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~Fire Safety First~  
indoors and out!

TUESDAY  
JULY 9, 2013

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

- JULY 9**  
**■ Piñon Water Sanitation**  
**TUESDAY (8:30 a.m.)** District meeting at Century Financial Building, 109 W. Main. Information: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.  
**■ Trinidad City Council**  
**TUESDAY (1:30 p.m.)** Work session in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St., Third Floor. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.  
**■ Caretaker Support**  
**TUESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** The regular free Caretaker Support Group will meet at the Legacy Assisted Living facility at 33 Legacy Lane. Information: Elisa Ingoldby, 719-846-8662.
- JULY 10**  
**■ Tourism Board**  
**WEDNESDAY (9 a.m.)** Committee meets in the City Hall Conference Room, 135 N. Animas St. Information: City Clerk, Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.  
**■ Pal Play Group**  
**WEDNESDAY (9:30-11 a.m.)** No-cost playgroup meets for children (0-2 years) at Alta Vista Alternatives, 415 S. Indiana. Information: 719-846-4400.  
**■ TAAC**  
**WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** Trinidad Area Arts Council meets in the First Street Gallery, 130 E. Main St. Information: 719-846-1441. Open to the public.  
**■ Stonewall FPD**  
**WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** Board of Directors meets in the Stonewall Fire House. Information: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.  
**■ VFW**  
**WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.)** Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #984 meets in the Elks Club Banquet Room, 120 S. Maple St. Information: Post Commander John Rios, 719-846-6094.

- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**■ Inner Poet Contest**  
*To be or not to be.*  
*What was the question?*  
 Hey kids (12 and under)! Win a gift certificate to Tutti Scoops Ice Cream Parlor with your original poem. Winners will be published on July 18. Entry deadline is July 15.  
**■ FREE SUMMER LUNCHES**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)**  
 Through August 2, free lunches for kids and teens under 18 will be provided in the Trinidad Middle School Cafeteria, 614 Park St. Adults can eat for \$3. Information: 719-845-2051.  
**■ Free Dental Screening**  
**JULY 11 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.)** Dr. Dennis Driscoll will provide child preventative dental screenings and fluoride varnishing at the Las Animas County Health Department, 412 Benedicta Ave. To schedule your child's appointment call: 719-846-2213.  
**■ Ave Maria Shrine**  
**SATURDAY: Rosary (11 a.m.) and Open House (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)** will be held in the historic Ave Marie Shrine located behind the Mount San Rafael Hospital on Benedicta Ave. Follow the signage. Visitors are always welcome.  
**■ Benefit & Silent Auction**  
**SATURDAY (4-8 p.m.)** Benefit dinner event for the family of Mandi Armijo will be held at the El Rancho Restaurant, 1901 Santa Fe Trail Drive. Tickets available at the door. Information: 719-680-9042. An account has also been set up for donations at the First National Bank.  
**■ Recycle Event**  
**JULY 26-27: FRIDAY (8 a.m.-6 p.m.) SATURDAY (8 a.m. to noon)** Las Animas County recycle event at Waste Connections, 2600 Freedom Road. Information: ReGroup, 719-845-8218.  
**■ Area Art Shows**  
**\*The Mitchell "Black & White"** runs through July 26 at 150 E. Main St. Information: 719-846-8564.  
**\*Trinidad Area Arts Council "Through Our Eyes & Hands"** runs through July 27 at 130 E. Main St. Information: 719-680-9048.  
**■ Fire Department Benefit**  
**UNTIL AUGUST 31:** The Spanish Peaks FPD Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets for a custom made Palmer Bow Co. "Traditional Slam" recurve bow autographed by Fred Eichler. Information: 719-941-4107 or go to www.spbcpd.org and click on Custom Bow Raffle.  
**■ Donations Needed**  
**Fisher's Peak Fire Protection District Auxiliary** is seeking donations (except clothing) for their annual garage sale fundraiser and can be delivered to the Starkville Fire Station, take exit 11 south off I-25 to Starkville. Date of event to be announced. Information: 719-859-6095.  
**■ Volunteer Firemen**  
**Anyone over 18** interested in becoming a volunteer fireman for any of our area fire protection districts, please call Buddie Curro at 719-859-1535. Any donations of food, water and funds for our area fire district volunteers call 719-846-4074.

- TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY (1:30 p.m.)** Work session in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St., Third Floor. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

## Pot use won't be issue locally for awhile

Trinidad can't OK recreational marijuana facilities until 2015, city attorney says

By Pankaj Khadka  
The Chronicle News

The city of Trinidad wouldn't be able to generate any revenue from marijuana-related businesses before late 2014 even if it were to decide it wants to create a recreational pot industry here, according to the city attorney.

Amendment 64, which voters approved last November, legalizes recreational marijuana sales in Colorado as well as marijuana growing and production.

The amendment, which was signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper, however, also restricted cities' and governments' ability to authorize recreational pot sales until the end of

2014 unless they already have approved medicinal marijuana facilities, City Attorney Les Downs said.

That means that cities like Trinidad that do not have medical marijuana facilities won't be able to have their own pot stores or manufacturing plants or farms until 2015, he said.

Downs said he views the current City Council as "very progressive" and he believes that many of the members may be leaning toward allowing local marijuana bars and retailers to help create a new tourism industry here.

For now, though, he said the council will have to wait while the

state completes writing the rules that will regulate the industry and while the federal government decides whether it will step in and stop recreational marijuana sales in Colorado and Washington state, which also legalized the industry in a November referendum.

The Colorado Department of Revenue's Marijuana Enforcement Divisions recently released a 64-page list of emergency rules to give cities and counties an idea of how the state plans to regulate the industry.

Many cities and counties in Colorado, including Trinidad and Las Animas County, have placed moratoriums on taking any action on recreational marijuana

sales until the state has finalized its regulations.

The emergency rules include provisions restricting recreational marijuana licenses to businesses that already have licenses to sale, grow or distribute medicinal marijuana.

The rules will let local governments that already have medicinal marijuana facilities begin accepting applications from businesses interested in growing, producing and selling marijuana later this year, Downs said.

Those governments could begin issuing new licenses for recreational marijuana in

**Continued on page 2**



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Balloons taking part in this weekend's Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally slowly take off from Raton's La Mesa Airfield Sunday morning.

## Balloon rally gives volunteers chance to soar above Raton

By Tim Keller  
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON – Your pilot sits casually on the edge of his basket waving down at applause from the excited crowds below. As the faces on the ground grow rapidly smaller and smaller, you realize that the edge isn't your first choice for where the pilot should be. For a brief moment you imagine yourself alone in a pilotless balloon.

There's no cause for worry, though, as your pilot, Ken "Fergie" Ferguson, has been doing this most weekends for almost 20 years. The Albuquerque pilot and instructor quickly instills confidence as he explains the dynamics of balloon flight. By the time you land 45 minutes later near a creek by the Cimarron highway, you'd happily put your trust in Ferguson to do it again. His long gray beard, sandal-clad feet, and penchant for bear hugs no longer cause you to question your decision to ask him to carry you 500 feet above the ground.

With last weekend's International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally, Raton triumphantly returned to the balloon rally world after two years of being grounded, initially by the 2011 Track Fire. Now sponsored by Raton MainStreet, this year's rally drew participa-



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Balloonist Ken Ferguson and a helper toggle the propane burner on his balloon to raise the envelope of his balloon.

Continued on page 5

## RIVER CALL

- Purgatoire River Call as of 07/08/13. Hoehne & Johns Flood ditch priority #20. Appropriation date: 10/07/1865.**
- **Trinidad Reservoir Accounting**  
 Release 60.85 cfs  
 Inflow 144.53 AF - 72.87 cfs  
 Evaporation 6.68 AF  
 Content 9,568 AF  
 Elevation 6,164.64  
 Precipitation 0.06
- **Downstream River Call**  
 Burns & Duncan ditch -- 01/01/1866



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## WEATHER WATCH

Today: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 91°F. North wind to

11 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 20%.  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Lows around 61°F. North northwest wind to 9 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 20%.  
**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy with isolated

storms. Highs around 88°F. North wind 3 to 11 MPH, gusting to 16 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 30%. Precipitation amounts up to one quarter inch possible.  
**Wednesday night:** Partly cloudy with scattered storms. Lows around 61°F. South wind to 9 MPH.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Shortly after sunrise Sunday morning, balloon pilots and crews begin preparations for their mass ascension over Raton at the International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally.

## Balloon Continued from page 1

tion from civic organizations, sponsoring businesses and dozens of volunteers. Fifteen pilots brought their balloons, crews, families and friends to town, their impact felt in hotels, restaurants and in Saturday's downtown parade.

The big action was at La Mesa Airfield beginning at sunrise Saturday and Sunday mornings. Patrons lined up for the Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast, accompanied by DJ Ted Romero's blasting music and, on Saturday, a live broadcast by KRTN-FM.

Pilots huddled to get the latest weather information, then they released a helium-filled balloon called a "pieball" — short for pilot ball — and all eyes followed it aloft to see where the winds would take it. The pilots' own 60-foot-high balloons would soon follow that path.

Carrying four large steel propane canisters, Ferguson's basket weighed 450 pounds. The balloon "envelope" weighed another 300 pounds. He and his crew drafted volunteers until a dozen people helped raise his balloon.

Fourteen other pilots did the same as crews and volunteers opened, spread and inflated the balloons. Most of the newly-drafted flight crew volunteers then climbed into the backs of vans and pickup trucks to go reverse the

process when the balloon landed.

A few lucky volunteers didn't have to follow in the chase crew: Many flights had enough room to reward crew volunteers with a flight over Raton.

Ferguson's Sunday flight carried Cass Kear and her father Terry. Cass Kear won the flight by designing the winning logo for the 2013 Raton rally.

Her logo was seen on pins and T-shirts all over town. She created her design in art class at Springer Middle School. Wearing gloves Sunday morning to help crew their flight, Cass Kear and her dad worked harder after landing than before take-off.

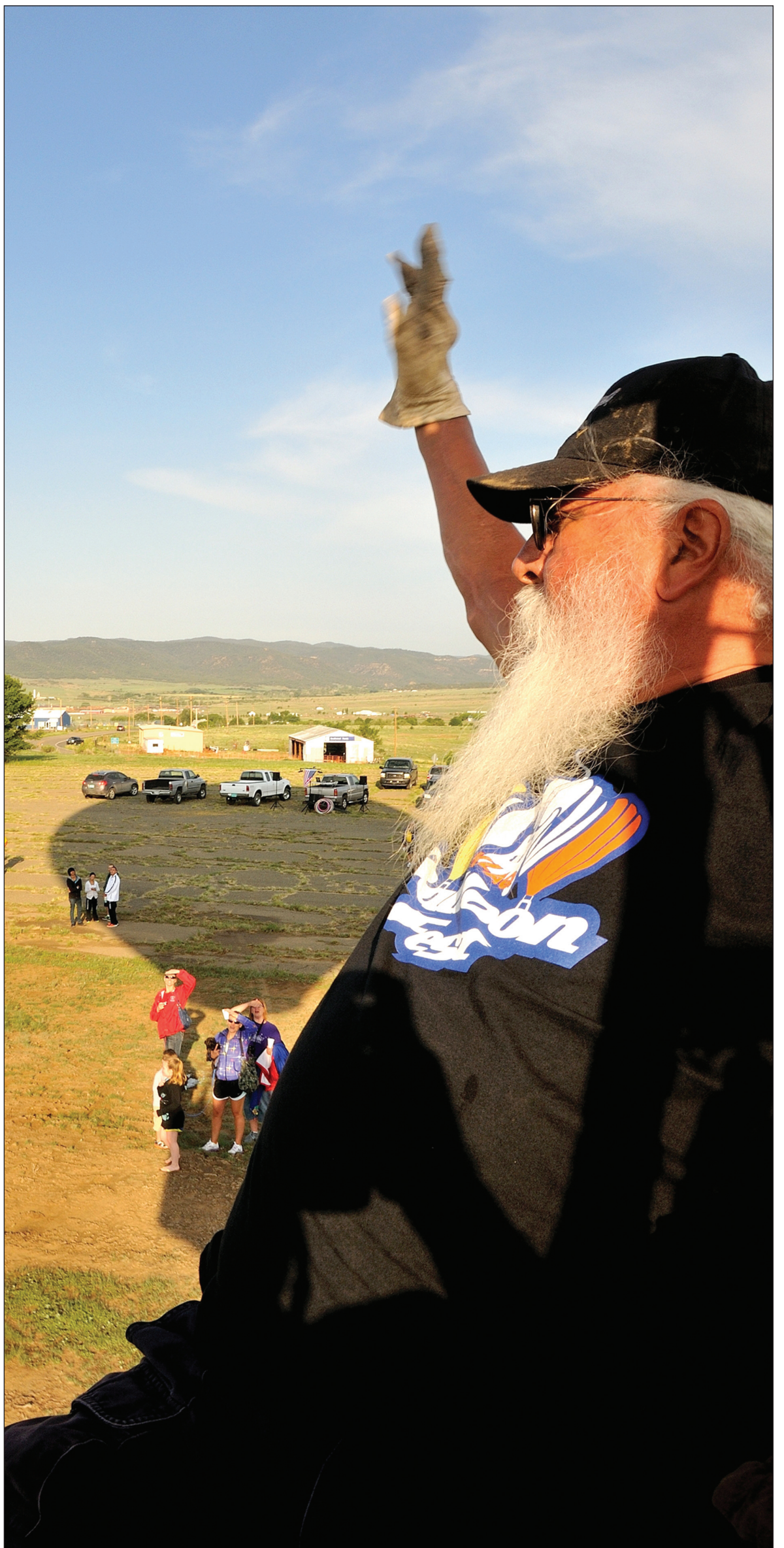
Ferguson's balloon came down in a pasture 100 yards and one barbed-wire fence from the closest his chase crew could park the truck. By the time a dozen people had gotten the basket and bagged balloon to the fence, another balloon crew arrived to lend more hands. The heavy basket and balloon were handed over the fence and stowed in their trailer.

One hundred minutes after liftoff, Cass and Terry Kear were back at La Mesa Field, recipients of an elaborate ceremony given to all first-timers. Many of those first-timers left the site in late morning already hoping that next July they can be second-timers.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Royce Miller fires up the Green Hornet's propane burner to rise toward his friend Tom Gardner's and his Ajuua Dreamer. Both balloons flew over Raton Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Albuquerque pilot Ken "Fergie" Ferguson sits on the edge of his fast-rising basket waving to spectators at this weekend's balloon rally in Raton.

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**TRINIDAD FOOT CLINIC**  
**Dr. James C. Dill**  
 will hold a clinic on  
**Thursday, July 11th**  
 H.R. Sayre Senior Center 1222 San Pedro  
 For an appointment call 846-3336  
 We treat corns, calluses, nail problems, hammertoes, bunions and sports injuries.