

santa fean

now

Native influences

silversmith Ray Van Cleve's jewelry
and the
Native Treasures Collectors' Sale

+ this week's

top nightlife

and **entertainment**

picks



The Bonsai Asian Tacos

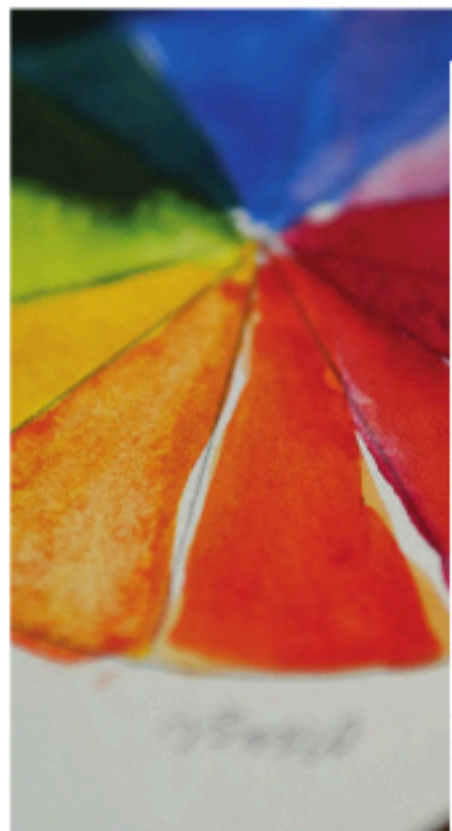
Chef Juan Carlos Ruvalcaba, who earned his chops working in fine dining at both Bouche French Bistro and Terra at Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe, has found a niche with the unique Asian-fusion street food he's now offering from his food truck, The Bonsai Asian Tacos. "When I had a chance to get my food truck [in December 2014], I wanted to do something different from the rest of the Mexican food trucks," Ruvalcaba says. He and his wife Carmen, who run the business together, were inspired by the popular California spicy Korean and sweet Chinese foods that Carmen's sister introduced them to some years ago. The Extreme Tacos seen here are made with pork belly, green onion, cabbage, cucumbers, carrots, and peppers on soft corn tortillas. The menu changes with the seasons to include fresh and available ingredients, the chef says, but there are always vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options. The truck will be moving from Cerrillos Road to West Alameda by the end of October to be closer to the Plaza. —Cristina Olds

The Bonsai Asian Tacos, 3668 Cerrillos, 505-316-9418

Mary Ray Cate

creating advent calendars from the heart

Artist and family-medicine doctor Mary Ray Cate designs nonreligious advent calendars featuring a variety of original watercolor paintings and inspirational and educational quotations and discussion questions. "Families can answer introspective questions together, from 'what's your favorite season' to 'what are your core values and how have you had to defend them,'" Cate says. The popular calendars can be found locally at The Shop: A Christmas Store; Susan's Christmas Shop; and the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian; as well as online on Cate's website. Profits from the sale of her calendars, cards, and prints fund causes near to Cate's heart, including the environment, people in need, and international peace. The artist has walked hundreds of miles in France and Japan, painting daily with a miniature watercolor kit. She compiled the artwork and haiku poems from her Japan journals into a 140-page book, *Seeing in Detail*.—Cristina Olds
Mary Ray Cate, sunlit-art.com





New Mexico Gunfighters Association

a rip-roaring visit to the Old West

Lest we forget that we live in the wild, wild, West—a place once teeming with cowboys, saloon girls, and shoot-outs—the New Mexico Gunfighters Association (NMGA) is here to remind us.

The group performs regularly at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, but also travels the state for festivals and private events. This summer they've performed in Tucumcari, Cimarron, Santa Rosa, Estancia, Galisteo, and Belen, and have even had shoot-outs in Tombstone, Arizona.

"The shoot-outs are the crowd favorites," says James Blackburn, NMGA president. "We get a lot of laughs at our shows, but the audience is waiting for the shoot-out—it's exciting, with lots of banging and gunsmoke flying about."

The players blast away with .22-, 44-, and .45-caliber handguns, plus rifles and a double-barreled shotgun—all loaded with blanks. When fired, blanks expel gas and a plug that can bruise or even kill at close range, so the players present a gun safety skit at the beginning of each show.

Because they dress in period-accurate wardrobe and are experienced with gun safety, many members of the group have been hired in New Mexico to work as extras in movies and television, including in the miniseries *Into the West* and a 2016 remake of the film *The Magnificent Seven*.

The actors perform around 25 different original shows, and Blackburn and other members are writing new dramas for 2016. "Our gunfighters love history, and we look at the shows as education through entertainment," says Blackburn, who is also a photographer, a filmmaker, and a composer. "All [shows have] Old West themes, many loosely based on real events, and are lighthearted comedies." Historical characters the actors portray include Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett (who shot Billy the Kid), Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, "Wild Bill" Hickok, and Frank and Jesse James.

The troupe of 10–15 Western reenactors, about half of whom are professional actors, performs free action-packed skits at Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza every second and fourth Sunday through October. Since they started in 1979, the gunfighters have had more than 140 members and performed more than 1,000 shows.—*Cristina Olds*

newmexicogunfighters.com



COURTESY OF NMGA

J.P. Garrett is the grandson of Pat Garrett, the man who killed Billy the Kid.



Shawn Ortega (on his horse Leroy), J.P. Garrett, Karen Cricket Thompson, James Blackburn, Daniel Griego, Sabrina Otero, Earl Watters, Star Garrett, Tracey Watters, and Michael Jasper at the Bonanza Creek Ranch movie set.