



WEDNESDAY
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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

E911 Authority Board

Las Animas E911 Authority Board Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday in City Hall Conference Room.

Support group meeting

The stroke/aphasia support group and the "Stroke Survivors Support Groups of Pueblo" will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the Trinidad State Nursing Home, 409 S. Benedicta Ave.

Special mtg./Work session

Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting/Work Session at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Trinidad School District Administration Office.

Fisher's Peak Fire Protection Board

Fisher's Peak Fire Protection Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at Fire Station #1, in Starkville. The public is invited to attend.

Fiesta Meeting

There will be a Fiesta Meeting for all members of La Casa at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at La Casa.

Veterans Meeting

Veterans council meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Leone Room.

The Journey of Italians in America

Enjoy a free lecture and book signing by Dr. Vincenza Scarpaci at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Berg Little Theater at TSJC. Sponsored by the Trinidad History Museum; call 846-7217.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: A slight chance of rain and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tomorrow: A slight chance of snow showers before 8am, then a slight chance of rain showers. Some thunder is also possible. Partly cloudy, with a high near 54. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tomorrow Night: A chance of rain showers before 10pm, then a chance of snow. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 4/14/09. Hoehne priority #20 10/7/1865.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, .18 acre ft.; Inflow, 116.67, acre ft.; Evaporation, 8.49 acre ft.; Content, 2,5624 acre ft.; Elevation, 6187.92; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Ninemile 5/10/1887.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo by David Santistevan Jr.

Today, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter made his first statements on the proposed cuts to higher education in Colorado from the Joint Budget Committee. Ritter said, "These cuts are off the table. Trinidad State (pictured here) along with all other Colorado higher educational institutions could see their budgets cut by 63 percent or 91 million dollars in next year's budget, the State of Colorado will then be forced to forfeit \$760 million in stimulus dollars. This could have a negative effect on TSJC and its operations.

Colorado lawmakers, JBC, Pinnacol Insurance all fighting over higher education cuts, money

By DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

"Absolutely these cuts to higher education are not off the table. Gov. Ritter's intent is not to cut funds to higher education by \$300 million, but to preserve current levels for this fiscal year as well as the next two fiscal years," Evan Dreyer Gov. Ritter's spokesman told The Chronicle-News on Tuesday afternoon.

Last week the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) of the general assembly, proposed a \$153 million cut to higher education. Colorado community colleges under this plan would take a \$30 million hit. Adding more gas to the fire the JBC looked at cutting an additional \$300 million, from next

year's budget. The total cuts to all Colorado universities, and community colleges would be 63 percent or \$91 million in estimated cuts in next year's budget. Simply put this could have dire and crippling consequences for Trinidad State Junior College.

Dreyer added, "The governor's focus has always been making sure that colleges are accessible to everyone and how important higher education truly is."

With these major proposed cuts to Colorado's higher education system, tuition for students in this state would dramatically increase making it hard for everyone to have an opportunity at gaining the rewards of the higher education

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Photos by Tim Keller

Defendant Luis Sanchez addresses the students and faculty of Raton High School before Judge Warren Walton pronounces his sentence.

Judge Walton brings emotional DWI sentencing to RHS

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Magistrate Judge Warren Walton's DWI sentencing held at Raton High School Tuesday morning began on an emotional note. Before court was called into session, guest Gilbert Romero, Valencia County's DWI Drug Court Program Coordinator, introduced Raton's own Carl Ortiz who spoke to the assembled student body, faculty, and guests of Raton High School.

Not long after graduating from Raton High School three years ago, Ortiz and his classmate and best friend spent a night drinking and partying in

Las Vegas. Driving south on I-25 in the early morning hours, Ortiz fell asleep at the wheel and the car rolled four times. Ortiz was severely injured; worse, his best friend, whom Ortiz several times referred to as "my brother", was killed.

In telling the audience of his experience that night and since, he could not hold back his tears; neither could many in the audience, many of whom knew both boys. "It affects me every day," he said. "It's always with me." His testimony added gravity and emotion to what followed as Judge Walton's court was convened and three area DWI offenders sentenced.

Luis Sanchez ran a stop sign in a residential area of Raton March 19, 2009. His alcohol content was .10; the legal limit is .08. He pleaded guilty Tuesday to DWI - 2nd Offense. The court, and audience, learned that Sanchez also has a third DWI charge pending, one accompanied by three counts of felony child abuse: he was found driving the wrong way on I-25 with three children in his car.

Sanchez was the next to directly address the audience after Ortiz's emotional speech. Sanchez, too, gave heartfelt testimony to the damage done by driving while intoxicated. He said he

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AP Photo/Gerald Herbert

President Barack Obama delivers remarks on the economy, Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at Georgetown University in Washington.

Obama tempers optimism with reality on economy

LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Aiming to assert control over the nation's economic debate, President Barack Obama on Tuesday warned Americans eager for good news that "by no means are we out of the woods" and argued his broad domestic agenda is the path to recovery.

In a speech at Georgetown University, Obama aimed to juggle his recent glass-half-full takes on the economy with a determination to not be stamped as naive in the face of lingering problems. He summarized actions his administration has taken to steady the limping economy and coupled that with a fresh overview of his domestic goals.

The speech, which key aides had signaled in advance would not contain any major announcements, came as Obama nears his symbolic 100-day mark in office, important because that has become a traditional marker by which to judge new administrations.

"There is no doubt that times are still tough," Obama said. "But from where we stand, for the very first time, we are beginning to see glimmers of hope. And beyond that, way off in the distance, we can see a vision of an America's future that is far different than our troubled economic past."

Obama's message came on a day of conflicting economic indicators and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's suggestion that the recession may at last be bottoming out.

It would have been difficult to make that case based on a report the government released earlier Tuesday showing that retail sales plummeted by 1.1 percent in March, a performance much poorer than experts had anticipated. At the same time, wholesale prices dropped sharply, a strong indication that inflation appears to pose little threat to the economy.

In a speech at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Bernanke talked of flickering signs of improvement, citing recent data on home and auto sales, home building and consumer spending.

But the government's broader message — that a full turnaround might be a long time coming — may not be welcome news for a weary U.S. public.

Obama, in fact, said in his speech that a complete recovery depends on building a new foundation for the U.S. economy and making changes in the political landscape. And he said anew that rules governing the financial system must be made compatible with Digital Age technology and innovation, telling Congress that "I expect a bill to arrive on my desk for signature before the year is out."

He also said the economy must be transformed from one less dependent on a risk-obsessed financial sector and more on clean energy, good education

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CASH 5 NUMBERS

Here are Tuesday's Cash 5 winning numbers: 2-8-11-12-17