

Only 4 days 'til Christmas



TUESDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2010

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THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

30 CENTS
TRINIDAD
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THE FINE PRINT

TUESDAY Las Animas Co.

Board of County Commissioner's meets 9 a.m. 1st & 3rd Tues. @ LA County Courthouse, Room #201, 200 E. First Street.

Home Schooling

All area Home Schoolers are welcome to join our weekly winter playgroup 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Tues @ the Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Dr. For more information e-mail <harhomeschool@yahoo.com> or call 719-846-50119.

Kiwans

Weekly luncheon 12 p.m. every Tues @ A Little Catering Company, 916 Arizona. For more information call Tom Martinez, Jr. @ 719-846-9291.

Hoehne FPD

Board of Directors meeting 6:30 p.m. 3rd Tues @ the Hoehne Fire Station. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information call Kelli @ 719-846-2080.

WEDNESDAY

Arthritis Exercise

Free Arthritis Exercise Class every Mon & Wed @ 9 a.m. @ Corazon Square & 1 p.m. @ Early Learning Center. Info call: 845-1133 ext. 224.

PAL Playgroup

Meets 9:30 - 11 a.m. every Weds @ Alta Vista, 415 S. Indiana for moms & caregivers with infants, ages birth to 3. Playroom is also available for same time use Tues & Thurs. For more information call Martina @ 719-846-4400.

Senior Exercise

COG sponsored Stretch, Flex, Balance & Music Therapy Classes 10-11 a.m. Mon & Wed @ Primero Community Center, Hwy 12. Call Kim @ 719-557-9642 or COG @ 719-845-1135 x225.

LaCasa Lodge

Meeting for all Fiesta members 2 p.m. every Wed @ LaCasa Lodge in Jansen, Hwy 12. Call 719-846-8558 for more information.

Eastern Star

Meets 7 p.m. every 2nd & 4th Wed @ the Masonic Temple on South Commercial Street in Trinidad. For more information call Trinidad Chapter @ 719-846-2861.

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENTS

"Salvation Army annual Christmas Eve Dinner celebration at the Soup Kitchen 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fri (Dec 24) @ Holy Family Hall, 308 Church St. For home delivery call 719-680-1117 or 719-859-2617 for deliveries. All donations are gratefully accepted.
*New Hope Ministries (by Big R)

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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday:

Partly sunny, with a high near 58. Breezy, with a west-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. West wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 52. West wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Wednesday

Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.



RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 12/16/10
Hoehne ditch priority #9 1/1/1863

Trinidad Reservoir accounting
Release 0.06 AF
Inflow 65.43 AF
Evaporation 2.37 AF
Content 15,864 AF
Elevation 6,173.58
Precipitation 0
Downstream river call
JMR 12/31/1948

Notes
• 1 cubic (cfs) foot per second equals one cubic foot of water passing a point in one second of time.
• 1 acre-foot equals a quantity of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot.
1 cubic foot per second = 1.9835 acre-feet per day (24 hrs)



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'Twas the night before...

TSJC graphic design students create their own final exam

By RICHARD SITTS
The Chronicle-News

Hopefully, by now, visions of sugarplums have replaced the visions of finals dancing in the heads of Trinidad State Junior College students.

For students in David Barrack's *Introduction to Graphic Computers* course, those visions translated into a visionary final that left the instructor pleased and the participating students satisfied that they'd learned something by doing it.

For Jeff Kumm, a sophomore from Trinidad, the idea of taking a traditional written final was nowhere on his Christmas wish list. For the final, Barrack had suggested that students produce his or her resume as a podcast (video), but that idea didn't go over too well.

"And they came back to me with a counter proposal," Barrack said. "And I felt it was ambitious, and I agreed to let them do it, if the project became their final. And quite frankly, I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome." Each student was graded on his or her participation in the project. "If they are willing to come in and push the envelope and do something different, I welcome that," Barrack added.

Kumm was the project's producer and helped originate the idea for the video, a tweaking of *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Kumm said he believed he learned much more from the practical work involved in producing the video, than what he may have gotten out of taking a more traditional final.

"We used the portable TV camera and learned the different transitions that iMovie had to offer, editing and the filmmaking process," Kumm said.



Photo courtesy of Trinidad St. Jr. College

Trinidad State Junior College students in the Introduction to Graphic Design class work on the video that they produced as a final. This particular scene being taped ended up on the digital cutting room floor and did not make it into the final video edit. Alex Olguin, handling the camera at left, tapes fellow students Jeffrey Martinez and Mindy Mulinix.

Wars-type yellow word scroll with the following introduction: "The Twelve Hours Before Finals - In a junior college not too far away, the graphic design students of Trinidad State Junior College couldn't believe the semester was almost over... until the day before finals came along. Everyone realized the impending doom... seriously, they couldn't believe their teacher left them alone with a camera."

Along the way, some of the chapter titles were, "Two aggravating parents, Three roommates nagging, Four toilets flushing, Five undone things, Six students slacking," and "Ten swallowed pizzas." Filming locations were all on campus and included the Boyd Building, the library and the

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"We started from scratch. We met and wrote it, edited it, had production meetings and discussed what we were going to do with this. I learned what a producer does, getting everything set up." Kumm said the work involved covered exactly what he plans on getting into - graphic design and film production. "It was really a rewarding experience. This actually gave us some practical use of what we were learning."

The four-and-one-half minute video took just over a week to produce. "I pitched the idea last Monday and he (Barrack) went for it, and we started on it that afternoon," Kumm added. "I suggested it as a way to get out of doing a traditional final." Kumm said the students still went through all the usual distractions of preparing for a final.

The video begins with a Star



Photo by Richard Sitts

TSJC sophomore Jeff Kumm works on editing the video on a computer in the college's graphic design department.

November jobless rate jumps despite fact county added jobs

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Las Animas County received a mixed blessing with its November jobless figures from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The county has added more jobs but with that comes higher unemployment.

The county's unemployment rate increased from 8.4 percent in October to 8.9 percent in November to move ahead of the state average. State figures show that the county's labor force rose in November to 8,428 from 8,309 and so did the number of employed to 7,677 from 7,612. But the number of jobless jumped to 751 from 697, hence the overall percentage increase.

In November 2009, the county showed a 7.6 percent unemployment rate based on a labor force of 8,274, 7,642 employed and 632 unemployed.

To the north, both Huerfano

and Pueblo Counties also showed significant upturns in their jobless rates. Huerfano County rose to a whopping 11.5 percent in November from October's 10.8 percent and 8.2 percent in November 2009.

Pueblo County passed the 10 percent jobless rate in November to 10.3 percent, up from October's 9.6 percent. Last year at this time, Pueblo County showed only a 7.9 percent rate.

Las Animas County's higher employment rate is largely reflected with the reopening of coal mining operations and activities at the New Elk Coal Mining Co. Pioneer Natural Resources has also indicated it will resume coalbed methane gas well drilling operations in the Raton Basin next year that will also increase its labor force a bit over the number employed in 2009 and 2010 when virtually no well drilling activity took place.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted

unemployment rate increased two-tenths of one percentage point to 8.6 percent in November, according to Donald J. Mares, executive director of the Department of Labor and Employment. "For the first time in three years we've now had three consecutive months of wage and salary job growth," Mares said. "While the unemployment rate is increasing at the same time we're adding jobs, this seeming contradiction is easily explained by the number of people returning to the labor force."

The number of working Coloradans fell 2,400 over the month to 2,433,900. The civilian labor force increased 4,500 to 2,663,800. The number of residents unsuccessfully looking for work increased 6,900 over the month to 229,900. One year ago, total employment was 2,457,200, the civilian labor force was 2,652,700 and the number of unemployed was 195,500. The

civilian labor force has increased 11,100 since November 2009.

The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 62 of Colorado's 64 counties and decreased in two. The lowest rate was 3.9 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 15.8 percent in Dolores County. In November 2009, the unemployment rate increased in 45 counties, decreased in 14 counties and remained unchanged in five. Last year, the lowest rate was 2.7 percent in Cheyenne County and the highest was 14.1 percent in Dolores County.

Wage and salary employment The monthly survey of Colorado business establishments indicates the number of non-farm wage and salary jobs increased 3,800 in November to 2,208,300.

Employment increased over the month in four of Colorado's 11 major industry sectors.

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Geometry students design & build homes

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

RATON - Raton High School math teacher Chris Naccarato likes to get mathematics off of the white textbook page and into her students' hands. She got more than she expected last week.

Early in the fall semester, she gave her honors geometry students, all sophomores, a term project: break into groups and design your dream homes. Draw a floor plan to scale. Calculate total area and the cost of flooring. Then, build a three-dimensional model of the home.

Each home had to have at least two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, and garage. Naccarato also required that each home incorporate at least one square, one rectangle, one triangle, and one circle.

Local architect David Little, of Alpha Design, visited the class to demonstrate how he makes floor plans and elevation drawings. The students may have picked his brain about other design and building issues, as well.

"What I expected to get were small, square or rectangular homes built from cardboard, Styrofoam, and popsicle sticks," Naccarato recalls.

"What I got instead were five gorgeous, well-built wooden homes that

took an enormous amount of time and effort by the students." The students went all out: a tour last week of the homes found skylights, spiral staircases, circular windows, a pool, a secret room, a helipad, decks, floor coverings, furnishings, artwork, unique rooflines, and painted stained glass windows.

There was even a piano in one living room, and everything was in proper scale.

"The students paid an enormous amount of attention to detail in their single-level and multi-storied homes," Naccarato says. "They included everything you would need in a house. They even decorated for Christmas!"

Naccarato says the class grew so excited about the projects that now, with the projects completed, the students are eager to begin a new assignment when they return for the spring semester in two weeks.

Moriah Daniel, Lakken Medina, and Callie Wilson designed and built the home pictured here. Another team consisted of Sarah Caruana, Devon Gutierrez, Nicole James, Gabe Padilla, and Brittany Sanchez. Seth Parker and Tyler Vertovec built a home, as did Breannon Trujillo and Dominique Zamora. Another home was made by Tessa Fleming, Jerica Gonzales, Marisa McCarty, and Autumn Hunnicutt.

