



## Summer Newsletter 2005, Volume 10

### Cheers to a successful Tularosa Basin Wine Festival



On July the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Tularosa Vineyards winery was held the very first to be annual Tularosa Basin Wine Festival. Two other wineries were also invited as were local artists and food vendors. The Tularosa Rotary club and Tularosa Basin Vine and Wine Society were the benefactors of all proceeds. One of the long term goals of the Rotary club is to outfit the softball field in Tularosa with a new set of lights. Entertainment included Cat Crosby a locally famous blues band and country singer Bo Rivers. Fun was had by all and was well attended by locals and tourists passing through. So mark your calendar for the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend as we celebrate the local flavors of the Tularosa Basin.

### Tularosa Vineyards Grapes Are Free!

WASHINGTON - Wine lovers may buy directly from out-of-state vineyards, the Supreme Court ruled. This struck down laws banning a practice that has flourished because of the Internet and growing popularity of winery tours.

The 5-4 decision overturns laws in New York and Michigan, which supporters said were aimed at protecting local wineries and limiting underage drinkers from purchasing wine without showing proof of age. In all, 24 states have laws barring interstate shipments.

The court said the state bans are discriminatory and anticompetitive.

"States have broad power to regulate liquor," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority. "This power, however, does not allow states to ban, or severely limit, the direct shipment of out-of-state wine while simultaneously authorizing direct shipment by in-state producers."

New Mexico wineries have always been allowed to ship to many states, but this ruling should open up Tularosa Vineyards wines to even more states.

### Born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

In 1776 our founding fathers declared their independence and a great nation was born. A nation founded on a constitution born from dreams and ideals of the men who fought, died and wrote them. Thomas Jefferson had dreams of making wine an American democratic drink. He said "No nation is drunken where wine is cheap," He also talked about wine as "Being among the earliest luxuries in which we indulge ourselves, it is desirable and it should be made here," Thomas Jefferson argued that Americans needed to learn how to grow and produce their own wines. He even started his own vineyard that was later abandoned (probably due to phylloxera). Benjamin Franklin once said "Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance." Clearly wine has had a checkered past in this country. Prohibition destroyed wine drinking customs in this country and along with it the dreams of many immigrants. The founding fathers had no idea that what was once part of New Spain would eventually become another state in this nation. Wine would indeed eventually flourish all across the nation and New Mexico would be one of the first places that grape growing and winemaking would flourish. New Mexico's wine industry began in 1629 near Senecu, New Mexico a former pueblo village. The wines made were initially for the mass, but eventually the practice of growing and making wine was widespread. So widespread that in the 1880's some were worried that wine was the major commodity being grown (especially along the Rio Grande). Prohibition dealt an even harder blow to the wine industry all across the nation. After repeal the drinking of spirits and mixed drinks would become more prevalent than wine drinking. But, this would not deter some Americans from making and growing wine and again wine began to flourish all across the country. New Mexico is no exception and even though some think that one of our fifty is missing, we are in fact still producing wine and even thriving, living the American dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Cheers from America's oldest wine growing state!