raising money

for our hospital is probably one of the most important things Trinidad needs to achieve. We played well and had a lot of fun. I would like to give some kudos to Kim (Lucero), Linda (Pachelli), and Laurie (Navarette) for contributing their time and working so hard to make this event a success. It was well run. There were a lot of other women involved and they all unselfishly gave some of their valuable time to make it work. It's always a nice tournament, but most of all it's all about what is done for the hospital."

Carlos Chacon, Mike Cuccia, Mike and Bret Dixon, sponsored by the First National Bank, claimed second place in the 'A' group with a 55. In the 'B' flight, Judge Jesse Manzanares, Bruce Veltri, Jerry Withington and Fred Vaugeois claimed the title. Manzanares also sponsored the team. Kim

Lucero, Lynda Pachelli, Victoria Geronimo and Lori Navarette, sponsored by QHR, took the second place trophy.

"We had a great turnout and Kim (Lucero) did a fabulous job," said Troy Houg who manages the pro shop. "She put together 15 teams and ran a great tournament. Good weather complemented the weekend, and the course was in super shape. Congratulations to all the teams that played in the 'A' and 'B' flights. It was a very successful tournament for a good cause. Everybody had a great time."

"It was a fabulous day for all of us," echoed Lucero who chaired the tournament committee. "We had a lot of community support and I'm sure grateful for that. We've had several fund raising projects planned and this is another important one. So far we've raised \$15,000 for Digital Mammography equipment. This is the last project for the mammography program. Our funding is almost entirely in place now. It sure was worth the effort and we had a lot of fun. It's great for Trinidad. We're really excited. And we won second place in the 'B' flight!"



Photo courtesy of Joe Van Loon

L-R, Kim Lucero, Lori Navarette, Victoria Geronimo, and Linda Pachelli pose at the 18th green following their second place finish in the Mt. San Rafael Hospital golf tournament.

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