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THURSDAY
AUG. 4, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

THURSDAY—AUG. 4

NETWORK COUNCIL
THURS. (8 a.m.) Regular meeting will be held in the Bell Block Building's Trinidad Community Foundation room. Info: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.

THIS CLASS OF 1956
THURS. (Noon) Class group will hold a reunion luncheon at the Monument Lake Restaurant at the lake off Hwy. 12. Info: Jeff Griffiths, 719-868-2193 or jeffgriffiths@juno.com.

SPPRCO MEETING
THURS. (7 p.m.) Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at the District Office. Info: 719-846-3681 Ext. 117.

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

Today's Quote

"Once again I'm saved by the miracle of lasagna!"

~Garfield (Jim Davis)

WEEKEND—AUG. 5-7

FNB BACK TO SCHOOL
FRI. DEADLINE: Supplies needed include pencils, erasers, 12-inch rulers, crayons, glue, scissors, backpacks and notebook paper — cash donations are also accepted. Drop off at The First National Bank main bank on Main Street, at the motor bank on First Street or at the Wal-Mart Branch. Info: 719-846-9881.

TRINIDAD LAKE
All activities are rain or shine, and are free to the public. All vehicles are required to have a park pass. Info: 719-846-6951.
***FRI. (6:30 p.m.)** Campfire Ranger Talks at the amphitheater.

***SAT. (7 p.m.)** "Snakes Alive" with local naturalist Bob Kennemer and his snakes at the amphitheater.

BOOKS & MORE
FRI. (11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Senior Citizens Day at the Carnegie Library Bookstore, 132 N. Commercial. Most items are 50 percent off. Info: 719-846-6840.

AMERICAN LEGION
FRI. (6 p.m.) The Trinidad American Legion meets at the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Commander David Walker, 719-846-5469.

FIRE HOUSE FUNDRAISER
SAT. (8 a.m.) The Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Auxiliary is looking for items to add to their annual garage fundraiser on Sat. morning. Call Sharon Sciacca for pick up at 719-859-6095.

FARMER'S MARKET
SAT. (8 a.m.-Noon) Don't miss the 16th Annual event held every Saturday in Cimino Park — runs thru mid-October. Info: Joyce Cuccia, 719-680-0184.

RATON LIBRARY
SAT. (2-4 p.m.) Everyone is invited to the book signing with mystery author Pat Walsh "A Prairie Mourning" at the Raton Library, 244 Cook Ave., Raton. Info: Thayla Wright, 575-445-9711.

2016 LAVETA STUDIO TOUR
SAT. & SUN. (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) Free self-guided tour of 15 area artists' studios starts at the SPACe Gallery, 132 W. Ryus, La Veta. Info: Kathy Hill, 719-742-5756.

RELAY FOR LIFE
SAT. (4-10 p.m.) Annual fundraising event includes food, fun, music and more at Central Park. Info: Kendra Doherty, 719-680-0693.

PUBLIC SERVICE

LIBRARY ART DISPLAY
THRU AUG.: Artist extraordinaire Dean Sneed's "Damsels in Distress & Otherwise" will be on display at the Library, 202 N. Animas, until the end of Aug. Info: Tom Potter, 719-846-6841.

THIS BAND CAMP
AUG 8-12 (8 a.m.-3 p.m. each week) Band students will have their mandatory music camp at the THS Band Room. Info: Director Jocelyn Armes, 719-846-2971.

THIS STUDENT COUNCIL
AUG. 12 (7 a.m.) Group will meet to whitewash the "T" rock sculpture at Miner Field on the campus of Trinidad High School. Any additional volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Info: Sally Jane Ruybalid, 719-846-7390.

SAYRE SENIOR CENTER
AUG. 16 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) Take the AARP Safe Driver Course and you could reduce your overall vehicle maintenance and car insurance costs. Refresh your skills at the Center, 1222 San Pedro St. Info: Carl Mozenigo, 719-868-2288.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 08/03/2016. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 20--- Appropriation date: 10/07/1865.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
 Release 275.69 AF
 Inflow 146.29 AF - 73.75 CFS
 Evaporation 11.60 AF
 Content 26,598 AF
 Elevation 6,192.22
 Precipitation 0.41

Down stream call: Highland Canal: 05/31/1866.



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

The folks at J & J Motors donated the use of this 15-passenger van to the Trout Unlimited (TU) Youth Camp for Colorado in June. From left to right are, TU's Mark Hanson, Jean and Jerry Iuppa of J & J Motors, and TU's Howard Lackey.

CARING COMMUNITY

Local business donates free van use to help Trout Unlimited youth summer campers

Steve Block
 The Chronicle-News

When 14 teenagers came to the Bar N-I Ranch in mid June as part of Trout Unlimited's Youth Camp for Colorado, they needed a way to get from place to place. That's when Jean and Jerry Iuppa of Trinidad's J & J Motors stepped up to the plate and donated the free use of a 15-passenger van to Trout Unlimited (TU) during the week of June 19-26.

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GREAT OUTDOORS

Up, Up & Away Branson Hiking Club takes the high road

Tim Keller
 Correspondent
 The Chronicle-News

He makes it feel effortless, climbing the steep grade over jagged rocks as big as footballs, shifting the four-wheel drive into compound low while telling stories of long ago. "I don't know who built this road," he says. "I'd like to know. It's been here longer than I have."

Carlos Sandoval has lived his entire life just a short ride, by horseback or four-wheel drive, from the foot of Colorado's County Road 85.5 where it turns south into a trail that climbs mesas with names like Little Fisher, Burro, and Horseshoe. "It's a county road but they only come to tend it if someone asks," he says. "I came up Tuesday or Wednesday to clear a tree and some rocks so we could get up today." He points out one of those rocks, the size of a watermelon, as we accelerate uphill from a wide creek crossing.

"This road will be a lot smoother by the time we all get through it," he says. Twelve more 4WD vehicles trail behind us, mostly big ranch pickups with manly tires but also a Chevy Suburban with 225,000 miles on it, a 2015 Toyota 4-Runner with 10-ply tires, and a 1977 Toyota Land Cruiser that makes the others look like city slickers. Carlos Sandoval's ride is his 2004 Jeep Wrangler. It's been through one set of tires but only 31,000 miles in 12 years as he uses it only for rough duty like this or Jeep trails outside Silverton and other places he enjoys exploring around Colorado.

Carlos Sandoval is 79 years old.

The three-dozen people bouncing along in the rugged vehicles behind him aren't much younger, most of them, and several are older. Willard and Richard Loudon started the Branson Hiking Club a quarter-century ago. The large group still gathers monthly for adventurous Saturday outings, but



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Multiple creek crossings add to the fun and beauty for Branson Hiking Club members on a Saturday morning caravan climbing the mesas east of Trinidad.

as the membership has aged, they drive rather than hike. Many are ranchers and there's no shortage of strong trucks.

Some carpool to the gathering point. Lois Peterson and Ena Sroat picked me up at the Mitchell Museum. We rendezvoused with Babs

and Mac McKnight north of town and Mac drove the five of us out the dirt roads to Carlos Sandoval's place between Trinidad and Trinchera.

"This is more of a history club

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TRINIDAD COMMUNITY CENTER

Aquatic center heater breaks, repairs underway

Nick Ruybalid
 Correspondent
 The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad Aquatic Center pool heater has broken and will remain that way for another two weeks as repairs get underway.

"The pool is currently using solar heat," Stacey Sanchez, the Rec-Aid No. 1 Aquatic Director for the Aquatic Center, said in an interview last week.

He goes on to explain that all the heat of the pool is coming from its exposure to sunlight, which puts the pool at about 75 or 76 degrees Fahrenheit. "Seventy-four degrees is actually competition temperature. That's what they swim in the Olympics, but we keep it at about eighty-one to eighty-four degrees," he stated.

Sanchez explained what happened

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Photo by Nick Ruybalid/The Chronicle-News

Stacey Sanchez, the Rec-Aid No. 1 Aquatic Director and Certified Pool Operator (CPO) for the local Trinidad Aquatic Center, stands amongst the pipework that heats, filters, and pumps the water at the local swimming pool.

WEATHER WATCH

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 86. West southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent

chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: A chance of showers and

thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. West wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Sunday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 85. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

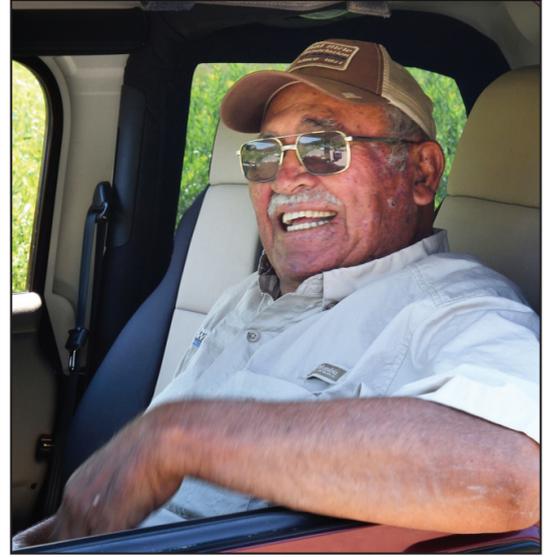
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GREAT OUTDOORS

Branson Hiking Club takes the high road

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Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Three-dozen Branson Hiking Club members gather at Carlos Sandoval's ranch between Trinidad and Trinchera for a morning 4-wheeling trek up the mesas east of Fisher's Peak and down to Lake Maloya on the New Mexico side. Carlos Sandoval serves as host and guide for a slow crawl up rough road with 13 4WD vehicles and 36 members of the Branson Hiking Club.



Chandler Caldwell, above, enjoys his birthday celebration with wife Gina and the Branson Hiking Club at Lake Dorothy. He turned 92 the day before the Saturday club outing, making him the oldest by a little. Purple-flowering wild oregano, right, grows alongside raspberries, osha, and other attractive plants along the road climbing steep mesas east of Fisher's Peak.

story.

Riding with Carlos has its perks. Besides countless great stories, I get to ride at the front of the line where everything in front of me is nature, not trucks. It's like being at the front of a roller coaster. Mac McKnight is bringing up the rear in his 4-Runner. His view includes 12 vehicles inching up the trail. When he reaches the top, a quarter-mile behind us, we'll know that everyone—and every vehicle—made it. Carlos is ready with a big jack mounted on the hood of his Jeep just in case.

How long has Carlos's family been here? "A long time," he says. "My great great grandfather was killed by Utes in Pueblo. That was 1854. Our brand goes back to 1902.

"When I was young, there was a ski lodge over the top of this road, with a tow-line and a steakhouse and bar. We used to drive up there and back. Two or three years ago the county wanted to close the road. I collected 150 signatures on a petition to keep it open and the county commission said okay. There's no reason to close it."

Google Maps is one reason. People see a road on the map and they take it. Little do they know. The county has installed a sign at the bottom declaring the road closed October to June. That hasn't stopped people from getting themselves in trouble.

Wildlife abounds, and that brings hunters. Much of the route crosses Sugarite Canyon Ranch, which has posted signs asking people to respect hunters by crossing only between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. Carlos and I see a fawn and a great blue heron, but none of the elk that he says bugle in choruses during the fall. We spot lots of wild oregano, osha and raspberries.

Stopped in a meadow along a mesa top, I walk to the back of the line to see how everyone's doing. I hadn't realized how many dogs, perhaps ten, were along for the ride and most of them are now out on leashes. I meet so many people that I'm relieved when one of the Blecha family tells me not to worry, there won't be a quiz. Old-timers share so many great Las Animas County stories that I can't keep up. I could listen all morning, and that would constitute a mere introduction to an astonishingly rich local history.

As our caravan continues through a series of small alpine lakes, Carlos says, "The best thing about the mountains to me is the fresh air." Just before the New Mexico line, he circles the wagons around the Lake Dorothy parking lot. I tell him that he's our Ward Bond and he laughs heartily, plenty old enough to remember the 1950s TV show "Wagon Train."

As lawn chairs and picnic spreads emerge, we've been

driving for exactly two hours to get here. We've traveled all of 10.8 miles from Carlos's ranch house, averaging a little over five miles per hour. You could do it twice as fast, but I can't imagine why you'd want to.

Chandler Caldwell insists that I join his big family for lunch, where there's an actual serving line with fried chicken as the star attraction. I discover that it's Chandler's birthday that's brought so many Caldwells from near and far for the weekend. When I ask him which birthday he's celebrating, he bashfully admits that he's just turned 92.

On vacation from her lumber business near Daytona, Florida, Jeanette Silva tells everyone how much she's been craving chicken. "All we eat here is beef. We eat a little beef in Florida, but it's mostly chicken and fish." The Caldwell's have plenty enough chicken to satisfy her.



than a hiking club," Mac offers along the way. "What opens it up for us is knowing all these ranchers and having access for all these tours." He names some of those joining us this morning. There's Bob Silva, author of "Lead in Trinidad," and historian Lolly Ming from Pritchard with her family. A passel of Caldwells are among the many, including professional photographer Jim Blecha, that are traveling with family.

"In the early 2000s, I set up the email list," Mac says. "There were 81 on the list (mcknight350@yahoo.com) this week. We still have a few that don't have email, including Carlos."

Carlos Sandoval doesn't have email but he has a lot of magazines. He mentions High Country News, New Mexico Magazine, Western Horseman and his favorite, National Geographic. "If they ever put me in prison," he says, "I'll just get a lot of magazine subscriptions and I'll be fine." The Chronicle-News arrives with his mail deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A fan of the Chronicle's recent travel series—"I read some of them twice"—he's invited me along for what he thinks might make a good travel

Jim Silva spins tales of growing up near Trinchera Plaza, one of the first three Spanish settlements in present-day Colorado—along with San Luis and, right behind Carlos Sandoval's house, San Miguel Plaza. "They moved Trinchera three miles north to the new railroad when it came through. There was a depot there and in Branson. After the depots closed, you could still stop the train by waving your hat."

As the banter picks up, I hear that George Strait and Willie Nelson are good, the rest of modern country music not so much.

And then, one by one, trucks start leaving for a return trip home. Some return to Trinidad via Raton and I-25. Some turn east across Johnson Mesa and back to Trinchera or Branson via Trinchera Canyon. At least one heads back the way we came, a shortcut of sorts, a shortcut that will take two hours—or more, if they stop to pick wild raspberries.

Local business donates free van use to help TU youth campers

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"We were happy to be able to do it," Jerry said. "It's always great to help out our young people."

Howard Lackey, head of the local TU chapter said the Iuppa's had also helped out when TU had youth camps in previous years.

"This year they donated the use of a 15-passenger van for our youth camp," Lackey said. "We had 14 campers plus the counselors plus everybody else. It's a week when they learn about ecology, entomology, fishology and all the other 'ologies' that are out there. They used the van one time to go over to Alamosa to the federal hatchery over there, and just learned about the whole process. It's not just about fishing. It's about ecology, the environment and everything that's involved. It's been very successful. The van was also used to bring them into

Trinidad to cut the Russian olive trees that are an invasive species here. It's that local support that we get that helps little old Trinidad to land a state project like this. I even got Jerry a special rock from the river, though I don't know if he's used it yet."

TU's Mark Hanson said it was wonderful that a local business would step forward to help the young campers.

"It's great and we really appreciate the support," Hanson said. "A lot of these kids get inspired by the camp. They become fish biologists, game wardens. Some might go on to be doctors and lawyers and such, but they get a good feel for conservation, especially with our cold-water fisheries. Almost our entire state is a cold-water fishery, and it needs to be preserved and conserved and restored, and that's what Trout Unlimited is all about."

Brad Kirby / The Chronicle-News

Trout Unlimited President Howard Lackey gives fishing lessons to Sky Morris as Sky Morris, Jr. looks on.



					
Sax Tabby - black & Domestic Long Hair Mix	Priscilla Puffbottom Domestic Long Hair - brown	Oswald Domestic Short Hair - gray and white	Harry Domestic Short Hair - gray and white	Bruiser Domestic Short Hair - black & Tuxedo Mix	

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