



THURSDAY
APRIL 23, 2009

Vol. 133, No. 80

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico

THE FINE PRINT

Tourism Board

The Trinidad Tourism Board will meet for a regular session at 9 a.m. today in the conference room at City Hall.

Indoor Flea Market

Indoor flea market and bake sale starting at 9 a.m. today at the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Many Christmas items.

Quilt Club meeting

The Bound Together Quilt Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. today at the Fairgrounds. For more information, call (719) 846-3855.

Kindergarten Screenings

Hoehne School District R-3 kindergarten screenings will be from 8:15-1 p.m. on Friday. Children must be 5 by March 1, 2009, bring immunizations and birth certificate. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 846-4457 or go to www.hoehnesd.org.

Holy Trinity Academy

Annual walk-a-thon will be from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Friday at the State Fairground. If you have any questions please call Joe or Bobbie Keys at 680-2478.

TALAS Art Show

The TALAS Art Show public reception and award ceremony will be from 5-8 p.m. on Friday at Corazon Gallery.

Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Republican Women's Club will be hosting the Annual Lincoln Day Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Friday at TSJC Pioneer (general purpose) Room.

Continued on page 3

WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south.



Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. West southwest wind around 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.



Tomorrow Night: A 10 percent chance of showers after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 4/22/09. Lewelling & McCormick priority #19 6/1/1865.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 24.36 acre ft.; Inflow, 99.04 acre ft.; Evaporation, 12.68 acre ft.; Content, 2,6280 acre ft.; Elevation, 6188.77; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Highland 4/1/1884.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Spend your money wisely. Keep your car in tip-top shape.

M & M Repair & Towing
For All Your Automotive & Towing Needs
1901 N. Linden, Trinidad • (719) 846-9546



Photos by Aileen Hood



Spradley Auto Network is hosting a huge car sale at the Quality Inn now through Monday. 150 vehicles brought in for this event. From left to right: Greg Herman, Joey Montera, Kim Barickman, Mike Hinkel, Travis Hunter. Joey and Mike were both born and raised in Trinidad and between them they have over 45 years car sales experience! Kim Barckman, owner said on Wednesday that he is thrilled to be in Trinidad. "We brought 150 vehicles in just for this sale and we don't want to drive them back to Pueblo. Please stop by and we will make you a deal!"

Representatives Salazar and Markey continue to make progress on permanency of ban

Courtesy of LON ROBERTSON
Special to The Chronicle-News

Tuesday, the staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform met with Representatives John Salazar and Betsy Markey along with the staff of the Armed Services Committee to hear an Army briefing concerning Piñon Canyon. The briefing was made by Assistant Secretary to the Army, Keith Eastin and related to questions that the Oversight Committee had directed at the Army following a request by Representatives Salazar and Markey in March of this year.

Eastin reported that the Army still wants to acquire land to expand Piñon Canyon but there are no offers to buy or lease land and none are being pursued. The meeting yesterday was also a place for an announcement by Eastin. He advised the committees and representatives he would be retiring next week. It is expected that Eastin's replacement will also likely be assigned the task of expanding Piñon Canyon. "We are encouraged that the Army finally acknowledged there are no real offers to sell or lease land," said Lon Robertson, head of the Piñon Canyon Coalition. "We have held the expansion off by staying together as a community but the struggle is far from over," added Robertson.

There is significant reason for celebrating as well as being reasonably cautious as the tremendous and enduring support of Salazar cannot be overlooked.

Salazar has been at the forefront of the opposition and sponsor of the bans on spending for any expansion effort for more than three years now. "The tenacity, spirit and integrity that Mr. Salazar has shown throughout this fight has been a great boost to the opposition effort," said PCEOC Vice President Steve Wooten. "It cannot be overstated what Representative Salazar has done for this region, this state and this country," Wooten said.

There was another great expansion opposition legislator: Rep. Marilyn Musgrave and until her unsuccessful bid for re-election last November she was an outstanding champion for private property rights and agriculture and the Piñon Canyon opposition. Her support was very important to the long-term success of opposition efforts by PCEOC and others.

A new energetic and unarguably tenacious champion arrived on scene in January of this year. She has provided a great deal of excitement and encouragement for the opposition effort that the expansion will not be tolerated. Since taking office in January Markey has demonstrated an unrivaled intensity, success rate for bills passage and a strength of character usually only seen after many years in office and the associated experiences. "Congresswoman Markey has jumped on this issue and is doing a fantastic job of helping rein it in," remarked Aguilar rancher Stan White.

Now we have even more reason to be upbeat and excited for the future of agriculture and our livelihoods as we are being protected intensely by

Continued on page 14

Council agrees to get second opinion, save Water Works Building

By MICHAEL GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

After much haggling and discussions over procedures and proprieties, Trinidad City Council finally voted 5-1 Tuesday to get a second opinion from a Fort Collins-based historic building preservation firm and initially invest up to \$5,000 for a plan that may yet save the city's 130-year-old Water Works Building on Cedar Street.

Councilman John Rino was the lone nay vote after again indicating that the proposed \$1 million rehab project was a big waste of taxpayers money that

could be better spent on many other more needy city capital improvement projects. He said after the meeting that he feels most Trinidad residents with knowledge of the issue are opposed to restoring the building.

Rino was strongly supported by Trinidad developer-businessman Tim Peters, who said the city has not done "its due diligence" and has gone about the restoration project the wrong way from the get-go. He said council, city planners and project engineers should have thoroughly investigated and learned of all the potential problem areas before spending taxpayers

money. "Now, where do all those costs go from here?" he asked.

But council majority, led by councilwoman Liz Aragon in place of the absent but equally outspoken preservationist Nancy Ellis, along with councilwoman Jennie Garduno, strongly felt the city was already too far into the project (by some \$140,000) to turn back now without at least exploring all other options and alternatives to save and preserve the building - not only for its historic value to the community as perhaps Colorado's oldest intact water works building but as a future

Continued on page 5



Photo by Tim Keller

Compliance monitor Ambrosia Trujillo and DWI Coordinator Mary Gansz take a break outside their offices across the street from the Raton post office.

Colfax County DWI Program lays down the law

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

In an old wood building with peeling white paint across the street from the downtown Raton post office, two women work in adjoining offices. More people know where they are than one might prefer. With an caseload of 57 active clients and another 20-30 more or less hiding, Compliance Monitor Ambrosia Trujillo and DWI Coordinator Mary Gansz are responsible for monitoring all of Colfax

County's citizens who have been arrested for DWI or are serving their sentences or probation for driving under the influence.

New Mexico law mandated the DWI program for each of the state's counties in 1994 after a particularly infamous traffic crash near Albuquerque wiped out a family at Christmas time. The drunk driver who caused the crash lived; he went to prison. Now, 33 county programs, funded by a state excise tax on alcohol purchases, monitor laws and mandatory penalties,

ensuring that each DWI offender complies with all legal requirements.

The Raton DWI office monitors alcohol screenings, DWI school, community service, inpatient and outpatient treatment, auto ignition interlock devices, and the probation of each convicted DWI offender in Colfax County. It also runs prevention programs, which are especially busy at this time of year as school proms and graduations approach. "One of our greatest strong points," says Gansz, "is our

Continued on page 5

LOTTO NUMBERS

Here are Wednesday's Cash 5, Lotto and Powerball numbers.
Cash 5: 6-7-13-14-31
Lotto: 7-14-27-34-35-36
Powerball: 15-22-30-37-48;
Powerball: 12; Power Play: 2