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CHAPARRAL GUIDE

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Christmas in the Foothills
Hillsboro Community Center
December 3

Old-Fashioned Christmas
Downtown TorC
December 9

Luminaria Beachwalk
Elephant Butte Lake State Park
December 10

Annual Yuletide in Chloride
Monte Cristo Gift Shop
December 3 through December 11

Old Fashioned Christmas To Be in Downtown TorC

The Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. in downtown TorC, Friday, Dec. 9.

The evening begins with the annual Christmas Tree lighting in Evelyn Renfro Park, after which all can enjoy a light parade, bonfires, carolers and other performers, plus holiday refreshments and plenty of good cheer. Visit the Live Nativity at the Baptist Church; businesses will be open for holiday shopping; and—ho ho ho—Santa

Claus will take requests from the kiddies starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Spaceport America Visitor Center! The event is sponsored by MainStreet Truth or Consequences. Contact: director@torcmainstreet.org.

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Christmas in the Foothills: A Hillsboro Tradition!

Hillsboro's annual holiday festival, Christmas in the Foothills, takes place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Hillsboro Community Center.

Highlights of the festival include a wide array of vendors selling specialty arts and hand-crafted gifts; door prizes ranging from a restaurant meal gift card to a free night's stay at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston; holiday cards and signed posters featuring the Christmas in the Foothills 2016 oil painting by Hillsboro artist David Farrell; as well as the always-popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale.

The \$49.99 Art Show and Sale began many years ago as a way for Hillsboro's many artists, authors, and craftspeople to give back to the community at Christmastime. Each item in the Art Show will be sold for \$49.99 to a winning ticket holder, even though items are guaranteed to be worth more than that—often many, many times more! Winners each go home with a unique and valuable gift or addition to their See **FOOTHILLS** on Page C3



New Year's Eve Bash

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Christmas decorations and some Yuletide cheer for the start of a wonderful Christmas season.

The Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery and The Chloride Bank Café are located in the historic ghost town of Chloride, just 35 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences via Hwy 52. From I-25 take Exit 83, follow the signs to Winston and then to Chloride. The Monte Cristo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Chloride Bank Café is open Thursday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. For more information contact the Café at 575-743-0414 or the Gallery at 575-743-0493 or montecristogallery@windstream.net

Christmas Carol Sing

On December 18, starting at 3 p.m., the Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort will sponsor a Christmas Carol Sing at the Event Center. All who enjoy the wonderful season of caroling are invited.

Singers are asked to gather at 2 p.m. Keyboard and brass will accompany the singers. Fred Wilson, retired choral director at Adrian College, Michigan will be the song leader.

History and Origin of Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for coming together with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages... But mostly, Christmas is for love. It was this love for which Jesus came to this world and sacrificed his life.

Thus Christmas is a celebration of love and mirth symbolized by the Nativity, the Santa, the caribou, the poinsettia and the evergreens. All that brings home the spirit of love and life. And this is the spirit that makes Christmas so popular throughout the world.

Birth of Jesus, Christianity, Christmas, baby Jesus though originated by the Roman Catholics who commemorate Dec 25 as the day of birth of Christ Child, it has gradually come to be

See **ORIGIN** on Page C5

Elephant Butte Luminaria Beachwalk Set for Dec. 10

The Annual Elephant Butte's Luminaria Beachwalk will begin at dusk on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Elephant Butte Lake State Park

The Luminaria Walk, sponsored by the Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce, features 4000 luminarias lining paths on the beach leading to 25 community-sponsored campsites with posole, chile, cocoa, cookies, s'mores, and more! Hop on a hayride, join the carolers, visit Santa or stop by the The Steel Soldiers' campsite to make a donation to Make-A-Wish. A Christmas party follows at the Elephant Butte Inn. Cost: State Park pass or day use fees. Contact: Kim Skinner, Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce, 575-740-1777.

11th Annual Yuletide in Chloride

With the holiday season fast approaching, the artists and craftspeople of the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery in Chloride have been as busy as Santa's elves. They are ready to celebrate the 11th Annual 'Yuletide in Chloride' Dec. 3 through Dec. 11. During this event, you can shop at your leisure in a relaxed setting for unique, hand-crafted gifts. Everyday prices are good deals and with many items on sale at up to 50% off the regular low prices, they are great deals! And for purchases of \$25 you will receive a free gift for yourself. What a great way to start the holiday season! And to make it even better, The Chloride Bank Café will be participating in the festivities by offering a special meal for the season.

With more than two dozen local artisans, each working in different mediums and styles, you are sure to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Select from paintings done in watercolors, acrylics, and pastels or from beautiful photographs and photo note cards of the scenery and old buildings of Chloride, which are suitable for framing. Other decorative items for the home include pillows and throws, luminous glassware, hand painted candles and a variety of pottery. There are items of all description made of wood, metal, ceramic, glass and fabric. For the kids there are stuffed animals and cute custom decorated sweats and tees. For

a special lady there is jewelry and hand-crafted purses and totes. For the guys there are leather wallets, key bobs and jewelry. How about a book by a local author for the avid reader or a floral piece to bring a bit of the outdoors in? And there are great stocking stuffers for when you need a little something to give, like homemade soap, magnets and pincushions. To really personalize your gift there are hand-crafted holiday cards and gift bags. The uniqueness of giving a hand-crafted gift shows that you care enough to give the best. In addition to all of the wonderful gift items, there are great decorative pieces for the winter season as well as the Christmas holiday.

The Chloride Bank Café will offer a Holiday ham dinner with all the fixings as well as the regular menu items. Diners will also receive complimentary Christmas cookies. Come to the Bank for good vittles! So plan to make a trip to Chloride and enjoy the scenic drive, the

FOOTHILLS

Continued from Page C2

home, whether painting, photograph, pottery, furniture, jewelry item, or other treasure.

Proceeds from Christmas in the Foothills 2016 support several nonprofit organizations serving Hillsboro and the surrounding areas.

In addition to Christmas in the Foothills at the Hillsboro Community Center, Hillsboro's Main Street merchants will be celebrating the day with food, music, and special holiday offerings. Signs, holiday greeters in Santa hats, and village maps will direct visitors to Christmas in the Foothills and other village holiday events.

Hillsboro is located on Highway 152 approximately 17 miles west of I-25 at exit 63. From Silver City take Highway 152 east 57 miles to Hillsboro.



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11



ORIGIN

Continued from Page C3

celebrated by the non-Catholics as well. As far as the United States goes, the celebration of X’mas is comparatively of recent origin. Much of the world was already well into Christmas celebrations by the time the United States began to wake up. In the first half of the 19th century the Sunday schools in America held Christmas celebrations. And the celebration of Christmas in America owes its origin to these schools. Alabama was the first state to grant legal recognition to X-mas in 1836. The DC did it in 1870. By 1893 all the states and territories had made similar acknowledgements.

So be it the United States or in other parts of the world Christmas is celebrated as the commemoration of the birth of the Christ Child -- very likely the holiest event ever to take place anywhere on the Earth, and an entirely worthy occasion to celebrate. But don’t we often wonder if we’ve got these things about it right? And why is the difference of opinion (however immaterial) regarding the date of birth? Is it even on the right date?

We bring to you a story of the Birth of the Christ Child along and offer you a short tour across the world to know the way Christmas is celebrated in different parts. But before doing this please don’t forget to brush up some historical trivia regarding Jesus’ birth. Click here to know the answers to some simple yet vulnerable questions.

The whole world goes into the celebration mood during the mid winters. Long back even before the arrival of Jesus, Europeans started celebrating the light in the gloomiest days of winter. During the winter solstice, many of the Europeans began to celebrate because the tough time of winter was behind them and they felt it was the period of prolonged hours of sunlight.

Norse celebrated Yule from Dec. 21 in Scandinavia. To celebrate the magic of sunlight, fathers and sons used logs and set them on fire. People around enjoyed these 12 days until the logs were not burned out completely. It was their belief that each fire spark represented a new pig or calf that would be born in the coming year.

Mesopotamians used to celebrate 12 days long New Year festival before 4000 years. This festival was called Zagmuth. The Mesopotamians, believers of multiple deities, started the celebration to honor their chief deity, Marduk. They used to believe that Marduk fought against the monsters of chaos at the onset of each winter season. It was believed that this was the festival where from the 12 days long Christmas had originated.

Most of the European countries thought that the end of December was an appropriate and ideal time for celebrations. It was a high time to celebrate because there were no cattle left for feeding as most of the cattle were already slaughtered. Celebration could continue with fresh meat and it was the only time of the winter when they had that opportunity. The fermented wine and beer during this time were the additional spice for the celebration.

Pagan God Odin, pagan, pagan god, Christmas history During mid winter German people honored the time-honored Pagan God Oden. People of Germany were afraid of the nocturnal sky flights. They used to think that the Almighty had created that to observe and monitor his people of this world. They had also thought that the Almighty had the power to decide who would live and who would perish. Many of them decided to stay inside due to his presence.

Places like Saturnalia, Rome where the winter was not that strong and unkind like countries located in the northern tip celebrated holidays in honor of the God of agriculture, Saturn. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice was a special period when residents had bountiful food items and drinks to celebrate with. The month long celebration had the charm to convert slaves to even masters. Peasants used to control the city. To celebrate the time with fun and frolic all the schools and business organizations had decided to close their shutters.

Juvenalia, the feast honoring the Children of Rome, celebrated during winter solstice, was a prime carnival for Roman people as well. On Dec. 25, the upper class of Rome used to celebrate the birthday of the infant God of the unconquerable sun, Mithra who was born of a rock. It was the most sanctified day of the entire

year for few Romans. Easter, the main holiday, was celebrated in the early years of Christianity. However, Christmas or the birth of Jesus was not celebrated.

Romans started to exchange gifts and visit the homes of their friends and relatives during the festivity. It was believed that the ritual of exchanging greeting and gifts during Christmas had come from Rome.



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The History of Christmas

In the Western world, the birthday of Jesus Christ has been celebrated on Dec. 25 since AD 354, replacing an earlier date of Jan. 6. The Christians had by then appropriated many pagan festivals and traditions of the season, that were practiced in many parts of the Middle East and Europe, as a means of stamping them out.

There were mid-winter festivals in ancient Babylon and Egypt, and Germanic fertility festivals also took place at this time. The birth of the ancient sun-god Attis in Phrygia was celebrated on Dec. 25, as was the birth of the Persian sun-god, Mithras. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to Saturn, the god of peace and plenty, that ran from the 17th to 24th of December. Public gathering places were decorated with flowers, gifts and candles were exchanged and the population, slaves and masters alike, celebrated the occasion with great enthusiasm.

In Scandinavia, a period of festivities known as Yule contributed another impetus to celebration, as opposed to spirituality. As winter ended the growing season, the opportunity of enjoying the



summer’s bounty encouraged much feasting and merriment.

The Celtic culture of the British Isles revered all green plants, but particularly mistletoe and holly. These were important symbols of fertility and were used for decorating their homes and altars.

New Christmas customs appeared in the Middle Ages. The most prominent contribution was the carol, which by the 14th century had become associated with the religious observance of the birth of Christ.

In Italy, a tradition developed for re-enacting the birth of Christ and the construction of scenes of the nativity. This was said to have been introduced by Saint Francis as part of his efforts to bring spiritual knowledge to the laity.

Saints Days have also contributed to our Christmas celebrations. A prominent figure in today’s Christmas is Saint Nicholas who for

See **HISTORY** on Page C7



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HISTORY

Continued from Page C6

centuries has been honored on Dec. 6. He was one of the forerunners of Santa Claus.

Another popular ritual was the burning of the Yule Log, which is strongly embedded in the pagan worship of vegetation and fire, as well

as being associated with magical and spiritual powers.

Celebrating Christmas has been controversial since its inception. Since numerous festivities found their roots in pagan practices, they were greatly frowned upon by conservatives within the Church. The feasting, gift-giving and frequent

excesses presented a drastic contrast with the simplicity of the Nativity, and many people throughout the centuries and into the present, condemn such practices as being contrary to the true spirit of Christmas.

The earliest English reference to Dec. 25 as Christmas Day did not come until 1043.

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108 N. Arrowhead - 2 bedroom 2 bath 16 X 60 1996 Fleetwood manufactured home. Deactivated title, on permanent foundation. Out standing Mountain views. Detached carport, RV hookups. Close to Hot Mineral spas, and shopping. \$59,000. MLS #20164944



801 Maple - 4 Bedroom, fresh paint, new carpet. Ready to go. Fenced Yard, corner lot. Just minutes from Sierra Vista Hospital. 1997 Oakwood Manufactured home. 16X80 Owner Agent. \$64,900.00. MLS #20162489.



714 Kopra - 3 BD / 1 BA, older home right next to a small family park. Need some work but lots of potential. Large fenced yard with garage/workshop in the back off the alley You can own a home at the price you are paying for rent! \$59,000. MLS 20163354.



543 Cattfish - Lake Home with Lake Views! 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 0.36 acre lot. Large family kitchen, covered front porch. Finished 2 car garage, and room for you RV. All overlooking Elephant Butte Lake. \$139,900. MLS # 20163225.



906 Kopra - Beautiful 2700 sq. ft. home. 4 Bedroom, 3 bath for your family to enjoy. Huge family room with wet bar. Cozy sun room, formal dining room, and spacious cabinet filled kitchen. Hardwood floors, custom cabinets. Many recent upgrades. Carport and 17 x 29' attached garage. Huge lot, with room for RV, or add a pool. Located in a quiet neighborhood, close to the golf course, schools, and shopping. Location! Location! Motivated sellers. \$175,000. MLS #20164870.



000 Mountain View: 137.92 acres. Beautiful views of the Caballo Mountains, and Caballo Lake. These once active mining claims were part of the Pittsburgh Mining District Sierra County NM Gold, Silver, and Felspar were found here. Access to BLM, with hunting and fishing at your door step. Quiet, secluded, location. \$160,000 MLS# 20153408.



609 9th Street - Fresh paint, new carpet and vinyl. 2 bedroom 1 3/4 bath home, spacious kitchen and dining area. Wood Fireplace in Master Bedroom, Pellet Stove in Living room. Next to Sierra Vista Hospital. Great, close in, location. Detached garage and carport. Vintage 1930's. New Gutters. Fenced front yard. Check this one out. \$69,000. MLS #20164488



600 Marr -1968 Medallion Mobile home 12 X 60 with screened in porch. New Carpet, vinyl, and fresh paint, new counter top, stainless steel sink, and bath room sink. HOT WATER WELL, garage. 604 Marr is included. Lot only, tenant pays \$160.00 per month space rent, plus electric and gas. Income opportunity. Seller will transfer the installment contract on the 1989 Mobile home to buyer. \$69,500.MLS#20151031



512 Van Patten: 3 Bedroom 2 Bath in the Historic Hot Water District. Hot Mineral well.# HS 01036. 1982 Manufactured home, assessed as permanent. Spacious 3 bedroom, with carport and detached 24 x 29 garage. Enjoy quiet soaks in your private covered spa. Fully fenced yard. Lots of Storage. Close to downtown and shopping. \$80,000 MLS# 20131541.



823 Ivy - Recently remodeled, beautiful 2 bedroom, one bath, sattle tile floors, carved wooden columns between living room and eat-in kitchen. Low e windows, custom blinds and ceiling fans. Tile counter tops. Single car detached garage with loads of storage. You will love the very private patio, and new privacy fencing. A delight to show. \$94,000. MLS #20164599.



1700 Broadway - Nice large home that needs work. This lot comes with 6 RV spots that are able to be rented out. Home owner did this up to about 04. Power and water hook ups are there. Large fenced yard. Located right on Broadway...possibilities for income and live on site Occupied please call agent for showing. \$95,000. MLS# 20154101



Lot 7, Monterrey Point - 1.2 acre lot On the ridge overlooking Elephant Butte Lake and Dam. Exclusive Rancho del Lago Subdivision, area of fine custom homes. Beautiful Lake and Mountain views. Paved, private road, underground electric, shared well. Site built homes only. Minimum 1500 sq. ft. heated area. Just minutes from Dam Site Marina. On the way to Spaceport America. Seller financing considered. Build when your ready. Best seat in the house to enjoy the Balloon Regatta, and Fireworks displays, spectacular Sunsets! \$140,000. MLS #20140109.



110 Cuchicco Court - 4 bedroom, on over half an acre. Room for all your lake toys and RV's. Plenty of room for weekend guests, and family gatherings. Just minutes from the Marina's, golf, and shopping. Priced to sell! \$124,900. MLS# 20160258.



903 Locust - 2 bedroom, 2 units, 1620 sq. ft., MLS #20160407 - \$103,000.



302 Michigan - 2 Bedroom 1.5 Bath home on large 100x220 lot. 20x30 detached garage, plenty of room for all the lake toys. Home offers 2 spacious living areas with wood stove and a fireplace. Large wet bar for entertaining. Cabinet filled open kitchen with center island. Enjoy the Fireworks and balloon regatta from the deck overlooking Elephant Butte Lake. Just minutes from the Marina and the Golf Course. Easy access to Spaceport America. \$149,500. MLS 20162313.



00 Mud Canyon Rd. 72.22 acres with 35 acre feet of water rights HS 303. Two additional capped wells. Level spot for building pad or mobile home. Electric to Property. Condition of well is unknown. \$145,000. MLS #20162683.



1205 Skyline - 3 bedroom, 3 full baths. Fireplace in Living room. Master suite offers large living area, 2 spacious walk in closets, with lots of storage. Jetted tub and sep. shower. Hot water baseboard heat. Great Sun room, wrap around covered deck with Lake/Mtn views. 4 car garage, plus large RV pad, and oversized carport. Fenced, with firepit in back yard. Don't miss this one. Priced to sell. Bring your lake toys and settle in. \$175,000. MLS# 20154598.



906 Spruce St. - Single family dwelling, 1822 sq. ft. with refrigerated air. Most appliances included. 3 bedroom, 1 full and one 3/4 bath with attached garage. \$174,500.00. MLS 20161149.



309 Erie - 3 BD/ 2 BA - Lago Vista Subdivision, Approx. 1600 sq. ft., \$199,000. MLS #20160205.



400 Hallmark - Beautiful home on 6th Fairway of Sierra del Rio golf course, BUT is not part of Homeowners/ Golf Membership! You will have ability to play 18 holes. Views of Turtleback Mtn, & Mims Lake. Sattilo tiled floors, huge picture windows to take in the views. 2 master suites! Cabinet filled kitchen. Breakfast Nook and Great Room, with pellet stove. 0.38 acre lot mol. Covered patio wraps around back and side of home. Stucco courtyard off back of house. Minutes from Elephant Butte Lake, Hot Mineral Baths, Rio Grande River Floating, and Spaceport America. \$215,000.00. MLS 20161831.



603 Hawthorne Dr. - Pride of Ownership! Beautifully maintained home. Outstanding from the enclosed front courtyard, to the covered back patio, overlooking a fabulous yard. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, jetted tub, separate shower. Living room with fireplace to warm you on cool nights. Formal dining room, and large eat in kitchen with ample storage. \$230,000. MLS #20164772.



622 Lincoln. 1987 Manufactured home. 2 Bd/1 BA. Spacious cabinet filled kitchen, attached carport and storage shed. Easy care 44.8 X 89.5 lot. Priced to sell at \$42,000. MLS 20155365



811 Hawthorne Drive - .80 Acre lot in Elephant Butte, water, sewer, natural gas to property line. Large level lot. Paved road, just minutes from Marina Del Sur and Sierra Del Rio Golf course. Build your dream home. Surrounded by beautiful custom homes. \$44,900. MLS #20162090.



45 El Nido - 9.32 Acres in Las Palomas. Outstanding views of the Las Palomas Valley, Beautiful Caballo Mountain views. Property comes complete with a 30X40 shop with 400 amp electrical service. 150' well, extra cement slab for carport, RV or manufactured home. Flat Level building area for that dream home. Horses welcome!!! \$147,000. MLS #20164528.