

LOCAL NEWS

THE SAVVY SENIOR



Jim Miller
Special to the Chronicle

Dear Savvy Senior
Over the years, my husband and I have acquired a house and garage full of stuff, and would like to start downsizing before we get too old. To do this we would like to sell off what we can. So my question is what is the best way to get the most money for our possessions?

Retired Packrats
Dear Packrats,
Selling off old items that you don't want or need anymore is a great way to downsize, de-clutter and pad your pocketbook. Here are some top options to help you pedal your stuff.

Online Selling

If you have the time and access to the Internet, the best way to get top dollar for your old unwanted possessions is to sell them on the World Wide Web. Online selling provides literally millions of potential customers, so your odds of getting more money for your stuff is much greater than you'd get at a garage sale or through a consignment store. While there are lots of sites that will help you sell your stuff, the two biggies who draw the most visitors are Craigslist and eBay.

Craigslist

If you're not familiar with Craigslist.org, it's a huge classified ads site that serves more than 550 cities and attracts some 50 million visitors each month, and it's free to use. It works just like putting an ad in your local newspaper. You list the item you want to sell including a brief description (pictures too) for the price you want. Interested buyers will then contact you directly via e-mail, and the rest is up to you. Larger items that are difficult to ship sell well on Craigslist like furniture, appliances, exercise equipment and even vehicles.

eBay

With around 85 million active members, eBay.com is by far the biggest selling site on the Web. Almost anything can be sold on eBay. The downside however is their fees which cut into your profits. EBay charges a non-refundable listing fee between 10 cents and \$4 per item, depending on the asking price. And if it sells, a closing fee of 8.75 percent of the sale price up to \$25, with declining percentage paid on larger sells. eBay can also help if you

Downsizing for Dollars: How to make money on your unwanted stuff

don't have the time, or don't want to do the selling yourself. Just go to ebaytradingassistant.com where you can find a trading assistant in your area who will do everything for you. They typically charge between 15 and 40 percent of the selling price. Another large selling site you should check out is Amazon.com (it charges sales fees too) which is great for selling old books, CDs and DVDs.

Easy To Use

If you have concerns about learning how to maneuver these selling sites, you'll be happy to know that they are all pretty user-friendly and offer step-by-step instructions. Once you sell a few items you'll feel like an old pro. You also need to know that if you're planning to sell a lot of items, a digital camera is a must. Pictures are essential to selling on the Web, and a digital camera makes it easy to transfer your photographs to your computer so they can be uploaded to the sales site.

Price Setting

When it comes to figuring out how much to charge for your stuff, you can get a ballpark idea by doing a search for items that are similar to yours on the sales site you're planning to use. If however, you suspect you have a rare or extremely valuable item, you should get it appraised. Check with a local auction house to see if it offers free appraisals. If not, for a fee you can hire a professional appraiser (see www.appraisers.org) or call a reputable dealer to assess your possessions.

Other Options

If online selling doesn't appeal to you, have a garage sale (see www.yardsalequeen.com for tips), or see what your nearby consignment store will sale for you. While neither of these options will make you as much money as the Web, they're still great ways to get rid of old stuff and make a few bucks in the process. And the stuff that doesn't sell can always be donated to a charity for a tax deduction.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Photos courtesy of TSJC

TSJC college for kids week two

Special to The Chronicle-News

The second week of TSJC's exciting and fun College for Kids starts today. Classes offered are Dipping & Decorating (Ages 7-12); Hip Hop II; Intermediate (Ages 7-12); Exploring Energy (Age 10-12); Around the World (Ages 7-12); and Photoshop Fun (Ages 11-15).

Classes offered next week, June 15-19, include: Crafty Chicks (Ages 9-14); Hip Hop III

Advanced (Ages 7-12); Intro to Multimedia: Storytelling (Ages 7-12); How Does That Work? (Ages 10-15); and activity Grab Bag (Ages 7-12).

The final week of classes, June 22-26, include: Rock On With Rockology (Ages 7-12); Hip Hop IV; Performance Prep (Ages 7-12); Card Making (Ages 7-15); Fun With Math (Ages 9-11); Picasso's Art-Prentice (Ages 7-12); and Model Rocketry (Ages 7-12).

Classes times are from 1:00

p.m. - 2:50 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. The cost for each class is \$35.00 plus additional material fees for certain classes and a one-time registration fee of \$11.05.

TSJC offers a limited number of College for Kids tuition scholarship grants on a first-come first-serve basis until funds run out. The criteria to receive a tuition scholarship is:

■ Low-income. To be determined by eligibility for partial or full free-lunch program at

school. (Materials and registration fees are not covered by the grant).

■ Multiple kids/classes. Regardless of income, families who pay for three classes will receive the fourth class free. (Excluding the materials and registration fees).

To register children for College for Kids, or for more information, please contact Josephine Chacon at 846-5532, or stop by the Continuing Education office - Berg 210.



Review of 'Southwest Wanderings - Artists in support of the Piñon Canyon Coalition'



Cynthia Berresse Ploski
Special to the Chronicle

The famous author Neale Donald Walsch has written "...art begs you to notice it. Why? Because art is God's way of saying hello....Your world is shouting out to you, revealing something intrinsically glorious about itself."

So hello from the Great Southwest, and especially from Piñon Canyon, through "Southwest Wanderings," the show that opened on June 4 at the Mitchell Museum. Thirteen artists who support the Piñon Canyon Coalition have recorded non-political statements from Mother Nature herself here, revealing the beauty of this unique part of America in which we are privileged to live.

Eight of the artists are "plein-air" (literal translation, 'open air') painters, who paint on location. Because of the rapidly changing light and shadow- and sometimes wind, rain and hail- they paint quickly, with loose brush strokes and vibrant color to get the impressions of nature's messages down before the messages shift to something else. Their preferred medium is oil paint, which doesn't dry out uncontrollably in our arid, windy climate. Very often plein-air painters will simply make color sketches in the field and create the finished work in their stu-

dios. The group of plein-air painters in this show consists of:

Doug Holdread, a driving force in creating and maintaining the energy of the Piñon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition. Doug's large canvases are created with bold strokes of vibrant color, full of drama. The shout out from Nature here is "Look at the power of land and sky."

Wayne Pritchard, whose skillful hand carries out the message "See how peacefully the fields and mountains lie together in each others' arms. Human beings are our guests."

Paula Little, whose affecting, intimate portraits of the people who live on the land bear loving evidence of their hard work outdoors. Mother Nature could be proclaiming: "It is I, the sun and the wind, who formed these lines, this weathered countenance."

Lois Petersen, whose landscapes in pastels are love songs to the hills and streams. "See how soft and tender I can be" croons the light that plays upon them.

Frank LaLumia, whose masculine energy portrays an edgier view of the land and its people. "I am grand, I am powerful, and I have an attitude," claim the canyons, "I am Father Nature."

Eric Michaels, whose travels around the world have brought an international semblance to his interpretation of little towns in our own neighborhood. Nature could be texting us: "we have so much in com-

mon, Cokedale, Aix-en-Provence, and every little town all over the world."

Fran Dodd, a Pueblo artist whose style is uniquely personal and emotional, daring to abstract nature's designs and inject exuberant color of her own persuasion. "Everyone sees me differently," say the trees along the Arkansas River. Eldon Warren, a Denver artist, whose dramatic effects of light and shadow bring vitality and mystery to his landscapes. The message here is "Observe well, for there are hidden surprises for you to enjoy."

Allan McConnell and Tim Keller are the exhibition's photographers.

Allan McConnell's emotional black and white photographs evoke the many moods of nature with a clear eye to excellent composition. It is interesting to see his interpretation of the windmill on the Loudon Ranch in contrast to Eldon Warren's impressionistic oil of the same windmill. Same structure, different messages.

Tim Keller's large photographs bespeak the loneliness of human habitation on the vast prairie. Through his photographs, Tim records the passing of time into history, as witnessed by his photo of an old tree and fence post that are no longer in existence.

The three watercolorists represented in "Southwest Wanderings" are Linda Hanako Mahoney, Amanda Thompson and Deborah Bernhardt.

Linda Hanako Mahoney brings the wildlife of the

Southwest to life in her large, sensitive watercolors reminiscent of Audubon's smaller renderings. They speak out "Notice me, all my fine feathers and glittering eyes. Observe the line of my neck, the delicacy of my beak. Do not overlook me in the greatness of my environment."

Amanda Thompson's small and professionally executed watercolor vignettes of nature's nooks and crannies glow with pristine light, clear color and great appreciation of the intimate view of our surroundings. Nature seems to be saying through her work, "Remember this rock, this little lizard, this church?"

Deborah Bernhardt brings a metaphysical message through her watercolors. "Things mean more than we see on the surface," croaks the crow overlooking the canyon at sunset. The largesse of her moon reflects its powerful influence upon the tides of earth's seas and the seas within our selves. It's not just a full moon in a watercolor sky.

This is a magnificent exhibition, full of light and color and meaningful messages from the earth itself. It can be viewed on the Mitchell Museum's mezzanine balcony at 150 East Main Street in Trinidad from 10-4 Tuesday through

Saturday, and Sunday afternoons, until the 28th of June. You can call for more information at (719) 846-4224.

This is one you definitely shouldn't miss. Go see it and experience what Nature has to say for your ears alone.

TRINIDAD POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTS

■ 6/5/09 - Thomas Rios, 51, Trinidad - Probation violation

■ 6/6/09 - Mary Padilla, 61, Raton, NM - DWAI, failed to drive in a single lane

■ 6/6/09 - Kate Lynn Espinoza, 18, Trinidad - DUI, illegal consumption of ethyl alcohol by underage person

■ 6/7/09 - Joseph Padilla, 20, Trinidad - Violation of restraining order, illegal possession of ethyl alcohol by underage person

INCIDENTS

■ 6/7/09 - Pioneer Natural Resources - Victim of criminal mis-

chief

■ 6/7/09 - City of Trinidad, Skate Park - Victim of criminal mis-

chief

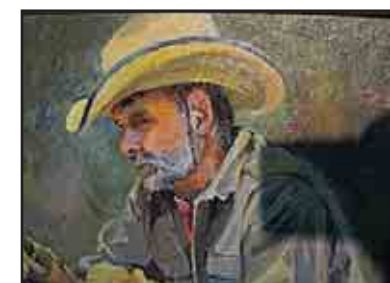
SUMMONS

■ 6/6/09 - Daniel Barrett, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit

■ 6/6/09 - Andy Espinoza, Trinidad - Illegal consumption of ethyl alcohol by underage person

PARKING TICKET

■ 6/7/09 - Greg Montoya, Trinidad - Parked vehicle in inter-



Photos courtesy of Cynthia Berresse Ploski

Left to right: Doug Holdread's oil painting "Confluence". Artist Frank LaLumia and Co-Director Paula Little greet Jamieson family descendants Jan and Weldon Graham at Opening Reception. Deborah Bernhardt's watercolor "Crow Heaven". Paula Little's oil portrait "Wagon Master".