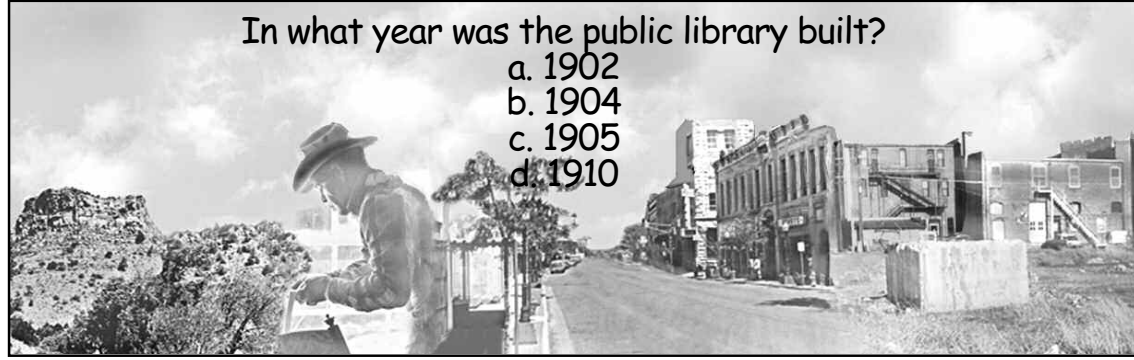


# TRIVIA ~ DEAR ABBY

## Trinidad Trivia

Exclusively in The Chronicle-News



In what year was the public library built?

- a. 1902
- b. 1904
- c. 1905
- d. 1910

Yesterday's answer: 1907

## WHAT'S UP TODAY?

Today is Tuesday, November 24, the 328th day of 2009. There are 37 days left in the year.

### Highlights in history on this date:

- 1961 - U.N. Security Council calls on U.N. members to make Africa a nuclear weapons-free zone.
- 1963 - Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, is shot to death by

Jack Ruby in Dallas, Texas.

1977 - Archaeologist says tomb uncovered near Salonika, Greece, is that of Macedon's King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great.

1996 - A court annuls election results for the Belgrade, Yugoslavia, city council where an opposition coalition appeared to have won a majority. More than 30,000 people demonstrate against the ruling.

1997 - The Taliban rulers of Afghanistan agree to uproot the poppy crop, the source of half the world's heroin supply.

1998 - America Online confirms it will buy Netscape Communications in a deal worth \$10 billion.

1999 - After 16 months of negotiations, the European Union and Mexico reach an accord establishing the most comprehensive free trade deal ever negotiated by the European body and the first with a Latin American partner.

2008 - Muslim charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, and five of its former leaders are convicted by a federal jury in Dallas, Texas, of funneling millions of dollars to the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

### Today's Birthdays:

Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677); Abdel-Ilah, crown prince of Iraq (1913-1958); William F. Buckley, Jr., U.S. magazine publisher and conservative thinker (1925-2008); Alfredo Kraus, Spanish tenor (1927-1999); Arthur Chaskalson, first chief justice of South African Constitutional Court (1931-); Billy Connolly, Scottish actor/comedian (1942-).

# Animal lovers blast grandma who abandoned children's pet

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in regard to the letter from "On the Fence in Nevada" (Sept. 11) (whose mother-in-law dumped her grand-children's cat on the side of the road). I work as an animal safety officer for the sheriff's office, and I also volunteer for a local animal nonprofit.



Dear Abby  
Jeanne Phillips

There has been an increase in pet dumping as the economy has worsened. While the information you offered was accurate, there are many other reasons not to abandon an animal.

What "Loretta" did was illegal. It's called animal endangerment, animal abuse or animal abandonment. Because the cat did not belong to her, she could also have been brought up on charges of theft. Such charges can carry heavy fines and jail time.

"On the Fence" should know that there are local organizations that can help her brother-in-law by providing temporary foster care for his pet until he can get back on his feet. Their members are people who will want the cat in their home and who will love it and look after it. - DAWN IN COLORADO

**DEAR DAWN: Thank you for pointing out that what Loretta did was illegal and that there are options for providing care for family pets. Readers were outraged and some went so far as suggesting that Loretta herself be dumped by the side of the road with no food, water or cell phone and left to find her way home. Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: That letter made my blood boil! I'm surprised that "Fence" needed to write for advice. She should never have stood silently by and let "Precious" be returned to her abuser. As you said, this was a virtual death sentence for Precious, and it was a miracle that she ended up in a shelter. The mother-in-law who watched the family hunt for the cat day after day has a sadistic streak a mile wide.

Abby, shelters across the nation are already overcrowded as a result of animals surrendered by their families because of the troubled economy. Precious stood little chance of being adopted and I am relieved her family located her. - FELINE FANCIER, ROYAL OAK, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked, appalled and horrified by the letter about Precious. How awful! I can't believe anyone with a conscience could do such a thing to an innocent creature. And to her own son and grandchildren!

How she could watch them search day in and day out, then watch them re-adopt their cat is beyond me. I hope she reads this and knows what a low-life I think she is. "On the Fence" should tell her brother-in-law what happened to keep such a thing from ever happening again. - HORRIFIED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: The family cat being dumped by the side of the road because the mother-in-law no longer wanted to take care of it is beyond inexcusable. It was flat-out mean-spirited. "Ray," his wife and their kids were already experiencing challenging times and Loretta not only created an unnecessary expense but added to the stress on the family.

Pets provide great calm and stability when our lives are in turmoil. If Loretta no longer wanted the responsibility of the pet, why didn't she make other arrangements, like boarding it in a kennel? If I was her husband, I would have left her on the side of the road and brought the cat home. The cat would have provided him with unconditional love, something it appears Loretta is incapable of feeling. What she did shows she doesn't value her relationship with her grandchildren. - JOHN IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90068.*

© 2009, UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**Answer to previous Word Scrimmage**

**WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD HAMBRICK**  
© 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

**T<sub>2</sub> U<sub>3</sub> N<sub>2</sub> E<sub>1</sub> U<sub>3</sub> P<sub>6</sub>** 1st DOWN = **24**

**E<sub>1</sub> I<sub>2</sub> D<sub>3</sub> O<sub>2</sub> L<sub>2</sub> O<sub>2</sub> N<sub>2</sub>** 2nd DOWN = **74**

**P<sub>6</sub> O<sub>2</sub> W<sub>7</sub> D<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub> R<sub>2</sub> S<sub>2</sub>** 3rd DOWN = **123**

**O<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub> C<sub>6</sub> A<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>7</sub> E<sub>1</sub> D<sub>3</sub>** 4th DOWN = **83**

**AVERAGE GAME 195-205 PTS** JUDD'S TOTAL = **304**  
11-23-09

# Trinidad area PERA retirees hear proposal for repair

Continued from page 1

work, building its foundation, making comprehensive recommendations involving cost of living adjustments and how to achieve the 2/2/2 Plus goal of creating shared responsibilities, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the plan, while respecting Colorado taxpayers and continuing to provide some degree of inflation protection for PERA beneficiaries that reflects today's economic realities.

"These projections show what will happen if we don't do something at Colorado PERA," Gatlin said. Plan payout projections calculated out over the next 20 years look rather ominous if serious adjustments aren't done now, he explained.

In other words, any new plan will involve some streamlining, adding specific cost of living restrictions and asking PERA members to have to bite the bullet a bit short-term in order to sustain the plan long-term. Gatlin said lots of pressures are being exerted on PERA to change its plan contribution rates as a result of the economic downturn.

Some of the plan recommendations include the following:

- creating a five-year vesting period for the 50 percent refund match for future contributions.

- requiring the 8 percent employee contribution to PERA for working after a member retires.

- revising the COLA (cost of living adjustment) effective date to July.

- requiring a full calendar year of benefits to be eligible for COLA.

- expanding the post Jan. 1, 2007, provisions regarding retirement effective date and benefit indexing applicable to persons not eligible to draw a benefit on the effective date of the statute.

Also being considered are plans to revise the existing statutory benefit tables to increase the reduction factors for early retirement and to modify the age and service requirement for members not yet vested (except state troopers) to the Rule of 90.

Gatlin stressed that pension plan changes need to be phased in over a period of years so people's behavior patterns aren't altered and everybody decides to retire at once over concerns they won't be fully vested. He also discussed the economical pros and cons of PERA members contin-

uing to work elsewhere after retirement from their PERA employers.

"The bottom line is we want to have a plan of shared responsibilities and we want to ensure the sustainability of the plan," said Gatlin. "If we don't make changes now, we will be looking at adding \$1 billion to the plan's future liabilities."

For information, call the PERA office in Denver at 1-800-759-PERA (7372) or access its website at [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org).

## THE FINE PRINT

Continued from page 1  
**Kiwanis**

Kiwanis Luncheon - 12 p.m. Every Tuesday - A Little Catering Company - 916 Arizona.

### City Council

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

### Diabetic Education

Class for Tues. 1:30 p.m. at

# Raton headliners star in Des Moines show

Continued from page 1

and humored a relatively tiny harp, with wire strings and held by one hand. She replayed the Gregorian chant that closed the first series, to let the audience experience the contrasts produced by playing one piece on two different harps. Then she played a lullaby with the lovely title, "Woe Betide Thy Weary Body," followed by "Castle Kelly." Anderson closed with "The First Noel," augmented with jazz chords.

That left Havill to close with a piece both dramatic

and humorous from his recent "historical medical adventure," set in Washington State, circa 1891, Race for the Dying. Havill, who first came to New Mexico from upstate New York to study English at UNM in 1965, has been an English teacher in Grants and Ruidoso. He and his wife Kathleen retired to Raton in 2002. All along, he's written novels - including four westerns, sixteen Posadas County mysteries, and Race for the Dying, from which he read a dining table scene in which the plot turns on a basket of

succulent peaches. Holding a dripping peach between thumb and forefinger, his character points out that peach pits are poisonous, that even something as lovely and perfect as this peach has a dark side.

Audience members milled afterward to ask questions of Havill and Anderson, some buying books and CDs. Boyce was pleased to also sell art off the gallery walls. As the last patron left, she began a daunting cleanup job with a smile on her face after a night of gratitude.

the Segundo Senior Center & 6:30 p.m. in the Hospital Cafeteria @ Mt. San Rafael. Topic: Nutrition Review, Menu Planning & Dining Out.

### County Health Dept.

H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic for target population - Tues. 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. @ Trinidad Health Dept., 412 Benedicta Ave.

### Women's Eagles

Women's Eagles Auxiliary 179 meeting - 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Eagle's Hall.

### Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus - Tues. 7 p.m. - KC Hall, South Commercial St. Trinidad.

### Masonic Lodge

AF&AM Trinidad Masonic Lodge No. 28 - Tues. 7:30 p.m. - 132 E. Main St. 2B1ASK1

### WEDNESDAY - Nov. 25

### Arthritis Exercise

Arthritis Exercise Class - Every Wed. - 9 a.m. at Corazon Square & 1 p.m. at Early Learning Center. Registration & information call: 845-1133 ext. 224.

### Playgroup

PAL Playgroup meets every Wednesday at Alta Vista, 415 S. Indiana, 9:30-11 a.m. Moms and caregivers with infants, ages birth to 3. Playroom is also available for use Tues & Thurs same time. Information: Martina at 846-4400.

### La Casa - Fiesta

Meeting for all members - Wed. 6:30 p.m. - La Casa in Jansen.

### THURSDAY - Nov. 26 THANKSGIVING DAY

### Zion Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Day Dinner - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ the Church - 613 Prospect. Donations welcome. Call Noreen Hazen at 846-2844 or the Lutheran Church @ 846-7785 for information or to request delivery of Thanksgiving Day meal.

### FRIDAY & WEEKEND EVENTS - Nov. 27-29

### Art Show

LaQuinta Inn featuring Arlys Krim, paintings, photos, handbags & throws. Friday - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Give the gift of art this season.

### La Casa in Jansen

Indoor Craft Show & Outside Flea Market Event - Fri. & Sat. - Nov. 27 & 28.

### City of Bethlehem

Raton Lions Club - Annual Christmas extravaganza - Lighting Ceremony on Sat. 5 p.m. Free and open to the public. Information: 575-445-3835. Runs Nov. 28 to Jan. 1.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

### School Benefit

Annual Walton Family Christmas Concert "An Evening of Joy" - Fri. Dec 11 @ First Christian Church, 1st & Walnut St., Trinidad. Tickets - \$10 - at the door or through Grace Christian School. Call 719-846-6133 for information. Proceeds go to Grace Christian.

### Fireman's Toy Drive

You can make a difference in a child's life this holiday season! Please consider dropping off a new toy or donation at one of the following locations: Bank of the West - Big R - Corazon Gallery - Century Savings - First National Bank - International Bank - McDonalds - Safeway. Volunteer are needed to wrap toys 6-9 p.m. on Fri. Dec 11 & 1-4 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. on Sat. Dec.12. Call Drew Gatlin @ 719-989-4863 for information. Thank you!

### Bikes for Kids

Waste Connections is sponsoring their annual "Bikes for Kids" Program. Please mail or take your donations to WASTE CONNECTIONS - 2600 Freedom Road, Trinidad, CO 81082 by Sat., Dec. 12. You can make your check payable to "Waste Connections - Christmas Promise." Please call Glen Trumble @ 719-846-6366 or 719-896-0050. Thank you!

### Drawing

St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store is now accepting names to be eligible for a drawing to be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, for 10 families who will be awarded Christmas gifts & clothes for their children. Must come in to register. For information call Isabel @ 846-2009.

### Vendors Wanted

La Casa in Jansen is looking for vendors for their Indoor Craft Show & Outside Flea Market Event to be held Friday & Saturday, Nov. 27 & 28. Hurry! Space is limited so please call to reserve your place 859-4478 or 680-1947. Fee is \$25 for two days

**IT'S TIME TO LOOK AT YOUR MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR 2010**

**Between November 15 and December 31, 2009**

Consumers can change their Medicare prescription drug plans for 2010. There are many options to consider, including plans which provide both health coverage and prescription drug coverage, called Medicare Advantage plans. The plan offerings can change each year.

**Some Colorado consumers will be losing their coverage, as not all plans will be available in Colorado for 2010.**


**This is a good time for you to compare your plans and make sure you have the best coverage for your needs.**

The Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) can help.

SHIP counseling is funded through a grant from Medicare and SHIP counselors provide unbiased information at no charge.

**Now is the time to see if you qualify for Low Income as there are new changes effective January 2010**

Contact your local SHIP Coordinator Alberta at 719-846-4416 or Contact SHIP at 1-88-696-7213 and your call will be routed to the agency in Colorado that provides SHIP counseling in your geographic area.



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE