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**TUESDAY**  
**OCTOBER 21 2014**  
 Vol. 138, No. 210

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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## THE FINE PRINT

**OCTOBER 21 Golden Harvest Bazaar**  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT IS NOT TODAY** — It will be held **FRIDAY** at the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro — complete with breakfast burritos and plenty of Christmas decorations and other items for sale. Information: Anna Riskey, 719-846-3336.

**Las Animas County TUESDAY (9 a.m.)** Board of County Commissioners meeting is in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-845-2568. **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Loudon (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

**Hoehne Schools TUESDAY (5 p.m.)** Hoehne District Accountability Committee will meet in the Hoehne School Library. Information: Hannah Baca, 719-846-4457 ext.109.

**Primer Schools TUESDAY (5 p.m.)** District Board of Education will meet in executive session with regular session to follow at 6 p.m. in the Primero School Cafeteria, 20200 Highway 12. Information: Tina East, 719-868-2715.

**Trinidad City Council TUESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** Special session followed by regular session at 7 p.m. will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

## Today's Quote

**"You cannot expect victory and plan for defeat."**

— Joel Osteen

**OCTOBER 22 Tourism Board WEDNESDAY (9 a.m.)** Committee meets in the City Hall Third Floor Conference Room, 135 N. Animas St. Info: City Clerk, Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

**Trinidad Schools WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** The Board of Education will hold its regular session at the Middle School Library, 614 Park St. Information: 719-845-2048.

**Candlelight Vigil WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.)** In remembrance of domestic violence victims, the AADA invites the community to this event to be held at the LaQuinta Inn, 2873 Toupal. Info: 719-846-6665.

**God is Not Dead WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.)** Everyone is invited to this free movie "God is Not Dead" to be shown at the First Christian Church, 200 S. Walnut St. Information: 719-846-3843.

**Hoehne Schools WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.)** Hoehne School Board will meet in regular session in the Superintendents Office. Information: 719-846-4457 ext.109.

**Attention Sports Officials WEDNESDAY (7 p.m.)** Veteran officials and anyone interested in joining the 2014 Basketball Season as game officials need to come to the meeting at the Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Ave. Info: Greg Guzzo, 719-845-7315.

**PUBLIC SERVICE THE SAMARITAN CLINIC**  
 Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 413 E. Frost and corner of N. Linden. Information: 719-846-3536.

**Golden Harvest Bazaar FRIDAY (8:30 a.m.)** Come out to the great annual bazaar and bake sale fundraiser for the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Info: 719-846-3336.

**Fundraiser Benefit SATURDAY (11 a.m.-2 p.m.)** Enchilada Dinner for Chris Samora, who is battling cancer, will be held at the Elk's Club, 120 S. Maple St. — includes door prizes, raffles, auction and music. Information: 719-880-1666 or 719-859-5784.

**The Black & White Ball SATURDAY (6-Midnight)** A.R. Mitchell will host the annual Black & White Western Ball Dinner & Dance fundraiser. Information: 719-846-4224.

**Area Essay Contest NOVEMBER 1 DEADLINE:** The Trinidad VFW Post 984 will again be sponsoring the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen competitions for all local school students (grades 9-12). Information: Commander John Rios, 719-846-6094.

**TIME CHANGE NOVEMBER 2:** Clocks move backwards one hour.

**ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 4:** Ballots must be turned in to the Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 E. First St., by 7 p.m.

**SUICIDE/CRISIS HOTLINES:**  
 \*ADULT HOPE: 800-784-2433  
 \*TEEN: 877-968-8454  
 \*GLB-YOUTH: 866-488-7386  
 \*VET-2-VET: 877-838-2838  
**ABUSE HOTLINES:**  
 \*Domestic Abuse Hotline: In Trinidad call 719-846-6665 (24-hours a day). In Walsenburg call: 719-738-0770. National Hotline: 1-800-790-SAFE (7233).  
 \*Animal Abuse: Report animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 10/20/14. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 9 --- Appropriation date: 01/01/1863.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
 Release 0.02 AF  
 Inflow 66.43 AF -- 33.49 CFS  
 Evaporation 4.41 AF  
 Content 11,883 AF  
 Elevation 6,169.81  
 Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / Highland Canal: 04/01/1884.



Steve Block / Chronicle-News

## 'Punkins for Punkins' annual fun event

Ezekiel Frye, 4, picks out a Halloween pumpkin at the annual pumpkin giveaway at Laura DeBella's State Farm Insurance Agency on East Main Street Friday, as big sister Mikaela also makes her selection.

## THE ARTS

### Glenn Miller Orchestra swings into Shuler Theater

By Tim Keller  
 Correspondent  
 The Chronicle-News

Glenn Miller's big band was wildly popular, charting history's first gold record with "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," when he abruptly joined the U.S. Army shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He led the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band during World War II, flying to shows around the globe. At the end of 1944, his plane went down over the English Channel. His body was never found. All that remained were memories and the best-selling dance recordings of his two swing bands.

Nine years later, Universal Pic-

Continued on Page 6 ...



Photo courtesy Glenn Miller Orchestra

Reformed due to popular demand stoked by unforgettable music and a Hollywood film, the Glenn Miller Orchestra has now been playing incessant one-nighters — 300 every year — around the world for 58 years. The dance band swings into the Shuler Theater Sunday afternoon.



Steve Block / Chronicle-News

Arlene Lopez is the new executive director of the Las Animas County Department of Human Services.

## DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

### New DHS Director has strong hometown roots

By Steve Block  
 The Chronicle-News

The new executive director of the Las Animas County Department of Human Services (DHS) has spent her entire adult life working to serve the public's interest. Arlene Lopez spent over 30 years as first a child welfare worker and then as child welfare supervisor, before being named recently to succeed Catherine Salazar as head of the DHS.

A Trinidad native and 1974 graduate of Trinidad Catholic High School, she attended Trinidad State Junior College and graduated from Adams State College with a degree in sociology and a minor in social work. She and her husband, Gilbert, have two grown sons. She talked about what it was like to be a child welfare caseworker.

"I liked getting to know the families, and I understood where they were coming from, based on the stories they told me," Lopez said. "I liked the direct interaction with them, and establishing relationships and being able to impact their lives positively through those relationships, and through the

services we were able to provide."

The child welfare program works to protect children's safety, provide substance abuse prevention programs, contact with mental healthcare providers, transportation and help with daily living needs. It offers parents help with utility costs, financial assistance and whatever it takes to make life more livable. DHS has five child welfare caseworkers, one foster home study worker who tries to retain and recruit new foster homes, two case aides and a child care coordinator. There's also an on-site contract substance abuse counselor.

Lopez said DHS has a core group of seven very productive child welfare workers that have been on the job for several years. The department has 42 total employees, nearly all of them full-time, and tries to promote from within whenever possible.

"Most of those employees were born and raised here, and they have very strong ties to the community," she said. "That's been very beneficial for us. The younger workers who come in have higher ex-

Continued on Page 2 ...

## WEATHER WATCH

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the

afternoon with higher gusts. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers before 9 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 68. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 42. East wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 44. Southeast wind around 5 mph.



Weather Sponsored by:

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# AREA COMMUNITY

... Continued from Page 1

## Berry brings hometown talents to Raton City Hall

ting in. Most of those families—all Scott Berry's relatives—are still around. Patrick's son, Frank—Scott's grandfather—built his home nearby in Bear Canyon, where Scott's father Kenneth Berry was born. Farming had given way to cattle ranching and mesa families had started building houses downhill toward Yankee Canyon, refuges from the mesa's hard winters at 8600 feet.

Scott Berry's father, Kenneth, worked construction jobs to support his share of the mesa ranch. Scott was born in 1961 at Miner's Hospital in Raton, but he grew up near his dad's construction jobs in Albuquerque's South Valley until the family returned to Raton in time for Scott to enter seventh grade. He graduated with the Raton High School class of 1979.

"I started on some construction jobs like my dad, but he convinced me that I needed to go to college and build something more substantial. I moved to Las Cruces and studied civil engineering at North Mexico State University. When I graduated as a civil engineer in 1985, I came home to look for work but times were hard and there was no work. I ended up working on drilling rigs in the oilfields near Oklahoma City, then I worked on feedlots all over the Texas panhandle."

When a ranch accident injured his dad in March 1986, Scott came home to help with the ranch work. "I looked around and the City of Raton had an opening for an engineer. I worked here from 1986 to 1993, first under Eric Honeyfield and then as the city's only engineer."

He worked on countless projects: water, wastewater, solid waste, drainage, dams and street improvements among them. "The city was dedicated to street improvements at the time. A certain percentage of tax revenue was dedicated to streets. At the time, the only route to the high school was 4th Street or 5th Street, so they were congested. I was in charge of building a new road up from the Clayton Highway. We built Tiger Drive in 1987-88."

In 1993, Berry was lured to the mines himself, becoming the Environmental Engineer at York Canyon Coal Mine; working for Pittsburgh & Midway Coal Company, a division of Chevron.

"The mine had 400 employees with good-paying jobs that



allowed them to be Raton homeowners. The railroad had 25-30 good jobs moving all that coal. Fairmont Supply had six to eight good jobs just supplying the mine." All over town, there were good jobs.

In 2000, Berry left the mine to start his own business in the healthy economy. "I hung out my shingle: KS Berry En-



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Scott Berry is a fourth-generation Johnson Mesa rancher; his great grandfather came from Ireland to Raton for the coal mines but soon turned to farming and ranching, homesteading at 8600 feet.

gineering. We worked on hundreds of projects; in fact, we ended up with more business than we needed." He was chief engineer in the design and construction of the Cimarron Solar Facility, the biggest such facility in the U.S. at the time.

But York Canyon Coal Mine closed in 2002, triggering a downward spiral for Raton as all of those jobs were lost.

"We've had some tough years in Raton," Berry says now. "People get depressed and jumpy. It takes a long time to climb out of that." In 2011, the citizenry purged government, using recall initiatives to expel school board members and three of the city's five elected commissioners. City government was in shambles. It needed stability. The remaining leaders lured Scott Berry to be their acting city manager until they could find someone up to the job.

He stayed seven months, until Raton's former Superintendent of Schools, Butch McGowan, agreed to step in—for a fee that he insisted be just one dollar. McGowan helped right the ship and later accepted a full salary. When he finally made good on his retirement last month, the commission asked Berry back.

Looking at Raton's decade-long depression, Berry says, "I think we've come out of that, but there's a lot still to do. We need to get those jobs back. People expect us to work on economic development. We need to encourage and help local entrepreneurship, especially in the downtown area, which is a big asset for Raton. The architecture and history are amazing. The city needs to play a role in revitalizing the downtown area, working in partnership with groups like Raton MainStreet, the Shuler Restoration Commission, Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Raton Museum and Raton Chamber of Commerce.

"We should promote Raton as a clean community that people will want to move to and live in. We need to clean up derelict properties, abandoned homes and businesses. In addition to providing good basic services—water, waste, streets, parks and the like—the city can play a role in clean-up and economic development.

"We need continuity. I've told the commission that I'm go-

ing to stick around. I'm talking to lots of property owners, asking what we can do."

The city can't do it alone, Berry says. "In a small town, a lot depends on people getting involved." The trends are good: in the past three years, Raton has grown an impressive cadre of local leaders and volunteers, but there's always a need for more.

Berry cites the Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally and the Masters of the Mountain (M.O.M.) Adventure Race as "leading-edge examples of how we can draw people to Raton. Those events have huge potential for growth." They help keep Raton on the map, and people sometimes need a map to find their way.

Berry sounds like a workaholic. What are his hobbies? He laughs at the question. "Cindi would say I'm a workaholic, yes. But when you're self-employed, you work all the time. It may come from my dad and ranching. When ranchers want something to do, they'll go fix some fence."

He calls himself a homebody but Cindi, his wife of 25 years, likes to travel. "I'll compromise," he says. "Last year we went to Las Vegas to see a Jimmy Buffett concert. That was on our to-do list, and it was absolutely the best concert we've been to." So Cindi must be one of Jimmy Buffett's crazed "parrot head" fans? He laughs again. "No, Cindi's not the parrot head. I'm kind of the parrot head."

So he won't admit to hobbies but he's a parrot head and, it turns out, a baseball fan. As he and Woodrow, the border colie, tended the horses in the cold fog atop Johnson Mesa last Saturday morning, he reflected on the job ahead of him—and ahead of Raton—back downhill in town. He didn't put it in terms of one step backward, two steps forward; instead, he used a baseball metaphor.

"It's going to take time to revitalize Raton. We're probably not going to hit a home run. We're going to string together some singles, some walks. It's called 'small ball.' We're going to build on a long string of small successes."

Like the legendary baseball managers, or like a rancher, Scott Berry is in for the long haul.

## Glenn Miller Orchestra swings into Shuler Theater

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tures released "The Glenn Miller Story," with James Stewart portraying Miller. Demand for the bandleader's music skyrocketed, leading Miller's estate to approve the reformation of the Glenn Miller Orchestra under the direction of Ray McKinley, who had directed the Army Air Force Band after Miller's sudden disappearance. No one could have foreseen the band's success: it's been touring the world for 58 years, averaging 300 shows annually in an endless tour of one-nighters.

Sunday afternoon, the show swings into Raton's Shuler Theater for a matinee concert. Online reviews suggest that there will be dancing in the aisles as the 18-member ensemble purrs, punches, and growls its way through hits like "Tuxedo Junction," "In the Mood," "Bugle Call Rag," "Little Brown Jug," and its timeless theme song, "Moonlight Serenade," written by Miller when he was a young music student.

Musicians have come and gone through the years, drawn from the ranks of America's top band players. Some have stayed long enough to reach their 60s, but the majority are young. They come from all over, from Alaska to Florida, California to New Jersey. They perform the classic Glenn Miller sound characterized by a clarinet holding the melodic line, doubled or coupled with the tenor sax playing the same notes, with three other saxes playing harmonies while growling trombones and wailing trumpets add their oo-ahs.

With choreographed movements and red blazers, the excitement is both musical and visual, especially when joined by featured vocalists Nick Hilscher and Natalie Angst. Now doubling as band director, Hilscher joined as singer in 1998. Despite the group's ceaseless tour schedule, Hilscher has managed to release two solo albums.

Natalie Angst first saw the Glenn Miller Orchestra just last year when her all-gal vocal group, The Honeybee Trio, opened for them at a swing festival in Iowa. In February, she joined them on the road as their new female vocalist.

Countless bands have tried to make it on the road. There's only one way to last: success. Supporting an 18-member group requires a new town every night. From its first shows a decade after Glenn Miller's disappearance over the English Channel, the Glenn Miller Orchestra has followed its winning formula of making people swing in their seats until some just have to bust out and dance.

Raton's fire marshal works and partly lives next to the Shuler Theater: the auditorium's north side doors open to his back porch. If the Shuler aisles fill with dancers Sunday afternoon, the smiling couples can only hope that the fire marshal swings.

In the second show of its annual Performing Arts Series, Raton Arts & Humanities Council presents the Glenn Miller Orchestra in a matinee performance Sunday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are available at the door or in advance at Old Pass Gallery, 145 S. 1st St., (575) 445-2052. Adult tickets are \$20, seniors \$15, and students \$10. Discounted season tickets are also available.

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individual cole slaw | 1 freshly prepared biscuit

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