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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

Trail Plan Task Group

The Trail Plan Task Group will be meeting at 2 p.m. today behind the Comcast building on Commercial Street. The group will be meeting to walk and orientate themselves to some of the proposed trail segments. Contact Brad Parker at 846-9843 ext. 136 for more information.

Las Animas Co. Farm Bureau

Las Animas County Farm Bureau is holding their meeting at 7 p.m. today at Hoehne Community Center. All invited. For information please call 846-9829.

Arthritis Exercise

Arthritis exercise classes started Monday, and will continue on the following Monday and today. The 9 a.m. class will be held at the Corazon Square and the 1:30 p.m. class will be held at the Early Learning Center. To register or for more information call, 845-3311 ext 224.

Quilt Club meeting

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

Tourism Board

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

Family Night at TSNH

Family Night at the Trinidad State Nursing Home will be held in the Chapel from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday for residents' family members. The weeks topic: Culture Change.

Jr. Historical Society

The Trinidad Jr. Historical Society (The Children's Museum) will hold its Annual meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Law Offices of Newnam Land LLP, 201 So. Commercial Street. The meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Eagles FOE No. 179

All members of the Eagles FOE No. 179 are urged to come to the 8 p.m. meeting at Eagles Hall on Friday.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Trinidad Veterans Council members Robin and Jane Barker, join Trinidad VFW Post Commander Bob Ling and Trinidad flag historian-maker Richard Lawler in front of Lawler's symbolic flags he installed for the New Orleans, La. and Mardi Gras theme for the TLAC Chamber of Commerce's 101st annual Meeting and Award Banquet. (Photo by Mike Garrett)

Trinidad State Nursing Home faces feasibility study

By ANTHONY A. MESTAS
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN
Special to the Chronicle

A bill introduced into the state Legislature by Sen. Ken Kester, R-Las Animas, that would allow the state to sell or transfer the Trinidad State Nursing Home has been amended.

The amendment would allow for an independent feasibility study to find the best possible solution for continuing care for nursing home residents and employment for the home's staff. The amendment to the bill passed 5-3 last week in the state's Health and Human Services committee.

Now a group formed to save the 52-year-old facility is looking for ways to fund the feasibility study, which could cost up to \$45,000. In recent months, state officials have said that the human services cannot continue to subsidize the nursing home.

Since the announcement, Trinidad community leaders have come together in an effort to get the state's attention and to fight to keep the facility open. They say the nursing home is a viable piece of the community.

The facility, which operates on an annual budget of about \$6.5 million, has been losing about \$1 million a year since 1999. Given the state's tight financial situation, the department decided the time had come

to do something about it. Steve Simonson, executive director of Trinidad and Las Animas County Economic Development and a member of the group formed to save the home, said Friday that the group is currently looking for a consulting company to conduct a feasibility study.

Simonson, who testified in Denver last week before the human service community, said the local community should have the chance to determine what is the best direction to change ownership or management practices for the home.

"We have gotten a ballpark figure that the feasibility study may cost between \$40,000 and \$45,000. So we

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Nathan Aguirre leads Raton BPA to state convention success

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

For the first time in its history, Raton High School's Business Professionals of America has qualified a student for national competition in two events. Senior Nathan Aguirre will represent New Mexico at the national BPA conference and competition at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas, May 6-11.

Aguirre qualified by scoring in the top five among competitors from throughout New Mexico at the New

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Nathan Aguirre prepares to work in the Raton High School computer lab. (Photo by Time Keller)



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