

# Summer Scholarships available

3 credit hours, tuition only for 2014 Colorado high school graduates; or buy one, get one for up to 3 credit hours in-state tuition for continuing Trinidad State students. Available while they last! Call 846-5649.



MONDAY  
MARCH 10, 2014

Vol. 138, No. 49

# THE CHRONICLE NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico • www.thechronicle-news.com

## THE FINE PRINT

**MARCH 10**  
-Call for Design Submissions  
**MONDAY DEADLINE:** Send your Corazon de Trinidad crosswalk art design submissions to: City of Trinidad Arts & Culture Advisory Commission, P.O. Box 880. Information: Kim Marquez, 719-846-9843, ext. 123.  
-Cowboy Church  
**MONDAY (6 p.m.)** Potluck fellowship every second Monday at New Hope Ministries Church, Historic Wagon Wheel building on Highway 160 east of Trinidad. Information: James Duran, 719-846-8590.  
-Community Chorale  
**MONDAY (6:15 p.m.)** Rehearsals for the annual Spring Concert under the direction of Jireh Thomas are being held at the First United Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. Information: 719-846-3720. New members always welcome, no auditions necessary.

## Today's Quote

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."

- E.E. Cummings

**MARCH 11**  
-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.

**MARCH 12**  
-Piñon Water Sanitation  
**WEDNESDAY (8:30 a.m.)** District meeting at Century Financial Building, 109 W. Main. Information: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

-Tourism Board  
**WEDNESDAY (9 a.m.)** Committee meets in the City Hall Third Floor Conference Room, 135 N. Animas St. Information: City Clerk, Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

-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.

- "Genetic Roulette"  
**WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** The Trinidad Coop will present a free film on genetic engineering of our food and the major impact on our health at the Mt. Carmel Health and Wellness Center Theater, 911 Robinson St.

-VFW  
**WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.)** Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #984 meets in the Elks Club Banquet Room, 120 S. Maple St. All members are urged to attend for election of new officers. New members need to bring their DD214. Information: Post Commander John Rios, 719-846-6094.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
-Holistic Health EXPO  
**MARCH 22 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.)** A Holistic Health & Recreation EXPO will be held at the Mt. Carmel Community Center. Admission is free and open to the community. For general and vendor information call: 719-845-4894.

- From the LA County Clerk  
License plate renewal online. Go to: [www.colorado.gov/renewplates](http://www.colorado.gov/renewplates).

-RECYCLE  
**Terra Firma Recycling (Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m.-Noon)** at 2400 Nevada Ave. (The Water Station) will recycle paper, cardboard, tin can and plastic #1-#7. Information: Kelli Van Matre, 719-859-3998.

-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  
-ABUSE HOTLINES:  
\*Domestic Abuse Hotline: In Trinidad call 719-846-6665 (24-hours a day). National Hotline call: 1-800-790-SAFE (7233).  
\*Animal Abuse: Do your part and help put a stop to animal cruelty. Report animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

## A THOUSAND WORDS

Exposed bricks on Plum Street just off Commercial Street.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 03/07/14. Chilli ditch: Priority #7 -- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release 18.51 AF  
Inflow 48.96 AF -- 24.68 CFS  
Evaporation 5.45 AF  
Content 17,250 AF  
Elevation 6,179.64  
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call: John Martin Reservoir -- 12/31/1948.



## ZONING

# Potential owners of medical-marijuana shops should visit City Planner

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

It is often said that for any new business, location is everything, so those people looking to open a medicinal-marijuana business should go see City Planner Louis Fineberg before choosing a location for their businesses. City zoning issues could cause problems for pot-shop owners, so Fineberg wants those people to call him at 719-846-9843, extension 130, or to stop by his office on the main floor of City Hall. His office e-mail is [louis.fineberg@trinidad.co.gov](mailto:louis.fineberg@trinidad.co.gov).

Trinidad has some areas that are zoned for residential uses only, but some of those areas have businesses surrounded by residential housing, and Fineberg said the City wants to ensure that those business locations won't be used as medical-marijuana facilities. Spot zoning is the legal process whereby a business that wants to locate in a mostly residential area can apply to the City for a special zoning designation, specific to that business location, which allows it to legally do business in a residential area. There are many

such spot zones that have been allowed throughout Trinidad's long history, especially along East Main Street. Fineberg said he wanted those people applying for a license to sell medicinal marijuana to check with him about the location of their potential business, because the City doesn't want medicinal pot shops in residential areas.

Trinidad's City Council approved an ordinance on Tuesday allowing medicinal pot stores in areas that are at least 1,000 feet from a school building. Five pot-shop locations will be allowed, with the City taking license applications beginning on Friday, March 14, so that doesn't leave much time for applicants to contact Fineberg. He said, however, that it's critically important that they do so as soon as possible.

Fineberg and City Attorney Les Downs discussed the zoning issues involved in a Friday interview. Downs said it had to be made clear that the City would not allow medicinal pot shops in what are primarily residential areas. "When we start taking applications on Friday, people are going to have ideas for where they want



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

## ... a thousand words

their business to go," Downs said. "We want them to know, as soon as possible, that if they're thinking of a location in what is otherwise a spot zone, they can't do it. They cannot do it."

Trinidad grew up around its neighborhoods, which often featured a corner grocery store or a gas station. When the city was first zoned in the 1960s, those businesses received a spot-zone designation and a conditional-use permit allowing them to continue to do business in a residential area. If an individual business in a spot zone closed its doors for one year, it lost its conditional-use permit. If a new business wanted to use that building, it had to apply to the City for a new conditional-use permit, which it could do because it was already located in a spot zone. Spot zoning was legal in Colorado in the 1960s, when the City was first zoned, but Fineberg said it's not legal in the state anymore, although Trinidad continues to give conditional-use permits to new businesses in spot-zoned areas.

The City got grant funding to create a new master plan, and rezoning is going to be part of that

plan. That, however, will happen a couple of years down the road, and legalized medicinal pot shops are staring the City in the face today. Fineberg explained the city's position on having pot shops in residential areas by saying, "Obviously, you don't want one of these facilities opening up in a residential neighborhood. That would cause a lot of complaints and a lot of traffic, and you don't want to have that kind of conflict."

Downs said the City would probably propose banning a medicinal pot shop if its proposed location was adjacent on three or four sides to an area zoned as residential.

Fineberg said the most likely scenario was that the City would propose that medicinal pot shops would be allowed in areas zoned as mixed commercial/residential, industrial and in the Corazon de Trinidad Historic District, so long as the location was at least 1000 feet from a school building.

Downs said the main point was to let the community know that the City was not going to allow medicinal pot shops in predominantly residential areas.



Photo courtesy of Holy Trinity Academy

## The joys of Spring

K-3 grade students at Holy Trinity Academy plant gladioli bulbs at Zions Lutheran Church last week. The effort is funded by the Bar NI Ranch Community Service Fund as a grant to teach little hands how to plant and maintain a garden. Lorenzo Lucero and Logan Gates make sure they plant the bulbs at just the right depth.

# Local woman works to shine light on autism

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

Life can deliver cruel blows at times, and occasionally those blows reverberate. For example, autistic children are not the only ones who suffer — their families also must deal with critical issues while trying to help their loved ones. Linda Thompson's 6-year-old grandson, Faren Greathouse Jr., suffers from autism, and she's organizing a support group for him and other autistic children and their families, called Trinidad Autism Awareness, to try to help them all.

Thompson said she knew of at least 15 other autistic children in the Trinidad area and said there may be many more. She knows that there are very few services available here to help them. She's currently driving her grandson 96 miles one way to see Dr. Kim Colvin at Soaring Eagles Autism Center in Pueblo West, because that's the nearest place young Faren can receive the help he needs.

Thompson has applied for 501c3

status for Trinidad Autism Awareness and is in the process of getting a Federal ID number, meeting state licensing requirements and jumping through all the necessary hoops to get the organization up and running. The organization has a Facebook page at: [facebook.com/TrinidadAutismAwareness](https://www.facebook.com/TrinidadAutismAwareness). She is meeting with social service agencies, the medical community and the schools to help the group gain some local traction, and an upcoming national autism event may help her get the job done.

World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2, and Thompson's bringing posters to local businesses and organizations to "Light it up Blue," the theme of this year's event. The posters urge local businesses, individuals and families, and those in charge of public buildings, to switch their light bulbs from white to blue for the big day, and a blue decorating scheme would enhance the effect. Business owners and their employees can wear blue to show their care, and people can change their Facebook profile photo to a blue image for the day. Promo-

tional items are available for a donation, with the proceeds going to support autism awareness. People can reach Thompson by calling 719-680-2638, or by e-mail at [trinidadautismawareness@gmail.com](mailto:trinidadautismawareness@gmail.com) for more information.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviors. With the May 2013 publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual, all autism disorders were merged into one umbrella diagnosis of ASD. Previously, they were recognized as distinct subtypes, including autistic disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome.

ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Linda Thompson makes inroads as one of the organizers of Trinidad Autism Awareness.

excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Continued on Page 2 ...

Weather Sponsored by:  
**LA QUINTA**  
Inn & Suites  
Wellness  
Hotel  
719-845-0102

**WEATHER WATCH**  
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. W-SW wind 5 to 15 mph. Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West-southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.  
Tuesday: Rain likely between noon

and 4pm, then snow likely after 4pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 53. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Little or no snow accumulation expected. Night: Snow likely, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. Blustery, with a north wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing

ing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.  
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. N-NW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming E-NE in the afternoon. Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. E-NE wind 5 to 10 mph becoming W-SW after midnight.