A Legacy Local Monthly Publication

August 2026

The Historic Mesilla Valley

THE ORTEGA Folk Art Show



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Amigos de la Casa

Ghost Town Newsletter

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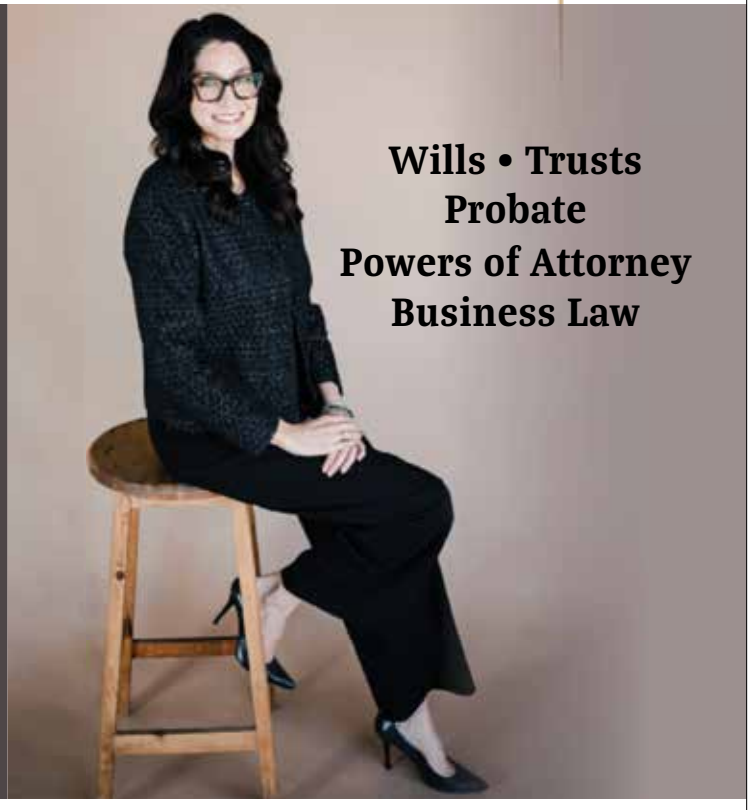

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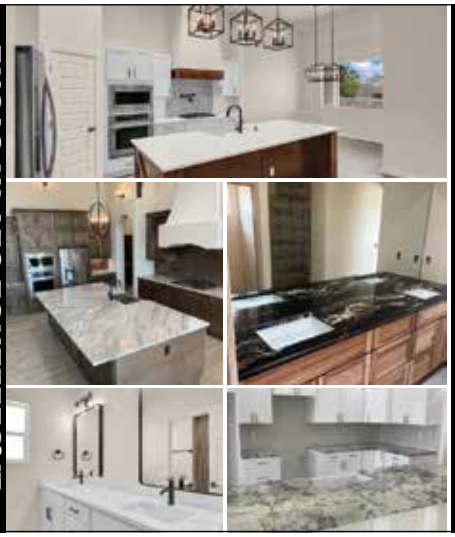

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Featured on the Cover:
Art made by Gerardo Ortega, Ortega's Folk Art

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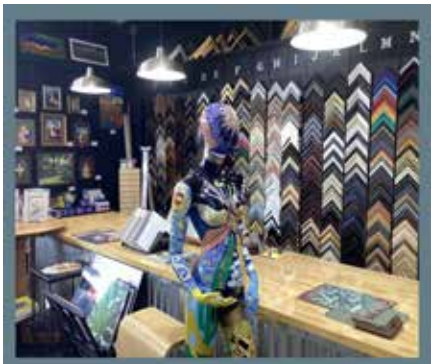

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FROM THE

publisher's desk

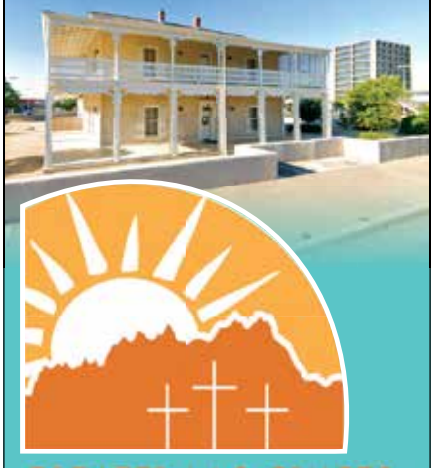
Fall is on its way! After some record-breaking heat, monsoons are finally bringing some moisture to our region. There's so much to see and do as we approach September, including upcoming concerts, fall festivals, and fun times in Kingston, New Mexico — a living ghost town in the Black Range.

The Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site has undergone some great changes under the leadership of a new president.

If you've never been, the Barela Store is a great place to hunt for treasures (and it's tax free).

We have a new makerspace opening in the South Valley that will benefit the community through different art forms, where students can enjoy various mediums at no cost.

YOUR business is OUR business



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Refreshments will include wine and beer from Black Range Vineyards, burgers, burritos and tacos from Jim McNutt's Caballo Grill, plus local apple pie! Pickamania is a project of the Sierra County Arts Council {SCAC}.

Advance tickets are available at: sierracountyarts.org

THE SCAC IS SUPPORTED BY NEW MEXICO ARTS, A DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS & THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Calendar of events

WEEKLY, MONDAY

– Women's group: Casa De Mi Alma is hosting a women's group every Monday called Café Con Chisme. This group is for women to come together as a community to share their stories, discuss various topics, and more. No registration is required and drop-ins are welcome. Free. 5-6 p.m. 920 N Alameda Blvd., Las Cruces.

WEEKLY, TUESDAY

– Group run: Bluebird Running Company presents a weekly all-levels group run. This downtown run begins at Bluebird Running Company, down Water Street to Bowman, to Church Street, through the roundabout, and back down to Water Street. Runners can run as many loops as they want and at their own pace. Water is provided. Free. 6-7 p.m. 136 S Water St., Las Cruces.

WEEKLY, FRIDAY

– Mahjong: Looking to add a new activity to your weekly routine? Thomas Branigan Memorial Library hosts weekly Mahjong games on Friday afternoons. All skill levels are welcome, whether you are a Mahjong expert or have never played before. Free. 1 p.m. 200 E Picacho Ave., Las Cruces.

WEEKLY, SATURDAY

– Yoga: Looking for an accessible way to improve your mental health? Join this family-friendly yoga class at the El Paso Museum of History with instructor Erica Marin. Yoga helps with flexibility, strength, and balance. Whether you are new to yoga or looking for a beginner-level workout, this class is supportive and inclusive. Free. 1-2 p.m. 510 N Santa Fe St., El Paso, Texas.

AUG. 14

– Open Studio: Wet Paint Art Studio is hosting walk-in painting open studio hours on Friday night. Drop in anytime between 5-9 p.m. and choose from a variety of creative activities like canvas painting, pottery painting, wood crafts, and more. No reservations needed. All supplies will be provided. Pay by the piece. All ages are welcome. 5-9 p.m. 114 S Water St., Las Cruces.

AUG. 22

– Family Day: New Mexico Historic Sites and Friends of the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site present the fourth annual Family Day Fiesta on the Mesilla Plaza. Guests can enjoy mariachi music, folklórico dancing, kid-friendly activities, and more. The Wonders on Wheels Mobile Museum, a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, will also be in attendance. This year, the Mobile Museum is touring "The Arts of Democracy in New Mexico," an all-ages interactive exhibition, honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Free. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mesilla Plaza, Calle Principal, Mesilla.

AUG. 27

– Cocktails & tapas: The kitchen and bar staff are teaming up with food and creative cocktails at Salud! de Mesilla. Each guest will receive four original cocktails paired with chef-inspired tapas that are designed to complement each sip. Non-alcoholic beverage options are also available for the pairing. Seatings begin at 5:30 p.m. with additional seatings available every 30 minutes. $50 per

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Help us build the BORDERLAND Maker Space!

A new community resource is coming to La Union, New Mexico — and you're invited to help shape it from the very beginning.

The Borderland Maker Space is a nonprofit community workshop where creativity, innovation, and lifelong learning come together. Our vision is to create a welcoming place where people of all ages can explore arts and crafts, learn new skills, share ideas, and work on projects that inspire creativity and strengthen our community.

Because we're just getting started, we want to hear from you!

Join us at our GRAND OPENING & OPEN HOUSE

this September and help us build a maker space that reflects the interests and talents of our Borderland community.

During the open house, visitors will have the opportunity to tour the space, meet our volunteers, learn about our nonprofit mission, and complete a brief community survey. We want to know what classes, workshops, and creative activities interest you most. Are you interested in fiber arts, sewing, quilting, 3D printing, woodworking, electronics, robotics, painting, jewelry making, photography, digital design, or something else? Your ideas will help guide our future programs and equipment purchases.

As a community-supported nonprofit, we're also looking for donations of gently used tools, equipment, and creative supplies. If you have art materials, fabrics, yarn, sewing machines, hand tools, woodworking tools, electronics, craft supplies, or other useful items collecting dust, consider giving them a new life at the Borderland Maker Space. Your donations can help provide learning opportunities for children, families, artists, makers, and aspiring entrepreneurs throughout our region.

Whether you'd like to volunteer, teach a class, donate supplies, become a founding member, or simply share your ideas, there's a place for you at the Borderland Maker Space.

Come help us create a space where imagination becomes innovation, neighbors become collaborators, and our community builds something extraordinary — together.

BORDERLAND Maker Space

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person (reservations required). 5:30-8 p.m. 1800 Avenida de Mesilla, Suite B, Las Cruces.

SEPT. 2

– Songwriters Circle: Have song lyrics in your head that you want to work on? Or do you just want to jam with other local artists? Bring your ideas and instruments to the Las Cruces Songwriters Circle. The group meets every first and third Wednesday of the month in the parlor at First Christian Church. They work from writing prompts decided on by the members, but writers are always free to work on their own material if the prompt doesn't resonate with them. Please bring an instrument to share your song. Free ($4 donation suggestion for room rental). 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 1809 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces.

SEPT. 5–6

– Fine Arts Festival: The annual Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts returns with over 100 artists who work with various media, including woodworking, glass, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry, painting, and more. This is an outdoor show on the grounds of the Holy Cross Retreat Center. The festival will also have a silent auction, live music, raffle, an enchilada dinner, and a beer and wine garden. The festival will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 600 Holy Cross Rd., Mesilla Park.

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"cover story"

THE ORTEGA Folk Art Show

By Sylvia Quintanilla



MASTER ARTISAN GERARDO ORTEGA

When it comes to art, it's rare to get the opportunity to meet the artist. One might see a piece in a gallery and wonder how the artist created their sculpture or chose the colors for their paintings. Coyote Traders, a rustic furniture store in Las Cruces, wanted to bring art lovers and the creative minds behind the art together for a unique summer experience.

Coyote Traders, located at 1024 W Picacho Ave., hosted master artisan Gerardo Ortega for an art show and meet-and-greet in July. Ortega is a renowned Mexican folk artist from Tonalá, Jalisco, Mexico. Ortega takes inspiration from his hometown, which is known for its rich history of ceramics and pottery. He was immersed in the world of clay from a young age and had a dedication to craftsmanship while allowing his creativity to thrive.

Each piece Ortega works with is hand painted with intricate patterns and colorful designs. His work has gained both national recognition and international praise. Ortega often travels to the U.S. to bring his art to new audiences.

"Ortega is known for bright colors, playful characters, and detailed handmade designs," said Gabriel Villa, owner of Coyote Traders. "His pieces often feature animals, flowers, everyday scenes, and imaginative figures that reflect Mexican culture, humor, and tradition. What stands out most about Gerardo's work is the personality in every piece. Each figure has its own expression and story, and customers are naturally drawn to the color, creativity, and craftsmanship."

Villa explained the Ortega Folk Art Show grew out of a larger mission to bring artists and art lovers together.

"Through our summer artisan show, we have been working to bring artisans into Coyote Traders so customers can meet the people behind the work, learn about their traditions, and create a more personal connection with the artwork they purchase," he said. "We have carried Gerardo Ortega's work for several years, so inviting him back to Las Cruces was a natural fit. The event began with a special meet-and-greet at Hacienda de Mesilla, followed by a public exhibition at Coyote Traders Rustic Furniture."

Ortega visited Coyote Traders three years ago, so this event allowed the city to welcome him back, reconnect him with customers who were already familiar with his work, and introduce him to many new people. Villa noted that Ortega was very appreciative of the welcome and support he received. He enjoyed meeting customers face-to-face and seeing how strongly the community connected with his artwork. The meet-and-greet also featured a Q-and-A session with Ortega. The following two days at Coyote Traders, guests were able to shop exclusive handcrafted artwork and place custom orders with the artist.

"The meet-and-greet was a great success. The community was excited to meet Gerardo personally, ask him questions, and see his artwork up close," Villa reflected. "Guests



were able to connect directly with the artist and better understand the time, creativity, and tradition involved in making each piece. It became more than a sales event. It was a cultural experience that allowed people to meet the artist behind the work. We were very grateful for the turnout and the support Gerardo received from the Las Cruces community."

Coyote Traders will continue carrying Ortega's artwork. They currently have pieces available and plan to keep bringing in new work from him.

"This was not intended to be a one-time event," Villa said. "Gerardo is also planning to return to Las Cruces in November with several other artisans, which will give the community another opportunity to meet the artists, learn about their traditions, and purchase their work directly. We value our relationship with Gerardo and look forward to continuing to support his work and other artisans through future events at Coyote Traders."

The success of the Ortega Folk Art Show emphasizes one of the main goals of Coyote Traders: to connect customers directly with the artisans who create the pieces they carry.

"When people meet the artist and hear the story behind the work, the artwork takes on a much deeper meaning," Villa remarked.

For citizens of Las Cruces, events like this showcase a culture deeply rooted in the Mesilla Valley.

"Supporting artists such as Gerardo also helps preserve traditional Mexican folk art and allows those traditions to be shared with new generations," Villa said. "We are thankful to everyone who attended, supported the artist, and helped make the event successful. We are also grateful to Hacienda de Mesilla for helping us host the meet-and-greet."

For more on Gerardo Ortega, visit his artist page on Facebook, Ortega's Folk Art. For more information on Coyote Traders, visit coyotetraders.com and check out their social media pages to keep up with events.



AMIGOS de la casa

A newsletter from the Friends of the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site

NEW PRESIDENT NAMED

On July 1, 2026, the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site named its 2026/2027 President. Heather Pollard passed the leadership gavel to Bob Wofford, who previously served as Vice President. Pollard now fills the Past President role on the Board.

PRESIDENT'S CHAT



BOB WOFFORD

I am excited to become Friends President of the TMHS as the gift that the Taylor family made many years ago is becoming fully realized. The American Association for State and Local History 2026 Award of Excellence was awarded to the New Mexico Historic Sites for the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site. What an honor! The Friends group helps to fund special events, like the upcoming Family Day on Aug. 22, where music, dancing, and a KGRT DJ will be on the Mesilla Plaza to help us celebrate Mary and Paul's legacy.

It's been less than a year since the Taylor home, the Reynolds Store Visitors Center, and The Barela Store gift shop opened to the public. Yet, it was over 20 years ago that the Taylors planned their gift to New Mexico. Likewise, the Friends group, created to support that gift, is also over 20 years old. We invite everyone in our community to join us to support this legacy.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Heather Pollard, who has been our Friends President the past three years. Under her capable leadership, the Friends group is stronger and growing, and we look forward to the next years of continuing to make the Taylors' vision a reality.

~ Bob Woford, Friends President

Heather Pollard to Continue her Community Philanthropy

One of Las Cruces' most connected and revered citizens is Heather Pollard, who is stepping down as the Friends President — however, she's not ending her community service.



Heather has represented the Friends organization on countless occasions, including the one above. Last January, standing with Jon Hunner, president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society, Heather accepted the 2026 Noteworthy Restoration or Renovation Award from the Historical Society.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT



HEATHER POLLARD

I am very pleased to turn over the reins as President of the Friends of the Taylor-Mesilla Site to Bob Wofford. I have complete confidence in his abilities to move this foundation forward. The past three years have been some of growth, excitement, and challenges, and we have a professional Board of Directors who bring wisdom and energy to the tasks ahead.

Without the knowledge and experience of Dr. Tom Dormody, we would have encountered much difficulty navigating the General Operating Agreement between the Friends and the Department of Cultural Affairs, The Barela Store and New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs Agreement, our constitution/bylaws, and our policies. Tom also provided us with professional agendas for board meetings –– maybe not glamorous work, but necessary and essential to doing business.

Another non-glamorous duty is that of Board Treasurer, but as a newcomer to the Board, Chris May has brought all of her experience as a CPA to the myriad duties of our financial officer. Meanwhile, Jo Galván Nash has led the Marketing Committee to a successful new website and our "Amigos de la casa" newsletter.

Bob, Sherry Hulsey, and Diane Lilley were all long-time Board members when Mr. Taylor was alive, and they brought their years of experience and wisdom to this new group. I have been so grateful to them, and to Past President Cynthia Garrett, for their sage advice and support. My goal as Past President is to remain on the Membership Committee with its chair Diana Seward and work alongside Board member Leslie Cervantes to grow towards a corporate giving model in support of the Friends.

It's such an honor to thank all our past and current Board members and recognize them for their dedicated work and their enthusiasm.

In ending, I want to congratulate the ladies of The Barela Store in creating somewhat of a miracle on the Mesilla Plaza. Marci Beyer and Mary Helen Ratje have led the charge with support by Wendy Taylor and all the volunteers devoted to this wonderful gift shop that supports the Friends' efforts in preserving the historic site and maintaining the programs offered to our community.

I am looking forward to the future of Friends!

~ Heather Pollard, Past President

NEW MEXICO HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT & SORCERY UNCOVERED IN OCTOBER TAYLOR TALK

In the spirit of the season, Rob Martinez, current New Mexico state historian, will discuss "Brujería: A History of Witchcraft and Sorcery in New Mexico" at the next Taylor Talk. Martinez will share actual case studies from historical documents that help explain why, even in current times, such beliefs persist in New Mexico. His presentation will be on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 2-3 p.m. at the Mesilla Community Center, located at 2251 Calle de Santiago in Mesilla. We hope to see you there.

The purpose of the Taylor Talks is to highlight the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley and Borderlands. The talks are held quarterly by the Friends and staff of the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site and are open for free to the public. Recordings for many past Taylor Talks can be found on YouTube by searching for "New Mexico Historic Sites".

~Tom Dormody, Friends Programs & Volunteers Committee

Popular Guided Tour Days Have Changed!

The Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site (TMHS) on the Mesilla Plaza is now offering guided tours on

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 10 A.M. AND 2 P.M.

TMHS staff said the response has been positive!

$15 FOR ADULTS
$5 FOR CHILDREN *16 and under*

The general admission days and hours remain the same: Wednesday-Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Monday and Tuesday). Timed entry is every 30 minutes -- $10 for adults; free to children 16 and under, NM disabled veterans, and NM foster families. NM seniors 60+ can attend for free on Wednesdays. New Mexican residents can attend for free the first Sunday of each month (for a self-guided experience).

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT:
my.nmculture.org/events

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUG. 22: FOURTH ANNUAL FAMILY FIESTA DAY · 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Mesilla Plaza; Free event for the whole family. Free entrance at the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site. Be sure to stop by The Barela Store for great gifts.

MONDAY, SEPT. 14: TAYLOR-MESILLA CLEANUP DAY · 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet at the Mesilla Town Hall and help clean up designated areas. Volunteers will be provided snacks, water, bags, vests, and more. The event is co-sponsored by Mesilla, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, and the Friends.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17: TAYLOR TALK · 2 p.m.
Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago; Topic: "Brujería: History of NM Witchcraft and Sorcery" presented by New Mexico Historian Rob Martinez. You won't want to miss this free event!



Tips From a Socialite

By G. Buck

Sponsored by Distinction Realty, Inc.

Community Engagement

Social engagement within your community is a great way to grow your personal and business networks. I have encountered quite a few young people who lack a certain social footing, mainly because they don't have as much experience fostering client relationships. Joining a nonprofit, volunteering, and pursuing various disciplines can help you advance socially, forming a crossroads of enjoyment and stimulation.

It appears we've lost the art of the social pursuit. My advice is to learn how to network so you can bring more value into your personal and professional life. One may not need hundreds of friends, but instead, a well-rounded rolodex where connectivity is amplified by strong morals and honesty. Impressions can add a stamp to your passport of life.



Kingston Shaft 2

GHOST TOWN NEWSLETTER

Sophie Hanson's Story

By Barbara Reid

Sophie Hanson was the ultimate example of a pioneer frontier woman. She came to the United States from Sweden as a single woman and ultimately moved to Kingston, New Mexico. It's unclear when exactly she arrived in Kingston, but based on Sierra County tax records, we do know that she purchased the Occidental Hotel in 1893.

By this time, Kingston was already in decline due to several fires that had caused major damage. The biggest fire occurred in 1890, burning almost the entire northern side of Main Street — the center of business, banking, transportation and hospitality. To make matters even more devastating, only one person had insurance. Because of this, people did not rebuild; instead, they began to move away. Additionally, the federal government had been subsidizing the purchase of silver with the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890, and when it was repealed in 1893, the silver market crumbled. The silver mining town of Kingston did not have an easy road of recovery ahead.

As more and more people left Kingston, property values declined and Hanson was able to purchase more property. She also acquired a herd of about 150 cattle and a flock of chickens. At that time, people often had limited resources and typically made good use of them, but Hanson chose not to. She treated her animals like family rather than resources. The cattle were allowed to roam freely about Kingston, and even though there were many complaints about them, Hanson refused to ever sell them. The chickens even shared her home with her when it was cold and sometimes roosted in her bed.

Hanson was a miner and had filed several mining claims in the hills of Kingston. She did the hard work of locating and digging the mines herself and was required to go to the Sierra County Courthouse to file her mining claims and proof of labor, which were required to prove someone had been working the mine every year. The courthouse was nine miles away in Hillsboro, and Hanson chose to walk there and back in the same day to complete her filings. She was a hard worker and took advantage of every opportunity that came her way.

According to "Women of New Mexico, Depression Era Images" by Clay W. Vaden, Hanson "always thought Kingston would stage a comeback," so she continued to acquire property and improve the town. Over the years, she purchased several lots and two more abandoned homes. She also purchased some fruit trees and planted an orchard along the creek. If she ever had trees left over, she gave them to neighbors, who also planted them. Many of those fruit trees are still living today. Another building Hanson purchased was the red brick assay house, which is one of the few original buildings in Kingston still standing. She moved into the assay house and made it her home from the early 1900s until the 1930s.

She lived through many hardships and continued to endure them with optimism. Hanson died in the early 1930s at the age of 81, still a single woman who lived her life doing the things she wanted to do. Her funeral was held in Kingston, and she is buried in an unmarked grave in the Kingston cemetery.

The Changing Landscape at the Kingston Ghost Town Museum

By Ken Logan

Three years ago, Barb Lovell and Ray Reid purchased the property that has become the Kingston Ghost Town Museum. Along with the myriad changes and improvements on the building's interior, the grounds surrounding the museum have been transformed. Once the accumulated trash, old vehicles, animal cages, and a dilapidated house had been removed from the property, work on revitalization could begin.

Last summer, low rock walls were constructed along the east side of the museum and bordering Main Street, lending definition to the museum's "plaza". In the fall, volunteers poured concrete to create a walkway and steps leading to the museum's entrance. On either side of the walk, nonnative plants were removed and dry stack rock walls were built to enclose garden beds. A grant provided funds for the museum to obtain native plants to fill the beds.

Hanna Blood from Sacaton Nursery in Silver City selected the plants and helped tuck them in the plots in early November 2025. As winter approached, more non-native plants were removed from the east side of the back building and the space was filled with finely sifted gravel; three native sotol plants now adorn the gravel bed. This winter, volunteers cut and removed many loads of woody fuel from the southern extent of the property to mitigate potential wild land fires. Additional improvements are planned, including more native plants, a blacksmith shop, and a picnic area.

Kingston Shaft 2

GHOST TOWN NEWSLETTER

Kingston Ghost Town Museum Progress: Part 2

By Barbara Reid

The museum renovation is finished! Visitors continue to tell us how awesome it is, and we have to agree. The research center is up and running and is being used for several different projects. It is proving to be a real asset. We have made a lot of progress on the back building and interior restoration of the first floor. New windows have been installed. The smaller storage room has been painted and outfitted with a freezer and large cupboard for storage.

Now, we are focused on the second floor and exterior of the building. The exterior stucco on the south and west sides have been completely restored, the two exterior doors have been replaced, and the property adjacent to the building has been cleared. The back building's roof has been repaired, the fireplace has been cleaned and inspected, and a furnace will be installed for heat.

Our next big hurdle will be raising funds to replace the two double doors upstairs along with the eight plexiglass windows. Due to exposure from the western sun for 35 years, they have started blowing out. Additionally, the floor needs to be repaired, insulation with a ceiling needs to be added, lighting should be installed throughout the entire building, and the wood siding on the upper west side of the building needs to be replaced. As daunting as this sounds, it pales in comparison to what we have already accomplished.

Our landscape volunteers are cleaning the property with a goal of fire safety. The grounds are being cleared and the trees are being trimmed. It's starting to look like a park! We are very proud of all that we have accomplished with the help of over 20 volunteers from the Kingston community, and we are very grateful for your continued support of our museum.





The museum property soon after purchase (A) and in February 2026 (B) after landscaping improvements. The metal gate pillars on either side of the driveway will soon be leveled and filled with stones.





The front of the museum prior to renovations (A) and again in February 2026 (B). Landscaping improvements include a cement walkway bordered by two dry stack garden beds harboring native plants: Aromatic Sumac, Penstemon, Cinquefoil, Agastache (Hummingbird Mint), Fernbush, Yellow Columbine and Manzanita.





The east side of the museum buildings (A) depicting the low stone wall and fine gravel bed with sotol plants. (B) Looking south from the museum plaza showing the extensive fire mitigation on the property. Trees and shrubs have been thinned and all woody slash removed. The old stone steps are visible in the lower right corner of the photo.

recipe

Vichyssoise



By G. Buck

INGREDIENTS:

3 large leeks, white and light green parts only
2 tbsp unsalted butter
1 medium onion, sliced
1 ½ lb. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled & cubed
5 cups chicken broth
1 cup heavy cream
1 tsp salt, plus more to taste
¼ tsp white pepper
Fresh chives, finely chopped
Extra cream for garnish (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Trim the dark green tops off the leeks and slice the white and light green portions lengthwise. Rinse each layer well under cold running water. Pat dry and slice thinly. Peel the potatoes and cut them into even cubes.

Melt the butter in a large heavy-bottomed soup pot over medium-low heat. Add the sliced leeks and chopped onion. Stir frequently for about 10 minutes until the vegetables become soft, buttery, and fragrant; be careful to not let them brown.

Stir the cubed potatoes into the softened leeks. Pour in the chicken broth and gently stir everything together. Increase the heat slightly and bring the soup to a light simmer, rather than a rapid boil.

Let the soup simmer uncovered for 20 to 25 minutes. The potatoes should become very soft and easily break apart when pressed with a spoon.

Remove the pot from heat and allow it to cool for several minutes. Use an immersion blender directly in the pot or carefully transfer the soup in batches to a blender, making sure not to overfill. Blend until completely smooth.

Pour the blended soup through a fine mesh strainer into a clean bowl. This removes any remaining fibers from the leeks and creates a velvety texture.

Stir in the heavy cream, salt, and white pepper — adjust the seasoning, if needed. The soup should taste mild and creamy.

Allow the soup to cool to room temperature before covering and placing it in the refrigerator. Chill for at least four hours (although overnight is better). The soup slightly thickens and deepens in flavor as it rests.

Stir the chilled soup well before serving. Ladle into cold bowls and garnish with chopped fresh chives, a swirl of cream, or homemade croutons. Serve immediately while cold.

cocktails

By Melissa Martinez Jones, Mixologist at Hacienda de Mesilla



END OF SUMMER COSMO

1 oz Tepozán Silver Tequila
½ oz Cointreau
½ oz watermelon liqueur
2 lime wedges
¾ oz watermelon juice
1 lime wedge peel for garnish
Tajín (optional)
Martini glass

Rim a martini glass with lime and Tajín, if desired. Muddle lime wedges in a shaker. Add all remaining ingredients. Shake vigorously. Strain into the martini glass. For garnish, twist the lime peel over the drink and drop the peel on top.



GIN REFRESHER

1 ½ oz Dry Point Gin
½ oz limoncello
½ oz lemon juice
¼ oz simple syrup
4 mint leaves
2 thick slices of cucumber
Soda water
Wine glass

In a shaker, muddle mint, cucumber, and lemon juice. Add all ingredients except soda water to a shaker with ice. Give it a vigorous shake and strain into a wine glass. Add fresh ice and top off with soda water. Garnish with a lemon wheel and a few mint leaves.



BLACKBERRY GREEN CHILE LIMEADE

1 ½ oz Teller Green Chile Vodka
½ oz Grand Marnier
2 oz fresh lime juice
1 oz blackberry syrup
1 part lemonade
1 part Sprite
Pint glass

Add all ingredients except Sprite and lemonade to a shaker with ice. Give it a few good shakes. Strain into a pint glass. Add ice and top off with equal parts of Sprite and lemonade. Garnish with a lime wheel and blackberries.



PINEAPPLE WHISKEY SMASH

2 oz Woodford Reserve
3-4 pineapple chunks
4-5 mint leaves
3 lemon wedges
¼ oz simple syrup
Double rocks glass

In a shaker, muddle lemon, mint, and pineapple chunks. Add the rest of the ingredients and ice. Shake well. Strain into a double rocks glass. Add crushed ice. Garnish with mint and a pineapple slice.



CHIPOTLE CHICKEN PIZZA

Our Harvest salsa gives this Mexican style pizza a spicy, earthy tomato flavor. Teamed with the smokey chipotle chicken you have a delectable savory entrée or appetizer.

Ingredients

2 10 to 12 inch flour tortillas
2 tbsp olive oil
1 cup refried beans
1 tbsp. olive oil, for saute
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 ½ cups cooked and shredded chicken
1-2 chipotle chiles in adobo sauce, seeded, destemmed, and minced*
1 cup La Posta Harvest Salsa, warmed
1 cup shredded Asadero cheese
1 green onion, minced
¼ cup black olives, sliced
1 cup mixed greens
2 tbsp crumbled Cotija cheese



Directions

(1) Preheat oven to 350. Poke each tortilla several times with a toothpick so tortillas do not puff up when baked. Brush both sides of each tortilla with oil and place on a roasting rack on a baking sheet. This helps the tortillas crisp up in the oven. Place in the oven and bake until lightly brown and crispy, about 5 to 7 minutes. Set tortillas aside.

(2) In a large skillet sauté oil and garlic over low heat until soft, about 2 minutes. Add chicken and chipotle chile(s), increase heat to medium and mix well. Set it aside.

(3) To build pizza place one tortilla on a baking sheet. Spread refried beans evenly to the edges of the tortilla. Top with chicken mixture. Place second tortilla on top of chicken. Spread second tortilla with salsa, evenly to the edges. Top evenly with cheese, green onion, and black olives. Place in the oven for 5-7 minutes or until cheese is melted and heated through. Remove from oven and top with fresh greens and crumbled cheese

Note: Find canned chipotle chile in adobo sauce in the Mexican food section of your local grocery store. Popular brand names are Herdez and Goya. (Serves 4-6 Slices)



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