



THURSDAY
APRIL 15, 2010

Vol. 134, No. 72

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

Please see page 8 for all SCHOOL EVENTS

THURSDAY

Teen Maze

"The Teen Maze Event" 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thurs @ TSJC Scott Gym. Call Tony @ 680-2059 or Lisa @ 846-1005 for information.

Rotary Club

Weekly Luncheon & Meeting 12 p.m. every Thurs. @ the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr.

Red Hat Mtn Mamas

Meets for lunch 1 p.m. 3rd Thurs @ Tequilla's Restaurant, 9900 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: 846-7992 (Beverly). New members welcome.

Parenting Class

FREE "Parenting with Love & Logic" class 6 p.m. (1st & 3rd Thursday) @ Fisher's Peak Elementary, 900 Moore's Canyon Road. For more information call Kevin Crosby @ 845-2043.

Weather Spotters

Training Session 6 p.m. Thurs @ the LA County Court House in the Co Commissioners Chambers, second floor. Public is invited to attend & learn about becoming a weather spotter. Call Bill Cordova @ 719-845-2568 for information.

Weight Watchers

Meets 6 p.m. every Thurs @ the Senior Citizens Center, 1222 San Pedro Ave.

Trout Unlimited

Purgatoire River Anglers meets 6:30 p.m. 3rd Thurs @ the Lucky Monkey, 136 W. Cedar. Call Joanie @ 846-7307 or Howard @ 575-447-7034 for information. Public is invited.

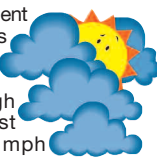
Elks Lodge

Trinidad Order of Elks, Lodge #181 meets 8 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thurs @ 120 South Maple St.

Continued on page 8

WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 70. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east northeast.



Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then a slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west northwest. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tomorrow:

A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 57. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.



Tomorrow Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a low around 41. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as 4/14/10
South Side Priority #96 - 11/23/1883
Trinidad Lake accounting:
Release 0.09 acre feet
Inflow 367.09 acre feet
Evaporation 22.00 acre feet
Content 27924 acre feet
Elevation 6190.85 feet
Precipitation 0 inches
Downstream river call:
JMR - 12/31/1948
(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



Photo courtesy of Laura Mourer

Members of the Trinidad State Junior College Robotics Team pose for a photo at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, where the 4th Annual Colorado Robot Challenge took place last Saturday. Standing from left are Tyler Jensen, Earl Nesbitt, Jeremy Begley, Paul Philbin, Matt Barela, James Donnelly and project leader Cindy Clements. In front are Laura Mourer and Karen Howl. Teammates Catherine Jimenez and Betty Segura did not make the trip and Robert Philbin was not pictured.

TSJC robot rolls with the best

By RICHARD SITTS
The Chronicle-News

They programmed, they participated, and they triumphed.

Students on the Trinidad State Junior College robotics team fared remarkably well in the 4th Annual Colorado Robot Challenge last Saturday at the Great Sand Dunes National Park east of Alamosa.

Their robot invention made it through the first course and advanced to the second course, along with the team from Colorado State University at Fort Collins. Neither team could then get through the second course, but were allowed to try out their robots on other courses. No other teams made it through

the first course.

A damaged sensor "whisker" resulted in the TSJC robot continually bumping into a wall until the sensor was repaired. On one of the other courses, the robot eventually flipped over in one of the sand holes.

"I was very proud of the team," said project leader Cindy Clements. Everyone was impressed with the TSJC robot and "Ours was the most unique," Clements added.

The nuts and bolts on the end of the robot's drive cylinders also kept getting hung up on rocks and other obstacles. Clements said that next time, some hubcaps would be in order.

Continued on page 10



Photos by Marty Mayfield

The RHS Cheer Leaders are shown during their exhibition performance Tuesday evening. The event showcased the team's routines for the State Spirit Competition in Rio Rancho Friday and Saturday at the Santa Anna Star Center.

'Attitude is everything' for RHS Cheer teams

By MARTY MAYFIELD
The Chronicle-News

RATON - It was a standing room only crowd of friends and family at Tiger Gym Tuesday night to see the Raton High School Cheer and Dance teams perform their state competition routines.

Both teams will travel to Rio Rancho for the State Spirit competition to be held at the Santa Anna Star Center Friday and Saturday, as they have done for so many years now. Last year both teams came home a bit disappointed, being beat out again by district rivals St Mikes. Tigercats coach Kelly Gabrielle said the teams have had two more weeks to prepare. She

Continued on page 10



City receives more bad sales tax news, but help may be on way

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad area economy took another big hit in February with City Manager Jim Soltis reporting at Tuesday's City Council work session that February sales tax revenues were down a whopping 12.3 percent following January's 11.1 percent decline.

He said that means city sales tax revenues are already off \$90,000 from a comparable two-month period in 2009 when the local and national recession was already in full swing.

Despite the city and county's moribund economy, Nancy Lackey, Trinidad-Las Animas County Economic Development board president, told council that ED and its ongoing partnerships with South Central Council of Governments, Trinidad State Junior College and TLAC Chamber of Commerce, were taking a much more pro-active approach to try and make the city as attractive as possible for relocating or new small businesses to open up shop here.

"I feel Trinidad is entering into a new economy. We are starting to approach more businesses to give them information on how they might fit into our community rather than wait for them to come to us," said Lackey. But she told council that the lack of suitable land, new or existing building accommodations, a well-trained workforce and infrastructure will keep any large international com-

Continued on page 6

Treasurer, sheriff, county commissioner seats to be contested

C-N STAFF REPORT

With both the Republican and Democratic assemblies now in the books, it is now known who will vie for Las Animas County treasurer, sheriff and county commissioner in District Three.

The race for Las Animas County Commissioner District Three will be full on the Democratic side. Both John Rino and Anthony Mattie received enough votes at the Democratic assembly. Mattie received 95 and Rino took home 77. Both did gain enough delegate votes to continue on to the Democratic primary.

City of Trinidad Councilwomen Linda Velasquez will run by a petition for the District Three seat.

In August, all three will face off at the Democratic Primary.

Mack Loudon two weeks ago was officially nominated by the Las Animas County Republican Party to represent the party against the Democratic nominee in the November election.

The seat for Las Animas County Treasurer will also be a hotly contested race. Donna Leonetti, who was appointed by the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners after Anthony Abeyta retired, will go up against current Commissioner Jim Montoya, who after two terms and being term limited will leave his seat at the end of the year to run for treasurer.

Leonetti received 113 delegate votes while Montoya maintained 61.

Both treasurer candidates will now head to the fall primary.

Gary Terry will run unopposed once again for the county surveyor seat.

Dominic Verquer will run for the open seat of county coroner. Verquer works for the Trinidad Ambulance District.

Las Animas County Sheriff James Casias won the approval of the Democratic delegates and will now face Trinidad Policeman Archie Vigil in the fall. Vigil will run by petition. Casias is the incumbent.

Incumbents Dan Espinoza (Las Animas County Assessor), and Bernie Gonzales (Las Animas County Clerk), both ran unopposed and will remain in their positions for another term.

TSJC robot rolls with the best

Continued from page 1

Back in their headquarters this week in Davis Hall on the TSJC campus, team members were quick to point out that their robot will not break any speed records. "Slow and steady wins the race," someone said. OK, it wasn't a race and there really were no winners or losers in this Challenge, which is partially sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

No prizes were handed out, but a NASA representative informed Clements and her team that TSJC would again be funded for next year's Challenge. NASA gave TSJC \$2,500 for this year's Challenge and the representative said the funding would be at least that much for next year.

This was the first time that TSJC participated in the Challenge. There were seven schools that brought 11 entries - Mesa State from Grand Junction, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Adams State College in Alamosa, Denver School of Mines, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and TSJC, that was the only two-year school participating.

Clements said she was surprised at the number of robots that were dead on arrival. At least a couple of the robots, when set down for action, simply did not budge.

Team member Jeremy Begley said it was a great experience and that just because TSJC is a two-year school it doesn't mean that its students aren't capable of doing just as well if not better than those from the four-year schools.

"I learned that these guys worked hard," said Earl Nesbitt, retired electrical engineer and adjunct math professor at TSJC who added his expertise to the project.

Just seeing how it all worked together for a successful result was what team member Matt Barela said he got out of the Challenge. He drew up the original design for the robot. "We were right there at the top, especially considering some of the other schools, like Denver Mines and their reputation. I think we did pretty well,"



Photo courtesy of Laura Mourer

Robotic Challenge teammates Jeremy Begley, left, and Paul Philbin carefully watch the TSJC robot as it proceeds through an obstacle course last Saturday at the 4th Annual Colorado Robot Challenge held at the Great Sand Dunes National Park outside Alamosa.

FOX
BOX OFFICE OPENS 7:00
SHOW STARTS 7:30

NOW SHOWING!

Miley Cyrus
Liam Hemsworth
Greg Kinnear
The LAST SONG

PG

BOX OFFICE OPENS 30 MIN. BEFORE SHOWTIME
SPECIAL MATINEE
2 P.M. - SUNDAY, APR. 18

FRI. & SAT. AT 7:30 & 9:30
SUN. THRU THURS. AT 7:30

423 W. Main • 846-2851

BINGO
La Confederacion
Every Thursday
(Weather permitting)
Hwy. 12
1st Progressive
54 #s - \$600+
2nd Progressive
54 #s - \$1,199
Must be given away
Doors open at 5 p.m.
Starts at 7 p.m.

THE MOVIE PICTURE SHOWHOUSE

Date Night
Mon-Thurs: 7:15 p.m.
RATED PG-13

Clash of the Titans
Mon-Thurs: 7 p.m.
RATED PG-13

How to Train Your Dragon
Mon-Thurs: 6:30 p.m.
RATED PG

The Bounty Hunter
Mon-Thurs: 6:45 p.m.
RATED PG-13
3600 E. Main • 846-0552

NOAA's National Weather Service expands Weather Spotter Network

Special to The Chronicle-News

NOAA's National Weather Service in Pueblo, Colorado is looking for citizens who would like to volunteer to join its WEATHER SPOTTER NETWORK. These citizen volunteers will report severe weather conditions, such as large hail, damaging winds, tornados, etc. directly to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pueblo via a toll-free 800 telephone number or the internet. No special skills or equipment are needed. NOAA's National Weather Service in Pueblo will provide detailed instructions, information and training on reporting weather.

Volunteers are needed all the way from the San Luis Valley and surrounding

mountains to the rural plains of southeast Colorado.

Weather Spotters will continue to be a most important link in NOAA's National Weather Service

Service severe weather warning process. Information from weather spotters has often allowed for confirmation of severe weather after an official warning has been issued, and occasionally are the first notice that severe weather has developed in an area.

These Weather Spotters would also be asked to report snow amounts in the Winter months. The information these valuable people provide, in some instances, would improve weather fore-

Barela added.

Programmer Paul Philbin said that when he started, he didn't know anything at all about programming, but the project afforded him the opportunity to learn the Basic programming language.

Laura Mourer, who was in charge of keeping track of all the data, while taking photos and recording everything, said she learned that to be successful, a lot of time has to go into the project. "If you have a good

team, things go very well, as in this case," Mourer said. Next year, she'll be pursuing her education further at CSU-Pueblo.

Mourer also pointed out something that occurred to her at the Challenge - the lack of women on other teams. One other team had one woman, while the TSJC team had five women involved.

Clements says she is now looking to start a new team, with all the current team members moving on. "We

started from scratch this year too," Clements said. She added that work on the next Challenge will begin earlier, as in September, rather than January, when work began on this year's Challenge.

The irony of it all is that team members Barela, Begley and Philbin all plan on attending CSU at Fort Collins next year, where they will join the robotics team and go up against their alma mater in the 2011 Challenge.

Walmart donates to seniors



Photo by Mike Garrett

Walmart public affairs manager JoLene Vigil, center, presents a \$1,000 community service check to Harry Sayre Senior Center Director Anna Risley and Board President Bertha Sandoval. The center will use the funding for its monthly senior citizen activities and food purchases, including its big senior luncheon next Tuesday.

'Attitude is everything' for RHS Cheer teams

Continued from page 1

added that the girls have risen to the occasion and are ready.

Their performance was close to perfection and they showed they are really ready to take on the competition at state, even with nine first-year dancers on the team. The team's motto this year is 2toN, or 2nd to

None.

Linda Ortiz, RHS Cheer coach for many years, now is very excited about this year's state team. She added the girls have worked really hard and adopted the motto, "Attitude is everything," to carry them forth into the state competition. This year the cheer team will compete against 11 other teams in AAA competition. Ortiz indicated that the girls are looking really good, nailing their stunts and showing an air of confidence. One thing RHS cheer is looking forward to are the stunts performed by Joey Strohm and



Photo by Marty Mayfield

The RHS Tiger Cats Dance team performed Tuesday evening to showcase its state competition routines for the hometown crowd. The team will compete in the State Spirit Competition in Rio Rancho at the Santa Anna Star Center Friday and Saturday

Hunter Garcia. Some of the stunts they are doing would only be performed by coed

teams, so Ortiz is hopeful this will help Raton in the point standing.

Next year it will be a whole new game for both cheer and dance as they will have to compete in two competitions during the year and perform at least 80 percent of the home games.

These are just some of the rules that the teams will deal with as cheer and dance will now be considered a year-round sport and not an activity, as they are now.

The teams will perform both Friday and Saturday morning shortly after 9.

Picketwire Lodge and Store
Seasoning Opening for Store
Saturday, April 17, 2010
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Hot dogs, Balloons, Lemonade
Store hours: Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Lodge is open all year round
Picketwire Lodge and Store
7600 Hwy. 12 • Stonewall • 719-868-2265

Republican Women Las Animas County Lincoln Day Dinner
Thursday April 22, 2010
Trinidad State Junior College Multipurpose Room
Guest Speaker: James C. Humes
White House Ghostwriter for Reagan, Nixon, Bush, Eisenhower and Ford.
Social Hour: 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:15 p.m. \$25 per person
For tickets call (719) 846-7721

Earth Day Benefit Concert and Silent Auction
Featuring from Eculder
Elephant Revival
A Bluegrass Hoedown!
SATURDAY APRIL 17TH, 8:00PM
THE LUCKY MONKEY
\$8 COVER
Benefit For:
Earth Mountain Education Farm and The Trinidad Community Garden
For more info or to donate to the silent auction: contact Joni @ 719-680-0215 www.earthmountainfarm.org

La Casa in Jansen is having a
Swap Meet & Indoor Flea Market
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Sat., April 17 & Sun., April 18
We are looking for Vendors
Only \$25 for one table for the weekend
Only \$35 for 2 tables for the weekend
Call 859-4478 or 680-1947

Remodeling?
We Need To Talk!
Colorado FLOORS & BLINDS
845-0000