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**TUESDAY**  
**MAR. 15, 2016**

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

Vol. 140, No. 53

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## THE FINE PRINT

### ■ TUESDAY—MAR 15

**LAS ANIMAS COUNTY**  
**TUES. (9 a.m.)** Board of County Commissioners regular meeting is in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2568.  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Louden (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

**SAMARITAN CLINIC**  
**1st & 3rd TUES. (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)** Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 413 E. Frost and corner of Linden Ave. Info: 719-846-3536.

**PRIMERO SCHOOLS**  
**TUESDAY (5 p.m.)** District Board of Education will meet in executive session with regular session to follow at 6 p.m. in the Primero School Cafeteria, 20200 Highway 12. Information: Tina East, 719-862-2715.

**HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY**  
**TUESDAY (5:30 p.m.)** School board meeting at the school, 613 Prospect St. Info: Jasper Butero, 719-846-4522.

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**TUES. (7 p.m.)** Regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Info: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843. **CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor: Phil Rico and Council Members: Joe Bonato, Pat Fletcher, Carlos Lopez, Anthony Mattie, Michelle Miles, and Liz Torres.

## Today's Quote

**"You just can't beat the person who never gives up."**

~Babe Ruth

### ■ WEDNESDAY—MAR 16

**WEDNESDAY—MAR 16**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**WEDS. (Noon)** Monthly Business Luncheon will be held in the Pioneer Room at the Sullivan Center on the TSJC Campus. Guest Speaker will be City Attorney Les Downs. Info: 719-846-9285.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**WEDS. (4:30 p.m.)** Trinidad Housing Board of Commissioners will meet in regular session at the Corazon Square Activity Room, 201 Raton St. Info: Rosemarie Shier, 719-846-7204.

**FP FIRE DISTRICT**  
**WEDS. (6 p.m.)** Fishers Peak Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet at the Starkville Fire Station. Info: 719-846-6077.

**HOEHNE FIRE PROTECTION**  
**WEDS. (6 p.m.)** District Board of Directors meets at the El Moro Station, 14386 Hwy 239 in Hoehne. Info: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

**PURGATOIRE WATERSHED**  
**WEDS. (6 p.m.)** Group regular meeting will be held in the NRCS Office, 3590 E. Main. Info: Karen Wolf, 303-543-8688.

### ■ PUBLIC SERVICE

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY**  
All free events. Info: 719-846-6841.  
\*EVERY SAT. (10 a.m.) Chess Club meets in the Community Room.

\*THURS. (10 a.m.) Join Tim Crisler for a hike up Simpson's Rest  
\*FRI. (11 a.m.-Noon) RAG time (1st & 3rd Fridays thru MAY 20)

\*MAR. 22 (11 a.m.-Noon) TUESDAY TOTS (2nd & 4th Tuesdays thru MAY 24)

\*MAR. 23 (1 p.m.) Join Tom Potter for beginner & intermediate golf workshop at the Trinidad Municipal Golf Course

\*MAR. 30 (1 p.m.) Bocce at Cimino Park

**THS TALENT SHOW**  
**THURS. SIGNUP DEADLINE:** Students grades 3-12 interested in performing on Mar. 31 at 6 p.m. must have a parent/guardian signed registration form in order to participate. Info: Kevin Crosby, kevin.crosby@trinidad.k12.co.us

### SPRING BAZAAR

**SAT. (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)** The Heritage Christian School will host a school benefit event at the Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 2608 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Priscilla Santistevan, 719-860-7691.

### BAR NI COMMUNITY GRANT

**MAR. 31 DEADLINE:** The Bar Ni Ranch Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for area non-profits. Info: Tom Perry at tomandlindaperry@gmail.com.

### BOWLING FOR ARTOCADE

**APRIL 1:** Get your bowling balls and costumes ready for another ArtoCade Bowling Extravaganza coming up April Fool's Day. Details & Sign-up: Rodney Wood, artcarfun@hotmail.com or 719-334-0087.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 03/14/16. Chilli Ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release 25.25 AF  
Inflow 41.68 AF -- 21.01 CFS  
Evaporation 7.43 AF  
Content 28,175 AF  
Elevation 6,194.10  
Precipitation 0

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



## TRANSPORTATION

# Two critically injured in SW Chief derailment near Dodge City

Steve Block  
*The Chronicle-News*

Two people were critically injured when the eastbound Amtrak Southwest Chief passenger railroad train derailed eight cars approximately 20 miles west of Dodge City, Kan., on tracks owned by the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF). There were 131 passengers and 14 crewmembers on board the train that had two locomotives and nine cars, according to a Monday press release from Amtrak.

The two critically injured people were airlifted to Amarillo, Texas. A hospital in Dodge City says it admitted a patient who is in stable



Oliver Morrison /The Wichita Eagle via AP

An Amtrak train derailed in southwest Kansas early Monday, March 14, 2016, injuring multiple people who were transferred to hospitals in Garden City and Dodge City, according to a release from Amtrak. The Amtrak train carrying 131 passengers derailed in rural Kansas moments after an engineer noticed a significant bend in a rail and applied the emergency brakes, an official said.

condition and a hospital in Garden City says it admitted a patient in good condition, according to the Associated Press.

Local emergency responders provided on-site response and transported 32 passengers to

hospitals in Dodge City and Garden City, and of those transported, 29 passengers were discharged from those hospitals Monday morning. All other passengers were transported to

Continued on Page 4 ...

## EXTREME BICYCLE RACING



Photos courtesy Colorado Gravel Grinder Championship

One of the newest forms of bicycle racing, known as "Gravel Grinding," is continuing to take root in Colorado and after two years of successful runs in Trinidad is expanding to Monument. The Trinidad race dubbed the "Pony Xpress 160" will be held May 21.

## EVENTS FOR FAMILIES



File photo / The Chronicle-News

In one of childhood's more enjoyable annual events, like the photo above, kids will scramble for the goodies at Southern Colorado Family Center's Easter egg hunt Saturday (March 19) at Trinidad Middle School gym. The eggs might be hidden anywhere and one lucky child will find a special prize egg.

## Saturday's Easter egg hunt next on busy SCFC event schedule

Tim Keller  
*Correspondent*  
*The Chronicle-News*

This month, three consecutive Sundays bring special arrivals—Daylight Savings Time, then spring, then Easter—and Southern Colorado Family Center (SCFC) jumps into the season Saturday (March 19) with a children's Easter egg hunt at Trinidad Middle School gym.

Saturday's Easter egg hunt at Trinidad Middle School gym will include family fun from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a bounce house, face painting, and the opportunity for kids to meet the Easter bunny. Kids from infants to age 5 will have an Easter egg hunt beginning at 11:30 a.m. Kids aged 6-12 will follow with their own hunt at noon. Somewhere among all the hidden eggs will be a special prize egg for one lucky child to claim.

The recently chartered organization isn't planning just one event, however. Saturday's Easter egg hunt will be followed in quick succession by pinewood derby and bear-building workshops, a youth golf

Continued on Page 3 ...

## Colorado Gravel Grinder: Bike race championships coming soon to Trinidad

Jessica Deborah O'Connell  
*Correspondent*  
*The Chronicle-News*

One of the newest forms of bicycle racing, known as "Gravel Grinding," is continuing to take root in Colorado after getting its start in the Trinidad area. Following very successful events here for two years running, Koobi Saddles, a small Colorado Springs-based company specializing in high-end performance saddles is maintaining that momentum with two more events this spring. This year's races will take place again in Trinidad, as well as a new location at Monument.

Gravel Grinding is a relatively new genre of bicycle racing that has really gained popularity over the past few years in Midwestern states like Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska and Arkansas. The sport is similar to traditional road racing, but features all dirt roads. Cyclists ride mountain bikes or road bikes with wider tires. One of the biggest advantages for participants is the fact that there are minimal cars around, allowing for the ability to focus on the physical demands and stunning scenery. The sport is still fairly unknown here in Colorado, but Koobi Saddles is actively look-

ing to change that.

"We believe Gravel Grinding will become the dominant form of cycling in the U.S., Phil Schweizer, of Koobi Saddles said.

The Pony Xpress, which will start and finish this year in Cokedale, features two timed events. One is 70 kilometers and the other 160 kilometers long. Classes range



for men and women ages 18-29 to 60-plus. Event fees also range based on the event and when a person signs up. The 70 km event is \$39.95 if one registers prior to April 1 and climbs to \$89.95 if you

Continued on Page 3 ...

## WEATHER WATCH

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low

around 24. West wind 10 to 15 mph. **Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 51. Northwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest after midnight.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around

25. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

**Friday:** A chance of rain and snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 45. North wind around 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. West southwest wind 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

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# REGION & COMMUNITY

## CRIME

### Manhunt over: Escapees captured, one committed 2007 Raton murder

Staff Report  
The Chronicle-News

The two violent New Mexico inmates who mysteriously escaped from a prison van have been found, officials said, ending a three-day manhunt that started in southern New Mexico.

The first captured inmate, who is serving a life sentence since being jailed in 2007 for killing a man over drugs in Raton, was 32-year-old Joseph Cruz. Cruz was arrested in Albuquerque on Friday after a brief foot chase. The convicted murderer got a several-hour head start before authorities said guards reported he was missing. He managed to stay on the run for two nights on a desolate stretch of a southern New Mexico highway, according to the Associated Press and other sources.

The second escapee was captured Saturday in Albuquerque, authorities said. Lionel Clah, 29, was arrested in a northeastern part of the city. He will now be transferred into the custody of New Mexico State Police.

Corrections officials haven't said whether they know exactly where or when the men managed to escape, but they said it was sometime after 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and along a roughly 200-mile route between correctional facilities in Roswell and Las Cruces that included a gas-station stop in a smaller desert town.

Authorities didn't realize the men were missing until 1 a.m. Thursday.

State officials scrambled Friday to answer embarrassing questions about the missteps that could have been made that night, including how two felons bound by shackles somehow slipped away in white prison jumpsuits

and vanished into the night with no one noticing, possibly for hours. "The questions only helped to highlight concerns raised in recent months as the corrections department struggles with a budget crisis, a guard shortage, overworked employees and other problems," said a report from The Albuquerque Journal.

Two unidentified guards in charge of transporting the prisoners were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation into the escape.

The U.S. Marshals Office offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture of each of the men just hours before announcing Cruz was apprehended in a multi-agency investigation. Cruz was taken into custody near the University of New Mexico.

Investigators have yet to say if they've learned how Cruz and Clah escaped the fortified prison van that was transporting them from the state penitentiary in Santa Fe to the southern region of the state.

After authorities completed a headcount in Roswell, the two corrections officers pulled away from a state prison facility with five prisoners and all of their belongings in tow for the last leg of a long journey. Cruz and Clah weren't reported missing until after authorities stopped for gas at a convenience store in Artesia.

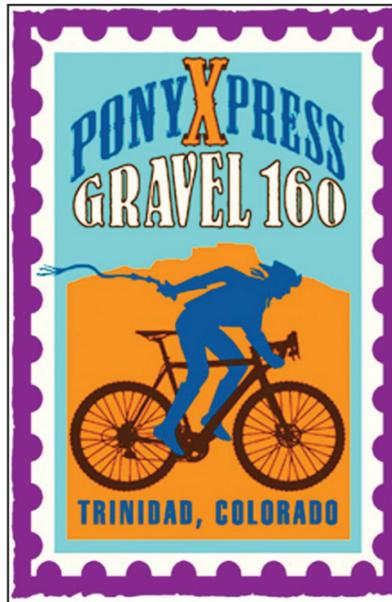
Authorities raised the likelihood that the getaway happened at the Artesia gas station, was planned and that the fugitives received assistance from others. But they wouldn't disclose what surveillance video from that gas station may have revealed.

New Mexico State Police said late Friday they also arrested Cruz's sister, Olivia Cruz, for an outstanding warrant for possession of drugs, according to the Albuquerque Journal. In that same report, Elizabeth Armijo, a state police spokeswoman, said Cruz's sister hasn't been charged in the escape and that any potential involvement is still under investigation.

Information from Associated Press and Albuquerque Journal.



Photos from New Mexico Department of Corrections. Joseph Cruz (left), who was jailed in 2007 for killing a man in Raton, has been captured after escaping a prison van in southern New Mexico. Lionel Clah (right) escaped with Cruz, but was also captured Saturday; bringing an end to a three-day manhunt.



### Pony Xpress 160

■ 160 kilometer and 70 Kilometer timed event with full results. Held on twisty, rolling gravel roads northwest of Trinidad, Colorado.

■ Classes: Men and Women, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+, Pro (160 K only).

■ No equipment based classes.

■ Awards and awards ceremony only for 160K distance classes.

■ Start and finish is in Cokedale, Colorado

Poster graphic courtesy of PonyXpress 160

### Colorado Gravel Grinder: Bike race championships coming soon to Trinidad

... Continued from Page 1

wait until race day. The 160 km event is \$79.95 prior to April 1 and \$199.95 on race day. This event will be held May 21, 2016.

Encierro Velo is this year's new racing location. With two events as well, the distances are only slightly shorter than those of The Pony Xpress, at 50 km and 100 km respectively. The 100 km event starts at the Peaceful Valley Scout Camp in Elbert, CO and ends in Monument. Classes also range for men and women from ages 18-29 to 60-plus. This event will be held on April 30, 2016.

With the tremendous success of the Pony Xpress over the past two years in Trinidad, Koobi is hoping to top that experience with Encierro Velo and branch out to the Denver area market. "This could be real attractive to Denver area residents," Schweizer said.

"These races test more than your muscles. They test your ability to think clearly while extremely fatigued. The races were

created to not only test the endurance and skill of the cyclists, but also showcase Colorado's magnificent views and scenery," Schweizer said in a statement.

The Trinidad course (yet to be finalized) will be made up of 96 percent gravel roads and four percent blacktop country roads that wind throughout northwest Las Animas county. Each distance has only 10 km of blacktop. "Each distance contains mostly new terrain. Consisting of rolling foothills, forests and open plains with stunning views of Fisher Peak. 70 percent of the course is in tree sheltered or canyon areas that are less susceptible to wind... Roads are open to public vehicle traffic as well as cattle (open range). Much of the course travels thru historic mining areas," said race information.

For complete information about this year's racing events visit [coloradogravelgrindchampionships.com](http://coloradogravelgrindchampionships.com)

### Saturday's Easter egg hunt next on busy SCFC event schedule

... Continued from Page 1



Building on the success of last October's Skate boarding Jam, SCFC has another all-day Trinidad Skatepark event planned for July. The Ride in Peace (RIP) Games will include competitions for skateboarders, bikes, and scooters, all in different age groups. Trinidad 8th-grader Jesse Kough, flying his Crisp Scooter up the steep skatepark wall above, may be the one to beat.

camp, a comedy night at Dodgeton Creek Brewing Company, a "fun color run" during Santa Fe Trail Days, a day of skatepark competitions and a cheerleading camp. That just covers the next four months.

Julie Mattorano started SCFC last fall with a mission "to inspire and empower individuals through pro-social activities." After starting its slate of family-friendly activities last October with the Skateboarding Jam at Trinidad Skatepark, SCFC attained its 501(c)(3) non-profit-organization status in December.

In 2016 SCFC has already presented a scrapbooking workshop, a gingerbread-house workshop, and a family Bingo night.

SCFC's Pine Derby arrives April 10 with two three-hour sessions available for parent-child teams to build pine-wood derby cars. A \$30 materials fee will cover parent and child aged 4-12.

A youth golf camp at Trinidad Golf Course arrives April 16 with kids learning in three age groups—4-8 years old, 9-12, and 13-16. A \$15 fee will include lunch, snack and water. SCFC is currently seeking donations of clubs for younger kids and golf balls.

Dodgeton Creek Brewing Company will host SCFC's comedy night April 23 with Wayne Faust performing his unique musical comedy act. \$15 tickets will include an appetizer bar.

A build-a-bear workshop for kids aged 4-7 arrives May 7, another parent-and-child workshop. Kids will stuff, sew, dress and name their bears, with



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

SCFC is busy lining up a full schedule of family events so the fun will just keep coming. Next month's Youth Golf Camp will teach kids aged 4 to 16, in three age groups, at Trinidad Golf Course April 16. SCFC requests donations now for golf balls and clubs for younger kids.

alternate choices of a monkey or a dog available. Cost will be \$30 per child, with a limit of six children.

June 11 will bring a fun run with packets of color to throw, resulting in multi-colored runners at the finish line. SCFC then sponsors a cheerleading camp for individuals and teams June 18-19, with instruction and activities provided by Stuntz Academy of Pueblo.

July's Ride in Peace (RIP) Games will build on SCFC's successful Skateboarding Jam last fall, presenting competitions for skateboarders, bikes and scooters at Trinidad's renowned skatepark.

SCFC welcomes donations to help fund events and keep fees at a minimum for families. For further information, call Julie Mattorano at (719) 251-6509.



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