



Booster Club Appreciation

Otero vs TSJC

Volleyball - Oct 6 - 7

Due to Ortero travel issues this event has been postponed until Oct. 29

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Vol. 139, No. 199

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

THE FINE PRINT

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■ OCTOBER 6
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY
TUESDAY (9 a.m.) Board of County Commissioners meeting is in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Information: 719-845-2568. **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Gary Hill (719-845-2595), Mack Loudon (719-845-2592), and Anthony Abeyta (719-846-9300).

SAMARITAN CLINIC
1st & 3rd TUESDAYS (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Here to serve the underinsured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 413 E. Frost and corner of Linden Ave. Info: 719-846-3536.

SAVRE SENIOR CENTER
TUESDAY (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) Take the NEW AARP Smart Driver Course, 1222 San Pedro St. Info: Carl Mozenigo, 719-868-2288.

CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY (7 p.m.) Regular session will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Information: Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843. **CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor: Joe Reorda and Council Members: Carol Bolton, Joe Bonato, Pat Fletcher, Anthony Mattie, Michelle Miles, and Liz Torres.

BINGO & DINNER NIGHT
TUESDAY (7 p.m.) Knights of Columbus host event for benefit of Catholic Charities at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 205 S. Commercial St. Info: Paul Montero, 719-846-2423.

Today's Quote

"This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

■ OCTOBER 7

SUPPORT GROUPS
WEDNESDAY (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) Chronic Pain Support Group meets at the Methodist Church, Broom & State St. Info: Jay Slater, 719-422-4572.

CHICOSA WATER USERS
WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.) Association Board meeting will be held in the Hoehne Community Center. Info: Karen Floyd, 719-846-4600.

OPEN MIC
WEDNESDAY (7-9 p.m.) Public is invited for an evening of free music and art featuring Tony and the Fly the Coup band at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

TRINIDAD SCHOOLS
THURSDAY (5:30 p.m.) Organizational meeting to establish a committee for the George S. Ortiz, Trinidad Miner Memorabilia Hall will be held at the TMS Library, 614 Park St. Info: Diane Montoya, 719-845-2048.

LIBRARY GUEST SPEAKER
FRIDAY (5:30 p.m.) Noted Doc Holiday historian, author Victoria Wilcox, will present "Legends & Lies: The Real West" at the Library. Info: 719-846-6841.

AUTUMN CAR SHOW
SATURDAY (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) The Colorado City/Rye Lions Club will host their first benefit Autumn Car Show to fund community projects at the Greenhorn Valley Park in Colorado City — event will include fun, vendors, and prizes. If you would like to show your car or be a vendor, please call 719-251-6097 or email crcryelions@gmail.com. Admission is free.

WOMEN'S EXCHANGE
SATURDAY (9 a.m.) Annual Brunchon benefit for the Carnegie Library will be held in the Pioneer Room at TSJC. Tickets in advance are: Mariposa Rehab, Gallery Main, Duran Oil and Carnegie Library. Info: Karen Agnello, 512-560-4180.

QUILT & CRAFT BENEFIT
OCTOBER 17 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) The Bound Together Quilt Club will host the annual fundraiser that includes a Quilt Raffle at the Las Animas County Fairgrounds on N. Linden St. Info: Maggie Olson, 719-859-4474.

AADA WALK-A-THON
OCTOBER 17 (10 a.m.) Walk A Mile in Her Shoes event will be held at Central Park corner of Stone-wall and San Juan. Info: AADA, 719-846-9150.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 10/05/15. Lewelling & McCormick Ditch: Priority # 13 --- Appropriation date: 01/01/1864.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:

Release 108.08 AF
Inflow 72.21 AF -- 36.41 CFS
Evaporation 9.13 AF
Content 21,756 AF
Elevation 6,186.04
Precipitation 0.30

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



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Speeding vertically toward the sky, Trinidad 8th-grader Jesse Kough rode his Crisp Scooter while others rode BMX bikes and skateboards in a weekend of classes, competitions and fun at Trinidad Skatepark.

COMMUNITY FUN

Family weekend brings action to Trinidad Skatepark

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

"The skatepark hasn't been this busy in a long time. We had little kids and older ones and adults. It was a good day."

Julie Mattorano felt a sense of accomplishment as Trinidad Skatepark's first Skateboarding Jam finished up Sunday afternoon. "We had about 60 people here today, with food and drinks, music and lots of action."

The owner of Stepping Stones LLC, an outpatient treatment center, and founder of the new Southern Colorado Family Center, Mattorano created Saturday's Skateboarding Camp and Sunday's Skateboarding Jam "to create pro-social activities in our community, to build on family foundations and bring families together."

Highlighting the weekend's events were a six-hour skateboarding camp Saturday taught by Krystal Esparza of Austin, TX, and competitions Sunday that resulted in Trinidad 17-year-old Francisco "Frisco" Duran winning a fancy new skateboard donated by Corral Pawn.

Saturday attendance was low due to wintry weather but Esparza worked with eight enthusiastic students, aged 8 to 18, to learn and practice new tricks. Sunday the sun brought out crowds drawn by food booths, loud music and plenty of action in the bowls of the skatepark.

The final competition Sunday afternoon was called a "Game of SKATE," based on the basketball game of HORSE in which contestants

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Council Candidate Lopez hopes to lead by doing

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Promoting the idea of a more progressive attitude in his hometown, Carlos R. Lopez is running for a seat on the Trinidad City Council in the Nov. 3, 2015 coordinated election. Believing that the most effective leaders are those who lead by their example, not just by their words, Lopez talked about his candidacy in a recent interview.

A 1997 graduate of Trinidad High School, he earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Legal Studies, from the University of Northern Colorado, and also earned a paralegal degree from a Denver career college. Deciding that the law would not be his career of choice, he's worked for several businesses in management positions, worked with developmentally disabled people and

now manages his family's Prospect Plaza Laundromat here. He's engaged to be married with plans to tie the knot next spring.

Now 36 years old, he returned to Trinidad in May of 2013 because of an illness in the family. He said he'd attended multiple Council meetings since his return, taking a lot of notes and closely following what's been going on with City government.

"In my opinion right now, slow progress is being made," Lopez said. "I don't think everyone is being held accountable for their actions. I would like to see more decisive leadership, and I would like to see more programs for our youth. I really feel that if children have a good experience here, then they're more likely to stay here or return to Trinidad. What I think is paramount is that we give their parents, who are right now my peer group, opportunities to be in



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Carlos R. Lopez is running for a seat on the Trinidad City Council, in the Nov. 3, 2015 coordinated election.

a good middle-class situation. I really want to aggressively seek out successful companies and manufacturing firms to look to Trinidad for manufacturing plants and any type of technological endeavors that will pay that \$12 to \$20 per hour job. That's what we need, is decent paying jobs in Trinidad. You can live fairly modestly here on less money, because we have cheaper property taxes, cheap but good water and other assets. I know that if we aggressively search these things out we'll be able to attain them, as long as we can give incentives for these companies to stay here. Then if we can provide those tax breaks, even though we might be missing out in the General Fund, those people who are going to have those jobs will be able to go out and spend more money in our local economy."

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ENVIRONMENT

September drought update from CWCB

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Special to The Chronicle-News

Warm dry conditions have continued across much of eastern Colorado, while the mountains have seen near average precipitation so far this month. Drier conditions have resulted in declining soil moisture levels, but overall evapotranspiration rates are below average for the season, and pasture conditions and harvest yields are reportedly good. Water providers are also reporting increased demands during August and September, however system-wide storage levels remain above average and providers have no immediate

concerns. The abnormally dry conditions along the eastern plains and Front Range are not serious enough to require action.

The Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan was formally deactivated by Governor Hickenlooper on September 15, 2015 due to improved conditions.

Statewide water year-to-date precipitation is 94 percent of average, a slight decline since last month. Statewide August received only 62 percent of average precipitation while September to date have seen only 71 percent of average.

Generally, the west slope has seen greater precipitation than the eastern plains.

August temperatures were above average by 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit, with the warmest temperatures along the southern Front Range. September to date has seen slightly above average temperatures on the west slope and well above average tem-

Continued on Page 4 ...



AP / NASA Earth Observatory

The droughts in California are still lingering and causing problems for farmers throughout the region. To get a closer look at the issue, NASA has deployed the Airborne Snow Observatory to see if snowmelt can help the droughts in the coming months.

CRITICAL SNOW MELT

New NASA snow data will help Colorado project how much water will release into area rivers

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — NASA is providing drought-stricken California with valuable data about how much water is locked up in the

scant Sierra Nevada snow, and now Colorado is trying the technique in the mountains where the Rio Grande begins its journey to New Mexico and Texas.

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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. West southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low

around 47. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming west northwest after midnight.

Wednesday: A chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North northwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. West northwest wind around

5 mph becoming east northeast in the afternoon. **Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. West wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Weather Sponsored by:

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 (719) 846-3347
 Owned & operated by:
 Mary (Kitsy) Winter

Richard D. "Wink" Duran



Richard D. "Wink" Duran, passed away at Miners Colfax Long Term Care Center in Raton, N.M. on September 29, 2015. He was 75.

He was born in North Fork, Colorado on June 16, 1940 to Maclovia (Gallegos) and Eugene Duran.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Viet Nam Conflict.

He was a coal miner, having worked in area mine until his retirement.

Richard was an active member of UMW Local 9876 for over 40 years.

He enjoyed walking the dog, and being with his family and close friends.

Preceding him in death are parents Maclovia and Eugene Duran, , Andres Duran, nephews, Bill P. Duran, Richard A. Duran and great nephew Gene Anthony Duran.

Survivors are brother, Jacob (Joan) Duran, nieces, Laura (Shane) Elgin, Sherry (A.J.) Baca, Crystal (Eddie) Haight, numerous great nieces and great nephews and also great great nieces and great great nephews.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, October 9, 2016 at 2 p.m. at the Comi Chapel with services conducted by Ft. Carson Honor Guard.

Honorary escorts are Shane Elgin, AJ Baca and Eddie Haight.

Private family inurnment will follow.

Persons wishing to do so may make contributions to the UMW Scholarship Fund in Richard's memory.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

Richard F. Becker Sr., passed away October 2, 2015 at the Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home in Walsenburg, Colo. He was 94.

Survivors include wife Minerva Becker, Walsenburg, Colo. and son Fr. Richard Becker of Trinidad, Colo.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, October 12, 2015 at 1 p.m. Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Interment with Rite of Committal will follow at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery. Complete obituary to follow.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

Robert Hernandez Sr., Robert Hernandez Sr. passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family, on September 30, 2015 at the age of 61.

Memorial Mass will be Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

Private family inurnment to be held at a later date.

Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

Steve Ray Rodriguez Lopez



Steve Ray Rodriguez Lopez, age 95, passed away at the Trinidad Inn Nursing Home on September 29, 2015.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII., serving in Naples, Southern France, Normandy and the Balkans.

He is survived by his loving family and friends. Memorial Service will be held Friday, October 9, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Comi Chapel with Military Honors conducted by Ft. Carson Honor Guard.

At his request, private family inurnment at the Tejaras Cemetery. Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.



Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home
 Trinidad's Oldest & Finest Funeral Home
 335 E. Main 846-2281

Rudy Barron

Rudy Barron, loving husband, dad and pappy passed away September 29, 2015 in Pueblo, Colo. Services will be Wednesday October, 7th at 11:00 a.m., at Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home Chapel. The family may be contacted at the home address. Arrangements are made under the direction of Mullare-Murphy Funeral Home.

61 Deaths Elsewhere

Phil Padilla passed away at Parkview Hospital in Pueblo. At his request cremation and burial has taken place.

How very quietly you tiptoed into our world, silently, only a moment you stayed. But what an imprint your footprints have left upon our hearts.
 ~Unknown

COMMUNITY

Family weekend brings action to Trinidad Skatepark

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Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

S-K-A-T-E Winner

Trinidad 17-year-old Francisco "Frisco" Duran won the weekend competition Sunday at Trinidad Skatepark.

go head-to-head trying to match each other's moves. For each move that an opponent gets one letter, continuing until a contestant wins by getting all five letters of SKATE.

Sunday's final rounds came down to Duran versus T.J. Matheson, who works in the kitchen at Trinidad High School, and Father Carl Wertin, who arrived in Trinidad four months ago as a new priest and parochial vicar at Holy Trinity Church. Matheson placed second, Wertin third, then Wertin raced back for a Blessing of the Animals ceremony on the front porch of the church, looking decidedly different in his priest's habit than he had an hour earlier "busting airs" above the rim of the steep walls of the skatepark.

"These kids here are lucky," Esparza said, "to have such a beautiful, really well-made skatepark."

Although she's relocated to Austin, Esparza grew up in Mission, TX, where skateboarding was a positive alternative to drugs and gangs that were prevalent there. She fell in love with skateboarding from watching a video at age nine but she wasn't allowed to have a skateboard until her mom gave in and bought her a \$5 flea market skateboard when Esparza was 13.

"I think my mom was hoping that with a \$5 board, I'd get over it real fast." Instead, Esparza has become highly competitive and well

known for her skills. Now 23, she's been an avid skateboarder for ten years.

"I enjoy passing on my love of skateboarding. I could have taught kids here on a basketball court but this skatepark is great. We have a skatepark in Mission that's not nearly as good. The skatepark design here is interesting, the way it zigs and zags downhill like a snake, then opens into a big bowl section. It's one of the biggest bowls I've seen in any park."

As she spoke late Sunday afternoon, the various sections of the skatepark bowls were crisscrossed with fast-moving kids on skateboards, BMX bikes and



Corral Pawn's David Kemp, Alisha Geggelman, Tasha Geggelman and Adam Martin (back row from left) co-sponsored Trinidad Skatepark's first Skateboarding Jam Sunday, providing a new skateboard to winner Frisco Duran, front right. Visiting skate teacher Krystal Esparza, center, joined the awards festivities.



Father Carl Wertin, Frisco Duran and T.J. Matheson (from left) duked it out in Sunday's head-to-head "Game of SKATE" finals at Trinidad Skatepark, with Duran taking first place followed by Matheson and Wertin. In addition to being one of Trinidad's best skateboarders, Wertin is a priest at Holy Trinity Church.

even scooters going high up vertical walls, using their momentum to maintain control and return to the gently sloped base before flying across to the next ascent.

Julie Mattorano was pleased. The weekend's events were as successful as she could have hoped. She has other plans in mind—a Halloween festival, and

someday a community recreation center to supplement Trinidad's existing programs—but Sunday afternoon she reveled in the sight of so many kids enjoying the skatepark together.

"I see so much negativity," she said. "I want to give people hope. They're our future."

Sunday afternoon, the future looked good.



Texan Krystal Esparza flew from her Austin home to spend the weekend teaching her skateboarding skills during Trinidad Skatepark's first Skateboard Camp Saturday. The 23-year-old has been a serious and competitive skateboarder for ten years.

Council Candidate Lopez hopes to lead by doing

... Continued from Page 1

He said he's currently working some regional leaders of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to try to get a sister location to the existing club in Pueblo.

He's been talking to some building owners in Trinidad's downtown area, who he said would love to have a Boys and Girls Club located in their building. He noted that there aren't many constructive things for young people to do in Trinidad, but said he'd like to see that picture change for the better.

"If we can get them into cultural or educational or even vocational experiences, and maybe teach them through the arts, how to start welding or learn something that helps them get a good job, then they could be successful here. With other jobs potentially coming in, maybe Trinidad won't be a stagnant community, but one that will thrive."

The Trinidad Municipal Golf Course is one of the City's great gems, he said, adding that he'd like to see more effort made to promote the course as a regional attraction and a way to attract visitors.

He said he'd like to see the City's leadership, whether he's elected or not, set the example for the community by doing rather than feeling.

"I feel that the only one I can control is myself, so if I set the tone by picking up

trash in my neighborhood or taking care of my front yard, or my whole property, then that might set the tone, not to shame my neighbors but to make it something that's done in a friendly, competitive spirit. If we tell someone who's littering, 'hey I just picked that up!' then maybe they'll feel more invested in the community, which starts to cre-

ress could be made with the right leadership in charge. He said he'd like to be a part of making those positive changes, and thanked City voters for their interest in his candidacy for Council.

"I may not have the experience that a lot of these other people do, but I also don't have the cynicism. I'm very optimistic, I have a lot of energy and I'm cre-

"I may not have the experience that a lot of these other people do, but I also don't have the cynicism. I'm very optimistic, I have a lot of energy and I'm creative."

ate a sense of pride."

The City still has a lot of work to do on improving its infrastructure, he said, adding that the influx of new money into the City because of the marijuana industry had been a positive thing overall. Trinidad needed more good paying blue-collar jobs, and couldn't rely solely on tourism for its economic prosperity, he said. Making Trinidad a better place to live would not be 'a walk in the park,' but he said he believed that more prog-

ative. The one thing I'd like to gather the most is the input from the people, and let them tell me what they want to see done. Not all of it will be feasible, but at least give them a lightning rod where they can express their concerns and maybe get them addressed. You're not going to make everyone happy, but if you can find compromise people might say, 'well, I lost this battle, but I won that one.' You've got to take the good with the bad and the victories with the losses."

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Knights of Columbus

BINGO

7:00p.m. Tuesday, Oct.6th

Doors Open @ 5:30p.m. 205 South Commercial

50-50 Bingo Progressive Game

*No one under 12 allowed
 *No Checks accepted