



WEEKEND EDITION
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
DEC. 25-27, 2015

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Holy Innocents Catholic Church (Colorado & Nevada): Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 12 a.m. / Christmas Day Mass at 8 a.m.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Holy Trinity Catholic Church (Church & Convent) Christmas Eve Masses at 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. / Christmas Day Masses at 9 a.m. (Trinidad) and 9 a.m. (Segundo)

THURSDAY: United Methodist Church (5 p.m. / 216 Broom St.) "A Lesson in Carols" Service on Christmas Eve.

THURSDAY: United Presbyterian Church (5:30 p.m. / 801 San Pedro) Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.

THURSDAY: Faith Christian Church (8 p.m./2608 Santa Fe Trail Dr.) Candlelight Communion Service.

THURSDAY: Zion's Lutheran Church (11 p.m. / 613 Prospect) Candlelight Service.

FRIDAY: Fisher's Peak Soup Kitchen (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) Christmas Day Dinner at the Sebastiani Gym. Info: Terrie Lovato, 719-680-0427.

Today's Quote

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

~ Charles Dickens

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*The Chronicle-News Office will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Christmas Holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual on these days without any interruption of service.

*The City of Trinidad, the Landfill and the Carnegie Library will be closed Friday for the holiday.

*The Las Animas County Offices and Courthouse will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Christmas.

*The South Central Council of Governments and affiliates in Trinidad and Walsenburg will be closed Friday for Christmas. Call the Ride Line 719-845-1127 by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015 to make reservations for Mon., Dec. 28, 2015.

DECEMBER 28

TAAC MONDAY (6 p.m.) Trinidad Area Arts Council will meet in the Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-1441. Public is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC SERVICE

TAKE THE SURVEY
JANUARY 7 DEADLINE: EVERYONE HAS A VOICE! Space To Create needs your input, so please take the survey! Let us know what you want. **GO TO: www.corazondetrinidad.org**

HOLIDAY ART MARKET
THRU DEC 28: Gallery Main's festive annual Art Market at the Gallery, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISER
For all your holiday needs fresh, new-crop, gourmet shelled pecans and mixed nuts are now available at the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Info: Anna Risley, 719-846-3336.

PLANNING COMMISSION
JAN 4 (1 p.m.) The Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Office commissioners' meeting will be held at the County Court House, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-846-4486.

CALL FOR ARTISTS
JAN. 8 - JAN. 30 SHOW: All area artists are encourage to enter their work in the Contemporary Western Art of the Southeast Art Show to be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info about submissions: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441 or trinidadareaartscouncil@gmail.com

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID
JAN. 13 & 27 (6 p.m.) Parents Workshop to help complete student's Financial Aid Applications with Louis Rino. Reserve a space: 719-846-2971.

TRINIDAD WORKFORCE
JAN. 19 (2-4 p.m.) First Responder Jobs Career Exploration will be held at the Center, 140 N. Commercial St. Info: 719-846-9221.

TSJC LUNCH & LEARN
JAN. 28 (12:15-12:45 p.m.) Free program "What's all the Buzz About Bees" by Jim Conley, former Huerfano County Extension Agent, will be held in the Pioneer Room of the Sullivan Center. Lunch can be had on your own at the cafeteria. Lunch RSVP: Donna Haddow, 719-846-5541 or donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu.

The Fine Print feature is a courtesy notice used to inform the public of upcoming public meetings and events. Placement is not guaranteed. For contributions please call 719-846-3311 or e-mail cathy@trinidadchroniclenews.com.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 12/22/15. Elmore Ditch: Priority # 8 --- Appropriation date: 11/15/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release .42 AF
Inflow 51.33 AF -- 25.88 CFS
Evaporation 2.91 AF
Content 24,744 AF
Elevation 6,189.93
Precipitation 0

Down stream call: John Martin Reservoir: 12/31/1948.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2015



Photo courtesy of Dee Berry / Hoehne, Colorado

I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas

The Earth lies in frozen silence along a country road near Hoehne after a recent winter storm. As Americans awake on this Christmas morning, some will celebrate a white Christmas, while others will bask in the warm sunshine. No matter what the weather brings or where the celebration takes place, it's always nice to be home for the holidays. The staff of *The Chronicle-News* wishes each and every reader all the joys that the season brings — and a very happy New Year, too!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Doctoring Cowboys

Marcia Hefker, nurse practitioner, horsewoman, serving healthcare needs of ranch communities

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Down in the deep woods of Trinchera Canyon, Marcia Hefker is bringing up the rear, helping Kyle Bell and his family push 50 pairs of Texas Longhorns from their lush summer pasture along the Colorado border, up and out of the canyon, then down to Bell's ranch outside Folsom. This is the legendary Good-night-Loving Trail that once saw countless cattle drives from Texas to Denver and on to Wyoming.

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I'll be home for Christmas — if only in my dreams

By Catherine J. Moser
Features Editor
The Chronicle-News

These past few years, I have discovered that Christmas doesn't ever really start for me until I hear the Walton Family Christmas Concert. It is at some time during that wonderful combination of heavenly voices and music that I am stirred to feel the remnants of my childhood. That happened for me again last Saturday night at this year's awesome presentation. Once the Walton Brothers began their heart-rending presentation of "I'll be home for Christmas," I was magically transported to a place that now lives only in my mind — the tears began to flow shortly after that.



Catherine J. Moser

In the deepest part of my heart there remains a small, soft flicker of light that seems to burn the very brightest at Christmastime. It is a reminder of times past, of childhood and of all the holidays spent with my family. At times, it is a painful reminder of places and faces that no longer exist, yet remain as dear to me as anything I possess — these priceless memories of home and the people I love.

Thomas Wolfe said, "You can't go home again," but sometimes a trip through the grocery store at Christmastime will prompt a trip down my childhood Memory Lane. Looking at all the apples, oranges, walnuts and almonds are among the many things that always remind me of Grandma's house and the amazing smells that came drifting out of her kitchen.

My childhood was one of wonder and enchantment at Christmastime. I suppose the memories that live in my heart are just like a million other peoples, too, and I cling to them as fiercely as a dog holds onto a bone — just like the other million folks do theirs. Wandering back in time and savoring all the memories at this time of year makes me happy and I refuse to give into the depression that sets in once I catch a glimpse of myself in the bathroom mirror.

We all know that time marches on for everyone. No one escapes its clutches. Dolly Parton's character,

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Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

After a team roping session on her Hindi Arabian horse Aziz at Roy Sanders's arena near Hoehne, Marcia Hefker's is happy as could be. When she's not doctoring cowboys, she's usually horseback herself.



NOT-SO-COMMERCIAL STREET

Businesses hurt by continued construction, look forward to future

By Nick Ruybalid
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Construction continues on Commercial Street in downtown Trinidad, but it appears that commercialism is what has been lost during this time according to area business owners.

"It has been devastating," says Vibeke Adkisson, owner of the McCormick Building on the corner of Commercial and Main. "It's affected all of it... I feel very, very badly for my tenants."

Continued on Page 3 ...

WEATHER WATCH

CHRISTMAS DAY: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. South southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy,

with a low around 22. West southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. North wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. Blustery, with a north wind 15 to 20 mph. **Night:** A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a

low around 18.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. North wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest after midnight.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. West wind around 5 mph becoming north northeast in the afternoon. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 13.

Weather Sponsored by:

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Hotel
719-845-0102



A TIM KELLER FEATURE

Marcia Hefker — serving the healthcare needs of ranch communities

...Continued from Page 1

but Bell is moving his herd backward along the trail, south. The Longhorns have enjoyed their summer in the tall grass along Trinchera Creek, so Hefker shouldn't have been surprised when a stubborn pair at the rear broke free, barreling down the canyon through the thick trees and back along the creek to home. As fast as she can chase through the trees on Goose, her gray Hindi Arabian, she's after the errant pair, which has made its way through a fence. Hefker and Goose find a gate. By now Bell has returned along the narrow dirt road; together they coax the pair back up the road to join the herd.

Bell's operation is too small to be hiring hands. He gets help where he can find it. In this case, Marcia Hefker happens to be his family's doctor.

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The ag program at Carrizozo High School got her started as a medical caregiver. Ag teacher Mike Gaines brought in an EMT to teach a first aid class. Both he and Marcia, a freshman, liked it enough that they continued and became EMTs. The state had to make an exception to license Marcia: at 15, she was the youngest EMT in New Mexico.

When she wasn't busy with school or volleyball or EMS or earning a barrel racing scholarship to NMSU at Las Cruces, Marcia moved cattle with her family.

"I had a wonderful childhood, but I wasn't one of these wonderfully privileged people who was born and raised on a huge family ranch. My parents lived a few miles outside Carrizozo and my dad worked a civil service job in communications at White Sands Missile Range. He wanted



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Marcia Hefker (center) and Kyle Bell (far right) move Bell's herd of 50 pairs of Texas Longhorns over the ridge atop Trinchera Canyon, assisted by Bell's kids Ben and Melissa.



Marcia Hefker, FNP-C (Nurse Practitioner), examines a patient at her Raton clinic, La Familia Primary Care.

state line.

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"I love it. Growing up ranching, there's just a different breed of people. I understand where they're coming from," Marcia says. "My biggest challenge with my ranching patients is that denial and stubbornness seems to be worse than your average person, because they're so independent. These men, and these women, their livelihood depends on their being out there all the time. I have to treat my ranching patients with a 'loose rein.' I usually build a relationship based on an accident or another immediate need. I spend more time than usual educating them about dangerous signs and symptoms because I know I won't see them for a while."

"The most common injuries are cuts and lacerations, rope burns, falls, and oddly, pellet and BB wounds. I try to accommodate ranchers, whether it's coming in early or staying late, although actually most of them want to see me around noon. They've taken care of feed-

ing in the morning, they're running into town to do their errands, and they have to get back to do the evening chores."

Watching National Finals Rodeo or Professional Bull Riding on television, Marcia enjoys seeing the Justin Sports Medicine Program in action. "I look at the doctors and sports medicine guys that are working on professional cowboys and I think, I do that all the time, on a day-to-day basis. They're treating the professional cowboy, but I'm treating the everyday cowboy."

Working one morning at a small rural clinic in Des Moines, NM, she glanced out the window and saw a semi truck and two pickups, all with stock trailers full of cattle.



Marcia Hefker has made a habit of winning 100-mile endurance races around the world, which takes her across every type of terrain. Here she negotiates Trinchera Creek on her Hindi Arabian, Goose. In August, she'll race 620 miles across Outer Mongolia in the Mongol Derby, a race ABC News calls "the longest, toughest, most insane race on Earth."

to ranch. He started with 200 acres and 10 cows, and in 30 years built that to 18 sections (11,520 acres) and 200 cow-calf pairs. He was an evening and weekend rancher because he had a full-time job to support the family. He retired at 52 and a couple years later had his land paid off."

Jack Hefker made sure his kids always had horses. "We started out doing little gymkhanas, then the rodeo club," Marcia recalls. "But as much as I loved rodeoing, my favorite memories are of working cattle. We worked cattle in tough places. At one point we had a headquarters separated from the pastures by two miles of malpais lava. When we had to brand or ship, we had to gather all the cattle and push them two miles across this lava flow. We'd brand them, work them, and then push them back."

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After her 1989 high school graduation, Marcia studied nursing at NMSU but spent weekends driving all over New Mexico and Arizona pulling her trailer and competing in NIRA Grand Canyon Region barrel races to support her rodeo scholarship. After two years, she quit rodeo to focus on her studies, graduating and becoming an ER nurse. "I quickly realized two things," she says. "One, I didn't like being in the city, and two, I didn't like being in hospitals."

So she returned to school, entering the UNM School of Nursing's Nurse Practitioner program, which specializes in rural medicine. New Mexico was one of the early states to prepare and license nurse practitioners to practice independently, a move designed to increase healthcare services in underserved and far-flung rural corners. In primary care and each nurse's respective specialties, nurse practitioners provide care equal to a physician, by New Mexico law.

Marcia began her practice in Raton in 1999 and is now a partner in La Familia Primary Care, the region's largest practice. She serves 3000 patients who come from a hundred-mile radius across several counties and the Colorado



Marcia Hefker has been healing people since she was 15 years old. She's been passionate about horses much longer than that.

She went to the waiting room and asked, "Who's shipping today?" She explains, "I got them right in. Those cattle didn't need to be sitting out there in those trailers any longer than necessary. The men were not working together, or even from the same ranch, but when a doctor comes through just one day a week, you go when you need to. People come in dusty in their boots, and they're running right back out to work on their ranches...which is where I'd like to be, too - take me away!"

Marcia invokes Lonesome Dove: "Gus says, 'There's nothing better than riding a fine horse through new country.' These days I couldn't agree more. I ride for pure pleasure, every chance I get. Whether it's team-roping practice in the evenings with my Hoehne friend Roy Sanders, checking cattle on the mesa with my friend Mary Lou Kern, trotting a 20-mile training ride with my three best girlfriends, or galloping across the finish line at the end of a 100-mile endurance race, I am truly happy whenever I'm with horses."

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So she's pushing Texas Longhorns up the Goodnight-Loving Trail. It is Sunday, her weekend but not Kyle Bell's. He's got cattle to move. Marcia says, "I have patients who invite me to rope or to work cattle with them. I get the luxury of being a guest on these ranches." A perfect day off is spent on horseback. As the herd tops out along the verdant ridgeline before dropping into the Dry Cimarron Valley, Marcia rides beside Kyle's young kids Ben and Melissa, relaxed and content bringing up the rear.

Kyle takes advantage of some pens to rest cattle, horses, and riders. Taking in the panoramic view of hillsides and pastures green from late-summer monsoon rains, Marcia savors the moment from her saddle. There's no place she'd rather be, and nothing she'd rather be doing.

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Tim Keller's profile of Marcia Hefker first appeared in *Ranch & Reata Magazine*. Hefker is currently preparing to cross Outer Mongolia in August in a 620-mile race that ABC News calls "the longest, toughest, most insane race in the world,"—the Mongol Derby.



Marcia Hefker and roping partner Roy Sanders practice near Hoehne as the sun casts its last daylight on Fisher's Peak, which can be seen in the far distance.