



Students of the Week

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# Focus on Education

# THURSDAY

# DEC. 1, 2016

Vol. 140, No. 240

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

## THE FINE PRINT

### THURSDAY—DEC 1

**NETWORK COUNCIL**  
**THURS. (8 a.m.)** Regular meeting will be held in the Bell Block Building's Trinidad Community Foundation room. Info: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.  
**SPPRCO MEETING**  
**THURS. (Noon)** Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at the District Office. Info: Jonnalea Tortorelli, 719-497-3118.  
**PRCWD WATER DISTRICT**  
**THURS. (7 p.m.)** Purgatoire River Conservancy meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Thelma Lujan, 719-846-7285.

### Today's Quote

**“Do not become a stranger to yourself by blending in with everyone else.”**

~ *Dodlinsky*

### WEEKEND—DEC 2-4

**HOLIDAY ART MARKET**  
**FRI. (5-6 p.m.)** Opening gala for the Trinidad Area Arts Center holiday market that supports the Youth Art Project, 121 E. Main St. (former Fish Pond) Open through Dec. 30. M-F 10 a.m.-6 p.m. & SAT. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-8441.  
**REFLECTIONS SERVICE**  
**FRI. (6 p.m.)** The Sangre de Cristo Hospice & Palliative Care will host its 2016 Reflections celebrating the lives of lost loved ones at the Mt. Carmel Health & Wellness Center, 911 Robinson Ave. The public is invited. Info: 719-846-3060.  
**CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN**  
**SAT. (10 a.m.-4p.m.)** Artist's "Be Original, Give Original!" one-day event features fine artwork to please anyone's wish list and will be held at the Marketplace Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Info: Paula Little, 719-846-1388.  
**HTA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**SAT. (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)** Annual fundraiser for Holy Trinity Academy will be held at St. Joseph's Hall on Church St. Info: 719-846-4522.  
**LA COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
**SAT. (11:30 a.m.)** Group will meet for lunch and elect new members at the Holiday Inn on Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Shelly King, 719-680-2799. Everyone is invited to join us.  
**FOLKLORIC PERFORMANCE**  
**SAT. (6 p.m.)** Trinidad High School presents Adams State's Semillas de la Tierra performers to benefit the Spanish Club's 2017 trip to Italy at the TMS Auditorium, 614 Park St. Info: 719-846-2971. Tickets available at the door.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Check out the local library at 202 N. Animas St. and Books & More at 132 N. Commercial St. for great events and sales every week for kids and adults. Info: 719-846-6841.  
**TRINIDAD SCHOOL CONCERTS**  
Info: TMS, 719-846-4411 or THS 719-846-2971. Events will be held at the TMS Auditorium, 614 Park St.  
**DEC. 6 (7 p.m.)** Trinidad Middle School Band & High School Choirs.  
**DEC. 7 (7 p.m.)** Trinidad High School Miner Band & Jazz Band.  
**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**DEC. 10 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)** The Heritage Christian School will host this school benefit event at the Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 2608 Santa Fe Trail. Vendors needed. Info: 719-680-7691.  
**FREE GIFT WRAPPING**  
**DEC. 10 (10 a.m.-Noon)** Family event includes Zion's Lutheran pancake breakfast, photos with Santa, free ornament making and entertainment by the Trinidad Community Chorale at the Marketplace Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Info: Paula Little, 719-846-1385.  
**FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**DEC. 10 (7 p.m.)** The community is invited to a music filled celebration of the season at the Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. Info: 719-846-7387.  
**A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS**  
**DEC. 13 (7 p.m.)** School play will be held upstairs at the school, 613 Prospect St. Info: Andrea Jimenez, 719-846-4522.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 11/30/2016. Elmore Ditch: Priority # 3--- Appropriation date: 11/30/1861.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release 0 AF  
Inflow 26.78 AF - 13.50 CFS  
Evaporation 4.78 AF  
Content 21,771 AF  
Elevation 6,186.06  
Precipitation 0

Down stream call: Conservation Storage-John Martin Reservoir: 05/31/1949.



### ACHIEVEMENT

## Heading for Hollywood

Fred Vaugeois  
*Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre*

Every now and then a life-changing opportunity presents itself to the youth of our community. Just such an opportunity was presented to Nathan Segers of Trinidad.

Nathan has been involved with the local Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre (SCRT) as a student, a volunteer, an intern and a full time member of the SCRT summer professional company for the past two years. His skills have recently been noted by Global Entertainment

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Photos courtesy of SCRT

Nathan Segers working in the SCRT scene shop.

### SCHOOL BOARD

## THS principal details school's recent progress

### School board also undertakes establishing new truancy policy

Eric John Monson  
*News Editor*  
*The Chronicle-News*

Trinidad High School Principal Chuck Smithey appeared before the Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education last week to detail progress made this fall at the high school. Smithey focused on progress made at the school in the areas of leadership initiatives, assessment testing, attendance, college preparation, intervention for student that fall behind and safety.

Smithey began by counting the ways the high school is increasing student leadership. The district is already a state leader using the "Leader in Me" program. Admin-

istrators believe the district has instituted the program across its K-12 education more than any

high school now has a "7 Habits" team composed of administrators, teachers and two students.

ing time teaching how to use all the habits, or focusing on a specific habit and we've also combined that with another program called "Sources of Strength."

*"The students take the lead on announcements and we've put student leaders on different teams that lead our school. They are taking control and leading things. Student leadership is something our kids are really getting now."*

Smithey said the benefits of the leadership programs at the school were readily apparent with students taking a more active approach to learning essential life skills and completing course work.

"The kids are now leading different types of programs and assemblies. The students take

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### CREATIVE WRITING

## Primero students publish first book

Ruth Stodghill  
*Correspondent*  
*The Chronicle-News*

Many writers toil for years to hone their skills without ever seeing their work published. Yet for two dedicated Primero students, the goal of seeing their work in print has already become a reality.

Over the summer, 18 year-old Cordero Behrman and his illustrator, Jay Riggins, published a collection of short stories collectively titled "The Gathering." According to Primero's literary magazine advisor Lisa Morelos, this project was a natural extension of some creative writing pieces Behrman had worked on at school. "Cord submitted a few short stories for the literary and art magazine. His passion and talent for writing was evident, but his maturity and style of writing didn't fit with the school literary and art magazine, so I decided to develop a project for him specifically. This way there were no limits to what he could do."

Fellow student Jay Riggins partnered up with Behrman to illustrate the fiction pieces. According to Morelos, "Jay created a cover pic-

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Photo courtesy Primero Yearbook

Proud student author Cordero Behrman (left) and illustrator Jay Riggins collaborate on short fiction pieces.



## WEATHER WATCH

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming east northeast in the morning. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow after 11 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. North northeast wind around 5 mph. **Friday:** A 20 percent chance of snow.

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. North wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 18.

West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 47. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South southwest wind around 10 mph. **Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Southwest wind around 10 mph.



# EDUCATION

## THS principal details school's recent progress

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the lead on announcements and we've put student leaders on different teams that lead our school. They are taking control and leading things. Student leadership is something our kids are really getting now," said Smithey.

Continuing the theme of leadership and accountability, Smithey outlined how the school is using new "leadership notebooks" that contain mission statements for the school and district. Students will keep their overall and class specific goals in the book and keep track of their overall scores in classes. Students will then use the notebooks to lead parent teacher conferences.

Academically, progress is being made at the school, which is confirmed by improvements in assessment testing. Previewing NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) assessments that students will be taking on December 5, Smithey reviewed progress students made on the NWEA test between last spring and this fall.

"With the NWEA scores comparing last spring and last

fall, we had one student in ninth grade improve 20 points. That's an amazing jump. If you look at the number of students we had score in the 80 percentile, you see we had six percent in math, 10 percent for reading, 22 percent for language arts and 19 percent in science," said Smithey.

Covering the tenth-grade scores, Smithey pointed to one student who had a 35 point improvement in reading, another that saw a 20 point jump and two others that improved by 10 points.

Said Smithey, "We've seen definite growth in our testing and we hope to see this same growth when we check again at mid-year and at end-of-year."

In 2014-15 the school had 55 students enrolled in college courses and 90 percent of those students passed those classes. Last year the school increased those numbers with 77 kids enrolled in college classes and a pass rate of 92 percent.

"This year we added concurrent biology and I've talked to professors that would like to see us also add chemis-

try, U.S. History and business. We've had a lot of talk, so we're hoping for additions there as we move forward," said Smithey.

And for students that get behind in classes, Smithey said the schools intervention program for those students seems to be working with eight students about to graduate from the program back into regular course work.

### Updating the high school truancy policy

TSD No. 1 has set the goal this year to improve student attendance at the high school.

Currently, administrators say they have about a 92 percent attendance rate and would like to improve that number to 95 percent this year with a new truancy policy.

TSD No. 1 board members approved the first reading of that truancy policy at their meeting last week.

Board members believe attendance is key to preparing students for college in the work force. "Everyday you're gone you are missing work. The more work you miss the harder it is for you to be successful. If you have a job, you have to show up. That's what the workforce requires and that's what we should require," said board member Deb Hartman.

The new truancy policy lays out that after a student has four absences they will be required to meet with the school counselor. After six absences a student will have to meet with an "attendance board." After eight absences the student will meet with the administrative team, including a school board member. After 11 absences a student will lose class credit. Along every step in the process students will be required to establish a plan to improve their attendance.

"Parent buy-in on this is critical," said board member Patrick Sandoval.

"It's our goal to prepare students for lifelong learning," said board member Paul Montero. "We think this is a big part of that."



Photos by Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Trinidad School Board of Education members (above L-to-R) Deb Hartman and John Massarotti with attorney Jesse Manzanares. Board members Patrick Sandoval and Joe Terry (at left L-to-R) and Trinidad High School Principal Chuck Smithey (above left).

## Primero students publish first book

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ture for each short story and brought a really neat visual element to the project." Riggins sees himself as a bit of an impressionist artist, a style that melds well with Behrman's fiction: "I like Van Gogh's style. 'A Stary Night' is my favorite painting, and I also like the art style of Akira Toriyama."

Behrman feels that his partnership with Riggins added new depth to his work. "Jay is a great artist, and for the most part his drawings helped me visualize my characters," explains Behrman. "He drew so much more than what is displayed in my writing in 'The Gathering,' and what was shown I think really added to the darker mood of the stories."

Clearly, Behrman is not the typical teen writer. "He is hardworking, motivated, and extremely creative," states Morelos. "What sets him aside from other writers his age is his sensitivity and his unique ability to observe and understand emotions in people that are often hidden or buried. This allows him to depict highly emotional content with realism, and the complexity it warrants. Cord is a highly motivated writer who is easy to work with. I always look forward to reading his new stories, and his casual, laid-back demeanor makes discussing new ideas with him a pleasure. With each new story and project, Cord brings something new to the table; his work continues to grow and mature, and demands to be noticed."

When asked to describe himself as a writer, Behrman's response demonstrates his wit: "As a writer? Wordy.

No, obvious puns aside, I think that I am a writer with more ideas in my head than I have words on paper. I aspire to write great things, and I hope that this drive is reflected in my work. I love to write in all genres, but tend to write easiest in fiction, and darker fiction at that, taking a lot of influence from Stephen King and J.K. Rowling."

For Behrman, writing is a passion. "I love writing. If you've ever had a job that made you feel butterflies in your stomach, or when you stopped working you almost immediately wanted to start up again because it was so fun, then you know how I feel when I write. I don't know why I love it either. I just do. I've loved it since before I could write. I want to change people with my writing. I don't want to just have people buy my book; I want them to be moved by it and the characters within. In five years, I want to get a degree in creative writing (hopefully from Princeton), and in twenty I hope to be a self-sustained author."

Currently, Behrman and Riggins are continuing to develop their creative writing and artistic skills through an independent study program with Ms. Morelos. "This year Cord is willing to venture out of his comfort zone and broaden the way he views his writing," she explains. "He is more inspired by an idea rather than defining himself by a style or genre. Because of this, he is able to take on projects that seem to very different from one another and diversify his body of work. Jay and Cord

are currently working on two comic books (one for elementary-aged kids and one for tweens). They were really interested in working together on a project where they could truly collaborate. Cord is also working on a new series of short stories in his favorite genre, horror fiction."

Behrman is appreciative of all the people who have helped him develop as a writer thus far: "I'd like to thank my family for each giving me a little bit of what I needed to write. I'd like to thank Holly Wheeler especially for supporting me constantly, and always speaking her mind about what she didn't like in my story. That helped me greatly. Jay Riggins for amazing artwork. Michael Talcott, Diego Duran, and Johnny Elgin, for putting up with my first, second, third, and eight hundredth drafts. Tim Keller, for appreciating me and helping me see what a writer sees. And to Ms. Morelos and Ms. Stodghill. There would be no book without them. I know that they have so much to do even without my stories to edit and read, but even so, they still do."

For those interested in reading Behrman's book, it can be ordered from lulu.com, under the author's name of Oredroc. "I'd like to ask anyone who has read my book to please E-mail me at terortoc@gmail.com and tell me what they liked, didn't like, or what they thought about my book. I am still developing as an author, and every bit of constructive criticism that people can offer me will help a lot," states Behrman.

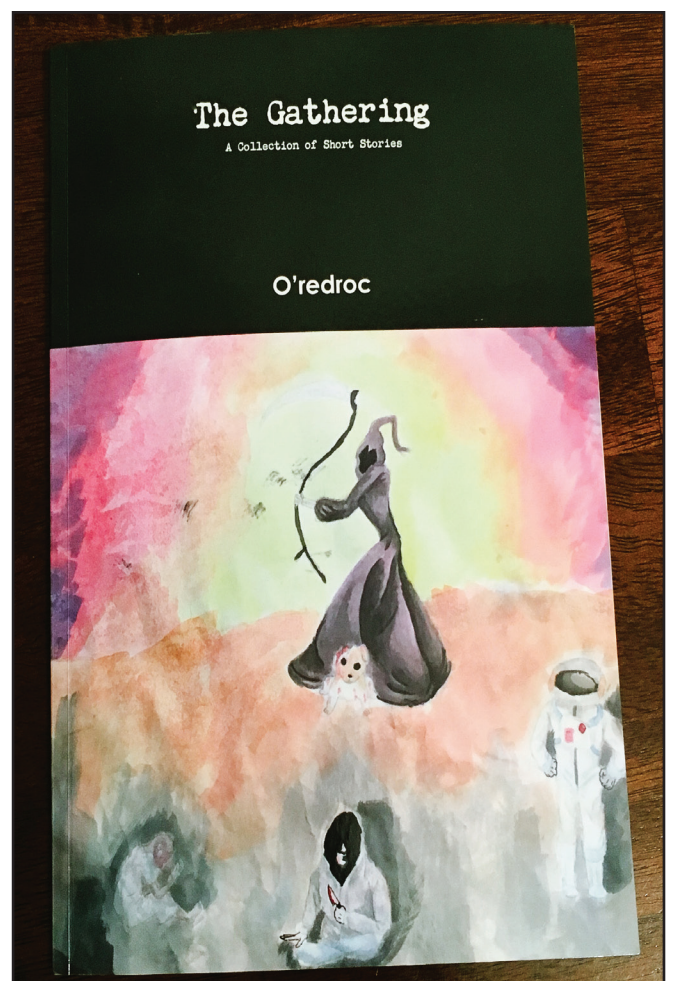


Photo courtesy of Primero Yearbook

A copy of "The Gathering," a collection of short stories written by Behrman and illustrated by Riggins.

					<p>224 N. Chestnut St. • Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 680-2385</p>
<b>Cuteness</b> Boxer & Pit Bull Terrier Mix	<b>Sam</b> Australian Shepherd	<b>Brim</b> Australian Cattle Dog (Blue Heeler)	<b>Sally</b> German Shepherd Dog & Airedale Terrier Mix	<b>Mimi</b> Dachshund Mix	