

INSIDE TODAY



Matthew Perry Has a New Friend

Our old friend Matthew Perry is getting laughs again as Mr. Sunshine and facing his fears as one of the show's writers and executive producers.

Intelligence Report: Secrets of the Top Dogs

Human beauty-pageant contestants have some quirky tips, but dogs—and their handlers—have their own tricks.

THE FINE PRINT

CLOSURES

Mandatory Furlough Day - Friday (Feb 11) for all Las Animas County employees. This does not affect any State Office, the District Attorney's Office or the District Courts in the courthouse.

FRIDAY

Economic Development

No Board of Directors meeting this week. Call 719-846-9412 for more information.

Housing Authority

Board of Commissioners meeting has been rescheduled for 12 p.m. Fri (Feb 11) @ the Sayre Senior Center upstairs conference room, 1222 San Pedro. For more information call Rosemarie Shier @ 719-846-7204.

Al-Anon / Adult Child

Group meets 6 p.m. every Friday @ the Fisher's Peak Community Church, 10377 Santa Fe Trail Dr. (south door). Call Sharone @ 719-846-9999 for more information. No fee charged to participate & all are welcome.

Eagles #179

Regular meeting 7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Fri @ Eagle Hall, 204 Pine Street. For more information call the hall @ 719-846-3821.

SATURDAY

Prayer Group

Fisher's Peak Gideons meet for prayer @ 7 a.m. every Sat. For more information & location call 719-680-0290.

Weight Watchers

Meets 9:30 a.m. every Sat @ the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro Ave. Call 719-846-3336 for more information.

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RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 2/10/11
Chillili ditch priority #7 4/30/1862
Trinidad Reservoir accounting
Release .06 acre ft.
Inflow 45.06 acre ft.
Evaporation 0 acre ft.
Content 18,042 acre ft.
Elevation 6,177.18
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)

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo by Richard Sitts

S'now way this car is going anywhere. The owner of this buried vehicle has some digging to do before getting out to slide around on Trinidad's streets.

City's snow removal action plan makes bad situation much better

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad area's worst multiple snowstorms by far since January 2007 and continuation of daily and night-time sub-zero temperatures left every city street and road covered with several inches of snow, ice and slush, forcing city snow removal crews to be out plowing and removing snow all during the day and as early as 2 a.m.

But unlike that debilitating early 2007 storm that wreaked havoc on the city and Eastern Las Animas County ranchers, so far no collateral snow and ice damage to local roofs and structures or city power lines has been reported to City Hall.

Many Trinidad neighborhoods accumulated at least a foot of snow over this past weekend and again Tuesday. The storm took Monday off before returning with a vengeance to cause Tuesday's big pileups on top of what had already accumulated and was still on the ground from the weekend before.



Photo by Mike Garrett

The snow is piled up more than eight feet high around the boundaries of Safeway's parking lot this week as evidence of how much snow the Trinidad area has received the past two weeks. In this photo, the snow looks more like 30-foot high against the backdrop of City Hall, which has been sending snow removal crews out all this week to clear local streets and avenues.

City Manager Ed Gil de Rubio praised city snow removal crews Thursday for "doing a great job" in clearing most of the city's streets and roads to make them passable and safe, despite the

huge snow accumulations and use of somewhat antiquated equipment for such a huge undertaking. The city still has a problem with what to do with all that plowed snow, with most of it ending up temporarily as windrows in the middle of the streets.

Snow is also piled up high across from the city garage and Trinidad Street and Bridge Department near Elm and Chestnut Streets. The Safeway parking lot is also surrounded by snow mountains 8-10 feet high (Safeway clears its own snow). In the January 2007 storm, Central Park was the primary snow deposit recipient that resulted in 15-20-foot-high snow mountains.

"Our crews literally worked night and day piggybacking on both those storms," said Gil de Rubio. "Then, when we had a little down time between the storms, they came in at 2 o'clock in the morning and removed the windrows after previously plowing 16-18 hours and going home to get some rest."

After taking most of Monday

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Valentine chocolates - all you can eat

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

If you're on a diet, stop reading right here.

If you believe that Valentine's Day is a special occasion allowing for indulgence, read on.

From 4 to 8 p.m. at the Raton High School Media Center on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, FCCLA will offer an all-you-can-eat Chocolate Factory with more than 130 batches of chocolate recipes arrayed and available throughout the center.

Need further prompting? Ticket sales - \$6 for adults and \$5

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Photos by Tim Keller

All 26 FCCLA students are out selling Valentine's Day Chocolate Factory tickets, being made here by, clockwise from left, Sarandon Walton, Tucker Berry, Rachel Sanchez, Kori Vuckonich, Makayla Mondragon, Michelle Guara, and Kallie Welborn.

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 43. Wind chill values between -5 and 5. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.



Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 18. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 53. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.



Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 56. West north-west wind between 5 and 10 mph.



Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.



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ON THIS DAY IN TRINIDAD

By COSETTE HENRITZE
The Chronicle-News

50 Years Ago - 1961

Open house and inspection tours of the new Trinidad Junior college student center and dormitories are to be held on Sunday, Feb. 19, President Guy C. Davis has announced. The public is invited to attend and no special invitations will be sent to local residents, although special invitations are being mailed to friends of the college and other individuals who reside outside Las Animas County. Further details of the open house will be announced shortly. There are plans being finalized for tours of the new dormitories.

75 Years Ago - 1936

The Rossi-Crabtree Motor Co., one of the foremost automobile establishments of Trinidad and southern Colorado, will be vacating its present location on North Commercial Street to occupy an improved new location in the old Central garage building, owned by E.A. Duling at East Main and Chestnut street.

The new location will give Rossi-Crabtree a stand on the main thoroughfare of Trinidad. Some time in March, it is announced, the Triangle Chevrolet, occupying for many years a location on N. Maple street, will occupy the current Rossi-Crabtree location on Commercial Street.

100 Years Ago

It is only a question of time before the boy scout movement initiated at Sopris in this county will spread to every other county will spread to every other camp of Las Animas county. Patrols of scouts will be organized in Trinidad, and the leaders of the movement are making arrangements to hold meetings in all of the camps in the county within the near future.

Much enthusiasm was manifested in the boy scout movement at the meeting held in the assembly room at the high school this morning. Nine boys, members of the patrols of boy scouts at Sopris, demonstrated some of the scout work. They were assisted by County Superintendent of Schools J.M. Madrid and Rev. Meyers, the Rockefeller sociological worker in the district.

Valentine chocolates - all you can eat

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for students – will benefit the 26 local FCCLA students who provide the chocolate delicacies, offsetting their registration fees, lodging, and travel expenses for next month's annual New Mexico State Leadership Conference of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, held in Albuquerque.

It's an important trip for the Raton club: two of its members will be inducted into statewide office. Tucker Berry will become the state Vice President for Public Relations. Makayla Mondragon is the incoming president of the statewide organization.

Raton chapter president Megan Holland will close her year as State Councilor. Other local officers include vice president Kay Love, secretary Tristan Baca, treasurer Haley Gansz, and vice president of STAR events Tucker Berry.

The state conference theme this year is "The FCCLA Leadership Factory." State officers will perform a skit based on "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," which gave members of the Raton chapter an epiphany: for



Photo by Tim Keller

Raton High School FCCLA students hone their chocolate-making skills in preparation for the Valentine's Day Chocolate Factory. From left are Tucker Berry, Makayla Mondragon, Kori Vukonich, and Michelle Guara.

this year's fundraiser, why not make chocolates?

Raton FCCLA sponsor Myra Baird opened the school's professional kitchen to the group and guided the students toward recipes. Each student will prepare a different chocolate recipe, and each will make five batches of that recipe. Baird and others will add some extras, so

there will be more than 130 platters of chocolates available at 4 p.m. on Valentine's Day. Who knows how many will be left by 8?

The chocolate recipes include truffles, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, cookies, pound cake, cheesecake, nut bars, mousse, and fudge. A chocolate fountain will coat strawberries,

pretzels, marshmallows, graham crackers, and bananas.

The Chronicle-News can accept no responsibility for dieters who have read this far: you were warned. FCCLA members hope everyone will come partake of their chocolates on Feb. 14. Feb. 15 will be an excellent day for returning to diets.

City's snow removal action plan makes bad situation much better

Continued from page 1

off to rest and recover, city work crews had to deal with a lot more of the blowing white stuff from Tuesday's even larger storm. Monday warmed up just enough to create lots of road slush issues for the city, he said.

The Trinidad Street and Bridge and Parks & Boulevards Departments have contributed around 16-18 workers to the crews. Other city department crews were also out repairing broken water lines, along with Trinidad Fire and Police Departments responding to a number of emergency calls.

"All in all, this time around, we've gotten a lot of compliments," said Public Works Superintendent Mike Valentine after describing how the city determines which streets are plowed first. "We do emergency routes first and in certain parts of town, the main thoroughfares to help people get out of town and to the hospital," said Valentine. "Included in those routes are roads to all the schools."

Schools' two-hour class startup delays, or canceling school altogether really helps work crews get streets ready for students' and teachers' use, he said.

"When we've gotten those roads taken care of, we start branching out into neighborhoods," Valentine said. Neighborhood distress calls, especially from immobile seniors with a medical condition who need help getting out of their homes, or home health care aides to be able to reach them will take plowing precedence and priority, he added.

And, he said there are always one or two calls from disgruntled residents complaining about the city not doing its job right or work crews missing their street.

So far, Valentine said he has heard no reports of any building roof or structural damage caused by the recent storms, adding that no downed power lines or poles have been reported to the city, either.

"I also want to thank the downtown merchants for keeping their sidewalks cleared," said Gil de Rubio. "It's a city ordinance, but they are going above and beyond what is expected of them. But there are some downtown property owners, I think mostly of vacant properties and buildings of out-of-town owners, who aren't clearing their sidewalk. I'm telling our parks and boulevard people to go and clean those un-cleared sidewalks and we will be sending those people a bill for those services, according to the city ordinance."

"First of all, it's a public safety issue and No. 2, the other downtown merchants have done a great job keeping their sidewalks cleared and it's not fair to them that these other property owners who don't live in the community are not upholding their responsibilities," said Gil de Rubio. "So we will take care of it."

Work crews have been placing a combination of crushed gravel and salt on city streets to give motorists more traction.

He noted that the city hasn't received all that many snow removal calls, but the melting snow and resulting slush has caused some problem areas. "On our snowplows, we don't have steel blades, we have rubber blades because of our brick streets. Those rubber blades do not perform and do as quality a job as a steel blade does. We can't scrape or when we do scrape, it packs the snow instead of shaves it." The more slippery brick streets pose a bigger challenge for snow removal crews where rubber blades don't measure up to the steel blades. "If you use a steel blade you'll pop the bricks."

"We probably have a lot more slush than other communities. Because of that, we get a lot of calls when the slush accumulates," Gil de Rubio said, pointing out that he and Valentine drive around town after snowstorms to try and spot trouble areas, along with getting police feedback.

In addition to its unique brick streets, Trinidad's hilly avenues pose even more slip-slide predicaments. "We hit them with a lot of product, but nonetheless, people have to realize they are a dangerous situation and their driving habits have to change," Gil de Rubio said.

Valentine has noticed that some residents cause problems when they shovel snow from their walks and driveways into city streets. "Once that snow is driven over and mashed down, it makes for a bumpy ride. Our snowplow drivers have to put that snow somewhere so we push it back onto their property. It's a tough situation. If they could put the snow on their yards and on their grass, it would help their grass and it also helps us immensely."

Early 2007 snowstorm

C-N File photo

For those who think the recent snows have been bad, here's a reminder of the New Year's storm of 2007 that hit Trinidad. This truck is creeping west on Main Street, right at the intersection of Main and Convent, which is completely blocked off by mountains of snow. Buried at the right is the Miner's Memorial Park.



Wintertime walking through the ice and snow

After what had been a mild winter so far, most Trinidad-area residents have probably had their fill of snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures over the past week or so. Yet, turn on the news, and many other places across the country, from Tulsa to Chicago, have it a lot worse than we do. Also, locals will be quick to tell you that this is nothing compared to winter weather of years past. Regardless of our complaints this winter, I know it could be a lot worse.

Like many households, we have two vehicles. We recently purchased a used SUV-type vehicle for when the weather got bad. Of course, it's the one whose battery just doesn't quite have enough oomph to turn over the engine on these recent sub-zero mornings that we've had. Our older vehicle, with the low clearance and without the four-wheel drive, fires right up.

Fortunately, one of us (me) is within relatively easy walking distance (about a mile) of our place of employment. So the other morning, when after clearing off our sidewalks and the darn thing still wouldn't start, it was time to bundle up warmly, strap on the backpack and hit the sidewalks, streets, alleys, anywhere that was cleared of snow, for the jaunt downtown. I'd made this walk plenty of times before, so thought it no big deal. Except this was the first time that I had to maneuver around waist-high snow banks and trudge through foot-deep snow on untended sidewalks.

My L.L. Bean boots, with the waterproof leather uppers and rubber bottoms, see heavy rotation in the wintertime. It's the only time I wear them, when it is snowy and slushy. I mail-ordered them in 1978, back when I was navigating the soggy streets of New York City (that only lasted a couple of winters). I've sent them back once to have the rubber bottoms replaced due to wear, and will send them back again this summer, when I can do without them for a few weeks. The leather uppers are still in good shape, well broken in, and for less than half of what they cost brand new, the Bean folks will sew on new bottoms and it's like having a new pair of boots without having to break them in. I have the six-inch version and a couple of times in deep snow, I could feel the cold seepage where the tops meet the socks. Any discomfort was fleeting, however, as my feet were still dry by the time I got to work. I feel fortunate to have these boots, because I know there are plenty of other folks out there having to hoof it around in the snow who have far less.

When having to walk in the roadway with vehicular traffic, it's always best to be facing oncoming traffic, so that one can see how fast and close approaching vehicles might be. Also, if approaching drivers can see your face, they may tend to slow down a bit and maybe even veer over to give you a bit more space. Or not. Some drivers, it seems, want to go as fast as they wish, no matter the conditions or who else might be sharing the road.

Walking in the street is a last resort, but when there are no sidewalks, or if they are still knee-deep in snow, there's no other choice for pedestrians. Once in a while, I'll get a look of disdain from a driver, like I'm some kind of troublemaker, causing them to slow down and pay more attention. Their expression appears to be, "Why the heck are you walking, when you could be driving?!" But thankfully, the majority of drivers are courteous and considerate.



Photo by Richard Sitts

Walking up Arizona Avenue, it was clear sailing up to this point. Any brave souls who soldier on further had better have on their high boots. Anyone looking for a good workout without going to the gym, just grab a shovel instead. There are plenty of un-shoveled Trinidad sidewalks just like this one to help get one into shape.

Even though, I wish that Trinidad was more pedestrian friendly. At times, walking around town can be an adventurous, tightrope balancing act, keeping out of the way of distracted drivers and their two tons of steel. There are some considerate drivers who will let a pedestrian cross the street, but there are too many who don't. Pedestrians just need to exercise patience and wait until the coast is clear in both directions, especially in these icy conditions in which vehicles may not be able to stop in time. Driving around Trinidad on Thursday, I noticed some of the streets are taking on a washboard pattern as the ice and snow slowly melt. It reminds me of the washboard dirt roads that I used to traverse on the Navajo Nation and Hopi Land in northern Arizona.

Mix in plowed walls of snow and unshoveled sidewalks, and pedestrians have to quickly develop a keen sense of survival. I understand that the city has its hands full clearing streets for motorists, so clearing off sidewalks may take awhile. Downtown merchants and shoppers can be thankful for the fleet of private individuals who break out their snow plows and shovels to clear the way. Most downtown sidewalks are cleared off in good time.

We're all in this together, so let's look out for each other, smile at one another, and think warm thoughts about spring. Meanwhile, projected warm temperatures this weekend and next week may help melt everything in time before the next storm hits.