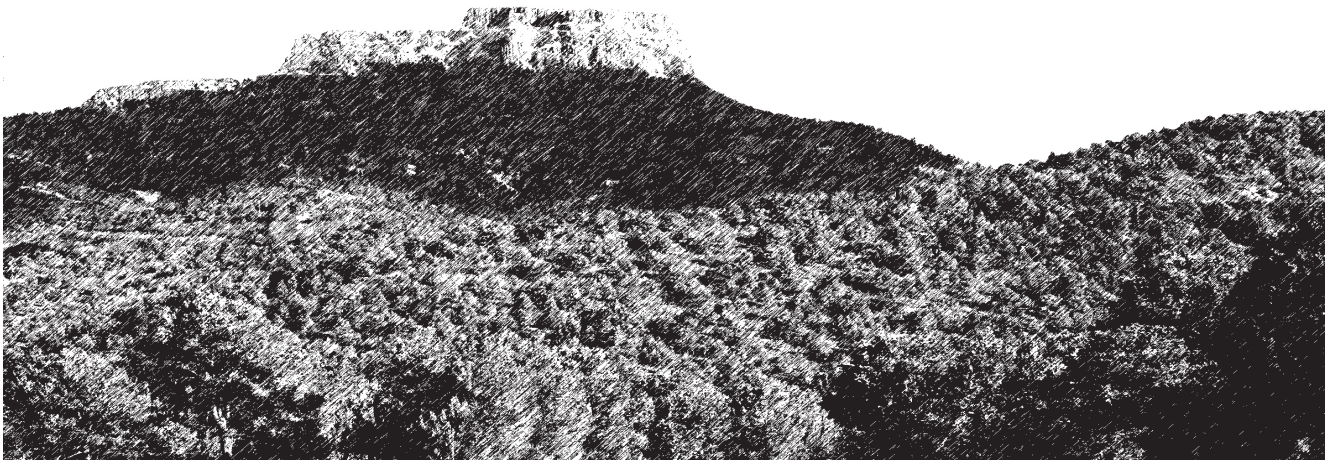


OVER THE PASS



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTIONS

“If a wind blew you away, where would you land?”

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Photos by **Tim Keller** / *The Chronicle-News*

“I’d land in Thailand. I used to go sailing there. It’s beautiful. I’d live on a sailboat in Phuket on Phang Na Bay.”

– Don Spencer, architect, Alamosa (Trinidad)



“On a leaf of a big banana tree in a tropical rain forest. It’d never get too cold or too hot, and it’s peaceful. I’d watch the world from my leaf.”

– Melani Hansen, waitress & businesswoman (Trinidad)

“Actually, I landed here. We came from Kansas City a year ago. We wanted to move back to the Rocky Mountains and we fell in love with the people in Trinidad.”

– Walt Boulden, executive director, TLAC Economic Development (Trinidad)



“As heavy as I am, I wouldn’t blow very far. But that’s good enough for me: I wouldn’t want to leave New Mexico.”

– Jacque Garcia, retired, Maxwell (Raton)



“Grand Cayman Island in the Caribbean. I was there in the ‘80s. The water is so gorgeous, crystal clear blue. You can see 200 feet down to the bottom.”

– Ron Schuster, retired locomotive engineer (Raton)



“Florida, at the beach, maybe Miami Beach. It’s nice, and different, especially the weather.”

– Jazimond Trujillo, stay-at-home mom (Raton)



Photos by **Steve Block** / *The Chronicle-News*

Trinidad Ebola Unit ready for use — just in case

The Trinidad Ambulance District recently outfitted one of its ambulances, above and below, as an Ebola Unit. The vehicle is completely lined with heavy-duty plastic to protect people from the deadly disease should it spread to this area.

PREPAREDNESS

Fort Carson soldiers leave for Ebola deployment

Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. (AP)— About 160 Fort Carson soldiers are on their way to west Africa to help build treatment units to house Ebola patients and caretakers.

The post said Monday the soldiers departed at the end of last week. The deployment is expected to last nine months to a year.

The soldiers are engineers from the 615th Engineer Company, 52nd Engineer Battalion. All received special training and personal protective equipment.

The post says none of the soldiers will be treating Ebola victims.



POLITICS

Colorado returns to split-party legislative rule

By **IVAN MORENO**
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Democrats emerged from the 2014 elections battered and bruised, losing the state Senate for the first time in 10 years and having a slimmer margin of power in the House than they had two years ago.

But with control of the lower chamber and the governor’s office with the re-election of Gov. John Hickenlooper, Democrats still have more clout than Republicans to dictate what happens in the legislative session that begins in January.

Republicans, however, will enter the session with momentum, having made gains in the House, putting Hickenlooper through his toughest campaign yet with Republican Bob Beauprez, and taking an 18-17 lead in the Senate.

“They’re actually going to have to listen to us,” said Loveland Rep. Brian DeGrosso, the GOP leader in the House, where Democrats will hold a 34-31 majority, compared with the 37-28 lead they had two years ago.

The divided chambers will make it difficult for either party to pursue an aggressive agenda like Democrats did two years ago when they controlled everything and passed gun control laws, civil unions, college tuition benefits for students in the country illegally, and renewable energy mandates on rural electricity cooperates.

Split party-control also will make it tough for the GOP to reverse those Democratic policies. Republicans still are expected to try, if only to put their political opponents in an uncomfortable position revisiting those topics.

The area where Republicans are likely to have the most success is helping craft the budget. Unlike the prior two years, when Democrats had more members on the budget-writing Joint Budget Committee, the

panel will now be 3-3, and veteran Republican Sen. Kent Lambert will chair it.

In 2011 and 2012, the last time legislative power was divided, Republicans successfully bargained to repeal sales taxes on agricultural products and saved part of a retailer sales-tax rebate that Democrats wanted to suspend. Republicans also pushed for the restoration of a property-tax break for seniors that both parties suspended in tight budget years.

This year, Republicans are sure to block any efforts from Democrats to ask voters to keep revenue above the limit set by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, which requires refunds to residents when tax receipts exceed the combined rate of inflation and population growth.

Hickenlooper’s budget proposal already sets aside nearly \$137 million for the refunds in tax year 2016. But Democrats historically have made clear their disdain for TABOR, which they see as restricting government’s ability to invest in schools, transportation and other services when more money is available during economic growth.

Lawmakers also will get suggestions from a Hickenlooper-assembled task force that’s studying how to address land-use clashes between Colorado’s energy industry and homeowners.

The matter was expected to be one of the most contentious of the session, even before the election results. Now that both parties share power, they’ll have to find common ground if anything is to get done.

“There is a difference between how you run for office and how you govern. And while you may believe in a certain way, when you have to come to governing, you have to compromise,” said Democratic House Speaker Mark Ferrandino, who is term-limited and won’t be returning in January. “And I think we’ll see that on both sides.”

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