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TUESDAY

SEPT. 17, 2019

Vol. 143, No. 186

THE FINE PRINT

■ CONSTITUTION WEEK
CELEBRATE AMERICA'S HERITAGE
SEPT. 17-23 (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F) The Santa Fe Trail Chapter of the DAR will host the Constitution Week display at the Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 E. First St. Info: Patty Kinder, prkinder3@gmail.com

Today's Quote
"Working without coffee is called sleeping."
~Coffee Funnies

■ TUESDAY—SEPT. 17
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY
TUES. (9 a.m.) Board of County Commissioners regular meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-845-2568. **COMMISSIONERS:** Luis Lopez, II (719-845-2595), Tony Hass (719-845-2592) and Felix Lopez (719-845-2593).
SAMARITAN CLINIC
1st & 3rd TUESDAYS (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 413 E. Frost and corner of Linden Ave. Info: 719-846-3536.
PRIMERO SCHOOLS
TUES. (5 p.m.) District Board of Education meets 3rd Tuesdays in executive session with regular session that follows at 6 p.m. in the Primero School Cafeteria, 20200 Hwy 12. Info: Tina East, 719-868-2715.
TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
TUES. (6 p.m.) Regular sessions are held 1st and 3rd Tues. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Desiree Sandoval, 719-846-9843 ext. 125. *Mayor Phil Rico and Council Members:* Joe Bonato, Rusty Goodall, Karen Griego, Carlos Lopez, Anthony Mattie and Michelle Miles.

■ WEDNESDAY—SEPT. 18
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WEDS. (Noon) Monthly Business Luncheon, 3rd Wednesday, will be held in the Pioneer Room at TSJC. RSVP: 719-846-9285.
MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
WEDS. (Noon) Group meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at Tequila's Restaurant, 321 State St. Info: Kristin Thurston, 719-680-9133.
PURGATOIRE WATERSHED
WEDS. (4 p.m.) Group meets 3rd Wednesdays in the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, 3590 E. Main. Info: Julie Knudson, 970-420-1915.
PUBLIC MEETING HWY 12 PLANNING
WEDS. SEPT. 18 (5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.) The South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will host a public meeting about the Southern Mountain Loop Hwy 12 Planning and Environmental Linkages study in the Pioneer Room on the Trinidad State Campus. Info: SouthernMountainLoop@gmail.com.
FISHERY'S PEAK FIRE DISTRICT
WEDS. (6 p.m.) District Board of Directors meets 3rd Wednesday at the Starkville Fire Station. Info: 719-846-6077.
HOEHNE FIRE PROTECTION
WEDS. (6 p.m.) District Board of Directors meets 3rd Wednesday at the Century Finance, 109 W. Main St. Info: Jenny Stalker, 719-846-2080.
LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT
WEDS. SEPT. 18 (6:30 p.m.) Join your friends at the Library to watch this month's movie classic, 202 N. Animas. Event held every 3rd Wednesday, always includes free popcorn. Info: Tom Potter, 719-846-6841.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE
CRITTER SHOW CALL FOR ARTISTS
WEDS. SEPT. 25 (10a.m.-5 p.m.) Entries are due at the Corazon Gallery for the all-media Critter Art Show, at 149 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-0207.
CONSTITUTION WEEK
SEPT. 17-23 (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F) The Santa Fe Trail Chapter of the DAR will host the Constitution Week display at the Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 E. First St. Info: Patty Kinder, prkinder3@gmail.com
RUN TRINIDAD EVENT
SAT. SEPT. 21 (6:30 a.m./Registration & 7:30 a.m./Race) Signup now for the 2019 Cougar Canyon Killer 10k/5k Run/Walk at Hwy 160 and the Cougar Canyon Development Entry. Pre-registration & Info: runsignup.com / 303-229-1383.
BAR NI COMMUNITY GRANT
FRI. SEPT. 27 DEADLINE: The Bar Ni Ranch Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for area non-profits. Info: Tom Perry at tomandlindaperry@gmail.com

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of:
09/13/2019. Johns Flood Ditch,
Priority #15: Appropriation Date:
04/10/1864.

Trinidad Reservoir Report:
Release 174.15 AF
Inflow 54.72 AF - 27.59 CFS
Evaporation 10.57 AF
Content 20,250 AF
Elevation 6,183.99
Precipitation 0

Down Stream Call: Highland Canal,
Appropriation date:
05/31/1866.



THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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75 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

Building Better Colorado releases report on state discussions centered on fiscal policy

Garrett Watson
The Chronicle-News

On June 10, 2019, the non-partisan “Building a Better Colorado” project hosted a meeting with 20 civic leaders in Trinidad to solicit their input on how Colorado might improve state fiscal policy to support Colorado’s quality of life.

Specifically, BBCO raised for discussion the three fiscal amendments, which Coloradans have adopted into the state constitution: the Gallagher Amendment (1982), the TABOR Amendment (1992) and Amendment 23 (2000).

Attendees held group discussion about the issues and potential policy options. Participants were equipped with a keypad-voting device to enable them to anonymously vote their opinion on the questions posed.

While BBCO defined the scope of the discussion, they gave control



Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Senator Larry Crowder at the Building a Better Colorado in Trinidad this past June. On Monday, June 10, Building a Better Colorado hosted a small forum and workshop for community and area leaders designed to seek out consensus largely around state budgetary issues. The non-partisan organization is hosting these invitation-only events in 39 cities across the state and Trinidad’s Mt. Carmel was the local gathering point.

of both the input and the outcome of this conversation to the participants.

The top three ranking concerns among attend-

ees were K12 education, cost of health care, and minority voices not being heard.

When asked what program areas the State

should prioritize investment if fiscal policy changes resulted in additional revenues the

Cont. on Page 4 ...

Background on Gallagher, TABOR, Amendment 23

Building a Better Colorado

Gallagher Amendment

When voters approved the Gallagher Amendment in 1982, it froze the ratio of the total assessed values of residential property and non-residential property at 1982 levels for the calculation of property tax.

The BBCO report shows that more than four-out-of-five (86 percent) participants in the BBCO meetings statewide indicated opposition to maintaining the status quo on the Gallagher Amendment, including 71 percent indicating “Strong Opposition” to the status quo. Of the policy alter-

Continued on Page 4 ...



Eric John Monson & Garrett Watson / The Chronicle-News

Artocade again takes over Trinidad streets

The seventh annual Artocade took place in Trinidad this past weekend with art-cars filling Main Street Friday night and again Saturday when the featured parade took place. The event was capped by the Cardango party Saturday night. Above, an art-car robot stands sentinel at Cardango as another futuristic art-car makes it's lap during Saturday's parade. At right: Doug and Lori Holdread from Trinidad take home one of the Artocade awards during the Cardango celebration.

More photos on page 3...



Colorado oil company files for bankruptcy, cites ‘collateral damage’ of new regulations

Derek Draplin
The Center Square

A Colorado oil and gas company has filed for bankruptcy, blaming the state's new regulations on development for “collateral damage” that has resulted in a deceleration in the industry and job losses.

PetroShare said it filed petitions for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which requires reorganization to pay off creditors.

The company told The Center

Square it laid off three employees ahead of the bankruptcy announcement, and the company now has nine employees.

Company officials directly linked the bankruptcy filing to Senate Bill 181, signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis in April.

The law changes the mission of the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), the state's body for the industry, to focus on public health, safety and the environment, instead of in-

dustry development. The law also allows local governments to more heavily regulate the industry.

“The new Colorado regulatory environment governing oil and gas permitting in the state and the associated uncertainty on rule-making has made it very difficult to attract new capital investment in this sector,” said PetroShare CEO Stephen J. Foley. “We are filing a voluntary Chapter 11 petition in order to proceed with the orderly recapitalization or sale of

some or all of the Company’s assets and to continue to pay active vendors, suppliers and other ongoing business expenses without interruption during the process.”

“Unfortunately, the collateral damage of Senate Bill 181 has manifested itself in the slowdown of the state's oil and gas sector, resulting in job losses,” Foley added.

PetroShare operates in the Wat-

Continued on Page 2 ...

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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55. West southwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near

85. West southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 52. West southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Sunny, with a high near 81. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.



ARTOCADE 2019



Eric John Monson & Garrett Watson / The Chronicle-News

Artocade again takes over Trinidad streets

The seventh annual Artocade took place in Trinidad this past weekend with art-cars filling Main Street Friday night and again Saturday when the featured parade took place. The event was capped by the Cardango party Saturday night. Top left: Kim Schultz (left) earned an award from Artocade organizer Rodney Wood (right) for her involvement with the event. Bottom left: Wood (left) awards Trinidad State President Rhonda Epper (right) for the college's entry.

Polis asks BLM to ‘correct inconsistencies’ between federal agency’s resource management plan, state’s new regulations

Derek Draplin
The Center Square

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis sent a letter to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management this week telling officials to consider the state's new regulations in the federal agency's resource management plan for an area in the southwestern part of the state.

The letter, sent Monday to the BLM's Colorado State Office, raises concerns

about the BLM's revised Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan, which guides land-use decisions and implementation practices on public lands managed by the federal agency.

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources formally opposed the plan in a July letter to the BLM, citing concerns for federally protected wildlife.

"Colorado is submitting the following comments

and recommendations to correct inconsistencies between the Proposed Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Study (Collectively, PRMP/FEIS) and Colorado laws, plans, programs, and policies," the letter reads. "The State has concerns related to the planning process for the PRMP/FEIS revision."

In the letter, Polis cites new state laws regarding

pollution reduction and regulations for gas and oil development in the state.

House Bill 1261, signed by Polis in May, sets aggressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Senate Bill 181, which Polis signed in April, changed the state's oil and gas industry regulatory body to prioritize health, safety and the environment over industry development.

"As we implement HB19-1261 and SB19-181,

state agencies will also be closely engaging local governments across Colorado to analyze avenues to reduce emissions, and protect community health and environmental resources," the letter continues. "This work extends to our public and federal lands, including the BLM-administered lands contemplated in this PRMP/FEIS."

Polis recommends that oil and gas development that takes place on federal

lands adhere to state air quality and emissions requirements.

The letter also says that the plan is still inconsistent with parts of the state's wildlife management plans, such as the conservation plan for the Gunnison sage-grouse.

Montrose, Delta and Mesa counties support the plan, while Ouray, Gunnison and San Miguel counties have voiced concerns, the letter notes.

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