



MONDAY
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50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

THE FINE PRINT

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*The Chronicle-News Office will be closed Thursday and Friday for the New Year Holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual on these days without any interruption of service.

*The City of Trinidad, the Landfill and the Carnegie Library will be closed Friday for the holiday.

*The Las Animas County Offices and Courthouse will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of New Years.

*The South Central Council of Governments and affiliates in Trinidad and Walsenburg will be closed Friday for the New Year's holiday. Call the Ride Line 719-845-1127 by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015 to make reservations for Mon., Dec. 28, 2015.

Today's Quote

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."

- Melody Beattie

PUBLIC SERVICE

TAKE THE SURVEY
JANUARY 7 DEADLINE: EVERYONE HAS A VOICE! Space To Create needs your input, so please take the survey! Let us know what you want. GO TO: www.corazondetrinidad.org

TSJC NEEDS YOU!
Volunteers are need for science fair judges for area secondary schools on Jan 12, 14 and 27. Please email the TSJC STEM Outreach coordinator, Linda Perry at linda.perry@trinidadstate.edu or call 719-846-5697. Approximately 1/2 day will be needed from each volunteer.

SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISER
For all your holiday needs fresh, new-crop, gourmet shelled pecans and mixed nuts are now available at the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Info: Anna Risley, 719-846-3336.

PLANNING COMMISSION
JAN 4 (1 p.m.) The Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Office commissioners' meeting will be held at the County Court House, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-846-4486.

CALL FOR ARTISTS
JAN. 8 - JAN. 30 SHOW: All area artists are encourage to enter their work in the Contemporary Western Art of the Southeast Art Show to be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info about submissions: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441 or trinidadareaartscouncil@gmail.com

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID
JAN. 13 & 27 (6 p.m.) Parents Workshop to help complete student's Financial Aid Applications with Louis Rino. Reserve a space: 719-846-2971.

STATE OF THE COLLEGE
JAN 13 (6 p.m.) President Dr. Carmen Simone of TSJC will give an address regarding the challenges the college faces as well as exciting plans for the future that will be held at the Masari Theater (corner of Broom and State Streets. Info: 719-846-5725.

TRINIDAD WORKFORCE
JAN. 19 (2-4 p.m.) First Responder Jobs Career Exploration will be held at the Center, 140 N. Commercial St. Info: 719-846-9221.

TSJC LUNCH & LEARN
JAN. 28 (12:15-12:45 p.m.) Free program "What's all the Buzz About Bees" by Jim Conley, former Huerfano County Extension Agent, will be held in the Pioneer Room of the Sullivan Center. Lunch can be had on your own at the cafeteria. Lunch RSVP: Donna Haddow, 719-846-5541 or donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu.

TRINIDAD LAKE
THRU MAY 1: Driftwood found along the shoreline at the Boat Ramp, in Reilly Canyon and on South Shore may be taken for household use by anyone who has first obtained a free permit from the park office. Info: 719-846-6951.

The Fine Print feature is a courtesy notice used to inform the public of upcoming public meetings and events. Placement is not guaranteed. For contributions please call 719-846-3311 or e-mail cathy@trinidadchronicle-news.com

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 12/22/15. Elmore Ditch: Priority # 8 --- Appropriation date: 11/15/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release .42 AF
Inflow 51.33 AF -- 25.88 CFS
Evaporation 2.91 AF
Content 24,744 AF
Elevation 6,189.93
Precipitation 0

Down stream call: John Martin
Reservoir: 12/31/1948.



CITY COUNCIL

Marijuana issue focus of work session

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Some possible new regulations governing the local marijuana industry, a retail marijuana business ownership transfer and information about marijuana tax revenues were included in City Council's work session and special meeting held Tuesday at City Hall. City Finance Director Larry Lochard discussed recent marijuana tax revenues coming in to the City, after a request about the issue from Council Member Joe Bonato.

"We've just completed getting November's numbers," Lochard said. "So the 5 percent tax for the City was just a little over \$400,000 year-to-date. The November numbers in total are down about 18 percent from the previous months running total for the last four or five months. The last four months have been basically flat, and then we dropped 18 percent from October to November. But we still have, year-to-date, a little over \$400,000, which is the 5 percent direct to the City, and the fifteen percent of ten percent that comes from the state. We have a little bit of an issue there. Some of our facilities don't report to the state in a timely manner, so there's a lag where we're almost \$20,000 behind. In November, three facilities had zero reported to the state, and they wind up paying penalties. Eventually it comes, but there's just a delay. That doesn't include the 4 percent that

gets buried in the sales tax numbers as well. There's an impact there."

Bonato said he wanted to also know about the picture for City sales tax revenue.

"Year-to date sales tax is up 14 percent through October, because there's a two month lag from the state in that," Lochard said. "That's year over year. We're running about \$4.4 million in total sales tax. Part of that goes to the General Fund and part to the Capital Im-

"We've just completed getting November's numbers. So the 5 percent tax for the City was just a little over \$400,000 year-to-date."



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

City Finance Director Larry Lochard provided information about marijuana tax revenues to City Council at Tuesday's work session.

provement Fund. We had a little bit of a dip, but over all they're up 14 percent. The other interesting thing I guess, tax-wise, is if you look at property tax and motor vehicle tax, and some of those things. Property taxes are down about 6 percent year over year. Motor vehicle taxes are up 31 percent, but the net of that is zero. So it's taken a 31 percent increase in motor vehicle taxes to offset the decline in property tax revenue, which is a mystery, but overall, if you take the marijuana sales year-to-date, the

impact to the sales tax area is roughly \$300,000. We haven't gotten all of that yet because of the lag, but that's about the impact of it. So we're running about \$700,000 to \$800,000 in impact."

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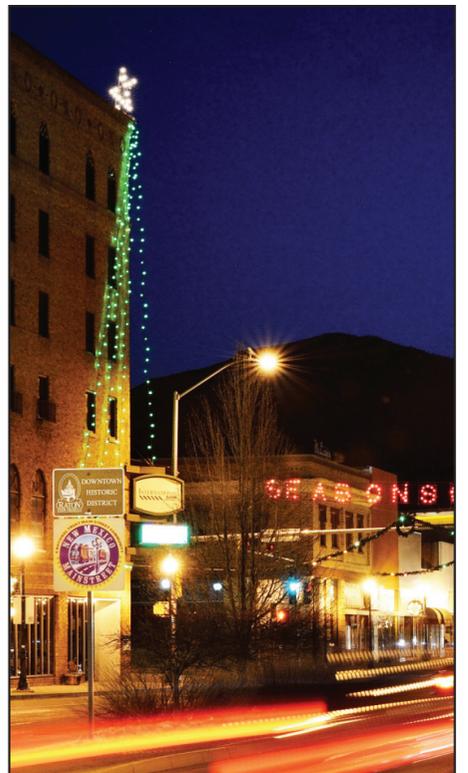
NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Peace reigns as Raton stops for Christmas

As the full moon rose slowly over Raton's east side on Christmas Eve, the light on the Joe E. Vigil Law Enforcement Memorial heralded the peace of the evening and the season. As people scurried to join their families on Christmas Eve, Raton's Main Street displayed the lights of the season. The iconic Raton sign atop Goat Hill seemed to shine a little brighter when joined by other festive lights of the season on Christmas Eve. Even the stars in the sky popped out to join the celebration.



SEVERE WEATHER

At least 11 die from Texas tornadoes, 12 in Midwest flooding

DAVID WARREN and
REESE DUNKLIN
Associated Press

GARLAND, Texas (AP) — At least 11 people died and dozens

were injured in strong tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area and caused substantial damage this weekend, while 12 people died in flooding in the Midwest.

It was the latest of a succes-

sion of powerful weather events across the country, from heavy snow in New Mexico, west Texas and the Oklahoma Panhandle to flash flooding in parts of the Plains and Midwest. Days of tumultuous weather have led to 36 deaths overall — those in Texas, plus five in Illinois, seven in Missouri and 19 in the Southeast.

The full extent of damage along a nearly 40-mile stretch near Dallas was becoming clear Sunday: houses destroyed, vehicles mangled, power lines down and trees toppled. Heavy rain and wind hampered cleanup efforts on Sunday afternoon.

"This is a huge impact on our community and we're all suffering," Garland Police Lt. Pedro

Barineau said of the community about 20 miles northeast of Dallas, where eight people died, 15 were injured and about 600 structures, mostly single-family homes, were damaged.

The weather service said an EF-4 tornado, which is the second-most powerful with winds up to more than 200 mph, hit the community at about 6:45 p.m. Saturday. It was near the intersection of Interstate 30 and George Bush Turnpike, which is a major route in the region. At least three people who died were found in vehicles, said Barineau, who also noted that some cars appeared to be thrown from the interstate, though it

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WEATHER WATCH

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. Wind chill values between zero and 10. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming

light and variable in the morning. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 8. Wind chill values between zero and 5. North wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: A 10 percent chance of light snow after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 27. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 7. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph after midnight.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 28. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 8. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 27. West northwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 7. North wind around 5 mph. **NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Sunny, with a high near 34. West wind around 5 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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