



THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

THURSDAY 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.

Quilt Club

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

Rotary Club

Weekly Luncheon & Meeting 12 p.m. every Thurs. @ the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. For more information contact Dennis Scott @ 719-845-8660.

Chamber of Commerce

Business After Hours event for Norwest Corporation scheduled for Thurs (Sept 23) has been changed to Oct 14. For more information contact Marty Hackett @ 719-846-9285.

Trinidad Supper Club

Meets 6:30 p.m. Thurs @ Chef Liu's, 1423 Santa Fe Trail Dr. For more information call Peggy @ 719-846-4967.

FRIDAY

TASPERA Luncheon

The Trinidad Area School & Public Employees Retirement Association (TASPERA) will meet 1 p.m. Fri in the TSJC Sullivan Center, Pioneer Room. Richard Jackson from AARP will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be available (on your own) through the cafeteria line prior to the meeting. Call Paul @ 846-2423 for information.

Retirement Celebration

In honor of 45 years service to the City of Trinidad, the public is invited to attend a retirement reception for Gas Dept. Foreman Robert Martinez. Please join us 3 p.m. Fri @ the City Council Chamber Room, 135 N. Animas Street. For more information call Linda Vigil @ 719-846-9843 Ext 124.

Eagles #179

Regular meeting 7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Fri @ Eagle Hall, 204 Pine Street. For more information call the hall @ 719-846-3821.

SATURDAY

Prayer Group

Fisher's Peak Gideons meet for prayer @ 7 a.m. every Sat. For more information & location call 719-680-0290.

Farmer's Market

Trinidad's own - celebrating its 10th Anniversary - open 8 a.m. to noon every Sat @ Cimino Park. Continues throughout the summer, until October.

Coffee for Causes

Coffee, cookies & informative guests in non-profit vendor's booth from 8-Noon Sat @ the Farmer's Market in Cimino Park. Donations sponsor area youth scholarship fund. For more information call Tom or Linda Perry @ 719-846-8380 or e-mail tomandlindaperry@gmail.com.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest.



Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Sunny, with a high near 77. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southeast.



Friday Night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 9/22/10
Hoehne priority #9 1/1/1863
Trinidad Reservoir accounting
Release 117.90 acre ft.
Inflow 68.52 acre ft.
Evaporation 8.62 acre ft.
Content 14,312 acre ft.
Elevation 6,170.77
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)



Photo by Richard Sitts

The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre received a check for \$1,000 Wednesday from Jay Cimino on behalf of Phil Long Toyota of Trinidad and Phil Long Ford of Raton. On hand for the presentation are, from left, partners Phil Cimino and Frank Cimino, Phil Long Toyota General Manager Jamie Passarelli, SCRT Executive Director Arthur Espinoza Jr., and SCRT Board Member Carol Patrick.

Phil Long dealerships contribute to SCRT

Special to The Chronicle-News

The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre is pleased to announce its financial contribution of \$1,000 from Jay Cimino, a member and supporter of the theatre, on behalf of Phil Long Toyota of Trinidad and Phil Long Ford of Raton.

"Phil Long's, and Mr. Jay Cimino's support of the SCRT just made our day," said SCRT Executive Director Arthur Espinoza Jr. after receiving the gift. "Southern Colorado's theater company will greatly benefit from this contribution and use it to

help us continue to play a part of the cultural fabric of our region. This gift from Phil Long is an outstanding contribution and is most helpful in these tight financial times."

The SCRT continues to pursue its revenue goals, which at this point, are targeted toward increasing the amount of contributions and grants in order to fulfill its educational programming pursuits, current financial obligations, and plans for an exciting season of theatre next summer, according to Espinoza.

"Ticket sales alone do not

account for our revenue streams," Espinoza said. "Gifts such as these are most important to sustaining this organization now and into the future. Whether it's a couple of dollars, or a couple thousand dollars, we put contributions such as these right back into our theatre operations and education programs for this community. Our productions are available for all in this area to enjoy each summer, and we appreciate how Phil Long serves and supports this region in remarkable ways year round. We are most grateful to have their support," Espinoza said.

Life skills, state patrol training vital to commissioner candidate Mattie

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

District 3 Democratic Las Animas County Commissioner candidate Anthony Mattie believes his life's professional training and skills developed as a 29-year Colorado State Patrol trooper and sergeant dealing with every kind of emergency situation has prepared him well for almost anything he could encounter as a county commissioner.

At Tuesday's weekly Kiwanis Club of Trinidad luncheon at A Little Catering Co., county native Mattie described some of the harrowing and dangerous situations he encountered during his 29 years of CSP duty before his 2006 retirement, resulting in two Colorado State Patrol Medals of Valor and two CSP Officer of the Year Awards from Denver's 100 Club. Mattie also served eight years on the Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education. Mattie said he agreed pretty



Photo by Mike Garrett

Las Animas County District 3 commissioner candidate Anthony Mattie, center, receives thanks for his Kiwanis Club speaking engagement Tuesday from September program chairwoman Laura DeBella, left, and club president Mike Tranter, right.

much down the line with his Republican candidate opponent Mack Loudon on what the county's key issues and most pressing economic problems were and how they should be addressed. "With what he said (at last week's Kiwanis luncheon), I agree. There are some big issues out there and some real tough decisions to be made."

Mattie said he offers a different flavor and approach to those issues. But the only real differ-

ence in terms of issue priorities is that he would put a little more emphasis on saving Trinidad State Nursing Home and maybe a little less on the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion issue where Loudon has been one of the region's more outspoken critics of the Army's expansion plan proposals.

Mattie said he has an uncle and two aunts living in the nursing home and expressed dismay at

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Sharon Niederman swings into Folsom Sunday

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

FOLSOM - Bringing to a close its extraordinary 2010 season of events, the Folsom Museum Sunday presents Raton's Sharon Niederman in a program entitled "From Klezmer to Swing." Niederman will use audio recordings and a slideshow to present a 90-minute overview of Klezmer music, including its widespread roots and the role it played in northeastern New Mexico and southeastern Colorado when the early settlers established today's communities. Sunday's program at the Folsom School begins at 3 p.m.

"Klezmer is Jewish soul music," Niederman says. "It was influenced by eastern European and Greek music. A lot of it makes you just want to jump up and dance, but there's a minor key to it that gives a melancholy, a sort of soul wail akin to the blues."

A longtime aficionado of many types of music, Niederman's interest in the deep backgrounds of music increased when she created a popular Saturday afternoon radio show on KRTN called "Little Sharon's Country Cafe."

Klezmer - with its fiddles, accordion, and clarinet - grew from gypsy tunes, eastern European folk music, liturgical music, and military marching music. Many giants of early American music were Jewish - think of George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, Benny Goodman; they brought Klezmer music to jazz. In turn, Klezmer absorbed jazz and blues influences.

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Photos courtesy of Las Animas County Sheriff's Office
James Garcia Jason Garcia

Two men arrested, charged with growing marijuana

C-N STAFF REPORT

Two Denver-area men were arrested Sept. 16 after they were discovered hiding in a locked camper parked near where Las Animas County Sheriff's deputies found more than 100 marijuana plants growing.

Jason Robert Garcia, 29, of Denver, and James Dean Garcia, 21, of Englewood, were both arrested and charged with cultivation of marijuana, a Class 4 felony. There are no additional suspects at this time, though authorities are looking to contact the people who own the land on which the plants were found. Owners of the property have been determined to be Robert and Elizabeth Cordova of Denver.

The Las Animas County Assessor's Office lists the address as 3655 County Road 32.4 and San Isabel Electric has it as 36655 County Road 32.3. Both records agreed on the names of the

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Council closes door on Trinidad med marijuana, alleged ethics violations

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad City Council unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance designed to close any possible state law loopholes in the cultivation, distribution or sale of medical marijuana through any commercial dispensary seeking to operate within city limits, at Tuesday night's regular meeting.

Council also voted to dismiss all allegations of city code of conduct and code of ethics violations previously brought against Mayor Pro Tem Liz Aragon by resident Ken Fletcher and against Mayor Jennie Garduno by the Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees.

The council approved a more comprehensive city medical marijuana ordinance that will make it unlawful for any person to operate, cause to operate, or permit to be operated a medical marijuana dispensing center, an optional cultivation operation or a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility within the city.

Late last year, council enacted an ordinance banning any med-

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Commissioners discuss plans for detention center building

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

RATON - The Colfax County Commissioners toured the Vigil/Maldonado Detention Center during the commissioners' recent regularly scheduled meeting as part of the required bi-annual inspection of the facility. Colfax County Manager Don Day noted that the facility, which is more than 20 years old and has a capacity of 42 inmates, has been adequate in the past, but will require major renovation or complete replacement in order to fill the current needs.

Following the tour, Day said that the county will discuss its options to determine its future action, taking into account the cost of either replacing the facility with a new building, or renovating

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Photo by Tim Keller

Sharon Niederman presents her program, "From Klezmer to Swing," at the Folsom School Sunday afternoon at 3.

Life skills, state patrol training vital to commissioner candidate Mattie

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the state's quick-fix attempts in trying to eventually divest itself of the money-losing home. "Personally, I don't have as much preference for who owns it so much as I do that it is owned. Otherwise, 90 or so people will need to go someplace else to live." (And, 130 employees will have to seek jobs elsewhere).

To help Mattie better identify county issues to establish priorities, Mattie has been conducting his own survey among residents, primarily at the County Courthouse where he has been serving as a security officer the past four years for the county sheriff's department. The survey lists Piñon Canyon, the nursing home, jobs and unemployment, the county's current financial situation, county employee productivity and other employee issues, local health care problems and a spot for other issues residents are concerned about.

So far, he said his survey results have indicated that jobs and unemployment are county residents' No. 1 concern, followed by the county's current financial situation, county health care and hospital issues, the nursing home, county employee productivity and then Piñon Canyon, which Mattie said already has lots of state and local resources active in opposition to any expansion.

The Primero High School and CSU-Pueblo graduate said one retired and disabled survey respondent told him it's not enough to identify all the problems but what was he going to do to help resolve them by taking strong action.

"Early on I suggested one of the things we need to do with the community is to avoid being reactionaries and instead become pro-active so that we have a plan that will fit the issues," said Mattie. "What distinguishes me as a candidate is my life experiences. That's what makes us all individuals." He said voters will see him as transparent and what they see is what they'll get. "I will tell you what I think." The outgoing, personable Mattie is also known throughout the county for his off-the-wall, self-deprecating sense of humor.

But when he encountered a bad guy as a state patrol trooper and later as a communications sergeant, he was all business. "It was a necessity in order to have a commanding presence, being able to take charge of things and being able to do things," said Mattie. As a county commissioner, he said it will first be his job to learn to listen to constituents. "I will have a lot more questions than answers. My role will

be to be a good student and listener, to be observant and to speak only when I have something intelligent to say or questions to ask."

Or to follow the Colorado State Patrol motto, "be firm but courteous. Firm means knowing what to do and having the courage to do it. Courteous means doing things respectfully, responsibly and with accountability so that we have ownership of what we do."

Mattie's campaign motto has been to "promote and protect" Las Animas County. "Promote means we will always be ready to pounce on every opportunity that comes our way. Protect means we will guard the community assets we have here. In my mind having promote and protect as a springboard for the decisions we make and the actions we take similar to being courteous will be helpful to guide and direct the things that we choose to do for the benefit of the county."

Mattie vividly detailed some of the more memorable incidents in his distinguished state patrol career where he had to make split-second decisions based on his past training. He said he has stared down the barrel of a revolver after making a routine Interstate 25 traffic stop, he was involved in investigating numerous multi-car pileups on I-25, (including one involving 26 vehicles) state and county roads and he participated after being trained as a hostage negotiator in notable hostage standoffs involving area law enforcement in the mid and late 1990s during a robbery attempt of the Trinidad Century Savings and Loan and another hostage incident involving firearms at the old Stuckey's store north of the city.

The point of his CSP stories, he said, is that as a county commissioner, "You've got to have a pre-determined plan and have some sort of fundamental idea of what you're going to do and have some fundamental understanding of how we are going to respond when we're presented with an opportunity."

That means establishing a list of priorities to use county resources to resolve an issue and developing close community partnerships, he said. Lastly, Mattie said he would devote himself fulltime to being a county commissioner. His courthouse security job has already had him positioned near the commissioners chamber the past four years. "While I've been there, I've been able to keep my finger on the pulse of the county and the community, I've listened to a lot of conversations there."

Sharon Niederman swings into Folsom Sunday

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Early and influential settlers in our own region included Jewish families such as the Floersheims, the Herzsteins, and the Jaffes. Niederman's program will explore some of the music they would have listened to, entwining local history with the history of American music, especially jazz, blues, and show tunes.

"I don't think there was any separation between the musicians of different

groups," Niederman says. "Harold Arlen was the son of a cantor. He learned and knew all the liturgical music. And then he wrote music for Harlem's Cotton Club for several years. The influences between Klezmer and jazz were a two-way street."

Klezmer remains alive and well throughout the world, with New Mexico no exception: the weekend-long 9th Annual Klezmerquerque festival will be held in Albuquerque in February.

Previous Folsom Museum music presentations this summer included mariachi, Penitente, dust bowl folk, and "chilgumbo", all designed to accompany the Smithsonian Institute's traveling American roots music exhibit "New Directions", which spent much of the summer at the Folsom School.

Niederman's presentation sponsored by the Folsom Museum and New Mexico Humanities Council; admission is free,

although donations to help support museum programs are welcome. Additional information is available from the museum at (575) 278-2122 or www.folsommuseum.org.

Two men arrested, charged with growing marijuana

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landowners, according to the police report. Also, two phone call attempts to contact the Cordovas were not successful.

The Las Animas County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force conducted helicopter flyovers to locate possible outdoor marijuana grows in Las Animas County when the plants were detected. Sheriff's deputies were notified about the plants by National Guardsmen in the helicopter at about 9:45 a.m.,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Faith in mankind's decency is tested

Teaching children the difference between right and wrong is difficult at best these days. How do you instill the qualities of hard work, honesty, integrity and respect for their own property, as well as the property of others, and to be an upstanding moral human being, when our community proves that it does not hold these standards to any value? Our local churches teach these values and our schools expect them. But some people in this community toss them to the side with utter disregard.

How do you explain to a 12-year-old-boy that someone chose to take the easy and lazy way out to benefit himself and only himself? Our son watched a TV program where people grew 400 lb. pumpkins. He was interested enough to take the necessary steps of ordering the seeds, planting them at the exact time, as per the instructions, weed-

ing, thinning and taking care of two pumpkins, one of which rotted on the vine and the other one grew outside the garden fence along side the road, but still within our property. This pumpkin, to his excitement, grew to about 70 lbs.

As the vine began to die last week we agreed to pick the pumpkin in the next couple of days. In the early morning hours of Sept. 15 someone drove by and stole this pumpkin. To our son's disappointment he will never know the true weight of his pumpkin, nor will he carve it on both sides as he had planned for Halloween. He will not eat it in pumpkin pies for the holidays to come. His disappointment in the community is evident and I can't say that I blame him, for my belief that mankind is good and honest has been tested as well.

I will forever look at our community and town with a new caution and perhaps

along with all the other qualities mentioned above, that we try so had to instill in our children, a little sense of caution on their part will be a lesson added. The fact that our community is small does not mean that it can't still be cold and cruel.

This isn't just about a pumpkin that was taken. It's about the people who are a part of this community, our values and morals, about helping others when you can and being an upstanding moral person who contributes to this community, not someone who becomes a problem in it.

Our son's determination is infallible. He will attempt to grow another pumpkin next year. "Hopefully, bigger than this year's," he states, "but definitely not anywhere near the road."

Henry and Mashell Santistevan Jansen

Hospital staff deserves credit

I really have never understood all the ins and outs of what is wrong with the administration of our Mt. San Rafael Hospital and its board of directors.

All I truly know is that because of the controversy, we have lost a number of fine physicians, most recently Dr. Carlisle and now Dr. Bowers.

That controversy is not benefitting the citizens of the Trinidad area.

But I do want people to

understand that despite all the problems of administration and board, the staff and physicians of the Hospital have always continued to provide excellent care to all who need it.

In the past 16 years that we have been living here, they have saved my life in the emergency room. They have likewise saved my husband's life, and the three times that he has been an in-patient, he has been treated with the utmost car-

ing and professionalism.

So please do not confuse the level of patient care with the difficulties of the board and administration. I want to acknowledge the great job done by staff and physicians, and encourage them to keep up the wonderful work.

Cynthia Ploski Trinidad

Library's many positive attributes masked by recent controversy

Recent controversy over the administration of the Carnegie Public Library has detracted from the very positive attributes of our facility.

What seems to be lost in this unnecessary turmoil is that a wealth of resources are available to us because the City of Trinidad commits funding to the operation and the library staff are dedicated to their jobs. Both entities struggle to stretch limited funding to provide access to extensive book collections, audio and visual tools, computer access, research materials and youth programs so important to teaching our new generation.

Is there room for improvement? Of course, this is the nature of changing times and operating a business. There are also better ways to deal with issues. Perhaps it's time to stop pointing an accusing finger and offer a helping hand.

Sincerely,

Shirley Donachy Trinidad

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CenturyLink offers qualified customers Lifeline and Link-Up Service if they meet certain low-income eligibility requirements. Lifeline Service includes a monthly discount up to \$8.25 for basic phone charges (including a waiver of the Federal Subscriber Line Charge), as well as toll blocking at no charge and a waiver of the deposit if toll blocking is selected by qualifying customers. Link-Up Service provides a discount on installation charges and charges to move service.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call CenturyLink at 1-800-201-4099 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline/Link-Up programs.



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Tancredo to visit Trinidad for meet and greet today

Special to The Chronicle-News

American Constitution third-party Colorado gubernatorial candidate Tom Tancredo will be at Trinidad's Kit Carson Park at Kansas and San Pedro for a public meet and greet residents to discuss campaign issues from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today. Tancredo will discuss such issues as illegal immigration in the state, higher taxes and state budget and business issues.

according to the report. Once at the site, located northeast of Exit 18 on Interstate 25, just north of Trinidad, deputies proceeded to check all buildings for any people on the property. There was a large metal structure that was empty and several campers around it, and all the campers except one were unlocked and cleared, with no occupants, police reported.

No one opened or checked the locked camper at this time, as the helicopter crew guided the officers about 35-40 yards south of the metal structure. The officers split up and counted 117 plants growing in the area, all about three feet tall, according to the report.

Officers then noticed a power cord running to the locked camper and gained

The Folsom Museum will hold the 3rd Annual "Run Around The Rim" Half Marathon Race on Sunday, September 26th.

Runners must arrive by 6 am at the Folsom School gym in Folsom on Sunday morning. All races will be timed. Food and Drinks will be available after the race for runners; with prizes awarded to the winners of all races. All half marathon runners will receive a medal, donated by Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy of Raton. Fun Run participants will receive ribbons; with goodie bags provided by Vital Road. A Spaghetti Dinner will be held Saturday evening in the Folsom School for all racers and the public, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Any late entries can register at this dinner. The Folsom Museum would appreciate a monetary donation from all non runners for this dinner

For more information about Saturday or Sunday events please visit <http://www.capulinvolcanorun.com/> or call 575 278 3665.

To complete our day on Sunday, September 26th, the Folsom Museum and the New Mexico Humanities Council has scheduled an interesting program entitled, "From Klezmer to Swing" with Sharon Niederman, giving an informative program explaining the Jewish social and musical influence in our area. This program will start at 3 pm in the Folsom School gym and will conclude our series of programs in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit. We want to thank everyone that attended our programs and visited the exhibit while it was in Folsom.

Look for a new line up of events sponsored by the Folsom Museum in the Spring of 2011.