

Happy Hour Specials!

Morning Special 6am to 8am
Sausage, Egg & Cheese Muffin for \$1.50 (Monday-Friday)

Evening Special 4pm to 6pm
Sausage, Egg & Cheese Muffin or sausage or meatball slider for \$1.50 (Monday-Friday)

TONY'S DINER
Dine in or take out!
Open Daily: 6am to 8pm
719-846-6000 • 734 E Main St. • Trinidad, CO 81082

WEEKEND EDITION
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
APRIL 22-24, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico • www.thechronicle-news.com

Vol. 140, No. 81

THE FINE PRINT

WEEKEND—APRIL 22-24

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.

EARTH DAY WORD PLAY
FRI. (10 a.m.-Noon) Frees art class with Paula Manini for kids ages 7-18 will be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

TASPERA MEMBERS
FRI. (12 p.m.) The Trinidad Area School and Public Employees Retirement Association luncheon meeting will be in the Sayre Senior Center, 1222 San Pedro. Info: Paul Montero, 719-846-5530 and lunch arrangements: 719-846-3336.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
FRI. (12:15-12:45 p.m.) Free program — TSJC Robotics Team will show off their robots in the Pioneer Room at TSJC. Lunch can be had on your own at the cafeteria. Lunch RSVP: Donna Haddow, 719-846-5541 or donna.haddow@trinidad-state.edu.

Today's Quote

"If you wish to be loved, love."

~ Lucius Seneca

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
THRU FRI. (APRIL 22) PLEASE NOTE that the office will be closed all week for training sessions. Info: Al Trujillo, 719-846-3940.

EARTH DAY BLOCK PARTY
SAT. (All Day) Annual celebration of Arbor Day with friends and neighbors includes food, fun and music, corner of Elm St. & Maple. Info: Earth Mtn. Farms, 719-680-0215.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
SAT. (All Day) Special viewing of the display of the kids' Tree Drawing Contest entries at the D&D Grill on N. Commercial St. (Items on display April 15-25.) Info: Trinidad Tree Board, 719-859-1599.

FREE LANDFILL DAY
SAT. (7 a.m.-3 p.m.) The City Landfill will accept residential refuse without charge at 2401 N. State Street. Electronic waste is excluded. Tires will be assessed normal fee. Info: 719-846-2538.

FREE MEN'S BREAKFAST
SAT. (8 a.m.) Father, son 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.

WILDFIRE RISK WORKSHOPS
Sponsored by the Stonewall Fire Protection District at the Stonewall FPD Station, 7375 Hwy 12. Free admission, refreshments served and reservations required. Info: 719-868-2249.

* SAT. (1-5 p.m.) Forest Health Management Planning

* APRIL 30 (1-2 p.m.) Firewise Plants and Landscaping

RATON LIBRARY
SAT. (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) Take advantage of the Spring Book Sale at the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, 244 Cook Ave., Raton. Info: Thalya Wright, 575-445-9711.

ACOUSTIC CONCERT BENEFIT
SAT. (6 p.m.) Benefit event for Summer Youth Arts Program with Jaquie Gibson will be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-1441.

ZION'S LUTHERAN SERVICE
SUN. (10 a.m.) Special service and reception honoring Rev Janet Rawlins' 30th anniversary in the ministry will be held at the Church, 613 Prospect St. Info: Julie Wersal, 719-846-6904.

GUADALUPE SOCIETY
SUN. (1 p.m.) Potluck dinner followed by group meeting will be held at Holy Family Hall. Info: Evelyn Rios, 719-846-2734.

MONDAY—APRIL 25

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING
APRIL 25 (6-9 p.m.) Free event for interested persons will be held at the Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Dr. RSVP and Info: 719-422-3834.

PUBLIC SERVICE

TSJC OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 28 (4-7 p.m.) Investigate TSJC's many programs at the "Get In, Get Out & Get A Job" event that will be held in the Pioneer Room. Event includes free hotdogs and free t-shirts. Info: 1-800-621-TSJC.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY
APRIL 30 (8 a.m.) Comcast and Trinidad Community Foundation will host the annual event that starts at Cimino Park. Registered volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, breakfast and lunch. Info: TCF, 719-846-3943 or info@trinidadcf.org.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 04/21/16. Hoehne Ditch: Priority # 15 --- Appropriation date: 04/10/1864.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 43.64 AF
Inflow 81.64 AF -- 41.16 CFS
Evaporation 4.00 AF
Content 29,002 AF
Elevation 6,195.05
Precipitation 0.02

Down stream call: Ninemile Canal: 05/10/1887.



CITY COUNCIL

Limits on Marijuana business locations passes

Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad's City Council passed a resolution limiting the number of medical and retail marijuana business locations that could legally operate within city limits. By a five to two vote, after a public hearing, council approved limiting the number of marijuana businesses to a total of 20 locations within the city, with Councilmembers Pat Fletcher and Carlos Lopez dissenting.

The new rules don't apply to any medical or retail marijuana business location that's already been approved by the city council, or any such business that's started the licensing process by May 1, 2016. The rules also wouldn't apply to license renewals for such businesses. The numerical limitation on locations will only apply to medical marijuana centers and



Steve Block / *The Chronicle-News*

City employee and union leader Lee Hadaway, standing at the podium, protests City Council imposing limits on the number of medical and retail businesses that can operate in Trinidad at Tuesday's council meeting.

retail marijuana store licenses, and will not affect product manufacturing or cultivation operations. The city's deadline for new marijuana-related Conditional

applications, until such time as the number of marijuana business locations operating in the city falls below the number of 20.

City employee and union leader

"You got folks coming to town. You got money coming to town. You got sales tax revenue. You got jobs. I'm not really sure why you want to mess that up."

Use Permits (CUPs) is 11: 59 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, either in print or online applications. After that date, the city will no longer accept any new marijuana-related CUP

er Lee Hadaway protested against the new rules before the vote was taken, saying legalized marijuana

Continued on Page 8 ...

EDIBLE INDUSTRY

Coda Signature:

New Trinidad company blazes trail to elevate cannabis confection as a product, as an industry

Eric John Monson
News Editor
The Chronicle-News

"He solves my problems," says Lauren with a smile across the table. "A role I enjoy," continues Brien with a laugh. "Lauren and I are a great team that way."

"I create problems and he solves them," answers a kidding Lauren. Brien tries to explain. "For me it's about trying to solve for the things that allow her to do what she does even more efficiently. That's what it's about... Taking something that is handcrafted and very meticulously created and trying to grow that to scale, that's a fun interplay I get to have with her. How can I solve this problem?"

The pair is now featured players in Trinidad's burgeoning cannabis industry. Beyond creating an intoxicating product, they're trying to elevate what new consumers expect from marijuana edibles. Galaxies can be glimpsed in the abstract swirls and splatters of

Continued on Page 9 ...

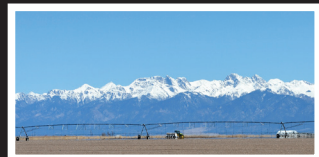


Eric John Monson / *The Chronicle-News*

Blandina Medina works in the kitchen of Coda Signature.

Exploring the San Luis Valley

Keller's Travels
2nd in a series ...



COLORADO TRAVELOGUE

Alamosa: Going to the beautiful center of southern Colorado

A magical journey across an enchanting land

Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Rising to an alarm long before dawn is a hard way to start a journey, but when I later spot the sun emerging through riverside trees and adjacent railroad trestle

just as I cross the Conejos River, I know life is right, and early rising usually pays.

Taking advantage of the Comfort Inn's Express Checkout (I'd said, "What did you call it, Fresh Checkout?"), I left Alamosa at first dawn on Monday morning. Antonito, like many of the small towns and villages ringing the San Luis Valley, is a 30-minute drive from Alamosa, the valley's market center and only city.

Even that early, a steady stream of

Continued on Page 10 ...

Photos by Tim Keller / *The Chronicle-News*

High atop a hill beside the village of San Luis, sculptor Huberto Maestas's Stations of the Cross Shrine celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A dirt road comes up the back way for people who can't hike almost a mile through the displays of 15 sculptures lining the walking path.

WEATHER WATCH

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low of 46.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. West wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. West southwest wind around

10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

LA QUINTA
INN & SUITES

Inn & Suites
Wellness
Hotel
719-845-0102

Exploring the San Luis Valley

Keller's Travels
2nd in a series . . .



... Continued from Page 1



COLORADO TRAVELOGUE

Alamosa: Going to the beautiful center of southern Colorado

A magical journey across an enchanting land

headlights passed me as people drove from farms and villages to begin their workweeks in Alamosa. Only my headlights were driving away, south toward Antonito across beautiful irrigated farmlands running up to the foot of the San Juan Mountains.

Wherever it's not been broken by the plow, the 8000 square miles of the San Luis Valley demonstrate that this is high desert. Yet the Conejos River is wide and full, rich life-giving

took pride in telling me, "Fifteen years ago, I used to run this place. I was a chef." Seated next to the woodstove, he told me that it was made—welded together—right there.

I asked him about the large color landscape photographs lining the café's walls. "Those were all taken around here by Mike Rael, Jr.," he said. "He teaches up at Adams State in Alamosa." Then Robert told me that I had to go see Colorado's oldest church, just a couple miles away in the tiny village of Conejos. Robert lives in a smaller settlement down a dirt road just west of Conejos.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church was indeed glorious catching the full morning sun. A bronze plaque told its history. Built in 1858, Bishop John Lamy came all the way from Santa Fe to dedicate the new church. Today it has two impressive brick towers just as Lamy had designed for his own church. Lamy never got his, though: When he died before his church's completion, the workers left without completing the job, a story told in Willa Cather's novel, "Death Comes for the Archbishop." Today, a block from the Santa Fe Plaza, the St. Francis Cathedral still stands without its intended towers.

The church in Conejos burned down in 1926 and was



Dug by the valley's pioneer settlers, the San Luis Peoples Ditch is the oldest continuously used irrigation ditch, or acequia, in Colorado, dedicated by court decree on April 10, 1852, the year after the town's founding.

water flowing down from the San Juans in time to irrigate a new year's crops. From here to the village of San Luis, 40 miles east, I'll pass three more rivers—the San Antonio, the Rio Grande and the Culebra. Below the land's surface, shallow warm-water aquifers underlie the valley so center-pivot irrigation catches the traveler's eye more often than do the acequias—irrigation ditches—that make arteries better visible from above.

As a New Mexican, I've long known of Antonito as the northern terminal of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad that has run since 1880 along narrow-gauge tracks over mountain passes to Chama, NM. Among the shiny red railroad cars dry-docked for the winter, I could hear men's voices from a large adjacent shop where they were preparing for next month's opening of their season. Next to the depot was a marijuana store, one of two I saw in the village of 775 people. (I'd find two more ahead in slightly smaller San Luis.)

As the sun reached its neon sign, I photographed the outside of the Dutch Mill Café & Bar, then saw a red notice in the window that said "Open." Two hours of coffee drinking made me happy for a pit stop. Inside the café a waitress was readying tables for breakfast. The restrooms were through the adjacent bar to the back, past a massive woodstove beside a huge bin half-filled with tree stumps and large logs.

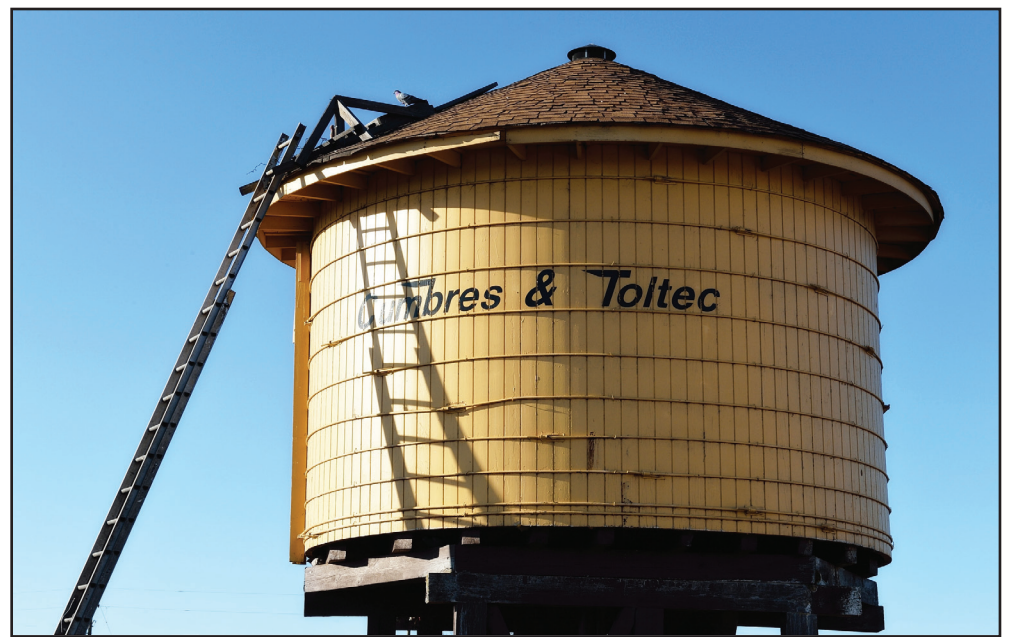
Thirty feet from each other, two men sat silently in the bar as the sun threw its light the length of the long room. One man watched TV at the bar. The other, Robert Armenta, sat at a table facing the light, his hands wrapped around a hot mug of coffee. Now disabled, he



The small San Luis Valley town of Manassa, above, was the birthplace and home to Jack Dempsey who gained the nickname "Manassa Mauler" when he won boxing's heavyweight world championship in 1924. His birthplace is now a museum. Los Caminos Antiguos is a Colorado Scenic Byway, below, making a 128-mile semi-circle around the San Luis Valley. The valley is picturesque from any vantage, but Los Caminos Antiguos takes in many of valley's highlights.



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* at thechronicle-news.com, or enjoy those and his other work and photography, at TimKellerArts.com.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad runs a popular tourist train along narrow-gauge rails from Antonito to Chama, NM, from May through October. A national historic landmark, the railroad was built in 1880.

rebuilt in 1927. I found it closed and locked. Robert explained that it's temporarily closed due to interior damage from an electrical fire earlier this year.

Driving east on Highway 142, part of the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byway, a 128-mile semi-circle around the San Luis Valley, I passed the tiny village of Romeo and reached Manassa, a well-maintained town best known as the birthplace of Jack Dempsey, the Manassa Mauler, heavyweight boxing champion of the world in 1924. His childhood home is now a museum amid the town's park.

From Manassa 24 miles to San Acacio, past the San Antonio and Rio Grande rivers, public lands dominate and fences are few. Dramatic rock outcroppings caught my eye. Then, just below them, I spotted a herd of 15 horses. A mile farther on, I turned back for the chance that these were, in fact, the first wild horses I've ever seen. With a long lens and a short hike, I was able to photograph them as they watched my approach.

In San Luis, I learned that there are two herds of wild horses in the area. Some residents have never had the good fortune to spot them. Others have seen them crossing Highway 142.

Founded in 1851, San Luis is Colorado's oldest town and home to the state's oldest business still open—R&R Market, established in 1857—and the state's oldest acequia, the San Luis Peoples Ditch, dug by the valley's original settlers and established by court decree on April 10, 1852. They created irrigation before they created a store or a church.

I stepped into the village hall to learn from town clerk Mary Jo Manzanares that the town's population is 629 "right now." We laughed about how in such small towns, the population dips whenever someone drives to the city for supplies. I'd been wondering which pronunciation people use for San Luis. "We say San Luis, the Spanish way," Mary Jo said, although she allowed that in some parts of the valley, "some people may say San Luis."

She pointed me to the high hill across the street where the town's iconic attraction, the Stations of the Cross Shrine, arrays fifteen bronze sculptures, near life-size, depicting the final days of Jesus Christ from capture to crucifixion to resurrection. Sculptor Huberto Maestas installed his work 25 years ago along a climbing path that winds nearly a mile to the top. I saw locals and tourists alike at the top.

I love small towns and San Luis is beauty. I finished my stay by walking the length of the town, photographing its impressive murals and enjoying the sunny day. Old guys drove by in old pickups, looking like they'd bought their trucks fifty years ago and kept them. I enjoyed thoughts of myself living here, an attractive notion.

And then I moved on.

Next Friday: Look for the Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. Still to come: Fort Garland and Colorado Gators!



Colorado's oldest church, Our Lady of Guadalupe was established in 1858 in Conejos, just north of Antonito, dedicated by Bishop Lamy of Santa Fe. Destroyed by fire in 1926, it was rebuilt in 1927. An electrical fire three months ago has again temporarily closed the church.



Local sculptor Huberto Maestas created San Luis's iconic Stations of the Cross Shrine 25 years ago. The town's Knights of Columbus chapter later built partially paved paths winding up the hill beside town. Fifteen sculptures depict the story of Christ's capture, crucifixion and resurrection.



THE BOYS ARE BACK!!!!!!

Trinidad's
HOMETOWN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAM

COME OUT TO CENTRAL PARK AND
CATCH THE FEVER!!!!

TRIGGERS' FEVER STARTS ON
Friday, May 27 @ 6:05pm
GATES OPEN @ 5:00pm

SEASON OPENING GAME
VERSUS THE GARDEN CITY WIND

MEMORIAL DAY DOUBLE HEADER
@ 2:05/6:05-ALL VETS GET IN FOR FREE

GO TO www.TrinidadTriggers.com FOR THE SEASON SCHEDULE








Start your child on a track for success!

All participants will be entered into a drawing once they've completed the screening!
CHILDREN'S TABLETS are up for grabs!



Screening Day to help families support the bodies and brains of young children!

What exactly is a Screening Day?

- A Screening Day is an opportunity for children to test their skills in vision, hearing, behavior, language, and movement to see if they could benefit from extra support and are on track for kindergarten success. Children do activities while parents answer simple questions.
- Professionals will be available to answer questions about children's behavior, language, and movement.

What is the benefit of attending Screening Day?

- Families will have a better understanding of their child's development as well as resources to support their child's success.

Who can attend?

- Screening is provided for children birth through age 5 (with a parent or guardian).
- If you have other children FREE childcare is available.

When and where is this taking place?

Friday, April 22
SCCOG Early Learning Center (1225 Rosita Ave), Trinidad from 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23
Peakview Elementary School (375 W Pine St), Walsenburg from 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

Cost: FREE

A parent or guardian must be present for children to complete the screenings. If a parent or guardian is unable to attend please call (719) 845-0463 for more information.