

THE FINE PRINT

Quilt Club meeting

The Bound Together Quilt Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. today at the Fairgrounds. For more information, call (719) 846-3855.

SPPRCD meeting

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

Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District

Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. today in the City Council Chambers.

W.O.W.

Women of the World bible study at First Christian Church has been cancelled for Friday.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The monthly luncheon has been re-scheduled at noon on Friday at the Holiday Inn Suites for reservations please call Yolanda at 846-8234.

Special Meeting

Primero RE-2 Board of Education will have a special meeting/executive session (personnel) at 5:30 p.m. on Friday in the cafeteria.

Fish Fry

Holy Trinity Academy will host a fish fry Friday, at Sebastiani Gym from 5:30-7 p.m. Tickets available at HTA, Hadad's Home Furnishings, Gypsy Soul, and All that is Energy.

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Piñon Canyon School Protection Act clears first hurdle

By DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

On Wednesday testimony was heard by the House Agricultural Committee concerning "The Piñon Canyon Land Owners and School Protection Act," House Bill 09-1317. The bill passed by an 11-2 vote.

The bill is designed to help stop the Army's proposed expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site east of Trinidad.

The bill was introduced Sunday by Rep Sal Pace, D-H.D. 46, of Pueblo and Rep. Wes McKinley, D-H.D. 64 of

Walsh. Members of the Branson, Kim, and Hoehne High School FFA's also gave emotional testimony to the committee.

All three members of the Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners Jim Montoya, Jim Vigil and Gary Hill, local farmers, ranchers, attorneys and historians all testified in support of the bill. No one appeared before the committee in opposition of the bill.

"I think this is a prime example of how important schools are and what schools can do. The kids that testi-

fied and the community testimony showed unity and how communities rally around schools and support our kids. The constitutional aspect of the bill was answered today and laid to rest," said McKinley.

Arguments were heard and documents were shown of the Army's eight-phase plan to take land in Southeastern Colorado. A series of photos showed how the plan would be executed in each phase. Many who testified Wednesday echoed the same point, "No means no, and the Army does not seem to know what

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Council continues to grapple with Water Works, Elm Street project issues

By MICHAEL GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The antiquated 130-year-old Water Works Building on Cedar Street is dripping red ink for the city and threatens to create an albatross for Trinidad City Council as rehabilitation work on the building has ground to a halt in order to decide what to do next.

At council's Tuesday work session, Alex Nuzz, Southern Colorado Construction Co., Ryan Lloyd of BVH Architects and Dick Cunningham of RJC Consulting, all took turns appraising council of what appears to be a catch-22 situation regarding the Water Works Building project.

In a nutshell, the building's uneven exterior foundation is crumbling and they don't think they can rehab the structure without tearing most of it down and restarting almost from scratch although they said the rebuilding design team can pretty well rebuild Water Works to look much like it does today to retain its historical look. But that will cost the city more money than it has right now.

Council members in turn are torn as to how and where to proceed from here, with councilwoman Nancy Ellis stressing that other alternative options are still available while other council members, city planner Mary Holton and city manager Jim Soltis want to seek a second but more costly opinion from another architect-contractor before proceeding. Councilman John Rino's dollars and sense approach is that if the city doesn't have the money in its 2009 budget yet to move forward with the project, it shouldn't spend what it doesn't have.

The city has already spent nearly \$100,000 on the Water Works rehab project although the building's future occupants and utilization have not yet been determined. To fund the proposed change order to continue renovating the building, the city is going to have to come up with an additional \$121,000.

Ellis would like to see the renovated building used as a museum to showcase Trinidad's water and coal mining history. The TLAC Chamber of Commerce originally had planned to occupy the building but has since moved into its new, much larger quarters in the John Building, 136 W. Main St. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is also looking for a home.

But the building's Phase II interior renovation can't be launched until all the rubble and sandstone kinks in its exterior are resolved, and they are many, according to Nuzz, Lloyd and Cunningham, who indicated they are bound by strict state historical rehab code requirements to make the building as safe and structurally sound as possible.

They told council that the building is structurally unsound and were surprised that some of its facade hadn't already crumbled by now, especially the rubble-filled east wall. Their work crews have managed to pull away most of the rubble, which has greatly varied in width in each of its four walls.

A council consensus Tuesday was

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Public invited to TriBeta Biological Honor Society Program

Courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College
Special to the Chronicle

Trinidad State Junior College invites the public to attend the annual TriBeta Biological Honor Society program at 7 p.m., tonight, in the Sullivan Center General Purpose Room.

TSJC was the first two-year college in the U.S. to be awarded membership in TriBeta, a national honor society for biology students. Since 1997, more than 75 TSJC students have presented the results of original research studies at TriBeta conferences.

Recent student achievement will be recognized Thursday evening, including a poster display of award winning research with the Canadian River spiny aster by Linda Shroust and Jesse Trujillo.

Presentations will include "Estrogens in the Purgatoire River" by student, Bear Shash, and keynote

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Photo courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College

Ron Rankin, Trinidad State Junior College professor of biology will give the keynote address at tonight's TriBeta Biological Honor Society program.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Stevens

Tiger pack winners: 1st- Tyler Neurauter, 2nd-Cullen O'Neil, and 3rd-Antonio Chavez

Raton Boy Scout Pack 73 holds district Pinewood Derby competition

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

Raton Boy Scouts hosted the district competition for the Pinewood Derby held at Kearny Elementary School on Saturday, March 21. The event was well-attended with nearly one-hundred Boy Scouts, leaders, parents, and friends involved in the fun. All types of race cars were placed on the wooden track at the beginning of each race; some plain, some sleek, some brightly

painted, all with one hope, to cross the finish line first.

Competitors were Boy Scouts who were the finalists from previous derbies that were held in Raton, Cimarron, Angel Fire and Springer. This district derby competition was the first one held in Raton since 2004. The derby had been held in Cimarron for the past three years. Cub Master Jennifer Stevens volunteered to hold it in Raton, and was very pleased with

the response she received from the community.

"I really want to thank everyone that helped, especially Mr. Randy Heston, Kearny Elementary principal, who let us hold the event in the Kearny gym, and Bill Allen from RBS who paid for the refreshments for the derby." Stevens mentioned that several parents deserved thanks for all the help they gave in preparation and dur-

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Easter deadlines

The Chronicle-News will be closed on Good Friday, April 10 in observance of Easter. We will publish a Friday, April 10 edition.

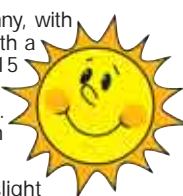
We will also have early Easter deadlines: All classified and display ads will be due by noon on Wednesday, April 8 for the Friday, April 10 edition and by 10 a.m. Thursday, April 9 for the Monday, April 13 edition.

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. West northwest wind around 10 mph becoming south-south-east.



Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind around 10 mph.



Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tomorrow Night: A slight chance of rain showers before 11 p.m., then a chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Breezy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.



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LOTTO NUMBERS

Here are Wednesday's Cash 5, Lotto and Powerball numbers.
Cash 5: 3-6-12-22-27
Lotto: 8-11-12-33-39-40
Powerball: 2-9-33-41-54;
Powerball: 14; Power Play: 3

LOCAL NEWS

COLORADO STATE PATROL REPORT



Jorge Leal
Colorado State Patrol
"The Flying Wheel"

Please be aware of all the dangers that are associated with construction zones. Especially here locally with the ongoing construction of I-25. Realize that the lanes are usually narrower with no shoulder(s) available. Also, be cautious of the old pavement markings as they have probably been replaced with new ones. Uneven lanes and unexpected drop offs or pot holes cause many issues while driving. Most importantly, drivers must expect the unexpected. What was there yesterday may be different today. Stop signs, speed limits signs, and flaggers are commonly posted in different locations daily. Be mindful of all workers in these areas. They are simply trying to earn a living by improving the

roadway in the most efficient and safest way.

These construction areas are so hazardous that all fines are doubled in construction zones; not just speeding fines any longer. This stems primarily from several serious incidents that have occurred in Colorado work zones. Do not be surprised if you receive a citation in a construction zone for nearly

\$1,000.00! For example, if you are speeding in the construction zone, fail to signal for the off ramp, and then roll through the stop sign at the end of the off ramp; then your fine will be \$935.00 with 12 points on your driver's license.

This may seem outrageous but consider the alternative. Which would be a crash in which you injured or killed someone;

\$935.00 would be a miniscule amount to pay in comparison.

Drive slower, and more cautious and alert than normal during the work zones and remember CDOT's slogan, "Slow for the cone zone".

Blotter

Unavailable

Send us your traffic questions at leal5185@yahoo.com

Share the road grants now available

Courtesy of the Colorado Department of Transportation Special to the Chronicle

The Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Pedestrian/Bicycle Program is making mini-grants up to \$5,000 available to help communities and other entities to promote CDOT's Share the Road Campaign.

CDOT's Share the Road campaign is designed to encourage respect and generate awareness among all roadway users - pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

The CDOT grants will allow interested parties to implement a Share the Road campaign this summer, helping educate the public about the program.

Grant applications are due by April 15, 2009 so interested parties must act quickly. In addition to communities, other entities, such as law enforcement, safety coalitions, health departments and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. Grants will be awarded during the week of April 20, 2009 with implementation occurring between the award date and June 30.

"With summer almost here, you're going to have pedestrians, cyclists and drivers all sharing the road so we want to be clear that no one should be a Road Hog," says CDOT's Pedestrian/Bicyclist Program Coordinator Betsy Jacobsen. This program can also promote a sense of community since it's a common cause everyone can be proud of."

More information on applying for a grant and the Share the Road program is available at: www.dot.state.co.us/travelinfo/s/haretheroad/

Council continues to grapple with Water Works, Elm Street project issues

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to get the current work crews to at least try and stabilize the building for now and not proceed with any additional work until the city can decide what additional funding they want to earmark for the project, possibly by securing additional state historical and Department of Local Affairs funding grants.

As if council didn't have enough potential conflicts with that project, members also have their hands full trying to decide the dilemma they face determining which engineering proposals to consider for the much bally-hooed Elm Street Project. Council and the city have apparently narrowed down their contractor choices to a Colorado Springs firm, JDS Engineering and a new to the city company, Berry & Associates headed by Scott Berry of Raton, who now occupies the old Terracotta storefront at the northwest corner of

Main and Commercial.

But Bob Just, owner of Just Architectural and Engineering, 135 E. Main St., which has a long and distinguished track record of successfully completed Trinidad area design and engineering projects, asked council and public works Superintendent Mike Valentine why his firm didn't receive stronger consideration from its five-member evaluation qualifying team, especially when one of those members was absent during the interview phase for the original five job contractors who had submitted Elm Street Project proposals.

Council members, with Liz Aragon being the most vocal to keep jobs and city spending local and Valentine continue to grapple over whether to grant special considerations to a local firm on the basis that money spent locally circulates throughout the community and helps create additional jobs at a time of great economic crisis or give the job to possibly a more qualified out-of-town contractor who in this case would spend most of the money earned from the job in the Colorado Springs area.

City Attorney Jerod Beatty said after the meeting that he is

working on a new city ordinance whereby local contractors who meet all the city's qualifications and criteria for a project will be granted special considerations in the bidding process, perhaps along the lines that if the local guy comes within 5 percent of an out-of-town contractor's bid, even if the out-of-towner appears on the surface to be more qualified to do the specified job, the local guy would still get the project.

Valentine described in detail how his contractor evaluation team arrives at its final scores using a point system to determine who is the most qualified for each job contract among the lowest bidders. Aragon, Rino and Linda Velesquez are the most vocal to go local while Ellis indicated she favors hiring the most qualified contractor with a proven track record regardless of their base of operations. Absent councilwoman Jennie Garduno has been experiencing significant health problems and is having to resign her position as mayor pro tem but has favored going local in the past.

Mayor Joe Reorda and councilman Jim Toupl appear to be taking a more moderate wait and see approach of wanting to

save local jobs and spur Trinidad's economy but not wanting to hire a local contractor if they are unqualified to do the job.

All those discussions left city utilities Superintendent Jim Fernandez kind of in the back seat with his council update on Monument Lake lodge water drainage issues. But he and Monument Lake manager Mike Robb appear to be on the same page of what needs to be done to assuage the drainage problems so runoff water doesn't continue to leak into the lodge building and cause wall deterioration and foundation problems. Robb just wants the project to be finished in time for his May 15 grand reopening of the lake to tourists and visitors.

Soltis also updated council on progress being made on the new Trinidad Amtrak station, which he said according to Amtrak executive Jonathan Hutchins is now going to qualify for federal stimulus package funding of up to \$1.2 million dollars. Soltis said that will buy a lot of concrete for the passenger loading and unloading platform planned for the new station, possibly even enough to build a huge platform from Commercial to Animas Street.

ON THIS DAY IN TRINIDAD

By COSETTE HENRITZE
The Chronicle-News

50 years ago - 1959

The Federal Aviation Agency announces the appointment of Merritt E. Arbuckle as chief of the Air Traffic Communication Station located at the Trinidad Municipal Airport.

Previous to the Trinidad appointment, Mr. Arbuckle filled similar positions at Battle Mountain, Nevada and Burley, Idaho.

Carl L. McClain, former station chief, has assumed new duties at Roswell, N.M.

75 years ago - 1934

For the second successive night burglars forced an entrance last night to the Bancroft-Marty Feed and Produce company, and carried away an amount of merchandise, including three sacks of potatoes which were recovered by city police today.

The robbery, according to city police, occurred after 4 a.m. this morning, as a police officer visited the building at that time and everything was in order.

Footprints in the snow revealed where the men had left the building by a side door and carried the potatoes to a small building a short distance away where they had cached the potatoes.

Following the prints in the snow led officers to another small building close to the D. and R.G.W. depot where they found a package containing new automobile fenders, apparently stolen from some other firm. The fenders, however, had not been reported as stolen to authorities.

Under the direction of Chief of Police Mike Foudy, officers were today continuing their investigation into the robbery Monday night the Bancroft-Marty building was entered and a

quantity of flour and other merchandise carried away.

100 years ago - 1909

C.A. Middleton, foreman of the Mountain Telegraph Company, has just returned from a trip which would make a tenderfoot take just one look at in prospectus and run but Middleton has made the trip before and regards it only as part of his regular winter work.

Snow slides in the mountains over in central Colorado have a habit of cutting the Mountain Telegraph company's lines in several places and not only cutting them but burying them. Last week Middleton was sent for to get the line together in order to connect Crested Butte, that always snow-bound place, with the rest of the world.

The trip took the hardy young foreman, who has frequently been down to Trinidad this winter, to Glenwood and from there to Redstone. Thus far the railroad was operating but leaving the railroad a snow shoe trail led him to Marble, where the snow is eight feet deep on the level, not to mention the depth in the valley where it has drifted and where slides come down and cut the foundation from under houses.

From Marble a trackless wilderness leads straight across the range. Nobody would make the trip with Middleton and on snow shoes alone he followed the thread of the telegraph line across the mountains, connecting it in two places where slides had buried the whole business.

The trip is definitely one of the most dangerous that any of the western telegraph linemen must take.

Public invited to TriBeta Biological Honor Society Program

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address by Ron Rankin, professor of biology, now retiring after teaching at Trinidad State Junior College for nineteen years. Rankin will discuss his students and the biological research they have conducted throughout the years.

Under Rankin's tutelage, the Biology Program at TSJC is a highly-regarded, research-oriented program that uses an investigative approach emphasizing critical thinking skills. His philosophy is that students learn best when science teaching in the classroom is supported by hands-on research. Student research projects involve field and lab work with results that often lead to a freshman or sophomore student becoming a published scientist, giving the student a competitive advantage in applying to

colleges and universities for scholarships, internships, and jobs.

The highlight of the evening will be the awarding of a \$50,000.00 TSJC Biology Transfer Scholarship. Last year TSJC received a USDA/Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Grant to enhance its biology and chemistry programs through curriculum improvements, state-of-the-art scientific equipment, and technology. The grant also provided six scholarships for students to attend Trinidad State Junior College to study Biology or Natural Resources. In addition, the grant provided for one of the six scholarship recipients to receive a \$50,000 scholarship to transfer to a 4-year institution to complete a bachelor of science degree.

Piñon Canyon School Protection Act clears first hurdle

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the word 'no' means." If the Army's allowed to take land east of Trinidad, the state of Colorado could lose up to 70 percent of the state's agricultural industry.

"Take a chance on this bill," Pace told the committee of his peers.

Pace worked for six years for Colo. Congressman John Salazar, so this is an issue he

understands well and is willing to fight for.

"We are really excited about the ruling today, but we have four more steps to go," Pace added.

For the bill to be made into law it must be approved by both the House and Senate committees, go before the full House and Senate for a vote and then be signed into law by the governor.

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1 Year	\$84.00

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6 Months	\$48.00
1 Year	\$96.00

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