



FREE GED and ESL classes at Trinidad State!

Register next week at Latuda Hall on the Trinidad State Campus. Call 846-5640 for more info.

RETURNING STUDENTS: Monday, Jan. 18 and Tuesday, Jan. 19; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1-3 and 6-8:30 p.m.

NEW STUDENTS: Wednesday, Jan. 20 and Thursday, Jan. 21; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1-3 and 6-8:30 p.m.

WEEKEND EDITION
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
JAN. 15-17, 2016

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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



50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

Vol. 140, No. 11

THE FINE PRINT

WEEKEND - JAN. 15-17

WESTERN ART SHOW
FRIDAY (6-8 p.m.) **RESCHEDULED GALA OPENING of the Southwest contemporary exhibit** that will be on display at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main Street. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

CALL FOR AUDITIONS
FRIDAY (7 p.m.) & SATURDAY (2 p.m.) Try outs for SCRT's production of Joe DiPietro's *Art of Murder*, directed by Noah Simpson at 131 W. Main St. Info: Noah Simpson, 719-680-0109.

TRINIDAD SCHOOL BOE
SUNDAY (10 a.m.) The Board of Education will hold a Board Retreat at the Stonewall Ranch, 6614 State RTE 12, Weston. **School Board Superintendent: Scott Mader and Members: Paul Montero, Patrick Sandoval, John Maszarotti, Joe Terry and Deb Hartman.**

Today's Quote

"We have enough youth — how about a Fountain of Smart?"

~ Bumper Sticker

MONDAY — JAN. 18

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*The Chronicle-News Office will be closed Monday in observance of the holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service.

*The Las Animas County Court-house offices will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

*The City of Trinidad, Landfill and Carnegie Public Library will be closed Monday for the holiday.

*SCCOG and affiliates will be closed Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

PUBLIC SERVICE

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

*FRI. (3 p.m.) **Build a Better Flyer** with Mallory Pillard and Carol Potter.

*TUES. (Noon-1 p.m.) **"Tools to Navigate a Stressful World,"** self-care program with Naturopathic Dr. Kelley Eden.

*JAN. 22 (11 a.m.-Noon) **RAG (Reading, Art & Games)** for kids.

*JAN. 22: **Sign up for a fun filled adult evening "For the Spell of It."**

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

*JAN. 27 (5 p.m.) A comprehensive wellness program with Dr. Eric Clark.

*THRU MARCH: **"Exercise Your Mind — READ!"** ongoing program that includes fun bingo game and activities.

CARING COMMUNITY
A fund has been set up at the First National Bank for donations to the Carlock Family for medical and funeral expenses incurred in the loss of their child DiVonnai Aiden Carlock. Info: 719-846-9881.

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

PURGATOIRE WATERSHED
TUESDAY (5:30 p.m.) **Group's annual meeting will be held in the USDA Building** beside the Movie Picture Showhouse. Info: 303-543-8688.

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. Info: 719-846-9285.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID
JAN. 27 (6 p.m.) **Parents Workshop to help complete student's Financial Aid Applications with Louis Rino** at THS, Classroom 212A. Reserve a space: 719-846-2971.

TSJC LUNCH & LEARN
JAN. 28 (12:15-12:45 p.m.) Free program **"What's all the Buzz About Bees?"** by Jim Conley, former Huerfano County Extension Agent, will be held in the Pioneer Room of the Sullivan Center. Lunch is your own at the cafeteria. RSVP: Donna Haddow, 719-846-5541 or donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu.

CALL FOR ARTISTS
FEB. 2: **Now accepting framed, ready to hang all-media photography submissions (original/new work preferred)** at Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: Bree Pappan, 719-846-1441.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 01/14/16. Chilili Ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release .32 AF
Inflow 49.32 AF -- 24.86 CFS
Evaporation 0 AF
Content 25,770 AF
Elevation 6,191.21
Precipitation 0

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



TRINIDAD STATE

Future looks bright, President Simone says

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Three years into her tenure as President of Trinidad State Junior College, Dr. Carmen Simone said she thought it was time to share some information about the exciting new things going on now and in the near future at Trinidad State. The result was Wednesday evening's "State of the College, 2016," a one-hour address to a crowd of approximately 50 people at the Massari Theater, in which Dr. Simone outlined some of the challenges the college had faced in recent years, and described its plans to create a brighter future through its emphasis on "Students First."

Simone said the college had overcome some difficult problems, including a sizable budget deficit, a decline in student enrollment and two rounds of layoffs that reduced the college's workforce by approx-

imately 30 percent, and affected the Trinidad State campuses in both Trinidad and Alamosa. She thanked the Board members of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), the community and the TSJC Educational for the strong support that had enabled it to overcome the tough times. She noted that all of the other Colorado community and junior colleges had also experienced a decline in enrollment in the past year.

A recent accreditation site visit to both campuses was a little scary, she said, coming just after dealing with all of those problems. The site visits occur once every 10 years, and Simone said the results were very positive for Trinidad State.

"We spent last fall working very, very hard on our accreditation materials. We had our site visit and guess what date the Higher Learning Commission assigned us: December 7, Pearl Harbor Day,



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

President Dr. Carmen Simone of Trinidad State Junior College delivered her State of the College, 2016, address to a crowd at the Massari Theater Wednesday evening.

the day that will live in infamy," Dr. Simone said. "I am so proud of our faculty and our staff for all the work they did in preparation for that site visit. I am extremely proud of our students. They just shined during that site visit. They did a fabulous job. I am so appreciative of the strong community support we received throughout that process. Thank you for supporting us at the college. We had a great site visit. I am so proud of us after everything we'd been through, to pull that site visit the way that we did. We had the opportunity over Christmas break to read the report on the site visit that had been prepared by our site visit team, and it is a wonderful report. I am so proud of it. There is one piece that they have picked on, and they always find something, right? We've got to work on our Program Review Process. We

Continued on Page 5 ...

Chasing Billy the Kid

Tim Keller's new 3-part
Western Adventure
Feature



A New Mexico Travelogue Series Part 3: Fort Sumner CONCLUSION

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

The drive from Lincoln to Fort Sumner affords plenty of time to imagine horsemen making the same journey 135 years ago. About 100 miles on horseback, 140 miles by today's paved highways, both Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett made this commute countless times. They probably made the ride in two days, carrying food and water and bedrolls along with their firearms.

A trip to White Oaks would take just one day, Mesilla seven. Garrett and the Kid both made trips like this all the time, east into Texas, north as far as Puerto de Luna and Anton Chico near Las Vegas. Life on the trail took up much of their lives. They valued good horses. With the need for quick getaways, horse thieves like Billy always kept the best for themselves.

Hoping for the same great luck I'd had at the Ellis Store Country Inn in Lincoln, I drove straight to the Billy the Kid Country Inn, directly across Highway 60 from the 62-year-old Billy the Kid Museum in Fort Sumner. No luck. The Inn has been contracted to BNSF Railway for three years while its workers build two new bridges over the Pecos

"Wide open spaces with fine dramatic landscapes, and a rich tri-cultural history that includes a scrappy kid who laughed easily and loved to dance. He was also a thief, rustler and killer gunned down at the age of 21."

River at the western edge of town. They have two years to go.

Although the highway carries thousands of long-distance travelers through Fort Sumner each

Continued on Page 3 ...

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.)

SCRT LOCAL THEATER

Resident Company — Friends and neighbors who appear on stage

By Cynthia Berresse Ploski
Art Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Did you know that our Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre has a Resident Company as well as a Professional Company? In the world of live theatre, a resident company is the collection of local people who create stories on stage for live audiences through the vivid, imaginary world of make believe. They donate their time, energy and talent to entertain and educate you, their friends and neighbors in the Trinidad area.

Most of us know about the group of brilliant young working actors who come to Trinidad every summer to

Continued on Page 6 ...



Cynthia Berresse Ploski

Emily (CeCe Bak) listens to sweet talking George (Jonathan Segers) as the young couple develops their romantic relationship.

WEATHER WATCH

Friday: A 10 percent chance of snow before noon, then a slight chance of rain and snow between noon and 4 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 41. Southwest

wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the afternoon. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow before 11 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, low around 20. West wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high

near 43. Northwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

M.L.K. DAY: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly cloudy, low around 26.

Weather Sponsored by:

Inn & Suites
Wellness
Hotel
719-845-0102

WESTERN ADVENTURE

CONCLUSION

Chasing Billy the Kid

A New Mexico Travelogue Series
Part 3: Fort Sumner ... Continued from Page 1



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Open since 1953, Fort Sumner's Billy the Kid Museum has continually expanded as it's grown to more than 60,000 relics reflecting the history and life of the region. Billy the Kid's chaps, spurs and rifle are among the displays. The Kid was happy in Fort Sumner where he had a girlfriend and many other friends. At one point, the Kid and Pat Garrett were Fort Sumner neighbors. After Billy the Kid's dramatic escape the night of "The Big Killing," Garrett finally captured the Kid 12 miles east of Fort Sumner at Stinking Spring, located down Black Hat Road, above top, just beyond this remote ranch near Taiban. A trip past Santa Rosa's famed Blue Hole (inset), where scuba divers make pilgrimages to explore the pool's 81-foot-deep crystal-clear spring-fed waters was part of this journey.

day, there are few dining and lodging choices available. I stayed at a Super 8 and saw no sign of Billy the Kid.

He called Fort Sumner home for much of his last four years. Pat Garrett lived there at the same time, even working as bartender at Beaver Smith's saloon where Billy liked to gamble and dance. The two spent enough time together that some called them Little Casino and Big Casino. Their paths diverged when Garrett accepted the job of Lincoln County Sheriff.

Their Fort Sumner hugged the Pecos three miles southeast of today's Fort Sumner, which migrated north to the railway when it came through. I drove down to the Fort Sumner Historic Site on a Monday morning, only to learn that it's fenced in and closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. My luck seemed to have turned since Lincoln. With a sitemap I'd found in town, I could look from a side road and almost tell—all that remains of the buildings are markers—where Beaver Smith's saloon was, where the old Indian hospital was where Garrett laid in ambush for the Regulators, killing Tom Foliard but missing the Kid. I could tell where Pete Maxwell's house was, where, seven months after the botched hospital ambush, Garrett waited in a dark bedroom and killed Billy the Kid.

Barely escaping Garrett's hospital ambush, Billy and four fellow Regulators went on the run. Garrett and his posse followed. Five days later and 12 miles east at a remote crossroads called Stinking Spring, Garrett followed the Regulators' tracks in the snow to a rock-and-adobe structure, 12 by 30 feet with just one doorless opening. It was 3 a.m. He had them pinned.

In the frozen dawn, a man emerged with a feedbag for the horses outside. He wore a sombrero like Billy's. Garrett and his men filled him with seven rifle shots. They'd killed Charlie Bowdre, not the Kid.

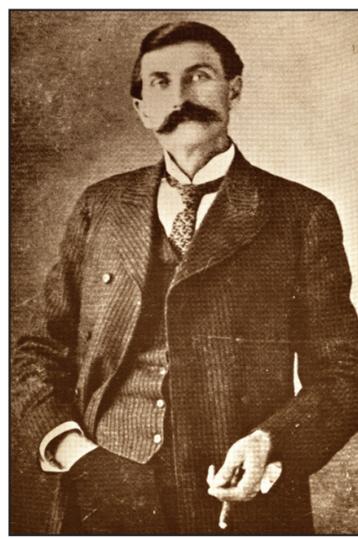


Located up the Pecos River from Fort Sumner, the small farming village of Puerto de Luna drew many visits from Billy the Kid. New Mexico novelist Rudolfo Anaya set his classic novel "Bless Me, Ultima" in Puerto de Luna and nearby Santa Rosa, where he grew up.

A standoff lasted all day. At one point the bandits tried to pull their horses through the doorway so they could bolt out and make a run for it. Garrett shot and dropped a horse right in the doorway, blocking it.

At the end of a long day that saw many bullets fly but no one else hit, the four desperados emerged with their hands in the air. Billy's penchant for escape had failed him. Garrett escorted all four to Las Vegas, then onto a train south to trial in Mesilla.

Although there's no longer anything there, Stinking Spring is on Google Maps. From Old Fort Sumner I drove east past



When a traveling photographer arrived in Fort Sumner in 1880, Billy the Kid posed for a tintype portrait that produced four prints, only one of (center) which has survived. Until recently, it was the Kid's only photograph. Purchased for \$2 at a California memorabilia show in 2010, a small tintype appears to show Billy the Kid and his Regulator friends playing croquet (top left); the detail here zooms in on the Kid. The tintype, independently appraised is now insured at \$5 million.



A picturesque abandoned church stands beside the highway at Taiban, two miles from where Pat Garrett captured Billy the Kid and killed one of the Kid's fellow Regulators.

Taiban to Black Hat Road and turned south, crossing coarse new gravel on the railroad right-of-way, then a mile south to a family ranch house. With only a mile left to Stinking Spring, the road now turned rough, no problem for my pickup at home but too rough, I judged, for the dainty Toyota Prius I was driving on this road trip. My Fort Sumner luck continued. At least I wasn't taken back up Black Hat Road in handcuffs.

It got better, though. The Billy the Kid Museum pulled together everything I'd learned and more. Operated by one family since 1953, they've amassed more than 60,000 items showing the area's rich history. Billy the Kid's chaps, spurs and rifle are there, along with a rock on which he carved his name, and the curtain he passed through just as Pat Garrett shot him to death in Pete Maxwell's house.

The clerk suggested that I start in the mini-theater to watch the 50-minute PBS American Experience documentary "Billy the Kid." It was so good that I ordered my own copy, joining Lincoln Historic Site's large foldout pamphlet and Colorado Mark Lee Gardner's "To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett" as the perfect introductions to this uniquely American story.

A National Geographic documentary premiered in late October with DVD release January 16, 2016. Narrated by Kevin Costner, "Billy the Kid: New Evidence" examines a new photo of Billy the Kid bought at a California memorabilia show in 2010 for \$2 and now appraised and insured at \$5 million.

The films reminded me of "Young Guns," the popular 1988 Hollywood movie version of Billy the Kid and the Regulators, a good portrayal. I remember our liv-

ing room outside Las Vegas filled with long clothing racks when my wife, Christina Boyce, made five each of Billy's and the Regulators' costumes for "Young Guns." The movie's Lincoln scenes were all filmed in Cerrillos, near Christina's family home on the Turquoise Trail south of Santa Fe. No longer a customer, Christina is now the director of Trinidad's A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art and brings me True West magazines with Billy the Kid on the cover.



After opening a school in nearby Puerto de Luna, Russell Vernon Hunter in 1936 painted three historical murals in Fort Sumner's De Baca County Courthouse for the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This panel, still available on the second floor, shows Billy the Kid, center, with his gray mare and many of the central figures in his life, including his mother, his fellow Regulators and Pat Garrett.

On the way out of Fort Sumner, I stopped at the De Baca County Courthouse and walked upstairs to see Russell Vernon Hunter's three large 1936 WPA murals depicting the area's history. There in one panel was Billy the Kid, his mom, his gray mare, his friends Charlie Bowdre and Tom Foliard, his one-time friend Pat Garrett, and Pete Maxwell and his house where Garrett killed the Kid.

I followed the Pecos north to Puerto de Luna where Billy liked to spend time. The

Pat Garrett (left) was a Fort Sumner neighbor and close acquaintance of Billy the Kid, serving as bartender at Beaver Smith's saloon where Billy liked to dance and gamble. Their relationship changed when Garrett accepted the job of Lincoln County Sheriff, a job that carried the responsibility of capturing Billy.

quaint farming village was later the home of Rudolfo Anaya's mother's family and plays a big part in one of my favorite novels, Anaya's classic New Mexico coming-of-age tale, "Bless Me, Ultima." In nearby Santa Rosa I got my first look at the city's 2007 homage to its native son, a sculpture garden showing Anaya writing, surrounded by pages from his most famous book. Across the park, I got my first look at Santa Rosa's famed Blue Hole, where scuba divers make pilgrimages to explore the pool's 81-foot-deep crystal-clear spring-fed waters.

Driving home past Anton Chico and Las Vegas, I'd spent five days chasing Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett. My route—through Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Mesilla, White Sands, Tularosa, Lincoln, Fort Stanton, Fort Sumner, Puerto de Luna and Santa Rosa—would make an 1100-mile loop from Trinidad. Swinging west to include Silver City would add 120 scenic miles to the trip.

In fact it's all scenic, much of it dramatically so. I hadn't realized that there is no place in New Mexico without mountains. The expanses can appear endless, the distances daunting, reminding me that this is why I moved to New Mexico in the first place: wide open spaces, dramatic landscapes, and a rich tri-cultural history that includes a scrawny kid who laughed easily and loved to dance. He was also a thief, rustler and killer gunned down at the age of 21.

With the exception of a few cities and the long asphalt roadways, my route was remarkably little changed from 135 years ago when Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid travelled these paths incessantly, riding

spaces, dramatic landscapes, and a rich tri-cultural history that includes a scrawny kid who laughed easily and loved to dance. He was also a thief, rustler and killer gunned down at the age of 21.

With the exception of a few cities and the long asphalt roadways, my route was remarkably little changed from 135 years ago when Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid travelled these paths incessantly, riding

Editor's Note: And so it ends — Tim Keller's exciting 3-part account of Chasing Billy the Kid. It was a great trip and a grand adventure. We thank him for taking us along for the ride down the fateful trail of the Old West's original bad boy. We can hardly wait to see what new adventure this master storyteller will bring us.