

OVER THE PASS



“Drug control. Young kids have too much access to drugs. It’s too easy.”
– Jon Marc Atwater, computer engineering student (Raton)



“We’ve enjoyed the extensive bike paths in Europe. That would be a plus here. Since we arrived 12 years ago, so many businesses have closed. Any new businesses would help, like the new Tractor Supply Company they’re building.”
– Randy Hestand, retired school principal (Raton)

TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Question of the Week:

“What does our town lack?”

Photos by **Tim Keller** / The Chronicle-News



“More of a nightlife, someplace to go eat after 10 o’clock.”
– Janae Figueroa, correctional officer, Trinidad Correctional Facility (Trinidad)



“Drive. People are content with being stagnant. They don’t seek to better themselves and move forward. We also lack good leaders who inspire young people.”
– Caleb Patty, music student (Raton)



“A Hastings or something open later than 8 and more kid-oriented than ‘old stores.’ Hastings sells music, books, games, gags—it’s the ultimate kid center.”
– Trey Vanskyock, TSJC massage therapy major (Trinidad)



“More outdoor activities like the Climax Canyon Trail in Raton. We need more variety in restaurants and attractions, and especially more for young people.”
– Ed Hockett, Spanish teacher at Primero and TSJC (Trinidad)

Water-saving measures across the West

Associated Press

WILLIAMS, Ariz. (AP) — Cities across the West have mandated water restrictions or asked residents to voluntarily cut back on water use to avoid shortages. Some restrictions take effect automatically each year, while others depend on the forecast and the amount of precipitation the region has received. Much of the West is in some stage of drought, ranging from abnormal to exceptional.

Here’s a look at some of the water-saving measures in effect across the region:

■ **ARIZONA:**

The southeastern Arizona city of Safford has been under strict water restrictions since February 2013, with the aim of reducing usage by 30 percent. Residents cannot refill swimming pools or spas, plant new grass or install sod. Watering outdoors is limited to twice weekly. Water at restaurants comes upon request only.

Williams, a gateway city to the Grand Canyon, imposed its most severe water restrictions earlier this year. They prohibit outdoor watering and washing cars with potable water. The city also stopped issuing building permits for new development because water is scarce.

The town of Payson has set a goal for each resident to use no more than 89 gallons of water per day.

■ **CALIFORNIA:**

Gov. Jerry Brown in January declared a drought emergency. In Sacramento, residents are required to use 20 percent less water, with officials beefing up conservation efforts and limiting outdoor watering, according to the Association of California Water Agencies.

Residents of Visalia in the Central Valley are on a schedule for watering outdoors and washing their cars. In Northern California, Willits residents are limited to 150 gallons of water per day as leaders scramble to find money for water.

The Los Angeles County Water District asks customers to use 20 percent less water by turning off the faucet while shaving or brushing their teeth, along with taking shorter showers and using a broom rather than a hose to clean their patios and sidewalks.

■ **COLORADO:**

Denver and Colorado Springs have no watering restrictions, but both cities ask residents to voluntarily limit watering

their lawns to three days a week or less.

■ **NEW MEXICO:**

Santa Fe residents are limited to three days a week in which they can water outdoors during certain hours, and once per month for washing each vehicle at home. Permits are required to install new irrigation systems. Violators can be fined up to \$200.

Restrictions in Carlsbad, Las Vegas and other communities prevent residents from watering their lawns and require that restaurants provide customers with glasses of water upon request only.

■ **NEVADA:**

Southern Nevada residents can be fined or issued a citation if their sprinkler irrigation systems run outside assigned days. No new turf is allowed in front yards in Las Vegas, and the size of backyard lawns is limited. The Southern Nevada Water Authority pays residents \$1.50 per square foot to remove their grass. Golf courses are subject to water budgets.

In Reno, lawn watering is barred on Mondays. Businesses and residents are on a schedule during the rest of the week for outdoor watering. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority estimates water use increases up to tenfold during the summer. The authority says assigned days for outdoor watering help level off peak days.

■ **TEXAS:**

The list of public utilities limiting water use to avoid shortages has grown to include hundreds of communities.

In far western Texas, El Paso is reusing treated wastewater, and the city has invested in a major desalination plant for turning salty, unusable groundwater into a drinking-water source. Outdoor watering is prohibited on Mondays.

■ **UTAH:**

Limits on outdoor watering during the hottest times of the day have been in place for several years, Karry Rathje, spokeswoman for Washington County Water Conservancy District in southern Utah.

Farmers and ranchers in southern Utah will need to scale back summertime water use, said Sterling Brown of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. It’s too early to say if formal restrictions will be put in place, he said.

Northern Utah’s water supply is plentiful thanks to a flurry of late-spring snow and rain.



Photo courtesy of Fishers Peak Fire Protection District

These firefighter volunteers from Fisher’s Peak Fire Protection District successfully completed the PAC Test, held on May 3 at Central Park. Passing the test is part of the process required to obtain a red card and is part of the wildland refresher that is held annually prior to the wildland fire season.

Wildfire experts predict average year for Colorado

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Wildfire experts predict an average year for fires in Colorado in 2014, welcome news after two consecutive seasons that were worse than average, Gov. John Hickenlooper said Monday.

But even an average year means fires could scorch more than 155 square miles, Hickenlooper warned.

“Normalcy should not in any way imply relaxing or a lack of vigilance,” he said.

Wearing a yellow firefighter’s shirt, Hickenlooper stood amid aircraft and fire trucks parked inside a hangar at Centennial Airport and discussed the annual wildfire outlook briefing he just received from state and federal wildfire managers.

“The good, positive perspective that I can bring is I think we are ready,” he said.

Hickenlooper also signed three wildfire-related bills, one authorizing nearly \$20 million for the state to buy two fire-spotting planes and contract for four helicopters and four single-engine tankers.

The state currently has contracts for only two single-engine tankers.

Rain and snow fell outside the hangar, leaving slush and puddles of water on the tarmac and prompting Hickenlooper to wish for more.

“We could certainly use more days like this,” he said.

A weekend storm dropped up to 2 feet of snow on parts of the state. Tim Mathewson, a meteorologist who works with regional firefighters, said spring moisture is important for lowering wildfire danger.

“This is a very critical time for moisture. We expect spring to be wet, which usually reduces our fire risk,” said Mathewson, who works at the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center in suburban Denver, which oversees firefighting in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Mathewson, who prepared a weather briefing for Hickenlooper, warned that even wet years can be dangerous, citing 1994, when a wildfire killed 14 firefighters in western Colorado.

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