

THE FINE PRINT

Quilt Club meeting

The Bound Together Quilt Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. today at the Fairgrounds. For more info, contact Joan at (719) 845-0941.

SCCOG Public Hearing

To obtain citizens views and responses to the proposed amended 2008 and proposed 2009 budgets for SCCOG, there will be a meeting at 1 p.m. today at the SCCOG Early Learning Center Conference Room, 1225 Rosita.

Red Hat Mtn. Mamas

Red Hat Mountain Mamas will meet for lunch at 1 p.m. today at the Holiday Inn. Questions, call Beverly (719) 846-7992. New members welcome.

Job Fair

The Trinidad Workforce Center, 140 N. Commercial, will be hosting a job fair for US Census Bureau from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Corrections Corp. of America (CCA) from 4-7 p.m. today. For more information, call (719) 846-9221.

Business After Hours

The Trinidad & Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its monthly Business After Hours event from 5-7 p.m. tonight at Mt. San Rafael Hospital. Public is welcome.

Hoehne Board mtg.

The Hoehne R-3 School District's regular November Board Meeting has been changed to 7 p.m. tonight in the Superintendent's Office.

THS Advisory

The THS Advisory meeting will begin at 6 p.m. tonight in the school library. For more information, call (719) 846-2971.

Veteran's claims help

A VFW Service Officer will be in town from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. tomorrow at the Elks Lodge to help veterans with their claims. For more information, call Bob at (719) 859-0743.

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Road construction

Pioneer Valley Construction will be doing work on County Road 21.6 about 2.4 miles in. There will be about a 20-minute delay today. Sorry for the inconvenience.

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Areas of snow and freezing drizzle before 1pm, then a slight chance of rain between 1pm and 2pm, then a slight chance of snow after 2pm. Areas of freezing fog before 9am. Cloudy with a high near 43. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tonight: A 10 percent chance of light snow before 11pm. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 23. Breezy, with an east wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest between 15 and 20 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, with a high near 54. Breezy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. West wind around 5 mph.



Coach Toupal honored by TSJC



Coach Jim Toupal in his final season at TSJC. Coach Toupal was honored on Tuesday evening with a dedication ceremony at TSJC where the gym court that was named after him. (Photo courtesy of Robert "Doc" Leonetti and TSJC)

By DOC LEONETTI
Special to the Chronicle

Dedication ceremonies for retired basketball coach Jim Toupal were held on the Trinidad State Jr. College campus last Tuesday evening. The long-time coach, a legend in the annals of NJCAA basketball, was honored with a tailgate party at 5 p.m. at the college cafeteria, followed by the dedication at 6 p.m. held in Scotts Gym where the gymnasium court was named after him. Added to the festivities was a display of a portrait painted by TSJC staffer Doug Holdread on the northwest wall of Scotts Gym. The ceremonies were followed by a down-to-the wire two-point loss by the Trojans to New Mexico Military Institute.

Toupal began his career at TSJC in 1969 as a faculty member in business and assistant football and basketball coach. Throughout his 35-year career at TSJC, he also coached baseball, golf, and volleyball, and served several years as Athletic Director.

His achievements in TSJC basketball are mind boggling:

Inducted into the National Jr. College Athletic Association Hall of Fame in March, 1998.

Fifth winningest record in the NJCAA with a 668-311 record.

Set a national record with 132 consecutive home victories in the decade of 1980-1990.

Named Region IX Coach of the Year four times.

Led his 1986 team to the NJCAA National Tournament, posting a 2-2 record and finishing 7th.

Finished fourth all-time in JNCAA history with over 1,200 wins.

Coached 12 NJCAA All-Americans.

"It's a well overdue, well deserved recognition," explained Trinidad State Booster Club President Dick Compton. "Toupal brought basketball to the highest level for us. Trinidad has never been a hotbed for professional ath-

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Council approves new gas billing ordinances, gets bad sales tax news

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad City Council approved the repealing and re-enacting of all the ordinances the city needs to upgrade, simplify and streamline its natural gas and utility charges and billing procedures and rules and regulations and approved \$1,363,000 in supplemental funds to meet and defray 2008 fiscal budget year liabilities. But perhaps the most eye-opening news of Tuesday night's regular meeting was City Manager Jim Soltis' report that September city sales tax revenues were down an alarming 12.91 percent from a year ago.

The new utility billing and charges procedures should be good news for city customers who wanted greater billing accountability from city government, not so good news that the city was off its projections by more than \$1.3 million in its 2008 budget and had to make up the difference by year's end and downright bad news that Trinidad retail sales tax revenues plunged so dramatically in September after a relatively good August.

If Trinidad retail sales follow recent national trends that saw record-breaking falloffs in October, the city may have to start making some painful cut-backs in services next year. Soltis noted that year to date sales tax revenue figures are now about even to what they were last year at this time. What he didn't have to say is that operating expenses continue to climb by the month so the city will have to survive on the same tax revenue income as they took in last year.

Council approved second readings of ordinances repealing and re-enacting Articles 1 and 3 of Chapter 12 of the Trinidad City Code to simplify and update the city's natural gas code, provide new regulations governing the initiation, termination and discontinuance of utility services, billing and utility customer complaints, a letter agreement between the city and National Public Gas Agency to provide interpretation of the provisions contained in the Interlocal Agreement, Gas Supply Agreement and Total Gas Supply Agreement. Also approved was an ordinance authorizing and directing the city's participation in the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement creating the National Public Gas Agency and prescribing the time when this ordinance shall be in full force and effect. All new ordinances take effect Dec. 1.

City Attorney Jerod Beatty said the city can opt out of its contract agreement with NPGA after three years. Previous council discussions have focused on the fact that the new contract will contain greater natural gas market volatility safeguards and flexibility so the city won't be locked into a set price should natural gas prices continue to de-escalate.

The city's revised 2008 budget with the approved supplemental sums is now \$36,939,504. That now includes \$10.3 million in General Fund expenditures, \$7.6 million for the Gas Fund, \$2.9 million Sewer Fund, \$205,000 for Economic Development and \$5.3 million capital projects fund.

Only landfill operations listed under the General Fund came in under its 2008 budget, a projected \$366,000 and a revised \$316,000 expenditure. The Sewer Fund

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Cub Scout Pack No. 73 meets every other Monday at First United Methodist Church. Members are: Back row left to right - Jennifer Stevens (Cubmaster, third and fourth grade Den Leader), Dustin Stevens (fourth grade), Anthony Esquivel (second Grade), Frank Hurtado (fifth grade). Third Row - Bernard Hurtado (third grade), Eric Ortega (second grade). Second Row - Shannon Romero (first grade Den Leader), Daniel Rubio (fourth grade), Tyler Neurauter (first grade), Christopher Ortiz (second grade), Thomas Mondragon (second grade), Jasper Hunnicutt (second grade), Seth Rubio (second grade), Silver Hunnicutt (second grade) Noah Rubio (second grade) Marcia Rubio (second Grade Den Leader). Front Row - Spenser Willden (first grade), Dylan Johnson (first grade), Jaden Martinez (first grade). Not Pictured - Jayden Valentine (first grade), Dante Romero (first grade), Emilo Lucero (second grade), Robert Horner (second grade), Dylan Keck (second grade), Salvador Aragon (fourth grade), Ty Warhank (fourth grade), Dillon Lemons (fourth grade), Trevor Tedford (fifth grade). (Photo by Laura L. Brewer)

Cub Scout Pack No. 73 preparing to work on badges

By Laura L. Brewer
The Chronicle-News

RATON - Cub Scout Pack No. 73, whose members are in first through fifth grade, meets at the First United Methodist Church every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. to work on projects for badges. With the help of Cub Master and Den Mother, Jennifer Stevens, and other parent volunteers, Marcia Rubio, Sharon Romero, and Tristen Teaford, the young boys learn to be good citizens while developing character and maintaining personal fitness.

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The Cub Scout program teaches the core values and creates a sense of belonging through fun activities. For the month of November and December, the Cub Scouts learn about spiritual growth and friendly service as well as faith and compassion through the theme of Holiday Lights. For more information about joining Cub Scouts contact Jennifer Stevens at (575) 445-0241 or visit the national website, www.scouting.org/.



SPORTS

Coach Toupal honored by TSJC



The coach gets a little emotional, thanking everyone who has helped him along the way.



"Doc" Leonetti and Richard Compton, pictured here with Coach Toupal, are longtime friends. Both Leonetti and Compton spoke during the dedication celebration.



Coach Toupal along with his friends, family, TSJC staff, and other dignitaries cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

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letes, yet he worked hard to get them placed at another college where they could be successful. I surely enjoyed watching him working with his kids, many times from the clock in 'Great Scott Gym'

A Trinidad native, the red-head was an all-state football and basketball player at Trinidad High School. At Trinidad High, his football mentor was the indomitable Dutch Nogel. In basketball, he was coached by the fiery John Kilpatrick who later assisted him in coaching at the college following his retirement. While attending school and participating in athletics, he met and dated long-time friend Nancy Salbato. He was the star

quarterback and basketball player, she was the cheerleader. He moved on to play football for Boston College on a full scholarship, eventually earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. He and Nancy were married in 1968.

"Any success I have experienced has been contributed to me by my family," said Toupal, "especially my wife Nancy who has put up with me and been by my side for 40 years. I could have never accomplished what I did without their support, and they surely gave me a lot of that."

The venerable coach learned his lessons well at Trinidad High School and Boston College. He has made a deep impact on, not only his many players over the years, but also on his many friends and colleagues, too numerous to count. Coach Toupal is a dedicated, caring, committed person who was most sincere in his interactions with all his players, and a man of exceptionally high standards. Like Cool Hand Luke, he was always calm under fire. Akin to a master psychologist, he instinctively knew how to motivate his kids - to an astounding 668 wins!

"The dedication ceremonies were exceptionally well organized," concluded Toupal. "I would like to thank Dick Compton (Booster



The new Coach Jim Toupal logo on the floor at Scott Gym. (Photo by Mike Garrett)

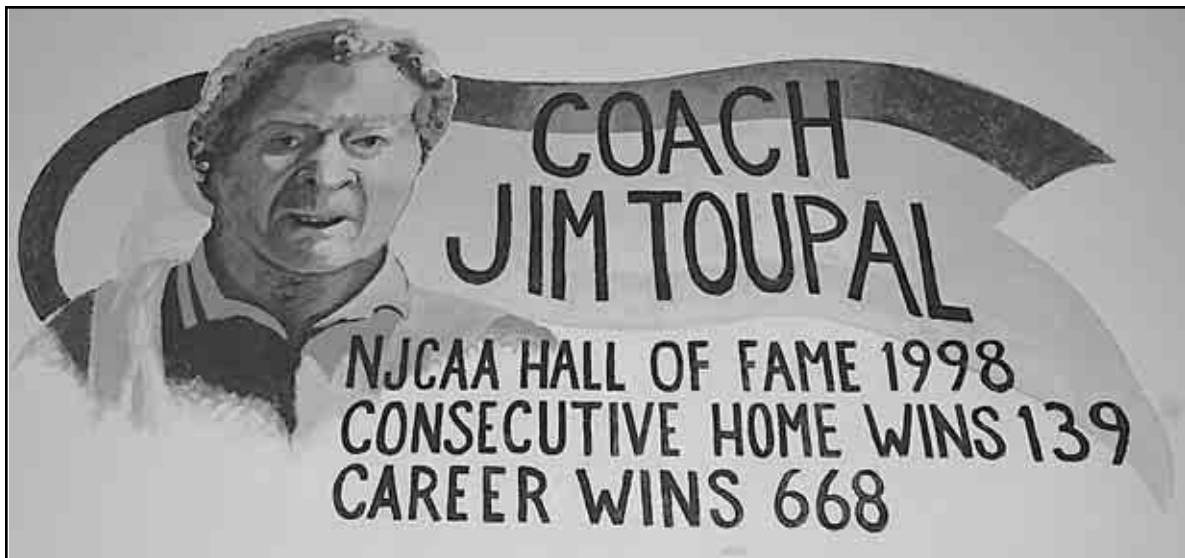


Coach Toupal pictured here with members of his family.

Club President), Coach (Rich) Holden, President Ruth Ann Woods and anyone else who was involved. And a big thanks to all my friends and colleagues who attended. It could have not gone any better. And the (Doug) Holdread portrait was just unbelievable."

Current head coach Rich Holden, who assisted Toupal for

over a decade, was also most appreciative. "From my perspective, if we hadn't lost the game, it would have been a perfect evening," mused Holden. "It was really nice, and very emotional for me. I really felt like it was a perfect tribute to a great career. It was incredible. It will never be duplicated in a lot of places. Coach is quite a guy."



The portrait was unveiled on Tuesday night and sits in the northwest corner of Scott Gym. (Photos by David Santistevan Jr.)

Trojans heroics fall short against the Broncos

By MIKE SALBATO
Special to the Chronicle

A last second Trinidad State shot rattled off the back of the rim allowing New Mexico Military to escape with a 76-74 win Tuesday night at Scott Gym. The Broncos had led by as many as 15 throughout much of the second half but a furious Trojan rally got the game back within reach in the final minutes.

Early in the contest it was hot outside shooting by the NMMI guards that gave them an early advantage. Eric Stewart and Justin Garvin lit it up from downtown allowing the Broncos to pull out to a 46-34

halftime lead. Trojan Darren Houliston's hustle play kept Trinidad close as he scored 13 of his 15 points in the early going of the first half.

In the second half it was more of the same as the Broncos increased their lead to 15 as the clock wound down to the final five minutes. A pair of long three-pointers by Josh Megyeri narrowed the gap and got the large TSJC crowd back in the game. The Trojans cut the lead to four when a steal led to a huge Josh Henry dunk that further electrified the crowd. TSJC cut the lead down to one a couple of times but were unable to hit the big shot to get them the lead. Donell Well's last half

court heave was just inches long giving the Broncos the 76-74 win.

Coach Rich Holden commented about his team's slow start, "We need to play with more urgency early in the game, especially on defense," said Holden.

Megyeri ended with 18-points to lead Trinidad. Wells and Houliston each had 15. Henry finished with 14 rebounds and Willie Holmes had an excellent overall game for the Trojans.

TSJC is now 3-6 on the season and will be in Utah for a tournament this weekend. They won't return to Coach Jim Toupal Court until Dec. 12.

Holy Trinity Academy Junior High Tip Off Tournament

Thursday, Nov. 20

- Game 1 - 3 p.m.
- Game 2 - 4 p.m.
- Game 3 - 5 p.m.
- Game 4 - 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21

- Game 5 - 11 a.m.
- Game 6 - 12 p.m.
- Game 7 - 1 p.m.
- Game 8 - 2 p.m.
- Game 9 - 3 p.m.
- Game 10 - 4 p.m.
- Game 11 - 5 p.m.
- Game 12 - 6 p.m.
- Game 13 - 7 p.m.
- Game 14 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- Game 15 - 11 a.m.
- Game 16 - 12 p.m.
- Game 17 - 1 p.m.
- Game 18 - 2 p.m.
- Game 19 - 3 p.m.
- Game 20 - 4 p.m.
- Game 21 - 5 p.m.
- Game 22 - 6 p.m.
- Game 23 - 7 p.m.
- Game 24 - 8 p.m.

