

THE FINE PRINT

American Legion

There will not be a meeting for American Legion today.

Board of Directors

Board of Directors meeting at 5 p.m. today at FNB.

Holy Trinity Academy

HTA home and school association will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. today at the Sullivan Center. Parents and grandparents are welcome, for any questions please call Bobbie Keys at 680-4278.

Fiesta Meeting

There will be a Fiesta Meeting for all members of La Casa at 6:30 p.m. today at La Casa.

Quilt Club meeting

The Bound Together Quilt Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Fairgrounds. For more information, call (719) 846-3855.000

Santa Fe Trail Festival Committee

Santa Fe Trail Festival Committee will meet at noon on Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room. For additional information call 846-9285.

SPPRCD meeting

Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the District Office.

Slow Pitch Softball

Men's slow pitch softball will have a meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Community Center. **Continued on page 14**

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming west southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest between 15 and 20 mph.

Tomorrow night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9pm, then a slight chance of showers between 9pm and midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a north-northwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/5/09. South Side priority #73 11/1/1875.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 163.94 acre ft.; Inflow, 213.30 acre ft.; Evaporation, 9.36 acre ft.; Content, 2,7763 acre ft.; Elevation, 6190.65; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Highland 5/31/1866.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo courtesy of TSJC

Kassandra Rieke with her welding rig.

Not just for boys, cowgirls may apply

Special to The Chronicle-News

She is one of a kind, purposeful, eager and earnest, and TSJC student Kassandra Rieke has a welding rig and is ready to travel.

Rieke, who grew up on a ranch in Meeker, Colorado, was just 12 years-old when her uncle first taught her to weld. Home-schooled cowgirls aren't afraid of a little work, and when she was sixteen, Rieke started running heavy equipment, working in a big gravel pit in Meeker for about a year.

This led to a job she liked better, and the beginning of a career. A friend took her to work as a welder's helper

where they "usually worked six twelves," she said. "That is six days a week/12 hours per day?" she was asked. "Yes, you have to love what you're doing," Rieke said. "One night we went out on a rig call and worked 38 hours straight," she recalled happily.

An outdoor girl, who likes to hunt and fish, Rieke said she loved that job, being in the field, seeing new things, and working in the wilderness. She also rides horses, and "rodeo's a little," and says that working with horses and her hanging tree cow dog have taught her patience, a quality that is useful in welding.

After her family moved to Pueblo, Rieke, who had graduated from an online high school, decided to look for a welding school, "to hone" her skills. One of the schools she toured was Trinidad State Junior College because she had heard good things about its Energy Production Industrial Construction (EPIC) Program from friends who are welders and equipment operators.

She met welding instructors, Vern Paulsen and Holt Tuck, and thought they were "real nice people."

"I wanted to learn the (natural gas)

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Photos by Tim Keller

Nathan Green gets serious about trimming out Des Moines School's long line of elm trees.

Des Moines School gets a community clean-up

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Following the model of the successful annual community clean-up, Des Moines School got a makeover Saturday morning when twenty community members showed up in work clothes to pick up trash, trim trees, and clear brush.

The clean-up idea came from the beautification work group of the school's Rural Revitalization Initiative (RRI), led by Pam Sorenson and Kelly Hill. At 8:30 Saturday morning,

Sorenson, a former school board member, was cleaning debris from tall green grass in a far corner of the campus with former Des Moines School superintendents Janie Burchard and Midge Graham. Graham found a neat mound of empty Heineken bottles and a \$100,000 bill - in play money.

A hundred yards away, current superintendent Garrett Bosarge was trimming wild branches from a row of elm trees lining Des Moines Avenue. In the lawn near the school's entrance, Principal Ray Churchman carried a

large trash bag as he picked up litter. Scattered all along the front of the campus, community members worked individually and in pairs.

With graduation approaching, Bosarge said the timing couldn't be better. "We're short-handed in our maintenance staff due to budget constraints. This community takes great pride in our school, so they're out this morning to help spruce it up."

Graham recalled earlier clean-ups that were done by students during

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Health Department appointments, extending term limits head Commissioners agenda

By David Santistevan Jr.
The Chronicle News

The regular meeting of the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners only had a few items of interest Tuesday terms were given to the reappointed Las Animas County board members of the bi-county health department. The other topic of interest were the board approving a resolution seeking voter authorization to extend term limits for the office of Las Animas County Commissioner.

Commissioner and newly appointed chair to the health department Jim Vigil announced that terms have been set for the Las Animas County members serving on the bi-county board. The terms were selected basically out of a hat or in this case a cup. Tony Hass will serve one year. John Rino will serve two years, David Santistevan Jr. was appointed to three years, and George Torres has four years to serve.

At the last meeting Vigil decided to keep the Las Animas County side of the board the same.

One of the big issues brought up at a special work session last month was to extend term limits, the board has been under the two term umbrella since it was voted on back in 1995. The importance of the wording in this is that the board is only authorizing the referral of a ballot measure to be placed before the electorate of Las Animas County at the Nov. 3, 2009 combined election asking the voters of Las Animas County to extend term limits for the office of County Commissioner. This measure is asking the voters to extend term limits to a third term, but not eliminate or lift them totally. The issue was brought up last month at a special work session and came with strong support from many county residents who spoke about the excellent job the

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McInnis urges Ritter to veto Piñon Canyon bill

STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) — Former U.S. congressman Scott McInnis is urging Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter to veto a bill that would bar the sale or lease of land in southeast Colorado to expand an Army training site.

McInnis says he sent the letter to the governor because he thinks it would be a mistake for the state to interfere in negotiations for use of the land.

McInnis also says he also fears the legislation will be used in Congress to demonstrate statewide opposition to the project.

The Army says it needs more room to accommodate new weapons, new tactics and additional soldiers, but many ranchers near Piñon Canyon oppose the move, warning it could permanently damage range land.

McInnis, a Republican who has expressed interest in running for governor next year, said he worked on the issue in Congress and he believes the bill is premature.

"Things like this work out, but it takes time. I saw it firsthand. We're getting to a point where I think this will be resolved," McInnis said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

In his letter to Ritter, McInnis said the bill is a mistake.

"My experience in Congress tells me that this legislation will be used as a tool to preclude any effort to reach a compromise by either party on this issue. It will be submitted in congressional hearings and in the Congressional Record as a clear demonstration of statewide opposition to this project.

"I believe a compromise can be reached on this important issue that takes into account both the needs of

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