



Artwork by Trinidad artist Paula Little is featured on the 2014 Collector Mug Series from The Chronicle-News



MONDAY  
DECEMBER 29, 2014

Vol. 138, No. 259

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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

## THE FINE PRINT

**AREA SPORTS**  
Area Schools are on Christmas break until January 8.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:**  
The Chronicle-News 2014 Collector Mugs you've all been waiting for are here and waiting for you to come pick them up.

## Today's Quote

"Another fresh new year is here — another year to live! To banish worry, doubt, and fear, to love and laugh and give!"

— William Arthur Ward

**DECEMBER 29**  
**City's Main Street Program**  
**MONDAY (Noon)** Join in the weekly conversation thru December at City Hall in Council Chambers on Animas St. This week's topic is: Preview of the Conversation Tracker. Information: 719-846-9843.

**DECEMBER 30**  
**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.

**URBAN RENEWAL**  
Representatives of the City will be holding four (4) public information meetings for citizens to attend and learn more about the survey process, Authority, and urban renewal as a resource for community redevelopment and economic development. All meetings will be held at City Hall in City Council Chambers.

- Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 8 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 4 p.m.

We urge anyone with questions or a general interest to attend one of the meetings, the dates of which are provided below. If you are unable to attend, but still have questions, please contact Tara Marshall with the City of Trinidad at 719.846.9843, ext. 131.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**NEW YEARS CLOSURES**  
■ The Chronicle-News office will close at noon on New Years Eve and be closed until Monday, Jan 5. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service.

■ The City of Trinidad offices and Landfill will also be closed Thursday-Friday for New Years.

■ The Las Animas County Courthouse offices will be closed Thursday-Friday for New Years.

■ SCCOG and Affiliates will be closed Thursday-Friday for New Years.

**Musical Light Show**  
**EVERY EVENING:** A must see for Christmas at 213 W. Colorado Ave. Drive over, turn your radio to 103.1 FM and watch the lights dance to the wonderful music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

**Call for Artists**  
**JANUARY 2-3 (Art delivery is 11 a.m.-2 p.m.)** The Spanish Peaks Arts Council in LaVeta is calling all artists for submissions in the SPACe Members' Show for Jan.-Feb. Info: Kathy Hill, 719-742-5756 or www.spanishpeak-sarts.org.

**Trinidad Lake State Park**  
**JANUARY 1 (10 a.m.)** Free First Day Hike with Park Staff and adoptable furry friends at Trinidad Lake State Park. Choose from three hikes — meet at the Visitor Center and afterwards in the amphitheater for hot chocolate and goodies. Info: 719-846-6951 or http://cpw.state.co.us/

**Raton Choral Society**  
**JANUARY 8, 9 & 10:** Auditions for "Hello Dolly" will be held in the Shuler Theater and the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center. Materials and information can now be picked up at the Shuler. Info: Bill Cray, 575-445-5682 or plainsongstudio@msn.com.

**SUPPORT YOUR HOMETOWN**  
**SHOP LOCAL:** Dine out and shop area and downtown merchants for special after Christmas sales and promotions. Help Trinidad thrive!

**Low-Cost Spay/Neuter**  
The Fisher's Peak Veterinary Clinic (719-846-3211) and the Trinidad Animal Clinic (719-846-3212) offer grant-funded, low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Call for information and appointments.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 12/24/14. Chilli ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release .02 AF  
Inflow 40.59 AF -- 20.46 CFS  
Evaporation 1.57 AF  
Content 14,636 AF  
Elevation 6,175.20  
Precipitation 0

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

## CRIME & COURTS

# Conviction upheld for Trinidad pool hall killer

Staff Report  
The Chronicle-News

The Colorado Court of Appeals has upheld the murder conviction of a Trinidad man convicted of stabbing another man after a pool table dispute in 2010.

The court released its decision Wednesday in the appeal of Trinity Jay Romero. He is serving a 40-year sentence for second-degree murder for the 2010 death of Kyle Phillips. Phillips and Romero got into an argument over whether a table at the Empty Pocket Saloon was empty.

Romero stabbed Phillips in the chest outside the pool hall. Romero unsuccessfully argued it was self-defense.

Romero's appeal involved a juror he says

should have been dismissed. He also argued that the jury should have gotten different guidance on self-defense claims.

The Court of Appeals rejected Romero's claims and upheld his conviction.

Phillips, 24 at the time, died in a Trinidad hospital.

According to records, the two men were both at the Empty Pocket Saloon. Phillips was shooting pool with some friends, when Romero showed up with his brother and some friends of his own. According to witnesses Romero was giving Phillips a hard time. They say Phillips ignored Romero and eventually left the bar to smoke a cigarette.

Continued on Page 2 ...



The Chronicle-News file photo

Trinity Jay Romero



Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Customers visit the newly opened recreational marijuana shop Peaceful Herbs located in what was formerly Monte Cristo Bar in downtown Trinidad.

## NEW BUSINESS

# Peaceful Herbs owners hope to offer customers and community more than pot

By Eric John Monson  
News Editor  
The Chronicle-News

"Ohh, it smells like pot in here. I love it when they say that," says Sona Manhani, who with her husband Dave Girdmar opened Peaceful Herbs in downtown Trinidad. Manhani bustles from the front door back to main part of the building that is dominated by the 100-year-old back-bar that formerly served booze at Monte Cristo bar and is now used to serve marijuana. The fact that it smells like pot isn't surprising, but what Manhani later says describing the customer's that have come to Peaceful Herbs is.

"Generally, I'd say most of the people that have come in are in their 60s-70s. And mostly it's been women. And there's been a lot of people from out of town" says Manhani.

The draw of out-of-towners is expected and as of now Peaceful Herbs is the closest marijuana dispensary to our southerly neighbors, but it's doubtful anyone expected those out-of-towners to be generally older women.

"I think, so far, our customers have been interested mostly in pain management. It hasn't been the smokeables, though we've sold quite a bit of that as well, so much as the sprays and roll-ons. A lot have really been interested in the effective edibles we stock as well," said Manhani.

The fact that Peaceful Herb might not be what someone expects from a marijuana dispensary is just fine with owner Dave Girdmar. "We really want to be something different."

Continued on Page 2 ...

## CITY IMPROVEMENTS

# State Forestry awards \$6,000 for tree planting in Raton

New Mexico State Forestry  
Special to The Chronicle-News

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Forestry Division's Forest Re-Leaf Program awarded \$6,000 in grant funding to plant trees in Raton as part of the third phase of the city's downtown urban forestry project, according to the Division's Urban and Community Forester Jennifer Dann.

"The City of Raton has been actively working on revitalizing their historic downtown. They recognize that trees can aid in economic development by attracting new business as well as creating a customer friendly experience," said Dann. "We're pleased to be working with city officials and economic development groups like GrowRaton, who understand the important role trees play in the overall health of New Mexico communities."

The Raton Urban Forestry Project will include planting 14 trees and 36 shrubs along the sidewalks in the downtown area, adding

to previous plantings that were funded through Re-Leaf grants in 2012 and 2013. The plantings will transform the sidewalk in front of nine historic storefronts on the west side of First Street between Rio Grande and Cook Avenues.

Awards for up to \$6,000 per community were made to projects in five communities across New Mexico. These funds, administered by New Mexico State Forestry, support valuable community tree planting efforts aimed at improving the environment, educating citizens, and beautifying public places. This year's grant recipients include the communities of Corona, Farmington, Raton, Rio Rancho and Taos. The statewide grant total for 2014 is \$20,587.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf was established in 1990 to provide a tree-planting grant program for public entities such as public schools, cities, towns, counties, soil and water conservation districts, rural fire districts and oth-

Continued on Page 2 ...



The Chronicle-News file photo

Raton's Colfax County Building (formerly Courthouse) with Goat Hill, the Raton sign, and the American flag in the background.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Monday:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 32. West northwest wind

around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7. South southeasterly wind around 5 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

**Tuesday:** A 10 percent chance of snow. Mostly sunny, with a high

near 30. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming east northeast in the afternoon. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

Weather Sponsored by:

Inn & Suites  
Wellness  
Hotel  
719-845-0102

