

2016

SOCORRO VISITOR'S GUIDE



DISCOVER SOCORRO

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

GRAN QUIVIRA • ESCONDIDA LAKE

EL CAMINO REAL INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE CENTER

SALINAS NATIONAL MONUMENT

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

SAN MIGUEL MISSION • MAGDALENA MOUNTAINS

El Defensor Chieftain



New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources

PUBLICATIONS



Your one stop
geologic information
center

Maps, Guidebooks,
Technical &
Popular Publications,
and General Geologic
Information



Publications and
the Mineral Museum
now have a brand
new location!

One of the best
mineral collections in
the southwest.
Thousands of places
on display!



Open Weekdays
Now with weekend
Hours 10-3pm!



Visit or contact us for more information 575-835-5490 • geoinfo.nmt.edu

MINERAL MUSEUM





©2016 El Defensor Chieftain

Cover design by Byron Hughey.

Discover Socorro is a copyrighted publication of El Defensor Chieftain, a part of Number Nine Media, Inc.

El Defensor Chieftain

number nine MEDIA, INC.

Joe Mickelson

Publisher

Scott Turner, Managing Editor

John Larson, Staff Writer

Jonathan Miller, Staff Writer

Susann Mikkelson, Advertising Manager

Julianna Vote, Customer Service Expert

Alex Raab, Circulation Manager

Contact us at

200 Winkler St., Socorro, NM 87801

Telephone: 575-835-0520 • Fax: 575-835-1837 • www.dchieftain.com





ANIMAL HAVEN

VETERINARY CLINIC OF SOCORRO

Socorro's Only Locally Owned and Operated Animal Medical Facility

- ✿ Compassionate, Quality Care ✿ General Medicine and Surgery ✿ Alternative Medicine
- ✿ Emergency Services ✿ Pet & Livestock Care
- ✿ Mobile Services ✿ Boarding ✿ Equine Podiatry
- ✿ Specialty Pet Food ✿ Digital Radiography
- ✿ Cold Laser Therapy ✿ Senior Discount
- ✿ New Mexico Tech Discount

"Our Family Caring for Your Family"

Drs. Dean & Pegita Wilkinson

575-835-3545

HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri 8-12/1:30-5:30 Wed 8-12 • Sat 8-1

14TH ANNUAL SOCORROFEST



Historic Plaza
Socorro, New Mexico

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

MUSIC*ARTS*SPIRITS




CITY OF SOCORRO
SOCORROFEST.COM


vertu FINE ART GALLERY

Excellence In Southwestern Fine Art™
102 Plaza, Socorro, NM


FEATURING NATIONALLY-KNOWN LOCAL ARTISTS OFFERING CONTEMPORARY SOUTHWEST ART, SCULPTURE, JEWELRY




Pat Kolbenshlag
gold, silver




Linda Giesen
hand-woven tapestries



Sharon Fullington
bronze, limestone



Skeeter Leard
pastels, acrylics



Georgette Evans Gray
watercolors

sales@vertuarts.com 575-835-4487 www.vertuarts.com
Wed, Thu, Fri 10 - 6 — Sat 9 - 5 — Sun 12 - 4

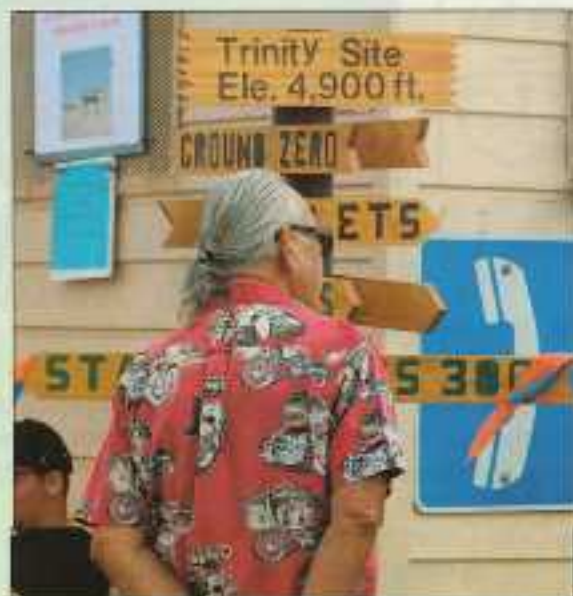


Table of Contents

DISCOVER SOCORRO

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Welcome to Socorro..... | 5 |
| A Rich History..... | 6-7 |
| Surrounding Communities..... | 14-18 |

HERITAGE

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| San Miguel Mission..... | 8 |
| El Camino Real..... | 9 |
| Hammel Museum..... | 10-11 |
| Fort Craig..... | 18 |
| Salinas Pueblo Missions..... | 23 |
| Kelly Ghost Town..... | 24 |

OUTDOOR RECREATION

| | |
|---|--------|
| Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge..... | 12 |
| Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge..... | 13 |
| Rio Grande Bosque..... | 22 |
| Climbing and Bouldering..... | 25 |
| Hit the Trail..... | 26 |
| Camping Under the Stars..... | 27, 28 |
| Tee Time..... | 31 |

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Galleries..... | 29 |
| Live Music..... | 30 |
| Garcia Opera House..... | 30 |

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| New Mexico Tech..... | 32 |
| Mineral Museum..... | 33 |
| Very Large Array..... | 34 |
| Trinity Site..... | 36 |
| Exploring Dark Skies..... | 36 |



WELCOME TO SOCORRO

Welcome to Socorro County, known for its friendly spirit, incredible bird watching opportunities, world-class science and technology developments, fascinating cultural attractions and year-round outdoor recreation. From the mountains, to the desert, to the river valley — a diverse landscape offers everyone something to love.

Socorro is a close-knit but welcoming community. People here are never in too much of a hurry to stop and chat for a moment, and always have a smile and a wave — even for those they don't know. Some families have been here for hundreds of years and some for only a few, but they all are willing to stop and listen.

The city boasts an active village plaza surrounded by shops, eateries, a historic mission church and government buildings — bringing a focus to the area rarely found in the world today.

Many community events are centered at the plaza, including the community music parties Hot August Nights and SocorroFest, car shows, the annual Christmas luminaria arts stroll and the farmer's market.

Looking west, one finds a history of



Sarah Turner — El Defensor Chieftain



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

mining and ranching as well as modern technological marvels.

While old-timers return to Magdalena each year to celebrate the village's glory days as a cattle railhead, just a few miles away on a 10,600-foot ridge in the Magdalena Mountains stands a state-of-the-art, rapid-response 2.4-meter optical telescope — the Magdalena Ridge Observatory.

A few more miles west on the Plains of San Agustin lies the Karl P. Jansky Very Large Array radio telescope.

While much of the county is rural, it also plays host to one of the nation's premier research universities, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

The campus is also home to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, where a state-of-the-art mineral museum attracts visitors from around the world. But science and technology are not the only draws to the New Mexico Tech campus; the 18-hole golf course attracts golfers of all levels and hosts the annual Socorro Open tournament every June.

Flowing through the heart of Socorro County, the Rio Grande is the center of the agricultural community and also

affords numerous opportunities for nature lovers to explore unique environments. Thousands of visitors come to see the two wildlife refuges in the county — many to attend the annual Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Hundreds more come to visit the 150-year-old Fort Craig, one of the most important Civil War-era Union forts in the West. Others come to follow the route of El Camino Real — the “Royal Road to the Interior” — trod by 16th century Spanish explorers. Their story is now told at the El Camino Real Historic Trail Site south of Socorro.

Socorro is a place to get away from the big city hustle yet still participate in a variety of community activities — everything is here. Whatever your mood, there is a place in the county to satisfy your banking.

Whether you feel like hiking in the mountains or sitting in a tavern listening to the blues, we have it. You can go places to hang out with people, to enrich your mind or be alone with nature. It's a free and open county, uncrowded and friendly.

We offer this guide as a gateway to your Socorro adventure.

A RICH HISTORY

More than two centuries before Christopher Columbus' fabled sojourn to the New World from Spain, Piro Indians — the southernmost Pueblo tribe — inhabited nearly two dozen villages along the Rio Grande from San Marcial to La Joya. The Piros, living in pueblos since at least the 1200s, weren't the only Indians to call this land home — Apache Indians also inhabited much of the area that today is called the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

As the Spanish explorers in the mid-16th century began to make their way north from Mexico, they followed the Rio Grande and established El Camino Real — the Royal Road into "New Spain." As a result, they were frequent visitors at the Piro villages.

Socorro got its name in 1598 from explorer Juan de Oñate, whose tired and hungry men were given food and shelter by the Piros.

He renamed the Pilabo pueblo "Socorro," which means "help" or "succor" in Spanish.

In the early 1600s, Franciscan friars built missions at Socorro, Senecú, near San Marcial, and Sevilleta, near La Joya.

In 1680, when the Pueblo Indians of northern New Mexico staged their revolt against the Spaniards, the people of Socorro and surrounding areas fled.

The Piros did not participate in the revolt and headed south to El Paso, Texas, with the Spanish troops and settlers.

When the Spaniards came back up the valley, they found that the abandoned pueblos from Senecú to Sevilleta had been pillaged by the Apaches. For the next 100 years, there were few settlers in the area.

The resettlement of Socorro began in the early 1800s. In 1815, 21 families were given land grants to settle here.

Socorro flourished because of the fertile farm land and grazing along the river; however, occasional attacks by the Apaches remained a constant threat.

When New Mexico became a territory of the U.S. in 1848, the region saw some relief as the military established a series of forts for protection against the Apaches.



Photo courtesy of Socorro Historical Society

In Socorro County, the Army established Fort Conrad in 1851, but found it indefensible and relocated to the newly-built Fort Craig in 1854.

The Civil War made its way into New Mexico and Socorro County. On Feb. 21, 1862, Union and Confederate forces engaged in a day-long battle south of Socorro near Fort Craig — known as the Battle of Valverde. On March 30, the Confederates met stiffer resistance and lost the Battle of Glorietta near Santa Fe, which forced their retreat from New Mexico back to Texas.

The Battle of Valverde is re-enacted every year in Socorro County, with hundreds of Civil War buffs in attendance both participating and watching the many demonstrations of warfare.

Socorro and the surrounding area boomed after the Civil War, thanks to mining strikes — lead and zinc in the Magdalena area and silver on Socorro Peak. The railroad arrived in 1882, fueled from the vast coal fields east of San Antonio.

Socorro, with her mines, mills and smelters, became the center to this diverse mining activity. In 1889, the government chose Socorro as the site for its new School of Mines (now New Mexico Institute of

Mining and Technology, or New Mexico Tech for short), which opened in 1893. The glory days of mining are recalled each year in Socorro during the '49ers celebrations, events put on by the school to relive its early days and pay tribute to the area's mining history.

Livestock, ranching and agriculture have always been integral to the fabric of the area and those who call it home. Because the county contains two of the nation's most important wildlife refuges, nature plays a key role of life in Socorro as well.

The area's rich and varied history has spawned a number of annual celebrations that continue to grow in popularity, many of which can be found throughout this guide.

Socorro's Free State of Mind

This year marked the 63rd anniversary of the "Free State of Socorro" — a was a movement, started by accident, that placed Socorro in the spotlight across the country. For a time, Socorro declared itself a free sovereign territory from the State of New Mexico. In the 1950s, District Judge Charles Fowler began an investigation that determined the city of Socorro

■ See **History**, Page 7

History:

Continued from Page 6

had virtually no laws — he was quoted in the Socorro Chieftain, stating “city laws were indistinguishable from mere scraps of paper.”

A local attorney, Claron Waggoner, and his colleague, attorney Garnett Burkes, continued to investigate Socorro’s legal status. What they found was truly intriguing. When the Spanish Empire fell, in 1821, all Spanish lands were converted to Mexican land grants. With statehood, the constitution provided that all Mexican land grants become part of the state of New Mexico.

Socorro was an exception. It seems the Spanish “Provincia de Socorro” land grant was never turned over to Mexican authorities and omitted from the 1848 annexation to the territory of New Mexico. Legally, Socorro remained a Spanish Land Grant.

Therefore, the two attorneys concluded Socorro County is not and never was a legal part of the state of New Mexico, and possibly not even the United States.

The next issue of the Socorro Chieftain announced these findings under the headline: “Socorro May Establish New Free State.”

The editor at the time speculated this could mean Socorroans were due a full refund of federal and state taxes since 1912 statehood. Without taxes, there would be a dramatic drop in the prices of liquor, cigarettes and automobiles to boost Socorro’s struggling economy.

He reasoned that with no taxes, Socorro would be a “free state” in which to live. The

term “Free State of Socorro” quickly stuck as area newspapers picked up the story.

A phenomenon unique to Socorro was born. Over the following weeks, both newspapers in town — the Socorro Chieftain and the Spanish language El Defensor — published lengthy articles inciting the townspeople. Letters supporting secession from across the country were also printed.

The people of Socorro had no intentions of seceding from the Union. They agreed they were all Americans and wanted to remain Americans. The “Free State” referred to taxes, not U.S. citizenship, although it provided some long-awaited leverage. All Socorro wanted to do was get the attention of lawmakers in Santa Fe; little tax money was being returned to the county.

Socorro gave a convincing impression of forming a sovereign republic by erecting a Port of Entry on U.S. 85 (now I-25) and charging 25 cents to pass through the county. Passports and citizenship certificates were printed. For one dollar, you could become a citizen and travel the county’s highways for free.

This got Santa Fe’s attention. It also got the attention of the rest of the country, climaxed by a three-page feature article in Life magazine in June. Almost overnight, Socorro went from an obscure desert town to a tourist destination. The Free State of Socorro lasted into 1955.

The friendly people of Socorro County welcome you to our part of the world, whether you are here to enjoy the Land of Enchantment or the sovereign Free State of Socorro.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
20 miles north of Socorro
I-25 exit 169
(505) 864-4021
www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta
or amigosdelasevilleta.org

Experience the refuges of the Rio Grande in Socorro County!

Socorro

San Antonio

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
20 miles south of Socorro
I-25 exit 139
(575) 835-1828
www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache
or friendsofthebosque.org

SAN MIGUEL MISSION

Founded by two Franciscan priests traveling with Don Juan de Oñate in 1598, the historic church now known as San Miguel was originally called Nuestra Señora del Socorro (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and gave Socorro its name. It was abandoned during the Pueblo Revolt, but was rebuilt in 1615 and later renamed San Miguel Church to honor the Archangel St. Michael under miraculous circumstances. It has since stood for almost 400 years at the center of the community.

Father Andy Pavlak said San Miguel Mission is the "mother church of Socorro County" and represents the faith and life of the Catholic Church.

San Miguel has 850 registered parishioners and is the mother church for the area mission churches located in Socorro County.

The story of the church is one of legend in Socorro.

The original mission was established in 1598 and the first building went up in 1612, making it the oldest in the state, and second oldest in the country.

According to church records, two Franciscan priests with Don Juan Oñate's expedition did missionary work among the Piro Indians. Father Alfonso Benavidez was so successful in this work that he became known as "The Apostle of Socorro." It was he who named the village Nuestra Señora de Perpetuo Socorro meaning: "Our Lady of Perpetual Help," in recognition of the succor they received from the Indians.

In that same year, 1598, the two priests, with the help of the Indians, built a modest little

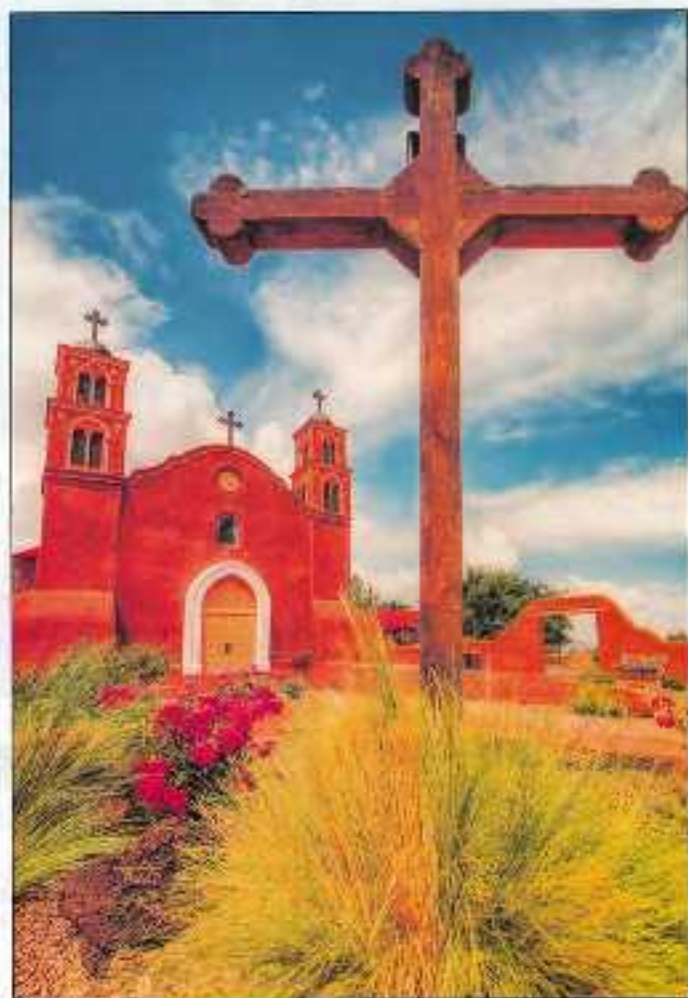


Photo courtesy of Colleen Gino

church which they replaced with a larger building between the years 1615 and 1626, and which is the present church building with its massive walls and huge carved vigas and supporting corbel-arches. The work on these vigas and corbels took many months of tedious work, which can be understood readily by noting the careful and uniform carvings on beams were carved were cut and carried in from mountains many miles from Socorro.

The walls were built about five feet in width and

the windows placed high to guard against attack from the unfriendly tribe of Navajo Indians.

The mission continued to flourish until the outbreak of the rebellion in 1680 when most of the Piro Pueblo Indians joined the Spanish settlers in their retreat to what is now called El Paso, Texas.

It was several decades before any new settlers of Mexican and Spanish descent began to arrive in Socorro. They found the church in a very dilapidated condition, but the massive walls and huge

beams were still in place.

According to some descendants of the early settlers, during an attack by an Apache raiding party the Indians suddenly withdrew. When one of the captured Apaches was questioned about the sudden withdrawal, he claimed they saw a man with wings and a shining sword hovering over the door of the church. Shortly after this, a petition was sent to the Bishop of Durango, Mexico, under whose jurisdiction this territory was at the time to have the name of the church changed to San Miguel in honor of St. Michael, the Angelic Protector of the people. The Church has gone under the name of San Miguel since about 1800.

In 2010, the main church closed due the discovery that many of the adobe bricks of the building had adobe bricks had turned to mud.

In 2014, restoration work was completed and services returned to the main church building in September.

The church celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2015.

San Miguel Fiesta

Sept. 23-25

Sept. 29 is the patron saint San Miguel's feast day.

The church celebrates the San Miguel Fiesta as close to the feast day as possible with a three-day celebration. The annual parade starts at Sedillo Park and ends at the church grounds. The fiesta includes prayer services, as well as food and beverage vendors, music and a classic car show.

EL CAMINO REAL HISTORIC TRAIL SITE

El Camino Real Historic Trail Site, a New Mexico State Monument, honors the contribution El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (The Royal Road to the Interior) has had on New Mexico and its people.

Located between Socorro and Truth or Consequences, the site overlooks the still pristine desert known as the Jornada del Muerto, or "Journey of Death," a 100-mile stretch of the trail where no water could be found.

When the Spanish conquistadors began their conquest of Nuevo Mexico in the 1500s, thousands of Pueblo Indians lived along the Rio Grande in today's New Mexico. Trails along the river connected these pueblos.

In 1598, Don Juan de



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

Oñate led the first expedition of colonists into the new land. Establishing a trail from Zacatecas, Mexico, to

near Santa Fe, he followed these Indian trails in places and blazed his own trail in others.

For the next 300 years, El Camino Real was the dominant road into New Mexico.

Over the trail came thousands of Spanish and Mexican colonists.

Many of the longtime New Mexican families living in Socorro County today are direct descendants of these early travelers.

Along with these adventurous settlers came the culture and heritage of Old Spain and Mexico.

El Camino Real Historic Trails Site is open five days a week and closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

To get there, take Exit 115 off I-25 and travel east for about 3 miles.

For more information, call (575) 854-3600 or visit www.elcaminoREAL.org.

"AMAZING! ... this is a MUST SEE!" — visitor review on tripadvisor.com

Very Large Array

Visit the amazing place where profound secrets of the universe are explored

The Very Large Array (VLA) is the most famous and powerful telescope of its kind. Its immense dishes are spread across more than a hundred square miles of desert. They gather invisible light—radio waves—naturally emitted in space. We learn about star birth, galaxy growth, clouds of molecules that may be building blocks of life, and the incredible power of black holes.

Precious information from space has traveled for billions of years to reach the VLA. From Socorro you can be there in an hour!

Go to www.nrao.edu/VisitVLA or call 575-835-7410 for admission fees and today's hours



National Radio Astronomy Observatory
public.nrao.edu



HAMMEL MUSEUM

The Hammel Brewery and Museum, formerly known as the Illinois Brewing Company, was built in the early 1880s. It was established by the Illinois-based Hammel family members after they headed west and settled in Socorro.

Jacob Hammel immigrated from Munich, Bavaria in 1848. He was accompanied by his friend Eberhard Anheuser, who started a brewery in St. Louis. Jacob wanted to start his own brewery across the river in Illinois; the Illinois Brewing Company in Lebanon, Illinois. The Hammel family eventually headed west and re-established the Illinois Brewing Company in Socorro in the early 1880s.

The Hammel Museum started out as a beer garden



John Larson — El Defensor Chiefta

■ See **Hammel**, Page 11

OLD SAN MIGUEL MISSION

One of the oldest Catholic Churches
in the United States — founded 1598

Mission Statement:
We strive to bring
people closer to God

Church built between 1615-1621

403 El Camino Real
Socorro, NM 87801

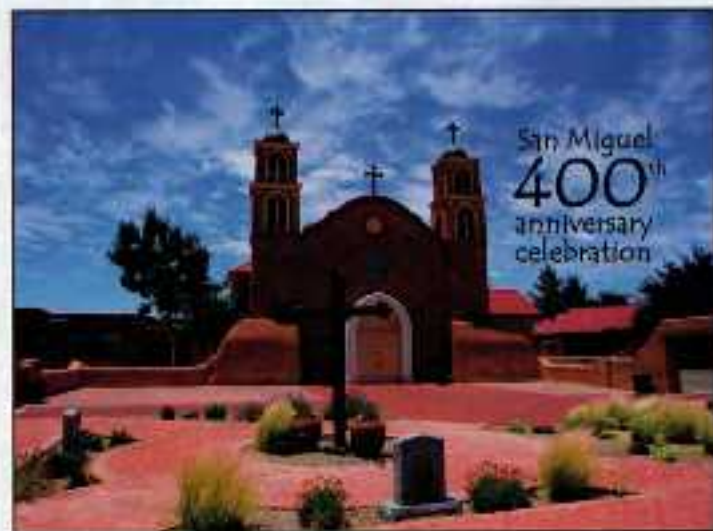
Phone: (575) 835-2891

Fax: (575) 835-1620

Email: smiguel@sdcc.org



www.sanmiguel Socorro.org



Hammel:

Continued from Page 10

and progressed into a successful brewery. A June 16, 1893, Chieftain newspaper article said the brewery produced "the best beer made anywhere in New Mexico."

Over its years of operation, the brewery evolved into an ice plant and soda bottling plant after Prohibition shut down beer production in 1919.

Although electric refrigerators were introduced in the 1920s, the ice plant continued to prosper. The Hammel brothers introduced cola drinks and bottled products for Pepsi Cola and 7-Up, as well as such beverages as Nesbitt and Grapeette sodas.

Prohibition was repealed in



John Larson — El Defensor Chieftain

1933, but the brewery never went back to making beer.

In 1986, Clarence Hammel donated the brewery, located on the corner of Sixth and Vigil streets, to the Socorro County Historical Society. The Historical Society has preserved the brewery as a museum, making it a "must see" attraction for visitors.

Preservation protected the brewery's original adobe building, as well as the later additions made of stone.

Eight rooms, each numbered, tell the history of the brewery that was a flourishing business for nearly a century. From the main office, where Hammel conducted business, to the mash room where the

beer was made, the museum is a remarkable piece of history.

The Hammel Museum has dedicated one of the rooms to an exhibit created by Jon Spargo and the Socorro Train Gang. The Train Gang has recreated the feel of a historic train depot and has numerous artifacts and photos illustrating railroad history in Socorro County.

The Train Gang also maintains an upstairs room at the Hammel Museum dedicated to model railroading with trains which travel through diverse landscapes and historical sites.

The museum is open the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact the Socorro County Historical Society at 575-835-3183 or visit www.socorrohistory.org.



PMS

PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL SERVICES
Our purpose is you.

We accept most insurances • Same day appointments available
We operate on a sliding fee scale • Accepting new patients

SOCORRO COMMUNITY HEALTH

Paul L. Silva - Administrator II

Family-Centered Care including Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Men's & Women's Health
Behavioral Health - SBIRT Program - Community Support Worker (CSW) &
Independent Therapist Available

1300 Enterprise, Mon-Fri 8-5 • 575-835-4444

MAGDALENA HEALTH CENTER

Jackie Muncy - Administrator

Staci Oldham - FNP-C

Family-Centered Care including Pediatrics, Geriatrics and
Men's & Women's Health

801 Tenth Street, Magdalena, NM

Mon-Fri 8-12:30; 1-4:30 • 575-854-3162

PMS SOCORRO MENTAL HEALTH

Jackie Muncy - Administrator

Individual and Group Therapy, Med Management, Comprehensive Community Support
Service (CCSS), Psychological Social Rehabilitation

1200 Highway 60, Socorro, NM • 575-835-2444

SOCORRO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER

Paul L. Silva - Administrator II

Well Child Exam, Immunizations, Sports Physical and Confidential Services
1200 Michigan Street, Socorro, NM 87801 • 575-838-3199

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A PATIENT-CENTERED
MEDICAL HOME / JCAHO COMMUNITY ACCREDITED

THE CAPITOL BAR
EST. 1896 ON
THE HISTORIC PLAZA
575-835-1193

Anchoring the east end of the
Historic Plaza the Capitol Bar
has served as Socorro's favorite
watering hole for over a century.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Nestled along the banks of the fabled Rio Grande just south of Socorro lies the expansive Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, one of the Southwest's greatest natural treasures.

Located on more than 57,000 acres at the northern tip of the Chihuahuan desert, the Bosque — as it's referred to locally — is home to hundreds of species, from fish below the river's surface to birds soaring through the clouds above, and everything in between.

While this unique wildlife wonderland boasts extensive farmlands and riparian forests, the perfect habitat for countless critters, it's the 12,900-plus acres of moist bottomlands that serve as home to the Bosque's most famed residents — the birds.



John Larson — El Defensor Chieftain

Festival of the Cranes Nov. 15-20

Socorro County's largest annual event, the Festival of the Cranes, is a celebration of the sandhill cranes' return to winter habitat at the refuge. Other guests of honor include the blue heron, Canada geese, light geese, bald eagles, American coot, owls, swans, American white pelicans and others. More than 100 educationally-focused events — from hands-on workshops to informational presentations — are held continuously over the course of the five-day festival.

Tens of thousands of ducks, Canada geese, light geese and sandhill cranes make an annual sojourn to the Bosque del Apache, where the often mild climate provides a perfect winter habitat for these majestic winged part-time residents.

Moving away from the water, the landscape changes dramatically. Rising from an elevation of 4,500 feet, where reptiles and amphibians share space with their feathered friends, up to more than 6,200 feet, the riparian and desert habitat welcomes a wide range of animals, including elk, deer, bobcats, coyotes, javelina and the occasional mountain lion.

While it's an easy destination to reach by vehicle, visitors will want to stop at the refuge's visitor center where they'll find friendly advice, along with a handful of souvenirs, grounded in this veritable paradise.

In addition, a 15-mile tour loop offers hundreds, if not thousands, of spectacular viewing and photographic opportunities.

A network of trails crisscross the Bosque landscape, and strategically placed benches and observation points line the trails, offering respite for weary sightseers. Picnic areas are popular for those who need to refuel before hitting the trail again.

Three wilderness areas — Indian Well, Little San Pascual and Chupadera — boast plenty of options for hikers who want to further explore this outdoor paradise.

Numerous free educational and instructional sessions, intended to arm visitors with knowledge and insight, are held throughout the year.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the

Bosque del Apache NWR is one of the nation's most progressively managed facilities.

The refuge's management works to ensure the Bosque's goal of providing habitat and protection for migratory birds and endangered species is achieved.

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately eight miles south of San Antonio, N.M. To get there, take Exit 139 off Interstate 25, drive approximately two miles and take a right on N.M. 1. The visitor center is located on the west side of the highway.

For more information, call the Bosque del Apache NWR at 575-835-1828, visit www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque or visit the Friends of the Bosque website at www.friendsofthebosque.org.

SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Located approximately 20 miles north of Socorro, Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 230,000 acres, 200 miles of roads and 130 miles of fencing and includes four major ecological zones ranging from Chihuahan desert to the riparian forest of the bosque. The refuge is home to more than 1,200 species of plants, 225 species of birds, more than 50 species of reptiles, almost 100 species of mammals and 15 species of amphibians.

In 1988, the refuge became home to the Sevilleta Long-Term Ecological Research Program, conducted by the University of New Mexico. The refuge plays host to dozens of research sites that monitor the slow ecological changes occurring on the refuge. At any given time, there are 100 different research projects going on at the refuge by students and scientists from in and out of state.

Due to research-oriented nature of the facilities, a large portion of the refuge is off limits to the public.

Thanks to federal grant money, natural



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

habitats for species are being restored in areas of the refuge.

For information about the research conducted and photos of animals and wildlife at the refuge, visit <http://sev.lter.net.edu>.

For those wanting to check out the ref-

uge, a visitor center and two hiking trails, as well as sections open for limited hunting during the winter and for birdwatching, photography and other activities during the summer, are accessible.

For more information about the refuge, visit www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta.



- Free Continental Breakfast
- Free high Speed Internet
- Pets Allowed • Pool
- Fitness Center
- Easy Access to I-25

**1121 Frontage Rd, NW
Socorro, New Mexico**

575-835-4626

**Americas
Best Value Inn**
by Vantage



- Microwave & Refrigerator
- Free WI-FI, HD Direct TV service with HBO
- Free Continental Breakfast • Pool & Fitness Center

RECENTLY RENOVATED!

575-835-0276

1009 N. California St. Socorro, NM

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Magdalena

Serving both the ranching and mining industries, Magdalena was once a bustling Old West town in the most traditional sense. Saloons and hotels catered to the cowboys, miners and frontier families that lived in the area. Cattle rustling, shootouts on Main Street and barroom brawls are part of the town's legendary history. In fact, WS Ranch manager Capt. William French relates that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid once worked at least one cattle drive into Magdalena, saying they were two of most well-behaved cowboys he knew.

Nicknamed "Trail's End," Magdalena was the destination for cattle drives on the "Hoof Highway." The Stock Driveway was the route used by ranchers and cowboys to drive cattle and sheep from as far away as Springerville, Arizona, across the San Agustín Plains to the stockyards in Magdalena. The driveway was used annually from 1885 when a railroad spur was built connecting Magdalena to Socorro, and became a designated driveway by the Grazing Homestead Act of 1916. The cattle-driveway was 5 to 10 miles wide and extended about 125 miles west to Springerville. In 1971, semi tractor trailers supplanted transport by train and the last cattle drive was in 1972.

Another branch of the trail extended from the sprawling WS Ranch in Alma and merged with the main trail at Datil. Cowboys could drive cattle about 10 miles a day, while herders moved their sheep about 5 miles a day, allowing them to graze along



John Larson — El Defensor Chieftain

the way. Wells were drilled every 10 miles to accommodate the herds.

In 1919, as many as 150,000 sheep and 21,000 cattle used the trail to reach the stockyard. The original stockyards are still intact on North Ash St. in Magdalena, although the train tracks are long since gone.

But Magdalena also owes its origins to the mining industry. The operators of Kelly Mine, located about three miles south of town in the Magdalena Mountains, were at least partly responsible for bringing the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad spur to Magdalena, so its ore could be brought to Socorro some 20 miles away by rail to be smelted.

Much of the town's history

is preserved at the Box Car Museum, located at the loading dock of the restored railroad depot, which now serves as the Magdalena Public Library. The museum collection holds photographs, memorabilia and artifacts donated by residents that tell the story of miners, cowboys as well as the homesteaders and Navajo natives who settled the area. Many of the town's historic buildings are still in use, either as private homes or businesses. Unfortunately, fire has claimed most of the hotels, bars and mercantiles that once lined Main Street.

Today, Magdalena is a quiet village of roughly 900 residents. Its history, galleries and outdoor recreation opportunities make it a popular tourist destination.

There's plenty to see and do within easy driving distance of Magdalena. The National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array is just 19 miles west on U.S. 60. The Alamo Navajo Indian reservation is a half-hour drive north on Highway 169. There are numerous hiking trails and camping sites in the surrounding Cibola National Forest. Deer and elk hunters also are attracted to the area during hunting season. The Cibola National Forest Ranger Station on First Street has information and maps.

Today, the Magdalena Trail Drivers Association holds Cowboy Action Shooting events a few miles west of

■ See **Communities**, Page 15

Communities:

Continued from Page 14

town.

For the past 45 years, the village of Magdalena has celebrated its history as an Old West mining and cattle-shipping center on the second weekend of July. The event, Old Timers Reunion, features a rodeo and street dance on Friday; a parade, barbecue cookout and more rodeo events on Saturday; a pancake breakfast and the Kelly Mine 5K walk-run on Sunday; and arts, crafts and music throughout the weekend.

For more information on Magdalena, visit www.magdalena-nm.com.

Polvadera

Polvadera is a rendition of the Spanish word *polvoriento* or *pulverero* meaning "dusty" or "pulverized dirt." It is believed the name Polvadera may also be based on the name of an old Piro Indian pueblo in the area of a similar-sounding name.

Pulvidero, along with Socorro and Luis Lopez are the oldest documented "New World" settlements in Socorro County.

In 1680, all of the people in the Socorro region, both Spanish settlers and the Piro Indians, abandoned their homes and pueblos and fled to El Paso at the beginning of the Pueblo Revolt.

Families from Belen and Tomé were the first pioneers to venture back into the region in the early 1800s. The Piros never returned and settled in the Las Cruces area.

The San Lorenzo Land Grant, upon which Polvadera is built, came to an end in 1898. Upon 1912 Statehood, the private land ownerships were honored; the rest of the grant became state land. Years later, ownership of San Lorenzo Canyon was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management and land along the river given to the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

To this day, many of the descendants of pioneer families in Polvadera believe

some of their land was stolen from them and cite the Treaties of Hidalgo and Guadalupe as evidence.

The region was known for grapes and wine, however constant floods down the Rio Grande periodically destroyed thousands of acres of good farmland and vineyards. Polvadera, like neighboring Lemitar, was always hard hit since so much of the farmland was only a few feet above the river level. Although the people of Polvadera seemed to always bounce back with their wines following a flood, it was Prohibition in 1920 that brought a centuries old industry in the area to an end.

Alamo Navajo Reservation

Thirty miles north of Magdalena on Highway 169 is the Alamo Navajo reservation, a chapter of the Navajo Nation.

Today, roughly 2,200 residents live on the reservation and many of them carry on the traditions and language passed down

■ See **Communities**, Page 16



All loans are subject to application, credit qualification, and income verification. © 2016 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. (2115703_17158)

Financial options for every phase of your life

WELLS
FARGO

Whether you want to save for the future, secure a personal loan, utilize exclusive online and telephone banking services, or enjoy the convenience of our ATMs and many locations, we are here for you. Call, click, or stop by and talk with a banker. If you would like to open an account over the phone, call 1-800-932-6736 any time (or 1-800-311-9311 for service in Spanish).

Socorro • 501 N. California St. • 575-835-2410

wellsfargo.com

Together we'll go far



Communities:

Continued from Page 15

from their ancestors.

The bloodlines of the people living at Alamo are largely mixed. The territory once roamed by the Apache Indians and settled by the Navajo overlapped and intermarriage between the tribes occurred. Some residents of Alamo claim to be direct descendants of the great "war shaman" Geronimo.

The reservation encompasses 63,000 acres in the northwest corner of Socorro County, an area that provides spectacular views of mountains, rolling hills and slanted mesas. Bordered on the south by the Gallinas Mountains, the landscape is dotted with chamizal and cactus, juniper and piñon trees.

Sheep can be spotted grazing in secluded sections of the countryside, even on the north side of "Unnecessary Ridge" — so named in a previous era when it blocked access to a trading post. Shepherd markers still stand atop some peaks. Former homes (called hogans) and sweat lodges used for purification rituals remain scattered on parts of the reservation.

Other evidence of the past can be found in petroglyphs painted on rock bordering the Rio Salada. Fossils millions of years old are imbedded in rock and shark teeth have been found scattered over some of the land's flat, rocky floor.

The Alamo people hold a celebration of their culture and customs each October. Alamo Indian Day is typically held the weekend before Columbus Day.

Isolation is felt to be the main drawback on the reservation. This has impacted on education and socioeconomic conditions of the reservation and created gaps between Alamo and the main Navajo Reservation, which is situated 220 miles southeast of the Navajo Nation capitol of Window Rock. Much of its development has come in recent decades, with the building of a modern school, courthouse, health clinic and wellness center.

The modern development that has come to the reservation in the last 10 years is largely due to the Alamo Navajo School Board Inc., which has been instrumental in bringing services to the area.

The T'iss Tsoh Mini-mart provides the people with convenient access to food and



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

gasoline. Previously, residents had to travel to Magdalena for such services.

Housing is another priority on the reservation, since some residents still live in a traditional fashion without indoor plumbing and electricity. Tribal leadership is also working to bring a new senior center to the community.

Alamo is served by KABR, 1500 AM radio, which provides information and entertainment in both English and Navajo to its residents.

As a chapter of the Navajo Nation, Alamo is governed much like a state in the United States. Decisions affecting tribal members and Alamo's infrastructure are made by elected officials at the Chapter House — the center of the reservation.

For more information on Alamo, call the Chapter House at 575-854-2686.

Lemitar

In the 1820s, many settlers ventured along the river north and south of Socorro looking for good farm land. By the mid 1820s, farming settlements were cropping up along both sides of the river.

Some of these settlers established farms about 6 miles north of Socorro. Word of the good farm land must have gotten out, because by 1831 additional families

had moved to the area. The descendants of these families remain to this day in Lemitar.

These early settlers named their growing village "Plaza Limitar," derived from *limita*, the berried squashbush abundant in the area at the time. Others say Lemitar is slang for "sticks" or "twigs." Over the years, the spelling has changed from *Limitar* to *Lemitarcito* to the present form, *Lemitar*. Regardless of the spelling, historical sources cite 1831 as the establishment of Lemitar as a village.

Lemitar's population was about 400 people in the 1860s. In 1854, the county seat for Socorro County was transferred from Socorro to Lemitar for undocumented reasons. By the 1860 census, Lemitar's 780 people outnumbered Socorro's 523 residents, which made Lemitar the largest town in Socorro County.

During this time, Lemitar was a post for the New Mexico Militia — volunteers under the approval of the American government for protecting the villages in Socorro County against marauding Apaches. The first U.S. Dragoons also quartered at Lemitar and Socorro to protect travelers along the Camino Real.

■ See **Communities**, Page 17

Communities:

Continued from Page 16

When the railroad arrived in the Socorro area in 1880 Lemitar farmers could quickly ship their goods to market. This created an unexpected market in Lemitar — grapes. Lemitar quickly became one of the largest vineyards in New Mexico. By 1890, more than 100,000 grapevines were producing grapes for distant markets and local wineries. This lucrative industry came to an end in 1895, when a Rio Grande flood devastated the area. Today, there are a few remnants of these historic vineyards.

In the 1950s, farmers discovered cotton grew quite well in their silt-covered fields, and Lemitar became somewhat famous for its pure white

cotton. This ended when the Lemitar cotton gin went out of business. The old cotton mill still stands north of the Lemitar Roadrunner Truck Stop.

In 2010 the 185 year-old adobe La Sagrada Familia Catholic Church suffered irreparable damage when its west wall collapsed after a violent rainstorm. The rebuilt church was rededicated by the Archbishop of Santa Fe Michael J. Sheehan in 2015.

San Antonio

Heralded by many as the gateway to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and by others as the home of the world's greatest green chile cheeseburgers, the unincorporated village of San

■ See **Communities**, Page 18

**Dos Casitas en Socorro
Bed and Breakfast**

**Home Base for your adventures
in Central New Mexico**

**317 Eaton Ave, Socorro, NM • 575.835.2858
www.doscasitasensocorro.com**

Alamo GALLERY and Gifts

ART

Paintings, Photography, Pottery,
Alamo Navajo Art, Leather Art
Jewelry, Stained Glass, Wood Craft,
Fiber Arts, Fudge, Flowers,
Collectibles, Dichroic Glass, Rock Art

Open Tues. - Sat. 12 noon to 6 pm
1008 N. California St., Socorro, NM 87801, 575-835-ARTS

SOCORRO COUNTY ARTS
Preserving the Visual & Performing Arts | www.socorrocountyarts.com

**Where Socorro
Meets & Greets**

**EL CAMINO
FAMILY
RESTAURANT**

**COFFEE SHOP
Dining & Lounge**

**GREAT AMERICAN &
NEW MEXICAN FOOD**

FULL SERVICE LOUNGE

**RED & GREEN CHILE
SPECIALTIES**

SERVING BREAKFAST 24 HRS

HOMEMADE SOUP

FRESH CUT STEAKS

WI-FI HOTSPOT

**10% DISCOUNT WITH
MOTEL KEY**

SENIOR'S & CHILD'S MENU

CATERING

**707 N. CALIFORNIA ST.
ALSO ON THE CORNER FROM JAY'S WAL-MART
575-835-1100**

**FRITO PIE
MOTEL DISCOUNT
RESID. MENU
OPEN 24 HRS**

FORT CRAIG

Fort Craig was established in 1854 and like other military outposts of its day was built to protect travel routes and settlements from Indian attacks. The location was chosen to guard both El Camino Real and the Jornada del Muerto, both of which were primary links between the Mexican port of Vera Cruz and cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Early on the fort was one of the largest and most important frontier forts in the West.

Set in the rugged beauty of Socorro County, it was one of the eight forts situated along the primary north-south road in the Rio Grande Valley.

Fort Craig played a crucial role in Indian campaigns and in the settlement of the American frontier. Military excursions from Fort Craig pursued such notable Apache leaders as Geronimo, Victorio and Nana.

The Fort was home to Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry and 38th and 125th Infantry, the predominantly Hispanic New Mexico Volunteers and New Mexico Militia, and household names like Kit Carson, Rafael Chacón and Captain Jack Crawford.

The fort is famous for the Civil War Battle of Valverde in 1862, the largest Civil War battle in New Mexico.



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

In 1885, with the Indian Wars essentially over, the fort was permanently closed. Nine years later it was sold at auction to the only bidder.

It was later donated to the Archeological Conservancy and was transferred to the

Bureau of Land Management in 1981, but nearly a century of looters, scavengers and nature have taken their toll on the site.

What remains of the fort can be seen at the BLM-managed site, off Exit 115 on Interstate 25.

Communities:

Continued from Page 17

Antonio has achieved a certain notoriety worldwide.

A quiet farming and ranching community 10 miles south of Socorro, San Antonio is transformed every fall into a birder's paradise with the annual arrival of hundreds of flocks of sandhill cranes and thousands of snow geese at the National Wildlife Refuge. Hard on the heels of these ancient and beautiful birds come two-legged visitors of a different sort, sporting a distinctive plumage of binoculars, cameras, tripods and field guides.

During the third week in November, visitors from every continent flock to the area for a week-long tribute to birds of every feather, nesting in hotels, motels, bed and breakfast establishments and guest-

houses for miles around.

To a great extent, the San Antonio's economy rises and falls with the arrival and departure of the migrating birds and birders.

It's a connection reflected in the names of some local businesses, such as the San Antonio Crane Mexican Restaurant and the Bosque Birdwatchers RV Park, or in their seasonal operation, such as the Casa Blanca Bed and Breakfast which is only open from October to April.

Two of San Antonio's most successful businesses have been open at least as long as the refuge if not longer, and although they draw their fair share of eco-tourists, it's gastro-tourism that has really put them in the international map.

Since the 1940s, when J. Robert Oppenheimer and other physicists working on the Manhattan Project at the nearby Trinity Site on White Sands Proving

Grounds stopped at the Owl Café for meals and a cold beer, San Antonio has been known as the go-to place for a world-class green chile cheeseburger. For decades, hungry travelers in the know have planned their itineraries to arrive at the Owl in San Antonio just in time for lunch or dinner. And the Buckhorn across the road has been rated as serving the #7 best burger in America by GQ Magazine.

San Antonio is the birthplace of Conrad Hilton, one of New Mexico's earliest legislators and founder of the Hilton hotel empire. Hilton's father ran the A.C. Hilton Mercantile Co. in San Antonio.

Hilton was one of the original legislators in the newly formed state of New Mexico.

His name can still be seen "C Hilton 1903" carved on the wall of what was once the schoolhouse, since then a mechanic's garage, and now a barn.

Socorro Physical Therapy



& Fitness

575-838-1000

911 North California, Socorro, NM 87801

All Physical Therapy Services Available

Therapy Pool

Weekly Rates Available

24 HR Gym Memberships

Personal Training

Massage Therapy Available by Appointment

Sofia's Kitchen

& Burrito Tyme



- Dine-in
- Carry out
- Catering

Like us on Facebook

*Family owned and
operated for 15 years*

105 Bullock St.
Socorro, NM 87801

(575) 835-0022



EL CAMINO REAL HISTORIC TRAIL SITE

30 miles south of Socorro on I-25, exit 115
575.854.3600

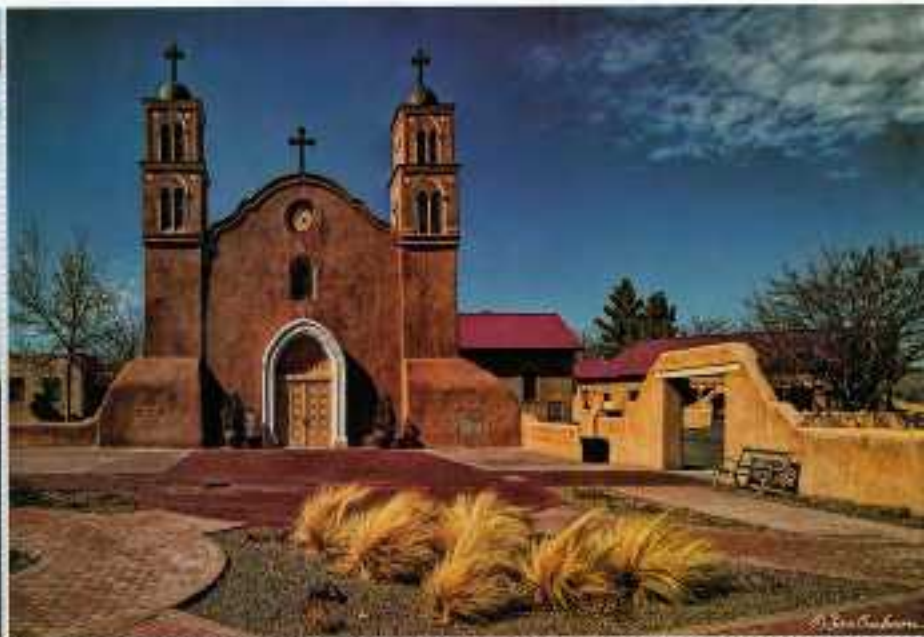
Open five days a week, 8:30am-5pm
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Admission is \$5. Children 16 and under free. Sundays
free for NM residents. Wednesday's free for NM
seniors (90 or older). nmhistoricsites.org

NEW MEXICO
HISTORIC SITES



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS



CITY OF SOCORRO



The City of Socorro is a friendly community situated in central New Mexico, whose quality of life has attracted many families to relocate and enticed many local families to stay. Those who chose to live here are here because they want to be. Our weather allows year-round outdoor activities including golf, biking, hiking, rock hounding, rock climbing, as well as many other outdoor activities.

As Mayor of Socorro, it is my personal and public goal to continue to make Socorro a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We are continuously improving the quality of life in our small town for the enjoyment of both our citizens and visitors.

Once you experience our attractions and events, you'll find yourself deciding to stay a little longer, and you'll be glad you did.

Mayor Ravi Bhasker

CITY OF SOCORRO



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1st Saturday of Each Month
KARL G. JANSKY VERY LARGE ARRAY GUIDED TOURS
GUIDED NIGHT STARGAZING
HAMMEL MUSEUM OPEN

February 6
20th ANNUAL COMMUNITY ARTS PARTY

February 26-28
BATTLES OF SOCORRO CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

March 12
ST. PATRICK'S BLUES FESTIVAL

March 19
FISHING DERBY

March 26
CITY OF SOCORRO EASTER EGG HUNT

April 1-2
NMT SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

April 2
TRINITY SITE OPEN TO PUBLIC

April 30
CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

June 2
SOCORRO OPEN

July 4
4th OF JULY PARADE
4th OF JULY CELEBRATION

July 4-5
SOCORRO COUNTY 4-H RODEO

July 8-10
MAGDALENA OLD TIMERS' REUNION

August 5
CHILE HARVEST YOUTH TRIATHLON

August 5
HEALTH FAIR

August 6
CHILE HARVEST TRIATHLON

August 18
HOT AUGUST COMMUNITY YARD SALE

August 20
HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

August 20
TOY TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET

August 31 – September 4
SOCORRO COUNTY FAIR

September 3
SOCORRO COUNTY FAIR PARADE

September 15-16
PRESIDENT'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 24
LAURA S. HAINES M. MOUNTAIN FLY-IN

September 23-25
SAN MIGUEL FIESTA

September 29-30
CHILE CHASE GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 27
M. MOUNTAIN FLY-IN

October 3
NMT PAS PRESENTS: GOLDEN DRAGON CHINESE ACROBATS

October 7-8
ALAMO INDIAN DAYS

October 12-15
23rd ANNUAL ENCHANTED SKIES STAR PARTY

October 7-8
SOCORROFEST

October 14-16
ASERS CELEBRATION

October 29-31
CITY OF SOCORRO HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

November 5-6
FALL FLING

November 12-13
NEW MEXICO MINERAL SYMPOSIUM

November 15-20
FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

November 18-20
FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES A & C FAIR

November 18-20
TURKEY TUNE-UP AYSO SOCCER TOURNAMENT

November 18
CITY OF SOCORRO TURKEY BINGO

December 3
CHRISTMAS ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE
LUMINARIAS ON THE PLAZA

Visit
Socorro

Go to the Visit Socorro website
for more events, times and locations.

WWW.SOCORRONM.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SOCORRONM

v. 2-2016

RIO GRANDE BOSQUE

In the midst of the lazy, winding waterway of the Rio Grande lies an ecological system that a lot of people have come to know as a place for a peaceful stroll or a quiet horseback ride. But the Rio Grande bosque holds much more importance than that.

The bosque — which takes its name from the Spanish word for forest — is defined as the area from the river's edge to the ditchbanks.

At points, it can be a quarter-mile wide. In other sections, it is only a few hundred yards. The Rio Grande bosque is the largest such ecosystem in the world, stretching 200 miles from Cochiti Lake to Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge near Socorro.

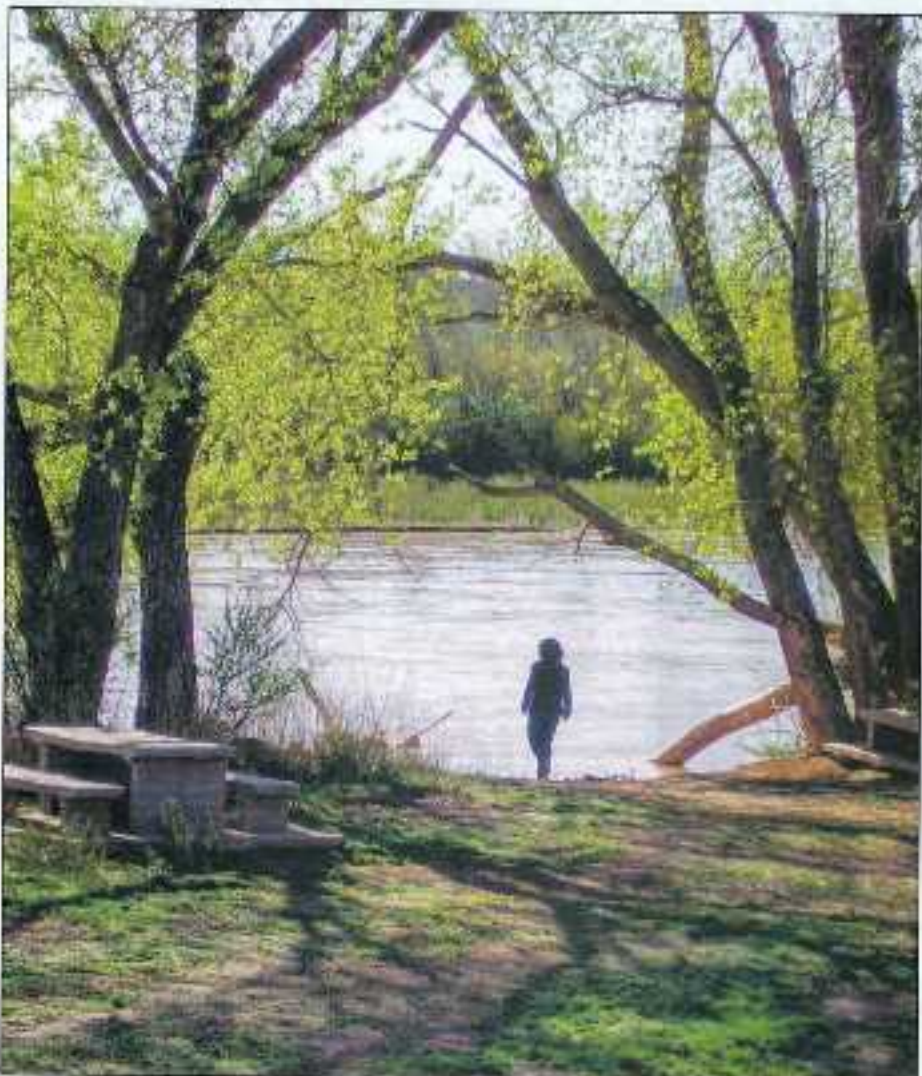
Its treed area along the river is the largest continuous cottonwood forest in the world.

The bosque is a national and internationally-important ecological resource, because it is such a big migratory flyway. It is rare in its size for a riparian area. The habitat is very important for many species of wildlife, including the Rio Grande system's most well-known endangered species — the silvery minnow and the willow flycatcher.

Although mostly sawgrass meadow, the wildlife area is attached to the bosque and its boundaries even extend to the river. Wildlife that needs wooded areas are often seen in the bosque, such as the Swainson's hawk, which nests high in the cottonwoods.

The bosque provides an oasis for an otherwise arid region. The protection that it gives for wildlife makes it a natural habitat for hunting and fishing. The enjoyment of the bosque can be experienced by hiking, biking and horseback riding. Most of the trails are along the ditchbanks within the bosque.

No motorized vehicles, including four-wheelers and off-road vehicles, are allowed in the bosque; it is best suited for foot and horse traffic.



John Larson — El Defensor Chieftain

Socorro Nature Area

The Socorro Nature Area provides an easy and informative stroll along a developed half-mile path in the Rio Grande bosque. Adventurous hikers can trek east from the nature area via a metal footbridge across the low-flow conveyance channel to access the river while those wanting a more relaxing outing can plan for a pleasant picnic under one

of the many cottonwood-shaded tables. To get to the nature area, take the Lemitar Exit at Milepost 156 on I-25 and head east on State Road 408 for 1.1 miles to the railroad tracks. After the tracks, turn right at a "T" intersection and follow the signs directing you to a maintained dirt county road which will lead to the parking area.

SALINAS PUEBLO MISSIONS

Located in the far northeast corner of Socorro County, Gran Quivira is one of three pueblo ruins that make up the Salinas Pueblo Missions, a National Monument.

Abo, Quarai and Gran Quivira were home to a people who lived in stone, apartment-style complexes for centuries until they abandoned the area in the 1670s. They forged a stable agricultural society and participated, through rule and ritual, in the cycles of nature.

These Pueblo Indians were a mix of two ancient southwestern cultural traditions — the Ancestral Puebloans, or Anasazi, and Mogollon — whose roots date back 7,000 years.

When the Spanish came to the area some 400 years ago, they worked to Christianize the natives and had missions built at each pueblo. At Gran Quivira two mission sites can be found, although one was never completed. Remnants of kivas, used by the native people in practicing their own religion, are located nearby.

Gran Quivira, also known as Las



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

Hermanas, is located about 20 miles south of U.S. 60 on Highway 55. A visitor center for the Salinas Missions is located

at the turn-off in Mountainair.

For more information, call 505-847-2585 or visit www.nps.gov/sapu.



A healthy community is a strong community.

- Casa Alegre Early Intervention Program for Children
- Educational Programs
- First Born Socorro and More
- Heritage Program for Senior Adults
- Home Healthcare and Hospice

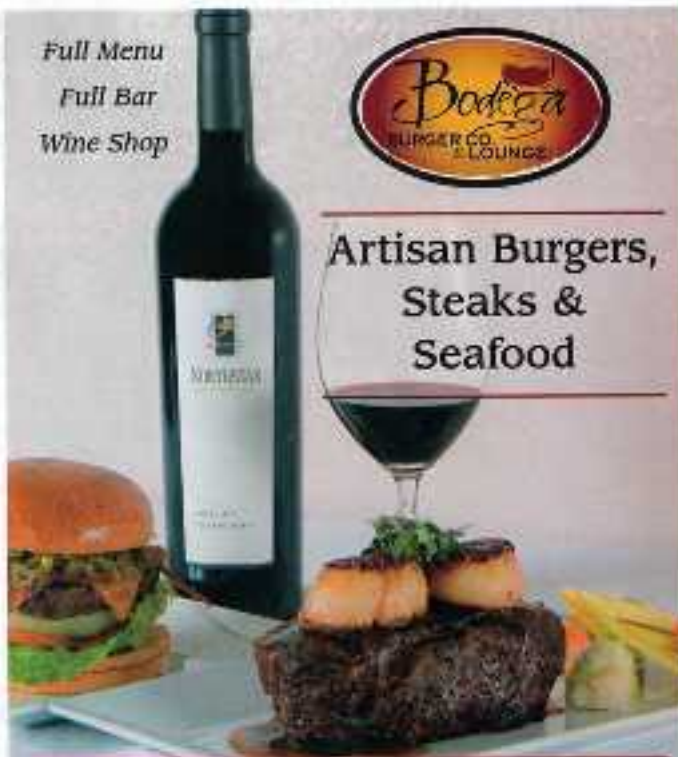
PRESBYTERIAN
Socorro General Hospital

Community Based Programs
308 N. California
(575) 835-8791
pchs.org/socorro

Full Menu
Full Bar
Wine Shop



Artisan Burgers, Steaks & Seafood



606 N. California Street, Socorro, NM – 575-838-2087
www.bodegaburgerco.com

KELLY GHOST TOWN

Although there's not much left of it, Kelly, New Mexico, 3 miles south of Magdalena, was once a bustling mining town with schools, banks, grocery stores, saloons, churches, and a clinic serving a population of well over 2,000 residents.

People started flocking to the area in the early 1880s after lead, zinc, and silver were found in abundance on the slopes of the Magdalena Mountains. Ore taken from the many mine shafts was transferred by a special tram down to Magdalena where it was loaded onto cars of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway and delivered to smelters in Socorro.

By 1910, Kelly was one of the state's most active mining centers. The Tri-Bullion company was producing heavily, and man named C.T. Brown was said to be shipping about 2,500 tons of lead and zinc monthly from his lease.

The high spirits in Kelly were dampened in May, 1910, when a miner was entering Kelly Mine through the tunnel and a rock struck him on the head, causing a deep gash in the front of his skull. Rushed to an Albuquerque hospital by train, he died shortly after his arrival. This is significant in that over the years, from the 1890s into the 1950s, there were relatively few deaths in the mines at Kelly. Far more perished in the coal mines at Carthage than the hard rock mines at Kelly.

The June 25, 1910, edition of The Chieftain newspaper contained a summary of the activity at Kelly: "The old Kelly mine has produced enormous tonnage of carbonate ores ... the new Graphic Mill has been completed and running two weeks ... the Cook lease has also opened up a 4-foot shoot of lead and zinc carbonate ores ... The German company has completed the installation of the new compressor and a mile of new pipe ... the Tri-Bullion mill is running night and day ... the Grand Tower property is still making good production of sulphides and will be milled instead of shipped. Not a vacant house or idle man in camp at the present. Many new houses have been erected, but still insufficient to supply the demand."

By 1947 the rich ores played out and the



John Larson—El Defensor Chieftain

population dropped to zero. Most of the wood frame houses and structures were dismantled and laboriously moved the three miles down the hill to Magdalena.

All there is to see of the town now are stone foundations, stone walls and remnants of concrete sidewalks. Evidence of mining operations still remain above the ghost town with the famous Traylor shaft headframe of the Kelly Mine still standing, with the refractory, boiler and assay building nearby.

Concrete foundations of the Graphic Mill still exist where Hop Canyon Road splits with Kelly Road on the way up to the mining district.

The population of Kelly is currently 2.

Other area ghost towns

Many ghost towns are scattered throughout Socorro County, dating from the territorial days before New Mexico became a state in 1912. Some, like Kelly, Council Rock and Rosedale, were founded on the promise of silver and gold, but were abandoned when the riches failed to materialize or the mines were depleted. Others, like Adobe and San Pedro, began as stage-

coach stops and trading posts that faded when trading routes changed over time. Still others like Riley were victims of drought or like San Marcial and Valverde, were drowned by floods.

All of them serve as reminders of Socorro's rich and varied past. However, not all of them are accessible to the public. When the U.S. government approved the establishment of the White Sands Proving Ground in 1945, several ghost towns located within the missile range's boundaries became permanently off-limits. In other cases, the original town sites are located on private property and can't be visited without the permission of the property owner.

A Ghost Town Guide, written by local historian Paul Harden and published by the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce, is available for visitors and gives driving directions and GPS coordinates to six sites open to the public that are accessible year-round by two wheel or four wheel drive vehicles.

For more information, call the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce at (575) 835-0424 or visit www.socorro-nm.com.

CLIMBING & BOULDERING

Adding to the allure of an outdoor lifestyle in Socorro is the availability of stellar rock-climbing.

Box Canyon – locally referred to as “The Box” – is a Bureau of Land Management holding located six miles southwest of Socorro.

The Box allows climbers of all experience levels to enjoy a fun but challenging climbing venture.

The dozens of top-roped climbing routes offer a wide array of routes, and the diversity of the rock adds to the attraction. Many people mistake the rhyolite rock for basalt; the climbing area is rough and jagged in some spots and smooth in others.

The 320-acre area can easily be described as highly scenic. If the five cliffs – includ-

ing the Waterfall Wall, Corner Block and the Fillet a Papillon Wall – aren't quite enough to sway a possible trip to the canyon, the fact that the area is developed with a trailhead, kiosks and a restroom might help.

The site is open year-round. There are no fees and camping is allowed in designated areas.

If Box Canyon isn't enough of a challenge, a recently-discovered granite playground near Datil known as Monster Island has gained some popularity over the past few years. East of Socorro in the Quebradas Backcountry lie pockets of limestone, yet another option for the avid climber.

For more information, visit www.blm.gov/nm.

We provide quality care for all ages and dental concerns.

- Preventive dentistry & cleaning
- Whitening
- Fillings, Crowns & Bridges
- Root Canal Treatment
- Digital X-Rays



Your Most Affordable Option
Financing Available
Most Insurance Accepted
We Accept Medicaid

One FREE Dental Exam
(a \$51 value)

Limit one coupon per patient
 Not valid with any other promotion
 Expires 12/31/2018

Dr. C. Bonner Oates, D.D.S.

210 Neel Avenue | Socorro, NM | 575-835-1623
www.oatesfamilydentistry.com



**BLACK'S
 SMUGGLER**
 W I N E R Y

25 WINERY ROAD
 SABINAL, NM 87006
 505.388.8117

TASTING ROOM HOURS:

Thursday - Sunday
 Noon to 5pm • (October - February)

Thursday - Sunday
 Noon to 6pm • (March - September)

www.BLACKSSMUGGLERWINERY.com

Stop and enjoy a
**Green Chile
 Cheeseburger**

at the historic
Owl Bar in
beautiful
San Antonio!

Proudly serving for 72 years



The Owl Bar & Cafe

SAN ANTONIO, NM • 575-835-9946

Home of the **ORIGINAL** World Famous
Green Chile Cheeseburger

HIT THE TRAIL

More than 200 miles of established trails beckon hikers through mountain forests, river valleys, canyons and deserts. Even more options for non-motorized off-trail exploration abound in the U. S. Bureau of Land Management and National Forest back country. See the Quebradas Byway section in this guide for access points to desert destinations east of the Rio Grande. For trail guides and additional excursion ideas, check out the Magdalena Chamber of Commerce website at www.magdalena-nm.com.

San Lorenzo Canyon

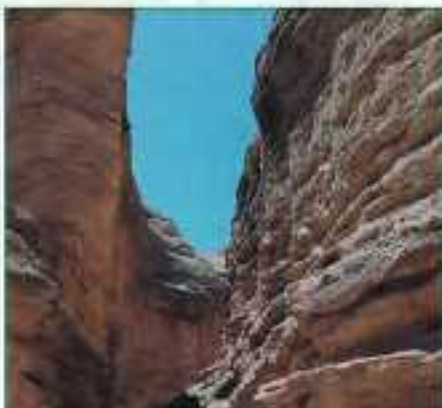
San Lorenzo Canyon, 15 miles north of Socorro, is a popular camping, hiking, riding and picnicking destination. The wide channel narrows to a spectacular high-walled canyon. Interesting side canyons — some with springs — allow for plenty of hiking and riding opportunities. The road ends at a rock pour-off. An easy scramble up the pour-off affords a beautiful walk further into the canyon, which features a perennial spring wetting the sand in places.

To get to the canyon, take the west frontage road north from the Lemitar exit (Milepost 156) on Interstate 25 and drive about five miles to a maintained dirt road. Signs will direct you from the dirt road to San Lorenzo Canyon via a dry sandy track that most passenger vehicles can negotiate in good weather.

Ladron Peak

The rugged, 9,210-ft high Ladron Peak, the highest point on the double-peaked isolated mountain range west of Bernardo, is a rough and long cross-country scramble up rocky and slippery terrain suitable only for strong, experienced hikers. The Ladrones Mountain Range is rumored to have been a hiding place for bandits (ladron means robber in Spanish). Nowadays, the summit is a goal for hikers who like a challenge. Anyone attempting the hike is encouraged to study the Ladron Peak N.M., U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map before starting out.

To get to one of the hike's starting points, exit Interstate 25 at Bernardo (Milepost 175), 30 miles north of Socorro. Proceed southwest on Old Highway 85 from the Kiva RV Park, crossing the bridge over the Rio Puerco. From there, take County Road 12 (the Riley Road) west from the locked gate. At approximately 22 miles from



the locked gate, take a left. After another three miles, take a left at a fork and drive approximately a half mile to a water tank. From there, bushwhack up the steep and narrow ridges about three miles to the peak. High-clearance vehicles should have no trouble with County Road 12, but hikers should check with the Socorro BLM Field Office for road and mountain conditions, since sand and wash-outs can make the road impassable.

Magdalena mountains

The Magdalena Ranger District in the Cibola National Forest offers several popular Magdalena Mountain trails, many of which branch off from Water Canyon. The Water Canyon turn off is 15 miles west from Socorro on Highway 60.

Polvadera Peak

A popular destination for Socorro hikers is the 7,247 ft. Polvadera Peak, located on BLM land northwest of Lemitar. The summit provides a fantastic 360-degree view of jumbled desert ridges, plains, the Rio Grande valley and several mountain ranges.

The shortest and easiest route to the peak begins at a microwave tower visible from the Lemitar Exit (Milepost 156) off Interstate 25, about 10 miles north of Socorro. From the Lemitar Exit, head north on the west frontage road past Durkin Diesel and the old cotton gin to a chain-link gate with a yellow BLM sign on it (about a half-mile). Proceed left through the gate and onto a dirt road suitable for most higher-clearance two-wheel drive vehicles. Head north by following the power line road and then left on a maintained dirt road to the microwave tower. Unless you have a rugged four-wheel-

drive vehicle, park at the tower. Walk (or drive) west from the tower, up the arroyo to the end of the road, and then walk up an old jeep track to a ridge east of the peak.

Bosque del Apache

Several trails offers a variety of hikes, from a shady valley stroll to a desert canyon hike to a moderately strenuous 9-mile round-trip trek up Chupadera Peak, the highest point in the refuge.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Located 22 miles north of Socorro via Interstate 25, the 230,000 acre refuge includes four different biomes and an array of biological diversity.

Most of the refuge is off-limits to the public, but two short nature loops, a river valley wildlife viewing area and the moderately strenuous 3.8 mile Mesa View trail give visitors a taste of the refuge's magnificent vistas and intriguing fauna and flora.

Strawberry Peak

The 8- to 10-mile hike to the top of the 7,012 foot-high reddish volcanic plug between Polvadera Peak and Socorro "M" Mountain ends with a strenuous scramble, but the spectacular view and strange, new-age memorabilia at the summit make the effort worthwhile. The only public access is via the Single Track, a mountain bike path heading northwest from East Road. For details, visit www.summitpost.org.

San Mateo Mountains

The huge and lightly used San Mateo Mountain section of the Cibola National Forest is still part of the Magdalena Ranger District. While there are plenty of off-trail hiking opportunities in the region, a popular choice is Trail 43, which leads hikers and riders from Springtime Campground up to the summit of San Mateo Peak — an elevation of 10,139 ft. The peak offers views of several mountain ranges and the valleys below. Springtime Campground is accessible from Interstate 25 south of Socorro via Old Highway 85 and Forest Road 225. Most passenger vehicles can make the graded dirt road up to the campground, but drivers should call the Magdalena Ranger District for road conditions before proceeding. The established trail to the peak will take several hours one way, so plan to be back at the trailhead before afternoon storms erupt on the high ridges.

CAMPING UNDER THE STARS

With more than 800,000 acres of U. S. National Forest and Bureau of Land Management areas located within the immediate vicinity, the Socorro area allows campers a substantial variety of opportunities. Camping is allowed anywhere on National Forest and BLM land, except near lakes and streams. A few commercial campgrounds offer alternative accommodations.

trails start off near the Water Canyon campground, offering spectacular views and seasonal bird-watching and wildflower viewing. The campground, accessible via graded dirt roads, is open from April to October, and has 14 sites for overnight camping and one reservation-only large-group site that can accommodate up to 70 campers. Although there is no water at the campground, there are pit toilets at the picnic area. Horses are permitted.

Water Canyon

Water Canyon — arguably the most popular camping and picnicking spot — is about twenty minutes west of Socorro on Highway 60. Many

Springtime Campground

Springtime Campground is located on the east side of the

■ See **Camping**, Page 28

eat happy

MON-FRI 11AM-9PM

SUNDAY 11PM-8PM

YU MAMA'S
grill

575-838-3962

400 N CALIFORNIA
not serving premium beers & wines

WWW.YUMAMASGRILL.COM

CHUPADERO Mountain View
RV PARK AND GALLERY

Terrific 360° Views Active Wildlife Area
Meeting/Party Space Rental Available
Gallery features local arts and wood crafts.

Rena & Jose Padilla 1523 Hwy 1 San Antonio, NM 87832
575-838-2530 or 575-518-8244 rena.jose@outlook.com



Home is where your healthcare is.

- Audiology
- Community-Based Programs
- Emergency Room
- Full-service Laboratory
- Inpatient Medical Care
- Labor and Delivery
- Primary and Specialty Care Clinic
- Radiology Services
- Rehabilitation Center
- Surgery

PRESBYTERIAN
Socorro General Hospital

1202 Highway 60 West
(575) 835-1140
phx.org/socorro

Camping:

Continued from Page 27

San Mateo Mountains. There are six campsites, all with log shelters, tables and fire pits. Water and rest rooms are available. The campground has two large horse corrals; however, the spring-fed horse water tanks may be dry in the summer. The campground is the starting point for hiking, horseback riding and backpacking up an established trail to San Mateo and Apache Kid peaks in the lightly-used Apache Kid Wilderness area. Twenty-nine Yard Spring is the only reliable water source on the San Mateo Peak trail. To get to Springtime Campground, drive south from Socorro on Interstate 25. Exit at Milepost 115, south of San Antonio. Proceed south on N.M. 107 and Old Highway 85 (N.M. 1) to Forest Road 225 (a graded dirt road).



Robyn Harrison — For El Defensor Chieftain

Hughes Mill

Hughes Mill, south of Bear Trap on Forest Service Road 549, offers pit toilets, camping, picnicking areas and trailer parking. A stream is nearby, but it is not a reliable water source. Horses are allowed, but there are no horse facilities. No established trails are in the area.

Datil Well Campground

Datil Well Recreation Area Campground, one mile west of Datil on Highway 60, includes one of 15 water wells along the old Magdalena Livestock Driveway. The old cattle trail was established in the 1800s and stretched 120 miles from Springerville, Ariz., to Magdalena, N.M.

The area includes three miles of hiking trails in piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine woodlands, with scenic views of the Plains of San Augustin and the Very Large Array radio astronomy dishes. There are 22 individual campsites, all with picnic tables, barbecue grills and fire pits. The 12 individual and group sites have shelters for shade. Restrooms and drinking water are available. \$5 fee per night. For a group site, call 575-835-0412.

Bear Trap Campground

Secluded Bear Trap campground, located at 8,000 feet in the rugged San Mateo Mountains, has pit toilets, camping, picnicking sites and trailer parking. Access is via a primitive road, but high-

clearance, two-wheel-drive vehicles should have no problems in good weather. There is no potable water source at the campground.

Horses are allowed, but there are no corrals nor water tanks. Campers can drive, walk or bike up a primitive road to the 10,000 ft. summit of Mt. Withington.

Luna Park Campground

Luna Park Campground at the south end of the San Mateo Mountains, is accessible from Springtime Canyon via a rugged, primitive road.

It has three sites with tables and fire pits, but there are no toilets, water nor horse facilities, and not much shade. No established trails are in the area.

Escondida Lake

The county park is complete with tables, a group shelter, bathrooms and a playground, and offers RV hookups and tent sites. Visitors can hike in the bosque and along the river, or relax and fish at the campground's stocked lake. For more information, call 575-835-2041.

The Socorro Box

The Box Canyon Recreation Area (the Socorro Box), about seven miles west of Socorro on Highway 60, offers primitive camping and parking for RVs. The Box Canyon Recreation Area is free and open year round. Pit toilets are available, but there is no reliable water source. Activities include rock climbing and hiking as well as ATV and horseback riding.

GALLERIES

More than a half dozen galleries – showing artwork ranging from photography and paintings to sculptures and jewelry, and everything in between – are sprinkled around Socorro and the surrounding communities.

ALAMO GALLERY AND GIFTS

1008 N. California St.
575-835-2787
www.socorrocountyarts.com

A local arts cooperative with dozens of artists showing a variety of media. Free workshops are offered monthly. Open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

BEAR MOUNTAIN GALLERY

902 W. 1st St., Magdalena
575-854-3310
www.bearmountaincoffeehouse.com

Paintings, Native American arts, fiber, jewelry, ceramics and more.

BLUE CANYON GALLERY

Old Highway 60, 3/4 of a mile east of Magdalena
575-854-2953
www.bluecanyongallery.com



M MOUNTAIN COFFEE

110 Manzaneros St.
575-838-0809

A cozy little coffee house with walls filled with drawing, painting and photography exhibits. Open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

SOCORRO PICTURE FRAMING

107 1/2 California St.
575-835-3348
www.socorropictureframing.com

SUNDANCE GIFTS

118 Plaza St.

575-835-2498

Pottery, tile, wall hangings by Ken Merrick, Dan Brun and Maria Kenarova. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

VERTU FINE ART GALLERY

113 Abeyta St.
575-835-4487
www.vertuarts.com

Oils, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, sculpture, jewelry and notecards. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Vertu is also open by appointment.

VILLAGE PRESS PRINT STUDIO

500 First St., Magdalena
575-418-6431
www.villagepressprintstudio.com

WAREHOUSE 110

110 Main St., Magdalena
575-854-3253
www.warehouse110.com
Contemporary arts and performance space, art openings and special events.



**Proven
Performance**

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

LEGACY



Betty Houston
REALTOR®, GRI, CRB

YOUR FULL SERVICE REALTOR

- Offering Residential, Commercial and Land
- Buys and Sells Real Estate Contracts
- Relocation referrals
- 1031 Exchanges

Just a few of the places to view our fine homes:



YouTube



Yahoo! Real Estate



REALTOR.com



trulia



Zillow.com





Office Phone: 575-835-1422
Mobile: 505-440-8297
Lee Tamas 905-865-5300

Email: bhouston@socorronmproperty.com or
Web: www.coldwellbankerlegacy.com/betty.houston

N M T

Community Education

*Adding color to life at the
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and
the Socorro community since the 1980s.*

Director Lillian Armijo
Located in Cramer Hall Room 201
larmijo@admin.nmt.edu
(575) 835-6581
<http://www.nmt.edu/ced-home>

LIVE MUSIC

The music scene in tiny Socorro rivals those of many small cities. With weekly open mics, numerous performance venues, an annual music festival and a terrific Performing Arts Series hosted by New Mexico Tech, there's something for everyone.

The city is home to many great musicians and bands, including Rob Lopez and friends (hard rock/metal), Doug Figgs and Mariam (country), The Remedy (variety), Roon (folk/rock) and Suavecito (variety).

The local scene

- **Twisted Chile** features an open mic every other Wednesday.
- **The Capitol Bar** features regional blues and rock bands on weekends.
- **Sofia's Restaurant** has performances Saturday nights and Sunday mornings, as well as an open mic every Friday.
- **The Buckhorn Tavern** in San Antonio features the Blue Monday Blues Band every other Monday.
- **Bodega Burger Co.** occasionally has live dinner music on Fridays.
- **Socorro Springs** hosts the Thursday kNights Song Circle the last Thursday



of every month and hosts live music on weekends from time to time.

- And in Magdalena, the **Golden Spur Saloon** and **M&M Cafe** often feature live music on weekends. For those wanting to check out what's happening music-wise, www.socorro-music.com is always a reliable source.

Music year-round

- **The New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series (PAS)** showcases well known and up-and-coming acts from all over the world. Performances take place in the Macey Center on campus. The remainder of this season's schedule includes Celtic

band Lunasa on March 5, magic and illusions from Nelson Illusions on March 27, the Scrap Arts Music drummers on April 17 and the Santa Fe Opera Apprentices on Tour on April 29. Visit www.nmtpas.org for ticket information.

- **Tech Presidential Chamber Music Series** features classical performances by some of New Mexico's finest musicians.

- **Socorrofest** is a weekend music festival hosted by the city, featuring local, regional and national acts. The festival draws visitors from throughout New Mexico and beyond, and features both regional hands and local musicians playing a variety of genres – from country and Latin to folk and rock. Festivities begin Friday evening with a street dance on the historic plaza. The latter half of Saturday is filled with nonstop live music, performed from two outdoor stages, as well as from indoor venues around the city.

- **Tech's Fourth of July Celebration** features local and regional performers.
- The city's **Cinco de Mayo celebration** features live Spanish music.
- **Festival of the Cranes Arts & Crafts Fair** features live music to accompany the many arts and crafts vendors.

GARCIA OPERA HOUSE

During the 1880s, the discovery of lead and silver in the nearby Magdalena Mountains transformed the quiet town of Socorro with a few hundred people into a thriving center of commerce and industry with a population of more than 4,000.

The Garcia Opera House opened on Dec. 1, 1886, with an event advertised as a "musical festival composed of 100 musicians, followed by a grand dance and supper." Since that first spectacular extravaganza, the opera house has been the setting for a myriad of events.

For the last twenty years, the Socorro Community Theater stages an average of two productions a year in the historical opera house, from Shakespearean plays to modern comedies and dramas.



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

TEE TIME

Considered by many to be a vibrant desert oasis, the New Mexico Tech Golf Course offers golfers of all skill levels a fun, challenging and scenic experience.

Set almost directly at the foot of "M" Mountain, the 18-hole championship course consists of rolling hills, breathtaking elevation changes and potent views of the Rio Grande Valley.

The course is generally considered a short one by golf standards, giving golfers the opportunity to work on their precision game, but varying fairway lengths also allow the big swingers to let loose with their drivers.

New Mexico Tech Golf Course features three par-five holes. Hole No. 1 is 457 yards from the white tee, and the

championship tee is a full 100 yards farther than that. Hole No. 5 is a true test of length and skill at 559 yards from the blue tee, and its wicked dog-leg right gives hitters a chance to lay up, play it safe, or go for glory over an unforgiving patch of scenic desert terrain.

Because of the course's variety, golfers will likely use nearly every club in the bag to navigate the links. The 6,688-yard, par-72 course (5,887, 73 for women) carries a 71.0 rating for gentlemen at a slope of 129, and 69.7 with a 125 slope for ladies.

Golf Digest named the course one of America's 500 best places to play golf, as well as one of the 10 best public courses in New Mexico.

For more information call 575-835-5335, or visit www.nmt.edu/nmt-golfcourse.



RIO ABAJO ANTIQUES

- * Folk Art * Unique Items
- * Western, Regional and Religious Artifacts
- * Signs and Advertising
- * Large Wholesale Warehouse

575-835-2872

1 block south of Owl Bar, San Antonio, NM
Call for appointment

D.A.V.

Chapter 24



Hall and Lounge Open Daily 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

ALL VETERANS AND FAMILIES WELCOME

Set TV - Big Screens - Pool Table - Darts
Music - Outdoor Patio and Bar

200 N. 5th Street, Socorro, NM 87801 • 575-835-0643

New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series

Music Dance

Family

World Theatre

nmtpas.org facebook.com/NMTPAS (575)835-5688

NEW MEXICO TECH



Scott Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

Consistently recognized as one of the premier research universities in the U.S., New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, referred to locally as New Mexico Tech, was founded in 1889 as the New Mexico School of Mines. As the largest employer in the county, it is an important economic cornerstone to the area in addition to being a provider of world-class education.

The student population at Tech was a record-breaking 2,200 as of the Fall 2014 semester. Graduate and undergraduate degrees are offered in biology, engineering, math, physics, astronomy, computer science, earth sciences, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemistry and more.

Sometimes referred to, in jest, as a "research institution with a university attached," the university has more than a dozen research divisions that allow for ground-breaking science to be conducted, rivaling research at much larger universities. New Mexico Tech has also been referred to as the "MIT of the Southwest."

The Magdalena Ridge Observatory and Interferometer on South Baldy Mountain in the Magdalena Mountains provide cut-

ting edge astronomical research opportunities. Langmuir Lightning Lab, also on South Baldy, is a world-class facility for studying thunderstorms and other atmospheric phenomena.

The largest research division at Tech is the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center, which also conducts anti-terrorism training and land mine detection. Socorro residents are accustomed to earthshaking explosions and deep booms coming from the center's 40-square-mile field laboratory surrounding 'M' Mountain. EMRTC has the ability to conduct tests involving over 20,000 pounds of explosives.

EMRTC is also a favorite setting for the television series "Mythbusters," whose hosts and crew have made several trips to Socorro.

New Mexico Tech is well known among scientists, engineers and corporations, and that reputation gives Tech graduates an advantage in the job market, often with higher-paying salaries.

While education and research are top-notch at Tech, other opportunities for students and community members exist in abundance.

The school has more than 40 clubs and organizations catering to such interests as rock climbing, caving, skiing, off-road cycling, dancing, rugby, storm chasing and more.

The Performing Arts Series at Tech brings musicians and artists from around the world to the Macey Center, where more than a dozen shows are performed each year for students and the public at large.

Tech's year-round swimming pool and full-featured gym are available to students and faculty. The university's outdoor facilities include a rock-climbing wall, tennis courts and intramural fields.

Tech also offers classes to the general public through its Community College program.

Offerings include, but are not limited to: fine arts such as photography, ceramics, woodworking, glass and metal arts; fitness classes like zumba-aquatic and aerobics; martial arts classes in karate, taijutsu, kung fu and tai chi; and dance classes for country-western as well as belly dancing.

To find out more about New Mexico Tech, visit www.nmt.edu.

MINERAL MUSEUM

Socorro has a treasure chest at the corner of Bullock Avenue and Leroy Place, but it's not filled with the likes of pearls or jewels or gold coins. The chest is, instead, a large room at the Bureau of Geology and the treasure is one of the most unique collections of rocks and minerals in the United States. So rare is the collection it was given the honorary title "Coronado's Treasure Chest" by the New Mexico Cuarto-Centennial Commission in 1939.

The Mineral Museum in the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources' building on the New Mexico Tech campus is a rockhound's dream and features more than 15,000 specimens, with a special emphasis on minerals found in New Mexico.

Highlights include a collection of gold, silver and precious gems referred to as "Coronado's Treasure Chest"; Smithsonian from the Kelly Mine at Magdalena; and a stunning ultraviolet mineral exhibit.

Historic tools and equipment used in the mining industry throughout time



are displayed in the main gallery. Other exhibits include meteorites; fossils; thematic displays illustrating the mineral wealth from the Las Cruces, Silver City, Bingham, Magdalena, Golden, Dixon and Grants areas; and more.

Visitors may also purchase specimens. Proceeds from the sales are used to purchase new materials for the museum.

In addition to the display gallery, the Mineral Museum maintains a large reference collection for scientific research. Access to the reference collection can be arranged by contacting the museum curator, mineralogist Dr. Virgil Lueth.

One of the museum's missions is to help members of the general public identify rocks and minerals.

"If you find an interesting rock, bring to me. It's part of my job description," Lueth said. "The museum serves an inspiration to people devoted to rockhounding."

The 37th annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium and the Seventh Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Association Symposium is scheduled for November. This annual forum held at the Macey Center is for both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy.

The Bureau of Geology is located at the corner of Bullock Ave. and Leroy Place. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (575) 835-5490 or visit geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/.

Besides the main facility in Socorro, the Bureau has a satellite office in Albuquerque and a small office in Carlsbad.

MAGDALENA

Trails End and Gateway to the Stars

- Traditional and contemporary arts, open studio tours, galleries, antiques, Box Car Museum, performance, music and Fiber Arts Trail.
- Guided star parties and astronomy lectures, antique telescope museum.
- Old Timers Reunion, cowboy dances, round-ups, trail riding, ropings, cowboy action shooting.
- Magdalena Ridge Observatory, Kelly Mine and Ghost Town.
- Biking, hiking, hunting and rock hounding.
- First Saturday events each month.
- Gardening, sustainable living, conservation workshops and tours.
- Cafés, B & Bs, motels, historic hotel, RV park and camping.

They don't make places like this anymore - visit www.magdalena-nm.com for more information.

GUIDED STAR PARTIES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

VERY LARGE ARRAY

OLD TIMERS REUNION

Magdalena Chamber of Commerce
866.854.3217 (Toll Free)
www.magdalena-nm.com

Magdalena is
NEW MEXICO FREE
Part of the Magdalena Lodging Co.



KARL G. JANSKY VERY LARGE ARRAY



Sarah Turner — El Defensor Chieftain

The Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array comprises 27 radio antennas standing 82 feet over the Plains of San Agustin. The signals from each antenna are combined electronically to simulate the resolution of an antenna capable of extending 22 miles in diameter. The VLA is among the most productive research tools in astronomy.

This is the iconic installation used for backdrops in the movies. It was the setting for much of the 1997 film "Contact" starring Jodie Foster, as well as "2010: The Year We Make Contact", "Independence Day" and "Armageddon" among others.

In 2010, the VLA was upgraded to state-of-the-art electronics and software to become the Expanded Very Large Array. EVLA, a much more capable research tool, has more than 10 times the original VLA's sensitivity and is sensitive enough to detect the transmission of a cell phone from as far away as Jupiter.

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory has the majority of its workforce in Socorro County, where it operates the EVLA. The Pete V. Domenici Science Operations Center on the New Mexico Tech campus in Socorro, supports the

EVLA and the Very Long Baseline Array, 10 dish-shaped radio telescopes spanning 5,351 miles from Hawaii to the U.S. Virgin Islands, including one in Pie Town.

Radio telescopes observe spectrums outside the range of visible light, helping scientists make discoveries that would never be detectable to the naked eye. Using VLA technology, scientists have been able to detect water in a galaxy 11 billion light-years away, track the continued expansion of a supernova that happened over 140 years ago and observe a distant galaxy that is creating 700 new suns per year — 200 times the rate of the Milky Way Galaxy.

Over 40 miles of steel train rails trace out a giant Y for the EVLA. Two antenna transporters ride these rails to move the antennas from pad to pad. The tracks were purchased from disused rail lines all across the country, and many bear the marks of early 20th century manufacture. The NRAO maintains a small staff of railway men who move the dishes and tend the tracks.

Visitors to the VLA will also experience a unique, walk-through sundial that uses historical scientific artifacts to combine traditional timekeeping features

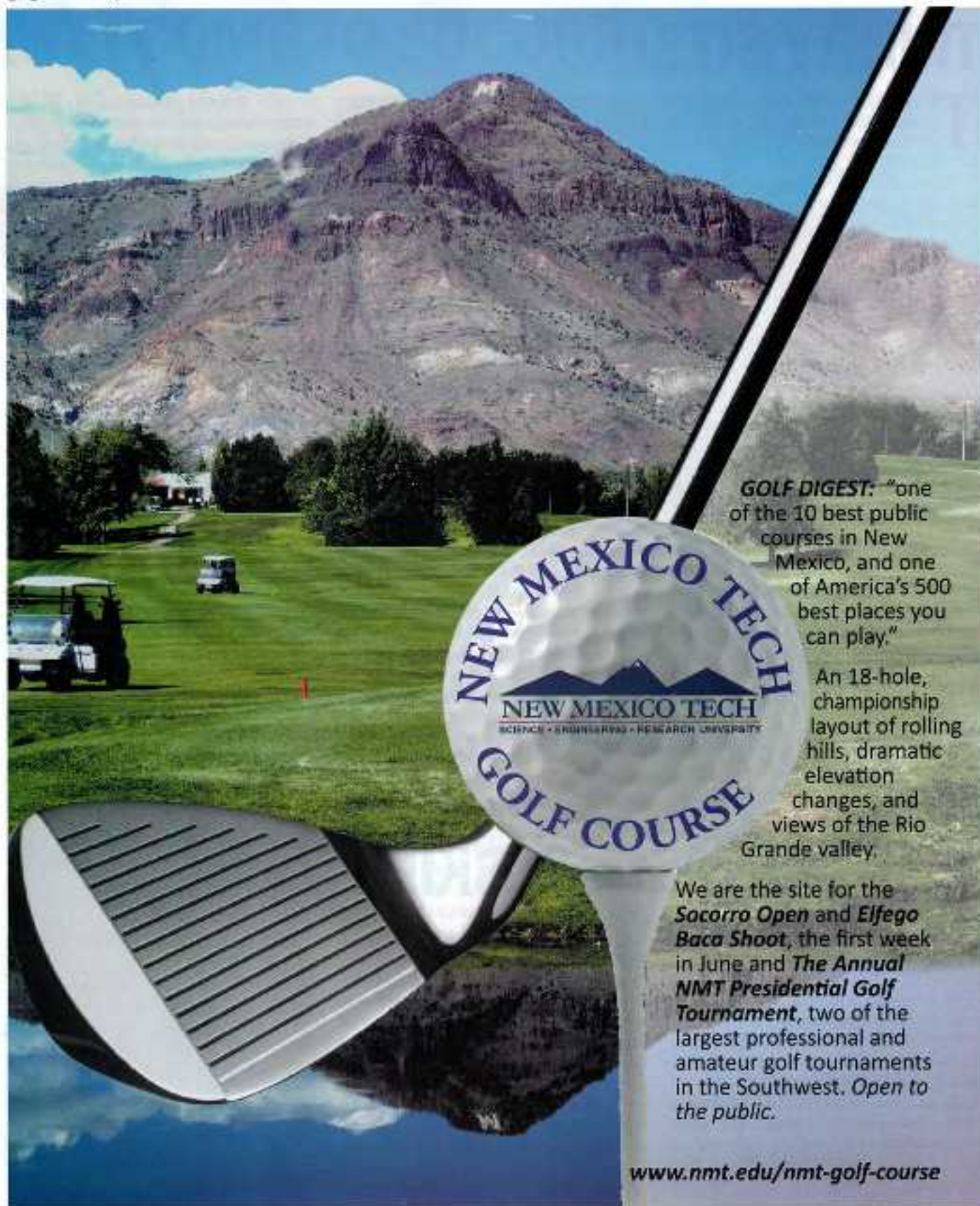
with functions illustrating the history and accomplishments of radio astronomy. Visitors can walk around the sundial to find not only the time of day but the approximate time of the year. Other markers indicate important dates in the history of radio astronomy, and solar noon at other observatories.

The Very Large Array is about 44 miles west of Socorro on U.S. Highway 60. Signs indicate the way to the Visitor Center.

The VLA is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to sunset for self-guided tours of the array and the Visitor Center. The gift shop is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

There are 30-minute guided tours on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. No reservations are required. These tours take visitors behind the scenes at the VLA. Hands-on activities conducted by VLA staff and volunteers are offered until 3 p.m.

Admission is \$6/adults, \$5/seniors, 17 and under are free. For information on the VLA and the research of the NRAO, visit www.nrao.edu.



GOLF DIGEST: "one of the 10 best public courses in New Mexico, and one of America's 500 best places you can play."

An 18-hole, championship layout of rolling hills, dramatic elevation changes, and views of the Rio Grande valley.

We are the site for the *Socorro Open* and *Elfego Baca Shoot*, the first week in June and *The Annual NMT Presidential Golf Tournament*, two of the largest professional and amateur golf tournaments in the Southwest. *Open to the public.*

www.nmt.edu/nmt-golf-course

TRINITY SITE

Trinity Site, on what is now White Sands Missile Range, is where the first nuclear bomb was detonated on July 16, 1945.

That morning at 5:29:45 a.m. Mountain War Time, the successful testing of the atomic bomb marked the beginning of the end of World War II. The bomb had been three years in the making.

From a list of eight potential test sites in California, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, what was to become known as the Trinity Site in Socorro County was chosen. The area was already controlled by the government since it was part of the Alamogordo Bombing and Gunnery Range, which was established in 1942 as its artillery and bombing practice area. The Chihuahuan Desert provided isolation for secrecy and safety, but was still only about 230 miles from the Manhattan Project's headquarters at Los Alamos.

Although what had taken place at Trinity Site was not revealed until after the weapon was used against Japan, the explosion was felt 160 miles away and windows were broken out as far as 120 miles away. Army officials told the public that a munitions storage area had accidentally exploded at the Alamogordo Bombing Range.

The second atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945. That day President Harry Truman told America what happened at Trinity Site. Aug. 9, 1945, the third atomic bomb devastated Nagasaki, Japan, and the Japanese



surrendered Aug. 14. No nuclear weapons have been used in war since then.

The 51,500-acre area was declared a national historic landmark in 1975. The landmark includes ground zero where the bomb exploded; the base camp where scientists and support staff were housed; the remains of one of the tower columns; and the Schmidt/McDonald ranch house south of the site where the core of the bomb was put together. In addition, one of the old instrumentation bunkers is still visible beside the road just west of ground zero.

A monument and various artifacts associated with the test are available for viewing, such as a sample of Trinitite, a glass-like substance left behind when the sand fused together from the heat of the blast. Trinitite contains several radioactive elements and is an alpha and beta particle emitter.

Radiation levels at ground zero are low

— only 10 times greater than the region's natural background radiation, on average. A one-hour visit to the inner fenced area will result in a whole body exposure of one-half to one millirem. To put this in perspective, a U.S. adult receives an average of 360 millirems every year from natural and medical sources. The American Nuclear Society estimates people receive between 26 and 96 millirems every year from the sun, depending on what elevation they live, and about 40 millirems every year from food.

Trinity Site is open twice a year to the public for a walk-through visit, on the first Saturday of April and October. 2016 Open House dates are April 2 and Oct. 1. There is no admission fee for this event, and no reservations are required.

Visitors must have a REAL ID card, passport or military ID to enter.

During the Open House, visitors can enter through White Sands Missile Range's Stallion Range Center, which is five miles south of U.S. Highway 380. The turnoff is 12 miles east of San Antonio, N.M., and 53 miles west of Carrizozo. The Stallion gate will be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors arriving at the gate between those hours will receive handouts and will be allowed to drive unescorted the 17 miles to Trinity Site. The road is paved and marked.

For more details on the site and requirements for visiting, visit the website at www.wsmr.army.mil.

EXPLORING DARK SKIES

The Etsorn Observatory on the New Mexico Tech campus, built in 1993, is run by the New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club and is surrounded by earth berms to minimize light pollution from the campus and town.

Telescopes include a 20-inch Dobsonian inside a 15-foot dome and a Celestron 14 on a Paramount GT-1100 mount.

In addition to the annual Enchanted Skies Star Party, Etsorn is open to the public on the first Saturday of every month for Guided Night Sky Stargazing, as well as at many other times

during the year.

Enchanted Skies Star Party registered participants have the opportunity to observe at 10,600 feet on South Baldy — the highest point on the Magdalena Mountains — and take insider tours of the Expanded Very Large Array, U.S. Air Force Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance and Magdalena Ridge observatories — tours not currently available to the public at large.

Weekend workshops providing family-centered, hands-on astronomy activities take place at various times throughout the

Enchanted Skies Star Party

• Oct. 12-15: 23rd annual Enchanted Skies Star Party, with tours of the Very Large Array and Magdalena Ridge Observatory.

year at area wildlife refuges.

For more information about the Enchanted Skies Star Party, visit www.enchantedskies.org.



**Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge**

20 miles south of Socorro on NM 1
www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache
575-835-1828

a refuge for all seasons

Festival of the Cranes

November 15-20, 2016

Join us in supporting wildlife!

Friends of the Bosque del Apache

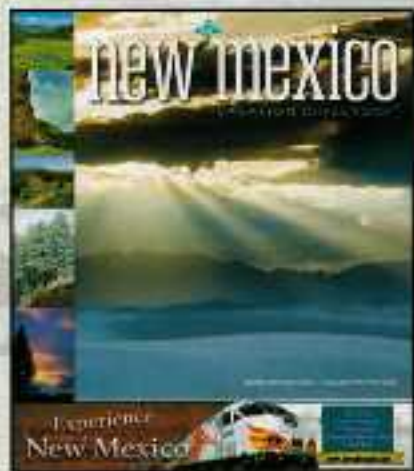
National Wildlife Refuge

www.friendsofthebosque.org



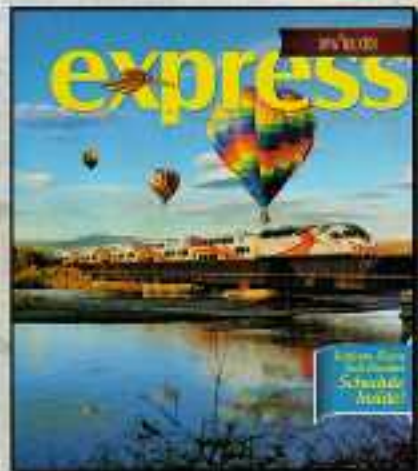


Your Most Comprehensive Guides to The Land of Enchantment



Local DIGITAL REACH

The best and most affordable in Search Engine Marketing, reach up to 98% of publishers!



Delivered directly to your mailbox* and also available at local hotels in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Your free copy of the New Mexico Vacation Directory is also available at any Chamber of Commerce or Visitor Center in New Mexico.



9400 Holly Avenue NE
Albuquerque, NM
87122

www.travelnewmex.com

www.nmtrainrunner.com

For information about advertising please call Scott Simmons 505-310-5429 or 505-259-7969.

*specific zip codes

Visit Socorro

A Year-Round Destination and Celebration...
OF HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, BIRDS, ART AND ENCHANTED SKIES



EXPERIENCE THE AREA'S CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS:

- Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
- Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array
- El Camino Real International Heritage Center
- Historic Magdalena
- New Mexico Tech Golf Course
- Mineral Museum
- Fort Craig

(575) 835-8927

WWW.SOCORRONM.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SOCORRONM

