

## Two-horse power snow removal



Photos by Carol Dillow Phillips

In these photos taken on a ranch near Raton Pass, Bill Phillips harnesses up some help to clear snow after the most recent spring storm. "The snow was so wet and deep from the drifts that we had to use the Big O Tires draft horses, Ace and Dozer, to move the snow from the road to our ranch," said Bill's wife, Carol. Ace and Dozer each weigh 2,500 lbs. and received quite a workout clearing this snow from the road, Carol added.



## Reps., locals take fight for TSNH to the Governor

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reimbursement of Medicaid funds back to the nursing home will generate about \$1million, that will go back to the Colorado State Veterans Nursing 505 Fund, of which TSNH became an unwilling participant back in 1999.

Denver-based veterans groups want TSNH out of the 505 Fund.

During the meeting, Montoya said he explained to Gov. Ritter, "That the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners asked if a possible backfill could come from severance tax dollars." Montoya added, "There is about \$23 million in sever-

ance tax that is generated from Las Animas County and only about \$400,000 is received back though direct distribution to Las Animas County. The intent of severance tax dollars are to go back to the counties that are being impacted through the extraction of minerals," Montoya said.

Commissioner Gary Hill has been adamant about how much in severance tax dollars Las Animas County creates. Giving some back to TSNH is a way of getting back some of those dollars and a way to sustain TSNH, Hill said.

Ritter was informed that the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners

(BOCC) has been working with Congressman John Salazar and his office to designate 20 beds for local veterans at TSNH to help generate revenue, which would put the home well over its 100-resident quota to make it a profitable entity.

"I think the governor was hearing some things today he did not know," Rep. McKinley told The Chronicle-News after the meeting. "I think that Chairman Montoya did a very good job. I think Rep. McFadyen did a good job presenting the case to keep it a state facility. I think that we can start looking at keeping it state-owned. This is a mess if the state tries to go through with a sale, no matter who the buyer might be. We've got title problems, pending legislation to stop the sale, and we've got the Colorado Department of Human Services doing some underhanded things I

do not like. So if we can make the governor aware of some of these things, maybe we can save the Trinidad home and keep it state-owned," McKinley said.

Ritter was also given a copy of the 1955 deed to the home that states that if the home does not remain a state facility to care for the elderly, then the title and property revert back to Trinidad State Junior College.

Commissioner Jim Vigil was vocal about \$200,000 that the state takes from TSNH annually for oversight of the home. Montoya also brought this fact up to Ritter during the meeting. Montoya made a strong point to the Governor that TSNH, Mt. San Rafael Hospital and Trinidad State Junior College are all dependent on one another, so it would be in the best interest of the state to continue to operate TSNH.

## Sen. Udall extends his reach in New Mexico

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and the other field representatives cover their areas on a regular schedule. While keeping posted hours for citizens to come visit, they also make a point to meet with all the mayors and many other officials.

Rael-DeLay's territory covers San Miguel, Mora, Harding, Union, and Colfax counties - the entire north-eastern corner of the nation's fifth-largest state. In addition to Roy, Clayton, and Des Moines, her regu-

lar stops include Las Vegas, Cimarron, Raton, Wagon Mound, and Mora, among others. She drives her circuit alone in a Ford Fusion. Asked how she likes her job, Rael-DeLay said, "I love it!"

Sen. Udall's office maintains an e-mail list of constituents, e-mailing notices each time his representative is coming to the area. To register or otherwise contact the senator, his Web site is tomudall.senate.gov. The Santa Fe office is available by phone at (505) 988-6511.

## Preliminary hearing set for Duran

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aging his wife's property exceeding \$20,000 on Feb. 9.

After initially evading law enforcement, Duran was arrested on March 16.

Trinidad attorney Lee

Allen Hawke, who is representing Duran, said that he would ask for a bond reduction for Duran at the preliminary hearing, but was unsure if the court would be willing to consider the request at that time.

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

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week by *The Chronicle-News*.

As usual, there were some mixed bag upsides and downsides to serious crime in the Trinidad area last year. The bottom line is the department made a total of 1,659 arrests in 2009 - 1,547 adults and 112 juveniles. Only one homicide was reported in 2009 in April, compared to three in 2008, including the November double homicide at the Hollywood Bar.

The number of reported burglaries has gone from 83 in 2007 to 65 in 2008 and back up to 78 in 2009. Another 20 in-progress burglaries were reported last year. But the total number was still 14 percent off the city's five-year average, Glorioso said.

And after a down year in 2008, the number of criminal mischief cases to vehicles, businesses and private and public properties reverted back to 2007 totals. Some 282 cases were reported in 2009, compared to 221 in 2008 and 279 in 2007. By far the largest number of cases, 151, was done to vehicles.

In the area of assaults, 80 were reported, but only seven were of the more serious aggravated kind. That was down from 32 in 2008. But sexual assaults were up to 15 last year, compared to six in 2008.

Here are some other TPD 2009 crime statistics to better indicate the types of crimes and their reported numbers.

- The city had 2,182 traffic stops, including one high-profile case involving Baron, the department's drug-sniffing dog that led to a narcotics possession arrest.

- 495 suspicious incidents were reported

- The department did 1,962 follow-up investigations.

- 390 in-person harassments and another 162 harassments by phone were reported.

- The department performed 1,296 school checks.

- Among city code violations, 614 calls were for junk accumulation in yards, etc.

- 404 calls were for public drunkenness.

- There was one fatal car accident in 2009, 102 hit-and-run accidents and 225 involving property damage.

- 256 noise disturbance calls were reported and there were 373 disturbances in progress.

- The city's Graffiti Task Force was out trying to wipe out the damage resulting from 41 calls of graffiti tagging on private and public properties in the city.

- Only 4 juvenile curfew violations were recorded, but 35 juvenile run-aways took place.

- Police were called to 165 fights in progress and to 363 (mostly business) alarms sounding off.

- Fifteen suicide attempts were made in the city last year.

- 659 extra residential patrols were granted.

In response to Mayor Jennie Garduno's question at Tuesday's council meeting, regarding looking at ways to change crime enforcement where activities in certain areas have risen substantially, Glorioso said those areas of increase were brought to the attention of his police officers. They, in turn, then patrol higher-crime areas where suspicious activities and cars have been reported and where more crimes have been occur-

ring. Last year, Glorioso said the department focused more on speeders in residential neighborhoods, resulting in a lot more traffic citations being issued.

The department continues to maintain its mobile speed radar unit around town, more as a deterrent since only five speeding violation tickets were issued.

Glorioso also noted that having Baron on staff and the five security cameras in place most of last year was very much a deterrent to crime in those areas, especially now that most people are aware of the camera locations. He said there have been no recent arrests from Baron's sniffing activities.

County crime statistics pretty much reflected those in Trinidad at about half or less the occurrence rate. The city has roughly, but not quite two-thirds of the county's total population.

For example, 43 accidents with injuries were reported and another 42 with property damage involved. The county had three fatal traffic accidents last year among 1,754 total traffic stops.

Following are more county crime statistics:

- 29 cold and 4 in-progress burglaries were reported.

- The number of in-person and phone harassments was 71.

- Some 26 fires were reported in the county.

- 14 frauds were reported.

- The department assisted in 48 medical calls and did 593 inmate transports.

- 24 criminal mischiefs to cars and businesses were reported.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### MONDAY

- Trinidad - School District Calendar Committee Meeting 6 p.m. Mon, Mar 29 at the High School Library.

### TUESDAY

- Trinidad Schools - Board of Education regular 4th Tues meets 6 p.m. 5th Tues (due to Spring Break) @ the Administration Office, 215 South Maple St.

### GENERAL INFO

- FREE Scholarship for Summer Health Careers Institute available to students interested in Health, Science & Math careers, July 18-23. Activities include opportunities to observe various departments in hospitals & shadowing health professionals while staying at the University of Colorado Denver Health Science Center. For more information call SE Colorado Area Health Education Center @ 719-544-7833 or toll-free 866-330-7100 or e-mail [suzette.bartch@secahec.org](mailto:suzette.bartch@secahec.org). Funding provided by a grant from the Colorado Trust.

- ARPA/City of Trinidad Scholarship Program - \$1,000. College Scholarship available to qualified Trinidad High School senior: ARPA \$500 College Scholarships are available to member municipalities in Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, & Springfield. Dave Brunelli, Superintendent of Trinidad's Electric Department, is the local coordinator for the ARPA Scholarship Program. He can be reached at 719-846-9843, x120.

- Scholarship - Miners' Colfax Medical Center Auxiliary \$1,000 Medical Scholarship offered per year to assist one or more Colfax County high school graduates interested in Medical or Health related fields. Contact Shirley Paver at 575-445-4988 for more information. Deadline is April 5.

## THE FINE PRINT

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### Easter Carnival

Free to all children - Egg Decorating Contest (age groups, 0-5, 6-9 & 9-12) & fun for kids @ La Casa in Jansen 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat.

### Raton History

"Early Spanish Expeditions into Colorado" presented by Dr. David Sandoval at the Santa Fe Trail Assn meeting 12:00 p.m. Sat at K-Bobs, 1228 S. Second St, Raton. Public is invited. Please call Nancy Robertson @ 575-445-8226 for more information.

### Community Co-op

FREE - "Successful Mountain Gardening" Workshop by Joni Steiner & Carter Morris, Directors of Earth Mountain Education Farm 1-3 p.m. Sat @ The Trinidad Community Co-op, corner of Elm & Maple.

### Concerts for Causes

Buffet Dinner with songs & stories by Jim Jones. Dinner starts @ 5:30 p.m. with concert @ 7 p.m. @ A Little Catering Company. Please RSVP to Mary @ 846-3901.

### LaCasa Dance

Spring Fling Dance with music by the "Dynamics" 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Sat. Cover Charge & IDs required.

### SUNDAY

#### La Casa Lodge

La Casa Monthly Meeting w/ Potluck 1:30 p.m. 4th Sun @ La Casa Lodge in Jansen.

#### Spaghetti Dinner

Come out to Holy Trinity Parish's Palm Sunday Dinner. John Rino is making spaghetti for your dining pleasure. Join us from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Sebastiani Gym. Takeout service 10:30-11 a.m. & 1:30-2 p.m. Adults/\$7 & Children/\$4. Call Louise @ 846-3369 x14 for more information.

### MONDAY

#### 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.

#### Raton Playgroup

Free indoor fun & snacks (Mommies & kids ages 0-5 years) meets 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. every Monday @ Colfax County Health Council, 123 N. 2nd Street, Suite #5. Call Ida Cruz @ 575-445-3077 for more information.

### Hospital Board

Trinidad Area Health Association dba: Mt. San Rafael Hospital Board of Directors meets 6 p.m. the last Monday of every Month, 410 Benedicta Ave. Please, call Lynda @ 846-9213 x1051 for more information.

### TUESDAY

#### Pastor's Study

Meets 9 a.m. every Tues @ Zion's Lutheran Fellowship Hall; all Pastors welcome.

### Kiwanis

Kiwanis Luncheon 12 p.m. every Tues @ A Little Catering Company, 916 Arizona.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### Food Drive

Curves 12th Annual Food Drive to benefit the Salvation Army. Drop off any non-perishable items at Curves, 2008 Freedom Road by April 2nd. Bring in a bag of groceries during the Food Drive & join for \$0 Service Fee.

#### Benefit in Raton

Tyler Luksich (8) & Luke Long (13) Auction & Dance Benefit will be held 5 to 12 midnight Sat, March 27 @ the Spur Lounge in Raton, NM. Food, dancing & auction with proceeds to benefit the Long/Luksich Leukemia Medical Funds.

### Trinidad AA

Meetings Sun-Thurs. Call 719-671-6066 or 719-546-1173 for details.

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