

THE FINE PRINT

All School Events listed separately.
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MONDAY

Community Chorale

Rehearsals begin for Christmas Program – Every Mon. evening at 6:15 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Broom and State Streets. No auditions required.

Arthritis Exercise

Arthritis Exercise Class – Every Mon. - 9 a.m. at Corazon Square & 1 p.m. at Early Learning Center. Registration & information call: 845-1133 ext. 224.

TUESDAY

Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday. All pastors welcome.

Kiwanis Luncheon

The next Kiwanis Luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. on Tuesday at A Little Catering Company.

Carnegie Library

Special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Trinidad BOE

Trinidad Board of Education has its regular meeting Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the District Administration Office – 215 S. Maple. Call 719-846-3324 for information.

Women's Eagles Auxiliary

Women's Eagles Auxiliary 179 will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Eagle's Hall.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the K of C Hall on South Commercial St. in Trinidad.

Masonic Lodge Meeting

A.F. & A.M. Trinidad Masonic Lodge No. 28 will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at 132 E. Main St. 2B1ASK1.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.



Tonight: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming north.

Tomorrow: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. North wind around 5 mph becoming south.



Tomorrow Night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 8/21/09. Chilili #7 4/30/1862.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 160.07 acre ft.; Inflow, 40.43 acre ft.; Evaporation, 10.36 acre ft.; Content, 16,292 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,174.31; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Highland 5/31/1866.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo by Aileen Hood

Jeff Cooke who is co-owner and General Manager of Pioneer Motors was the guest speaker at the Trinidad Rotary Club of Trinidad on Thursday. He told members about the "Cash For Clunkers" program which is scheduled to end today. Pictured here on the left is Jeff receiving a book from Rick Johnson who is the club president. The Rotary Club purchases books for speakers to sign and then each week a book is presented to the Carnegie Public Library on behalf of the club and the speaker.

Denver songwriter headlines at Studio C

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

DES MOINES – Denver singer/songwriter Gabrielle Louise will headline "Live at Studio C" in Des Moines Saturday evening, August 29. The show opens at 5:30 p.m. with an open mike for all comers, followed by a short "spotlight" act, who will be Raton actress Kathryn Engel. A \$3 cover charge benefits Art Plays Its Part at the Des Moines School.

Louise will give the evening's feature set, her guitar and vocals accompanied by partner David Rynhart on lead guitars, mandolin, Irish flute, and piano. After the show, she will sell and autograph copies of her three CD albums.

The daughter of two gypsy musicians, Louise says she inherited a genetic predisposition to wanderlust and song. After graduating from Boston's Berklee College of Music, she began touring both nationally and abroad. A two-time finalist in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Louise's third album, "Cigarettes for Sentiments", is filled with character-driven stories in song, delivered in honey-coated vocals.

Accompanist Rynhart is also a songwriter. His own performances have ranged from classical piano to traditional Irish music, from gypsy jazz to Americana and rock music, as both a solo performer and accompanist throughout the United States and Europe.

Louise says that she and Rynhart "are performers who, like many other socially-conscious musicians, have

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Photo courtesy Gabrielle Louise

Denver recording artist Gabrielle Louise will be the August headliner at "Live at Studio C" Saturday evening.

Public health plan idea followed unlikely path

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) – It started out with a couple of liberal policy wonks. One on each coast.

Along the way, Elizabeth Edwards – sensitized by her own experiences as a cancer patient – helped propel it into presidential politics during her husband's campaign.

The idea of a government medical

plan to compete with private insurance might have been just a footnote in an academic paper. Instead it has followed an unlikely path to center stage in the national health care debate. Many Democrats insist any legislation must include a public option, while nearly all Republicans are against it. President Barack Obama seems uncomfortably stuck in the middle.

A look at the roots of the idea shows that the policy experts who proposed

early versions believed the government plan would become one of the largest insurers in the country. But Obama and other candidates saw it as a compromise between rival Democratic factions. One side wants Medicare-for-all, while the other prefers to subsidize coverage through private insurance plans – as Massachusetts has done. The debate within the party still rages, with

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County budget in good condition Road and Bridge Department looking at taxpayers help

By DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners the County's Financial Officer told the board, "Right now the county is in good financial condition."

Even with the budget in good condition departments, like the sheriff's office, are still in need of approval of a tax initiative this fall to help with maintenance costs and to address safety issues at the Garcia Justice Center.

Just over eight years ago Las Animas County had less than \$100,000 in its general fund balance. Now the county has over \$3 million. "To get the general fund where it is today took a lot of hard work." Chairman Jim Montoya added, "Mr. (Bill) Cordova and the entire management and staff along with Kenny Torres, and Robert Valdez (two former commissioners) worked hard to increase the fund balance. In the future Commissioner (Gary) Hill, Commissioner (Jim) Vigil and I will work with management to continue to keep the fund balance so the county can operate better and so we can have funds for a rainy day or any worst case scenario."

With the county's operating fund in good shape right now, the county is prepared for bad situations, like the snowstorm we had a few years ago.

The county has four main funds. The county's General Fund which had \$128,000 of expenditures, the Road and Bridge Fund with over \$295,000 of expenditures, Public Welfare \$122,000, and the Capital Expenditure Fund having \$815,000 in expenditures totaling between \$1.2 to \$1.3 million the fund balance is now at around \$3.1 million. There are funds for the future if the need arises. With the state looking to make drastic cuts in the state budget over the next year, and the entire country in financial disarray, the county will need to continue saving and building the General Fund as they have over the last eight years.

By law, the Road and Bridge Department cannot dip into the General Fund. This department is just holding its head above water and has been the last five years. Road and Bridge is doing alright, but because of state budget cuts and county expenditures at just over \$1 million dollars for snow removal during the big snowstorm of 2007, it is not where it should be right now.

The funds through FEMA only reimbursed their budget between \$300,000 and \$400,000. This shortfall left the county Road and Bridge Department in a tough spot financially.

According to state law C.R.S 43-2-202 and -203, the County Road and Bridge Fund shall also be the repository for all state and federal payments to the county for road and bridge purposes and a board may not appropriate monies from the county General Fund for purposes related to roads, highways and bridges.

Road and Bridge does not have any local tax that could help or a mill levy to support it.

The department's revenues have declined as well. The department has seen a decline in funding from some of its primary resources like the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUD) which is giving less money than it did just a couple of years ago. Payment in lieu of Taxes (PELT) will more than likely give less money to the county, which will affect the Road & Bridge Department. With no tax or mill levy from the taxpayers to support the department, county commissioners will be putting an initiative on this year's ballot to help out with future funding.