



# FREE GED and ESL classes at Trinidad State!

Register next week at Latuda Hall on the Trinidad State Campus. Call 846-5682 for more info.

**RETURNING STUDENTS:** Monday, Tuesday, September 8 and 9; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1-3 and 6-8:30 p.m.

**NEW STUDENTS:** Wednesday, Thursday, September 10 and 11; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1-3 and 6-8:30 p.m.



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2014  
Vol. 138, No. 176

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

**SEPTEMBER 3**  
**Las Animas County**  
**WEDNESDAY (11 a.m.)** Board of County Commissioners special meeting will be in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2568. **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Louden (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).  
**Trinidad City Council**  
**WEDNESDAY (3 p.m.)** Special session for legal advice will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

## Today's Quote

**"By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."**

-Socrates

**DON'T MISS IT!**  
More TRA Rodeo & Parade coverage in tomorrow's edition

**SEPTEMBER 4**  
**Continuum of Care**  
**THURSDAY (8 a.m.)** Group meets at Fishers Peak Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. Information: Charlene Tortorice (Advocates Against Domestic Assault) 719-846-9159 or Tom Power (Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Denver), 303-285-5221.

**Network Council**  
**THURSDAY (8 a.m.)** Meeting will be held in the Bell Block Building's Trinidad Community Foundation room. Information: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.  
**FREE Car Seat Check**  
**THURSDAY (9-11 a.m.)** South Central Council of Governments sponsored child car seat safety check will be held at the Early Learning Center, 1225 Rosita Ave. Information: 719-845-0568.

**Town of Starkville**  
**THURSDAY (6-6:30 p.m.)** Open House to discuss renovations of the old Starkville Central School will be held at the Fishers Peak Fire Department, 8361 CR 69.0. Information: 719-680-7199.

**SPPRCD Meeting**  
**THURSDAY (7 p.m.)** Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District meets at the District Office. Information: 719-846-3681 Ext. 117.

**PRCWD Water District**  
**THURSDAY (7:30 p.m.)** The Purgatoire River Conservancy meets in City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Thelma Lujan, 719-846-7285.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Community Chorale**  
**SATURDAY (10 a.m.-3 p.m.)** A music workshop for the annual winter concert under the direction of Russ Gorrell will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. A free lunch will be provided. Information: 719-989-7317. New members always welcome, no auditions necessary.

**Christmas Cantata**  
**SEPTEMBER 8 (5:15 p.m.)** Rehearsals begin for this annual production at the Methodist Church, Broom and State Street. Participation is open to everyone.

**TSJCs Prator Gun Range**  
**SEPTEMBER 9 (6:30 p.m.)** A development of the Prator Gun Range meeting to hear your ideas will be held in the Pioneer Room at the Sullivan Center on the TSJC Campus, 600 Prospect St. Information: Greg Boyce, 719-846-5530 or 719-821-6397.

**Call for Volunteers**  
The A.R. Mitchell Museum is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please call 719-846-4224.

**ARTOCADE WEEKEND**  
**SEPTEMBER 12-14:** Get your motor running—ArtoCade Weekend revs up in downtown Trinidad.

**\*Hosts Needed**  
Anyone interested in providing guest accommodations for out-of-town attendees during the annual ArtoCade Festival Sept. 12-14, please contact Rodney Wood at 719-334-0087 or email: artocadefun@hotmail.com.

**\*Call for Artists:**  
—Hubcapalooza at Galerie Vivante (214 E. Main St.) Show opens Sept. 12. Information: 719-334-0087.  
—AutoMotivation at Gallery Main (130 E. Main St.) Opening reception Sept. 5 (5-7 p.m.). Information: 719-846-1441.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 09/02/14. Llewelling & McCormick ditch: Priority # 13 --- Appropriation date: 01/01/1863.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release 92.09 AF  
Inflow 78.09 AF -- 39.37 CFS  
Evaporation 10.00 AF  
Content 11,954 AF  
Elevation 6,169.96  
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / High-land Canal: 04/10/1884.



## YIPPEE-TIE-YIE-YAY

# 2014 TRA Rodeo kicks off in style

By Scott Mastro  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

The sun hung and the heat held for last Sunday's 2014 Round-Up Association Rodeo.

The fairgrounds arena had been recently-rotored, the crowd was cool in the grandstand shade and riders and ropers were ready, the bulls, calves and horses sensing it was their time too. With Fishers Peak towering above, this year's rodeo was under way.

The Grand Procession of Rodeo Royalty rode in, 2014 Senior and Junior Queens, Mikayla Arlind and Jackie Jolly, the newest additions to the formation. The announcer reminiscing large ideas and patriotic concepts in a voice that was a cross between Paul Harvey and Sam Elliott, he shared, "I lost a grandfather in World War II and had an uncle wounded in Vietnam," entwining God, Country and Rodeo to make the announcer seem nine feet tall and similarly as proud of his country and religion. Seven-time American Cowboy Rodeo Association Announcer and Perry, Oklahoma's Monty Stueve (Stevie) brought the afternoon together with the help of timekeepers, Ron Macaluso and Frankie Contoria.

Notable past Rodeo Queen's were 1984's Stefanie Poole-Madrid and 1954's Ila Stanton-Mangino.

Desti Buhr sang the Star-Spangled Banner, then the Bareback Riders started in, every contestant vying to keep man and beast attached,

upright and bucking for 8 seconds. Barrel racers, Bailey Balbach of Sanger, California and Melanie Roman of Golden, Colorado watched from the calf-chute end of the arena. As a bronco-buster slid up to the horse's rump the rider, unable to defy gravity, plunked to the ground. Melanie looked up at Fisher's Peak and said, "This is a great place for rodeo. I've never been to one at the base of an ancient volcano," what Fisher's Peak is today.

"Keep your butt in the saddle," Monty advised. Riders wear boots several sizes too big so if a foot gets caught, the foot will slip out and the rider will fall free, even if the boot stays with the animal.

His wife helping with stats and figures and deejaying an excellent country-and-rock 'n' music mix; keeping pace with the chutes busting open and animal and rider breaking after them, Monty explained the Markout Rule. "When you cross the flag-line, your heels have to be at the horse's shoulders," a sign the rider is ready to spur his or her steed to the task.

Hops and Vines Liquors and Spirits awarded 25-dollar gift certificates like it was Christmas in Rodeo-ville. Team Calf-Roping saw horses flaring, calf eyes big and dopey and ropers swinging out to hitch a bolting hind leg.

Monty said, "The reason we like to see a calf tied for 6 seconds is, if you get off your horse to brand or give a vaccination and that calf gets up and runs, your gonna' have to chase it again."



Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

The bull-doggers had a time getting steers to lay down and throw out at least one leg, the sign a steer is on its side and for the clock to stop. Best time was Justin Barhite's 9.7 seconds.

Arene regulations note that, in order to be in the pit, boots, long pants and a hat must be worn, the rodeo clowns pushing the envelope with their cut-off shorts three quar-

ters up their calves. In Girls Breakaway roping, Monty pointed out that, "The rope must go over the nose and around the neck."

Nickle Scramble found the 8-year-olds down to pee-wees in a dash to gather as many 5-cent pieces as they could.

Continued on Page 8 ...

## OPPOSITION WINS

# Ranchers' Pinon Canyon victory earns magazine cover story



Magazine cover photo courtesy of American Cowboy

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

"In 2005, the entire agricultural community in Southeast Colorado faced losing their ranches to an aggressive land grab by the U.S. Army. By combining biological evidence, cultural heritage, intense document research, the political process, and when necessary, legal action, these ranchers smartly, legally, and collectively saved their land."

Thus begins, in big type over a two-page Las Animas County landscape, an eight-page feature in the October/November issue of American Cowboy written by the magazine's editor-in-chief, Bob Welch.

Reaching subscribers last week and newsstands now, Welch goes back to 1983 to tell of what's become known among area ranching families as "The Taking", when the Army created the quarter-million-acre Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) by using eminent domain to take the land from families unwilling to sell.

Welch then jumps to 2005 when a map leaked to the La Junta Tribune-Democrat revealed an almost-unimaginably huge new land grab by the Army, which had secretly developed an elaborate plan to expand PCMS to seven million acres—roughly ten percent of Colorado's land, bound by Interstate 25 to the west, New Mexico and Oklahoma to the south and the Arkansas River to

the north. More than 17,000 people would be removed from their vacated land.

"This time, though, the Army lost the element of surprise," Welch writes. "The ranchers and their allies would fight. They formed the Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition (PCEOC) and two offshoots, Grasslands Trust and Not One More Acre!, and began drawing up a battle plan."

Welch proceeds to tell the story through interviews with many of the opposition leaders, all of them longtime residents of southeastern Colorado. None had experience as political organizers. Most were ranchers and most of their families had been on the same land for generations.

Welch's initial contact was with Joy and Steve Wooten, whose ranch near Kim shares seven miles of fence with the existing PCMS. "Bob Welch lives in the Castle Rock/El Paso County area," Steve said last week in an interview with The Chronicle-News. "His family operates a ranch south of Fowler. They were not included in the expansion area, but like the vast majority of residents, they supported the effort to stop expansion. Joy and I met Bob through Joy's photography of working cowboys and western landscapes back in 1998-2000. Our daughters did high school rodeo with Bob's younger brothers. It's a typical nexus of rural families and lifestyle: business, friendship and recreation all blended together."

The Wootens were at the center of the fight. "It will always be one of the life-changing periods for me and my family," Steve says. "Together we developed

bonds of loyalty and friendship forged by a common goal. Our diverse backgrounds added to our ability to be proactive on so many issues and projects.

"We traveled across the state of Colorado speaking at clubs, organizations, colleges, universities, supporters' backyards and the state assembly. Several of us spoke to groups in Kansas and New Mexico who felt they had similar challenges to property rights."

Lon Robertson is another Kim rancher, owner of The Kim Outpost and president of PCEOC. "If you know Steve Wooten," Robertson told The Chronicle-News last week, "then you are aware he is a keen source of information and a driver behind all of our efforts to stop the Department of Defense (DoD) from taking our land."

Welch traveled to The Kim Outpost for Robertson's story. "So many things happened over the course of the ten years we fought the fight," Robertson says. "So many hours, so many meetings, so many individuals' efforts. Had we not fought the

Continued on Page 3 ...



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Throughout southeastern Colorado, ranchers mounted "NOT FOR SALE" signs in their fight against the expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 88. Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57. Southwest

wind 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. South wind 5 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. **South:** Partly cloudy around 10 mph becoming west after midnight.

**Friday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon. **Night:** A 10 percent

chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. South wind around 10 mph becoming west northwest after midnight.

**Friday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 80. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

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# COMMUNITY

... Continued from Page 1

## Ranchers' Pinon Canyon victory earns magazine cover story

expansion when we first found out about it in 2005, we would not be here now.

"Our generational ranches and the families that run them are still intact. The communities that depend upon them are intact. The 17,000+ people that were going to be displaced are still in their homes. Can you imagine what that impact would have been locally? To the region? To the state?"

Robertson was able to provide Welch with his story's most valuable asset—sumptuous photography that perfectly illustrates the very people and places and land that Welch spends thousands of words sharing with readers.

Professional photographer Kaylinn Gilstrap works in Atlanta, but she's a native daughter of Las Animas County. "I spent the first 18 years of my life in Branson," she says, "on the family ranch, JL Cattle Co. In 2005 I moved to Atlanta from Denver where I went to the Art Institute of Colorado for photography."

"In late 2005, I started hearing rumors and eventually asked my dad, Larry Gilstrap, about the Army's site and this 'proposed expansion.' I grew up in the area and hadn't even realized there was an Army training site there. I still remember that conversation with Dad. I expected him to squash my fears and tell me it was nothing; instead, he told me that the year I was born, 1983, they established the site using eminent domain.

"If you know a rancher, you're accustomed to hearing worry in their voice: not enough rain, missing cows, sick calves, difficult heifers and the list goes on. This conversation was different. The stakes were my parents' home, lifestyle, livelihood—the only home I had ever known. I was scared.

"I started watching from afar and it struck me how the Army only talked about the acreage, never the people. I got the idea that I would come back home and photograph people on the land they feared they would lose to the PCMS expansion. I made six trips back home completely devoted to shooting this. I

gave all the photos to Lon to use however he could."

Lon Robertson gave Kaylinn Gilstrap's entire photo project to Bob Welch, who took it back to American Cowboy and, with art director Eva Young, created dynamic layouts that illustrate the ranchers' stories intimately and beautifully. The magazine will be a treasured collectable for many area families.

Gilstrap wasn't the only artist who joined forces in the war against the Army's land grab. In fact, there were dozens of them, organized by Trinidad artist Doug Holdread, who was chairman of the TSJC art department at the time.

"I organized artists from all over the state to come and paint the affected landscapes," Holdread says. "We put together an exhibition in Denver. We made money, but more importantly we drew attention to our cause among people who'd never heard of Pinon Canyon.

"I did a lot of the grunt work of plowing through hundreds of pages of DoD documents. They were virtual haystacks, but within them I found a few needles that we were able to use to inflict some pretty effective pricks.

"I learned through my involvement how important the media is to grassroots efforts like ours. We could never have afforded to pay for ads or employ lobbyists, but we did get lots of free press that was generally good old honest reporting that benefitted us greatly. Articles like this one in American Cowboy are worth more than anything that we could ever purchase."

Welch's article tells of many more local people who joined the fight, including rancher Grady Grissom—another key player—and ranchers Charles Gyurman and his son Kenie Gyurman, plus filmmaker Jim Bigham, and Not One More Acre! organizer Jean Aguerre.

In the article, Grissom says he learned important lessons. "Be involved in our political process. Before this, voting was the most involved I ever was. Now I care. I've learned

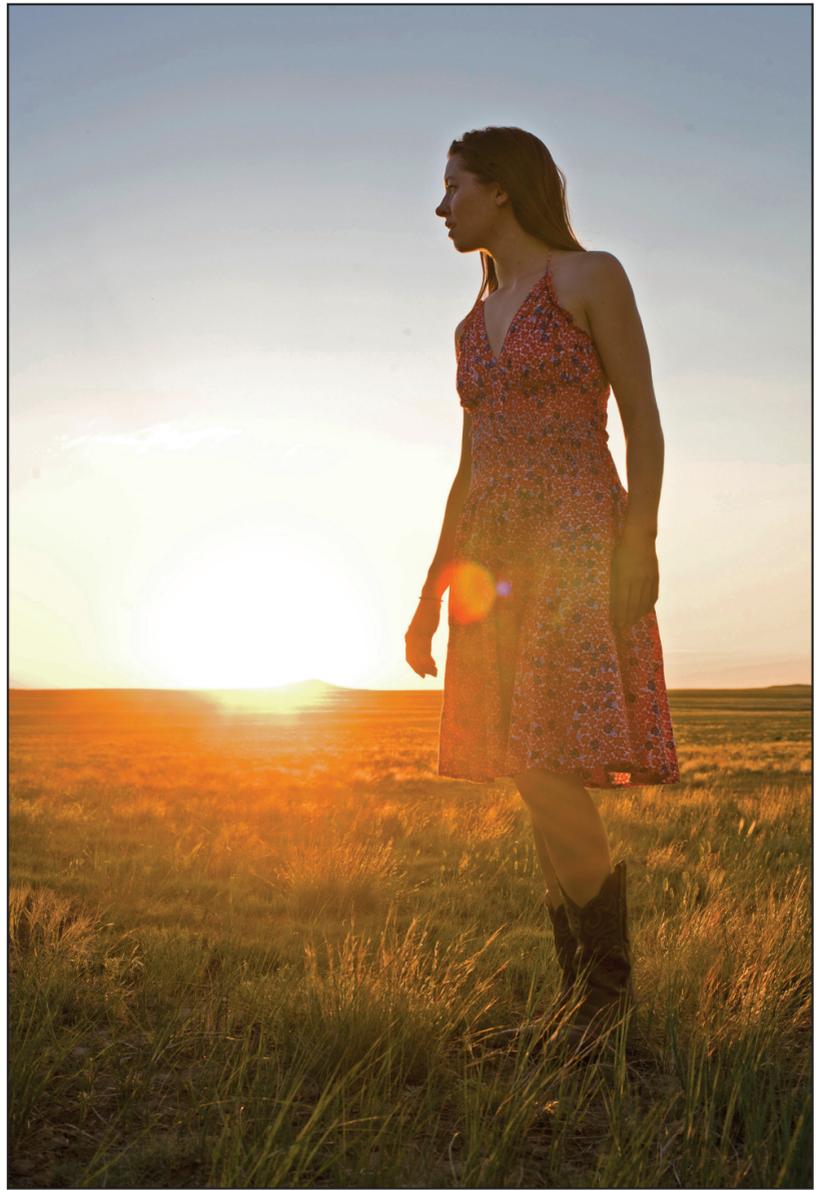


Photo courtesy of Kaylinn Gilstrap



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Southeastern Colorado's ranchers banded together to save their land, their homes, and their livelihoods; their successful fight is featured in the October/November issue of American Cowboy. Ranchers already knew how to band together to get a big job done, like working calves and branding, above, — they'd been "neighboring" as long as they'd had jobs bigger than one family could handle alone. In the shadow of the Spanish Peaks, horse pastures faced conversion to bombing ranges until area ranchers launched a range war against the U.S. Army.

to become a citizen...Ultimately, our political process worked, exactly the way it should work in a representative government."

Despite their victory, there's an underlying unease. "I've learned that, like the war on terror, our fight to prevent the militarization of our region will never end," says Holdread. "We'll never be able to declare victory as long as defense contractors stand to make billions."

Robertson agrees. "We're anxious still, wondering when the next attempt will be coming to take our land or our neighbor's land. We'll always be watching, listening, and waiting."

Bob Welch, in his "From the Editor" column, explains what drew him to the story.

"The fact that these ranchers and their allies fought the government wasn't my inspiration—how they fought was. In a very basic way, they employed the Cowboy Code in everything they did: they were bold and unafraid, used our political process as designed, and changed their circumstances."

Welch invokes Thomas Jefferson at the end of his article. "Maybe, if we want to see change," Welch closes, "we all just need to be a little more involved in the political processes in our own backyards. Maybe, like Grissom said, we need to become citizens."

Copies of the October/November 2014 issue of American Cowboy are available at newsstands or from [www.americancowboy.com](http://www.americancowboy.com).



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