

THE FINE PRINT

American Legion

There will not be a meeting for American Legion today.

Board of Directors

Board of Directors meeting at 5 p.m. today at FNB.

Holy Trinity Academy

HTA home and school association will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. today at the Sullivan Center. Parents and grandparents are welcome, for any questions please call Bobbie Keys at 680-4278.

Fiesta Meeting

There will be a Fiesta Meeting for all members of La Casa at 6:30 p.m. today at La Casa.

Quilt Club meeting

The Bound Together Quilt Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Fairgrounds. For more information, call (719) 846-3855.000

Santa Fe Trail Festival Committee

Santa Fe Trail Festival Committee will meet at noon on Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room. For additional information call 846-9285.

SPPRCD meeting

Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the District Office.

Slow Pitch Softball

Men's slow pitch softball will have a meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Community Center. **Continued on page 14**

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming west southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest between 15 and 20 mph.

Tomorrow night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9pm, then a slight chance of showers between 9pm and midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a north north-west wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/5/09. South Side priority #73 11/1/1875.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 163.94 acre ft.; Inflow, 213.30 acre ft.; Evaporation, 9.36 acre ft.; Content, 2,7763 acre ft.; Elevation, 6190.65; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Highland 5/31/1866.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



KEEP YOUR COOL
Have your AC checked
Call the professionals!
M & M Repair & Towing
For All Your Automotive & Towing Needs
1901 N. Linden, Trinidad • (719) 846-9546



Photo courtesy of TSJC

Kassandra Rieke with her welding rig.

Not just for boys, cowgirls may apply

Special to The Chronicle-News

She is one of a kind, purposeful, eager and earnest, and TSJC student Kassandra Rieke has a welding rig and is ready to travel.

Rieke, who grew up on a ranch in Meeker, Colorado, was just 12 years-old when her uncle first taught her to weld. Home-schooled cowgirls aren't afraid of a little work, and when she was sixteen, Rieke started running heavy equipment, working in a big gravel pit in Meeker for about a year.

This led to a job she liked better, and the beginning of a career. A friend took her to work as a welder's helper

where they "usually worked six twelves," she said. "That is six days a week/12 hours per day?" she was asked. "Yes, you have to love what you're doing," Rieke said. "One night we went out on a rig call and worked 38 hours straight," she recalled happily.

An outdoor girl, who likes to hunt and fish, Rieke said she loved that job, being in the field, seeing new things, and working in the wilderness. She also rides horses, and "rodeo's a little," and says that working with horses and her hanging tree cow dog have taught her patience, a quality that is useful in welding.

After her family moved to Pueblo, Rieke, who had graduated from an online high school, decided to look for a welding school, "to hone" her skills. One of the schools she toured was Trinidad State Junior College because she had heard good things about its Energy Production Industrial Construction (EPIC) Program from friends who are welders and equipment operators.

She met welding instructors, Vern Paulsen and Holt Tuck, and thought they were "real nice people."

"I wanted to learn the (natural gas)

Continued on page 2



Photos by Tim Keller

Nathan Green gets serious about trimming out Des Moines School's long line of elm trees.

Des Moines School gets a community clean-up

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Following the model of the successful annual community clean-up, Des Moines School got a makeover Saturday morning when twenty community members showed up in work clothes to pick up trash, trim trees, and clear brush.

The clean-up idea came from the beautification work group of the school's Rural Revitalization Initiative (RRI), led by Pam Sorenson and Kelly Hill. At 8:30 Saturday morning,

Sorenson, a former school board member, was cleaning debris from tall green grass in a far corner of the campus with former Des Moines School superintendents Janie Burchard and Midge Graham. Graham found a neat mound of empty Heineken bottles and a \$100,000 bill - in play money.

A hundred yards away, current superintendent Garrett Bosarge was trimming wild branches from a row of elm trees lining Des Moines Avenue. In the lawn near the school's entrance, Principal Ray Churchman carried a

large trash bag as he picked up litter. Scattered all along the front of the campus, community members worked individually and in pairs.

With graduation approaching, Bosarge said the timing couldn't be better. "We're short-handed in our maintenance staff due to budget constraints. This community takes great pride in our school, so they're out this morning to help spruce it up."

Graham recalled earlier clean-ups that were done by students during

Continued on page 6

Health Department appointments, extending term limits head Commissioners agenda

By David Santistevan Jr.
The Chronicle News

The regular meeting of the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners only had a few items of interest Tuesday terms were given to the reappointed Las Animas County board members of the bi-county health department. The other topic of interest were the board approving a resolution seeking voter authorization to extend term limits for the office of Las Animas County Commissioner.

Commissioner and newly appointed chair to the health department Jim Vigil announced that terms have been set for the Las Animas County members serving on the bi-county board. The terms were selected basically out of a hat or in this case a cup. Tony Hass will serve one year. John Rino will serve two years, David Santistevan Jr. was appointed to three years, and George Torres has four years to serve.

At the last meeting Vigil decided to keep the Las Animas County side of the board the same.

One of the big issues brought up at a special work session last month was to extend term limits, the board has been under the two term umbrella since it was voted on back in 1995. The importance of the wording in this is that the board is only authorizing the referral of a ballot measure to be placed before the electorate of Las Animas County at the Nov. 3, 2009 combined election asking the voters of Las Animas County to extend term limits for the office of County Commissioner. This measure is asking the voters to extend term limits to a third term, but not eliminate or lift them totally. The issue was brought up last month at a special work session and came with strong support from many county residents who spoke about the excellent job the

Continued on page 2

McInnis urges Ritter to veto Piñon Canyon bill

STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) — Former U.S. congressman Scott McInnis is urging Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter to veto a bill that would bar the sale or lease of land in southeast Colorado to expand an Army training site.

McInnis says he sent the letter to the governor because he thinks it would be a mistake for the state to interfere in negotiations for use of the land.

McInnis also says he also fears the legislation will be used in Congress to demonstrate statewide opposition to the project.

The Army says it needs more room to accommodate new weapons, new tactics and additional soldiers, but many ranchers near Piñon Canyon oppose the move, warning it could permanently damage range land.

McInnis, a Republican who has expressed interest in running for governor next year, said he worked on the issue in Congress and he believes the bill is premature.

"Things like this work out, but it takes time. I saw it firsthand. We're getting to a point where I think this will be resolved," McInnis said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

In his letter to Ritter, McInnis said the bill is a mistake.

"My experience in Congress tells me that this legislation will be used as a tool to preclude any effort to reach a compromise by either party on this issue. It will be submitted in congressional hearings and in the Congressional Record as a clear demonstration of statewide opposition to this project.

"I believe a compromise can be reached on this important issue that takes into account both the needs of

Continued on page 2

LOCAL NEWS

School Nutrition Association recognizes professionals who promote healthy meals

Special to the Chronicle-News

Teaching nutrition lessons, preparing healthy school meals and offering a friendly greeting are all in a day's work for more than 250,000 child nutrition employees in the nation's 99,000 school cafeterias and kitchens. The non-profit School Nutrition Association celebrates this professional commitment with Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation week, May 4 - 8, 2009. The week is an opportunity for parents, students, school staff, and communities to thank those who provide healthy school meals to more than 30 million children each day.

School nutrition employees must balance many roles and follow numerous federal, state and local regulations to ensure safe and healthy meals are available in schools. They are trained sanitation and food safety experts and must manage self-sufficient programs. School nutrition professionals also provide nutrition education to students, as well as healthy catering services to their communities. They use their creativity to make cafeteria a fun and welcoming place all year long and perform their jobs each day because they care passionately about the children they serve.

The importance and nutritional value

of school meals are well documented. For many children, school lunch is the most important and nutrient-rich meal of their day. Children depend upon school lunch for a third to half of their daily nutritional intake. The U.S. Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, found that "school meals are healthy and children who eat school meals consume more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and dairy items than children who do not eat school meals."

In a 2008 Back to School Trend study, school nutrition professionals provided specific examples of common improvements made to school meals this school year. Among the most popular responses were:

- Increasing the availability of whole grain items
- Reducing/limiting trans fat content
- Limiting fat content of ala carte/vending items
- Reducing or limiting the amount of added sugar in foods

The School Nutrition Association is a national, non-profit professional organization representing more than 50,000 members who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. The association and its members are

dedicated to feeding the children safe and nutritious meals. SNA is the only association devoted exclusively to protecting and enhancing children's health and well being through school meals and sound nutrition education.

■ Trinidad School District #1 expresses its deep appreciation to these valuable employees and commends their good work on behalf of our children.

■ Food Service Director - Anna Gates, Accounting Assistant - Diane Montoya

■ Eckhart School - Anna Perea, Jolynn Dominguez & Gary James

■ Fisher's Peak Elementary - Marilyn Castillo, Priscilla Bueno, Francis Gurule & Emily Trujillo

■ Trinidad Middle School - Florence Velasquez, Sarah Romero, Joann Lucero & Juanita Sena

■ Trinidad High School - Theresa Sanchez, Sally Santistevan, Kathy Vigil, Brenda Fernandez, April Bueno & our budding cafeteria staff Danielson Ruiz.

McInnis urges Ritter to veto Piñon Canyon bill

Continued from page 1

the private property owners and that of the U.S. Army. I believe that your signature on this legislation will make that important middle ground very difficult to reach," McInnis said in his letter to Ritter.

Ritter has not indicated if he supports the bill, which has passed both houses and is on the way to his desk.

McInnis said his concern was over the process and not the battle over land for military training.

Lawmakers who support the legislation were stunned.

"McInnis just made a colossal mistake. This will hurt property

rights in rural Colorado," said Rep. Sal Pace, D-Pueblo.

Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry, R-Fruita, said McInnis is trying to politicize a serious issue facing Colorado landowners.

"I'm a strong supporter of the military, but this boils down to protecting private property rights and whether the federal government should be allowed to run roughshod over the people of Colorado," said Penry, also considered a possible GOP gubernatorial candidate next year.

Like McInnis, Penry hasn't officially announced his candidacy.

Ritter, a Democrat, is expected

to seek re-election.

Landowners have been fighting expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site since the Army announced plans more than three years ago to increase the 238,000-acre site by about 414,000 acres.

Opposition to the plan hasn't lessened despite the Army's announcement last year that it would scale back the expansion to 100,000 acres.

Democratic U.S. Reps. John Salazar and Betsy Markey have said they'll propose a bill prohibiting any future expansion of Piñon Canyon.

Carnegie hosts 'Telling Tales from Mists' tomorrow

Special to The Chronicle-News

Annette Lucero will be telling tales from the mists tomorrow evening at 7:15 pm at the Carnegie Public Library. If you haven't experienced her story telling before, don't miss this opportunity! Her stories, aimed at young adults and mature listeners, will enthrall you. If you are looking for free and fabulous things to do when everything else is expensive, this evening entertainment is priceless.

Don't forget to pick up your tickets! On this Saturday, May 9th an outstanding western music group

will be playing at the Black Box Theater, located inside the first street gallery. Open Range will present a "concert for a cause" and proceeds from the tickets

Support both the Carnegie Public Library and the Kiwanis Youth Art Academy.

Westerners & those who dream of the west will feel right at home with the music of open range. "Music that captures the spirit of the West"... that's how the music of open range has been described. Ric Steinke & Linda Hausler weave a musical blend of tight vocal har-

monies & outstanding acoustic instrumentation. They perform music from the old western standards, to swing tunes of the 40's, to western music being written today, including their own original award-winning compositions. Ric & Linda get their musical inspiration from the wide open spaces of Montano where they live in the Shields River Valley near Livingston, MT. Tickets are very reasonably priced: \$5 for moms & dads, \$2 for children, and grandmothers get in for free so support good causes while treating yourself.

Not just for boys, cowgirls may apply

Continued from page 1

pipe welding aspect (of welding), and I thought there was a more knowledgeable and focused presentation of the skills I wanted to learn at TSJC," she said. "The equipment is awesome and the shop is set up really well," she added.

Spring semester classes will soon be over, and Rieke is ready to go back out in the world and start working again. "I'm really craving it!" She has her own welding rig, a 2004 Dodge one-ton dually with sus-

pension shocks and helper bags and a custom fabricated bed (that she and a friend built last summer), a Lincoln SA-200 1967 model Red-face pipeliner welder, generator, torch set, and welding gas cylinders.

Rieke says rig welders can earn up to \$18,000-\$20,000 per month, and she plans to save the money she earns to eventually buy a ranch where she wants to raise bucking bulls. She would also like to make it a refuge for needy kids. "Ranching is something I love, and it's good for

kids," she said.

Paulsen, who is the director of TSJC's EPIC Welding Program, says Rieke is one of the best welding students he has ever had. "There is a huge demand for welders, and it continues to grow. Welding is needed in every industry: mining, energy, automotive, aviation, construction. Cassandra has great skills and work ethic," he said. "The sky's the limit for her. She can go anywhere."

Health Department appointments, extending term limits head Commissioners agenda

Continued from page 1

board has done over the past few years and that the voters ultimately decide if the elected officials are doing a good job.

The board also thanked the residents and students who testified in favor of House Bill 1317 in front of a Senate committee recently. The bill was passed by the Senate and is now on Gov.

Bill Ritter's desk for his signature.

An update was given on the meeting last Thursday concerning the Trinidad State Nursing Home.

Commissioner Jim Montoya was recommended and certified as an Environmental Official under CDBG No. 08-021.

Liquor license renewals were

given to Tequila's Restaurant, and Westland Resources LLC, at Monument Lake Resort.

A submission was approved for the annual reclamation permit applications to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety for the Road and Bridge department on the Shannon and Sandoval Gravel Pits.





2009 Chevy Traverse

MSRP \$32,040
Inventory discount \$1,500
Trade-in \$750
Down payment \$1,500

\$28,290

#C1327

LOTS OF POWER!

2009 GMC 2500HD

MSRP \$32,995
Inventory discount \$1,808
Trade-in \$1,500
Retail cost \$2,000

\$27,687

#G1330

READY TO WORK!

2009 Pontiac G5

MSRP \$17,685
Inventory discount \$798
Trade-in \$1,500

\$15,387

#P1245

IM TOO SEXY FOR THIS CAR!

1999 Ford F-150

\$5,995

#11211LA

EGGS ARE CHEAPER IN THE COUNTRY AND SO ARE CARS!

2002 Buick LaSable

\$4,995

#B1351A

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER! OLDER IS BETTER!

2002 Ford Focus

\$6,995

#C1247A

SIZE DOES NOT MATTER!

HURRY IN WHILE THE SELECTION IS GOOD!

2005 Chevy Malibu

\$4,995

#D1337B

GOLD & GORGEOUS!

2009 Pontiac G3

MSRP \$15,245
0% APR*
\$249/mo
60 mo, WAC

\$18,495

#P1344

I'LL TAKE TWO!

2009 Pontiac Vibe GT

MSRP \$20,585
Inventory discount \$590
Trade-in \$500
Retail cost \$1,000

\$18,495

#P1268

YOUR KID WOULD LOVE IT!

all prices plus tax title license

Bring

in this coupon & receive a

1/2 price

Oil Change

Offer only applies to a regular price oil change. This can not be used with other offers. Limit One Per Customer. Expires 5/31/09

www.tricountyautomotive.com

Highway 50 & Raton, La Junta

719-384-4401






