



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



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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

"I wonder what it's like to live in an olive."

—Sarah Fixmer,
Trinidad resident, age 4

JANUARY 5 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.

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.

City's Main Street Program
ONDAY (Noon) Join the conversation at City Hall in Council Chambers on Animas St. The topic is: Preview of the Conversation Tracker. Information: 719-846-9843.

TAAC
MONDAY (6 p.m.) Trinidad Area Arts Council meets in the First Street Gallery, 130 E. Main St. Information: 719-846-1441. Public is welcome to attend.

JANUARY 6
Las Animas County
TUESDAY (9 a.m.) Board of County Commissioners meeting is in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2568. **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Loudon (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

Trinidad Schools
TUESDAY (10:15 a.m.) The Board of Education will hold a board retreat at the Mt. Carmel Health and Wellness Center, 911 Robinson St. Information: Diane Montoya, 719-845-2048.

Trinidad Writers' Group
TUESDAY (2 p.m.) The Trinidad Writers' Group will meet at 109 E. Fifth St. Info: Dana Miller, 719-422-8352 or danamiller65@gmail.com.

Trinidad City Council
TUESDAY (7 p.m.) Regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

PUBLIC SERVICE
Raton Choral Society
JANUARY 8, 9 (6:30-8 p.m.) & 10 (2:30-4 p.m.) Auditions for "Hello Dolly" will be held in the Shuler Theater and the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center. Come prepared to read for Director, Howard Woodworth and sing for Music Director, Bill Cray. Information: Bill Cray, 575-445-5682 or plain-songstudio@msn.com.

SUPPORT YOUR HOMETOWN
SHOP LOCAL: Dine out and shop area and downtown merchants for special January sales and promotions. Help Trinidad thrive!

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: 01/02/15. Baca ditch: Priority # 3 --- Appropriation date: 11/30/1861.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release .02 A
Inflow 17.02 AF -- 8.58 CFS
Evaporation 0 AF
Content 14,903 AF
Elevation 6,175.68
Precipitation 0

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



TAKING THE PLUNGE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Polar bears ask — Is it cold enough for you?

Three brave boys enjoy flight in the moments just before icy water briefly reshapes their smiles. A total of 55 people paid \$20 each to jump off Lake Maloya's four-inch ice top into the cold water below as part of Raton Parks and Recreation Departments 2nd Annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser. Lake Maloya is a popular spot in the Sugarite Canyon State Park just east of Raton, New Mexico. See more chilling photos from The Plunge on Page 6.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Trinidad Golf Association asks City for assistance

Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad Municipal Golf Course is one of the City's great treasures, but it often struggles financially due to high expenses and a limited revenue stream. Joe DeGarbo, a member of the Trinidad Golf Association (TGA), asked for a little extra financial help from the City at Tuesday's City Council Work Session.

DeGarbo said the TGA was doing everything it could to increase its revenues and keep its costs down, but even with revenues of approximately \$282,000 in 2014, it figured to end the year with a deficit of \$18,000. The City will contribute \$15,000 to the TGA as part of its 2015 budget, which represents a typical annual contribution from the City to the TGA.

The TGA established a \$60,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD) a few years ago, he said, but it's drawn that down to \$20,000 today, and operates on a line of credit that must be paid back annually. It's raised

Continued on Page 2 ...



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Members of the Trinidad Golf Association attended Tuesday's City Council work session to ask for additional financial help in 2015. The Clubhouse, which also houses a restaurant located inside the historic property, are popular tourist attractions for the City and should be property maintained.



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

DigiCare Hearing Solutions Office Manager John Schecter will be the Trinidad Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce President for 2015.

NEW CHAMBER LEADER

John Schecter takes the reigns of TLACC for 2015

By Eric John Monson
News Editor
The Chronicle-News

This week the Trinidad Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce (TLACC) announced their elections for the Board of Directors and Ambassadors. John Schecter, Office Manager at DigiCare Hearing Solutions, has been named Chamber President for 2015, replacing Tara Marshall who works in the City of Trinidad offices.

Terms for the Board of Directors and Ambassadors, who are responsible for functions like new business ribbon cutting ceremonies, are for one year. Schecter had formerly acted as Secretary for the board.

Other TLACC elected officers include President Elect Linda Barron Steele, who owns several local businesses including Mountain Liquor; Secretary Karen Tokar, who is a Vice President with International Bank; and Treasurer Jack Israel, a retired former employee of Pioneer Energy. Chamber Ambassadors for 2015 will include President, Sherri Files, Secretary Dolly Padilla and Treasurer Jack Israel.

"I want to continue to see the Chamber grow and become even more active in the community," said Schecter Tuesday.

Like many civic organization in Trinidad, the Chamber seems

Continued on Page 2 ...

WEATHER WATCH

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 52. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. West

wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the afternoon. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday: A 10 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly sunny, with a

high near 32. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest after midnight.

Weather Sponsored by:

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719-845-0102

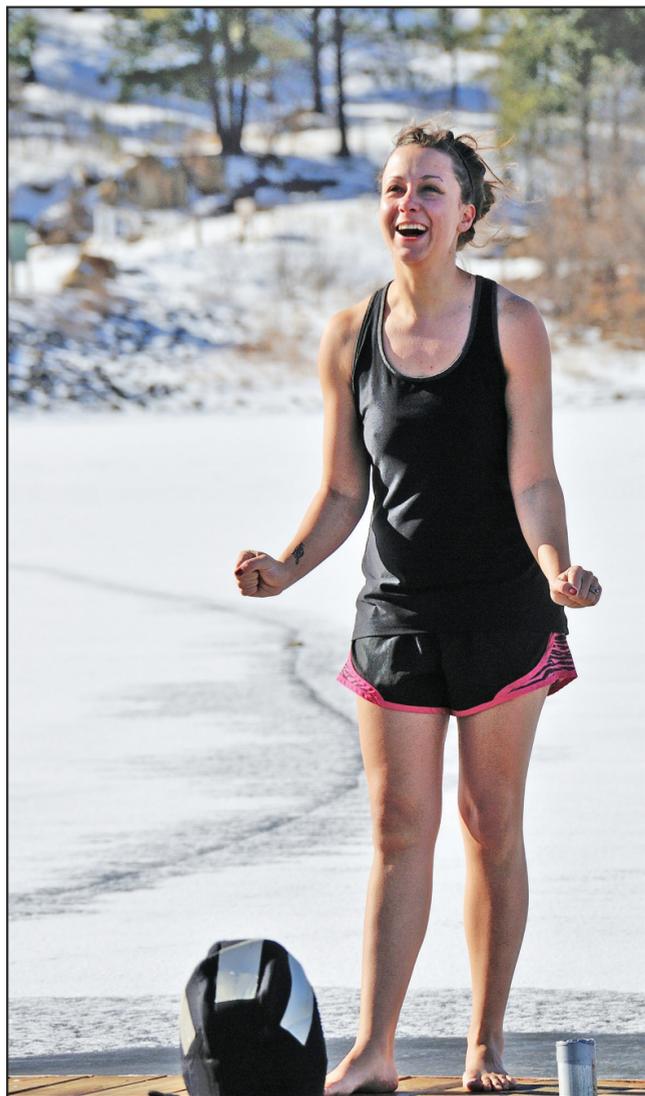
COMMUNITY

2ND ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Yankee Canyon cowboy Landon Berry traded boots and spurs for goose bumps when he took the plunge New Year's Day during the annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

The moment of reckoning arrives

Clockwise from above, Ratonian Patience Romero wonders what got into her when she paid \$20 to jump in Lake Maloya in Sugarite Canyon State Park Thursday during Raton Parks and Recreation Department's 2nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge. Ratonians Santina Frank, Rhiannon Barela, and Jami Esquibel take a final moment to build their courage before leaping into the frigid waters of the lake. Probably not what they imagined when they signed up for the park service, these Sugarite Canyon State Park rangers don lifeguard gear unlike anything seen at the local pool in the summer.



TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

Transferring from two-year to four-year college just got easier

By Greg Boyce
Special to The Chronicle-News

Seamlessly transferring from Colorado's community colleges to four-year colleges and universities is now easier after actions by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education. The SBCCOE recently approved nine additional degrees with designation to accompany the Statewide Transfer Agreements recently approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. In 2010, the Colorado Community College System sponsored legislation to require seamless transfer for community college students into four-year, public institutions.

These agreements allow students to transfer the credits they earn at a community college to a four-year institution, avoiding the need to re-take courses, saving students money and reducing debt as students pursue their higher education. These transfer agreements and degrees with designation also save taxpayers money as students are not taking courses that are unnecessary in pursuit of their

degree. The degrees with designation also allow a student to focus on his or her specific field of study at the two-year institution and seamlessly transfer to a four-year institution.

"The SBCCOE approval allows the Colorado community colleges to offer nine more degrees with designation for our students, notably degrees in the much needed science fields of study. We now have 28 degrees with designations and statewide transfer agreements covering the vast majority of majors for community college transfers to a bachelor's degree. An important priority for the Colorado Community College System is to keep tuition low. With tuition of \$3,747 per year for a full-time student, taking the first two years at one of our community colleges, then transferring to four-year institutions saves families tens of thousands of dollars in their pursuit of a bachelor's degree," said Dr. Nancy McCallin, president of the Colorado Community College System. "The transfer and designation initiatives are important because the more certainty and focus a student has through-

out his or her educational career; the more likely he or she is to complete a degree in a timely manner. This leads to improved student success in the forms of higher completion and graduation rates.

"Our top priority is to offer a learning environment that motivates students toward the completion of their goals," added McCallin. "With the guaranteed transfer of the credits that degrees with designation offer, students know that the time and money they invest with us will pay off in the future. We are excited and pleased to open additional opportunities for our students."

The new degrees with designation are: Chemistry,

Biology, Physics, Art History, Horticulture Business Management, Studio Art, Theatre, Music, and English. Some of the degrees already in place are Business, Elementary Education, Economics, Criminal Justice, and Agricultural Business.

The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education serving more than 151,000 students annually. It oversees career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges, including Trinidad State's Trinidad and Alamosa Campuses, and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and six other post-secondary institutions.

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Having More Retirement Accounts is Not the Same as Having More Money.

When it comes to the number of retirement accounts you have, the saying "more is better" is not necessarily true. In fact, if you hold multiple accounts with various brokers, it can be difficult to keep track of your investments and to see if you're properly diversified.* At the very least, multiple accounts usually mean multiple fees.

Bringing your accounts to Edward Jones could help solve all that. Plus, one statement can make it easier to see if you're moving toward your goals.

*Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

To learn why consolidating your retirement accounts to Edward Jones makes sense, call your local financial advisor today.



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