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WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 17, 2015

Vol. 139, No. 120

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

### TRINIDAD LAKE

All activities are rain or shine, and are free to the public. All vehicles are required to have a park pass. Info: 719-846-6951.

♦ **SATURDAY (7 p.m.)** Join Park Staff and Deanna Philbin and experience hands-on the Hispanic Culture and Foods of the Purgatoire River Valley at the Amphitheater.

♦ **SUNDAY (6 p.m.)** Meet at the Visitor Center to join Park Staff for a leisurely 90-minute hike at Levisa Canyon.

### JUNE 17

**CHAMBER LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY (Noon)** Monthly Chamber of Commerce Business Luncheon will be held in the Sullivan Center at the TSJC Campus. Info: John Schechter, 719-846-7727.

**E-911 AUTHORITY WEDNESDAY (3 p.m.)** The E-911 Authority Board meets at the Garcia Justice Center in the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, 2309 E. Main St. Information: Rita Mantelli, 719-846-4441.

**FP FIRE DISTRICT WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet at the Starkville Fire Station. Information: 719-846-6077.

**HOEHNE FIRE PROTECTION WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** District Board of Directors meets at the El Moro Station, 14386 Hwy 239 in Hoehne. Information: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

**PURGATOIRE WATERSHED WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** Group regular meeting will meet in the NRCS Office, 3590 E. Main. Information: Karen Wolf, 303-543-8688.

### JUNE 18

**DINE OUT FOR NOAH'S THURSDAY:** Event lasts all day and evening at Bob and Earls, Brix, Nana and Nano's and Wendy's to help support Noah's Ark Animal Shelter. Information: 719-846-8578.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THURSDAY-SATURDAY:** Free event at the Trinidad Church of Christ, 1000 Nevada Ave. All ages are welcome. Info: 719-846-2919.

**TRINIDAD SUPPER CLUB THURSDAY (6 p.m.)** June's dinner will be held at The Primo Cafe, 911 Robinson St. Info: Yvonne Marques, 719-846-3518. Anyone is welcome to join.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**DISPLAY YOUR ART!** The Carnegie Library is looking for artists to display their art on the community art wall for July. Artists of all ages and abilities welcome. Info: Mallory Pillard, 719-846-6841.

**COLLEGE FOR KIDS FRIDAY (8 a.m.)** Register for next Thursday's FREE Summer Workshop at TSJC. Limited to 50 students each week (ages 7-11). Event runs through JULY 9. Call: 719-846-5475.

**HEROS OF OUR OCEAN FRIDAY (10-11 a.m.)** University of Colorado Boulder Discovery Program invites kids of all ages for this free, interesting hands-on presentation at the Carnegie Library, 202 N. Animas St. Info: 719-846-6841.

**SANTA FE TRAIL DAYS FRIDAY (5 p.m.) & SATURDAY (8 a.m.)** Annual 2-day festival will be held at Central Park on Stonewall Ave. Enter Trinidad's soon-to-be World Famous Chili Cook Off Contest. Info: Linda Barron 719-846-8223 or Chamber of Commerce, 719-846-9285. Enter the Pet Parade with Costume Contest (June 20 at 4:30 p.m.). All breeds and all sizes can win trophies and prizes. Info: Kathleen Olquin, 719-680-4629.

**FP HORSE ASSOCIATION SATURDAY (9 a.m.)** Horse Show will be held at the County Fairgrounds on N. Linden St. Info: 719-680-0666.

**KIDS' FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE** Events are FREE for middle and high school kids. Parents are asked to sign kids in and out of each event. Info: Berni Arzola, 719-846-8639.

♦ **June 26 (4:00 p.m.)** Field Day at Triggers game at Central Park  
♦ **July 10 (7-10 p.m.)** Game Night at Brix  
♦ **July 17 (3-6:00 p.m.)** Fun with Water at Cimino Park

**BRANSON-TRINCHERA JUNE 27:** Reunion with potluck lunch will be held at the Branson Gym. Entertainment by Sam Bachicha. Info: Larada Miller, 505-323-7098.

**FREE ADVENTURE WEEKEND JULY 17-19:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host a great outdoors camping get away for kids and their immediate families at the Tercio Ranch, 30 miles west of Trinidad on Hwy 12. Registration and info: 719-561-5300.

**SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM THRU AUGUST 14 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)** Monday thru Friday all kids (18 and under) can eat a free lunch at the THS Cafeteria, 816 West St. Adults can join in for \$3.25. Information: Carol Villa, 719-845-2051 or 719-846-3314.

The Fine Print feature is NOT an advertisement — it is a courtesy notice used to inform the public of upcoming free public meetings and events. Placement is not guaranteed and is always subject to space available. For contributions please call 719-846-3311 or e-mail cathy@trinidad-chroniclenews.com.

**RIVER CALL**

Purgatoire River Call as of: 06/16/15. Model Ditch --- Appropriation date: 01/22/1908.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release 885.91 AF  
Inflow 716.01 AF -- 360.98 CFS  
Evaporation 11.10 AF  
Content 29,459 AF  
Elevation 6,195.60  
Precipitation 0.21

**Downstream River Call / JMR Conservation Storage:** 12/31/1948.

**WEATHER WATCH**

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. West

wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph

**Thursday:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with

a low around 58. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 91. Southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 60. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 90. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

## ART DISTRICT



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

## Young artists spruce up Main Street Boardwalk

The students from the Summer Youth Arts Academy, which is sponsored by the Trinidad Area Arts Council (TAAC), completed this colorful, nature-oriented mural along the covered walkway on East Main Street. The painting class was taught by Jeannie Galbraith, far right, back row. The students include Emma and Kaleb McCorkle, Portia Larson, Seychelle Lusk, Matthew Trujillo, Rebekah Higdon, Sky McGillard, Star Galbraith, Ayden Glover, Alissa Perri, Jamey Jolly, Caitlyn Agnello, Lindsey Clark, Juan Zamora and Madison Pappan. See more on Page 3.

## EDUCATION

# Explaining the complexities of Public School finances

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education is expected to approve its budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, at slightly less than \$12 million, or about the same as the FY 2014-2015 district budget. The way the State of Colorado determines public school financing involves a number of complex issues, and the district's Business Manager, William Cordova, spent some time recently explaining the issues involved.

Cordova said public school districts are fortunate, in that they get to compute their annual budgets twice each year, once at the beginning of the fiscal year and then again after the official student count is recorded in October. The state uses the annual student count to determine the amount of per-pupil funding each district receives.

Many factors go into the per-pupil funding, Cordova said, such as local property tax revenues and specific ownership taxes, which are the portion of motor vehicle registration fees collected by the local County

Clerk & Recorder's Office.

Multiple factors are involved in the state's per-pupil funding equation, but the end result is that the Trinidad district will receive \$7,577.73 for each of its 1,142.8 students, resulting in total state funding of \$8,659,598 for FY 2015-2016. Student per-pupil count is figured on a five-year average.

Trinidad's student count of 1,142.8 students from FY 2015-2016 reflects a net reduction of 70.1 students from the current fiscal year's total of 1,212.9 students, which translates into a net loss of \$531,184.85 in state per-pupil funding. However, the district was also positively affected by an increase in funding of \$390,254.77 in new revenue due to a 2.8 percent inflation factor, which translates to a per-pupil increase of \$314.49, which combined with the reduction in student count to result in a net loss of revenue from the state in the amount of \$140,930.08.

The state legislature also appropriated an additional \$10 million for small school funding, but the threshold for cut off was

Continued on Page 2 ...



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

William Cordova, business manager of Trinidad School District No. 1, talked about the district's upcoming fiscal year 2015-2016 budget.

## 'A VARIETY OF ERRORS'

Shuler show promises great antic comedy for this weekend

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

RATON — The Shuler Theater opens its 2015 summer season Friday and Saturday nights (June 19-20) with two rounds of antic improvisation and variety show called "A Variety of Errors." Hosted by actor Ian McCabe, the rapid-fire fun will include a fake news show along with game shows featuring prominent local couples.

"The show will be about 70 percent scripted and 30 percent improvisation," McCabe says. "We'll have the entire cast of our next show, 'Into the Woods,' joining in this one. We've also recruited some local couples to add to the fun."

Raton city manager Scott Berry and his wife Cindi will be joined



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Actor Ian McCabe's zany role as William Barfee in the Shuler Theater's 2010 production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" suggests several components of this weekend's "A Variety of Errors" that he'll host at the Shuler.

by Frank and Sandy Ferri and Mike and Sara Kowalski as contestants on game shows based on The Match Game and The Newlywed Game, although it's been decades since any of these couples were newly wed. That's part of the fun.

Continued on Page 2 ...

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

# 64th Civil Support Team conducts HAZMAT training for Raton Fire Department

By Sgt. First Class Anna Doo  
New Mexico National Guard  
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON, N.M. — Part of the ongoing mission of the New Mexico National Guard's 64th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) is to continue a working relationship with local first responders statewide. In order to fulfill this mission, the team members offer training to firefighters, hazardous materials professionals and other law enforcement and emergency technicians.

Tom Vigil, Colfax County's Emergency Manager worked with the CST to tailor training specific to his area's needs. Approximately 20 people from Raton Fire Department; Miami Volunteer Fire Department; City of Angel Fire, Fire Department; and volunteers from Union, Harding and Colfax counties participated in the week-long event June 1-5, 2015.

The CST made a slight adjustment in their approach to this training exercise said Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Lefevre, a survey team chief with the 64th CST. As per a request from Raton Fire Department



Photo by Sgt. First Class Anna Doo / NMNG

Continued on Page 3 ...

## WEATHER WATCH

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wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph

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a low around 58. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

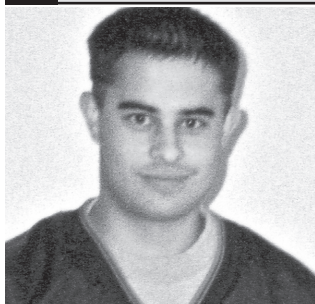
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**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 90. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

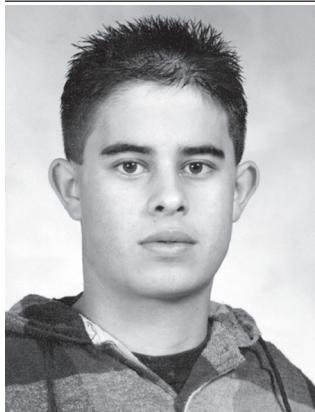
Inn & Suites  
Wellness  
Hotel  
719-845-0102

62 Memorials



**In Loving Memory of Gene Castillo**

We cannot bring the good times back  
When we were all together  
But memories and loving you  
Will live with us forever  
It doesn't take a special day  
To bring you to our minds  
For days without a thought of you  
Are kind of hard to find  
You left us with a vacant place  
That no one can ever fill  
And as we think of you on your birthday  
There's a lot we'd like to say  
About how much we miss you  
And how you're still a part of things we do.  
Sadly missed by your sisters Cheryl, Jeanine, Denise, Janell, Bernadette, Amber & Tiffany



**In Loving Memory of Gene Castillo**

June 17, 1979, Fathers Day  
The day that you were born, Gene  
You were a gift to us from heaven above  
To fill our hearts and lives with love  
We remember your first cries  
As you opened those beautiful angel eyes  
Our first and only son  
Oh, you were a special one  
We held you in our arms and tried to do our best  
Knowing someday you would leave our nest.  
As we think about you on your birthday  
We'd really like to talk to you  
About the things we didn't get to say  
You had so much to live for, you had so much to do  
It seemed impossible that God was taking you  
But as he whispered, trust me, I know what's best  
I will give him a mansion, a place of peace and rest  
He reached down and collected your spirit and your soul  
As you reached up ready and willing to go  
God has given you sights and wonders we cannot even imagine  
You'll live for all eternity, just as He has promised you  
And when it's our time to go, there is one thing we know  
You will be there waiting in your mansion up above  
To welcome us home with all of your love  
Thinking of you, loving you and missing you,  
Dad and Mom

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, June 27th (2015) at 11:00 a.m. at Fisher's Peak Community Church in Trinidad, Colo.

62 Memorials



**Philo Thompson**

Philo Thompson of Trinidad, Colorado passed away on Tuesday, May 26. He was born in Boulder, Colo. in 1976. He attended Lakewood High School and graduated Class of 1994. He graduated from CSU in Business Finance (1998), where he was actively involved with Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, both during and after graduation. He was employed with KPMG for some years as one of their top managers, serving clients on several continents. After KPMG he formed his own consulting firm, working in numerous businesses along the Front Range.

He loved and enjoyed golf, Lake Powell, mountain drives, skiing, bicycling, traveling, and vacationing with his family. Philo had a special connection with children of all ages and with animals. His golfing buddy, Grampa Lynn, preceded him in death. Left to cherish his memory are: parents Cindi and Gary Elsberry; siblings Liz (Jon), Rae, Jake, Kirsten (Todd), Matt, Alison; nieces Caitlin and Evynn, grandparents Gabby and Wendell; dear friend Harvey; birth father Dennis (Susan) Thompson. Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends are left as well.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, June 27th (2015) at 11:00 a.m. at Fisher's Peak Community Church in Trinidad, Colo.

63 Card of Thanks

Ray VanGorden Benefit  
Thank you to everyone that attended, donated and shared your love and prayers. Its means so much to know so many people care.  
The Apple, Cerame, Hagen Family

**HELP LINES**

**SUICIDE HOTLINES**  
♦ADULT: 800-784-2433  
♦TEEN: 877-968-8454  
♦GLB-YOUTH: 866-488-7366  
♦VET-2-VET: 877-838-2838

**ABUSE HOTLINES**  
♦Domestic Abuse Hotline: In Trinidad call 719-846-6665 (24-hours a day). In Walsenburg call: 719-738-0770. National Hotline: 1-800-790-SAFE (7233).  
♦Child Abuse Hotlines Call: 1-844-CO-4-KIDS or 719-846-2330 or 719-846-8596. For more information and to learn the signs of child abuse and neglect, visit CO4Kids.org.  
♦Animal Abuse: Report animal abuse and dog/cock fighting at Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 720-913-7867.

**STATE & COMMUNITY**

**MARIJUANA ISSUES**

**Colorado court: Workers can be fired for using pot off-duty**

By KRISTEN WYATT  
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Pot may be legal in Colorado, but you can still be fired for using it.

The state Supreme Court ruled 6-0 Monday that a medical marijuana patient who was fired after failing a drug test cannot get his job back. The case was being watched closely by employers and pot smokers in states that have legalized medical or recreational marijuana.

Colorado became at least the fourth state in which courts have ruled against medical marijuana patients fired for pot use. Supreme courts in California, Montana and Washington state have made similar rulings, and federal courts in Colorado and Michigan also have rejected such claims.

The Colorado worker, Brandon Coats, is a quadriplegic who was fired by Dish Network after failing a 2010 drug test. The company agreed that Coats wasn't high on the job but said it has a zero-tolerance drug policy.

Coats argued that his pot smoking was allowed under a state law intended to protect employees from being fired for legal activities off the clock. Coats didn't use marijuana at work, but pot's intoxicating chemical, THC, can stay in the system for weeks.

The Colorado justices ruled that because marijuana is illegal under federal law, Coats' use of the drug couldn't be considered legal off-duty activity.

"There is no exception for marijuana use for medicinal purposes, or for marijuana use conducted in accordance with state law," the court wrote.

Coats and his lawyers said the decision at least clarified the matter for workers.

"Although I'm very disappointed today, I hope that my case has brought the issue of use of medical marijuana and employment to light," Coats said



Associated Press / Brennan Linsley

Attorney Michael Evans, left, talks with his client, Brandon Coats, after the Colorado Supreme Court ruled against Coats, at Evans' law offices, in Centennial, Colo., Monday, June 15, 2015. The state Supreme Court ruled 6-0 that Coats, a quadriplegic and medical marijuana patient who was fired by Dish Network after failing a drug test, cannot get his job back.

in a statement.

Dish Network and other business groups applauded the ruling.

"As a national employer, Dish remains committed to a drug-free workplace and compliance with federal law," company spokesman John Hall said in a statement.

Twenty-three states and Washington, D.C., allow people to use medical marijuana. Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington State and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana.

The Colorado Constitution specifically states that employers don't have to amend their policies to accommodate employees' marijuana use.

Coats was paralyzed in a car crash as a teenager and has been a medical marijuana patient since 2009, when he discovered that pot helped calm violent muscle spasms. He was a telephone operator with Dish for three years before he failed a random drug test in 2010 and was fired. He said he told his supervisors in advance that he probably would fail the test.

**STATE BRIEFS**

Associated Press

**Psychiatrist: Colorado shooter never revealed murderous plan**

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — The psychiatrist who treated James Holmes before his Colorado movie theater attack said Tuesday that he had talked of homicidal thoughts, but never revealed any specific targets, plans or coherent reasons for carrying them out.

Patients sometimes talk about killing people, Dr. Lynne Fenton said. Therapists should determine if they have a plan: "If they're taking any steps to carry out any action that is related to these thoughts, and if the homicidal ideation is directed at any targets."

He answered "no" to both questions,

she said, and this became an ongoing theme during their five sessions together after he came in showing what a social worker described as the worse obsessive-compulsive disorder symptoms she had ever seen.

Holmes remained very guarded, deflecting most of her efforts to probe his thinking, and she tried not to ask him questions that would drive him away, she said.

"I thought he had social anxiety disorder," she said. "I was hoping to have a working alliance with him so he would keep coming back ... I was worried that he might drop out of treatment at any time."

At one point, Holmes said he had a "biological problem," and that the solution to it was homicide, "but you can't eliminate everybody, so it's not an effective solution," she said.

District Attorney George Brauchler asked if this eased her mind, and she said yes. But she remained concerned enough about his mental health to up his dosage to 150 milligrams daily of sertraline as well as klonopin and propranolol, she said.

**Trial postponed for ex-Rocky Ford cop charged with murder**

DENVER (AP) — The trial for a former Rocky Ford police officer charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of a 27-year-old man has been postponed from July to January.

James Ashby is charged with second degree murder and criminally negligent homicide in the Oct. 12 on-duty shooting of Jack Jacquez. Witnesses say Ashby followed Jacquez into the home of Jacquez's mother and shot him in the back.

Ashby pleaded not guilty in February. He told investigators he believed Jacquez was a burglar, but the Colorado Bureau of Investigation determined Ashby had no reason to believe Jacquez was committing a crime before the shooting.

The Denver Post reports Ashby's trial was postponed to Jan. 11 on Tuesday.

**Explaining the complexities of Public School Finances**

... Continued from Page 1

1,000 students, therefore the Trinidad district didn't qualify for any of that assistance.

All public school districts are required by state law to come up with a balanced budget for each fiscal year.

The state requires a great deal of computerized testing for its students each year, Cordova said. The district's aging technology was challenged by all of the testing during the past school year, pointing out the importance of investing in new technology to better meet the demands of the state testing.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) provides each district with funding through a transportation assistance program, based on the amount of expense that each district incurs each year. The funding process takes into account the cost of transportation operations, including personnel, vehicles and mileage among other factors. The projection for CDE reimbursement for FY 2015-2016 is set at \$66,000, almost the same as the current fiscal year. That won't be nearly enough to cover the district's annual transportation costs.

"We get the grand sum of \$66,000, but our annual transportation expenses are \$400,000," Cordova said. "We have to carry the load with an aging bus fleet."

The district has been successful in securing state and federal grants in recent years, largely because it's been able to meet the goals that are part of the grant requirements. He

said the district hoped to apply for \$92,500 in grant funding during the next fiscal year.

The biggest part of the district's expenses are comprised of personnel expenses including wages and retirement match and benefits including federally mandated Medicare match, and a health benefits package composed of medical, dental, vision care and life insurance coverage. Present personnel wage expenses, including the Step Increase implemented earlier this year, total \$3,837,768, for teaching staff and \$1,807,134, for support staff and administration. Adding the cost incurred by the district for the health benefits package it provides to its employees, it's projected that the district's health benefits expense will be \$686,249 in FY 2015-2016, assuming that the employees pay the amount of the expected increase at \$35,457.

District employees participate in the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) program in lieu of Social Security. PERA provides a far better retirement benefit than Social Security, but it's also more expensive, with a further employee match percentage increase expected in January 2016.

The district faces many financial challenges in the years ahead, but seems to have a good handle on its financial situation, with plans to maximize the money it has in the interests of providing the best possible education for the district's students.

... Continued from Page 1

**Shuler show promises great antic comedy for this weekend**

City commissioner Ron Chavez has also signed on to take part in the variety show.

McCabe wrote the scripted parts of the show with his fellow actor and producing partner, Nora Leahy. Their Two Pigs Productions put together the entire season, right down to auditioning a hundred actors in Chicago and Bloomington, Indiana, and bringing many of the resulting troupe of 18 to Raton by train.

The comedy-variety show channels old game shows like The Match Game and The Newlywed Game, along with elements of Laugh-In and Saturday Night Live. Several prominent Raton locals will join the entire summer stock troupe of actors for shenanigans on stage Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m.

"A Variety of Errors" will open the Shuler's summer season Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. A

big musical production of "Into the Woods" follows, opening Thursday night, June 25, and running through July 5.

Tickets to all shows are \$20 for adults, \$15 seniors, and \$5 children. Discount ticket books are available with five tickets for \$87.50 or ten for \$175. Tickets and information are available at the Shuler Theater, 131 N. 2nd St., (575) 445-4746, [www.shulrtheater.com](http://www.shulrtheater.com).

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|   | 6 Months.....\$72.00   |
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|   | 1 Month.....\$18.00  |
|   | 3 Months.....\$54.00   |
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