

THE FINE PRINT

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.

Trinidad Italian Club

The Trinidad Italian Club will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the Berg Building, Room 304.

Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall tomorrow. All pastors welcome to come and study the texts for Sunday and for support of each other.

Alzheimer's support group

The Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group will meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the H.R. Sayre Senior Center. For more information, call (719) 868-3789.

Pierian Club

Pierian Club will meet 12:30 p.m. tomorrow at Sabrosa for lunch and program.

City Council

Trinidad City Council will meet for their work session at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at the City Hall Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall.

Primero BOE mtg.

The Primero RE-2 Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m. for a work session with a regular session to follow at 6 p.m. tomorrow in the school cafeteria.

THS Band Booster mtg.

The Trinidad High School Band Booster meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. tomorrow in the THS band room. All band parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Rhonda at (719) 680-1419.

Women's Eagles Aux.

Women's Eagles Auxiliary will meet at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Eagle's Hall.

Trinidad BOE mtg.

Trinidad School District No. 1 Board of Education will host a work session/special meeting at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Trinidad School District Administration office.

Continued on page 2

WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a high near 44. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. West northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. West wind around 5 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 1/9/09. Johns Priority No. 15 as of 1/1/1864.

Trinidad Lake Accounting: Release, .09 acre ft.; Inflow, 89.36 acre ft.; Evaporation, 1.27 acre ft.; Content, 20,194 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,180.43; Precipitation, 0.

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

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



South Central Council of Governments Housing Director John Anderson talks to the Las Animas County board of commissioners during a public hearing to close out the Las Animas County Housing Program administered by SC-COG. Huerfano County will now sponsor the program, which will still be available in Las Animas County. (Photo by David Santistevan Jr.)

CDBG Grant to continue in Las Animas County

By David Santistevan Jr.
The Chronicle-News

Last Tuesday at the Las Animas County Commissioners meeting John Anderson Housing Director at the South Central Council of Governments (SC-COG), attended a hearing to close out a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with Las Animas County this bi-county housing award will now be sponsored by Huerfano County.

The CDBG award will still be available in Las Animas County.

This CDBG grant for the past 10 years has had the same dollar amount of \$329,049 to provide family owner occupied homes for housing rehabilitation.

The money comes from the CDBG.

This is specific to housing and is aimed towards improving safety around the home. The grant helps with safety improvements and core elements in the home like fixing roofs, plumbing, electrical, and anything that makes a home safe.

80 percent of the approved money for construction must be used for safety and health issues. While 20 percent can be used for aesthetics around the home. Homeowners can also use some of the funds for extra little things related to improving safety in their home.

In this program SC-COG offers, a loan portfolio that goes with it. Then a loan advisory committee in both Las Animas and Huerfano Counties recommend those who qualify for the AMI programs. The next step is to

look at bids from local contractors. When a bid is accepted a contract between the contractor and the homeowner is watched over by SC-COG who then watches over the money. When the project(s) are completed the contract is closed out and the applicant starts to pay back the loan. This then becomes a revolving loan. The payments made to the loan are used to build capital in the fund making more money available to help more individuals fix more homes.

There is now over \$3 million in the bi-county revolving loan program. Once again, even though Huerfano County is now sponsoring the grant, qualified residents in Las Animas County are still able to use the grants monies.

Chamber schedules local economic survival meeting

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

"Doing Business Together" or "surviving tough economic times" will be the Trinidad & Las Animas County-sponsored discussion topic at a 6 p.m. Wednesday public town-hall type forum in Trinidad Holiday Inn & Suites meeting room.

Discussions led by new chamber President Dave Grove will focus on how local businesses, merchants and government need to come together with an exchange of ideas and action plans to survive the current deteriorating local and national economic crunch.

Grove recently initiated discussions with other businessmen and local contractors that led to organizing the meeting. Grove then sought answers regarding community complaints over high local prices charged by merchants, why many Trinidad residents shop elsewhere and to generate ideas on how to improve the city's overall business climate.

The resulting meeting will be a networking event allowing businesses, community members and government leaders to voice their ideas, discuss potential solutions, what has previously worked and to explore avenues to help all Trinidad and Las Animas County residents survive the nation's current severe and worsening recession.

Community leaders will be asking meeting participants such questions as: "What can I do to help me and my neighbor businesses sustain ourselves during the economic struggle the nation faces during the ongoing recession?; can you offer price discounts until the tide changes; can you promote sister businesses or find a way to hire local businesses rather than an out-of-town firm?; can you purchase needed products and supplies from a local business rather than a national franchise or online?; will de-Brucing help the local economy or are there other answers that might ease the current economic crunch?; How can local contractors be more competitive for area projects and contracts?; is someone experiencing a problem your business has the answer for?; how can I improve customer service?; what are my short and long-term plans and what do I have to offer my community?"

"Our hope is that this forum will provide us the venue to share our best ideas to keep money in Trinidad, increase tax revenue to the city and county, offer discount benefits to local businesses and customers and keep afloat those businesses dependent on the gas and oil industry until the sluggish economy picks up again," said Grove in his first chamber newsletter

Continued on page 2



Live on stage at the Historic Shuler Theater was the Dear Abbeys, a 13 member all male a cappella group from Boston University that was founded in 1992. They sang to a packed house Thursday night with an energetic performance that drew a standing ovation at the end of the show. For more information on the group and bios on the current members, visit their website at <http://dearabbeyes.com/>

(Photo by Marty Mayfield)

Dear Abbeys bring A Capella fun from Boston to N. M.

By TIM KELLER
Special to the Chronicle

RATON - Boston University's all-male A Capella singing ensemble, Dear Abbeys, rolled into Raton's Shuler Theatre Thursday night after a whirlwind two-day tour that included concerts at the high schools in

Springer, Maxwell, Cimarron and Raton.

Their exuberant show featured a rich variety of modern popular songs ranging from Prince's "Let's Go Crazy" and Everclear's "Wonderful" to Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car" and Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run." Several of the thirteen members took

turns singing lead with Chris Giordano being particularly popular for his animated delivery. Their repertoire proved a hit with their high school audiences, but even older teachers were seen smiling and tapping their feet.

Formed in 1992, the group began

Continued on page 5

Prison disturbance update

CN Staff

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008 at approximately 2:15 p.m., a fight broke out at the Trinidad Correctional Facility east of Trinidad in what officials are calling a "minor disturbance"

According to reports on New Year's Eve, prisoners at the facility started arguing over weights in the yard subsequently which led to a fight. Within minutes the disturbance was controlled.

All 450-plus inmates at the TFC were put on lock down for five days until Monday, Jan. 5.

Reports indicate that 35 prisoners were involved in the fight. One inmate was injured. No guards were hurt.

Some of the individuals that were involved in the fight were transported to various correctional facilities in Cañon City later that day.

The incident is still under investigation.

