

# OVER THE PASS



"Boy Scout Troop 269 does a lot for the community and the boys. I was in that troop and learned things I couldn't have learned anywhere else. They're also things I'm more likely to use than other things I've learned."  
— Nick Ruybalid, Chronicle-News correspondent / Princeton student (Trinidad)



"Noah's Ark is a good one, and we belong to the Mitchell Museum. Main Street Gallery is great, and SCRT. We live out in Hoehne but we're members of everything. We believe that the more support you give to the community, the stronger the community."  
— Mac McKnight, farmer (Trinidad)

## TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

### "What local organization are you most glad is here?"

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"I'm really happy the pool is here. I know it's not economically feasible but I'm so glad it's here. And the food pantry. I'm glad that Billy D is here with KRTN and all the things he does. This is like being thankful: Once I get started, it's hard to stop!"

— Linda Trice, piano accompanist, Raton Public Schools (Raton)



"The TSJC Education Foundation has supplied hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for students to come here. We give to students from all over the state."  
— Mimi Zappanti, retired TSJC Director of Adult Education Services (Trinidad)



"I don't like any of them that I know of. Organizations and committees usually don't get anything done. If anything needs to be done, it takes an individual to do it."  
— Louie McGinnis, retired airline pilot (Raton)



"Senior Companions and the Raton Senior Center help a lot of people. I never realized how many people don't have enough food. The Senior Center takes lunches all week, and they'll leave extra food for the weekend. The Companions visit and keep company with elderly people."  
— Jennie Martinez, senior citizen (Raton)

## STATE BRIEFS

Associated Press

### Body of Colorado man missing since 2012 found in Nevada

ELKO, Nev. (AP) — The body of a Colorado man who went missing three years ago while riding an Amtrak train home has been found in Nevada, authorities said Sunday.

The remains of Robin Putnam were discovered last week and have since been positively identified, Elko County Undersheriff Clair Morris said. A railroad worker doing maintenance near the northeastern Nevada city of Wells found a skull, Morris said.

Deputies then located Putnam's body next to the tracks. His debit card was discovered nearby, the Elko Daily Free Press reported. Local authorities also sent out his DNA and dental records to assist with identification.

Morris did not say if there were any signs of foul play or a possible cause of death. The Elko County Sheriff's Office did not immediately return a message Sunday seeking comment.

But on a Facebook page that was dedicated to finding Putnam, his family said the investigation was far from over.

"This story is not over yet," the family wrote in a Facebook post on Sunday. "We will get to the bottom of what happened to Robin!"

The 25-year-old artist disappeared after boarding a train for Colorado from art school in Emeryville, California, in July 2012. His belongings, including a laptop and journal, arrived in Grand Junction, Colorado.

An Amtrak employee reported seeing Putnam get off the train in Salt Lake City, police said. In the weeks that followed, his parents, who lived in Telluride, Colorado, combed Salt Lake City neighborhoods. The couple posted signs, interviewed people and then hired private investigators. The family said at the time that Putnam had an anxiety disorder.

### BLM will trim rugged Colorado horse herd by 167

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP) — The Bureau of Land Management wants to take 167 horses off land in western Colorado and move them to long-term holding in Canon City next month so they can find them a new home.

Opponents are trying to find ways to block it.

According to the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, oil and gas facilities are scattered across much of the area. Officials say the land doesn't have enough resources to support a large number of animals.

In 2012, horses nearly died after two springs on Texas Mountain all but dried up in a drought, leaving many horses in the herd severely parched.

Opponents say the horses deserve special status because of their long history on the land, going back to the days of Spanish exploration.

### Site still pending for Durango sewer plant

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) — Durango city councilors plan to set ballot language Tuesday, asking voters in November to approve spending \$68 million on moving a sewer plant.

Councilors haven't decided where to put it, and voters likely will not know, either.

Councilors say they need more time to consider more options for moving the plant out of Santa Rita Park.

The Durango Herald reports Durango's wastewater-treatment plant is located too close to residential neighborhoods, close to a new whitewater park and along a highway that carries thousands of tourists each year.

### Pedestrian hit by car at Colorado Springs Walmart dies

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Police say a 67-year-old woman who was hit by a car last week while on a crosswalk at a Colorado Springs Walmart has died.

According to the Colorado Springs Gazette, police say Kathleen McDermott died Saturday night. She was struck by a car Wednesday morning at a Walmart in east Colorado Springs.

Police ticketed the driver, 78-year-old Gary Frenzel, with suspicion of careless driving resulting in an injury.

### Judge to decide on \$14M case for sinking soil under houses

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Homeowners at a golf course subdivision near Glenwood Springs are waiting to see if a judge will uphold \$14 million in awards related to defects in the construction of homes on sinking soils.

A jury recently awarded nearly \$7 million to 20 homeowners at the Ironbridge subdivision, determining that the developer of the homes, the Lehman Brothers subsidiary LB Rose Ranch LLC, was responsible for damage. An arbitrator awarded homeowners another \$7 million earlier this year in a finding involving the homebuilders, Ironbridge Homes LLC and Hansen Construction, reported The Daily Sentinel.

The homes were built on evaporite, a salt-laden soil that has been linked to sinkholes and subsidence in parts of western Colorado.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Mari Perczak, said two homes have been condemned and one home has moved about 20 inches.

It's possible to build on such soils "and it's also repairable. These homes can be fixed; you just have to correctly engineer the foundations," she said.

The awarded money would cover past and future repairs, substitute housing, personal property relocation, and other tangible and intangible costs, including the annoyance involved.

Defendants in the arbitration case have filed motions challenging the arbitration award. Attorneys for LB Rose Ranch have challenged the jury award and have filed a motion arguing that the award should be reduced because the arbitration award already fully compensates homeowners for their losses.

Ninth Judicial District Judge James Boyd will decide whether to issue judgments upholding the awards.

Evaporite formations are the product of ancient seas, lakes and other salt-laden waters. The soils can sink when water infiltrates and dissolves the salts. Sinking has occurred in Rio Blanco and Montrose counties as well as the Roaring Fork and Eagle River valleys.

## NATIONAL NEWS

# Q&A about decision to change Mount McKinley to Mount Denali

By MARK THIESSEN  
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — North America's tallest mountain will soon return to its previous name, Denali, more than a century after the Alaska peak was named to honor President William McKinley, who never set foot in the state.

The White House announced the change Sunday in a symbolic gesture to Alaska Natives. But the plan has politicians in McKinley's native Ohio looking for ways to block the move. Some answers to common questions about Denali and its name:

**Q: WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAIN?**

A: Various tribes of Alaska Natives known as Athabascans have lived in the shadow of the 20,320-foot Denali for thousands of years. The National Park Service says the first recorded reference to the mountain was made in 1794 by British explorer George Vancouver. Forty years later, Russian Creole explorer Andrew Glazunov noted in a journal that he saw a "great mountain called Tenada."

In 1839, a map was published with an approximate location of the mountain with the name Tenada. But the park service says the name later got dropped from Russian maps and slowly disappeared.

**Q: HOW DID IT GET THE NAME MOUNT MCKINLEY?**

A: A prospector known as William A. Dickey named the mountain in 1896. The park service website notes Dickey's account that he named the peak after McKinley, "who had been nominated for the Presidency, and that fact was the first news we received on our way out of that wonderful wilderness." His account was published a year later in the New York Sun.

**Q: WAS THERE A CHALLENGE TO THE MOUNT MCKINLEY NAME?**

A: Yes, and fairly quickly. The U.S. Geological Survey disputed Dickey's name in 1899, but the New York Sun stepped in and pointed out that Dickey's accounts and maps were widely circulated in 1897.

**Q: WHY IS THE MOUNTAIN SACRED TO ALASKA NATIVES?**

A: There is no one common story among Athabascans as to why the mountain is sacred, but they all agree it is, said Will Mayo, a former president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a consortium of 42 Athabaskan tribes in Interior Alaska.

One story, he said, describes Denali and neighboring Mount Foraker as husband and wife with eight sons — which are prominent and sacred hills located on Athabaskan lands, places such as Moosehead Mountain and Mission Hill.

"It's not one homogenous belief structure around the mountain, but we all agree that we're all deeply gratified by the acknowledgment of the importance of Denali to Alaska's

people," he said.

**Q: DID ALASKANS CALL IT MOUNT MCKINLEY?**

A: Some did, but others invoked the state's longtime attitude of, "We don't care how they do it Outside" and called it Denali. Alaskans consider every place that isn't Alaska "Outside."

Alaska's governor and congressional delegation praised the long-sought name change.

**Q: WILL OHIO WILLINGLY GIVE UP THE NAME OF ITS NATIVE SON?**

A: The renaming drew loud condemnations from Ohio lawmakers. But it was not immediately clear what they could do to stop it.

Ohio Republican Rep. Bob Gibbs said McKinley deserved to be honored and invited his colleagues to join him to try to block what he called Obama's "constitutional overreach." Other Ohio political leaders were not as adamant but expressed their disappointment in the change.

**Q: HOW LONG HAVE ALASKA AND OHIO BEEN AT ODDS OVER THE NAME OF THE MOUNTAIN?**

A: Since at least 1975, when the Alaska Geographic Board changed the mountain's name to Denali and the state Legislature, governor and congressional delegation began to push for the name change at the federal level, said Jo Antonson, the state historian. The same year, Ohio Rep. Ralph Regula began the tradition of filing legislation to keep the name as Mount McKinley. The federal board that oversees place names would never take up the issue since there always was active legislation, Antonson said.

"It was just irritating," she said.

**Q: HOW DID PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA CHANGE THE NAME?**

A: On the eve of a three-day trip to Alaska, the White House announced that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell changed the name by secretarial order, citing a 1947 law that allows the standardization of geographic names unilaterally when the U.S. Board on Geographic Names fails to act "within a reasonable time." The board shares responsibility with the Interior Department for naming such landmarks.

**Q: ARE THERE ANY POSITIVES IN THIS FOR MCKINLEY?**

A: McKinley Presidential Library and Museum curator Kimberly Kenney said she's happy for the Alaskans who have sought the name change for 40 years. She said she's also glad that the 25th president is getting some attention.

"We're glad people are talking about President McKinley," Kenney said. "People don't talk about him often."

McKinley, a Republican, won the general election in both 1896 and 1900, twice defeating William Jennings Bryan. McKinley was killed by an assassin in 1901 in Buffalo, New York. He has no living heirs, Kenney said.