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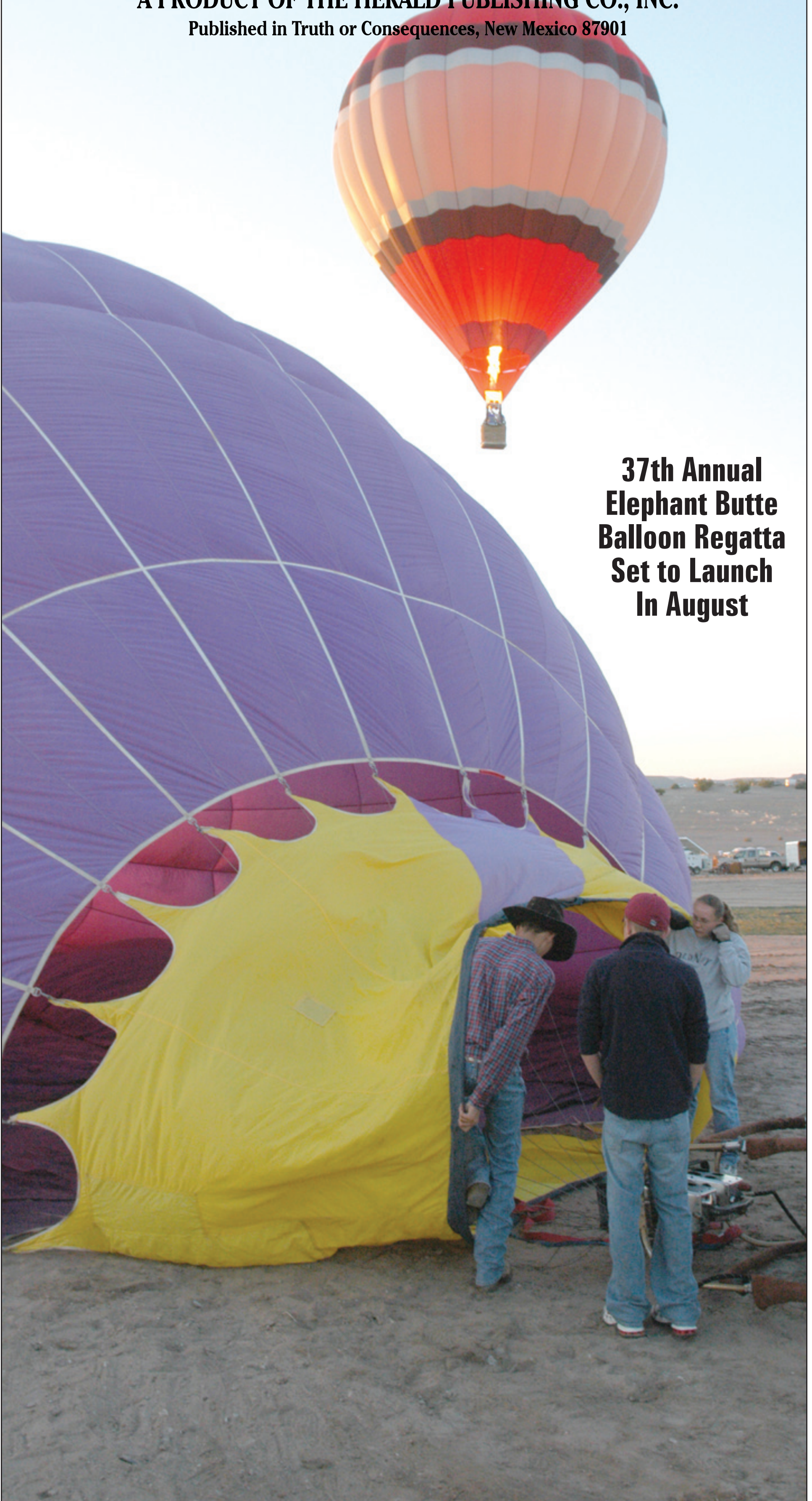
CHAPARRAL GUIDE • JULY 2017 • PAGE C1
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CHAPARRAL GUIDE

A PRODUCT OF THE HERALD PUBLISHING CO., INC.

Published in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901

**37th Annual
Elephant Butte
Balloon Regatta
Set to Launch
In August**



37th Annual Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta Set to Launch in August

The 37th Annual Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta will launch on August 19 and 20 from Lion’s Beach at Elephant Butte Lake State Park.



Activities will begin Friday evening when skippers and sponsors are greeted at the Elephant Butte Inn at 6 p.m. and a mandatory pilots’ meeting held at 7 p.m.

Between 7 and 8:30 a.m., Saturday, pilots will begin inflating balloons for a mass ascension between 8 and 9:30 a.m. with baton competition and pilot target competition. From 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., a balloon glow will be held on Lions Beach.

A second mass ascension will be held on Sunday, starting at 7 a.m. following a mandatory briefing at Elephant Butte Inn. All activities are subject to weather and wind conditions.

The Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta (EBBR) provides an opportunity for balloonists, skippers and sponsors to get together and have fun at Elephant Butte Lake, NM. Additionally, it provides the communities of Elephant Butte, Truth or Consequences and Williamsburg

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additional visitors in the late summer season.

The EBBR traces its history back to the 1970’s when balloonists would come to Elephant Butte Lake for the Mother’s Day weekend. The timing of the rally was generally dependent on when the balloonists decided that spring had arrived and it was time to go to “The Lake” and fly. The “Cloudbouncer”, the official monthly publication of the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA or Quad A) March 1980 issue announced “The Elephant Butte Mother’s Day Campout” to be held May 10 and 11. The March 1981 issue of the “Cloudbouncer” announced “The Greater Mesilla Valley Aerostat Ascension Association Annual Easter Fly-in” would be held April 18 and 19.

In 1989, Oppenheimer Industries donated \$500 for prize money if the balloonists would fly over the lake to the Champagne Hills subdivision. The Coast Guard Auxiliary became concerned that balloons flying over the lake might get into trouble and provided five chase boats to

See **BALLOONS** on Page C4

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Locations/directions and times and list of motels/hotels/RV Parks will be sent with your entry confirmation

Elephant Butte Lake State Park/Elephant Butte, NM

8:30 a.m. 5-WACKY TASK OBSTACLE COURSE

- Fill a 1 oz. cup with water using a teaspoon
- Blow a bubble - chewing a piece of Hubba Bubba bubble gum
- Please note if you need a sugar-free or denture you are welcome to bring it
- Blow a balloon to 3" diameter
- Bust a water balloon by hitting a target
- Fill with a bag with sand
- Bags will be donated to the Friends of Elephant Butte State Park for use during the annual luminaria walk in December

11 a.m. ANY THING THAT SAFELY FLOATS RACE

Nothing motorized. Race will be 50 feet out into the lake, go around a buoy then back to the beach.

Truth or Consequences, NM

5 p.m. 5-LAP BACKWARDS MARATHON

Around the Healing Water Plaza/Visitor Center block in downtown T-or-C.

7 p.m. AWARDS CEREMONY at Healing Water Plaza

DIVISIONS

INDIVIDUAL Must be 15 years or older
The score will be the combined total of each player*

DUO One person 35 or under and the other 17 and older*

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37th Annual Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta August 19th & 20th

We are pleased to announce the 37th Annual Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta.

Saturday Morning's events will feature Pilot and Boat competitions followed by a balloon glow Saturday evening. Sunday concludes our event with a morning flight

Schedule of events:

Saturday:

7:00-8:30 am—Pilots inflate on Lions Beach*

8:00-9:30 am—Pilots and skippers baton competition and Pilot target competition

6:30-7:45 pm—Balloon Glow on Lions Beach *

Sunday:

7:00-8:30 am—Pilots Inflate on Lions Beach*

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Live updates can be found on Facebook by searching elephantbutteballoonregatta

Email us at info@ebbr.org for sponsorship possibilities



BALLOONS

Continued from Page C2

ensure safety. This concern for safety led to the formation of the EBBR and the Balloon Boat Relay Race (BBRR) provided a chase boat for each balloon forming a racing team. The skipper carried the drop marker, baton, for the balloon race out onto the lake. The balloonists then do a water landing, known as a “Splash and Dash”, to receive the baton and carry it to the designated drop area. Prizes and/or prize money is then awarded to both the winning pilots and skippers. The flying and boating has continued this tradition over the years. On July 1, 1998, the City of Elephant Butte was incorporated as the 101st city in the State of New Mexico. The new city chartered their own Chamber of Commerce in Sept. 1999 and one of their first acts was to purchase the rights and copyrights to the Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta by unanimous vote.

In 2007, the Chamber decided to stop running the rally and the rights were transferred to Keven Cloney and Al Lowenstein.

ABOUT THE CHAPARRAL GUIDE

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Lift Off at last year's Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta

A Haven for Senior Winter Visitors, Sierra County Also Provides Ample Recreation for 'Young at Heart' Residents

By Carlos Padilla

With its abundant sunshine and a nearly nonexistent measure of annual snowfall, Sierra County is an ideal vacation destination for tourists and 'snowbirds' alike. For that and other reasons, the area has long been a popular place for senior citizens.

Each year, the population of this south-central New Mexico community skyrockets as autumn approaches. Autumn's arrival in New Mexico typically coincides with the arrival of much colder weather in the northern and eastern United States. With a variety of health benefits derived from sunny surroundings and increased recreational opportunities, it's no wonder Sierra County destinations like Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte, Hillsboro and other towns are hotbeds of senior citizen activity.

And with the Activity Center, the Sierra Joint Office on Aging, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and a host of senior-oriented clubs and groups at the disposal of visiting and resident seniors, the fun is sure to continue throughout the autumn, winter, spring and summer.

A WIDE ARRAY OF CHOICES

Whether you choose the outdoors as your playground or a more urban setting for pleasure, Sierra County has something for everyone.

For those who prefer fresh-air pursuits, a wealth of opportunities awaits here.

Grab a fishing pole, lace up the hiking boots, mount the mountain bike or throw on the walking shoes and hit the great outdoors.

Turtleback Mountain, the Luchini Trail, Elephant Butte and Caballo lakes, Ralph Edwards Fishing Pond and countless miles of walking, jogging and biking trails are at the

See **SIERRA** on Page C7

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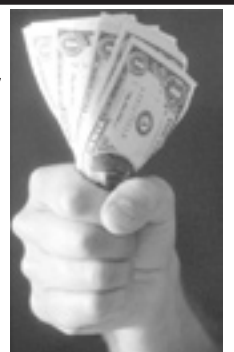
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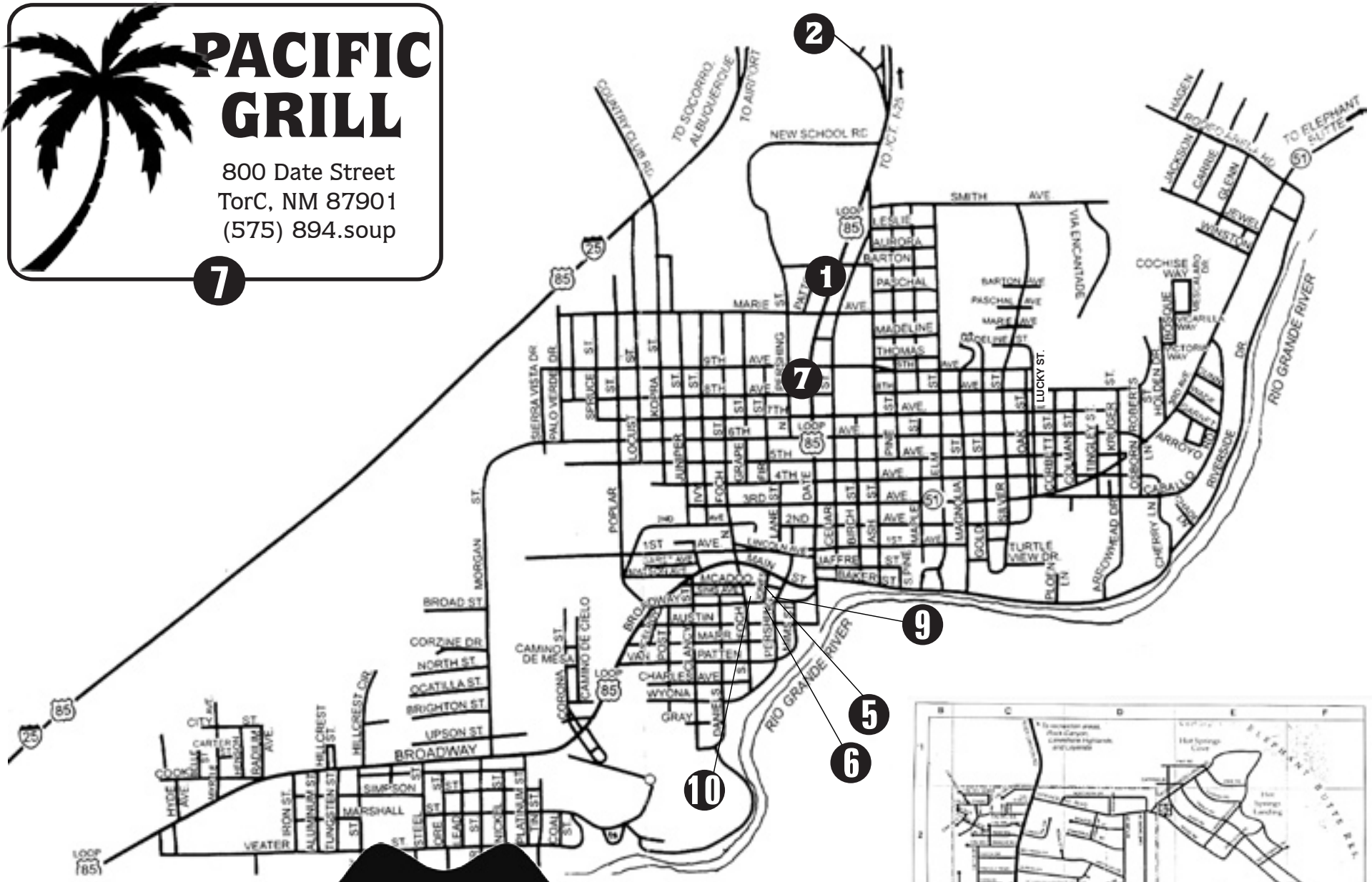
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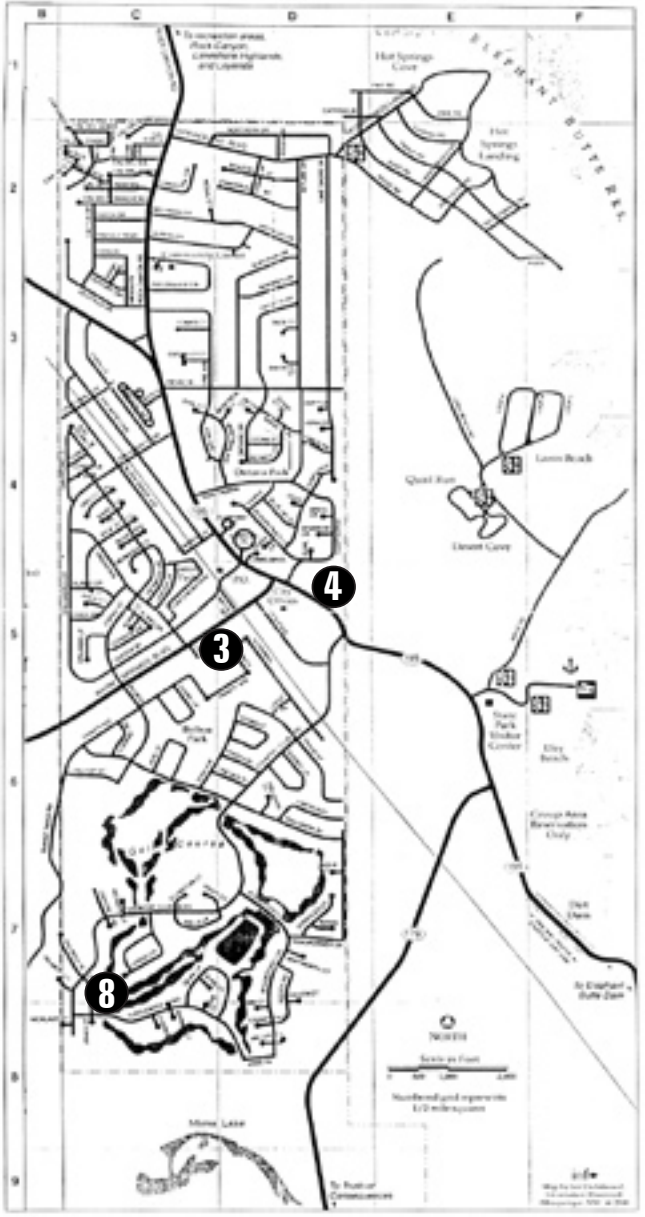
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Hot Mineral Waters

The hot mineral baths truly are what started it all.

In 1950, during a story conference in a radio network’s board room, Ralph Edwards said, “I could wish that some town in the United States liked and respected our show so much that it would like to change its name to Truth or Consequences.”

That wish quickly reached New Mexico’s bureau of tourism in Santa Fe and, almost as quickly, was transmitted to Burton Roach - cattleman, state senator and, at that time, manager of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

“Here’s a chance,” the state tourism officials said, “to get your mineral baths advertised all over the U. S. every Saturday night for free.”

That was all “Super Booster” Roach needed. More quickly than you can say, “We’ll be back right after this message,” he had local bathhouse owners and other business persons lined up and backing a city election to officially change the city’s name.

The hot mineral water is heated naturally. In fact, the entire downtown business section floats upon a thick layer of sand and quicksand which, in turn, covers a huge pool of 110 degree water.

The Apache Indians knew about the water, as did their ancestors before them, and told the Spaniards who traversed and settled the area before the American cattleman and farmer moved in for their benefits. Some of the tales about the medicinal qualities of the baths undoubtedly were exaggerated, but they couldn’t have stretched the truth any more than the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, the cities of gold which attracted the Spanish (they turned out to be Indian Pueblos of adobe viewed from a distance in the golden Southwestern sun).

Almost all of the pueblos the explorers saw have disappeared, but the mud springs which gave youthful, uplifting spirit to those who took the baths are still flowing, even the Ponce de Leon spring in Truth or Consequences’ Yucca Lodge.

Everett Reb, writing in the Chaparral Guide several years ago, said no one seems to know just how the strongest of all the area’s springs came to be known as Geronimo Spring, although there is no doubt that the Apache war chief was in this area and knew of its existence.

He was a good friend of Victorio, chief of the Ojo Caliente (Warm Springs) Apaches who inhabited this area, and the two spent some time together, as both were captured here at about the same time by the U. S. Army.

So important were the springs to the Indians that the area surrounding them, by unwritten law, was considered neutral territory.

No matter how often the different tribes warred with one another, the fighting ceased within the areas where the springs are located.

Some of the springs were said to have specific medicinal properties by the Indians.

Some were attributed with the power to cure skin diseases, while others took the ache from swollen joints.

The greatest cure of all was said to be the white mud found in some springs, which was said to have electric power. Women who used it as a face pack, it was said, would be transformed into beauties after only a few treatments.

Despite the fame of the hot springs, very little development of the area occurred until about

SIERRA

Continued from Page C5
active public’s disposal.

While pursuing these activities, seniors and others are reminded to keep their eyes open for deer, antelope, bald eagles and other spectacular wildlife, so prevalent in the area at this time of year.

A bit closer to ‘civilization’, seniors can enjoy a round of golf at the Truth or Consequences Municipal Golf Course.

A quartet of fishing holes –Elephant Butte Lake, Caballo Lake and Percha Dam state parks, and the Edwards Fishing Pond in downtown TorC– afford anglers plenty of choices and venues to land a trophy fish, or to simply catch and release.

After a long (or short) day in the ‘wild’, don’t think the fun has ended: Truth or Consequences is alive with alternate activities that begin with the sunrise and end long after sundown.

Unwinding and decompressing activities come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes in this little corner of the world. Senior-oriented dances, games and a host of other activities are happening all the time to ensure our more mature residents and visitors have plenty to keep them busy.

ABUNDANT ACTIVITIES

Among the greatest resources seniors have in Truth or Consequences and Sierra County are the Civic and Activity Center and the Ken James Senior Center, which both are located at 360 W. Fourth Street between Foch and Date streets. A dedicated group of staffers and volunteers have worked very hard to establish and sustain a myriad of activities to satisfy even the most discriminating senior tastes.

1856 when four Spanish families settled at Las Palomas Hot Springs.

The first bathtub, crude though it may have been, is believed to have been chipped out of stone by Union soldiers stationed here during the Civil War.

Take a Drive on the Wild Side

By Bryan Basham

Numerous county, state and federal roads and highways crisscross Sierra County. While many of these routes may appear to go nowhere in particular, sometimes it is what you may see along the way that matters, rather than the destination.

In a throwback to the days of the ‘Sunday drive’, my parents introduced me to the relaxing pass time of just looking at the country around us. Since several major bodies of water are located within Sierra County, abundant amounts of wildlife are here as well. And since the majority of roadways shadow the waterways,

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you could be pleasantly surprised to see many natural wonders as you drive along.

When you mention wildlife and watching in the same sentence, most local residents and repeat visitors think of the Bosque del Apache, a natural wildlife refuge famous for its avian population. But not all wildlife have wings, some also have fur. So the next time you are driving in the early morning or late afternoon, pull off to the side of the road and take a look around. You will see some striking scenery, you might see a bird or two; and if you are lucky enough, you might see something ‘wild’ seeing you.

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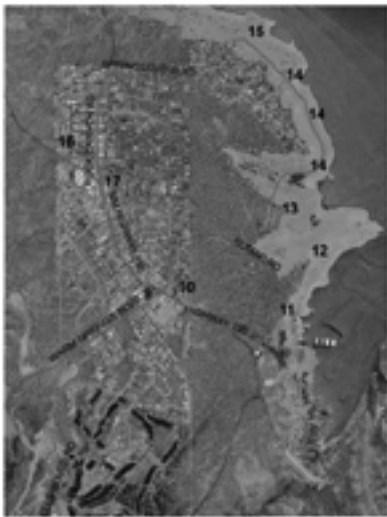
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Truth or
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 13. **Lions Beach Reservation Area**
 14. **3 Stops Lions Beach Rd.**
 15. **1 Stop Hot Spring Landing**
 16. **Elephant Butte American Legion**
1005 NM HWY 195
 17. **Elephant Butte VFW Post 1389**
1301 NM HWY 195

Times subject to change. Limited seating is available. First come first serve basis.

For more information, see www.sierraco.org/saferide



Sierra County Attractions/Services

Motels and apartments provide accommodations for the visitor to Truth or Consequences and other travelers, ranging from small, modest lodgings to resort types with health spa facilities.

At the state's largest body of water, there is the hotel comfort of Elephant Butte Inn at the Butte and the rustic setting of the Damsite Recreational Area's rental cabins.

Restaurants in Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte and throughout Sierra County offer a full range of foods, from fast service sandwiches

and take-out dishes to specialty dinners from charcoal steaks to Mexican food favorites.

Complete medical services are available within the community, provided at Sierra Vista Hospital, Ben Archer Clinic and doctors' private practices.

Geronimo Springs Museum, located at 211 Main St., offers exhibits focusing upon the history of the city and county. The Ralph Edwards Wing displays mementos of the events of the annual Truth or Consequences Fiesta.

Truth or Consequences also has a well-stocked public library, located on Library Lane, which

contains a section about Southwestern history, which is considered one of the finest in the state.

Many spots are available for picnicking. Ralph Edwards Park, near the downtown area on the banks of the Rio Grande, has more than adequate picnic facilities. Other spots are available along the river between the city and Elephant Butte Lake, and at Elephant Butte Lake, Caballo Lake and Percha Dam state parks.

ABOUT THE CHAPARRAL GUIDE

The Chaparral Guide is a product of The Herald Publishing Co., Inc.

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Elephant Butte Inn & Spa



Annual "Backyard Barbecue"

Saturday, July 1st

BBQ Chicken Pulled Pork Hot Dogs

Variety of Sides and Desserts

Adults \$15 • Children \$8 (5 and Under FREE)



Food~Games~Live Music
Food Served: 5:00 to 9:00 PM

401 Butte Blvd., Elephant Butte
575.744.5431
www.ebresort.com

NEW MEXICO TECH PERFORMING ARTS SERIES,
EMRTC & CITY OF SOCORRO PRESENT:

4th of July

in Socorro!

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017
FREE! • NM TECH CAMPUS

CHARTWELLS BBQ • WATER SLIDES • NON-PROFIT VENDORS

10:00	Parade - Plaza to Macey Center
11:00	Socorro Community Band, Martial Arts & Gymnastics Demos
12:00	Up, Here! - Circus Arts, Family
1:15	Doug Figgs and the Cowboy Way
2:15	Rising Stars Dance Demo
2:30	Tori Murillo Band - Spanish & Rock
3:45	Black Pearl Band - Spanish, Variety
5:00	Et Alia - Belly Dancers
5:30	Darren Cordova y Calor New Mexico Spanish
8:00	Suavecito - Spanish and Variety
Dark	Fireworks! - EMRTC's famous display

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FIREWORKS TO THE CONCERT SITE
Socorro County Non-Profit Groups Booth Registration & More Info:
(575)835-5688 • pas@nmt.edu • nmtpas.org

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MLS 20171892 - 134 Camino Encantado EB RV LOT 1 bdrm, bath, 1993 Park Model 400 sq ft 1 car garage 40' x 75' lot \$32,000.



MLS 20171991 - 408 Van Patten TorC Mobile Home Park in the Hot Water District Includes 5 spaces with 2 16' x 80' MH's .48 acre lot \$190,000.



MLS 20164268 - 1196 N Riverside Dr. TorC Across from the River 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1981 MH 1232 sq ft 1 car garage.19 acre lot \$59,400.



MLS 20160721 - 605 Sierra Vista Drive TorC Great Deal 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1978 SF 2031 sq ft 2 gar garage .28 acre lot \$132,900.



MLS 20172157 - 102 Canadian Circle. 40 X 30 RV GARAGE with 1/2 bath. Great family home with 3 BR's, 2 BA, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen, refrig. air. Over 1/2 ac lot with fenced area for garden or pets. Priced at \$210,000. Call Cathy



MLS 20172210 - 302 Lakeshore Dr. A great family home offering over 2000 sq. ft. of living area. Beautifully remodeled/ updated kitchen and baths, metal roof, new flooring, ref. Air, small view of the lake. Priced to sell at \$168,000. Call Cathy.



MLS 20172625 - 908 Yucca. A fantastic family home. Offering over 2300 sq ft, 4BR, 3BA, remodeled/updated kitchen, huge living room, formal dining room, travertine tile in high traffic areas, ref. air, roof is under 10 yrs old. SW landscape,fenced back yard. MUST SEE. \$179,000. Call Cathy.



20173118 - 205 Kiowa Loop: 3 Bedroom 2 Bath 1568 Sq Ft Manufactured home on 0.32 acre lot. \$59,500



20172563 - 110 Black Range: 4 Bedroom 3.5 bath 3086 sq ft home on large lot. Beautiful views of Turtleback Mountain. \$165,000



20170882 - 5029 Mescal Dr: Cute weekend Lake home. 2 Bdrm/ 2Bath. Fenced yard with carport. Open living area. \$48,500



20171670 - 48 Boat Dock Rd: Walk to the Lake. 2 homes on this large lot. 1986 3 Bdrm/2 Bath 2352 sq ft manufactured home, with huge addition. Second home is a 2 BD/1BA, large garage/shop. \$250,000