

Only 14 days 'til Christmas



THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

THURSDAY
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THE FINE PRINT

Tourism Board

The Trinidad Tourism Board will meet for a work session at 9 a.m. today in the conference room at City Hall.

Holiday musical concert

The Trinidad Children's Choral, the TMS Choir and the THS Choir will host their holiday musical performance at 7 p.m. tonight in the TMS Auditorium.

Pump classes for diabetics

Elvira Martin will be offering a pump classes for diabetics in the Mt. San Rafael Hospital cafeteria at 7 p.m. tonight. No registration fee is required.

Hoehne Board mtg.

The Hoehne R-3 School District's regular December Board Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in the Superintendent's Office.

Coalition meeting

The Coalition meeting will begin at 12 p.m. tomorrow at the First Street Gallery, 150 East First St.

Trinidad BOE mtg.

The Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education will host a special meeting at 12 p.m. tomorrow to certify the Mill Levy at the Trinidad School District Administration Office.

Al-Anon Family Group

The Al-Anon Family Group, people living with alcohol and/or drugs, will host a meeting at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Presbyterian Church, 801 San Pedro, in the basement. For more information, please call Sharone (719) 846-9999.

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Gift for soldiers

If you have a family member who is stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan, please contact Linda Barron at (719) 846-8223 or Jim Vigil at (719) 845-0890 so gift packages can be mailed to them.

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Tomorrow: A slight chance of snow showers before 11am, then a slight chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 49. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tomorrow Night: A slight chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 12/10/08. Johns Priority No. 15 as of 4/10/1864.

Trinidad Lake Accounting: Release, 0; Inflow, 85.46 acre ft.; Evaporation, 2.46 acre ft.; Content, 18,029 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,177.16; Precipitation, .02.

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

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



S.C.C.S. Director Dr. Gary Wilson and accompanist Dr. Amy Polk.

(Photo by Cynthia Berresse Ploski)

Song amid the foothills Choral art unites southern Colorado communities

Submitted by **CYNTHIA BERESSE PLOSKI**
Special to the Chronicle

There is more bubbling up through the landscape of Southern Colorado than coalbed methane gas. It is the eruption of a mini-Renaissance, bursting forth in classical song.

One can hear the voices of its people raised in glorious choral harmonies, singers who come from all over southern Colorado. From Trinidad, Walsenburg, Aguilar, Gulnare and Raton, N.M., thirty people of all ages gather at the music department of Trinidad State Junior College. There, they rehearse for four hours every Tuesday evening to prepare for the extraordinary concert that will be presented on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Trinidad.

These people are the Southern Colorado Choral Society, and accompanying them for this Holiday concert are 20 musicians from Pueblo and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra. Together they will fill the hallowed stone walls of this beautiful old church with classical music honoring the Season.

Holy Trinity Church, located on Church Street in the "Corazon of Trinidad" historic district of downtown Trinidad, is a venue in which Mozart himself would have felt at home. Its limestone walls were erected in 1885 to serve a large parish established in 1866. The spacious interior, adorned with beautiful stained glass, artwork and statuary, creates a space of rich acoustical resonance that the singers and professional musicians will fill with soaring harmonies to lift the spirits of their standing room only audience.

This is the second concert of the Southern Colorado Choral Society, directed and founded in 2007 by Dr. Gary Wilson, head of the Trinidad State Junior College Music Department. Their inaugural concert last spring packed Holy Trinity Church with an audience whose enthusiastic standing ovation and tears of emotion demonstrated that Southern Colorado could produce music equivalent to anything one can experience in a big city far from this rural environment.

The Southern Colorado Choral Society, supported by the Junior College and citizens of local commu-

nities, has raised the bar in what is becoming a quiet rebirth similar to those early days when Trinidad was the cultural center of all Colorado.

Known for its brick streets, Victorian architecture, cattle ranching and oil and gas extraction, the past half dozen years have seen Trinidad re-emerge into the cultural gem of Southern Colorado. Art galleries, bed and breakfast establishments and antique shops have sprouted up. The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre has brought professional live theatre to Trinidad for the past seven summers, attracting visitors from as far as Denver and Albuquerque.

Likewise, this upcoming S.C.C.S. Holiday Concert, presenting works by Rutter, Finzi, Clausen, Beethoven, Schubert and a suite of traditional carols arranged by Robert Shaw, will include visitors from as far as New York City, and will once again elevate the consciousness of its audience into sacred realms transcending the bustle and chaos of the ordinary world.

For further information, please contact Sarah LeComte, General Manager, S.C.C.S., at Sarah.lecomte@trinidad-state.edu or by phone at (719) 846-5656.



Brian Miller, the new director, enjoys a few moments in his office, but would rather be spending time visiting with the residents of the Raton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. (Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

New director of nursing home brings love and respect of residents

By **LAURA L. BREWER**
The Chronicle-News

RATON - Brian Miller, the new director at the Raton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, brings a passion to his job that few have. He comes by his love and respect of the elderly naturally, having grown up under the care and guidance of his paternal grandparents. He remembers calling bingo at a very young age as he accompanied his grandparents, Martha and Jake Egler, to their weekly recreation in

Conrad, Montana. Jake Egler, to this day, is Miller's role model.

"He is so patient, caring and knowledgeable," explains Miller, "that's how I want to live my life." Because of his grandparents' influence, Miller brings a respect for each resident and tries to add dignity and self-worth to each one's daily living.

"I picture everyone here as my grandfather." And, he adds that the realization that no one is further than seventy-two hours from full-time care in a nursing home, struck home, and

made him want to make it as enjoyable as possible. To that end, Miller will be unveiling a new bird atrium in the recreation room for the residents' enjoyment and has also implemented the "Friends of Frieda" program.

"Friends of Frieda" is a national program, which was founded by the facility's parent company, Cathedral Rock in Fort Worth, Tex. Named for the corporation's CEO, Kent Harrington's mother, "Friends of Frieda" mandates that every resident
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Legislators hold news conference on COGCC

By **DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.**
The Chronicle-News

On Wednesday morning legislators trying to create and save jobs here in Colorado, especially in the oil and gas industry, cautioned the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), about the negative impact the commissions new proposed regulations could have on the already faltering Colorado economy. Las Animas County could take a major blow to both the job market and local economy if some of these rules take effect in January.

The COGCC has already asked the General Assembly to allow three of the new rules and regulations to take effect the first of the year. Earlier this week the COGCC started working on its final drafts of the new regulations. Legislators still have to have a hearing and review the new rules before they go into effect. The oil and gas industry continues to flourish in these tough economic times, keeping the Colorado and Las Animas County economies afloat.

Since 2007, the new look COGCC board has put jobs, the Colorado economy (especially in Las Animas County and the Raton Basin) in jeopardy, and at a virtual stand still.

According to Republican lawmakers Sen. Greg Brophy of Wray, and Rep. Laura Bradford of Mesa County, their districts' economies would take a huge blow if restrictions are passed to energy development.

Brophy and Bradford said the state's economy will suffer if the COGCC continues its insular rulemaking process with a hostile attitude toward the oil and gas industry.

"Ever since the COGCC was overhauled it's acted like it has sole governing power over Colorado's energy sector, but the fact is all of the rules it makes must be approved by us (Colorado legislators)," said Brophy and Bradford.

Sen. Salazar to host community, elected officials

Special to the Chronicle

With our economy in turmoil, rising job losses, a growing health care crisis, and continuing threats to our national security, our country must confront several difficult challenges in the months ahead. To help prepare to meet these challenges in the 111th Congress, U.S. Senator Ken Salazar invites everyone to a meeting of elected officials and community leaders at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008 at Trinidad State Junior College, 600 Prospect Street. The meeting will be conducted in the General Purpose Room at the Sullivan Student Center.

In addition to discussing the national issues that Congress will tackle when it convenes in January, Senator Salazar would like input from the community on his Regional Plan for the Arkansas River Region, which he has developed over the last four years with the input of local leaders and community members. Senator Salazar's regional plans identify priorities for his work in the Arkansas River Region on agriculture, public lands, water, community development, transportation, health care and education. At the meeting, Senator Salazar will review progress towards accomplishing the objectives in the plan and would like to hear your thoughts on what other priorities should be included.

Contributions to this discussion are important. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Dwight or Angela at the Arkansas River Region office either by phone (719-542-7550) or email Dwight_Gardner@salazar.senate.gov or Angela_Giron@salazar.senate.gov