

Back to school supply drive ... a great success

Special to the Chronicle-News

The school supply drive recently held by The First National Bank in Trinidad was, once again, an overwhelming success. The ninth annual donation drive brought in over \$1,500.00 in school supplies and cash donations, which were matched item for item and dollar for dollar by First National Bank. Supplies worth \$3,000 were distributed to the eleven schools in Las Animas County, which include Holy Trinity Academy, Grace Christian, Hoehne, Primero, Kim, Branson, Aguilar, Fisher's Peak Elementary, Eckhart, Trinidad Junior and Senior High Schools. Each school received a percentage of the donated supplies based upon enrollment numbers; the teachers will then distribute them to the children who have a need.

"We received many positive comments and notes of appreciation for the supplies that are donated each year," says Bank Vice President, Chris Huffman. "It's a project we decided to

to help the schools and children in the area, and it's been very successful. The generosity shown by area businesses, organizations, and individuals has made this project a rewarding one for all involved. Beginning in 2008, a \$500.00 annual donation commitment was made by the U.M.W.A. Local 6126. This amount really made a difference this year with donations being down."

The First National Bank would like to extend a special 'thank you' to U.M.W.A. Local 6126, Frank and Sophie Leone, Jon Mangino - Farmers Insurance, Velma Piacentini, Shirley Donachy, Connie Brown, Adele Montoya, and many anonymous donors for their contributions.

The First National Bank in Trinidad also held a similar drive at the Loan Production Office in Raton. The supplies collected at that location were distributed to schools within that community.



Photo courtesy of Michael Babnick Photography

Trinidad students, Tori Armentrout and Khayla Garrison helped sort school supplies for delivery.

Old West Days celebration in Clayton on Saturday

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

CLAYTON – The old west returns to downtown Clayton Saturday when the Herzstein Memorial Museum presents its first annual Old West Days. Beginning at noon and running throughout the rest of the day, the museum bills the event as a day of family fun with a wide variety of free events for all. The museum is located at 22 South Second Street, one block north and east of the traffic light at Main Street and South First Street (Highway 64/87).

Event highlights include photo opportunities with various old west subjects. Photos may be taken while sitting on a Texas longhorn, with a Civil War surgeon or cannon, with a musket rifle, or even with Black Jack Ketchum as he prepares to hang. (One could also walk over to the Clayton cemetery and have a picture taken at Black Jack's actual grave. Ketchum was hung for robbing a train between Des Moines and Folsom, circa 1899.)

Food booths, drinks, and free live music will be available throughout the afternoon. Several local musicians and bands will take turns performing. Many merchants along the surrounding streets will get involved with their own displays and activities. A different children's event is scheduled every thirty minutes, including many educational activities. Dr. Mallin, a retired surgeon who gives talks and re-



Photo courtesy Herzstein Museum

Clayton's Herzstein Museum presents its first annual Old West Days Saturday.

enactments during the Santa Fe Trail Times events, will be re-enacting Civil War surgeries and posing for photographs.

A long list of booths and games includes water balloon fights, a chicken toss, an egg toss, three-legged races, a castle bouncer, a sand dig, and a petting zoo. Other activities include sack races, a dunk tank, basketball shooting, dart throw, a train ride, an obstacle course, face painting, horse shoes, and "redneck golf".

For further information about the day's events, contact Victoria Baker, director of the Herzstein Memorial Museum, at 575-447-9700, or uchs@plateautel.net.

Las Animas County's in great fiscal shape

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with a report from Commissioner Gary Hill about the 2010 Census meeting last week. Commissioner and Chairman Jim Montoya informed the board about possible funding cuts from the state and how they could affect the county. Funding cuts would affect everyone around the state, he said.

Ms. Susan Schnieder, a spokeswoman for the Fairground Advisory Committee (FAC), gave the board the minutes from the committee's June and Aug. meetings. The FAC has many concerns about the newly built County Events Center, or as the FAC called it, the Expo Building. Some of their concerns were handicap accessible restrooms, parking, safety fencing around various areas in back of the center, safety pertaining to electrical matters and other items, and concerns about the dirt flooring and its maintenance. The committee also mentioned to the board that suggestions for the interior at the center could cost from \$50,000 up to \$100,000. The project is still under contract. Commissioner Hill then added, "We want the public to have patience. We do not want to open the facility before it is ready." They hope to have the center up and running by next year. This facility has the potential to generate much needed revenue to the county.

In the public comment session, Lori Arnhold and Dean Oatman of the CSU Extension Office gave the board ideas with regard to possible implementation of a multi-county approach to the service provided by their office to Las Animas County, as well as other counties in the region. Arnhold and Oatman are state employees representing the Southern Region, but Las Animas County does provide a portion of their salaries. Both Arnhold and Oatman hope to have a plan put together by the end of the year for this multi-county program. They would like to involve both Huerfano and Custer counties.

Arnhold also gave a progress report on anticipated participation at this year's county fair. Right now it looks like more



Photo by David Santistevan Jr.

Ms. Lori Arnhold addressed the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday regarding the CSU Extension Office services provided here in Las Animas County.

than 250 students will be involved through various 4-H Clubs at this year's event.

During the County Attorneys report Mary Newman gave her comments to the board about the meeting she had with County Administrator Bill Cordova and City officials, including Police Chief Charlie Glorioso, about the Justice Center's security issues. Chairman Montoya asked the attorney's office to research Senate Bill 09-020 and how it will affect Las Animas County.

Gary Waller the county auditor said, in a nutshell, the county is in fairly good financial shape. Commissioner Vigil thanked LeeAnn Fabric, Mr. Cordova, and Mr. Waller for helping the county by keeping an eye on the bottom line and keeping them fiscally prudent. In 2008 the county spent less money than it took in. Capital expenditures were just over \$2 million, \$1.4 million of which was appropriated for 2009. The county's fund balance is in great shape right now.

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