



WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

WEDNESDAY Carnegie Library

Will be closed to the public Tues-Thurs this week for staff training. It will reopen Fri. Amnesty for overdue books & 50% reduction of existing fines (not including fees for lost materials) continues to Sept 30.

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.

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.

LaCasa - Fiesta

Meeting for all members 2 p.m. every Wed @ LaCasa Lodge in Jansen. Call 719-846-8558 for more information.

Stroke Survivors

Support Groups of Pueblo meets 2 p.m. 3rd Weds @ Trinidad State Nursing Home, 409 S. Benedicta Ave. Call 719-846-9291 for more information.

Ambulance Service

District Board of Directors meets 4 p.m. 4th Weds @ the Trinidad Ambulance Dist Office, 2309 E. Main St. Suite A.

Blues Fest

Trinidad Blues Fest Committee invites the Blues Crew to a "Thank You" dinner 5:30 p.m. Wed @ the El Rancho, 1901 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Wear your ID Badge to enter / Cash Bar. For more information call Denise Vitiello @ 719-859-1717.

Eastern Star

Meets 7 p.m. every 2nd & 4th Wed @ the Masonic Temple on South Commercial Street in Trinidad. For more information call Trinidad Chapter @ 719-846-2861.

THURSDAY Quilt Club

Bound Together Quilt Club meets 9:30 a.m. Thurs @ the Las Animas County Fairgrounds. For info call 719-846-3855 (Sandy).

Continued on page 2

WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.



Tonight: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Breezy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph.

Thursday: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Breezy, with a west-northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. West-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 9/20/10
El Moro priority #8 11/15/1562
Trinidad Reservoir accounting
Release 110.16 acre ft.
Inflow 59.52 acre ft.
Evaporation 13.36 acre ft.
Content 14,455 acre ft.
Elevation 6,171.04
Precipitation 0
Downstream river call
Highland Canal 5/31/1866
1 cubic (cfs) foot per second equals one cubic foot of water passing a point in one second of time.
1 acre-foot equals a quantity of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot.
1 cubic foot per second = 1.9835 acre-feet per day (24 hrs)
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)

Colorado's ED director visits

Work underway on forest roads – Cordova Pass and Apishapa Rd.

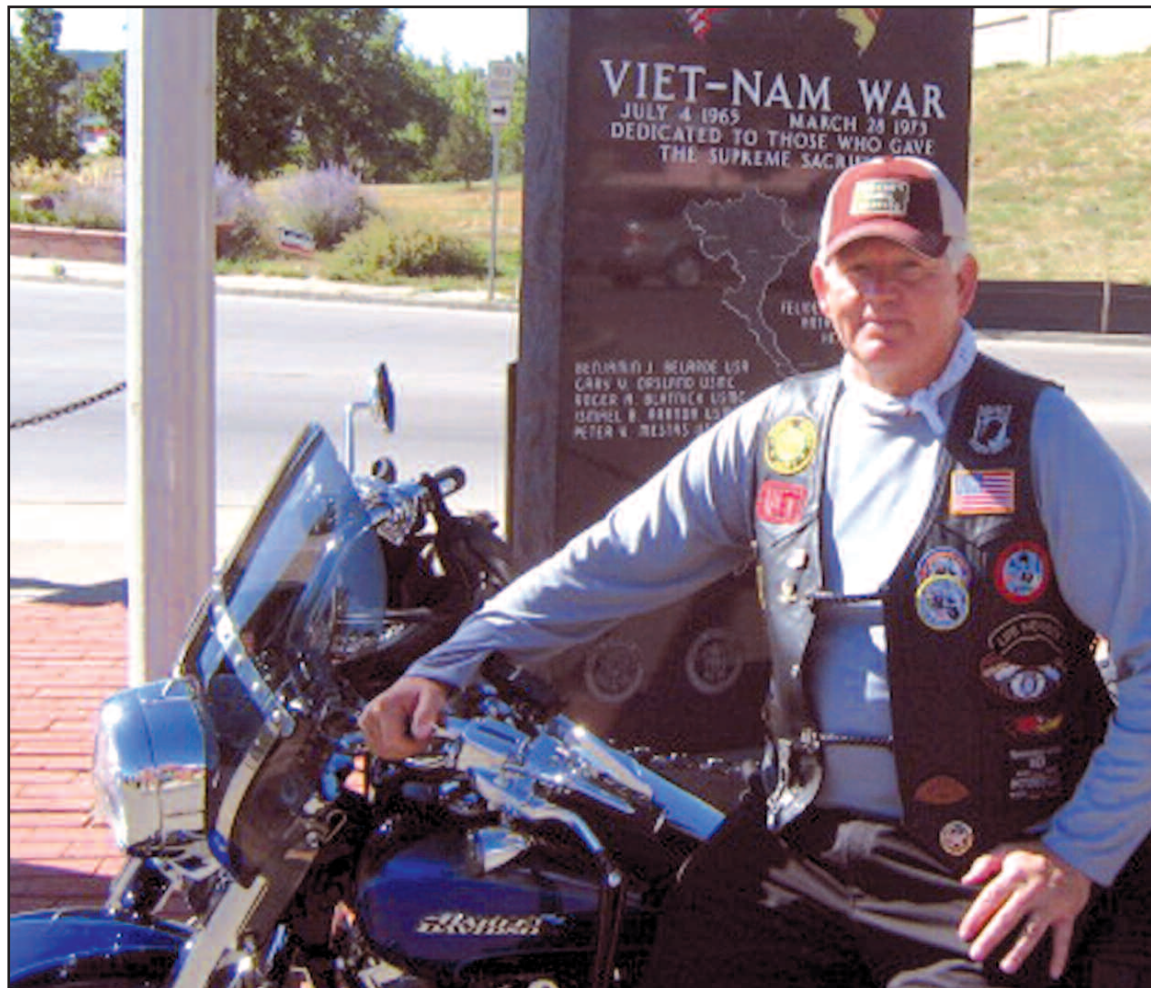


Photo by Mike Garrett

Don Marostica, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade, and a Vietnam veteran, sits on his motorcycle in front of the Vietnam War memorial at the Colorado Welcome Center during his Tuesday stopover to recognize the efforts of the center's volunteer staff in promoting state tourism.

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The national recession may be taking its toll and wreaking havoc with state government, but the Colorado tourism industry remains alive and well.

That was the message that Don Marostica, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade, delivered to Trinidad Colorado Welcome Center staff and volunteers Tuesday morning on his regional tour of state welcome centers.

Marostica's scheduled visit sought to honor and recognize the Trinidad center's 55 volunteer ambassador hosts of Colorado and acknowledge their many contributions to state tourism. Riding his motorcycle, he has also scheduled stops this week at the Lamar, Burlington and Julesburg Colorado Welcome Centers.

"Tourism in the state is up," he

said. "It was up in 2009 and it's going to be up again this year. In an economy they are calling the great recession, we're coming out of that economy and tourism is going to help bring it out."

Marostica said the state is going to be hiring a new tourism director to replace him as the interim director. In the upcoming governor's tourism conference in Snowmass, there will be lots of discussion about the economic impact that Colorado's 10 welcome centers have on the state. "Each and every one of you, I can't say enough. As ambassadors of this great state, continue to do what you're doing. Diane (Bunn, welcome center manager) has really done a great job here. We were talking about changing some traffic patterns here, is there a better place to park. We'll be talking about those kinds of things as something we need to do. RVs want to pull into these welcome

centers. It's a big deal for them."

Tourism statistics support the importance of state welcome center volunteers and the roles they play informing visitors of state assets.

"We're really happy about our 500 Colorado volunteers in our welcome centers," said Marostica, a native of Crook, Colo. "You are the ambassadors to our state. We know that when a visitor comes to Colorado and stops at a welcome center, they stay longer, they spend more money and they come back to Colorado because you're thanking them as visitors for coming. Not very many states do that."

Kellie Barbello of the Colorado Tourism Office also thanked all the Welcome Center volunteers "for freely giving their time and sharing their love of Colorado. It shows an immense sense of pride

Continued on page 6

Jail conversion project sent back for re-bid

By RICHARD SITTS
The Chronicle-News

Two bidding projects were part of a loaded agenda that the Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners took care of during their regular meeting on Tuesday.

First, commissioners considered bids for the pavement restoration project at the Perry Stokes Airport. A bid opening was held on Sept. 10 and there were two bids to consider: A-1 Chip Seal Co. of Denver - \$423,263; and Precise Stripping of Commerce City - \$442,470.

Both of the bids exceeded the County's available funding for the project, according to County Deputy Administrator Leslee Fresquez, who recommended to the board that it reject the two bids and rebid and scale back the project. Fresquez said the project could skip the slurry seal and runway markings and just do the crack seal for now. If the project was put out to bid again next spring, commissioners agreed that it could attract a local bidder at a lower price. Commissioners agreed to follow the recommendation and voted 3-0 to rebid.

Commissioners also consid-

ered bids for Phase II of the jail conversion project that involves the removal of existing floors and re-installation of floors at different heights to be up to code. The county received five bids, the two lowest from H.E. Whitlock at \$2,497,748, and MPB Contractors at \$2,699,998. A high bid of \$3,232,500 was submitted by White Construction Group. Funding for this project is covered by two grants and a county cash match.

Fresquez reported that there was an error in mechanical drawings that might add on to the cost.

Continued on page 6

A flashy grand opening at Shuler Theater



Photo by Tim Keller

Dancers Gloria Otero, Juanita Romano, and Josephine Quiñones, from left, on stage at the Shuler stage Saturday night. See story, page 6.

Special to *The Chronicle-News*

The U.S. Forest Service – Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC), San Carlos Ranger District, in cooperation with Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, is installing 60 culverts along Forest System Road 46 (Cordova Pass Road and Apishapa Road) now through Oct. 29.

Work will begin approximately 5.5 miles east of the Cordova Pass and proceed westward over the pass and conclude approximately 2 miles west of Cordova Pass. Work will not occur west of the pass until after Oct 1.

The public should expect periodic 1 to 3 hour road closures. The road will be closed during the week from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., but it will remain open on holidays. Within these work times, the road will be periodically opened for short periods to allow traffic to pass at approximately 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m.

Past heavy rainstorms, plugged culverts, design and limited maintenance required these culverts be replaced.

The PSICC would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. For questions or further information, please call Carl Bauer at (719) 269-8702.

Workforce Center hosts special Resource Fair

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad area representatives from Seniors! Inc., the Department of Human Services, the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Rocky Mountain SER, Trinidad State Junior College and South Central Council of Governments were at the Trinidad Workforce Center office Tuesday to provide employment information and services to help unite the needs of local workers and employees.

"Colorado's economy continues to recover, but it is slow, uncertain and marked by fits and starts," said Gov. Bill Ritter in promoting the special Colorado Workforce Center day. "Families, small businesses and many of our industries still have a challenging climb ahead of them."

To draw attention to the work that still lies ahead, Ritter issued an Honorary Proclamation, declaring September as Workforce Development Month. During the month, Colorado Workforce Centers, led by the Colorado Workforce Development Council, are teaming with the Department of Labor and Employment to offer significant employment services and opportunities.

The theme for Workforce Development Month is "Helping You Find Relief in Resources." To complement that theme, the Trinidad Workforce Center, 140 N. Commercial St., hosted its Resource Fair involving the above agencies.

"A wealth of resources are available to people and this event provided an opportunity to learn about them," said Workforce Center director Betty Velasquez.

The Trinidad Workforce Center is part of a national workforce preparation and employment system designed to meet the needs of the nation's businesses and job seekers. While the center is part of a statewide network, it is also very much a part of the community it serves.

"We're proud to be a part of this community," said Velasquez. "The people of Trinidad, its businesses and resource providers are all invested in its economic growth. Together, we are building the road to the future."

Representatives connecting workers to potential employees from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday were Curtis Padilla, Nina Shain, Alberta Just and Sofia Peterson of Seniors! Inc., Roy Hipp of the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Judy Gallegos of Rocky Mountain SER, Sally Castillo of the Department of Human Services and Tom Allen, transit director of SCCOG.

