

SPECIAL Cabaret Night!
Thursday @ 7:30 Flamenco Underground
Death by Design - Friday @ 7:30
Little Women - Saturday @ 7:30
Almost, Maine - Sunday @ 2:30
 Famous Performing Arts Center • 131 W. Main St. • 948-4765 • scpttheatre.com

WEEKEND EDITION
 FRIDAY, SATURDAY
 & SUNDAY
 AUG. 5-7, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS
 TRINIDAD
 COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

WEEKEND—AUG. 5-7

FNB BACK TO SCHOOL
FRI. DEADLINE: Supplies needed include pencils, erasers, 12-inch rulers, crayons, glue, scissors, backpacks and notebook paper — cash donations are also accepted. Drop off at The First National Bank main bank on Main Street, at the motor bank on First Street or at the Wal-Mart Branch. Info: 719-846-9881.

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.

"SAT. (7 p.m.) "Snakes Alive" with local naturalist Bob Kennemer and his snakes at the amphitheater.

BOOKS & MORE
FRI. (11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Senior Citizens Day at the Carnegie Library Bookstore, 132 N. Commercial. Most items are 50 percent off. Info: 719-846-6840.

AMERICAN LEGION
FRI. (6 p.m.) The Trinidad American Legion meets at the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Commander David Walker, 719-846-5469.

ALT ART SHOW
FRI. (6-8 p.m.) Gala artists reception with refreshments for art show opening will be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main. Show runs thru Sept. 2. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

Today's Quote

"Friendship picks you up when the world lets you down."

~ Snoopy (Charles Schultz)

FIRE HOUSE FUNDRAISER
SAT. (8 a.m.) The Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Auxiliary is looking for items to add to their annual garage fundraiser on Sat. morning. Call Sharon Sciacca for pick up at 719-859-6095.

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 Guccia, 719-680-0184.

MILLER FAMILY BENEFIT
SAT. (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) Selling the Miller family household items, including crib, toys, home school supplies, dishes, etc., to benefit survivor Heidi Miller at Trinidad Christian Church, 12 miles N. of Trinidad off Exit 23 (follow the signs). Info: Carrie Decker, 719-941-3442.

RATON LIBRARY
SAT. (2-4 p.m.) Everyone is invited to the book signing with mystery author Pat Walsh "A Prairie Mourning" at the Raton Library, 244 Cook Ave., Raton. Info: Thayla Wright, 575-445-9711.

2016 LAVETA STUDIO TOUR
SAT. & SUN. (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) Free self-guided tour of 15 area artists' studios starts at the SPACe Gallery, 132 W. Ryus, La Veta. Info: Kathy Hill, 719-742-5756.

RELAY FOR LIFE
SAT. (4-10 p.m.) Annual fundraising event includes food, fun, music and more at Central Park. Info: Kendra Doherty, 719-680-0693.

MONDAY—AUG. 8

THS BAND CAMP
AUG. 8-12 (8 a.m.-3 p.m., each week) Band students will have their mandatory music camp at the THS Band Room. Info: Director Jocelyn Ames, 719-846-2971.

TRINIDAD AREA ARTS COUNCIL
MON. (5:15 p.m.) Trinidad Area Arts Council will meet in the Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-1441. Public is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC SERVICE

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.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
TUES. (Noon) Group will meet at the Great Wall of China Restaurant on State St. Info: Pastor Bruce Knight, 719-846-6018.

THS STUDENT COUNCIL
AUG. 12 (7 a.m.) Group will meet to whitewash 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.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 08/04/2016. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 15 --- Appropriation date: 04/10/1864.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
 Release 255.65 AF
 Inflow 92.24 AF - 46.50 CFS
 Evaporation 10.59 AF
 Content 26,424 AF
 Elevation 6,192.01
 Precipitation 0

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



SPACE TO CREATE

Artspace leaders update council

Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad's Creative District was recently awarded the first demonstration project of the new Space to Create, Colorado initiative, whose goal is to promote the fire arts in rural communities across the state. Three Artspace officials presented information about the progress of the Trinidad demonstration project at Tuesday's Trinidad City Council meeting, providing answers to questions posed earlier by council members.

Before the Artspace leaders presented their information Lee

Merkel, regional manager for DOLA, announced that the Trinidad project had received a \$2 mil-

portion of this project that we have been talking about, and of course there are many moving

away. We'll just need to figure out how to put it into context and apply it where it needs to be."

The City of Trinidad recently acquired three downtown buildings for the project, including the Franche, Toller and Aiello Buildings in the 200 block of West Main Street. Those buildings will be transformed into apartments, workspaces and studios for artists and creatives, in an effort to stimulate the city's burgeoning arts community.

The Space to Create, Colorado effort is the first state-driven initiative in the United States for af-

"What I can say is that Artspace is committed. We will keep working. We won't get disappointed and quit. We will move forward."

lion DOLA grant, and received general applause from the large crowd at the meeting.

"This is for the construction

parts to this, but this is a really big piece," Merkel said. "We're pleased to be part of it and we expect that funding is available right

Continued on Page 6 ...

TRINIDAD STATE

Art of the Gun comes to Trinidad

Greg Boyce
Trinidad State

Next month the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art, in cooperation with Trinidad State and its renowned gunsmithing program, will feature "Art of the Gun," a gun show highlighting the craftsmanship and history of American guns. The show will run Friday night through Sunday, the weekend of August 12, at the Mitchell Museum located at 150 E. Main Street in Trinidad.

Guns on display will include three from the muse-

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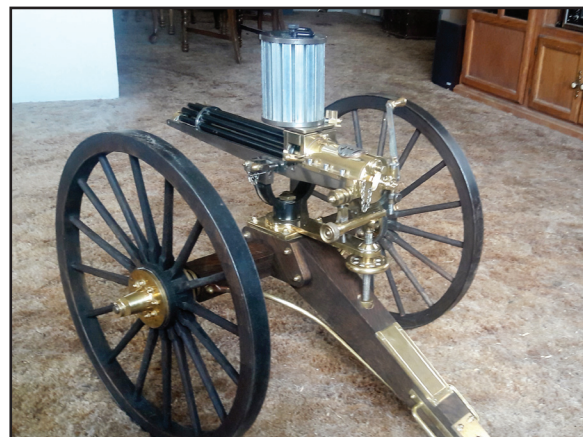


Photo courtesy Trinidad State

A replica of a Gatling gun built by Paul Moore of Aguilar.



Photo courtesy Relay for Life, Las Animas County

RELAY FOR LIFE

Annual Relay event hits Central Park on Saturday

Staff Report
The Chronicle-News

"My personal story and why I am so passionate in the fight against cancer is I personally know over 50 family or friends, and a pet, that have had cancer," said Kendra Doherty, event chair and volunteer for Roar for Relay for Life the Las Animas County event. "I am only 37 years old, that's more people than years I have been alive. That is way too many loved ones, so that is why I fight back against cancer. Hopefully someday cancer has been eradicated. That is why I relay."

The relay this year is this Saturday from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. at Central Park in Trinidad. Gate fees are \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids, with children seven-years-old and under free. As always, teams and team members,

cancer survivors and their caregivers are also free. According to organizers, the cancer survivor dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. with the luminaria ceremony starting at 8 p.m.

A volleyball tournament with \$10 sign-up fee is also being held at the event (for more information on the tournament see below) along with live music, a car and bike show, carnival and yard games and food and other vendors.

"Join us for too much fun while we remember loved ones affected by cancer," said a release from organizers. "We are also changing things up a bit and holding more of a celebration, or mini festival. Enjoy live music by Levi Creek and ETC bands, Kruizers Car and Bike Club Show and Shine, fun crowd challenges, fantastic food and other

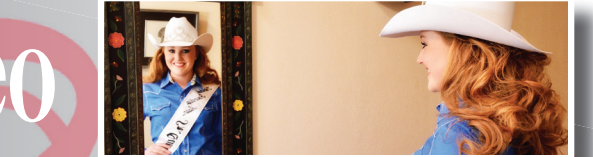
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Sweet Hearts of the Rodeo



Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Last year's junior and senior Trinidad Round-up Rodeo queens, Micheli Walton and Anne Sporfeder, won crowns that took them all the way to a major feature in Western Horseman magazine. The 2016 competition is taking entries now from young horsewomen ages 8 to 21.



In a fast changing world, rodeo queens are still Western horse culture's best ambassadors

Tim Keller and Christina Boyce
The Chronicle-News

Part 2 of 2 Parts

"In a time where you have iPhones, instant Wi-Fi, fast food, everything here and now," says former rodeo queen Ashlee Rose Mills, "it's easy to forget the traditions that our country has. Rodeo is such a great tradition that needs to stay special to our country."

The skills she's developed through queen competitions are taking her far. "You address your weak

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WEATHER WATCH

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. West wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Sunday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high

near 85. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

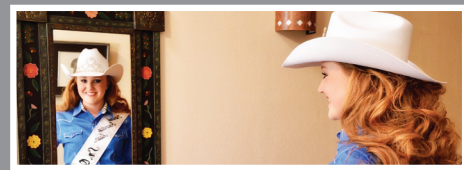
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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 Hotel
719-845-0102

Sweet Hearts of the Rodeo *Life as a Rodeo Queen*



... Continued from Page 1



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Western Horseman magazine turned this photo of Janna Mills, (above left) taken in March in Trinidad's Las Animas County arena, into the Queen of Hearts playing card for its June feature that grew out of a Chronicle-News editorial. Last year's junior and senior Trinidad Round-up Rodeo queens, Micheli Walton and Anne Sporleder, won crowns that took them all the way to a major feature in Western Horseman magazine. The 2016 competition is taking entries now from young horsewomen ages 8 to 21.

areas," she says. "You say, 'This didn't work, what am I going to change to improve?' You always compete to win. You win or you learn. And as a rodeo queen, you represent something so much greater than yourself."

One semester after her Miss Rodeo America competition, Mills graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in criminology and minor in psychology. In May 2017 she'll graduate from UNM Law School. "I want to work my way up to the New Mexico District Attorney's Office," she says. "My heart is with the victims."

Around her hometown, she's already known as Judge Mills. In 2014, she became the municipal judge, the youngest elected official in the Eagle Nest's history. She credits horses with teaching her faith, patience, and persistence. "When you're bucked off, you get back on. You learn to push through and not quit."

Although six years younger than her sister, Janna Mills admits to a fiercely competitive nature that's kept her close on her sister's heels. "When Ashlee started riding alone, I had to ride alone," Janna says. Her own successes included competing at the National Little Britches Rodeo Association Finals in goat tying. She started entering rodeo queen competitions one year after Ashlee and she's since won many of the same titles, plus New Mexico State Fair Rodeo Queen, a title that eluded her sister.

"Entering rodeo queen programs has taught me to set goals and work through the ranks," Janna says. "I started in a county program and I'm working my way to the national level. Anything is possible. I'm starting a career as an elementary school teacher and I want to become New Mexico's Secretary of Education. My success will depend on the skills I've learned through rodeo queen programs."

Miss Rodeo America's Dayna Jenkins says, "Everyone knows that earning Eagle Scout takes hard work, that it's a pinnacle of success. We want people to realize that rodeo queens go through a comparable pro-

cess." Competition typically lasts all day at the local level, several days at the state level, and a full week for Miss Rodeo America. Judging includes a personal interview, an on-camera media interview, a prepared speech, extemporaneous questions that include current events and state facts, and modeling Western fashions. A girl competing unopposed must still pass every segment.

A prescribed horsemanship pattern, done in the arena, is followed by a horsemanship interview. A written test on horsemanship and rodeo is so rigorous that Ashlee Rose Mills credits it with helping prepare her for law school. In addition to equine science and horsemanship, test

represented Trinidad Roundup Rodeo at four other Colorado Pro Rodeo Association events. She's especially loved appearing at the National Western Stock Show in Denver for the past three years. "I've been fascinated by rodeo queens since our first trip to Cheyenne Frontier Days when I was seven," she says. "Getting their autograph sheets is special. You get to meet someone in the rodeo."

Now kids line up to meet her. In Grand Junction last September, "I went through all 75 of my autograph sheets in one evening. Kids lined up to meet me. They get excited."

"Part of the job is being accessible," Janna Mills says. "You're part of the community. As a queen, I've attended everything from football games to flea markets to concerts. I've traveled to various PRCA rodeos. It's opened my eyes to seeing that there are thousands of children out there that love horses, love rodeo, but don't have the opportunity. People love horses."

Her sister Ashlee created a weekly rodeo show at KRTN radio in Raton. "It allowed me to promote rodeo, and then when I went to Cheyenne they had me announce the saddle bronc event on the radio. You encounter people who have never experienced rodeo. You're an ambassador and a promoter. The more crowds you can bring in, the better support that rodeo has."

This year's Western Horseman Award honoree, Pam Minick, followed a similar route from Miss Rodeo America to a successful media career. "All young women who compete in rodeo queen contests learn life skills that help them in any situation," she said in these pages (WH Aug 2014). "They learn poise and confidence, learn to communicate better to an audience, learn to smile when they don't want to, talk to people when they may not want to, get up before the crack of dawn and stay smiling until the last light is turned out in the arena."

"It's true that stereotypes have hurt our

programs," Ashlee Rose Mills says, "but the reality is that becoming a rodeo queen is a huge accomplishment. You've studied and practiced and impressed the judges. They've chosen you to be the one out there promoting their program."

Mississippi's DeShannon Davis says, "The stereotypes of the pageant world in general are strong, but it's up to each queen to work hard to dispel those stereotypes." Miss Rodeo America's Dayna Jenkins says, "The media is our best ally in fighting negative stereotypes. This year's Miss Rodeo America, Katherine Merck from Washington, is in law school and she knows how to weld. Having her in the media helps eliminate stereotypes."

Jenkins sees nothing wrong with the way rodeo queens look. "You can be conservative without looking like your grandma. In order to be a rodeo queen, the girls have to be conservative. They're representing ranching and the Western way of life, where you wear the clothes to get the job done."

Concerned about falling participation in local and state contests, Jenkins likes to say, "We're burning daylight! What are you going to do?" Local programs might redouble their promotion and recruitment via the media including effective websites, Facebook, Instagram and other social media can help spread the gospel and bring people.

Janna Mills has gone further. She recruited her own competition, enrolling three girls, even loaning them horses and giving them lessons. She's presented monthly summer riding clinics. Four kids came in June; by September the group had grown to 12. This summer she's recruiting her own rodeo team, helping with everything from lessons to entry forms, "to open up doors to kids who would never have that opportunity," she says. In a fast changing world, there's plenty of room for innovation.

Anne Sporleder and Micheli Walton like the challenges of rodeo queen competitions, and they love being public ambassadors for rodeo, ranching and the Western lifestyle. Most of all, though, they enjoy living that lifestyle.

They are horsewomen far more often than they are rodeo queens. Crossing a high snow-covered pasture on the Sugarite Canyon Ranch, they're just two Western schoolgirls having fun, laughing, riding horses.

"Sweet Hearts of the Rodeo" grew from Christina Boyce's September 2015 Chronicle-News editorial, "Tough Enough to Compete." This feature first appeared in Western Horseman magazine, June 2016, and is used with permission.

Want to be a Rodeo Queen?

The 106th Annual Trinidad Round-Up Rodeo will be held over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-5, 2016.

- Queen applications will be accepted through Aug. 16, 2016
- Applicants (Junior ages 8-15, Senior ages 15-21) from Las Animas, Otero, Huerfano, Baca counties in Colorado, and Colfax and Union counties in New Mexico are eligible
- Competition will be all day Sat., Aug. 20, at the Las Animas County Fairgrounds arena.
- Queen will be crowned at the Saturday night dance Sept 3, 8-12 p.m. at JuJo's in Trinidad, with Black Water Draw band.
- Applications are available online at website or in person at Buhr Chiropractic.
- Applications must be postmarked by Aug. 15 or submitted in person at Buhr Chiropractic, 908 E. Main St., Trinidad, by Aug. 16.
- For more information call Kristy Buhr 719-859-0048.

questions cover PRCA leaders, names of stock contractors, hall of fame members, ProRodeo Sports News, the 300-page PRCA Rule Book and the 600-page PRCA Media Guide.

"Studying the PRCA Rule Book helped me read cases in law school," Mills says. The horsemanship and rodeo portions of the competition count almost 50 percent of the final result.

Each winner spends a year or more representing rodeo and her community. Micheli Walton and Anne Sporleder have ridden in parades and helped present children's events at the rodeo. Anne has



Miss Rodeo New Mexico 2013, Ashlee Rose Mills (right) represented her community, her state, and rodeo itself at the Miss Rodeo America competition in Las Vegas, NV. She also created a rodeo radio show on Raton's KRTN-FM. Janna Mills, above left, and older sister Ashlee Rose Mills, have both used rodeo queen programs as springboards for successful service-oriented careers in education and law, respectively.