

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART GEARS UP FOR CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The Museum of Western Art will celebrate the Christmas season with its annual Holiday Open House, Artist of the Month events, a day of caroling, and more. Each event is free and open to the public.

December 1 is the Museum's First Saturday Adult Craft Day and will feature a cookie exchange. Bring a dozen and take a dozen of the tasty morsels home.

On Thursday, December 6, beginning at 4:00 pm, the Museum will have four school choirs – Nimitz Elementary at 4:00 pm, Starkey Elementary at 4:45 pm, Tom Daniels School at 5:30 pm, Notre Dame Catholic School at 6:15 pm. Each of these terrific groups will delight all visitors with the sounds of the Christmas season. As visitors enjoy the carols and the holiday decorations, they can also enjoy hot cocoa and cookies.

On Saturday, December 8, the Education Department of the Museum will lead all interested children and their parents in a celebration of Christmas. Participants will be doing crafts, snacks, practice songs, and go caroling. Then we will roast hotdogs and marshmallows! The activities begin at 3 pm and continue until 7 pm.

At 5:30 pm on December 20, the Museum will host its Artist of the Month program featuring Jack Sorenson. Though born in 1954, Jack Sorenson grew up living the Old West lifestyle that he now depicts in his work. Coming of age living and working at Six Gun City, a dude ranch and frontier town in the style of the Old West situated on the rim of the Palo Duro Canyon and owned by his father, Sorenson was deeply embedded with a love for the stories and imagery that characterized the Old West, and which continues to motivate him to this day.

Whereas other teenagers spent their adolescence working in retail or fast food, Sorenson worked as a stagecoach driver, a performance gunfighter, and a horse trainer. A naturally gifted artist since childhood, Sorenson began painting full-time in 1974. After his first one-man show sold out that same year, Sorenson committed himself to a career in art and never looked back.

Stephanie Turnham, executive director of the Museum, said, "We want everyone to visit the Museum for any and all of these events. They are sure to put us all into the holiday spirit with a special finale of great Western art."

The award-winning Museum of Western Art is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Guided tours are available. For more information, please call 830.896.2553.