

INSIDE TODAY



America's Greatest Train Rides

There's still no better way to explore the United States than by rail. Learn more about the great long journeys and short day trips available all over the country.

Cook It!

Brunch is more than eggs, it's an event. For Easter Sunday, serve up some upgraded a.m. favorites family-style on platters so everyone can help themselves.

THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 6 for all SCHOOL EVENTS

FRIDAY

TSJC- Gunsmithing

Students will have the Kit Carson Hawken Rifle they built on display 1 - 5 p.m. Fri in the Mullen Building on the campus. Don't miss seeing this beautiful handcrafted replica of our western heritage before it is presented for display at the State Capitol Building on March 31.

Al-Anon Family

Group meets @ 6 p.m. every Friday in the Presbyterian Church basement, 801 San Pedro. For info call: Sharone 719-846-9999. No fee charged to participate & all are welcome.

Eagles #179

Regular meeting 7 p.m. 4th Fri @ Eagle Hall, 204 Pine Street, corner of Pine & Nevada.

SATURDAY

Gideons

Fisher's Peak Gideons Saturday Morning Prayer Group meets @ 7 a.m. Call 719-680-0290 for location.

Hometown Holidays

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast 10 am Sat @ the Fairgrounds. Call Christina @ 680-9878 for more information.

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RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 3/25/10 Salas North #27 Priority - 5/31/1866

Trinidad Lake accounting:
Release .12 acre feet
Inflow 163.84 acre feet
Evaporation 4.72 acre feet
Content 22487 acre feet
Elevation 6183.70 feet
Precipitation .10 inches
Downstream river call:
JMR - 12/31/1948
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo by David J. Santistevan Jr.

On Thursday Rep. Buffie McFadyen, center, Las Animas County Commissioner/Chairman Jim Montoya, right, and Rep. Wes McKinley, left, met with Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter to discuss the future of the Trinidad State Nursing Home. The photo was taken right after the meeting.

Reps., locals take fight for TSNH to the Governor

By DAVID J. SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

On Thursday at the State Capitol in Denver, Rep. Buffie McFadyen, Rep. Wes McKinley, and Las Animas County Chairman Jim Montoya set up a meeting with Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter to discuss the future of the Trinidad State Nursing Home remaining a viable state facility. The meeting was held in the governor's office. Also in attendance was Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services Karen L. Beye.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform Gov. Ritter about the importance of the Trinidad

State Nursing Home (TSNH) to Trinidad and Las Animas County, and how important it is to keep it a state-owned facility, as well as how important the facility is to its residents and staff, and the true economic impact that it has on Las Animas County.

"We had a meeting today with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Rep. McKinley, Chairman Montoya, and Gov. Ritter," Rep. McFadyen told The Chronicle-News in an exclusive interview after the meeting. "Hopefully, we have taken the governor to a position of actually looking at the issue. It appears we made a decision last year, but with

new information, new funding sources, in my mind right now there is a reason to slow down any sale for now, and continue to look into keeping a viable, profitable state facility. The evidence right now shows that the Trinidad home can be taken into the black and hopefully the governor will take all this into consideration as he goes forward," McFadyen said.

A key point made to Gov. Ritter was that the reimbursement rates for Medicaid have increased from \$201 a day to close to \$214 per day per resident, and that it would be retroactive back to July 2008 and continue to June of 2010. This

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Preliminary hearing set for Duran

C-N STAFF REPORT

Don Duran, 38, of Trinidad, who is facing multiple felony charges, made a brief appearance in Las Animas County District Court Thursday morning. It didn't take long for District Court Judge Leslie J. Gerbracht to set his preliminary hearing for Monday, April 12, at 9 a.m.

Duran is being held in the Las Animas County Jail on a cash-only bond of \$235,000. Charges against him include first degree burglary, a Class 3 felony; assault in the second degree, a Class 4 felony; second degree kidnapping; possession of a controlled substance, more than one gram of cocaine; criminal mischief, a Class 3 felony; and domestic violence.

The charges against Duran concern an alleged assault on his wife on Feb. 21 and allegedly dam-

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City, county 2009 crime stats reflect business-as-usual year

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Concerning crime, it was a business-as-usual year for the Trinidad Police Department and Las Animas County Sheriff's Office. The police department reported in its 2009 annual crime statistics that it received 20,481 service calls last year, compared to 21,900 in 2008 and 19,955 in 2007.

The sheriff's department received a relatively normal 5,091 service calls last year. Total service calls received by countywide law enforcement, Trinidad Ambulance District (2,009) and fire departments totaled 30,940.

Trinidad Police Chief Charles Glorioso summarized highlights of 2009 in a crime review at Tuesday's city council work session that was reported earlier this

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Photo by Christina Boyce

Sen. Tom Udall's field representative, Anna Rael-DeLay, right, works with Des Moines Village Clerk Stephanie King at Des Moines Village Hall Tuesday.

Sen. Udall extends his reach in New Mexico

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

DES MOINES - United States Sen. Tom Udall goes to great lengths to represent his New Mexico constituents' needs, keeping a dozen field representatives on the roads throughout the state on a full-time basis.

Field Representative Anna Rael-DeLay made a swing through northeastern New Mexico this week, meeting with citizens and officials in Roy, Clayton, and Des Moines, holding posted, publicized office hours at each location.

Interviewed at Des Moines, where she met with constituents at Des Moines Village Hall Tuesday afternoon, Rael-DeLay said the most common matters people bring to her are veterans affairs and Social Security issues. She also helps with housing and



United States Sen. Tom Udall maintains a staff of a dozen field representatives whose job is to travel the state helping his constituents.

loan issues. The senator's office is also called upon to help with pass-

port problems, such as obtaining an emergency passport or helping with a lost passport or overseas travel restrictions.

Tuesday at Des Moines, area resident Inge Bobek came to meet with Rael-DeLay. Bobek and her husband Tom are German citizens who have managed the Spahn Bison Ranch in Trinchera Canyon for 10 years. Although they've been trying hard to become American citizens, they may have to move back to Germany when their current work visas expire. They're hoping Sen. Udall might be able to help them stay and earn U.S. citizenship.

Rael-DeLay says she enjoys helping Sen. Udall keep abreast of what's happening around the state and helping him provide services for his constituents. She

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. Breezy, with a west-southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: A chance of rain showers before 9 p.m., then snow. Some thunder is also possible. Low around 28. Blustery, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow likely before noon, then a chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a north northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 56. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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