

**SCRT** **Cabaret Night!**  
**Thursday @ 7:30 "It's All in the Name"**  
 Almost, Maine - Friday @ 7:30 - Death by Design - Saturday @ 7:30  
 Little Women - Sunday @ 2:30  
**SUMMER CAMP SHOWS @ MASSARI THEATRE - SAT @ 2:00 / SUN @ 7:00**  
 Famous Performing Arts Center - 131 W. Main St. - 946-4105 - scrtrealpa.com **SCRT**

**WEEKEND EDITION**  
**FRIDAY, SATURDAY**  
**& SUNDAY**  
**AUG. 12, 2016**

# 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.

\*FRI. (6:30 p.m.) Campfire Ranger Talks at the amphitheater.  
 \*SAT. (7 p.m.) "A Night with Noah" a one-man show at the amphitheater.

## Today's Quote

**"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude."**

~Will Rogers

### WEEKEND—AUG. 12-14

**THS STUDENT COUNCIL**  
 FRI. (7 a.m.) Group will meet to white-wash the "T" rock sculpture at Miner Field on the campus of Trinidad High School. Any additional volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Info: Sally Jane Ruybalid, 719-846-7390.

**SPBC FIRE DISTRICT**  
 FRI. (10 a.m.) The Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet in Century Financial Group Building, 109 W. Main St. Info: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

**CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**  
 SAT. (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) Fundraiser event at the Trinity Baptist Church, 34380 Hwy 12 (next to Al's Gas). If you have items to donate we will pickup. Info: Caleb Huling, 770-530-5981. Proceeds benefit the church.

**FARMER'S MARKET**  
 SAT. (8 a.m.-Noon) Don't miss the 16th Annual event held every Saturday in Cimino Park — runs thru mid-October. Info: Joyce Cuccia, 719-680-0184.

**GUADALUPE SOCIETY**  
 SUN.: There will be NO potluck dinner or meeting held thru Aug. Info: Rose Mestas, 719-846-3647.

### MONDAY—AUG. 15

**TOWN OF STARKVILLE**  
 MON. (6 p.m.) Board of Trustees public meeting in the Fisher's Peak Fire Department boardroom, 8361 County Road 69, Starkville. Info: Crick Carlisle, 719-680-7199.

### TUESDAY—AUG. 16

**LAS ANIMAS COUNTY**  
 TUES. (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. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Loudon (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

**SAMARITAN CLINIC**  
 1st & 3rd TUES. (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.

**PRIMERO SCHOOLS**  
 TUES. (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. Info: Tina East, 719-868-2715.

**CITY COUNCIL**  
 TUES. (6 p.m.) Regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Info: 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.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**SAYRE SENIOR CENTER**  
 TUES. (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) Take the AARP Safe Driver Course and you could reduce your overall vehicle maintenance and car insurance costs. Refresh your skills at the Center, 1222 San Pedro St. Info: Carl Mozeno, 719-868-2288.

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**  
 WEDS. (5:30 p.m.) Be a citizen historian — join the Trinidad and Las Animas County history project at the Carnegie Public Library, 202 N. Animas, sponsored by the Colorado Welcome Center, Trinidad History Museum and the Library. Refreshments will be served. Info: Kirby Stokes, 719-846-7217.

**LIBRARY ART DISPLAY**  
 THRU AUG.: Artist extraordinaire Dean Sneed's "Damsels in Distress & Otherwise" will be on display at the Library, 202 N. Animas, until the end of Aug. Info: Tom Potter, 719-846-6841.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 08/11/2016. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 20 --- Appropriation date: 10/07/1865.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
 Release 262.56 AF  
 Inflow 144.91 AF - 73.06 CFS  
 Evaporation 12.35 AF  
 Content 25,802 AF  
 Elevation 6,191.25  
 Precipitation 0.02

Down stream call: Highland Canal: 05/31/1866.



## WORKING TOGETHER

# State announces grant award for youth drug and alcohol prevention

Steve Block  
*The Chronicle-News*

Trinidad and Las Animas County have seen a significant increase in the abuse of heroin and other opiate-based drugs in recent years, so an organization called "Partners for a Drug Free Community" was established last year under the auspices of the Third Judicial District and its Probation Department to try to deal with these serious local problems. The County Health Department announced at a Monday partnership meeting that it had received a sizable grant from state and federal sources to try to eliminate substance abuse and bullying in area schools.

The Las Animas-Huerfano Counties District Health Department (LAHCDHD) has received \$120,000 from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment marijuana tax funds to support implementation of proven youth substance abuse prevention strategies.

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Photo courtesy of Frank Ruybalid, Trinidad

## Monsoon season clouds region

This cloud formation could be seen from the southbound lane of Interstate 25 hanging over the Trinidad area during Monday's thunderstorm. The area can expect to see partly cloudy skies through the rest of the week moving into an 80 percent chance of precipitation on Friday and Saturday with high temperatures dropping into the low 70s.

## WORLD'S LONGEST, TOUGHEST HORSE RACE

# Raton's Hefker-Miles wins Mongol Derby

*Finishes with Australian and Canadian in unprecedented 3-way dead heat*



Tim Keller  
 Correspondent  
*The Chronicle-News*

The eighth annual Mongol Derby, named by Guinness as "the world's longest and toughest horse race," ended its 621-mile run Thursday morning in an unprecedented three-way dead heat between Australian cattle rancher William "Dingo" Comiskey, Canadian corporate lawyer Heidi Telstad and an American nurse practitioner, Raton's Marcia Hefker-Miles.

Forty-one riders from 11 countries started the race seven days earlier, each riding up to 100 miles in 13 hours, day after day. Fourteen dropped out from exhaustion and injuries, many after being

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Photo courtesy of Richard Dunwoody / Mongol Derby

Raton's own Marcia Hefker-Miles, left, Australian cattle rancher William "Dingo" Comiskey, center, and Canadian corporate lawyer Heidi Telstad celebrate their unprecedented 3-way finish in the world's longest, toughest horse race the Mongol Derby on Thursday.

## REVIVING A DYING ART

# The Hatmakers Art: An old-fashioned craft alive, well at Trinidad State

Greg Boyce  
*Trinidad State*

There are probably no more than 50 people in the United States who earn a living making hats by hand, the old fashioned way. One of those spent a week in Trinidad each of the last two summers passing on this dying art to eager students at Trinidad State's Southern Rockies Heritage School.

Tom Hirt of Penrose, Colorado has been making hats for decades. His hats have graced the heads of famous people including Sam Elliott, Kurt Russell, Sharon Stone, Tom Selleck and even President Ronald Reagan. "I was roping

down in Canon City and the people I was roping with said, "Hey Tom, we want you to meet Max." He said, "My name is Max Baldrige."

Malcolm Baldrige was the Secretary of Commerce under Ronald Reagan. Hirt said Baldrige ordered a couple of hats, one for himself and one for Reagan. "Ronald Reagan sent me a nice little letter, which was more than I expected."

About a year and a half later Hirt said the phone rang and it was the White House. President Reagan said, "Tom, you sent me that hat and I want to thank you for it. I really, really like it. I need

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Photos by Greg Boyce / Trinidad State

Andrea Zanella models the hat she made in Tom Hirt's hatmaking class at Trinidad State this summer.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Friday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, high near 79. **Night:** A chance of thunderstorms.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

**Saturday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. East southeast wind around 10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. South wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. Southwest

wind around 10 mph.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast in the afternoon.

Weather Sponsored by:

**Inn & Suites**  
**Wellness**  
**Hotel**  
**719-845-0102**

# COMMUNITY

## WORLD'S LONGEST, TOUGHEST HORSE RACE

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# Raton's Hefker-Miles wins Mongol Derby

thrown by the race's Mongolian horses, as the 1000-kilometer race crossed the remote Mongolian Steppe along mail routes established 800 years ago by Genghis Khan. Some of the remaining 24 riders were still arriving Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Hefker-Miles, featured in a December Chronicle-News profile, has enjoyed—and often won—100-mile endurance races since discovering the sport 15 years ago. She stables her five Arabian horses east of Raton and rides daily after work. The family nurse practitioner, FNP-C, co-owns Raton's La Familia Primary Care; she formerly served patients at Mt. Carmel Medical Center in Trinidad.

Hefker-Miles set her sights on the Mongol Derby



Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



Photos courtesy of Richard Dunwoody / Mongol Derby

Raton's Marcia Hefker-Miles, left and above, savored the moment as she approached the Mongol Derby finish line with William "Dingo" Comiskey of Australia and Heidi Telstad of Canada. Together at the final overnight camp, just two hours short of the finish line, the three new friends decided to cross the finish line with arms linked, an unprecedented triple dead heat for the annual 621-mile race across the Mongolian Steppe.



After the Mongol Derby finish, adventurer Erik Cooper took a selfie with exhausted but happy co-winners Will Comiskey, Heidi Telstad, and Marcia Hefker-Miles, from left. Forty-one competitors from 11 countries, below, started the eighth annual Mongol Derby early on the morning of Aug. 4. Almost exactly seven days later, on Thursday Aug. 11, the first three crossed the finish line 1000 kilometers—621 miles—across the Mongolian Steppe. By then, 14 riders had dropped out, with some transported to hospitals after being thrown by the small but rough Mongolian horses.



Every 25 miles, riders stopped to change native Mongolian horses. As a vet evaluated the spent mount, each rider would choose the next horse. Marcia Hefker-Miles cautiously approached this horse for one of the last legs of the race. After spending some nights sleeping beside a horse in the rain out on the Mongolian Steppe, Marcia Hefker-Miles's fifth night was something of a miracle. She found shelter with the other two riders at the front of the pack—from left, Venetia Phillips of Kenya, Hefker-Miles of Raton, and Tatiana Mountbatten of Great Britain.



after last year's race and has focused a year of training on her goal. Last year's race was won by the second woman to cross the finish line: The first finisher was charged a two-hour "vet penalty" when her final horse still had a pulse rate judged too high after a specified rest time. Riders change horses every 25 miles, choosing the next horse and continuing onward.

Watching Hefker-Miles's progress online from 6000 miles and 14 time zones away, her Raton and Trinidad fans were able to see how aggressively she was competing when she accrued three penalties within the first two days, setting her back two-and-a-half hours. She incurred a vet penalty at her very first stop. Then, she was charged smaller penalties when her GPS unit revealed that she was still riding out on the steppe after the 8:30 p.m. stop deadline.

They were her last penalties. From there she steadily gained on the field until, on the fifth night, she caught up with the leaders, Venetia Phillips and Tatiana Mountbatten, British friends who rode the entire race together. Although there were shelters available at horse stops every 25 miles, many competitors chose to gain extra distance by continuing onward across the steppe, stopping only at 8:30 and sleeping beside their horses—some nights in driving rain.

The fifth night provided something of a miracle for the three leaders: They found an available shelter with woodstove, solar power, and satellite TV. After sharing a night of relative luxury, their fortunes diverged the next day.

Mountbatten's horse collapsed and died under her. An autopsy determined that it was not the rider's fault, but it set her and Phillips back: they finished two hours behind the winners two days later.

The sixth and final night, Hefker-Miles was joined by Comiskey and Telstad. At the front of the race with 600 miles behind them and only 21 miles left to the finish line the next morning, the three formed a new friendship and a pledge: They would ride to the finish together and cross with arms linked, a perfect three-way dead heat. The alternative, more expected, would have been a two-hour mad dash by three horsemen with the risk of vet penalties at the finish, and only one winner—much like last year's finish.

Instead, the three shared revelry and refreshments at the end as co-winners.

The race website, mongolderby.com, has a wealth of photos, videos, maps and stories from the race, along with links to the race's Facebook and Twitter feeds, the latter a great minute-by-minute commentary.

Marcia Hefker-Miles, meantime, is presumably trying to catch up on rest while preparing to leave Mongolia for her return to Raton. The first evening home, she'll be horseback, riding her Arabians below Johnson Mesa east of Raton. With many endurance races ahead, it will be fun to see whether she'll include a return to Asia for next year's Mongol Derby.

