



THURSDAY
MAY 20, 2010

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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 10 for all SCHOOL EVENTS

THURSDAY Quilt Club

Bound Together Quilt Club meets 9:30 a.m. every other Thurs @ the Las Animas County Fairgrounds. For info call 719-846-3855 (Sandy).

Rotary Club

Weekly Luncheon & Meeting 12 p.m. every Thurs. @ the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr.

Red Hat Mtn Mamas

Meets for lunch 12 p.m. 3rd Thurs @ Bueno's C&H Restaurant, 443 N. Commercial St. Info: 846-7992 (Beverly). New members welcome.

Trout Unlimited

Purgatoire River Anglers meets 6 p.m. 3rd Thurs @ the Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Ave. Pizza & social @ 6 p.m. with meeting from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Speaker will be Erica Stock, Outreach Director, Colorado Trout Unlimited. Call Joanie @ 846-7307 or Howard @ 575-447-7034 for information. Public is invited.

Mitchell Museum

An evening's entertainment - Sam Bachicha in concert "Sam's One Man Band" 7 p.m. Thurs @ the Mitchell Museum, 150 East Main St. Admission \$10 / at the door. For more information please call 719-846-4224.

Elks Lodge

Trinidad Order of Elks, Lodge #181 meets 8 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thurs @ 120 South Maple St.

FRIDAY

Long Term Care

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting 12 p.m. 3rd Fri @ 900 South 6th St, Raton, NM.

TASPERA

Trinidad Area Schools & Public Employees Retirement Association meets 1 p.m. Friday in the TSJC Sullivan Center, Pioneer Room. Meeting only, lunch will not be available. Call Paul @ 846-2423 for more information.

Al-Anon Family

Group meets @ 6 p.m. every Friday in the Presbyterian Church basement, 801 San Pedro. For info call: Sharone 719-846-9999. No fee charged to participate & all are welcome.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 75. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/19/10
South Side Priority #74 - 2/17/1876
Trinidad Lake Accounting:
Release 396.05 acre feet
Inflow 221.13 acre feet
Evaporation 17.08 acre feet
Content 29,484 acre feet
Elevation 6192.75 feet
Precipitation 0 inches
Downstream River Call:
Amity - 2/21/1887
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Longtime community supporter Moniot dies

C-N STAFF REPORT

Longtime Trinidad community supporter and fundraiser Phyllis Moniot, 75, unexpectedly passed away Tuesday night in Pueblo's Parkview Medical Center due to complications from pneumonia and cancer.

Moniot is best known for her tireless work on behalf of Trinidad area youth during her 42-year career with the Las Animas County Department of Human Services and for her frequent fundraising efforts for the Trinidad Catholic community. She was among those instrumental in establishing and organizing Holy Trinity Academy as a viable faith-based learning institution in 2004.

The Chronicle-News will publish a community tribute to Phyllis by those who knew her best in Friday's paper. Funeral services are pending.



Phyllis Moniot

C-N File photo

New board members sworn in



Photo by Richard Sitts

Recently elected members to the Trinidad Ambulance District Board of Directors were sworn in before their first meeting Wednesday afternoon. Doing the honors is Clerk of Court Bob Kreiman at left. Taking the oath, from left, are Kelly Smith, Rob Bukovac and Colleen Williams. They join fellow board members Rick Johnson and Liz Aragon. Following the swearing in, the board held its first meeting with the new members. Historically, the board has met on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. One of the agenda items was for the board to set a new meeting time, or keep the schedule as is.

RHS Wall of Fame to induct three new members

By TIM KELLER

The Chronicle-News

RATON - Three new distinguished members will be inducted into the Raton High School Wall of Fame Friday evening in a ceremony immediately preceding the school's annual graduation exercises. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., the event will take place at Tiger Stadium if weather permits. Otherwise, all ceremonies that night will be held in the Raton High School gym.

This is the third annual Wall of Fame ceremony. The Wall of Fame will consist of commemorative plaques lining a wall in the new John Krivokapich Media Center at RHS. The brainchild of RHS principal Mike Sparaco, it's designed to honor former Raton students "who have distinguished themselves through recognition, honor, and distinction during their lives" after they left Raton schools.

The by-laws continue, "It is hoped that this display will serve as a motivational and inspirational tool for current and future students of Raton High School. By recognizing and honoring these individuals, future generations of graduates will have a wall of role models from which they can help formulate their future plans and career choices."

Nominations are open to all, with nomination forms available at RHS. The nomination deadline for 2011 induction is Jan. 1, 2011. Broad categories have been established for nominees in Arts, Education, Athletics, Entrepreneurship, and the Military. An At Large category is intended to cover accomplishments in other areas. Those submitting nominations have included family members, former classmates, friends, and others.

Early each year, Sparaco gathers a committee of 8-10 members to evaluate, rank, and select from the nominees. In order to speed the creation of the Wall of Fame, 17 members were inducted in 2008, the first year. Last year, 10 members were inducted. Beginning this year, 3 to 5 new members will be inducted each year.

2008 inductees included John Davidson, Tom Popejoy, Bernard J. Salvo, James T. Roper, Stanlee Gatti, Bill Serazio, Mary Lynn Roper, Lynn French, The Fireballs, Loretta Rose Encinias Smith, Noel Mazzone, Monty McGowan, Austin Brunelli, Bernard Leon Johnson, Jesse Ridenour, Gary K. Walton, and Faron Segotta.

2009 inductees were Kenny Montoya, John Anthony Jellico, John Antonio Aguilar, Joe Aldaz, Richard Joseph Bonahoom, Richard Newman, Richard Montgomery Strong, Richard Cimino, Gordon Robertson, and Harold Honeyfield.

Following are the three latest nominees, with comments from their nomination forms.

**Harry E. Kinney, At-Large category
RHS Class of 1942**

After Harry Kinney graduated from Raton High School, he continued his education at UNM in engineering, then worked as an engineer for Sandia Labs before entering public office, where he served as the chair of the Albuquerque city commission and later as mayor.

The City of Albuquerque has just unveiled a bronze sculpture of Kinney in the newly-named Kinney Plaza, dedicating the statue to the man who was a two-term mayor of the city in the 1970s and 1980s. During his years as mayor, the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival was inaugurated, the Rio Grande Nature Center was purchased, and the first bike trail and the city's first senior center were created.

Kinney laid the foundation that propelled Albuquerque to become the vibrant, prosperous city that it is today. The people who knew Kinney referred to him as "Harmonious Harry," a man who was said to have a kind word for everyone.

**Charles Jellico, Arts category
RHS Class of 1939**

Charles Jellico's first job was in a Raton photography studio where he learned photography and re-touched portraits. During World War II he

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Council approves temporary ARPA bailout, tables proposed utility rate hike

By MIKE GARRETT

The Chronicle-News

Trinidad City Council helped relieve the Arkansas River Power Authority (ARPA) of one of its cash flow headaches at Tuesday night's meeting. But the city will need a lot of aspirin bottles from ARPA in return to appease its utility customers facing a possible 11 percent rate hike in their utility bills on top of the 4.8 percent increase they're already paying this year.

Council voted 5-1 to approve a \$631,546 Prepayment of Power Agreement bailout loan out of the city's Power and Light reserve funds to give ARPA a much-needed short-term cash infusion. Council thus agreed to join ARPA members La Junta, Lamar, Springfield and most likely Las Animas City Council later this week in committing pre-payment funds to ARPA for future electrical power needs.

General Manager William Leung said ARPA needs at least \$2.875 million in short-term financing from its member cities, plus bank loan approval for that same amount and possibly more for additional operational funds to avoid a possible default on some of its outstanding bonds, pay off current debts to energy and equipment suppliers and have its new Lamar coal-fired power plant fully operational by the start of this summer. Of ARPA's six Eastern Colorado member cities, Leung said only tornado-stricken Holly has said it couldn't contribute to its pre-payment plan to raise short-term funds.

But council was unable to resolve the prickly problem of adding an approximately 11 percent Energy Cost Adjustment rate hike to customers' utility bills for at least the remainder of 2010, on top of the 4.8 percent average annual rate increase over the next five years to pay for ARPA's proposed higher energy supply costs. At the instigation of Mayor Pro Tem Liz Aragon, who wanted more definitive total cost figures and to look at other energy source options, council voted to table a rate hike vote until its next regular meeting June 1.

Councilman John Rino advocated possibly splitting the proposed rate increase in half to help ease a full-impact burden on already beleaguered Trinidad utility customers. But City Attorney Jerod Beatty said that the city couldn't do that under the proposed resolution's legal provisions and total costs formula. But he stressed that the 11 percent rate increase would only be temporary, from June 1 to Dec. 31 of this year.

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Veterans recognize The Chronicle-News



Photo by Richard Sitts

Local veterans presented *The Chronicle-News* staff with a plaque of appreciation to replace an older plaque that burned up in the recent fire that destroyed the interior of the Chronicle-News building. Presented by American Legion Post 11 and VFW Post 984, the plaque expresses appreciation for all that the newspaper does for Las Animas County veterans. From left are Nick G. DeBono, Las Animas County Veterans Services Officer and Commander of American Legion Post 11; Chronicle-News Business Manager Barry Hood; Bob Ling, Commander of VFW Post 984; Chronicle-News Office Manager Noah Simpson; Chronicle-News Reporter David Santistevan Jr.; and Chronicle-News Director of Creative Services Sheila Hamlin.

Get ready for summer at the Carnegie Public Library

Special to *The Chronicle-News*

With the school year coming to an end, you may be looking for entertainment that's fun and free. Make the public library your destination. The Carnegie Public Library in Trinidad is your library. We serve all of Las Animas County and would love to have you visit and check out our books, magazines, DVDs, videos, audio books, and other materials.

If you and your children don't have library cards yet, come down anytime and register. All that's needed is a valid Colorado driver's license or ID, proof of address (a phone, rent, or utility bill is fine), to obtain a card of your own and cards for your children. A parent or a legal guardian must accompany minors with his or her identification; however, the child doesn't have to be present. We are open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

This summer we will have a special summer reading program for all ages. "Make a Splash @ Your Library" and "Make Waves @ Your Library" will begin on Tuesday, July 6, right after the holiday weekend. By

then you will surely be ready for free family fun that also helps your child keep up those important school skills.

During the summer program, books are checked out and read at home, or in air-conditioned comfort at the library. Once a week, readers bring in their reading log (a simple-to-fill out record of how many minutes read per day) and the library will keep track of their progress. Setting a reading goal with a minimum commitment of time (30 minutes per week for ages 3 to 7 and 60 minutes per week for ages 8 to 18) will result in a special prize added to a gift bag. Participants who reach their goal will receive their gift bags at the awards ceremony and family event held on Saturday, August 7.

Activity programs for each of the three age groups (3 to 7, 8 to 12, and 13 to 18) will be held once each week. There will be special activities for the whole family too. Questions? Call the library after May 31 at 719-846-6841. If you are interested in supporting "Make a Splash" and "Make Waves" please contact the Library by phone or email [trinidadpubliclibrary@msn.com].

Council approves temporary ARPA bailout, tables proposed utility rate hike

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At that time, council would have to again address the issue depending on ARPA's overall financial condition and electrical power supply rates at that date.

Power and Light Superintendent Dave Brunelli again made it clear to council that to pay for ARPA's increased power supply costs, he would have to take substantial money out of his current \$2.1 million in reserve funds, (now minus the \$631,000) which he said could be depleted within two years even if he postpones indefinitely numerous planned city capital improvement projects, including city substation upgrades. Brunelli said that if council doesn't approve the rate hike, the department's expected \$180,000 2010 budget deficit would grow to around \$500,000 by the end of 2010.

Mayor Jennie Garduno acknowledged that council is taking a risk and faces a very difficult decision no matter which way it votes due to ARPA's current fragile financial status. Leung attempted to reassure council that ARPA would do everything within its means to return to a strong financial foundation and would consider filing for bankruptcy only as a last resort. "We just need to get over this hump right now so we can become fully operational by this summer."

Because of ARPA's inability to make any guarantees or offer a Plan B to its member cities at this point, Aragon said she wanted to explore all other possibilities for the city to secure electric power from other sources or find cheaper rates for Trinidad customers, already economically burdened with paying escalating utility bills. Aragon was also the lone "no" vote against the unsecured \$631,000 ARPA pre-payment bailout.

The 4.8 percent average rate increase will be in effect every year for the next five years so customers in 2014 will be paying nearly 25

percent higher rates than they are today, even without council approving additional power supply rate increases, Brunelli acknowledged.

Some of those higher energy costs could be absorbed if the economy starts to turn around over the next year, city officials noted. Retiring City Manager Jim Soltis reported that March retail sales tax revenues were down 10.9 percent over March 2009, or \$137,156. He said the year to date average was 11.44 percent off comparable 2009 totals. At least the 10.9 percent decline was the smallest of the first three months of 2010, he said.

While the utility issues were taking up the lion's share of meeting discussions, council passed the second reading of its new fireworks ordinance, more clearly defining which kinds of fireworks are legal or illegal within city limits and the ages allowed for specified fireworks users and whether they have to be accompanied by an adult.

Council also unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Trinidad Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics in more clearly establishing the city manager's authority in union negotiations.

Council approved Beatty's criteria and advertising guidelines to find a new city manager to replace Soltis. The city will advertise the position with a salary of \$75,000 to \$90,000 (but willing to negotiate that amount) with stipulations that the manager's primary residence must be within Trinidad city limits and that if they live elsewhere they would have six months to move to the city.

The position will be advertised in both Trinidad newspapers and the Pueblo Chieftain Colorado Workforce Centers and with the Colorado Municipal League and the Colorado City & County Management Association.

RHS Wall of Fame to induct three new members

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served as a ground and aerial photographer and instructor. After the war, Jellico graduated from the prestigious Pittsburgh Institute of Art while working as an illustrator for magazines. With his brother John, he returned to the west to establish the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver.

Jellico then returned to Raton, where he produced artwork for decades. His oil paintings have hung in the homes of John Wayne, Will Rogers, Ronald Reagan, and countless other lovers of western art. His work is also seen in the Museum of New Mexico, the NRA Whittington Center, and various businesses in Raton.

Thomas Weaver, PhD, Education category

RHS Class of 1948

Thomas Weaver, born and raised in Raton, earned his bachelor's degree at UNM, then stayed to earn his master's

degree in anthropology and history while researching the ultimately successful land claims of Zia, Santa Ana, and Jemez Pueblos and exploring health concerns in Hispanic communities of the region. This last pursuit formed the basis for his doctoral dissertation at UC Berkeley.

Weaver subsequently held appointments in medicine and anthropology at the University of Kentucky, then anthropology and psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. He wrapped up his career at the University of Arizona, where he has trained dozens of graduate students in the Anthropology Department. Though he officially retired in 2002, in reality, he remains on the job. He is at work on a pair of books. In Santa Fe last year, Weaver was honored with the Bronislaw Malinowski Award from the Society of Applied Anthropology, the group's highest honor.

The Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation would like to thank the community and all those in attendance for their support of the Fun & Friendraiser and Hall of Fame Event "Celebrating Success" held May 8, 2010.

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Thank You!

Thanks to the Davis & Richardson families who made the extraordinary effort to join us as we celebrated the legacy of President Guy C. Davis

The T.SJC Educational Foundation has been providing assistance to Trinidad State Junior College since 1968.

TRINIDAD POLICE BLOTTER

ARRESTS

■ 5/12/10 - John Castellano, 44, Colorado Springs, Colo. - Disorderly conduct
■ 5/14/10 - Angel Garcia, 24, Trinidad - Disorderly conduct
■ 5/14/10 - Joshua Lopez, 26, Trinidad - Drove vehicle while license under revocation, speeding 10-19 miles over the limit
■ 5/14/10 - Cassandra Barth, 26, Trinidad - DUI, DUI per se, weaving
■ 5/15/10 - Matthew Padilla, 26, Trinidad - Introducing contraband into detention facility, possession of less than 1 oz marijuana, violation of protection order
■ 5/16/10 - Robert Gonzales, 26, Pueblo, Colo. - Criminal impersonation, DUI, drove vehicle with defective headlamp

■ 5/17/10 - Susan Scott, 59, Trinidad - DUI, carless driving
■ 5/18/10 - Jerry Romero, 39, Trinidad - Trinidad Police Department warrant

SUMMONS

■ 5/14/10 - Michelle Salazar, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit
■ 5/15/10 - Lupe Martinez-Gonzales, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit
■ 5/15/10 - Jessy June, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit
■ 5/18/10 - Sandra Nichols, Greenwood Village, Colo. - Disregarded stop sign
■ 5/18/10 - Debra Dionisio, Trinidad - Disregarded stop sign
■ 5/18/10 - Vincent Garcia, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit

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