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TUESDAY
JAN. 14, 2020

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

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THE FINE PRINT

■ TUESDAY—JAN. 14
PINON WATER SANITATION
TUES. (8:30 a.m.) District meets 2nd Tuesday at Century Financial, 109 W. Main. Info: Stacey Massarotti, 719-846-2080.

COMMUNITY COFFEE CHATS
TUES. JAN. 14 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) Highway 12 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study group will hold public information-gathering meeting at the Stonewall Shopping Bag, 6689 State Hwy. 12, Weston.

Today's Quote
"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you into something else is the greatest feat of all."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

■ WEDNESDAY—JAN. 15
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WEDS. (Noon) Monthly Business Luncheon, 3rd Wednesday, will be held in the Pioneer Room at Trinidad State. RSVP: 719-846-9285.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
WEDS. (Noon) Group meets 3rd Weds. at the Great Wall of China Restaurant, 321 State St. Info: Kristin Thurston, 719-680-9133.

COMMUNITY COFFEE CHATS
WEDS. JAN. 15 (3-6 p.m.) Highway 12 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study group will hold public information-gathering meetings at Moose's Social Club, 308 W Main St, Trinidad

FISHER'S PEAK FIRE DISTRICT
WEDS. (6 p.m.) District Board of Directors meets 3rd Wednesday at the Starkville Fire Station. Info: 719-846-6077.

PURGATOIRE WATERSHED
WEDS. (4 p.m.) Group meets 3rd Wednesdays in the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, 3590 E. Main. Info: Julie Knudson, 970-420-1915.

HOEHNE FIRE PROTECTION
WEDS. (6 p.m.) District Board of Directors meets 3rd Wednesday at the Century Finance, 109 W. Main St. Info: Jenny Stalker, 719-846-2080.

LA COUNTY DEMOCRATS
WEDS. JAN. 15 (6 p.m.) Group will meet at the Coal Miners Museum, 219 Main St. Everyone is invited. Info: Paula Oz-zello, 719-859-4048 or Teresa Grunewald 719-846-2256.

LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT
WEDS. (6:30 p.m.) Join your friends at the Library to watch this month's movie classic, *Paper Moon*, starring Ryan and Tatum O'Neal at the Library, 202 N. Animas. Event held every 3rd Weds., always includes free popcorn. Info: Tom Potter, 719-846-6841.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE
CALL FOR ARTISTS
WEDS. JAN. 29 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) Accepting all media works for the "Red" Show at the Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Info: 719-846-0207.

WOMEN'S MARCH
SAT. JAN. 18 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) The LA County Democrats invite all to join the Trinidad Women's March at the intersection of Main St. and Santa Fe Trail Dr. Come out and support peace, equality, justice and more. Bring a sign! Info: Teresa Grunewald, 719-846-2256.

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.

CALLING ALL FASHIONISTAS!
SAT. FEB. 29: Get your glue guns goin' — here's your chance to turn recycled "whatevers" into creative, wearable art forms for walking the runway at the TRASH 'N FASHION show fundraiser event that will be held at Art Cartopia, 2702 Freedom Rd. Ideas, Entries & Info: Art Cartopia, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues. thru Sat. or call 719-334-0087.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 01/13/2020. Chillili 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 22,295 AF
 Elevation 6,185.83
 Precipitation 0

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



Commissioners paid visit by Sen. Gardner's rep, discuss various topics of county interest

Cougar Canyon issues also being discussed with county assessor, city officials

Garrett Watson
The Chronicle-News

During the most recent Las Animas County Commissioner's meeting, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner's representative Kathy Garcia was in attendance to report on several topics the commissioners felt were important for Las Animas County and its residents.

"I gave you each a copy of the bills the senator passed last year and things he has worked on," said Garcia. "This week the Senate is working on the trade agreement, the USMCA, which will replace NAFTA. Judge nominees are going through that as well and also looking at the new administrator for the Small Business Administration this week."

N.M. State Auditor to hold open office hours in Raton on Wednesday

Staff report
The Chronicle-News

New Mexico State Auditor Brian Colón will host open office hours in Mora, Union and Colfax Counties on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 14 and 15.

The state auditor will be in Raton on Wed., Jan. 15, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon at the Colfax County Courthouse.

At the event, State Auditor Brian Colón and Office of the State Auditor (OSA) Constituent Services staff will meet with constituents

Continued on Page 2 ...



Delta Dental Foundation of Colorado to fund two Trinidad-based non-profits with grants totaling \$180,000

Staff report
The Chronicle-News

Recently the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) has announced that it will provide \$3.5 million in funding over three years to 31 Colorado non-profits to support projects that advance oral health equity for Coloradans of all ages. This includes grant funding to two Trinidad-based nonprofits.

The first, Salud Family Health Centers will receive \$150,000 to open a new, on-

site dental clinic, purchase dental equipment and conduct outreach to community members and children via surrounding schools.

The second, South Central Council of Governments will receive \$30,000 to establish relationships with local dentists to coordinate care and provide transportation to dental appointments for patients living in Huerfano and Las Animas counties.

Over the past two years, DDCOF has awarded \$6.9 million in oral health-focused grants to Colorado

Continued on Page 2 ...



Pixabay

Chasing Billy the Kid

Tim Keller's 3-part Western Adventure Feature

A New Mexico Travelogue Series Part 2: 'Big Killing' in Lincoln

Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

—Editor's Note: 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.

Young Henry McCarty—the future Billy the Kid—moved out west with his mother and younger brother,

from New York to Wichita to Denver to Santa Fe, where his mother finally married her boyfriend William Antrim in 1873. A year later she died of tuberculosis in Silver City and Antrim moved on. Henry Antrim, 15, was an orphan alone in Silver City.

Arrested for serving as a lookout for someone robbing a Chinese laundry, Henry escaped jail through a chimney—full-grown he reached only five feet three inches, 125 pounds—and ran away. In Arizona he learned how to support himself by stealing cattle and

Continued on Page 6 ...

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.)



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WEATHER WATCH

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon, with gusts to 35 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 28. West southwest wind around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near

51. South wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, high near 51. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, gusts to 30 mph. **Night:** A 20 per-

cent chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, around 33. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts to 35 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 20. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

WESTERN ADVENTURE



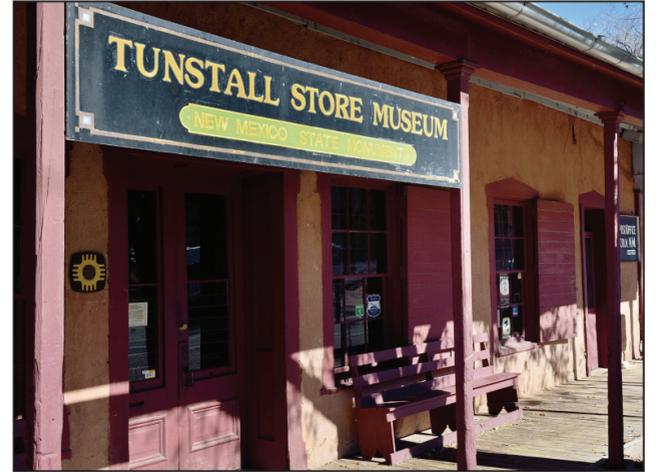
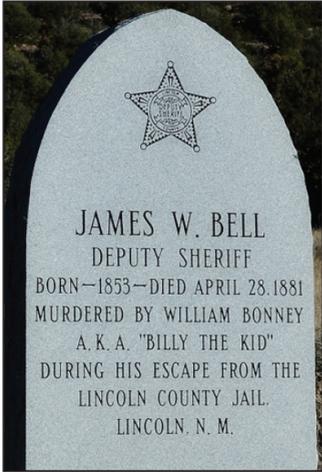
Chasing Billy the Kid

A New Mexico Travelogue Series Part 2: 'Big Killing' in Lincoln

... Continued from Page 1



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



Killed by Billy the Kid in the daring courthouse escape, Deputy James Bell was buried in the cemetery at White Oaks, above left. Nearby (not pictured) is the grave of Susan McSween, who survived "The Big Killing" that took her husband; she became a hugely successful cattle baron. Lincoln's Murphy-Dolan store, above center, had just been converted to a new county courthouse when it housed its most famous prisoner. During his scheduled hanging, Billy the Kid shot two sheriff's deputies to make his famous escape. Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett went after him. The arrival of the affluent 24-year-old English entrepreneur John Tunstall set the wheels in motion for what turned into the Lincoln County War. Tunstall dared to compete with the monopoly already established by Irishmen Lawrence Murphy and Jimmy Dolan. They had him killed, setting his loyal employee Billy the Kid on the warpath.

horses, and he learned how to play cards in bars. People called him "the kid." One night a big bullying blacksmith named Windy Cahill, twice the kid's age, beat Henry to the ground. Henry shot Cahill in the stomach. Cahill died in the morning, but Henry had already ridden east, back to New Mexico.

Riding a gray mare, he arrived in Lincoln with an alias—William H. Bonney, Jr.—although "the Kid" had stuck, too. Now eighteen years old, "Billy" was arrested for stealing two horses that belonged to John Tunstall, a wealthy 24-year-old Englishman who had recently arrived to build a cattle and mercantile empire in the American West. To the Kid's surprise, Tunstall dismissed the charges and hired Billy to join his crew of young cowboys. Billy was later reported to have said of Tunstall, "He was the only man who ever treated me as if I was freeborn and white."

Three months later John Tunstall was shot dead in Billy's presence. The Kid went on the warpath.

I pulled into Lincoln at dusk in late November, having lingered longer than planned in the No Scum Allowed Saloon in White Oaks, a one-day horseback ride across the mountain from Lincoln. A mining boomtown during the Lincoln County War, today White Oaks is a sleepy enclave at the end of a remote road. It's easy to imagine the past here, to see it, when Billy the Kid stole horses and Pat Garrett chased him back to Lincoln.

I intended to wander, taking photos and not planning meals or lodging in advance, so when I pulled in without a reservation at Ellis Store Country Inn, a B&B hosted by a former New Mexico Chef of the Year, I was lucky to get a room. Not just any room either. I got the Billy the Kid Room. The sign outside says, "Billy the Kid slept here." Indeed, Ike Ellis's store served as a refuge for the Kid and his friends right to the end, the night of "The Big Killing."

Although they proved poor businessmen, Irish Catholic immigrants Lawrence Murphy and his protégé Jimmy Dolan had quickly built a far-reaching monopoly from Lincoln, controlling commerce and cattle. Among their successes, they supplied all the beef to the

U.S. Army's nearby Fort Stanton. English Protestant John Tunstall built a big store across Lincoln's sole street from the Murphy-Dolan Store and proceeded to compete. Murphy and Dolan were livid, and they controlled the law.

When Sheriff William Brady's men encountered Tunstall and his boys south of Lincoln, the young cowboys knew enough to scatter but Tunstall, filled with naive confidence, rode right up to the Brady men. They shot him dead. Then they shot his horse.

Like the rest of Tunstall's young cowboys, Billy had a strong sense of loyalty and justice. Now calling themselves "the Regulators," they went to war against the Murphy-Dolan empire and its sheriff.

Six weeks after Tunstall's death, Sheriff Brady got up from breakfast at Wortley's Hotel, walked across the street to the Murphy-Dolan Store, then continued his morning walk down the street with his deputies. From behind Tunstall's Store, Billy and the Regulators unleashed a barrage of rifle fire, killing the sheriff where he stood.

The Tunstall Store is still there, now a museum, as is the Murphy-Dolan Store. Wortley's Hotel and Ellis Store are B&Bs. In fact, Lincoln Historic District has preserved almost everything as living history. Seven buildings serve as museums, all available for a single \$5 ticket. The Anderson-Freeman Visitor Center & Museum serves as headquarters, the recommended starting place with its extensive displays and great foldout pamphlet that tells the whole story well.

Walking from Ellis Store on Lincoln's east end, I toured all of the buildings within a half-day. (Two of the museums lack heat and

are closed for the winter.) It's only seven-tenths of a mile to the west end of Lincoln, where the Murphy-Dolan Store was converted into a new Lincoln County Courthouse in time to hold Billy the Kid—once they caught him.

Anarchy reined in Lincoln for more than three months, with countless killings on both sides of "the Lincoln County War." Bodies lay in the street. Even the Ameri-

Nathan Dudley arrived from Fort Stanton with three-dozen troops, a 12-pound howitzer and a Gatling gun. He came to make the peace. He did it by pointing the artillery at Billy the Kid's faction, holed up in three buildings.

Two of those buildings, Montana's Store and Ellis Store, are still open. The third, the home of Tunstall's attorney Alexander McSween, was burned down in the night amidst a hail of gunfire, killing McSween. Again proving his gift for escape, the Kid broke free and crossed the Rio Bonito into the hills. He was 19 years old.

Although charged with the murder of Sheriff Brady, the Kid moved somewhat freely for two more years, still making his living as a rustler, spending time in both Lincoln and Fort Sumner. He made a deal with Governor Wallace to testify against the Murphy-Dolan faction, after which his charges would be dropped. Wallace betrayed the Kid, never honoring his side of the agreement; in fact, Wallace later offered a \$500 reward for Billy's capture.

Pat Garrett, a new Lincoln County Sheriff accompanied by a posse, tracked Billy to Fort Sumner just before Christmas, 1880, killing fellow Regulators and capturing the Kid 12 miles east of town at Stinking Spring. When Garrett and the Kid arrived in Las Vegas to take the new railroad south through Santa Fe to Mesilla,

the Las Vegas Gazette portrayed the Kid and his friends as dangerous criminals. For the first time, he was called "Billy the Kid." It was a catchy title. Spurred by the new telegraph and Americans' infatuation with the West, he became a celebrity not only in the East, but overseas as well, America's first famous bad boy.

Seven months after acquiring the name, Billy the Kid was dead.

With Billy convicted in a Mesilla courtroom of Sheriff Brady's murder, Garrett brought him back to Lincoln to await his hanging date. Ironically, the Kid was held upstairs in the old Murphy-Dolan Store, now converted to the new county courthouse.

While Garrett was away in White Oaks, one of Billy's two guards, Deputy Bob Olinger, took a dinner break across the street at Wortley's Hotel. Billy told Deputy James Bell that he needed a trip to the outhouse. When they came back inside, Billy had gotten a gun—no one's sure how—and he shot Bell on the staircase. There's still a prominent bullet hole at the bottom of the stairs. Bell died just outside as Billy raced up the stairs. Grabbing Olinger's shotgun, he awaited Olinger from the upstairs window.

Olinger heard the gunshot and came running across the street. From the corner window above, Billy called out, "Hello Bob." As Olinger looked up, Billy shot him with both barrels of his own shotgun. Olinger died right there.

Instead of bolting for Mexico, Billy simply rode back to Fort Sumner where he had a girlfriend and was well liked. That's part of his appeal—and he grew much more famous now—he was a loyal friend with a lively sense of humor; he loved and respected the ladies and he loved to dance. Since arriving in New Mexico he'd become fluent in Spanish; the Hispanic community counted him as one of its own.

Garrett raced back to Lincoln. He later told a writer, "I knew now that I would have to kill the Kid. We both knew that it must be one or the other of us if we ever met."

Soon, Garrett set off for Fort Sumner.

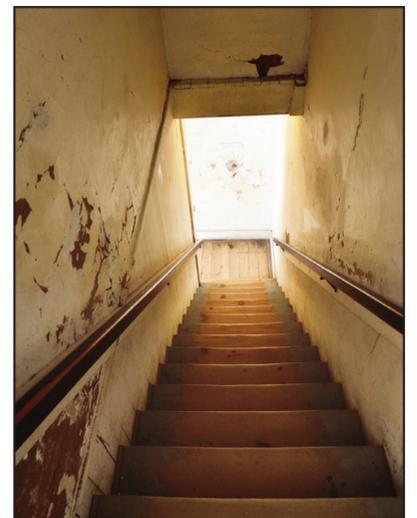
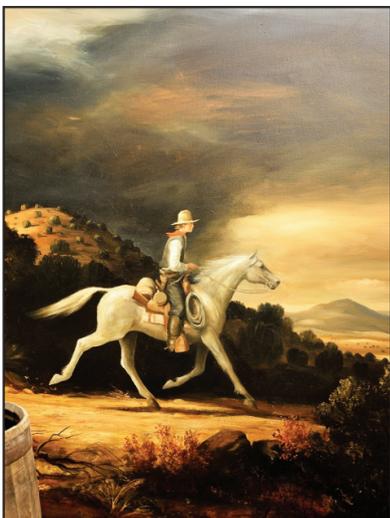
After a second night enjoying the peace and crackling woodstove in the Billy the Kid Room at Lincoln's Ellis Store Country Inn, I, too, set off for Fort Sumner.

Chasing Billy the Kid concludes next Tuesday with Part 3 – Fort Sumner.

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



After shooting a deputy, Billy the Kid watched out this window for Deputy Bob Olinger to come running from his dinner at Wortley's Hotel, just visible across the street. Hearing a gunshot, Olinger raced back. When he spotted the Kid in this upstairs window, the Kid said, "Hello Bob" and unloosed both barrels of Olinger's own shotgun, killing him on the spot.



Escaping trouble farther west, Billy the Kid arrived in Lincoln County astride a gray mare, immortalized by artist Peter Rogers in a 1984 painting displayed at Anderson-Freeman Visitors Center & Museum, above left, one of seven museums accessed by a single \$5 admission fee in Lincoln. The Billy the Kid Room, above center, is the most popular at Ellis Store Country Inn, the B&B housed in the building where the Kid once stayed. The entire town is now the Lincoln Historic Site, with most original buildings still intact and open. To make his escape down this staircase, above right, Billy the Kid shot Deputy James W. Bell, leaving a bullet hole in the downstairs wall, at right. Bell made it outside before he dropped dead. The Kid went back upstairs for Deputy Bob Olinger's shotgun.