



TUESDAY
FEB. 2, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

■ **TUESDAY — FEB. 2**
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY
TUESDAY (9 a.m.) Board of County Commissioners regular meeting is in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2568.
COMMISSIONERS: Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Louden (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).
SAMARITAN CLINIC
1st & 3rd TUESDAYS (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 413 E. Frost and corner of Linden Ave. Info: 719-846-3536.
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY (7 p.m.) Regular session followed will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843. **CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor: Phil Rico and Council Members: Joe Bonato, Pat Fletcher, Carlos Lopez, Anthony Mattie, Michelle Miles, and Liz Torres.

Today's Quote

"Do the best you can until you know better, Then when you know better, do better."

~ Maya Angelou

THURSDAY — FEB. 4

NETWORK COUNCIL
THURSDAY (8 a.m.) Regular meeting will be held in the Bell Block Building's Trinidad Community Foundation room. Info: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.
SPRCD MEETING
THURSDAY (1 p.m.) Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at the District Office. Info: 719-846-3681 Ext. 117.
PRCWD WATER DISTRICT
THURSDAY (7 p.m.) Purgatoire River Conservancy meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Thelma Lujan, 719-846-7285.

PUBLIC SERVICE

CHRONICLE-NEWS MUGS
The 2015 Collector Mugs by Trinidad Artist Frank LaLumia are waiting for you! Info: 719-846-3311.
VETERANS SERVICES
NEW OFFICE HOURS are Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), 200 East First St., Room 101. Info: Al Trujillo, 719-846-3940.
GALLERY MAIN
All events will be held at the Gallery, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.
***FRI. (10 a.m.-Noon) FREE KIDS ART CLASSES.** Registration required.
***FRI. (6-8 p.m.) Art Photography "Perspectives"** exhibition opening night. Refreshments will be served.
BOOKS & MORE
FRIDAY (11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Senior Citizens Day at the Library Bookstore, 132 N. Commercial. Most items are 50 percent off. Info: 719-846-6840.
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
FRI. (Noon-4 p.m.) Help save a life! Bonfils Blood Drive will be held in the Pioneer Room at Trinidad State Junior College, 600 Prospect St. Sign-up and info: Bonfils, 800-365-0006 or www.bonfils.org.
FAMILY BINGO NIGHT
SAT (5-7 p.m.) The SoCo Family Center will host this family friendly event at the Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Ave. Free refreshments will be served with additional concessions available for purchase. Info: Julie Mattorano, 719-251-6509.
TSJC FREE TAX PREP
SAT. THRU FEB. 27, EACH SATURDAY, (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) IRS-certified TSJC students will prepare your taxes at the Freudenthal Library. Appointment (719-846-5560) or walk-in (first come first served basis).
SOUPER BOWL BENEFIT
THRU SUN. Collecting canned soup for the hungry. Canned soup can be dropped off at the Salvation Army, 104 E. First St. or brought to participating churches thru Super Bowl Sunday. Info: 719-846-3252.
VALENTINE BAZAAR
FEB. 13 (9 a.m.- 2 p.m.) Heritage Christian School will host this event at the Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 2608 Santa Fe Trail. Info: 719-859-3508.
CHENOWETH AWARD
FEB. 13 (5:30-11 p.m.) Annual award ceremony with Valentine Dinner Dance will be held at the Holiday Inn's Peak Restaurant, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 719-846-9285.
CUPIDS & HEARTS DANCE
FEB. 13 (8 p.m.-12 a.m.) Raton's Lions Club will host a Valentine's Dance in the Raton Convention Center, 901 S. Third St. Music provided by Noby Gomez. Info: Adella Garcia, 575-447-1242. Proceeds benefit community projects.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 02/01/16. Chilli Ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
 Release 0.42 AF
 Inflow 49.42 AF -- 24.91 CFS
 Evaporation 0 AF
 Content 26,457 AF
 Elevation 6,192.05
 Precipitation 0

Down stream call: John Martin Reservoir: 12/31/1948.



SOCO FAMILY CENTER

Family Bingo Night offers Saturday night fun

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Southern Colorado Family Center continues its slate of family-friendly events with Family Bingo Night this Saturday evening, Feb. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Ave.

Lemonade and finger sandwiches will be provided, along with concessions selling cotton candy, candy bars, fruit snacks, and beverages.

After forming last year, Southern Colorado Family Center recently achieved its non-profit 501 (c)(3) tax-status to help it further its mission of "creating pro-social activities in our community, to build on family foundations and bring

... Continued on Page 2



Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Our Town production opens at Famous Theatre

The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre's (SCRT) resident cast opened their production of "Our Town" Friday. The production is being directed by SCRT Artistic Director Fred Vaugeois. Above, Noah Simpson as Dr. Gibbs and Jonathan Segers as his son George perform on SCRT's stage. "Our Town" is generally described as an American classic and Thornton Wilder's most renowned play. There are three more showings of the production this weekend, see scrtheatre.com for more. Look for a review from Cynthia Ploski in upcoming editions of *The Chronicle-News* this week.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Raton gets lease for National Guard Armory building



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Raton's National Guard Armory, situated along U.S. Hwy. 64 near the airport, will be leased to the City of Raton at no cost to the City for one year, before its planned donation to the City in the near future.

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Raton's City Commission unanimously approved a resolution supporting a one-year lease between the City and the New Mexico State Armory Board that will give the City the use of what is officially known as the Raton Readiness Center, or the Raton National Guard Armory, which is located just north of the Raton Municipal Airport along U.S. Highway 64, just a few miles south of Raton.

City Manager Scott Berry said that the National Guard had agreed, in principle, to donate the 15,154 square-foot building to the City at no cost, except for utilities, after a few necessary hoops had been jumped through.

"The steps in them donating the building to Raton are that, as I understand it, there is an indoor rifle range or shooting range in the building, and there is a concern of lead contamination in the building. The National Guard has offered to remediate that contamination and clean that room up, but

Continued on Page 3 ...

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Natural Food Store — still going strong

By Jessica Deborah O'Connell
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

The owners say "natural products and hometown values are what set apart Trinidad's Natural Food Store." Located at 316 Prospect Street, the store has been owned and operated by Larry and Connie Bullock for the past 23 years.

In 1993, the couple relocated from Houston, Texas, in search of a slower pace and an opportunity for Larry, who worked as a mechanical engineer, to spend more time at home with his family. Since that time, they have made their home in Trinidad and all seven of their children have worked at the store.

"I think it was a really good experience for the kids. They all picked up

healthy habits and preferences for natural products that they still practice today," Connie Bullock said.

It seems more and more people are adopting those same preferences.

According to the Organic Trade Association, eight in 10 families choose some type of organic products. They also cite several benefits of organic products including reduced exposure to toxins and persistent chemicals that can be particularly harmful to children, as well as an increase in a food's nutrient richness.

The store boasts an impressive selection of staple and unique products including: health foods, vitamins, herbal supplements, teas, herbs, spices, natural cosmetics, gluten-free, bulk grains, organic items,



Photo by Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Owners of Trinidad's Natural Food Store, Larry and Connie Bullock, have owned and operated their business here for 23 years.

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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 22. North wind 10 to 15 mph. New snow accumula-

tion of less than one inch possible. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 5. North wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 28. Southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 6. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. South southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent slight chance of rain or snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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719-845-0102

COMI FUNERAL HOME
 Trinidad's Leading Funeral Home
 1804 East Main
 Trinidad, CO 81082
 (719) 846-3347
 Owned & operated by:
 Mary (Kitsy) Winter

Nancy Marie Guzzo
 Nancy Marie Guzzo, age 79, passed away January 14, 2016 after a lengthy illness.

At her request private family services with entombment at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery.

The family respectfully requests their privacy during this difficult time.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

68 Yaksich-Long

Lory David Phillips



Lory David Phillips age 65 departed this earth on January 25, 2016 surrounded by loved ones.

Lory was born on March 8, 1950 to J.J. Phillips and Virginia Wilson, who preceded him in death as did his sister Georgia. Lory is survived by the love of his life Anita of the Family home. His loving wife, best friend and shotgun rider for over four decades of fun and adventures. Lory's legacy and the family name he was so proud of will be carried on by his sons David and wife Michelle of Houston, Texas. Jason and wife Tenelle of Raton, and his four special grand children Stone, Abigail, Samantha and Ella Phillips. He leaves behind his brother and best friend Jackie Phillips of Raton, sister Jo Ann and husband Wayne Bomar of Texas, as well as his sister in law Lucille Gabol and brother in law Johnny Quartieri and wife Rachel. He truly embraced the role of being an uncle and will be greatly missed by his nieces and nephews of whom some were almost like a second set of children. Numerous cousins will also feel the loss of Lory.

Lory was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He dedicated his early year to training race horses and even managed to merge his passions for photography and horse racing into a paying job. He spent 13 years working for the Raton Public Service Company before joining with his wife and sons to enter the broadcasting field where together they owned and operated KCRT and Coyote Country for the last 25 years. These years required a lot of hard work but also provided him the opportunity to spend large amounts of time with family and friends and do tons of really cool things. Lory was best known for his kindness and his generosity for helping others. He enjoyed the company of good friends and spending time at the Raton Elks Lodge. He had a great sense of humor and an undying commitment to his family and friends.

A Memorial Service will be Saturday February 6, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Yaksich-Long Funeral Home Chapel in Raton with Dr. Monty McGowen officiating. All are invited to also attend a celebration of Lory's life at the Raton Elks Lodge at noon.

Arrangements and celebration of love for Lory Phillips are under the direction of the Yaksich-Long Funeral Home of Raton.

62 Memorials

In Loving Memory of **Edith Laughlin** on her anniversary



7 years ago today Our family circle was broken, A link gone from our chain. But though we've parted for a while We know we'll meet again. Some day we hope to meet you, Some day we know not when, We shall meet in a better land, And never part again. Sadly missed by your family

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Please hold: Some insurance customers begin new year with confirmation delays

KELLI KENNEDY and TOM MURPHY
 Associated Press

Thousands of health insurance consumers around the country have started the new year dealing with missing ID cards, billing errors and other problems tied to an enrollment surge at the end of 2015.

Brokers and insurers in several states told The Associated Press that they've been inundated with complaints about these issues from customers with individual plans and those with coverage through small businesses. Insurance provider Health Care Service Corp., for instance, has been dealing with delays for around 10,000 companies, while billing errors caused bank overdrafts for 3,200 individual customers of a North Carolina insurer.

These delays mean that some customers may have to pay for care up front or wait for their insurance cards to arrive before scheduling a doctor's appointment, even though many have technically been covered since Jan. 1.

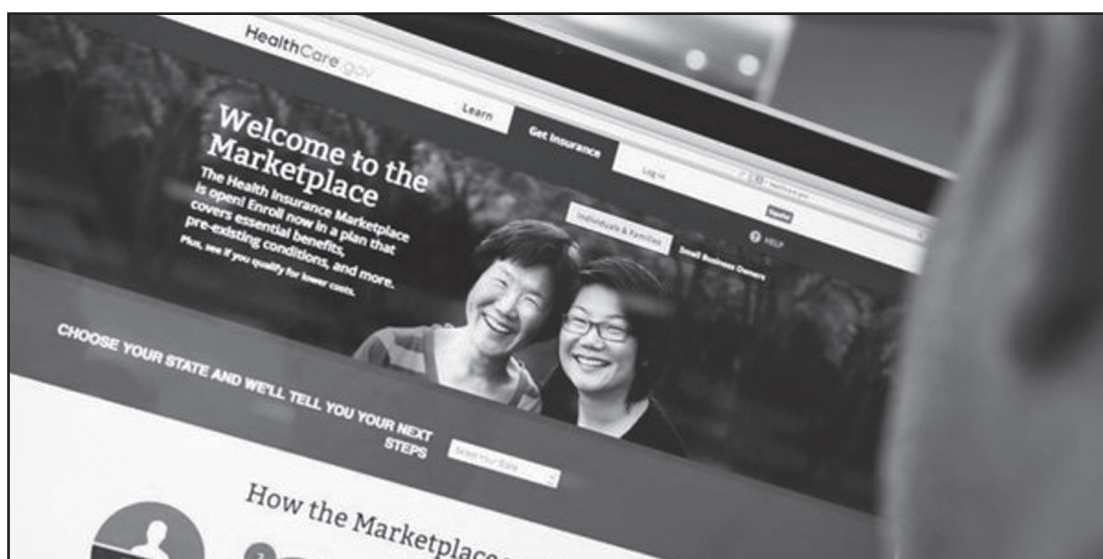
"I've been in the health insurance business 20 plus years, and I've never seen anything like this," said Dallas-based broker Tanya Boyd, who estimates that hundreds of customers have complained about delays in receiving their insurance cards or a confirmation of coverage.

The delays are due to more customers than expected shopping for coverage late last year after carriers ended plans in some markets, leaving thousands to find new ones. And a last-minute enrollment deadline extension from the federal government gave people two more days to sign up. An expansion of the Affordable Care Act's mandate that employers cover their workers also may have contributed to the rush.

It's unclear how many people have had trouble so far this year. To be sure, a certain amount of problems can crop up at the start of every year, after insurers wrap up a busy holiday season clogged with enrollment periods for all types of insurance. But brokers say this year has been exceptional.

Boyd, the Dallas broker, said her market was swamped after Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas stopped offering a popular plan that covered about 400,000 people with a wide network of providers. Boyd helped client Bridget Eyler find another plan with a narrower network of providers after the insurer mistakenly enrolled her in a plan she didn't choose. But Eyler, an attorney from the Dallas suburb of Coppell, says she wasn't officially in the system until a few days ago and still has no documents proving she's insured.

Changing federal deadlines also contributed to the problem in some markets. Consumers who wanted coverage that started Jan. 1 originally had to sign up by Dec. 15. But HealthCare.gov, the federal website that handles applications for



AP photo

A man looks over the Affordable Care Act (commonly known as Obamacare) signup page on the HealthCare.gov website in this photo illustration.

coverage from ACA exchanges in most states, announced Dec. 15 that it would extend the deadline two days due to heavy demand.

That gave Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina a rush of last-minute business as it was transitioning to a new customer service system. The company said in a statement that it had planned for a 40 percent increase in customer service calls this year but was hit with a 500-percent jump.

That "strained our systems beyond the extra capacity we had planned for this busy time of year," CEO Brad Wilson wrote in a recent blog post apologizing for the delays.

The insurer had some problems in delivering insurance cards to some customers and took too much money from the bank accounts of 3,200 customers. The company said Friday it had reversed a vast majority of the bank account overdrafts, and nearly all of its customers have received their cards.

For its part, Health Care Service Corp. has resolved about half of the roughly 10,000 delayed applications it was dealing with for new small business coverage. Spokesman Greg Thompson said the insurer, which operates Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans in five states and covers about 16 million people, is working to process the remaining applications as quickly as possible.

Applications for that coverage quadrupled and slowed the insurer's processing. Thompson said the company doesn't know how many people were affected or why they saw an application spike. He said an expansion of the ACA's employer coverage mandate may have contributed.

This year, the law started requiring small businesses with 50 to 99 employees to provide coverage for their workers. Last year, that re-

quirement extended only to companies with 100 employees or more.

In California, insurance broker Craig Gusin said only around half of the 150 clients he helped enroll in small business health coverage that started Jan. 1 have received insurance ID cards. He said every insurer he deals with has been slowed by a rush of companies seeking new coverage at the end of 2015 because they faced big premium hikes with their old coverage.

"Every agent I talk to it's the same horror story... there's just incredible backlog," the San Diego-based agent said.

Brokers say most remaining problems should be resolved by the end of the month. But some confusion or delays may return in future years because many shoppers tend to buy coverage at the last minute, and then they don't have to make a payment until after coverage starts. These factors can delay the delivery of cards or confirmation of coverage.

While insurers and brokers sort out remaining complications, Michael MacGregor will wait to see if a recent doctor's visit is billed to his new plan, the old one or both. The 53-year-old Cape Coral, Florida, accountant and his wife switched in November to a new plan offered by the same insurer, Florida Blue.

But their insurer automatically renewed them in their old plan, even though they had paid for the new one. Florida Blue says a high volume of customers, caused partially by competitors leaving its market, has created some enrollment problems this year.

Meanwhile, the couple wound up receiving six insurance cards for the two plans plus another two that were meant for a total stranger who lives 30 miles away.

Family Bingo Night offers Saturday night fun

... Continued from Page 1

families together," says founder Julie Mattorano, owner of Stepping Stones LLC outpatient treatment center.

Previous family-friendly events from the organization included October's Skateboarding Jam at Trinidad Skatepark and December's all-day Gingerbread Workshop at Fisher's Peak Elementary School.

Mattorano's vision for SCFC is to someday create a community recreation center to supplement Trinidad's existing programs. She plans to raise funds through fun activities and events for families to enjoy together, with Family Bingo Night coming up next, Saturday night. Additional information is available from Mattorano at (719) 251-6509.

Metro Creative Graphics

Family Bingo Night arrives in Trinidad Saturday evening, Feb. 6, at Trinidad Community Center from 5 to 7 p.m., with all ages welcome. Lemonade and finger sandwiches will join concessions that include cotton candy and candy bars. The event is sponsored by Southern Colorado Family Center.



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Knights of Columbus

BINGO

7:00p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2nd

Doors Open @ 5:30p.m.
 205 South Commercial

50-50 Bingo Progressive Game

*No one under 12 allowed
 *No Checks accepted