

# COMMUNITY & STATE

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Texan wins Sunday's New Mexico Country Showdown

By **Tim Keller**  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Tyler Hammond won the northeast New Mexico Country Showdown at St. Patrick-St. Joseph Parish Fiesta in Raton Sunday afternoon. Hammond came from Crandall, Texas, to win, topping runner-up Michelle Orth and crowd favorite Danielle Ortiz, who placed third.

Hammond won \$200 Sunday and will travel to Roswell, New Mexico, for the state finals. Rich Owen won the southern Colo-

rado Country Showdown at the Trinidad's Mt. Carmel Festival two weeks ago. Both Owen and Hammond hope to proceed all the way to the Southwest Regional Country Showdown at Raton's Shuler Theater October 17.

The last two winners at the Shuler have proceeded to take the televised \$100,000 national Country Showdown in Nashville. Trinidad's KCRT-FM and Phil Long Ford sponsor the local and regional competitions.

Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



## PUSH FOR CHANGE

### Hickenlooper begins new state tour to sell TABOR fix

Associated Press

LEADVILLE—On the first day of a new statewide tour, Gov. John Hickenlooper found an appropriate venue in this high mountain town for his push to revamp how the state spends money.

The Democrat stood on stage at the historic Tabor Opera House in Leadville and made a lengthy pitch for an overhaul to TABOR—the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Hickenlooper wants to exempt the hospital provider fee from state revenue collections under TABOR because it pushes Colorado over the constitutional cap, prompting taxpayer refunds next year even as the state struggles to adequately fund priority areas.



Associated Press Photo

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper

If the fee were removed from TABOR, Colorado's revenues would fall under the cap and the state would have \$200 million more to spend on road projects and classrooms, the governor said.

"People love rebates. You're a hero when you send out tax refunds," he told a crowd of 50 at the theater. But "the refunds have to come from the general fund, so they have to come out of education, they have to come out of transportation."

The state expects to collect \$670 million in fees next year from hospitals. The mon-

ey is leveraged to get additional federal dollars to cover health care costs for Medicaid patients. Hickenlooper said recategorizing the fee would "go a long way to giving us some breathing room and really be able to fund the stuff that really matters."

In the recent legislative session, Hickenlooper and Democratic lawmakers pushed a bill to change TABOR accounting but the Republican-led Senate rebuffed the attempt, saying it was merely an effort to weaken the state's spending limits.

Compass Colorado, a conservative advocacy organization, continues to fight the plan, calling the governor's effort "an accounting slight of hand that takes money straight from Colorado families."

But Hickenlooper is taking his message on the road, making it a major part of his remarks in two town hall forums Friday, first in Frisco and later in Leadville. By the end of September, the governor plans to visit all eight regions in Colorado to make his case and hear from voters about other issues.

"I think giving people the real facts is half the battle," he said after the first events. "To make sure they understand that ... it's going to crowd out, over the next few years, hundreds of millions of dollars from the things all these people want from their state government."

Hickenlooper is relishing the opportunity to flee the political arena in Denver, and the two events took on a campaign-like feel a year after Hickenlooper traveled the state convincing voters to give him a second term.

Leadville Mayor Jamie Stuever gave him a booming welcome to the opera house stage and Hickenlooper played a ditty on the grand piano before he addressed the crowd. Irv Halter, the Department of Local Affairs director and one of the many administration officials on the trip, called the venue "a Tabor that we love," earning laughter from the friendly crowd.

Earlier in the day, Hickenlooper won more support when he told a crowd at the Frisco Adventure Center that his administration would challenge rate hikes requested from companies who offer plans through the state's health exchange, Connect for Health Colorado. For 2016, three insurers are asking for rate hikes ranging from 34 percent to 15 percent—with the hardest hit areas in the mountains.

Hickenlooper said state regulators would "specifically go to the insurance companies and hold hearings and ask specifically, 'Why is this so much higher?' Because it shouldn't be that much higher."

## PECOS LEAGUE PLAY



The Chronicle-News / File Photo

### Triggers eliminated from 2015 playoffs

Staff Report  
The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad Triggers fell 4-2 Saturday night to the Santa Fe Fuego and were eliminated from the Pecos League playoffs.

The Triggers had the best record in the league during the regular season and finished seven games in front of the Fuego for the Northern Division title. But, Santa Fe

got hot in this 2-of-3 series and won the series 2-0.

For the second year in a row the Santa Fe Fuego have defeated the Triggers in the Northern Division playoffs. The Fuego will await the winner of the Southern Division Playoffs between Roswell and Alpine.

Triggers General Manager Kim Schultz said in a statement Sunday, "It has been a great season. We will rebuild and come back for another run at the title in 2016. I am so proud of the Trinidad Triggers and everybody that made the season possible; the sponsors, fans, host families, the staff, our boys and Royce Holder. It's been an incredible season and we look forward to next summer."

## MOUNT SAN RAFAEL HOSPITAL

### Archuleta selected to speak at CHIME program

Mt. San Rafael Hospital  
Special to The Chronicle-News

Consisting of eight regional events across the United States designed by and for senior healthcare information technology executives, the 2015 CHIME LEAD programs held in Denver Colorado will focus on two key areas: cyber security and leadership development.

For one full day, health IT professionals will interact with an audience of industry leaders, colleagues and solution providers to discuss and share challenges, experiences, strategies and best practices. Michael Archuleta is the Director of Information Technology at Mt. San Rafael Hospital and was selected to speak at this year's 2015 CHIME LEAD program.

"I was honored to be selected as a speaker for the 2015 CHIME LEAD in Denver. Representing my community and the organization I work for is an honor," said Archuleta.

At Mt. San Rafael Hospital Archuleta is responsible for the strategy, oversight and governance of the Hospital's Information Security program, ensuring Hospital Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)



Courtesy Photo

Michael Archuleta

compliance as it relates to Information Systems and provides leadership for Information Security functions and

strategies throughout Mt. San Rafael.

CHIME LEAD programs will feature world-class education, training and networking opportunities, and will connect participants with nationally renowned experts sharing compelling insight from years of experience in the field. The Health Information Executive's Guide to Cyber Security features industry luminaries who are ready to share their knowledge and answer questions through a series of plenary general sessions, case studies, and small group breakout discussions. For one full day, executives interact with a national audience of peers, national leaders and solution providers featuring the latest solutions and best practices around cyber security.

**NOW OPEN**

**EL PASO LIQUOR**

1101 E. Main St.  
Trinidad, Colorado 81082  
719-846-8672

*Drive Thru Window*

**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

**Monday to Thursday - 9:00am - 10:30pm**  
**Friday and Saturday - 9:00am - MIDNIGHT**  
**Sunday - 10:00am - 8:00pm**

**FIRST QUALITY and REASONABLE PRICES**

## School of Distinction! Primero RE-2 School District

- Small class size
- Gifted and Talented program
- Concurrent College classes
- Slots for the Ascent program
- Chrombooks for 6-12 grade
- Microsoft tablets for elementary students
- Free breakfast and lunch for all students
- Vocational programs including: autobody/shop, welding, drafting and woods
- Many clubs and extracurricular activities including: FBLA, Student Council, Art Club, Theatre, Skills USA, Volleyball, Football, Baseball, Track and Cheerleading!

**Stop by for a tour of our beautiful facility.**

For more information call  
719-868-2715.  
Mon thru Thurs 8-4  
[www.primeroschool.org](http://www.primeroschool.org)

email to [teast@primeroschool.com](mailto:teast@primeroschool.com)  
Fax 719-868-2241  
20200 Highway 12  
Weston, CO 81091

Primero School District is now accepting out of district applications for PK-12!

**Great facilities, great teachers and great kids!**

**Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center  
Physician Clinics**

**Jenna M. Stamey, M.D.**  
Board Certified in Family Practice

Seeing new patients ages newborn to senior  
Appointments can be made by calling  
**719-383-5914**  
1100 Carson Ave. • Suite 203  
Clinical Annex • La Junta, CO

**Hazel J. Abool, M.D.**  
Specializing in Internal Medicine

Seeing new patients ages 18+  
Appointments can be made by calling  
**719-383-5960**  
1100 Carson Ave. • Suite 10C  
Clinical Annex • La Junta, CO

**Aimee L. Battaglia, D.O.**  
Board Certified in Family Practice

Seeing new patients ages newborn to senior  
Appointments can be made by calling  
**719-383-5906**  
1100 Carson Ave. • Suite 201  
Clinical Annex • La Junta, CO