



Spotlight

Scene Spotlight highlights events advertised in this issue.

Shen Yun — The celebration of five millennia of traditional Chinese culture through music and dance is **March 3-4** at The Plaza Theatre. **Pages 2 and 3.**

El Paso Live! — El Paso Live events: **Page 2.**

- **March 2:** Dancing With the Stars Live! at the Abraham Chavez Theatre
 - **March 11-12:** Dirty Dancing the Musical at the Plaza Theatre
 - **March 18:** Acoustic evening with Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, Plaza Theatre
 - **March 20:** Disney Junior Dance Party On Tour, Abraham Chavez Theatre
- The 2018 Sun City Craft Beer Festival is **April 21-22**, Convention Center.

Home and Garden Show — The 18th annual Homed and Garden Show is **March 9-11** at El Paso Convention Center with celebrity guest Matt Blashaw, star of DIY Network's "Yard Crashers." **Page 13.**

El Paso Artists Studio Tour — Deadline for artists wishing to participate is **March 12** for the 2018 tour of El Paso area artist studios and galleries are **April 14-15** on the Eastside, Northeast, Downtown, Central and Mission Valley, and **April 21-22** on the Westside and Upper Valley. **Page 26.**

Tramway Celebration — Wyler Aerial Tramway hosts its 16th anniversary celebration **March 18.** **Page 25.**

Sunland Derby — The annual running of the Sunland Park Derby is **March 25** at Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino events. **Page 8.**

Crossland Gallery — Showing **March 2-31** at El Paso Art Association's gallery is "Declassified" EPCC Student Art Show. Opening reception is **March 2.** **Page 267.**

Artist entries for the exhibit "On The Menu" being accepted **through March 28.**

Spring Art classes are Saturdays starting March 17.

Magoffin Home State Historic Site **January events: Page 20.**

- **March 3:** Cooking Class (Boston Brown Bread)
- **March 10 and 24:** Yoga with Rebecca Hendricks
- **March 17:** Victorian Sci-Fi Book and Tea Club
- **March 31:** Fencing, free hands-on demonstration

UTEP Softball — UTEP Softball home games are at Helen of Troy Field versus UAB (**March 17-18**) and UTSA (**March 30-31**) **Page 16.**

El Paso Psychic Fair — Twelve of more professional psychics and other intuitive readers will be available **March 24-25** at Hawthorn Inn. **Pages 10 and 23.**

Super Easter Egg Hunt — The 17th annual egg hunt and spring bash is **March 31** at Francisco Delgado Park, hosted by Westside Community Church. **Page 11.**

Go Fly a Kite — The 17th annual kite-flying contest is **March 31** at Francisco Delgado Park, hosted by Westside Community Church. **Page 21.**

Groovin' Loretto Throwback Dance — The fundraising dance for Loretto Academy Challenge Program is **April 7** at the Loretto Gym with music by Fungi Mungle. **Page 5.**

Run Together 5K — Rio Grande Cancer Foundation's 5K run for "all the colors of cancer" is **April 8** at Cohen Stadium. **Page 9.**

Krystyna Robbins workshop — The El Paso artist's spring oils and acrylics workshop is **April 10-12** at her Upper Valley home studio and gardens. **Page 7.**

Hal Marcus Gallery — The gallery features works by El Paso's Jose Cisneros, Bill Rakocy, Manuel Acosta and Tom Lea **through April 13.** Opening **April 26** is "4 Amigos." **Page 2.**

The gallery will take place in the El Paso Artists Studio Tour **April 14-15**, and the KCOS Arts Auction **April 21-22 and 28-29.**

'Love from a Stranger' — El Paso Playhouse present the Agatha Christie play **April 20-May 12.** **Page 17.**

Career Day Fair — El Paso Chapter of The Links, Inc. hosts the career day fair **April 21** at El Paso Community College's Administrative Service Center. **Page 25.**

Southern New Mexico

Flickinger Center for Performing Arts events. Page 18.

- **March 9:** BYU Theater Ballet
- **March 23:** Ventriloquist Kevin Johnson
- **April 7:** Selena Tribute with Karla Perez

Las Cruces Arts Fair — The annual arts fair is **March 16-18** at Las Cruces Convention Center, hosted by Doña Ana Arts Council. **Page 35.**

Cowboy Days — The annual celebration of cowboy culture is **March 3-4** at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, with a concert by Josh Grider on **March 3.** **Page 2.**

'What's Your Las Cruces?' — Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces presents the interactive exhibit **through March 17.** Area residents are invited to share their own stories, photos and more. **Page 5.**

Branigan Cultural Center submissions — Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces seeks submissions **through April 7** for solo and group exhibits with themes relating to the Southwest. **Page 21.**

Fountain Theatre — Mesilla Valley Film Society's theatre on the Plaza in historic Old Mesilla show independent, art, foreign and other non-mainstream films. **Page 31.**

Like most Westsiders, I have been moaning and groaning about the I-10 construction project for the past three years. We've dealt with countless lane closings, detours, sometimes complete freeway closures, etc. As soon as one bottleneck opens up, another one is created. To add to the chaos, the Border West Expressway project has been going on at the same time, often shutting down alternate routes to downtown.

So we wanted to find out what all this inconvenience was really leading up. Lisa Tate's feature story this month focuses on all the improvements that are known as the GO 10 project will bring to the West Side, along with the Border West Expressway.

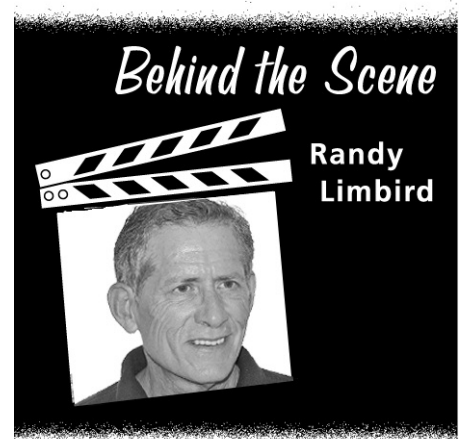
If the finished product is anything like what TxDOT officials are telling us, we won't be disappointed.

By the time everything is completed, the West Side will have more than twice the freeway capacity than it had before. That's such a dramatic increase that traffic jams on the West Side may become a distant memory. Of course, at the same time the improved highway system also may spur further retail and residential growth, so traffic is bound to increase.

Unfortunately, the worst is yet to come before this shiny new day dawns on the West Side.

Beginning this spring will be a series of projects involving the Sunland Park Drive interchange on I-10 that will go on through the fall. The demolition of the old "flyover ramp" will require two excruciatingly long weekend closures (probably around May) in which not only will the entire freeway be closed, but so will be the Sunland Park Drive bridge crossing I-10. The closures are expected to last from Friday night to Monday morning. This will wreak havoc on Sunland Park Mall and surrounding merchants.

But it gets worse! From June through early to mid-fall, traffic going across the Sunland Park Drive bridge over I-10 will be reduced to one lane in each direction as they extend the main section of the



bridge to cover the expanded freeway lanes. That means months of traffic tie-ups.

The good news is the overall GO 10 project is running ahead of schedule and most of it will be finished by Thanksgiving, according to TxDOT El Paso District engineer Bob Bielek. That will be the best Christmas present ever for Westsiders.

By the way, we encourage everyone to sign up for the construction updates — see the information listed under "Staying in touch" on Pages 20-21.

I also recommend that everyone go to go10elpaso.com/en/newsroom/video.html and watch a very realistic graphic representation of what the new, improved freeway system will look like and how it will change traffic flow along the West Side. While you're at it, you should also watch the corresponding "flyover video" at borderwestexpressway.com, which shows how the Border Highway (Loop 375) is being expanded from Downtown El Paso to the West Side, and how it will provide the equivalent of a parallel freeway.

Myrna Zanetell in her Gallery Talk on Page 25 pays tribute to artist John Houser, who died in January at age 82.

I had the opportunity to meet with John many times, particularly when we were putting together a booklet on the creation of the Fray Garcia monument. I hope his son Ethan carries forward the vision for the XII Travelers project.

March 2018

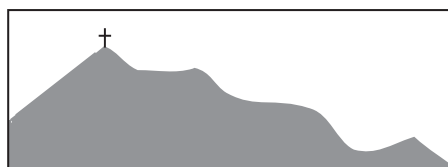
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