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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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THE FINE PRINT

JUNE 30
-Trinidad City Council
MONDAY (9 a.m.) Special session for the approval of a software package will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

JULY 1
-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: 719-845-2568.
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Gary Hill (719-845-2599), Mack Loudon (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeysa (719-846-9300).

-Trinidad City Council
TUESDAY (7 p.m.) Regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

Today's Quote

"Summer afternoon—to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

— Henry James

PUBLIC SERVICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICES:

-The Chronicle-News office will be closed on Friday, July 4 for the holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service. Information: 719-846-3311.

-The City of Trinidad offices, public library, municipal swimming pool and landfill will be closed on Friday, July 4. The library will remain closed on Saturday, July 5. The pool and landfill will be open on Saturday, July 5.

-Las Animas County Employees
The county offices at the courthouse will be closed for a mandatory furlough day on Friday, July 4, for all county employees.

-The South Central Council of Governments and its affiliates will be closed for the holiday on Friday, July 4.

-Free Summer Lunch Program
THRU AUGUST 8 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
All kids (18 and under) can eat a free lunch Mon.-Fri. at the TMS Cafeteria, 614 Park St. Adults can join in for \$3. Information: 719-845-2051.

-Carnegie Public Library
Calling all artists who want to exhibit their 2-dimensional artwork at the Library. Information: Mallory Pillard, 719-846-6841 or stop by the Library at 202 Animas St.

-FP Fire Protection District
The auxiliary is now accepting donated items to be sold at the annual July fundraiser firehouse sale (no clothing, please). Proceeds benefit the fire department. Call 719-846-4074 for drop-off or pick-up.

-2014 ARTOCADE
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: Anyone interested in participating in the September ArtoCade please contact Rodney Wood at 719-334-0087 or artcarfun@yahoo.com.

-Books & More
The Carnegie Library's bookstore is located at 132 N. Commercial St. All proceeds benefit the public library. (Open noon-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday.) Volunteer information and book donations: 719-846-8522.

-Volunteer Firemen
Anyone over 18 interested in becoming a volunteer fireman for any of our area fire protection districts, please call Buddie Curro at 719-859-1535. Any donations of food, water and funds for our area fire district volunteers call 719-846-4074.

-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: 1-800-790-SAFE (7233).
*Animal Abuse: Do your part and help put a stop to animal cruelty. Report animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

A THOUSAND WORDS

Rino's Restaurant on Main Street boasts turn-of-the-last-century architecture that still delights people today.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 06/27/14. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 64 / Appropriation date: 04/01/1863.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 198.53 AF
Inflow 189.11 AF -- 95.34 CFS
Evaporation 16.58 AF
Content 13,694 AF
Elevation 6,173.45
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / High-land Canal: 05/31/1866.



CITY COUNCIL

Software issue spurs furious debate at meeting

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

A sharp exchange of words ensued between a website developer and a City Councilmember at Thursday's Special Meeting of Council over the issue of which kind of software package the City should buy to deal more effectively with its utility billing and other

City business. Website developer ERA McCarthy and Councilmember Anthony Mattie got into a fierce battle of words over who should win the contract for the software package.

City Finance Director Lonny Medina recommended to Council that it buy the Incode software package from Tyler Technologies, a company that makes software

specifically for governmental entities. The package would cost the City \$52,000 per year for five years and would include training for City employees. The City would save some money if it approves the contract with Tyler by June 30, which is the end of the company's fiscal quarter.

McCarthy was invited to speak on the subject by Mayor Joe Reor-

da, at the request of Councilmember Liz Torres. McCarthy had not signed up to speak before the meeting, as is usually required.

McCarthy said she'd heard of several users of the Incode software who had a lot of trouble using it, while others said it worked just fine. She said she and her business partner, Jay Martinez, had approached City Manager Tom Acre about building a web-based platform to handle utility billing and other City financial business but had not heard back from him.

Mayor Reorda asked Medina if he'd considered McCarthy's proposal, but he responded that he "had no idea they could handle that kind of work."

Councilmember Joe Bonato said he'd seen some of the work that McCarthy and Martinez had done and felt it was of outstanding quality, and he asked that they be given a chance to bid on the contract for financial software.

Councilmember Mattie said it wasn't fair for McCarthy to attack Tyler Technologies before Council, when that company had no one on hand to respond to the charges.

McCarthy said there should have been a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the software contract, so she and Martinez could have placed a formal bid.

Reorda asked Acre why he hadn't responded to McCarthy's request to be considered for the contract, and he explained his reasons. "With this particular software application, I left it to Lonny to look for folks that have done this and have a track record of doing this," Acre said.

Medina said Tyler Technologies provides software applications to more than 2,000 cities across the country. He said the City needed a proven product with

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Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

... a thousand words

ENTERTAINMENT

Fireballs rock Raton during Rockin' Wings & Wheels

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Wednesday's cool cloudy weather was a plus for hundreds of festivalgoers gathered at Raton Municipal Airport for the inaugural Raton's Rockin' Wings & Wheels festival. Avoiding summer heat, visitors from all over northern New Mexico and southern Colorado were able to linger while enjoying more than 16 aircrafts and 20 classic cars.

But it was The Fireballs that brought the most excitement, at both the beginning and the end of the day's festivities. The group scored a dozen or so Billboard hits from 1959 to 1968 after forming at Raton High School in 1958. "Sugar Shack" topped the charts for 1963, but George Tomsco's guitar hits also caused a big splash that led to the genre known as surf music. All of the group's hits were recorded at Norman Petty Studio in Clovis, New Mexico, where the group met Buddy Holly.

Tomsco, bassist Stan Lark and singer Jimmy Gilmer kicked off Raton's Rockin' Wings & Wheels on Wednesday morning with an autograph-signing session that packed Raton Museum, with the line for autographs streaming out the doors and along the sidewalk. Classic cars lined Main Street as Raton's downtown historic district experienced a rare traffic jam.

Hours later, The Fireballs closed the all-day event with a 90-minute concert of its signature hits, as well as songs by other performers that were recorded at Norman Petty Studio, including songs by Holly and Roy Orbison. Pat Carter joined the group on guitar and vocals, a role he's repeated

since meeting the group at Petty's; for a spell, The Fireballs served as Carter's backing group. Drummer Jerry MacNeish and keyboardist Mike Lang flew in from Baltimore to fill out the group's rhythm section, one that had Raton's city manager and many others dancing on the airport's tarmac.

The afternoon was devoted mostly to cars and planes. Twenty classic cars lined up against a mountain backdrop with dramatic clouds, prompting countless people to take photos. A helicopter, a Lear Jet and other planes flying in and out on refueling stops joined 16 aircraft parked on display for the crowd's enjoyment. Pilots and plane owners answered questions from curious spectators of all ages.

Ethan Guerra of Breckinridge, Colorado, and Alex Viola of Branson, Missouri, stopped to fuel their Enstrom helicopter, not expecting to entertain such a crowd as they flew hops from San Francisco to the helicopter's home base at Mountain One Helicopters in Denver. "Raton is a great stopping spot for us coming up from Santa Fe to Denver," Guerra said. Many pilots said they like fueling at Raton because it's small, quick, and beautiful.

Raton High School students Rudy Ortega and Thomas Esquibel spent the afternoon at the airfield. "I think it's good to get the whole town together at the airport," Ortega said. "I've never seen The Fireballs, so I came to see them, but I also like watching the airplanes land."

Esquibel was more interested in the car show. "I came for the cars. My favorite today is the Model-A truck," he said. Ortega joined him in naming a Plymouth Charger as another highlight of the show.



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Jimmy Gilmer sang "Sugar Shack" accompanied by The Fireballs George Tomsco, Pat Carter and Stan Lark (from left). The group's recording was the biggest-selling hit in America for 1963.

Food wagons kept people well fed with everything from barbecue to bratwurst, espresso to snow cones. Several organizations presented information in a line of booths.

But the afternoon crowds were concentrated around planes, on the tarmac and in hangars, and around classic cars that were

lined along the drive behind the hangars.

That changed as 5 o'clock approached. As though due to centrifugal force, all airport activity was pulled to an area in front of a single hangar, where a big stage had been erected. The Fireballs were in the house, and the music was about to take off.

Weather Sponsored by:
LA QUINTA Inn & Suites
Wellness Hotel
719-845-0102

WEATHER WATCH

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. W-SWwind 5

to 10 mph becoming E-SE in the afternoon. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph. **Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 4pm and 5pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. N-NE wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms be-

fore 5am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind around 10 mph. **Thursday:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5 to 10 mph.