

# Trinidad State Lake activities for July 25

Special to The Chronicle-News

## Saturday July 25th 7:00 p.m. Pickn' and Grin' 'Round the Campfire

Bring your own marshmallows for this oriented family program. Meet at the Amphitheatre to hear signer and guitar player Kevin Crosby and his mandolin playing sidekick Mark Huston as they perform campfire tunes for the entire family. From traditional to the unusual, from gunslin-

gin' to godspellin' from Appalachia to the Rockies. Remember to BYOM (Bring Your Own Marshmallows) or share some of ours.

Throughout 2009, Colorado State Parks is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a leader in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, protecting the state's best landscapes, educating visitors about nature and partnering with communities.

Attracting more than 11 million visitors per year,

Colorado's 42 State Parks are a vital cornerstone of Colorado's economy and quality of life. Colorado State Parks encompass 242,531 land and water acres, offering some of the best outdoor recreation destinations in the state. Colorado State Parks also manage more than 4,000 campsites, and 57 cabins and yurts. For more information on Colorado State Parks or to purchase an annual pass online, visit [www.colorado.gov/parks](http://www.colorado.gov/parks).

# Christine Blan retires from School District #1

By GAY LEE MASSAROTTI  
The Chronicle-News

Christine Blan a lifelong resident of Trinidad, retired on May 20, 2009 after working for Trinidad School District #1 for 20 years. Christine has taught for a total of 36 years in Trinidad. She began her teaching career at Trinidad Catholic where she started as a kindergarten teacher. She then taught first, and third grade classes before she spent her final eight years at TC as a second grade teacher. Her husband Bernie worked at the mine and due to the economic struggles caused to the community by the mine strike, Blan felt the need to attain extra income to help sustain her family. So, she applied at the School District. Her first position was Aide to Special Education teacher Loyola Litz. While working at District 1 she taught 1st, 2nd and 4th grade before taking a position two years ago as the Title I teacher at Eckhart Elementary. Mrs. Blan's favorite part of her teaching career was "seeing the growth in the students and knowing that the students succeed" (after leaving the elementary). She also takes pride in seeing former student teachers such as Kathy Bell (Fisher's Peak Elementary, 3rd Grade), Lisa Glorioso (Eckhart Elementary, 1st Grade) and Brenda Maes (FPE, 2nd grade) teaching their own classes. She also hopes to see her Title I aide Kathy Bueno become a teacher as well. The hardest part of her job she feels has been the numerous changes in the laws and the increased testing that the students must begin prepar-

ing for at such a young age.

Blan attended Columbian Elementary, which was once where the current Eckhart school is located. She says that during this time she had two teachers who she loved and that inspired her to become a teacher, Miss Sylvia Mantelli (1st ) and Mrs. Robinson (3rd). She moved on to Rice Junior High (current District 1 Administration Building) and graduated from Trinidad High. Following high school she attended Trinidad State Junior College and then Adams State. Mrs. Blan comes from a long line of educators which include her grandmother who taught in Mexico, her sisters, Teresa Vasquez (TC), and Linda DeLong (25 years in Las Animas). Other educating family members who she takes pride in are, Al Sanchez (former Principal) and Jennifer Mason (THS Principal).

She and Bernie have been married for 40 years this coming December. Their son Bernie Jr. is an assistant golf pro in Delta, Colorado and their daughter-in-law Angel works for the Department of Human Services here in Trinidad. The couple have two children Justin age 10 and Kaytlin, eight. Christine feels very fortunate to have such a supportive family. Her husband encouraged her to go back to school and even enjoyed assisting her in setting up her classroom year after year prior to the first day of school. Mrs. Blan's role model is her 90 year old mother, Erlinda Vasquez. Vasquez was a single parent of 9 children whom she made sure went to



Christine Blan

school every day. Erlinda raised the 9 children on \$250 per month and Christine is amazed at how her mother could stretch money. Her mother made sure that all of her children received a college education. Five of them have a B.A or B.S and the remaining four have at least an AA or above. "My mother is amazing! I don't think I would be where I am today if I hadn't had so much support and encouragement throughout my life."

Although she will miss working with the first grade team at Eckhart she plans to stay as busy as possible with her hobbies, which are spending time with Justin and Kaytlin, reading, gardening, and watching the Rockies. Currently she is enjoying the manual labor of painting her house and hopes to volunteer more at her Church. She is even considering volunteering at Fisher's Peak Elementary which is close to her home.



Photo courtesy of TSJC

Dave Harris, Workforce Liaison, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, South Central Workforce Center, and Ginger McComas, TANF Grant Coordinator and Student Advisor Trinidad State Junior College

# Tuition assistance grants available for basic jobs skills training

Courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College  
Special to The Chronicle-News

This fall, Trinidad State Junior College is offering two nine-month certificate programs for residents of Las Animas County who need to learn new job skills or refresh their basic job skills to become competitive in the jobs market.

The 'Basic Skills Certificate Program' consists of two semesters (21 credit hours) with classes including: Intro to PC Applications, Keyboarding Applications II, Desktop Publishing, Complete PC Word Processing, Interpersonal Communications, Business Communications, and ReportWriting/Administrative Office Management.

The 'Basic Hospitality Studies Certificate Program,' a two-semester (24 credit hours) program offers: Intro to Food & Beverage, Intro to Hospitality, Intro to PC Applications, Keyboarding Applications II, Front Office Procedures, Business Communications, Interpersonal Communications and an Internship.

TSJC was awarded \$76,269.00 from a federal grant program, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), distributed by the Las Animas County Department of Human Services, to help fund these programs.

According to Ginger McComas, TANF Grant Coordinator and Student Advisor, the program will provide \$2,127.00 tuition assistance for up to twenty eligible full-time students. Students can attend full- or part-time to fit into busy schedules.

The guidelines for TANF Grant eligibility are:

- Families with dependent children living in their household
  - Household income less than \$75,000
  - Lawful presence in the U.S.
- "This is a wonderful opportunity for homemakers who need to brush up on skills to be competitive in the jobs market, for displaced workers who want to learn new skills, for young people who need to learn skills to land their first job, or for anyone who would like to make

themselves more competent in the jobs market or for their current employer," McComas said.

"The grant guidelines for the Basic Skills Certificate Program are very generous and provide a great opportunity for a variety of Las Animas County residents of different ages and backgrounds to take advantage of these classes in order to gain skills, confidence, and ultimately employment," McComas said.

TSJC Interim President Felix Lopez stated, "I think education and re-training, as we look at what our nation is going through, is really going to be one of the assets that Trinidad State can bring to the table in this community. These funds will allow TSJC to provide a vehicle for some individuals to get back into the workforce."

Classes start August 24, and the program is filling fast. Please contact Ginger McComas at 846-5644 or email [ginger.mccomas@trinidad-state.edu](mailto:ginger.mccomas@trinidad-state.edu) for more information.

# Artists may now enter the 2009 Colorado State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition

Special to The Chronicle-News

PUEBLO, Colo. - Artists across Colorado are preparing for the 2009 Colorado State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition. Two divisions for artwork submission are being offered: Emerging Artist/Student and Professional.

"The Fine Arts Exhibition is a great forum to highlight the artistic talent in Colorado," said State Fair General Manager, Chris Wiseman.

"Each year, hundreds of artists have an opportunity to have their work seen by nearly half a million people and I'm constantly amazed by the quality of art this show brings in."

All artwork chosen for the exhibition will be on display in the Fine Arts Pavilion during the entire length of the Fair. Artists may enter between now and August 1 through the Fair's General Entry office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call (719) 404-2080.

The 2009 Fine Arts Exhibition is a joint collaboration between the Colorado State Fair and Pueblo Community College. For more information on the exhibition, visit <http://www.coloradostatefair.com> and click on "Fair Entry Info."

The 2009 Colorado State Fair runs from August 28 through September 7. For more information, visit [www.coloradostatefair.com](http://www.coloradostatefair.com).

# Nashville Nights - music and food of the South

Special to The Chronicle-News

Cougar Canyon Golf Resort is pleased to announce a special dinner and evening concert Thursday, August 20th, by award-winning Nashville singer/songwriter and flamenco guitarist Andy Hackbarth. Hackbarth is currently on a year-long tour of the United States and Europe promoting his third full-length album, "Lost In Reverie", to be released August 11th, 2009.

Hackbarth and concert sponsor, KSPK Radio, approached Cougar Canyon, one of the first stops on his promotional tour, because he wanted to do an outdoor concert in conjunction with a great dining experience. Guests will enjoy such Southern favorites as pulled pork and peaches flambée while savoring the sweet sounds of Hackbarth's folk guitar, flamenco guitar, and banjo. And let's not forget that he can sing as well.

The Colorado Native has opened for some of the biggest acts in music including

Lonestar, Katie Armiger, Buddy Jewell, Due West, and Blue County. He is the winner of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) and Music Teacher's National Association (MTNA) state and regional competition. He was also recently selected as a finalist and Honorable Mention Awardee in the International Songwriting Competition, a contest that attracted more than 15,000 applicants worldwide.

Cougar Canyon, for its part, was more than happy to accommodate Hackbarth's performance request. "We're constantly striving to do something new and exciting for Trinidad and surrounding community," said Scott Candland, Cougar Canyon's Managing Director. "This concert will be the first of many." When Cougar Canyon Resort and Spa opens later this year, the stage will be set for a venue large enough for both indoor and outdoor performances as well as an all-suite hotel with 117 rooms to

accommodate concert-goers.

For Andy's performance, the Southern cuisine dinner buffet begins at 6 p.m. and the concert itself starts at 6:30. An intermission will give listeners the opportunity to visit Executive Chef Dan Goodrum's flambée station and to sample a wide variety of other desserts that add up to some homemade Southern goodness. The \$24 pass includes the Southern buffet dinner, Hackbarth's concert, and dessert. Tickets are limited and can be purchased in advance by calling Cougar Canyon at (877) 547-7455 or KSPK Radio at (719) 738-3636.

To learn more about Andy Hackbarth and sample his music, you can visit him online at [www.AndyHackbarth.com](http://www.AndyHackbarth.com). Please visit [www.CougarCanyonLiving.com](http://www.CougarCanyonLiving.com) or call (877) 547-7455 to learn more about everything Cougar Canyon Golf Resort Community has to offer for golfers, guests, and homebuyers.



Photo courtesy of Trinidad Community Band

Trinidad Community Band members rehearse with Michael Guadagnoli in preparation for Sunday's concert at the Trinidad History Museum Bloom Mansion gardens.

# RATON POLICE BLOTTER

## ARRESTED

- 07-17-09 Wallace Gross - battery 2 counts
- 07-17-09 Michael Ortega - battery against a household member

## INCIDENTS

- 07-17-09 Gina Archuleta - battery against a household member
- 07-17-09 Edmond Embrock - battery against a household member
- 07-20-09 Joseph Gagliardi - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-20-09 Gregg Griego - vic-

tim of criminal damage to property

- 07-20-09 Anthony Marquez - victim of aggravated battery
- 07-20-09 Deena Sisneros - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-20-09 Liz Naugel - victim of burglary
- 07-20-09 Martha Phelps - victim of criminal damage to property
- 07-20-09 Sommerset Apartments - victim of criminal damage to property

## CITATIONS

- 07-17-09 Patrick Romero -

battery against a household member

- Edwin Gross - battery
- 07-20-09 Kevin Garcia - criminal damage to property
- 07-20-09 Steven Hernandez - aggravated battery, tampering with evidence, resisting/obstructing an officer, minor in possession of alcohol, and criminal damage to property
- 07-20-09 Derrick Romero - driving with suspended license
- 07-20-09 Martin Hanna - speeding
- 07-20-09 Mark Schulte - limitation on backing

## ACCIDENTS

- 07-17-09 Francis Amy Lewis and Tami Stogsdill
- 07-17-09 Mark Horner and Renee Romero