



TUESDAY  
MARCH 9, 2010

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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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## THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 2 for all SCHOOL EVENTS

### TUESDAY

#### Pastor's Study

Meets 9 a.m. Tues @ Zion's Lutheran Fellowship Hall. All Pastors welcome.

#### City Council

Trinidad City Council work session meets 1:30 p.m. Tues @ City Hall Council Chambers, third floor.

#### Kiwanis

Kiwanis Luncheon 12 p.m. every Tues @ A Little Catering Company, 916 Arizona. Bernadette Davis from the Salvation Army will be today's Guest Speaker.

#### Pierian Club

Lunch & Program meeting 12 p.m. Tues @ the Fairway Grill, Cougar Canyon Country Club, 304 Shanahan Drive.

#### Rho

Master Sorority meets for lunch 1 p.m. Tues @ Chef Liu's, 1423 Santa Fe Trail Dr. All members are encouraged to attend.

#### Political Events

The public is invited to meet & greet Bernie Buescher, Democratic candidate for Colorado Secretary of State 3:30 - 5 p.m. Tues @ the Leone Center on the TSJC campus.

#### Lady Eagles

Lady Eagles Auxiliary #179 meets 6 p.m. Tues @ Eagle's Hall.

#### TAAC

Trinidad Area Arts Council Board meets 6 p.m. Tues. @ First Street Gallery, 150 E. First St. Call (719) 846-1441 for information.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 10 am, then a slight chance of snow showers between 10 am and 11 am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.



**Tonight:** A chance of rain showers before 11pm, then a chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**Tomorrow:** A chance of snow showers before 11 am, then a chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. North wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.



**Tomorrow Night:** A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. North northeast wind around 5 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 3/8/10  
Hoehne #20 10/7/1865  
Trinidad Lake accounting:  
Release .12 acre feet  
Inflow 120.12 acre feet  
Evaporation 3.00 acre feet  
Content 20550 acre feet  
Elevation 6180.95 feet  
Precipitation .76 inches  
Downstream river call:  
JMR 12/31/1948  
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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## Workers install birdcage



Photos by David J. Santistevan Jr.

Phase II of the Coal Miners Memorial Project is well under way and nearing the next step to completion. On Monday afternoon workers hoisted the birdcage onto its base in downtown Trinidad at the Coal Miners Memorial Park. The birdcage structure was built by Tony Paradisa and the staff at Topar Welding. Later on this week the canary going inside the cage will be installed. The canary was sculpted by Susan Norris, an artist from Raton. The canary was used to detect carbon monoxide and other harmful gasses, helping protect miners in the 1800s and early 1900s. Undetected poisonous gases cost many miners their lives. The Southern Coal Miners Memorial Committee will begin taking bids for the fountain part of Phase II.

## School board considers three calendar options

By RICHARD SITTS  
The Chronicle-News

Three proposed school calendar alternatives will again be up for discussion at tonight's Trinidad School District #1 Board of Education meeting. A survey on the three proposed calendars for the 2010-11 school year will be sent to all certified teachers and administration, certified and uncertified staff this Friday.

Meanwhile, the school board is expected to set a date for a public meeting on the proposed calendars, probably later this month. Ideally, District Superintendent Mike Tranter said he would like to see it scheduled before the district's spring break, March 22-26. The meeting would be held in either the high school library or the middle school auditorium.

The staff survey and input from the public will be additional data for the board to consider, but which school calendar to adopt is the board's final decision to make. Tranter said he is hopeful that the board can make its decision on which calendar to go with by its first regular meeting next month, on April 13.

The current five-day 2009-10 school calendar includes 14 two-hour early student releases on Fridays and 164 instructional days, from the first day of school on Aug. 25, 2009, to the last day of school on May 25.

There are three snow days built into the calendar and 174 teacher days, including eight in-

service/work days, two parent-teacher days, and 14 two-hour early release Professional Learning Communities (PLC) days. These are days in which teachers work together in small teams to talk about curriculum, students' progress and student achievement. Teacher hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m., for a total of 1,358 contract hours.

Following are student hours for the District #1 schools and the annual instructional hours, compared to the state's required minimum:

Eckhart - 7:55 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. - 995 hours vs. 968 state minimum.

Fisher's Peak - 7:55 a.m. to 3:16 p.m. - 1,025 hours vs. 968 state minimum.

TMS/THS - 7:55 a.m. - 3:34 p.m. - 1,085 hours vs. 1,056 state minimum.

The school board is in the midst of considering the following three alternatives for the 2010-11 school year.

#### Alternative 1.

Same calendar as the current school year described above, with classes beginning on Monday, Aug. 23 and ending on Monday, May 23, 2011, with three snow days built into the calendar.

#### Alternative 2.

Five days a week in the fall and four in the spring. District #1 had been on a 5/4 calendar for many years before switching back to the five-day-a-week schedule a couple of years ago,

Tranter said. This calendar does not allow any PLCs or early release Fridays in the fall for professional development. For this reason, Tranter said, he has gone on the record as being against Alternative 2.

This calendar allows for 160 instructional days and there is no change from the current calendar in instructional hours. Classes would begin on Monday, Aug. 23 and end on Thursday, May 26, 2011, with snow days made up on spring Fridays.

There would be 174 teacher days, including five in-service/work days, two parent-teacher days, and 13 four-hour PLC/work Fridays in the spring. There would be no change in teacher hours.

#### Alternative 3

A four-day week that adds 26 minutes to the instructional day for students and 35 minutes to the teacher day. This calendar includes 150 instructional days.

Following are student hours for the District #1 schools and the annual instructional hours, compared to the state's required minimum:

Eckhart - 7:55 a.m. to 3:31 p.m. - 995 hours vs. 968 state minimum.

Fisher's Peak - 7:55 a.m. to 3:42 p.m. - 1,025 hours vs. 968 state minimum.

TMS/THS - 7:55 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 1,085 hours vs. 1,056 state minimum.

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Photos by Tim Keller

Stone Phillips played Father.



Spenser Willden & Bella Sparaco play Hansel & Gretel.



Megan Salazar is Rapunzel in her tower.

## Raton Youth Theater brings hilarity to Grimm Tales

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

RATON - There was only one flaw in last weekend's Raton Youth Theater production of The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon at Shuler Theater: it closed after only three performances so people who learn of it this week will not get the opportunity to share in what a few hundred audience members are still talking about. This was the funniest show I've seen since before any of these cast members were born. Despite being only the first or second time on stage for many, the actors simply owned the show. With few exceptions, they left all inhibitions at the door and made their stage a children's playground of make-believe and silliness.

Two adults deserve kudos for extraordinary work. Prolific young Texas playwright Don Zolidis has created a madcap romp filled with over-the-top laughs. Directing three dozen kids in this chaotic



Clair Willden and Gabe Padilla hosted the show as narrators.

mix must have been like wrangling cats in a play yard, but director Gail Dixon-Willden has again worked miracles in turning children into actors. She was aided by assistant director Sara Kowalski, technical director Cian Hazan, technical advisor Bill Donati, and producer Bill Fegan. Ursula

Garcia and Misty Gomez deserve a nod for creating the show's outstanding costumes, perfectly suited to the children's fairy-tale comedy.

But this show belonged to the kids. Led by young stage manager Mallorie Salazar, the ensemble wrung every laugh out of a script

that provided laughs in layers, from slapstick to subtle, with some surprisingly subversive innuendo and risqué double entendres: the adults in the audience may have gotten more laughs than the small children.

Narrators Clair Willden and Gabe Padilla hosted the show. With more lines and stage time than anyone else, they delivered their lines with polish - and baited audience members to great effect. This is a play that repeatedly erases the line between stage and audience.

Newcomer Zach Salazar was a revelation, a born comic actor who nearly stole the show with his tour-de-force performance playing all the auxiliary parts - simultaneously - to Dale Proctor's whining Cinderella. He played Prince Charming, the evil stepmother, all three stepsisters, and a flock of birds. His frenetic cross-dressing costume changes were side-splittingly funny and, finally, unforgettable.

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Asia Gentry's Little Red (of the Hood), right, puts big bad Wolf Jeff Redlick in his place.

## Raton Youth Theater brings hilarity to Grimm Tales

Continued from page 1

Raton High School seniors Jeff Redlick, Amanda Mehn, and Proctor have been regulars in local youth theater; their experience showed. There were simply too many other fine performances to single out all of them, though it's impossible not to mention Stone Phillips' Rumpelstiltskin, Nathaly Torres' Enchantress and Dwarf, Megan Salazar's Rapunzel, Jacob Sanchez's Frog Prince, Asia Gentry's Little Red, and Mariah Fleming's Devil's Grandma. I heard each of them mentioned in animated conversations about the show's highlights.

The play's execution was fearless and flawless, an astonishing accomplishment for such a large troupe of such young and most-

ly-inexperienced actors. Director Gail Dixon-Willden's arrival in Raton less than two years ago spurred a renaissance in local theater, for both children and adults, and this production showed why. She has a great talent for bringing out the best in a script, and an even greater talent for developing impressive performances from her actors of all ages.

The large audience seemed to consist mostly of Raton residents – I noticed one couple from Trinidad, one family from Folsom – but if the Shuler Theater continues presenting such high-quality entertainments produced by local talent, it should expect lines of cars coming from all surrounding communities, repeatedly filling the house for such delightful shows.

## School board considers three calendar options

Continued from page 1

Classes would begin Monday, Aug. 23 and end on Thursday, May 26, 2011, with snow days made up on spring Fridays.

There are 162 teacher days, including three in-service days, two parent-teacher days, and 14 four-hour PLC/work Fridays spread throughout the year. Teacher hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., for 1,358 total contract hours.

Tranter said that Alternative 3 would save the district about \$55,000 a year.

The state requires a minimum of 160 instructional days, 10 more than Alternative 3 offers, but school districts can receive a waiver to offer fewer days, Tranter said. The state, he added, is more concerned with the total number of hours of instructional time offered. All three alternatives described above offer well over the minimum number of hours required by the state.

"There's no research to support that kids are either helped or hurt by a four-day

calendar in terms of student achievement," Tranter said.

However, some kids in the district are poor and/or do not come from the best home environments, Tranter said. Some come to school and are able to have a healthful breakfast and lunch every day. Going to a four-day week would mean these kids would be back in their home environment an additional day. Tranter said he is concerned with the social ramifications of a four-day week.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### GENERAL INFO

■ Calling all talent! Trinidad High School Key Club Talent Show & fund raiser. Sign up in the High School office to participate, all appropriate talent is welcome. Prizes will be awarded. Contact Joanna Griego @ <joangriego@trinidad.k12.co.us> for more information.

■ Scholarship – Miners' Colfax Medical Center Auxiliary \$1,000 Medical Scholarship offered per year to assist one or more Colfax County high school graduates interested in Medical or Health related fields. Contact Shirley Faver at 575-445-4988 for more information. Deadline is April 5.

■ Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Iota Chapter is offering a \$1,000

Scholarship for a female education major in the Raton, Trinidad, or Walsenburg area. If interested contact Shari at <scholarship.dkg@gmail.com> for eligibility requirement information. Deadline is March 19, 2010.

### TUESDAY

■ Primero - Board of Education Executive Session @ 5 p.m. / Regular Session @ 6 p.m. Tues in the School Cafeteria, 2200 Hwy 12, Weston.

■ Trinidad Schools - Board of Education regular meeting 6 p.m. Tues @ the Administration Office, 215 South Maple St.

■ Trinidad - Middle School Band Boosters meet 6 p.m. in the TMS Band Room, 614 Park. Please call Michelle @ 846-4411 for more information. All parents are encouraged to attend.

### WEDNESDAY

■ Hoehne - Booster Club monthly meeting 5:30 p.m. Weds

@ the school. For more information call Brenda @ 859-5168.

■ Trinidad - High School Advisory Board meets 6 p.m. Weds in the School Library, 816 West Street to discuss next year's calendar.

### THURSDAY

■ Eckhart Elementary - Family Literacy Night meets 5:30 - 7 p.m. Thurs. Admission: \$4/Adults, \$2/Students & kids under 5 are FREE.

### FRIDAY

■ Trinidad - 10th Annual Key Club Talent Show 7 - 8:30 p.m. @ the Trinidad Middle School Auditorium, 614 Park Street.

### SATURDAY

■ March 13th - Craft Fair 9 a.m. - 4p.m. @ Eckhart Elementary School, 1021 Pierce Street. Come out for a day of fun with children's activities, the "jumpy" house, craft booths, food & more.

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