

THE FINE PRINT

LAC Health Services Dist.

The Las Animas County Health Services District will host a regular monthly meeting from 5-7 p.m. tonight in the Berg Little Theatre, TSJC campus. The public is invited.

Trail Plan Task Group

The City of Trinidad will be hosting the next meeting for the Trail Plan Task Group at 5 p.m. tonight at City Hall in the Council Conference Room on the third floor.

Trinidad BOE mtg.

The Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education will host a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the Administration Building.

American Legion

American Legion will meet at 7 p.m. tonight at the Elk's Lodge in the Banquet Room.

Quilt Club meeting

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

SPPRCD meeting

Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow in the District Office.

Aguilar BOE mtg.

The Aguilar Board of Education will host a special meeting at 6 p.m. tomorrow in the Board Meeting room.

Valentine-Gram

The Trinidad Children's Chorale is doing Valentine-Grams that will be delivered on Friday by members of the Chorale. Each Valentine-Gram consists of candy or flowers and a song from the children. Call daytime at (719) 846-3324 or evenings at (719) 846-6679.

Al-Anon Family Group

The Al-Anon Family Group, to help family members living with someone who is drinking and/or using drugs, will host a free meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday at Presbyterian Church, 801 San Pedro, in the basement. For more information, please call Sharone (719) 846-9999. Not affiliated with any other organization.

Continued on page 14

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 61. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-south-east.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 30. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 2/3/09. Baca Priority No. 8 as of 11/15/1862.

Trinidad Lake Accounting: Release, .01 acre ft.; Inflow 50.14 acre ft.; Evaporation, 1.13 acre ft.; Content, 21,715 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,182.62; Precipitation, 0.

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

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Pioneer Natural Resources reports \$65 million 4th quarter loss

Special of the Chronicle

DALLAS - As a mirror image to what is happening elsewhere in the economy, Pioneer Natural Resources Company reported a fourth quarter net loss of \$65 million Tuesday, or \$.57 per diluted share, including unusual items totaling \$48 million, or \$.42 per diluted share results that, adjusted for these unusual items were a loss of \$17 million, or \$.15 per diluted share.

Also in its fourth quarter operating results, Pioneer reported:

■ In 2008, Pioneer drilled 153 wells in the Raton Basin, including 144 coal-bed methane wells and 9 Pierre Shale wells. This drilling program generated production growth in the Raton field for the fourth straight year, with 2008 ranking 16 percent above 2007.

Two company-owned rigs are currently stacked and a Raton Basin fracturing crew has temporarily been relocated to the Spraberry field in West Texas. In two horizontal wells recently drilled and completed in the Pierre Shale, Pioneer encountered intense natural fracturing and gas shows. The wells were successfully fracture stimulated and produced initial flow rates of approximately 3 MMCFPD and 1.5 MMCFPD.

Pioneer gave no indication in its report as to when rig drilling activities

Continued on page 4

Loss of Daschle clouds health reform prospects

By KEVIN FREKING and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) - Tom Daschle's decision to withdraw his nomination as health and human services secretary clouds hopes that President Barack Obama will make significant progress on health reform in his first 100 days in the White House.

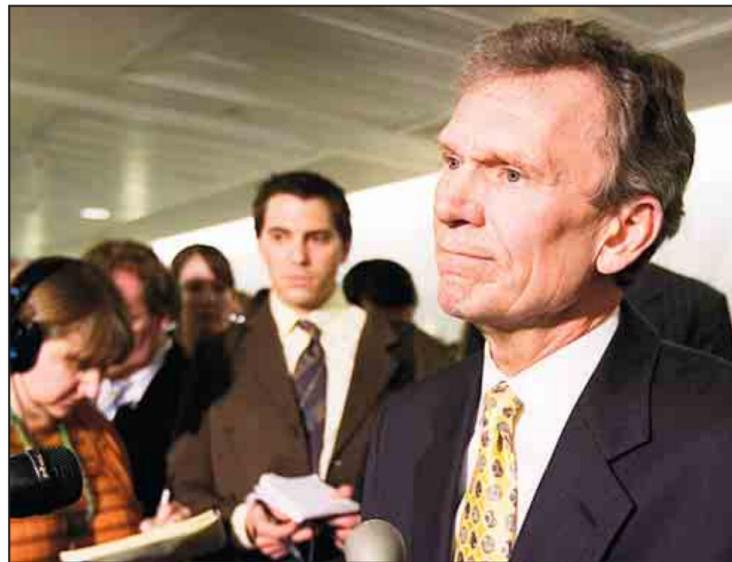
But the problems of unaffordable medical bills and millions of uninsured aren't going away, and a deepening recession has more Americans feeling worried about their jobs and insecure about their health benefits.

So even if Obama's hand-picked architect of health reform suddenly leaves the political scene, the president himself still has an opportunity to refocus the nation's attention on its health care woes and on his own program for making things better.

"It's a real blow to the effort because Tom really was knowledgeable," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., who himself is deeply involved in health care issues, said Tuesday. "This is an issue I had hoped would be a priority, and that we could deal with it very quickly."

He added: "It hurts. It slows things down. So this has been a setback."

At the White House, spokesman Robert Gibbs put on a brave front. "I don't think the effort slows down for



Former Sen. Tom Daschle, President Barack Obama's choice to head the Health and Human Services, speaks to the media after a closed session meeting with the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Hill, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, in Washington. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

health care reform, and I think Sen. Daschle and others would admit that the effort is far bigger than any one individual."

"We'll miss Sen. Daschle's leadership," said White House senior adviser

David Axelrod, "But this issue has great power of its own."

Obama has a chance to recover some lost momentum right away. As early as Wednesday, he's expected to

Continued on page 4



Dustin Walton and Janti Abaza carry out furniture from the Heartworks building in Raton as owner, John Davidson, prepares to move to Denver. (Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

Raton loses another business, gains another empty building

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The New Year in Raton opens with some major changes in the downtown area. Several businesses have moved, buildings are undergoing renovation, and some businesses, unfortunately have closed. The downturn in national and local economics attributes for some of the changes, but others, like the closing of Heartworks in January is because of the greater opportunities available in a larger metropolitan area like Denver, Colo.

John Davidson, owner and driving

force behind Heartworks, a stress management organization, retired from his law practice, which he had started in 1972, and in 2005 chose to pursue an interest that he describes as "close to my heart."

Davidson explains that during his years as an attorney, he represented children in court proceedings, an area he felt was extremely important. And, during his travels to Nepal and Peru in the last ten years, the children made the biggest impression on him.

"What I noticed most were children. Paradoxically, I returned with the

impression that children living in the relative poverty of remote agricultural areas were in some way healthier than children here in the States."

For the past three years, Davidson has devoted himself to studying children's issues through what he describes as "the lens of stress."

"Children in our country are experiencing increasingly dangerous levels of stress, and it is having an impact on their health," said Davidson. In addition, he said that there are many other factors impacting children's health

Continued on page 13

Road, bridge issues head commissioners meeting

By DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

Various issues were discussed concerning the Road and Bridge Department at Tuesday's Las Animas County Board of Commissioners meeting including reports by the road and bridge supervisor, Phil Dornekamp, gravel pit issues, repairing county road issues and runway repairs at the Perry Stokes airport.

Tuesday's meeting was an informational one. Dornekamp gave the commissioners a report on his department and some of the projects they have been working on.

The commissioners approved a resolution of annual storm water permit applications to the Colorado Department of Public Health for the county's Sandoval, Yocum and Unwin gravel pits. This is done annually.

Also passed was an authorization of sole source procurement for the purchase of asphalt sealant for filling the cracks in county roads. A company from Utah will provide the county with the material that is flexible and does not pick up on the tires. It will cost the county a little more but the material will last longer.

Staying on the subject of filling cracks, it was approved to submit an application to the

Continued on page 4

Osborn, Hittson win Des Moines School Board races

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Zach Osborn and Barry Hittson emerged as new Des Moines school board members in elections held Tuesday at Des Moines Village Hall. Osborn, of Folsom, gathered 140 votes for Position 2, handily defeating opponent Ted Sneed of Capulin, who received 26 votes. Hittson's 105 votes put him above Scott Warner's 60 for Position 4; both men are from Des Moines.

Des Moines rancher and realtor Raymond Rivale also joins the board, having received 141 votes in his uncontested bid for Position 1. Current school board president Damon Brown also ran unopposed, gathering 151 votes in Position 3. Brown, of Des Moines, was appointed to his post two years ago before rising to the presidency; this was his first election.

Alfred Newkirk, the fifth board member, was not up for re-election this year. The Des Moines school district includes Capulin, Folsom, Grenville, Des Moines, and many outlying ranches.



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.