



THURSDAY
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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

Trinidad's Community Calendar is designed to keep you apprized of all upcoming local fun events & important meetings. You won't want to miss a single thing!

THURSDAY

City Sports & Rec Dept:

Trinidad Family Aquatic Center will be closed Thurs & Fri this week due to mechanical problems. The pool will be open Mon & Tues (July 26 & 27) in exchange for the closure.

Rotary Club

Weekly Luncheon & Meeting 12 p.m. every Thurs. @ the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr.

Schools

★ Aguilar – Early pre-registration for all grades 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Thurs, July 22, 420 North Balsam.

Concerts for Causes

Mitchell Museum hosts Sam Bachicha & Synchrony 7 p.m. Thurs, July 22 @ the museum, 150 E. Main Street. For tickets call 719-846-4224 or \$10 @ the door. Proceeds to benefit the museum & the Kiwanis Youth Arts Academy.

Summer Theatre

Opening Night for SCRT's "SQUAB-BLES" 7 p.m. @ the Massari. For tickets call 719-846-4765 or go to the SCRT Ticket Office at 132 E. Main, St. Trinidad. For more information & to check dates & time go to <www.SCRTTheatre.org>.

FRIDAY

Angel Food

July orders are due by Friday. Questions please call Barbara Krause at 719-846-3853 or e-mail www.angelfoodministries.com.

Gideons

Fisher's Peak Gideons Saturday Morning Prayer Group meets @ 7 a.m. every Sat. Call 719-680-0290 for location.

July Recycle

Event 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday, July 23 & 8 a.m. to - Noon Saturday, July 24 @ Waste Connections, 2600 Freedom Road. Call 719-845-8218 for more information. Sponsored by the City of Trinidad & ReGroup.

Ribbon Cutting

Chamber of Commerce hosts event for Alpha Communications @ 12:15 p.m. Fri in the Chamber Office, Room #205. Stop by & congratulate Mitch VanderWall, Dick Anderson & Josh Neeley.

Eagles #179

Regular meeting 7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Fri @ Eagle Hall, 204 Pine Street, corner of Pine & Nevada.

SATURDAY

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. West southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. West southwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming south southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 7/21/10
Hoehne priority #20 10/7/1865
Trinidad Lake accounting
Release 347.22 acre ft. = 175.36 cfs
Inflow 138.78 acre ft. = 69.97 cfs
Evaporation 8.56 acre ft.
Content 21,027 acre ft.
Elevation 6,181.64
Precipitation .05
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)

Jaden's first fish



Photo courtesy of Anthony J. Bueno

Jaden Rose Bueno and dad Anthony J. Bueno show off the fish that Jaden helped catch back on Father's Day. The fish is a 30-inch Walleye that was caught at Trinidad Lake and was mounted by Bill Ortiz. Brother Anthony J. Bueno Jr. also helped out in the family affair.

Cross-country walkers stroll through area

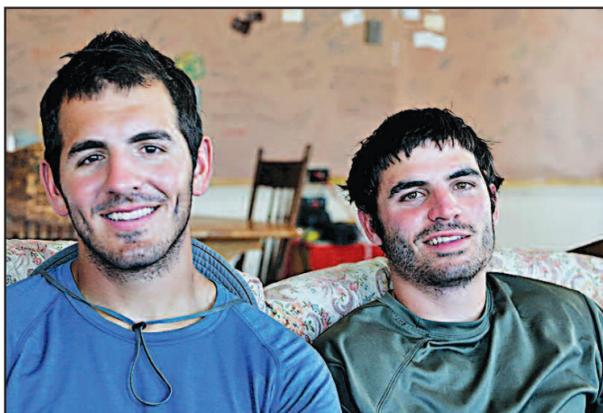
By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Drivers last week along the highways between Cimarron, Raton, Folsom, and Branson couldn't be blamed for taking their eyes off the road. Two women pushing baby carriages would have seemed a little out of place, but these baby carriages were being pushed by sweaty men with beard stubble. If they were kidnappers, they picked a strange method of getaway.

In fact, the men had traded in their backpacks for jogging baby strollers to ease the load on their walk across the United States.

Anthony Greco, 23, and Rob Bonora, 22, dipped their feet in the Pacific Ocean at San Diego on Memorial Day before beginning their walk home to Nutley, N.J. After graduation with finance degrees from Montclair State University, they wanted an adventure before entering the work world. Crossing the southwest desert in summer was what they chose for a start.

Since their days on the Nutley High School football team, the friends have enjoyed a good challenge. They used a four-month study-abroad sojourn in 2008 to visit nine countries while ostensibly earning college credits in Florence, Italy. Last spring, Bonora suggested that walking across the United States might make more sense than beginning



Photos by Tim Keller

Anthony Greco, left, and Rob Bonora relaxed at the community center in Branson, where they were happy to eat Colorado breakfast burritos.

finance careers right out of college.

Friday, the men crossed into Colorado at Branson, where they were feted at the local community center, fed ice cream and locally raised beef steaks, and given proclamations by Mayor Chuck Vernier.

The route, carefully planned online by Greco, continued through Kim, Pritchett, and Walsh before entering Kansas on July 20. In early October, the men will walk through the front doors of their homes in Nutley, six miles shy of New York City. Judging by

their stopover in Branson, they'll want showers and time off their feet, not necessarily in that order. Mom's cooking will be "to die for," but it probably won't include grass-fed Colorado beef.

To avoid the heat, they turned north at Albuquerque and walked all the way to Taos before resuming their eastward trek. After the desert and backpacks held them to 20-mile days, they're now averaging 30-plus. They rarely rest. "We're in shape now," says Greco, "so I think we'll just keep walking. When we need a break now, Continued on page 8

Trial date set for former chamber director

By RICHARD SITTS
The Chronicle-News

RATON – Unless defendant Jennifer Wiseman and her attorney can come up with an offer to pay nearly \$45,000 in restitution, she is scheduled for a jury trial to begin on Aug. 16 in the 8th Judicial District Court in Colfax County. Wiseman, 39, is the former executive director of the Raton Chamber of Commerce. She resigned from the position in October 2009 following allegations that she misused a chamber credit card and chamber checks. She is charged with 36 counts of embezzlement and forgery totaling approximately \$44,788. Dates of the alleged incidents range from April 2008 to July 2009.

Wiseman was in court Tuesday afternoon for a mandatory pre-trial conference presided over by 8th Judicial District Court Judge John Paternoster. Due to a conflict, the state's case against Wiseman is being prosecuted by Jocelyn Torres of the Quay County District Attorney's Office in Tucumcari. Wiseman reportedly is related to someone in the Colfax County District Attorney's Office. Torres phoned in Tuesday to participate in the proceeding.

"We have made several efforts to plead the case out and we're still willing to plead the case out," Torres told the court, adding that restitution will have to be paid.

Wiseman was represented in court Tuesday by Frank Martinez of the law office of Anna Aragon, of Las Vegas, NM. Martinez told the court that

Wiseman is having some financial difficulties but is working hard to come up with a major portion of the restitution. He also said that the defense would probably call for a continuance of the jury trial and offer a "substantial" amount of the restitution.

Torres asked Martinez how soon after Aug. 16 he expected to ask for a continuance. At this point, Paternoster instructed the attorneys that they could discuss this matter in private because he did not want the court to get involved in a discussion on the possibility of a continuance. "A six-county docket makes it very, very difficult to get someone back on line," Paternoster said.

He asked the defense if the continuance is denied, if it would still be ready for trial on Aug. 16.

"If necessary, yes sir," Martinez said.

Torres told the court that the prosecution already has subpoenaed all its witnesses and is ready to go to trial unless an agreement can be reached.

Wiseman remains free on a \$10,000 unsecured bond, none of which she has to pay. She is required to notify the court anytime that she plans to travel outside Colfax County.

The victims in this case – primarily the Raton Chamber of Commerce and some of its employees – are pretty flexible on being able to take payments, as far as restitution is concerned, Torres told The Chronicle-News Wednesday afternoon. Asked if an offer would be accepted, Torres said, "It depends on what the defense comes up with. Right now, the defense has put no money on the table."

Trinidad utility customers won't see electric rate hike until 2011

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The city of Trinidad is temporarily biting the bullet so its electric power customers won't get shot down with another utility bill increase this year.

Trinidad residents will not see any electric power rate increases in their utility bills until at least next January after the City Council decided at its regular meeting Tuesday night that taking no action was the best course of action.

Council voted unanimously to table a resolution invoking and applying an Energy Cost Adjustment for electric service power and energy that would have increased rates in the 9-11 percent per kilowatt hour range from Aug. 1 to Dec. 31. With the city legally bound to its contract agreement with the Arkansas River Power Authority to pay for any escalating ARPA energy costs that have resulted from numerous economic factors, the city will have to bite the bullet and take the increased power costs out of its current \$1.8 million in reserve funds.

Trinidad Power & Light Superintendent Dave Brunelli told council it will cost the city approximately \$127,000 to pay for ARPA's increased energy cost adjustment power supply until the end of this year. Next year he said it will cost the city more than a quarter million out of its reserve funds without council's ECA approval. He said nearly every gas and utility company he knows of has an ECA built into its municipal contract

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County votes to let voters decide medical marijuana issue

By DAVID J. SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

Las Animas County voters may get to decide this November whether to legalize the growing, selling, and dispensing of medical marijuana in the county. During their regular meeting Tuesday, County commissioners voted 3-0 to recommend that the matter be added to the November ballot.

A letter to the Las Animas County Clerks and Recorder's office was sent out on Tuesday to officially put this controversial issue on the ballot.

The letter states that this ballot measure is to be included on the Nov. 2, General Election requiring voter approval of a measure to allow the cultivation, dispensing, and the sale of medical marijuana and medical marijuana infused

Continued on page 8

One death reported in Segundo fire

C-N STAFF REPORT

An early morning residential fire Wednesday at 9050 County Road 45.4 in Segundo claimed the life of at least one person, according to sources.

At 2 a.m. Wednesday, Las Animas County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the fire in a house occupied by seven people. There were some injuries sustained by some of the occupants, but the extent of those injuries is unknown at this time. All of the injured were transported to Mt. San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad.

The fire was brought under control by the joint efforts of the Stonewall Volunteer Fire Department and the Cokedale Volunteer Fire Department. The residence did sustain a great deal of damage from both fire and smoke, according to police. The incident is still under investigation by the Las Animas County Sheriff's Department.

