

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ALLAN AFFELDT

**THE PLAZA AND CASTANEDA HOTELS,
LAS VEGAS NEW MEXICO, ARE FOR SALE**



Dear Friends,

For the past thirty years I have worked with you and many others to save great buildings in the Southwest. I have spent much of the last decade in Las Vegas, New Mexico – a city of beautiful buildings and beautiful people. But now I am sixty-six, and it is time for other things. The hard work of restoring the Plaza and Castaneda Hotels is done. The properties are profitable, beautiful, famous, and lovingly restored; they will not close, and none of our great staff will lose their jobs. It is simply time for a new generation of ownership.

We have been honored to work with the City of Las Vegas, and State of New Mexico, and so many of you to help bring a renaissance to this community we love. In recent years we successfully navigated together through Covid and fires and floods. We helped bring national attention to this remarkable town. We invested millions of dollars and thousands of hours renovating the Plaza and Castaneda Hotels, and several other historic buildings in Las Vegas. The City too has made many improvements – fixing up streets and infrastructure, parking and signage. Las Vegas now has \$1 million in lodgers' tax, \$100 million in water funds, and hundreds of millions in FEMA support to invest in and improve this city we love. We are sure the best days for Las Vegas are ahead.

But for me, it is time to pass the torch to a new generation of owners - someone who will care for these special properties as we have, and as have other dedicated owners and managers for 140 years. I and our wonderful staff are deeply grateful for your support and friendship and encouragement. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with you, to share these great buildings with the entire community, and to have you as our guests.

Allan Affeldt

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LA POSADA HOTEL WINSLOW, ARIZONA

SPRING CLEANUP!

The first spring bulbs have started to bloom, signaling the garden crews that it's time to awaken the grounds from their winter slumber. Throughout the dormant months, we let the leaves and plants decompose naturally, enriching the soil with moisture, giving perennials time to reseed, and offering protection for eggs, cocoons, and hibernating creatures. Now, the time has come to clear away the remnants of winter and make way for the vibrant beauty of spring!



Because the gardens are such an important part of La Posada, we have set up an information kiosk in the south vestibule leading to La Posada's South Lawn. You can find Head Gardener Char Tomlinson's garden report posted there. This garden display is a first step in a project to present more information about the flora and fauna around La Posada, and the work our crew does to make this a thriving ecological habitat.



PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Now that the holidays have passed, we are back to work on our (very short) off-season projects. In this case Nolan Patterson (one of our most skilled craftsmen), is renovating the shower stall in 117 and adding colorful Mexican wall tile to the space. Room 126 also received a new bathroom.



BALCONY WORK

Nolan and his father Gary Patterson also spent a few days working on the west balcony for rooms 208 and 210 that overlook the Cottonwood Grove. They concealed a few HVAC lines, renovated the railings, painted the walls, and sorted out a "twist" in the main beam that forms the balcony opening. Gary fabricated some steel braces to make sure that the beam keeps its place for year to come.



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AMTRAK UPDATE

The Amtrak project started on March 12, with contractors removing a portion of the brick walkway for the old passenger loading area along the south side of La Posada Hotel. The workers will be hand stacking this historic Gallup brick for reuse later in the project. The western half of the Amtrak boarding area will be closed for approximately six months while construction of a new raised boarding ramp that spans the entire south side of the hotel takes place. Amtrak train to Winslow will not be interrupted during the construction, but passengers will be diverted to the eastern portion of the loading area while the west ramp construction takes place. This project is projected to take a year and a half to complete. New antiglare LED lights will also be installed as part of this project



SOLAR ARRAY UPDATE

While the new solar array on the east grounds has not yet been installed, the prep work has begun. We were lucky enough to find local backhoe operator Michael Guerrero (father of our gift Shop Manager Bridget Guerrero), to help us clear the east grounds site for our new raised solar array structure, which should start construction in April. Michael was so handy with that backhoe that we used him for a few other garden cleanup projects that required a little extra muscle (horsepower).

TURQUOISE ROOM WINSLOW, ARIZONA

NEW DINNER OFFERING



New on the dinner menu from Executive Chef and partner, Angel Soto: a dry-aged Pork Chop with citrus and achiote marinade, smoked gouda polenta cake, broccolini, and pineapple salsa. Beautiful and delicious!

Chef Soto has also added a new item to the breakfast menu, a Southwestern Benedict! Scan the code below to see the full range of menu items.



UPCOMING BRUNCHES

Chef Soto is currently working on special menus for both Easter (April 20) and Mother's Day (May 11)! Once the brunch menus are finalized, we will post information on our website and social media. Make your reservations now! Brunch will be served from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

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AFFELDT MION MUSEUM WINSLOW, ARIZONA

THE LAMY #502 PLEASURE DOME



We have been actively working on getting our #502 Lamy “Pleasure Dome” railroad car—located along the east dock adjacent to the Affeldt Mion Museum—open to the public, even if done in phases. Twice this year we have met with city officials, including City Manager David Coolidge and City Inspector Marshall Larsen, as well as local artist John Suttman, regarding plans for the restoration. The meetings sorted out issues with allowing the public safe access to the railcar.

Good news! The first step for a platform railing has been approved by the city and John has created an attractive design that will allow the public to walk along the dock to the Lamy #502 entrance, while we begin working on the interior.

To read more about the project history and progress reports, scan the code below!



ERNEST MARTINEZ FURNITURE

In 2013, we were fortunate to acquire quite a few hand-painted pieces by Ernest Martinez from La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, thanks to our shared Mary Colter heritage. When La Fonda became part of the Harvey Company in 1926, it underwent an expansion and redesign. During this process, Mary Colter commissioned local artists to create unique furnishings inspired by traditional Mexican inns and folk art, including individually painted furniture. This tradition continued even after Colter’s departure, with artists like Ernest Martinez carrying it forward. We are now putting the final touches on this display!



STUDENT VISITORS

Part of our mission at Affeldt Mion Museum, is to educate and share museum and art culture with students. We were pleased to give this group from the Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy a tour of the museum, of our future 502 Pleasure Dome exhibit, and of Snowdrift Art Space! We are working on other ideas to create youth-focused programming. Please share any ideas you might have!



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FUTURE AMM EXHIBIT

Progress on Dan Lutzick ARRAYS continues to move forward. In addition to existing sculpture for the exhibit, Dan has also been creating new work, like this sculpture made from recovered HVAC duct work that was removed from the Turquoise Room during the renovation that took place 24 years ago. ARRAYS will open in November 2025.



PLAZA HOTEL LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

ELEVATOR REPAIR



After 43 years and 1,217,172 rides between the three floors of the Plaza, it's time to update our elevator. The installation crew began this month-long project on March 24th. Fortunately, the new elevator will fit within the existing shaft, so we don't expect any major structural work to be necessary. If the new elevator lasts as long as its predecessor, we'll be very happy indeed.

HOTEL CASTAÑEDA LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

NEW BEDSPREADS



We believe in investing in our communities. This month we are bringing new bedspreads to the Historic Plaza Hotel and Castaneda Hotel in Las Vegas NM. For many years we have worked with Charlie Babbitt of Babbitt's Wholesale in Flagstaff to purchase legacy Pendleton items, and Charlie is helping us with these beauties. These bedspreads are 100% cotton Matelassé and made in Portugal. Are they too nice for hotel rooms? Not for our guests and our properties!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT



Before making the public announcement regarding putting the New Mexico properties up for sale, Allan personally met with staff to thank them for their years of hard work. We appreciate all they have done to make the properties so successful.

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LEGAL TENDER LAMY, NEW MEXICO

EL ORTIZ FURNITURE



Last May, we returned an original El Ortiz dining table to Legal Tender Lamy. The chairs, however, needed work before they could be put into service. We are happy to say, the table and chairs have been reunited! While the destruction of El Ortiz - the Lamy Harvey Hotel - was a tragedy for New Mexico, we are doing what we can to save and celebrate this history for another generation.

BRUNCH!

Looking for a late breakfast option? Join us for brunch, noon to three on Saturdays and Sundays, where we offer one sweet brunch item and one savory, like our house-made potato pancakes with pan seared trout, soft scrambled Boursin eggs, pickled red onion, and crème fraîche. Or our almond-crusted brioche French toast with brown butter maple syrup, whipped cream, berries, and crispy bacon. We also have a breakfast martini, featuring Gin, lemon juice, Cointreau, and marmalade.



TRADING POST WINSLOW, AZ

FEATURED ITEM

Our Trading Post manager Bridget has been hard at work adding jewelry items to our online store. You can now find a vast array of exquisite offerings from vintage, to newly crafted. There are items from the simple, like the Sun God Kachina earrings, to the extraordinary, like this gorgeous five-strand coral and turquoise statement necklace from artisan Darryl Becenti.. Visit the gift shop to see for yourself. Our staff would be happy to show you these items & more!



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THE QR CODE!**

