

A Legacy Local Monthly Publication

April 2026

The Historic

Mesilla Valley



From the Publisher's Desk

Calendar of Events

2026

**NEW MEXICO
VOTER GUIDE:**

Doña Ana County

Indivisible Las Cruces
rallies for change

Springtime
Cocktails

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- ★ **New Mexico State Law Enforcement Academy – Executive Law Enforcement Police Certification**
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- ★ **New Mexico State Police Crisis Negotiations**
- ★ **NMSU Graduate – Bachelors of Arts and Science – Criminal Justice**
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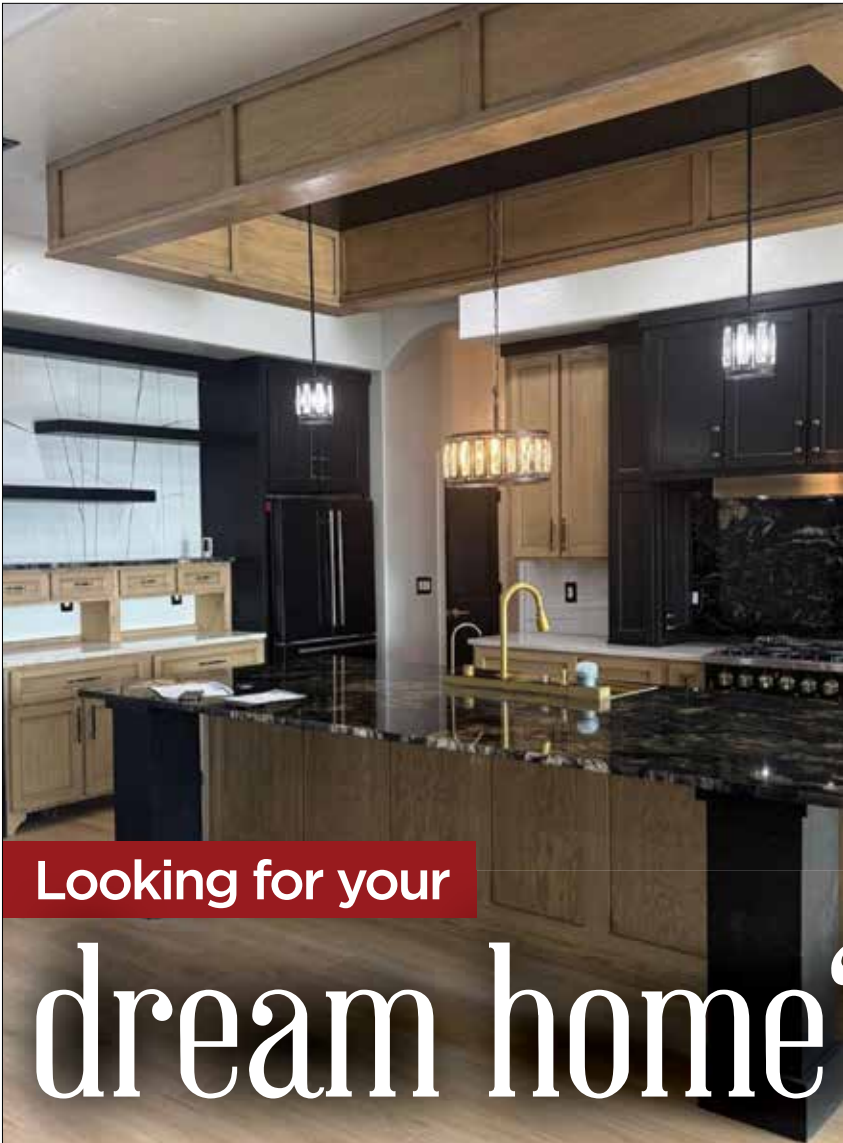
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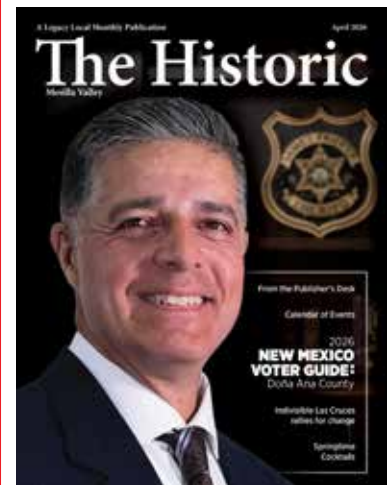
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Featured on the Cover:
James Frieze, Sheriff Candidate

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FROM THE

publisher's desk

W elcome to spring! Although Mother Nature is sending us many undecided proclamations, we must do our best to prevail. Whether you find your *raison d'être* in the garden during this early

summer or in your bed under blankets, just know we are here for your curious eyes. Enjoy this second phase of the 2026 Voter Guide, as this is a special issue for candidates running specifically in Doña Ana County.

”

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“Calendar of events”

WEEKLY

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

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

APRIL 18

– Mine tour: Join a park ranger or volunteer guide for a hike out to the El Paso Tin Mines – the remains of a mining operation from the early 1900s. The tour is six miles round trip and rated moderate to difficult. The trail is a well-marked old jeep road with a gentle but steady climb for about three miles until arriving at the mines. You can explore two of the old shafts and the ruins of the smelter before heading back the way you came. Guests need to bring water, snacks, a flashlight, hiking boots/shoes, and comfortable clothes. \$5 per adult (13 years and older); free for Texas State Park Passholders and children 5-12 years old. Please bring exact change. 7:30-11:30 a.m. 11055 Officer Andrew Barcena Dr., El Paso, Texas.

– Earth Day: New Mexico State University’s Cambios Climate Change Speaker Series

and The Lighthouse present an Earth Day fair at Young Park. The fair will feature a variety of local and regional groups focused on sustainability. There will be information available on environmental topics and causes, including endangered species protections, data centers, water management, and energy efficiency. El Paso’s Frontera Bugalú will headline the evening concert. The festival will also include a meditative sound bath, a drumming circle, a group art project, and a spot encouraging spontaneous, tech-free, face-to-face conversations with strangers. Free. 3-10 p.m. 850 Walnut Ave., Las Cruces.

APRIL 24–25

– ¡Mira! Las Cruces: The fourth annual ¡Mira! Las Cruces returns with an expanded two-day celebration of culture, creativity, and community. Friday will feature a night kickoff with live performances from local bands from 6-9 p.m. Saturday will have a full day of events from 2-9:30 p.m. This year’s entertainment will be headlined by country music singer Annie Bosko. On Saturday, there will also be a drone show, luchador matches presented by Magno, artist alley, beer and wine garden, and more. Free. 100 N Main St., Las Cruces.

APRIL 25

– Taste of El Paso: The second annual Taste of El Paso Festival will have over 20 food vendors and regional beers, along with live music. This festival is a true celebration of El Paso culture, as it features local and regional chefs and breweries. The event will also have live murals and an art gallery. \$15+. 2-10 p.m. 8144 Dyer St., El Paso, Texas.

APRIL 26

– Mezcal Mile: Join Mesilla Valley Wine & Brew Tours on the Mezcal Mile Walking Tour of Mesilla. The journey begins at Dry Point Distillers with an immersive agave spirit tasting. Sample premium tequila, mezcal, and sotol, while learning the unique characteristics and craftsmanship behind each spirit. The second stop will be at the historic El Patio, where you can sip a tequila in New Mexico’s oldest bar. The final location is La Posta de Mesilla, where you’ll be treated to a tequila flight. Before the tour ends, guests have the option to purchase a full meal at La Posta. \$85. 21+. 12-4 p.m. 1680 Calle de Alvarez #C, Las Cruces.

MAY 1

– Trolley rides: Enjoy horse trolley rides throughout Historic Mesquite Street during First Friday Art Ramble. Rides are free, but feel free to bring cash to tip. Boarding is along Mesquite Street at Trails End Gallery. Free. 4-8 p.m. 1732 N Mesquite St., Las Cruces.



MAY 2

– Derby Day: Fort Bliss Spouses’ Association presents their spring fundraiser, Derby Day Soirée. The afternoon will have live race viewing, rosé and bourbon tasting, a silent auction, and prizes. Supporting the FBISA helps the group continue to give back to the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities. This event is open to the public. 21+. \$40 per person (with available add-ons). 4-8 p.m. 3200 Coe Ave., El Paso, Texas.



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CHILAQUILES VERDE

This dish (pronounced chill-ah-kee-les) offers a foundation of crispy corn tortilla chips simmering in a warm chile sauce. La Posta's Chilaquiles Verde (green) or Chilaquiles Rojas (red) can be served for breakfast (a favorite), lunch or dinner. Finish this simple dish with a variety of fresh garnishes such as avocado, Cotija cheese crumbles and fresh cilantro to elevate the experience. Serve with a side of refried beans, whole pinto beans, or black beans to complete this meal. (Serves 4)

Directions

1. In a large skillet coated with cooking spray add La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa and heat, while stirring, over medium heat. Slowly add tortilla chips, coating & tossing well with salsa. Top with Monterey Jack cheese. Reduce heat, and simmer until chips are soft yet still a bit crispy around the edges, about 3-5 minutes. For crispier tortilla chips, simmer 1-2 minutes.
2. While tortilla chips are simmering, coat a small skillet with cooking spray or oil, and fry eggs "your way". Place fried eggs evenly distributed on top of chips.

Ingredients

- 24 Crispy Corn Tortilla Chips
- 1½ 16 oz jars (3 cups) La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 4 eggs
- 2 green onions, mostly green part, minced
- 2 tbsp. minced cilantro
- 1 avocado, seeded, peeled and thinly sliced or diced

3. To serve, scoop servings of chips and egg onto individual plates. Garnish with onion, cilantro, and avocado. Serve with refried beans, seasoned black beans or your favorite Mexican side!

Notes: (1) For Chilaquiles Rojo (Red) - substitute the La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa with La Posta Sundried Red Chile Sauce and use cheddar cheese. (2) For Heartier, Meaty Chilaquiles: Follow Step 1. Add 2 cups cooked shredded chicken or beef (warmed) on top of chips. Add the cooked eggs if desired. (3) For Vegetarian Chilaquiles: Follow Step 1. Delete the eggs and add 2 cups of your favorite veggie, sweet potato cubes, pinto or black beans, or seasonal squash on top of the chips.

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“cover story”



**NEW MEXICO
VOTER GUIDE:**
Doña Ana County

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR CHOICE**

The Historic Mesilla Valley Magazine has compiled a voter guide to best assist our readers in the 2026 Doña Ana County elections.

Early voting begins at the Doña Ana County Government Center on **May 5, 2026** and primary election day is **June 2, 2026**.



DISTRICT 33

Micaela Lara Cadena (D)

– Micaela Lara Cadena was born in Mesilla, New Mexico. She has served in the New Mexico House of Representatives since 2019. Currently, she is the Vice Chair of the House Taxation & Revenue Committee. Cadena holds membership in the House Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources Committee, the Revenue Stabilization & Tax Policy Committee, and the Water & Natural Resources Committee. Cadena received her master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico.

Ramona J. Martinez (D)

– Ramona Martinez, from Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico, previously held the position of Chief General Counsel in the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor from July to December 2025. Martinez received bachelor's degrees in political science and criminology from the University of New Mexico in 2002. She later received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2007.

Enrique "Kiki" Vigil (R)

– Enrique "Kiki" Vigil has over 30 years of law enforcement experience, including serving four years as Doña Ana County Sheriff. Vigil is a lifelong resident of Doña Ana County, raised in Anthony, New Mexico. He earned his bachelor's degree in government at New Mexico State University.

DISTRICT 34

Juan A. Fuentes (D)

– Juan Fuentes values efficiency and effectiveness. He is the City of Roswell's former Internal Auditor, where he was tasked with conducting performance reviews of city department operations, reviewing policies and procedures, evaluating staffing levels, and recommending improvements to help departments and their employees better serve the public and work effectively with each other. Fuentes has spent his career of 22 years working with smaller municipalities.

Raymundo Lara (D)

– Representative Raymundo "Ray" Lara proudly serves the communities of Sunland Park, Santa Teresa, La Union, Chamberino, La Mesa, and San Miguel in the New Mexico House of Representatives. Since being elected in 2019, Lara has focused on strengthening public education, expanding early childhood opportunities, improving infrastructure, supporting healthcare access, and promoting economic growth across southern New Mexico. Lara currently serves as the Majority Caucus Chair in the House of Representatives. In this role, Lara works with legislative leadership and colleagues from across the state to advance policies that support working families while ensuring southern New Mexico has strong representation at the Roundhouse.

DISTRICT 35

Angelica Rubio (D)

– Representative Angelica Rubio has been in service since 2017. She was born and raised in rural New Mexico and earned her undergraduate degree in government from New Mexico State University. In the past, Rubio worked in Las Cruces on issues like

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

minimum wage. She is the Vice Chair of the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee. Rubio holds memberships in the House Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources Committee, the Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee, and the Water & Natural Resources Committee.

DISTRICT 36

Nathan P. Small (D)

– Nathan Small is a third-generation New Mexican who grew up in El Cerro Mission and comes from a family of teachers and ranchers. Elected to the Las Cruces City Council in 2007, he led the effort to create the City of Las Cruces Sustainability Officer position, focusing on economic development and care for existing neighborhoods. Since 2016, Small has served Las Cruces in the State Legislature. As Chair of the House Appropriations & Finance Committee, Small is focused on ensuring that our state budget reflects the values of working families.

Julia E. Ruiz (R)

– Julia Ruiz was born in Delicias, Chihuahua. She was raised on a ranch in Lybrook, New Mexico, and later settled in Artesia. She moved to Doña Ana County in 1993 as a young mother. In 2018, she proudly became a U.S. citizen – a milestone that she says deepened her commitment to community and public service. Ruiz envisions a New Mexico where parents have a voice and businesses are valued.

DISTRICT 37

Matilda McCarthy Villalobos (D)

– Matilda "Tilli" McCarthy Villalobos is a seasoned attorney with nearly a decade of experience as a prosecutor in both state and federal courts. She is dedicated to defending the rights of individuals and seeking justice for victims. McCarthy Villalobos is actively involved in the Las Cruces community. She is a member and former president of the Junior League of Las Cruces, former Board Chair of the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, and former member of the Doña Ana County Health & Human Services Alliance.

Lori A. Martinez (D)

– Lori Martinez has been the executive director of Ngage New Mexico since March 2018. Before joining Ngage, she worked at NMSU for nine years, overseeing the Social Services program and the Aggie Cupboard food pantry. Martinez previously worked in early intervention, providing family therapy and social work services. After working for years in Doña Ana County, Martinez became familiar with many of the challenges the county faces. She has work experience with early childhood, individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health counseling, case management, program development, hunger/food insecurity, and inpatient psychiatric services.

Isabella Solis (R)

– Isabella Solis is the former Doña Ana County Commissioner. Solis is the daughter of migrant workers and the oldest of eight children. Her parents taught her the value of hard work and instilled in her a determination to be of service to her community. Before serving on the Doña Ana County Commission, where she placed a strong focus on serving her constituents and securing funding for roads and



DISTRICT 52

Doreen Ybarra Gallegos (D)

– Doreen Ybarra Gallegos has served as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives since 2013 and is the current Chair of the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee. Gallegos is also the executive director of Mesilla Valley CASA, a program that advocates for foster children. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from New Mexico State University. In her time in office, she has held several leadership positions, including Democratic Whip and Acting Democratic Floor Leader. Gallegos is focused on small businesses, education, healthcare, and democracy.

DISTRICT 53

Sarah Angelina Silva (D)

– Sarah Silva was born in Vado, New Mexico and raised in the Mesilla Valley. She grew up in a farming community that instilled in her the values of honesty, integrity, hard work, and optimism. As a University of San Francisco graduate, Silva won the Pedro Arrupe Award, which is given for the promotion of justice and desire to seek the greatest good. Since moving back to New Mexico in 2009, Silva has worked tirelessly alongside others to hold big banks accountable, protect more than 200 families from foreclosure in southern New Mexico, raise the minimum wage in Las Cruces, designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks as a national monument, support young immigrants applying for legal status through DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and incorporate Anthony, New Mexico as a city.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, DIVISION 4

Isabel D. Jerabek (D)

– Isabel D. Jerabek is a Las Cruces High School and New Mexico State University graduate. She has called Doña Ana County home since childhood and returned after law school, committed to serving the community where she grew up. She has practiced family law in Doña Ana County for 20 years and has served as a domestic relations hearing officer for the Third Judicial District for the past 16 years.

Dania R. Gardea (D)

– Dania R. Gardea, a private attorney who practices family law, has worked as a state and federal public defender and serves on the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel – a group of court-approved attorneys appointed to represent individuals in federal criminal cases who are financially unable to retain counsel. Gardea has worked for the Las Cruces Public Defender's Office and the Federal Public Defender's Office.





MAGISTRATE JUDGE

MAGISTRATE COURT, DIVISION 1

Nathan William Graff (D)

– Nathan William Graff received his juris doctor (J.D.) from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2019. He has been practicing criminal law, family law, and personal injury law with Roberta Yurcic Legal Services, LLC since 2019.

MAGISTRATE COURT, DIVISION 2

Linda L. Flores (D)

– Linda L. Flores is a judge for the Doña Ana County Magistrate Court, where she was elected in 2022. Flores began to practice law in New Mexico in 1997 and in Texas in 2001. She has specialized in criminal and DWI matters.

MAGISTRATE COURT, DIVISION 3

Rosenda Maria Chavez-Lara (D)

– Rosenda Chavez-Lara has worked in Doña Ana County since 2015 and is the current Division III Magistrate Court Judge. During this time, she has worked with vulnerable New Mexicans in both civil and criminal cases, represented children in abuse and neglect matters, and protected the rights of individuals in adult guardianship cases. Since taking office, she has worked at the Las Cruces and Anthony courthouses, closing over 4,000 cases involving both civil and criminal matters. Chavez-Lara has also hosted legal clinics throughout the county and met with young students to engage them in the judicial system.

MAGISTRATE COURT, DIVISION 5

Chrystian Julian Gonzalez (D)

– Chrystian J. Gonzalez is an experienced attorney, public servant, and U.S. Air Force veteran dedicated to fairness, accessibility, and integrity in the justice system. With a background spanning criminal prosecution, family and civil litigation, and his current work as a Children’s Court attorney, he brings a balanced and practical perspective to the bench. Fluent in both English and Spanish and deeply involved in community service, Gonzalez is committed to ensuring that every person who enters the courtroom is treated with respect, heard fully, and given a clear and fair path through the legal process.

MAGISTRATE COURT, DIVISION 6

Jannette Alicia Mondragón (D)

– Jannette Mondragón is a graduate of New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico School of Law. She was appointed as Magistrate Judge in 2024. Mondragón provided legal representation in child support matters on behalf of the State of New Mexico. Previously, she was a staff attorney for the New Mexico Immigration Law Center and served as a senior trial attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT 1

Daisy Ann Maldonado (D)

– Daisy Ann Maldonado moved to Las Cruces in 2003 and is an experienced educator and advocate. She has 15 years of experience working with nonprofit and educational organizations, serving as a front-line advocate and leading community engagement initiatives. Her campaign focuses on environmental justice, ethical governance, public health protections, and greater community participation in economic development decisions.

Angela Rowe Garcia (D)

– Angela Garcia is passionate about change in her community and fighting for women and children. Garcia is the owner and CEO of The Toy Box Early Learning Child Care Centers, where she leads a team of over 70 women and serves more than 300 children. Garcia’s work is deeply rooted in her own lived experience. Raised by two determined parents, she saw firsthand how hard life can be for working families. Determined to rewrite that narrative, Garcia not only built successful learning centers, but also created a platform for advocacy and reform – launching her own movement to elevate the voices of educators, women, and families often left out of policy decisions.

Samantha R. Barncastle Salopek (R)

– Samantha Barncastle Salopek received her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and worked for firms specifically focused on water issues in Las Cruces. She started her own practice in 2014 and now helps farmers, ranchers, and local businesses fight for their water and property rights. Additionally, Barncastle Salopek has expanded her law practice to aid New Mexican families with children experiencing medical challenges, free of charge.

DISTRICT 3

Willie D. Madrid (D)

– Former State Representative Willie Madrid entered politics after working as an instructional assistant and football coach in the Gadsden Independent School District. In the 2018 election, he defeated incumbent Rick Little (R). Madrid took office in 2019 and served until 2024.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Vanessa Ordoñez (D)

– Vanessa Ordoñez was raised in Las Cruces by hardworking Mexican American parents. At a young age, she was taught values of perseverance, humility, and discipline. With over 20 years of combined military and police experience, she leads with courage, discipline, and compassion. Under Ordoñez’s leadership as the Chief of Police, Anthony was named the #1 safest city to live in New Mexico – a recognition she saw as a reflection of the trust and collaboration between police officers and the community.

Rafael Reyes Jr. (D)

– Rafael Reyes Jr. has over 25 years of high-level operational experience in Doña Ana County. In his career, he has successfully partnered with local, state, and federal law enforcement to coordinate complex operations. Reyes has extensive experience reviewing misconduct and ensuring officers adhere to strict standards of conduct.

James A. Fietze (D)

– James Fietze’s 25-year career in law enforcement began when he graduated from the New Mexico State Police 55th Recruit Academy in 1994. Throughout the years, he was promoted to the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant and earned an Executive Police Officer Certification from the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy. If elected, Fietze has the following goals: implementing mental health and de-escalation training, continuing to advance overall education/training, creating youth outreach programs, re-establishing the narcotics K-9 Unit, networking with other law enforcement agencies and civilian organizations, and increasing direct community contact.

Jon R. Day (D)

– Jon R. Day is a retired law enforcement professional with 22 years of service dedicated to protecting the community and upholding the highest standards of public safety. Throughout his career, he built a reputation of professionalism, integrity, and strong leadership. Day is committed to restoring trust, strengthening accountability, and keeping Doña Ana County safe through transparency, communication, and visible leadership.

Eugene Charles Alvarez (D)

– Eugene “Gene” Alvarez is a retired police officer who served 19 years with the New Mexico State Police Department.

Early Voting: May 5, 2026 Election Day: June 2, 2026



Jaime Quezada (R)

– Jaime Quezada has worked in law enforcement since 1996. For the majority of his career, he was a criminal investigator for state and federal investigations as a task force officer, working with the FBI, ATF, DEA, USMS and other federal entities. After 22 years, he retired as a police supervisor and was offered the opportunity of being appointed as the undersheriff for the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office.

Byron N. Hollister (R) – Byron N.

Hollister is a former U.S. Marshal who previously ran for Doña Ana County Sheriff in 2022. His legislative goals are to fight back on drug/human trafficking, grow communication and trust with citizens, boost department morale, and increase resources for a safer community.

Todd J. Garrison (R) – Todd Garrison,

who was sheriff from 2005 to 2014, is a Doña Ana County native and law-and-order Republican. He's pro-Second Amendment and believes in a top-down approach to management.

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Ruben Ramon Reyes (D)

– Ruben Reyes is retired from the Doña Ana County Assessor's Office. He previously ran for County Assessor in 2022.

Eugenia Montoya Ortega (D)

– Eugenia "Gina" Montoya Ortega was elected County Assessor in November 2022. She has also previously ran for Mayor of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County Treasurer.

COUNTY TREASURER

Shannon Dale Reynolds (D)

– Shannon Dale Reynolds previously held the position of County Commissioner, District III for seven years, where he emphasized accountability, critical thinking, and informed questioning. Reynolds also worked a desk job in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. As a commissioner, Reynolds chaired the Spaceport America Regional Spaceport Tax District Board and chaired the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority Board.

PROBATE JUDGE

Judith Ann Baca (D)

– Judge Judith Ann Baca was first elected in November 2022. The Doña Ana County Probate Judge decides legal matters related to estates of deceased persons. Probate cases may be opened for decedents with or without a will. Baca was born, raised, and educated in Las Cruces and is a long-time court advocate. She has more than 40 years of experience of various capacities in the legal field – specifically in the district court system and with public safety.



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Indivisible *Las Cruces* rallies for change

By Riley Robertson

Indivisible Las Cruces is part of a national grassroots movement that provides resources and training to local organizers in an effort to “stop the rise of authoritarianism in the United States and to build a real democracy that works for all of us.” Whether seen protesting on local streetcorners, holding banners above I-25, or simply inviting folks to join them in solidarity, ILC is continuing to grow its presence in the Borderland.

Pam Hett, President of Indivisible Las Cruces, explained that the Las Cruces chapter is a “community collaboration” focused on three key objectives.

“Number one, anything we can do to throw a monkey wrench in all of Donald Trump’s escapades,” Hett began. “The second thing is to build a broad progressive coalition of organizations ... you can always find some type of common ground. And then the third thing is, everything we

can do for getting people out to vote in the midterms.”

Sheri Reinhart, Indivisible Las Cruces’ Communications Director and Vice President, noted that it can almost feel inevitable to fall into the mindset that one’s individual efforts to combat extremism don’t make a difference. However, this fear emphasizes the need for community members to lean on each other and fight for one another’s freedoms.

“We all have our moments where we say ... ‘we’re doing all this stuff – does it really matter?’” Reinhart said. “But I’ll tell you what does matter, is when people are as unhappy as they are right now about how things are going in our country and what they’re seeing.”

Hett said she discovered Indivisible after Trump was reelected as president. Through some research and outreach, she learned the original Indivisible Las Cruces group had become inactive, so she decided to

revive it.

“It was like, I can’t stick my head in the sand,” Hett said. “This is too important.”

Reinhart marched for women’s rights and LGBTQ+ rights in the 80s, but was inspired to reengage with protesting after George Floyd was murdered in 2020. She attended her first “No Kings” rally in Las Cruces last April and gradually got more involved with the local Indivisible chapter. Reinhart mentioned that she’s connected with a variety of people – many who protested during pivotal moments in U.S. history, such as the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War – who have said they’ve “never seen anything like this in our country.”

She said she’s always been a champion for women’s rights, especially as someone who worked in corporate America for decades. Reinhart reflected on the “dark day” she experienced when *Roe v. Wade*



was overturned, asking herself, “will we ever get it back?”

“I mean, this isn’t the way our democracy operates,” Reinhart said. “And again, we’re not perfect. We’ve never been perfect, and politicians do bad shit all the time, but we at least felt that there were checks and balances and ... lines that did not get crossed – now, there are no lines. That’s how I look at it ... And now I feel like I’m living in an alternate universe where the people who are in power are just taking us back ... like [we’re] refighting the same fights all over again.”

Along with organizing “No Kings” protests, ILC hosts a variety of meetings, project-based groups, education nights, and more. General membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at First Christian Church, where all are welcome as long as peaceful discussion and nonviolence are maintained. Additionally, Indivisible Las Cruces holds a weekly “Banner Brigade” rally every Thursday across various locations, where attendees hold a banner with a clear message for passing drivers to see.

Reinhart also mentioned the organization’s desire to expand across generations. Not only does Indivisible Las Cruces want a younger member to join their steering committee and provide a unique perspective, but overall, they hope to encourage young people to engage with the current political climate, develop opinions, and make their voices heard.

“We have a lot of older people [in

Indivisible Las Cruces], and we’re really looking to try to reach out to youth and try to get them, not even necessarily to join our organization, but just to get them more involved in what’s going on,” she said.

Reinhart emphasized that the group welcomes peaceful debate and conversation with those who have opposing views. Hett provided insight on how to bridge some division between political parties by attempting to find common ground.

“Bring it down to that specific level and say, ‘okay, I don’t agree with you on x, y and z, but could we work on this issue so that it helps you, and then you’ll see that we’re not the bad guys?’” Hett said.

Reinhart expressed that ILC is happy to support and collaborate with other local political groups, especially those who may have younger members or fewer tools available to them. She noted that anyone is invited to attend their meetings and ask for what they need, including resources, volunteers, or financial support.

Hett reiterated that Indivisible Las Cruces does not endorse any political candidates, but does allow registered candidates opportunities to give a short presentation on their campaign at general chapter meetings. Ultimately, the group aims to provide community members with more access to make informed decisions and get involved with issues that matter to them.

“In my mind, the number one thing that Indivisible gives people is opportunities ... for like-minded

people to come together and feel like they’re not alone,” Reinhart said. “If they’re frustrated and sad and unhappy about what’s going on in the world ... they need a place. That’s why the ‘No Kings’ [movement] has been so big.”

As ILC’s website states, “when neighbors come together peacefully and persistently, we can amplify our voices and drive meaningful change.” For more about Indivisible Las Cruces and information on how to get involved, visit indivisiblecnm.org.

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Springtime Cocktails

By **Melissa Martinez Jones**
Mixologist, Hacienda de Mesilla



Passion Fruit French 76

1 oz vodka
 ½ oz fresh lemon juice
 ½ oz passion fruit syrup
 Prosecco

In a shaker with ice, add all ingredients except Prosecco and shake vigorously for 10-15 seconds. Strain into a flute or coupe glass and top with Prosecco. Add a lemon twist for garnish.

Raspberry Mojito

2 oz light rum
 5-6 mint leaves
 4-5 raspberries
 ½ oz simple syrup
 1 oz fresh lime juice
 Soda water

In a shaker, add raspberries, mint, and simple syrup. Muddle ingredients to release the mint oils and raspberry flavors. Add lime juice, rum, and ice to a shaker. Shake well and strain into a highball glass. Add ice and top with soda water. Garnish with a few mint leaves and raspberries.

Spicy Mango Margarita

1 ½ oz reposado tequila
 ½ oz Grand Marnier
 ½ oz agave
 2 jalapeño slices
 5 chunks of mango
 2 oz fresh lime juice
 Tajín seasoning

Rim your margarita glass with lime, then Tajín. In a shaker, add jalapeño, mango, and agave. Next, add lime juice, tequila & Grand Marnier. Shake well and strain into the rimmed glass with ice. Garnish with a lime wheel, jalapeño slice, and few slices of mango.

Coconut Breeze

1 oz coconut rum
 ½ oz spiced rum
 ½ oz fresh lemon juice
 1 oz pineapple juice
 1 oz orange juice
 ½ oz coconut syrup or puree

Add ice and all ingredients to a shaker. Shake well and strain into a highball glass with ice. Garnish with a pineapple wedge and maraschino cherry.



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