



# PAGE 3 STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

# THURSDAY

## JAN. 7, 2016

Vol. 140, No. 5

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

## THE FINE PRINT

### THURSDAY - JAN. 7

**TAKE THE SURVEY**  
**THURSDAY DEADLINE: EVERYONE HAS A VOICE! Space To Create needs your input, so please take the survey! Let us know what you want. GO TO: [www.corazondetrinidad.org](http://www.corazondetrinidad.org)**

**CONTINUUM OF CARE**  
**THURSDAY (8 a.m.)** Group will meet at Fisher's Peak Soup Kitchen, 308 Church St. Info: Charlene Tortorice, 719-846-9159.

**NETWORK COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY (8 a.m.)** Regular meeting will be held in the Bell Block Building's Trinidad Community Foundation room. Info: Margaret Apodaca, 719-846-3943.

**SPPCRD MEETING**  
**THURSDAY (1 p.m.)** Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District will meet at the District Office. Info: 719-846-3681 Ext. 117.

**TSJC OPEN HOUSE**  
**THURSDAY (5:30-7:30 p.m.)** Come to Career Night in Trinidad and explore the value of new skills and training with college staff members ready to answer questions and provide financial options at the Masari, corner of Broom and State Streets. Info: 719-821-6397.

**PRCWD WATER DISTRICT**  
**THURSDAY (7 p.m.)** Purgatoire River Conservancy meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 135 N. Animas. Information: Thelma Lujan, 719-846-7285.

## Today's Quote

**"For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning..."**  
~ T.S. Eliot

### WEEKEND - JAN. 8-10

**NEW ART SHOW**  
**BEGINS FRIDAY & RUNS THRU JAN. 30:** Contemporary Western Art Show will be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bruce Pappan, 719-846-1441 or [trinidadareartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:trinidadareartscouncil@gmail.com).

**SPBC FIRE DISTRICT**  
**FRIDAY (10 a.m.)** The Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet in Century Financial Group Building, 109 W. Main St. Info: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

**BOOKS & MORE**  
**FRIDAY (11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)** Senior Citizens Day at the Library Bookstore, 132 N. Commercial. Most items on sale. Info: 719-846-6840.

**CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
All events will be held at the Library, 202 N. Animas St. Info: Phyllis Kilgroe, 719-846-6841.

**\*FRI & JAN. 22 (11 a.m.-Noon) RAG (Reading, Art & Games)** downstairs in the Children's Library

**\*JAN 12 & 26 (11 a.m.-Noon)** Tuesday Tot's Program for children 6 months-3 years.

**SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISER**  
**SUNDAY: The Sayre Senior Center annual Quilt Raffle** benefit for the facility will be held at the Center, 1222 San Pedro. To purchase tickets or info about the Center call: Anna Risley, 719-846-3336.

**GUADALUPE SOCIETY**  
**SUNDAY: Potluck dinner** will be held after 11 a.m. Mass and Rosary at Holy Trinity Church with dinner at Holy Family Hall. Info: Rose Mestas, 719-846-3647.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**TSJC NEEDS YOU!**  
**TUESDAY: Volunteers are needed for science fair judges for area secondary schools on Jan 12, 14 and 27.** Please email the TSJC STEM Outreach coordinator, Linda Perry at [linda.perry@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:linda.perry@trinidadstate.edu) or call 719-846-5697.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**  
**WEDNESDAY & JAN. 27 (6 p.m.)** Parents Workshop to help complete student's Financial Aid Applications with Louis Rino. Reserve a space: 719-846-2971.

**STATE OF THE COLLEGE**  
**WEDNESDAY (6 p.m.)** President Dr. Carmen Simone's address will be held at the Masari Theater (corner of Broom and State Streets. Info: 719-846-5725.

**TRINIDAD WORKFORCE**  
**JAN. 19 (2-4 p.m.)** First Responder Jobs Career Exploration will be held at the Center, 140 N. Commercial St. Info: 719-846-9221.

**CHENOWETH AWARDS**  
**JAN. 22 DEADLINE:** Individual nomination forms for outstanding citizens who have made positive contributions to the region can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce office. For more information call 719-846-9285 or email [tacchamber@outlook.com](mailto:tacchamber@outlook.com).

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 01/06/16. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 9 --- Appropriation date: 01/01/1863.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**  
Release .32 AF  
Inflow 65.32 AF -- 32.93 CFS  
Evaporation 0 AF  
Content 25,382 AF  
Elevation 6,190.73  
Precipitation 0

Down stream call: John Martin  
Reservoir: 12/31/1948.



## WESTERN LIFE

# Trinidad Roundup Rodeo queens reunite for magazine feature

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Sugarite Canyon Ranch straddles the mountains at 8,000 feet somewhere between Colorado and New Mexico. Technically, it's located in Las Animas County, but you can't get there from here. The Walton family counts Trinidad as home for church and groceries, but to get there they first have to drive down Sugarite Canyon past Lake Maloya fifteen miles to Raton.

In mid-winter it's a heavenly setting for a photo shoot of young ranch girls on horses. Western Horseman magazine is preparing a feature on rodeo queen programs. This year's Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas, NV, drew representatives of 34 states, but the number of rodeo queen entries in each state and community has been falling for years.

When 12-year-old Micheli Walton became Trinidad Roundup Rodeo Junior Queen last September, both she and the senior queen, 17-year-old Anne

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Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Rodeo queens invest time, money and hard work in pursuit of their goals, but sometimes it's just plain fun. Trinidad Roundup Rodeo queens Anne Sporleder, left, and Micheli Walton rode around in the snow last week for a summer 2016 feature in Western Horseman magazine.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Council approves Noah's Ark zoning change

By Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad's City Council approved an ordinance supporting a zoning change that was requested by Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association for a property near the intersection of Moore's Canyon Road and Santa Fe Trail at Tuesday's Council meeting. The change could clear the way for the construction of a new animal shelter on 2.28 acres of donated land in southern Trinidad, which would be designed to eventually replace the existing shelter located at 224 N. Chestnut St.

Council approved the ordinance by a 5 to 1 vote, with only Council Member Joe Bonato voting in opposition to the measure. Council Member Liz Torres was unable to attend the meeting. It was the last meeting for outgoing Mayor Joe Reorda and Council Member Carol Bolton, who were both thanked for their service to the City by City Manager Gabe Engeland, their fellow council members, well wishers and friends.

A public hearing on the ordinance, which began at an earlier Council meeting, was concluded at



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Noah's Ark's Executive Director Kim Riddle spoke in favor of a zoning change that would bring a new animal shelter in southern Trinidad one step closer to being a reality at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Tuesday's meeting before the vote was taken. The City's Planning, Zoning and Variance Commission

voted its approval of the Noah's Ark zoning change application at a November Commission meeting.

Outgoing City Attorney Les Downs told Council members before the hearing that they had quasi-judicial status while deciding on the zoning change, that they could only consider evidence and testimony presented as part of the hearing and that they couldn't allow themselves to be pressured on the issue by anyone else.

The City's Development Services Director Tara Marshall said the zoning change application met the City's criteria for approval on several levels. First, that Noah's Ark provided a valuable service to the community, second, that the rezoning would advance a more effective use of the land, in harmony with the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan and third, that the public interest would be met.

"Noah's Ark held a community meeting in which they received 175 letters of support for the application, and in which they addressed all the mitigating factors that had come forward at the Planning, Zoning and Variance Commission meeting," Marshall said. "So with those findings in mind, the Commission voted unanimously on

November 10 to forward the application to City Council."

Marshall also provided a map of the area of the proposed shelter, at Council's request, with a red line delineating the property's boundaries, and a circle showing a 1,000-foot radius from the center of the property and all the other structures within that radius. She noted that the proposed shelter would be entirely within city limits, but part of the 1,000-foot radius was outside of city limits. The map also showed that the shelter would be 1,296 feet from Peak Street, where many of the opponents of the new shelter live.

Council Member Bonato asked Marshall if the rezoning application was an example of spot zoning, which is the application of zoning to a specific parcel or parcels of land within a larger zoned area, and is typically discouraged by the city.

Marshall said the rezoned area would be an example of a growth area, under the terms of the City's Comprehensive Plan, and would not be an example of spot zoning.

Ed Griego, a supporter of the zoning change, provided some

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## CEA

Colorado Education Association weighs in on ESSA Page 3...

# Focus on Education

# Teacher nurtures 'artist-self' at Colorado Springs studio

STEPHANIE EARLS  
Associated Press / The Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — She's Mrs. Conn-Parent at Steele Elementary School, but to her students at Studio 101 she's always been Miss Rhonda.

"I think in traditional studio art teaching, a lot comes from the teacher," said Conn-Parent, a part-time Colorado Springs School District 11 art teacher who for 16 years has offered after-school classes, summer workshops and other programs at her studio in Old Colorado City. "Between second and fourth grade, there's a very bizarre dynamic out there that tells kids exactly what art is, and those artists like Matisse and van Gogh kind of defied what that could be and changed it and opened it up to so many possibilities."

At Studio 101, Conn-Parent teaches the skills and provides a context that includes some art history and the basics of language and technique, but her belief is that structure and instruction can take students only so

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AP / Photo by Jerilee Bennett, The Gazette

Rhonda Conn-Parent (standing) holistically teaches children of all ages how to "nurture their artist-selves" by honing their skills through private and group lessons, sometimes building an impressive portfolio, for older youths pursuing studio art and education. Rhonda Conn-Parent helps a student who is working on a project at the tiny Studio 101 on Friday, December 18, 2015.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of snow before 9am. Partly sunny, with a high near 45. West northwest wind 5 to 15 mph. **Night:** A 40 percent chance of

snow after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday:** An 80 percent chance of snow. High near 29. West wind around 5 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible. **Night:** A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 29. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southeast in the afternoon. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. South wind around 5 mph becoming west after midnight.

**Sunday:** A 10 percent chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 28. West wind around 5 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.

Weather Sponsored by:

Inn & Suites  
Wellness  
Hotel

719-845-0102

# CLASSIFIED

PHONE: 719-846-3311 • FAX: 719-846-3612

DEADLINE: NOON, MONDAY-FRIDAY

**03 Houses For Rent**

831 Pine St. Charming 2/1, \$650 per mo. No pets. Stellar Realty LLC 719-859-1933

Very nice 2/2 in duplex \$695 per mo. Some util. pd. Stellar Realty LLC 719-859-1933

**Rent To Own**  
4 bd, 1 ba. Nice neighborhood, needs some work. \$75k, \$600/mo. Down payment required. 846-6435

**2BD, 1BA APPLIANCES**  
319 1/2 Animas St. Call 719-240-9909

**04 Apartments**

Studio apt, bedroom, kitchen & bath, \$280/mo \$300 dep. 303-668-6059 or 303-333-6059

For rent, nice 1 br. apt. Clean, quiet building. \$425/mo + Dep. No pets. 627 Arizona Ave. 719-679-2653

Very nice, tree top, 2 bdrm near TSJC. \$625 per mo. Most util pd, Free wifi. 719-859-1933

**NORTH AVENUE APARTMENTS** A ELDERLY/DISABLED HOUSING COMPLEX, TAKING APPLICATIONS 1 Bedroom units only. Appliances, stove, refrigerator, Laundry Room, community Room. Rental assistance available to those who qualify. Call 845-0216 or stop by and see us at 421 E North Ave, Trinidad, CO TDD 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



**04 Apartments**

**CORAZON SQUARE**

One Bedroom Apartments AVAILABLE NOW! Corazon Square provides a convenient, secure and friendly living environment for Trinidad Seniors age 62 and older and persons with disabilities. HUD rental subsidy is available; certain income guidelines apply. Utilities are included in rent. An on-site coin operated laundry facility is available. For more information or to obtain an application, please call Mary Ellen Armijo, Office Technician at 719-846-8333 or stop by the Corazon office at 201 Raton Street, Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon and 12:30 to 2:30pm. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**



**TRINIDAD WESTERN APTS.** is now taking applications! Studios, 1-2-3 Bdrm Apts. Laundry facilities Rental assistance to those who qualify. Call 719-846-7539 or stop by and see us at 411 NORTH AVE., Trinidad TTY / TDD 1-800-659-2656 Our community is an equal opportunity provider.



**05 Mobile Homes**

Lakeside Mobile Home Park 400 San Juan for sale #9 3 BD 2 BA, \$9K. Space lots for rent \$160/mo Call 719-846-4380

**09 Farms & Ranches**

**PANTANO FARM FOR SALE**  
North of Trinidad 719-846-2294

**10 Acreage**

REPO 35 Ac, close to town, power, big views, EZ access, \$18K terms 719-598-7941

**14 Rooms to Let**

**Monthly or Long-Term - 2 furnished rooms avail downtown; secure bldg; util. incl.; share bath & kitchen & spacious lobby (\$295 or \$325 + \$200 security dep.) No smoking/pets.**  
Susan (805) 603-6181

**17 Help Wanted**

Trinidad Inn Nursing Home in need of LPN's and RN's. Can pick up application at the front office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

The Spanish Peaks Family Clinic is seeking a full-time LPN or RN for their newly formed **Care Coordinator** position. Position Summary; coordinate team-based care to provide health services to individuals, through effective partnerships with patients, their caregivers/families, community resources, and their physician. Provide a coordinated, strategic approach to detect early and manage effectively the chronically ill patient population. Coach patients/families toward successful self-

**17 Help Wanted**

management of their chronic disease. The applicant must have a current Colorado or compact state RN or LPN license. Must have experience in caring for chronic disease patients, and clinical or community health. Previous Care Coordination, Case Management, or Home Health experience preferred. Candidate must demonstrate evidence of essential leadership, communication, education, collaboration, and counseling skills and should be proficient in communication technologies. Candidate should possess effective organizational skills and demonstrate ability to maintain accurate notes and records. Previous experience with EHR systems and data reports, mobilizing community resources, navigating patients through the healthcare continuum, and working with disparate populations preferred. Ability to speak a second language a plus. Candidate should possess the ability to identify and implement appropriate patient communication strategies and overcome accessibility barriers, as required. Please submit application and resume, or if current employee, a letter of interest to the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center's Human Resource Department: 23500 US Hwy 160, Walsenburg, CO 81089 by the January 6, 2016 closing date. For further information, contact Human Resources at (719) 738-4540 or to view facility information go to www.sprhc.org.

**17 Help Wanted**

The Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center's Dietary Department has a need for a successful candidate must have excellent customer service and teamwork skills. One year of food service experience is preferred. Candidates must have knowledge of kitchen processes. Some holiday and weekend work required. Please submit application and resume, or if a current employee, a letter of interest to the SPRHC Human Resources department: 23500 US HWY 160, Walsenburg, CO 81089, by the January 12, 2016 closing date. For further information, contact Human Resources at (719) 738-4540 or to view facility information go to www.sprhc.org.

**17 Help Wanted**

The Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center's Dietary Department has a need for a successful candidate must have excellent customer service and teamwork skills. One year of food service experience is preferred. Candidates must have knowledge of kitchen processes. Some holiday and weekend work required. Please submit application and resume, or if a current employee, a letter of interest to the SPRHC Human Resources department: 23500 US HWY 160, Walsenburg, CO 81089, by the January 12, 2016 closing date. For further information, contact Human Resources at (719) 738-4540 or to view facility information go to www.sprhc.org.

**28 TRANSPORTATION**

Cars, trucks, and SUV's new or used  
Call Noby 575-707-0852

**40 Professional Services**

Christian handy man, painting, roofing, tile laying, yard clean up, snow shoveling, call Chris 719-680-1112

**HOME REPAIRS**  
Custom bathrooms, tile, roofing, & additions 30+ years experience. 719-845-7450

**HOUSE CLEANING**  
10 years experience, willing to work weekends from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. I have my own equipment and transportation. I do deep cleans & regular cleans. I also clean buildings, businesses, and rentals. My rate is from \$10-15/hour. Please call Jenna, 719-680-0999 or 719-429-7930

**JP CARPET**  
Carpet Re-stretch, Carpet Cleaning & Installation 575-707-1180 jpcarpetservice.com

**NITTY-GRITTY MAINTENANCE CLEANING HOUSEKEEPING PAINT and REPAIR**  
Licensed and Insured 719-859-1502

**The Chronicle-News reserves the right to correctly classify, edit or to reject or cancel any ad at anytime. All ads placed by phone are read back to the advertiser at time of placement. Email verification provided to advertisers who provide email address. Classified ads are prepaid unless prior credit approval is established.**

**Corrections: Please check your ad for errors on the first day it appears. The Chronicle-News will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication.**

**41 Lost & Found**

Paco, tall dog, light brown he is the eyes and ears of a very old lady. Call 719-680-3476

**44 Garage Sales**

**Yard Sale**  
730 Stonewall Sat-9 & Sun-10, 8-3

**54 Livestock & Supplies**

3x3x8 grass alfalfa mixed bales for sale. Walsenburg area, 719-214-6982. Also looking for custom haying person for 2016.

**Hay for sale**  
Small bales \$5 per bale Call 719-846-0116 or 719-859-1438



**90 Legals**

**TOWN OF AGUILAR ORDINANCE NO. 255**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS FOR ALL TOWN OF AGUILAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOT COORDINATED WITH THE LAS ANIMAS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

WHEREAS, the Town of Aguilar is a statutory town; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §31-10-1539, provides that statutory towns' regular and special elections are governed by the Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965, C.R.S. §31-10-101 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §31-10-908 provides that the governing body of a municipality may determine that municipal elections are to be conducted by mail ballot; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §31-10-907 defines a "mail ballot election" as an election for which eligible electors may cast ballots by mail and in accordance with Part 9, Title 31, C.R.S.; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §31-10-907 defines an "eligible elector" as a person who is a registered elector; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §31-10-910(2)(a) provides that in conducting a mail ballot election the municipal clerk shall mail to each active eligible elector a mail ballot packet prepared pursuant to Part 9, Title 31, C.R.S.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF AGUILAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES** as follows.

- 1. Mail Ballots Authorized.** All municipal elections not coordinated with the Las Animas County Clerk and Recorder will be conducted by mail ballot pursuant to the Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965 as amended.
- 2. Write-In Candidates.** No write-in vote for any municipal office shall be counted unless the person, whose name is written in, filed an affidavit of intent with the town clerk prior to twenty days before the day of the election indicating that such person desires the office and is qualified to assume the duties of that office if elected.
- 3. Election Cancellation.**
  - a. The Board of Trustees, either before or after the nineteenth day before the election, may pass a resolution providing as follows.
    1. The town clerk shall cancel the election and declare the candidates elected under the following circumstances.
      - A. The only matter before the voters is the election of persons to office.
      - B. At the close of business on the nineteenth day before the election, there are not more candidates, including candidates filing affidavits of intent, than offices to be filled at the election.
    4. **Conflicts.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed or amended to the extent necessary to conform to this ordinance.
    5. **Severability.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or invalid, such judgment shall not affect application to other persons or circumstances. Those portions of this ordinance, not illegal or invalid, shall continue in full force and effect as to those provisions.

**INTRODUCED, READ IN FULL, PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED THE 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**TOWN OF AGUILAR**  
DATED this 24th day of September, 2015  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Town of Aguilar

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Published: January 7, 2016 60898

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOWN OF AGUILAR CALL FOR NOMINATING PETITIONS**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday the 5th day of April, 2016, a Regular Municipal election will be held in the Town of Aguilar, at which time and place there will be elected the following officers:

Two (2) Board of Trustees (four year terms)

Nominating petitions will be available at the Town Hall on Monday, January 10, 2016. All petitions must be returned to the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, and 101 West Main Street by the close of business on Monday, January 25, 2016. Qualifications for eligibility to hold municipal office are available at the Town Hall, CRS 31-10-301.

Posted: January 5, 2016 Town Hall  
Tyra M. Avila, Town Clerk

Published: January 7, 14, 25, 2016 60897

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

South Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) is conducting a record and file update this spring. We will be documenting and destroying all special education records of students that graduated or are inactive for the year 2009. We will keep on file each student's name, birth date, disability, services and most recent psychological evaluations (if available). This affects students from Walsenburg, Aguilar, La Veta, Hoehne, Primero, Trinidad, Branson, Florence, Penrose, Cotopaxi, Westcliffe, Fowler, Manzanola and Ordway. If any student wants their complete file, please contact the Special Education Department at the South Central BOCES office (719) 647-0023 ext. 110 within 30 days from the date of this publication.

Published: January 7, 2016 60883

## Trinidad Roundup Rodeo queens reunite for magazine feature

... Continued from Page 1

Sporleder of Walsenburg, won their crowns without competition: No one else entered the six-county competition.

The Chronicle-News ran a Sept. 9 opinion feature titled "Tough enough to compete: Sporleder, Walton prove they're winners," written by Christina Boyce, director of the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art where the Trinidad Roundup Rodeo queen judging was held. Western Horseman liked the piece and saw a national feature in it, for publication later in 2016.

Last week, the two girls got together for interviews and photographs at Sugarite Canyon Ranch where Micheli is part of the fifth generation of Waltons to ranch. Daughter of Bob and Melissa Walton, Micheli has two passions—music and horses. "I've been riding pretty much all my life," she says. "I ride with my parents, and since we moved back here six years ago, I've been riding by myself, too." She was born in Nashville while her dad's band, the Walton Brothers, spent five years playing twice-weekly gigs around town. Micheli now plays guitar, key-



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Micheli Walton helps her guest, Anne Sporleder, choose a horse for a Western Horseman photo shoot at Sugarite Canyon Ranch. Except for dry summer days in a 4WD truck, the Colorado ranch can be reached only from the New Mexico side, and not always from there. Walton attends classes via Branson School Online.

The national Miss Rodeo America program is based in Colorado Springs, where MRA business manager Stacy Bandoack acknowledges a gap between stereotype and reality. "There's a real need for more education on what it takes to be a rodeo queen," she says. "Queen programs develop invaluable life skills including organization, planning, scheduling, showing up on time, and competing. These young women's professional skills grow immensely."

As Christina Boyce put it in her September Chronicle-News editorial, "Big smiles and beautiful outfits are part of the package, but it you can't ride a horse you can't enter

the ring."

Anne Sporleder rode horseback the day before she was born—her mom went for her daily ride—and Anne's been riding most days ever since. "Before I started in the rodeo queen programs, I was extremely shy," she says. "I would have been terrified to give a speech. It's been different with my crown and sash on. I've spoken to so many groups now, it's changed me. People don't realize how much goes into being a queen."

Stacy Bandoack at Miss Rodeo America says, "My goal is for employers that see 'Rodeo Queen' on an application to see it like 'Eagle Scout' and know how much work went into the title."

Last Wednesday, Anne Sporleder's and Micheli Walton's queen duties included giving comprehensive interviews to Western Horseman magazine, then going outside to ride horses across snow-covered high-mountain pastures. As work goes, it wasn't half bad.



Micheli Walton has her Trinidad Roundup Rodeo Junior Queen crown but for winter ranching, her black hat is all she needs. Walton, 12, is the fifth generation of her family to ranch at the top of Sugarite Canyon, so far up the New Mexico canyon that it's in Colorado.

boards and drums.

Like Micheli, Anne Sporleder balances online school with work on her family's Huerfano County cattle ranch. The daughter of Eric and Alice Sporleder, who also own Sporleder Feeds in Walsenburg, Anne (usually pronounced "Annie") celebrates her 18th birthday Wednesday, Jan. 6, and graduates from high school in May. An avid photographer with a great Nikon camera, she plans to become a trauma nurse or surgical nurse while still remaining active with the family horses and cattle operation.

"My family, we're all so close that I think I can be a nurse and still be a cattle rancher," she says. She's considering Fort Hays State University in Kansas for next fall. The Trinidad Roundup Rodeo was her third experience representing her community as rodeo queen, following Huerfano County queen and junior queen the two previous years.



Trinidad Roundup Rodeo Senior Queen Anne Sporleder traveled from her ranch home north of Walsenburg to the Walton ranch atop Sugarite Canyon for an interview and some photographs. She and the photographer both got ready at the same time.