

Dateline:

DOWNTOWN

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Celebrating the Heart of the City

Tucson, Arizona

First Night Volunteers Needed

First night, Tucson's newest, New Year's celebration will be a major community event Downtown.

This major non-alcoholic celebration of the New Year through arts and entertainment is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are needed for decorations, button sales, food service, pedestrian control, sign making, and other activities critical for the success of this, first ever for Tucson, First Night.

In addition to volunteers for helping with this event a call to artists and entertainers has been put forth. If you or groups that you are a part of wish to participate in this exciting event please contact Rhonda R. Counsel or Clarence Boykins at 260 S. Church, Tucson, AZ 85701. You can call (520) 791-2601, or Fax (520) 791-5572.

There is an application form for artists as well as an application form to be a volunteer. Please consider being involved in this event. First Night promises to become a major celebration for Tucson and will culminate in the dropping of a 40 foot Sahuaro from the top of one of Downtown's tallest buildings to signal the beginning of 1997!



Holiday Parade November 29

By Dave Chandler

Please join us on November 29th for the Holiday Parade. This year's day long family event includes a Peace Tree Lighting and Police Department Open House along with the return of the fabulous Holiday Parade.

The Downtown area will be bustling all day long with shopping, caroling, float building at the Children's Museum, a Channel 13 Live news broadcast and much more.

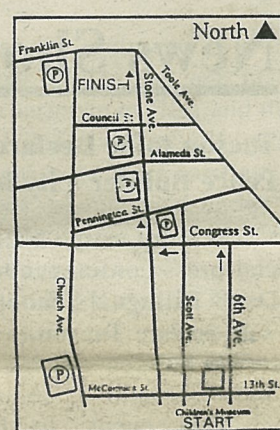
The Holiday Parade starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum and weaves its way through the Downtown holiday lights to the main library for the 7:00 p.m. tree lighting ceremonies.

This Year's theme is "Peace on Earth" with an emphasis on appreciating other cultures. Over 100 entries are expected. Parade entries are still welcome and more information can be obtained from The Tucson Police Department, Downtown Arts & Business Alliance, or the Tucson Arts District Offices.

This event is just one of the many examples of Downtowners pulling together for the continued revitalization of our City Center. Thanks to all who are helping.

Holiday Inn City Center, The City of Tucson Police Department and Traffic Engineering Department, Downtown Arts & Business Alliance, Tucson Arts District, Mix FM, The Children's Museum, KOLD Channel 13, Tucson-Pima Arts Council and the many other organizations providing people power and festive attitudes.

Please join us all day long on November 29.



A Little San Diego on 4th

By C. James and Deanna Lundquist

In February 1996 Edward Humes and David Oliver, owners of Rainbow Planet Coffee House located at 606 N. 4th Avenue, found the perfect space for their cafe. The building was previously a law office with grey carpet and the scent of stale tobacco.

The space has been refurbished in their style which includes mellow purple walls and well distinguished bright colors accented by black tables and Mexican Saltillo tile.

The two men had spent some time in San Diego where they got the idea to have a cafe. Much of their inspiration came from one particular cafe called Starbucks.

Humes said they only recently quit their full time jobs to work in their new cafe. He said he likes working for himself. Humes worked in the hotel business for about 12 years, which is how he gained some food

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Downtown Segment Of Parkway Begins

Beginning in early 1997, construction on one portion and design of the downtown segment of Barraza-Aviation Parkway will be underway.

The announcement of the project was made Thursday, October 24 at a news conference at the Main Library. There a detailed model showing the roadway design plan was unveiled.

The Pima Association of Government has committed \$400,000 toward the project for the design of a new 4th Avenue underpass which will accommodate the historic 4th Avenue trolley. The design work includes plans for the rehabilitation of the existing historic 4th Avenue underpass that was originally constructed in 1916.

The first work on the project by the City will include the landscaping and amenities at the Broadway Traffic Interchange including screen walls, bike paths, landscaping, and lighting along Broadway Boulevard

at the underpass. This work puts the final touches on the interchange which was completed by the Arizona Department of Transportation in June of this year.

Although funding is not in place for the balance of the roadway design and construction, the City of Tucson will continue to plan for and identify funding opportunities for this link to the future of Downtown Tucson.

The City of Tucson urges the community to learn more about the critical transportation project and the importance of transportation funding. Citizens wanting more information or wishing to schedule a presentation on the Barraza-Aviation Parkway project, please call the City of Tucson Project Manager, Armando Monteverde, at 791-4371.

The Fate of the Old YMCA

Is The Controversy Over?

By Teresa Eagle and Rita Romero

The future of the old downtown YMCA building, long the subject of controversy, may finally be decided by the end of the month.

Plans to turn the old downtown YMCA into an art center are moving forward, according to organizers behind the project.

Paul Schock, senior manager for ENSEEKO, a corporation of commercial developers largely composed of artists from abroad, said his group hopes to have the building, at 516 N. Fifth Avenue, partially renovated and open as the International Arts Centre by early in February of next year.

Schock, who is a sculptor and

Continued on page 8 see YMCA busi-

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4th Avenue



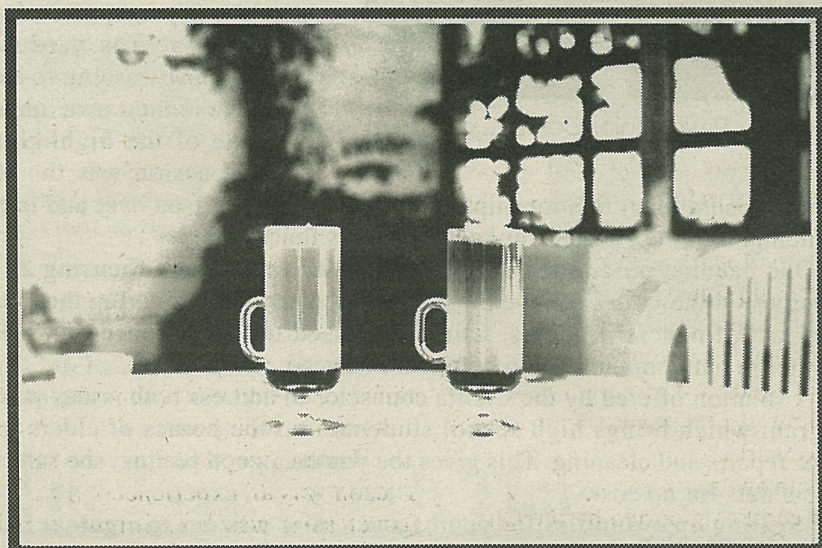
Rainbow

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and beverage background.

The cafe opened October 2. Humes said they have been extremely busy since then. He spoke of regular visitors. Humes said, "We are a gay friendly cafe." He stressed that

Their specialty drinks are made with Torani syrups, which from my experience, are very tasty. As a matter of fact, Humes offered a Black Forest Breve and a Mint Breve during our interview. James and Lundquist both gave a thumbs up.

A local bakery delivers to the Rainbow Planet Coffee House daily. They provide fresh danish, muffins, and other dessert and breakfast type



Almost too beautiful to drink. Rainbow Planet makes specialty coffee drinks such as these two flavored breves....Photo by Deanna Lundquist

Rainbow Planet is not gay exclusive. All are welcome.

"I appreciate Fourth Avenue," said Humes. "It's hip, too cool for our concept of a walk-by and walk-in cafe."

Neither Humes nor Oliver had experience in making specialty coffee drinks. Their roaster spent a day at the cafe showing them the ropes. Because of this lack of experience, the first couple of days they offered drinks on the house.

The regular coffees offered include African, Latin, Chocolate Macadamia, French Vanilla, and a decaffeinated house blend as well as a daily special flavor.

foods. Coming soon will be hot soup with homemade bread.

The cafe will also be available for poetry readings and one night art shows. There is outside seating perfect now that the days are cooler and romantic under little white and chile lights in the evening.

The Rainbow Planet Coffee House is open seven days a week. Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 8 to 1 a.m., Saturday 11 to 1 a.m., and Sunday 12 to 10 p.m.

C. James is a student at Project M.O.R.E. Alternative High School.

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UNIVERSITY

Epic Cafe
Jose Galvez Photography
Ordinary Bike Shop
Diamond Man
Zoe
Subspace Recording
Pima Co. Teen Court
Rabinovitz and Associates P.C. Lawyers

Trinity Presbyterian Church

FOURTH STREET

Garden Cafe
People's Law Center
Piccolo Porto
Magpies Pizza
Rods KCC BBQ

Desert Vintage
Coyote Wore Sideburns
Creative Spirit
Casbah
La Indita
IBT's
Markley on Fourth
Architectural Designs Association
Rainbow Planet Coffee House
Excell Travel
Bruce K. Seleb Attorney at Law
Sonoran Designs

FIFTH STREET

FX
Jewel Thief
The Gathering
El Paseo
Friske
Delectables
Above & Below the Equator Gallery
Full Circle
Howelling Rabbit
Betts Printing
Eggceptions
Dairy Queen

Jaimes
Brooklyn Pizza Company
Cur' up & Dye
Sula Rose Shepard Realty
Shoe Adventure
Creative Ventures Craft Mall
BoFA ATM Machine
3rd Stone Bar & Grill
Barksdale Gallery
Chocolate Iguana

SIXTH STREET

Sweetwater Cafe
Del Sol
Ultimate Smoothie
Maya Quetzal
Piney Hollow
Ramos Indian Arts and Crafts
Jasmine
J.B. Wrangler
How Sweet it Was
Loose Change
Tribal Earthworks
Antigone Books

Creations
Bix Furniture
Caruso's
Puff N' Stuff II
Berkey's on 4th
Wingspan
Food Conspiracy Co-op
TLC Distributors/Tucson Leather Co.
4th Avenue Postal Center
Last Wax Records
Good Natured

SEVENTH STREET

Mr. Bill's Antique Stove Works
United Fire Equipment
The Other Side
Tucson Thrift
Body Essentials Aromatherapy
(Coming soon: Fountain of Treasures)

Rainbow Clothing Exchange
Aroma Cafe
Lost & Found Antique Furniture
Kanella's
Trini's Trinkets
Bison Witches
TNT Smoke Shop

EIGHTH STREET

O'Malley's
Maloney's

Value Village

A Foam & Fabric Place

The Shanty

NINTH STREET

TO CONGRESS STREET



By

C. James and Brad

Wenzel

A man who compares himself to blues great B.B. King, Sam Taylor, the 62-year-old leader of the Sam Taylor Blues Band, has the enthusiasm of a 20 year old.

"When I get up on stage, I get raving reviews. My personal opinion is that we're the best blues band in the world," Taylor said.

A master blues musician, Taylor was born in Mobile, Alabama on Oct. 25, 1934, and has lived a life of music for over 43 years.

"I play the kind of music I live. I live the heritage of my future and past," he said.

Taylor has lived through hard times and good times. As he lives and learns, his music reflects the journey.

A Tucson resident for 11 years, he says he likes living here because it is affordable. He moved to the southwest in an effort to change his lifestyle.

learned to be self-reliant early in life, and follow his own independence.

At the age of four, he began singing gospel with his mother and sister in Mobile.

His father, the well-known blues artist, Sam "the Man" Taylor, tried to get him into music by buying him a violin.

"I didn't want to walk around the ghetto with a violin in hand," remarked Taylor. "I wanted to stash it." He said he wanted to carve out his own life, independent of his famous father.

As a young man he was a prize fighter, and later joined the U.S. Marine Corps and continued his boxing there, he said.

Although Taylor has played the guitar for forty three years, he never has had any lessons or formal training. And, he said, "I never plan to stop playing."

Taylor is lead guitarist and vocalist playing with four others in the Sam Taylor Blues Band. Heather Hardy is

the background vocalist, and also the violinist. Mike Nordberg is the bassist, Ed DeLucia, guitarist and Jerome Kinsey, drummer. Taylor has worked with of the band members for at least five years.

After all his musical years, Taylor said, he has finally found a band that he can really work with. They have toured Europe, and have been honored often as winners of Tucson's local Tammy awards for music. He also has been awarded second place at the National Blues Showdown in Memphis in 1995.

Among the downs in Taylor's life were when he lost his beloved Gibson electric guitar, of which he named Samantha. He lost it in New York in 1968, it remained lost for 17 years, until he recovered it in a pawnshop in Long Beach, CA. He has owned it for more than 50 years, and played it ever since.

Another low point was when Taylor spent two months in an intensive care unit after a double and triple heart bypass surgery. He has also been shot once.

"I am happy to still be rockin'!" is Taylor's response to all that.



Blues Legend Sam Taylor

Recently Taylor was not invited to participate in the Tucson Blues Festival because he was an in-state resident. He was so angered over the rejection that for awhile he thought about leaving Tucson. People picketed for him at the festival.

He loves the blues and despite his anger he stated, "I decided I'm not going to let it upset me. The people

know who the man is..."

He is working in in local clubs around Tucson most every night of the week. Taylor usually plays at Jaimes on Saturdays, Chicago Bar on Mondays and Fridays and at Heck 'n' Winks on Sundays.

He has appeared in several movies, including Iron Eagle III, and will appear in Los Locos starring Mario Van Pebles.

Taylor is a kind-hearted person who lives a dream for most musicians - he is a wise man willing to share his thoughts.

We recommend you listen to his life through his blues.

C. James and Brad Wenzel are students at Project M.O.R.E. Alternative High School.

Western Music and Comedy

Riders in the Sky, America's most popular western musical group and comedy act, return to Tucson on Friday, February 7, 8pm, at the Temple of Music and Art, Holsclaw Theater, 330 S. Scott Avenue.

Riders in the Sky include: Ranger Doug, the Idol of American Youth on baritone vocals, yodeling, and guitar; Woody Paul, King of the Cowboy Fiddlers on tenor vocals, rope tricks, and the role of eternal innocent; and Too Slim on bass and lead vocals. The man of many hats (including the hat of Riders' cook, Sidemeat), varmit dancer, and comedian extraordinaire also add to the hilarity of the show. The Riders have their own weekly radio show, Riders Radio Theater, broadcast nationally and in Tucson on KXCI FM, and have toured internationally, bringing along their campfire and saguaro cactus props.

All seats are reserved. The show is a benefit for the Tucson Kitchen Musician's Tucson Folk Festival, to be held May 3 and 4.

Tickets are \$22, \$20, and \$18 with a \$1 discount for TKMA members and senior citizens.

Tickets are available at: Hear's Music, 2508 N. Campbell; Loco Records, 2901 E. Broadway; Zip's, 7091 E. Speedway; Zip's, 3860 W. Ina.

They are also available by phone at 881-3947 or 327-4809 there is a minimal per ticket fee by phone. For information please call 327-4809.

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Mid-Day Music Gallery Concert Series at Dinnerware

Dinnerware will host a series of free lunch hour concerts at the gallery on Wednesdays from 12 to 1pm. Tucsonans are invited to bring their lunch and spend the noon-time hour at the gallery for diverse musical performances by a variety of local musicians.

Schedule of mid-day music performances at Dinnerware Gallery:

Feb. 5	Stefin Gordon	Original songs, acoustic guitar
Feb. 12	Molly Who	
Feb. 19	Joe Rush	Pop, minimalist rock
Mar. 5	Milkseed	Acoustic pop, rock

Admission is free. For information call 792-4503.



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