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WEEKEND EDITION
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
MAR. 25-27, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

Vol. 140, No. 61

THE FINE PRINT

WEEKEND—MAR 25-27 HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*The Chronicle-News Office will be closed Friday for the Easter Holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual without any interruption of service.

*The South Central Council of Governments and affiliates in Trinidad and Walsenburg will close Friday at Noon for the holiday. Call the Ride Line 719-845-1127 by 4 p.m. Friday to make reservations for Monday.

TSJC FEATURE FRIDAYS
FRIDAYS THRU APRIL 22 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) Featured Friday programs allow prospective students the opportunity to see what is available at TSJC, take a tour and ask questions, Berg Building, Room 201. Info: Greg Boyce, 719-846-5530.

EASTER PAGENT
FRI. (7 p.m.) "They Took Him," a dramatic play by Mary Sue Mangino that portrays the Last Supper, betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ will be presented at the First Christian Church, 200 S. Walnut. No admission - all are welcome. Info: 719-846-3843.

FREE MEN'S BREAKFAST
SATURDAY (8 a.m.) PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE EASTER WEEKEND THE MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL NOT BE HELD. Food, fun and fellowship every 4th Saturday at the First Christian Church, 402 E. First St. Info: Tom Berry, 719-846-0879 or 719-846-3843.

AGUILAR AMERICAN LEGION
SAT. (10 a.m. & Noon) Post 42 will host its annual Auxiliary Bake Sale (10 a.m. in Community Center) and Easter Egg Hunt (Noon at the Town Park) with free hot dogs for all kids. Info: Pat Romero, 719-680-1393.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN
SAT. (11:30 a.m.) Group will meet at Tequila's Cantina on Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Paula Marshall, 719-845-9544.

Today's Quote

"There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter."

~Gordon B. Hinckley

MONDAY—MAR 28

TRINIDAD MUSIC ASSN.
MON. (6:15- 8 p.m.) Community Chorale rehearsals for the upcoming Spring Season will be held at the Massari Theater Music Room, corner of Pine and State Streets. Newcomers welcome - No auditions. Info: Addi Segers, 719-859-0696

PUBLIC SERVICE
PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE
PLEASE NOTE: The State Public Defenders Office in Trinidad has relocated to 122 W. First St. next door to the Trinidad Housing Authority. Info: Pat McCarville, 719-846-9278.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY
All free events. Info: 719-846-6841.
***MAR. 30 (1 p.m.)** Bocce at Cimino Park
***APR 2 (11 a.m.-2 p.m.)** Noah's Ark Foster Care Orientation Class. Sign up: 719-846-2385.

***EVERY SAT. (10 a.m.)** Chess Club meets in the Community Room.
***RAG TIME (11 a.m.-Noon)** 1ST & 3RD Fridays thru MAY 20

***TUESDAY TOTS (11 a.m.-Noon)** 2ND & 4TH Tuesdays thru MAY 24

BAR NI COMMUNITY GRANT
MAR. 31 DEADLINE: The Bar Ni Ranch Community Fund is accepting grant proposals for area non-profits. Info: Tom Perry at tomandlindaperry@gmail.com.

KEY CLUB TALENT SHOW
THURS. (6 p.m.) Event will be held at the TMS Auditorium and will feature performers grades 3 through 12. Proceeds support THS Key Club and the THS band program. Info: Kevin Crosby, 719-846-2971 x4007.

BOWLING FOR ARTOCADE
APRIL 1: Get your bowling balls and costumes ready for another ArtoCade Bowling Extravaganza coming up April Fool's Day. Details & Sign-up: Rodney Wood, artcarfun@hotmail.com or 719-334-0087.

RELAY FOR LIFE
APRIL 2 (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) Annual event includes relay, volleyball, games, free hot dogs and more at the LA County Fairgrounds Expo. Info: Darcia Roberts, 719-529-0857.

TALAS REGIONAL ART SHOW
APRIL 6 DEADLINE: Call for Colorado and New Mexico artists living within 50 miles of Trinidad for juried and judged show APRIL 14-29 at the Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Info: 719-859-7702.

HEALTH FAIR
APRIL 16 (7:30-Noon) The Mt. San Rafael Hospital will host the annual Fair in the Hospital Lobby. If you would like to se-

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of:
03/24/16. Chilili Ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 0 AF
Inflow 41.45 AF -- 20.90 CFS
Evaporation 7.45 AF
Content 28,413 AF
Elevation 6,194.38
Precipitation 0

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



SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Sled Hockey brings thrilling sport to Wounded Warrior

Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Life can offer serious challenges to a young person, but one Trinidad native has found a creative and inspiring way to resume a very active life. Jerry DeVaul was just 24 years old in October

2011, when he lost both of his legs after being run over in an accident at the New Elk Coal Mine west of Trinidad. DeVaul survived multiple overseas tours of duty with the U.S. Army, including two 12-month deployments in Iraq and

Continued on Page 10 ...

Photo courtesy Warrior Avs

Jerry DeVaul, No. 26 in the photo at right, battling for the puck during the NHL's 1st Annual Coors Light Stadium Series Sled Hockey Exhibition at Coors Field.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Arguello, Trinidad

Yearning for a little patio time

This potted plant has spent a long winter indoors and is ready for the time when it can return to the great outdoors. In anticipation of warm weather to come, it bloomed a little bloom in celebration of Spring and Easter.

Candelario gets life in prison ... See Page 3

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Commissioners talk CDOT trails grant

Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Walking and biking trails are becoming an increasingly popular option for recreational enthusi-

asts across America, and the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners discussed the possibility of apply for a Trails Grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) at Tuesday's Board work session. While no voting is allowed during a work session, the consensus among the Commissioners seemed to be that would be a good move to apply for a CDOT Trails Grant.

County Administrator Leeann

Continued on Page 3 ...



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

County Commissioner Mack Loudon talked about the possibility of applying for a CDOT Trails Grant at Tuesday's Board work session.

Just a Cowboy Writer

A new Tim Keller
Travel Feature
Part 1 of 2 Parts



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Max Evans grew up cowboy. His classic novel "The Hi Lo Country"—and the Martin Scorsese-produced film — tell how his Des Moines, New Mexico, ranching experiences turned him into a writer.

TRAVELOGUE

The horse that made Max Evans a writer

"If it wasn't for that horse, I don't think there ever would have been a Rounders, a Hi Lo Country."

Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Editor's Note: Early this year Tim Keller began his eighth year as a regular Chronicle-News contributor. Recently retired from teaching high school English, he has suddenly found himself with time to read whole books and go on road trips—which he will turn into adventures for all of us to enjoy.

A rough horse and a failed ranch turned Max Evans into a successful writer.

"By the time I got up and scraped the mud out of my eyes, Old Sorrel had bucked to the top of the hill and was now in a dead run for the ranch house. I was afoot with a two-mile walk ahead of me. I may say that I was unhappy with that horse...He was more of a horse than I was a cowboy, and that's all there was to it."

Like most of the events and characters in Max Evans's 1961 novel The Hi Lo Country, Old Sorrel was based on an actual horse. Returning from

Continued on Page 7 ...

WEATHER WATCH

GOOD FRIDAY: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. West wind 5 to 10 mph.
Night: A 10 percent slight chance of rain

or snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west after midnight.

EASTER SUNDAY: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. West wind around 5 mph.

Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. South southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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TRAVEL

... Continued from Page 1

A Tim Keller Adventure Travel Feature

Just a Cowboy Writer

A 2-Part Travelogue Series

The horse that made Max Evans a writer

"If it wasn't for that horse, I don't think there ever would have been a Rounders, a Hi Lo Country."



Looking out from atop Sierra Grande one day, Max Evans came up with a name for his novel, "The Hi Lo Country." The name stuck: It's now widely used when referring to the area of northeastern New Mexico stretching from Clayton to Springer to Cimarron to Raton.

WWII infantry combat in France, Evans had to restock his modest ranch outside Des Moines, New Mexico. In "The Horse Who Wrote Stories," from his 2007 collection of horse stories For the Love of a Horse, Evans gives the real names and details – the neighboring rancher who sold him "Blackie," his crash-prone bouts with the horse, and the new friend, Wiley "Big Boy" Hittson, who took Blackie off his hands and became the main character in *The Hi Lo Country*.

"Blackie could read minds, and when a simple mind like mine went blank or wandered into some foreign subject, such as the brilliance of coyotes, he knew it. The next thing I became aware of was the fact that he had jumped up into the realm of eagles and when he came jarringly down, I myself learned to fly. My new skill was short-lived."

Home today in Albuquerque, Evans says, "If it wasn't for that horse, I don't think there ever would have been a *Rounders*, a *Hi Lo Country*, or a friendship with Big Boy. That horse started everything."

Everything is an illustrious career highlighted by the novels *The Rounders* and *The Hi Lo Country*, each made into a classic film and each based on a famously cantankerous horse modeled on Blackie. Evans has received the Owen Wister Award from the Western Writers of America for lifelong contributions to the field of western literature; he is ranked number 11 on the WWA's survey of all-time Best Western Authors.

The Rounders features a pair of contemporary bronc busters and their comic failures in trying to tame a roan named Old Fooler. Henry Fonda and Glenn Ford immortalized the cowboys in the beloved 1965 film version. The novel drew critical raves for its realism: "It is a book to read if you are in need of a good laugh or if you are tired of reading cowboy novels where there are no cows and where the cowhands never stop waiting around the local saloon for a final showdown with the visiting Indians," wrote the San Francisco Chronicle.

Evans came by his realism the hard way. He lived it. Born in Ropes, Texas, in 1924, his family was living in Lea County, in southeastern New Mexico, when Evans received his first horse, a small bay named Cricket, at the age of four. He went to work.

"By the time I was seven," he recalls, "my dad cut the east end off of our outfit for his widowed sister to run cattle. There, all of sudden, with Cricket, I had the total responsibility of taking care of my aunt's cattle when there wasn't any grass. I drove them all over looking for grass. I drove them up and down the highway right-of-way between Hobbs and Lovington. There was grass left there. I drove them over and over, up and down, all by my little bitty self! I'll tell you, if you've ever worked cattle by yourself, with just a few head, it is truly like shoving a log chain uphill. It just really is. But I didn't know the difference, you see? When you don't know the difference, you'll do anything. You can do anything."

When his family returned to Texas, Evans opted out, boarding a bus north to find his cowboy uncle on Glorieta Mesa east of Santa Fe. Eleven years old, he became a full-time working cowboy, often hiring out for day wages at the legendary San Cristobal and other area ranches. He came under the tutelage of cow boss Ed Young and was homeschooled by Mother Young, who instilled in young Max a lifelong love of art and literature.

Ed gave young Max "a little stocking-legged, blazed face, snip-nosed bay", one of his many horses Evans immortalized in the nonfiction stories of *For the Love of a Horse*. Recalling Snip today, he adds, "We matched up perfectly. I could do anything on that horse. I really learned to heel and that got me by, cowboyin', real good."

Evans rejoined his family in Andrews, Texas for four fall seasons playing high school football, always returning to the Youngs with a heavy box of

classic novels. "While I was gone one fall, Ed sold Snip to a guy from the Kansas City stockyards for \$75. Ed must have needed the money. When I got back I was brokenhearted, but I couldn't show it. \$75 was so much money in those days it was just unheard of. No way I could blame Ed."

Young must have seen Max's disappointment. "To make up to me," Max says, "he gave me Flax. Now, in my heart, I look back and see that Flax was the major horse of my life. He could work cattle: he made a dunce kid like me look like a cowboy. We worked cattle in rough country where a kid would normally get killed. Ed had broke him and it was a special gesture for Ed to give him to me. He saw something in me."

"Flax was a sorrel with a blonde mane and tail and stocking feet. He looked like a show horse but he was a cow horse through and through. Of course I imagine I had an exaggerated opinion of his beauty." A 1932 photograph of Young on Flax suggests Evans was right: Flax was a beauty even as a colt.

At seventeen, Evans's "marryin' Aunt Faye" offered him a little 1,680-acre spread with good water 14 miles east of Des Moines, NM. Though he ranched it for only a few years, he developed a deep affection for the people and sparse volcano-studded ranchlands of northeastern New Mexico. Sixty-seven years after moving away, to Taos and later Albuquerque, Evans continues to place many of his stories and paintings there, in the region he himself named with his novel *The Hi Lo Country*.



Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

Max Evans's books led to success in Hollywood where he made many friends. Director Sam Peckinpah cast his friend Evans, holding the shotgun, alongside Slim Pickens in "The Ballad of Cable Hogue."



Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Free-roaming horses below Sierra Grande typify the ranchlands around Des Moines, New Mexico, where Max Evans's book "The Hi Lo Country" gave name to a region thick with cowboy culture. It's not uncommon to see spurs on diners at the Sierra Grande Restaurant on the eastern outskirts of Des Moines.

"A rough horse and a failed ranch turned Max Evans into a successful writer."



Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

Twelve-year-old Max Evans, right, holds a calf's leg during branding near Galisteo, NM, during the 1930s. Evans arrived alone by bus the previous year, ready to cowboy.



Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

Max Evans went home to Andrews, Texas, each fall to play high school football. One year he returned to Ed Young's Glorieta Mesa ranch to learn that Young had sold Evans's favorite horse. Evans was heartbroken until Young made it up to him, giving him Flax, seen here with Young on board.

Next week in Part 2:
Ranching and rodeoing in Des Moines fuels a lifetime of classic and colorful fiction . . .

This story has been adapted from Tim Keller's feature in Western Horseman. Read Tim's previous travelogue stories "Chasing Billy the Kid," "Exploring Bent's Fort" and "Going Up the River — A first timer's experience of the Highway of the Legends" that were first published in The Chronicle-News on his adventures through the region or enjoy his other work and photography, at TimKellerArts.com.