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TUESDAY
MARCH 17, 2015

Vol. 139, No. 54

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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THE FINE PRINT

MARCH 17



Saint Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious celebration occurring annually on this day, the death date of the most commonly recognized patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick (c. AD 385-461).

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 (719-845-2595), Mack Louden (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

Writers' Guild
TUESDAY (2 p.m.) This group will meet at 109 E. Fifth St. Info: Dana Miller, 719-422-8352 or danamiller65@gmail.com.

Primer Schools
TUESDAY (5 p.m.) District Board of Education will meet in executive session with regular session to follow at 6 p.m. in the Primero School Cafeteria, 20200 Highway 12. Information: Tina East, 719-868-2715.

Today's Quote

"If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples; even though some of them still look down on me."

-Saint Patrick

COMMUNITY MEET & GREET
MARCH 17 (5:30-7 p.m.) Please join the staff and employees at City Hall to welcome the new City Manager Gabriel Engeland, 135 N. Animas St. Info: 719-846-9843.

TMS Mini Health Fair
MARCH 17 (6-8 p.m.) Everyone is invited to the 4th Annual event will be held at the Trinidad Middle School Gym and Cafeteria, Park Street. Info: 719-846-4411.

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. **CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor: Joe Reorda and Council Members: Carol Bolton, Joe Bonato, Pat Fletcher, Anthony Matie, Michelle Miles, and Liz Torres.

MARCH 18
Chamber of Commerce
WEDNESDAY (Noon) Monthly business luncheon will be held at the Mt. Carmel Community Center, 911 Robinson Ave. Guest speaker will be Karen Griego. Please RSVP: 719-846-9285.

Becoming A Mom
WEDNESDAY (1-2:30 p.m.) Introductory session for this community program will be held at the Mt. Carmel Center, 911 Robinson Ave. Info: 719-846-4880.

E-911 Authority Board
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.

Purgatoire Watershed Partners
WEDNESDAY (5 p.m.) The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership annual meeting will meet in the NRCS Office, 3590 E. Main. Information: Karen Wolf, 303-543-8688.

FP Fire District
WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.) Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Board of Directors public meeting will be at the Starkville Fire Station. Information: 719-846-6077.

Hoehne Fire Protection
EDNESDAY (6 p.m.) District Board of Directors meets at the El Moro Station, 14386 Hwy 239 in Hoehne. Information: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

Trinidad Schools
WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.) The Board of Education will hold its regular session at the District Administration Office, 612 Park St. Information: 719-845-2048.

LENTEN SERVICE
WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.) Weekly

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RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 03/16/15. Johns Flood ditch: Priority # 15 --- Appropriation date: 04/10/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 43.64 AF
Inflow 83.68 AF -- 42.19 CFS
Evaporation 6.04 AF
Content 18,186 AF
Elevation 6,181.07
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / John Martin Reservoir: (Conservation Storage) 05/31/1949.



NO SKATE PARK

City funds finding new youth projects

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON – In June, 2011, Raton Mayor Neil Segotta signed City of Raton Resolution No. 2011-12 dedicating a site on the north end of Round House Memorial Park for a permanent city skate park. "There is a lack of recreational opportunities for the youth of Raton and surrounding areas," the resolution stated, and then it formally set aside land for "a public access, community skate park."



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Today, the closest Raton gets to a skateboard organization is the Blacktop Cobra Crew skate club, shown here on Memorial Drive beside the once-designated Raton Skate Park site in Round House Park. From left are Rudy Ortega (back), Tristan Urioste, Adan Garcia, Kyler Urioste, Thomas Esquibel and Rochelle Jackson.

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Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Here are some views of the underground vault area on the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street.

MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN TUNNELS

Trinidad Underground — New book features local system of subterranean vaults, passages

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Like many Colorado cities, Trinidad has a system of underground vaults lying beneath its buildings and streets, and one chapter in a 2014 book, "The Tunnels under our Feet - Colorado's forgotten hollow sidewalks," features the underground world of Trinidad. Author Tracy Beach will have a book-signing event and video presentation, beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 29 at Trinidad's Carnegie Public Library.

Some Colorado cities, Denver among them, had extensive underground tunnels that could let travelers get around the whole city and not deal with the potential hassles of walking around on busy city streets. Beach said in a Friday phone interview that she'd seen old photos showing that Trinidad had once had a very extensive underground vault system, with shops and offices below ground

with exterior stairway access to the streets above. Mostly, they're covered over with streets and sidewalks today, but some basements still have doors and windows facing the street side and leading, well, nowhere.

The best remaining example in Trinidad of an underground vault is along the north side of the 300 block of East Main Street. An iron stairwell leads down to several underground storefronts, which mostly contained stored materials.

Author Beach said that underground vaults were constructed as part of the basement of a building, and could expand under the street or even cross over to the other side. The walls were typically built of brick or stone, and were designed to match the architecture of the building's basement. The vault's roof would be made of either stone or wood, and supported by cross beams using the same type of metal rails used for a train track.

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CLASSIC ENTERTAINMENT

'Hello Dolly' brings fun to the neighborhood

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

RATON – The beauty of community theater is that it's made by your neighbors. Musical theater doubles the fun. You see familiar store clerks, technicians, teachers, and high school students—some of whom live down the street—all colorfully costumed while they act, sing and dance in bright lights across the big stage.

Does the acting, singing, and dancing rise to professional standards? Of course not—these neighbors have day jobs—but that's part of the fun. And in Raton, where for one hundred years the Shuler Theater has drawn its locals to the stage, the talent pool is deep, so community theater can be surprisingly good.

Such was the case over the weekend when Raton Choral Society revived a show it had mounted before at the Shuler—in 1978.

"Hello Dolly" had been a gigantic hit when it reached Broadway in 1964, winning ten Tony Awards including Best Musical. The original cast recording topped Billboard's album chart, only to be knocked off by Louis Armstrong's album entitled "Hello Dolly." When Armstrong's recording of the title song topped Billboard's singles chart, he became the oldest person, at 63, to ever occupy that position, and he did it by knocking The Beatles from a 14-week run atop the charts.

"Hello Dolly" has since been made into a successful film and revived on Broadway three times, so it was no surprise to see Raton Choral Society return to one of its earliest productions to mount its first show in about seven years. Some of the original cast returned in the new production—including Howard Woodworth and John Martin—while Friday night's audience included at least three

Continued on Page 3 ...



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Brenda Ferri's Dolly was resplendent in her climactic Harmonia Gardens restaurant scene near the close of Raton Choral Society's new production of "Hello Dolly" at the Shuler Theater over the weekend.

WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: A 10 percent chance of light rain before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 53. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph

becoming east in the afternoon. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 64. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible. **Night:**

A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Calm wind becoming west northwest around 5 mph after midnight.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. North wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 40 percent chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

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AREA COMMUNITY

Raton: City funds finding new youth projects

That was the peak of a long effort. From there the effort went downhill, but not in the way that skateboarders like to go downhill. Today organizers have recognized that the effort failed to get anywhere near the needed funding goals while costs have gone up and the number of skateboarders has gone down. The organizers are preparing to transfer the existing funds to two other projects that will serve the youth of Raton and surrounding areas.

Carl Patty got his first skateboard in 1975. Since then, he's ridden them all over the world, thanks largely to his longtime service in the U.S. military. He and his wife Marcia used to ride together on a long skateboard across Waikiki in Hawaii, and Carl took a skateboard with him when he served in Iraq from 2005-2006.

"I came back different from Iraq," he says. "I lost some friends over there. Life is short. I wanted to help other people. There were so many kids here in Raton not doing anything." In 2007, Patty founded Northeast New Mexico Skate Association, or NENMSA Raton.

"Raton was bigger then, and there were more skateboarders," he says. Years before, another group had raised a few thousand dollars and commissioned a skate park design for Raton. Patty and his group renewed the effort, eventually commissioning a new park design.

"At our peak, we had 62 people at one meeting," Patty says. Many of those people helped raise funds, with donations coming from dozens of individuals and businesses in amounts ranging from \$20 to several thousand dollars."

Richard Robilio came on board as a prime mover. "I spent a whole year walking the length of Raton approaching every business, from RBS on the north to the hospital on the south, talking to everyone about a skate park and taking their donations," he says.

Support and momentum grew to the point that the city commission dedicated a site for the skate park, assuming that NENMSA Raton would raise all of the money to build the park. That never happened.

Ferman Ulibarri, executive director of Service Organization for Youth (SOY), says, "Carl Patty was on one of our youth committees here at SOY. He and his group needed 503-C non-profit status to apply for grants, so we combined forces to lend SOY's non-profit status to the skate park effort." SOY established a bank account where it's held the skate park funds to this day.

"Carl was always the driving force," Ulibarri says. Eventually, though, the drive lost momentum. "They weren't successful in getting big grants, then Carl had two major surgeries. Without Carl, nothing happened."

Robilio adds, "The problem with the skate park was that big donors didn't like skateboarders—baggy pants, hippie-type people," he says. "I could be wrong, but I don't think we would have had the same trouble building a basketball court. Of course, there's also a lot fewer kids skateboarding than playing basketball."

Since the city's 2011 resolution, grant applications failed, construction costs skyrocketed, and the number of skateboarders fell.

"The price of construction rose faster than we were raising money, so instead of

... Continued from Page 1

town so they like to skate down the long hills of Linwood Road and Caviness Road east of town."

Patty says of NENMSA Raton, "The organization is pretty much defunct." The closest Raton now has to a skateboard organization is the Blacktop Cobra Crew, a rag-tag group of a half-dozen dedicated teenage longboarders. Skating past the designated skate park site last week, they all said they'd love to have a skate park. Marcia Patty allows that "it may be a matter of 'If you build it, they will come,'" with kids buying the shorter street boards to take advantage of a new skate park.

But the skate park effort is dead, and recently the organizers have decided to transfer the remaining funds to other local youth projects.

SOY's Ulibarri—who in his younger days used to skateboard down the hills above Raton Middle School—says there's \$9200 in the skate park account. Any withdrawal or check must be signed by three people—Ulibarri, Robilio, and Terry Baca, who sits with Ulibarri and others on Raton's Parks & Recreation Board.

Recently Ulibarri and Robilio have been talking with Parks & Recreation Director Jared Chatterley to develop a plan that will divide the skate park funds in half, going to two projects serving area youth.

"Half the money will be used by Parks & Recreation," Chatterley says, "to buy camping and outdoor equipment that we'll provide in the summers for a new program at Sugarite Canyon State Park. Beginning in the summer of 2016, the Willow Springs Outdoor School will provide weeklong camping experiences and wilderness education to students from Raton and the outlying school districts.

"Raton Parks & Recreation will buy tents, sleeping bags and pads, backpacks, and other camping gear, plus hopefully some mountain bikes and kayaks. Each school district will get a weeklong program, sending kids that arrive at Sugarite Sunday afternoon. Monday morning they'll move into the mountains and stay up there until Friday afternoon, when they'll return for closing ceremonies and awards."

Chatterley is working with Sugarite Canyon State Park's Robert McIvor and Pat Walsh to develop a dynamic program designed to serve students of Raton Public Schools as well as others from Springer,



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Carl Patty, above, has been a passionate skateboarder for 40 years. He organized the Northeast New Mexico Skate Association (NENMSA Raton) in 2007 and led the now-defunct drive to see Raton build its own skate park.



Trinidad's skate park, at left, has drawn carpooled caravans of Raton skaters and built a national reputation as one of the great parks in the country. Kay Lynn Espinosa enjoyed spending time there last summer.

getting closer we were getting further away," Robilio says.

"Years ago," Carl Patty says, "I used to take carloads of kids to the Trinidad skate park. The type of skateboarding that's popular now is longboarding. The only type of park you need for longboarding is a road. You don't need a skate park and its features. The kids have been pretty much run out of

Maxwell, Des Moines, Cimarron, Trinidad and others in the area.

The other half of the skate park funds will be devoted to growing SOY's existing child abuse prevention and treatment program for youth. Ulibarri says, "We receive state and federal funds for the program, but they require a 20 percent local portion that we've always had a hard time raising." SOY's Emily Meadows is developing a specialized program to begin this summer that will include a summer camp with a new playground and garden, and activities that include fixing things that are broken and growing things that are new—effective therapies for young victims of abuse.

Carl Patty has a record of every donation made to the skate park fund. Any donor who would prefer to withdraw his or her donation, rather than have it transferred to the new programs, may contact Ulibarri at SOY for a refund of the donation.

Patty agrees with Robilio, Ulibarri, and some of the donors contacted for this article: the time has come to move the skate park funds and put them to good use serving the youth of Raton and surrounding areas.

Trinidad Underground — New book features local system of subterranean vaults, passages

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These below ground areas could be turned into below ground shops, accessed by a staircase at the sidewalk level or by private tunnels used only by the building's owner, Beach said. The tunnel system could run up and down the street and connect all the buildings together, or be closed off to allow for a private area, with access restricted to those people in the know about what went on down there.

Denver's tunnel system expanded all around the downtown area and allowed access to Union Station. The tunnels allowed hotels to offer below ground service for their wealthier clients, who might not want to be bothered with the local riff-raff. Chinese laborers built many of these tunnels in the 1880s, a time period when anti-Chinese riots were in full swing.

In the Steel City of Pueblo, the State Insane Asylum had three miles of hidden, underground tunnels, which are still intact. Part of the asylum's original construction in 1879, they were intended to transport patients around the asylum's 40 acres without the risk of escape.

The small mountain town of Salida has a very well-preserved tunnel system, and

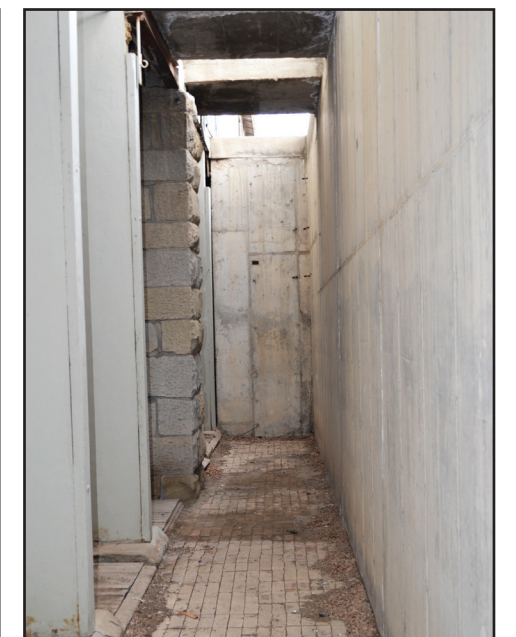
helped inspire Beach to write her book.

"I absolutely fell in love with Salida's tunnel system," Beach said. "That's when I realized I absolutely had to write about this subject."

Salida's tunnels, like others ran the entire length of its Main Street and even connected their Opera House with a local house of ill repute. The system includes an intact below ground gymnasium featuring 10-foot high ceilings where Jack Dempsey, "The Manassa Mauler," trained between boxing matches.

Beach said there's a seating area in Trinidad's Mission at the Bell Restaurant where the original vault was extended further beneath West Main Street to provide more seating.

"Trinidad's Main Street is awesome," she said. "There are still some basements that have windows facing toward Main Street. I talked to some building owners who told me they never noticed that there were windows in their basements. I really got swept up in doing the research and writing this book, and getting to visit all these great smaller towns, like Trinidad, was one of the reasons I had so much fun doing this."



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

More views of the mysterious underground vault area on the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street.

'Hello Dolly' brings fun to the neighborhood

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more—Carol Woodworth, local judge Warren Walton and the company's original Dolly, Dorothy Thompson Smoker, who mounted the stage at curtain call to present red roses to the new Dolly, Brenda Ferri.

Ferri has the acting skills and experience to make meddling New York City matchmaker Mrs. Dolly Gallagher-Levi the larger-than-life character that she is. When she emerged in red at the top of the packed Harmonia Gardens restaurant's staircase for the show's climax, she was like a sun with planets in orbit as the wait staff and patrons danced and sang below her.

The most engaging storylines and comedy revolved around the characters that Dolly paired into happy couples. Susan Ward and Clint Henson brought both stage experience and a sense of delight that made their couple the most fun. Newcomer Zach Osborn did a fine job as Henson's co-worker and friend that later paired with young Laura Robertson—who, like Henson, has natural acting gifts that make her a joy to watch on stage.

A family illness forced veteran actor Rick Trice to leave the production just two weeks ago. Director Howard Woodworth suddenly took the key role of Horace Vandergelder, and he did just fine. In his Harmonia Gardens dinner conversation with Ferri's Dolly, he played the straight man to her comic in the production's funniest scene.

Music director Bill Crary left his



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

In "Hello Dolly," Mrs. Dolly Gallagher-Levi is a New York City matchmaker. Susan Ward, Clint Henson, Laura Robertson, and newcomer Zach Osborn (left to right) play two happy couples produced by Dolly's meddling. It's a musical, so they don't stop at mere happiness: they also sing and dance about it.

baton just long enough to play maitre d' Rudolph Reisenweber, where he looked exactly right in the part. Frances Vance joined the cast as an exceptional dancer while her choreography lifted the entire production a couple notches—many of the 28 actors on stage had danced here before, but

never so well.

Woodworth, Crary, and Vance wrangled the large cast and technical crew that worked on the production for a couple months. Aided by attractive and effective sets and costumes, their new "Hello Dolly" made a great return for Raton Choral Society.



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