



TUESDAY
MARCH 3, 2015

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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

MARCH 3
THE SAMARITAN CLINIC
TUESDAYS (9 a.m.-4 p.m./1st and 3rd each month) Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 413 E. Frost. Info: 719-846-3536.

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).**

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.

Carnegie Library
TUESDAY (4-6 p.m.) Bicycle Repair Day means bring your own bike and some elbow grease and we will provide the rest at 202 N. Animas St. Info: 719-846-6841.

Trinidad City Council
TUESDAY (6 p.m. & 7 p.m.) Special session followed by the regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843. **CITY COUNCIL: Mayor: Joe Reorda and Council Members: Carol Bolton, Joe Bonato, Pat Fletcher, Anthony Mattie, Michelle Miles, and Liz Torres.**

Today's Quote

"Happy is the man who has broken the chains, which hurt the mind, and has given up worrying once and for all."

-Ovid (Ancient Roman Poet)

MARCH 4
Trinidad Community Co-op
WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.) Acoustic Music Jam is open to all levels, all musicians at the Coop, Corner of Elm and Maple Streets. Info: communitycoop-trinidad@gmail.com.

LENTEN SERVICE
WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.) Weekly service will be held at Zion's Lutheran Church, 613 Prospect St. Info: 719-846-7785.

PUBLIC SERVICE
PRCWD Water District
THURSDAY (7:30 p.m.) PLEASE NOTE: This meeting has been changed to Friday, Mar. 13. The Purgatoire River Conservancy will meet in City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Thelma Lujan, 719-846-7285.

Carnegie Library
202 N. Animas St. Info: 719-846-6841.

FRIDAY (4:30-6:30 p.m.) OTAKU Anime and Manga Club for teens

FRIDAY (5 p.m.) Book Signing with Acie Lynn "Awakening."

American Legion
FRIDAY (6 p.m.) The Trinidad American Legion meets at the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Info: Adjutant John Garduno, 719-680-1277.

FP Horse Association
SATURDAY: The 2015 Season kicks off with **OPEN RIDE (10 a.m.)**, **EXHIBITIONS (11 a.m.)**, **OPEN 4-D BARREL RACE (Noon)** followed by **YOUTH BARREL RACE** and **POLE BENDING**. All events will be at the Las Animas County Fairgrounds in the indoor arena (EXPO). Info: Susan Schneider, 719-680-0666.

DON'T MISS THIS!
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
SUNDAY (2 a.m.) Spring forward — the time change in the United States begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour on Saturday night.

Call for ARTCAR Volunteers!
Volunteers are needed for the Prison Art Car Project for the 2015 ArtoCade Festival. Must be willing to take training class/workshop for prison admission. Info: Rodney Wood, 719-334-0087.

DON'T MISS CALL FOR FUN!
MARCH 14 (entry deadline) Call for artists for "There's No Such Thing

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RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 03/02/15. Chilli ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 0.63 AF
Inflow 44.14 AF -- 22.26 CFS
Evaporation 5.51 AF
Content 17,452 AF
Elevation 6,179.96
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call: John Martin Reservoir: (Conservation Storage) 05/31/1949.



EDUCATION

THS math teachers ask School Board for help

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

If high school math students are going to make the progress that they should, then they must have the tools to be successful. That was the gist of a presentation by Trinidad High School math teachers at the most recent Board of Education meeting.

Teacher Rebecca Weber led off the math program's presentation that is part of the school district's wider Focus on Achievement program. In a power point presentation, Weber said the district had aligned its math program for all students in grades K-12, and high school math teachers had received additional training from

the author of the textbooks they're currently using. Math students complete the projects and extension activities in their textbooks

ers took 28 math students to the American Math Competition in Primero on Thursday, February 26, and all math students will be

and created a foundational math class to better prepare students who aren't ready for the more advanced Algebra classes. The program offers concurrent enrollment math courses through TSJC, and Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 classes are team taught with two teachers. Weber said math students were two months ahead of where they were at this time last year, and were becoming more familiar with their texts and are posing questions in class.

"If we don't have enough textbooks this year for all of our students, then it's also going to be a concern for next year."

that require them to apply what they've learned in class. The math program has developed a website for both students and parents to access class information. Teach-

participating in Moody's Mega Math Challenge.

The school district has purchased a class set of scientific calculators for students to share,

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

DHS worker retires after 48 years on the job

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

After dedicating her working life to serving the people of Las Animas County, Diane Connell retired Friday after 48 years, nine months and two days on the job. Connell worked for many years as Child Care Coordinator in the Childcare Protection Unit of the Department of Human Services.

There was a time when a family's father was the sole breadwinner, and the mother stayed at home with the kids, but those days are long gone for most families. Nowadays, when both parents must work to meet the family's expenses, daycare and preschool child care are essential to ensure children are well looked after and

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Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Diane Connell, left, and Arlene Lopez of the County Department of Human Services share a moment on the occasion of Connell's retirement after 48 years of service to the people of Las Animas County.



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Jett, left, a newly rescued Jack Russell Terrier, sporting his sunshine yellow sweater, was still getting to know his new family, including older "brother" Django, when he took his first hike out a ranch road southeast of Raton.

FIRST PERSON: TIM KELLER

Winter hiking goes down long country roads

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON — Raton is a hiker's paradise—not just because of the pristine high-mountain beauty of nearby Sugarite Canyon State Park, but because Climax Canyon Nature Trail offers secluded two- and three-mile mountain loops right within the western city limits, built and maintained by the City of Raton Department of Parks & Recreation.

hard to maintain hiking mileage through the winter. The City of Raton has offered another great option with the asphalt walking trails around Roundhouse Park surrounding the aquatic center just across the railroad tracks east of downtown Raton. Even on mornings after big snows this winter, the trails have been cleared and dry, and it's easy to walk a couple miles without retracing any steps.

At peak hours, though, the Roundhouse Park trails get crowded—and so many people are walking their dogs that "Dog Park" might as well be added to the name.

That's when I like to get out of town, but I never have to go far. Wherever you live in our region, long dirt ranch roads go off endlessly toward every horizon. They can be muddy the first couple days after a storm, but they're generally well made and well maintained so they

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AWAKENING

Trinidad author to have public library book signing on Friday

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

An author with Trinidad roots has published her first novel, which is titled "The Prophecy Tales: AWAKENING," (Wayfarer Artisan Press, 2014). Acie Lynn a/k/a Joy Sanchez will have a book signing event, beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6 at Trinidad's Carnegie Public Library, lo-

cated at 202 N. Animas St. The novel tells the tale of Mayven, an orphaned girl living in the fantasy world of Emwen who's blessed with the gift of magic, the life force of that world, at a time when magic itself is under the threat of destruction, along with every living person on Emwen. She talked about the novel, which

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Photo courtesy of the author

Acie Lynn a/k/a Joy Sanchez wrote the fantasy novel "The Prophecy Tale: AWAKENING," and will have a book signing event at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6 at the Carnegie Public Library.



WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of snow after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 20 mph.

Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 11. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northeast after midnight. Accumulation less than one inch possible.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 21. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 5. East north-

east wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the evening.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 37. South southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 15. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 48. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 20. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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SPORTS & COMMUNITY

REGIONAL BASKETBALL

One-step closer to state — Lady Miners, Lady Farmers, Bulldog Boys

By Adam Sperandio
The Chronicle-News

With two weeks left in the 2014-15 high school basketball season, three Trinidad area teams find themselves one step closer to being crowned Colorado State Basketball Champions. After strong performances in their respective district tournaments, the Trinidad Lady Miners, Hoehne Lady Farmers and Primero Bulldog boys will be moving on to either the opening round of the state tournament (Trinidad) or to the regional tournament with a birth at state on the line. It's truly crunch time as one loss ends it all, while winning brings them that much closer to hoisting the golden ball on March 14, 2015. It's the greatest time of the year, so sit back, relax and enjoy March Madness at it's finest!

Below is a look at what can be expected of the three area teams as they gear up for competition this weekend.

Hoehne

23-0 Santa Fe League Champs

The Lady Farmers rolled through John Mall, Swink, and Rye in the Santa Fe League Tournament, outscoring their three opponents 159-67 en route to their second straight district title. Cydney Kreutzer led the way for the Farmers, averaging over 20 points per game in the tournament and pretty much solidified her spot as the Santa Fe League's Most Valuable Player.

For the second weekend in a row the Farmers will be calling Otero Junior College home as they head into regionals the undefeated Santa Fe League Champs. The No. 1 seed in Region 1 and the No. 2 team in the land will take on No. 8 seed Custer County Bobcats Friday afternoon in the first round of the regional tournament.

The Bobcats come into the contest with the Farmers sporting an overall record of 10-11, which was good enough for a fourth place finish in the Southern Peaks League. The Farmers blow the Bobcats out of the water on paper and with the win, the Lady Farmers will play the winner of Sanford and Sargent with a birth at the state tournament in Pueblo on the line. Tipoff against Custer County is scheduled for Friday at 1 p.m. at Otero Junior College in La Junta.

Primero

15-5 Southern Peaks League Third Place

The Primero Bulldogs went into halftime of the Southern Peaks semi-finals against Sierra Grande trailing by one, but were outscored 22-14 in the second half on the way to a 44-35 loss. Freshman Vinny Damelio and senior James Lujan led the way for the Dogs with 12 and 11 points. They bounced back nicely the next day against Antonito, defeating the Trojans 44-36 for third place in the Southern Peaks Tourney, which qualified them for regionals in Pueblo this weekend. Damelio was unstoppable, going 8-13 from the field with five three pointers en route to a game-high 22 points.

The focus for No. 8 seed Bulldogs now shifts to the No. 5 seed and Arkansas Valley Champs, Granada Bobcats. The 11-11 Bobcats come into the matchup riding a four-game winning streak and went virtually untouched in their district tournament, outscoring Plain View, Cheyenne Wells and McClave 148-100. Both teams match up well in the stat sheets with the Dogs beating out the Cats in points per game (54-51), rebounds per game (29-26) and steals per game (15-8). The two are virtually tied in assists and blocks. Tip off is scheduled for Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. at Massari Arena on the CSUP Campus in Pueblo.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Lujan

2014-15 Southern Peaks League Third Place finishers Primero Bulldogs will take on the Granada Bobcats in the first round of regionals on Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Massari Arena on the CSUP campus in Pueblo. Pictured above (L-R): Head Coach Justin Harris, Joey Archuleta, Julian Trujillo, Marcus Torres, Cole Vigil, James Lujan, Tyler Beaman, Sean Lutz, Vinny Damelio, Josette Lutz, Bradley Woodruff and Diego Duran.

Trinidad

15-7 Tri-Peaks League Third Place

After holding on to defeat La Junta 44-37 in the first round of the Tri-Peaks League tournament last Tuesday night, the Lady Miners hit a road block against Manitou Springs in the semi-finals, losing to the Pirates by a final score of 50-39. The girls rallied nicely in the third place game, defeating Salida 48-31. Now, in the state tournament for the sixth consecutive year, Coach Dasko and his Lady Miners find themselves going into the round of 32 as the No. 14 matched up against No. 19 Platte Valley Broncos in the first round of the state tournament.

The Broncos come into the matchup with a 14-8 record and a third place finish in the extremely competitive Patriot League behind No. 1 Sterling and No. 5 Eaton. Both

teams match up well against one another on paper, with the Broncos barely edging the Miners in scoring by just four points per game, however the Miners have the edge in rebounds and assists.

Tipoff is scheduled for March 6 at 7:15 p.m. at host school and No. 3 seed Lutheran High in Parker with the winner likely moving on to play the defending 2-A Colorado State Champs, Lutheran Lions on Saturday at 3 pm. The Lions come into their first 3-A state tourney sporting a 21-1 record and will take on the Confluence League Champions and No. 20 seed Eagle Ridge Academy Warriors, who are one of only two teams in the tournament with a losing record at 8-12. The Lady Miners and Lady Lions have one opponent in common in Manitou Springs who defeated the Lions 55-54 in January. The Pirates swept the Miners in Tri-Peaks play.

DHS worker retires after 48 years on the job

can begin the critical learning process.

Connell would interview parents looking for someone to take care of their kids when they were both at work. She provided the parents with a list of area daycare and early learning childcare centers and worked with parents to find the best fit for their children.

She also worked closely with the staff and administration of those daycare and early childhood care centers, visiting with them on a regular basis.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time working at DHS," Connell said. "I've worked at various different jobs, but it's time to do something else with my life. When parents find work, they need to take their kids to a childcare center. It's been my job to provide them with a list of childcare providers, and then they get to choose which one they want to send their children to. It's rewarding to see those parents

move on and get better jobs."

Connell said she'd helped place 101 children in daycare or early learning childcare facilities in the past year. She said the situation had changed dramatically in recent years with the decline in local population. At one time, there were many more grandparents, neighbors and family friends able to look after young children while their parents were working than there are today. And there were also more childcare providers in the Trinidad area than there are now.

When school is out in the summer, working parents very often have to take their younger children to a childcare provider until school resumes in the fall.

"The parents do express their gratitude towards us," she said. "They appreciate the help, because they can't leave their kids at home while they're working, so they're very

appreciative."

Mostly I interact with the parents, but I do go out to the daycare centers, where I can see the interaction between children and the provider."

Some of the providers include COG's Early Learning Center at 1225 Rosita Ave., Kiddy Korner at 119 W. Kansas Ave., World of Discovery Learning Center at 1506 E. Main St., and other public and private childcare providers. Connell said Trinidad no longer has provider specializing in infant care as it once did, and she said an infant provider is badly needed here.

Her husband of 46 years has passed on, and she has two daughters and one grandson who will be graduating from high school this year. She said she's looking forward to retirement.

"I'm going to relax, sleep late and probably take some trips. I'll be able to spend more time

with my family, and especially my grandson."

She graduated from Sopris High School in 1960 and has a brother living in Raton, N.M. Her sisters live much farther away. Her long DHS career has left her with many fond memories.

"I've enjoyed my years here. I love all my co-workers. You couldn't find a better bunch of people."

DHS Executive Director Arlene Lopez said Connell would be sorely missed.

"What can you say? She's just had an excellent career here," Lopez said. "She's been a fine caseworker for many, many years, and I think she's become close to a lot of us here. We are truly going to miss her presence here, not just for work, but also for personal reasons. She's been an ideal caseworker because she's a very caring and compassionate person. She's very much going to be missed."

... Continued from Page 1

Winter hiking goes down long country roads

dry quickly. Best of all, you'll seldom see another soul as you walk into the very vistas that cause most of us to love this land.

With our two dogs this winter, I've been hiking a beautiful ranch road that starts six miles southeast of downtown Raton and—Dead End sign notwithstanding—the road goes on forever. We walk four miles to a quaint one-lane bridge before turning back. We've spent a lot of hours on that road this winter. On average, a vehicle, almost always a ranch pickup, passes us about once per hour. We can hear them coming long before they reach us; plenty of time to be sure we're out of their way.

The ranches are so widespread that our four-mile hike to the bridge doesn't quite reach the first ranch headquarters. The second ranch is two miles past the first.

On one hike, we saw more elk than people. When we do see people, they're in passing pickups. Sometimes they stop to say hi or ask whether we need a ride. When they find out that we're out walking for fun, invariably they smile and continue on their way.

We recently adopted a Jack Russell Terrier that last fall had been chewed up and left for dead by a coyote outside a stable near Colorado Springs. Nursed back

to health by a great veterinarian and loving dog-rescue people, Jett was ready to go on long hikes by the time we got him in late January. The ranch road was his first hike. Helping me watch and train Jett was our border collie, Django, himself rescued

from the shelter at Las Vegas, NM, more than four years ago. By now, Django is a veteran hiker with countless miles on many of the trails within a 12-mile radius of Raton.

Jett has joined Django in telling me that he wants to go hiking. It happens when they see me pull my hiking boots from the closet. They go berserk.

When we return from the eight-mile ranch-road hike,



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Local winter hiking with Tim Keller

When winding trails over local hills and mountains are covered in snow and treacherous ice, our area's countless ranch roads can provide a great winter hiking alternative. Every ranch road has its own attractions. This one has a one-lane bridge over a creek that runs high water all winter—when it isn't frozen solid. Either way, it's a picturesque stop on a country drive or hike (above) New to Colfax County, Jett looks ahead and likes what he sees (above left). As soon as the winter ice melts from the north-facing trails, Climax Canyon Nature Trail will again offer safe and sometimes breathtaking hikes right within Raton's western city limits (lower left).

they're transformed. They sleep the rest of the day and night. But the next day, they keep their eyes on the closet, watching for the boots to come out.

Winter's almost over. Soon we'll climb mountain trails with new greenery growing all around us. The April 25 Climax Canyon 5K walk/run is only weeks away, sponsored by the City of Raton. By then my

favorite six-mile trail up and over the ridge west of Lake Maloya will be calling me and Django and Jett.

Meantime, we're giving the weekend snow a couple days to melt and dry on the ranch road. Then we're going for a long walk, far beyond the Dead End sign, toward a one-lane country bridge in the middle of nowhere, one of our favorite places.





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