



Artwork by Trinidad artist Paula Little is featured on the 2014 Collector Mug Series from The Chronicle-News



TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 30, 2014

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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

**AREA SPORTS**  
Area Schools are on Christmas break until January 8.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:**  
The Chronicle-News 2014 Collector Mugs you've all been waiting for are here and waiting for you to come pick them up.

## Today's Quote

"Whatever it is you're scared of doing, do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever."

— Neil Gaiman

**DECEMBER 30**  
**Trinidad City Council**  
**TUESDAY (1:30 p.m.)** Work session in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St., Third Floor. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

**URBAN RENEWAL**  
Representatives of the City will be holding four (4) public information meetings for citizens to attend and learn more about the survey process, Authority, and urban renewal as a resource for community redevelopment and economic development. All meetings will be held at City Hall in City Council Chambers.

■ **Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m.**  
■ **Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 8 a.m.**  
■ **Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m.**  
■ **Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 4 p.m.**

We urge anyone with questions or a general interest to attend one of the meetings, the dates of which are provided below. If you are unable to attend, but still have questions, please contact Tara Marshall with the City of Trinidad at 719.846.9843, ext. 131.

**DECEMBER 31**  
**Diabetic Support Group**  
**WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** Mt. San Rafael Hospital, in conjunction with the Las Animas/Huerfano County Health Dept., will host this group in the hospital cafeteria, 410 Benedicta Ave. Information: 719-846-2213, ext. 38. Healthy snacks will be provided.

**NEW YEAR'S CLOSURES**  
■ **The Chronicle-News office** will close at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, New Years Eve, and be closed until Monday, Jan 5. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service.  
■ **The City of Trinidad offices and Landfill** will be closed Thursday-Friday for New Years.  
■ **The Las Animas County Courthouse offices** will be closed Wednesday-Thursday for New Years. Normal business hours will resume on Friday.  
■ **SCCOG and Affiliates** will be closed Thursday-Friday for New Years.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Delightful Musical Light Show**  
**EVERY EVENING:** A must see for New Years at 213 W. Colorado Ave. Drive over, turn your radio to 103.1 FM and watch the lights dance to the wonderful music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

**Call for Artists**  
**JANUARY 2-3 (Art delivery is 11 a.m.-2 p.m.)** The Spanish Peaks Arts Council in LaVeta is calling all artists for submissions in the SPACe Members' Show for Jan.-Feb. Info: Kathy Hill, 719-742-5756 or www.spanishpeaksarts.org.

**Trinidad Lake State Park**  
**JANUARY 1 (10 a.m.)** Free First Day Hike with Park Staff and adoptable furry friends at Trinidad Lake State Park. Choose from three hikes — meet at the Visitor Center and afterwards in the amphitheater for hot chocolate and goodies. Info: 719-846-6951 or http://cpw.state.co.us/

**Raton Choral Society**  
**JANUARY 8, 9 & 10:** Auditions for "Hello Dolly" will be held in the Shuler Theater and the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center. Materials and information can now be picked up at the Shuler. Info: Bill Cray, 575-445-5682 or plainsongstudio@msn.com.

**SUICIDE/CRISIS HOTLINES:**  
■ **ADULT HOPE:** 800-784-2433  
■ **TEEN:** 877-968-8454  
■ **GLB-YOUTH:** 866-488-7386  
■ **VET-2-VET:** 877-838-2838  
"It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars."

**ABUSE HOTLINES:**  
■ **Domestic Abuse Hotline:** In Trinidad call 719-846-6665 (24-hours a day). In Walsenburg call: 719-738-0770. National Hotline: 1-800-790-SAFE (7233).  
■ **Animal Abuse:** Report animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

**RIVER CALL**  
Purgatoire River Call as of: 12/29/14. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 5 --- Appropriation date: 03/20/1862.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release .02 AF  
Inflow 28.02 AF -- 14.13 CFS  
Evaporation 0 AF  
Content 14,758 AF  
Elevation 6,175.42  
Precipitation 0

**Downstream River Call / John Martin Reservoir:** 12/31/1948.

**WEATHER WATCH**  
Tuesday: Snow likely, 60 percent chance, mainly before 11am. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values between

## DENVER TELEVISION KOAA

# Report: Trinidad Police hasty with drug busts

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

Late last year Trinidad police, after a months long investigation, arrested 40 people on felony drug charges in one of the biggest drug busts in the City's history. Now all drug charges have dropped

against 39 of the 40 defendants, and a report by a Denver TV station said that the City could lose the millions of dollars in legal fees and litigation because of its investigation and the tactics that were used in it.

The report by KOAA TV's Eric Ross said "police made arrests

with virtually no evidence, no video surveillance and no eyewitnesses other than the informants and the few details they provided." Mark Silverstein, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), was quoted as saying that there were problems with the affidavits seeking arrest

warrants for the people who were busted. The story said "Silverstein is reviewing several of the drug arrest cases for possible legal action, but neither he nor the ACLU's spokesperson could elaborate at this point in time beyond telling

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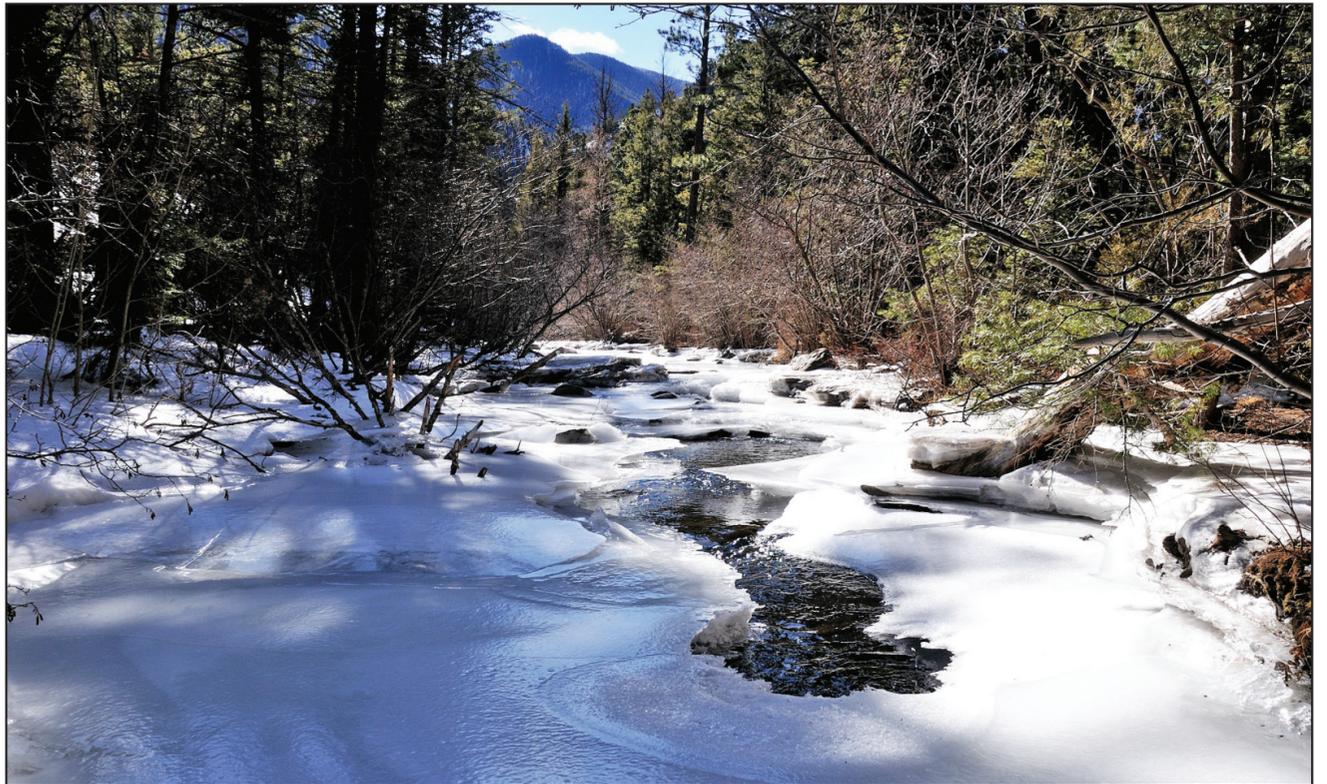


Photo courtesy of Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

A frozen Cimarron River runs through Cimarron Canyon State Park west of Cimarron, New Mexico, and can be seen basking in the winter sunshine.

## US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

# 3.4-magnitude earthquake rattles City in early hours Saturday

Staff Report  
The Chronicle-News

At 2:23 a.m. Saturday morning Trinidad residents reported hearing a loud bang followed by a 3.2 to 3.4-magnitude tremor and after shocks that woke some from their beds. As of Monday, no damage was reported to The Chronicle-News.

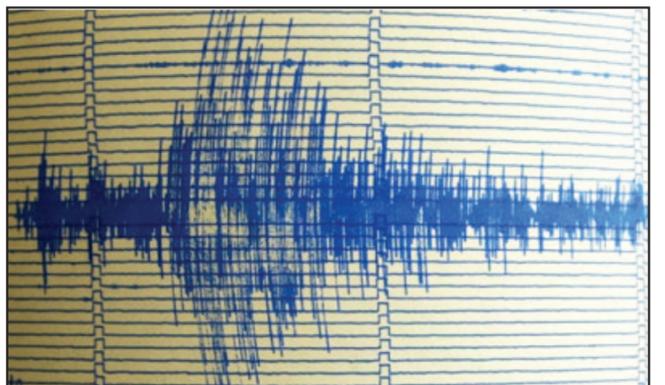
The earthquake is the first of the month in Colorado and the second biggest of the 30 (magnitude 1.5 or greater) earthquakes that have occurred this year, according to the U.S. Geological

Survey (USGS).

The location of the quake was recorded by USGS as 37,006 degrees north latitude and 104.866 degrees west longitude, or 23 miles west-southwest of Trinidad. The depth of the quake was recorded as 0.8 miles.

Saturday morning's earthquake was similar in size and location to a 2.8-magnitude quake that was reported in September of last year. At about that same time last year, federal researchers reported their claim that quakes in the Raton Basin were caused by the injection of wastewater from the oil and gas industry into wells deep inside the earth.

"Between 2001 and 2013, 16 earthquakes of a 3.8 magnitude or greater were "induced" by the industry's disposal of wastewater, according to Justin Rubinstein, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey. That compares to one earthquake of similar strength in the region in the three decades preceding 2001," says a report from Michael de Yoanna with Colorado Public Radio (CPR).



Associated Press file photo

Recorded seismographic activity of the 5.3-magnitude earthquake that hit the Trinidad, Colorado area in November, 2011. It is Trinidad's largest recorded earthquake in recent history.

That same reported quoted The Colorado Oil and Gas Association, or COGA, which represents the energy industry, and says that wastewater wells are overwhelmingly safe. "In Colorado, we know that oil and gas development activity can be conducted safely, without fear of earthquakes," a "Mythbusters" document from COGA states.

"We think that some of these injection wells - the fluids from these wells are finding their way into faults in the area and, in some senses, lubricating them, making it easier for there to be earthquakes," Justin Rubinstein, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey, told CPR trying to explain the earthquakes in the Raton Basin.

## TRINIDAD STATE ATHLETICS

# TSJC Women's Volleyball coach to move up to NCAA DII

Staff Report  
The Chronicle-News

According to reports out of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP), Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC) volleyball coach, Ellen McGill, has accepted an offer to take over as the head volleyball coach at UNCP, making the jump from the junior college ranks to NCAA Division II.

McGill's tenure with TSJC has been considered very successful.

McGill inherited an 11-33 club in 2009 and quickly helped transition TSJC into a regional pow-

erhouse. TSJC posted at least 19 wins in each of the last four seasons and took three trips to the Region IX Tournament. The Trojans completed a remarkable 21-game turnaround this past season when they registered a, program-best, 25-12 record.

During her time at TSJC, McGill mentored 15 all-region, 12 all-region tournament and 25 academic all-region players, as well as eight academic all-Americans. Her 2011 and 2013 squads were both decorated with national academic

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File photo The Chronicle-News

Trinidad State's Taylor Mansfield, above left, and Rylee Abert, right, joined by Coach Ellen McGill, center, recently signed to move on to the next level. McGill will also be moving on to the next level at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.



## WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: Snow likely, 60 percent chance, mainly before 11am. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values between

-5 and -15. East northeast wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -5. Wind chill values between -10 and -20. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY:** Partly sunny, with a high near 25. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the afternoon. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. Southwest wind around 5 mph

becoming northwest after midnight.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Partly sunny, with a high near 34. South southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** A 10 percent chance of snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. North wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

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