

## THE FINE PRINT

### Continuum of Care

The Las Animas/Huerfano Continuum of Care meeting will be from 8-9 a.m. today at the Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. All newcomers with ideas for the less fortunate are welcome to attend.

### LA County BOC

The Las Animas County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. today at the Commissioners' Chambers, Las Animas County Courthouse Rm. 201.

### Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall today. All pastors welcome to come and study the texts for Sunday and for support of each other.

### Kiwanis luncheon

The next Kiwanis luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. today at Tequila's.

### Dart Banquet

The annual NDA Dart Banquet will be held from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. today at The Park. Awards and prize money will be awarded from city league play.

### City Council

Trinidad City Council will meet at 7 p.m. today at the City Hall Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall.

### PEO Chapter DE

PEO Chapter DE will meet at 7 p.m. today at the Presbyterian Church Hall.

### American Legion

There will not be a meeting for American Legion this Wednesday.

### Board of Directors

Board of Directors meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday at FNB.  
**Continued on page 2**

## WEATHER WATCH

**Today:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 78. Calm wind becoming west northwest between 10 and 15 mph.



**Tonight:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

**Tomorrow:** Sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.



**Tomorrow Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west southwest.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/4/09. Southside priority #74 2/17/1876.

Trinidad Lake accounting: Release, 45.62 acre ft.; Inflow, 247.49 acre ft.; Evaporation, 1.87 acre ft.; Content, 2,7723 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,190.60; Precipitation, .20/

Downstream River Call, Highland 5/31/1866.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photo courtesy Army & Air Force Hometown News Service

Air Force Airman Max A. Bachicha graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Sam and Cindy Bachicha of Corundum Road, Trinidad, Colo. Bachicha is a 2003 graduate of Hoehne High School, Colo.

## Gaming Commission request documents before proceeding with license approval

By **LAURA L. BREWER**  
*The Chronicle-News*

A few people in Raton were shocked at the results of a meeting last week by the New Mexico Gaming Commission during which approval of a gaming license was expected for the casino.

"We were all counting on the commission giving approval." Mayor Joe Apache explained in an interview on Monday. "It was shock." Mayor Apache stated that he was sure that the New Mexico Gaming Commission would see that the LLC, which is pushing for the track and casino opening in Raton, has met their commitment and the license should be granted.

The racetrack license for Raton was approved in January by the New Mexico Racing Commission. But, the casino license requires approval from the Gaming Commission, which met last Thursday in closed session to discuss Raton's application. The casino, which would open at least a year before the racetrack opened, would provide the extra money needed for the track winnings, thereby ensuring that the purses would be attractive and would draw the best races.

However, the gaming license was not granted as expected. Instead, the  
**Continued on page 11**

## Lamar fires up clean-coal power plant

By **ANTHONY A. MESTAS**  
**THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**  
*Special to The Chronicle-News*

LAMAR - Ushering in a new era of clean-coal technology, the Arkansas Power Authority was joined Thursday by officials from across Southern Colorado in dedicating the utility's \$130 million expansion of the Lamar power plant.

Responding to skyrocketing natural gas prices in 2003, the utility began planning to convert Lamar's gas-fired power plant, built in 1972, to a coal-fired plant. After nearly three years of construction, the switch has come to fruition.

With one of the plant's large power turbines humming in the background,

one speaker after another grinned as they recalled how the plant came to be.

"This has been a day that many of us have waited for and waited for and waited for," said Lamar Mayor Nelva Heath.

"I am very happy that this day has finally arrived." Heath said that she never knew how excited she could be just by seeing steam come out of a smoke pipe.

"And I never could imagine that one could get so excited when you heard a loud noise (from the plant) that said, 'Hey we're firing up,'" Heath said.

Since the power authority broke ground for the project in 2006, there have been minor setbacks and signifi-

cant increases in material costs that delayed the opening by more than a year. Original cost estimates for the project were in the \$65 million-\$75 million range.

"As much as I have joked about the amount of time it has taken to get things right, I certainly respect the hard work and dedication of those who put in countless hours to make this day possible," Heath said.

Heath said that now that the facility is online, all the communities that the authority serves can assure their citizens that the plant will generate current power needs locally.

"That is for a price that is not highly dependent on the abrupt rise or fall

**Continued on page 2**



Erica Hopper's Best of Show "Say Goodbye to Simple"

## Raton student art awards draw packed house

By **TIM KELLER**  
*The Chronicle-News*

In a lushly carpeted room that fit 86 chairs Thursday night, more than twice that many art fans packed in to see Raton's finest young artists claim cash and ribbon awards for their creative works.

"Youth in Art, 2009" was presented in the International Room of International Bank in downtown Raton, a move necessitated by construction that has closed the media center at Raton High School but which

benefited the awards program by fueling the sense of excitement. Having a tightly-packed SRO audience didn't hurt at all.

Erica Hopper walked away with the night's big award, Best of Show, for her fascinating piece "Say Goodbye to Simple" in which a young woman tentatively reaches into an apparent painting where the same woman seems to be reaching out. It suggests a search for self-awareness - or perhaps an attempt to hold onto one's self - in a

time of transition. Despite much busyness and complexity worked into the image, the piece retains a unity that delivers its message without saying goodbye to simplicity.

Other top winners included Heather Romero for her painting "Sweet Pea", Peyton Richards for her watercolor "Colorful Landscape", and Erin Gansz for her drawing "Nike". Augusta Ahlm won the pastel division with her "Independence Day in Small

**Continued on page 11**

## Shots fired; no injuries

Courtesy of *Trinidad Police Department*  
*Special to The Chronicle-News*

On April 30, 2009 at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Trinidad Communications Center received a call from an individual stating they were in a black truck being followed by a blue truck and that shots had been fired at them. The caller was advised to drive to the Trinidad Police Department.

While turning into the parking lot at the Trinidad Police Department, the caller advised that the vehicles following them had continued down Main Street. A Trinidad Police Officer met with the caller and the passengers of the black truck.

Upon further investigation, it was determined that while the victims were approaching the corner of Animas and Main Street they observed Bobbie Jo Vigil, Joseph Brown, Christopher Pike and Yvonne Bravo in the municipal parking lot. The victims state that upon seeing the group in the parking lot, approximately three shots were fired.

The driver of the black truck attempted to turn south on Animas. At this point, Vigil exited the parking lot in a black Lexus and intentionally rammed the black truck.

The victims stated that they then turned north on Animas and saw Vigil turn south on Animas. While traveling north on Animas, the victims observed the blue truck following them and called the police department.

**Continued on page 2**