



WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 14, 2010

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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 6 for all  
SCHOOL EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY

#### Angel Food

April Angel Food orders are due today. Distribution will be April 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can place orders online, at Town & Country Realty, or Fisher's Peak Community Church. Call Barbara @ 719-846-3853 for more information.

#### Arthritis Exercise

Free Arthritis Exercise Class every Mon & Wed @ 9 a.m. @ Corazon Square & 1 p.m. @ Early Learning Center. Info call: 845-1133 ext. 224.

#### Land Reclamation

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board monthly meeting 9 a.m. Weds in Denver, 1313 Sherman Street, Room #318. Call 303-866-3567 for more information.

#### PAL

Playgroup meets 9:30 - 11 a.m. every Weds at Alta Vista, 415 S. Indiana. Moms & caregivers with infants, ages birth to 3. Playroom is also available for same time use Tues & Thurs. Information: Martina at 846-4400.

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## Lighting up the night



Photo by Marty Mayfield

This exposure caught a lightning strike near Raton Monday night. A fast moving storm passed through the area, dropping pea-sized hail and just over a quarter inch of rain.



### First hummingbird of season spotted

The Chronicle-News is happy to report the first hummingbird of the season was spotted Sunday, April 11 at the feeder of Trish Keck in Prospect Canyon.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southeast.

**Tonight:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tomorrow:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast.

**Tomorrow Night:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming west. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 4/13/10  
South Side Priority #74 - 2/17/1876  
Trinidad Lake accounting:  
Release 0.10 acre feet  
Inflow 228.57 acre feet  
Evaporation 13.47 acre feet  
Content 27579 acre feet  
Elevation 6190.42 feet  
Precipitation .25 inches  
Downstream River call:  
JMR - 12/31/1948  
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



**TALAS**  
TRINIDAD  
Area Local  
Artists' Show  
April 15 - May 1  
10am - 5pm Daily  
CORAZON GALLERY  
149 E. MAIN  
Artist's Reception  
& Awards Ceremony  
April 30 • 5-8pm

## State Congressional delegation urges continued spending ban on Piñon Canyon

By MIKE GARRETT  
The Chronicle-News

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall and Representatives John Salazar and Betsy Markey urged appropriators in the House and Senate this week to support and maintain the Congressional spending moratorium on the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) expansion in southern Colorado.

In a letter to Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye; Tim Johnson, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs; and Chet Edwards, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs; the Colorado lawmakers cited continuing questions surrounding the Army's need for expansion and the need to protect Southern Colorado's farming and ranching economy as reasons to extend the moratorium as part of the fiscal year 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Conference Report.

"In the three years since the Army first proposed expansion of the PCMS, there has been continual concern about whether or not there is a need for more land beyond the 244,000 acres it already has," wrote the lawmakers. "Therefore, this moratorium, which the subcommittee has supported before, must continue to remain in place."

Specifically, the letter states that for the past two fiscal years, Congress has banned the Army from spending any funds for PCMS expansion. "We write to urge you to support and maintain this funding moratorium for a third year in the final FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs conference report. Maintaining this moratorium is important to us and to residents of southern Colorado."

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moratorium, which the subcommittee has supported before, must continue to remain in place."

The letter goes on to say that Southern Colorado farmers and ranchers are entitled to Congressional assurance that their way of life will not be unnecessarily or unjustly put at risk. "Congress can provide that assurance by including the following language, which is in the House-passed bill, in the final FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill: "None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado."

Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition members continue to attack the Army's conclusions of the proposed expansion's economic benefits should another 100,000 acres be added to the current site.

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## Dorothy Best lights up Raton

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

**RATON** – Dorothy Best stands beaming beneath her four Telly Awards, won for video documentary projects she's made since creating her Head in the Clouds Productions business in Raton in 2003. The journey from East Texas schoolgirl to award-winning Raton filmmaker has not been a straight line.

Born in Biloxi, Miss., Dorothy bounced back and forth between schools in Mexia, Texas, and Tucumcari, N.M., following her father's work as a radar technician for the Federal Aviation Administration. At 16, after two years of dating Tucumcari farm boy Alan Best, the two married. Dorothy continued her high school studies in Las Cruces, where Alan attended NMSU, then in Española, where she graduated from McCurdy High School in 1973.

The next years were focused on raising a family – daughter Alana was born in 1974, son Dwaine in 1976, and son Nathan in 1981. By the time Nathan was born, the family lived in Raton, where father Alan now owned the local Radio Shack franchise.

As the kids grew increasingly independent, Dorothy took a variety of jobs. She was office manager for the Raton Chamber of Commerce. She was contracts manager for Bill Fegan Productions, back when Fegan was actively booking national tours. She worked twice for the Raton Range, where she began as a typesetter. When computers transformed newspaper produc-

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Photo by Tim Keller

Dorothy Best stands beneath four Telly Awards she's won for her filmmaking projects.

## Witnesses called during Trammell pre-trial hearing

By RICHARD SITTS  
The Chronicle-News

A pre-trial motions hearing in the case of Ann Trammell, 18, of Trinidad, included testimony from two witnesses in Las Animas District Court last Friday. Her trial in district court had been set for May 10, but has been pushed back to the alternate date of May 24, pending additional testimony from another witness.

Trammell has pleaded not guilty to a charge of child abuse

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## Power Authority expects to increase utility rates

By MIKE GARRETT  
The Chronicle-News

When it rains, it pours. But it's the continuing rising cost of the accompanying electrical storms that is creating more dark clouds for city of Trinidad utilities customers.

Arkansas River Power Authority General Manager William Leung told the Trinidad City Council during its Tuesday work session that \$1.7 million in unexpected legal costs resulting from two lawsuits against ARPA, and leaks last winter in ARPA's new Lamar power plant's steam-

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