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WEEKEND EDITION  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY  
APR. 1-3, 2016

# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

Vol. 140, No. 66

## THE FINE PRINT

### WEEKEND—APRIL 1-3

**BOWLING FOR ARTOCADE**  
FRI. (6 p.m.) APRIL FOOL'S DAY so get your bowling balls and costumes ready for another ArtoCade Bowling Extravaganza - or just come out and watch the fun. Info: Rodney Wood, artcarfun@hotmail.com or 719-334-0087.

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
FRIDAY (6 p.m.) The Trinidad American Legion meets at the Holiday Inn, 3130 Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Commander David Walker, 719-846-5469.

**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 IN SONG**  
"YOUR GRACE STILL AMAZES ME"

\*FRI. (7 p.m.) Trinidad Methodist Church, corner of Broom and State Streets.

\*SAT. (7 p.m.) Walsenburg Methodist Church, 108 Kansas Ave.

**BENEFIT FLEA MARKET**

SAT. (8 a.m.- ?) Area churches Flea Market with proceeds going to fun Trinidad youth programs will be held at the Church of God's Cornerstone Hall, 214 W. Kansas. Info: Mel Williamson, 719-846-3781.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

SAT. (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.

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

SAT. (11:30 a.m.) Due to last week's weather group will meet at Tequila's Cantina on Santa Fe Trail Dr. Info: Paula Marshall, 719-845-9544.

**TRINIDAD MUSIC ASSN.**

SUN. (7 p.m.) Community Chorale will present "This and That," a free Spring concert at the Massari Theater, corner of Pine and State Streets. Info: Addi Segers, 719-859-0696.

## Today's Quote

"Kindness is never a mistake."

-Marianne Greaves

### MONDAY—APRIL 4

**TAAC**

MONDAY (5:15 p.m.) Trinidad Area Arts Council will meet in the Gallery Main, 130 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-1441. Public is welcome to attend.

**TRINIDAD SCHOOL BOE**

MONDAY (6 p.m.) The Board of Education will hold a special session at the District Administration Office, 612 Park St. Info: 719-845-2048. School Board Superintendent: Scott Mader and Members: Paul Montero, Patrick Sandoval, John Massarotti, Joe Terry and Deb Hartman.

**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.

\*FRI. APR 1 (11-4:30) Senior Citizens Day at Books & More. Most items 50 percent off.

\*SAT. 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

**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.

**9HEALTH 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 secure a booth call 719-846-8051.

**SANTA FE TRAIL DAYS**

JUNE 10 (5-11 p.m.) & JUNE 11 (10 a.m.-11 p.m.) Calling all vendors for Community's fun summer event. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 719-846-9285.

The Fine Print feature is a courtesy notice used to inform the public of free upcoming public meetings and events. Placement is not guaranteed. For contributions please call 719-846-3311 or e-mail cathy@trinidadchronicle-news.com

## RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 03/31/16. Chilili Ditch: Priority # 7 --- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

**Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**

Release 0 AF

Inflow 44.96 AF -- 22.67 CFS

Evaporation 10.96 AF

Content 28,711 AF

Elevation 6,194.73

Precipitation 0

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



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## LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

# Influx of new arrivals impacts County DHS

Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

The County's Department of Human Services (DHS) director, Arlene Lopez, gave her bi-monthly to the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners. Lopez noted that the need

for DHS services continued to grow in recent months.

The DHS has an annual budget of approximately \$10 million, with more than 90 percent of that total coming from federal and state funding sources. It uses that funding to make payments to its clients

in programs such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), old age pensions, adult protective services, child support services and others. Lopez said January total revenues were

about \$780,000, and January total expenses were higher at approximately \$848,000, meaning expenses exceeded revenues by approximately .8 percent for the month. That reduced the fund balance by \$68,000.

Continued on Page 2 ...

# Just a Cowboy Writer

Travel Feature  
Part 2 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.

After leaving cowboying behind in Des Moines, NM, Max Evans turned to the life of an artist in Taos, specializing in night scenes of men on horses. When that didn't feed his family, he turned to prospecting, then writing. All the time, he continued to buy and trade horses and enter roping competitions. Today he speaks of his horses as if they were favorite children.

Max purchased Blackie for \$75 from George Larkin, who owned a gro-

Continued on Page 3 ...

## TIME FOR A FACELIFT

# Welcome Center makes temporary relocation to History Museum while renovations are completed

Steve Block  
The Chronicle-News

After 30 years of continuous operations Trinidad's Colorado Welcome Center is due for a facelift including new and upgraded furnishings and equipment, so in mid-April it will make a temporary move to the Visitors Cen-

ter at the Trinidad History Museum, located at 300 E. Main St. The Welcome Center's staff and volunteers were busy Wednesday, packing brochures into crates and preparing to move them to the new location, with hopes of bringing them back to their home at the Welcome Center by early June.

The City was successful in getting a \$280,904



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

The Colorado Welcome Center's staff and volunteers were beginning their move to their temporary home in the Visitors Center at the Trinidad History Museum Wednesday. In this photo, left to right, are volunteers Lea Steller, Joseph Velasquez, Assistant Manager Jennifer Collins and Manager Barbara Howard. Anna Mitchell, Assistant to the City Manager, above, discussed the renovation project designed to upgrade Trinidad's Colorado Welcome Center.

grant from the federal Scenic Byways Program, which it matched with \$70,227 in city Capital Improvement Project funds for the \$351,131 project. Schauer Construction of Colo-

Continued on Page 5 ...

## WEATHER WATCH

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 49. West northwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 59. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest after midnight.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 67. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 70. West wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Breezy, with a southwest wind 10 to 20 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Weather Sponsored by:

Inn & Suites  
Wellness  
Hotel  
719-845-0102

# TRAVEL

... Continued from Page 1

## Adventure Travel Feature

# Just a Cowboy Writer



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

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.



### Part two of a two-part 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."*

cery store in Des Moines and a cattle ranch southeast of town. "The horse was as shiny black as newly mined coal. I named him Blackie right there." Whether the horse was an outlaw, or had been abused, or a combination of the two, the gelding turned out to be too much horse for Max.

Big Boy Hittson caught wind of that and offered to take Blackie off Max's hands for the price he'd paid—\$75. The transaction kindled a close friendship between Max and Big Boy, who encouraged Max's artistic leanings.

"Blackie only tried unloading Big Boy twice," Max recalled, "and then with no choice given he settled down and made him an outstanding cow horse. Big Boy was a good amateur bareback bronc, bull rider, and 'dogger,' steer wrestler, but the nearest he ever moved Blackie to a rodeo arena was once when he decided to get all duded up in old-timers' real garb and ride him in the Des Moines rodeo parade."

In an eight-month transition between his ranch and Taos, Max opened an art gallery in Des Moines, calling it Met West. Big Boy was the only local who ever took an interest in it. Max closed the gallery and, late one night in

November 1948, he and Big Boy drove all of Max's worldly possessions to Taos. One year later, in a disagreement with his younger brother outside the family home along Weatherly Road, Big Boy was shot to death. He was 23. Max heard about it just in time to make the funeral, which is right where *The Hi Lo Country* opens.

At the reception following the funeral, Big Boy's mother offered Max three of Big Boy's most valued possessions. Max accepted his friend's .30-30 rifle, and his sweat-stained hat. But Max turned down Blackie, saying, "No, thank you, ma'am. He belongs here in the country where he and Big Boy worked. Besides, a smart horse like Blackie will still remember that I'm not much of a bronc rider."

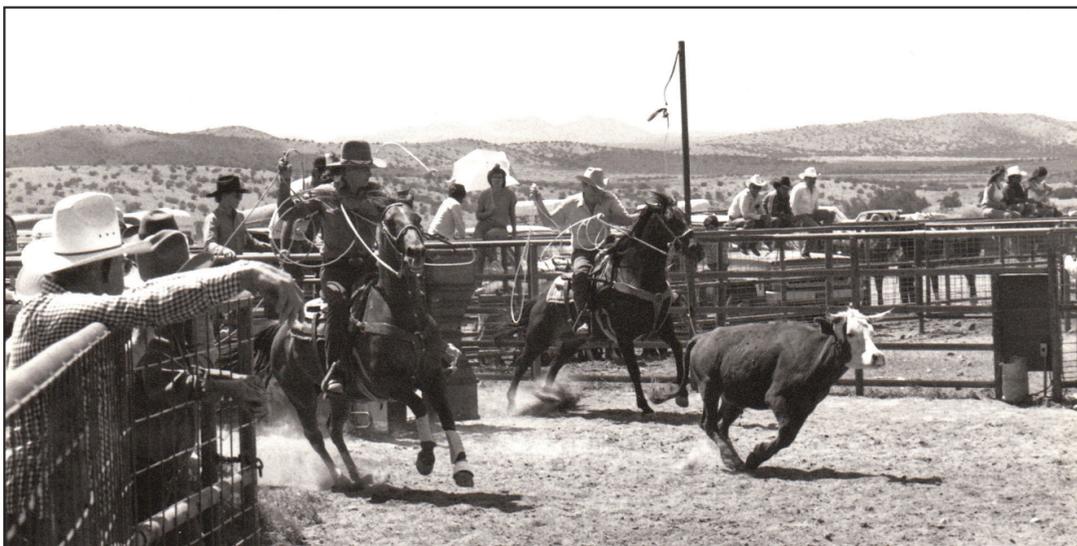
After Big Boy took Blackie off his hands, there was Molly, a five-year-old bay mare who "wasn't much of a cow horse but she loved to run coyotes." Then he acquired Brownie, the first of several Taos horses, "as plain as his name, just brown all over," Evans wrote in *For the Love of a Horse*. "There was nothing outstanding about him. However, for the thirty dollars I paid Horse Thief Shorty for him, he turned out to

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



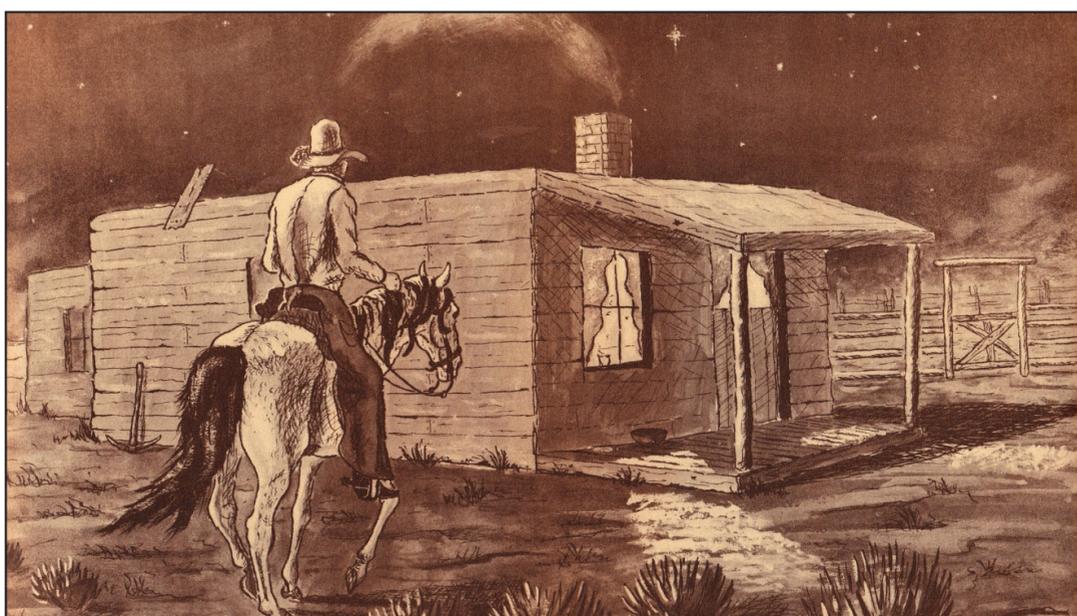
Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

The wildly colorful but ill-fated central character of Max Evans's classic Western novel "The Hi Lo Country" is Big Boy Matson, based on his real-life cowboy friend in Des Moines, NM, Wiley "Big Boy" Hittson, seen here on Blackie.



Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

Max Evans continued team roping long after his writing and Hollywood successes. Here, in the white hat, center, at age 60, he and his horse burst from the chute to heel a steer.



Archival image courtesy Max Evans

After leaving ranching, Max Evans tried to support himself and his young family in Taos by painting Western subjects, specializing in night scenes as in "Late for Dinner." Although he had some success as a Taos artist, it wasn't enough to pay the bills. He found writing to be far more successful.

be quite a buy. Brownie was a good, solid cow horse, with good rein, fair stop, and some cow sense. I tried to make a roping horse out of him as well, over the protests of my wife, Pat. She was right."

Next came Clabber, "a good roping horse with a wonderful smooth gait," Evans says today. Raggedy Ann followed, a roan so unpredictable that he sold her to Red Boggs south of Santa Fe, negotiated over drinks at Maria's New Mexican Kitchen. "Three months later I saw Red again at Maria's. I thought I was gonna get beat up." Boggs had "retired" Raggedy Ann, and Evans incorporated her with Blackie in creating Old Fooler for *The Rounders*.

He had three more horses before his writing career took off. "Reno was a white Arabian who could ride all day across the Taos desert and never break a sweat, a beautiful horse but not a roper. A Texas oilman had an affair with a Taos waitress who fancied my horse; he offered me \$2000 for him and I took it." Then there was Sleepy Kay, a roping horse with a deceptively relaxed appearance, and finally Powderface, "My one and only first-class roping horse, a blaze-faced, strawberry roan, quartered up like a champion cutting horse. He was good. In fact, he was much better than I was."

As Evans began shuttling back and forth between New Mexico and Hollywood to shepherd his stories into movies, he gave Powderface to his cousin David Evans, a cowboy on the Kinsolving outfit back in Lea County.

Since then Max has done his wrangling with a pen and legal pad, still drawing on seemingly endless tales from his thirty years on horseback, spinning yarns based on real people and real horses. Now 92, his wry take on cowboy life and his hands-on knowledge of horses have made him a longtime favorite of readers, who smile at scenes such as this one atop Old Fooler:

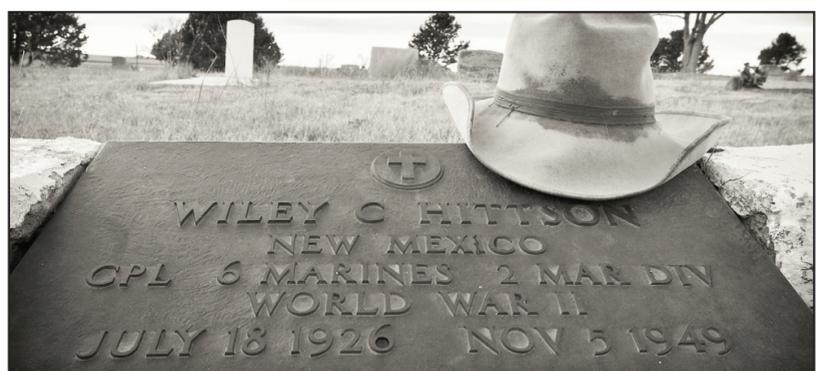
*"I stayed till I lost my hat. I stayed till I lost a stirrup. I stayed till I lost both stirrups, and a while longer after that. It just didn't do any good. The world was jumping around and going in crazy circles, and eleven hundred pounds of horseflesh was pounding my behind to pieces. Then I flopped around in the pure, clean, fresh mountain air like a baby bird and came down on my back right where the roan had bit me. It was a very poor feeling."*

*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](http://TimKellerArts.com).*



Photo by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Max Evans wrote his classic Western novels "The Hi Lo Country" and "The Rounders" after moving from Des Moines to Taos; most of the rest of his 25 books have been written in his upstairs studio at the Albuquerque home he and wife Pat bought in 1968.



Archival photograph courtesy Max Evans

Max Evans got Wiley "Big Boy" Hittson's hat out of the Lea County Museum for this photo taken in the Des Moines Cemetery, near where Hittson was killed at age 23 in a fight with his own brother, immortalized in Evans's novel "The Hi Lo Country."