



TUESDAY  
MARCH 24, 2009

Vol. 133, No. 58

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico

## THE FINE PRINT

### Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall today. All pastors welcome to come and study the texts for Sunday and for support of each other.

### Kiwanis luncheon

The next Kiwanis luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. today at the Leone Room at TSJC. Guest speaker will be Sandi Espinosa from the Open Door Soup Kitchen.

### Lord's Pantry

The Lord's Pantry will not be able to distribute food today due to circumstances beyond their control. Any questions call Linda 846-7894

### City Council

Trinidad City Council will meet for their work session at 1:30 p.m. today at the City Hall Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall.

### Special Meeting

There will be a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Trinidad, Colorado, at 1:30 today, immediately following the Work Session in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

### HTA Board

Holy Trinity Academy Board of education will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting today at 4 p.m. in the Davis Seminar Room 145.

### Women's Eagles Aux.

Women's Eagles Auxiliary 179 will meet at 6 p.m. today at the Eagle's Hall.

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## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 55. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

**Tonight:** A slight chance of rain showers before 10 p.m., then a slight chance of snow showers between 10 p.m. and midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.

**Tomorrow:** A 10 percent chance of showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tomorrow Night:** A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of snow showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.



## Felix Lopez appointed as Interim President of TSJC

Courtesy of the Trinidad State Junior College  
Special to the Chronicle

**DENVER** - Dr. Nancy McCallin, president of the Colorado Community College System, today announced that she has appointed Felix Lopez as the Interim President of Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC). Lopez is currently the executive vice president and chief financial officer of TSJC. He will assume his new responsibilities on July 1, 2009. Current president, Ruth Ann Woods, announced her plans to retire effective June 30, 2009.

McCallin did extensive community outreach in determining to make this appointment. "I have had many conversations with interested parties in the Trinidad and Alamosa communities and made several trips to Trinidad in considering this appointment. I am excited to say that, from my discussions with the administrative staff, the faculty, the advisory council, the foundation board members, and the students, there was overwhelming support and enthusiasm for this appointment," said McCallin.

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Photo courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College

Felix Lopez has been appointed the Interim President of Trinidad State Junior College.

## Stocks surge on bank plan, rise in home sales

By TIM PARADIS  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Wall Street got the news it wanted on the economy's biggest problems - banks and housing - and responded with a rally that hurled the Dow Jones industrials up nearly 500 points.

Investors added rocket fuel Monday to a two-week-old advance, cheering the government's plan to help banks remove bad assets from their books and also welcoming a report showing a surprising increase in home sales. Major stock indicators surged more than 6 percent, including the Dow.

The Treasury Department's bad asset cleanup program would tap money from the government's \$700 billion financial rescue fund and involve help from the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the participation of private investors.

The government's announcement was what the market had waited weeks to hear. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner had announced an outline of the program last month but provided few details then about how it would work, leading to a plunge on Wall Street that sliced 380 points from the Dow.

Meanwhile, the National Association  
Continued on page 3



AP Photo/Gerald Herbert

President Barack Obama smiles in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, March 23, 2009. Joining him, from left are, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, the president, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chair Sheila Bair.

## Treasury's toxic asset plan could cost \$1 trillion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - The Obama administration's latest attempt to tackle the banking crisis and get loans flowing to families and businesses will create a new government entity, the Public-Private Investment Program, to help purchase as much as \$1 trillion in toxic assets on banks' books.

The new effort, to be unveiled Monday, will be followed the next day with release of the administration's broad framework for overhauling the financial system to ensure that the current crisis - the worst in seven decades - is not repeated.

A key part of that regulatory framework will give the government new resolution authority to take over troubled institutions that would pose a threat to the entire financial system if they failed.

Administration officials believe this new power will save taxpayers money and avoid the type of controversy that erupted last week when insurance giant American International Group paid employees of its troubled financial products unit

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Photo by David Santistevan Jr.

Monday's cooler temperatures didn't stop these two children from coming out the play on the first day of Trinidad School District No. 1's spring break. There is a 10 percent chance for showers today.

## Kearny elementary teacher, Bob Stuart, receives NEA award

By LAURA L. BREWER  
The Chronicle-News

The National Education Association has awarded Mr. Bob Stuart, fifth grade teacher at Kearny Elementary School, an award for "excellence in teaching and advancement for the profession," as a dedicated member of the NEA in New Mexico. As the recipient of this award, Stuart will be sent to the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education in Washington, D.C. as the New Mexico NEA state representative in February 2010.

"It was a complete surprise to me," Stuart exclaimed. He didn't realize he had won the prestigious award until he received it in the mail. Laura Looney, math teacher at Raton Middle School, who had worked with Stuart during his days as an American History teacher there, and who knew of the many fine attributes and teaching skills that he brings to his profession, had nominated Stuart.

Stuart, who had originally received his teaching degree

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Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Bob Stuart, fifth grade teacher at Kearny Elementary School, received the NEA award.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 3/23/09. Llewellyn & McCormick priority #13 1/1/1864

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, .24 acre ft.; Inflow, 73.74 acre ft.; Evaporation, 6.50 acre ft.; Content, 2,4009 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,185.78; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Winter Storage 3/10/1910.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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## CASH & NUMBERS

Here are Monday's Cash 5 numbers: 21-24-25-28-32.

**FOX**  
 BOX OFFICE OPENS 7:00  
 SHOW STARTS 7:30  
*now showing*  
  
 423 W. Main • 846-2851

**THE MOVIE PICTURE SHOWHOUSE**  
**Confessions of a Shopaholic**  
 Mon - Thurs : 6:30 p.m.  
 RATED PG  
**Knowing**  
 Mon - Thurs : 6:45 p.m.  
 RATED PG-13  
**Race to Witch Mountain**  
 Mon - Thurs : 7:00 p.m.  
 RATED PG  
**Watchmen**  
 Mon - Thurs : 7:15 p.m.  
 RATED R - No one under 17 admitted without parent. Id's required  
 3600 E. Main • 846-0552

**GRAND OPENING**  
**ENDLESS TAN**  
 3 Level Tanning • Full Body Skin Rejuvenating Bed  
 Sunless Tanning Booth • Massage  
 Lotions, Handbags, Clothing, Sunglasses & Jewelry  
 34390 Hwy 12, Trinidad, CO 81082  
 myspace.com/endlesstantrinidad **719.846.7447**

**Feed & More LLC**  
 Your only local authorized dealer for Hi Pro and Ranch Way Feeds  
 Purina Products • Wood pellets for wood stoves  
 For all your livestock & pet foods needs visit us!  
 Call 719-846-4029 (store), 719-680-0271 (Randy's Cell),  
 or after hours call 719-846-9636  
 Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sat., 8 a.m. - noon  
 Directions: East on Main Street to Hwy 160 junction, turn right,  
 take 2nd right after milepost 353, look for Big Red Barn

**March Business After Hours** **Food & Fun!**  
**March 26 • 5-7PM**  
 Hosted By: *Bill Winter*  
**BLUE DIAMOND BUILDERS**  
 221 Adam Rd. Trinidad, Colorado

*Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*  
**BUSINESS LUNCHEON** **FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH**  
 12-NOON  
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of Trinidad  
 \$10.00-Dinner Fee

You are cordially invited to attend our monthly business luncheon. Ann Aubuchon, Director of Nursing and Peggy Hamlin, Quality Assurance Nurse Director, Trinidad State Nursing Home, will be the featured speakers. Both Ann and Peggy have been at TSNH for over 16-years in various nursing and management capacities.

"Culture change is the common name given to the national movement for the transformation of older adult services, based on person-directed values and practices where the voices of elders and those working with them are considered and respected. Core person-directed values are choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living."

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate and take part in this most informative presentation. Please join us.

**RSVP Deadline: Tuesday, March 24th, 2009**  
 Yolanda - 846-8234 Jennie - 846-6678

## MY TWO CENTS

# Armed but not exactly dangerous

By **NIKKI THOMPSON-ARKO**  
*Special to the Chronicle*

I am usually the butt of my family's jokes which isn't exactly a surprise considering that I am a humor writer and a self-proclaimed oddball. What I take the most grief over has to do with the shotguns I keep handy to run predators away from the henhouse.

I've probably mentioned that I come from a long line of avid marksmen that pop culture likes to refer to as "rednecks." Like many people my age from around here, I took hunter's safety training at age nine. I liked to shoot but I didn't ever want to kill anything. That doesn't make sense, I know. Trust me, this isn't the only thing about me that doesn't make sense.

My ex-husband was a gun nut, not to be confused with a gun enthusiast. He was a nut! Unlike me, he wasn't content with target shooting. He pretty much shot at anything that moved. His particular favorite target was prairie dogs. This was mainly because he could hunt them without ever getting out of his truck. He wasn't exactly a ball of fire.

Running varmints off the place isn't what I take the most grief over. We don't exactly live in the boonies but our closest neighbors would not see or hear anything going on over here. Many years ago my ex-husband and some of his idiot cohorts

parked on the county road and walked down to the house. They knocked on the walls and windows and terrified the kids.

On their last rendezvous I was pretty ticked off. I went outside in my irrigation boots, nightgown and a 16-gauge shotgun loaded with #1 buck. Not a pretty sight to say the least. I fired five shots into the bank and reloaded. Evidently the marauders believed that I would actually shoot them. I have to admit that thought had crossed my mind. I could hear crashing through the underbrush and yelling. Then I heard "Damn it Mike, she's shooting at us."

We live at the end of the road and it isn't uncommon for weekend partiers and bored teens to end up at our house late at night. Usually the outside dogs, a Rottweiler and a Pit-mix are enough to send our uninvited visitors back out the way they came. Sometimes, however, they are determined that they are at the right place

and need a little persuasion.

I try reasoning with them but to be honest I don't have a lot of patience with drunks. As a last result I calmly walk back into the house and come out with the spotlight, a shotgun and a handful of shells. I set the spotlight down and slowly load the shells one by one. Usually the sight of the gun is enough to send them packing, but once in a while I get a real idiot. No one has ever been brave enough to stick around for more than two shells.

Unfortunately lost or prankster teens usually get a double dose. Not only do they get the gun/spotlight treatment. I also tell them that I am going to call their parents and let them know what they are doing. Nine out of ten times I have no idea who they are. But it is a good bluff. No unwelcome visitors have ever come back a second time.

Word of the armed crazy lady in my neck of the woods has spread. A while back a

group of guys that work with my brother, Robert, were working near my house. They went into the trees to relieve themselves. When they returned, Robert told them that he was surprised that I didn't shoot them. At first they suspected Robert was joking but he was adamant so they weren't sure whether to believe him or not. I told Robert he should have called me and I would have gone out and shot into the bank. I always have liked a good prank!

Despite my protests our county road was paved last winter. The truck drivers used our place as a turn around. One particularly dense driver ignored my requests to stay on the gravel and made huge circles through the grass anyway. Driving across the graves where two of our beloved dogs were buried was the final straw. I flagged him down. As you may have guessed I'm not one to mince words. I warned him that if he so much as bent one more

blade of grass that I was going to shoot out his tires! Then I called the company secretary and repeated my threat.

I had some errands to run in town the next morning and had to wait while they were finishing up a section of the road. One of the workers came over to the car and motioned for me to roll down my window, so I did. He asked me if I was Robert's sister and I told him I was. He chuckled and shook his head. Then he asked me if I really would have blasted the tires. So I asked him if he thought I would. "Oh yeah," he answered. "I've heard stories about you!"

I asked what stories he had heard. He changed the subject. For all I know I may be rumored to have actually shot several people and either buried the bodies or perhaps I let the coyotes deal with the remains. I really would like to hear the stories ... that way I could add my two cents and make them really exciting!

Your feedback is always welcome at [nikkiarko@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkiarko@yahoo.com).

# Felix Lopez appointed as Interim President of TSJC

Continued from page 1

"Felix has been an integral part of the college and the community for many years and will take the college forward and build on its successes."

Current president Ruth Ann Woods said "Felix has a commitment to our students and their success that I admire and highly respect. We have worked together for seven years now. I cannot think of a better person to take the reins of the college and continue all the great work that we have accomplished these past years. My congratulations and heart felt best wishes to my colleague."

"It will be an honor to work with the faculty, staff and administration in both Trinidad and the San Luis Valley who are committed to serve the students at the

capacity of excellence we have established," said Lopez. "I believe that all of us at TSJC stand side by side contributing ideas for the betterment of the college family and I will continue the tradition of creating outstanding partnerships that so clearly have contributed to and benefited the college so greatly."

Lopez joined TSJC in 1994 as director of fiscal services and director of purchasing. In 2002, he was promoted to vice-president and chief financial officer. Prior to this, he was a franchise supervisor for Colomex for numerous years. He successfully completed training as a Colorado state trooper and served Trinidad in that capacity for a short time. He started his higher education experience with an associate of arts degree in accounting business administration from

TSJC in 1983 and continued on to the University of Southern Colorado to earn his bachelor of arts in social sciences in 1999, and then went on to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins to obtain his master's degree in human resources and education in 2002. Mr. Lopez will remain Interim President for one year and will be evaluated for permanent presidency at that time.

The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education serving more than 107,000 students annually. CCCS oversees career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions.

## Branson Ladies' Craft Club meets

SUBMITTED BY **MARGARET J. LEWIS**  
*Special to the Chronicle*

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009 the members of the Branson Ladies' Craft Club met at the Branson Senior Center.

The business meeting was conducted by President - Inge Bobek. Judy Goode led the pledge to the flag and Loretta Goode led the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. In the absence of Emmagene Caldwell, Mary Ann Loudon read the minutes of the Feb. 11 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Mary Ann gave the financial report. Elva Homer passed around a get-well card for all to sign for Doris Goff.

Announcements: Todi Doherty explained to members about the Branson School Carnival. It is scheduled at 3 to 7 p.m., Friday March 20. There will be booths with prizes, food, contests and games - Fun for all ages!

Mary Ann told the ladies that she and Willard had purchased the Catholic Church building here in Branson. They will be

assisted with the historical research and interior design by Rachel Snyder.

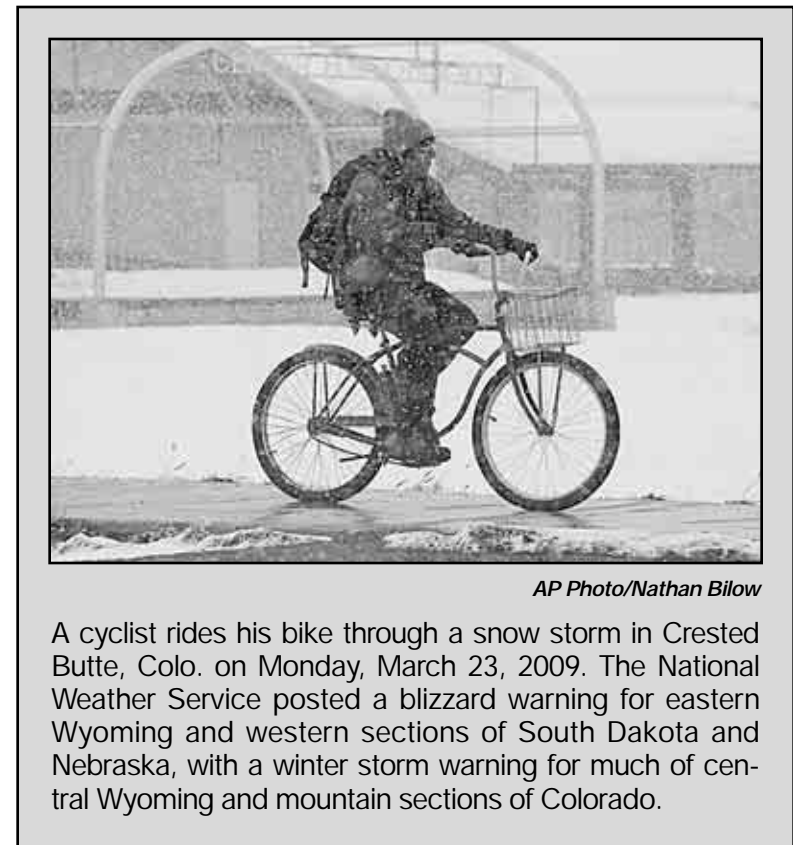
The guest for this March meeting was Aria Ide of California.

As hostesses Loretta and Judy used the Saint Patrick's theme. They placed shamrocks, peppermint candies and leprechauns on the table. It was "beautifully decorated". Betty Cummins gave the blessing for the luncheon.

Loretta and Judy served corn beef, cabbage, carrots, Loretta's home made rolls, tea and coffee.

For the afternoon craft, Inge helped the ladies make Easter Bunny candle holders. She had glass holders; they used felt to cut out bunnies, chicks and eggs that they glued to the glass.

The hostesses for the April 8th meeting are Joan Doherty and Betty Cummins.



AP Photo/Nathan Bilow

A cyclist rides his bike through a snow storm in Crested Butte, Colo. on Monday, March 23, 2009. The National Weather Service posted a blizzard warning for eastern Wyoming and western sections of South Dakota and Nebraska, with a winter storm warning for much of central Wyoming and mountain sections of Colorado.

## TRINIDAD POLICE BLOTTER

### March 23, 2009 ARRESTS

- 3/18/09 - Gabriel Valdez, 25, Trinidad - Violation of a court order
- 3/20/09 - Jessica Gowen, 29, Model - Drove vehicle while license canceled/denied, speeding, Las Animas County warrant
- 3/21/09 - Rodney Erdman, 36, Trinidad - DUI, careless driving, drove vehicle without a valid license
- 3/21/09 - Robert Ossola, 21, Trinidad - Violation of protection order
- 3/21/09 - David Curro, 52, Trinidad - Possession of schedule II controlled substance, second degree assault on a police

officer, tampering with physical evidence, resisting arrest, obstructing a police officer

- 3/22/09 - John Martinez, 18, Trinidad - Disorderly conduct, illegal consumption of ethyl alcohol by underage person
- 3/22/09 - Kevin Hoy, 25, Albuquerque, NM - Disorderly conduct
- 3/22/09 - Travis Aragon, 27, Trinidad - Disorderly conduct
- 3/22/09 - Kimberly Kite, 21, Raton, NM - Disorderly conduct

### SUMMONS

- 3/18/09 - Virginia Samora, Trinidad - Speeding 10-19 miles

- over the limit
- 3/18/09 - Miranda Santistevan, Trinidad - Unsafe backing
- 3/20/09 - John Brindle, La Junta - Speeding 10-19 miles over the limit

### ACCIDENTS

- 3/18/09 - An accident occurred at 847 Arizona when a vehicle driven by Miranda Santistevan, Trinidad, backed into a vehicle driven by Melina Salazar, Trinidad. Both vehicles sustained slight damage.
- 3/21/09 - An accident occurred at the intersection of White Street and Linden Avenue when a vehicle driven by Eloisa Encinias, Trinidad, failed to yield the right of way and struck a vehicle driven by John Cordova, Trinidad. Encinias' vehicle sustained severe damage and was towed from the scene. Cordova's vehicle sustained moderate damage.

- 3/21/09 - An accident occurred at the intersection of White Street and Linden Avenue when a vehicle driven by Eloisa Encinias, Trinidad, failed to yield the right of way and struck a vehicle driven by John Cordova, Trinidad. Encinias' vehicle sustained severe damage and was towed from the scene. Cordova's vehicle sustained moderate damage.

- 3/21/09 - An accident occurred at the intersection of White Street and Linden Avenue when a vehicle driven by Eloisa Encinias, Trinidad, failed to yield the right of way and struck a vehicle driven by John Cordova, Trinidad. Encinias' vehicle sustained severe damage and was towed from the scene. Cordova's vehicle sustained moderate damage.

### PARKING TICKET

- 03/20/09 - Jeffrey Buchanan, Greeley, Colo. - Parked more than 12 inches from curb

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