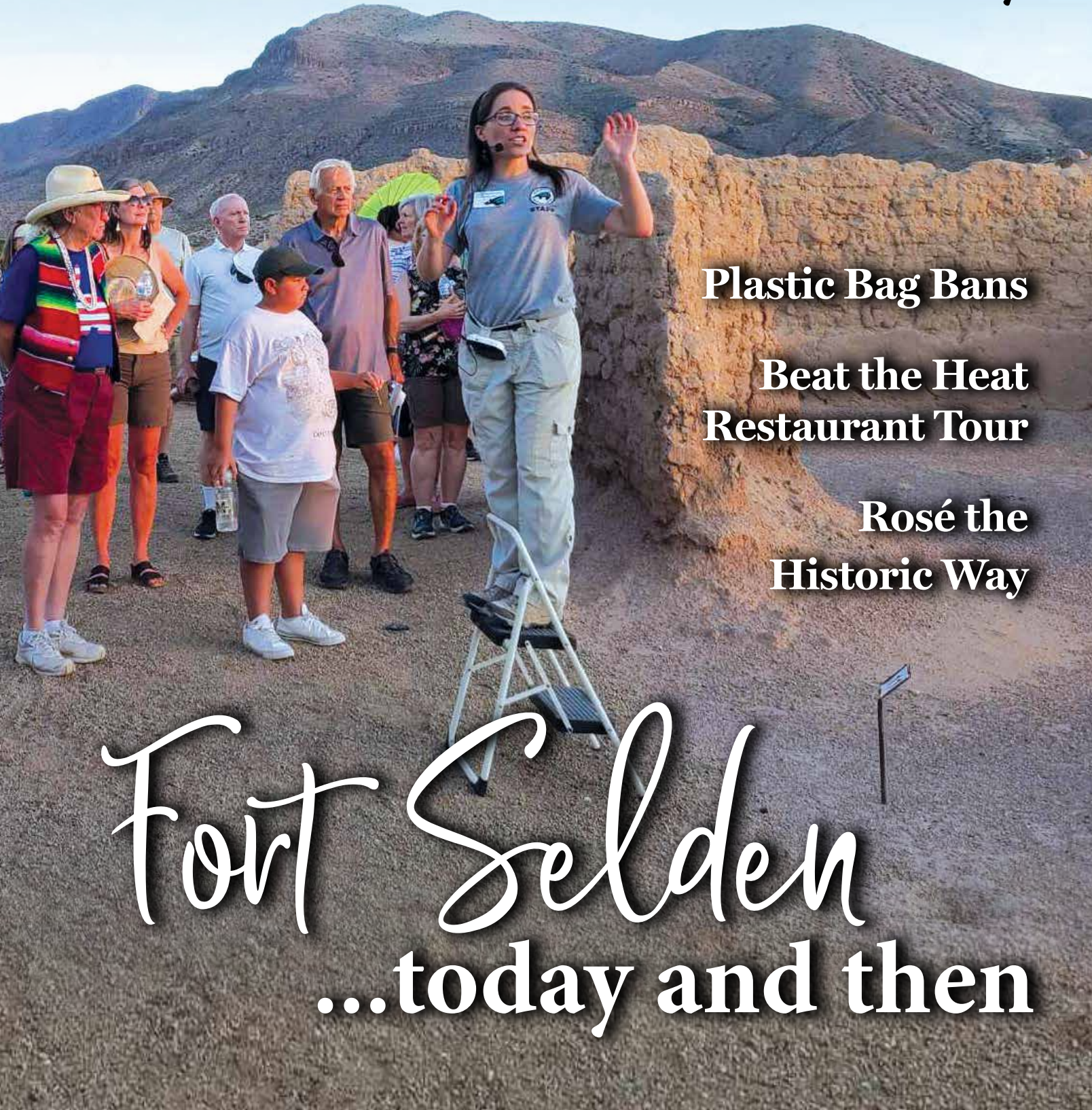


A Legacy Local Monthly Publication

August 2023

# The Historic

Mesilla Valley



**Plastic Bag Bans**

**Beat the Heat  
Restaurant Tour**

**Rosé the  
Historic Way**

*Fort Selden*  
**...today and then**



# Dine | Relax | Celebrate



**HACIENDA  
DE MESILLA**

GRILLE | INN | CANTINA

[haciendademesilla.com](http://haciendademesilla.com)

575.652.4953 | 1891 Avenida de Mesilla | Mesilla, NM 88046

**Spending  
time with  
culture.**



**TRAILS END**



**GALLERY**

1732 Mesquite St.  
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001

575-649-2951

### **Artist Studios**

**Robert Highsmith**

**Gary Biel**

**Jewelry Works  
by Armando**

**Victor Whitmill**

**Debi Partridge**

**Penny Simpson**

**Tim Aulhouser**

[trailsendgallery.net](http://trailsendgallery.net)



Public House 28 Brewery

10092 S Highway 28

Anthony, New Mexico

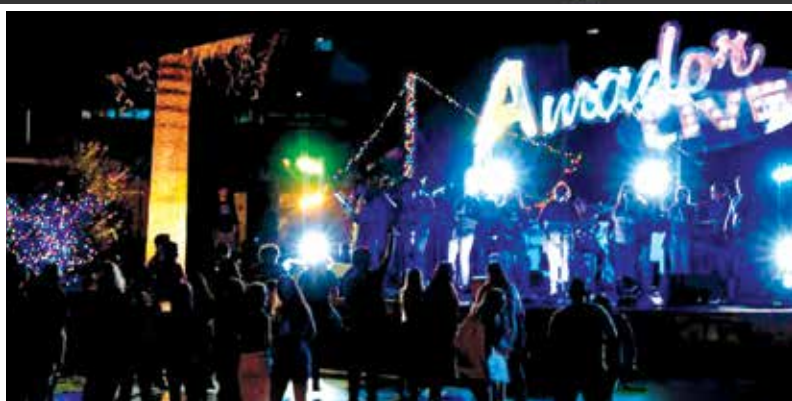
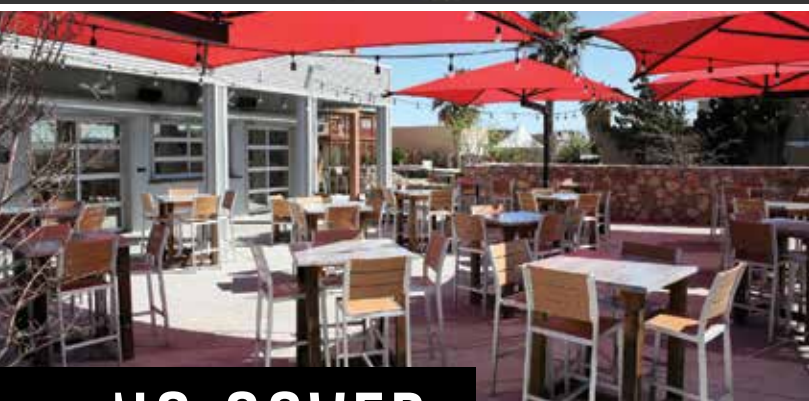
[www.hwy28brewery.com](http://www.hwy28brewery.com)



# COME ENJOY THE SUMMER NIGHT VIBES



## EATERY & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT



**NO COVER**

**Dancing - Delicious Food  
Cold Drinks - Great Bands**



**SCAN FOR  
UPCOMING EVENTS**



**575-541-7417**

**302 S. Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88001**

# Contents

**5** Calendar of Events

**6** A Note from the Publisher

**8** Politico: Plastic Bag Bans

**12** Cover Story: Fort Selden...today and then

**16** Eats & Treats: Nessa's Cafe

**17** Peanut Butter Cookies

**18** About Town: Who's Who  
Rosé the Historic Way

**19** How a Southern Socialite Survives  
the Desert: Fashion or Faux Pas?

**20** Food: Beat the Heat Restaurant Tour



**COYOTE TRADERS**  
RUSTIC FURNITURE

(575) 524-0040  
1024 W Picacho Ave, Las Cruces NM 88005  
[www.coyotetraders.com](http://www.coyotetraders.com)

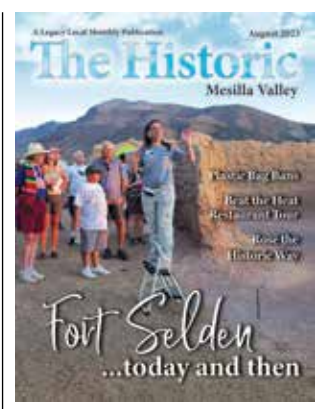
FOLLOW US 



Antiques, Furniture, & Housewares  
**SHOP PRE-OWNED LUXURY.**

ESTATE SALE DISCOVERIES

Open 10am-5pm Tuesday through Saturday  
1250 W PICACHO AVENUE • LAS CRUCES, NM 88005 • (575) 523-0522  
[www.estatesalediscoveries.com](http://www.estatesalediscoveries.com)



**Featured on the Cover:**  
Alexandra McKinney, the Fort Selden Historic Site and Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property instructional coordinator, steps up to provide a history of the Fort Selden ruins for visitors.

### Submissions

The views presented in the Politico column are not those of the publisher or editor of this magazine. If you would like to submit or respond to an opinion, send your submission of no more than 600 words to [jackye@thehistoricmagazine.com](mailto:jackye@thehistoricmagazine.com). The publisher reserves the right to edit, cut or publish any submissions.

### Advertising

To place an advertisement in this magazine, contact Publisher Daniel G. Buck at (575) 332-1219 or [daniel@thehistoricmagazine.com](mailto:daniel@thehistoricmagazine.com)

We welcome your letters and other queries for this magazine. If you would like to send a submission, send your query or article to [jackye@thehistoricmagazine.com](mailto:jackye@thehistoricmagazine.com). The editor and publisher reserve the right to edit, cut or publish any submissions.

Articles and advertisements in this publication and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The Historic Mesilla Valley, but remain solely those of the authors or advertisers. The paid advertisements contained in this magazine are not endorsed or recommended by Economic Equilibrium of New Mexico, H2 Development Group.

The Historic Mesilla Valley Magazine  
Economic Equilibrium of New Mexico H2 Development Group  
804 S. San Pedro St. Unit 1, Las Cruces, NM 88001  
Office 806.240.5481  
[daniel@thehistoricmagazine.com](mailto:daniel@thehistoricmagazine.com)

We distribute throughout the Mesilla Valley and New Mexico.

No part of this magazine may be used without the written permission of the publisher. Copyright 2023 All rights reserved.



**Daniel Gordon Buck**  
Publisher - Owner  
Sales - Marketing  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Development Officer

**Jackye Meinecke**  
Editor in Chief



**Rusty Pearce**  
Director of IT and Digital Media

**Courtney Lewellen Hernandez**  
Creative Director



# Calendar of events

## August 9

**Fouever Tops** a tribute performance of the best Soul Artists of the 60's & 70's begins at 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Doors open at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets online at [www.riograndetheatre.org/rio-grande-theatre-calendar-2](http://www.riograndetheatre.org/rio-grande-theatre-calendar-2)

**First Friday Fine Arts Flea Market** features local art and craft vendors from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. on Main St. between Las Cruces St. and Bowman, Las Cruces. Free.

## Mid-August to October

**Pick your own pears and apples every day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** at 236 Cottonwood Canyon Rd. La Luz. Call ahead (575) 224-2023.

## August 13

**Borderland Arts Foundation Festival Orchestra** performs chamber music from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Boutz Rd., Las Cruces. \$15 donation recommended. If you are unable to contribute, you may attend this performance.

## August 19

**Origami in the Garden** a film at the Rio Grande Theatre at 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces, will be shown at 1 p.m. Doors open at noon. Free.

**Flickinger Center For Performing Arts** hosts the Otero County Heritage Festival and Street Dance in front of the Flickinger Center from 4 p.m. -10 p.m. Features local artists and vendors, as well as local documentary films in the theater. In collaboration with the Tularosa Basin Historical Society, Patron's Hall (next door to the theater) will be transformed into a museum showcasing the rich history of Otero County. Felix y Los Gatos will end the night with a live performance. The Flickinger Center is located at 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo.

## August 24-27

**43rd Annual Deming Duck Race** from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. at the McKinley Duck Downs in Courthouse Park, Deming. The festival includes the Duck Royalty Pageant, a carnival, music, vendors and duck races. Times vary. Many events are free.

## August 29-30

**Las Cruces Comic Con** features panels, vendors, workshops and celebrity guests from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Tickets begin at \$20. [lascrucescomiccon.com](http://lascrucescomiccon.com)

## Sept. 1

**Mesquite Historic District First Friday Art Ramble** from 4:30 p.m.-8:30.m. features a free horse trolley for visitors to the Mesquite Historic District board at 1732 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces.

## Sept. 1-3

**Hatch Chile Festival** will be held in the village of Hatch with chile roasting, restaurants, food vendors, craft vendors, entertainment, contests and fun for the kids. \$10 parking available in and around the Hatch High School. Parade kicks off at 9 a.m. Saturday at the high school.

## Sept. 2

**Food Truck Battle** on the Plaza between Las Cruces St. and Griggs in Las Cruces. Also featuring live music. Free.

## Sept. 2-3

**Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts** features food, art, more from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Holy Cross Retreat Center, 600 Holy Cross Road, in Mesilla Park. The event features more than 75 arts and food vendors, an enchilada meal and live music on two stages. Also included in the weekend are the annual enchilada dinner, raffle and silent auction. A beer and wine garden is also available. Donation at the entrance.

**Brightside Music Festival** features music in genres ranging from electronic and indie to Latin and Hip Hop at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta Dr., El Paso, TX. The event also includes food trucks and art installations. Ticket prices and times vary. [brightsideep.com](http://brightsideep.com)

## Sept. 2-4

**Las Cruces Harvest Wine Festival** at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. The Fairgrounds are located at 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces. Celebrate the holiday weekend with wine tasting from more than 70 vendors, grape stomping, live entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, children activities and wine seminars. Ticket prices vary. Take your pick from a wide selection of red, white and sparkling wines, that range from soft and sweet to bold and dry. In addition, some of the best musicians from the region perform during the weekend with a wide selection of tunes from Country to Indie, and Reggae to Jazz. The festival also offers food trucks and more than 30 vendors. [nmwine.com/lascruces-harvest-wine-fest](http://nmwine.com/lascruces-harvest-wine-fest)

## Sept. 3

**Sunday Fair Farmers Market** held from 8:30 a.m.-noon on the Downtown Plaza, Las Cruces.



**Apple Festival 2023**

OVER 65 ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS  
OVER 30 SNACK & FOOD VENDORS

APPLE PICKING-PEE-CIDER  
CIDER DOUGHNUTS

CARAMEL APPLES  
WINE AND BEER  
PETTING ZOO  
LIVE MUSIC

**Nichols Ranch**

236 Cottonwood Canyon • La Luz, NM  
20 Minutes From Alamogordo • 7 Miles East of La Luz

SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> & OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>  
9AM-7PM & 9AM-5PM  
ADULTS: \$10 • KIDS UNDER 12 FREE!



[nicholsranchandorchards.com](http://nicholsranchandorchards.com)



**WE BUY CARS FOR SCRAP!**



**E.B. AUTO SALVAGE**

**915.803.4744**



# A NOTE FROM THE

# publisher

Welcome everyone to The Historic, a monthly publication bringing community, reporting and history right to your front door. For the month of August, we're excited to be showcasing a double feature where we explore ancient ruins at Fort Selden and traverse New Mexico for the best eats in this summer heat.

You'll notice some new additions for our readers to enjoy, the first being our community calendar and we have increased the number of pages. As our readership continues to increase, so do we. We're happy to announce we've achieved this goal because of you and made the leap two months ahead of our fiscal projections. As both a printed and digital magazine, we'd like to remind you to subscribe to our website so we can send you the latest copy of the magazine and any updates that are coming. While you're enjoying your hardcopy or e-magazine go to our social media and give us a follow (Facebook & Instagram: Historic Mesilla Valley Magazine) here you can see our Community Partners showcased and any upcoming activities planned for the month.

We'd like to remind everyone about the First Friday Horse Trolley that runs through the Mesquite Historic District every first Friday of the month. Please board at Trails End Gallery at 1732 N. Mesquite St. Las Cruces, NM 88001 between 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Every month The Historic has a networking event where our community and businesses come together for a debut of that month's issue. The date and times

can be found on our social media. We have hit a net zero return ratio month over month consecutively because of our readers and want to ensure we keep up the momentum.

An economic tip from the publisher is to remember we can attain 90 percent livability off locally bought merchandise. If you spend your dollars at a local business, it ensures we can continue our local publication for generations to come. Big retailers target our pocketbooks only to trample our local economy. If you truly look at the price of commodities from a personal perspective more than 50 percent of all merchandise is of similar price to their box store counterparts. For example, compare Wal-Mart brand Great Value paper towels to Bounty, where Great Value currently is priced more than the name brand.

This week while in Houston on business, I met with a good friend of my GG's whose family held interest in our country's largest cotton gin in Calvert, Texas (check them out. She puts me to shame on the southern socialite lifestyles still owning her family's beautiful

home(s). Louise gave me a great tip on grocery shopping her

mother and her mother's mother told her: "Don't look at the prices while grocery shopping; take from somewhere else in the domestic budget if you go over." This is a key point in financial planning and literacy as it ensures you stay within your means while attaining the essentials for the month.



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1979

More than a music store  
we're a place where passion  
meets expertise.



108 WYATT DRIVE • LAS CRUCES, NM 88005

575-526-8884

hubbardsmusic-n-more.com

MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-6PM  
SATURDAY 10AM-5PM



YOUR business  
is OUR business



GREATER LAS CRUCES  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(575) 524-1968

150 E Lohman Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88001

lascruces.org





# LA ESQUINA PLAZA

300 Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88001

COME SHOP OUR SUITES!



**The Kitchen**  
**COOKIE BUTTER BITES**

Ten 10mg Pieces, 100mg THC per package  
Net Wt. 92.96g  
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

575-202-1865

SUITE #4



WE PUT YOUR FAMILY FIRST



STREETER LAW FIRM, LLC  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Wills • Trusts • Probate • Family Law

streeterlawfirmnm.com

(575) 524-6893 • 1990 E. Lohman Ave. Ste. 217 • Las Cruces NM 88001



**GROUND**  
CAFE • VINO • PIZZA

SUITE #1

300 N. MAIN ST  
MON-SAT 7AM ~ 9PM



*Sage Spices*

RUBS • BLENDS • OILS  
VINEGARS • COMFORT FOODS

SUITE #5

575.642.7601  
sagespices.com

Balance - Strength - Flexibility

## Life in Balance

PILATES STUDIO

SUITE #6

Offering private and group Pilates and Spinning classes with certified instructors in a friendly studio

575-639-3027  
lifeinbalancepilates.net  
Monica V. Guidi, Owner



**We Run Las Cruces**

Shoe Brands: Altra, La Sportiva, On, Saucony, Topo Athletic & Xero


SUITE #9

runbluebirdrun.com

20% OFF

# LAS CRUCES' BBQ SUPPLY HEADQUARTERS

SAUCES • RUBS • SEASONINGS • CHARCOAL • FLAVORED WOOD  
GRILLS • SMOKERS • DRUM COOKERS • ROASTERS



575.520.4398  
355 Archuleta Rd. • Las Cruces, NM 88005  
WWW.CGLASCRCUCES.COM

## PLASTIC BAG BANS THE SHOCKING FACTS, PLEASE!

by Robert Glenn Hopkins

Forty years ago, plastic bags became standard at grocery stores across the United States for bagging and carrying out items. They also became the standard at landfills, sewers, rivers, the ocean and just about everywhere else imaginable.

They are known to kill wildlife and present litter issues, also known for

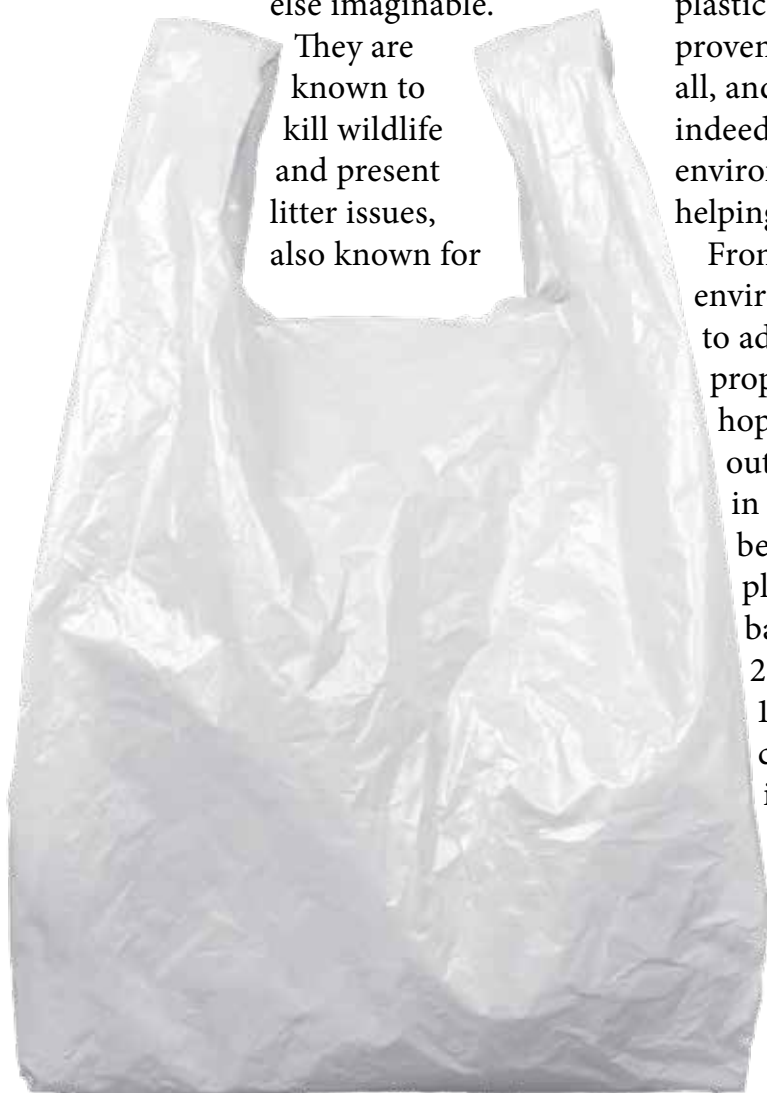
clogging drains and causing floods.

Then came the movement not so long ago to do away with them, with numerous cities and counties passing laws to ban or tax them. Now, years later and research for a more comprehensive understanding, banning plastic bags may not have proven so smart after all, and said bans may indeed be hurting the environment more than helping it!

From scientists and environmentalists to advocates and proponents alike, the hope failed to favor the outcome. For example, in California, before banning plastic shopping bags statewide in 2016, a wave of 139 California cities and counties implemented the policy themselves. Independent research compared bag use in cities with bans with

those without them. Over the course of a year, they gathered information and concluded that people in the cities with bag bans used fewer plastic bags, which led to a staggering 40 million fewer pounds of plastic trash per year.

But here's where the fault lies, people who used to reuse their store-provided plastic shopping bags for other purposes, such as lining trash bins or even picking up after their animals, still needed bags. This prompted further analysis only to discover that sales of garbage bags actually skyrocketed after plastic grocery bags were banned. Particularly the case for small, 4-gallon bags, which saw a staggering 120 percent increase in sales just after plastic bag bans went into effect. Not to mention 8-gallon bags just under that. Trash bags are thicker and use much more plastic than typical shopping bags. This resulted in more than 30



Continued on Page 10 ►





# PAISANO CAFE

TRADITIONAL MEXICAN, LATIN FUSION, VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN ENTREES.



RESERVATIONS WELCOME  
575-524-0211

1740 Calle de Mercado • Mesilla, NM

[paisanocafe.com](http://paisanocafe.com)



[www.webuildforts.com](http://www.webuildforts.com)

Tired of the wind and dust?



Give us a call to turn your patio into a Fortress.

**FORTRESS**

(575) 640-3607



## ◀ Continued from Page 8

percent of the plastic that was eliminated by the plastic bag ban coming back in the form of thicker garbage bags.

To make matters worse, cities that had implemented plastic bag bans saw a surge in the use of paper bags, which resulted in a staggering 80 million pounds of extra paper trash per year. On top of that, and to make matters worse, stores with implemented plastic bag bans saw a subsequent rise in shoplifting by an average of 20 percent.

# Plastic haters, brace yourselves!

Studies after studies find that paper bags are actually worse for the environment. The process of cutting down and processing trees involves tremendous amounts of water, toxic chemicals, fuel, and heavy machinery. While paper bags are biodegradable and avoid some of the problems of plastic, the huge increase in landfill waste and litter, combined with the uptick in plastic trash bags, means banning plastic shopping bags substantially increases greenhouse emissions. Oops!

What about reusable cloth bags, you ask? The very stores with plastic bag bans in place conveniently offer them. A 2011 study by the U.K.

government found a person would have to reuse a cloth bag 131 times before it was better for climate change than simply using a plastic grocery bag once. Another study, by the Danish government, took into account environmental impacts beyond simply greenhouse gas emissions, including water use, damage to ecosystems, and air pollution. Taking these factors into consideration makes cloth bags even worse! They estimate you would have to use a cloth bag 20,000 times more than a single-use regular plastic grocery bag to make using it better for the environment. 20,000 times!

The end result and most environmentally friendly way to carry groceries is to use the same bag over and over again. And get this, according to the Danish study, the best reusable bags are made from polyester or plastics like polypropylene, and still have to be used dozens and dozens of times over to be greener than regular grocery store plastic bags, which astonishingly have the smallest carbon footprint for a single use.

You read correctly, regular grocery store bags have the smallest carbon footprint for a single use! The shocking facts, please! In New Mexico currently, only Santa Fe and Las Cruces still adhere to this preposterous ban! Wake up, New Mexico!

**BROKEN ARROW HAT & JEWELRY BOUTIQUE**

**575.652.3931**  
Inside Tami's Salon Studio's 105/106  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

**FARMERS & CRAFTS MARKET**  
OF LAS CRUCES, INC.

**Main Street Down Town**  
8:30 am to 1 pm • Wednesdays & Saturdays  
[farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com](http://farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com)



TASTE 80 YEARS OF TRADITION



2410 Calle de San Albino • Mesilla, NM  
[lapostachileco.com](http://lapostachileco.com)

**Excellence  
Set in Stone**

**ROLLING  
STONE**  
COUNTERTOPS



1570 W. Picacho Ste. D  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

[RollingStoneCountertops.com](http://RollingStoneCountertops.com)





PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE AND THE OPPOSITE PAGE PROVIDED BY THE STAFF AT FORT SELDEN HISTORIC SITE.

# Fort Selden

## ...today and then

by Jackye Meinecke

### Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Fort Selden Historic Site

It's a blistering hot July day, as I stand in line for a hamburger at the 50th anniversary open house

for the Fort Selden Historic Site. As I wait, I'm listening to octogenarians (and older) inform me about the mission of the Dona Ana County Historical Society's (DACHS) long and ongoing efforts to protect this fort. The event also celebrates the 60th anniversary of DACHS.

Reed Rische plays folk and country tunes on his guitar in the background as people share stories and traditional summer

foods — hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and chips. Young interns are cheerfully serving the plates, while Rangers Mike and Kevin manage the grill. Visitors chat happily with friends as everyone politely shares the limited shade and benches.

Some visitors examine the exhibits inside the visitor center and explore the site, as they linger for the evening's presentation of the history of





the fort along with a walking tour of the ruins. Dr. Patrick Moore, executive director of New Mexico Historic Sites, outlines the state's support and plans for preserving this historic site and several others in our county.

In 1963, the Dona Ana County Historical Society was formed to preserve the Fort Selden adobe ruins. In 1973, the fort was designated a New Mexico State Monument.

As the sky glows with an amazing summer sunset, we set off to take a tour of the fort's ruins and history with Alexandra McKinney. This

enthusiastic staffer leads us through the ruins with information about the history of the fort and also about the preservation efforts over the decades. She pops with energy and enthusiasm.

McKinney's enthusiasm is contagious, even after more than five years at Fort Selden. As the Fort Selden Historic Site and Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property instructional coordinator, she revels in creating student programming and teaching children about the history of the fort. She had planned to become a teacher. One day, as she was leaving an Anglo-Saxon history class, she heard two students talking about how deadly dull it must be to work with artifacts, which happened to be a passion of the professor.

"I have never forgotten that moment," McKinney said. "Everything shifted in my mind." She changed her career plans from teaching to working in history, completing a master's degree in public history.

With the Fort Selden Walking Tour pamphlet in hand, I

wander up the trail with the others. The guide encourages visitors to line up to admire the beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert surrounding the fort. Creosote bushes, yucca, acacia, prickly pear and cholla extend toward the Robledo Mountains. At the entrance to the visitors center, many of these plants are labeled.

As I gaze over the former parade grounds with its flag pole, I watch night hawks and swifts swooping through the air after insects. While the young trees surrounding the area do not yet provide shade, they do offer a green background for the evening sky.

Buffalo soldiers, African American only units, were stationed at Fort Selden and their efforts are commemorated by The Sentinel, a bronze sculpture created by artist Reynaldo "Sonny" Rivera.

Dr. Rhonda R. Dass, regional manager of the Fort Selden Historic Site and the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property, has been in the position for a short

**Continued on Page 14** ►





## ◀ Continued from Page 13

time, yet she has gathered an enthusiastic team of staff and interns.

Fort Selden offers a regular weekend schedule of talks, outdoor cooking, and ranger-guided tours. Interpretive Ranger Michael Bailey will present a class this month on making a variety of salsas from pico de gallo to tomatillo style to chile de arbol.

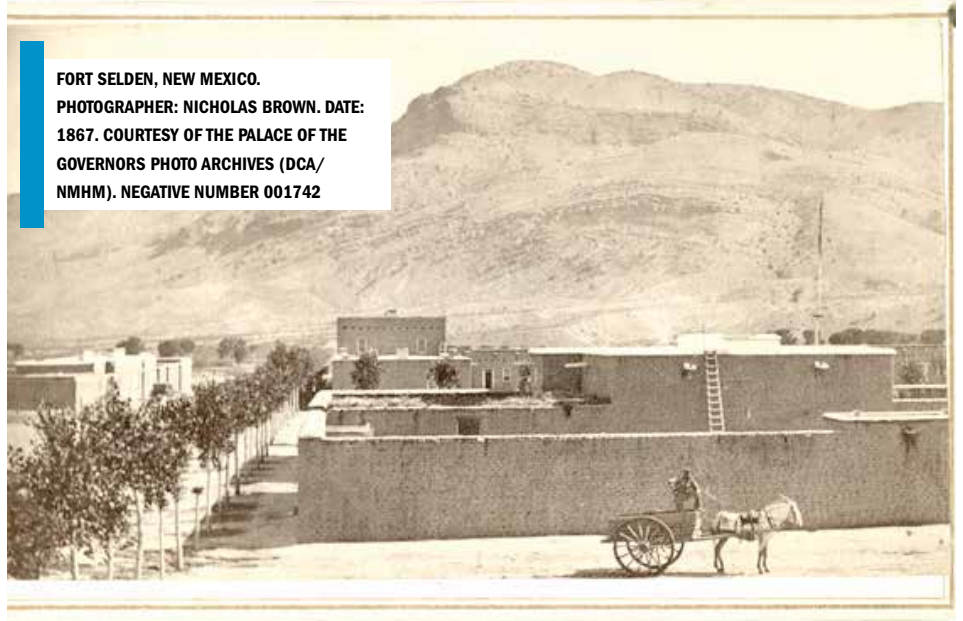
The rangers built and planted a small garden at Fort Selden this spring.

“This past week, the garden has been stressed. Things did not survive the heat this summer,” Bailey lamented, noting he may have to purchase tomatoes for the class. “Next year, I’ll re-evaluate the garden and add shade or re-position it.”

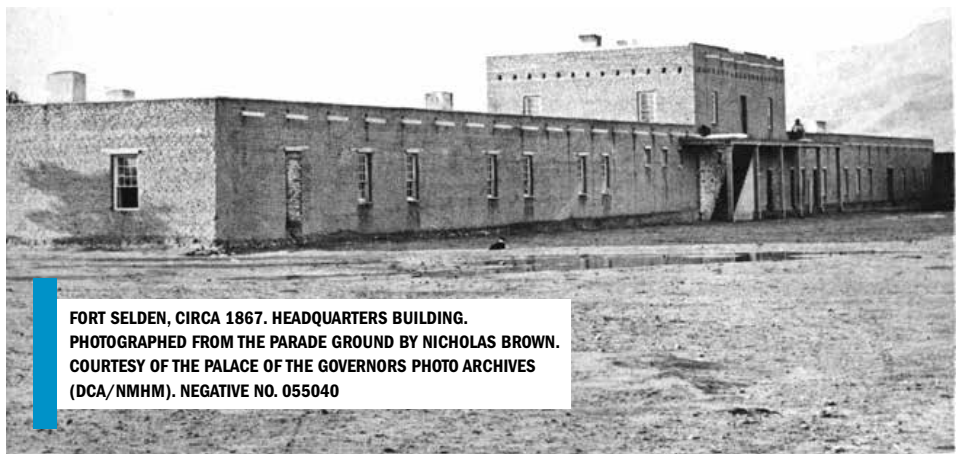
Fort Selden has a lot going for it and a lot going on despite the heat. Take some time for a tour or a hands-on demonstration with this dedicated staff.

## { A short history of Fort Selden }

According to the National Park Service, Fort Selden was established in 1865 in an effort to bring peace to south central New Mexico Territory. Built on the banks of the Rio Grande,



FORT SELDEN, NEW MEXICO.  
PHOTOGRAPHER: NICHOLAS BROWN. DATE:  
1867. COURTESY OF THE PALACE OF THE  
GOVERNORS PHOTO ARCHIVES (DCA/  
NMHM). NEGATIVE NUMBER 001742



FORT SELDEN, CIRCA 1867. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.  
PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE PARADE GROUND BY NICHOLAS BROWN.  
COURTESY OF THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS PHOTO ARCHIVES  
(DCA/NMHM). NEGATIVE NO. 055040

this adobe fort housed units of the US Army’s infantry and cavalry. Their intent was to protect settlers and travelers in the Mesilla Valley and along El Camino Real from desperados and Apache Indians. The fort remained active until 1891.

The first troops to occupy Fort Selden were companies of

the 125th Infantry, a group of African American soldiers mustered into the Union Army near the end of the Civil War. They were called Buffalo Soldiers, a name of honor bestowed by their Native American adversaries. The fort also was home to young Douglas MacArthur, while his



PHOTO  
PROVIDED BY  
THE PALACE OF  
THE GOVERNORS  
PHOTO  
ARCHIVES.



father served as commanding officer.

Though decommissioned more than a century ago, the ruins and grounds of Fort Selden survive as a protected state monument, where living history demonstrations keep its spirit alive. Today, adobe ruins are all that remain of Fort Selden inspiring visitors to imagine another time in the Mesilla Valley.

The historic significance of Fort Selden continues to fascinate visitors who wish to connect to El Camino Real, U.S. military history and the West's frontier past. Designated as a New Mexico State Monument in 1974, Fort Selden is now under the umbrella of the Museum of New Mexico, which preserves it as a state historic site with an onsite visitor center featuring exhibitions and living history demonstrations on frontier and military life.

## Fort Selden Historic Site

1280 Fort Selden Road in Radium Springs

Admission fee is \$5 for adults. Free for children 16 years and younger.

New Mexico residents with ID admitted free the first Sunday of every month.

New Mexico residents 60 years and older with ID admitted free each Wednesday.

Open from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

## AUGUST EVENTS

**August 12, Saturday, 11 a.m.**

Snakes: Rattlers vs. Non-Rattlers, a presentation by Ranger Kevin

**August 19, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.**

Garden Chile Harvest & Salsa, a class by Ranger Mike

**August 23, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.**

Ranger-Guided Tour



**CUSTOM  
FRAMES  
BY CURTIS**

Now At :



**(575) 526-9113**

144 Wyatt Dr  
Las Cruces, NM 88005



**Give your kids the tools  
to start thriving today!**



**D Calm**  
Supports the immu-  
system & modulates  
inflammatory  
pathways.

**Cannab Calm**  
Full spectrum CBD  
Supports immune and  
anti-inflammatory  
properties.

**Omega Calm**  
Reduces inflammation  
& provides essential  
fatty acids.

Subscribe and Save 5%  
[shop.regenerating.health](http://shop.regenerating.health)







# Nessa's Cafe

by Jackye Meinecke

fall, even helps out.

Vanessa worked at the Bean in Mesilla for many years before starting her own business. She began developing her own recipes, found a niche and developed a following of loyal customers.

“There’s opportunity somewhere else,” Vanessa thought and made the decision to start her own business. She develops, prepares and serves her own recipes accompanied by a range of coffees and drinks. I’ve been told by many locals she has excellent coffee.

“If we miss the pastries, I feel robbed,” an elderly gentleman said to Vanessa as she rang up his ticket. “We want to keep you in business,” he said.

Nessa’s Cafe occupies the building that once was Pullaro’s Italian Restaurant. When she initially opened the cafe, she kept John Pullaro’s meatballs on the menu to continue his legacy.

Now, however, she creates her own recipes from inspiration she gathers online and through cookbooks. James proudly notes that she has created more than 3,000 original recipes over seven years in business.

“I like to switch it up,” Vanessa

said. One day she may make S’mores pops and Hawaiian French toast with a lunch of chicken fajita wedge salad and another day may feature shrimp and gruyere quiche and strawberry mousse pastries. She also includes vegetarian options. Vanessa goes so far as to provide special orders for her regular customers and caters small events. The menu with specials for the week is posted on a board each Tuesday and on Facebook and other social media.

“If I have the ingredients, I will do a special order,” she said.

She arrives at 4 a.m. to begin baking danishes, cookies, muffins and other treats for her empty pastry case. She often includes gluten free selections. One of my favorites and her favorite pastry to bake is scones. *Simpatico!*

“I can make them blindfolded,” she said.

While Vanessa considered attending a university to study art, she chose to be an entrepreneur and baker instead. James worked with his family in the abstract title business before joining Vanessa with the cafe.

“It just felt right,” he said of

In a building built in the 1880s near the historic Las Cruces Viaduct, Nessa’s Cafe displays a fiesta vibe with a modern twist on its luncheon menu and in the pastry case.

Vanessa Smith and her husband, James Floyd, have been building her coffee, pastry and lunch business for seven years — though they have been together for more than 19 years. Both grew up in the valley working in family businesses. Their families trace roots back in the Mesilla Valley for more than four generations. Many of her employees are cousins and family. Quinn, their daughter, who starts kindergarten in the



the cafe he describes as a Ma & Pa shop. He is an avid history buff, especially for local history. He knows much of the history surrounding their location and Picacho Avenue. With decades of family history in the Mesilla Valley and his abstract title background, he also is knowledgeable about much of the history of the Mesilla Valley and many historic sites, including those not marked on local maps.

Vanessa and James have proven repeatedly they are both tough and determined.

“Every year there has been a disaster or a bump in the road,” Vanessa said. They have overcome business obstacles such as road construction on Picacho Avenue, a fire in the kitchen and, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic. They were grateful their location already

had a drive-through window, which was essential during the pandemic.

Among the many challenges on Picacho Avenue, as in other areas around Las Cruces, is the number of unhoused who walk this street.

“I can’t control the problem, but I can give them cold water,” Vanessa said.

She supports the community in a variety of ways, including the monthly Chingona, which according to the Urban Dictionary is Spanish for “a badass female who does what she wants.” The first Sunday of the month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. artists gather for an all female artist craft outdoor market in Nessa’s parking lot.

The cafe is a place of vibrant colors with walls of blue, purple and green. The half-dozen tables are brightly painted and



the chairs are covered with Mexican oil cloth. Oldies music is playing. On the day I visit, each table features a vase with a large sunflower picked from their garden. Vanessa said, “James is the gardener in the family.”

Vanessa also paints colorful flower pots that are available in the cafe, alongside small displays of candles and jewelry by her friends.

“This is my home away from home,” Vanessa said of her cafe.



# Peanut Butter Cookies

by Vanessa Smith

I thought I would share one of my favorite classics anyone can make so easily and quickly! It’s gluten free and can be made with substitute ingredients for different diets as well.

## ALL YOU NEED IS...

1 cup peanut butter – preferably not a natural peanut butter or crunchy peanut butter

1 large egg

1 cup of sugar

Add anything extra you’d like (nuts, drizzled chocolate, Nutella)

## NOW ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS...

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Mix all ingredients together in a medium bowl with a spoon until smooth.

Roll balls of dough (about 2

tablespoons) and place on cookie sheet about 2” apart.

Use a fork to flatten and cross hatch the top of each cookie.

Bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes, checking regularly for golden brown edges. Cool briefly before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes about one dozen cookies.

**VOILA! PB COOKIES – yum!**



LEFT TO RIGHT: DIANE SIEDEL, RUSTY PEARCE AND MICHELLE GONZALEZ



LEFT TO RIGHT: JACKYE MENIECKE , RUSTY PEARCE, DANIEL G. BUCK, JAKE BROOKS, MYKAILA JENSEN AND BRETT BURKE

# WHO'S WHO

## The Historic Mesilla Valley Magazine June Launch Party

Featured is our June launch where members and non-members enjoyed engaging with each other while Amador LIVE provided -The Buckingham and The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra. Delicious appetizers and beverages were furnished inside our suite at 575 Cocktail Lounge.



LEFT TO RIGHT: LAURIE FINDLEY AND CAROLYN COLE



LEFT TO RIGHT: ERIC BRANSFORD KELLY FORT



LEFT TO RIGHT: LISA LEWIS, LONNIE KLEIN AND GEOFFREY LEWIS



LEFT TO RIGHT: CYNTHIA FRANZOY AND RUSTY PEARCE



LEFT TO RIGHT: EVA DIEZ, CLAUDIA LOPEZ AND HILDA MARTINEZ-WILLIAMS



LEFT TO RIGHT: GABE VILLA AND KAIA DUMKE



LEFT TO RIGHT: KARIN BRADSHAW AND AMANDA BUONO



by Tracy Jenkins

Cool off in the warm weather with this gin, campari, and sparkling rosé cocktail.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1½ ounces dry gin (or vodka)
- ½ ounce Campari
- ½ ounce honey
- ¾ ounce fresh lemon juice
- ½ ounce fresh orange juice
- 1 muddled strawberry
- ice
- sparkling rosé

### DIRECTIONS

Add the gin, Campari, honey, lemon juice, orange juice, and muddled strawberry to a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake and pour into a glass over fresh ice. Top with sparkling rosé.



# How a Southern Socialite survives the Desert FASHION OR FAUX PAS?

Recently I was the target of an individual more than 70 years old who felt compelled to bully me about my chosen sweater draped over my shoulders while their questionable cloth hung over them like rubble from the dawn of the last century. While I enjoyed the laughter of great company, new and old friends alike, supporting a local institution in the European colonized historic district of Alameda, and relishing the great music echoing thru the lanai, a slew of texts begin to pour in. I pick-up my phone to see the most unflattering photo with an opening statement “I’m no fashionista but...?”

Let’s just say a non fashionista probably shouldn’t judge those on the fashionista side of things. It’s not the photo nor the horrid message written to the public, it’s the ill will and impact bullying can have on others. A man nearly two times my age chugs a few glasses of wine and decides he’s the judge of acceptable fashion in desert heat. One should show grace and maturity as well as dignity

to all. We owe it to each other in this very difficult world to maintain a baseline of kindness which allows others to prosper.

If I had been on the East Coast or Midwest on any summer evening attending great festivities in the same light blue button down, anchor prep cut navy blue shorts, with a white sweater over my shoulders no one would bat an eye. The intent of the man behind the phone wasn’t to speak about the heat index of that evening; it was to publicize an opinion and make a victim. Anyone who lives in the valley knows we drop an average of 20 degrees at night. Having been raised in the American South, a little sweater slung over my back adds absolutely no additional body temperature. I tried to do some research on who started the trend but couldn’t really lockdown a good answer for our readers.

Don’t get me wrong I do believe in opinions, but

by G. Buck, Publisher-Owner

I don’t believe in ever taking those personal thoughts and using social media as a target. Opinions are great for a private conversation or in a committee meeting.

A sweater is a great staple item to spruce up the luxury or preppy appearance of a styled look or open that jacket and drape it over your shoulders. I would venture to say tips from a socialite on fashion would be worth adhering to with the first tip being: Brand heavy isn’t representative of one’s personal flare.

## Socialite Tips:

**Socialite’s fashion book:**  
Remember fashion isn’t based on the essence of brands, fashion should evoke the onlookers around you to ask about the style you’ve chosen.

**Socialite’s social playbook:**  
Don’t use social media to fling denigrating opinions about others. You never know how engaging in poor social practice can affect those around us.

Food



# Beat the Heat Restaurant Tour

by Desiree Bustamantes

With temperatures reaching triple digits this summer, folks are certainly looking for ways to beat the heat in New Mexico. One way to achieve this is to spend some time visiting locally owned restaurants and enjoying quality entertainment.

Adobe Deli is about a 15-minute drive into the desert landscape from the self-proclaimed “Rock Hunters Paradise,” of Deming. It is an incredible amalgamation of restaurant and museum and has been around since 1978. Guests can expect to spend some considerable time exploring the décor, which consists of antiques, taxidermy, a cigar lounge and a wine cellar home to more than 500 different wines.

The whole menu is enjoyable to review and is complete with quirky descriptions courtesy of restaurateur Van Jacobsen. The cabernet-infused French

onion soup topped with toasted asadero cheese and the nearly one-inch thick, marbled ribeye are fan favorites.

This restaurant was built on the former Lewis Flats School and potentially old Apache grounds and is said to be host to paranormal activity experienced by employees and guests alike. It has even attracted several ghost hunting groups including the Travel Channel’s Ghost Hunters.

Ardivino’s Desert Crossing and Roadside Inn was revitalized in 1997 by Co-proprietor and sibling duo Robert and Marina Ardivino. It now serves the community as, “a restaurant and full-service events facility. We are third generation New Mexico small business proprietors,” says Robert.

They are home to indoor and outdoor spaces that serve as a stunning backdrop for special events. Every Saturday for the past 19 years, the location hosts

a farmers market complete with local crafts, food and even yoga sessions. They have also recently expanded to include the Ardivino’s Roadside Inn, where guests can rent an adobe casita or a vintage trailer. The atmosphere is, “rooted in mid century modern, with touches of New Mexico Territorial Style architecture. The vintage travel trailers are period correct to the years manufactured,” shares Robert.

Thomas Bock is the proprietor and executive chef of the completely renovated historic Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House in Pinos Altos. He is known to add new, “house specialties” to the menu regularly and is also happy to serve up what folks like best, which is their steakhouse-style meals. The saloon offers a warm welcome to diverse clientele and musical guests and is a place where it is not uncommon for strangers to become friends. The Opera House is available for private parties and events with full bar and catering services available.

While in the chile capital of the world of Hatch, ordering a Sparky’s world famous green chile cheeseburger seems the





obvious choice. They don't carry lettuce or tomato because simply, you don't need it! Keeping it simple is part of their charm when it comes to cuisine, but the ambience is anything but simple.

As you enter the quaint village coming off Interstate 25, you will be greeted with a cast of vintage statues and figurines that have been added to owner Teako Nunn's treasure trove over the years. Although the giant Tyrannosaurus rex is a beloved icon, several other massive characters make an appearance, such as an alien, robot, Yogi Bear; even Ronald McDonald is a Sparky's fan.

Sparky's distinct menu boldly integrates both green and red chile into most options, including milkshakes and lemonade! As if everything chile weren't enough to make the trip, this establishment recently received a nod from the Food Network as "Best BBQ in New Mexico."

If you can make it for a weekend visit, this eclectic establishment is committed to hosting live musical entertainment on both Saturdays and Sundays.

The Lodge is a hidden gem within the picturesque village of Cloudcroft that is encompassed by the Sacramento Mountains. This hotel and resort originally opened its doors to the public in 1906.

Rebecca's restaurant is a fine dining restaurant within the Lodge. The outdoor dining patio overlooks the pool and gardens

and boasts a rotating menu of weekly specials.

Rebecca's is fondly named after a ghost said to roam the grounds. Rebecca was a beautiful chambermaid who worked at The Lodge in the 1920s and 1930s and was reportedly murdered by her lumberjack significant other after accused bouts of infidelity.

When partaking in entertainment and fun activities, a person's body is known to release endorphins, the happiness hormone. What a superb added bonus for finding "cool" ways to beat the heat this summer!

**Your go-to**

**for to-go!**

**El Sombrero Express**  
115 S Roadrunner Parkway, Suite 2  
Las Cruces, NM 88011  
**(575) 323-3322**

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

**MESA VISTA WINERY**

**Meticulously Handcrafted Wine**

**Mesa Vista Winery**  
Tasting/Tap Room  
3200 Hwy 28 • Anthony, NM 88027

[www.mesavistawinery.com](http://www.mesavistawinery.com)

**DANIEL BUCK**

**A New Vision for Las Cruces City Council District 1**

**575.332.1219**  
[www.buck4lascruces.com](http://www.buck4lascruces.com)

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DANIEL BUCK

LOCATED IN MESILLA

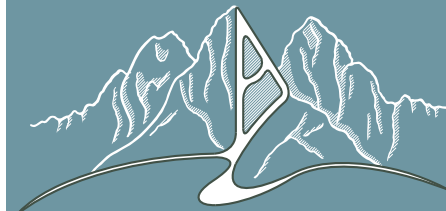


# B-Well PROJECT

Balanced Functional Medicine

Holistic Health • Nutritional / Regenerative IV Therapy  
Nutrient Injections • Hormone / Sex Education  
Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement  
Medically Supervised Weightloss • Exosomes • Stem Cells  
Peptide Therapy • Aesthetics • Nutritional Counseling  
Full Panel Hormone Testing • Supplements

2470 Calle de Guadalupe, Suite C | Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575.556.9954 | [www.b-wellclinic.com](http://www.b-wellclinic.com)



DESERT PEAK ARCHITECTS

[desertpeakarchitects.com](http://desertpeakarchitects.com) | 575-528-0021

## Summer Tutoring AVAILABLE



helps give each student the knowledge and tools to succeed.



Math  
Algebra  
Reading  
English  
Science  
Social Studies

[www.4AhaLearning.com](http://www.4AhaLearning.com)

(240) 372-5192



## LAS CRUCES'S ONLY WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP



Join Us Today!

Scan to Be Our Guest to an Upcoming Event



### Events, Trainings & Workshops

#### Monthly:

Expert Power Hour  
Fempreneur Breakfast Club  
Leader's Luncheon  
Strong Coffee with Strong Women

#### Quarterly:

Success is Sexy Mixer

#### Bi-Annually:

Collaboration over Competition:

Speed Mentoring

#### Annually:

January Kick Off  
Fall Keynote Speaker

#### Contact Us/ Follow Us:

575-640-2014 Sumer

Las Cruces & Alamogordo, NM

[Sumer@theassociationlc.com](mailto:Sumer@theassociationlc.com)

[www.theassociationlc.com](http://www.theassociationlc.com)

[@theassociationlc](https://www.facebook.com/theassociationlc)

[@theassociationlc](https://www.instagram.com/theassociationlc)





LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1981

**insta-copy**  
IMAGING

PRINTING • GRAPHIC DESIGN  
OFFICE FURNITURE & SUPPLIES

PRINT • DIGITAL • LARGE FORMAT  
OFFICE PRODUCTS

**(575) 526-6602**

**insta-copy.com**

318 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM 88001  

*Flex Community Office Spaces!*  
All Sizes • Daily and Long Term



**Collective Co.**

211 N Water St • Las Cruces, NM 88001 • 575.532.5406



**ENCHANTED SUN**  
REALTY

1424 E Lohman Ave • Las Cruces, NM 88001 • 575.532.5406

[enchantedsunrealty.com](http://enchantedsunrealty.com)

Connected to the community. And to you.

**WESTERN HERITAGE BANK**®

LAS CRUCES | EL PASO | DEMING

© Copyright 2019, New Mexico First Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



**WESTERNHERITAGEBANK.COM**





Stop by to see our selection of new earrings, pendants and rings.

*If you don't know diamonds, know your jeweler...*

# Austins

*Fine Jewelry*

Fine Jewelry · Estate Jewelry  
Appraisals · Repairs  
We also **LOVE** to trade.



*Beautiful Selection  
of Vivid Color  
Diamonds*



The Perfect Season  
to **BUY** for

- ~ Mother's Day
- ~ Graduation
- ~ Birthdays
- ~ Anniversaries or  
*Just Because!*

*12 months  
same as cash  
O.A.C.*

*Layaway  
Available!*



230 E. Idaho Avenue • Las Cruces, NM 88005 • 575. 525.3340

[www.austinsjewelry.com](http://www.austinsjewelry.com)