



WEEKEND EDITION  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY  
MAY 6-8, 2016

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS



50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

### WEEKEND — MAY 6-8 SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

**FRI. (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) & SAT. (9 a.m.-Noon)** Treasures, bargains will be offered at the Yard Sale at the Grace Christian School, corner of Oak and Oregon Streets. Info: Kristin Thurston, 719-680-9133.

### ARTIST'S RECEPTION

**FRI. (5-8 p.m.)** Gala opening for "The Garden Party" featuring works by Judith Fuentes, Paula Little and Roberta Lutgens will be held at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-1441.

### CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

**FRI. (7-30 p.m.)** The City of Trinidad will host this free event with free popcorn in Cimino Park — bring a lawn chair. Info: City Hall, 719-846-9843.

## Today's Quote

**"After a long day of doing nothing, it's good to relax. Lasagna is good, too."**

~ Garfield

### AVE MARIE SHRINE

**SAT. Rosary (8:30 a.m.)** followed by Mass (9 a.m.) will be held in the historic Ave Marie Shrine located behind the Mount San Rafael Hospital on Benedicta Ave. Follow the signage. Visitors welcome.

### CITIZENS FOR OUR KIDS

**SAT. (1-3 p.m.)** New group to support pivotal roles citizens play in development of our youth and formation of after school clubs for kids will meet in the Community Room at the Carnegie Library on Animas St. Info: Carlos Lopez, carlos.lopez@trinidad.co.gov

### WILDFIRE RISK WORKSHOPS

Sponsored by the Stonewall Fire Protection District at the Station, 7375 Hwy 12. Free admission, refreshments served and reservations required. Info: 719-869-2249.

**\*SAT. MAY 7 (1-3 p.m.)** Improving Your Home's Fire Safety

**\*MAY 25 (1-5 p.m.)** Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Mitigation Site Tour

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY

All free events. Info: 719-846-6841.

**\*FRI. (11-4:30)** Senior Citizens Day at Books & More on Commercial St. Most items 50 percent off.

**\*FRI. (5:30-7:30 p.m.)** Opening reception for Jean Pachorek Art Show display. Show will last through May.

**\*EVERY SAT. (10 a.m.)** Chess Club meets in the Community Room.

### MONDAY — MAY 9

#### SHULER THEATER

**MON. (7 p.m.)** Santa Fe Trail School Youth Choirs present their end of the free season concert at the Shuler, 131 N. 2nd St., Raton. Info: Bill Crary, 575-445-5682.

### TUESDAY — MAY 10

#### LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

**TUESDAY (9 a.m.)** Board of County Commissioners work session will be held 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 Abayta (719-846-9300).

#### MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

**TUES. (Noon)** Group will meet at the Fisher's Peak Community Church on Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Pastor Bruce Knight, 719-846-6018.

#### SQUARE DANCE CLUB

**TUES. (6-8 p.m.)** Swing your partner — at the Square Dance Club at LaCasa on Hwy 12 in Jansen. Beginners welcome. Info: Peter Monzon, pmm49@hotmail.com.

#### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

**TUES. (6:30 p.m.)** This group meets at the LaQuinta Inn on Toupal Drive. Info: Age Wise Advisors, 347-852-0752.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### NOAH'S ARK

**TODAY:** Check out the amazing number of FREE and LOW COST services the Animal Shelter provides for the community. Help is available for practically everything pet related. Info: 719-680-2385.

#### GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Planning an arts- or culture-based project in Trinidad? Funds are available through the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission. Application forms available at City Hall on Animas St. Info: Marilyn Leuszler, 719-845-1433.

#### GOOD FOOD PROJECT

Get involved, help raise your own healthy veggies, schedule farm field trips at mile marker 68 off Hwy 12 in Jansen. Volunteer hours for service are: Tues. (4-8 p.m.), Weds. (7-11 a.m.) and Fri. (3-8 p.m.) Info: Olympia Gioulekas, 716-310-4294.

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 05/05/2016. Enlarged South Side Ditch: Priority #96 --- Ap-

propriation date: 11/23/1883.

#### Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:

Release 0.18 AF

Inflow 337.47 AF -- 170.14 CFS

Evaporation 13.29 AF

Content 30,931 AF

Elevation 6,197.29

Precipitation 0

Down stream call: Ninemile Canal: 02/21/1887.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Mud will fly at Co. Fairgrounds on Saturday

Eric John Monson  
News Editor  
The Chronicle-News

Prepare for engines to roar and mud to fly Saturday during the third annual Trinidad Round-Up Association Mud Races that will be held at the Las Animas County Fairgrounds. The motto for the event, which raises money for the Trinidad Round-Up Rodeo, is again "Horsepower is Horsepower."

Racing starts at 11:30 a.m., on Sat., May 7, with the gates opening at 8 a.m. and a drivers' meeting set for 11 a.m.

Continued on Page 8 ...



Eric John Monson / The Chronicle-News

Last year's Mud Races again thrilled spectators and it returns Saturday to the Las Animas County Fairgrounds. The event helps raise money to support the Trinidad Round-Up Rodeo.



Counterfeit photo / Associated Press

## CRIME

# Phony fifties passed in town

Staff report  
The Chronicle-News

Two unknown persons tried to pass off counterfeit \$50 bills at several Trinidad businesses earlier this week, according to police reports. One of the suspects, described as a non-Hispanic, scruffy looking male with brown hair, in his early twenties, was observed by several clerks and business owners to be driving a Jeep.

The suspects attempted to buy potting soil using one of the phony fifties at Trinidad Greenhouse, located at 626 Stonewall Ave., at approximately 5 p.m. on Monday,

May 2. When the store's employee refused to accept the fake bill, the two men grabbed it and fled the store, taking the potting soil with them.

City police also responded to similar reports of counterfeit fifties that same day at Car Quest Auto Parts, O'Reilly's Auto Parts and Auto Zone. In each case, the alleged counterfeiters came into the stores and made a small purchase, then tried to pay for it with one of the phony fifties.

A Car Quest employee accepted the fake bill, but was later told by

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## HELPING OTHERS

# Mother and son dance slated for Mother's Day weekend

Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

The Community Chest, which provides gas cards for people who have to travel for medical reasons, will host a mother and son dance, to raise money so it can continue its mission of keeping community cancer donations local.

The Community Chest Mother and Son Dance will be held from 6 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at BRIX, at 231 E. Main St. in Trinidad.

Tickets cost \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door, with kids ages five and younger getting in free. Tickets are available by calling Lisa Eddings at: 719-680-3985, Josie Sanchez at: 719-680-1894 or Lucky Mur-



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Community Chest Founder Lisa Eddings talked about the upcoming Mother and Son Dance on Saturday as a fundraiser for the Community Chest's effort to help cancer patients.

phy at: 719-680-0679. They're also on sale at Shirley's Thrift Store.

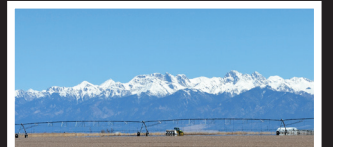
Donated door prizes and tasty finger foods will be available, as patrons can dance the evening away to the live music of the band "Turning Point," with DJ Tony Santistevan.

Eddings said the Community Chest's funds were running low by

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# Exploring the San Luis Valley

Keller's Travels  
4th in a series ...



## COLORADO TRAVELOGUE

# Fort Garland: Time travel with Kit Carson and the buffalo soldiers

## A magical journey across an enchanting land

Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

For travelers from Trinidad, Walsenburg and Pueblo, Fort Garland is the entry point to southern Colorado's renowned San Luis Valley where industrious citizens have transformed 8,000 square miles

of high desert into a lush agricultural wonderland and popular tourist destination.

Fort Garland began life as a military outpost established to support and protect settlers in what was then the New Mexico Territory of the United States. Beginning the transformation to the San Luis Valley of today, the soldiers of Fort Garland negotiated agreements—and disagreements—with the valley's Ute Indians, who weren't thrilled with the incursion.

Continued on Page 3...

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Fort Garland's cavalry and infantry units slept and ate in separate barracks, still intact when opened in 1950 as Fort Garland Museum. With admission fees topping out at \$5, it's a great stop on the way into the San Luis Valley.

## WEATHER WATCH

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. South wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. South

southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. South southwest wind 15 mph.

**Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

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

**Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind around 10 mph.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near

64. West northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. West wind around 10 mph.

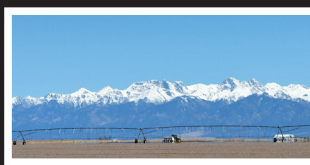
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:  
  
Inn & Suites  
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719-845-0102

# Exploring the San Luis Valley

Keller's Travels  
4th in a series . . .



... Continued from Page 1



Fort Garland was built in a rectangle of adobe buildings around a parade ground, or courtyard, with cottonwood trees, a lawn, a tall flagpole and a magnificent view to the north of four of Colorado's 58 14ers, mountains over 14,000 feet in elevations. From left, Blanca Peak, Ellingwood Point, Little Bear Peak and Mt. Lindsay stood sentinel over the fort's more than 200 soldiers.

## COLORADO TRAVELOGUE

# Fort Garland: Time travel with Kit Carson and the buffalo soldiers

## A magical journey across an enchanting land

Today Fort Garland is both a museum, incorporating much of the original fort, and an unincorporated town of about 400 people with restaurants and a few other businesses, including the now-ubiquitous marijuana store whose parking lot filled quickly when it opened one morning last month. I chose the parking lot less traveled, the Fort Garland Museum—whose impressive website charmingly and self-effacingly proclaims, "It's more interesting than you think!" And it is.

Many of the original buildings and their furnishings are still intact. Others have been reconstructed on their original sites, and archaeological research continues as the fort is gradually rebuilt and restored. Visitors receive a helpful

years after moving to Fort Garland ten years ago from Nampa, Idaho, a (too) fast-growing suburb of Boise.

"We wanted to escape the runaway growth," Jerry said. "The infrastructure couldn't keep up. Crime was spreading to our neighborhood. We looked around the West and chose Fort Garland." They enjoy traveling by motorcycle, sometimes visiting other motorcyclists in Raton where Rita also visits friends who share her passion for quilting.

The bookstore's beautiful leather chairs and love seat made it as comfortable as my visit with Rita and Jerry. Tempted to sit down and give the day to reading, I browsed through books on conquistadores, native Americans (especially the Ute), fur trappers and traders, military history, fron-

among other literature both historical and contemporary.

Pulling open a heavy white wooden door, I stepped outside into the past, alone in the courtyard, or parade ground, of the military fort, below a heavy white flagstaff supporting the American flag as it flutered above the tops of cottonwood trees.

As I toured adobe buildings one by one, the details of the courtyard picture filled in and I saw a cavalry company riding out to effect some sort of peace between new settlers and the surrounding Ute, the valley's original residents.

I saw two companies of Colorado Volunteers mustered into federal service right here on the parade ground, then marched south to Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe where they defeated Texans trying unsuccessfully to take the New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy.

I saw Kit Carson's wife Josefa move her children and the family's furniture into the commandant's house, right there across the courtyard, when Carson took command of the fort shortly after the Civil War.

I saw the Ninth Cavalry, the famed African-American Buffalo Soldiers, move into the fort to spend three years mediating disputes between the Utes and white settlers. In 1877, the Buffalo Soldiers even helped remove white settlers from reserved Ute lands.

The fort consisted of single-story adobe buildings arrayed in a rectangle around the parade ground, which had a lawn under the cottonwoods. The adobe walls were three feet thick, providing great insulation from winter's cold and summer's heat. The rooms weren't heated when I visited in early April. The outside temperature was already up to 50, but the inside temperature was



Like all Fort Garland officers, Kit Carson brought his wife and children when he was the fort's commandant after the Civil War, 1866-67. Carson's family had its own house along the parade grounds. Inside, the dining room is set for dinner as Josefa Carson and her female servants would have set it.

50, too, and I wished I'd brought along my jacket. (The museum closes for the too-cold first three months of each year.) As summer's heat arrives, touring inside the rooms should feel delightfully cool.

Inside, each room offers far more than can be imagined looking at the mud-plastered exteriors—"It's more interesting that you think!"

My favorites were the commandant's house where Kit Carson's office and dining room are among those replicated, and the barracks of the infantry and cavalry soldiers. Long rows of single pine beds line the walls of the barracks, each bed covered in clean white linen. Two of the first pianos in Colorado have been placed in the rooms, with their brief histories.

Other rooms have been converted to dioramas and other educational displays. An entire room is devoted to the Buffalo Soldiers, whose officers were always white—but commanding the African-American soldiers was considered a low-esteem assignment. The displays include photographs of the soldiers, and photos with biographical sketches of the young white officers.

Another highlight is a large room devoted to the Civil War and the West, with an emphasis on weaponry and the Colorado Volunteers' success at Glorieta.

Outside in the courtyard, the view is largely as it was during Fort Garrison's 25-year run. Looming over everything from the north are four of Colorado's 14ers, mountains exceeding 14,000 feet in elevation—Blanca

Peak, Ellington Peak, Little Bear Mountain and Mt. Lindsay.

The fort will return to life Saturday and Sunday

through October, with shorter hours in November and December. Admission fees top out at \$5 for adults; they're lower



The soldiers' theater was one of several intact rooms when the Colorado Historical Society inherited Fort Garland and opened it as a museum in 1950. There were wall paintings and an area for entertainment, though the room was likely housed soldiers as well.

of Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, during Fort Garland's Living History Encampment. Throughout the weekend, The Fort Garland Memorial Regiment and the Artillery Company of New Mexico will present activities and displays to re-enact nineteenth-century garrison life at Fort Garland. It's a perfect time to visit.

Fort Garland is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April

for seniors and children. Additional information is available online and at 719-379-3512.

**Next Friday — you won't want to miss our final San Luis Valley travelogue trip to Colorado Gators!**



When Mrs. Elizabeth Albert moved to Colorado from her home in Pennsylvania, she was allowed to bring only one piece of furniture; she brought her piano, later used for dances in Moffat, CO, and now housed in the soldiers' theater at Fort Garland Museum.

brochure that clearly shows where everything was during the fort's heyday, which was relatively long for a frontier fort, 25 years from 1858 to 1883.

A self-guided tour might last 30 minutes, or much longer. Mine lasted two hours, beginning in the office and adjacent bookstore where I met Rita and Jerry Phillips who have worked at the museum for several

tier settlers and cowboys, women in the West, coal camps and lots of local histories, including Japanese-Americans right there in Fort Garland's Costilla County.

One book traced Colorado Scenic Byways, including Los Caminos Antiguos that passes right by the fort. Other travel guides stood near a hardbound collection of cowboy poetry



As the Civil War spread westward in 1861, two companies of Colorado Volunteers were mustered into federal service at Fort Garland and marched south to bolster forces against Texas Confederates who were attempting to capture the West. The Coloradans defeated the Texans at Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe in 1862, a pivotal battle whose story is now among many displays at Fort Garland Museum.

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](http://thechronicle-news.com), or enjoy those and his other work and photography, at [TimKellerArts.com](http://TimKellerArts.com).

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MAY 7

MAY 7

**Blue Canyon Duo**  
Featuring Robert Valdez & Steve Glassey

**El Rancho**  
Trinidad, CO 719-846-9049  
9:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.  
\$5 Cover  
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ID'S REQUIRED 21 & OVER

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