

INSIDE TODAY

Beginning today, *The Chronicle-News* will feature *Relish* magazine once a month.

Relish, a monthly food magazine, is dedicated to celebrating America's love of food and will feature recipes, cooking and entertaining tips and more.



THE FINE PRINT

Diabetic Education classes

Diabetic Education classes start today. For more information, call (719) 846-2213 ext. 15.

Branson Ladies' Craft Club

The Branson Ladies' Craft Club will meet at 11 a.m. today at the Branson Community Center.

Chamber meetings

The Chamber of Commerce Ambassador board meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. today at Black Jack's. Also, The Chamber of Commerce will host their board meeting at 4 p.m. tonight in the meeting room at Holiday Inn.

THS Advisory mtg.

There will be a Trinidad High School Advisory meeting at 6 p.m. tonight at the High School library. Discussion this month is second semester student early release days for teacher professional development.

Continued on page 12

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. West southwest wind around 5 mph becoming east northeast.



Tonight: A 10 percent chance of snow after 11 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 1/13/09. Llewellyn and McCormick Priority No. 13 as of 1/1/1864.

Trinidad Lake Accounting: Release, .31 acre ft.; Inflow, 76.59 acre ft.; Evaporation, 1.28 acre ft.; Content, 20,474 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,180.84; Precipitation, .20.

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

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)

Newly elected County officials are sworn in



Newly appointed Las Animas County Commissioner Jim Vigil, left, with wife Ellie and Commissioner Gary Hill's wife Kathy and Hill, are pictured here during the swearing in ceremony on Tuesday.

(Photos by David Santistevan Jr.)



Frank E. Ruybalid the new District Attorney is shown here with his two Deputy District Attorneys at a ceremony on Tuesday morning where all three men were sworn in. K. John Tannous Deputy DA, left, Frank E. Ruybalid DA, and Mark T. Adams Deputy DA.

Trinidad Salvation Army busier than ever helping less fortunate

By **MIKE GARRETT**
The Chronicle-News

The deteriorating area economy has also impacted Trinidad's Salvation Army Unit at 104 W. 1st St. in terms of more people needing basic necessity assistance than ever before.

In her year-end Salvation Army services report, Unit Manager Bernadette Davis noted that Salvation Army served more people and cases during 2008 than in recent memory, including many faces she had never seen before. "We try to listen with our head and our heart and try to be a light to where people can come in and feel they're safe here, talk to us or sit here and rest," said Davis.

"The economy is impacting another whole level of people. We have been busy and we definitely will take any non-perishable food donations for the pantry or monetary donations. We will put them to great use."

According to Davis' year-end

report, the Trinidad Unit of Salvation Army served 1,597 cases, including 511 single men, 336 single women and 750 families. A total of 1,225 grocery food orders were dispensed.

"Our programs include a non-perishable food pantry, which averages 111 food baskets a month. We also provide prescription assistance, medical tests through the Samaritan Clinic, hygiene items, coats, gloves, hats, dental assistance, cost of ID's, gasoline assistance and bus tickets."

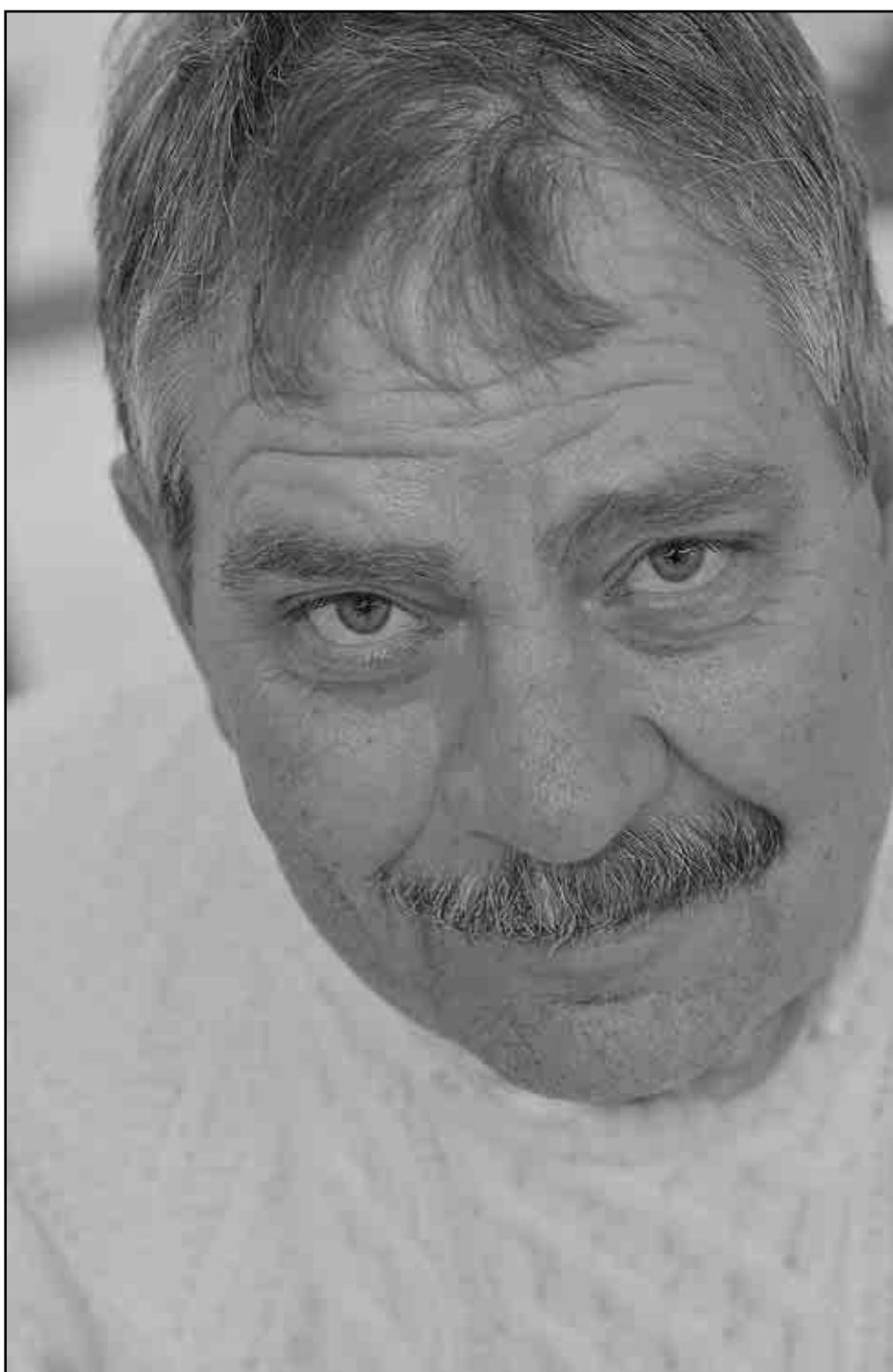
Davis said the unit office also serves as an information center to try and connect people with other agencies when appropriate. "We will assist people with paperwork if they so request."

The Unit's annual Red Kettle Christmas Campaign netted \$14,208, which Davis said will go a long way toward keeping Salvation Army and Trinidad social services programs operating. "This amount is supplemented every month by contributions

received from the community through churches and individuals and once-a-year gifts. We are truly grateful for all our benefactors and donors."

Salvation Army and its many volunteers also served 464 dinners for the Open Door Soup Kitchen at its annual Christmas Day event, including 262 served on site and 202 home deliveries.

Davis stressed that the Trinidad community has been very generous in its support despite the poor economy. "In 2008 we received 5,358 food items for the pantry, 1,075 hygiene items, 369 coats and 84 miscellaneous items. We are not a store and therefore, are unable to receive clothing or other items that people so generously wish to donate," she said. "However we do work with The Thrift Store, which allows us to send out vouchers with a person so that they may obtain clothing at no cost to them."



Ed Hockett

(Photo by Tim Keller)

Local Renaissance man invents 30-hour day

By **TIM KELLER**
Special to the Chronicle

Ed Hockett wears so many hats, they may need their own closet at home. At his "day job" teaching Spanish at Raton High School, his students call him "Señor;" the assistant principal calls him "Doc" for the PhD Hockett never mentions.

After school, he goes off to teach some more - at both New Mexico Highlands University's Raton campus and TSJC. He teaches a class for Luna Community College at Raton High School. Reaching home, his day may not be over: Hockett is a longtime firefighter and EMT with the Fisher Peak Volunteer Fire Department, where he also serves as training officer.

In his free time, Hockett is active in animal rescue activities, although he claims, "That's primarily my wife's activity; I just happen to live in the same house." His wife, Judy Lee, is Chair of the Communications Department at TSJC. They live high atop the Raton Pass at Santa Fe Trail Ranch.

In the early days, weather often rendered the road so difficult that Hockett hiked, or showshoed, more than a mile down the mountain to meet his carpool at the highway. Returning at dusk, he climbed back to the house.

Continued on page 4

Obama presses lawmakers to OK new bailout funds

By **DAVID ESPO** and **JIM KUHNHENN**
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tested before taking power, President-elect Barack Obama appealed to Democrats in Congress on Tuesday to allow the use of an additional \$350 billion in federal bailout funds and vowed to veto any move to block the money.

Obama backed up his plea with a promise to revise elements of the original bailout program that have drawn widespread criticism, pledging that billions will go toward helping homeowners facing foreclosure. Several Democrats said his commitments, to be made in writing, would be enough to prevent an embarrassing pre-inauguration drubbing for the president-elect when the Senate votes this week.

"This will be the first vote that President-elect Obama is asking us for. I'll be shocked and I'll be really disappointed if he doesn't get it," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an independent Democrat from Connecticut.

"This is a new beginning." Behind closed doors, Obama also urged lawmakers to act quickly on the massive economic stimulus measure that his aides have been negotiating with congressional officials. The legislation will blend federal spending with tax cuts, and could reach \$1 trillion in size, a measure of the nation's economic woes.

Democratic leaders in the House and Senate hope to have the legislation ready for Obama's signature by mid-February, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., held a late-afternoon meeting on it.

"We've made great progress, and we fully intend to meet our deadline," Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters. She disclosed no details.

For Obama, attendance at the Democrats' weekly closed-door lunch was a homecoming of sorts, a return to the Capitol where he arrived as a newly elected senator only four years ago.

Reid called it a "lovefest," and said the president-elect was greeted with a five-minute ovation by Democrats happy to have the White House back after eight years of Republican rule.

Sen. Carl Levin said the session had a sentimental tone at times, despite the magnitude of the nation's economic woes and the challenge Obama and fellow Democrats confront.

"It's kind of hard not to call him, 'Barack.' So he said, 'Call me Barack for the next couple of days,'" Levin said with a smile.

Despite its size, the economic stimulus bill is not expected to face heavy opposition among Democrats, and Obama has won praise from Republicans for showing a willingness to show deference to their concerns. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., floated a new proposal, raising the possibility of a two-year elimination of Social Security payroll taxes.

Obama got a boost during the day from Federal Reserve

Continued on page 3

MLK Obervance

The Chronicle-News will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We will also have early deadlines for the Monday, Jan. 19 and Tuesday Jan. 20 editions: All classified and display ads will be due by 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15 for these editions.

