



THURSDAY  
JULY 3, 2014

Vol. 138, No. 132

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

### JULY 3

**-Continuum of Care THURSDAY (8 a.m.)** Group meets at Fisher's Peak Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. Information: Charlene Tortorice (Advocates Against Domestic Assault) 719-846-9159 or Tom Power (Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Denver), 303-285-5221.

**-SPPRCD Meeting THURSDAY (7 p.m.)** Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District meets at the District Office. Information: 719-846-3681 Ext. 117.

**-PRCWD Water District THURSDAY (7:30 p.m.)** The Purgatoire River Conservancy meets in City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Theima Lujan, 719-846-7285.

## Today's Quote

"If we do not make common cause to save the good old ship of the Union on this voyage, nobody will have a chance to pilot her on another voyage."

-Abraham Lincoln

### JULY 4-6

**-TRINIDAD LAKE WEEKEND Park Office, 719-846-3818**

**\*FRIDAY (8 p.m.) "Ranger Campfire with Harmonica"** at the park amphitheater.

**\*SATURDAY (3 p.m.) Youth Archery Program** with District Wildlife Manager Bob Holder at Carpois Cove Parking Lot area.

**\*SATURDAY (7 p.m.) Don't miss "Rocky Mountain Celtic"** an evening of world-class music with Willson & McKee at the amphitheater.

**\*SUNDAY (6 p.m.) NEW THIS YEAR: A Ranger Hike every Sunday night** thru Labor Day. Meet at the Visitor's Center to begin the adventure.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICES:

**-The Chronicle-News office** will be closed on Friday, July 4 for the holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service. Information: 719-846-3311.

**-The City of Trinidad offices, public library, municipal swimming pool and landfill** will be closed on Friday, July 4. The library will remain closed on Saturday, July 5. The pool and landfill will be open on Saturday, July 5.

**-Las Animas County offices** at the courthouse will be closed Friday for the July 4 holiday and also on Monday, July 7, for a mandatory furlough day, for all county employees.

**-The South Central Council of Governments and its affiliates** will be closed for the holiday on Friday, July 4.

### -American Legion

**FRIDAY (5 p.m.)** The Trinidad American Legion has postponed their first Friday of the month meeting at the Elks Club on Maple Street to Friday, July 11. Information: John Garduno, 719-680-1277.

### -All-American Weekend

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY (starts at 5:30 a.m. each morning with the Balloon Rally)** Annual Balloon Rally and Santa Fe Trail Festival (Saturday & Sunday) will be held in Raton. Lively music, great eats, community barn dance and fun for the whole family. Information: Raton Main-Street, 575-445-4760 or 575-445-9551.

### -Annual Raton Fireworks

**FRIDAY (9 p.m.)** The annual 4th of July fireworks display will be held at the Round House Park on First Street (1 block East of Solano's).

### -Benefit Car Wash

**SATURDAY (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)** The Lord's Chapel will hold a benefit car wash at the church on Hwy 12 in Segundo. Proceeds benefit the church's building fund. Information: Nancy Sinor, 719-868-2102.

### -Philosophy Discussion Group

**SATURDAY (12:30 - 2 p.m.)** Free discussion group at Lava Yoga Studio, 828 Arizona. RSVP: 719-846-2325. Everyone is welcome.

### -Meditation Group

**SUNDAY (11 a.m.)** Free group meets at the La Quinta Inn on Toupal Drive. Information: Noah Simpson, 719-680-0109.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**-Free Summer Lunch Program THRU AUGUST 8 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)** All kids (18 and under) can eat a free lunch Mon.-Fri. at the TMS Cafeteria, 614 Park St. Adults can join in for \$3. Information: 719-845-2051.

### -Carnegie Public Library

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS** who want to exhibit their 2-dimensional artwork at the Library. Information: Mallory Pillard, 719-846-6841.

### -FP Fire Protection District

The auxiliary is now accepting donated items to be sold at the annual July fundraiser firehouse sale (no clothing, please). Proceeds benefit the fire department. Call 719-846-4074 for drop-off or pick-up.

### -SUICIDE/CRISIS HOTLINES:

**\*ADULT HOPE: 800-784-2433**  
**\*TEEN: 877-968-8454**  
**\*GLB-YOUTH: 866-488-7386**  
**\*VET-2-VET: 877-838-2838**  
"When the world says, 'Give up!' Hope says, 'Not today!'" -Unknown

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 07/02/14. Salas North ditch: Priority # 27 / Appropriation date: 05/31/1866.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting  
Release 161.58 AF  
Inflow 137.18 AF -- 69.16 CFS  
Evaporation 6.60 AF  
Content 13,309 AF  
Elevation 6,172.71  
Precipitation 0.02

Downstream River Call / Highland Canal: 05/31/1866.



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Oklahoman Royce Miller's "Green Hornet" races skyward toward Tom Gardner's "Ajuua Dreamer" in the sky over Raton during last year's balloon rally. Gardner, of Albuquerque, was last year's balloonmeister, and Miller takes the leadership position this year.

## JULY 4 ENTERTAINMENT

# Balloon rally highlights Raton's All-American Weekend festivities

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Raton's annual All American Weekend on the Santa Fe Trail will feature two days of live music in the park, a country barn dance, vendors and pancake breakfasts — and of course a downtown parade. The biggest crowds, however, will arrive with the sunrise on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings as 17 hot-air-balloon pilots prepare their crafts for morning mass ascensions into the summer sky over Raton.

The International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally takes flight on the 20th anniversary of its launch, though the 2011 Track Fire shut it down and it didn't rise from the ashes until last year. This month's *New Mexico Magazine* feature, "Flight of the Phoenix," tells the event's story and has been featured atop the magazine's website, [www.nmMagazine.com](http://www.nmMagazine.com), for the past three weeks.

Sponsored by International Bank and Northern New Mexico Gas Company, which provides the propane used to take the balloons aloft, the rally will begin each morning at 5:30 a.m. at the old La Mesa Airfield on York Canyon Rd., Highway 555, a half-mile west of Raton's southernmost offramp from I-25, Exit 450 (take the first left, heading west, after the exit cloverleaf).

The Kiwanis Club offers its popular pancake breakfasts from 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. each morning as DJ Teddy Romero spins music. KRTN-FM 93.9 will broadcast from the rally beginning at 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday mornings. At 6:30, balloonmeister Royce Miller, of Guymon, Oklahoma, will convene the daily pilots' meeting that will be broadcast over the DJ's loudspeakers and KRTN so fans can listen as the pilots discuss wind conditions and final plans for their mass ascension.

The balloons provide a dramatic sight from I-25 south of Raton but most spectators park at the airfield and walk among the bal-

loons or set up lawn chairs on the rise just east of the balloons. Pilots love Raton not only for the dramatic landscapes but also for the "box effect" its crosswinds provide, allowing pilots to steer in different directions by adjusting altitude.

As the balloons descend south and east of Raton, their chase crews can be seen following them, racing to meet wherever the balloons come down.

The flights are over by 10 a.m. each morning, and the action then shifts on Friday and Saturday to Raton's downtown Ripley Park for the annual Fun in the Park celebration. Booths feature arts, crafts and food. Activities include

Continued on Page 2 ...



Photo courtesy of Dan Disner

Smoke billows from an abandoned house near the intersection of East and First Streets at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 2. Just to the east of this location is the former East Street School.

## EXECUTIVE DECISION

# Council fires City Manager, approves software contract

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad's City Manager, Tom Acre, was fired on Tuesday night during a special meeting in a 6-0 vote by the City Council, after an executive session. Councilmember Joe Bonato was unable to attend the meeting due to family reasons. Acre was hired in December 2012, coming to Trinidad from Commerce City, Colorado, where he had worked in city government. He's the second city manager in succession to be fired by Council after having served in the position for less than two years. Council also fired former City Manager Ed Gil de Rubio in May 2012 without him having reached the two-year mark.

Mayor Joe Reorda asked Acre after the vote for Acre's removal if he wanted to hear Council's reasons for his termination. Acre simply answered, "No."

Acre had previously established a chain of command that would have City Clerk Audra Garrett and City Planner Louis Fineberg jointly share the role of acting city manager, if for any reason Acre was unable to perform his job. After Acre's firing, Council decided to follow that chain of command, with Garrett and Fineberg filling the city manager's role until the next regular Council meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15. The Council has not yet issued its official statement about the firing of Acre.

Tuesday's executive session included a quarterly review of Acre's job performance, after which he was terminated. Several Councilmembers and Mayor Reorda thanked Acre for his service to the City. Acre shook hands with the mayor and each councilmember in turn, as well as some City staff members, before leaving Council Chambers.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Council approved a lease agreement with Tyler Technologies of Texas for new City software that will upgrade and modernize the City's utility-billing process and provide other benefits that will help City government operate more efficiently. The City will pay Tyler approximately \$52,000

per year over the five-year course of the contract, which is subject to Council renewal each year. The City will save approximately \$25,000 over the course of the contract by getting Council approval promptly.

After a public hearing, Council also approved two applications, one for a Medical Marijuana



The Chronicle-News File Photo

City Council fired City Manager Tom Acre at Tuesday's special meeting. Acre held the position less than two years.

Center and the other for a Medical Marijuana Optional Premise Cultivation Operation, that had been filed by M&M Distributing, LLC, at 422 N. Commercial St. M&M's owners, Gerry De Angelis and John Micheliza, who own the former Budweiser facility at that location, were questioned by City Attorney Les Downs about their application. Businessperson Gloria Ahern spoke against approving the applications. De Angelis said the building had sat empty for the past 14 years.

Also, after a public hearing, Council approved two resolutions amending parts of the City's Planning and Zoning Code to prevent wireless communications towers from being built, so that the City is able "to protect the open zone district and the City's viewshed, minimizing the impact of man-made structures and grading on the ridges of hills, mesas, mountains, open spaces, and similar natural features, visible from public rights-of-way in the open zone district."

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719-845-0102

**WEATHER WATCH**  
Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. W-SW wind

5 to 15 mph becoming SE in the afternoon.  
**Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 7pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. W-SW wind 10 to 15 mph.  
**Independence Day:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. W-SW wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

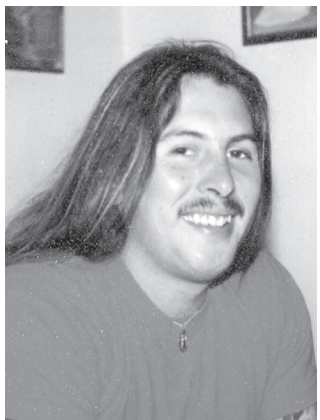
Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.  
**Saturday:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. W-SW wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.  
**Sunday:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, with a high near 91. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**COMI FUNERAL HOME**  
 Trinidad's Leading Funeral Home  
 1804 East Main  
 Trinidad, CO 81082  
 (719) 846-3347  
 Owned & operated by:  
 Mary (Kitsy) Winter

**Mary Hayden**  
 Mary Hayden, Age 100 passed away at home on July 1st, 2014.  
 Arrangements are pending and will be announced later by The Comi Funeral Home.

62 Memorials

In Loving Memory of **Frisco Duran**



Anniversary in Heaven  
 What we would give to see you smile, To sit and talk with you a while. The blow was sudden, The shock severe To part with you whom We loved so dear. We often sit and think of you, The things you used to say and do. Wonder why you had to die, Without a chance to say good-bye.  
 Sadly missed by Mom and Dad, Wife and Children, Brothers and Families



**CRIMINAL PENALTIES**

**Revenge-porn law, others took effect in Colo. July 1**

By **IVAN MORENO**  
 Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Online posting of intimate pictures or videos of former romantic partners as a form or revenge now carry criminal penalties in Colorado as of July 1, as new laws took effect involving several issues.

Colorado was one of about two dozen states that considered bills this year addressing the trend of so-called revenge porn. The new law makes it a misdemeanor to publish explicit images of someone without their consent, and the crimes will carry a fine of at least \$10,000.

Other states that passed revenge porn laws this year were Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"The effects of someone posting intimate photos online can be devastating to the victim, but

now there will be serious consequences for the perpetrators of this horrible practice," Rep. Amy Stephens, R-Monument, a sponsor of the bill, said in a statement.

Other laws taking effect July 1 include a requirement to release data to parents regarding student vaccination rates at schools.

As proposed, the legislation was intended to make it more difficult for parents to opt out of vaccinating their children. Parents seeking a "personal belief" exemption would have been required to watch an educational video about vaccines or get clearance from a doctor. However, those provisions were stricken when lawmakers said they did not have the votes to pass the bill without watering it down.

Another new law allocates \$10 million in excess medical marijuana fees to study the effects of the drug. With more attention being paid to the possible impact of pot on children suffering from epilepsy or seizures, lawmakers said establishing grants to study the drug would be useful.

**DESIGNATED AREAS**

**Forest Service considers plan to restrict recreational shooting limits**

Associated Press

EVERGREEN, Colo. (AP) — Citing increased danger in a heavily populated region, the U.S. Forest Service is floating a plan to restrict recreational shooting to designated areas in a 625-square-mile swath of land that covers most of Colorado's Front Range foothills and Interstate 70 corridor.

The federal proposal includes opening more approved shooting ranges and could be put to public comment within weeks. But some officials in Colorado are pushing back, saying the plan is overly broad. It deals with the so-called wildland-

urban interface zone, which was mapped in 2008 for wildfire-fighting purposes and has between two and 16 homes per acre.

Tom Ford, a Forest Service planning and design staffer, said 50 percent to 75 percent of the land is close enough to homes, roads and campgrounds that shooting already is illegal there. Agency rules say it's illegal to shoot in an "unsafe area" near homes or people, he said.

The amount of public land being discussed is "a little staggering," Clear Creek County Commissioner Tim Mauck told a recent ad-hoc group working on the proposal, according to Canyon Courier newspaper.

"I worry about how we're balancing everything," he said.

Ford said restricting use of public land is not tradition.

"But look at this map, and there are houses all over. How do you balance it?" the Forest Service official said.

Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife officials prefer that the federal agency come up with alternative areas for shooters before discussing any large-scale closure.

"We're all working together on this, but when the recreational shooting public sees it, they're going to get outraged very quickly," said Steve Yamashita, the department's acting director.

The ad-hoc group is trying to determine when to put the plan out for public comment.

Kathy Hinkle, a spokeswoman for Idaho Springs' Clear Creek County Sportsmen Club, said she supported the idea of more designated ranges but wants more details on the plan.

"Not knowing how large the area is, it's difficult to say anything," Hinkle said. "[But] as



someone who likes to do this kind of activity, I think the more public areas we have, the better."

In Clear Creek County, complaints in recent years about shooting have centered near Squaw Pass close to Mount Evans and the Barbour Fork Trailhead south of Idaho Springs.

Forest Service officials recently closed a shooting area near the base of Mount Evans after an increasing number of shooters mowed down trees with gunfire, Penny Wu, a Forest Service ranger for the Clear Creek Ranger District, told the Courier.

"There's not a safe backstop down here," Wu said. "Live trees are just blown apart. It sets the stage for a lot of user conflicts and unsafe shooting."

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Family grateful for community's support**

Dear Editor:

The Martinez family would like to thank *The Chronicle-News* for the article printed about our son, Rio. We especially appreciated Steve Block for the article itself. We think that if we could have more support from the other surrounding communities our efforts to support the scholarship and organ donation programs can continue.

Thank you, again,  
 The family of Rio Martinez  
 "Run for Rio"

Lucky you. This is a remarkable and enjoyable bit of theater. SO! It's not Broadway. Just consider it as "Off-Broadway." Often those are much better than the pricey up-town NYC shows.

Go already! The cast is amazingly talented, enthusiastic and totally on. Take a friend. Go twice. You'll never see better comic timing than the peddler. And if you're anchored to watching electronic productions, live theater in this instance is far and away a superior experience.

Try it. You'll like it.

Sincerely,  
 J.M. Hammon  
 Trinidad

*Letters to the Editor are published as we receive them, in unedited form, except for redactions. The Chronicle-News neither endorses nor opposes the opinions expressed in these letters. All submissions must be fewer than 400 words and be submitted in digital form (emailed) to editor@trinidadchroniclenews.com. Submission does not guarantee publication.*

**Resident praises SCRT's production of 'Oklahoma!'**

Dear Editor:

The current live theater production in your neighborhood is "Oklahoma!" on Main Street's SCRT in Trinidad.

**THINKING ABOUT HEALTH  
 Improper use, taking unnecessary antibiotics can be harmful**

By **Trudy Lieberman**  
 Rural Health News Service

How many times have you walked away from the doctor's office with a prescription for an antibiotic to treat a cold? Probably many. Over the decades we've been conditioned to believe that antibiotics are sort of an insurance policy against some malady that might be worse than a cold or that they will make the nasty symptoms magically disappear.

In recent years, study after study has shown that this "just-in-case" medicine comes with oodles of side effects and serious consequences that might make patients think twice before dashing off to the pharmacy. And yes, it might mean questioning your doctor's judgment — something most patients are reluctant to do.

While antibiotics can cure a strep throat that's caused by bacteria, they aren't going to do much to get rid of a sore throat caused by a virus — the culprit causing most sore throats. And while they are helpful in clearing up bladder infections, says the Mayo Clinic, antibiotics aren't much use when it comes to curing the flu or most coughs.

Still, doctors prescribe them anyway. Warnings surfaced more than 20 years ago that taking antibiotics when they are not helpful could make patients resistant to them years later when a serious infection develops. Such resistance may make it tough or even impossible to cure these patients.

Yet last fall a study showed that between 1997 and 2010 primary-care and emergency-room doctors prescribed antibiotics about 60 percent of the time for sore throats. The lead researcher, a primary-care doc from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, noted that "the right antibiotic-prescribing

rate for adults with sore throat is probably around 10 percent." So it seems many of us are taking way too many of these drugs.

The fact that American doctors are all too willing to prescribe antibiotics hit home a couple of weeks ago when I was traveling in Europe. I had what seemed like a garden-variety cold several days before I left. Since it was lingering, I decided to check it out the day after I arrived in London and made my way to what the British call the A and E Department (for accidents and emergencies) at a nearby hospital.

The doctor who examined me saw no indications that would warrant antibiotics — no red ears, no red throat, no congestion in the lungs. She warned that this viral infection might turn into a bacterial illness, but for the time being, the doctor explained antibiotics were unnecessary and possibly harmful.

Another week passed, and the symptoms got worse. It was clear I needed to visit the National Health Service again. Sure enough, this time a doctor spotted signs indicating an antibiotic might be in order. But she didn't prescribe a Z-Pack, Cipro or any other high-powered drug, which is what I have seen doctors do at urgent-care centers in New York City. One time a physician gave me Zithromax, which he said would help the lungs, the ears, the sinuses and throat in case I had something in those areas that needed treatment.

In England I got a computer-generated prescription for old-fashioned amoxicillin, which a pharmacy filled in less than five minutes. No one asked about coinsurance, copayments or whether the drug was on the formulary — barriers patients face here. In fact, I paid nothing for the medicine. Medicines are free in the UK to those over age 60. Nor did I pay anything for the two visits to the health service. Initial treatment at A and E departments and walk-in clinics is free to all overseas visitors.

My point is not to tout the ease of getting treated as a foreigner in the U.K. but to note the proper care that I received. It made me think about all those times U.S. doctors sent me out with a prescription for the latest and greatest wonder drug, a treatment that might come back to hurt me some day.

The antibiotic worked, and the whole experience underscored that questioning your physician when you show up with a cold may be the best medicine of all.

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	3 Months.....\$54.00
	6 Months.....\$108.00
	1 Year.....\$216.00
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**Raton Balloon Rally, festivities**

... Continued from Page 1

Hula Hoop and watermelon-eating contests, races and more. Bands provide live music from the gazebo bandstand each afternoon. Friday's featured bands will be MixBreed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and High Maintenance from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday's music comes from Raise a Glass Duo, featuring Robert Valdez from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., then the Blackwater Draw Boys from Portales, New Mexico, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday's highlights also include the 11 a.m. All American Parade along the length of Historic First Street, north to its end at Ripley Park. After the parade clears, at 1 p.m. this

summer's first weekly farmers' market will open, featuring locally grown produce.

Friday evening features special Fourth of July events. The Shuler Theater presents an early performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest" at 6 p.m., so the audience can exit in time for the popular City of Raton fireworks show, which will be visible throughout the area but best viewed along First Street. The Raton Osos begin their match-up with the Trinidad Triggers at 6 p.m. at Gabriele Field, where late in the game the fireworks show will be visible beyond the centerfield fence.

Following the fireworks, Syd Mas-

ters & The Swing Riders will perform at Raton Rodeo Harrelson Pavilion for the Independence Day Dance, where the \$5 admission is restricted to people 21 years of age and older.

Raton MainStreet sponsors the entire weekend slate of events, with entertainment funded by Raton's Whited Foundation. For additional details, Raton MainStreet can be reached at 575-445-4760 and 575-445-9551.

After all the weekend events, anyone still able to rise at dawn on Sunday can enjoy the final mass ascension of balloons, followed by the pilots' closing ceremonies at about 9:30 a.m. at La Mesa Airfield.