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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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THE FINE PRINT

TMS Band Boosters

The TMS Band Boosters will be holding their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. tonight in the TMS band room. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors mtg.

The Board of Directors for Trinidad-Las Animas County Economic Development will meet at 6 p.m. tonight at 134 West Main Street, Suite 12, (the Bell Block) in the conference room.

Photography Club

The first meeting of the Photography Club will begin at 6 p.m. tonight in the conference room of the Carnegie Public Library.

Community Chorale

The Trinidad Community Chorale rehearsals begin at 6:15 p.m. tonight at the First United Methodist Church. New members are welcome. No auditions.

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The Trinidad Fire Department battled the fire at the historic Franch building on Main Street until 10 p.m. on Saturday. The apartments on the second floor of the building were destroyed. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

(Photo courtesy of David J. Barrack)



Ronald Martinez

Preliminary hearing held for Ronald Martinez on murder charge

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The picture became a lot more focused at last Thursday's Las Animas County District Court preliminary hearing about what happened during the early morning Nov. 20 double homicide case at the Hollywood Bar.

What will have to be proved in the upcoming jury trial is whether defendant Ronald Eugene Martinez shot victim Clifford Maes out of fear for his own life or did he act with pre-meditated malice and intent.

District Court Judge Leslie Gerbracht bound the Martinez case over for trial saying there was probable cause to justify a first-degree murder charge against Martinez although she wanted to further review the felony conspiracy charge that is also an integral part of the case.

Prosecuting District Attorney Frank Ruybalid summed up his arguments supporting a first-degree murder charge by saying that Martinez acted out of premeditated malice, considering court evidence that Maes had been shot eight times with a .45-caliber handgun owned by Martinez, including at least twice in the back posterior.

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Fire destroys historic Franch Block building apartments

CN STAFF REPORT

Just before 1 p.m. on Saturday the Trinidad Fire Department (TFD) responded to a call of a fire at the 122 year old historic Franch Block Building located on the corner of Main and Convent Streets in downtown Trinidad. The second floor apartments were engulfed in flames when the fire department arrived on the scene. No injuries were reported.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Trinidad Police Department (TPD) and the TFD are all investigating the cause of the fire which is still unknown as of Monday morning.

There were people inside on the second floor, but no one needed to be rescued, everyone was evacuated safely. Marty Pano, the owner of the building also lives in one of the apartments and made the initial call to authorities.

The Franch Block is one building which includes six apartments on the second floor, Pano's Pawn Shop, Gordito's Mexican Restaurant, and another unoccupied space on the ground level. All the business are closed.

The businesses on the ground level sustained water damage. All of the apartments on the second floor were destroyed. A firewall protected the entire 200 block, this firewall keep the fire from spreading to other buildings on the block.

It took 10 firefighters, three fire engines, and one ladder truck to contain the blaze in just over eight hours.

Trinidad streets were blocked off around a large perimeter of the fire. Main Street was reopened late on Sunday afternoon.

For additional photos, please see page 2.



The Trinidad Fire Department used the ladder truck to combat the fire at the historic Franch building (Photo by DAVID R. SANTISTEVAN JR.)

Des Moines BIC work group moves toward goals

By TIM KELLER
Special to the Chronicle

DES MOINES, N.M. - The Business Incubation Center at Des Moines School held its second work group meeting in as many weeks Wednesday evening. Attended by a wide cross section of the school and extended community participants moved closer to formalizing goals with the purpose of "incubating" not only businesses, but students. The Center seeks to match students with business projects for multiple purposes including education, training, experience, and providing a springboard into careers. Ideally, students will create actual businesses that allow them to remain in the community after graduation while expanding the local economic base to create jobs and attract others.

Wednesday evening's meeting focused on two such projects. Discussed first was a community recycling center

which might grow into a regional processing center for recycled materials. Currently the nearest recycling transfer station is in Las Vegas, N.M., while the nearest known processing center is in Santa Fe. A student group, the Youth Conservation Corps, took a field trip to the Santa Fe center last summer.

School board member Alfred Newkirk suggested that the long-term goal of any local recycling program should be establishing a regional processing center. Sophomore Rhodi Martin agreed to spearhead a program to inform and educate the student body through assemblies at both the high school and elementary school. A limited recycling program already exists at the school; Superintendent Garrett Bosarge said he currently hauls the school's recycled materials to Las Vegas. The envisioned program will provide a recycling drop-off point and transfer station for the commu-

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Sheriff James Casias

Sheriff Casias remains hospitalized

CN Staff Report

Las Animas County Sheriff James W. Casias remains hospitalized in Denver with an undisclosed medical condition.

Sheriff Casias has been in a medically induced coma since Jan. 21. The hospital staff reports that he is responding well to treatment and is gradually being weaned from the respirator.

They estimate that Sheriff Casias will need one to two months of intensive therapy to speed his recovery.

Anyone wishing to donate to Sheriff Casias' medical fund can do so by going to the lobby at International Bank, 320 N. Convent or by calling 719-846-1600.



Benefit car wash

There will be a car wash to benefit Sheriff James Casias from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, weather permitting, at the City Hall parking lot. The cost will be however much you want to donate. The car wash is sponsored by the Trinidad Police Department and the Trinidad Youth Advisory Council. Power washers provided by Grand Rental and Fluid Compressor Partners.

WEATHER WATCH

Today: A slight chance of snow before 9 a.m., then a slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Windy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tonight: A slight chance of rain before 9 p.m., then a slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tomorrow: A chance of snow before 1 p.m., then a chance of rain between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., then a chance of snow after 4 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tomorrow Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 2/6/09. Hoehne Priority No. 9 as of 1/1/1863.

Trinidad Lake Accounting: Release, 0; Inflow, 66.28 acre ft.; Evaporation, 2.28 acre ft.; Content, 21,914 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,182.90; Precipitation, 0.

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

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)

