



MONDAY  
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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
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## THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 3 for all SCHOOL EVENTS

### MONDAY

#### TSNH

LAST DAY for donations to the "Cinco de Mayo" Garage & Bake Sale for the nursing home. All community donations, except clothing, requested. Call Nancy Vigil @ 845-2822 for more information.

#### Arthritis Exercise

Free Arthritis Exercise Class every Mon & Wed @ 9 a.m. @ Corazon Square & 1 p.m. @ Early Learning Center. Info call: 845-1133 ext. 224.

#### Raton Playgroup

Free indoor fun & snacks (Mommies & kids ages 0-5 years) meets 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. every Monday @ Colfax County Health Council, 123 N. 2nd Street, Suite #5. Call Ida Cruz @ 575-445-3077 for more information.

#### Planning Commission

LA County public meeting 1 p.m. Mon @ the County Courthouse, Room #201, 200 1st Street, Trinidad.

### TUESDAY

#### Continuum of Care

Continuum of Care meets 8-9 a.m. 1st Tues. @ the Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. For more info call Karrie Apple at 719-846-6665 or Tom Power (Colorado Coalition for the Homeless in Denver) @ 303-285-5221.

#### Las Animas Co.

Board of County Commissioner's meets 9 a.m. 1st & 3rd Tues. @ LA County Courthouse, Room #201, 200 E. First Street.

#### Pastor's Study

Meets 9 a.m. every Tues @ Zion's Lutheran Fellowship Hall. All Pastors welcome, call Pastor Beth Ann @ 846-7785 for more information.

#### Kiwanis

Kiwanis Luncheon 12 p.m. every Tues @ A Little Catering Company, 916 Arizona.

#### City Council

Regular session meets 7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Tues in Council Chambers @ City Hall, Third Floor, 135 N. Animas in Trinidad.

#### PEO - DE Chapter

Meets 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Hall, 801 San Pedro.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River call as of 4/30/10  
Johns Priority #64 - 4/1/1873  
Trinidad Lake accounting:  
Release 2.42 acre feet  
Inflow 165.96 acre feet  
Evaporation 17.54 acre feet  
Content 31612 acre feet  
Elevation 6195.26 feet  
Precipitation 0 inches  
Downstream river call:  
JMR - 12/31/1948

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)

# Phil Long Toyota's grand opening in Trinidad draws huge crowd

By MIKE GARRETT  
The Chronicle-News

A who's who of Trinidad community leaders and dignitaries were on hand Thursday night for Phil Long Toyota's grand opening and TLAC Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate what supporters say will be a much-needed shot in the arm for the regional economy.

Colorado Springs-based Phil Long Family of Dealerships has been totally behind the effort to convert the old Howard Lackey-owned Circle Chevrolet dealership into an expanded and more modernized Toyota sales and service facility.

Mike Cimino, speaking for his father Jay, Phil Long Family general manager, who was under the weather with a bug and couldn't attend the opening ceremonies, told the large crowd filling the showroom, that Phil Long is making a substantial economic commitment to the Trinidad community with this dealership - despite the recession and negative national news surrounding recent Toyota vehicle recall efforts.

To ensure that the operation is successful, Cimino said Phil Long Toyota will continue doing what Phil Long dealerships have done with their other Colorado operations by offering low prices, maintaining its loyal customer base by offering the most for trade-ins and access to a huge selection of new and 1,500 used vehicles from all its Colorado dealer lots to local customers. He said Phil Long will also maintain its reputation for

servicing all makes and models of cars.

Cimino noted that his father has dedicated his whole life to giving back to the communities the dealerships serve and that has been, and will continue to be true of his native Trinidad. Jay Cimino has been directly involved in financially supporting numerous Trinidad area projects benefiting the city (including Cimino Park) and Phil Long has had a financial investment in Trinidad State Junior College's student automotive training tech programs.

"This community has always been deep-rooted in great values and as the city of champions," said Cimino. "My father has always been passionate about Trinidad in his business philosophies, the way he feels about the community and the people here."

The dealership's management team is in place, headed by General Manager Jamie Passarelli. Lackey will be a business partner and serve as used car sales manager. Cimino discussed some of his and the Lackey family's long car dealership history in the region that dates back to sales of the old Toyota Corona in Raton.

Also discussing Toyota's commitment to the dealership was Tom Gill, customer services operations manager of Toyota's Denver regional office. Gill noted that he had never seen such a large community turnout for a dealership opening of the size

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Photo by Mike Garrett

Management and staff of the new Phil Long Toyota dealership, at 3019 Toupal Drive, show they're willing to climb the stairs to success during Thursday night's gala grand opening and TLAC Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremonies. Trinidad Mayor Jennie Garduno, Phil Long executive Mike Cimino and Tom Gill, Toyota customer services operations manager, center, do the cutting honors while chamber CEO Kim Pacheco-Schultz, far right, looks on.

## Capulin Mothers Day brunch cancelled by new EPA rules

By TIM KELLER  
The Chronicle-News

For a quarter-century, Jenny Lee and Jim Pugh have opened the popular summer restaurant at their Capulin Country Store with a Mothers Day brunch buffet. Next Sunday, families from Des Moines, Folsom, Capulin, and the surrounding areas will follow tradition and drive straight from church to the Capulin Country Store, where they'll be excited to treat Mom and Grandma on this annual occasion. Instead, Jenny Lee Pugh will try to explain to them why the buffet has been cancelled and the restaurant closed.

"We were notified last week that we will not be allowed to open this season," Jenny Lee Pugh says, "because of new EPA rules and regulation changes that have been implemented."

The EPA now requires the restaurant to have a modern septic system installed; however, the Capulin Country Store property lacks adequate space to install the required leach field. The property is bounded tightly on two sides by state highways - Highway 64/87 connects Raton and Clayton while Highway 325 takes tourists to the popular Capulin Volcano National Monument just 3 miles



Photo by Tim Keller

Jenny Lee Pugh sits outside the Capulin Country Store on a weekday afternoon last week.

from the store, where many tourists stop for souvenirs, supplies and, in the summer tourist season, lunch.

The Pughs don't mind installing a new septic system. In order to gain the required space, they have asked to buy enough

land from the neighbors on the other two sides, but neither neighbor is interested in selling. "We can make great food, offer a wonderful dining experience, provide good service to travelers and local patrons," Jenny Lee says, "but we

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## County board awaits decision on Medical Marijuana issue

By DAVID J. SANTISTEVAN JR.  
The Chronicle-News

The Las Animas County Board of Commissioners discussed numerous issues at the recent work session.

The top topic was the controversial Medical Marijuana issue.

This issue continues to be time consuming to state, city and especially local county officials. The topic is very contentious among state lawmakers.

A reform bill currently being debated in the legislature, HB 10-1284, is very lengthy and complex in nature. The BOCC has discussed the prospective changes contained in the bill - over 100 amendments to guidelines on the Medical Marijuana law in the state. It seems that everyone at all levels of government have an opinion on this issue on what it means and where it is going.

Relevant to Las Animas County, proposed changes could delay consideration for methodology for approval of any dispensing facilities of Medical Marijuana until July 1, 2011. The board might consider on May 18 an extension to the current county moratorium already in place that runs through May.

H.B. 10-1284 still has to be considered by the state senate, where it will be just as controversial and attention grabbing, as it is statewide.

This might be the last bill the senate acts on before, by law, they have to adjourn on May 12.

Another very interesting subject that the county commissioners have been discussing and will probably need to make a decision upon this week is the program called "ReCharge Colorado."

Originating from the Governor's Energy Office, this program has set aside about \$18 million in rebates statewide. Las Animas County is expecting about \$75,000 in rebates back from this program, for persons that buy Energy Star appliances like refrigerators, washers, dryers, and dish washers. The Energy Star rating is based upon whether or not these products meeting criteria for being energy efficient and being environmentally safe.

The program started on April 19. The governor's office has asked Mr. Bill Cordova and the Las Animas County Board of

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## Chilly weather mars Cinco de Mayo celebration

By LAURA L. BREWER  
The Chronicle-News



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

This pair of racers seems more interested in one another than on running for the finish line.

After the opening ceremony of the annual Raton Chamber's Cinco de Mayo Cultural Celebration, a favorite part of the event, the Chihuahua race drew a large crowd of spectators despite the cool, breezy weather. Several Chihuahua owners placed their small racers on the start line, hoping their stout little racers would make it to the finish line first. Two at a time, the dogs were placed at the start line while family and friends would yell encouragement from the side lines and the finish line. Some dogs made it all the way to the end, a few wandered out of their lanes and were disqualified, but everyone had a fun time.

Visitors to the two day Cinco de Mayo event strolled between tents and trailers, and listened to music provided by local bands. However, just as the park began to fill with people who came to enjoy the festivities in Ripley Park, the snow-filled clouds came rolling over Raton Pass and the fiercer winds began to blow causing people to scatter quickly, running for shelter. Vendors who normally would ride out the storm were forced to take down tents under very difficult conditions. Tents sides flapped in the winds so strongly those

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