



NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Doña Ana County Historical Society

New Mexico-Arizona History Conference Comes to Las Cruces

The Doña Ana County Historical Society will play host for the New Mexico-Arizona 2025 History Conference, from September 25-27 at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

Presented by the Historical Society of New Mexico and the Arizona History Convention, the conference brings together professional, freelance, and amateur historians in a rich tapestry of presentations and discussions. Sessions focus on related topics, with an opening plenary session highlighting aspects of regional interest.

Publishers, local historical societies, and book vendors will enhance the event and the conference also includes tours and visits of local historical sites as part of the schedule.

“DACHS is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this year’s joint New Mexico-Arizona History Conference, and we’re fortunate to host the

conference in Las Cruces this year,” said DACHS president Dennis Daily. “Southern New Mexico, especially, has a lot of shared history with Arizona. Anyone interested in the history and cultural heritage of our region will find plenty of engaging presentations at this event.”

Daily added at least eight DACHS members will be giving presentations at the conference, so “southern New Mexico history should be amply represented.”

DACHS **does need volunteers** to help in various roles at the conference – contact Dennis Daily at ddaily@nmsu.edu

See the complete program and special “conference edition” of the society’s newsletter *Noticias Historicas*, for additional updates and details.

<https://hsnm.org/history-conference/>

Thursday, September 25

- 1:00 pm Doors open for registration
- 5:00 pm Plenary session/assembly
- 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Opening reception

Friday, September 26

8:30 am to 10:00 am

- 1775: A Revolutionary Year in the Southwest
- Native Americans/Indigenous Identities
- The U.S. Army in Southwestern New Mexico, 1851-1885
- Building Community through Local Publications
- On Writing Southwest History: Frances Levine, Gina Talley, and Jules Nyquist

10:30 to noon

- The Border/La Frontera
- Artistic Visions in the Southwest
- They Came Here: Conversos, Jewish Merchants, Spiritualists
- Buffalo Soldiers, the Great War, and Border Troubles
- Historical of Society of New Mexico Grant Highlights

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

- Trade in the Spanish- and Mexican-era Borderlands
- Publishing Southwest History
- Architecture and Historic Preservation

- Notable Personalities: Eva Blanchard, Russell Wade and Sam Pick
- Women’s Work

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

- Atomic Women: Los Alamos Historical Society Archival Stories
- What Made Tombstone ‘The Town Too Tough to Die?’
- *Murales Fronterizos*: Public Art of Las Cruces, El Paso and Juarez
- Vernon Glover: New Mexico’s Premier Railroad Historian
- Perspectives and Reflections on Japanese American Internment in New Mexico

Saturday, September 27

8:30 am to 10:00 am

- When We Were Mexicans
- Rafting, Riding and Ribbies: The Sporting Spirit
- Museum Stories: Bringing Our Past into the Future
- The Southwest in the 1930s and 1940s
- Toward a More Perfect Union

10:30 am to noon

- In Search of Well-being: Medicine and Health in the Southwest
- New Chapters in the Lives of Old West Characters
- Revising New Mexico History Textbooks
- (Re)presenting the Communities of Otero County
- Crossroads in the Desert: Of Rails and Routes

***Land of the People* exhibit at Branigan Runs from September 6, 2025 to May 31, 2027**

Branigan Cultural Center is celebrating the opening of its ambitious new *Land of the People* exhibit that tells the story of six Indigenous groups with historic roots and contemporary involvement in our Borderland region: Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Pueblo of Tortugas, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Chiricahua Apache Nation, and Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico.

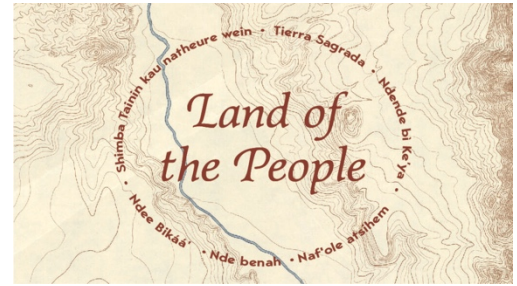
According to a city of Las Cruces news release, each group will present information about their traditions and current lifeways, through their own words and perspectives.

A collaborative, introductory space explores principal themes shared by all six groups, including origin stories, movement and homelands, relationship to and stewardship of the land and natural resources, and cultural practices including foodways, family connections, ceremonies, and traditions.

A secondary gallery changes every 12 weeks which allows each Indigenous group to go deeper into their own unique stories, traditions, and perspectives. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is first on the schedule, followed in December by the Tortugas Pueblo.

- September 6 – November 29, 2025: Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- December 20, 2025 – March 14, 2026: Tortugas Pueblo
- April 4 – June 27, 2026: Mescalero Apache Tribe
- July 18 – October 10, 2026: Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe
- November 7, 2026 – January 30, 2027: Chiricahua Apache Nation
- February 20 – May 15, 2027: Gila Apache

See lascruces.gov/museums for additional details.



Apache Leader the Focus of First DACHS Talk

Doña Ana County Historical Society's monthly speaker series begins Thursday September 18 with noted Borderland historian Jeffrey P. Shepherd, who will discuss Mescalero Apache leader Wendell Chino. The talk begins at 7 p.m. at Las Cruces Village's Social Center at 3011 Buena Vista Circle (previously known as the downstairs auditorium of Good Samaritan Village).

Shepherd's presentation, "Wendell Chino, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and Native Self-Determination in Post-War America," focuses on Chino, who was the president of the Mescalero Apache tribe for more than 40 years. In addition, he was Chairman of the New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs, led the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairman's Association, and was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the National Council on Indian Opportunity.

In these roles, Chino fought for the rights of the Mescalero, but he also advocated for self-determination and sovereignty for all tribal nations. This talk focuses on the period between 1965 and 1980, during the pinnacle of Indigenous activism in the U.S.

Jeffrey P. Shepherd is a Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso. His work focuses on borderlands, Indigenous, environmental, and public history, as well as the history of extremist movements. He is the author of *We Are an Indian Nation: A History of the Hualapai People* and *The Guadalupe Mountains National Park: An Environmental History of the Southwest Borderlands*. He is the co-editor of *Gathering Together, We Decide: Archives of Dispossession, Resistance, and Memory in Ndé Homelands* and he is the co-editor of the series, *Critical Issues in Indigenous Studies*.

Shepherd holds a contract with the National Park Service, and he is a consultant on the *Land Of The People* exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center, which focuses on the Indigenous people of the Borderlands (see above).

Two Great Exhibits Continue at Branigan

Deeply Rooted: Stories from Stahmann Farms features the stories and memories of families who lived on the farm and played important roles in making Stahmann Farms the biggest pecan orchard in New Mexico.

Open Through
**October
4**



Between 1950-1990, Stahmann Farms was a self-sustaining company and community of eleven ranchos that included worker housing, a company store and gas station, and health clinic.

The exhibit features stories of the workers who lived and worked on the farms, and includes oral histories, family photographs, and personal items that present an intimate story of the experiences of the men, women, and children who made Stahmann Farms their home.

The exhibit was curated by Dr. Blanca Araujo, who lived at Stahmann's through most of her childhood and has been instrumental in an effort that has collected the oral histories of many of these Stahmann Farms workers and families. Dr. Araujo is currently the Director of the Teacher Education Program at New Mexico State University.

You can also catch the traveling exhibit *I AM A MAN: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1970*, which displays a wide range of photographs taken in the heat of the civil rights movement, by activists, local news photographers, and internationally known photographers who documented history taking place before their eyes.

Open Through
**October
20**



The photographs in the exhibit provide a vivid visual story of the evolution of the civil rights movement and shed light on the movement's integration in the daily living in the American South.

The exhibit was curated by William Reynold Ferris, a professor of Southern culture and history, through the program ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Greetings from the city's new Historic Preservation Specialist



I'm Caitlin Beesley, the newly-arrived historic preservation specialist with the City of Las Cruces. Until we can meet in person, please accept an abbreviated accounting of my personal and professional histories.

I grew up in Idaho, born and raised along the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, a place known as *simiinekem* to the *Nimiipuu*, who have lived there since time immemorial. My childhood was spent sharing in local history and traveling to historic sites. My love of history was inevitable, the power of place undeniable - so I settled on architecture and history as disciplines in college.

Following graduation, I worked within the National Park Service system, including at New Mexico's Bandelier and the Santa Fe regional office. My duties encompassed office and fieldwork - but I particularly enjoyed interacting with visitors. In 2024, I earned my Master's in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon and arrived in Las Cruces earlier this year. New Mexico, north and south, truly is the land of enchantment for me, and I'm so grateful to be back.

Preservation at the local level is dynamic and comes with its own unique opportunities, but more important to me is the possibility for public engagement. Seasoned professionals, lifelong locals, and uninitiated new-comers can leave a lasting impact on this community through the preservation of place and the telling of stories - your stories. I look forward to hearing them and working with you all in the future.

**Historic Preservation
Meet & Greet**

with Caitlin Beesley

Friday, September 19, 2025

Hosted by *Nopalito's Galeria*

September 13: El Camino Real “Placita” at Nopalito’s

A Still Small Voice will present Dr. Paul Deason of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association in a discussion about the Camino Real and its historic path through New Mexico, Saturday September 13 from 10 am to 11 am at Nopalito’s Restaurant and Galeria, 326 N. Mesquite Street.

Between the 1500s and the 1800s, El Camino Real de Tierra Endentro served as the main road and trade link between Mexico City and the northern Santa Fe region. Numerous historic sites exist along the trail – thanks in part to the work of the trail association, you can even walk a portion of it yourself within the National Park Service’s Jornada del Muerto Trail, which begins near the ghost town of Upham.

Deason has a long and extensive academic and professional resume. After a 30-year career with the Department of Defense, Deason has pursued history, among other interests, serving on the boards of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, the Doña Ana Archeology Society and the City of Las Cruces Historic Preservation Commission.



**Parade Grounds of Dreams
At Fort Selden Historic Site**
Saturday
September 20, 2025
10 am to noon

With the fall time classic looming around the corner, join Ranger Mike as he talks about America’s pastime, baseball. Soldiers at Fort Selden even took part, on special occasions, playing a game on the parade grounds. This was a common form of recreation for soldiers stationed out west in the latter part of the 1800s.

What goes better with baseball than a hotdog? Ranger Mike will also be firing up the firepit and grilling hot dogs for visitors. Cooking outdoors is contingent on weather and fire restrictions.

Admission \$5/adult. Free for children 16 and under. Please call 575-526-8911 for more information. NM I-25, Exit 19, Radium Springs – Follow the signs.

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