

# USS Caliente (AO-53) Association



# PIPELINE

December 2011

## President's message

By Pat Hurton

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that 2012 is off to a good start. Sorry for the delay in publication of this Pipeline but Charleen and I sold our house and downsized to a smaller lot and house in December. We considered ourselves fortunate, in this very depressed housing market, to have received an offer that was within our boundaries for sale. Anyway the past six weeks have been pretty hectic as it was advantageous to us to be able to offer to close on our new house by Dec. 30. Our buyers didn't quite make Dec. 30, but we did close on both houses on Jan. 4. My new address is 156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185. My email remains [gigandpat@digitalpath.net](mailto:gigandpat@digitalpath.net) and my phone number stays as (530)343-4060.

Enough of my personal life, Norm Street has been in contact with the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque, N.M., and we have been offered a rate of \$99.00 per night plus 13 percent sales tax or \$111.87. It is a first class hotel comparable to the last couple where we have held our reunions. The dates reserved are Sept. 27 through Sept. 30.

Because I have to guarantee a certain number of rooms to obtain this rate I would like everyone who is planning to join us to please let me know of your attendance as soon as you get this newsletter. If I don't get a sufficient and timely response then the reunion itself will be in jeopardy. Please take the time to phone or email me. I will assume no response is a negative.

On pages 8 and 9, you will find a location map for the hotel and a list of restaurants and shops at the area malls. At the bottom of page 7 is a listing of potential "Off Site" activities. Albuquerque is a great location and the annual balloon festival runs Oct. 6 through Oct. 14, so it would be easy to extend a stay and enjoy this spectacular event.

Norm Street has been maintaining the Caliente website for the past few years. He will not be maintaining it from now on due to personal reasons. Norm has done an excellent job on the website and it would be a tremendous loss not to maintain it. We DESPERATELY need someone to pick up this activity or a valuable resource for finding shipmates will be lost to anyone who "Googles" Caliente. I know we have asked in the past, but this time it is critical for someone to step forward.

With my move having taken place over the past six weeks and still having half of my office paperwork in boxes this Pipeline will only contain this short message.

Once again, I urge all of you to attend our reunion and if you do plan to attend, please respond to me as soon as you get this Pipeline .

## Welcome Aboard to our new member:

Bernard Hilsabeck, who lives in Damascus, OR, was a seaman when he served aboard the Cal from 1945 to 1946.

## Editor's message

By Karl Seitz

This Pipeline is late for the reasons in the president's message. That means there is less time for you to put together your stories, photos or whathaveyou about your time on the Caliente and send them to me for use in the March Pipeline, where your shipmates and their families can enjoy them. Without your help, the Pipeline will be less enjoyable.

Stories and pictures should be sent to my postal or e-mail address, both of which are found on page 3. If you have pictures you want to share, copies are preferred to originals. If you want to scan the pictures into digital files for transmission as e-mail attachments, please use a resolution of 300 dpi and jpeg format. If you already have a png format picture, it is not necessary to convert it. However, tiff-format files should be converted to jpeg format because of their size. Also, please include identifications of the people in the picture and information on when and where it was taken. If you don't know some of the people or the place and time, provide what you do know.

I hope to hear from you soon.



If you are on Facebook, Jack Hughes has created a Facebook group for former crew members of the USS Caliente (AO-53) and

their families. It is a closed group. To join click on "Join Group" and your request will be forwarded to the appropriate person. When requesting to join, please state your affiliation to the Caliente (crew member or family member) along with your name, rank or rate when you were aboard, and the dates you served aboard the Caliente.

## Health update, Agent Orange claims, a request and a visit

By Bob Beeter, SK3

1966- 1968

The following is extracted and edited from a series of e-mails sent by Bob in October and November.

Hello Shipmates,

Just thought I would give y'all an update on my health status. About this time last year I was having very severe neck pain. It was so severe that it put a lot of stress on my heart. Had a couple of trips to my local emergency room and also at Wilford Hall. Had to have my heart shocked back into rhythm. Also had a heart catherization at Wilford Hall. Now for the good news. There were no stints required and no major blockages. They did not even put me on blood thinners. I have an enlarged septum.

I put in for an increase in my VA disability a long time ago and finally got it increased a couple of months ago. I now have an overall or combined rating of 60 percent (the magical number I guess). My retirement pay doubled, also VA disability pay. I got 30 percent for the Agent

Orange heart disease. The VA says I have coronary artery disease.

More on the Agent Orange claim: Blue Water Veteran claims are decided on a *case by case* basis. The VA presumes veterans' ischemic heart disease is related to their exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans exposed to herbicides do not have to prove a connection between their ischemic heart disease and military service to be eligible to receive VA benefits. I received the Nehmer grant for ischemic heart disease. It is presumptive and conceded based on military health and personnel records and evidence I sent in to VA. Anyone claiming any disability has to file individually with supporting documents (DD214s, medical and personnel records). Having the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal documented on your DD214 helps. [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange) is the website. You got to jump around a little to figure all this stuff out but it is there.

I am still interested in getting the deployment dates/ports visited from the 1966-1967 cruise book. I remember we were in drydock for quite a while at Todd Shipyard in San Pedro some time between 1966 and 1968 but I cannot remember all the dates and places the Cal went between Oct., 1966 and all of 1967. If somebody has a 1966-1967 cruise book and could scan and send me the inside covers, I would be grateful. I am trying to create a chronological history of all my military active duty service including my U.S. Air Force career (over 20 years), which includes



USS Caliente Association  
President: Pat Hurton  
Vice President: Norm Street  
Secretary: Red Ward  
Pipeline Editor: Karl Seitz



The Pipeline is the official quarterly newsletter of the USS Caliente Association. It is a place to share your memories. Please send them via e-mail to [seitzao53@gmail.com](mailto:seitzao53@gmail.com) or by regular mail to Karl Seitz, 1212 30th St. South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

Masthead picture of USS Caliente (AO-53) used with permission of Dan Davis.

Association dues are \$10 per year due Jan. 1, payable by Jan. 15. Checks should be made out to The USS Caliente Association and mailed to Pat Hurton, 156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185.

lots of places. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Went up to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX to see the Caliente plaque. It is located in the Memorial Courtyard on a short wall right across from the big propeller (screw). It is the first plaque on the top row. Looks good. Was glad I went to see it.

### **Seeks stories about Bud Wilson**

Lynn Wilson, daughter of the late Wesley (Bud) Wilson, is interested in hearing from his shipmates who remember stories or other things about her father. She can be reached at [mottwil@aol.com](mailto:mottwil@aol.com). Bud served on the Caliente from March 1951 to March 1955. He was discharged as a MM2 and served the entire tour in the engine room. He had jet black hair, shiny, dark eyes, loved to eat and go to clubs. He had a sister who lived in Long Beach that he would sometimes visit. His newlywed wife was Rose, sometimes Rosie, and sometimes Rose Marie. He loved to explore Tokyo, buy stuff, and send them back to Iowa. She hopes this is enough to stir someone's memories to tell a story or two.



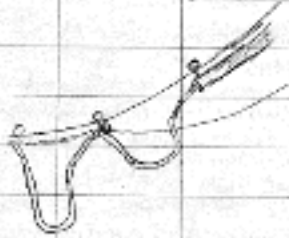
### **A picture and a question**

Frank Kleier sent along this photograph of himself on his 20th birthday somewhere near South Korea in 1973. Frank had gotten it out to compare pictures with his newly turned 20-year-old son before his son's Marine Corps deployment to Afghanistan this past autumn. Frank also has a question for his shipmates: Did the Caliente pick up a detachment of Marines in Okinawa and go somewhere off the coast of South Korea and watch them do Marine landings?





|        |                   |     |          |   |
|--------|-------------------|-----|----------|---|
| 31/12  | DE 10 1/3 DISCOCK | 4/8 | NO PROBE | NO HAZARDS, HAZARDOUSLY FORWARD   |
| 31/12  | JMSDF             | 5   | HAZOP    | HAZOP WENT, SOME COMPLAINTS AS TO HOW THE PRESSURE SHOULD BE SET. THEY TRIED TO SET THEM UP TO MORNING, HAD A MAN HOLDING AT BELONG STANDING OFF FROM THE APPROX. THIS WAS A FINE/FAST LINE   |
| 31/12  | JMSDF             | 8   | PROBE    | SMOOTH OPERATION. PROBE SEATED OK   |
| 31/12  | JMSDF             | 3   | HAZOP    | POSTY SPEECH, MISPLACED RETURN CORRECTLY. THEY SAID THAT THERE WAS PROPER ATTENTION USING THIS FOR SOME REASON. SUSTAINABLE AND NOT HAZARD  |
| 31/12  | JMSDF             | 3   | HAZOP    | HAZOP LINE WAS NOT USED BUT THIS WAS THE SMOOTHEST, MOST DIRECTLY PERFORMED EVOLUTION OF THE JAPANESE WINS. MISPLACED CONCERN BY RETURN   |
| 31/12  | JMSDF             | 3   | HAZOP    | CRITIQUE OF UNREPS IN BACK OF THE BOSS  |
|        |                   |     |          | ALL THE JAPANESE WINS WERE A LITTLE DARK ON HAZARDOUS PROCEDURES + PROBLEMS WERE, THEY DROPPED THE PROGRAM HOOKS ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT WAITING FOR A SIGNAL. THEY MANAGED TO DO THAT ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED. ALL USED BURNING BURNING WINS, SHOULD BE BURNING. APPROX. DROPPED A RISK TO THE WATER PUMP |
| 1/1/12 | DD 710 WILSON     | 17  | PROBE    | GOOD UNREP  |
| 1/1/12 | DD 821            | 8   | PROBE    | SHORT ONE PERIOD. 2-TONN WAS SOME NOISY STARTING PROBE, NOISE DUE TO 180° SENSATION. FACT THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO  |
| 1/1/12 | DD 904            | 7   | PROBE    | GOOD UNREP. SEAT SLOTTED ITEMS OVER ON PROBE TRUCKY + MESS. TONN 3 WENT TO SEAT PROBE BECAUSE THEY DIDNT WANT TO PULL   |
| 1/1/12 | DD 143            | 8   | PROBE    | MESS, PROBE GONG - INSTALLED AFTER CORRECTION UNREP. CONSTRUCTION   |
| 1/1/12 | ESTERN            | 6   | 2 1/2 QR | OK  |
| 1/1/12 | MSC               | 6   | 2 1/2 QR | BAD HOOKUP. 400 HAZE POWER IN RUNNING. LOT QR BITING OVER   |
| 1/1/12 | CONQUEST          | 7A  | 2 1/2 QR | GOOD UNREP TIL QR BITING LAST OVER THE SIDE   |
| 1/1/12 | LUXURIE           | 7A  | 2 1/2 QR | GOOD UNREP BUT THEY REFUSED SHUTDOWN. JPS ALL OVER  |
| 1/1/12 | LEADER            | 7A  | 2 1/2 QR | GOOD UNREP BUT ANOTHER HALF OF A QR QUANTITY LOST OVER THE SIDE. THESE COUPLINGS ARE NOT MADE TO BE PASSED OVER ON A HOSE. EACH MSC SHOULD HAVE ONE ON BOARD AND HOOK IT UP TO THE AD HOSE EACH UNREP, DISCONNECT AND WHEN FINISHED TAKING ON FUEL  |
|        | REMOVED ALL 5 MSC |     |          | TWICE MORE. MSC RIGGED PERFORMANCE IMPROVED. WE AVOID 2 1/2 HOSE QR 6 BUT REPLACED IT IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES.  |



## New Members write

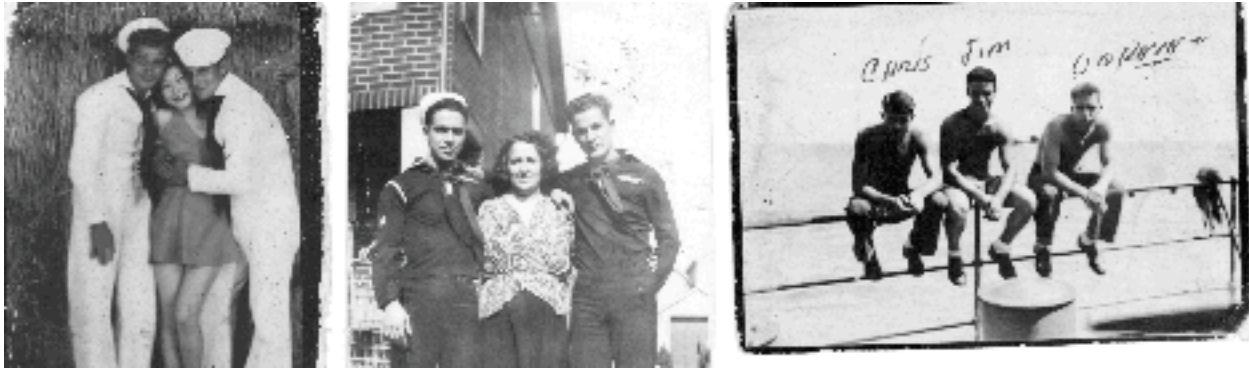
### A commendation and some pictures from World War II

Paul Cirafesi, who was welcomed as a new member last issue, sent along some pictures and a copy of a captain's commendation he received in 1945. The commendation reads in part:

"1. For your devotion to duty under hazardous and trying circumstances while fueling at sea in very heavy weather on 17 January 1945, you are hereby commended.

"2. The Commander Task Group 30.8 stated in his dispatch 00:55/TBS of 20 January 1945 that he considered the injuries you received in this hazardous duty the same as injuries received in battle.

"3. Your performance was in the best keeping of the naval traditions and service."

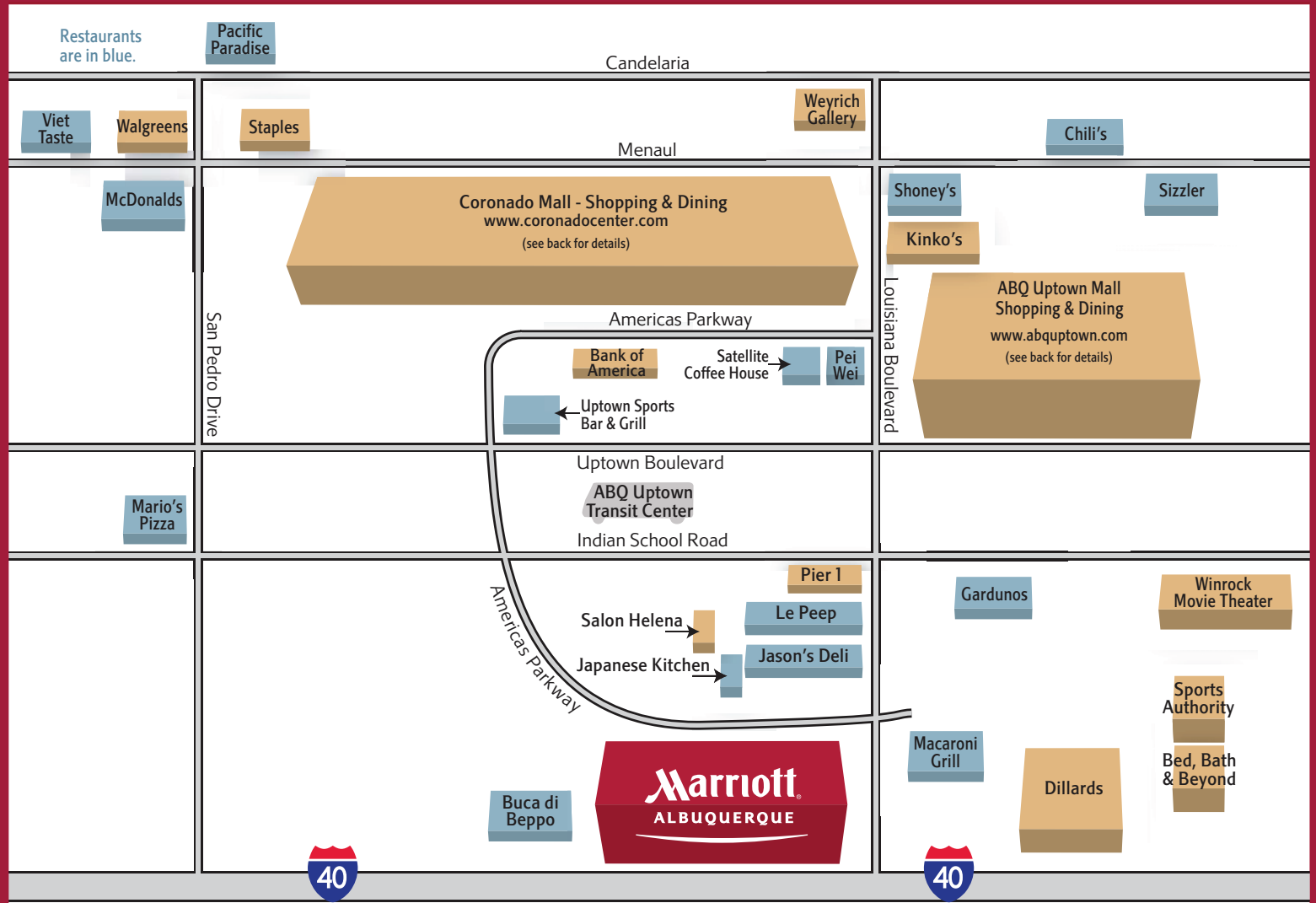


Left: Paul Cirafesi and Jim Billotti with unidentified woman. Center: Jim Bilotti, Jim's Mom and Paul Cirafesi. Right: Christen Christian, Jim Bilotti and unknown shipmate.

## Looking ahead to Albuquerque

Pages 8 and 9 contain the map and listings mentioned in the President's Message. The list of possible off-site activities is below:

- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway
- Balloon Ride
- Historic Old Town
- Nob Hill
- ABQ Biological Park
- Albuquerque Zoo
- Wildlife West Nature Park
- Albuquerque Aquarium
- Albuquerque Garden Center
- Indian Cultural Center
- Hispanic Cultural Center
- Petroglyph National Monument
- Bandelier National Monument
- Coronado State Monument
- Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway
- Salt Mission Trail Scenic Byway
- Sky City, Acoma Pueblo
- Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site
- Santa Fe Day Trip
- Santa Fe Southern Railway Scenic Train Rides
- Ice Care & Bandera Volcano
- Downs at Albuquerque Racetrack & Casino
- Casinos: Sandia, Isleta, Santa Ana, Route 66
- West Wing Bird Tours
- Wineries
- Day Spas
- Albuquerque Isotopes Baseball
- New Mexico Scorpions Hockey
- Cliff's Amusement Park
- Outdoor Activities: Golfing, Mountain Bike Trails, Hiking Trails, White Water Rafting, Skiing, Tingley Beach
- Museums: Natural History Museum, National Atomic Museum, Museum of Art & History, LodeStar Astronomy Center, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Balloon Museum, Tinkertown Museum, Turquoise Museum, University Art Museum; J&R Vintage Auto Museum, American International Rattlesnake Museum





## Restaurants and Shops at the Area Malls

### ABQ Uptown Mall Shopping & Dining

Alfred Angelo Bridal  
 Alltel Wireless  
 Ann Taylor Loft  
 Apple  
 BCBG  
 Borders  
**Bravo Cucina Italiana**  
 Chico's  
 Cingular  
 Coldwater Creek  
 Eddie Bauer  
**Elephant Bar and Restaurant**  
 Francesca's Collection  
 Gymboree  
 JJill  
 Jared-TheGaleria of Jewelry  
 Jos. A. Bank  
 La Bella Spa & Salon  
 Loop  
 Lucky Brand Jeans  
**Marcello's Chophouse**  
 Pottery Barn  
 Sharper Image  
 Soma by Chico's  
**Starbucks**  
 Sunglass Hut  
 Talbots  
 White House Black Market  
 Williams Sonoma  
 World of Knives

#### Hours of Operation

**Monday - Thursday**  
 10:00am-9:00pm  
**Friday-Saturday**  
 10:00am-10:00pm  
**Sunday**  
 12:00pm-6:00pm

### Coronado Mall Shopping & Dining

3D Carfx  
 Aeropostale  
 ALDO  
 Alert Cellular  
 American Eagle Outfitters  
 Anchor Blue  
 Ann Taylor  
 APD Substation  
 Art On The Warpath  
 ATM Bank of America  
**Auntie Anne's**  
 Bakers Shoes  
 Banana Republic  
 Barnes & Noble  
 Bath & Body Works  
**Boba Tea**  
 The Body Shop  
 Bombay Company  
 Boot Barn  
 Brookstone  
 Buckle  
 Cache  
 Calendar Club  
 Cell Needs  
 Champs Sports  
 Charlotte Russe  
**Chickadees**  
 Children's Place  
 Chili Store  
 Cingular  
**Cinnabon**  
 Claire's Accessories  
 Claire's Boutique  
 Club Spa Nails  
 Coach House Gift  
 Coldwell Banker Legacy  
 Comcast  
 Copper Creations  
 Crabtree & Evelyn

Cricket  
 D.E.M.O.  
**Del Taco**  
**Dippin' Dots**  
 EB Games  
 EJ's  
 Express  
 Fanzz  
 Fast Fix Jewelry Repair  
 Finish Line  
 Foot Locker  
 Frederick's Of Hollywood  
**Fuddruckers**  
 Gap  
 Gap Kids/Baby Gap  
 General Nutrition Center  
**Golden Swirl Frozen Yogurt**  
 Gordon's Jewelers  
 Helzberg Diamonds  
 Himilayan Riches & Rugs  
 Hollister Level  
**Hot Dog On A Stick**  
 Hot Topic  
 House Of Handbags  
 Icings by Claires  
 Industrial Rideshop  
 Infinity Wireless  
 J&J Gifts  
 JCPenney  
 JCPenney Day  
 JCPenney Portrait Studio  
 Journeys Kidz Shoes  
 Journeys Shoes  
 K-B Toys & Hobbies  
 Kay Jewelers  
 Kiddie Kandids  
 Kids Foot Locker  
 Kirklands  
 Kohl's

Krazy Daze  
 Lady Foot Locker  
 Lane Bryant  
 Larry's Beauty Center  
 Le Nails D  
 Leather Zone  
 LensCrafters  
 Lids  
 Limited Too  
 The Limited  
 Logic  
 Lopez Glass  
 Lowdown Fashions  
 Lundstrom Jewelers  
 Macy's  
 Mandy's Shop  
 MasterCuts  
 Mati  
 Memories  
 Motherhood Maternity  
 New York and Company  
**Orange Julius/Dairy Queen**  
 Oriental Gifts  
 Ortega's Indian Arts  
 Pacific Sunwear  
**Panda Express**  
 Payless ShoeSource  
 Petz  
 Photo Memories  
 Plumb Gold  
 ProActiv  
**Quizno's**  
 Qwest Kiosk  
 Radio Shack  
 Rave  
 Rio Shoes  
 Ritz Camera  
 Robert Wayne Shoes  
 Rocky Mtn Chocolate Factory

Sam Goody  
**Sbarro**  
 Sears  
 Secret Elements  
 See's Candies  
 Select Comfort  
 Senor Murphy Candymaker  
 Sensitive Ears  
 Sephora  
 Shoe Fitters  
 Size 5-7-9  
 Spencer Gifts  
 Sporting Eyes  
**Spring Rolls**  
 Stacy's Hallmark  
 Star Image  
 Sun Image  
 Suncoast Motion Pictures  
 Sundance Co.  
 Sunflower Company  
 Sunglass Designs  
 Sunglass Hut  
**Sweet Factory**  
 Things Remembered  
 Tilt Family Entertainment Center  
 Torrid  
 Tuxedo Junction  
 Underground Station  
 Verizon Wireless  
 Victoria's Secret  
 Victoria's Secret Beauty  
 Wells Fargo  
 Western Warehouse  
 Wet Seal  
 What Time Is It?  
 Whitehall Co. Jewelers  
 Wilson's Leather  
 Zales Jewelers  
 Zumiez

#### Hours of Operation

**Monday - Thursday 10:00am-9:00pm Friday 10:00am-10:00pm Saturday 8:00am-10:00pm Sunday 11:00am-7:00pm**  
*(Store hours vary, please call ahead (505) 881-2700)*