

# Travel

The Dallas Morning News

Section K

Sunday, November 27, 2011

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### NEW MEXICO

#### Santa Fe hotel offers packages for ski season

Inn of the Anasazi in Santa Fe offers two packages for the upcoming ski season, for Taos Ski Valley and for Ski Santa Fe. Both can be used for stays through April 5.

■ City to Mountains includes two nights at Inn of the Anasazi, breakfast for two, two nights at Taos Ski Valley and two adult ski passes. Rates start at \$570 per night for two people.

■ Ski & Waves includes one night at Inn of the Anasazi, breakfast for two, two adult ski passes for Ski Santa Fe and a \$200 spa credit. Rates start at \$615 per night for two people.

Contact and reservations: 505-988-3030; [www.innoftheanasazi.com](http://www.innoftheanasazi.com)

### HOUSTON

#### Teams to compete in gingerbread construction

As many as 40 teams are expected to compete Dec. 10 in the annual Gingerbread Build-Off contest sponsored by Architecture Center Houston, Buffalo Bayou Partnership and other groups.

Construction will occur from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Market Square Park,

with prizes announced at 4 p.m. The next phase is an exhibition of winning structures Dec. 12-16 and a few other structures at Architecture Center Houston. All events are free for spectators.

Prizes may be awarded in a variety of categories, including Tallest Standing Structure, Best Traditionally Themed and Best Non-Traditionally Themed. If you plan to compete, registration is due by Nov. 30; the fee is \$125. To register, contact AIA Houston (a chapter of the American Institute of Architects) or go to <http://bit.ly/pni2UU>.

Contact and reservations: 713-520-0155; <http://bit.ly/pni2UU>

### COLORADO

#### Mesa Verde area makes holiday plans

Mesa Verde Country, the area surrounding Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado, has announced a variety of holiday events. Participating areas include the towns of Cortez, Dolores and Mancos as well as Mesa Verde National Park.

■ Dec. 1, Taste of the Season. Four Seasons Nursery in Cortez will host a holiday event featuring entertainment, local wines and food from nearby restaurants. A silent auction will

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benefit United Way of Montezuma County.

■ Dec. 1-19, toy drive in Dolores. People may drop off toys for needy children at designated businesses. Distribution will be Dec. 19-20.

■ Dec. 2, a tree-lighting ceremony in Mancos features an appearance by Santa Claus, a Reindeer Run through downtown, a free children's Christmas movie at the community center and celebrations at businesses.

■ Dec. 3, Parade of Lights, an evening parade featuring lighted floats in Cortez; a Christmas Bazaar in Dolores offers arts and crafts, food and prizes; and the Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in Dolores will feature an appearance by Santa Claus, a yule log fire at Town Hall, and refreshments. Businesses will be open later than usual.

■ Dec. 2-10, Olde Time Christmas season in Mancos; gallery and artist receptions in Mancos; and a Giving Tree on which people in need may place an ornament containing a gift request at a designated business in Mancos. People wishing to give choose an ornament and donate the requested item. Gifts are distributed the week before Christmas.

■ Dec. 8, Luminaria Open House at Mesa Verde National Park. Luminarias will glow along pathways in the Chapin Mesa headquarters area and along the trail to Spruce Tree House.

Rangers will offer evening tours of cliff dwellings. Park admission is free after 4 p.m.

■ Dec. 26, Christmas Bird Count. Cortez Cultural Center hosts an annual bird-watching event.

Contact: 970-565-8227; [www.mesaverdecountry.com](http://www.mesaverdecountry.com)

### LOUISIANA

#### In New Orleans, old building becomes new hotel

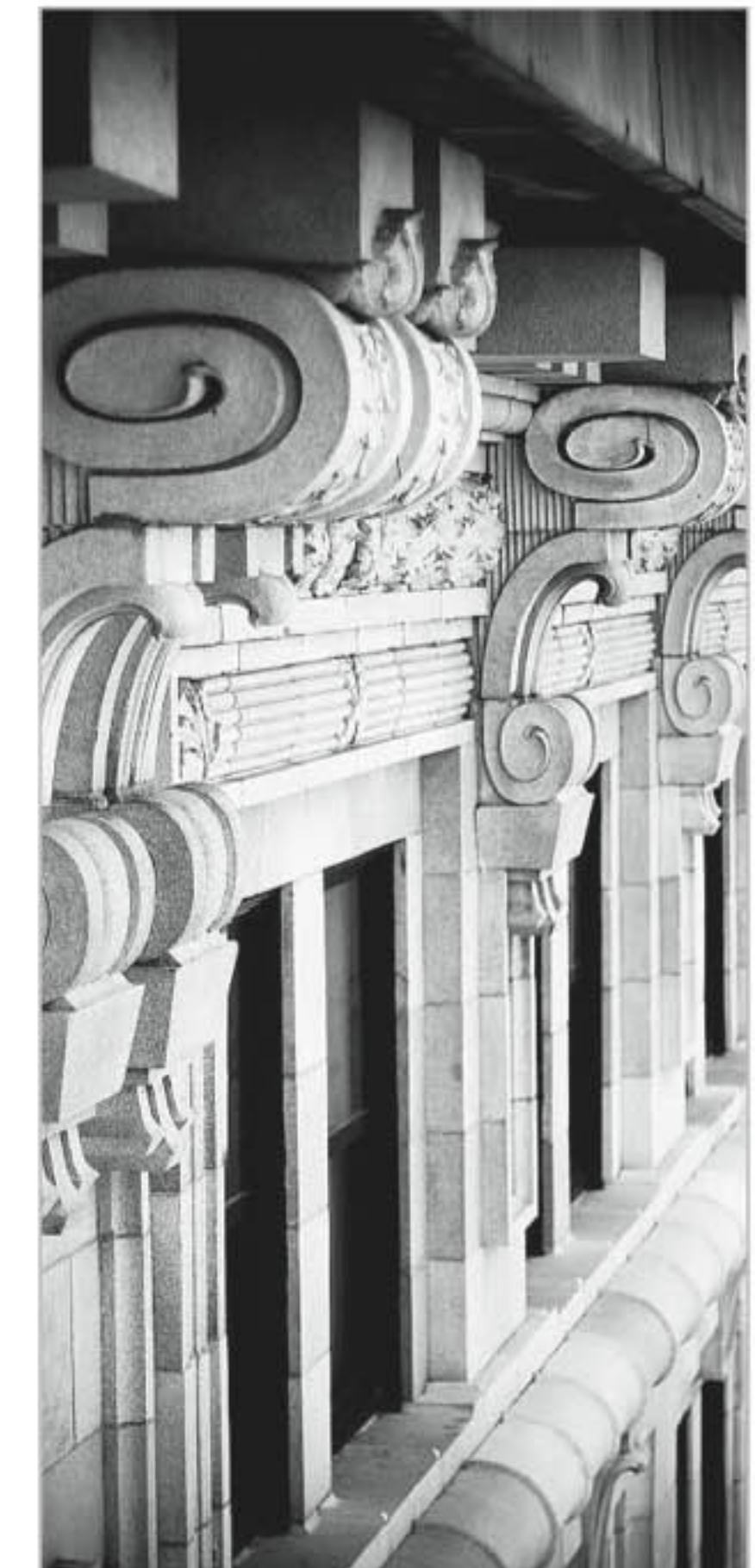
New Orleans soon will have a new hotel in an old building. The 102-year-old Audubon Building originally was envisioned as a hotel, but plans changed during construction. Until now, it has been an office building.

The opening of the 166-room hotel in the remodeled Audubon Building at Canal and Burgundy streets is planned for mid-December. Reservations are being accepted, but check with the hotel before scheduling vacation time, making travel plans or paying a deposit.

The hotel's owner and developer is American Airlines pilot Mark Wyant of Dallas, who previously built hotels under Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn franchises.

Contact: 504-522-5400; [www.thesainthotelneworleans.com](http://www.thesainthotelneworleans.com)

From staff reports



The Saint Hotel

**The 1909 Audubon Building** in New Orleans has been renovated to house the Saint Hotel, which opens in December. The building's facade retains its Beaux Arts detailing.