

50 CENTS

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MARCH 4

MARCH 4
-Las Animas County
TUESDAY (9 a.m.) Board of
County Commissioners meeting is in
the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E.
First St., Room 201. Information: 719845-2568. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack
Louden (719-845-2592), and Anthony
Abeyta (719-845-2592), and Anthony
Abeyta (719-846-930).
-Annual Pancake Supper
TUESDAY (4:30-6:30 p.m.) Holy
Trinity Academy will host their annual
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at
Holy Family Hall. Proceeds benefit the
school.

Today's Quote

"A morning-glory at my window satisfies me more than the metaphysics of books."

- Walt Whitman

MARCH 5
ASH WEDNESDAY
Ash Wednesday is the first day of
Lent in the Western Christian calendar, directly following Shrove Tuesday and occurring 46 days before
Easter.

PUBLIC SERVICE

-TSJC English Tutoring
FRIDAY (10 a.m.-Noon) The English Department at Trinidad State is offering free English tutoring to any high school student. Students should bring relevant books, notes and a flash drive to Room 312 in the Freudenthal Library. Information: 719-846-5530.

-"Songs of Hope"
FRIDAY (7 p.m.) Jason & Denise will be in concert at New Hope Church, 38096 Hwy 160 (old Wagon Wheel). No admission and everyone's welcome.

-Philanthropy Phair
SATURDAY (3-6 p.m.) The community is invited to explore opportunities with local non-profit organizations and enjoy entertainment, prizes and

ties with local non-profit organizations and enjoy entertainment, prizes and refreshments at the Mitchell Museum, 150 E. Main St. Event hosted by the Trinidad Community Foundation. Information: 719-846-3943.

The Great Chocolate Tour SATURDAY (3-7 p.m.) Sample a variety of delightful chocolate treats at this benefit for the Colorado State Future Business Leaders of America at the La Quinta Inn on Toupal Drive. Tickets and information: Hoehne

at the La Quinta inn on Toupai Drive. Tickets and information: Hoehne FBLA, 719-846-4457. **-Awards Banquet SATURDAY (5:30 p.m.)** Junior Achievement Awards Banquet will be at the Trinidad Masonic Lodge, 132 E. Main St. Information: Russ Sharpe, 719-845-1698

E. Main St. Information: Russ Sharpe, 719-845-1698.

~Call for Design Submissions MARCH 10 DEADLINE: Send your Corazon de Trinidad crosswalk art design submissions to: City of Trinidad Arts & Culture Advisory Commission, P.O. Box 880, or call Kim Marquez at 719-846-9843, ext. 123 for more information.

From the LA County Clerk License plate renewal online. Go to: www.colorado.gov/renewplates. ~RECYCLE

~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: 1-800-790SAFE (7233).

*Animal Abuse: Do your part and help put a stop to animal cruelty. Re-port animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

The Children's Museum on North Commercial Street.

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

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:

Release 0.24 AF Inflow 37.97 AF -- 18.99 CFS Evaporation 3.97 AF Content 17.175 AF Elevation 6,179.52 Precipitation 0.08

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





... a thousand words

FINANCE

Building Inspector suggests construction user's-tax fixes

By Steve Block The Chronicle-News

The City of Trinidad has an ordinance requiring a user's tax on construction or building materials of 4 percent on the first 50 percent of the total cost of the construction project. The amount of the tax owed is estimated by Chris Kelley, City Building Inspector, and is included as part of the application for a city building permit. Kelley said last week that the user's tax system the City now has is inefficient, and he suggested some

changes that would improve it. The 4 percent tax includes building materials purchased both in Trinidad and out of town. Contractors buying materials out of town are supposed to bring Kelley their receipts, so the tax will get paid. Most cities have their own user's tax for building materials, with some of those taxes being either higher or lower than Trinidad's. Pueblo West, for example, has a tax of 3.9 percent on building materials purchased there. Since Trinidad can't legally charge contractors a tax of more than four percent, that means it can only charge .1 percent on purchases made in Pueblo West. Raton, N.M. has no city user's tax on construction materials at all, so contractors buying there but building in Trinidad are expected to pay the full 4

percent to the City of Trinidad. Kelley said the problem is made more complicated because, while his office collects the user's fees, the City Finance Director handles the money generated by the fees and puts it in the city's gen-eral fund. Kelley described a few changes that he believes would make the system better.

"The problem I see is that we have a limited supply of material here," Kelley said. "I agree they should pay the tax that's due, but I think it needs to be rewritten on how they go about doing it. If it were up to me, I'd charge 1.5 percent of 50 percent, no matter what automatically and up front. You'd at least get a portion of it, and I think it would average out. I think you'd get more than you're getting now, but you might not get the full amount.

Kelley has a contractor's report form, on which contractors can list what they bought, where they bought it and how much they paid in out-of-town user's taxes. The form allows for an adjustment to be made on how much user's tax the city is owed. Contractors doing big projects usually fill out the form and pay their Trinidad user's taxes on a monthly or quarterly

He said the report form goes to the finance director's office, which is supposed to review it, but he said he doesn't think the reports are being reviewed. He said he's brought up the issue with the finance director on several occasions but had gotten no positive feedback.

The user's tax on building materials went into effect in 1987. Kelley has been the building inspector for the past seven years.

Kelley was asked to put himself in the shoes of a Trinidad contractor who was building a \$100,000 house here. He was asked if he would buy his building materials

Continued on Page 2 ...

THE ARTS

ance extravaganza on tap at Shuler Theater

Correspondent

RATON - It's been a long dry spell since a big touring musical production brought rousing entertainment to the area. Wednesday night's Shuler Theater performance of "Tap – The Show" ends the drought with a full program of song and dance featuring tapdance classics like "Singin' in the Rain" and "I've Got Rhythm."

The show celebrates the breadth and history of tap dance with nine dancers — five men and four women - performing costumed and choreographed production numbers from throughout the past century and from around the world, including tribal, flamenco

and Irish step-dance music. Assembled in Nashville and featuring performers from New York City, Los Angeles and points between, ranging from Florida and Massachusetts to Nebraska and Utah, the production opens this year's fifth touring season with the Raton show, then dips south through New Mexico and Texas before turning east. Raton is the closest the show will get to

Colorado this year. Created by writer/director Scott Seidl and choreographer Mike Minery, "Tap – The Show" is "fueled by a non-stop explosion of rhythmic energy." The music has been arranged and recorded as a soundtrack specifically for the show, with sets and costumes also designed for the production. In fact, production credits number more than three-dozen people, a third of whom will be in Raton



Photos courtesy of TAP - The Show

"TAP - The Show" begins its 2014 national touring season on Wednesday night at Raton's Shuler Theater. Featuring nine dancers who come from coast to coast, the rhythm extravaganza showcases music from Broadway productions, the movies of Shirley Temple and Fred Astaire, "Singin' in the Rain" and makes forays into country and patriotic songs.

as dancers, singers and technical crew.

Show creators Seidl and Minery typify the levels of experience seen throughout the cast credits. Seidl is an actor, dancer, director, stage manager, playwright and country-music songwriter. He's been a Nickelodeon TV host, road manager for Steven Tyler and Aerosmith, and a university

music and theater teacher. His lengthy acting and dance credits include "Annie Get Your Gun,"
"Bye Bye Birdie" and "Man of La Mancha."

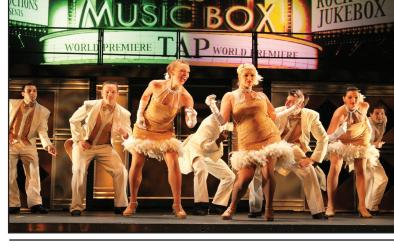
Minery has toured the world as a featured soloist with Manhattan Tap Company. The 1997 World Tap Champion debuted his own dance company, Tapaholics, at The Duke on New York City's fabled 42nd Street. He recently choreographed and directed the Off-Broadway production Slide.

Dancers on the Shuler stage on Wednesday night will include the show's producer, Greg Woodruff, dance captain Aaron Parkhurst and company manager Maria Logan. They will be joined by Michelle Fortner, Carissa Gravelle and Sarah Mangold, along with male dancers Sebastian Goldberg, Soren Wohlers and Shawn Kurilko. Tapthetour.com provides vivid photos and biographies of everyone in the company, along with full production credits and performance photos and videos.

The show opens with a highenergy, song-and-dance medley of the classic show tunes "42nd Street," "I've Got Rhythm," "Crazy Rhythm" and "Fascinating Rhythm." Members of the audience may tap their feet to the much that the professions of the street. sic, but the performers on stage will actually be creating much of the music by tapping their feet.

The show features Shirley Temple's "The Good Ship Lollipop," Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers' "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails," Ann Miller's "Tap Your Troubles Away" and the Nicholas Brothers' "Tap." Another highlight will be the soft-shoe performance of "Me and My Shadow."

Presented by Raton Arts & Humanities Council's annual Performing Arts Series and underwritten by The Whited Foundation, Wednesday night's show will begin at 7 p.m. Reserved-seat tickets are available at Raton's Old Pass Gallery, located at 145 S. 1st Street, and the gallery's phone number is 575-445-2052. Also available at the door, tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. The 99-year-old Shuler Theater is located in Raton's downtown historic district at 131 N. 2nd St.





719-845-0102

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. W-SW wind 5 to 10 mph becom-

ing NW in the afternoon. **Night:** A slight chance of rain showers before midnight,

then a slight chance of rain and snow showers between midnight and 2am, then a slight chance of snow showers after 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. N-NW wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 49. N-NW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 31. SE wind 10 to 15

mph becoming west SW after midnight. **Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. West wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** A slight chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. W-SW wind around

Friday: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. W-NW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming NE in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.