



WEDNESDAY  
JULY 17, 2013

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

Vol. 137, No. 142

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico • www.thechronicle-news.com

## THE FINE PRINT

**JULY 17**  
**Pal Play Group**  
**WEDNESDAY (9:30-11 a.m.)** No-cost playgroup meets for children (0-2 years) at Alta Vista Alternatives, 415 S. Indiana. Information: 719-846-4400.  
**Free Car Seat Inspections**  
**WEDNESDAY (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)** Trinidad Ambulance District will be offering free child car seat inspections at the West Station, 939 Robinson Ave. Information: Sarah Catrambone, 719-846-6886.  
**E-911 Authority Board**  
**WEDNESDAY (3 p.m.): PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO NEXT WEDNESDAY.** E-911 Authority Board's regular meeting. Information: Rita Mantelli, 719-846-4441.  
**Trinidad Schools**  
**WEDNESDAY (5 p.m.)** Board of Education will host a reception for the new athletic director/ head coach at Eckhart School, 1021 Pierce St. Information: 719-846-3324.  
**FP Fire District**  
**WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Board of Directors public meeting at the Starkville Fire Station. Information: 719-846-6077.  
**Trinidad Schools**  
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**JULY 18**  
**Carnegie Library News**  
 Information: 719-846-6841  
**\*THURSDAY (1 p.m.)** Dinosaur Day with easy craft  
**\*THURSDAY / Trip to Ludlow** rescheduled - new date forthcoming  
**Economic Development**  
**THURSDAY (3-5 p.m.)** Trinidad and Las Animas County Board of Directors will meet at 134 West Main Street, Suite 23 (Bell Block). Information: Steven Kelly, 719-846-9412.  
**Trout Unlimited**  
**THURSDAY (6 p.m.)** Purgatoire River Anglers meeting is in the Purgatoire on Elm Restaurant, behind the Post Office. Information: Joanie Muzzulini, 719-846-7307. Meetings are always open to the public.  
**Community Prayer Service**  
**THURSDAY (6:30 p.m.)** A community prayer service for rain will be held at Holy Trinity Church. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for much needed rain in our area.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**FREE SUMMER LUNCHES**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)** Through August 2, free lunches for kids and teens under 18 will be provided in the Trinidad Middle School Cafeteria, 614 Park St. Adults can eat for \$3. Information: 719-845-2051.  
**Calling all Volunteers**  
 SCRT/Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre is calling all volunteers who would like to be ticket takers, ushers, bartenders or work in the snack bar. Information: Bernadine Torres, 719-846-4765 or stop by the theatre, 131 W. Main St.  
**Artist Quick Draw**  
**JULY 20 (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)** Annual artistic endeavor on the Courthouse lawn complete with breakfast and painting auction, 200 E. First Street. Information: 719-846-4224.  
**Boiler Inspection Seminar**  
**JULY 23 (6 p.m.)** All commercial and residential persons interested in boiler maintenance and state compliance are welcome to attend a free seminar with Tom Martinez from the State of Colorado Boiler Inspection Outreach program. Meeting will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 205 S. Commercial St. Information and RSVP: Allan Passarelli, 719-680-2253. 719-845-8218.  
**Carnegie Library News**  
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**JULY 23 (5-7 p.m.)** Summer Reading Program finale with picnic at Cimino Park

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## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 07/16/13. Picketwire Canal, Priority # 103 -- Appropriation date: 06/21/1886

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting**  
 Release 366.15 cfs  
 Inflow 1,397.64 AF - 704.64 cfs  
 Evaporation 7.49 AF  
 Content 10,990 AF  
 Elevation 6,167.88  
 Precipitation 0  
**Downstream River Call**  
 Amity Canal -- Appropriation date: 02/21/1887

## Theatre's future depends on summer ticket sales

By Pankaj Khadka  
The Chronicle News

The ticket sales over the summer would determine the future of the city's only theatre company and whether the door to the Famous Performing Arts Center stays open or closes, said the theatre's executive director.

Harriett Vaugeois, also the board president of Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre, said if the ticket sales for the current season does not pick up by the end of the summer, the center could have to close the doors.

"We have contracts and we've brought people from all over the United States and these are people we will pay. But if we get to the end of the summer and we have a zero balance, then we can't stay open. We can't provide opportunities for children, we can't have a performing arts center," said Vaugeois.

Currently in the middle of its professional season that started on June 21, the plays at the theatre averaged ten to 20 people more per performance than last year in previous weekends, which Vaugeois said, was very encouraging.

In a 125-seat theatre, the shows have been averaging 60 per show, which is enough to keep the the-



Pankaj Khadka / The Chronicle-News

atre running. However, starting last Thursday, the ticket sales for the remainder of the season really slowed down, she noted.

"For Thursday, we had only

Robert John Garcia plays a saxophone during one of the scenes in Tom, Dick and Harry, the first play of the 2013 Professional Season at the Famous Performing Arts Center.

Famous Performing Arts Center and a professional theatre company and only have two other people in the audience," Vaugeois said.

Before the professional season started, the theatre company estimated its expected average attendance and expected revenue for the season, and on that basis hired actors, scheduled shows, and made renovations to the facility.

"So now, we are personally calling people, but that's really time consuming. And every time I'm with a group of people, I need to let them know this is not a sales pitch or a ploy. I'm being very realistic that SCRT, in creating this theatre, spent all of the reserves that we had.

"And the board said, 'We so believe this is going to be a tremendous economic stimulus for this community that we're willing to say hire the actors, assume the debt, we're going to make this happen.' And we can

Continued on Page 2

## For Perry Self, play is the thing

By Tim Keller  
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON - The boyish excitement is unmistakable even from the stage, 20 feet below where Perry Self perches high in the Shuler Theater's 98-year-old rigging that raises and lowers the various backdrops.

"I'm getting to work with 1915 technology that I've only seen in textbooks," he says. "It's a fully mechanical system, no electricity. It uses hemp rope!" To his theater friends around the country, he sends a photo of himself at the pin rail operating the fly system in the shadows far above the Shuler stage. They're awed at his good fortune.

Self spends every summer acting and directing with theater companies around the U.S. This summer he's in Raton to star as murderous dentist Mitchell Lavell in the Shuler's comedy romp "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," and as Noah's son Ham in the Shuler's musical comedy "Two by Two." The show he's most excited about, though, is the one he's not even in. He's directing "Steel Magnolias," which opens Thursday night and runs through August 3.

Screenwriter Robert Harling based the beloved 1989 movie on his own 1987 play of the same title. Set in Natchitoches, Louisiana, the film featured an all-star cast that included Julia Roberts, Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacLaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, Dylan McDermott and Sam Shepherd.

The play's cast of six women is played by local actors Jillian Solano, Brenda Ferri, Janese Little, Adrienne Coleman, Tess Neary, and newcomer Susan Ward. The title refers to the women, who can be as gentle as magnolias but tough as steel.

"It's all about strong female relationships," Self says. "How do we deal with the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to?" The answer, he says, is to rely on the people around us. "I want people to leave the theater feeling a deep appreciation for the people in their lives. What a blessing those relationships are, in good times and bad."

Self's directing style is perfectly suited to the small ensemble. Spending as much of his professional career acting as directing,



Pankaj Khadka / The Chronicle-News

Monday morning, members of the Trinidad Knights of Columbus load a U-Haul truck with donated clothes, shoes, and toys, among other things, which will be heading to an Indian Reservation near Gallup, NM. Once a year, the overflow from the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store is sent to different areas for the needy.

he's "an actor's director" with a special penchant for collaboration and experimentation. "I love to work with each actor to uncover the character and develop the part. In rehearsal, I encourage the actors to take risks, try things, experiment and be creative. It's an exciting period of discovery, not just memorizing lines and getting the blocking down.

"It makes rehearsal a lot of fun," he says. The goal, of course, is for the audience to feel the electricity coming from the performances and stories on the stage.

Self has been at this most of his life. He earned his BA in theater at Cal State Northridge, then went to Roosevelt University in Chicago to earn his MA in theater with an emphasis in directing. At Northridge he met his wife in the theater department and they've often worked together ever since.

They were obviously made for each other. Besides their shared professions and collaborations in the theater, there's the matter of their names. He's Perry Dean Self; she's Peggy Jean Self. You can't make this stuff up.

They work together at Highland High School in Palmdale, California, where Peggy teaches acting and directs plays. Perry directs and teaches stagecraft, but he spends the

majority of his day teaching math. Both are active in other area theaters, especially at Antelope Valley College where Perry has directed "Man of La Mancha," which allowed him to choreograph fight scenes, a specialty he's used in "Romeo and Juliet" and other plays. He loves stage combat and even studied it with the Society of American Fight Directors.

Just before driving to New Mexico last month with his two bicycles racked on his car, he directed the opera "La Traviata" at Antelope Valley College. In each of the past three years, he's directed an opera there - "Marriage of Figaro," "The Magic Flute," and "Rigoletto."

In the summers, he takes far-flung directing jobs, including "The Miracle Worker" and, last summer at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts in Illinois, "Cats."

Shuler Theater audiences have already enjoyed his comedic acting in two plays this summer. Self is excited to present the Kaleidoscope Players' production of "Steel Magnolias" this week, delving deeper into relationships and emotions. If it works as planned, audience members will

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Photo courtesy of Tim Keller

Continued on Page 2



Weather Sponsored by:  
**LA QUINTA**  
 Inn & Suites  
 Wellness  
 Hotel  
 719-845-0102

**WEATHER WATCH**  
**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy. Highs around 81°F. S-SW wind 7-15 MPH, gusting to 17 MPH. **Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows around 57°F. S-SW wind 9-14 MPH.  
**Thursday:** Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 84°F. SW wind to 10 MPH. **Night:** Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Lows around 57°F. SW wind to 10 MPH.  
**Friday:** Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 82°F. North northeast wind to 8 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 30%. Precipitation amounts between one quarter and one half of an inch possible. **Night:** Mostly cloudy with scattered storms. Lows around 57°F. North northwest wind to 7 MPH, gusting to 13 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 35%. Precipitation amounts up to one quarter inch possible.



**ETHEL TORTORELLI**  
Ethel Tortorelli, went to be with the Lord on July 11, 2013. She was 92.  
Visitation will be Tuesday, from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Comi Chapel.

Rosary will be Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

Funeral Mass will be Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

Interment will follow at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

Family may be contacted at 38100 CR 32 in ElMoro.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.



**FREDERICK J. NICCOLI**  
Frederick J. Niccoli, 65, died July 15, 2013.

Visitation will be Thursday, July 18, 2013, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home.

Funeral service will be Friday, July 19, 2013, at 11 a.m. at the Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home.

Burial will follow at the Trinidad Masonic Cemetery. Complete obituary to follow.

The family has entrusted Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home with the arrangements.

**Deaths Elsewhere**

**Theodora Mae Speer**

Graveside Services will be held Sunday, July 21, 2013 at Tahoma National Cemetery for Theodora (Teddie) Mae Speer, who died peacefully in her home in Kirkland, WA Sunday July 14th. Born September 14, 1926 in Wichita, Kansas to Major Louis Rosenberg, U.S. Army and Madeline Storz Rosenberg, she graduated high school in Salina, Kansas. While a student at Wichita University, she married the late Raymond A. Speer on January 2, 1947 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kansas. She was active in church music groups and as a United Methodist churchwoman. Teddie was employed as Secretary for the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Bellevue and as Director of Audio-Visual Library of Pacific NW Conference of the United Methodist Church. She retired as Secretary to the Investment Center of Rainier Bank/Security Pacific Bank.

Survivors include her one daughter, five sons, one son-in-law, 3 daughters-in-law, 6 grand children, a niece and 2 nephews.

The family asks that remembrances be sent to the (UMCOR) United Methodist Committee on Relief, Advanced GCFA, P. O. Box 9068 New York, NY 1 0 0 8 7 - 9 0 6 8 https://www.umcor.org, the Lake Washington United Methodist Church, 7525-132nd Ave. N.E., Kirkland, WA 98033 or Hopelink, 10675 Willows Road N. E. Suite 275, Redmond, WA 98052. www.hopelink.org.

**A year after slayings, shooter still a mystery**

By Dan Elliott  
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — His face was hidden behind a gas mask, and he was costumed from head to toe in a police-style helmet, black cargo pants and black vest. He was such an improbable sight, standing at the front of a theater where a Batman movie was playing, that some in the audience thought he was part of the show.

Then he started shooting.

A year later, the pale and boyish face of James Egan Holmes is in plain view each time he shuffles into court to face charges of planning and executing his onslaught. But whatever illness or evil might have seized the promising young neuroscientist and contorted him into a mass killer, as prosecutors allege, is still hidden — this time by a mask of a different sort.

Random and disjointed fragments of Holmes' story have emerged, but they don't add up to a coherent story line. They look more like a garbled and fleeting video, a quiet life that explodes in a choreographed nightmare of violence.

Holmes is accused of killing 12 people and injuring 70 in the suburban Denver theater on July 20, 2012. He has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, and his lawyers say he carried out the shootings "in the throes of a psychotic episode." But they battle fiercely to keep the details of his mental state a secret, and they say nothing about how it might have set off the rampage.

What is known is deeply contradictory.

As a teen, Holmes was withdrawn and rarely started conversations, according to those who knew him. When he was arrested behind the Aurora theater minutes after the shootings, standing quietly with his hands resting atop his car, he was obedient and eerily limp, police said.

But during the shootings, he allegedly barked out orders and appeared to single individuals out, recalled Stephanie Davies, a witness. "He would shout, 'What are you doing? I said stand up!'" Davies said.

Applying to graduate schools, Holmes strained to leave an impression of stability and maturity. "My life could have gone in a completely different direction had I not possessed the foresight to choose the path of knowledge," he wrote in one application.

But photos exhibited in court show him preening before his smartphone camera like a self-absorbed adolescent on the night before the massacre.

In one, he wore black contact lenses and a black stocking cap, and two tufts of his dyed-orange hair curled out like delicate little horns on either side of his head. In another, he grinned at the camera, a pistol held below his face. A third showed some of his guns and gear laid out on a red sheet on his bed.

As an 18-year-old, Holmes got laughs by telling people one of his ambitions was to own a Sturpee machine.

As a 24-year-old, he went on a weapons spree, buying an assault rifle, a shotgun, two handguns, more than 6,000 rounds of ammunition, high-capacity ammunition magazines, police-style body armor and enough chemicals to rig his apartment into one massive, potentially lethal booby trap, investigators said.

Holmes built crude but complicated detonators meant to lure a neighbor or passer-by into inadvertently setting off the explosives in his apartment at about the time the theater massacre was underway, the investigators said. The idea was to divert police from the theater.

No one took the bait, although one neighbor came perilously close when she went to investigate blaring music that was part of



Associated Press

James Holmes is accused of killing 12 people and injuring 70 in the Aurora Theater, a Denver suburb, on July 20, 2012. He has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

the lure. "It would have ignited and the whole apartment would have exploded or caught fire," FBI bomb technician Garrett Gumbinner said in January.

Holmes was a sought-after college graduate who won a federal grant for full tuition and \$26,000 a year in living expenses for a Ph.D. neuroscience program at the University of Colorado, Denver. But in June of 2012, at the end of his first year, he flunked a major exam, and his professors advised him to find another career, prosecutors said.

Holmes quit the program that month.

In court, Holmes has spoken just two words aloud — "yeah" and "no," both in answer to the judge. He looked dazed at his first hearings, and later he appeared awe-struck. But now he mostly looks nonchalant, and nothing in any of his expressions indicates what's going on inside his

head. Citing a judge's gag order and privacy laws, those who know the most about Holmes' life in Colorado say little. But there were hints along the way that his life had taken a sharp and dangerous turn.

In March 2012, four months before the shootings, he told a classmate "about wanting to kill people ... and that he would do so when his life was over," prosecutors said in a filing.

Prosecutors also said he opened accounts at two dating websites in 2012 and wrote in his profile, "Will you visit me in prison?"

In June, about five weeks before the shootings, a psychiatrist who had been treating Holmes told a campus police officer that Holmes had made "homicidal statements" and threatened her. Holmes started seeing the psychiatrist, Dr. Lynne Fenton of the University of Colorado, Denver — for reasons unex-

plained — sometime after he joined the university neuroscience program in 2011.

None of the warnings or the bizarre reversals in Holmes' behavior answers the critical question: Why would a seemingly harmless college student, without so much as a traffic ticket on his record, amass an outlandish arsenal, dye his hair orange and stage a wanton and theatrical attack on hundreds of innocent strangers?

Some answers may come during Holmes' trial, scheduled to start in February. Holmes will undergo a mental evaluation at the state hospital this summer, and the results will be part of his insanity defense.

But even that could stay hidden.

Holmes' attorneys have said he could withdraw his insanity plea based on the examination. If that happens, the results may never be made public.

**Theatre's future** *Continued from Page 1*

with ticket sales, but now we're not seeing those sales," said Vaugeois.

Despite all the challenges, the season has also had some positives as well. At least 50% of people buying tickets and coming to the shows are from outside of Trinidad that have been eating at the restaurants in town, and staying overnight, contributing to the local economy and mak-

ing SCRT the economic stimulus it hoped to be.

Vaugeois said the same shows at the Famous with the same set of actors would cost \$60 to \$10 per ticket in places like Denver, and people here can enjoy that for only \$25, which is what the company needs to stay alive.

She called on the families of children who have been part of SCRT and

through its training programs and encouraged them to bring the kids to see professional actors perform.

"The cost of a child's ticket at \$15 to see New York quality actors in their own hometown is a part of their training that's critically important. And we need people to encourage their neighbors to try something new because for the most

part, a lot of times, it's just hard for people to walk across the threshold for the first time," said the executive director.

The theatre has not received any grants and funds from either the city or other entities, and is solely dependent on the ticket sales. While it is financed to get through for the summer, the future will be solely determined by the rest of

the season.

If 20 additional people that are not buying tickets were to attend the shows, the theatre would be okay, noted Vaugeois.

"That's how close we are. But it's also how scary it is when I can see that the talking about it is bigger than ever. To hear the buzz get bigger and the sales not get bigger, that's what puts me in a panic mode."

**Play is the thing** *Continued from Page 1*

leave the show feeling more appreciative than ever for the people they love.

Self couldn't be happier with his summer.

"Getting to work in this

theater is phenomenal," he says. "And working with this group has been phenomenal. The support for the arts that you guys have in this small town blows my

mind, because you don't get it like that where I come from."

"Steel Magnolias" opens Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with additional evening shows

Friday and July 27, August 2 and 3. A Sunday matinee performance is presented July 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Self performs in "Two by Two" Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 seniors, and \$5 children. Tickets and information are available at the Shuler Theater, (575) 445-4746.

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Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico  
USPS #110-040  
200 West Church Street  
P.O. Box 763, Trinidad, CO 81082  
(719) 846-3311 • Fax (719) 846-3612  
Member: Associated Press, Colorado Press Association  
Periodicals Postage Paid For At Trinidad, CO.  
Published Monday - Friday  
www.thechronicle-news.com

<b>General Manager</b> Allyson Sheumaker asheumaker@trinidadchroniclenews.com	<b>Subscription Rates</b>
<b>Classified / Sales</b> Krysta Toci ktoci@trinidadchroniclenews.com	<b>Home Delivery Trinidad</b>
<b>News Room</b> Editor: Bruce Leonard editor@trinidadchroniclenews.com Pankaj Khadka - "PK" pkhadka@trinidadchroniclenews.com	1 Month ..... \$6.00 3 Months ..... \$18.00 6 Months ..... \$36.00 1 Year ..... \$72.00
<b>Fine Print</b> Cathy Moser cathy@trinidadchroniclenews.com	<b>Las Animas County Mail</b>
<b>Circulation / Billing</b> Tonie Travis circulation@trinidadchroniclenews.com	1 Month ..... \$7.00 3 Months ..... \$21.00 6 Months ..... \$42.00 1 Year ..... \$84.00
	<b>Outside County Mail</b>
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Courtesy of Trinidad Lake State Park

**Trinidad Lake fully reopens to boating**

Trinidad Lake has been fully reopened to boating and all other activities. The lake was temporarily closed for several days last week while firefighting efforts were underway on two fires near Trinidad. County, state and federal firefighting resources were using the lake to fill firefighting aircraft with water for fire drops. With the fire now contained, the lake is fully opened for boats. Please keep in mind that the Trinidad Lake State Park is still under a Stage I fire ban per Las Animas County. Anyone planning a cookout or campfire in the park should call ahead or check the park's website for updated information.