

A Legacy Local Monthly Publication

July 2024

# The Historic

Mesilla Valley

## Communities Rally as Ruidoso Burned



7 Sizzling Sun  
Protection Tips

Juneteenth Celebration  
Transforms Las Cruces

Southern New Mexico Wine  
Festival: Memorial Day Tradition





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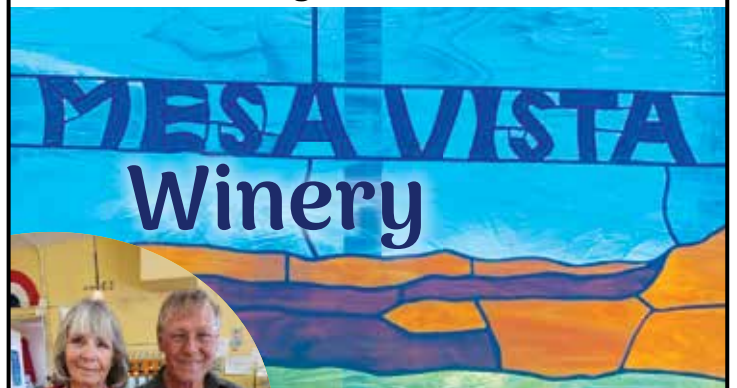
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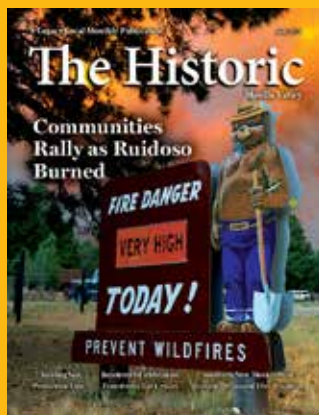


**TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. • SATURDAY: 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**



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**Featured on the Cover:**  
Smoke plumes from the South Fork Fire rise above the tree line as the fire progresses from the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation to the Lincoln National Forest causing mandatory evacuations in Ruidoso, NM. Photo By Kaylee Greenlee Beal, Reuters

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# FROM THE publisher



Welcome to July's issue of The Historic! We appreciate your support and hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July spent creating fond memories. As many of you know Ruidoso has been ravished by wildfires and floods during this time, so please keep the charitable momentum going as the community rebuilds. We want to give a big thank you to the businesses, citizens, and community at large that donated to our relief efforts. Because of you we filled a semi-truck and six pickup trucks with

trailers with supplies and donations. If you're looking for drop points to join in the relief efforts, please bring them to The Amador Patio Bar Grill, Soul Studio, and C&G's Truck Equipment.

We are certain everyone has noted our unusually high temperatures, horrid wind, and oddly humid weather. Please remain cool and hydrated. It wasn't two weeks ago that I was stranded at a local Walmart without electricity in our last microburst. The good news is all of our community partners have A/C so it makes for a great

shopping or dining experience while you unwind over a cold cocktail or soak up some retail therapy.

As you turn each crisp page of our publication, enjoy the content for this month as we take a closer look at the fire relief, a glimpse into Las Cruces' growing Juneteenth celebrations, and the publishing of a local author. And remember, if you have ideas for stories you'd like to see covered, let me know. Our readers are our partners, too.



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# Calendar of events

## Every Thursday

– Amador  
Standards Thursday  
Night Jazz. Hosted by  
Robert Ojinaga. No cover; 7 p.m. Amador  
Patio Bar Grill, 302 S. Main St., Suite B,  
Las Cruces.



## July 11

– Metal Show: Mt. Metal at Jax Rooftop  
Lounge with three metal bands. Get  
ready to rock with Know Suffer, Mishap  
and Rotten Disgust. No cover. Rooftop  
opens at 9 p.m., must be at least 18 for  
the show. Jax Rooftop, 302 S. Main St.,  
Las Cruces.

## July 12

– Dance: Country Dance Night featuring  
dance instructions from Country & Family  
El Paso. Space is limited, please sign  
up in advance; \$20 per person which  
includes one glass of 631 Signature  
Wine. 6:30-9 p.m., D.H. Lescombes  
Winery and Bistro, 1720 Avenida de  
Mesilla, Las Cruces.

## July 13

– Dino Day! Dinosaurs have taken over  
the Summer at Centennial Museum.  
Learn about dinosaurs, touch dinosaur  
bones, see dino artifacts and participate  
in crafts and activities. Presentation  
by special guest Eric Kappus. Light  
refreshments will be provided. Free, 11  
a.m.-3 p.m., Centennial Museum and  
Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, 610 W.  
University Ave., El Paso.

– 2024 Las Cruces Tequila, Tacos and  
Cerveza Festival: The 9th annual event  
returns to the Plaza de Las Cruces  
with more than 40 tequila brands for  
sampling, local food trucks, music,  
mercado and live Lucha Libre; \$20  
(minors and designated drivers), \$45  
Basic Amigo, and \$80 VIP Amigo. Tickets  
available at eventbrite.com or at the  
gate. All-age event, but must be at least  
21 to sample. Time: 6-11:45 p.m., Plaza  
de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main, Las Cruces.

– Ivonna Downtown: Monthly drag show  
hosted by Ivonna Bump; \$10 cover,  
cash only. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show

at 9 p.m., Little Toad Creek Brewery and  
Distillery, 119 N. Main St., Las Cruces.

## July 14

– Opening reception for “i-klëk’tik” Two  
Artists - Many Styles - Many Media by  
Mel and Rejina Chirstopher; 4-7 p.m.,  
MAS Art Gallery, 144 Wyatt Dr., Las  
Cruces.

– Metal Show: Mt. Metal at Jax Rooftop  
Lounge with three metal bands. Get  
ready to rock with Bleed the Vain,  
Infernal Seer and Mission Seven. No  
cover. Rooftop opens at 9 p.m., must be  
at least 18 for the show; Jax Rooftop,  
302 S. Main St., Las Cruces.

## August 1

– Walking tour: Monthly guided walk to  
learn and identify various resident and  
migratory bird species from local expert  
birder from the Mesilla Valley Audubon  
Society. Walk is approximately two miles,  
round trip. Difficulty - easy to moderate  
trail; \$5 per vehicle required upon entry,  
8-10 a.m., Mesilla Valley Bosque State  
Park, 5000 Calle Del Norte, Las Cruces.



## August 2

- First Friday at Trails End Gallery; 4-8 p.m., Trails End Gallery, 1732 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces.



## August 4

- Booze Yoga: Beginner-friendly yoga class on the first Sunday of each month. One-hour class with two beers or mimosas included; \$20 person; 9:45-11 a.m., Las Cruces Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N. Main St., Las Cruces.

## August 10

- 2024 Las Cruces Summer Beer Fest: All-age event featuring 240 local and regional breweries, food trucks, vendors and live music; \$30 for general admission, \$60 V.I.P. admission. Tickets available on partytendersinc.com. Gatte prices increase on day of the event by \$5; 6 p.m.-midnight, Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main, Las Cruces.

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### OCTOBER

Mesilla Valley Maze  
Recognizing  
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Year Anniversary  
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#### October 12th

Dia de Los Muertos  
Altars Workshop  
1 pm • Alma d'Arte,  
402 W. Court Ave.

Pachanga (Party)  
Zoot Suit Contest, Car Show and Music  
Klein Park & Downtown

#### October 25th

Dangerbird Bike-Pack Summit • Klein Park

### NOVEMBER

Dia de los Muertos  
Klein Park and Mesquite St. Neighborhood  
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#### November 2nd

Christmas Market • Amador Live • 302 S. Main Street

### DECEMBER

Christmas on El Camino Real  
Mesquite Street, Las Cruces  
Luminarias, Santa and Carriage Rides

### JANUARY

#### January 4th

Nacimientos (Nativities) - \$5 Donation  
Display of 200 Nativities from private collection  
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### FEBRUARY

#### February 14th & 15th

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# “ONE WORLD UNITED” from dreams to reality

By Sylvia Quintanilla

Ten years ago, Heather Lutz had a dream that spanned over three nights. The morning after the first night, she went to work and lived her normal routine. That night, her dream picked up right where it left off. As she went to work the next day, she thought about how her dream continued on. On the third night, the dream concluded.

“Well, I know a whole book now,” Lutz explained. “I literally know everything that happens.”

“One World United” is the debut novel for Lutz and was released this past

February. It is part one of a three-part political thriller series.

“It is set after what I consider to be the Third World War or what I call the Great War,” Lutz began. “It’s a really interesting story based on how the government, any government, seems to be making the same mistakes.”

Lutz said she had a notebook full of things and didn’t really work on it until years later.

“Writing is very lonely because it’s you and your characters. You and your people. No one can get in your head to

help you. And once you have it written out, you have a bunch of help because you have your editors and your publishers and the people around you who read it, but the actual creation is just you,” Lutz explained.

Through her husband, Jack, she linked up with Troy Soughton, who is a producer and owner of PCR Productions. His daughter owns Borderlands Media. Troy encouraged her to talk to the local micro publisher and expressed his interest in wanting to read the story. Six months later, the book was published.

Borderlands Media was established in 2017 and is a family run business. Tiffany Scoughton said their company is different since it only takes a profit from the sales of books rather than services for publishing. Additional services include editing, type setting, illustration or cover work. They moved into the publishing

**Continued on Page 10 ►**



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## ◀ Continued from Page 8

world about two years ago. As lead publisher, Scoughton said she looks for originality and novels that are different, but are also in good taste.

"I like authors that are go-getters and that are also going to be involved in marketing, want to help get their book out and help get sales going. I enjoy working with authors who are willing to put in their part as well," Scoughton explained.

After meeting with Lutz and discussing her story idea, Scoughton was amazed that it came from a dream. She described Lutz as having a good aura about her.

Once Lutz met with Borderlands Media and was then connected with K-Cross Creation, she felt like she had an amazing group of people who had her back. K-Cross is assisting in getting her affiliates and getting her book out in the public realm. Lutz expressed gratitude to both companies that, in her words, made her feel like a real author.

In June, Barnes & Noble hosted a book signing for "One World United." Lutz spent the afternoon not only surrounded by her friends and family supporting her, but by the Las Cruces community. Lutz was in her element, warm and friendly. She engaged with each person who approached her table and truly listened to what they had to say.

"I was not expecting young people who were just passing by saying, 'Oh my gosh, you're an author in this area? You're an inspiration. Tell me more. How can I be like you?'" I was severely humbled by that," Lutz reflected.

Lutz recalled a 16-year-old who let her



know that he wrote a book as well and he was now inspired to show it to his mom.

For inspiring authors hoping to be published, Scoughton advised to get started on an outline, write a chapter and figure out a plan of what you want your story to be.

"Everyone has a story that needs to be told. You can have someone write about the same thing I'm writing about and

their perspective will be entirely different. It's still an entirely different book and story and influence and it's important for especially local authors to know that they have a voice," Lutz said.

"One World United" is available for purchase on [borderlandsmedia.com](http://borderlandsmedia.com). For updates on Lutz and other local authors, please visit the Borderlands Media social media pages and website.



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# 7 SIZZLING SUN PROTECTION TIPS

By Dr. Piper Gibson

**T**he hot New Mexico sun is officially beating down on us, but did you know that skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States? Over 5 million cases are diagnosed annually, and at our elevation, skin cancer is extremely common. Thankfully, it is highly preventable with the right measures. Here are some important steps to protect yourself from skin cancer:

## 1. Apply Sunscreen Daily

Sunscreen is your first line of defense against harmful UV rays. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Apply it generously to all exposed skin 15 minutes before going outdoors, and reapply every two hours or more often if swimming or sweating. Don't forget spots like your ears, neck, and feet.

## 2. Seek Shade

Stay in the shade whenever possible, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you're outdoors, find or bring an umbrella, tree, or tent to reduce direct sun exposure.

## 3. Wear Protective Clothing

Clothing provides a physical barrier against UV rays. Opt for long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and skirts made of tightly woven fabric. Some clothing items offer UV protection. Don't forget a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face, ears, and neck.

## 4. Use Sunglasses

Protect your eyes from UV rays with sunglasses that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays. Look for wraparound styles that also provide side protection.

## 5. Avoid Tanning Beds

Tanning beds emit UV radiation that can significantly increase your risk of skin cancer. There is a clear dose-response relationship between tanning bed use and increased risk of skin cancers, including basal cell carcinoma (BCC), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and melanoma. Meaning the more time you spend in the tanning bed, the greater the risk of skin cancer. Embrace your natural skin tone and use self-tanning products if you desire a tanned look without harmful effects.

## 6. Perform Regular Skin Self-Exams

Regular self-examinations help detect early signs of skin cancer. Look for new or changing moles, spots, or growths. Pay attention to asymmetry, irregular borders, multiple colors, diameter larger than a pencil eraser, and any evolving features. If you notice anything suspicious, see a dermatologist promptly.

## 7. Get Professional Skin Exams

Schedule regular check-ups with a dermatologist, especially if you have a history of skin cancer, significant sun exposure, or a family history of skin cancer. Professional exams can catch early signs of skin cancer that you might miss. Protecting yourself from skin cancer involves daily habits and conscious choices. By applying sunscreen, seeking shade, wearing protective clothing, using sunglasses, avoiding tanning beds, and performing regular skin checks, you can significantly reduce your risk of skin cancer. Remember, your skin is your largest organ, and taking these steps can help ensure its health for years to come.

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# Juneteenth

## Celebration Transforms Las Cruces

By Sarah Boothe

Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865, and more broadly, the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America. This significant date has evolved into a celebration of African American culture and heritage, and cities across the United States, including Las Cruces, honored this day with vibrant festivities. In Las Cruces, the downtown plaza transformed into a hub of activity, beaming with vendors, artists, and community members who join together to celebrate history.

The Las Cruces Juneteenth events were lively and attracted people from all walks of life. The weeklong celebration was a blend of historical reflection, cultural expression, and communal enjoyment. Branigan Cultural Center hosted the Juneteenth Jazz Arts Festival. It launched on June 20th at Branigan Memorial

Library with a talk by Dr. Timothy E. Nelson followed by the Juneteenth Jazz Jam at Amador Live on the 21st.

On Friday, the Plaza de Las Cruces was livened up by festivities celebrating culture.

NMSU hosted events including 'Celebrating Juneteenth; Uplifting our successes,' the Juneteenth Gospel Showcase, and "Launching of Legacy: Black programs and community" exhibit. The NAACP hosted their Juneteenth banquet at the Las Cruces Convention Center with key speaker, Mitch Boyer, a leader in the Vado community and a descendant of the founder of the first black settlement in the state that provided safe harbor for those fleeing the Jim Crow south.

The heart of the Juneteenth celebration in Las Cruces is its diverse array of vendors. Local businesses and artisans set up stalls offering a wide range of products, from handcrafted jewelry and clothing to unique artworks and home décor. These vendors showcase the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of the community, offering

visitors the chance to purchase one-of-a-kind items and support local artisans. Many of these vendors also incorporate themes of African American culture and history into their products, providing a deeper connection to the significance of Juneteenth.

Artists and performers were integral to the Juneteenth celebration in Las Cruces, bringing the plaza to life with music, dance, and visual arts.

"My experience was beneficial being a part of my first Juneteenth event in Las Cruces and New Mexico as a whole; I appreciate being able to present art and be a part of next year's event presenting dance and more," artist and dance instructor Daymeon Rembert said.

The Juneteenth event was more than just a festival; it is a powerful affirmation of freedom, heritage, and community. It provides a space for the African American community to celebrate their history and culture while inviting people of all backgrounds to join in and learn about the importance of this historic day. As Juneteenth gains wider recognition across the United States, we hope the celebration in Las Cruces continues to grow in size and significance.



Photo Dr. Timothy E. Nelson

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### Ingredients

6 beefy jumbo hotdogs  
1 avocado, peeled and diced  
6 bolillo buns\* 1/2 cup La Posta Hatch Green Hot Sauce  
6 slices of bacon 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 1/2 cups refried pinto beans, warmed  
Juice of 1 lime (2 tbsp.)  
1/2 cup La Posta Green Chile Honey Mustard 1/2 cup cotija cheese  
1 cup minced white onion 1 large tomato seeded and chopped

**Optional Garnish:** Minced cilantro, red onion, lime quarters, sour cream, pickled jalapenos

### Directions

(1) Wrap each hotdog with a strip of bacon, starting at one end and wrapping diagonally around the hot dog and securing with toothpicks. (2) Place 3 wrapped hotdogs in a large skillet over medium high heat. Cook and turn every 3 minutes until bacon is crispy and hotdogs are cooked thoroughly, about 12 - 15 minutes. Repeat with remaining wrapped hotdogs. (3) In a small bowl combine mayonnaise, lime juice, green chile sauce, and mix well. (4) Split each bun with a serrated knife and warm in the microwave. (5) To assemble: spread 1/4 cup refried beans in the bottom of each bun. Top with bacon wrapped hot dog. Repeat for each bun. (6) Top each hot dog evenly with La Posta Green Chile Honey Mustard. (7) Garnish with onion, tomato, avocado and cheese. (8) Drizzle with La Posta Hatch Green Chile Hot Sauce and mayonnaise mixture. Add additional garnish if desired. Serve immediately. (Serves 6)

### Notes

To Bake Preheat Oven to 350 degrees. Place wrapped hot dogs on a baking pan lined with parchment paper. Cook for 12 to 16 minutes, turning once to ensure bacon is crispy throughout.  
Air Fry: Spray air fry basket with cooking spray. Preheat at 400 degrees for 5 minutes. Place bacon wrapped hotdogs in basket and cook for 7-8 minutes. Turn each hotdog over gently and cook for 3-4 more minutes until bacon is crisp.

\*This is a traditional Mexican bun found in most bakery sections at your local market. You can also use any type of soft oblong roll.

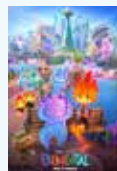
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### 2024 MOVIES in the Park



July 13	"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" .....	PG
July 27	"The Marvels" .....	PG-13
Aug. 10	"Five Nights at Freddy's" .....	PG-13
Aug. 24	"Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" .....	PG-13
Sept. 7	"Elemental" .....	PG
Sept. 21	"The Little Mermaid" .....	PG



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# Communities Rally as **RUIDOSO BURNED**

By Sarah Boothe







**I**n the summer of 2024 Ruidoso, New Mexico, has been in the midst of a devastating crisis as the South Fork and Salt Fire ravaged the town and surrounding areas. The fires, the cause still under investigation at the time of publication, were worsened by dry conditions and high winds, quickly spreading across the landscape, consuming thousands of acres and threatening the lives and livelihoods of

local residents. This catastrophe tested the resilience and solidarity of the community, prompting an extraordinary outpouring of support from neighboring towns and cities, including Las Cruces. The collaborative efforts to provide relief and support to the evacuees showcased the strength of communal bonds and the power of collective action in times of crisis.

Ruidoso, known for its picturesque

mountain scenery and thriving tourism industry, was transformed into a scene of destruction as the fires advanced. Homes, businesses, and natural habitats were engulfed in flames, forcing residents to evacuate and seek safety in emergency shelters in Capitan, Roswell, Mescalero and other surrounding cities. The swift and unpredictable nature of the fires

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left many with little time to gather their belongings, leading to widespread displacement and uncertainty of approximately 8,000 people and the destruction of more than 1,400 structures. As the fires raged on, the need for immediate assistance became paramount.

In response to the unfolding disaster, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham received a declaration from President Biden to declare a State of Emergency, allowing funding for FEMA and Red Cross to render aid. In addition to National support, neighboring

communities sprang into action. In Las Cruces, residents and businesses quickly mobilized to provide aid to those affected by the fires. Recognizing the urgent need for supplies and support, local organizations, businesses, and individuals coordinated efforts to collect donations and deliver them to evacuation stations.

The community response in Las Cruces was remarkable in its scope and organization. Collection points were established across the city, with local businesses, schools, and community centers serving as drop-off locations for donations. Items such as non-perishable food, bottled water, clothing, blankets,

toiletries, and medical supplies were in high demand. The generosity of the residents was evident as trailer loads of supplies began to accumulate, reflecting the deep sense of empathy and solidarity felt throughout the city.

One business in particular, Amador LIVE owned by Max and Kristi Bower, set relief efforts in motion by being a main drop-off location for supplies immediately after news of the fire.

“Like many of us, the Ruidoso area has been a part of my family for as long as I can remember,” Max Bower said. “When news of the fire broke and its severity, I felt compelled to do whatever I could to





Photo By Omar Ornelas / El Paso Times

help the community that's meant so much to me."

Business owners like Max, Wade Boone of QLM Marketing, Kelly Fort of The Fort Construction, Chris Reyes of Frontline Construction, Sharahazad Booth, Instacopy Imaging, Mesilla Valley Transportation, Soul Studio and so many more joined efforts to facilitate donation efforts. More than 2,000 cases of water, thousands of toiletry items, human and pet food donations were donated by members of the community to Amador LIVE alone to help their fellow neighbors in Ruidoso. Countless other efforts by businesses and local residents throughout

Las Cruces have become a beacon of hope of relief.

"I am so thankful for all the support from the great people in Las Cruces supporting the donation drive," Bower continued.

Thanks to the help of local facilitators and relief effort organizers, owners like Max Bower and other members of the community loaded donations and personally transported donations to Mescalero, Capitan and directly into the line of fire in Ruidoso.

Local businesses are playing a crucial

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role in the relief efforts. Businesses throughout our beautiful town have been coordinating fundraising events to garner financial support. Owners Dillon Nunn and Deret Roberts Elephant Ranch Bar and Tony and Sandra Espiritu of Grounded Coffee combined efforts on June 26 at Elephant Ranch to host their Fighting Fire with Fire event. Food was provided by Grounded Coffee and Sparky's Burger while people were invited to enjoy drinks and live music while donating supplies for Ruidoso.

In addition to collecting supplies from generous Las Cruces residents, restaurants have also prepared meals for the evacuees, first responders and fire crews, ensuring that they had access to hot food and nourishment. The collective contributions of these businesses significantly bolstered

the resources available for the relief operations.

Beyond the material aid, the solidarity and compassion demonstrated by the neighboring communities offered emotional support to those affected by the fires. Knowing that they were not alone in their time of need provided a source of strength and hope for the evacuees. The outpouring of kindness and assistance underscored the importance of community and the power of collective action in overcoming adversity.

As the fires are becoming contained, the focus is now shifted to the long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. The collaboration between Ruidoso and its neighboring communities continues, with ongoing support for reconstruction and rehabilitation initiatives. Fundraising efforts persisted, and volunteers are committed to assisting with the

cleanup and rebuilding of homes and infrastructure.

The South Fork and Salt Fire disaster in Ruidoso was a harrowing experience that tested the resilience of the local residents. However, it also revealed the strength of community bonds and the capacity for collective action in times of crisis. The response from neighboring communities highlight the power of solidarity and compassion in providing relief and support. The efforts to collect and deliver supplies to the evacuation stations, facilitated by local businesses, organizations, and volunteers, played a crucial role in alleviating the immediate hardships faced by the evacuees. This collective response stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of community and the shared commitment to helping one another. It has transformed from a tale of destruction to a story of humanity.

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# Southern New Mexico Wine Festival: MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION

By Sarah Boothe

**T**he annual wine festival in Las Cruces is a vibrant celebration of local wine, drawing enthusiasts from across the state and beyond. Held at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, this three-day event has become a staple in the area, offering sampling of our native wine, food and craft vendors, home-grown musicians, and a lively atmosphere that captures the spirit of New Mexico.

New Mexico has a rich history of wine growing that dates back to the Spanish colonial era of the 17th century. Wine production in the region when Spanish settlers brought grapevines with them for religious purposes. Mission grapes were brought to the new world and planted across New Mexico; known for their thin skin, low sugar, high acidity and ability to adapt to the arid climate of the southwest.

Wine production in New Mexico is unique due to grower's need to adapt to a dry climate. A combination of grower's experience and rich soils make the area ripe for diverse varieties. Today, Las Cruces, Deming and other cities throughout New Mexico are part of a growing wine industry, including several wineries and vineyards producing a range of wines, from dry reds to sweet whites, often using both traditional and hybrid grape varieties.

The Viva Vino New Mexico Wine Festival is a way for locals and tourists to commemorate our rich wine history. At the heart of the festival are the numerous wineries that come to showcase their finest selections. Among the notable wineries are Luna Rossa Winery, D.H. Lescombes Winery, and Noisy Water Winery, each bringing their unique flavors and styles to

the festival goers.

Luna Rossa Winery, located in Deming, is known for its award-winning wines crafted from estate-grown grapes. Visitors to their booth sampled a range of wines from robust reds to crisp whites, each capturing the unique agricultural qualities of southern New Mexico. Luna Rossa's dedication to quality and tradition shines through in every pour, making it a favorite among festival attendees.

D.H. Lescombes Winery, with its roots tracing back to 1981, brings a storied history and a wide variety of wines to the festival. The Lescombes family emigrated from Burgundy, France and have been staple winegrowers in New Mexico since their arrival. Known for their innovative approach and commitment to excellence,

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D.H. Lescombes offers samples of everything from classic varietals to unique blends that highlight the creativity of their winemakers. Producing more than 40 different wines on more than 200 acres just outside of Lordsburg, their wines are a testament to the rich winemaking heritage of New Mexico.

Noisy Water Winery, based in Ruidoso and throughout other parts of the state, is another standout participant. With a reputation for bold, expressive wines and a fun-loving brand personality, Noisy Water attracts a crowd eager to try their distinctive offerings. Their wines, often featuring playful names and labels, are crafted to be enjoyed in a lively, social setting, perfectly aligning with the festive atmosphere of the wine festival.

Beyond the wine, the festival is a food vendor haven, offering a wide array of food options that complement the wine tasting experience. Local food vendors set up stalls selling everything from green chile quesadillas to funnel cake. For those saving room for wine, they can take home their favorite jar of salsa or a bag of kettle corn. There are always a variety of local artisans and craft vendors offering a variety of handmade goods, from jewelry and pottery to wine-themed gifts.

The festival's entertainment lineup is another major draw. Live music fills the air throughout the event, with local bands and solo artists performing a variety of genres. The music creates a lively backdrop for the wine tasting, encouraging guests to relax, dance, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

The annual wine festival is more than just an event; it's a celebration of the local

culture and community. It brings together people from all walks of life to enjoy the simple pleasures of good wine, food, and company. The festival is also a significant boost to the local economy, drawing tourists to Las Cruces and supporting local businesses and artisans.

Over the years, the annual wine festival in Las Cruces has grown in popularity and reputation, becoming a must-attend event for wine lovers in New Mexico and beyond. Its success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the organizers, vendors, and participants who come together to create a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. As the festival continues to evolve and expand, it remains a cherished tradition that celebrates the unique flavors and vibrant culture of New Mexico's wine country.

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# Honey Water

By Gordon Buck

## INGREDIENTS:

1 ½ oz. Tepozan  
Reposado Tequila  
½ oz. Cointreau  
1 ¼ oz. fresh lemon juice  
¼ oz. honey syrup  
lemon rind twist

## DIRECTIONS:

Place all ingredients in a shaker and give it a good jolt. Strain into a Tajin-rimmed martini glass and add a lemon twist.



## NOTES: Honey Syrup

Combine equal parts honey to boiling water. Stir until combined.

# Refreshing Cottage Cheese SUMMER DIP

By Gordon Buck

## INGREDIENTS:

1 24 oz. container of medium curd cottage cheese dip (any milk fat or lactose free version works)  
1 tbsp. of lemon juice (optional)  
A few cracks of fresh pepper  
1 tsp. of garlic salt  
¼ tsp. of rosemary, basil, parsley and marjoram

## DIRECTIONS:

Place cottage cheese in mixing bowl. At this stage you will need to determine if you'd like to refine the curd size

further with a hand blender. Once you've completed this first step, your only remaining task is to place the rest of the ingredients in the cottage cheese and stir until combined. It's highly recommended you make this make ahead recipe the day before so the flavors can meld.

## CHEF'S TIPS:

This recipe can be combined with any herbs, seasonings, or pre-made mixes for a fun twist on a sour cream dip. It's best served with specialty crackers, crudité, and apple slices or chunks.

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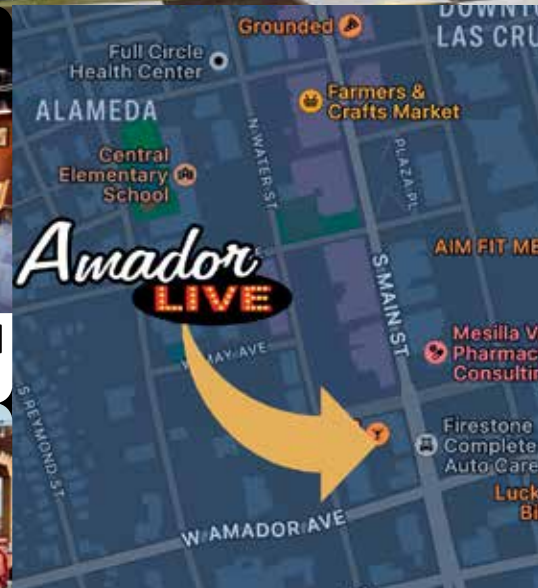
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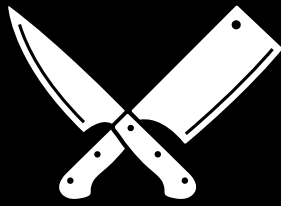
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Whether you are traveling through, or live here in the Dona Ana area, Las Cruces, NM, is known for many things but most of all, it's delicious Southwestern cuisine. When you walk into a restaurant and sit down to order, you can expect behind every great dish is a great chef, and his crew making every effort to present an unforgettable dining experience. That's precisely what Executive Chef Enrique Hernandez and his crew of four years brings to the Amador Hospitality.

Born and raised in Las Cruces, NM, Enrique has been cooking for 16 years, and started as a dishwasher at Eddie's Bar and Grill. After working in a few other restaurants, Enrique ended up at Hotel Encanto, where he met Former Executive Chef Marc Najmi. Marc came to Amador Hospitality in 2019 as Executive Chef and hired Enrique in late 2021, and upon Marc's retirement, Enrique has taken on the role of the new Executive Chef with his crew moving full steam ahead with a brand-new lunch, brunch, and dinner menu. Executive Chef Enrique Hernandez wants to bring a Southern Flare with a twist to the Amador Live Eatery and Entertainment District.



"What inspires me to cook is my daughter. I try to make her proud and show her that I can be something"

-Enrique Hernandez





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