



THURSDAY
APRIL 23, 2015

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
 TRINIDAD
 COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

■ APRIL 23

AUTISM AWARENESS THURSDAY (6-8 p.m.) Parent support meeting will be held at Mt. Carmel, 911 Robinson. Info: Karen Jo Agnello, 719-846-2019, 512-560-4180 or Linda Thompson, 719-680-2638. Event open to all parents of children with any disability.

HOEHNE SCHOOLS THURSDAY (6 p.m.) Hoehne School Board will meet in regular session in the Superintendents' Office. Information: Hannah Baca, 719-846-4457 ext.109.

TRINIDAD SUPPER CLUB THURSDAY (6 p.m.) April's Spring Fling Celebration Dinner will be held in the Leone Room in the Sullivan Center on the TSJC Campus, 600 Prospect. Info: Yvonne Marques, 719-846-3518. Guests are always welcome.

Today's Quote

"If words were leaves, would you prefer fall or spring?"

~Jarod Kintz

■ APRIL 24-26

ACOUSTIC EIDOLON CONCERT FRIDAY (7-9 p.m.) A powerful, enchanting night of music at this Mt. Carmel concert fundraiser, 911 Robinson Ave. Tickets and info: 719-845-4894.

TASPERA MEMBERS FRIDAY (1 p.m.) The Trinidad Area School and Public Employees Retirement Association will meet in the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Information and lunch arrangements please call: Paul Montero, 719-846-2423.

FREE LANDFILL DAY SATURDAY (7 a.m.-4 p.m.) Area residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free Saturday disposal day at the City's Landfill, 2401 N. State St. Electronic waste excluded. Tires will be assessed normal tipping fees. Info: 719-846-2538.

COMCAST CARES SATURDAY (8 a.m.) Join your friends and neighbors to help with the City's spring cleanup. Registration and free breakfast kickoff at Cimino Park.

COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY (8 a.m.) Bring your sons and join us for food, fellowship and fun every 4th Saturday at the First Christian Church, 402 E. First St. Information: Tom Berry, 719-846-0879 or 719-846-3843. Event is free—everyone is welcome.

LADIES GOLF CLUB SATURDAY (9 a.m.) This group will hold their annual season kick-off breakfast at the Trinidad Municipal Golf Course, 1413 Nolan Drive. Info: Deborah Bernhardt, 719-680-9048. Newcomers are always welcome.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY (11 a.m.) Join in the fun at the Community Coop after the cleanup event, Elm and Maple St. Info: Joni Steiner, 719-680-0215.

PHILOSOPHY GROUP SATURDAY (12:30 - 2 p.m.) Free discussion group at Lava Yoga Studio, 828 Arizona. The day's topic will be: C.S. Lewis. Please RSVP: Jean Chrisler, 719-846-2325. Everyone is welcome.

CHARITY FUNDRAISER SATURDAY (6-11 p.m.) Benefit Dinner and Dance for Dolores "Dee" Gierlach will be held at JuJo's, 125 N. Chestnut St. Music by The Cliques and Grupo Vive. Info: John Peach, 719-680-7161.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

PLANNING COMMISSION MONDAY (1 p.m.) The Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Office commissioners' meeting will be held at the County Court House, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2561.

HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY MONDAY (5:30 p.m.) School board meeting at the school, 613 Prospect St. Information: Andrea Jimenez, 719-846-4522.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MONDAY (6 p.m.) A weekly meeting with fellowship, food and music for help and support will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 216 Broom St. Refreshments will be served. Info: Senior Pastor Bobby L. Barnhill, Jr. or email www.celebraterrecovery.com.

COMMUNITY CHORALE MONDAY (6 p.m.) Rehearsals for the upcoming Spring Concert will be held at the Massari Theater Music Room, corner of Pine and State Streets. Newcomers welcome. Info: Russ Gorrell, 719-939-7317.

VETERANS' SERVICES APRIL 27-MAY 1: PLEASE NOTE that the Las Animas County Veterans' Service Office will be closed from Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 1, 2015 for a training conference. Info: Allen Trujillo, Veteran's Service Officer, 719-846-3940.

For more events, please see the **Community Calendar on Page 2**

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: **04/21/15. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 20 --- Appropriation date: 10/07/1865.**

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
 Release 39.79 AF
 Inflow 106.98 AF -- 53.93 CFS
 Evaporation 8.19 AF
 Content 21,274 AF
 Elevation 6,185.39
 Precipitation 0.01

Downstream River Call / Highland Canal: 05/31/1866.



FIRE SEASON

Las Animas County institutes Stage One Fire Ban

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

At the request of County Sheriff James Casias, the County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution supporting a Stage One Fire Ban within Las Animas County until further notice. Sheriff Casias, who's also the County Fire Warden, said he'd consulted with the various fire districts throughout the County before requesting the fire ban, which amounts to a continuation of an existing fire ban that's already in place.

"I have had e-mail contact with all the fire district chiefs and we all agreed that we appreciate the Commissioners renewing this fire ban," Sheriff Casias said. "I know we've had some moisture in certain parts of our county, but it's still dry in other areas.

With the fire season just starting, even though we all know it's year around, it's getting to the point where we're hearing about wildfires in other parts of the state. We appreciate it and as soon as it's signed, I'll disseminate it to all the fire departments and the local media, so everyone knows it's still intact and still there. So this way everyone knows what their burning requirements and allowances are."

Commissioner Gary Hill said he'd heard from some landowners who were having wildlife problems, and wanted to use "crackers" or "screamers," which are exploding pest control devices, and are supplied by the State Division of Wildlife (DOW) to mitigate their wildlife problems and were told by the DOW that they couldn't use them last year because they cre-

ated a possible increase in wildfire dangers. Commissioner Hill asked that the fire ban be amended to allow landowners to use the crackers and screamers, but only on irrigated land. He said he thought using crackers and screamers were similar to agricultural burns, or ag burns, in their effects.

Casias said ag burns didn't come within the purview of County fire departments as long as they were restricted to agricultural land.

Hill said the landowners were taxpayers and in times of drought, could lose agricultural production due to overgrazing by wildlife.

Casias said the use of crackers and screamers was not denied under DOW regulations, but their use was discouraged. He said any

Continued on Page 2 ...



Steve Block / *The Chronicle-News*

County Sheriff and Fire Warden James Casias talked to the County Board about the importance of instituting a Stage One Fire Ban throughout Las Animas County.

SHULER THEATER

A grand celebration — 100th birthday gala slated for this weekend

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON — One hundred years ago, Raton was a thriving young town whose ample commerce was built around the railroad, ranches and mines. Most of the population had emigrated from Europe to fill the new jobs, and their old-world

hometowns had opera houses. Raton's mayor, Dr. James Jackson Shuler, spearheaded a drive for Raton to build its own opera house. Construction took only eight months and the new building housed not only the theater, but also city hall, the fire department, the police department, and the jail.

Continued on Page 6 ...

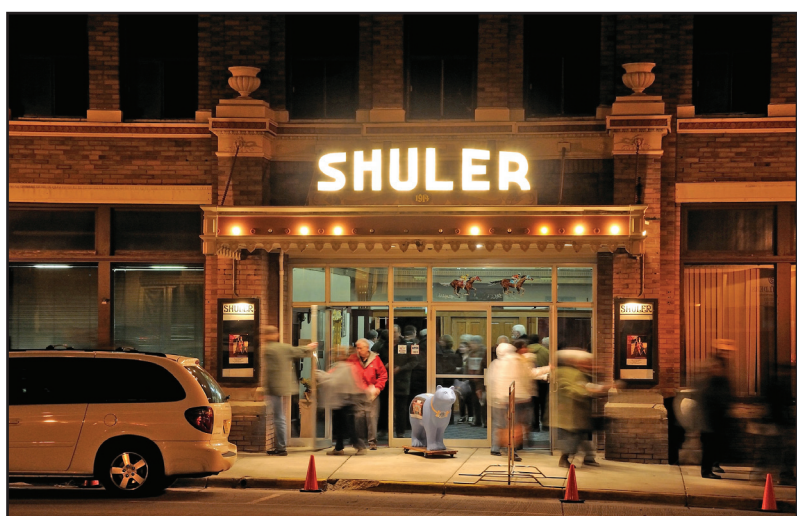


Photo courtesy of TSJC

Spring Fest at Trinidad State

Xavier Scriptor, left, tries out welding under the supervision of Trinidad State student Devon Torgerson on Tuesday during the annual perspective student event at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad. **See more on Page 3.**

WEATHER WATCH

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. West wind 5 to 15

mph becoming south in the morning. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southwest wind around 15 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT

Urban Renewal Authority to sell off three parcels

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad's Urban Renewal Authority (TURA) voted unanimously to pass a resolution allowing it to sell three lots it owns near the Goddard Avenue exit, or Exit 15, off of Interstate 25, during Tuesday's board meeting. The lots, described as Lots 14, 15 and 16 of Block 6 of the Fairview Addition, will be sold through a public competitive process, and will be advertised twice a week for two weeks in *The Chronicle-News* in advance of the sale.

The lots are to be sold in a project to eliminate slum and blight, according to information presented at the meeting.

TURA Chairman Ed Griego went back through the Authority's long history in Trinidad, which dates back to 1964, and to the sections of Colorado Revised Statutes that govern the Authority's activities. The resolution noted that TURA, "has ownership of multiple plots of land as a result of previous

Urban Renewal activity that dates back to the original Urban Renewal Plan." The resolution went on to say that the City Council, "has determined that it is in the interest of public health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents of the City for the Authority to conduct business and undertake projects within the City as authorized by the Urban Renewal Law."

The resolution said that the land currently owned by TURA was obtained for the purpose of Urban Renewal Activity in accordance with the original Urban Renewal Plan.

It was noted at the meeting that due to a devastating fire at City Hall in the 1980s and the significant passage of time, no copy of the original Urban Renewal Plan could be located. Anyone with information about TURA's earlier history, including documentation can contact Tara Marshall at City Hall at 719-680-7238.

The TURA also agreed at the meeting to send two letters to the state legislature regarding pending legislation. The first letter would oppose passage of House Bill 15-1348, which some members of the Board considered to be too restrictive of URAs. The second letter is in support of Senate Bill 16-135, which supports the position of the Colorado Municipal League as it regards Urban Renewal Authorities.

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COMMUNITY

County institutes Stage One Fire Ban

... Continued from Page 1

landowner using those materials could be held responsible for paying for the suppression of any fire that got out of control.

Hill said he wanted to amend the fire ban to allow crackers and screamers on irrigated land.

Casias said Hill had every right to amend the fire ban, and said that all the local fire districts could do was to make recommendations to the Board.

Landowners of irrigated land had the right to protect their property and crops from wildlife depredations during times of drought, Hill said, and he wanted the resolution amended to allow for the use of crackers and screamers, subject to the prior approval of the County Sheriff and the chief of the local fire protection district where the

materials are to be used. Casias said each individual use of those materials would have to be examined to determine the wildfire danger that might result from their use.

The amended resolution reads, in part: "The use of cracker shells and screamers provided by the DOW for use on irrigated land is allowed with prior approval from the Las Animas County Fire Warden or authorized fire protection district."

The complete Stage One Fire Ban will be published in the near future, and will be posted at the County Courthouse and other publicly accessible locations, including the facilities of the County's various fire protection districts and residential subdivisions throughout the County.



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Raton's magnificent Shuler Theater fills with excitement and rich-red festivity this weekend as it celebrates the 100-year anniversary of its first show. A big musical called "The Red Rose" opened the new opera house on April 27, 1915. This weekend's new musical variety show, "The Centennial Rose," will be co-produced by Adrienne Coleman, shown at right in a December 2012 production of "Miracle on 34th Street" with Elizabeth Record (left) and Jillian Solano.

Shuler Theater — 100th Birthday gala

... Continued from Page 1

The grand opening was celebrated April 27, 1915, with a big touring musical called "The Red Rose," presented in the magnificent new theater. In a run-up to Monday's 100th birthday celebration, impresario Bill Fegan and the rest of the theater company are throwing a big party in the form of a loose-knit musical variety show they're calling "The Centennial Rose." Many actors, dancers, and singers that have performed on the Shuler stage over the last 50 years will return this weekend to join the shows—and each show will be different than the others.

Three unique performances of "The Centennial Rose" will be presented over the weekend beginning Saturday at 7:00 p.m. A Sunday matinee presents the all-ages show at 2 p.m. The biggest show, though, arrives Monday at 7 p.m. on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Shuler's first show. Monday night's performance will be followed by a champagne reception and celebration next door at the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center, with champagne, punch and light food catered by Lucy Romero.

Adrienne Coleman is co-producing the show with Fegan, and they expect the lineup to keep shaping up right until performers take the stage, with former Kaleidoscope Players such as David Ode, Ben Zeller and Dorothy Thompson Smoker coming from Santa Fe and other cities to perform whatever they like—a show full of surprises and changing each time.

Fegan's willing to reveal what he's got in store. "I'll be playing Henry Higgins, singing 'I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face' from My Fair Lady, a part I played here in 1968. We'll all be reviving songs and danc-

es and scenes that we've done here on the Shuler stage over the last 50 years, basically since I first arrived with the Kaleidoscope Players in 1963."

Fegan will be accompanied on the theater's Steinway grand piano by jazz singer Carol Simmons, who will contribute a solo performance in addition to accompanying other performers. The Willow Springs Singers, Raton Glee and Kids Chorale will each perform. Fegan expects John Martin to sing a song from Camelot, and Fegan will probably tell the story of Evelyn Shuler, Dr. James Shuler's daughter whose ghost seems to linger at the theater on show nights, having a preference for seat D1.

"We all have stories to tell," Fegan says, and he expects tales and from the returning performers, all of whom are seasoned entertainers. New Mexico Magazine's April issue features a four-page article on Fegan and the Shuler Centennial, so past Kaleidoscope Players aren't likely to be the only ones driving in from far-flung places for the shows.

"There will be several dance numbers in each show, and songs from the many musicals we've presented over the years," Fegan says. "We also have some exciting surprise announcements to make about our future, and a table in the lobby where we'll have Shuler Centennial t-shirts and other products for sale."

The musical variety show "The Centennial Rose" will be presented Saturday and Monday nights at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. All seats are general admission and free. For more information, contact the Shuler Theater at 131 N. 2nd St., 575-445-4746.



Photo courtesy of Melanie Lujan

Wildlife Officer Bob Holder (far back) and teacher Josette Lutz (near) instruct Primero Middle School Students Portia Larsen and Kaden Olsen.

TECHNICAL SPORTS

Primero participates in National Archery in the Schools Program

By Ruth Stodghill
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

This spring, Primero's middle school students are participating in the National Archery in the Schools Program, one of the only schools in the part of the state to be doing so. Although this is the first year Primero has been a part of the program, the NASP was initially launched in 2002.

According to the NASP, the program was created in order to achieve both academic as well as conservation goals: "Educators are looking for ways to improve student motivation, attention, behavior, attendance, and focus.

Teachers strive to achieve state and national educational standards regarding development of micro and macro motor ability and listening and observation skills. They hope to engage each student in the educational process and develop relationships to promote graduation instead of drop-out.

Wildlife Conservation agencies are concerned too many young people are forgoing learning outdoor skills that will inspire them to spend more time with wild things in wild places.

Natural resource professionals are convinced learning target shooting skills will result in character and self-reliance development that will serve the future of wildlife conservation well. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) was developed to serve these specific educational and conservation purposes."

The National Archery in the Schools Program was brought to Primero through the efforts of many people, including Interim Superintendent Denille LePlatt. "Last year, I wrote the National Archery in Schools Program grant to provide training for teachers to become certified archery instructors. We were able to receive training last summer, and Mrs. Lutz and Ms. Stevens both became certified to teach archery. This year, we have worked very closely with Mr. Bob Holder of Colorado Parks and Wildlife as he has provided the equipment and mentoring for Mrs. Lutz in order to begin a successful program. Middle school students have been

participating as part of PE, and we hope to have archery on Field Day for all others to try."

Ms. Lutz believes that archery is beneficial for students because it is highly inclusive, and for many will become a lifelong activity. According to Ms. Lutz, "My favorite aspects of being involved in the program are experiencing the excitement from the students, and being able to work alongside Bob Holder."

According to Bob Holder, our local wildlife officer, he became involved in the NASP program in order to get kids involved in the outdoors. "This archery program allows all participants to be successful. Archery is not about athleticism, stature, or gender, but rather interest, concentration, and technique. Hopefully the students are having as much fun as I am; the kids are enthusiastic and inspiring. My compliments and gratitude to Mrs. LePlatt and Mrs. Dasko and to Josette Lutz, certified archery instructor, for having the courage and foresight to host



**NATIONAL ARCHERY
IN THE
SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

the first National Archery in the Schools Program in Las Animas County — and one of the few in southern Colorado."

Ms. Stevens, a fourth grade teacher at Primero also trained as a facilitator, further explains: "Having the archery program available to our students is a great opportunity for them. This program allows students to learn the ins and outs of the sport in a safe and controlled environment. While for some this may be just a class, it gives them exposure to something they may have otherwise not experienced. For others, this may be a gateway to a unique and exciting future hobby. I am so thankful to Bob Holder for making this happen for our students and hope that we can continue this program for years to come."



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