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WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2014
Vol. 138, No. 236

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

WEEKEND SPORTS
SUN: BRONCOS @ Dolphins 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

NOVEMBER 26
Tourism Board
WEDNESDAY (9 a.m.) Committee meets in the City Hall Third Floor Conference Room, 135 N. Animas St. Information: City Clerk, 719-846-9843.

Today's Quote

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

—Maya Angelou

NOVEMBER 27

THANKSGIVING CLOSURES:
*The Chronicle-News office will be closed Thursday/Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. The newspaper will be delivered no service interruption.

*The City of Trinidad offices and The Landfill will be closed Thursday/Friday for the holiday.

*The Las Animas Country offices will be closed Wednesday for mandatory Furlough Day and Thursday/Friday for Thanksgiving.

*SCOG and Affiliates will be closed Thursday/Friday for the holiday.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

THURSDAY (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) 22nd Annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Zion's Lutheran Church, corner of Pine and Prospect Streets. Delivery will be available to those unable get out. To volunteer or send a donation, call Norine Hazen, 719-846-2844.

SUPPORT YOUR TOWN

SHOP LOCAL: Dine out and shop area and downtown merchants for special before Christmas sales and promotions. Help Trinidad thrive!

Annual Light the Lights

FRIDAY (5:30 p.m.) Come for hot cider and join in the fun for the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree and Train at City Hall Park.

Parade of Lights

SATURDAY (6 p.m.) Join friends and neighbors to watch soldiers, military vehicles and U.S. Army band from Ft. Carson with special appearance from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

OPERATION RESPONSE

SATURDAY DEADLINE: Operation Trinidad Response is for sending care packages to service people overseas who are from Trinidad and Las Animas County. Call Linda Barron at 719-846-8223 with complete name, rank and address of your service person.

DECEMBER 1

Trinidad Chorale
MONDAY (5:15 p.m.) Rehearsals for the annual Christmas Concert will be held every Monday night at the Methodist Church, Broom and State St. Concert is scheduled for Dec. 5 & 7.

PUBLIC SERVICE

FIND THE MAYOR

UNTIL CHRISTMAS: Where is Mayor Reorda? Be the first each day to find the life-sized cardboard cutout of his honor in any of the area merchants stores, call the City of Trinidad at 719-846-9843 ext. 123 to report his location, and win a prize. Sponsored by the Corazon de Trinidad.

CALLING ALL ARCHERS!

DECEMBER 2 (6:30 p.m.) The Fishers Peak Archers Club will begin league meetings for all ages at their clubhouse at 127 E. Plum St. Info: Barbara Fisk, 518-321-3251 or barbarafisk@hotmail.com.

A Musical Journey with Santa

DECEMBER 5 (7 p.m.) & 7 (4 p.m.) The Trinidad Chorale's annual free Christmas Concert including presentations by the Trinidad Handbell and Children's Choirs will be held at the historic Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. Donations are appreciated. Info: Russ Gorrell, 719-989-7317.

Christmas Toy Drive

DECEMBER 11 DEADLINE: Help support the Trinidad Fireman's annual toy drive. Drop off new toys at either Fire Station: 1605 Santa Fe Trail Dr. or 1102 Nevada Ave. Wrapping days: Dec. 12 & 13. Delivery Days: Dec. 19 & 20. Info: Capt. Gatlin, 719-846-8664.

Calling all Vendors

DECEMBER 13 (8 a.m.- 3 p.m.) Branson School Christmas Bazaar is looking for vendors. Info: Kimberly Schor, 719-946-5555 or kschor@bransonschoolonline.com.

Thrift Store Benefit

DON'T MISS THIS: St. Vincent De Paul's annual Benefit Sale with most items \$1, including Levis, at its new location on Convent Street inside the Soup Kitchen Building, 308 W. Church Street. Info: Isabelle Gutierrez, 719-846-2009.

AADA Volunteer Training

If you are interested in being a volunteer for Advocates Against Domestic Assault contact the AADA office for training time and location: Trinidad (719-846-6665) or Walsenburg (719-738-0770).

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: 11/25/14. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 5 --- Appropriation date: 03/20/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 0.10 AF
Inflow 30.14 AF -- 15.19 CFS
Evaporation 3.04 AF
Content 13,715 AF
Elevation 6,173.49
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / Ninemile Canal: 05/10/1887.



SCHOOL BOARD

NWEA assessment tool proves valuable for students, teachers

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad Middle School uses the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) assessment tools to monitor student progress and achievement. Administrators and teachers from the school presented information about how they determine which students are making good progress and which students need extra help at Wednesday's Board of Education meeting.

Assistant Principal Michael Guadagnoli said that NWEA, an organization founded by educators, uses interim benchmark assessments throughout the school year to monitor student progress before cumulative testing is done at the end of the school year. The school has also added other assessment tools.

"The NWEA assessments weren't enough, so we added Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing to further monitor student progress," Guadagnoli said. "The two types of testing are pretty much interchangeable. So if you hear the word MAP, that's also NWEA testing. This assessment was built on the belief that every student matters. They moved from a philosophy of what's wrong with the child to what can we do to meet the child's needs."

Principal Deana Pachelli said the NWEA assessments were

norm-based, meaning that when a student begins an NWEA assessment, the difficulty of the questions the student is asked is automatically adjusted, based on the level of knowledge the student demonstrates as he or she progresses through the assessment. The students are scored on the RIT scale, which measures a student's knowledge of a given subject based on what questions they answer correctly at least 50 percent of the time.

"As they start answering questions correctly, the level of the questions begins to rise and they become harder and harder," Pachelli said. "However, if they do not answer them correctly, then it lowers that to their level of ability, so you can see where the student is and what is the level they're at. So that's what makes it so valuable in the classroom."

The RIT scale is based on a Dutch term, Pachelli said, which gives each student a RIT score at the end of every test. Currently, the middle school tests students in reading, math, English usage and science. The RIT score is available immediately for the student to see onscreen, and is uploaded by teachers into the NWEA system, which provides feedback to the teachers within 24 hours.

Each student in each class has

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Photo courtesy of Marilyn Leuszler

New roundabout opens in city

The highly anticipated opening of the new roundabout structure at the corners of Nevada and Arizona Streets has become a reality. A modern sculpture titled "OxO," by Colorado Artist John Wilbar, is shown being permanently installed in the roundabout's center by a city work crew.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Young New York City entertainer Tony DeSare, above, won over his Shuler Theater audience last week with infectious piano playing, classic American songs old and new, and a winning personality that earned him a raucous standing ovation. Bassist Steve Doyle, right, provided impressive rhythmic support and an easygoing chemistry with headliner Tony DeSare.

THE ARTS

DeSare pleases all in impressive Shuler Theater concert

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON—Maybe it's from living so far from America's entertainment centers, but it's impossible not to be impressed by how many

unfamiliar entertainers parade through Raton's Shuler Theater in the annual Performing Arts Series and provoke the thought, "Why is this act not world famous?" They're that good.

It turns out that the sponsor, Raton Arts & Humanities Council

(RAHC), books its acts exclusively through Minnesota's Allied Concert Services—one of whose field agents is Raton's Bill Fegan—and Allied deserves the credit for finding, vetting, and sending on tour only acts sure to please. The latest example arrived last Wednesday night (11/19) when young New York City jazz crooner and pianist Tony DeSare made enthusiastic fans of an impressively large mid-week Shuler audience.

Traveling with a drummer and bassist, it was DeSare's first time in New Mexico and one of 25 shows within a 30-day stretch. A good singer and fabulous pianist, his most winning talents Wednesday night may have been his good looks, affable personality and sense of humor.

Although RAHC didn't promote the fact, DeSare's show had a theme and a title—"My Generation: The Contemporary American Songbook." His 100-minute show presented 17 songs ranging from Irving Berlin's 100-year-old "I Love a Piano"—the Yamaha endorsee played it on the Shuler's big Steinway grand—to newer classics by Bruce Springsteen and Prince, plus a pair of DeSare's originals that held up just fine in that challenging company.

By stripping down soul and rock classics to a piano trio format, or often just solo piano and voice, DeSare transformed the songs into something different, bringing out new interpretations and strengths. One could be forgiven for not recognizing the show's opener, which turned out to be "Takin' It to the Streets" by the Doobie Brothers. He followed that with "Kiss" by Prince—and both sounded more like Bobby Darin than the Doobies or Prince.

Warmed up, De-

Sare next played a two-year-old original dance called "New Orleans Tango," where bassist Steve Doyle and drummer Mike Klopp started earning their keep. Doyle, in particular, was an impressive player who shared an enjoyable chemistry with DeSare.

Irving Berlin's song was followed by a pair of Ray Charles classics, the first of which—Eddie Arnold's "You Don't Know Me"—revealed the night's only limitations in DeSare's voice. The soulful song has been recorded by a procession of singers with deep mournful voices that DeSare simply lacked. He bounced right back, though, with "Hallelujah, I Love Her So."

From there DeSare covered Marvin Gaye and James Taylor along with two of his own greatest influences, Frank Sinatra and Elton John. The audience favorites, though, were some lesser-known tunes that were pure fun and made great use of the performer's winning sense of humor. He took the classical "Sabre Dance" that he

Continued on Page 3 ...



WEATHER WATCH

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 55. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the afternoon. **Night:**

Mostly clear, with a low around 29. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

THANKSGIVING: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming light west in the afternoon. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 32. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around

32. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 64. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 30. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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719-845-0102

COMMUNITY

NWEA assessment tool proves valuable for students, teachers

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Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Trinidad Middle School Assistant Principal Michael Guadagnoli addresses the Board of Education concerning the NWEA and MAP student assessment programs. Standing behind Guadagnoli is Middle School Principal Deana Pachelli.

an individual file, but the students test as a class, she said. After the testing is complete, the teacher can get feedback for each class. Research shows that it's important to the students to get that immediate feedback, because they want to do very well and they want to know where they stand. If a student is having a problem absorbing classroom information, the immediate feedback allows both the student and the teacher to begin working to solve the problem in a timely manner.

The RIT scores enable teachers to more effectively manage their periodic student-testing program. Students are tested at the start of the school year, in the winter and in the spring. It allows teachers the chance to monitor student progress from one year to the next, and also at various times during the school year. The student testing is a part of each teacher's annual evaluation. Teachers can use the results of the NWEA to show how their students are making progress in academic achievement. This allows the school to celebrate its student successes and address its student challenges.

Teacher David Bills, who's the seventh-grade Team Leader, talked about the formula that's used to examine how students performed on the TCAP (Transitional Colorado Achievement Program) the previous spring. The TCAP tests specifically address the language arts areas, and whether students are meeting expectations in those areas.

"What I do is sit down with each individual student, before we even discuss NWEA, and talk about how they did the previous year," Bills said. "We look at areas where they need to improve the next year. With the NWEA, they have some idea throughout the year of areas where they need to keep their ears a little more open, or I as a teacher need to spend more time with them on that area. I also have an idea, approximately, of where they need to be on their RIT scores and their NWEA. So we'll sit down and say, 'what's a good goal for you to be on the NWEA assessment?' Then we'll sit down and discuss what an appropriate number would be, and what the efficiency level should be, and they take the test and afterwards we have a post-test conference and we see how they did. If they met their goal or if they didn't, and we can actually receive data ... that allow me to see if they improved on those areas they needed to improve on, based on the previous year's TCAP scores. We need to see if they're doing well, and if they'll continue to do well. That's one of the ways that I use this goal conferencing sheet, specifically."

Lorie Glorioso, the sixth-grade Team Leader, presented about other aspects of testing to examine the levels of student achievement.

The NWEA and MAP assessment presentation showed how important it is for both students and teachers to have the tools they need to ensure that students make steady progress toward attaining the goals of student achievement.

DeSare pleases all in impressive Shuler Theater concert

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Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

learned for a Carnegie Hall performance and turned it into "Sabre Dance Boogie," demonstrating that he's rockin' good on piano.

His two-minute commercial theme for a Long Island luxury bus line to the Hamptons, "The Jitney Line," won almost as much applause and laughter as his uncanny musical impressions of Elton John and Neil Diamond.

DeSare often performs with symphony orchestras. One asked him to prepare a Christmas song. Unenthusiastic, he experimented until he came up with an impressive tour de force that he shared Wednesday night, a medley of 17 interpretations of "Jingle Bells," in this order: Piano Lesson, ragtime, Randy Newman, tango, Jewish, Michael McDonald, Spanish, Elton John, polka, Radiohead, Boogie Woogie, Neil Diamond, Bob Dylan, blues, rock & roll, and classical. As he finished to thunderous applause, he stood and said, "I think I got them all. Did anyone count them?" Yes. He did 16, so the Raton

audience missed one.

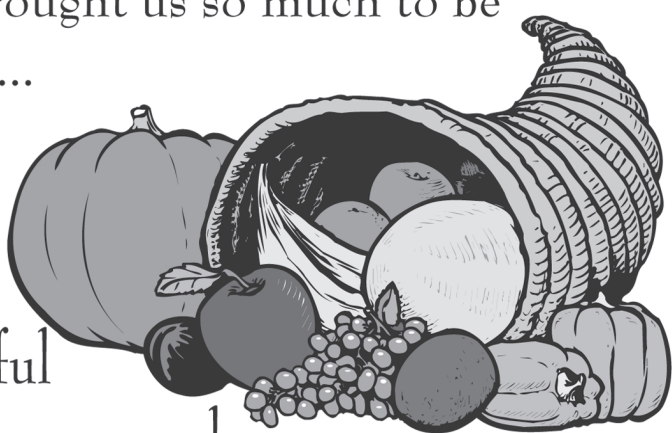
He built to a close with Springsteen's "Fire" followed by Jerry Lee Lewis's "Great Balls of Fire" complete with treble parts played by right foot. When DeSare left the stage and returned for an encore, a woman called out, "Was that the intermission?" The audience wanted much more and said so. DeSare gave them a ten-minute rendition of Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train" complete with extended solos for piano, bass, and drums.

RAHC's Performing Arts Series now takes a mid-season break of almost three months before the next show, although it's bringing a special January 17 concert called "Yesterday: A Tribute to the Beatles." Then three shows remain from February through May, all booked from Allied Concert Services, all acts unfamiliar to Raton, and—if past experience is an indication—all acts sure to please.

Raton Arts & Humanities Council is based at Old Pass Gallery, 145 S. 1st St., 575-445-2052.

2014 has brought us so much to be thankful for...

...but we're most thankful for our customers and friends who have supported us over the past 111 years; for the town and country in which we live; and for the blessings we all share.



Happy Thanksgiving

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