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TRINIDAD
COLORADO

TUESDAY
JAN. 7, 2020

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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THE FINE PRINT

■ TUESDAY—JAN. 7

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY TUES. (9 a.m.) Board of County Commissioners regular meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the Las Animas Courthouse, 200 E. First St., Room 201. Info: 719-845-2568. **COMMISSIONERS:** Luis Lopez, II (719-845-2595), Tony Hass (719-845-2592) and Felix Lopez (719-845-2593).

SAMARITAN CLINIC

1st & 3rd TUESDAYS (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Here to serve the under-insured and non-insured community with free health care and low-cost lab work, 413 E. Frost and corner of Linden Ave. Info: 719-846-3536.

Today's Quote
"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."

—Bernard M. Baruch

DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS

TUES. (5:30-6:30 p.m.) Dementia caregivers support group meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 613 Prospect St. Info: Jill Wilson, 719-846-4416.

TRINIDAD SCHOOL BOE

TUES. JAN. 7 (5:30 p.m.) Board members will hold a special meeting at the District Office, 612 Park St. Info: 719-845-2048. **Superintendent:** Dr. Bonnie Aaron and **Members:** Karen Montero, Ed Romero, Dan Ruscetti, James Sanchez and Joe Terry.

TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL

TUES. (6 p.m.) Regular sessions are held 1st and 3rd Tues. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 135 N. Animas St. Info: Desiree Sandoval, 719-846-9843 ext. 125. **Mayor Phil Rico and Council Members:** Rusty Goodall, Karen Griego, Anthony Mattie, Erin Ogletree, Franklin Shew and Aaron Williamson.

■ WEDNESDAY—JAN. 8

PINON WATER SANITATION WEDS. (8:30 a.m.) District meets 2nd Wednesday at Century Financial, 109 W. Main. Info: Stacey Massarotti, 719-846-2080.

TRINIDAD TOURISM

WEDS. (9 a.m.) The Trinidad Convention and Visitor's Bureau now meets 2nd & 4th Weds. in the City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room, 135 N. Animas St. Info: Marty Hackett, 719-846-9215 or marty.hackett@trinidad.co.gov

LA COUNTY DHS

WEDS. JAN. 8 (3-4:30 p.m.) The community is invited to a public reception honoring Arlene Lopez, Pauline Menapace and Bernice Renner on their retirement and for their years of service to the agency at the Trinidad Housing Authority located at 219 W. First St. Info: Laura Ringo, 719-846-2276 ext. 7130.

STONEWALL FPD

WEDS. (5:30 p.m.) Board meets 2nd Weds. in the Stonewall Fire House. Info: Bernadette Cappellucci, 719-868-3046.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

LAMAR ELKS TOY SHOW

SAT. JAN. 11 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Prowers County Farm Bureau will sponsor this annual buy, sell, trade event at the Lamar Elks Lodge, Hwy 287, Lamar. Event includes toys of all shapes and sizes. Info: Garrett Mauch, 719-688-9787 or garretmauch@hotmail.com

CHENOWETH AWARD BANQUET

SAT. JAN. 25 (6 p.m.) Annual Chamber of Commerce event will be held at the Mt. Carmel Community Center, 911 Robinson Ave. Individual, corporate tickets and info 719-846-9285.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 01/06/2020. Chilli Ditch, Priority #7 : Appropriation Date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Report:

Release 0.06 AF
 Inflow 36.06 AF - 18.18 CFS
 Evaporation 0 AF
 Content 22,045 AF
 Elevation 6,185.48
 Precipitation 0

Downstream Call: JMR Conservation Storage, Appropriation date: 05/31/1949.



Healthy fish populations may lead to increased water flow in Purgatoire River

Garrett Watson
The Chronicle-News

After irrigation season around each October, the Purgatoire River water flow slows significantly to a trickle until the time comes again for watering crops in spring. But the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership (PWP), a local stakeholder watershed group that works to find solutions to ongoing concerns in the Purgatoire River, recently discovered there may be an increasing need to keep a steady flow throughout the year to support the quickly growing wildlife populations around the river, especially in regards to trout.

"Trout will actually lay their eggs on gravel and they sink down into it," said Howard Lackey, a board member of the PWP and a representative of the recreation aspect of the river. He is also co-owner, along with his wife Nancy Lackey, of Moose's Social Club and Martini Bar on Main Street in Trinidad.

"They develop in that gravel base," Lackey said, "and when they finally come out of their egg as a little fry, they have to work their way out of the gravel and it has to be wet the whole time so they can make it out and into the



Garrett Watson / The Chronicle-News

As winter waters run slower through the Purgatoire, Howard Lackey says many trout have been able to retreat to deeper waters, partly due to the work the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership has done to enhance their habitat by creating pooling areas in various places along the river through town.

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Chasing Billy the Kid

Tim Keller's 3-part
 Western Adventure
 Feature

A New Mexico Travelogue Series Part 1: On the road to Mesilla

Tim Keller
 Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

—Editor's Note: After Chronicle-News correspondent Tim Keller retired from teaching high school English, he found himself with time to read whole books and go on road trips — which led him to create the Chasing Billy the Kid series. This feature first ran in this publication in 2016, but is as fun and appropriate today as it was then. Perhaps it will inspire you to hit the adventure trail sometime during this New Year 2020.

Driving south on I-25 in late October, 2015, I knew as little about Billy the Kid as most people. Born Henry McCarty, he reached his teens in Silver City, NM, where he got in some trouble. He rode into Lincoln, 200 miles east of Silver City, as William H. Bonney,

and hooked up with a young British businessman named John Tunstall who was shot dead by business rivals, launching the Lincoln County War. Billy killed people, escaped from jail, then was shot dead in the night by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, NM. Billy the Kid was dead at 21.

Although I've counted Las Vegas as my hometown, and Santa Fe too, I had no idea as I drove through them that Billy the Kid had spent time in the jails of both towns. I was headed to the bottom of New Mexico with my Colorado friend Peter Burg to deliver a pair of large framed photographs for public installations at UNM Hospital in Albuquerque and the Luna County Sheriff's Department in Deming. When we finished, we'd spend three days looking for great new photographs—a hunting expedition—from dawn to dusk daily, driving around southern New Mexico.

I had no idea that I was about to catch the Billy the

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Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Born in New York as Henry McCarty, America's original bad boy became Henry Antrim, then The Kid, then the alias William H. Bonney, Jr., and finally, seven months before his death at age 21, world-famous outlaw Billy the Kid. (Photograph taken at Lincoln, New Mexico's Anderson-Freeman Museum.)

BLM New Mexico issues policy to reduce wildfire risk around power lines crossing public lands

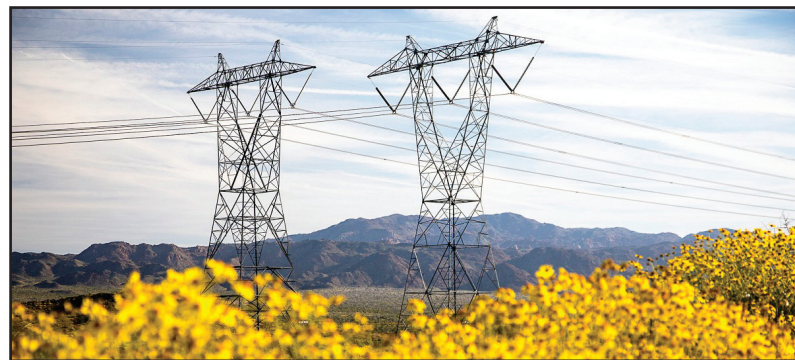
Bureau of Land Management

Santa Fe, NM – Building on the Trump Administration's ongoing efforts to reduce the threat of wildfires through active management, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico State Office today issued a new policy to limit fire risk from power lines crossing BLM-managed public lands. The policy provides guidance for effective vegetation management within and adjacent to electric

transmission and distribution line rights-of-way, also known as ROWs.

"This policy will reduce the risk of wildfire associated with vegetation conditions in and around powerline rights-of-way by enabling utilities to more efficiently manage vegetation in such areas," said Tim Spisak, BLM New Mexico State Director. "It will also enhance the reliability of the elec-

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Bureau of Land Management



"We've got what you need...or we can get it!" Lisa Camarillo

"Stop by our dealership, where your cup of coffee is on me!"



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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. Southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.

West wind around 5 mph.
Friday: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 38. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming north in the morning. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 15. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

WESTERN ADVENTURE



Chasing Billy the Kid

A New Mexico Travelogue Series Part 1: On the road to Mesilla

... Continued from Page 1



Kid bug.

After photographing the verdant farm fields around the Rio Grande Valley village of Hatch, where chile and cotton and corn were growing even as snow covered our yards back home, I used Google Maps to find Mesilla so we could enjoy dinner and drinks at the historic La Posta restaurant, which had recently been featured in New Mexico Magazine. In the restaurant, I found Billy the Kid. He'd been there. So had Kit Carson.

Walking off dinner around the adjacent plaza, I found Billy the Kid again. In the corner building across a narrow lane from La Posta, he'd been tried and convicted of killing Sheriff William Brady in Lincoln. Brady's successor, Pat Garrett, took Billy the Kid from that building back to Lincoln to hang.

History is rich and unavoidable around the plaza at Old Mesilla, which was founded as La Mesilla when it was part of Mexico. No sooner did the United States annex New Mexico in 1853 than the new Butterfield Overland Stage Line made Mesilla an overnight stop on its route between St. Louis and San Francisco. Two Civil War battles were fought at Mesilla, where the Confederates established a capital until Union sympathizers routed it and established their own.

But in 1881—the year Pat Garrett shot Billy the Kid dead in Fort Sumner—the people of Mesilla declined the Santa Fe Railway's request for a right of way. Instead, the railroad was built through neighboring Las Cruces, three miles east. As a result, Las Cruces today has the railroad and I-25 and more than 100,000 people while Mesilla is a quaint village of about 2000 people.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Famed restaurant La Posta de la Mesilla sits across a narrow lane from the building on Mesilla's plaza where Billy the Kid was convicted of murder. La Posta's building dates to the 1840s when La Mesilla was still part of Mexico. After the U.S. flag was raised in 1853, the Butterfield Overland Stage Line stopped here on its St. Louis-to-San Francisco route. Overnight visitors included Ulysses S. Grant and Kit Carson. When Mesilla rebuffed the Santa Fe Railway, the train route went through neighboring Las Cruces instead. Las Cruces blossomed while Mesilla kept its small size and historic rural charm complete with rustic bench. Tourists love it.

Visiting Amazon on my laptop, I typed "Billy the Kid" and found 13,583 listings of available items—books, movies and more. That's why I've never investigated Billy the Kid: Where would I even start?

But Amazon lists its merchandise in order of sales and its top-ranked item is "To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett," an acclaimed

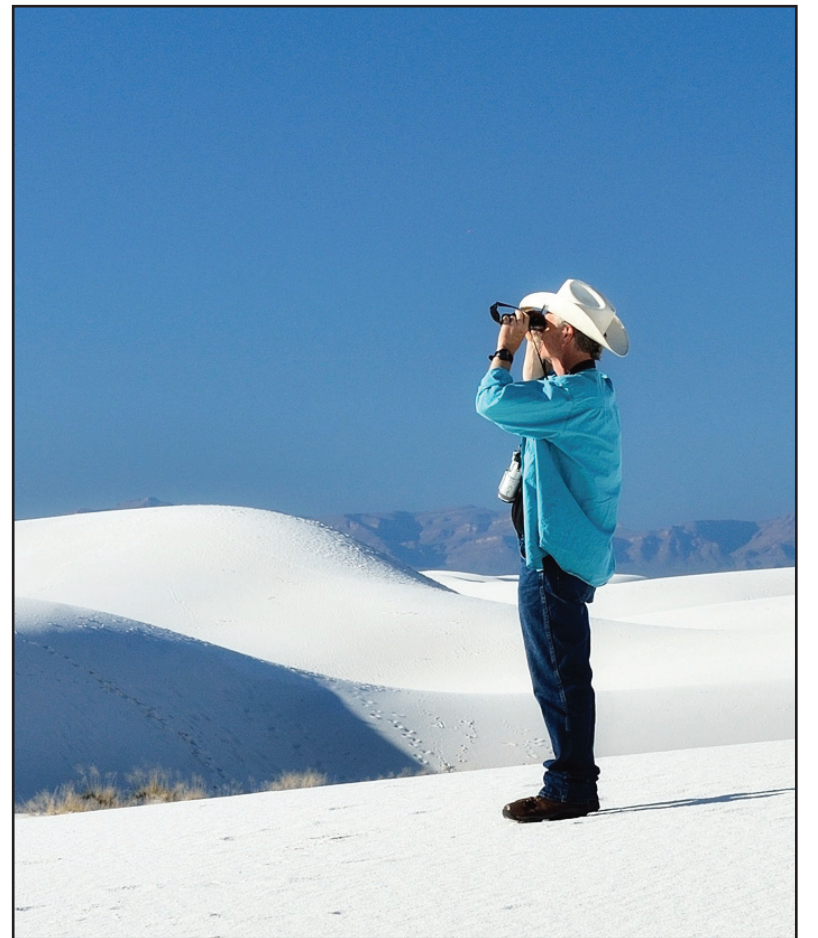
2010 book by Mark Lee Gardner of Cascade, CO, with 177 rave reviews from happy customers. Pay dirt. I ordered a copy that arrived at home shortly after I did. (Is Amazon today's Pony Express?)

I learned that Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid were once neighbors in Fort Sumner; they would sometimes gamble in the same Fort Sumner cantina. They were both known to gamble in Tularosa, where I stopped to photograph the beautiful St. Francis de Paula Church just north of White Sands. North of Tularosa I photographed Three Rivers, once a trading post at the center of John Chisum's and Susan McSween's cattle empires—but then I took the turn toward home rather than the turn toward Lincoln where Chisum, McSween, Garrett and the Kid had all etched their names into history.

Gardner opens his book with Pat Garrett bringing the Kid into the jail at Las Vegas, which we'd passed through without knowing they'd ever been there. Garrett staved off a lynch mob at the new Las Vegas train depot (now alongside I-25) before continuing with his prisoner to Santa Fe. The kid was kept in a Santa Fe cell downtown on Water Street. Just four blocks long, Water Street is where, in a live-music coffeehouse 29 years ago this month, I met my wife, Christina Boyce. I never knew that Billy the Kid had spent some nights there.

Making extensive use of primary sources, Gardner's impressive narrative succeeded at making me feel like I'd met the Kid and understood him. The Kid made friends easily, spoke Spanish well, had an active sense of humor, and loved to dance. Driven by a strong sense of loyalty and justice, he was also a cop killer. And he was an escape artist, escaping shoot-outs and jails multiple times, by any means necessary.

From Mesilla, Garrett took him back to Lincoln to hang. The kid shot his way free, killing two of Garrett's deputies in the process. He didn't flee New Mexico; he simply returned to his girlfriend and friends in Fort Sumner. This time



Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid passed White Sands, now a national monument, on their way from Mesilla to Lincoln. Tim Keller, above, and friend Peter Burg, from Rye, Colorado, spent Halloween afternoon 2015 exploring the seemingly endless white dunes. Many in the Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett saga regularly commuted between Mesilla and Tularosa, Three Rivers and Lincoln.



Artwork on a Mesilla plaza doorway reflects life at the time Billy the Kid entered this building.

Garrett wouldn't try to catch Billy the Kid; he'd simply kill him.

Finishing Gardner's book, the hook had been set. Having just driven and photographed some of the places Garrett and the Kid had done their dance, it became easy for me to imagine them riding horseback across the land. They came to life. I grew hungry for another road trip. After three weeks at home, I took off again, just me and my camera this time, to chase Pat Garrett and Billy

the Kid. I drove south to Lincoln.

Tim Keller's account of *Chasing Billy the Kid* will continue for the next two Tuesdays.

- Part 2 – Lincoln
- Part 3 – Fort Sumner

Reach Tim, or view his work, at TimKellerArts.com.

La Mesilla Historic District has been a National Historic Landmark since 1961. The plaza is often bustling as people visit retail shops and two more renowned restaurants, the Double Eagle and Josefina's Old Gate. The impressive Basilica of San Albino has been an active Catholic church on the plaza since 1852.

From Mesilla we crossed the sharply jagged Organ Mountains to reach a photographer's paradise, White Sands National Monument northeast of Las Cruces in the Tularosa Basin, a kind of no-man's land then and now. It's the route from Mesilla to Lincoln. Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid rode through here together in 1881. Garrett later established his Black Mountain Ranch outside White Sands. In 1908, someone shot Garrett dead here alongside the road. Even today, no one's sure who done it.

After photographing White Sands—a visually arresting place better conveyed through photography than writing—we spent our road trip's fourth and final night in neighboring Alamogordo at the White Sands Motel, a lovely old motor court. Billy the Kid came back into my mind. I wondered whether there was a definitive book where I could learn his whole true story.



Both Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett used to gamble in the village of Tularosa, passing St. Francis de Paula Church on their way in and out of town.