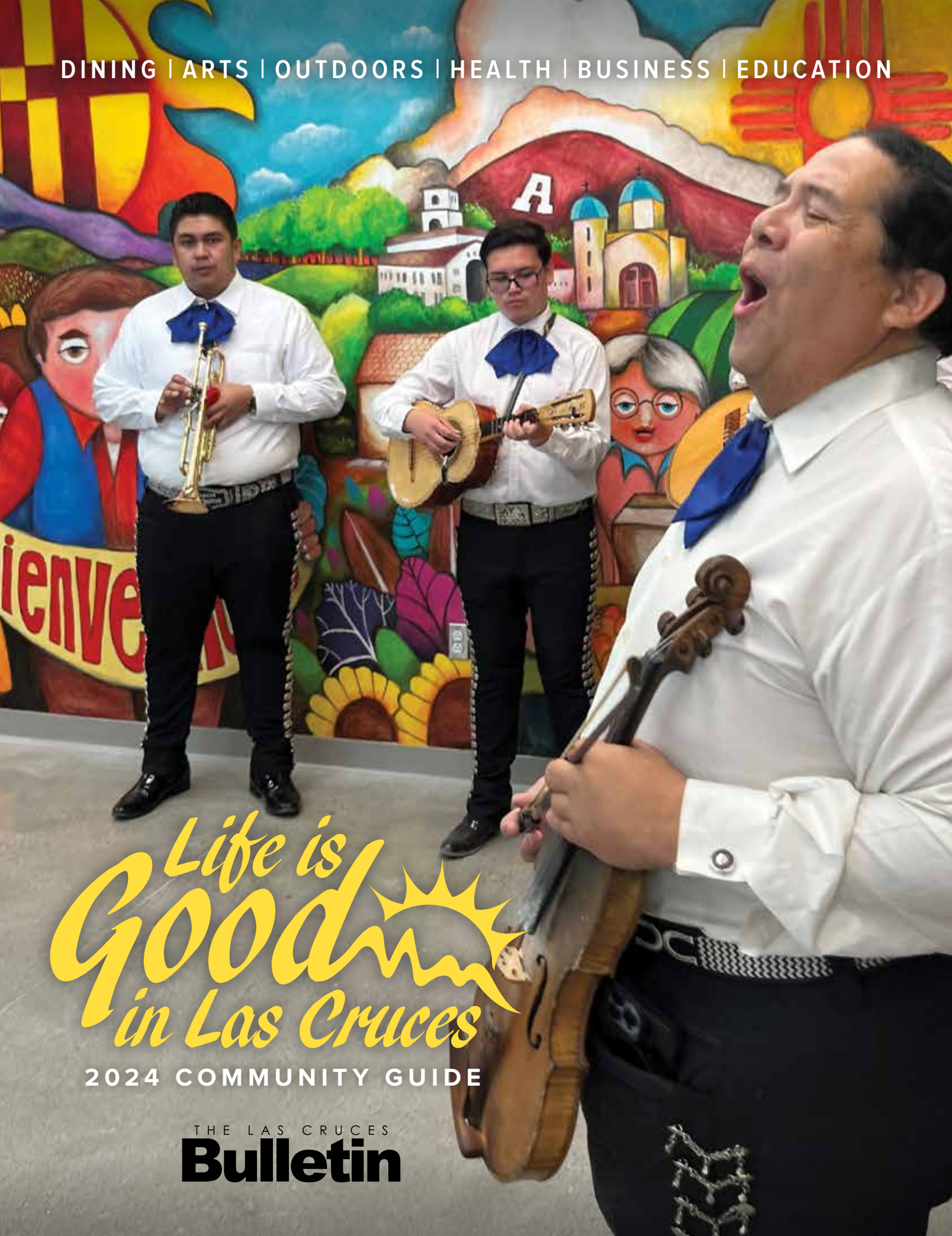


DINING | ARTS | OUTDOORS | HEALTH | BUSINESS | EDUCATION



*Life is
Good
in Las Cruces*

2024 COMMUNITY GUIDE

THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

HOPE to DREAM



ASHLEY

3299 DEL REY BLVD.
Las Cruces, NM

575.523.3933



Children's beds flooded the parking lot of Ashley Homestore Sunday, Oct. 22, as part of the Hope to Dream project, which provided 211 beds for children aged 12 and under in need. Ashley worked with the Las Cruces Public Schools to identify children in need.

Children's beds flooded the parking lot of Ashley Home store Sunday, Oct. 22, as part of the Hope to Dream project, which provided 211 beds for children ages 12 and under in need.

Wanda Bowman and her team worked with Las Cruces Public Schools to identify children in need. Funding for the beds came mostly from Bowman and Ashley Home store, along with some friends who wanted to pitch in for the project.

"What we need to do for our community is to take care of each other,"

Bowman said. "That's what Las Cruces does. Churches, and other merchants and organizations do a good job for our community, and this is something we could do. Every child should have a nice bed and a good meal at night. In a country as wealthy as this is, no one should go to sleep at night cold, hungry, or without a bed."



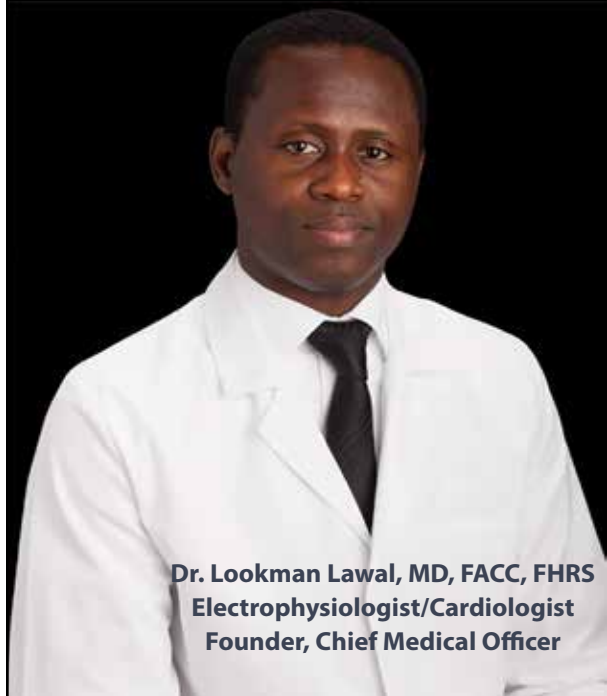
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Electrophysiologist/Cardiologist
Founder, Chief Medical Officer



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(575) 496-5725



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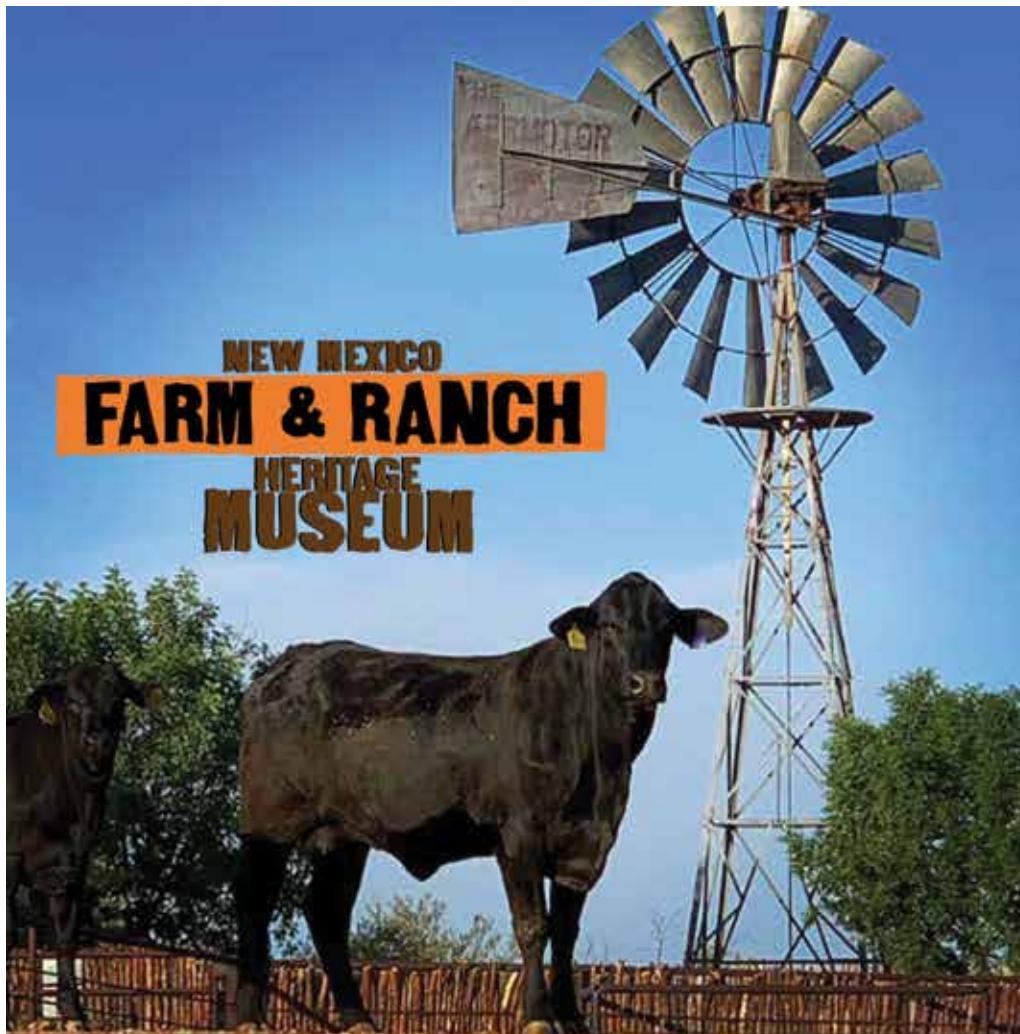
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www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org



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The Rise of the
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in New Mexico



The Dairy Spot:
Discovery Center



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To: Picacho Mountain

To: Picacho Hills Neighborhood

To: Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

To: Spaceport America

To: White Sands National Monument

To: El Paso, TX & Juarez, MX

SAN YSIDRO

MESILLA

OUTFALL CHANNEL TRAIL

TRINITY TRAIL



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To Recycled Road Runner

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EXIT 142

Las Cruces Convention Center

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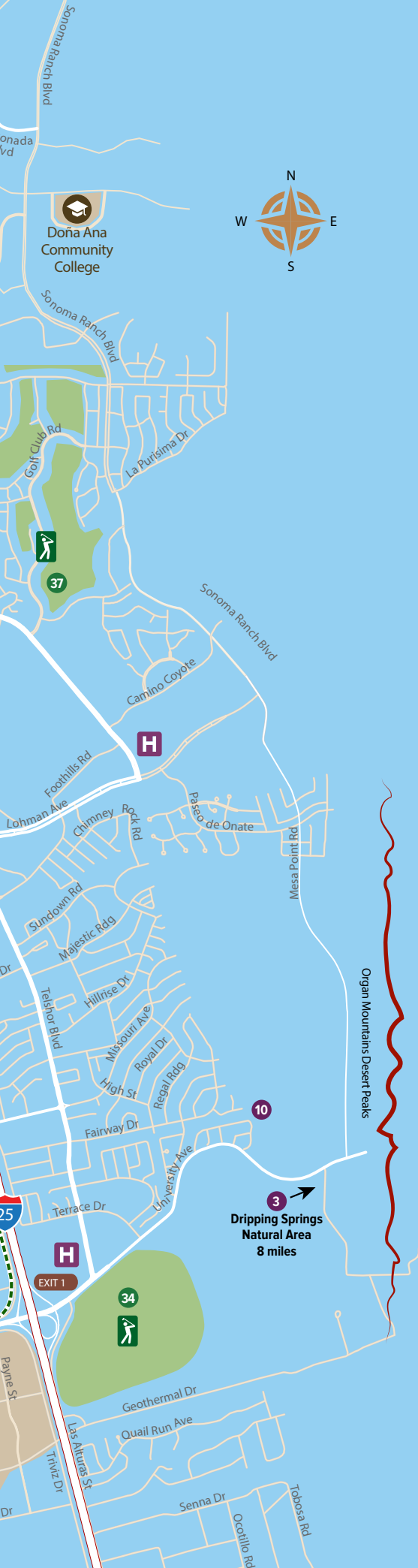
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EXIT 1

H

Life is Good in Las Cruces



ATTRACTIONS

1. Branigan Cultural Center, Las Cruces Museum of Art, Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science
2. Chile Pepper Institute at NMSU
3. Dripping Springs Natural Area
4. Farmers & Crafts Market
5. Fort Selden State Monument & Leasburg Dam State Park
6. Las Cruces Railroad Museum
7. Mesilla Plaza
8. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park
9. Mesilla Valley Mall
10. New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum
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36. Red Hawk Golf Course
37. Sonoma Ranch Golf Course

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38. East Mesa Bataan Memorial Pool
39. Las Cruces Natatorium
40. Laabs Pool
41. Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center





WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to Las Cruces!

As a Las Cruces native, I am truly excited, honored, and humbled to begin serving as your mayor. I am committed to enhancing public safety by collaborating with law enforcement, first responders, and residents to make Las Cruces a safer place to live and work. I recognize the importance of economic development and will work to support local businesses, attract new investments, and create a thriving environment for entrepreneurs. Also, I want to implement policies that provide activities and programs for families and provide support systems to ensure a better quality of life for all residents. My vision for Las Cruces is one of unity, progress, and community-driven transformation. I am happy to tell you that Life is Good in Las Cruces!

Eric Enriquez

ERIC ENRIQUEZ

Mayor, City of Las Cruces

THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

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ABOUT THE COVER

At Casa de Peregrinos' new building opening in August 2023, mariachis serenaded guests in front of the George W. Miller Community Wall, a mural by artist Francisco Romero honoring longtime CdP board member and advocate George W. Miller.

PHOTO BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Southwest New Mexico Legislative Guide 2024

There will be a primary focus on state budgets when the New Mexico Legislature convenes in January 2024 for a 30-day session.

You can read all about your legislators, the outlook for the next year and a great deal more in the Las Cruces Bulletin's 2024 Southwest New Mexico Legislative Guide.

The guide includes contact information on all 70 New Mexico House members and all 42 state senators, with biographies of the senators and representatives who represent the nine counties of southwest New Mexico: Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra and Socorro.

You can also learn about the state's cabinet members and other officials.

The guide will update you on any legislative changes since 2023.

And, the guide will provide information on changes to the secretaries of the more than 30 departments of state government.

The Legislative Guide is published in December and available in January.

The 'REAL' New Mexico

Visit Las Cruces, our convention & visitors bureau, last year envisioned a new tagline to promote Las Cruces: "The REAL New Mexico."

One of the things I love about New Mexico is its diversity. The terrain varies wildly if you were to fly like the raven from Hobbs in the southeast to Farmington in the northwest; likewise, if you skipped like the roadrunner from Clayton in the northeast to Lordsburg in the southwest. There is great diversity in the altitude, the climate, the cuisine, the culture, and, of course, the people.

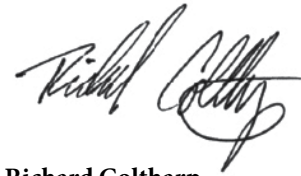
With the tagline, Visit Las Cruces isn't trying to downplay the rest of the Land of Enchantment. They are, however, trying to give voice to our part of the state. A voice often unheard.

In some ways, Las Cruces enjoys its role as the undiscovered "hidden gem." There are many Las Crucesans, however, who are thrilled with the discovery. They stopped here on the way somewhere else, or read a brochure that brought them here and their first response was, "Wow!" And, for many, the second response was, "We're moving here!"

The Organ Mountains, the White

Sands, the green chile and the multi-colored skies attract them. The lower cost of living, the quality of life and the wonderful people keep them here.

Like every community in America, Las Cruces has its issues. But by and large, as it was and ever shall be, Life is Good in Las Cruces.



Richard Coltharp
Editor & Publisher, Las Cruces Bulletin

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Volunteer with a service club to help

EDITOR'S NOTE: MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS FOR THESE GROUPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

When people talk about why Life is Good in Las Cruces, they invariably mention the people. And one of the best ways people in the Mesilla Valley get to know others is through the fellowship and work of service clubs. If you'd like to get involved, here's a partial listing of the many groups and organizations in our area.

GFWC Progress Club meets at 11 a.m. the second Friday of the month September-May, WIA building, 340 N. Raymond St. Its book club meets at 11:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Hacienda de Mesilla, 1891 Avenida de Mesilla. Club socials are 5:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month at a local restaurant. Membership is open to all women. Dues are \$40 a year. Contact Belen Valenzuela at 575-496-4292 and belen8@yahoo.com. Visit www.facebook.com/ProgressClubofLasCruces.

Rio Grande Rotary Club meets at noon Tuesdays, Fiesta Room at Andele Restaurant, 1950 Calle del Norte in Mesilla. Contact Matt Holt at matt@legalmindsnm.com and Doug Boberg at drboberg@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064411915424.

Rotary Club of Las Cruces meets at noon Wednesdays, La Posta de Mesilla, 2410 Calle de San Albino in Mesilla. Contact the club at rotarylcnm@gmail.com. Visit www.lascrucesrotaryclub.org and portal.clubrunner.ca/8183.

Las Cruces Optimist Club meets 6:30-7:30 a.m. every

Thursday, IHOP, 2900 N. Telshor Blvd. Contact Len Hampton at mixedcompany2@hotmail.com. Visit www.lascrucesoptimistclub.org and Optimist Club of Las Cruces on Facebook.

Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces meets at noon the first and third Wednesdays, Kiva room at Good Samaritan Village, 3025 Terrace Drive. Contact long-time club member and past president Jim Pudlewski at jimpudd1005@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/lascruceskiwanis.

Sunrise Lions Club meets at 7 a.m. Thursdays, Best Western Mission Inn, 1765 South Main St. Call 575-650-6299. Email lcsunriselions@gmail.com. Visit lascruceslionsclub.org and www.facebook.com/lascruceslionsclub.

Las Cruces De Noche Lions Club meets at 5:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month, Lions Club Community Center, 510 W. Amador Ave. Contact Anna Marvel at marvel5154@gmail.com. Visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/lascrucesdenoche/.

Las Cruces Host Lions Club meets at noon second and fourth Tuesdays, Amador Bar and Grill, 302 S. Main St. Contact Patricia Kirkpatrick at pattyk3252@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/lascruceslionsclub/?locale=bg_BG.

Los Leones de Mesilla meets at 6:30 p.m. first and third Tuesday of the month, La Posta de Mesilla, 2410 Calle de San Albino. Contact Susan Brusuelas at susie.brusuelas@yahoo.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Rotary donates dictionaries to third graders

The Rio Grande Rotary Club of Las Cruces has a long tradition of distributing dictionaries to third-grade students in Las Cruces, Mesilla, Doña Ana and on White Sands Missile Range. Every third grader in Las Cruces Public Schools receives a current dictionary, often with addenda such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, maps of the world or other items of educational.

The dictionaries also contain a sticker with the Rotary Four-Way Test, which is the club's guiding principle for any action: "Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

"By providing dictionaries to LCPS third-grade students, Rotarians are demonstrating another example of how they live up to the Rotary Four-Way Test of the things we think, say and do," said long-time Rotary member Gene Gant, a former member of the LCPS Board of Education and the New Mexico Public Education Commission.

Rio Grande Rotary Club members believe the gift of a dictionary to each third grader is important because many families in Doña Ana County cannot afford to purchase books for their children. The dictionary may be the first book that many students own. They can use it at school and take it home for reference and to help with homework assignments and it can also be used by other family members.



The dictionary donations may also save classroom teachers from dipping into their own pockets to purchase educational materials.



Touring the area

VISIT LAS CRUCES

With its unique attractions, historical sites, rich culture, and more than 320 days of sunshine each year, it's no wonder Las Cruces has become one of the premier destinations in the southwestern United States. To learn about everything this city has to offer, stop by Visit Las Cruces at 336 S. Main St., open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For information on Visit Las Cruces services, go to VisitLasCruces.com, call 575-541-2444 or email visit@las-cruces.org.

Visitors Guide

Detailed information on area attractions, restaurants, hotels, shops and special events.

Promotional Material

Images, local attraction brochures, postcards, maps and posters and more.

Familiarization Tours/ Site Inspections

Experience year-round beautiful weather while visiting attractions, restaurants, shops and prospective hotels.

Local Liaison

Visit Las Cruces is a liaison to local attractions, private tours, restaurants, hotels and other visitor services.

Tour Itinerary Planning

The office can help plan a tour itinerary to get the most out of your visit to Las Cruces.

Visit Las Cruces Website

Stay up to date on all things Las Cruces with the Visit Las Cruces website. Plan your trip by viewing our schedule of local events and happenings at VisitLasCruces.com.

TOUR COMPANIES AND SPECIALTY TOURS

Adventure Travel

Full-service travel agency offering custom-tailored personally guided tours. 575-521-1400, adventuretravelnm.com.

Final Frontier Tours

Official tour operator for Spaceport America. 575-267-8888. spaceportamericatour.com.

Frontier Adventures

An assortment of horse-drawn vehicles provides you and your group with an exclusive day or evening adventure. 575-644-0716. wagonsforhire.com.

La Morena Walking Tours by Preciliana Sandoval

History, romance and ghost stories of Mesilla. 575-647-2639. facebook.com/LaMorenaWalkingTours.

NM Historic Sites

Explore history first-hand. 575-526-8911. nmhistoricsites.org.

Outdoor Adventure Bicycle Rental & Mountain Biking Information

1424 Missouri Avenue, 575-521-1922.

Southwest Expeditions

Custom tours for four to 30 guests. Transportation is included. 877-808-6877. swexpeditions.com.

VIP Southwest Services – Transportation Services and Specialty Tours

575-639-1515. vipswservices.com.

TRAIN

Amtrak-El Paso, Deming

915-545-2247 or 800-872-7245.

RV DUMP STATIONS

Leasburg Dam

Interstate 25, Exit 19, then take NM 157 to park entrance, 15 miles north of Las Cruces in Radium Springs, N.M.

Travel Centers of America

TA Las Cruces, NM #014, Interstate 10 at Exit 139, Hwy 292, 202 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, N.M. 575-527-7400.

KOA Las Cruces

From Interstate 10, Exit 135 onto U.S. 70E, 1 mile on right. From Interstate 25, Exit 6 onto Main St., west on Picacho Ave. five miles on the left, 814 Winrich Rd., Las Cruces, N.M. 575-526-6555.

Siesta RV Park

Interstate 10 at Exit 140, 1551 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces, N.M. 575-523-6816.

El Paso West RV Park

Interstate 10 at Exit 162. 1415 Anthony Drive, Anthony, N.M. 575-882-7172.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

(a partial list)

Tesla Destination Charger –
100 N. Main St., Las Cruces

Tesla Destination Charger –
700 N. Main St., Las Cruces

Tesla Destination Charger –
166 S. Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces

Casa Hyundai
280 W. Boutz Road, Las Cruces

ChargePoint Charging Station –
101 E. Organ Ave., Las Cruces

ChargePoint Charging Station –
2651 E. Northrise Dr., Las Cruces

ChargePoint Charging Station –
680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces

ChargePoint Charging Station –
1501 E. Hadley Ave., Las Cruces

ChargePoint Charging Station –
411 N. Main St., Las Cruces

Green Office Building
166 Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces

Sisbarro Buick GMC
1775 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces
Staybridge Suites
2651 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Anthony Lions Club meets at 5 p.m. first and third Mondays, Mona's Kitchen, 117 N. First St. in Anthony, Texas. Contact Hector Giron at hectorgiron8@gmail.com.

La Mesa Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays, Chope's Bar and Café, 16145 New Mexico Highway 28 in La Mesa. Contact Bryson McCool at

brymccool@gmail.com. The club serves La Mesa, Vado, Mesquite, San Miguel and Berino.

Las Cruces Sertoma Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays, Amador Bar and Grill, 302 S. Main St. Contact Charles Wagner at cwagner@cybermesa.com. The club, formed in January 1964, supports people with speech and/or hearing disabilities and other charitable causes.



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Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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City Accolades

Las Cruces and the Mesilla Valley have been recognized for the various amenities they provide to the community throughout the years.

2023

- Happiest Cities in America, No. 103; Happiest Cities in New Mexico No. 1, *WalletHub.com*
- 9 Most Underrated Cities in New Mexico, *WorldAtlas.com*
- Top 10 Best Places to Live and Work as a MovieMaker, *MovieMaker.com*
- 11 Best Ale Trails in the United States, *Seeker*
- Top 15 Best Cities in the Country to Raise a Family, *Scholaroo.com*

2022

- Ranked as the No. 7 best-run city in the U.S., and best-run city in New Mexico, *WalletHub.com*

2021

- Ranked as the No. 9 best-run city in the U.S., and best-run city in New Mexico, *WalletHub.com*

2020

- The City of Las Cruces Community Development Department has earned two awards from The New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA).

Elevate Las Cruces, first place, long-range planning; Active Transportation Plan, first place for excellence in public engagement, *New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NM)*

- Ranked as the No. 4 best-run city in the U.S., and best-run city in New Mexico, *WalletHub.com*

2019

- Planning Award for Innovation for Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District, (APA-NM)
- Heritage Organization Award, *New Mexico's Cultural Properties Review Committee*
- Creative Tourism Award "Best Strategy for Creative Tourism Development," *Creative Tourism Network-Barcelona*
- Las Cruces named one of 50 Nicest Places in America, *Reader's Digest*

2018

- One of Best Small Cities in the U.S. to live and visit, *AFAR magazine 2018*
- Safest Driving City in NM, *Insurify 2018*
- Season of Giving Award, *Insurify 2018*
- #15 in nation best Place to Retire, *TopRetirements.com*

CENSUS QUICK FACTS:

Las Cruces

Population, 2022 estimate: **113,888**

Land area in square miles: **76.93**

Residents under 18 (2022): **23.7 percent**

Residents 65 and older (2022): **15.1 percent**

Women (2021): **50.6 percent**

Veterans (2021): **8,209**

College graduates (2017-2021): **36.4 percent**

Median age (2021): **32.5**

Homeownership rate (2021): **56.2 percent**

Median value of owner-occupied homes (2021): **\$167,800**

Source: worldpopulationreview.com and U.S. Census Bureau

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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

**Las Cruces' Weekly
Community Newspaper**
Since 1969

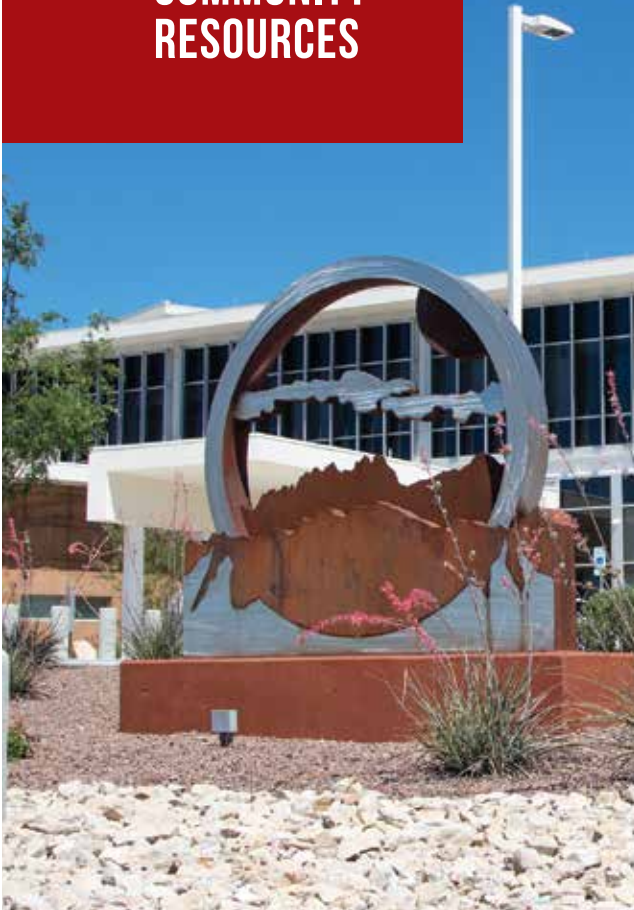
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5,000
Homes

5,000
Single Copies
200+ locations

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www.lascrucesbulletin.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



PUBLIC SAFETY

Las Cruces Police Department

Interim Chief: Jeremy Story
217 E. Picacho Ave.
575-526-0795
lascruces.gov/2589/Police

Las Cruces Fire Department

Fire Chief: Jason Smith
201 E. Picacho Ave.
575-528-3473
lascruces.gov/154/Fire

Las Cruces Fire Prevention Bureau

575-528-4150
lascruces.gov/164/Fire-Prevention

Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff: Kim Stewart
845 N. Motel Blvd.
575-525-1911
donaanacounty.org/departments/elected-officials/sheriff

New Mexico State Police District 4

4055 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
575-382-2500
dps.nm.gov/nmsp/uniform-bureau-and-district-offices

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

(U.S. Border Patrol)
3120 N. Main St.
575-528-6600
cbp.gov

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-8477

Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority

911 Lake Tahoe Court
911 for emergencies,
575-526-0795, non-emergencies
mvrda.org

Las Cruces Codes Enforcement and Animal Control

550 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
575-528-4100

Las Cruces Graffiti Hotline

575-528-4723

Las Cruces Public Works

575-528-3333

BANKS & CREDIT UNIONS

BANKS

BANK 34

220 N. Telshor Blvd.
575-521-8100

Bank of America

691 S. Telshor Blvd.
575-647-3700

Bank of the Southwest

1043 N. Main St.
575-527-5498

BMO Bank

201 N. Church St.
575-527-6200
795 S. Telshor Blvd. (ATM)
575-532-1889

PNC Bank

3800 E. Lohman Ave.
575-521-0000
225 E. Idaho Ave.
575-523-5920

Century Bank

141 S. Roadrunner Pkwy., Ste. 101
575-521-2400

Citizens Bank of Las Cruces

505 S. Main St.
575-647-4100
2841 N. Main St.
575-647-4136
3991 E. Lohman Ave.
575-528-6300
3030 W. Picacho Ave.
575-528-6363
4785 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
575-647-4180
3065 E. University Ave.
575-647-6700

First American Bank

2145 E. Lohman Ave.
575-525-4230
1553 Avenida de Mesilla
575-524-8000
223 E. Idaho Ave.
575-647-1804

First Convenience Bank

Inside Walmart,
3331 Rinconada Blvd.
575-382-5771
800-903-7490

Sunflower Bank NA

421 N. Water St.
575-525-8907

Sunflower Bank NA

2535 S. Telshor Blvd.
575-525-8910

First New Mexico Bank

3000 E. Lohman Ave.
575-556-3000

First Savings Bank

2804 N. Telshor Blvd.
575-521-7931

OneMain Financial

400 N. Telshor Blvd.
575-522-0058

Pioneer Bank

3831 E. Lohman Ave.
575-532-7500
705 E. University Ave.
575-532-7545
2900 Roadrunner Pkwy.
575-532-0639

U.S. Bank

901 E. University Ave.
800-627-3999

U.S. Bank

277 E. Amador Ave., Ste. 100
575-647-7310
3790 E. Lohman Ave.
575-522-9660

Wells Fargo Bank

2505 El Paseo Road
575-541-9502
425 S. Telshor Blvd.
575-521-6800
2400 N. Main St.
575-523-3942

Western Heritage Bank

230 S. Alameda Blvd.
575-541-0058

WestStar Bank

555 S. Telshor Blvd.
575-323-6040

BANKS & CREDIT UNIONS

CREDIT UNIONS

FirstLight Federal Credit Union

300 Foster Road
575-526-4401

3791 E. Lohman Ave.
575-526-4401

3105 Del Rey Blvd.
575-526-4401

Nusenda Credit Union

1715 E University Ave.
575-523-7750

OneSource Federal Credit Union

1375 E. Boutz Road
575-523-5524

White Sands Federal Credit Union

2190 E. Lohman Ave.
575-647-4500

2755 N. Main St.
800-658-9933

POST OFFICES



Doña Ana

5480 Ledesma Drive
575-523-4301

Fairacres

3800 W. Picacho Ave.
575-524-2195

Las Cruces

201 E. Las Cruces Ave.
575-524-2903

Las Cruces

1180 Commerce Drive
575-521-4953

Mesilla

2253 Calle de Parian
575-524-1531

Mesilla Park

310 E. Union Ave.
575-523-7088

Organ

15770 Padre La Rue St.
575-382-5949

University Park

(NMSU Corbett Center)
1600 International Mall
575-646-2019

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- LOCAL DECISION MAKING

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DRIVING AROUND TOWN

If you are new to New Mexico, you are required to surrender your license from any other state and obtain a New Mexico driver's license once residency is established. Those applying for a first-time driver's license (which are compliant with REAL ID federal regulations), a license renewal or a license replacement are issued a temporary license while their regular license is being processed and mailed.



REAL ID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Documents needed to obtain a New Mexico driver's license:

- Proof of identification number (e.g., Social Security card)
- Proof of identification (e.g., passport, birth certificate)
- Two proofs of residency (e.g., rental agreement, mortgage statement, utility bill dated within 60 days)

Learn more about Real ID requirements at realid.mvd.newmexico.gov.

DRIVING AUTHORIZATION CARD

Documents needed for those who cannot provide proof of lawful residency status:

- One proof of identity and age
- Two proofs of New Mexico residency
- If you don't have a valid New Mexico driver's license, you must provide fingerprints.

Note: Documents not in English must be submitted with written translations of those documents in English. The translation must be certified by the translator as a full and complete translation of the document.

Fees:

- \$18 for a four-year license
- \$34 for an eight-year license
- \$15 for DWI records check on all drivers moving from another state.
- Drivers age 79 years and older must renew their licenses yearly but are not charged renewal fees.
- Any person 25 years of age and older who has ever been convicted of DWI and who is applying for his or her first New Mexico driver's license must also submit evidence of having successfully completed New Mexico's approved DWI prevention and education program, None for the Road, or another state's equivalent program.

REGISTERING YOUR VEHICLE

To obtain a New Mexico vehicle title, registration and license plate, the following is required:

For a new vehicle:

- The original manufacturer's certificate of origin

- Dealer's invoice (original or certified copy) odometer statement
- Proof of insurance, including an insurance card, copy of the policy and a letter from the company verifying coverage
- Proof of identity and two proofs of New Mexico residency
- Application for registration

For a used vehicle:

- Certificate of title
- Odometer statement
- Proof of insurance, including an insurance card, copy of the policy and a letter from the company verifying coverage
- Proof of identity and two proofs of New Mexico residency
- Application for registration
- Note for out-of-state vehicles, a VIN inspection is required

Fees:

- \$27 to \$62 for a one-year registration
- \$54 to \$124 for a two-year registration
- Truck registration ranges from \$38 to \$207 for one year and \$76 to \$414 for two years, depending on weight and model year.

CELL PHONE ORDINANCE

Use a hands-free method or device when talking or texting while driving, or risk getting a traffic ticket.

For more information about driver's licenses and vehicle registration, including accepted documents, visit mvd.newmexico.gov.

GETTING CONNECTED

GAS, WATER, WASTEWATER AND SOLID WASTE

City of Las Cruces City Hall (Utilities)
700 N. Main St.
575-528-3500
las-cruces.org

Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association
5535 Ledesma Drive
575-526-3491
After hours: 575-644-4027
dawater.org

Elephant Butte Irrigation District
530 S. Melendres St.
575-526-6671
ebid-nm.org

Moongate Water Co.
9301 Bataan Memorial West
575-382-7001
moongatewater.com

Zia Natural Gas
3700 W. Picacho Ave.
575-526-4427, zngc.com

ELECTRICITY
El Paso Electric
201 N. Water St.
575-526-5555
epelectric.com

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

DirecTV
855-802-3473
directv.com

Sky View Satellite Inc
2001 E Lohman Ave. Ste. 119
575-636-2313
skyviewsatelliteinc.com/locations/sky-view-satellite-inc/

Fastwave Biz
555 S. Miranda St.
575-521-3000
fastwave.biz

La Tierra Communications/ZiaNet
3530 Foothills Road, Ste. L
575-522-2681
575-353-1234
la-tierra.net
zianet.com

Qwest/CenturyLink
2001 E. Lohman Ave.
575-942-2915
centurylink.com

Xfinity (Comcast)
2750 Mall Drive,
Building 300, Unit 340
800-934-6489
my.xfinity.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

ROADRUNNER TRANSIT

RoadRunner Transit is the public transportation system for the City of Las Cruces, offering residents eight city routes. las-cruces.gov/1314/RoadRUNNER-Transit 575-541-2500

BUS SERVICE HOURS

- Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- No service on Sundays

For the holiday service schedule (service levels 1-4), visit las-cruces.gov/1314/RoadRUNNER-Transit.

Bus Tracker:

RoadRunner Transit Bus Tracker is an online service that provides real-time bus location at bustracker.las-cruces.gov



DIAL-A-RIDE

Dial-A-Ride is a paratransit service offered by the City of Las Cruces providing curb-to-curb, on-demand transportation services to those with disabilities. Dial-A-Ride vehicles are wheelchair-accessible and are operated by specially trained drivers. The fare is \$2 one way for qualified ADA individuals, and an application is required.

An origin-to-destination paratransit service is also available to seniors age 60 and older for \$2. For information or to request a ride, call 575-541-2777.

AGGIE TRANSIT

A free service for students of New Mexico State University, Aggie Transit offers an alternative mode of transportation to students that takes them within a 10-minute walk to anywhere on campus.

Two Aggie routes run 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year, and one route runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the summer session. For more information about the Aggie routes and latest COVID regulations, visit park.nmsu.edu/transit/, or call 575-646-4415.

Be water wise in Las Cruces

Drought concerns throughout the Southwest are now part of everyday reality. It is important to remember that individual decisions can make an impact on future livability for desert communities such as ours.

One way to be water conscious is by installing water-conserving fixtures and appliances, such as low-flow toilets and showerheads. Another method is to embrace water-conserving habits, such as taking shorter showers and only running full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth, and fix leaks as soon as you can.

You can also use native or drought-tolerant plants that do not require large amounts of water. The Water Conservation Demonstration Garden is at 680 N. Motel Blvd., and you can download the garden guide at las-cruces.gov/1916/Demonstration-Garden.

If you have a lawn, deep, infrequent watering will promote deep root growth. A drip-water system will supply water at the roots and watering your plants early in the morning or in the evening will help limit the water lost to evaporation. Installing a rainwater or gray water harvesting system will have a positive impact on both the environment and your water bill.

Lush and Lean workshops are free workshops sponsored by the Water Conservation Program of the City of Las Cruces. This annual spring workshop series educates attendees about water-wise irrigation, landscaping, gardening and more. According to the city's website, participants will learn to select trees, shrubs, flowering plants and cacti that are adapted to the hot, dry, southern New Mexico climate; install irrigation systems that provide the right



amount of water to each plant – not too much, not too little; harvest rainwater from the rooftop; and contour the land surface to direct water flows to plants rather than the sidewalks.

For information about conserving water in the desert, mandated water restrictions, educational resources for children, where to report water waste and information about the Lush and Lean workshop series, visit las-cruces.gov/1288/Lush-Lean-Workshops.

For more information visit las-cruces.gov/1285/Water-Conservation.

CODES AND ORDINANCES

The following is information about ordinances that may be common in day-to-day life in Las Cruces. For full details about City of Las Cruces codes and ordinances, visit las-cruces.gov/1298/Municipal-Codes.

NUISANCES

Weeds, trash, tall grass, noxious odors, unauthorized noise/vibration, stagnant water, unreasonable amounts of smoke/fumes/cinders, inoperative/dismantled cars and junk are considered nuisances and are prohibited in the city.

Weeds and tall grass should be pulled or cut down to ground level and removed or bagged for the Green Grappler to pick up. Weeds and vegetation may not interfere with walkways and sidewalks.

SIGNS

Signs, including those for yard sales or missing animals, must be placed on private property with the property owner's permission. Signs aren't permitted in or on road medians, shoulders, sidewalks or

other city rights-of-way, light poles, stop signs or other public property. Signs must be removed immediately when an event (e.g., a yard sale) is over.

WATERING

Effective year-round:

- No watering on Mondays
- Even numbered addresses water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- Odd numbered addresses water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
- Summer rules effective April 1-Sept. 30: No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For information, call 575-528-3549.

NOISE

It is unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made any loud or unusual noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others. Violations of this ordinance are evidenced by any noises heard or vibrations felt at a distance of 30 or more feet from the source.



For information, call
Codes Enforcement
at 575-528-4100.

After hours, call Mesilla Valley
Regional Dispatch Authority
at 575-526-0795.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE SERVICES

RECYCLING

South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) oversees the collection contract for curbside recycling within Las Cruces city limits.

Curbside residential recycling services are provided via a collection hauler, Friedman Recycling. Residents within city limits can utilize a 96-gallon cart for bi-weekly recycling service. Your blue recycling bin will be emptied every other week on your designated trash day.

Containers must be rolled out to a flat surface on the street, against the curb (not on the sidewalk) with the handles facing away from the street. Items in the blue recycling bin should not be bagged. The bins should be out for service by 6 a.m. and removed by 7 p.m., placed at least five feet away from other objects.

For a full list of what is excepted in the blue bin and to check your service day, contact SCSWA at 575-528-3800 or visit scswa.net/curbsiderecycling.

Recycling bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans have been placed along the Triviz Multipurpose Path and Outfall Channel, Apodaca Park, Young Park and Veterans Memorial Park through a grant. These new bins will drastically improve how the city manages recyclable materials in public spaces. For information, contact Keep Las Cruces Beautiful at 575-528-4506.

GLASS RECYCLING

The city accepts glass (minus corks and bottle tops) for recycling at its two recycling drop-off locations: SCSWA, 2865 W. Amador Ave., and Sonoma Ranch Landfill, 555 Sonoma Ranch Blvd. The glass, which must be sorted by color, is ground up into different textures of cullet, and can be acquired for free for use in yards and decorative projects. The textures range from fine sand to pebble sized. The courser cullet is popular for landscaping, while the finer grounds can be used in potting soils.

SOLID WASTE PICKUP

Trash (brown bin) pickup is weekly. Containers must be rolled to a flat surface in the street, against the curb (not on the sidewalk) with the handles facing away from the street. All trash in the brown bin must be bagged or tied without overfilling the bin, and the lids must be closed so trash doesn't fly away. Bins should be on the street by 6 a.m. and removed by 7 p.m., placed at least five feet away from other objects, including other trash or recycling bins.

GRAPPLER SERVICE

Large/bulky items that won't fit into your brown bin are picked up once a month on the same day as your trash service



(the grapppler will not pick up construction material). To find your grapppler pickup day, visit las-cruces.gov/1377/Grapppler-Services. All items for the grapppler must be placed out by the curbside the night before or by 6 a.m. and five feet away from other objects such as bins, fences, walls, mailboxes and vehicles and away from overhead wires.

GREEN GRAPPLER

On the same day as regular grapppler service, the Green Grapppler will pick up residential yard waste (e.g., leaves bagged in clear bags, stacked tree limbs shorter than five feet) that will be turned into mulch available for residential use, rather than going to the landfill. For information, visit www.las-cruces.gov/1377/Grapppler-Services.



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ROBERTO V. ESTRADA PAVILION



City immortalizes enchilada king

Roberto Estrada was the creator and founder of The Whole Enchilada Fiesta, which became a major community event in Las Cruces for more than three decades. The highlight of the annual event was Estrada cooking a huge, flat red enchilada from 1980 to 2014.

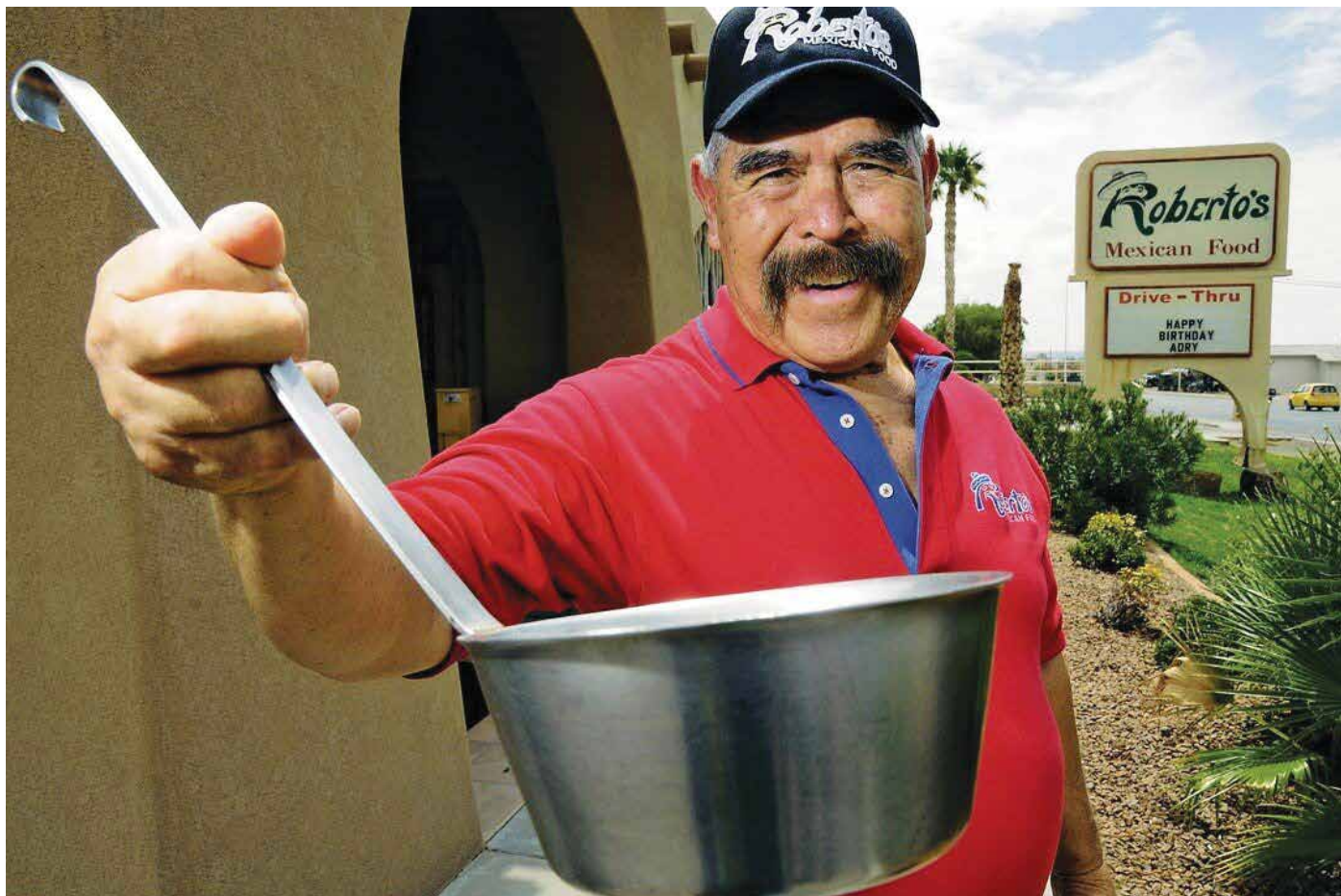
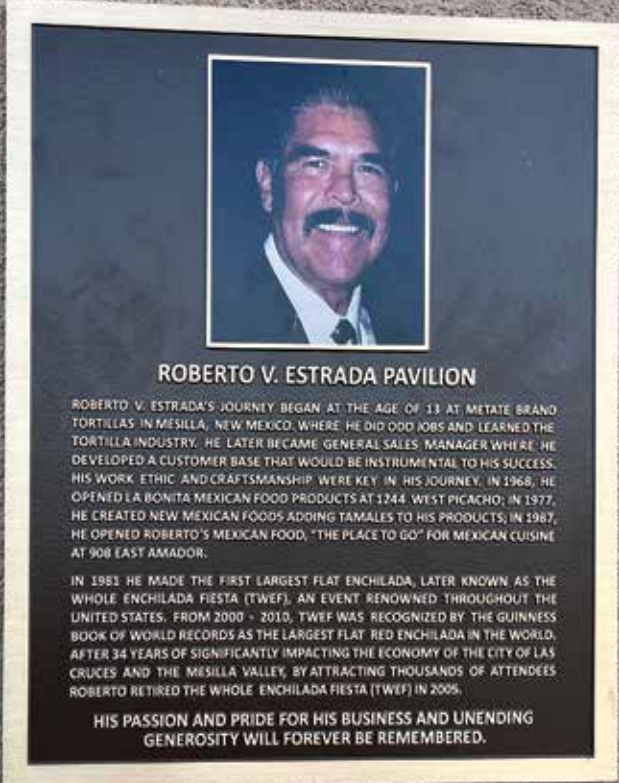
The enchilada was ultimately entered into the Guinness Book of World Records, as the world's largest flat enchilada, from 2000 to 2010. The late Estrada made the enchilada with ingredients he unselfishly donated and with equipment he personally crafted.

And in late 2023, the City of Las Cruces publicly recognized Estrada by naming the Plaza de Las Cruces stage for him.

Estrada's contributions to the community were too many to count, and his impact on southern New Mexico and its residents continues to live on. Downtown Las Cruces would not be what it is today were it not for citizens like Estrada and his efforts to continually build community pride in the hearts of everyone he touched.

Estrada often donated food from his restaurant to Las Cruces residents and organizations in need. He also is credited for helping establish the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Estrada was born April 26, 1937, in Mesilla. He passed away in Las Cruces Aug. 18, 2021.

ROBERTO V. ESTRADA PAVILION

ROBERTO V. ESTRADA'S JOURNEY BEGAN AT THE AGE OF 13 AT METATE BRANCO TORTILLAS IN MESILLA, NEW MEXICO, WHERE HE DID ODD JOBS AND LEARNED THE TORTILLA INDUSTRY. HE LATER BECAME GENERAL SALES MANAGER WHERE HE DEVELOPED A CUSTOMER BASE THAT WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL TO HIS SUCCESS. HIS WORK ETHIC AND CRAFTSMANSHIP WERE KEY IN HIS JOURNEY. IN 1968, HE OPENED LA BONITA MEXICAN FOOD PRODUCTS AT 1244 WEST PICACHO; IN 1977, HE CREATED NEW MEXICAN FOODS ADDING TAMALES TO HIS PRODUCTS; IN 1987, HE OPENED ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, "THE PLACETO GO" FOR MEXICAN CUISINE AT 908 EAST AMADOR.

IN 1983 HE MADE THE FIRST LARGEST FLAT ENCHILADA, LATER KNOWN AS THE WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA (TWEF), AN EVENT RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. FROM 2000 - 2010, TWEF WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS AS THE LARGEST FLAT RED ENCHILADA IN THE WORLD. AFTER 34 YEARS OF SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTING THE ECONOMY OF THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES AND THE MESILLA VALLEY, BY ATTRACTING THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES ROBERTO RETIRED THE WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA (TWEF) IN 2009.

HIS PASSION AND PRIDE FOR HIS BUSINESS AND UNENDING GENEROSITY WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED.



Exterior view rendering of restored Amador Hotel.

Restoration of historic hotel closer to reality

BY MIKE COOK

Thanks to \$5 million in funding over the next five years from the City of Las Cruces, the historic Amador Hotel may be fully restored and reopened by 2028.

“This funding is a milestone for the restoration of this incredible building and is a signal that this city believes in historic preservation,” said Heather Pollard, who has been president of the Amador Hotel Foundation since 2008.

The money comes from the city’s downtown Tax Increment and Development District (TIDD), which the city created in 2009 to generate revenue for public improvement projects in the downtown area. TIDD is funded through existing gross receipts tax revenues, with additional funding from the New Mexico Legislature. Funds were awarded at the city’s April 24 TIDD meeting.



Restored west wall of the Amador Hotel.

The Amador restoration project also received \$1.5 million in TIDD funding in 2021 and \$500,000 in 2022.

Regarding the building itself, concrete stucco on the west façade has been removed, the original adobes have been repaired, the wall has been covered in lime plaster, the upper windows have been milled (shaped), painted and installed, landscaping is complete.

In accordance with decisions made by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NMHPD), the restoration is following a mid-1930s photo of the Amador. Once enlarged, the rough texture of the lime plaster is visible and the territorial-style portico.

The Period of Significance has been determined to be 1885-1969, which is the entire time the building functioned as the Amador Hotel and was operated by the Amador family and their descendants.

The historic Amador Hotel can now be nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic preservation division now considers the historic Amador Hotel to be a most significant structure in New Mexico and understands that it is unique. It is the only two-story adobe hotel in not only New Mexico but the country.

Once the Amador Hotel is on the National Register, the Amador Foundation and the city will have many more opportunities for fundraising. Many federal and state grants and private foundation grants require a building to be on the National Register to be eligible for grant funds.



This is what the Amador Hotel looked like in the 1950s.



The Amador Hotel before renovations began.



Table and chairs from the 1940s.

Amador history

Martín Amador, a successful freighter, merchant and community leader, remodeled his single-story structure in 1883 to serve as the first temporary Doña Ana County courthouse, jail and post office. He again remodeled in 1885 when he made it the two-story building that became the hotel. The earliest known photo of the hotel was taken in 1888.

Amador was born in 1836 in Paso del Norte (Cuidad Juarez), Mexico. He came to the village of Doña Ana with his widowed mother in 1848. The Amadors became United States citizens and, in the 1850s, moved a few miles south, becoming one of the first families to settle in Las Cruces.

Amador married Refugio Ruiz in 1861, and the couple raised seven children to adulthood.

Amador served as a deputy marshal and county treasurer. He invented a plow and a unique type of window that opened both up and down on his two-story house. Amador also helped start a Las Cruces police force and the local school system.

The Amador collection in the New Mexico State University Archives and Special Collections includes personal letters exchanged across the U.S.-Mexico border, with information about weddings, baptisms, funerals (and social events in southern New Mexico and northern Mexico).

Martín Amador died Feb. 7, 1903, in Las Cruces and is buried in San Jose Cemetery along with many members of his family.



Earliest known photo of the Amador Hotel.



Mid-1930s photo of the Amador Hotel guiding restoration.



Downtown Blues Coffee

Sit back, chat, make music

BY SYLVIA QUINTANILLA

There's a buzz in downtown Las Cruces on the weekends. You can feel it walking down the street. You can see it passing the boutiques and restaurants. Downtown Blues Coffee, located 130 S. Main St., oozes charisma from their storefront. Their blend of music and coffee is front and center, but customers are in for a treat once they step inside.

Downtown Blues Coffee is a shop with a lot of heart and soul. Walking in, your senses hit a bit of an overload with live music, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and nostalgia all around. There are vinyl records on one side, VHS tapes and cassettes on the other. Adorning the walls are the legendary faces of Janis Joplin, Selena Quintanilla, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters and Billie Holiday. The artist eye may be drawn to the photo of Frida Kahlo or the stool with a record on the seat.



"Downtown Blues Coffee started with a pipe dream," Frankie Jaurequi, owner, said. "I have a massive love for blues music and I wanted to create a venue where everyone could come and listen to blues and music in general."

On Fridays, they host their Acoustic

Fridays where musicians can come together and play music. Every other Saturday, the shop is host to Salons where people can sign up to perform music, poetry, short stories and more. In the past, the Salons even hosted jugglers and drag queens.

“We celebrate everybody and everything. We are that, come as you are type of shop,” Jaurequi said. “We love people and want everyone to get along together and have a good time and celebrate life.”

Downtown Blues Coffee is known for being a music venue. Musicians from around the country have booked gigs there. A special center piece in the shop is a white vintage door. Jaurequi said that the door was donated to him from a friend. It was one of the original doors used in San Miguel, New Mexico. There are a couple others that were repurposed into tables as well. He said that musicians that play Downtown Blues sign the door. A right of passage he is proud of.

Jaurequi spoke about how music is on another level for him. A native of Silver City, he moved with his brothers, sister and parents to Las Cruces in 1982. After high school, he moved to Miami, Florida, for music production. He moved back to Las Cruces, began a family and noted it’s been a good life.

In 2019, Jaurequi opened Downtown Blues Coffee. From the beginning, he wanted to sell vinyl records. He mentioned originally that he envisioned the records on a smaller scale with just 100 available. Through a mutual friend, he said was introduced to Fred Nevarez to supply him with vinyl records.

“And man did he supply me,” he said. “This guy had 80,000 records plus. He was just the biggest music fan and lover I ever met in my life.”

Once Nevarez came in, the interest in



records increased due to Nevarez having multiple genres at his disposal. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevarez passed away.

“I love exposing people to blues music,” Jaurequi said. “It’s one of my passions. If they have never heard it, it makes me feel good to say, ‘Hey, you should check these guys out.’ If they are young kids, even better. I can show them that the 12 Bars Blues really matters and its in all modern music. It can never be forgotten.”

According to Jaurequi, he credits the Farmers and Craft Market of Las Cruces for bringing in a lot of exposure to his shop during the market.

For Downtown Blues Coffee, one of their goals is to be the shop people go into for their morning cup of coffee. They carry two brands of coffee, Milagro Coffee y Espresso created a special blend – Downtown Blues Blend. And the other

is Café Du Monde, directly from New Orleans.

“It’s been a bumpy road,” he said. “But we are so happy that the community loves the shop. Not only the community, but literally the country and all over the world.”

Close to the register, there is a large world map on the wall. Jaurequi described that guests from all over the states and six continents have come in and pinned where they are visiting Las Cruces from.

“It’s incredible. You get (people from) Europe, Australia. They might not necessarily be here for Downtown Blues Coffee, but they come to Las Cruces and it’s great,” he said.

For more information on Downtown Blues Coffee, visit www.downtownbluescoffee.com or follow them on social media on Facebook and Instagram.





Honoring loved ones at Dia de los Muertos

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Events somber and celebratory annually fill the historic Mesilla Plaza for Dia de los Muertos, the celebration of departed friends and family.

On a weekend in late October or early November, depending how the calendar falls, many locals will create ofrendas, the traditional altars in memory of loved ones that feature elements unique to that person's life, and display them on the plaza. The ofrendas vary greatly in size and scope, but all are created with love.

Dia de los Muertos is a growing phenomenon across America, and even inspired a Disney movie, 2017's "Coco."

But it's been going on in Mesilla since 1997, founded by a group called Calavera Coalition.

The event seems to grow every year, and includes live music, food and vendors.

The nonprofit organization has continued to host the event, and also present an All Souls Day evening procession to the Mesilla Cemetery. The procession has added Aztec dancers, to reflect the culture credited with helping start Dia de los Muertos.

Dia de los Muertos ("The Day of the Dead") is traditionally celebrated Oct. 31 (All Hallows' Eve), Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day) and Nov. 2 (All Souls' Day).



MESILLA EATERIES AND BARS

Ándele Restaurant

1950 Calle del Norte
575-526-9631
andelerestaurante.com

Ándele's Dog House

1983 Calle del Norte
575-526-1271
andelerestaurante.com

The Bean at Josefina's

2261 Calle de Guadalupe
575-525-2620
josefinasgate.com

The Bean Café of Mesilla

2011 Avenida de Mesilla
575-527-5155

Café de Mesilla

2190 Avenida de Mesilla
575-524-0000
cafedemesilla.com

Café Don Felix De Mesilla

2290 Calle de Parian
575-222-0876
donfelixcafe.com

Chala's Wood Fire Grill

2790 Avenida de Mesilla
575-652-4143

D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro

1720 Avenida de Mesilla
575-524-2408
lescombeswinery.com/
las-cruces/

Double Eagle Restaurant/ Peppers Café

2355 Calle de Guadalupe
575-523-6700
doubleeagleonline.com

El Patio Bar and Cantina

2171 Calle de Parian
575-526-9943

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NM Vintage Wines

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nmvintagewines.com

Paisano Café

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575-525-2910

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575-323-3548
saludmesilla.com

Spotted Dog Brewery

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575-650-2729
spotteddogbrewery.com

Thai Delight

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575-525-1900

Wild West Express-O

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575-523-5562

MESILLA LANDMARKS

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2070 Calle de Santiago
575-526-9349
sanalbino.org

Billy the Kid Gift Shop/ County Courthouse and Jail

2385 Calle de Guadalupe
575-523-5562

Double Eagle Restaurant

2355 Calle de Guadalupe
575-523-6700
doubleeagleonline.com

El Patio Bar and Cantina

2171 Calle de Parian
575-526-9943

Fountain Theatre

2469 Calle de Guadalupe
575-524-8287
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Gadsden Museum

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575-526-6293
gadsdenmuseummesilla.com

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Mesilla Plaza

mesilla.com

Mesilla School House/ Mesilla Community Center

Henry C. Trost, architect
2251 Calle de Santiago
henrytrost.org/buildings/
mesilla-park-school-house

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This advertisement features a central circular logo with a tree and the text 'WORTHINGTON FARMS' and 'PECANS... WHO KNEW?'. Below the logo is the website and phone number. The background is a lush green field with trees. Several circular inset images showcase various pecan products: a bowl of pecan pie, a bowl of pecan brittle, a tray of pecan candies, a tray of pecan butter, and a tray of pecan jam. A large circular inset shows a bowl of pecan pie.

New Mesilla mayor:

‘Now the work really starts’

BY MIKE COOK

Russell Hernandez filed his candidacy for mayor of Mesilla early on the morning of filing day, Aug. 29, 2023, and checked the New Mexico secretary of state’s website throughout the day to see if any other candidates had filed.

When the 5 p.m. deadline passed without anyone else running for Mesilla’s top job, “It was like ‘wow,’” Hernandez said. “This is going to be amazing. Now the work really starts.”

Being business- and community-focused “has really helped us,” said Hernandez, 42, co-owner of Salud! de Mesilla, a fourth-generation Mesillero and a longtime community activist.

Hernandez succeeds Nora Barraza, who served years as mayor. “Nora’s been awesome and amazing,” Hernandez said.

Maintaining Mesilla’s “historic integrity” will be a top priority for his administration, Hernandez said.

“I grew up in this town and I love this town.”

Mesilla “is such a unique community,” Hernandez said. The gross receipts tax generated by its locally owned businesses – there are about 150 in Mesilla – “carries the town,” he said. Focusing on small business and tourism, including



Russell Hernandez

Mesilla’s fiestas and special events, shopping, dining and live entertainment, will provide “a lot of opportunity for marketing and promotion,” he said.

Hernandez is chair and past president of the New Mexico Restaurant Association and a member of the NMSU Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management board of advisers. He is a founder of Experience Mesilla, “a collaborative of businesses that work together to support and promote each other.”

Hernandez said he is also committed to “110-percent transparency in everything,” including the enforcement of town codes, accountability for “how everyday business is handled for the town” and “open and honest communication” and information sharing with Mesilla residents and business owners.

Co-owning a restaurant with husband Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez, a Doña Ana County commissioner, that is only steps from the Mesilla Plaza means Hernandez will spend a lot of time “walking and talking” to business owners, residents and visitors, he said.

“We’re a caring community,” he said.

In his run for mayor, Hernandez continues a long-standing tradition of his family’s participation in Mesilla politics, he said, starting with his great-grandparents, who were helpful in getting the town incorporated. His grandmother served as Mesilla town clerk and his uncle was Mesilla marshal.

Hernandez graduated from NMSU with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture economics and agricultural business.





The Double Eagle celebrated 50 years in 2023

BY MIKE COOK

When C.W. “Buddy” Ritter bought the Double Eagle in 1983, the restaurant manager asked him, “Did the ghost come with the sale?”

“What ghost?” Ritter asked.

The rest, as they say, is history.

There is no experience like a visit to the Double Eagle, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023.

You can hunt for ghosts in the Carlotta Salon; enjoy a meal beneath the 24-karat gold leaf ceiling in the Maximillian Room that honors the emperor of the Second Mexican Empire; celebrate weddings, anniversaries and other special events in the Isabella Ballroom, where a direct descendant of Christopher Columbus was honored in 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ voyage to America; climb onto a stool in the Imperial Bar to sample the house margarita that has been served there for more than 40 years; visit the Gadsden Room to see the Library of Congress archive proofs of the Gadsden Purchase document that brought the Territory of New Mexico into the United States; stop by the Billy the Kid Patio to see the newel post where the world’s most famous outlaw carved his name.

It’s all part of the rich and colorful history of the Double Eagle, just as the restaurant and the historic property it occupies at 2355 Calle de Guadalupe are so much a part of the history and lore of Mesilla.

The building itself dates to 1850, when it became the first structure on the plaza, shortly after the founding of Mesilla, Ritter said.

Oilman and entrepreneur Robert O. Anderson opened the Double Eagle in 1973. Ritter, who bought the restaurant 10 years later from Anderson’s son-in-law,

Tom Denton, celebrated its golden anniversary with a commemorative menu, featuring signature dishes from the past five decades and a celebration dinner and dance.

After Denton told Ritter the restaurant was for sale, Ritter asked, “How much?”

It took Ritter 24 hours to make Denton an offer he couldn’t refuse.

“I’ve never regretted it,” said Ritter, a fifth-generation Mesilla native who has owned four hotels and 14 restaurants in Cloudcroft, Las Cruces, Mesilla and Tucson.

The Double Eagle’s original building was made of adobe bricks, as Ritter details in his 2014 book “Mesilla Comes Alive.” Shallow trenches were dug, lined with rock and the adobe placed on top. The building has no foundation.

The restaurant patio was originally a corral. Anderson added onto the building and Ritter continued renovations, turning Anderson’s rose garden into the restaurant’s ballroom.

Ritter’s heritage includes grandfathers named Charles and Winfield – his first and middle names. To avoid confusion, his parents started calling him “Buddy.”



C.W. “Buddy” Ritter

The ghosts

Ritter and his staff have had “some very, very weird experiences that there’s no way I can explain,” he said.

Ghosts have likely been in residence since the 1860s, when the Double Eagle was the home of an affluent Mexican family (portraits of Señor and Señora Maese hang on the salon wall) whose teenage son fell in love with the maid, much to his mother’s distress. She came home one afternoon to find the two lovers in bed in the son’s room (now the salon). Enraged, she stabbed the maid to death with a pair of scissors, accidentally stabbing her son in the attack as he tried to save his lover. He died the next day. It is said that the ghosts of the young lovers inhabit the Carlotta Salon to this day.

There are two upholstered Victorian armchairs in the room that are rarely used. Yet the cut velvet fabric is worn in the shape of human bodies, and one chair in particular

shows continuous wear that matches the description of the petite young maid and her lover, Ritter said.

“There’s got to be some reason they’re wearing out,” he said. “The room is really alive.”



The ghost chair in Double Eagle’s Carlotta Room

Billy the Kid Gift Shop carries history on

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Charles Rogers has been part of Billy the Kid Gift Shop ever since he can remember and before. His family started the business in 1971 and he was born in 1971. Essentially, he grew up in the store. Officially he took over from his parents in 2019.



Charles Rogers

During the Covid shutdown, the shop took advantage of the closed time to completely renovate and opened with a new flair.

Manager Crystal Blount said the building is full of western history and they take advantage of that to the fullest. The store is housed in the very courthouse where Billy the Kid was tried and sentenced to hang. Also, at one point it served as the capital building of Arizona and New Mexico.

“We play on both of those brands,” Blount said. “So we are kind of western-themed. And we are about good customer service. Come in and get a little history and have a little fun while you are here. We do like our customers to have fun.”

The shop is an experience in itself with lots of different things for every age, she said.

“Grammas can buy this thing and 2-year-olds can buy this other thing and there is something for every age in between,”



Blount said. “We also have every kind of thing including food, clothing and souvenirs.”

Rogers said the history inspires him. The building is on the National Historic Register and part of Doña Ana historic preservation.

“Billy the Kid was tried in this building and at one time it was the capital building of Arizona and New Mexico,” he said. “When they took Billy back to Lincoln he escaped. While here in Mesilla, for about two weeks, we did our job and kept him.”

Since then, the building has been 15 bars including the Elephant Butte Bar, Billy the Kid Bar, William Bonney Bar in addition to having been a courthouse, a jail and a gift shop.



Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is a cooperative gallery including artists from southern New Mexico and western Texas. It has been in business since 1994, making it one of the longest continuously-operating co-op galleries in New Mexico!

The gallery showcases various media: oil, acrylic, pastel and watercolor paintings; drawings, photography, wood turning, gourd art, ceramics, mixed media, stained glass, jewelry and fiber art. Note cards, prints, and gift certificates are available.

You're invited to drop in to visit with one of the artists tending the gallery, and see the artwork for sale by all of the gallery's talented artists.



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Casa for a Cause



Home construction in Las Cruces is about a lot more than building a house and making money

BY MIKE COOK

“It was a very, very humbling experience. I couldn’t ever imagine how rewarding it was until I did it,” local builder and Las Cruces Home Builders Association (LCHBA) president Jon Strain said about being a part of the Home Builders’ 2022 Casa for a Cause program, which illustrates and encapsulates the giving spirit of Las Cruces.

Through the fundraiser, which began a decade ago, a local builder volunteers to build a home in Las Cruces and works with contractors, subcontractors and suppliers who provide their services and materials at or below cost to reduce the price of the house as much as possible. Once the house is built, it goes up for sale at or above the current market price. Because costs have been substantially reduced, the profit is much higher. LCHBA distributes that profit each year to local nonprofits.

Casa for a Cause has raised about \$400,000 since it began in



2014, said Strain. His JMS Construction was the lead builder last year, raising \$65,000 for donation, he said.

For 2023, French Brothers Homes was the lead builder for Casa for a Cause, and were expected to raise even more.

The following year, Hakes Brothers will again be the lead builder, as they were for the very first Casa for a Cause – then called Anniversary House.

In 2022, 13 local nonprofits divided more than \$50,000 at last year’s Casa for a Cause banquet.

“It’s very rewarding to go to that ceremony and pass those checks out,” Strain said.

LCHBA, which was founded in 1959, also

sponsors Education House and Build My Future.

The Education House project gives Organ Mountain High School students the opportunity to participate in building a



home in Las Cruces every year.

During the annual Build My Future, area high school students spend the day with building contractors, subcontractors and suppliers getting hands on experience working with professions to learn about welding, stucco, sheetrock, electrical work, running pipe and much more.

The program lets “kids crawl all over it, put hands on it,”

Strain said.

It also gives them the opportunity to learn about a trade that offers good, high-paying jobs without having to spend thousands of dollars on a four-year college degree, Strain said.

“Las Cruces is a great place to live and build,” Strain said. “I think the future is very bright.”

Visit lchba.com.

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A Connected Future with High-Speed Internet

In a partnership with Ethos Broadband, the county is investing \$16 million to expand high-speed internet across the northern part of the county. By Spring 2026, over 1,600 homes, and small businesses will experience reliable access. This digital leap forward promises to unlock new economic potentials, enhance public safety, and bridge the educational and healthcare divide for all residents.

Elevating Emergency Response

Safety is the cornerstone of any strong community, and Doña Ana County has secured a \$5.9 million FEMA grant—the largest in New Mexico since 2019. This grant is a game-changer, enabling the hiring of 24 additional firefighters to bolster the county's transition from a mostly volunteer-led firefighter force to a full-time career firefighter force.



Revolutionizing Health and Social Care Access

In a pioneering move, Doña Ana County has launched "Connect Doña Ana," a program that will redefine how residents access vital health and social services. This collaborative network, featuring over 100 partners, and a team of community health workers, will help residents find services they need easily and without confusion. The service is funded by both county resources and a Center for Disease Control grant.

Doña Ana County is not just growing- it's thriving with a forward-thinking vision that puts its residents first. Join us, and be part of a community where progress and well-being go hand in hand.



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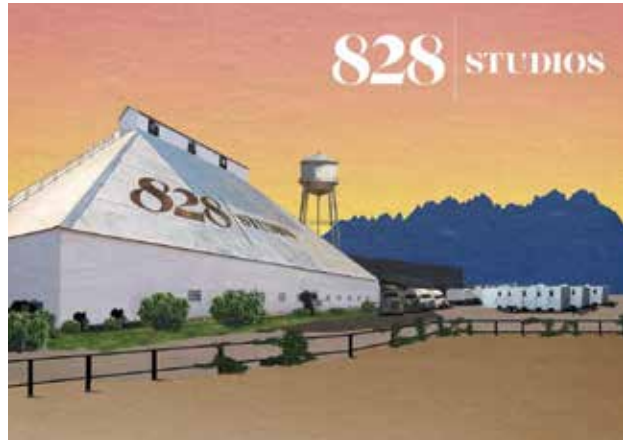
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Expanded film incentive ‘a huge win for Las Cruces’



“It was a huge win for Las Cruces and Doña Ana County to double the ‘rural uplift’ film incentive to help us continue to grow film production here, and other emerging production centers in New Mexico,” state Sen. Jeff Steinborn of Las Cruces said.

The governor signed House Bill 547, an omnibus tax bill that included the film tax credit increase, which “will continue to position our community and state as one of the best places to film in the world,” said Steinborn, who worked with the New Mexico Film Office, Netflix, NBC, 828 Productions and film industry leaders to craft the legislation, where he successfully championed the increase in the rural uplift film incentive.


“The rural uplift now puts Las Cruces at a base incentive of 35 percent, whereas Albuquerque and Santa Fe are at 25 percent,” said former Las Cruces Film Liaison Jonathon Sepp. “This puts Las



CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

Cruces in an advantageous position to capture even more productions looking at New Mexico, as well as those looking around the country.”

The bill “enacted updates gradually increase the annual cap on (film) industry tax credits from \$110 million to \$160 million in \$10 million annual increments over the next five fiscal years,” according to the New Mexico Film Office. “With the continued growth of productions in New Mexico, the increase is essential to prevent a backlog of rebates. These updates exempt resident principal performers from a \$5 million credit cap per production to further incentivize local casting for leading roles.

Also included in the bill is an increase to the above-the-line credit cap from \$5 million to \$15 million per production for New Mexico film partners Netflix, NBCUniversal and 828 Productions, with a maximum total credit cap of \$40 million per fiscal year.

“This increase will allow New Mexico to capture larger and more lucrative productions and also bolster post-production work inside the state,” the Film Office said.

In addition, HB 547 increases the rural uplift incentive from 5 percent to 10 percent while updating the zoning to at least 60 miles from

the city hall of each county to align with other jurisdictions, the news release said. In fiscal year 2022, rural areas outside the Albuquerque and Santa Fe corridor received \$50 million; enhancing this uplift will be a game changer for communities statewide – including areas like Doña Ana County, McKinley County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

The bill maintains other existing provisions regarding New Mexico’s film partners, exempting studios from the cap that have signed a 10-year agreement with the state for sustained production spend, job creation and a commitment to soundstage infrastructure investments, the Film Office said.

In fiscal year 2022, New Mexico hit a record-breaking high in production spend for the second consecutive year, recording \$855.4 million, a 36 percent increase over fiscal year 2021, the Film Office said. MovieMaker Magazine named Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces as three of the “Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker” in 2023.

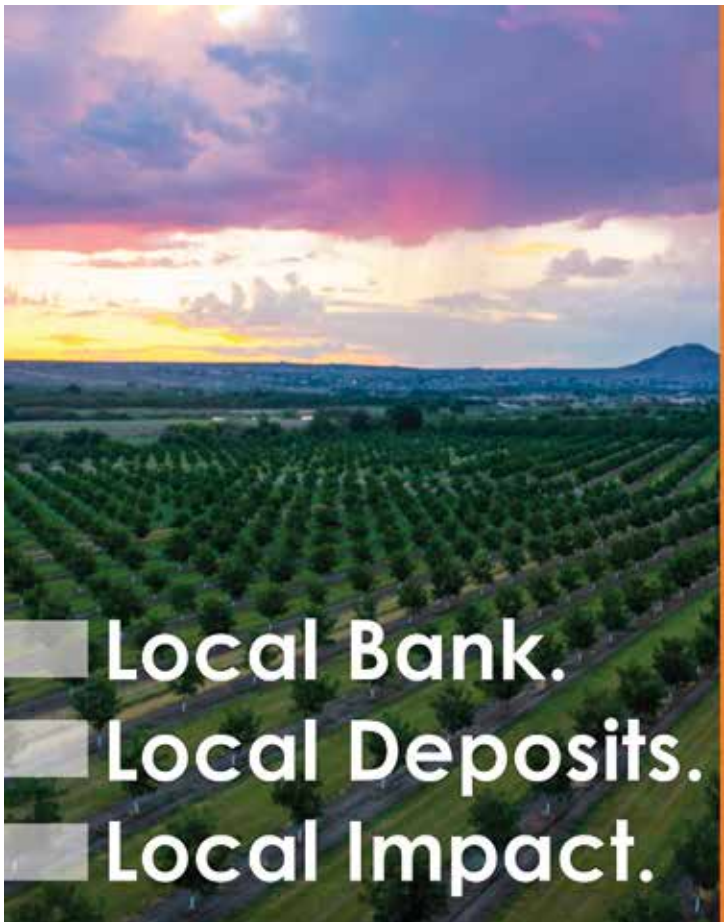
The film industry has some 8,000 jobs throughout the state, the Film Office said. The median wage of a film worker in New Mexico is approximately \$32 an hour, compared to other New Mexico industries at \$18 an hour.



Sen. Jeff Steinborn



Jonathon Sepp



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President/CEO:
Debbi Moore

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce was established more than 60 years ago and represents all businesses in the region, including more than 750 investors and more than 27,000 employees. It is the only four-star accredited chamber in the state of New Mexico.



Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

277 E. Amador Ave., Ste. 305
575-524-8900
lascruceshispanicchamber.com

President/CEO:
Curtis Rosemond

The Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, with more than 300 members, assists and promotes Hispanic-owned or operated small and large businesses with resources for growth and expansion, while also reaching out to the entire Las Cruces business community.



Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce

221 N. Main St.
575-323-1575
locallasruces.com

President/CEO:
Carrie Hamblen

Since 2012, the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce has brought the unique Triple Bottom Line approach to running a business, one that addresses a company's responsibilities toward financial, social and environmental bottom lines while supporting changes benefiting the community for years to come. The Green Chamber also advocates for shopping locally.

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las-cruces.gov/2133/Economic-Development

Downtown Las Cruces Partnership
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575-525-1955
downtownlascruces.org

Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
150 E. Lohman Ave.
575-524-1968
lascruces.org

High Tech Consortium of Southern New Mexico
575-521-0018
htcnm.com

Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce
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MVEDA (Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance)
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3655 Research Drive, Room 101
575-646-1622
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575-523-5627
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Small Business Development Center at DACC (SBDC)
2345 E. Nevada Ave., Ste. 101
575-527-7676
dacc.nmsu.edu/sbdc

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575-527-7776
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575-527-7500
dacc.nmsu.edu

New Mexico Workforce Connection Center
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575-524-6250
jobs.state.nm.us

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575-523-6811
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Gym Magic women-owned small business of the year

BY MIKE COOK

Nancy Bates, owner of Gym Magic, Inc. of Las Cruces, received the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2023 New Mexico Women-Owned Small Business of the Year award.

Bates was the only award recipient from Las Cruces as SBA New Mexico recognized 14 award winners at a ceremony in Albuquerque.

Bates has been a client of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Doña Ana Community College since 2000.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Nancy since May of 2019 when she decided to expand Gym Magic, Inc. with a second location, The Village," SBDC Business Adviser Jennifer Therrien



SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman, Nancy Bates, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and SBA New Mexico District Director John Garcia.

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in nominating Bates for the award. "The SBDC at DACC has provided technical assistance to Nancy and helped her with the process of applying for her SBA loans. Nancy started Gym Magic in Las Cruces with no business ownership experience and has owned and operated this thriving business for almost 30 years.

"The success of Gym Magic is Nancy's passion for people," Therrien said. "Nancy is passionate about the children who frequent Gym Magic, The Village and Ashley's Garden. She is also passionate about her employees and their well-being. Gym Magic employs 46 people in a city with a population of 104,519. Nancy is a business owner who knows her people are her greatest asset! I believe Nancy is a role model and an inspiration. She built Gym Magic from the ground up and has overcome every challenge she has faced personally and professionally."

The New Mexico SBDC network was established in 1989 through a partnership among the U.S. Small Business Administration, the state of New Mexico, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges and the New Mexico Association of Independent Community Colleges, according to www.nmsbdc.org.

Gym Magic is located at 2341 Entrada Del Sol in Las Cruces.

SBDC is located at 2345 E. Nevada Ave., Suite 101. Call 575-527-7676. Contact Garay at

"Running any small business truly requires a 'team' dedicated to supporting one another," said. "This is our 30th year in business, and our 20th year as a multi-sport facility, so we



Dr. Nancy Bates receives award from SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman

really have a lot to be grateful for. Women in business face extra issues, but groups like SBA and SBDC help level this playing field.

"I am so proud of the dedicated people I work with at Gym Magic and The Village," Bates said. "We named our second location, The Village, as we believe it takes a village to properly care for children. Today's parents don't always have the luxury of an extended family to help care for their children, plus parents today have very busy lives. Our hope is to help take some of that burden off their shoulders. Our staff is passionate about working with young children to help them shine and develop self-confidence."

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Farm girl finds love, transformation in makeup

BY MIKE COOK

Growing up on a small farm in rural Arizona – “a little brown girl from the sticks” – Cece Meadows remembers telling her siblings, “One day I’m going to be famous. I’m going to do something really big.”

For the founder and CEO of Prados Beauty, the day has come.

Her unique beauty products were introduced in JC Penney stores in Las Cruces and across the United States – more than 600 by the end of 2023 – and Meadows, whom the company calls a “beauty entrepreneur,” is one of the featured models in Penney’s new designer dress collection iMPower, “celebrating all women.”

“It was huge for me,” Meadows said about the collaboration, which comes through her partnership with 13 Lune, an online marketplace for beauty products created by black and brown business owners like Meadows, who identifies as Xicana (Chicana) and as Yoeme and N m n , Native Americans with homelands in Sonora, Mexico; New Mexico; Texas; and Arizona.

Meadows started Prados – which means “Meadows” in Spanish – in New York City in 2018. She moved the business to Las Cruces in 2020 when her husband, Daniel, a U.S. Army major, was transferred to White Sands Missile Range.

The couple had passed through Las Cruces four years earlier.

“I just fell in love,” she said. “I told Daniel, ‘If we ever get the chance, can we come back here?’”

During her battle with cancer in her late 20s, Meadows lost all of hair because of chemotherapy, and “felt like I had lost a part of my identity,” she said. Then some friends “came over to my

house one evening and gave me a makeover. I just looked like a million dollars.”

That was a defining moment for Meadows, who told herself, “You’re beautiful. Keep fighting.”

“I never ever lost sight of the possibilities of what the future could be,” she said.

Meadows dropped out of beauty school and began volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and other nonprofits, helping children and adults battling health issues to look their best. She also created eyelashes and patent-pending makeup brushes for people with skin sensitivity during chemotherapy who need gentler products for their faces.

That was the start of Prados Beauty – “just wanting to help people,” Meadows said.

With a storefront at 1323 E. Lohman Ave. – No. 6 in the mall just east of Solano Drive – and a warehouse nearby, Meadows and her staff sell her beauty products in person, and the Prados website makes her products available to a growing clientele across the country and around the world.

Meadows pairs her own Sagrado Collection with the creations of artist Steven Paul Judd (the Matriarch Collection) and other local entrepreneurs for a collection that includes eyeshadow, blush, lipstick and lip gloss, eye lashes, face pads, spa headbands, soaps, bath bombs, candles and more.

“Makeup is love,” Meadows said. “It brings people together.”

Visit pradosbeauty.com to view and purchase products from the Prados beauty collection.

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Where's the REAL New Mexico? Right here

BY MIKE COOK

“I can’t wait until everyone hears this,” Assistant City Manager Ikani Taumoepeau said in May 2023, just before Visit Las Cruces (VLC) unveiled its new slogan: “The Real New Mexico.”

“You’re a part of this tagline,” Taumoepeau told attendees at the unveiling party at Amador Live.

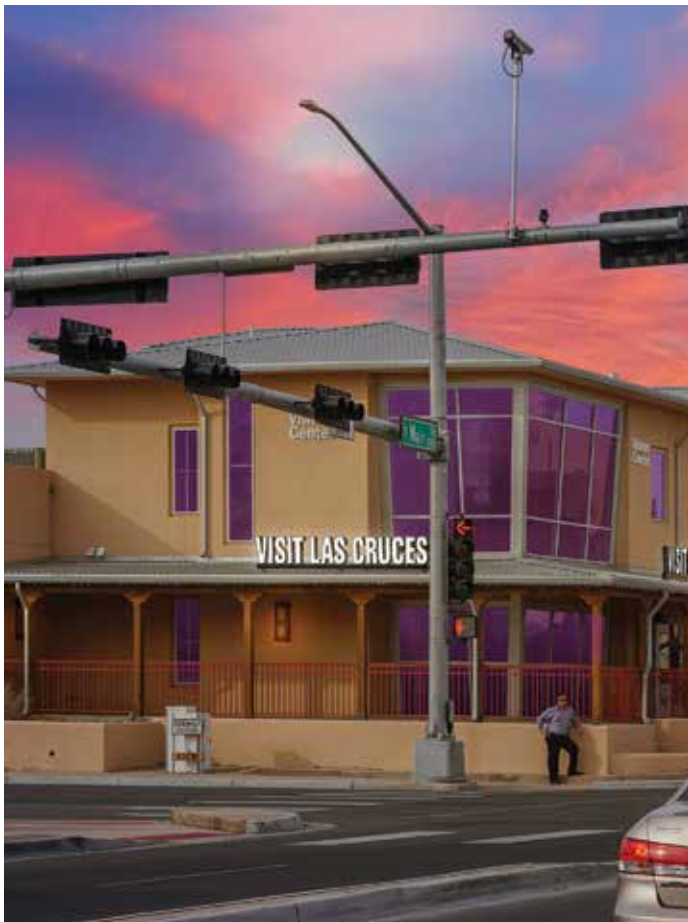
The “new look and bold tagline” unveiled by the city’s official marketing organization “represents who we are,” said Christina Ballew of NMCO Creative Studio, the Las Cruces company that worked with VLC to create the new brand, along with the visitors’ guide, merchandise and advertising campaign that go with it.

“Southern New Mexico doesn’t get the recognition it deserves,” Ballew said. The rebranding will “bring recognition to our part of the state.”

“We’re embracing our city and region’s strengths by creating a brand with the surrounding southern New Mexico communities in mind,” VLC Marketing Director Lorena Lozano said. “It opens itself up to future collaborations in a region that often feels overlooked.”

The New Mexico Department of Tourism estimates visitor spending in Doña Ana County totaled more than \$407 million in 2020, with the hospitality industry making up nearly 10 percent of the county’s workforce.

For more information, go to visitlascruces.com.



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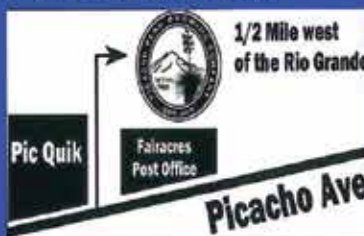
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Las Cruces KOA Journey recognized with major awards

Whether you're traveling through Las Cruces, looking for a unique staycation, or want to find a fun place for your out-of-town guests, you might want to check out the local KOA Journey campground, which recently earned national accolades for its service and standards.

Perched atop a hill west of town, Las Cruces KOA Journey offers some of the most amazing views of the city, and offers a variety of unexpected amenities, including some cozy cabins.

Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA), the world's largest system of open-to-the-public campgrounds, announced late in 2023 the Las Cruces KOA Journey campground has earned the KOA Founder's and President's Awards. In the world of KOA these are prestigious awards.

The KOA Founder's Award, named in honor of Dave Drum, who founded KOA on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana, in 1962, is KOA's highest service award. It is awarded exclusively to those KOA campground owners and managers who attain world-class scores in both customer service and the KOA Quality Review.



The KOA President's Award is presented to those campgrounds meeting exceptional quality standards and who receive high customer service scores from their camping guests. KOA surveys hundreds of thousands of campers each year regarding their KOA camping experience.

"Our campground owners and thousands of dedicated employees are essential to providing the superior level of outdoor hospitality KOA guests expect and it's an honor to recognize this hard work," said Toby O'Rourke, president and CEO of Kampgrounds of America, Inc. "Our President's and Founder's awards are driven by camper feedback and an extensive annual review process. These award-winning KOA owners have made the right investments in their campgrounds and their staff to provide the best outdoor experience in North America."

Las Cruces KOA Journey is at 814 Weinrich Road and the phone is 575-526-6555. You can find them on Facebook at facebook.com/KOALasCruces.

To find out more about this KOA campground or the more than 500 KOAs across the U.S. or Canada, visit www.KOA.com.

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grapevineplaza.net

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575-522-0900
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The scent of fall

Las Cruces state senator wants to make green chile roasting state's official aroma

BY MIKE COOK

The smell of roasting green chile.

Just hold that thought in your mind for a moment.

Is there a more welcome scent of fall in the air, or anything more uniquely New Mexico?

That is why New Mexico state Sen. Bill Soules, a Las Cruces Democrat, asked the state legislature to recognize the smell of roasting green chile as the state's official aroma.

It worked, as the legislature passed the memorial in its 2023 session. It also worked in bringing national attention to New Mexico, believed to be the first state in America with an official aroma.

Soules worked with fifth graders at Monte Vista Elementary School in Las Cruces on the project and took them to "be my experts" in Santa Fe at the State Capitol building to lobby state senators and representatives and the governor on behalf the bill.

"I think this will be a fun one," Soules said before the session.

It will also support New Mexico agriculture and tourism, he said.

"The aroma of New Mexico green chile being roasted is unmistakable and is recognized throughout the nation," said New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Sec. Jeff Witte, who is based at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. "The



Cookbook author: chile all day, every day

“Hatch chile for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks?”

The answer, according to Las Cruces cookbook author, food consultant and New Mexico State University professor Kelley Coffeen, the answer is a resounding “Yes, please!”

“Chiles are the heart of Mexican cuisine,” said Coffeen, who in late 2023 introduced her latest book, “The Big Book of Hatch Chile,” which has 180 recipes.

Recipes in the book include Hatch red chile sauce, savory chile cheesecake, a chile-laced margarita and the classic green chile cheeseburger.

The book features Hatch chile lore and history, and “profiles family farms, restaurants and everyone and everything that makes chile central to the identity of the Hatch Valley and New Mexico,” Coffeen said.

Coffeen’s other books include “Fiesta Mexicali;” “300 Best Taco Recipes,” “Tex Mex Diabetes Cooking,” “200 Easy Mexican Recipes,” “Simply 7” and “Great College Cookbook of the Southwest.”

Coffeen is an associate professor in the NMSU Family and Consumer Sciences Department, fashion merchandising and design.



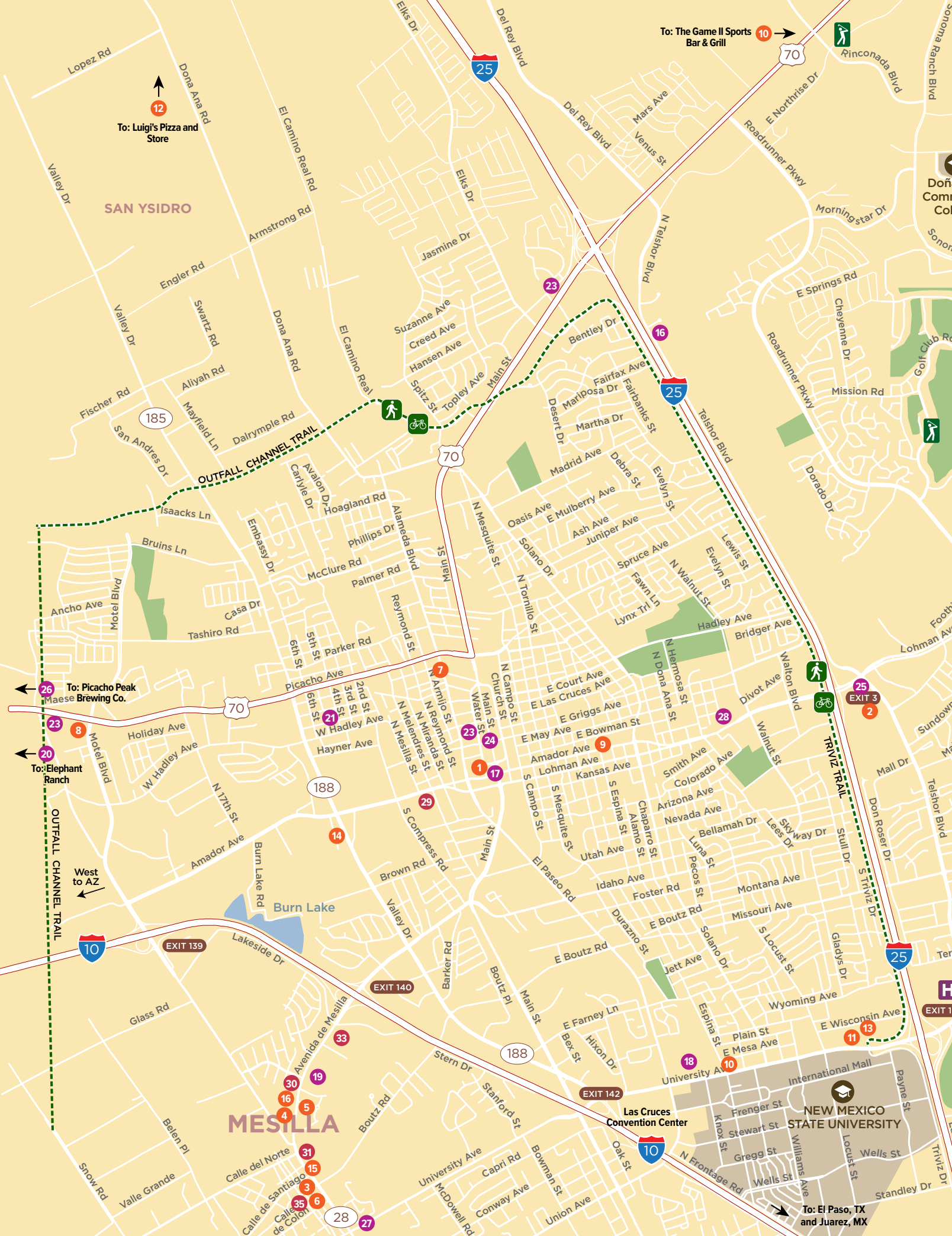
distinctive scent of roasting green chile in the air is unique to our state, and it brings that feeling of ‘home’ to people who have moved away from New Mexico.”

As part of domestic marketing efforts, NMDA staff goes around the country teaching grocery store staff how to roast New Mexico chile.

Retail chains purchase New Mexico chile (have it shipped), and they roast it outside their stores, just like in New Mexico. That is how many people who have moved out of New Mexico can still enjoy the roasting aroma and purchase New Mexico chile.

For more information, visit www.elevatenmag.com/get-your-fix.





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To: Luigi's Pizza and Store 12

To: The Game II Sports Bar & Grill 10

To: Picacho Peak Maese Brewing Co. 26

To: Elephant Ranch 20

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WINE & DINE TRAIL

A MAP OF RESTAURANTS, BREWERIES AND WINERIES



EATS & TREATS

1. **Amador Patio Bar & Grill**
302 S. Main St., Ste. B
2. **Cineport 10**
700 S. Telshor Drive
See page 65
3. **Double Eagle**
2355 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
See page 57
4. **FARMesilla**
1840 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla
5. **Hacienda de Mesilla**
1891 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla
6. **La Posta de Mesilla**
2410 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla
7. **Bite of Belgium**
741 N. Alameda
See page 56
8. **Le Rendez-vous Café**
2701 W. Picacho Ave., Ste. 1
9. **El Sombrero**
363 S. Espina
10. **The Game Sports Bar & Grill**
Game I
2605 S. Espina
Game II
4131 Northrise Drive
See page 54

11. **Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant**
1753 E. University Ave.
See page 55
12. **Luigi's Pizza and Store**
5155 Doña Ana Road
13. **Milagro Coffee Y Espresso**
1733 E. University Ave.
14. **Osito's Biscochitos**
580 S. Valley Drive Ste. 200
15. **Peppers Café**
2355 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
See page 57
16. **Salud! de Mesilla**
1800 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla

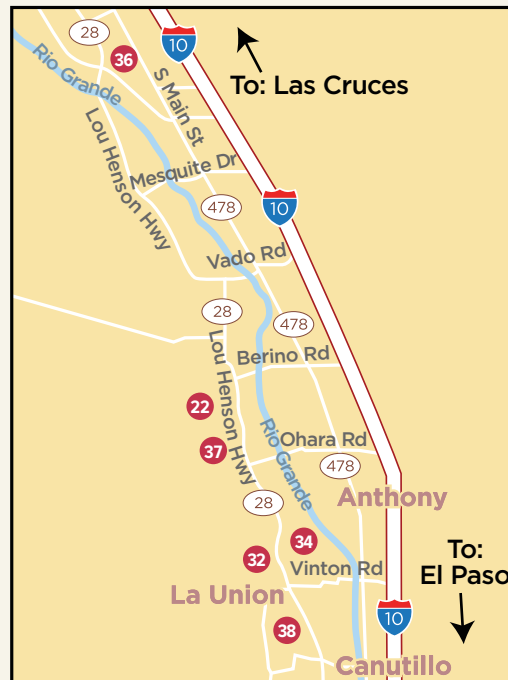
22. **Highway 28 Brewery**
10092 NM Hwy 28
23. **Icebox Brewing Co.**
2825 W. Picacho Ave.
3231 N. Main St.
139 N. Main St.
24. **Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery**
119 N. Main St.
25. **Pecan Grill and Brewery**
500 S. Telshor Blvd.
26. **Picacho Peak Brewing Co.**
3900 W. Picacho Ave.
See page 61
27. **Spotted Dog Brewery**
2920 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla
28. **Truth or Consequences Brewing Co. - Las Cruces**
2001 E. Lohman Ave.
Suite 115

DISTILLERS & BREWERS

17. **The Amador: Broken Spoke Tap House/Jax/575**
302 S. Main St.
18. **Bosque Brewing Co.**
901 E. University Ave., Ste. 3A,
2102 Telshor Court
19. **Dry Point Distillers**
1680 Calle de Alvarez, Ste. C2
20. **Elephant Ranch**
3995 W. Picacho Ave.
21. **High Desert Brewing Co.**
1201 W. Hadley Ave.

WINERIES

29. **Amaro Winery**
402 S. Melendres St.
30. **D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro**
1720 Avenida de Mesilla
See page 56
31. **Heart of the Desert Pistachios & Wines**
2350 Calle Principal, Mesilla
32. **La Viña Winery**
4201 NM Hwy 28
Anthony, NM
33. **Luna Rossa Winery & Pizzeria**
1321 Avenida de Mesilla
34. **Mesa Vista Winery & Tasting Room**
3200 NM Hwy 28
Anthony, NM
35. **NM Vintage Wines**
2461 Calle Principal, Mesilla
36. **Rio Grande Vineyard & Winery**
5321 NM Hwy 28
37. **Sombra Antigua Vineyard & Winery**
430 La Viña Road,
Anthony, NM
38. **Zin Valle Vineyards**
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY SYLVIA QUINTANILLA

Grounded Lounge is at 300 N. Main St. in Downtown Las Cruces. The corner spot is a prime location with natural light emanating throughout the eatery.

Perched on the doorway of Grounded Lounge is a painted peacock. The turquoise and green hues draw you in and really set the tone for an appreciation of art and culture. On the outside, Grounded Lounge gives the illusion of being compact; however, the lounge has three indoor dining options and an outdoor patio.

Right away, the friendly atmosphere is evident. The spacious locations of tables with the addition of vibrantly colored couches allows guests to feel at home whether they are simply coming in to catch up with friends or choosing the location for their daily remote workstation.

Grounded Lounge is a family-owned restaurant by the Espiritu family. Established in 2022, the space not only has a unique and diverse menu, but also is host to local music and events, including live music on Friday nights and Poetry and Writers Open Mic on other nights. The restaurant also features Cozy Couch Concerts, which are more intimate concerts where



musicians and fans can connect. Tickets for these concerts are available on the Grounded website.

Part of what makes Grounded Lounge a standout in Las Cruces is its menu. Staples like wood fire pizza, wine, beer and cider are available along with coffee.

During my visit to the eatery, my dining party and I tried several items off the menu, starting with drinks, the Chai, Lovely Lavender Latte and Jamaica Suntea. For the coffee and tea, there are three milk options of almond, coconut or oat milk.

Homemade syrups are also available.

For the Chai, it was served hot with a dash of cinnamon. Selecting the coconut milk brought a semi-sweet nutty flavor that was well balanced with the cinnamon. Upon first glance, the Lovely Lavender Latte is quite a sight. Delicately adorned with lavender, the latte delights the senses. The oat milk added a velvety whipped texture. Looking for a cold and refreshing drink? Try the Jamaica Suntea. Not only is the magenta color right for the summer, but the drink is light and has a tropical finish.

Plant based and healthy options are plentiful at Grounded. One way to keep the summer spirit year-round is the Strawberry Fields Salad. With arugula, strawberries walnuts and creamy goat cheese and topped with orange balsamic vinaigrette, this dish is a meal in itself. Big enough to share, the mixture of peppery arugula and the crunch from the walnuts off set the sweetness from the fruit. Crumbles of goat cheese add a savory and creamy element.

For noshing, try the Cerveza Board, A trio of pretzel bites with queso, smokey cured meats and mixed nuts. Bite-sized pretzels with pillowy queso are hard to resist. The queso had just the right amount of chile to have spice, but not enough to stay away from if you are looking for something on the mild side.

Pizza at Grounded is from a wood-fire oven. Traditional



pizza enthusiasts can look to the Roni which has pepperoni and mozzarella. For more adventurous eaters, check out the Picoso pizza, house salsa, cotija cheese, red onion and jalapeno.

Our table shared the Shroom pizza. In addition to a generous amount of roasted mushrooms, the pizza had prosciutto, olive oil, mozzarella and red chile honey. On first bite, the earthy taste from the mushrooms is dominant, but allows for the salt from the prosciutto and sweet heat from red chile honey to shine through.

Grounded Lounge is open Monday-Saturday from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, visit thegroundedlounge.com, call 575-571-4047 or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.

COFFEE HOUSES AND BARS

The Bean Café of Mesilla

2011 Avenida de Mesilla
575-527-5155
thebeancafemesilla.com
facebook.com/BeanCafeMesilla

Cafecito Divino Coffee Bar

110 W. Picacho Ave.
575-993-3484
cafecitodivinocoffee.com
facebook.com/Divinelycoffee

Downtown Blues Coffee

130 S. Main St.
575-523-8828
downtownbluescoffee.com
facebook.com/downtownbluescoffeeLC

Dunkin' Donuts

3835 E. Lohman Ave., Ste. 100
575-652-3024
2527 N. Main St.
575-524-0384
1159 S. Valley Drive
575-338-3380
dunkindonuts.com

Grounded

300 N. Main St.
575-571-4047
thegroundedlounge.com

Milagro Coffee Y Espresso

1733 E. University Ave.
575-532-1042
milagrocoffeeespresso.com

Moms Coffee

1001 University Ave., Ste. D2
575-288-1661
facebook.com/momscoffeeLC

Nessa's Café

901 W. Picacho Ave.
575-222-0081
facebook.com/nessascafe

Picacho Coffee Roasters

200 Conway Ave. Unit: A
575-520-5366
picacho.coffee

Roasted Rooster Coffee & Waffles

2702 W. Amador Ave.
575-288-3345
roastedroosterm.com

Saturdays Coffee

533 N. Main St.
575-201-3330
saturdayscoffee.com



Scooter's Coffee

1105 N. Main St.
877-719-1288

Starbucks

2808 N. Telshor Blvd.
575-522-0379
3981 Bataan Memorial West
575-649-9016
2511 E. Lohman Ave.
575-521-0825
1500 S. Valley Drive
575-523-0089

985 E. University Ave., Ste. A
575-647-2948

2541 E Lohman Ave Ste. A
(In Target)
575-532-5899
2501 N Main St. (In Albertsons)
575-524-1980
Starbucks.com

Wild West Express-O

2385 Calle de Guadalupe
575-523-5562
facebook.com/wildwestexpresso

Charity dinners help the community

Some of the best meals in Las Cruces don't take place in our various restaurants, they take place in different venues, when the restaurants take their food on the road for charity.

Taste of Las Cruces, Empty Bowls and Dress the Child are three annual events where local restaurants showcase some of their traditional favorites or sample some new items.

The oldest of these is Dress the Child, a program where funds raised go to purchase new clothes and shoes for children who need them. Las Cruces Public Schools and Gadsen Public Schools identify the students in need, and volunteer shoppers go with the children, many of whom have never had new clothes. The program began in 1989.

The annual Dress the Child dinner typically takes place in the fall, and features various local chefs serving up their specialties. The events in 2022 and 2023 featured al fresco dining with a festive theme, at the Amador Live's outdoor courtyard.

Empty Bowls, a fundraiser for the El Caldito Soup Kitchen, celebrated its 30th year in 2023.

With the help of the Las Cruces Potters Guild and St. Paul's United Methodist Church, the event features delicious soups created at area restaurants. With their ticket purchase, patrons get to select from the hundreds of locally created ceramic bowls. Then they can sample the different soups and dine in the halls of St. Paul's.

The popular event is usually slated for mid-October, and generates proceeds for El Caldito, the local soup kitchen that serves up to 500 hot meals a day to the homeless and those in need.

In 2023, the Las Cruces Convention Center hosted the 15th Annual Taste of Las Cruces event. Usually held in early summer, the event is a fundraiser for the shelves of local food pantry Casa de Peregrinos.

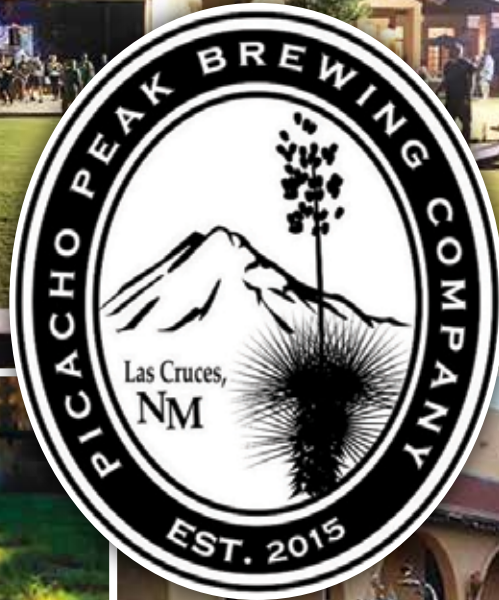
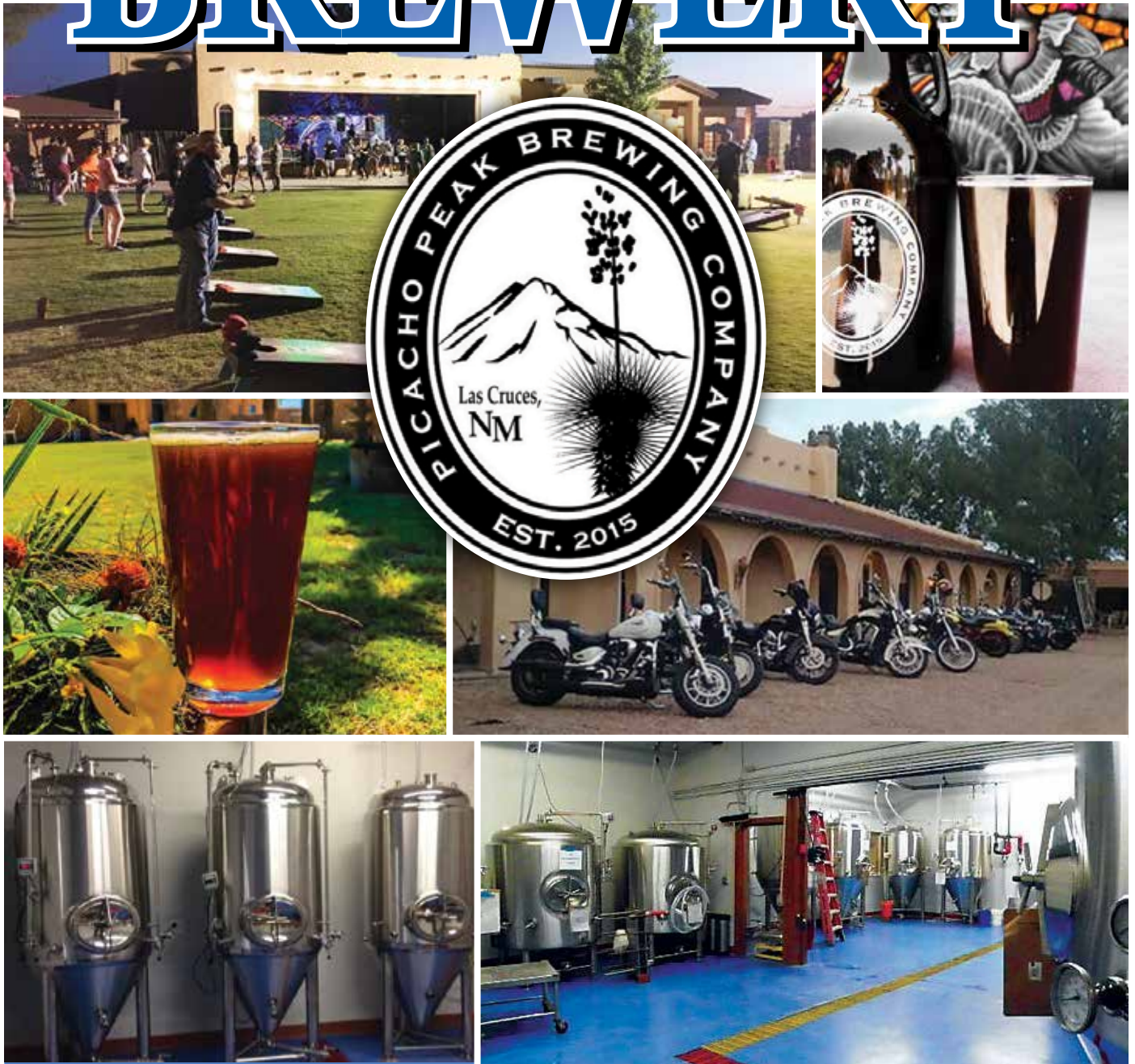
Typically, as many as 30 local restaurants, bakeries and caterers provide offerings for guests to sample and join together in dining at the convention center.

All of these events are accompanied by silent auctions, live auctions or other ways to contribute. Of course, these charitable organizations also need help year-round.

You can learn more by visiting the following: www.facebook.com/emptybowlslc, www.pottersguildlc.org, www.facebook.com/elcalditosoupkitchen, www.casadeperegrinos.org, or contact Dress the Child via Las Cruces Rio Grande Rotary Foundation, ATTN: Loren Kuehne, 3265 Arrowhead Road, Suite 200, Las Cruces, NM 88011.



BREWERY



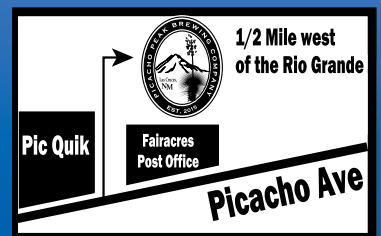
Picacho Peak Brewing Company

at the Grapevine Plaza Event Center
3900 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM

picachopeakbrewery.com

575-647-4797

Come grab
a pint and
some great
pub food



Las Cruces

Take a look at ¡mira!

One of Las Cruces' newest festivals is ¡mira! Las Cruces

The second edition of this event is 2-10 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Plaza de Las Cruces, 101 N. Main St. Downtown.

The free public event, presented by Visit Las Cruces, highlights the art and culture, cuisine, outdoor recreation and the sights and sounds that make the city and its surrounding communities one of a kind.

Last year's ¡mira! featured live music, live art and mural painting, a chalk art competition, rock climbing, interactive booths, face painting, live screen printing, a car show and more.

"Not only is it something that residents can support and be proud of, but it is a way for visitors to experience the city in just one visit and encourage them to return and explore," said a city official last year.

¡mira! is a Spanish word that translates to "Look!" "Check it out!"

Las Cruces has a lot to check out, and much of it, including food trucks and a beer and wine garden, will be on display at ¡mira!

Seating is limited, so visitors are encouraged to bring chairs. Well-behaved dogs are welcome but must be leashed.

For more information, visit visitlascruces.com.



ANNUAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2024

JANUARY

- New Mexico State University spring semester begins

FEBRUARY

- For the Love of Art Month, throughout Las Cruces
- The Museum ROCKS! Gem & Mineral Show, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

MARCH

- Las Cruces International Film Festival, various locations
- Bataan Memorial Death March, White Sands Missile Range
- Cowboy Days, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum
- Las Cruces Arts Fair

APRIL

- La Viña Spring Wine Festival, La Viña Winery, La Union
- Las Cruces Space Festival
- Trinity Site Tour, White Sands Missile Range
- ¡mira! Festival, Plaza de Las Cruces

MAY

- Blazin' Brew Fest (over age 21)
- Cinco de Mayo, Mesilla
- Las Cruces Ukefest
- Las Cruces Wine Festival (Memorial Day Weekend), Southern NM State Fairgrounds
- Music in the Park Series begins (May-August), Young Park
- National Day of Prayer, City Hall and throughout Las Cruces
- Mayor's Jazz Fest



JUNE

- San Juan Turtle Fiesta, Tortugas
- Movies in the Park Series begins (June-August), Young Park
- Spaceport America Cup

JULY

- 4th of July Electric Light Parade, Celebration and Fireworks, NMSU
- Tequila, Taco & Cerveza Fest, Main Street Downtown
- City of Las Cruces Movies in the Park

AUGUST

- Las Cruces Comic Con, Las Cruces Convention Center

SEPTEMBER

- Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta, Mesilla Plaza

- Franciscan Fine Art Festival (Labor Day Saturday & Sunday) Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Hatch Chile Festival (Labor Day Weekend), Hatch
- Las Cruces Harvest Wine Festival (Labor Day Weekend), Southern NM State Fair Grounds
- Mesilla Valley Corn Maze
- Monuments to Main Street, various locations
- La Viña Harvest Wine Festival, La Union
- Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo, Southern NM State Fairgrounds
- White Sands Music and Balloon Festival, White Sands National Park

OCTOBER

- Mesilla Jazz Happening, Mesilla Plaza
- Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, Picacho Avenue
- Trinity Site Tour, White Sands Missile Range
- Zombie Walk, Downtown Las Cruces



NOVEMBER

- Dia de los Muertos, Mesilla
- Giving Tuesday at NMSU
- Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference
- Renaissance ArtsFaire, Young Park
- HomeGrown: New Mexico Gift Show and Food Market
- Veterans Day parade

DECEMBER

- City of Las Cruces Christmas Tree Lighting, Plaza de Las Cruces
- Old Mesilla Christmas Tree Lighting
- Christmas Carols and Luminarias on the Plaza, Mesilla Plaza
- Noche de Luminarias, NMSU
- Toys for Tots Parade
- Chile Drop for New Year's Eve, Plaza de Las Cruces



COURTESY PHOTOS

Anahy Nuñez

Prolific artist and Las Cruces native

A growing trend in America, and especially in Las Cruces, is artistic murals covering old and tired walls in public places.

One of many muralists in Las Cruces is Anahy Nuñez, the artist chosen to paint a large-scale mural at the Las Cruces Visitors Center, 336 S. Main St.

Nuñez was among 65 applicants from across the United States who submitted designs, and her piece, “Con Amor,” a postage stamp-style concept, was selected by the City of Las Cruces because of the way she “captured the colorful culture that draws visitors to the city.”

Known as a professional face and body painter, tattoo artist and multi-media freelance artist, Nuñez has a passion for the area and its Hispanic culture.

The title “Con Amor” translates to “With Love,” befitting as Nuñez’ love for her hometown shines through in her mural.

“Born and raised in Las Cruces, I wanted to encompass everything that makes up the beauty of this city, the wonderful community, and its colorful landscape,” Nuñez said. “I poured my heart onto a canvas for this mural, and I created ‘Con Amor,’ a visual love letter for the city that made me the artist I am today.

“I’m very proud to share this creation with everyone and hope that they enjoy becoming a piece of the artwork itself.”

The mural covers the exterior east wall of the Visit Las Cruces building, facing Main Street and was unveiled in the spring of 2023.



Anahy Nuñez

PERFORMING ARTS VENUES

Amador LIVE

302 S. Main St.
575-541-7417
amadorlive.com

ASNMSU

Center for the Arts
1000 E. University Ave.
575-646-4515 (box office)
nmsutheatre.com

Black Box Theatre

430 N. Main St.
575-523-1223
no-strings.org

Edith & F.E. Atkinson Recital Hall

**New Mexico State
University**
1075 N. Horseshoe Drive
575-646-2421
music.nmsu.edu

Fountain Theatre

2469 Calle de Guadalupe,
Mesilla
575-524-8287
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Las Cruces Convention Center

680 E. University Ave.
575-526-0100
meetinlascruces.com

Las Cruces Community Theatre

313 N. Main St.
575-523-1200
ticketor.com/lcct/

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

4100 Dripping Springs Road
575-522-4100
nmfarmandranchmuseum.org



NM Vintage Wines

2461 Calle de Principal,
Mesilla
575-523-9463
nmvintagewines.com

Pan American Center

1810 E. University Ave.
575-646-1420
panam.nmsu.edu

Project in Motion

430 N. Compress Road
575-208-4413
projectinmotion.com

Rio Grande Theatre

211 N. Main St.
575-541-2290
riograndetheatre.com

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Jennifer Cervantes

Author weaves tales of culture, magic

New York Times best-selling author Jennifer Cervantes of Las Cruces has published 10 books across multiple age categories and in more than 12 countries. Her books have appeared on national lists, including the American Booksellers Association, Barnes & Noble's Best Books and Amazon, and Apple Books of the Month. Cervantes has earned multiple awards and recognitions, including the New Mexico Book Award.

Cervantes was recognized in 2023 as a New Mexico State University College of Arts and Sciences "Star of Arts and Humanities."

She was also among nine recipients of the 2023 New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, as presented by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award," Cervantes told the Las Cruces Bulletin. "I am really thrilled that they are celebrating the written word and literature."

Because art is often considered a visual form, she said, recognition of her work "opens the pathway to other writers."

Cervantes is working on a new book about the inception of magic with a Latin rather than a European focus, she said. She also is working on the sequel to her first adult novel, "Enchanted Hacienda."

Cervantes' first book was "Tortilla Sun," which she wrote in 2010 as a story for her youngest daughter about her treasured

"Julie Bear" stuffed animal. Today, Cervantes, now a New York Times bestselling author, is writing full time and connecting with readers across the country and around world.

"I want to congratulate the 2023 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts winners," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "This year's recipients come from

every corner of the state, showcasing the immense possibilities of the arts across New Mexico. These artists are musicians, authors, sculptors and designers who push the boundaries of telling stories about the state and their lives through art. I am proud to recognize and show off such talent to the rest of the world."

This year is the 49th year for the awards, which were created "to celebrate the extensive role artists and their work play in New Mexico," according to the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Visit jccervantes.com.



Jennifer Cervantes

ART GALLERIES

Aa Studios

2645 Doña Ana Road
575-520-8752
By appointment only.

Agave Artists Cooperative Gallery

2250 Calle de San Albino
575-339-9870

Art Obscura/The Hood

3206 Harrelson St.
575-494-7256
artobscuragallery.com

Big Picture Digital Image Experts and Gallery

2001 E. Lohman Ave., Ste. 109a
575-647-0508
bigpicts.com

Branigan Cultural Center

501 N. Main St.
575-541-2154
las-cruces.org/1528/Branigan-
Cultural-Center

Camino Tattoo and Fine Art

400 S. Compress Road
575-523-1012
caminotattooostudio.com

Casa Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery

314 S. Tornillo St.
575-523-3988

Doña Ana Arts Council Arts & Cultural Center

230 S. Water St.
575-523-6403
daarts.org

Galeria on the Plaza

2410 Calle de Principal
575-526-9771

Gallery 925

925 N. Mesquite St.
575-224-6760

Griggs & Reymond Art and Antiques

504 W. Griggs Ave.
575-524-8250
By appointment only.

Jeri Desrochers Studio Gallery

3655 Canyon Ridge Arc
575-640-9836
jerisstudio.com

Las Cruces Museum of Art

491 N. Main St.
575-541-2137
las-cruces.gov/1542/Museum-of-Art

Lundeen Inn of the Arts

618 S. Alameda Blvd.
575-526-3326
innofthearts.com

M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery

221 N. Main St.
575-525-1367
mphillipsgallery.com

The Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica

501 E Hadley Ave.
575-224-6760

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery

2470A Calle de Guadalupe
575-522-2933
mesillavalleyfinearts.com

Mesquite Art Gallery

340 N. Mesquite St.
mesquiteartgallery.com

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

4100 Dripping Springs Road
575-522-4100
nmfarmandranchmuseum.org

New Mexico State University Art Museum

Devasthali Hall
1308 E. University Ave.
575-646-2545
uam.nmsu.edu

New Mexico State University Museum

Kent Hall
1280 E. University Ave.
575-646-5161
univmuseum.nmsu.edu

Nopalito's Galería

326 S. Mesquite St.
nopalitogaleria.com

Picture Frame Factory Outlet

382 S. Walnut St.
575-526-4048
pffolc.com

The Potteries

2260 Calle de Santiago
575-524-0538
thepotteriesmesilla.com

Rio Grande Theatre Gallery

211 N. Main St.
575-541-2290
riograndetheatre.org

Terrace Gallery at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

200 E. Picacho Ave.
575-528-4000



Tombaugh Gallery Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

2000 S. Solano Drive
575-522-7281
uuchurchlc.org/about-us/our-art-
gallery

Trails End Gallery & Studio

1732 N. Mesquite St.
575-649-2951
trailsendgallery.net

Unsettled Gallery

905 N. Mesquite St.
575-635-2285
unsettledgallery.com



ART ORGANIZATIONS

A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley (ACT)
575-571-1413
achildrenstheatre.org

American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC)
New Mexico State University
Theatre Department
575-646-5122
theatre.nmsu.edu

ArtForms Artists' Association of New Mexico
nmartforms@yahoo.com
artslascruces@gmail.com
artformsnm.org

Artists of Picacho Hills
artistsopicachohills.com

The Border Artists
borderartists.org

City of Las Cruces Museums
575-522-3120
las-cruces.gov/1523/Museums

Doña Ana Arts Council
575-523-6403
daarts.org

Doña Ana Lyric Opera New Mexico State University
575-646-2067
music.nmsu.edu

Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces
575-201-3853
farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com

Foundation for Las Cruces Museums
foundationlcm.com

Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
libraryfriendslc.org

Henry C. Trost Historical Organization
henrytrost.org/new-mexico-buildings



Las Colcheras Quilt Guild
LasColcherasQG@gmail.com
lcqg.org

Las Cruces Arts Association
lascrucesarts.org

Las Cruces Chamber Ballet
lascruceschamberballet.org

Las Cruces Civic Concert Association
505-225-1094
lascrucescca.org

Las Cruces Community Theatre
575-523-1200
ticketor.com/lcct/

Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference
575-680-3123
lascrucesmariachi.org

Las Cruces Symphony
575-646-3709
lascrucessymphony.com

Mesilla Valley Film Society
575-524-8287
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Mesilla Valley Jazz and Blues Society
mvjazzblues.net

Storytellers of Las Cruces
575-640-6867

New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter
nmwatercolorssociety.org

No Strings Theatre Company/Black Box Theatre
575-523-1223
no-strings.org

Potters Guild of Las Cruces
pottersguildlc.org

Scaffolding Theatre Company
scaffoldingtheatrecompany@gmail.com
scaffoldingtheatrecompany.com

Sin Fronteras/Writers Without Borders
sinfronterasjournal.com

Theatre Dojo
575-545-7613
theatre-dojo.org





Blessing the fields

The annual Blessings of the Fields procession at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

One of the more popular and culturally relevant celebrations in Las Cruces is the annual Blessings of the Fields procession at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

The historic tradition typically takes place on a Friday morning in mid-May.

The procession around the museum grounds begins with the blessing of the animals, plants and acequia and continues with the Prayer of the Four Directions, often led by members of the Corporacion de los Indigenes de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de Tortugas and Tortugas Pueblo. Leading the procession is the bishop of the Las Cruces Diocese, and students from Las Cruces Catholic Schools often participate.

The bulto carried during the procession was created by Las Cruces artist Virginia Maria Romero. It is

now part of the museum's permanent collection.

The museum often hosts a plant sale as part of the festivities, including vegetables, flowers and desert plants grown in the museum's greenhouse.

The procession, which focuses on a long and rich history, has been carried out at the Farm and Ranch Museum since 2001.

San Ysidro, patron saint of farmers, lived 1070-1130 (he died May 15) and was a farmworker in Spain, working in the fields for a wealthy landowner. Known as Isidore the Laborer and Isidore the Farmer, he was renowned for his devotion to God, his humility and his generosity to the less fortunate.

The story of San Ysidro has been passed down through the generations and still inspires many farmers and their families in the Mesilla Valley. For



many years, workers in San Miguel, New Mexico, south of Las Cruces would make a pilgrimage each May, stopping at all the villages along the valley.

NMFRHM, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, can be reached at 575-522-4100.

Visit www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.



Mural brightens food pantry's new building

In 2023, Casa de Peregrinos emergency food program (CdP) opened a brand new building at 991 W. Amador Ave.

And a locally created mural serves as the focus of the building's entrance.

"We consider this mural is an inspiring representation of the mission, goals and history of Casa de Peregrinos and provides a connection to the community and geography of the Mesilla Valley, the Borderlands and Doña Ana County," CdP officials said.

The mural wall includes a photo and biography of George Miller, who served for 25 years as a member of the CdP board and as board chair, and was a cornerstone of the CdP community.

Along with U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, Miller "played a key role in securing financing for constructing the present CdP building," the nonprofit said, and in developing CdP's mobile food pantries and its endowment.

"Nothing could fully recognize his gifts to us," CdP said, "but, in partial recognition of his service, CdP is naming the main lobby wall in its new headquarters the George W. Miller Community Wall."

Contact CdP at 575-523-5542. Visit www.casadeperegrinos.org.



George Miller

Las Cruces's music graces 'American Buffalo'

BY MIKE COOK

“His contribution was very valuable to the film,” the editor of PBS’ film “American Buffalo” said about Las Cruces musician Randy Granger.

“It’s essential to our storytelling,” editor Craig Mellish said about the six songs written by Granger that Mellish picked for the two-part, four-hour film directed and executive produced by Emmy award winner and Academy Award nominee Ken Burns. “American Buffalo” played on PBS television stations last fall, and can be found on PBS Livestream or PBS Passport.

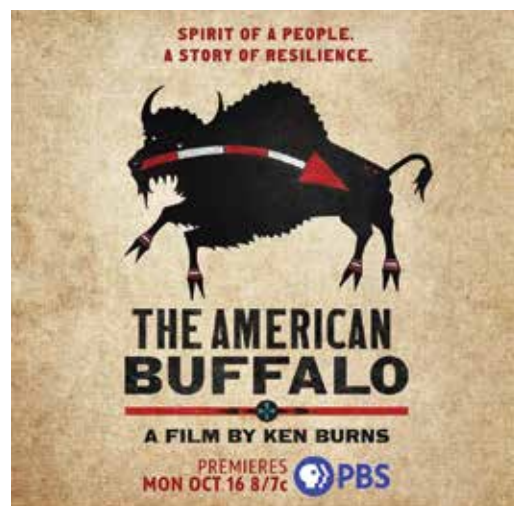
Mellish began an online search for music for the film because nothing he had access to “had the weight I thought it should. The film is about the murder of 30,000 animals. It’s about everything that went with it,” Mellish said.

“They really speak to me,” Mellish said about Granger’s songs.

“I’ve watched many of Ken Burns’ documentary series and have always thought the music was such an integral part of the storytelling, not just background,” Granger said. “So, when I heard from them about using some of my songs I was humbled and honored. My own Native American ancestry and my music in this film means I am honoring their sacrifices and perseverance and only hope I make them all proud. I remember driving from Hobbs to Carlsbad weekends to visit relatives. We would see herds of buffalo along the way. I never knew what happened to them. What an amazing story of despair and hope is ‘American Buffalo.’ Maybe our descendants will again see these majestic creatures who have been in North America over 200,000 years roaming free.”

Granger is an award-winning recording artist and performer.

Visit kenburns.com/films/the-american-buffalo and www.pbs.org/about/about-pbs/blogs/news/new-ken-burns-film-explores-history-of-the-american-buffalo. Also visit www.randygranger.net.



Doña Ana Arts Council has new director

Araceli Solis is the executive director at the Doña Ana Arts Council and an artist herself.

“I feel extremely honored to be in this position and contribute to creating a community where the arts continue to thrive,” Solis said when she took the position. “My goal is to support the vision and mission of the DAArts Council to enhance the quality of life and develop the cultural, educational, and economic growth of our community through the arts and to create and establish a strong partnership with the Doña Ana County school districts and provide aspiring young student artists with art exhibit opportunities and show them the many possibilities of careers within the arts. I want to bring in a diversity of cultures into the gallery art exhibits. I want the organization to be the heart of the Arts in Doña Ana county. My personal mission and goal is to love, serve, and care for the Doña Ana community through the arts to the best of my ability.”



Araceli Solis



Doña Ana Community College celebrates 50th Anniversary

Doña Ana Community College's 50th year opened with a look to the future – the groundbreaking of the new Creative Media Technology studio.

There was also time for looking back, remembering the school's beginnings.

“Founded in 1973 in collaboration with local school districts to support what was then called ‘occupational education,’ DACC has evolved into a multi-faceted institution that provides transformative educational opportunities to meet the needs of people living in communities across the county,” DACC president Monica Torres wrote on the occasion of the anniversary.

“For me, the key idea here is ‘transformative’ or ‘transformational.’ There is no doubt that the students who leave DACC after completing their studies are not the same people who walked through our doors. When they leave DACC—credential in hand—they leave with new knowledge, new skills, new identities—as dental hygienists and diagnostic medical sonographers, as EMTs and firefighters, as water utilities operators and electrical lineworkers, as computer network specialists or web



designers, as early childhood care workers or law enforcement professionals, as people who can succeed in higher education and the workforce.

“And with those new skills and identities come advantages” she said. “Research tells us people who earn post-secondary credentials tend to have lower unemployment rates, make more money, and access jobs with better benefits than those with high school diplomas. For over 50 years, DACC has created instructional spaces where residents from the county (and other places) study, develop, transform and launch themselves into new professional opportunities.”

The new CMT studio can prepare students for some of those professional opportunities.

The studio is at 4006 Film St. in New Mexico State University’s Arrowhead Park, south of Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine. The 14,000 square-foot CMT building will house classrooms and a commons area, complete with a 4,000 square-foot soundstage. The cost of the building is \$11.2 million with a tentative completion date of May 2024.

“The new DACC Creative Media Technology studio will be another critical tool in our regional film industry to train students in modern film and digital media technology,” said state Sen. Jeff Steinborn of Las Cruces. “It will be a real world



First Branch Main Office Doña Ana County Occupational Education Branch on the corner of University and Espina

training environment to work hand in hand with industry to create great jobs in our community.”

“This new state-of-the-art facility will help us provide expanded mixed-use space for film, animation, game design and virtual production,” said DACC Arts Department Chair Matthew Byrnes.

New superintendent takes the reins at LCPS

BY MIKE COOK

“The man lives and breathes community, so I thought he would be a good fit for Las Cruces,” Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education President Teresa Tenorio said about Ignacio Ruiz, who became the new LCPS in August 2023.

The board hired Ruiz to replace Ralph Ramos, who retired after more than two years leading LCPS, which has about 24,000 students in 40 schools in Las Cruces, Mesilla, Doña Ana and on White Sands Missile Range. The district has approximately 3,400 employees.

Ruiz had been an assistant superintendent for the Clark County School District (CCSD) in Nevada.

Ruiz, who is bilingual, is a strong communicator and relationship builder who will work well with LCPS’ ELL (English Language Learner) community, Tenorio said. Ruiz oversaw CCSD’s English-language learning division.

LCPS students “can see themselves reflected in him,” board member Patrick Nolan said. “He speaks Spanish; he grew up in the Southwest.”

“Superintendent Ruiz is very student centered,” said board



Ignacio Ruiz



member Pamela Cort. “I love that his roots are in the Southwest and that he started public school as an English Learner. Because of this shared experience Mr. Ruiz has with many of our LCPS students, I know he will help to provide multiple opportunities for ALL students to succeed. He is innovative, genuine, and honest. We are so fortunate to have him as our superintendent!”

“He brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge as a former teacher and now administrator,” said board member Bob Wofford.

“My passion is quality and equitable education for all,” Ruiz said.



New ag buildings a game changer

BY MIKE COOK

Fabian Garcia would have been so proud. Garcia was a member of the first graduating class of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, now New Mexico State University, graduating in 1894 and beginning a 50-year career with NMSU that contributed to the development of agriculture in the region, nation and around the world.

The great tradition he helped start at NMSU took another giant leap forward as the university officially opened its new Food Science, Security and Safety Center and Animal Nutrition and Feed Manufacturing Facility on NMSU's Las Cruces campus.

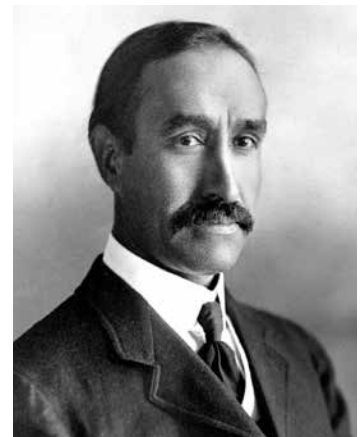
They are the first agriculture buildings on campus since the Skeen Building was completed more than two decades ago.

"These facilities will be a game changer for ACES, NMSU and New Mexico," College of ACES Dean Rolando A. Flores Galarza said. "They will benefit student education, support food and value-added research of agricultural products, and facilitate labor training for the meat and food industry — thus, directly

impacting the food safety of our agricultural products and the economic impact of the College of ACES in New Mexico."

Construction on the buildings began in 2021 with funds from general obligation bonds approved by local voters in 2008 and 2020. Monetary contributions to the construction were also made by the New Mexico Beef Council, Caviness Beef Packers and other donors.

"The new facility will allow the College of ACES and NMSU to become a regional provider of high-quality teaching, research and outreach in value-added agriculture and a hub for local, regional and international



Fabian Garcia

training in food science and bioprocessing,” said Efren Delgado, head of the family and Consumer Sciences and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences departments and co-director of the Center of Excellent in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems at NMSU.

The new facility will also support a newly proposed NMSU Ph.D. program in food science, Delgado said.

The facility’s state-of-the-art laboratories will support emerging research in functional foods, nutraceuticals, minimization of water usage in food production and dairy technology, Delgado said in the news release, and will consolidate NMSU’s livestock education and research into a single feed mill.



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.®
New Mexico State University

Enrollment

Total enrollment, Fall 2023: 21,797
(14,779 at Las Cruces campus)

Status: Undergraduate 82%; Graduate, 18%

Gender: 58.2% female; 41.8% male

Ethnicity: 58.3% Hispanic; 26.1% White; 2.6% Black or African American; 2.1% American or Alaskan Native; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 1.2% Asian; Two or more races 2.3%

Tuition and fees

(undergraduate)

Full-time resident*:

\$4,229 per semester if qualifications for the Opportunity scholarship aren’t met

Full-time nonresident:

\$13,392 per semester

PO BOX 30001

Las Cruces, NM 88003

575-646-0111

www.nmsu.edu

Source: oia.nmsu.edu

*New Mexico Senate Bill 140, also known as the opportunity scholarship, allows all New Mexico residents to have an opportunity for free college. If student qualifications are met, they will be able to attend all New Mexico schools for free. Information about the opportunity scholarship and about qualifications can be found here: hed.nm.gov/financial-aid/scholarships/new-mexico-opportunity-scholarship



NMSU Doña Ana Community College

Enrollment

Total enrollment

Spring 2022: 5,346

Average class size: 18
(2022)

Student profile (2022)

Average age: 25

Median age: 19

Gender: 56.6% female; 43.4% male

Ethnicity: 76.6% Hispanic; 14.6% White; 1.8% Black or African American;

Source: oia.nmsu.edu, dacc.nmsu.edu/iepf

1.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0.4% Asian/native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 1.8% unknown; 1% two or more races

Tuition and fees

Full-time (12 credits)

in-district/Doña Ana

County resident: \$921

Full-time (12 credits)

out-of-district/NM

resident: \$1,119

Full-time (12 credits)

nonresident: \$2,940

Campuses and Learning Centers

• **East Mesa Campus**

2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd., Las Cruces

• **Espina Central Campus**

3400 S. Espina St., Las Cruces

• **Chaparral**

Learning Center

755 Prescott Anthony Drive, Chaparral, N.M.

• **Gadsden Center**

1700 Ohara Road, Anthony, N.M.

• **Sunland Park Center**

3365 McNutt Road, Sunland Park, N.M.

• **Workforce**

Development Center

2345 E. Nevada Ave., Las Cruces

Elevate Your Future

Ignite Your Passion



NMSU Doña Ana Community College

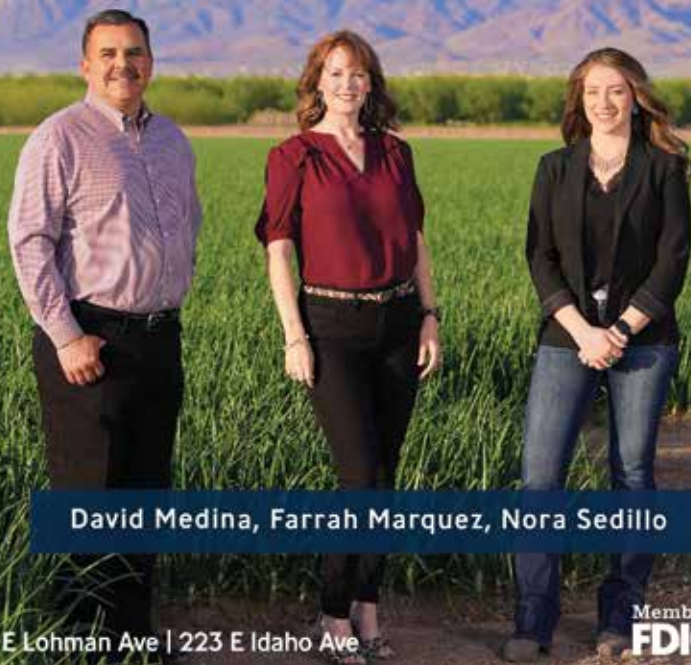
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575-527-7710 | dacc.nmsu.edu



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David Medina, Farrah Marquez, Nora Sedillo

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firstamericanbanknm.com

LAS CRUCES | 1553 Avenida de Mesilla | 2145 E Lohman Ave | 223 E Idaho Ave



LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent

Ignacio Ruiz
Administration Building
505 S. Main St., Ste. 249
575-527-5800
www.lcps.net

Students

23,928
(school year 2022-23)

Student Ethnicity

Hispanic: 78.12%
Caucasian: 21.88%
African American: 4.16%
Asian: 1.45%
Native American: 1.44%
Pacific Islander/Other: 0.49%

Graduation Rate (2018)

86.2%

Schools

- 22 elementary schools
- 8 middle schools and one alternative school
- 6 high schools and one alternative school
- LCPS Head Start (at 11 elementary schools)

LCPS Staff

About 3,000 employees (includes teachers, assistants, nutrition services, special education staff and nurses and counselors)

Source: www.lcps.k12.nm.us

Transportation

Bus routes: 124 (81 regular and 43 special needs routes, including 27 with lift buses)
Registered bus riders: Approximately 9,300
Miles: Buses will travel approximately 1.5 million miles taking students to and from school. All buses have surveillance cameras and several special needs buses have air conditioning.



PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Acton Academy

1730 Tierra de Mesilla
575-449-4796
actonlascruces.com
Head of School: Anna Emerick-Biad

Alma d'arte Charter High School

402 W. Court Ave.
575-541-0145
almadarte.org
Principal: Kayla Martinez

Cornerstone Christian Academy

5301 Cortez Drive
575-532-0902
cornerstn.org/cornerstone-christian-academy
Chief Executive Officer: Senior Pastor: Doug Cowan

Desert Springs Christian Academy

210 S. Nevarez St.
575-571-7709
dscalions.org
Headmaster: Karen Caroe

J. Paul Taylor Academy

402 W. Court Ave., Bldg. 2
575-652-4006
jpaultayloracademy.org
Executive Director: Christy Takacs

La Academia Dolores Huerta

400 Bell Ave.
575-526-2984
ladh.org
Head Administrator: Sylvy Galvan de Lucero

Las Cruces Academy

1755 Avenida de Mercado
575-521-9384
lascrucesacademy.org
Head of School: Lou Ellen Kay

Las Cruces Catholic Schools

1331 N. Miranda St.
575-526-2517
lccsonline.org
Principal: Adrian Galaz

Las Montañas Charter High School

1405 S. Solano Drive
575-527-5916
lasmontanashigh.com
Academic Dean: Caz Martinez

Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

3850 Stern Drive
575-525-8515
mvcsonline.com
Superintendent: John Foreman

Mission Lutheran School

2752 N. Roadrunner Pkwy.
575-532-5489
mlschool.net
School Administrator: Mary Martin

New America School

207 S. Main St.
575-527-9085
lcnas.org
Principal: Margarita Porter





Organ Mountains

Economic impact of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument continues growing

BY MIKE COOK

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDPNM) has generated more than \$234 million in economic impact since the monument was designated May 21, 2014, including \$35 million in 2022. And visitation to the monument has tripled from about 184,000 in 2012 to almost 613,000 in 2022.

“The data exemplifies what we have been witnessing – the designation of OMDPNM is fueling our local businesses and has provided our community an opportunity to diversify our economy and bring in new revenue we would not have seen otherwise,” said Carrie Hamblen, CEO and president of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce.

Hamblen, a Las Cruces state senator, was an early advocate for the monument designation.

The nearly half-million OMDPNM “is a success story that will likely help us sustain a strong and vibrant local economy for decades to come,” said Hamblen, one of more than a half-dozen speakers at a Sept. 13 Zoom news conference about the monument’s economic impact.

By 2022, the monument had created 305 jobs in Doña Ana and Luna counties, said Michael Verdone, Ph.D., who authored a 2013 impact study about the monument and is director of

BBC Research and Consulting. The monument has generated \$13 million in tax revenue in the last 10 years, including \$1.9 million in 2022. Monument revenues have exceed 2013 projections by 51 percent, Verdone said.

“The community has acted on the opportunities created by the monument designation,” Verdone said.

OMDPNM “provides a great model for other communities on how to protect their treasured areas, which creating economic prosperity,” said Outdoor New Mexico Executive Director Jeff Steinborn, who is also a Las Cruces state senator.

“The people I meet at my business always have a story to share about their adventures within the monument,” said Outdoor Adventures Manager Pablo Lopez. “They are creating lasting memories with their families and friends while they are financially supporting local businesses at the same time.”

“While Hatch is known for our delicious green chile, we are excited to also become an outdoor recreation destination,” said Hatch Mayor Slim Whitlock. OMDPNM “has become a crucial part of this opportunity. These lands taught me everything I know about the outdoors, and because we’ve protected them, I love knowing they will be there for my grandchildren to enjoy and learn the same life lessons.”

City of Las Cruces: ‘Happy Trails to You’

BY CATHY MATHEWS CITY OF LAS CRUCES

The weather in southern New Mexico allows for almost year-round outdoor activity.

And, in Las Cruces, there are more and more opportunities to exercise those activities.

With recent additions, there is more than a marathon’s worth of trails.

The City of Las Cruces recently completed design and construction of several trails within the city limits in cooperation with Elephant Butte Irrigation District. These trails include the Mesilla Drain Trail between the Outfall Channel Trail and Burn Lake (2.5 miles), the Armijo Lateral Trail between the Outfall Channel Trail and Burn Lake (three miles) and the Las Cruces Lateral Trail between the Outfall Channel Trail and Spruce Avenue near the Las Cruces Police Station and Fire Station #1 (1.5 miles).

These trails are in addition to other trails that are managed by the City Parks and Recreation Department; Triviz Drive Multi-Use Trail (4.5 miles) between the NMSU main campus and Kohl’s, the Outfall Channel Trail (4.3 miles) between Kohls and the river and the La Llorona/



Rio Grande Trail (4.6 miles) connecting the Outfall Channel Trail with the Town of Mesilla.

Other trails within the city trail system include Alameda Arroyo Trail (0.7 miles) near Camino Real Middle School, Legends West Trails (1.2 miles) throughout the Legends West neighborhoods and the Twin Parks Trail (0.9 miles) on Engler Avenue between Mesa Dr and Jornada Drive.

The new trails in the city’s system expand the recreational trail system within the city limits from over 19 miles in length to over 26 miles in length.

Upcoming city recreational trail projects include more Las Cruces lateral trails between NMSU main campus and Las Cruces High School and also connecting NMSU main campus to the Village of Tortugas.

Additional trails programming in the planning stages includes mountain bike trails in the vicinity of the East Mesa Public Recreation Complex. Also, the city is completing a park and trail wayfinding plan that will guide the placement and visual appeal of a comprehensive wayfinding sign system that will help guide park and trail users to destinations and routes that are accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Parks and Recreation Department trail system development is guided by the master plan which outlines our community’s goal to provide a system of multi-use trails that support residents’ and visitors’ fitness, recreation and transportation needs while linking community destinations such as parks, open space, schools and other community activity centers. This goal is consistent with the city’s Active Transportation Plan.

“The tripling of visitors to OMDPNM has helped create hundreds of jobs in Doña Ana County and raise million in revenue for vital community services,” said Doña Ana County Commission Chair Susana Chaparro.

“The economic report really tells us definitively what our community has always known: that protected public lands help build strong and resilient communities,” said Friends of OMDP Executive Director Patrick Nolan. “They help bring people into our community that otherwise wouldn’t. This includes both visitors as well as people making the choice to live here full-time with our public lands being a significant factor in that decision. Our local business community has recognized this and integrated them into their business plan. Most importantly for the Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, we are seeing a new generation of community members find inspiration in these places and becoming advocates for these protected spaces.”

OMDPNM “was established to protect significant prehistoric, historic, geologic, and biologic resources of scientific interest, and includes four areas: the Organ Mountains, Desert Peaks, Potrillo Mountains, and Doña Ana Mountains,” the U.S. Bureau of Land Management said on its website.

The Organs rise to an elevation of 9,000 feet, the BLM said, and the monument “provides opportunities for photography,



hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping and wildlife viewing.”

The monument “has been a homeland for diverse Native American people, Van Patten’s historic hotel, the Butterfield Stage Coach Line, a place of exploration for 17th century Spaniards, a hideout for one of the American West’s most notorious outlaws and a training ground for World War II airmen and Apollo astronauts,” the BLM said. “The area is also home to a high diversity of animal life, including golden eagles and other raptors, as well as mountain lions, mule deer and other mammals.”

Visit www.blm.gov/visit/omdp and <https://organmountainsdesertpeaks.org/>.

AREA GOLF COURSES

Golfers in Las Cruces have four options available to them to take advantage of the many sunny days. The four courses, in alphabetical order, are New Mexico State University Golf Course, Picacho Hills Golf Club, Red Hawk Golf Club and Sonoma Ranch Golf Course.

Each course offers stunning views of the valley and area mountains. All four courses offer full bar and restaurant services, as well as event venues suitable for staging tournaments, weddings and other events.

Each boasts a well-stocked pro shop and affordable greens fees along with the option to drive a cart, utilize a pull cart or carry your bag. None offers caddies.

Pick your favorite, or play all “FORE!”

NMSU Golf Course

3000 Herb Wimberly Drive
575-646-3219
golf.nmsu.edu

Picacho Hills Country Club

6861 Via Campestre
575-523-8641
picachohillsc.com

Red Hawk Golf Club

7502 Red Hawk Golf Road
575-373-8100
redhawkgc.com

Sonoma Ranch Golf Course

1274 Golf Club Road
575-521-1818
sonomaranchgolf.com

NATURE PARKS

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

The 935-acre park encompasses a section of the Doña Ana Mountains northeast of Las Cruces. Address: 56501 N. Jornada Road, Las Cruces. Info: 575-524-3334, asombro.org/naturepark.htm

Leasburg Dam State Park

Camping, picnicking and bird watching, with fishing, canoeing and kayaking on the Rio Grande offered mid-May to mid-October. Address: 12712 State Park Road, Radium Springs, NM Info: 575-524-4068, emnrd.state.nm.us

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

The park is 52 acres of floodplain known as the “Old Refuge.” With 945 acres of wetlands and Chihuahuan Desert, the park offers ranger-led nature walks, bird watching tours and children’s activities. Address: 5000 Calle del Norte, Mesilla. Info: 575-523-4398, emnrd.state.nm.us

BIRD WATCHING

Aguirre Spring Recreation Area and Campground

\$5 vehicle entrance fee,
\$7 camping fee (cash only).
Info: 575-525-4300

Dripping Springs Natural Area

\$5 vehicle entrance fee (cash only).
Info: 575-522-1219

Leasburg Dam State Park

\$5 vehicle entrance fee,
camping fees from \$8 to \$18 (cash only).
Info: 575-524-4068

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

\$5 vehicle entrance fee (cash only).
Info: 575-523-4398

Tellbrook Park

4290 E. Winchester Road
Picnic tables, fitness stations and a playground.
Up to 136 species seen in this park.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Armstrong Equine Services

Info: 575-202-0080

Miller Horse Farm and Riding Academy

Info: 575-201-8159,
575-618-7577
millerhorsefarms.com



MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

There are 82 miles of mountain-biking trails in and around Las Cruces for both beginners and experts. Many are incorporated into Bureau of Land Management lands or national monument locations that offer riders breathtaking vistas.

BLM land in Doña Ana County

- All-Trails-Lead-to-Gnome (easy)
- Cathedral (intermediate)
- Chutes-n-Ladders (intermediate)
- Desert Dance (easy to intermediate)
- Doña Ana Trail (intermediate)
- Figure Eight (intermediate)
- Greenrock Trail (intermediate to difficult)
- Rock Garden (intermediate to difficult)
- Sternal Crack (difficult)
- Twister (intermediate)

Doña Ana Mountains

- Cerro Jornada (southern mountains, more than 16 miles, all skill levels)
- NADAS (western mountains, intermediate)
- Standard DAs Loop 2 (intermediate)

Las Cruces

- La Lloroña River Park Trail (north Las Cruces to Calle del Norte Road)

Monumental Loop

(Difficult)



Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

- La Maria Trail (easy to intermediate)
- Monumental Loop (connects all four Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks units)
- Sierra Vista Trail: Dripping Springs Road to Soledad Canyon Road (easy to intermediate)
- Sierra Vista Trail: Soledad Canyon Road to Peña Blanca (easy to intermediate)
- Sierra Vista Trail: Peña Blanca to Franklin Mountain State Park (intermediate)

Picacho Peak Recreation Area

Over 15 miles of mountain biking trails

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument (Robledo Mountains)

- SST Trail (extremely difficult)

Tortugas Mountain Recreation Area (A-Mountain)

- A-Mountain Connector (easy to intermediate)
- A-Mountain Spur (intermediate)
- Devil's Crotch Bypass (intermediate)
- Geothermal Connector (easy)
- Jump Track (intermediate)
- Observatory Road (intermediate to difficult)
- Switchbacks (intermediate to difficult)
- TortugaS Trail (intermediate to difficult)

Source: mtbproject.com, blm.gov



PICKLEBALL COURTS

Apodaca Park

801 E. Madrid Ave.

575-541-2563

Morning Sessions
(All sessions are 1-1/2 hours long)
7:30 – 9 a.m.
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.
Monday through Saturday

Evening Session
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

Courts are closed on Sunday

Meerscheidt Recreation Center

1600 E. Hadley Ave.

575-541-2563

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sat. and Sun. closed

Lions Park

701 W. Picacho Ave.

575-541-2550

6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Picacho Hills Country Club

6861 Via Campestre

575-523-8641

Wed. - Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Mon. and Tues. closed



WSMR gets new commander

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Col. George Turner took over leadership at White Sands Missile Range in November 2023 in a Change of Command ceremony.

Following a passing of the colors ceremony, Major Gen. James J. Gallivan, commanding general for the Army Test & Evaluation Command spoke, beginning with a recognition of the beauty of the area.

“Look at the mountain and just breathe,” he told the attendees. “We should be paying to be here today, the weather, the people the scenery, we are blessed – it’s just Wow.”

He described the ceremony as symbolizing the relinquishment of leadership.

“It allows us to reflect not on the leader, but on the organization’s past accomplishments and look to the future in anticipation of the organization’s great achievements yet to come,” he said.

Brig. Gen. Eric Little served as commander of WSMR since May 2021, Gallivan said. Little led a joint team of more than 6,000 service members, civilians, contractors and family members, commanding the largest military installation here in the lower 48.

One of the themes of Little’s command at WSMR has been about care, Gallivan

said. Then he welcomed the new commander to the installation.

“George, your experience speaks volumes, and we are thrilled to welcome you to WSMR, ATEC, and this world-class community; I promise you will fall in love with the people of Las Cruces and El Paso, and it will change your life forever in a better way,” Gallivan told Turner.

As Little took the podium, he pointed out they were using the same podium used by John F. Kennedy podium, only sitting president, the only sitting president to ever visit WSMR.

He said he commanded WSMR for two and a half years, the longest since Brig. Gen. Jerry L. Laws commanded the range from June 1994 to April 1998. The standard term for a commander there is two years.

After knowing Turner for seven years, Little said he is honored to hand the colors to Turner saying “I’ve seen fresh ideas, you



Col. George Turner

are the right leader at the right time.”

Turner addressed the community for the first time, saying it was another great day to be an American soldier. He then shared his pride in serving as the 38th Commander of White Sands Missile Range, as well as the Deputy Commander for Developmental Testing for the Army Test and Evaluation Command.

Turner who most recently served as the Chief of Staff for G-3/5/7 Force Management, Headquarters, Department of Army in Washington, D.C., where he was previously Programs Division Chief. Prior to that position, he was the Ministerial Advisory Group – Defense, Chief of Staff in Kabul, Afghanistan.

He has served in a variety of Armor and Force Management assignments, including at Vilseck, Germany; Camp Casey, Korea; Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Turner’s deployments include Operation Able Sentry in Macedonia, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan.

He holds degrees from the College of William and Mary, Georgetown and the U.S. Army War College.

White Sands Hall of Fame Medal

White Sands Missile Range recognizes important contributors to its longstanding mission with inductions into the WSMR Hall of Fame.

The HOF was established in 1980 to give “appropriate and perpetual recognition to those members of the WSMR workforce, military and civilian, who have made singularly significant contributions to the mission on the Range and to the surrounding communities,” according to the WSMR Historical Foundation. Induction “is the highest award the missile range can bestow on one of its own.”

There are 56 current HOF members. Past honorees include Clyde Tombaugh, Frances Williams, Mary Beth Reinhart and Ed Noble.

“You don’t have to be a world-class scientist to be recognized in the HOF, Historical Foundation Secretary Jim

Eckles said.

The HOF contains men and women, civilian and military personnel, government and contractor employees and a huge mix of professions – everything from chaplain to missile flight safety to public affairs to professional engineer to equal employment opportunity to “mover and shaker,” Eckles said.

“It is the embodiment of ‘Team WSMR,’ the phrase WSMR leaders have thrown around for decades.”

To enter the HOF, a nominee must have been responsible for significant and lasting deeds or achievements during his or her career at WSMR. These contributions have been made in a variety of areas, including research, innovations, cost savings, technological advances, safety, public relations, equal opportunity and heroic deeds.

All former military, civilian and



contractor personnel who have served at WSMR are eligible for nomination. No one currently working at the range is eligible.

Nominations are typically accepted through March of any given year. For information on nomination procedures or to request an updated copy of the HOF guide, call the WSMR Public Affairs Office at 575-678-1134.



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CHAPTER 38 MESILLA

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
Mesilla Town Hall, Fridays 10-12

Come join us and become
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organization

Meeting every 3rd Saturday
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Meeting
Andele's Restaurant, Mesilla

For information call
Kevin Dasing, 575-640-7173

VETERANS SERVICES

Vet Center plays vital role for veterans

The Las Cruces Vet Center services include individual readjustment counseling, referral for benefits assistance, group readjustment counseling, marital and family counseling, substance abuse information and referral for sexual trauma counseling and bereavement counseling.

The Las Cruces Vet Center is one of 43 vet centers in the Mountain West Region 4A, one of four in New Mexico and the only center south of Interstate 40. It serves an area covering 11 counties, 39 percent of the state, and a veteran population estimated at more than 50,000.

Veterans can walk in to get assistance in determining what services they need, whether at the center itself or one of the other veteran programs in the area. There are handouts on a wide range of topics, magazines and books.



LEARN MORE

Las Cruces Vet Center
1120 Commerce Drive, Ste. B
575-523-9826

HOURS

Monday - Friday:
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

For assistance after hours, weekends and holidays,
call 1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387)

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

(Call for meeting information)

**American Legion Post 10,
Joe Quesenberry**
1185 E. Madrid Ave./P.O. Box 7
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-526-9139

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 10
Mesilla Valley Chapter
1185 E. Madrid Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-640-7173

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 25
332 E. Lisa Drive
Chaparral, NM 88081
915-760-6526

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 38
1950 Calle del Norte/
P.O. Box 1244
Mesilla, NM 88046
575-635-4252

Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico
P.O. Box 14017
Las Cruces, NM 88013
844-697-1590
honorflightnm.org

**Marine Corps League
El Perro Diablo
Detachment 478**
P.O. Box 7322
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-526-4060

**Mesilla Valley #2004
Military Order of the
Purple Heart**
1185 E. Madrid Ave.
575-644-1045
purpleheartlascruces.com

**Military Officers
Association of America,
Mesilla Valley Chapter
Current or prior
commissioned officers**
P.O. Box 743
Las Cruces, NM 88004
575-382-1385
nmmoaa.wordpress.com



**New Mexico Department
of Veterans Services**
2024 E. Griggs Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-524-6220
nmdvs.org

**Sons of the
American Legion
Squadron 10**
P.O. Box 7
Las Cruces, NM 88004
detachmentnm.org

**Remember Bataan
Foundation**
575-644-1895
Dana Knight, President

**United Military Women
of the Southwest**
P.O. Box 2534
Las Cruces, NM 88004
575-639-1256
umwsw.weebly.com

Guide To Las Cruces City Hall

City Clerk's Office

575-541-2115

The Office of the City Clerk conducts city elections. General questions about running for office or voting can be directed to the City Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office is also in charge of the city's official records and records requests.

City Council

575-541-2066

City Hall houses the offices of the mayor and the six city council members. City council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, and council work sessions are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Community Development

575-528-3059

The Community Development Department provides community planning, building and development services to property owners, residents and businesses.

Economic Development

575-541-2425

The Economic Development Department provides targeted business, tourism and support services to businesses, residents and visitors.

Housing and Family Services

575-528-3022

Housing and Family Services is under Community Development and addresses the needs of low- and moderate-income residents by addressing housing issues with regard to affordable housing, public service funding and public infrastructure programs.



Human Resources

575-528-3100

The Human Resources Department at City Hall hires and handles the City's workforce.

Public Works

575-528-3333

Public Works is responsible for construction and maintenance of public buildings, service facilities, gas and water lines, along with the city's roads and streets.

Risk Management

575-528-3665

Risk Management's ultimate

responsibility is safety. It processes any claims against the city and workers' compensation claims as well as addressing safety concerns.

Utilities

575-528-3500

The City of Las Cruces provides gas, water, sewer and solid waste services within city limits. You can get connected at City Hall, pay your bill or transfer services if you move.

Visit las-cruces.gov/27/ Government for a full list of services and departments.

Area Military at a Glance

Holloman Air Force Base

Branch: Air Force
Established in 1942 as
Alamogordo Army Airfield
Land Area: 59,639 acres
Website: www.holloman.af.mil

White Sands Missile Range

Branch: Army
Established in 1945
Land Area: 3,200 square miles,
spanning five counties.
Largest military installation in the US.
Website: www.wsmr.army.mil

Fort Bliss

Branch: Army
Established as Military Post of El Paso in 1848.
The post's first troops arrived in 1849.
In 1853 the installation relocated and it was officially renamed Fort Bliss in 1854.
Land Area: 1,700 square miles.
The Army's second largest installation.
Website: home.army.mil/bliss

GOVERNMENT OFFICES

City of Las Cruces City Hall

700 N. Main St.
575-541-2000

Doña Ana County Government Centre

845 N. Motel Blvd.
575-647-7421

IRS Tax Assistance Office

Loretto Town Center
505 S. Main St., Ste. 149
575-526-0161

Las Cruces Police Department Headquarters

217 E. Picacho Ave.
575-528-0795

New Mexico Department of Health

1170 N. Solano Drive
575-528-5001

New Mexico State Police

4055 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
575-382-2500

New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division

Loretto Town Centre
505 S. Main St., Ste. 357
575-524-6215
3291 Del Rey Blvd., Ste. 10
575-647-2044

New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division

3861 N. Main #A
575-373-1367
mvd.newmexico.gov

MVD Express

3961 E. Lohman Ave., Ste. 20
575-373-1367
mvdexpress.com/locations

New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department

2540 El Paseo Road, No. 2
575-524-6225

New Mexico Workforce Connection

226 S. Alameda Blvd.
575-524-6250

N.M. Human Services Department

655 Utah Ave.)
575-524-6500
2121 Summit Court
575-524-6568

U.S. Postal Service

201 E. Las Cruces Ave. (Downtown)
1180 Commerce Drive (East Mesa)
3800 W. Picacho Ave. (Fairacres)
1600 International Mall (NMSU)
800-275-8777

U.S. Social Security Administration

2141 Summit Court
866-563-9294



Aggie football revival

By RICHARD COLTHARP

Since when is New Mexico State University a football school?

The short answer is, a few months after Jerry Kill arrived.

Kill is a veteran football coach small in stature but big in heart. His thick Kansas drawl and warm nature makes everyone feel at home, and he has embraced the community since the minute he arrived in Las Cruces.

When a fan gifted him a poncho adorned with bucking horses and Western icons, he put it on immediately, and now it's a signature item.

Those are all fun and nice, but he's done something else that's brought families and groups back to Aggie Memorial Stadium. He's built a winning football team.

NMSU has long been noted as a basketball school, and the parquet court at the Pan American Center is named for Lou Henson, the Hall of Fame coach who took the Aggies to their only Final Four in 1970.

Aggie football, on the other hand, had a long, rough stretch. About 60 years long. There was a blip on the radar in 2017, when NMSU went to its first bowl game in 57 years, and half of Las Cruces traveled to Tucson, Arizona, to watch the Aggies win. Then there were more seasons with 2 or 3 victories.

When Kill arrived ahead of the 2022 season, fans saw his resume, but wondered if he could succeed at NMSU. Fans thought they knew the answer when the Aggies lost five of their first six games in 2022. But then they caught fire, winning six of

their last seven, culminating in victory at the Quick Lane Bowl.

A huge crowd gathered at Plaza de Las Cruces in early January to celebrate the Aggies.

But was it a fluke?

Before the 2023 season, when asked if the team could be good again, Kill said, "Well, I know we'll look better coming off the bus." Meaning the players were bigger and stronger due to better and more consistent nutrition and training. After several years as an independent team, the Aggies were entering a league, Conference USA. That brought advantages and changes, including things like nationally televised Wednesday night football. But could the Aggies compete?

They lost two of their first three 2023 games, and three of their first five, and pessimistic fans may have thought, "Here we go again." That's when the Aggies rattled off eight straight games, earning a second straight bowl berth, and a shot at the Conference USA title.

This publication went to press before we knew if the Aggies won the conference championship, or if they won a second straight bowl, but 2023 was the first time the Aggies reached 10 victories, or picked up votes in the AP Top 25 rankings, since 1960.

With some of the lowest ticket prices in college football, some of the best weather to watch NMSU all season, the always entertaining Pride of New Mexico marching band and, now, a competitive and winning team, going to Aggie football games has become one of the best experiences in Las Cruces.



Southern New Mexico's favorite sandbox

Whether it's for a full moon hike, a bicycle ride, a horse ride, a sled down the dunes, a picnic, or even your wedding day, Southern New Mexicans and visitors from all over the planet (and maybe some from other planets? After all, the park is visible from space.) love White Sands National Park.

Situated about 40 minutes east of Las Cruces and 20 minutes west of Alamogordo on U.S. Highway 70.

WSNP offers full moon hikes once a month, March through November, on the night before the full moon. Tickets are available up to two months before the day of the tour.

Also at WSNP you can drive the 16-mile roundtrip scenic

Dunes Drive, take a Sunset Stroll (every Friday, Saturday and Sunday), hike, take amazing photographs, participate in park ranger-led programming and learn more at the park's visitor center.

WSNP covers almost 146,000 acres in the Tularosa Basin and more than 40 percent of the 275-square mile gypsum-crystal white sands. It was established as a national monument Jan. 18, 1933, and became a national park Dec. 20, 2019. The park had more than 705,000 visitors in 2022 and is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (with some extended hours) every day except Christmas.

Call 575-479-6124 or visit www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm.





Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

200 E. Picacho Ave.
575-528-4000

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library is a rich community resource that nurtures lifelong learning. Resources include books, audio books, magazines and DVDs, as well as digital media downloads.

The library is also host to several programs for all ages, including reading clubs for youth and adults, story time for young children, Teen Game Night and a Maker Space with art supplies, a sewing machine, guitars for loan, filmmaking equipment and more.

Visitors have access to computers, WiFi, photocopying services and study rooms and a board meeting room.

For information and history, call 575-528-4000 or visit library.las-cruces.gov/1617/Library.



AREA MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

Austin's Ring Museum

230 E. Idaho Ave.
575-525-3340
austinsjewelry.com

Branigan Cultural Center

501 N. Main St.
575-541-2154
las-cruces.gov/1528/Branigan-Cultural-Center

Fort Selden Historic Site

1280 Ft. Selden Road,
Radium Springs
575-526-8911
nmhistoricsites.org/fort-selden

Gadsden Museum

1875 Boutz Road, Mesilla
575-526-6293
gadsdenmuseummesilla.com

Paul W. Klipsch Museum Mexico State University College of Engineering

575-646-3471
enr.nmsu.edu/the-paul-w-klipsch-museum/

Las Cruces Museum of Art

491 N. Main St.
575-541-2137
las-cruces.gov/1542/Museum-of-Art

Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science

411 N. Main St.
575-522-3120
las-cruces.gov/1608/Museum-of-Nature-Science

Las Cruces Railroad Museum

351 N. Mesilla St.
575-528-3444
las-cruces.gov/1624/Railroad-Museum

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

4100 Dripping Springs Road
575-522-4100
nmfarmandranchmuseum.org

New Mexico State University Art Museum

Devasthali Hall
1308 E. University Ave.
575-646-2545
uam.nmsu.edu

New Mexico State University Arthropod Collection

945 College Drive,
Skeen Hall W168
575-646-5552
arthropods.nmsu.edu

New Mexico State University Museum - Kent Hall

1280 E. University Ave.
575-646-5161
univmuseum.nmsu.edu

Space Murals Museum & Gift Shop

12450 Hwy. 70 East
575-382-0977
spacemurals.net

Veterans Memorial Park

1251 N. Roadrunner Pkwy.
las-cruces.gov/1726/veterans-memorial-park
575-528-3473

White Sands Missile Range Museum and Missile Park

575-678-3358
wsmr-history.org

Zuhl Museum

775 College Drive
575-646-4714
zuhlmuseum.nmsu.edu

LAS CRUCES CITY POOLS & AQUATIC CENTER

LAS CRUCES NATATORIUM

1405 E. Hadley Ave.
575-541-2744
Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Saturday

LAABS POOL

750 W. Picacho Ave.
575-526-1623
Hours: Closed Monday; Tuesday-Sunday, noon-3 p.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m.

EAST MESA BATAAN MEMORIAL POOL

6141 Reynolds Road
575-541-2783
Hours: Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Sunday, noon-3 p.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m.

AQUATIC CENTER

1401 E. Hadley Ave.
575-541-2782
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-8:30 p.m.;
Saturday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.;
Sunday Closed

Aqua Fitness/Lap Swim/Exercise

Monday - Friday, 6 - 9 a.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Family Swim Sessions

Monday - Friday, 2 - 6 p.m.
Saturday, noon to 3:30 p.m.
and 4 - 7:30 p.m.

For more information and pool hours, visit
las-cruces.org/1336/Aquatics-Centers



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

LITERACY/READING

COAS Books Saturday Morning Storytime

317 N. Main St.
575-524-8471
coasbooks.com

Children's Reading Alliance

3880 Foothills Road, Ste. A
575-522-3713
childrensreadingalliance.org

Doña Ana County Head Start

4101 Sam Steel Way, Bldg. A-800
575-646-8910
headstart.nmsu.edu

Dyslexia Institute of Southern New Mexico, Inc.

1320 S. Solano Drive
575-649-2992
disnm.org

Literacy Volunteers of Doña Ana County

575-527-7641
lv-dac@dacc.nmsu.edu
readwritenow.org

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

200 E. Picacho Ave.
575-528-4000
las-cruces.gov/1617/library

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

4-H Youth Development

Doña Ana County Extension Office
1170 N. Solano Drive, Ste. M
575-525-6649
donaanaextension.nmsu.edu/4-h.html

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region

129 S. Main St., Ste. B
575-523-9530
bbbsmountainregion.org

Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces

330 W. Las Cruces Ave.
575-526-1519
bgclasruces.org

Boy Scouts of America Yucca Council

Las Cruces - Sunshine District
915-772-2292
yuccabsa.org

Cruces Gymnastics Academy

1442 Certified Place
575-527-9113
cgagymnastics.org

Enrich The Kids Inc.

575-571-7734
enrichthekids.org

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest

225 E. Idaho Ave., Ste. 9
575-526-2532
gsdsw.org

Gym Magic

2341 Entrada del Sol
575-523-1616
gymmagic.com

Junior Amigos Ambassadors

277 E. Amador Ave., #305
575-524-8900
lasruceshispanicchamber.com/junior-amigos

Junior Leadership Las Cruces

150 E. Lohman Ave.
575-524-1968
lasruces.org/junior-leadership

Las Cruces Parks and Recreation After-School Programs

304 W. Bell Ave.
575-541-2756
las-cruces.gov/1515/after-school-program

New Mexico FFA

575-646-3036
nmffa.org

Elevate Gymnastics & Athletics

3030 Harrelson St.
575-524-4960
elevate-gymnastics.com

ARTS

A Children's Theater of the Mesilla Valley

575-571-1413
achildrenstheatre.org

Court Youth Center

402 W. Court Ave.
575-541-0145

Las Cruces School of Dance and Music

1390 N. Main St.
575-525-5670
newmexicodanceandmusic.com

Michele's Dance Academy

1195 E. Madrid Ave.
575-527-1893
michelesdanceacademy.biz

Starlight Theatre Company of Las Cruces

575-312-7623
starlightonstage.org

Verdi Academy of Dance

575-522-3147
verdiacademyofdance.com





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Where dogs run free

A place to relax, visit, exercise for dog and human both

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

There are three spaces in Las Cruces where dogs can run off leash to their little hearts' content.

If your pup is always pulling, loves to run and looks for other dogs to play with in Las Cruces, scattered across the city are three open spaces, securely fenced and friendly to both humans and dogs. On any given day a visit to the Las Cruces Dog Park, Burn Lake Dog Park and, the newest, Rinconada Dog Park offers a time to relax as you watch your pooch explore and enjoy a little freedom.

At Las Cruces Dog Park, 430 N. Hermosa St. near the Meerscheidt Recreation Center, dogs can play ball as children do the same in the nearby baseball fields. There are toys, fire hydrants, trees and plenty of space to run. Also you can find plenty of comfy chairs for humans to sit and chat or read in as well as several shelters from the sun. There is a separate area for special needs dogs who might get overwhelmed and not be able to keep up with the more rambunctious critters.

The Rinconada Dog Park, 3551 Bataan Memorial West has two spacious areas for pups to gallivant – one for larger animals and another for the smaller ones. This newer space has some fun new obstacles, making it a perfect place for doggy photo opportunities.

At Burn Lake, there is lots of room for running and playing. It also has areas for larger and smaller dogs. This park tends to be less busy than the other ones and provides lovely benches to sit in the sun, or shade, and enjoy the day.

All three parks provide plenty of water, have bags available to pick up after your dog and shade structures to retreat to.



PET ORDINANCES

VACCINATIONS

A dog or cat older than 3 months within the city must be properly vaccinated against rabies and must have an implanted working identification microchip.

RABIES SHOTS AND CONTROL

Any dog, cat, domestic ferret or other animal, for which there is a state-approved rabies vaccine, older than 3 months must have a rabies vaccination. Every animal bite must be immediately reported to Animal Control at 575-528-4100, or a state field health office.

PERMITTED PETS

Pets that are permitted include:

- Up to seven licensed pets per home
- Up to a total of six chickens and/or ducks with a permit. Roosters and drakes, however, are not permitted within city limits.
- Feral cat colonies with permit
- Any amphibians, reptiles, caged birds, aquarium fish, caged rodents or caged ferrets maintained within the confines of a dwelling unit, except as prohibited/

restricted by federal or state law regarding those species listed as threatened, endangered or as prohibited/restricted by the City Codes Enforcement Department

RESTRAINING ANIMALS

All animals must be kept on the owner's property following municipal guidelines for proper shelter. If an animal is restrained on the premises of its owner, the tether must be no shorter than 12 feet. Dogs may not be tethered to a stationary object for more than two hours in any 12-hour period or more than four hours in any 12-hour period to a running line, pulley or trolley system. A tether may not weigh more than one-eighth of the animal's body weight. In all cases, a tethered animal must be able to reach a container of water. While on the street or in public, the animal must be kept on a leash of suitable length so as to enable the handler to maintain control of the animal.

WASTE PICK UP

Every owner of a dog or cat should be aware that animal defecation is prohibited on property other than that of the owner.



Owners of animals are responsible for removing and disposing of animal waste.

NUISANCE

An owner can't allow an animal to persistently bark, howl or make noise that is audible for more than 10 minutes. Pursuant to this, Animal Control may enter a property and may impound a howling or barking animal if the owner is unable to be contacted.

For more City of Las Cruces Municipal Codes regarding animals, view Chapter 7 at las-cruces.gov/1298/Municipal-Codes.

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ANIMAL GROUPS

Action Program for Animals

800 W. Picacho Ave.
Main: 575-571-4654
Info line: 575-644-0505
apalascruces.org

Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley

3351 Bataan Memorial West
575-382-0018
ascmv.org

Broken Promises SW

575-640-7372

Cat's Meow Adoption Center

2211 N. Mesquite St.
575-639-3036
thecatsmeowlascruces.com

Cherished K-9

575-496-6085
cherishedk-9.com

City of Las Cruces Animal Control

1085 Med Park Drive
575-528-4100
las-cruces.gov/1270/Animal-Control

Dog Cruces

151 S. Solano Drive, Ste. E
575-528-8505
dogcruces.com

Doña Ana County Animal Control

845 N. Motel Blvd.
575-525-8846
donaanacounty.org/animal

Doña Ana County Humane Society

424 N. Main St., Ste. 800
575-647-4808
dachslc.org

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico

2405 W. Picacho Ave., Ste. 103
575-523-8020
hssnm.org

Las Cruces Dock Diving & K9 Event Center

335 S. Valley Dr.

Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition

lcdogparkers.com

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary

6890 Eagle Road
575-805-5338
shaspets.com

Safe Haven Thrift Store

840-D El Paseo Road
575-541-4942

Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP)

2405 W. Picacho Ave., Ste. 103
575-524-9265
snapnewmexico.org

LAS CRUCES DOG PARKS

430 N. Hermosa St.
3551 Bataan Memorial West
1855 W. Amador Ave. (Burn Lake)
575-541-2550
lascruces.gov/2627/Dog-Parks

SHOPPING

Better Life Natural Pet Foods

315 Telshor Blvd., Ste. C,
575-522-0115
betterlifepetfoods.com

Horse N Hound Feed N Supply

208 N. Motel Blvd.
575-644-3857
horsenhoundfeed.com

Petco

3050 E. Lohman Ave.
575-532-5200
petco.com

Pet's Barn

1600 S. Valley Drive
575-541-8300
petsbarn.com

PetSmart

2200 E. Lohman Ave.
575-523-1154
petsmart.com

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A place of quiet and meaning

The Holy Cross Retreat Center south of Las Cruces has long been considered a place of quiet, a place of respite, a place of healing.

The original buildings on the campus were built in 1913, and it was purchased by Franciscan Friars in 1954. The first retreat at the site was held in 1957. The Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts was revived at the center after several years in September 2004.

People have found the facility for retreats of all kinds. Businesses, families, addicts and, of course, religious people have found peace and understanding at the center and its pastoral setting among pecan groves, with the Organ Mountains looming in the distance.

Despite the age of the facility, it continues growing and renewing itself.

In 2017, a wonderful new chapel was built, adorned with wonderful religious pieces by local artists.

Last year a new hermitage was built, to add more space for those seeking renewal. The new building, known as “Sister Fire Hermitage,” pairs with a similar one, “Brother Fire Hermitage,” that was completed in 2018.

Volunteers worked on the project and in June 2023 blessed “Sister Water Hermitage,” so named because it has a water fountain just outside the large window looking toward the mountains. The volunteers devoted their time and skills over several months to create a

beautiful space.

Father Tom Smith, the director of Holy Cross Retreat Center, describes the hermitages and, indeed, the entire center, as “a quiet place to pray, be creative, or be with your spouse.”

An example of the types of events at Holy Cross is Earth Day. For the past few years, Holy Cross has hosted a series of presentations and prayer services, as well as children’s activities, on caring for the Earth in April, around the 22nd.

“Pope Francis as well as many scientists and people around the world call us to be better educated and motivated to change our habits and preserve our planet,” said Smith. “You can get practical assistance in choosing and then join in planting to enhance your space.”

And an annual favorite event in the community at Holy Cross is the The Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts was revived at the center after several years in September 2004. The event takes place the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, and features wonderful local and regional art for sale, several food and beverage booths as well as live music.

The center, 600 Holy Cross Road in Mesilla Park, is about five miles south of downtown Las Cruces. Take Main Street south of Las Cruces and turn left on Holy Cross Road, about three miles south of the intersection of Main Street and University Avenue. For Google maps, enter 4889 South Main St.



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www.aitkids.com



Rehab hospital continues high national rankings

The Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico (RHSNM) last year was once again ranked in the top 10 among inpatient rehabilitation hospitals nationwide for lowest readmission rates.

Becker's Hospital Review released the ranking based on data provided to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The data measures patient care provided by inpatient rehabilitation providers, including hospital readmissions within 30 days of discharge.

"Without a doubt, we were able to achieve this amazing recognition because of our healthcare team's knowledge, skills, and commitment," RHSNM CEO Sabrina Martin said. "Our physicians and employees are passionate about achieving the best possible outcomes for our patients, and that's reflected in this ranking. To be identified as a leader among our healthcare colleagues nationally is an honorable distinction."

The hospital is also routinely ranked in the nation's top 10 percent by the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation. It ranks facilities based upon care that is patient-centered, effective, efficient and timely.

RHSNM provides specialized rehabilitative care to patients who are recovering from disabilities caused by injuries, illnesses or chronic medical conditions, the news release said. The hospital's services include physical, occupational and speech therapy; rehabilitative nursing; respiratory therapy; dietary services; case management; pharmacy services; social work services; pain management; and more.

The hospital also has a Transitional Outcomes Program designed to increase patient safety and decrease hospital readmissions. Patients are followed for a minimum of 30 days after leaving the rehabilitation hospital to ensure effective and appropriate re-integration into the community.

RHSNM, 4441 E. Lohman Ave., treats about 900 patients annually, the hospital said.

Visit rhsnm.ernesthealth.com.



MAJOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico
 4451 E. Lohman Ave.
 575-521-6600
 achsnm.ernesthealth.com

Amador Health Center
 999 W. Amador Ave., Ste. A
 575-527-5482
 amadorhealth.org

ASC of The Heart Institute
 1250 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
 575-323-3010
 ascheart.com

Ben Archer Health Center
 1600 Thorpe Road
 (Doña Ana location)
 575-382-9292
 3331 Del Rey Blvd.
 (East Las Cruces)
 575-373-1033
 1998 Motel Blvd. (Las Cruces)
 575-541-5941
 bahcnm.org

La Clinica de Familia
 Las Cruces Central Medical Cervantes Complex
 575 S. Alameda Blvd.
 575-528-6400
 laclinicadefamilia.org/lcdf/

La Clinica de Familia
 Las Cruces Women's Health
 385 Calle de Alegria, Bldg. C
 575-556-8200, 575-532-2044
 laclinicadefamilia.org/lcdf/las-cruces-womens-health/

Las Cruces Post-Acute
 Care & Rehabilitation of Cascadia
 175 Roadrunner Pkwy.
 575-386-5800
 lascruceshealthandrehab.com

Memorial Healthplex
 2450 S. Telshor Blvd.
 575-522-8641
 mmclc.org/other-providers/healthplex



Memorial Medical Center
 2450 S. Telshor Blvd.
 575-522-8641
 mmclc.org

Mesilla Valley Hospice
 299 E. Montana Ave.
 575-523-4700
 mvhospice.org

Mesilla Valley Hospital
 3751 Del Rey Blvd.
 575-382-3500
 800-877-3500
 mesillavalleyhospital.com

MountainView Regional Medical Center
 4311 E. Lohman Ave.
 575-556-7600
 mountainviewregional.com

MountainView Medical Group Family Care at Lohman
 4371 E. Lohman Ave.
 575-532-8900
 mountainviewdocs.com

New Mexico Department of Health
 1170 N. Solano Drive
 575-528-5001
 nmhealth.org

Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico
 4441 E. Lohman Ave.
 575-521-6400
 rhsnm.ernesthealth.com

Three Crosses Regional Hospital
 2560 Samaritan Drive
 800-421-8274
 3crossesrh.com



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Do you ever wonder what it is that makes some Doctors so incredibly compassionate while others have a bedside manner better suited for the DMV?

In the case of Dr. Janet Quintanilla, DOM, Dipl.OM of Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health it is a case of true empathy. "I suffered from cluster migraines in my teens." Cluster migraines are named such for their debilitating pain that is a step above the norm. "I had migraine headaches 3-5 days a week that were so intense I was often bed ridden and would become physically sick." Being that migraine is one of those complicated conditions

not fully understood, Dr. Quintanilla's options were prescription medications that often did not work and to make lifestyle changes to limit triggers that often cause migraine. "It was no way to live," she shares "I was young and should've been living a bright vibrant life. Instead I was avoiding long exposure to fluorescent lights and doing my best to prepare for changing weather conditions.

As you can imagine, the summer heat and stormy seasons were especially rough.

It wasn't until her primary care doctor sent her to an acupuncturist that she found relief.

"This is why I often refer to my practice as 'The Last Resort With The Best Results.' You've been everywhere else and been given the same disheartening prognosis, prescribed the same medications and told 'this is just something you're going to have to learn to live with.'"

Soon after her incredible experience with the healing arts she made the life changing decision to pursue her doctorate in acupuncture, "acupuncture quite literally saved my life and I wanted to share that with the world," she proclaims.

Your Golden Years Should Be Golden

While in school she watched as her grandmother began to suffer from peripheral neuropathy. "Your golden years should be golden, not plagued with insufferable pain while doctors and specialists tell you there is nothing they can do."

Understanding that Eastern Medicine excels where Western Medicine fails, Dr. Quintanilla set forth to develop treatment protocols for all variations of Peripheral Neuropathy (including diabetic and chemotherapy-induced) and now has a 90% success rate in treating this once difficult to manage condition.



KIND OF DOCTOR

"I was tired of seeing the older generation suffer unnecessarily," shares Dr. Quintanilla. "Diagnosing them as 'just getting older and giving them a treatment plan of you're just going to have to get used to it' has never sat well with me so I wanted to offer them a real option for treatment and care."

Dr. Quintanilla had designed similar treatment protocols for other complicated, chronic conditions including fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, post-shingles pain, even macular degeneration. While each patient plan is tailored specifically to that patient's concerns and goals, all of her treatments are based on a framework that's 15 years in the making.

In addition, Dr. Quintanilla isn't opposed to more modern medical solutions.

"It's in blending the time-tested science of acupuncture with recent innovations in medicine that get me the best results. "One of those advancements is ATP Resonance BioTherapy", originally developed by NASA it aids nerves in regeneration by providing them the nutrients they need to repair and renew, "very similar to what water does for a plant!"

The Magic of Compassionate Care

And what do those in her care have to say?

"Dr. Quintanilla looked me in my eyes and wanted to know about me, not just my condition. I feel like a person, not just a patient." shares Perry. "In fact I don't think she ever used the word patient." Others proclaim "she saved my life", "her neuropathy treatments gave me my life back," and it's a miracle she treated my fibromyalgia, I don't know how else to explain it."

Dr. Janet Quintanilla has a long personal history in complicated, difficult to understand conditions and understands how tragic it can all be if left untreated.

"I have sat where my patients sit. I've experienced their pain and suffering in a very real way.



I know the frustration of feeling hopeless on an intimate level. It's why I practice the brand of medicine I do and why I've made it my life's mission to treat the 'untreatable'. It brings me incredible joy when I get to say 'I can help you!'"

Furthermore, Dr. Quintanilla has surrounded herself with staff that embraces this same approach to patient care. "You can ask any one of my patients and they will tell you that their favorite part about Sonoma Acupuncture is my staff."

"I just love everyone here" shares Betty, who has been a patient of Sonoma for almost two years. "The girls are always so kind, it's like going to the doctor with my girlfriends."

Dr. Quintanilla and her staff specialize in treating chronic pain, complicated neurological conditions and autoimmune diseases that leave other professionals scratching their heads. Ready to schedule? Call (575)618-6900 for a comprehensive consultation today. For more information about Dr. Quintanilla and what she treats, visit Sonoma-Acupuncture.com.

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The Doña Ana County Master Gardeners Program trains volunteers to assist Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff to provide accurate, research-based gardening information and programs to county residents.

Master gardener activities include:

- Answering gardening and landscape questions through venues such as the county Extension Service's master gardener hotline, the Farmers and Crafts Market of Las Cruces and local events.
- Working with school and community gardens by providing technical information and assistance and presenting educational programs.
- Providing community educational information and programs on topics such as plant selection, pest management, soil composition and sustainable landscape practices.
- Providing gardening guidance to local residents and organizations and local governmental agencies and at community events.
- Assisting with local agricultural programs, field days,

conferences, etc.

- Updating their own skills and knowledge by attending training conferences, workshops and meetings.

The master gardener program was started in 1972 in King and Pierce counties, Washington and now exists in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In New Mexico, the master gardener program began in 1981 in Albuquerque. 15 New Mexico counties and the Navajo Tri-State Extension Office now have active master gardener programs.

Doña Ana County Master Gardener Program classes begin in August and continue every Thursday (except Thanksgiving) through early December every year. The cost is \$195 per person, which includes a textbook, class materials and lectures by world class experts in a wide range of gardening and landscaping-related fields.

The program is led by county agronomy and horticulture agent Jeff Anderson, who has a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and a master's of science degree in horticulture, both from New Mexico State University.

For more information, call 575-525-6649. donaanamastergardeners.nmsu.edu, donaanaextension.nmsu.edu/team.html and aces.nmsu.edu/county/donaana/mastergardener.

Southern New Mexicans do well at the National Senior Olympics



BY MIKE COOK

Al Berryman runs three days a week, including a Saturday morning run that often covers six miles or more; he does strength training two mornings a week; rides a stationary bike in his Las Cruces home 30-40 minutes at a time, three days a week; is an active member of Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue and the Las Cruces Running Club; and he finished in second place in two national running events.

Oh yeah, and Al is 80 years old.

Berryman won silver medals in both the 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) road races at the 2023 National Senior Games in Pittsburgh. He was one of 11,000 participants in the games, where senior athletes from New Mexico

collected 120 total medals (39 gold, 37 silver, 44 bronze) to finish 15th among the 50 states.

“We did really well,” Berryman said. “We were knocking down medals. I was proud to part of that group.”

“We’re very competitive,” Berryman said of Senior Games athletes, “but we’re all friends.”

The key to physical exercise, Berryman said, is treating it “kind of like a job. You gotta show up.”

For Berryman, maintaining a healthy lifestyle not only means running, cycling and working out; he also is very nutrition conscious.

“I tend to avoid processed foods,” Berryman said, along with sugar and

“fried stuff.”

But he still splurges occasionally, like having a hamburger and french fries.

“You shouldn’t be a slave to what you eat,” Berryman said. “You should have a good relationship with food.”

Another outdoor activity Berryman enjoys is taking care of his yard, and that’s no small task since his house sits on a full acre.

“Stay healthy. Stay close to family. Work hard.” That’s his philosophy, Berryman said.

Berryman moved to Las Cruces about 12 years ago after owning an insurance company in Roswell. He taught finance and insurance at New Mexico State University, and finally fully retired five



Academy for Learning in Retirement

SCAN TO REGISTER



Since 1992, the Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR), a volunteer run organization, has provided over 1000 presentations on diverse topics of interest.

WHERE: Spring 2024 ALR sessions will be held at the East Mesa Doña Ana Community College (DACC) Auditorium, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Boulevard, Las Cruces. Presentations will also be on Zoom and recorded, with presenter’s permission.

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - noon

WHEN: Days of presentation vary depending on the speaker’s schedules.

COST: The number of topics presented in a given semester may vary. Fees also vary:

- 4 months of presentations (16 sessions) \$48
- 5 months of presentations (20 sessions), \$60
- Single month (4 sessions) \$20

Potential Topics for 2024

- Golden Age Musicals through a Contemporary Lens
- Financial Crises
- State and Local Government
- The Oil and Gas Industry
- Food and Nutrition

Detailed information on the 2024 topics will be posted in the Las Cruces Bulletin.

*You do not have to be retired to attend.

Registration and detailed information can be accessed on the internet at “Academy for Learning in Retirement” or by scanning the QR code above.

years ago, at age 75.

Two of Berryman's three children live in Las Cruces, along with his three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Berryman admits he inspires them a little with his commitment to nutrition and exercise.

It's a healthy family," he said.

Others from southern New Mexico medaling at the National Games include the following.

Philipp Djang of Doña Ana, won four gold medals and three silver medals in men's swimming for the 65-69 age group. Djang finished first in the 100-meter backstroke, the 100-meter individual medley, the 200-meter individual medley and the 50-meter backstroke. He finished second in the 200-meter backstroke, the 50-meter freestyle, and the mixed 200-yard free relay.

Robbie Finney-McFarlane of Elephant Butte won a gold medal in the women's javelin event ages 90-94.

Mandy Owens of Alamogordo won two gold medals in women's powerwalking for the 55-59 age group. Owens finished first in both the 1,500

meters and the 5K.

Jayne Milavec of Las Cruces won two silver medals in women's powerwalking, for the 60-64 age group. Milavec finished second in both the 1,500-meter and 5K.

Al Berryman of Las Cruces earned two silver medals in men's road racing in the 80-84 age group. Berryman finished second in both the 10K and 5K.

Edward Frank of Las Cruces finished fourth in tennis mixed doubles in the 80-84 age group, and Martha Trost of Las Cruces finished fourth in tennis women's doubles in the 70-74 age group.

Amelia Pilcher of Las Cruces, finished fifth in tennis women's doubles in the 60-64 age group.

David Hall of Las Cruces, was sixth in men's golf, ages 90-94.

Gilbert Sollars of Las Cruces finished seventh in men's golf, ages 75-79.

Dianna Lentz of Las Cruces was 16th in the women's long jump in the 60-64 age group.

Eileen Shult of Mesquite finished 18th in women's swimming, 50-meter freestyle in the 65-69 age group.

State Senior Games in Las Cruces

For the second straight year, the New Mexico State Senior Olympics will be held in Las Cruces, with most events taking place on the New Mexico State University campus.



June 12-16, 2024, every senior who qualified in a local Senior Olympics will be eligible to compete in the State Senior Games and a chance to go on to the National Senior Olympics, which will be in Florida in 2024.

In addition to competitors, the Senior Games also needs volunteers to help work the events. For more information on the State Senior Olympics, visit nmseniorolympics.org

Locally, seniors can compete in the Doña Ana County Senior Games. Registration for the Doña Ana County Senior Games typically takes place in February, with the games in March and April.

Visit dacso-nm.org

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