



WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

Vol. 135, No. 38

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

### WEDNESDAY

#### Hospital Auxiliary

Mt. San Rafael Hospital Auxiliary sponsored Book Sale 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wed (Feb 23) in the lobby of the hospital, 410 Benedicta. For more information about this fundraising event call Sylvia Lackey @ 719-846-6497. (NOTE: This event has been rescheduled from Feb 16.)

#### Exercise Class

Arthritis low-impact exercise (free classes) every Mon & Wed @ 9 a.m. @ Corazon Square, 201 Raton St. & 1 p.m. @ Early Learning Center, 1225 Rosita Ave. Call 719-845-1133 ext. 224 for more information.

#### Tourism Board

Meets 9 a.m. 2nd & 4th Wed @ City Hall, Conference Room, 135 N. Animas. For more information call Audra Garrett @ 719-846-9843.

#### PAL Playgroup

Meets 9:30 - 11 a.m. every Weds @ Alta Vista, 415 S. Indiana for moms & caregivers with infants, ages birth to 3. Playroom is also available for same time use Tues & Thurs. For more information call Martina @ 719-846-4400.

#### Senior Exercise

COG sponsored Stretch, Flex, Balance & Music Therapy Classes 10-11 a.m. Mon & Wed @ Primero Community Center, Hwy 12. Call Kim @ 719-557-9642 or COG @ 719-845-1135 x225.

#### Support Group

Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group meets 10 a.m. to noon last Wed of the month @ the Carnegie Library. For more information call 719-868-3789.

#### Computer Classes

Free classes for seniors each Wed @ Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Beginners: 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Intermediate: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. New members 1st Wed each month: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. For details, call Eddie Gieske @ 719-846-1124.

#### LaCasa Lodge

Meeting for all Fiesta members 2 p.m. every Wed @ LaCasa Lodge in Jansen, Hwy 12. Call 719-846-8558 for more information.

#### Ambulance Service

District Board of Directors regular meeting 4 p.m. Weds (Feb 23) @ the Trinidad Ambulance Dist Office, 2309 E. Main St. Suite A. For more information call April 719-846-6886.

#### Stonewall FPD

Pension Fund Board of Trustees meets 5:30 p.m. Weds (Feb 23) @ the Stonewall Fire House. For more information call Kelli @ 719-846-2080.

#### Eastern Star

Meets 7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Wed @ the Masonic Temple on South Commercial Street in Trinidad. For more information call Trinidad Chapter @ 719-846-2861.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.



**Tonight:** A slight chance of rain showers before 10pm, then a slight chance of snow showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. West wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 50. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.



**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. West southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 2/22/11  
Elmoro ditch #8 11/15/1862  
Trinidad Reservoir accounting  
Release .06 acre ft.  
Inflow 52.06 acre ft.  
Evaporation 0 acre ft.  
Content 18,844 acre ft.  
Elevation 6,178.42  
Precipitation 0  
Downstream river call  
JMR 12/31/1948  
Notes

1 cubic (cfs) foot per second equals one cubic foot of water passing a point in one second of time.

1 acre-foot equals a quantity of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot.

1 cubic foot per second = 1.9835 acre-feet per day (24 hrs)

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Photos by Richard Sitts

Art fans who want to see this mural have to drive down a dirt road on the northeast side of the Purgatoire River to get to the underside of the railroad trestle where it is located. The 2010 mural is titled, "Sangria Creek." Around the corner, on the left side of the mural where artist Tomas Maes stands, typical graffiti covers the concrete slab. Maes says he knows most of the kids and others who do graffiti and that they do not tag, or paint over his work.

## Mural man

Local artist spreads his art around town and strives to share it

By RICHARD SITTS  
The Chronicle-News

Local artist Tomas Maes says he was given a gift in life and he wants to share it with others. Though he has never taught art before, he says he would like to spread the word about art and teach kids 15 and under how to draw and paint. Maes has stamped his art all around town, though viewers may have to go on a treasure hunt to find some of it.

"I feel it's my natural gift and talent. God gave me this. All this is in God's honor," Tomas says of his artwork. "I feel it is my job to share it. He gave me this. It was a gift. That's why I paint in God's honor." Maes says his artistic talents are a gift because he's had no formal art training, yet his murals can be found all around town.

There's a mural inside the soup kitchen downtown on Convent Street. Beneath the Commercial Street Bridge over



Shown here is a portion of the mural that Tomas Maes has nearly completed on the inside wall of the Trinidad Community Cooperative, titled, "Rocky Mountain High."

the Purgatoire River, there are long landscape murals that can only be seen from the river walk. Maes says he has eight to 10

murals around town, with plans for seven more major projects in the works.

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Photo by Tim Keller

From left, engineering students Ilana Mota de Almeida, Angela Rossetto Rathier, and Ithiara Dalponte pose in the lobby of the Best Western Raton Hotel during travels from their homes in Brazil.

## Brazil exchange students winter in Raton

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

Just as winter's bitter cold reached Raton in mid-December, three young engineering students arrived from their homes in Brazil to spend their summer vacations exploring the United States. Ilana Mota de Almeida, Angela Rossetto Rathier, and Ithiara Dalponte are in the midst of a three-month stay in Raton, after which they'll spend another month traveling the U.S. from coast to coast before returning for a final year of studies to complete their engineering degrees at uni-

versities in their home country of Brazil, which is currently enjoying the peak of summer.

Cultural Homestay International (CHI) is a non-profit educational exchange program serving citizens of the U.S. and more than 30 other countries. Americans can spend months overseas in such programs as Overseas English Tutor, in which they tutor their host families in English for several hours each week, while foreign students can experience America through programs such as the USA Work & Travel Program ([www.chinet.org](http://www.chinet.org)). Through CHI, the Brazilian

students acquired a U.S. J-1 Visa to allow them four months of work and travel in the U.S. before they're required to return to their home country. CHI found them both lodging and work as winter seasonal employees at the Best Western Raton Hotel, where they work both in housekeeping and the hotel's restaurant, Mulligan's.

All three women knew others who have taken advantage of the program, staying in such American locales as Miami, New York City, Buffalo, Baton Rouge, Louisville, Lake Tahoe, and Taos. They were surprised to draw a

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## Annual chamber meeting, Chenoweth Award dinner to honor Moniot Saturday

By MIKE GARRETT  
The Chronicle-News

A change of venue this year hasn't changed the basic awards dinner-business meeting format for the 130th annual Trinidad & Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, Chenoweth Award and Mardi Gras-themed Casino Night Saturday night at El Rancho Bar & Cafe, 1901 Santa Fe Trail.

The chamber has publicly released that late community volunteer extraordinaire Phyllis Moniot has posthumously won the Chenoweth Award among eight community nominated candidates - Pat Fletcher, Trish Keck, Haskell Hooks, Rafaelita Gonzales, Louise Terry, Ann Risley and Lori and Anita Phillips.

The chamber will announce its traditional Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award among three candidates - Steven Kelly, Carol Gibson and Deb Hartman. Also, this year will be a special recognition for the chamber's involvement in Colorado Junior Achievement.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, the popular silent auction, and casino kick off the action at 5 p.m., dinner is served at 7 and the awards presentations are set for 7:30. Local comedian Denny Anderson will perform his routines and KCRT radio owner-manager Dave Phillips will provide DJ music.

Senior tickets are priced at \$25, chamber members are \$35 and corporate tables for eight are \$360. Tickets are still available at the chamber office. The chamber is expecting another crowd of around 175-200.

In a letter to membership, chamber Executive Director/CEO Kim Schultz noted that, "Although our community is experiencing some economic issues, we prove time and time again that we are the little town that can, plunging forward and making the best out of what we are given. We have seen many changes in our business community, gaining some new businesses and losing some old, but overall, we have seen progress."

She pointed out the I-25 Reconstruction Project's near completion should start bringing needed dollars back to the area. "We are also seeing some new industry coming into the area with the re-opening of the New Elk Coal Mine and the re-opening of the Cuchara Mountain Resort area to shine some new light on the local economy.

"The chamber itself has been experiencing some budget shortfalls and we too have been making lemonade out of the lemons we have been given," said Schultz. "Because we have had to tighten our belts, some of our projects have been set back temporarily. But on the whole we are still able to provide those services which we have always provided."

She pointed to the chamber's revamped and more comprehensive website, [www.trinidadchamber.com](http://www.trinidadchamber.com), and the many Internet hits it has been getting, including a significant increase in the number of community tourism and relocation inquiries.

The chamber plans to introduce a 130th Trinidad anniversary edition this summer and continues to work on community partnerships and Trinidad State Junior College to implement its John Building's Community Development Resource Center.

Last week, Schultz also traveled to the Colorado Legislature as part of the Southern Colorado Action 22 board contingent to lobby on behalf of regional issues, including the pending state budget closure of the Fort Lyon Correctional Facility in Bent County. "We were also there to meet new state cabinet members, our new Legislators and department heads and we heard Gov. John Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia speak on the state budget. They're expecting 800 new bills to be introduced in the Legislature this year."

Schultz and the chamber also hosted an informal community coffee klatch last Thursday involving community business and economic development leaders, several members of the county's ranching community and Fort Carson

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# Mural man

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Under the old railroad trestle down near Noah's Ark, there's an optical illusion mural titled, "Ned & Bitsy's World." Maes says he plans on using the two characters in two other nearby murals that he intends to paint.

On the opposite, northeast side of the trestle, there's a single panel mural that is so bright and colorful, that it seems to leap off of the trestle's concrete base. Just around the corner, the concrete slab is peppered with

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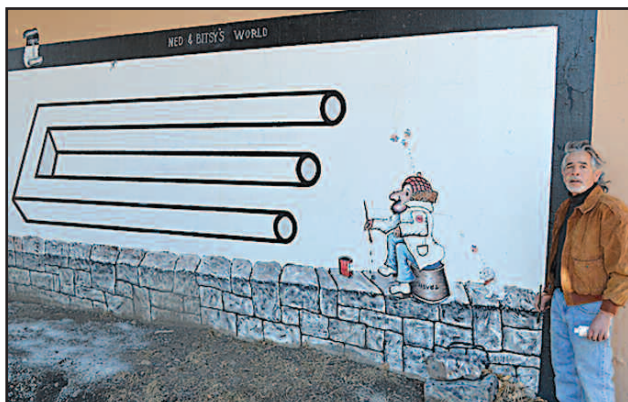


Photo by Richard Sitts

Mural artist Tomas Mayes stands next to his optical illusion piece, titled "Ned & Bitsy's World," that can be found under the old railway trestle near Noah's Ark Animal Shelter. Ned is the character sitting on the overturned trash can, with his small pooch, Bitsy, sitting on the wall behind him.

# Brazil exchange students winter in Raton

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place called Raton, N.M. Ilana Almeida arrived first, traveling alone from her home in Bahia, in northeast Brazil. She flew to Miami, then Dallas, then Albuquerque, where she boarded the Amtrak train northward to Raton. She stepped off the train at dusk on Dec. 10. With no idea of how to get to the Raton Hotel, she asked a man on the street, "Where can I get a bus?" then "Where can I get a taxicab?" Of course, neither is available in Raton. The man gave her a ride.

Angela Rathier and Ithiara Dalponte are college friends and study partners from a national university in Curitiba in the state of Parana, population 2 million, in the south of Brazil and 1,000 miles from Ilana Almeida's home. The pair flew together to Atlanta, then to Denver, where they boarded a Greyhound bus southward to Raton. They stepped off at the bus stop behind McDonald's at 5 a.m. on Dec. 19. Having left summer behind, they walked across the Clayton Highway to the Raton Hotel in the predawn darkness, stepping in the first snow either had seen in her life.

This is a peak season for the hotel with skiers and other winter travelers. The girls work cleaning rooms, then pitch in at the restaurant as both waitresses and dishwashers. Angela and Ithiara share a room next to Ilana's. They use the microwave ovens in their rooms to cook noodles or pre-prepared foods, or they can use their employee discounts to eat in the restaurant, but they need to save money for the month of travel that will follow their Raton stay.

In an interview last week, it was clear that the

three have become fast friends, quick to laugh over many shared tales. Angela says she and Ithiara were late in applying for the program and assignments are first-come, first-served. "The big cities go fast, and the ski resorts. We could list five choices." Ilana adds, "I got a call in November offering me a stay in a place called Raton, New Mexico. It was so close now to my vacation that I was afraid I would not get placed. I said yes."

The women, all born in 1989, have no car in Raton. They walk. "Every time we walk to Super Save, there is no sidewalk so we walk on the street. Everyone stares at us like we're homeless people!"

Ilana says, "It can get boring because there's nothing to do." So, Angela says, "We eat!" They walk to their favorite Raton restaurants - Pizza Hut, Sonic, McDonald's, and Subway. These are favorites because they're familiar: all four are commonly found in the women's Brazilian hometowns.

"We miss Brazilian food so much!" Angela says. "I like Mexican food, but it's too spicy for me."

Three times they've gotten their friend Carlos, from the restaurant kitchen, to give them a ride to the Raton airport where they've rented a car for an adventure. They drove to Santa Fe and back: "We needed clothes!" Ithiara says. She's the one with an international driver's license, so she's their driver. Santa Fe was engulfed in a snowstorm. "We passed lots of cars that were upside down!" she says. "When I told my father that I drove in the snow, he got mad at me!"

Their big splurge was to drive a rental car all the way to Las Vegas, Nev., where they stayed in a big hotel...and ate at a Brazilian restaurant. It was Ithiara's 22nd birthday.

Beside the stares they get walking around Raton, a two topics especially bring out their laughter. One is

deer; the other a ski trip. "We saw some deer right here at the hotel!" Ithiara exults. They're sorry that the town's many bears are hibernating: they'd love to see one. Co-workers have told them of a time, long ago, when a bear was found in a tree in the hotel's inner courtyard. "We don't have deer or bears in Brazil," Ithiara says.

They get downright giddy telling of their ski trip to Angel Fire. "It was really hard!" Angela says. "It was really good!" Ilana and Ithiara respond. They laugh as they share stories of their first ski runs, something they'll tell everyone about when they get home.

All three will leave Raton March 15. Ilana will go straight to New York City where she'll spend six days with her grandmother, aunt, and cousin. "I'm dreaming about it." She's so excited that she's literally counting the days.

Ithiara and Angela will travel together to Los Angeles where they anticipate six days touring Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Venice Beach, and Malibu. They fancy renting a car for a quick trip up Highway 1 to San Francisco and back. Then they, too, will fly to New York City, for five days of sightseeing. They'll spend 2-3 days enjoying Miami Beach before their return flight home.

All three women will graduate from their universities in July of 2012 - Ithiara and Angela with degrees in chemical engineering, Ilana in industrial engineering. Though they hope to travel again internationally, they expect to build their careers in Brazil.

They came to America to see the country and improve their English skills - a work in progress. They'll carry home vivid memories of a place called Raton, New Mexico, with warmly recalled tales of friendly people and snow and skiing and deer and walking the streets of a town so small that it had no buses or taxicabs.

# Annual chamber meeting, Chenoweth Award dinner to honor Moniot Saturday

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Garrison Commander Col. Robert McLaughlin. Schultz said the meeting's purpose was to develop an exchange of ideas on how the Army can better help support the Trinidad area business community and economy with more local purchases and direct involvement, including securing more federal contracts for local contractors and small businesses.

Schultz said the chamber and business community want a more definitive accounting of where and how much the Army is and will be spending on procurement in the Trinidad area. "There is no question that we need to bring more jobs and revenue into our county."

Although nothing definitive came out of the meeting, Schultz said a number of positive ideas and proposals were exchanged between the community and McLaughlin, who again heard county ranchers' urgent request to get the 2007 Department of Defense Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion waiver rescinded once and for all.

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# CARD OF THANKS

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of Joseph A. Veltri wishes to extend our sincere gratitude for the love and support given to us during our time of sorrow.

To the entire medical community, administration, and staff at the Colorado State Veteran's Nursing Home, our heartfelt thanks for the excellent care given our loved one the past fifteen months.

We would like to thank all who visited our home, made phone calls, sent floral arrangements, food, paper products, sympathy cards, monetary donations, Masses, and made contributions to Holy Trinity Academy and Holy Trinity Church.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Joe Reorda for the recitation of the rosary and Father Richard Becker and Deacon Phil Martin for the beautiful Mass celebration. Thanks to Mary Ellen Hadad and Irene Montero for serving as Eucharistic Ministers and Sister Regina Massarotti for the lovely music which consoled our hearts. Our deepest gratitude to Daniel Espinoza and Ron Monteleone who acted as pallbearers along with Joseph's family to carry him to his final resting place. To the Ft. Carson Honor Guard, thank you for the military burial ceremony.

A very special thank you to Kitsy Winter and the staff of Comi Funeral Home for their loving assistance and caring support.

We thank all who attended the visitation and funeral services. Your presence was so comforting and Dad would have been so grateful. We also thank those who were unable to attend but were with us in thoughts and prayers.

May God bless each of you.  
The family of Joseph A. Veltri

**DORA A. DAVALOS**



Dora Davalos age 89 passed away Feb. 14, 2011 at St. Joseph Hospital, St. Charles, Mo. She was born in Villanueva, N.M. March 2, 1922 to Valeria (Lopez) and Nicanor Ulibarri.

Dora liked to solve Seek-A-Word puzzles, watching Wheel of Fortune, playing bingo, and cooking many of her own delicious recipes. She was an avid Broncos fan who loved butterflies and bird watching. She enjoyed laughing and spending time with her family and friends.

Preceding her in death was her loving husband Jesus, her parents, various siblings, and her daughter Dorothy Lujan.

She is survived by her daughter Bernadette (Rick)Rea, St. Charles, Mo, grand-daughter Jaime Lujan, Aurora, son-in-law Jimmie Lujan, Aurora, numerous nieces, nephews, and relatives and friends.

Memorial service and rosary will be held Friday Feb. 25, 2011 at 1 p.m. at the Comi Funeral Home Chapel. Inurnment will follow at Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

**DOMENIC MARK PACHELLI**

Domenic Mark Pachelli, age 50, of Trinidad, was called by the Lord peacefully on Feb. 18, 2011, after a long courageous battle with renal failure.

Domenic was born Dec. 5, 1960 in Dorchester, Mass.,

Funeral services are as follows: Respects may be paid Thursday, Feb. 24, 2010 between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Comi Funeral Home. Catholic Rosary will follow at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Funeral services are Friday, Feb. 25, 2011 with Eulogy at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Entombment to follow at Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

The family respectfully requests privacy following burial services.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Comi Funeral Home.

**ALEX GARCIA**

Alex Garcia passed from this life to the next Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, at Mt. San Rafael Hospital at the age of 93. Mr. Garcia was born Oct. 20, 1917, in Bon Carbo, Colo.

Visitation will be at the Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home on Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 2-6 p.m. Rosary will be recited Thursday, Feb. 24, at 9 a.m. in the funeral home memorial chapel. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 10 a.m. with interment to follow at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

There will be a reception for family and friends to gather at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 205 S. Commercial St. By Alex's request, all professional services have been entrusted to Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home.

**CHARLES FRANCIS NICOL**

Charles F. Nicol, prominent life-long Las Animas County cattleman and farmer, passed away on his 90th birthday, February 17, at his home in Hoehne. He was born in Trinidad, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Boy Scouts of America Troop 269 (c/o Florie Massarotti, 410 Chestnut Street, Trinidad, CO 81082) or a charity of the givers choice.

Memorial services will be held at The First United Methodist Church, 216 Broom Street, Friday, Feb. 25th at 10 a.m.; followed by Masonic Graveside Services at the Trinidad Masonic Cemetery.

# IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of  
**LINDA ANDREWS**  
On the Anniversary of Her Passing, February 23rd



## SEASONS OF LIFE

You left so suddenly  
We didn't have to share  
The sunrise, greet the morning,  
Or the moonlight kiss the air,  
You're the hummingbird in Spring,  
The voice that flutters  
From the sound of their wings  
You're the breath of summer  
Sunshine that falls upon our  
Shoulder; the laughter  
From the memories  
Now that we are older, you're  
The smell of autumn leaves  
The sound of wind rushing  
Through the trees, the whisper  
Of a clear running stream,  
You're the quietness of winter  
The smell of fresh  
baked goods,  
The comfort and warmth  
Like a home always should  
You're the smell  
from the fields  
Of flowers as we walk through,  
And early morning dew.  
Most of all you're you

In Loving Memory of  
**RICH DOCHTER**  
On His Birthday  
February 23rd,

I Miss you and  
Think about you a little...  
"A Little more each day"

Happy Birthday, My Love  
Always,  
Me



Church in Raton (corner of Tiger Drive & South 4th St) for Easter Cantata (April 17). No auditions. For more information call Mike Higgins, Music Director, @ 575-445-5330.

**THURSDAY Quilt Club**  
Bound Together Quilt Club

meets 9:30 a.m. Thurs @ the Las Animas County Fairgrounds. For info call 719-846-3855 (Sandy).

**Rotary Club**  
Weekly Luncheon & Meeting 12 p.m. every Thurs. @ the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. For more information contact Dennis Scott @ 719-845-8660.

**Lion's Club**  
Meeting 5:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Thurs @ the Lutheran Church Community Hall, 613 Prospect. For more information call Joe Keys @ 719-680-2478. New members welcome.

**PUBLIC SERVICE Community Blood Drive**  
In Trinidad, 12 - 4:30 p.m. Fri (Mar. 4) @ TSJC in the General Purpose Room, Prospect Street. For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Bonfil's Appointment Center at 800-356-0006, opt. 2 or visit www.bonflis.org.

**GED Testing - Raton**  
Friday, Mar 4 is the last day to register for NM Highlands University GED exam on Mar 7&8. Space is limited. Call 575-445-0445 or come by 130 Park Ave to register & pick up a schedule. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**April Recycling**  
Event happens 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fri & 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sat (April 22 & 23) @ Waste Connection, 2600 Freedom Road. For more information call ReGroup @ 719-845-8218.

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Las Animas County Mail	
1 Month	\$7.00
3 Months	\$21.00
6 Months	\$42.00
1 Year	\$84.00
Outside County Mail	
1 Month	\$8.00
3 Months	\$24.00
6 Months	\$48.00
1 Year	\$96.00

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**Friday, February 25, 2011**  
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**\$50.00**

**For more information contact**  
**Ginger McComas, Customized Training Coordinator at 719 846-5644**

**www.trinidadstate.edu**

**THE FINE PRINT**

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**Raton Ecumenical Choir**  
Attention area-wide singers. Rehearsals begin 8 p.m. Wed (Feb 23) @ the First United Methodist

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