

RE-ELECT

MICHELLE MILES

TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL

Leadership ☆ Integrity ☆ Independence

WEEKEND EDITION
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
OCTOBER 30, 2015

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50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

THE FINE PRINT

■ CHECK US OUT!

The Chronicle-News has a new webpage. NOW ONLINE: thechronicle-news.com
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME SUNDAY (2 a.m.) The Fall Time Change in the United States begins. Don't forget to set your clocks back by one hour on Saturday night.

■ OCT. 30 - NOV. 1

I LIKE LAS ANIMAS COUNTY FRIDAY DEADLINE: Essay Contest for Grades 6-12 at the Trinidad Community Foundation, 134 W. Main St. Info: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.

TRICK-OR-TREAT STREET FRIDAY (3-5 p.m.) Annual downtown fun event for kids and costume contest at the First National Bank.

HALLELUJAH NIGHT SATURDAY (5-7 p.m.)

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS ON SATURDAY NIGHT & NOT FRIDAY NIGHT AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. Annual Fall FREE faith-based event for kids and families includes petting zoo, soup and chili dinner, games, prizes and much more will be at the First Christian Church, corner of First St. and Walnut. Info: Julie Shaver, 719-846-3843.

Today's Quote

"I like the night. Without the dark, we'd never see the stars."

~ Stephenie Meyer

OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION SATURDAY (1-4 p.m.) Annual Fall Open House and Artists Reception featuring renowned Indian Jewelry Artist Calvin Begay will be held at the Purgatoire River Trading Co., 113 E. Main St. Info: 719-845-0202.

GREAT PUMPKIN SHOOT SATURDAY (10 a.m.-1 p.m.) Join the fun at the free event to be held at the new Archery Range at Trinidad Lake State Park, Carprios Cove, Hwy 12. Park Pass required. Info: 719-846-6951.

TRICK OR TREASURE SATURDAY: Kids' fun event at the Fisher's Peak Community Church on Santa Fe Trail Drive. Info: 719-868-3375.

2015 STOCKMEN'S BALL SATURDAY (8 p.m.) The night the cowboys come to town - Annual Cattlemen's Association Charity Dance & Costume Party will be held at the Sebastiani Gym on Animas St. Info: Jerry Winford, 719-946-5675 or Cody Koontz, 719-469-4048.

DON'T FORGET! SUNDAY (2 a.m.) DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - The Fall Time Change in the United States begins. Don't forget to set your clocks back by one hour on Saturday night.

CHILI COOK OFF SUNDAY (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) The Apishapa Valley Historical Society will host a fundraiser contest and Bake Sale at the Aguilar Community Center. Enter your chili info: Pat Romero, 719-941-4678 or 719-680-0528.

■ NOV. 2 PLANNING COMMISSION MONDAY (1 p.m.) The Las Animas County Planning and Land Use Office commissioners' meeting will be held at the County Court House, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-846-4486.

COMMUNITY MEETING MONDAY (4-6:30 p.m.) Trinidad Co-op will hold an open meeting at the Carnegie Library, 211 Animas St., for ideas on the future of the facility. Info: Karen Agnello, 512-560-4180. Snacks will be served.

MINER MEMORABILIA HALL MONDAY (6 p.m.) Public dedication of the George S. Ortiz Hall will be held at the Trinidad Middle School Atrium, 614 Park St. Info: 719-846-4411.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

CONCERT FOR VETERANS NOV. 7 (1 p.m.) The Raton Glee and Kids Khorale will present a musical tribute to Veterans at the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center (next door to the Shuler Theater) in Raton. Info: Bill Crary, plainsongstudio@msn.com.

EMPTY BOWLS SUPPER NOV. 7 (3-6:30 p.m.) The annual Empty Bowls Supper benefit for the Soup Kitchen will be held at Holy Family Hall, 308 Church St. Info: Kurt Newton, 719-859-5215.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 10/29/15. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 9 --- Appropriation date: 01/01/1863.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 1.96 AF
Inflow 67.19 AF -- 33.88 CFS
Evaporation 5.23 AF
Content 21,868 AF
Elevation 6,186.19
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / Highland Canal: 05/30/1866.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Solar Project launched Tuesday at Trinidad State

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Las Animas County appears to be at the forefront of some of the most recent developments in the field of renewable energy production. The new San Isabel Solar



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Scott Leach, director of business development for Juwi, Inc., discussed his company's role Tuesday in the creation of the San Isabel Solar Project in Las Animas County.

Project was officially announced on Tuesday during a noon luncheon in the Pioneer Room at the Sullivan Student Center on the campus of Trinidad State Junior College.

The solar project will involve the construction of a 30 MegaWatt (MW) solar farm including 100,000 solar voltaic panels on 250 acres of land in Las Animas County, and is expected to go on line in the fourth quarter of 2016. The project will be located east of the Ludlow exit off of Interstate 25 along County Road 52. The produced power will go directly to an adjacent power transmission line.

Officials from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State G&T), the San Isabel Electric Association (SIAE) and Juwi Inc., the Boulder-based North American subsidiary of Juwi AG, a German renewable energy company, are partnering on the new project.

Tri-State G&T, Colorado's second-largest power generator behind Xcel Energy, Inc., announced Tuesday that it would buy power from the new solar facility in Las Animas County. Tri-State will buy all of the output of the new solar farm over the life of the 25-year contract with SIEA. Brad Nebergall, Tri-State G&T's senior vice president of Energy Management, said it was a big day for renewable energy in

Continued on Page 7 ...

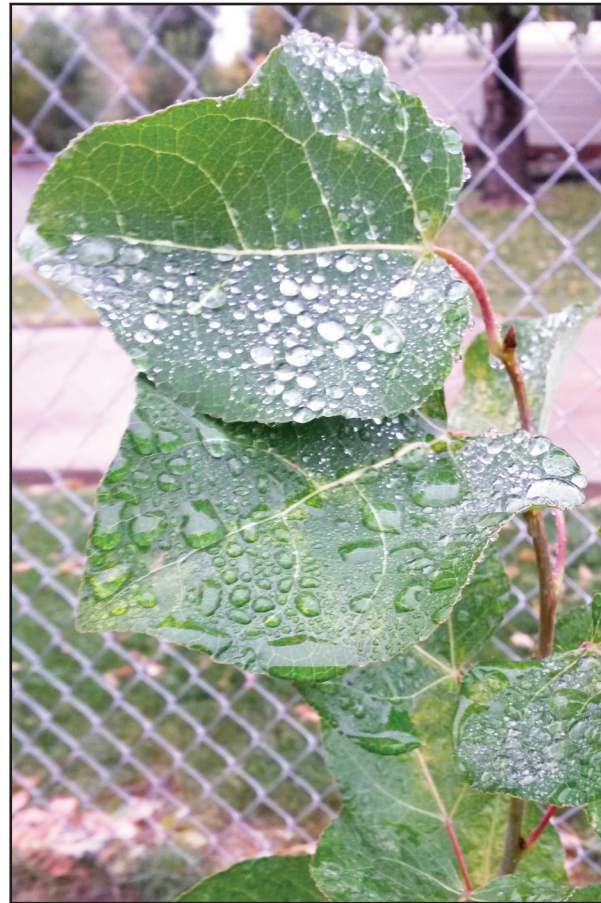


Photo courtesy of Patrick Arguello / Trinidad

Reaching for the sky

A brand new, yearling Aspen tree found its way into the Arguello garden this spring. Shown standing covered in rain drops from a recent shower, this tiny specimen has grown like crazy over the season and should make a nice addition to the landscape in a couple of years.

Father Carl Trinidad's Skateboarding Priest



God moves in mysterious ways . . .



By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Growing up on the open plains three miles from Lamar, Carl Wertin enjoyed playing sports and riding bikes around the house with his nine brothers and sisters. At age 11 he bought a thirdhand skateboard from his older brother Mark. He's been skateboarding ever since, but for a six-year interruption while in the Catholic seminary.

Father Carl Wertin joined Trinidad's downtown Holy Trinity Parish in July as its new associate priest, working under the direction of the church's pastor, Father Steve Murray.

The Wertins of Lamar were a devout family active in St. Francis de Sales/Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Carl's father, Henry Wertin, was a Lamar chiropractor and deacon in the church. Carl's late mother, Mary Beth Wertin, was a stay-at-home mom until the tenth and final child started school, when she became a real estate agent. She also taught Sunday school.

"Mom would be teaching Sunday school and we'd ride our skateboards down the hallway," Carl

Continued on Page 3 ...

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Father Carl Wertin is associate priest at Trinidad's Holy Trinity Church. Father Carl enjoys people and the outdoors so he smiles a lot these days, happy to have begun his priesthood in Trinidad.

TRANSPORTATION

Southwest Chief lands \$15.2 million TIGER grant

Staff Report
The Chronicle-News

The Amtrak Southwest Chief route received another shot of life this week in the form of a \$15.2 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) from The U.S. Dept. of

Transportation. According to a grant notification sent to U.S. Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Tom Udall (R-CO) and others, "The Southwest Chief Route Advancement and Improvement Project allows the City of La Junta to continue the rehabilitation of the BNSF La Junta Subdivision in Colorado, adding approximately 39 miles of new continuously welded rail, and repairing over 20 miles of roadbed with new ties and ballast on the Albuquerque Subdivision in New Mexico."

"This gets us past the midway point for funding," said Sal Pace, head of the Southwest Chief Commission and a Pueblo County commissioner.

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The Chronicle-News / File Photo

WEATHER WATCH

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers.. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 52. North northwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 65. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 69. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 66. South southwest wind 5 to 15 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 39. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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PEOPLE

Father Carl Trinidad's Skateboarding Priest



God moves in mysterious ways

... Continued from Page 1



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Father Carl Wertin is an associate priest at Trinidad's Holy Trinity Church. At the skatepark observers might be forgiven for asking Father Carl whether skateboarding takes him closer to the angels.



Father Carl Wertin, left, placed third earlier this month in the first Skateboarding Jam competition at Trinidad Skatepark. Francisco "Frisco" Duran, center, won the event, with T.J. Mathe-son taking second. Father Carl says that most of the skaters still don't know that he's a priest.

recalls with one of his frequent smiles. "I don't know if the priest ever knew that."

He got his skateboard and started middle school at the same time. "Lamar had just built a skatepark. It was really exciting. I'd go there instead of taking the bus home, then my dad would pick me up when he finished work." Throughout middle school and high school, he spent several hours a day, several days a week, practicing his moves at Lamar's skatepark, often joined by several of his brothers.

At home, Carl built a succession of mini-skateparks with steps, a rail, and plywood ramps, quarter-pipes, and half-pipe, sometimes aided by older brother Mark.

"My first half-pipe was a failure," Carl says. "I used a cheap particle board and didn't have the dimensions right. One night the wind picked it up and folded it like a taco. The second one was better and I rode it with my friends for two or three years, but it still wasn't staked down and it was still clunky."

"One night Mark came home from work and offered to help us build it right. The third time was a charm." Mark is now a contractor in Lawrence, KS.

Carl's other older brother, Matthew, is a priest in La Junta. He was the new associate priest at Holy Trinity in Trinidad for two years when Carl was finishing his degree at CSU Pueblo in 2008 and pondering his own future.

"For four summers I worked for Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Aquatics Division," Carl says. "We built boat ramps and fish habitat, and we stocked lakes. I liked that but CSU didn't have a major for it. After two years, I had to declare a major. I told the counselor that I like to help people and I like being outdoors." He earned a degree in recreation. "I thought I might work for the YMCA or be a camp counselor."

Instead, he consulted his priest about a growing sense of calling to the priesthood. After spending the summer of 2008 as a counselor at The Pines Catholic Camp near Dallas, Carl entered St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana.

The seven-year program to become a priest, financed by the Diocese of Pueblo, included a midterm year of internship that he served in Durango in 2011-12. "It was almost like student teaching," he says. "I taught kids religion and I shadowed the priest. I got to know the people and pray with them. I'm still close with them. I was there last weekend."

The homecoming to Colorado was also a homecoming to skateboarding.

"In six years in Indiana, I skated only twice because it was a retreat center and I felt like I was disturbing everything." He gave his skateboard to his little brother.

But in Durango he found a great skatepark. "I traded a pair of hiking boots for a well-used skateboard at a Durango pawn shop." Four years later, he's using the same board.

"The priest in Durango always dis-

couraged me, saying 'Don't go to the park, you'll break your head open.'" After work, he went to the park anyway, and on his weekly day off he went snowboarding.

Because the Diocese of Pueblo paid for his education and training, Father Carl will spend his career within that diocese, always serving within the southern third of Colorado. When he graduated from the seminary and arrived in Trinidad last summer, it was only his third time to visit Trinidad.

"In Lamar, we just never had any reason to come down here. But eventually we heard that there was a good skatepark here and I came twice for competitions."

He counts Trinidad's skatepark with



Before arriving as Holy Trinity's new associate priest five months ago, Carl Wertin had visited Trinidad only twice; both trips were for competitions at Trinidad Skatepark. An avid and talented skateboarder most of his life, he now enjoys the skatepark once or twice a week.

those in Durango and Monte Vista as the best he's seen. "In Lamar, we just had smaller ramps. When we came to Trin-

"As people get to know me, they realize that I'm a local boy from Lamar, and I'm able to offer help in my ways. I enjoy being around people."

dad, we weren't used to riding the giant bowls. I still ride mostly the smaller bowls here and the street section toward the playing fields."

He entered the competition at this month's Skateboarding Jam, making it into the three-man final face-off and earning third place.

The other skateboarders don't know that he's a priest. Townspeople and parishioners have been surprised, too. They ask if he's old enough to be a priest. (He'll turn 30 on Nov. 12.)

"As people get to know me, they realize that I'm a local boy from Lamar, and I'm able to offer help in my ways. I enjoy being around people."

"At the skatepark, it's not about what you do outside. It's skatepark culture. It's more about how good you are at skating. I don't go there for conversation; I go to skate." Then, as he does after many of his sentences, Father Carl smiles.

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