

News Release
True West Magazine

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Ruidoso River Museum Shows Off as a 2009 Top Western Museum by *True West* Magazine

Hundreds of museums celebrate the American West (including more than a few east of the Mississippi). Each has its own areas of expertise and focus. But the Ruidoso River Museum in Ruidoso, New Mexico, is one of the best.

It is #8 among *True West* magazine's 2009 Top 10 Western Museums. The Great Platte River Road Archway won the top award. The May 2009 issue is on newsstands April 21.

Two-time Spur Award-winning writer Johnny D. Boggs made the selections. He predicts great things for this new institution, which opened last November: "We expect to hear a lot more about this two-story newcomer to the museum world that focuses on Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett and the Lincoln County War but doesn't overlook the rest of the area's rich history."

"Lincoln County is one of those places with an incredible heritage and culture," says *True West* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. "The welcome addition of the Ruidoso River Museum ensures that the history will be preserved and presented to visitors for years to come."

Boggs selected the winners for this annual award based on his extensive travels, research and first-hand experience in visiting dozens of museums throughout the West each year. "I look for places that re-create history and reach out to the 21st-century visitor. It also has to have really cool stuff!" he says.

Folks also nominated museums through an application form that is available on the magazine website. Museums are selected based on their grand showcases of the American West in 2008.

This is the third year *True West* has recognized the top Western museums. The feature also includes "25 Things You Could Do At a Museum in 2008 (And Not Get Tossed Out!)." Those include: Carry the Mail, Crawl Into a Wolf Den and Sing "Happy Trails."

True West magazine is in its 56th year of leading the way in presenting the true stories of Old West adventure, history, culture and preservation. For subscriptions and more information, visit <http://www.twmag.com> or call 888-687-1881.

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