

# DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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Oh, Pecans!  
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April 2019  
Volume 24 • Number 4







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**TYRONE Cul-de-sac – 3 BR  
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that abuts the edge of town. Elevated with nice open views to the east. Carport, storage and fenced yard. Priced to sell at \$129,000. MLS #35925



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extra fixer-upper house for guests or  
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**Premier opportunity to own Horse  
Heaven in SW New Mexico!** Perfectly  
set-up horse facility and home, bordered  
on 2 sides by National Forest. 43 acres all  
fenced into pastures with top of the line 4  
stall Barn and Covered arena are just the  
start of what this property can offer. 2000+  
sf, 2 BR/2BA + Office, home is set up for  
easy living and entertaining with recent  
solar upgrade! Wonderful, extended  
outdoor living spaces to enjoy the scenic  
views and wonderful, year-round weather.  
State of the art greenhouse for year-round  
growing opportunities. Too many features  
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MLS# 35977 **\$1,300,000**



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**TOP TO BOTTOM RENOVATION ON A  
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CORNER OF LITTLE WALNUT RD. & US  
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reception, 1/2 bath, & storage room w/sink.  
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included. It has 3 offices, reception area,  
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for rent @ \$650/month. This commercial  
property is attractively priced, and could  
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MLS# 36164. **\$125,000**



**Nestled on a gentle slope and  
surrounded by piñon pines and juniper,**  
this 3+2 has it all. Huge open-concept living  
space with vaulted ceilings, tile flooring  
throughout, and VIEWS! Just off kitchen/  
dining is a sweet protected covered patio,  
with terraced garden beds and long dog  
runs. Sizeable master suite includes large  
walk-in closet, and again, views! Master  
bath has large jetted tub and separate walk-  
in shower. Minutes to town, but feels like a  
mountain hideaway! MLS# 36173 **\$255,000**



**Get away after the workday in this  
well taken care of 3 bedroom 2 bath  
manufactured home on almost 8 acres.**  
Rear covered porch runs the entire  
length of the home and you can unload  
groceries under cover, right at the  
back door. Spacious feel with the open  
concept, great for entertaining. The  
detached metal garage/shop has 220  
power. MLS# 36112. **\$79,900**



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barn has four 16X16 box stalls, a tack  
room, hay storage, pen, & arena. New 20  
gpm well, two 5,000 gallon storage tanks,  
2 greenhouses, fruit trees, & decorative  
windmill. Come see all that this property  
has to offer! MLS# 36108 **\$215,000**



**ATTRACTIVE 2-3 BEDROOM/2 BATH  
HOME IN A NICE SUBDIVISION CLOSE  
TO DOWNTOWN.** One 2 car garage plus  
another 1 car garage, both attached.  
Large open living area with wood-stove  
insert, east facing sunroom serves as the  
3rd bedroom. Fun retro features highlight  
this well-kept home. Fenced backyard  
with garden area and peek-a-boo views  
of the neighborhood.  
MLS# 36165. **\$159,000**



**An abundance of extra amenities! 4  
Bedroom home with 3 bathrooms** with  
an open concept living/dining/kitchen  
area that would be great for entertaining.  
Extra large family fun room/great room w/  
oversize bar, pellet stove & 3rd bathroom.  
Large master bedroom with full master  
bathroom. Large hobby/craft room off  
kitchen. Storage building. Attached  
two car garage with enclosed hobby/  
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Michelle Rouch

## ABOUT THE COVER:

"Ethereality" is an original painting enhanced with abstraction. Inspired by astronaut Buzz Aldrin's vision for space exploration and mission to Mars, the painting depicts a colorful representation of a heavenly area on the Moon. Artist Michelle Rouch has 30 years of engineering experience working for the Department of Defense. She served for 20 years as lead systems engineer weapon systems at Raytheon Missiles Systems and as a technical advisor. She is a self-taught artist with over 35 years of experience combining her technical knowledge to create unique pieces of aerospace subjects. Her artwork promotes science and engineering and continues to develop new



techniques to redefine aerospace art with a contemporary approach. She is featured during the Las Cruces Space Festival April 7 to 13, lcspacefestival.com.

## BEEZWAX



## BEEZWAX





EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

# Face to Face

A barber and the art of conversation

There is something about a small town barber shop, or a local salon, that encourages the art of conversation. Maybe it's that people have to sit and stare at each other. It's one of the few times in your life where you can't be looking down at your phone screen for extended periods of life.

Conversation is an art. It involves a verse. A back and forth. A good conversation has emotion, creates a reaction, and often a memory. When was the last time you heard "I'll never forget that text you sent me?" No, no, no. Please don't let this be the conversation memory of the 21st century.

A recent trip to the Silver Clippers barber shop helped me realize that conversation between two people can do so much for the human spirit. A barber is busy at work, moving his hands in some kind of dance. And even then, with as much concentration as it must take to create a classic hairstyle on the head of a regular morning customer, this barber has enough time to interact with a good story.

The pleasantries of a "how are you" and "how's the team looking this year" are simple opening statements for what must be the real reason you visit your regular barber shop – your yearning for good conversation with the man you trust to make you look good.

This doesn't mean you have to be the one engaged in all talk. Listening to a good conversation is just as fulfilling. During a recent trip to Silver Clippers, I listened to two older gentlemen speak of the retired life. They were in much agreement about how life was good at home and shared tips on how to fix this and fix that around the yard.

I don't think they knew each other very well, these two men, but sitting at a barber shop gave them the opportunity to connect with a real story. They didn't need a phone or a picture on Facebook to draw up a memory. They just needed the chance to exchange words.

I learned a few things myself on the creativity of the greatest generation when it comes to fixing what's broken in life, big or small.

Nothing beats the conversation a barber himself can have with the hundreds of customers he sees each week. He listens and learns their names. He knows their habits, what cars they drive.

He knows of birthdays and special family occasions. And he knows of these things because he allows us to tell him these things.

With the rapid progress of technology, I find comfort in knowing that the careers of the future include a good barber. Not just the kind that makes you look better than when you come into his shop, but the kind that makes you feel better because he knows the art of conversation.

*Abe Villarreal is the assistant dean of student activities at Western New Mexico University. When not on campus, he enjoys writing about his observations on life, people and American traditions.*



RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# Big Five

All for the sake of walking

My father walks every day – EVERY day – rain or shine.

The problem is this: my 93-year-old father's feet hurt when he walks. They hurt when he wakes up. They hurt when he goes to sleep. They hurt when he eats, and when he's hogging the TV. They just plain hurt. The thing is, he doesn't blame his feet.

He blames his shoes.

I was driving through a small town on my way to a bigger town when I saw an elderly gentleman jogging. He had a big smile on his face, and was giving me a friendly wave, so I decided to stop. As I got out of my car, he walked on over with his right hand outstretched. He was 10 feet away and already eager for a handshake.

I didn't stop just to be friendly. He had old feet like my father, so I was curious what kind of shoes he wore. Happy as he was, they must be comfortable.

"How's it going?" I said.

"How's it going?" he repeated, snatching up my hand before it was completely raised. He shook it vigorously.

He looked even older up close. At 45 mph I wasn't able to see how wrinkled he actually was. He was an energetic old coot, and I call him that affectionately. He was happy to see me, even though he didn't know who I was. Happy to talk with me, even though he didn't know what I wanted to talk with him about. I could have been there to rob him, and he would have happily handed over his wallet as long as I stayed and talked a while.

"I don't mean to interrupt your jog," I told him, "but I just wanted to know what kind of shoes you're wearing?"

I looked at his feet. They were Nikes, but I couldn't tell what kind.

"My shoes?" he answered. "Oh, I've got about six or seven pairs."

"What kind are you wearing now?"

"I'm wearing my favorites."

That didn't tell me what I wanted to know, so I said, "I can see they're Nikes, but what kind?"

"They're Nikes? I didn't know that."

Hunh.. ah.. wha?

He didn't know?

Surely, he's joking. At least, I hoped he was joking. And don't call me Shirley.

"Do you know what they're called?" I asked him.

"They're called Nikes. You just told me that."

"But what kind of Nikes?"

"They make more than one?"

A big rig was coming down the road, so I put a hand on his arm. We moved a few feet to the side. I decided to take a different approach.

"Did the salesman who sold you these shoes tell you what kind they were?"

"I bought them at Big Five Sporting Goods."

Again, he didn't really answer my question. In fact, he didn't answer it at all.

"Did the salesman at Big Five

tell you what kind of shoes they were?"

"I bought them at the Big Five in Tucson. Do you live in Tucson? If you want a pair like these, you'll have to go there."

"No," I told him, "I don't live in Tucson. All I need is the name of the shoes you're wearing."

"They're Nikes. My wife and I were driving through Tucson on our way to Rawhide in Chandler, Arizona. We were taking the grandkids. Rawhide used to be in Scottsdale, but they moved. We stopped in Tucson to get some gas, and I saw a Big Five. 'Let's go in here awhile, honey,' I told my wife, and that's where I bought my shoes."

Great. He could tell me everything BUT the kind of shoes he was wearing.

I was familiar with Rawhide. It's an old western town with donkey and stagecoach rides. They have actors dressed like cowboys having gunfights with each other. They used to have a camel you could ride who even starred in movies, none of which I know the names of. Sadly, the camel died.

The best thing there is their steakhouse, where, besides great steaks, they also serve fried rattlesnake and mountain oysters. If you want to know what mountain oysters are, Google it. I'm trying to keep this column G-rated. There's a spacious dance floor with a live country band. At any time during your meal, you can get up and shake a leg. And then you can shake the other one. Maybe you can even dance. One other thing the steakhouse has is the best bread pudding I've ever tasted. When my kids were still kids, we always made it a point to stop there for a good time, and I'm not just saying that to get a free mule ride the next time I go.

"No, sir, I don't live in Tucson, but if you can just tell me what kind of shoes you're wearing that would be a great help."

"They're Nikes," he said.

I was getting nowhere fast, so I decided to say goodbye. Part of me was frustrated at how he wouldn't answer me, even if it was just to tell me to get lost, but he was so happy to have someone to talk with, I wasn't able to make the jump from frustration to being mad. He reminded me too much of my father.

"Thank you, sir," I told him, and I even meant it. "You were a big help."

Well, I didn't mean that last one so much.

He shook my hand even more vigorously as I tried to leave. Driving away I could see him in my rear-view mirror waving goodbye for longer than he had to. Meanwhile, my father's feet still hurt. Tucson's just a few hours away. Big Five shouldn't be too hard to find.

It's near a gas station.

*Even nearer than that is [RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com](#), [JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com](#), or [@JimDuchene](#). Go fill up on laughs.*



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Sandwash Basin Wild Horses (Photos by Laurie Ford)

IN THE WILD • LAURIE FORD

# America’s Wild Horses Presentation

Their history, heritage, habitat and perpetual connection with humans

From the time they returned to the land of their ancestors in the early 1500s, America’s wild horses have had a connection with humans throughout history. The Spanish horses that escaped from the first European settlements along the Rio Grande in New Mexico grew into vast herds that not only became an integral part of the landscape but also played a crucial role in the culture and development of the West. Wild horses that currently inhabit the eastern outer banks were also considered to be descendants from horses brought over by Spanish explorers and contributed to American history as well.

Wild horses that were captured and domesticated toiled and fought alongside the men and women they carried through the historical events that shaped this great country.

Although the Spanish blood has become diluted, the spirit and perseverance of the mustang – a breed we equate with freedom – has not.

For a glimpse of these wild horses, their history, heritage, present day habitat and ongoing connection with humans, join one



Onaqui Mountains Wild Horses

of two presentations to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Meeting House, 3845 N. Swan St., in Silver City. Presentations will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3 or at 11 on the following morning, May 4.

Take a virtual journey to some of the wild horse territories where the awe-inspiring sight of these breathtaking horses running free in their natural habitat can still be experienced to introduce you to the herds that presently inhabit public lands in New Mexico.

The presentations will share the issues surrounding these iconic figures that are quickly

disappearing and talk about the importance of preserving their heritage and presence on American soil.

And, finally, participants will learn how they can connect with one of these animals through adoption or the purchase of a gentled, trained mustang and discover what makes them unique.

This presentation is sponsored by the Jicarilla Mustang Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit organization with a mission to unite mustangs with the best possible homes.

Call Laurie at 575-539-2503 or Barb at 505-360-5996 for information.

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ON THE SHELF • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

'All the Broken People'

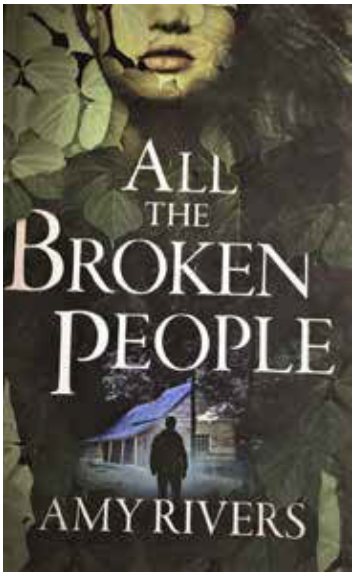
Author throws her empathy into book

AMY Rivers knows about broken people, that's why her new suspense/mystery, "All the Broken People," strikes a very real chord for the reader.

"My background has been in working with sexual abuse and domestic violence," she said. "I was focused on that in graduate studies, and still focus on that in the workplace."

As she contemplated starting the book, she knew she wanted to create a female character who had a horrible and difficult childhood.

"Alice (the main character) fought her way back from her own addictions and seeded herself in a life expecting things to be stable," Rivers said. "But the reality for most people (who



grow up through abuse and addiction) is they are not real great judges of what stability looks like. What would happen

in that kind of relationship? Her (Alice's) marriage seems perfect, but it's not. Her perception of stability is flawed."

To write a book like this you have to spend time building suspense and action Rivers said, but she feels the reason people are drawn to the story is because she spends a lot of time doing character development and making sure readers can relate no matter how far outside their sphere of reality the character exists.

And then there is the villain. "This is psychological suspense," Rivers said. "What happens if the villain isn't so black and white? It's never that sim-

BROKEN PEOPLE

continued on page 9



Lee Gruber and Bridget Jones with swnmACT share an office at Silver City's Murry Ryan Visitor Center. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

CHANGING HANDS

ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Arts Culture Tourism

Study looks at creative options

Managing a 501 (c) 3 is no easy business, especially when the job changes mid-stream, but one Silver City nonprofit has held onto the boat as its purview rides the river side to side.

When Silver City Arts and Culture became a MainStreet committee and Silver City Tourism was contracted out to an Albuquerque firm, Southwest New Mexico ACT (swnmACT), could easily have lost its momentum. But two people, Director Lee Gruber and Project Coordinator Bridgett Jones, have tilted the boat a little and come out saving the nonprofit and performing an important service for Silver City.

In 2018 swnmACT received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture funding a feasibility study for makerspaces and/or incubators in Grant County. Silver City company Creative Startups has worked with swnmACT since October 2018, conducting interviews and exploring possibilities in the community.

"We are having a good time re-inventing ourselves," Gruber said. "We were left with a USDA study to investigate the idea of makerspaces and incubator spaces and see if they would go over well, if they are needed, and if there is money here to support these things. So what we are overseeing now is this feasibility study."

Jones said swnmACT is currently in the third phase of the study. They have gathered the data and are putting it all together into a fi-

nal report.

"It's a really good platform – to have all this analysis of what is available in the community, what the community wants, what it doesn't want, what it needs and doesn't need and what spaces are here to fill those needs. So once that report is presented to us, we have a strong platform to take to investors, community, grants, proposals, etc."

"Feasibility often is the first step to determine if something like this could even fly here," Gruber added.

Gruber said swnmACT would then go on to oversee some of the production of that study including makerspaces and more. In fact, she said, there already is a new makerspace called the Future Forge collaborating with the organization. Future Forge is still in the process of being put together, and growing, she said. Initially the business has created a computer lab and has moved in woodworking equipment.

New makerspaces and incubators supported by swnmACT would not necessarily go down the forge-and-metal-work road but could involve anything from food economy (meat processing, distribution of food, growing food) or arts to after-school youth programs.

In addition to the study and its results, swnmACT oversees the Silver City Clay Festival and the continuing development of the Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail.

For information, email [info@swnmact.org](mailto:info@swnmact.org) or call 575-538-5560.

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**BROKEN PEOPLE**  
continued from page 8

ple. I am interested in why people do what they do. I am interested in all the parts that make them unique.”

So, Rivers created a villain who is just as damaged as the protagonist, and found he was not necessarily a bad guy.

“I am not an outliner or a plotter so I start a character and go with it,” she said. “So, my villain became not a villain, and I had to have another villain. Even so, at the end of the book when you find out about that person’s background you aren’t entirely unsympathetic.”

Rivers writes this way to create empathy for all people, she said.

“We need to understand people better in this world,” she said. “I want the words that come out of my mouth to be responsible and to be able to make the world a better place even if they are just fiction.”

In the book, Alice travels to the kudzu-covered mountains of north Georgia to care for her mother-in-law after a fall. She fights her own inner demons from her abusive past and uncovers ugly family secrets, as devious attacks on her and her family threaten their lives.

Rivers is visually impaired (since she was 7) and so has spent her whole life figuring out how to navigate the world without being able to drive and move around as other people do.

“That made me interested in people and how they deal with things,” she said. “I am the child of an alcoholic and it wasn’t until later counseling that I realized that who I am has a lot to do with that. Being self-aware has been very important to me. I don’t want to be



Amy Rivers

judged by outward appearances because some of my behaviors are directly impacted by being the child of an alcoholic.”

As the daughter of a sexual abuse survivor and having worked with sexual assault victim and care workers, River said her training has brought home the realization that people can’t be expected to react the same way, “because human beings are a unique conglomeration of things.

“I always want my women (that she writes about) to be real,” she said. “I want readers to see it’s okay to be flawed. It’s okay to make mistakes. It doesn’t mean we can’t overcome our past. I want people to know every event in our lives shapes us and makes us what we are but we can choose to help or hinder our ability to get over those things.”

Despite being an author of two previous books, “Wallflower Blooming” and “Best Laid Plans & Other Disasters,” Rivers said this new book has been a whole new adventure, as she is taking a new tack as an independent author.

“My first couple of books I

**“All the Broken People”  
Book signings  
in New Mexico**

**April 13:** 1:30 p.m., Coas Books on Main, Las Cruces

**April 17:** 5:30 p.m. Book Talk and Signing at Alamogordo Public Library, Alamogordo: Presentation Topic “My Writing Life”

**April 18:** 6 p.m. Book Talk and Signing at Patron’s Hall, Alamogordo: Presentation Topic: “Crime & Kudzu: The Inspiration Behind ‘All the Broken People.’”

**April 19:** Book Signing at Imaginary Books, Cloudcroft, time to be announced

was really focused on myself and the stories I wanted to tell,” she said. “I really had a personal agenda about what I wanted to say. I still have that, but I have shifted to how I wanted readers to feel at the end of that process.”

Rivers said she understands that mystery readers are looking for escapism, but she has never been satisfied just to go for entertainment value.

“I depict people in as realistic a way as possible,” she said. “You have to suspend your belief so much in most suspense novels, because every cop can’t break every rule to solve every case. Writers have a responsibility. They are helping shape the world view of their readers. The reality is, when you write something, and they read it, we are helping shape it.”

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Rudy Dominguez, sign designer, and Becky Dinwiddie of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society hold up the sign for the new visitor's center. (Courtesy Photo)

## LOCAL HISTORY

# New Visitors Center Opens

### Santa Clara and Fort Bayard join to share information

Following months of preparation, the village of Santa Clara and the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society have announced the opening of the visitors center in the former National Guard Armory, located north of U.S. Highway 180, across from the village.

The formal opening of the center was held on March 22 and included a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Silver City/Grant County Chamber of Commerce. The visitors center displays historic photographs and exhibits that trace the history of Fort Bayard from its founding in 1866 up to the present. By 1868, the village of Santa Clara had sprung up a short distance to the south of the military post. The stories of the fort and the village have been intertwined ever since. The new visitors enter tells the Santa Clara story as well, and features historic photographs donat-

ed by the village through the generosity of Dillon and Jimmy Stone. The visitors center has regular hours of operation from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday through Monday and will be staffed by volunteers from the preservation society and the village. The center offers information about Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, including the museum operated on the grounds, and regularly scheduled tours. Information on the village of Santa Clara Historic Walking Tour will also be available. Visitors may also watch video presentations about the fort and village, as well as frontier army life.

The visitors center was made possible through the generosity of the village of Santa Clara, the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society, and PNM. The preservation society received a \$10,000 grant from PNM through its New

Century of Service program, to provide equipment and signage for the facility. The society is also especially indebted to Santa Clara Mayor Richard Bauch, Village Clerk Sheila Hudman, the village board of rustees, and grant writer Dave Chandler for their support in making this project a reality.

“The opening of this visitors center is a major step in helping the public learn more about the vital role of Fort Bayard and the village of Santa Clara in the history of New Mexico and the Southwest,” said a spokesman for the preservation society. “It is our hope that this knowledge will encourage the preservation of Fort Bayard for generations to come.”

Anyone who is interested in helping with the visitors center may contact Doug Dinwiddie at 575-388-4862, Rocky Hildebrand at 575-574-8779 or Cecilia Bell at 575-388-4477.

## Spring Film Series

The Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society hosts an eight-part movie series, commencing on Thursday, March 28, and continuing Thursday evenings through May 16. The title of the series is “Trains, Rails, and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse.” The venue for the showings is the former Santa Clara National Guard Armory, located across the highway from the Village of Santa Clara, six miles east

of Silver City via U.S. Highway 180. Admission is free, concessions are available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with movies beginning at 7 p.m. The series schedule includes:

**Mar. 28:** “The American Experience: The Transcontinental Railroad”

**April 4:** “The Iron Horse,” one of Director John Ford’s early silent classics

**April 11:** “The Great Locomotive Chase,” starring Fess

Parker

**April 18:** “Breakheart Pass,” starring Charles Bronson

**April 25:** “Murder on the Orient Express,” based on Agatha Christie’s novel

**May 2:** “Von Ryan’s Express,” starring Frank Sinatra

**May 9:** “Strangers on a Train,” an Alfred Hitchcock classic

**May 16:** “Unstoppable,” with Denzel Washington

For more information, Doug Dinwiddie at 575-388-4862.

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Letha Cross Wolf opens her Alaska Mudhead Studio during the Red Dot studio arts tour in Silver City May 3-5. (Courtesy Photo)

RED DOT ARTS EXPOSURE

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Artists will be working and explaining what they are doing and why they do it. Visitors will have chances to participate. Most studios will have work for sale, but some will just be open to converse and share. This is a no-pressure self-guided tour with

a chance to see spring in the Gila foothills.

Brochures with maps to all the studios, as well as copies of the Silver City Art Association Art Guide will be available from Light Art Space Gallery at 9 Broadway in downtown Silver City and from the Silver City Visitor Center. Additionally, look for RED DOT directional signs with arrows to guide you to studios around town and in outlying areas.

Also at Light Art Space, RED DOT Artists Studio Tour will, for the second year, produce the Studio Tour Gala from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 3. To help visitors decide what studios to visit, there will be an example of artwork by

each participating artist on the Tour at the Gala. These artworks will be on exhibit at Light Art Space all weekend.

In addition, images of art by participating Studio Artists will be continuously projected on a “wall of wonder” during the Gala, giving art lovers an even more comprehensive idea of the variety of art to be seen at the studios.

Enjoy the art while dining on fabulous finger food, beverages (wine or non-alcoholic punch). The \$49.95 Silent Auction will return by popular demand - details at the Gala.

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**Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery**, 371 Camino de Viento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Woolf, potter, 907-783-2780.  
**Anthony Howell Studio**, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.  
**[a]SP.“A”©E**, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.  
**Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio**, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.  
**Blue Dome Gallery**, 307 N. Texas, second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-

8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.  
**Borderlands Gallery**, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.  
**The Cliffs Studio & Gallery**, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622- 0251. By appointment.  
**Common Ground**, 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087. Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, other times by prior arrangement. 575-534-2087.  
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ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

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**Elemental Artisans**, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.  
**Finn's Gallery**, 300 N. Arizona St., 406-790-0573  
**Francis McCray Gallery**, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**FringeArtz**, 519 N. Bullard St. 678-457-3708. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, sometimes Sunday.  
**The Glasserie Studio and Store**, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, 316 N. Bullard St. 10 a.m-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.  
**Guadalupe's**, 505 N. Bullard, 535- 2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Leyba & Ingalls Arts**, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.  
**Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway. 520-240-7075, lightartspace.com.  
**Lloyd Studios**, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.  
**Lois Duffy Art Studio**, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.  
**Lumiere Editions**, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.  
**The Makery**, 206 N. Bullard St. 590- 1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.  
**Manzanita Ridge**, 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.  
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**Tree Spirit Gallery**, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.  
**21 Latigo Trail**, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.  
**Wild West Weaving**, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.  
**Wind Canyon Studio**, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.  
**Wynnegate Gallery**, 1105 W. Market Street, 575-534-9717, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.  
**Yada Yada Yarn**, 621 N. Bullard St. 388-3350.  
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**Chamomile Connection**, 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae

McConaha. By appointment.  
**Kate Brown Pottery and Tile**, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536- 9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

**Bayard**  
**Kathryn Allen Clay Studio**, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.

**Northern Grant County**  
**Casitas de Gila**, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. By appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.

**Deming**  
**Deming Arts Center**, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Gold Street Gallery**, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Orona Art Studio**, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.  
**Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery**, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.  
**Studio LeMarbe**, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708. By appointment.

**Columbus**  
**Village of Columbus Library**, 112 Broadway, 531-2612, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

**Rodeo**  
**Chiricahua Gallery**, 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Hillsboro**  
**Barbara Massengill Gallery**, 895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.

**Mesilla**  
**Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center**, 1740 Calle de Mercado, Suites B and D, 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza**, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.  
**Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522- 2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Ouida Touchon Studio**, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.  
**The Potteries**, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.  
**Rokoko**, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

**Las Cruces**  
**Big Picture Gallery**, 2001 Lohman Ave, Suite 109, 647-0508. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.  
**Blue Gate Gallery**, 4901 Chagar (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, open by appointment, 523-2950.  
**Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery**, 314 South Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Cottonwood Gallery**, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**Cutter Gallery**, 2640 El Paseo, 541- 0658. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.  
**Justus Wright Galeria**, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**Las Cruces Arts Association**, Community Enterprise Center Building, 125 N. Main St. www.lacrucesarts.org.  
**Las Cruces Museum of Art**, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.  
**Mesquite Art Gallery**, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.  
**M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery**, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.  
**New Dimension Art Works**, 615 E. Piñon, 373-0043. By Appointment.  
**NMSU University Art Gallery**, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.  
**Nopalito's Galeria**, 326 S. Mesquite, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday.  
**Quillin Stephens Gallery**, behind downtown Coas Books, 312-1064. By appointment only.  
**Tombaugh Gallery**, Unitarian Universalist

Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.  
**Unsettled Gallery & Studio**, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment.  
**Virginia Maria Romero Studio**, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment, agzromero@zianet.com, virginiamariam Romero.com.

**Ruidoso**  
**Art Ruidoso Gallery**, 808-1133, artruidoso.com, 615 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, 11a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday-Sunday.  
**The Adobe**, 2905 Sudderth Drive, 257-5795, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.  
**DJ's Jewelry**, 618 Carrizo Canyon Road, 630-1514, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Specializing in turquoise, Native American traditional, New Mexican contemporary and estate jewelry.  
**Earth-N-Stone**, 2117 Sudderth Drive, Suite 14, 257-2768, 808-1157.  
**Gazebo Potters**, 2117 Sudderth Drive No. 7, 808-1157. Pottery classes, workshops, wheel time, kiln firing and works by local potters.  
**Josie's Framery**, 2917 Sudderth Drive, 257-4156. Framing, gallery representing regional artists and photographers.  
**LongCoat Fine Art**, 2801 Sudderth Drive, Suite D., 257-9102, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday Contemporary Masters and historical works of art.  
**Mountain Arts**, 2530 Sudderth Drive, 257-9748, www.mountainartsgallery.com, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.  
**Tanner Tradition**, 624 Sudderth Drive., 257-8675. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Quality Native American art and jewelry.  
**Thunder Horse Gallery**, 200 Mechem Drive, Suite 1, 257-3989. info@thunderhorsegallery.com, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Bronze sculpture by Rory Combs, Sarinova glass and fine art.  
**The White Dove**, 2825 Sudderth Drive, No. A, 575-257-6609, 9:30 a.m-4 p.m. daily, Authentic Native American jewelry and artifacts.  
**Kenneth Wyatt Galleries of Ruidoso**, 2205 Sudderth Drive, 257-1529, www.kennethwyatt.com. Fine art by the Wyatt family.

**Ruidoso Downs**  
**Pinon Pottery**, MM. 26465 U.S. Hwy. 70, 937-0873, 937-1822. www.pinonpottery.com. Pottery by Vicki Conley and other area artists, fine art by Anita Keegan and Virgil Stephens.

**Alamogordo**  
**Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery**, 575-434-4420, 917 New York Ave.  
**Patron's Hall/Flickinger Center for Performing Arts**, 575-434-2202, 1110 New York Ave.

**Tularosa**  
**Horse Feathers**, 318 Granado St. 575-585-4407. Art, southwest furniture and decor.  
**The Merc**, 316 Granado St. 505- 238-6469. Art gifts by regional artists, books.

**Capitan**  
**Heart of the Raven**, 415 12th St., 937-7459, Functional and decorative pottery, classes.

**Carrizozo**  
**Malkerson Gallery** 408, 408 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-648-2598.  
**Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography**, 401 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-937-1489, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Monday; noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Exclusive exhibit venue for the winners of New Mexico Magazine's photography contest and the largest photo gallery in the state.

**Lincoln**  
**Old Lincoln Gallery**, 1068 Calle la Placita, across from the visitor's center in Lincoln, 653- 4045. Coffee bar featuring 45 New Mexico artists, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

**San Patricio**  
**Hurd La Rinconada**, NM 281 U.S. Hwy. 70, 653-4331, www.wyethartists.com. Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Works by Peter Hurd, Henriette Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, N.C. Wyeth and resident artist, Michael Hurd.

**White Oaks**  
**White Oaks Pottery**, 445 Jicarilla Drive (three miles past White Oaks), 648-2985. Daily, 10 a.m-5 p.m. Porcelain pottery by Ivy Heymann.



ARTS EXPOSURE • JENNIFER GRUGER

# Red Reeds & Roses

Tularosa art and music festival uncovers hidden talents

For the third year in a row, the Tularosa Arts and History Council (TAHC) is hosting a spring art and music event in Tularosa on Saturday, April 27. As in past years, there will be live music and food and the event will feature local artists from Otero and Lincoln counties.

What is different this year, according to Kevin Baker, a founding TAHC board member and the chairperson for this year's event, is a bit of local storytelling by Joe Ben Sanders and "...all of the new artists that are just climbing out of the woodwork!"

Baker said while the list of artists that participate in each of their recurring annual events does grow, many of the vendors are familiar faces.

"This year, we have a mix of brand-new artists who've just moved here as well as those who've been hiding away for years," he said. "It's exciting!"

Three of those artists featured here also have another common theme. Each reports going through a stage of growth or change of some sort with regard to their artwork.

### Mike Parsons – Oil and acrylic on canvas

Army veteran Mike Parsons chose to move to Alamogordo from Minnesota about a year ago to enjoy an early retirement. He has been painting with oils on canvas for about four years, sometimes explores acrylics and does some mixed media. In his early 60s, he recently made the decision to steer clear of the senior center and join the young, inspiring residents of his new hometown by studying art at NMSU-Alamogordo.

Parsons said while he learned how to paint on his own, "my art instructor makes me really stretch." In the past, when he was done with a painting, he would look at the work and congratulate himself for "finishing the picture."

His studies have caused a shift and he now believes "If you want a picture of something, take a picture. I want to paint what I really see." He gives the example of moving away from realist landscapes and barns and starting a new series based on partial pictures of different instruments painted with more abstract colors. "I am growing at 60!" Parsons adds, "Ceramics is also really catching my eye. I didn't know it was ok for a grown man to play with mud!"

Parsons will be showing his oils of barns and landscapes, and hopefully some of his more interpretive work will make it into the show as well. Contact: [www.mikeparsonsalt.com](http://www.mikeparsonsalt.com) 612-232-4265

### Alan Higgins - Photographer

Photographer Alan Higgins was born and raised in central New York, lived in Atlanta for a long while and has been in the Tularosa Basin for just under a year. He photographs bands and other live events and does some promotion of those events

### If you go:

**What:** Red Reeds & Roses Art and Music Jamboree  
**When:** 2-10 p.m., April 27  
**Where:** Old Tularosa Dry Goods Building, 308 Granada St., Tularosa

as well. He currently volunteers as a photographer for the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo.

Higgins' work has been used for CD covers and published in a variety of magazines throughout the country. After working in the entertainment, band and concert business for more than 10 years, he explained he is shifting a bit and exploring his current passion, gallery work.

Higgins describes his work as "dark art" but also does "high-end artistic nude work."

"For this region, it's a little bit different," he said. "I want people to see my work and ask questions. What brought this person to this moment? And how was it done? I want people to ask questions about my work because it makes them think and I want people to think."

His work at the show in April will include tasteful artistic nudes, a few pieces from a "Lost Girls" exhibit from Atlanta, a vampire series and some work with local models. Contact: Facebook: Lithium Dreams Photography, 575-214-4958

### Frank Montoya – Optical Illusions, pen and ink, pencil

Born and raised in Bent, New Mexico, Frank Montoya moved away to attend music school in City College of New York in New York City. He studied recording and sound engineering and English Literature. Montoya returned to Bent to take care of his family land and still lives in the same house his father and grandmother were born in.

Montoya is currently the pianist at St. Joseph Apache Mission Parish in Mescalero and does some experimental compositions and recordings, but he has always drawn.

"It is perspective-based graphic art that fundamentally works on the principle of lines," he said. "Most everything can exist just by drawing lines."

The works are MC Escher-esque optical illusions, yet, Montoya claims he has had no formal training in art.

"I just do it," he said, "I don't know how it happens."

Montoya describes a parallel with his musical work.

"I don't read music and I could never understand the notes on the page," he said. (He admits to having to take Music Theory three times.) Similarly, Escher believed he had no mathematical ability, yet his work was well known among scientists and mathematicians.

The Red Reeds & Roses art show will be the first time Mon-



"Spikes" by Allen Higgins

toya has shown his work.

"I really wanted to finish exploring my skill and where it would take me," he said. "I feel like I've taken all the ideas in my head and worked them out on paper. I'm ready for the next phase of my creativity."

Contact: [www.frankmontoya.net](http://www.frankmontoya.net), 720-666-8508.

There will be many more artists along with live performances by Jones and Miles, 3 Rivers and Go Axe Alice. Storytelling by Joe Ben Sanders will be complemented with beer and wine served by Tularosa Vineyards, and Au Jus Barbecue will provide food. Minors must be accompanied by an adult due to the mature nature of some of the art planned for display.

## MARIAH'S Copper Quail Gallery Presents

April Feature: Resident Gourd artist:

**Patricia Black**

Demonstration on the Patio!

Saturday, April 13th

1:00 -3:00 pm



Reception to follow!

3:00-5:00 pm

Light Refreshments will be served



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# LIGHT ART SPACE

April Exhibitions:

**Dead Art:**

**An Anaolg Approach to a Digital World**

**CLOTHESlines:**

**a wire based installation**

209 West Broadway Silver City, NM  
[lightartspace.com](http://lightartspace.com) 520-240-7075

## THE BUS TAPES

Saturday, April 20

Buckhorn Opera House 7:30 pm

Pinos Altos, NM

*indie folk series*



Limited Tix Available

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Sunday April 21 1pm

**Jeri G & The Cold Cash Band**

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All Proceeds Benefit Silver City Blues Festival

**BLUES BRUNCH**

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## SILVER CITY



Installation at Light Art Space hangs "Clotheslines," out to dry. (Courtesy photos)

• **Light Art Space**, located at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City's historic art district is featuring "Dead Art: An Analog Approach to a Digital World" is a challenging exhibition in which four young photographic artists, **Jessica Knight, Davey Miller, Maegan McCarthy** and **Steve Hajdu**, grapple with identity by picturing bold body-scapes using analog photographic techniques. This exhibit runs through April 28. A wire based art installation by **Joel Armstrong**, "Clotheslines" is an experience, not just a piece to be viewed, and the entire gallery becomes a canvas. The work references memories, feelings and expressions surrounding ideas of home and family. This exhibit also runs through April 28. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, also 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com, email info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-7075.



"Elements" is one of the many pieces Creative Hands Gallery brings to Silver City on its one year anniversary.

• **Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery** is celebrating its first year in business. The gallery offers the opportunity to talk about and experience a large variety of New Mexico Artists in contemporary format. An open House/birthday party is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. Most items are on celebration sale all month at 20 percent off. The gallery is located at 106 W Yankee, Silver City. Info: 303-916-5045

• **Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery** in Silver City's historic art district at 211A N. Texas St. is announcing new hours. the gallery is open Thursday through Monday. For the month of April, Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery is welcom-

## ARTS EXPOSURE

# Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings



Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery welcomes the work of artist Patricia Black to the gallery in April.

ing resident artist **Patricia Black**. Black joined the MCQ family late last year, and displays her beautiful gourd creations throughout the shop. In addition for April, MCQ will have with a special showing of some of her west-

ern-themed paintings on the feature wall. There will be a demonstration from 1 to 3 p.m. April 13 with a reception to follow from 3 to 5 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. Also, MCQ has recently changed its days of operation. We are now open Thursday through Monday. Visit [www.facebook.com/mariahscqg](http://www.facebook.com/mariahscqg) for more information. The ceramics of guest artist **Krissy Ramirez**, her installation, along with items for sale, will be available until March 21. Info: 575-388-2646.

• **The Grant County Art Guild** is open at its new location, 316 N. Bullard St., formerly the Hester House in Silver City. **The Art Guild Gallery** represents the fine art and fine crafts of 35 local artists and artisans who create original paintings, photography, prints, greeting cards, ceramics, sculpture, clay works, fiber arts, jewelry, metalworks, home décor, Japanese gyotaku and more. GCAGG is open every day except holidays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Info: Karen Stephenson at [karenphotoarts@gmail.com](mailto:karenphotoarts@gmail.com).



The Murry Ryan Visitor Center in Silver City is hosting the #VisitSilverCity Gallery through April 14 with a photography exhibit featuring local photographers. "Fog on a Midwinter's Eve at the Big Ditch," is by **Kendra Milligan**.

• **The Murray Ryan Visitor Center** will host the #VisitSilverCity Gallery through April 14. The Visitor Center is located at 201 N. Hudson St. in Silver City. This photography exhibit features images from four local photographers: **Tom Boblett, Julie Enos, Kendra Milligan** and **Allen W. Sanders**. Visitor center hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m, Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Info: 575-538-5555.

## ALAMOGORDO

• **Lynda Brugman** is the featured artist at **Creative Designs Custom Framing and**



Linda Brugman's "Visions of the Natural World" is featured at **Creative Designs in Alamogordo**.

**Gallery**, 917 New York Ave. in Alamogordo for April. The exhibit is "Visions of the Natural World." Brugman's work is an exploration of the natural world, providing a window through which others may share her deep appreciation of nature and experience its infinite variations and beauty. A reception will be held from 6-8 pm on Friday, April 19. Regular Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Info: 575-434-4420.

## DEMING/COLUMBUS



The art work of **Kelly Lamarr Boren** is at the **Deming Art Center** for April.

• The April exhibit at the **Deming Art Center** features Arizona artist **Kelly LaMarr Boren**. He grew up in southeastern Idaho and with the support of his mother and the tutelage of his art teacher, Kelly developed his creative abilities. Finally, he has returned to his father's humble beginnings in the warmth of Arizona. With the love and creative collaboration of his wife, Kelly has again picked up the brush, inspired by the open horizontal vistas and ancient mystery of the great Southwest. The show will run through April 29. The Deming Art Center is located at 100 S Gold St., Deming. Info: 575-546-3663 or [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org).

## CARRIZOZO

• **The Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography** in Carrizozo is the exclusive photo gallery in the state to host the

## ARTS SCENE

continued on page 15

## COUPON

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Alamogordo, NM 575-437-9828

DESERT exposure

FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE, MENTION DESERT EXPOSURE



ARTS SCENE

continued from page 14

New Mexico Magazine photo contest winners for the fourth year in a row. As the largest photo gallery in the state, the 26 winning photos are on display and for sale throughout the year. The gallery is open from Wednesdays through Mondays, Sundays noon to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the days in the week. Closed Tuesdays. It's located at 401 12th St. in Carrizozo. Info: 575-937-1489.

• **The Malkersons** in Carrizozo announce the official opening of the **Behind the Red Door Gallery** and the **Carrizozo Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**. The Behind the Red Door Gallery is the new “Pop-Up Gallery” that has been created in the downstairs part of the Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography (better known as Photozozo) at 401 12th Street in the Arts District of Carrizozo. To access it you simply walk in the front door of the photo gallery and go straight through to the back of the Gallery and enter the red door. Then go down the stairs, and you are there. The Carrizozo Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is also a newly created space down the stairs in the Behind the Red Door Gallery that showcases hundreds of memorabilia of the Famous Rock and Roll Days of the 60's through the 90's and even includes some bands from the last 20 years. This collection has been supplied by James Lane

who spent the majority of his years involved with and following the great rock artists of our time. Info: [www.gallery408.com](http://www.gallery408.com) or 575-648-2598.

LAS CRUCES



The Las Cruces Arts Association features the work of and a workshop with Noel Sandino in April.

• **The Las Cruces Arts Association** has moved to **Cruces Creatives**, 205 E. Lohman Ave. Cruces Creatives is a Makerspace non-profit committed to furthering economic development, education, the arts, the environment, science and technology connecting the community to make practically anything. The LCAA has a members' meeting with art demo by Noel Sandino who is demonstrating her printmaking talent at 1:30 p.m. April 28. The meetings are open to LCAA members and the members of Cruces Creatives.

• **“Seasons at the Bosque,”** features landscape painting by **Matt Henn** at the **Rokoko Art Gallery**. The exhibit is on display through April at the gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, Las Cruces. The gallery is open Saturdays and by appointment. Info: 575-522-5553.

• The current show at **Greenspace Gallery**, featuring award-winning local photographer **Jim Rodgers** and fine artist/printmaker **Noël Sandino**, continues through April 30. Rodgers, who specializes in landscapes and night sky photography, as well as digital art using his photographic images, was awarded a first prize in the most recent New Mexico Magazine photography competition. Sandino, a recent southern New Mexico transplant, describes herself as a process painter, focusing on contemporary abstracts with a vibrant palette and strong design. The show is open for the April Art Ramble in the Downtown and Mesquite districts from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 5, and there will be refreshments for attendees. Greenspace also features fine arts and crafts, including unique gift items from local artists and artisans, with an emphasis on folk-art themes and sustainable practices and materials. The new learning center behind the gallery offers class space plus a wide selection of handcrafted and hand-woven blouses, dolls, scarves and other creations from women's weaving cooperatives in Chiapas, Mexico, imported by volunteers from the local group, Weaving for Justice. Greenspace is located at 517 N. Mesquite, just north of Hadley, and is open from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and by appointment. Info: 575 551-6778, [greenspace-gallerylc@gmail.com](mailto:greenspace-gallerylc@gmail.com).



The Mesilla Fine Arts Gallery show includes “The Wise One” by Sue Ann Glenn.

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of April, **Sue Ann Glenn** and **Arlene J. Tugel**. Glenn is a Signature member of the **New Mexico Watercolor Society**. She has a degree in Art education and taught 32 years in Michigan before retiring and moving to Las Cruces. She is a realistic artist. Most of her art work is inspired from travel, nature and objects that have inspired her. Watercolor artist Tugel is a 20-year resident of Las Cruces. She does most of her painting outdoors. Bright colors and strong shadows in the landscape inspire her to paint. Tugel achieved “Signature Member,” a lifetime award for excellence in painting with the New Mexico Watercolor Society in 2015. The First American Bank, Mesilla,

is well represented by gallery members who rotate their artwork on a monthly basis. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).



“Yucca Milky Way” by Victor Gibbs is part of “Into the Night” at the Tombaugh Gallery.

• **The Tombaugh Gallery** presents the work of photographers **Victor Gibbs** and **Bob Peticolas**, in the exhibit “Into the Night” from March 3 through April 13. Both photographers are featuring night images of the Southwest. The gallery is located at 2000 S. Solano in the Unitarian Universalist Church. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Info: 575-642-1110.

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## STYLE EXPOSURE

# Wearable Art

## Finn's goes all out

Finn's Gallery is hosting a style show featuring local galleries and artisans on from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, April 21. Galleries included at this time are Finn's Gallery, Borderlands Gallery, Animalia, Wild West Weaving, The Fringe and the Grant County Art Guild. Designers representing these galleries include Laurie FINNICUM Wilson, Donnie Endicott, Bill Nolde, Rebecca Kerr, Blythe Whiteley, Stephen Hoglund, Karen Prichett, Randi Halperin Olson, Stephanie Demme, Luanne

Brooten and more.

The style show features one-of-a-kind, handcrafted clothing, jewelry, scarves and accessories created by Silver City Artisans. Natural fabrics, recycled or reclaimed items, precious metals and gems – all kinds of wearable art will be part of the event. It is not a contest, just an old-fashioned discovery of accessories and apparel that can be found for sale in downtown Silver City, under one roof, for a day. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for the garden reception.



Creative, wearable art is featured at Finn's Gallery style show, April 2. (Courtesy photos)



Gourd art by Wanda Sparks.

## ARTS EXPOSURE

# Art in the Garden

Artists of Picacho Hills open their gardens

In Picacho Hills in Las Cruces, art is springing into the garden as well as flowers. The Artists of Picacho Hills open their Art in the Garden tour of designed gardens filled with unique art.

Participants can tour six gardens and see the work of a variety of artists. There are painters and jewelers, weavers and oth-

ers who work in metal, glass and ceramics.

The tour is free and takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. From Las Cruces, take Picacho Avenue west to the stoplight at Picacho Hills Drive. Turn right at the light and follow the signs.

For information email [marilynhanen@msn.com](mailto:marilynhanen@msn.com).

# Calling Artists

• **Deming Art Center** is looking for artists for the Luna County Show which runs from May 2 through 29. Intake for the show will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 1 from. Anyone living in Luna County is welcome and for \$25 one to three pieces may be entered. The show is judged, and prizes will be awarded. Info: 575-546-3663, [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org) or Facebook page.

• **Deming Art Center** also looking for Artists for the June 2019 Fiber Arts Show. This show runs June 1-28, 2019 with intake from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, May 31. Entry fee is \$25 for one to three pieces and the show will be judged and prizes awarded. Info: 575-546-3663, [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org) or Facebook page.

• **Rokoko Art Gallery** is calling artists to submit their work to an exhibit called "Fantasy Free for All." The exhibit is open to all media. Submissions should be delivered between noon and 5 p.m. Saturday, May 4 to the gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, Las Cruces. Exhibit dates are May 11 through June 22. For information call 575-522-5553.

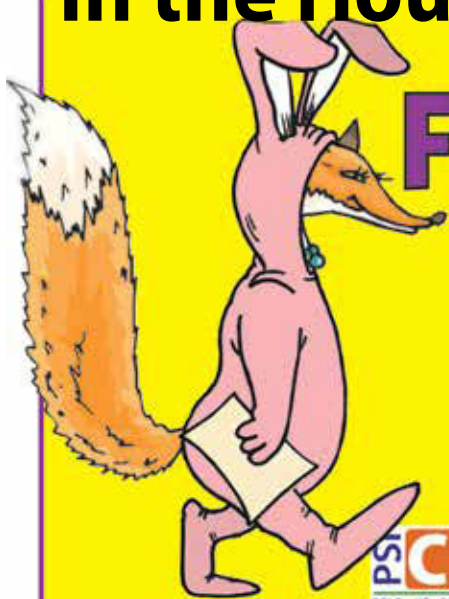
• **Book space available:** Moonbow Alterations and Gift Shop, 225 E. Idaho No. 32, in Las Cruces has space available to display and sell local books that have been published any time. Info: 575-527-1411 or [alicebdavenport@gmail.com](mailto:alicebdavenport@gmail.com).

• **Exhibit space:** One or two private rooms, approximately 12-by-15-feet with common

greeting area, available in the Gallery on Mesquite Street in Las Cruces in the Arts & Cultural District and on the Art Ramble route. Hours are determined by exhibiting artists. Cost: \$175 a month per room for LCAA members, \$200 a month for non-members. No commission charged on sales. Info: Jack LeSage 575-532-1046 or [jacksg1@gmail.com](mailto:jacksg1@gmail.com).

• **Tombaugh Gallery** is calling for regional artists within a 200-mile radius of Las Cruces to submit proposals for exhibitions for the 2020 calendar year. Non-traditional media or subject matter is welcome. All artwork must be for sale. Submissions should contain a proposal with information about the artist, type of work to be shown and USB flash drive containing eight representative images as JPG files. For group shows, supply a list of all members and one or two images from each member. The Tombaugh Gallery has 44 linear feet for wall display, and in addition, has several pedestals. Submissions should be postmarked no later than April 15 and applicants will be notified by May 15, at which time possible show dates will be discussed. Artists who want their media returned, must send a SASE. Artists who prefer to send an electronic submission may contact Judy Licht at [jelicht@gmail.com](mailto:jelicht@gmail.com) for instructions. Gallery Website: [www.uuchurchlc.org/2011/10/tombaugh-art-gallery](http://www.uuchurchlc.org/2011/10/tombaugh-art-gallery). Address submissions to: Judy Licht, Committee Chairperson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 South Solano, Las Cruces, NM, 88001.

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ON STAGE • HALLIE HARRIS

# Virus Theater Kicks Off New Season

## ‘Marjorie Prime’ provides new challenge for company

The Virus Theater Company of Silver City is opening its 2019 season with something different. The volunteer ensemble-based company has developed a name for itself with original works written by the company and by lending a highly physical and spectacular flair to breathe life into older classics. The season opener, “Marjorie Prime,” is a departure from that trend in that it is a contemporary drama by Washington state playwright Jordan Harrison which was a Pulitzer prize finalist in 2015 after it premiered in 2014.

The small cast includes community members from varied walks of life, all fully committed to creating an exemplary piece of theater. Phyllis McQuaide and Jessa Tumposky, both veterans of the Silver City theater scene, who have both spent time studying and practicing in the Northeast, bring a lot of experience to the cast. Gregg Jarrette and René Medina join as relative newcomers, throwing their tremendous talents, intellect and physicality into their challenging roles.

The play explores a family in the not-too-distant future as they struggle with the challenges of caring for an aging relative, Marjorie. Help has arrived in the form of a holographic image of Walter (Medina), Marjorie’s deceased husband, who is an artificial intelligence meant to provide comfort and companionship by collecting and sharing family stories with Marjorie (McQuaide), who is beginning to lose her memory. However, Marjorie’s daughter, Tess (Tumposky), and her husband, Jon (Jarrette), have differing views on how to incorporate this new element into their family.

The design team is led by director Hallie Harris and made up of Kate Brown, a potter and visual artist who later in life decided to return to school to study animation; Kelsey Patterson, who has costumed for the Santa Fe Opera, The Guthrie Theater and the

### If you go

**What:** Marjorie Prime, a play by Jordan Harrison Presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series

**Running Time:** 85 min

**Tickets:** \$10

**Where:** El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard St., Silver City, NM

**When:** 7:30 p.m. April 5, 12 13; 7 p.m. April 9; and 2 p.m. on April 14

Minneapolis Opera among others but who now owns and operates a restaurant, Revel, with her husband and best friend; Ricky Herrin, a scenic and prop artist from Seattle; Doug Shelton, a local playwright, carpenter and lighting designer; and Adam Arrey, a talented young musician and graduate of the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in Arizona who works as an audio engineer for Western New Mexico University.

“It is a fun, beautiful and thought-provoking piece about the nature of humanity through the lens of how our identities are shaped by the stories we tell and pass on from generation to generation, and I couldn’t have been blessed with a better artistic team,” Harris said. “I’m delightfully surprised that in a town as small as Silver City so many incredibly hardworking, skilled and talented people would give of themselves to make a big community art project like this.”

Harris studied drama in Seattle in the early 2000s but has a background in education and design which she says helps manage a big project like this.

“At heart,” Harris said, “human beings are storytellers. That’s how we reach out to each other and how we make sense of the world. The theater brings story into an immediate arena, where we empathize with the actors on stage and share in their struggles. In spite of the heavy themes

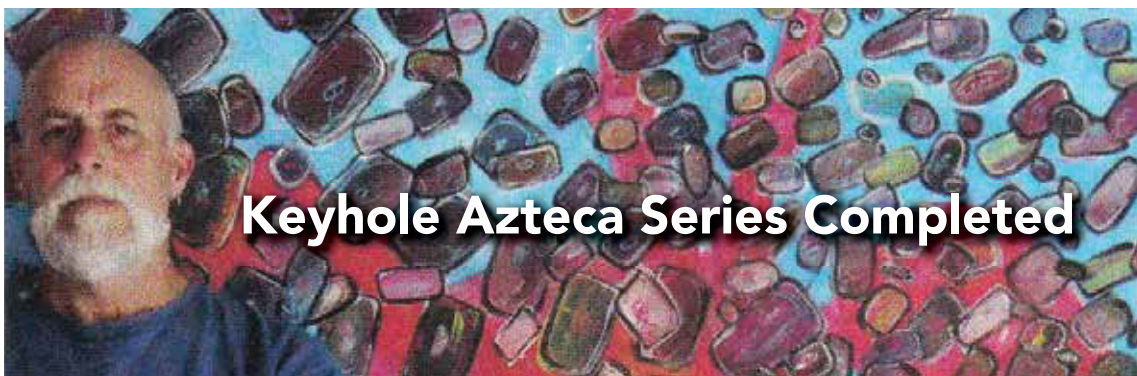


The cast, René Medina, Phyllis McQuaide, Gregg Jarrette and Jessa Tumposky, gathers for Virus Theater Company’s production of “Marjorie Prime.”

of this play, it is a fast-moving piece of theater whose overall message is one of connection, laughter and transcendence.”

Virus Theater’s season will also include a new original melodrama which will open at the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos at the end of May, a Children’s Theater workshop at the El Sol this summer, and at the end of the year a new interpretation of “The Green Bird,” a commedia dell’arte play by Carlo Gozzi from 1765 that promises lots of physical comedy and theatrical spectacle.

“Marjorie Prime” opens Friday, April 5, at the El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard St., in downtown Silver City. Running time is 85 minutes. Tickets \$10 available at the door. It is appropriate for a mature audience due to themes of depression, death and suicide as well as mild adult language. For more information, email halliedallie@gmail.com and visit virus theater.com/coming-soon.



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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

## Border Partners

After 10 1/2 years, new managers to continue tradition

“Border Partners is now 10 ½ years old,” Peter Edmunds said.

It’s sort of an odd anniversary, but this is when Peter and Polly Edmunds have decided to leave Border Partners, the non-profit organization they started in Palomas, Mexico. They’ll go back to Wisconsin and a new director will take over in a couple of months.

Since they started the project to help poor people of Palomas in November 2008, Peter and Polly have, to some degree, changed the face of the small town of 4,000 residents. There are huge challenges – unemployment is close to 80 percent and hunger is common.

The first year of Border Partners took place during the worst violence Palomas had ever seen. Staff and volunteers carried out their work without knowing whether a bullet might get in their way.

Since then, when things settled down, the Border Partners’ building has been the center for a torrent of creative projects.

For years, Peter had a construction company in Wisconsin, and for a few years he shared a company that made papercrete (made of re-pulped paper fiber with cement or clay added) in Columbus, showing his interest in sustainable technology and innovation. He and Polly’s house in Deming is made partly of papercrete.

But Peter, sitting at his dining-room table, agrees the programs that have dominated Border Partners have leaned toward health issues.

He and other workers and volunteers have spiffed up parks; helped start dozens of family gardens and at least 30 greenhouses; sponsored nutrition and

exercise classes; promoted ballgames; ball courts and bicycle riding; and initiated a corps of health promoters. They’ve also helped get computers donated to schools and food distributed.

Border Partners jump-started a successful business called Palomas Oilcloth Designs, supervised at first by Polly Edmunds, where women make aprons, purses, tablecloths and other things out of traditional, brightly colored Mexican oilcloth. The women’s products are sold at the Pink Store in Palomas and in six different U.S. states (borderpartners.org).

Border Partners has been enormously helped by the non-profit organization Paso del Norte Health Foundation in El Paso. Border Partners got a \$111,760 grant in 2018 from the HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) program of Paso del Norte.

Peter said under that grant, classes in personal health, public health, nutrition, parenting and pre-natal care have been offered to people in Palomas. “None of that was available prior to this,” Peter said. “We have one or more classes every day of the year – over 500 classes a year.

“The gardens are meant to supply them with fresh food. They’ve never had regular access to fresh vegetables. The fruits and vegetables they sell at the stores are frankly not good. They’re one step from compost.”

There are also regular exercise classes funded by HEAL.

“There are two classes a day for older people,” he said. “The morning one is mostly mothers – from 20 to 60 – and the after-

CELEBRATE

continued on page 19



Jane Fuller with some of the children she helps. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

ACROSS THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

## La Gringa and Yeira Beltrán

A tale of two strong women

Suddenly it’s completely dark here on the west side of Juárez and I am terrified. There are at least three lanes of traffic on the two-lane highway as well as men and women walking along the shoulder in the darkness. Where is the turnoff to the stony side road that leads to the house where Elvira Romero lived until her death a few weeks ago?

This is a story about two women. The first is “La Gringa” or Jane Fuller, the executive director of Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús (SPJ), a nonprofit in El Paso that has not only built more than 500 homes in that area of Juárez since 2006 but is transforming the colonia by maintaining a medical clinic, opening a mercado so that there can be some local industry and now also building a gym.

It’s hard to understand how essential this is unless you’ve driven around the rough dirt streets and seen how many of

the residents live in shacks that are just a conglomeration of chunks of plywood, tin and other materials hammered together. These are shacks where you can look up and see through the holes in the roof to the stars. Or where when the wind blows, the dust comes pouring in. And when it rains, everything and everyone gets soaked.

Once a month Fuller takes a group of medical volunteers over from El Paso and they have a clinic for the neighborhood. When I was there on Saturday, Oct. 3, one of the volunteers was Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, whose clinic in El Paso is named Paso del Norte Pediatrics. A longtime volunteer, he used to go to Chiapas for two weeks at a time; now he is focused on Juárez. Another volunteer, Dr. Alfredo Maldonado, is also a pediatric specialist and describes the many ailments children face here.

This is an area full of envi-

ronmental hazards – the dust, the water which is trucked in, the glue in the scraps of plywood that people use for firewood, the sewage, waste and trash. I’ve never seen a government medical clinic in this area, so people who are sick either must wait for the SPJ clinic or deal with a complicated and lengthy process of bus rides into central Juárez.

SPJ is building a gymnasium to allow students to play basketball, use an exercise room and have a stage for theater and musical productions performed by local kids. The mercado has space for 20 vendors who sell day-to-day essentials like school supplies, maintain a bakery or hair salon and, in general, create local jobs so residents can shop here rather than making a lengthy and expensive bus trip into Juárez.

BORDER

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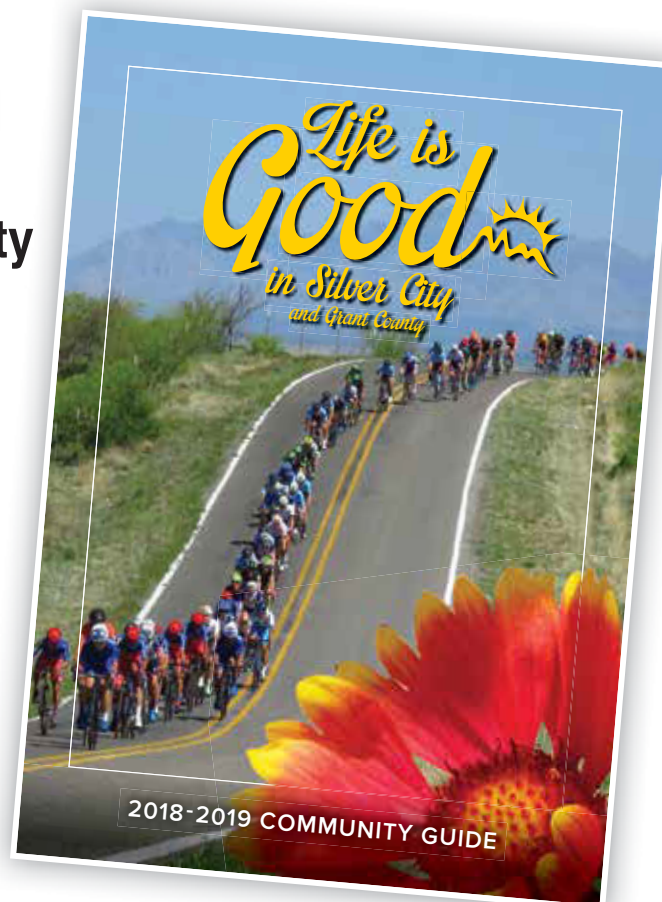
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The shack where Elvira and her family lived in 2011.



The house built by Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús.

BORDER

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Helping develop some sort of business community could begin to alleviate the sense of isolation here because now there are none of the kinds of amenities that any American, no matter how poor, has access to – an array of foods, ATMs, medical care, adequate transportation, running water, public phone service, in-house comforts (or necessities in this rapidly changing climate) like air conditioning or adequate heat and trash collection.

The Santa Teresa border crossing is about 15 miles away and that is an area of tremendous potential economic growth. Several times a day, enormous convoys of white buses pass by, taking people to and from work. The new jobs in the maquilas on the Mexican side pay terrible wages, \$37 to \$40 for a 48-hour work week plus roughly two hours a day of commuting by bus! Business development through this Mercado can help supplement what people earn in those maquilas.

Despite the many obstacles, Jane Fuller, “La Gringa,” and Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús are building a neighborhood here. Other programs include a library which has a video and computer room; two community parks, one for kids up to the age of 12 and another with a soccer field and basketball court; a community kitchen with food available once a week for needy families; and a



Yeira and family with the truck.

sewing and tutoring room. Money is also raised for clothing as well as student sponsorships.

In all, La Gringa has 18 employees, all of whom are paid well above the maquila starvation wage, and an annual budget of over \$700,000, funds that she and her team must raise. They hold a big fundraiser in El Paso in November. For information call 915-449-5883 or visit [www.spjinc.org](http://www.spjinc.org).

The other woman in this story and the reason for that terrifying drive to what was Elvira Romero’s house is Yeira Beltrán, Elvira’s granddaughter who I first met at Vision in Action, the nearby mental asylum, eight years ago. Yeira, then 11 years old, and her older brother, Hector, were in the patio with all the patients because Elvira was the cook and would bring them with her every weekend because her neighborhood was too dangerous to leave them home alone.

I have been helping this family for eight years and through many ups and downs. This has included bringing food every month, paying Hector and Yeira for doing interviews of the patients in the asylum, buying firewood for them from local vendors, buying Yeira’s quinceañera dress for her, and finding medicines for Elvira. But neither Hector nor Yeira finished high school. He has bounced around from job to job in the tough local economy. She left with a boyfriend who got her pregnant and beat her.

The reason they have been living in a solid cinder block home built by SPJ instead of a cardboard shack is that friends of mine donated the money to build the home in memory of my wife, Julie who died in April 2016.

When I last saw Elvira on Jan. 4, it was obvious that she had only days to live. What then to do about the house that was in

chaos? Jane and I discussed this. Wouldn’t it be better to find a new family for it rather than let Hector and Yeira take over? Wouldn’t it be better for me to recognize that all of these efforts to help Hector and Yeira had been futile and that they had simply been overwhelmed by this environment of poverty and a lack of opportunity?

Earlier that day, the two of them together with her aunt had begged me to let them stay in the house. Yeira said that she was now married to a better guy and that he had a job as a truck driver. I didn’t believe her but said that I would come back again that evening with a decision.

As I then worked my way through the rough dark streets to

their house, I thought of La Gringa and how she must constantly take chances on the people she works with – those she places in her houses, her employees, the neighbors. That’s what all those who work in humanitarian projects do – take chances on people.

Then as I near the home, a huge white shape appears. It’s a semi-truck and trailer. Yeira’s husband really does have a job! Now the decision is easy.

*Morgan Smith is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Santa Fe but travels to the border at least once a month to work with various humanitarian programs. He can be reached at [Morgan-smith@comcast.net](mailto:Morgan-smith@comcast.net).*

CELEBRATE

continued from page 18

noon classes are young people in senior high school and recent graduates. Both classes draw over 20 people on a good day, and a little less on others.”

“There are three sports facilities open in the evening,” Peter said. This gives kids things to do at night.

Food distribution is something that happens regularly with the help of Border Partners.

“The Ford School gets \$250 worth of food, especially fresh vegetables, every two weeks,” Peter said. Peppers Supermarket in Deming is a generous donor. “Peppers gives us half off. We get \$200 worth of food when we pay \$100.”

Border Partners is always ready for donations.

“We once were given a truckload of doors. So, we gave away 30 doors,” he said.

Peter has always been one to improvise with what they are given.

“There are 150 regular annual

donors,” he said. One of these donors is a retired teacher who has lots of money. “He gave \$70,000 dollars last year. His focus is on schools. Last year he gave every teacher a computer or tablet.

“Were building a computer center in the new telebachillerato” (public high school). We have built five computer centers in the schools. The Mexican government does not put a lot of money in the schools. School quality depends mostly on the energy put into the job.

“We are going to build a couple playgrounds this spring. Right now kids are painting truck tires,” he grinned.

Deming native Samantha Apodaca will take over Border Partners in a couple of months. The two co-managers, Juan Rascon and Juana Flores, are some of the 10 to 12 people who get salaries from Border Partners.

“I like what has happened in Palomas over 10 years,” Peter said. “Lots of things are there

now that weren’t there before. So much of what we do is going on recommendations of the crew down there.

“Border Partners is the best thing that has happened to me since I was deported.” Juan Rascon said. “Peter has been an inspiration to me as a boss, friend, and mentor. I like working with vulnerable groups throughout the community.”

What is Peter going to be doing in Wisconsin?

“There are ongoing projects that I can work on from there,” he said. “I’m sort of a consultant to Sam and Juan. Every day they call me about two or three questions that come up.”

Peter and Polly will leave a deep imprint at Border Partners that won’t be easy to erase.

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.*



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Show to be judged, prizes and awards given.

**Call for Artists:**

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SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Las Cruces Space Festival Prepares to Launch



At the previous Spaceport America Open House STEM activities lead by Explora, WiSTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), and Spaceport America’s Dr. Bill (William Gutman) kept the future generation mesmerized. The STEM team will return for the April 7 event. (Photo courtesy Spaceport America)

With the Las Cruces Space Festival approaching, Spaceport America is ramping up for its open house. The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 7, beginning with the arrival of aircraft flown in the U.S. Pilots Association and Civil Air Patrol. “This is the first one we have had in over two years,” said Susan Raitt, Spaceport Authority

business development director. “The cross-exposure provides a perfect marriage with Las Cruces Space Festival.” The spaceport gate opens at 10 a.m. Raitt said presentations will be made by New Mexico author Joe Page, who wrote “New Mexico Space Trail”; a Virgin Galactic representative; Mark McKinnon from the Very Large Array; and Spaceport America CEO Dan Hicks.

The New Mexico State University Women in STEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) will host a virtual reality trip into the stratosphere. Dancer Hanna Cole will lead a space dance activity, the RoboRacers Club from Rio Rancho will show off their creations, SW Expeditions will host a bicycle race ending at the spaceport, and there will be racing and drone demonstrations. Final Frontier Tours will conduct spaceport and gallery tours and the NASA store will sell space-related merchandise. The arts will be represented by Space Art with Michelle Rouch and a talk by artist Otto Rigan, who created “Genesis,” the sculpture at the entrance of the spaceport. At least five favorite local food trucks will be onsite. “We expect record crowds,” Raitt said. “It’s going to be a great day.”

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## The Las Cruces Space Festival April 7-13

The Las Cruces Space Festival celebrates the long space exploration legacy of southern New Mexico with a week of activities, not only in Las Cruces but in Alamogordo and Truth or Consequences as well. Full descriptions, speaker information and event schedule can be found at [lcspacefestival.com](http://lcspacefestival.com).

- Registration for the Spaceport America Open House which launches the Festival on Sunday, April 7, has now been running for one month with over 500 vehicles signed up. Registration closes on April 4.
- The festival is proud to include keynote talks and presentations from over 20 leading space experts from local and international organizations including high profile artists and an astronaut.
- Our Place In Space artwork by local artists will be displayed alongside large-scale Hubble images throughout the city in the “Our Place In Space - Las Cruces” exhibition, which will open on Monday April 8. Space Telescope Science Institute Associate Director of Operations at the European Space Agency, Dr. Antonella Nota, will be delivering an address on “Our Place In Space” at the Southwest Environmental Center at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, April 8.
- Tim Fitzpatrick, artist in residence for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey in New Mexico, will be creating site-specific art on the landscape as part of his installation “Hand Made Light.” You will be able to hear about his exhibitions during his presentation on Monday, April 8 at the Southwest Environmental Center.
- Think you know space? Challenge yourself at the Big Space Quiz on April 10 at the Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St., from 7 p.m. 2018’s champions achieved an astounding 100 percent accuracy.
- Making Contact at the Las Cruces Convention Center will run from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Thursday April 11. Representatives from

NASA, White Sands Missile Range, Virgin Galactic, Spaceport America and many more space-related organizations will be on hand to showcase the growing space industry in New Mexico. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about space-related career fields and what paths to take to achieve success.

- Rio Grande Theatre downtown has a strong line-up of events. On top of the five classic space movies spread across the week, there will be presentations by Chris Churchill on Thursday, April 11 ahead of the movie “Contact” and NMSU graduate Alires Almon on Friday, April 12, alongside excerpts from plays “Yuri” and “Silent Sky.”
- Also on Friday, April 12, downtown Las Cruces will be celebrating Yuri’s Night. The “Space Walk” will be lots of fun for the family; come dressed as your favorite space character, real or imaginary, the more adventurous costumes on display the better on the Plaza de Las Cruces. Live music follows, provided on the plaza stage by local band “Triple Jack.”
- Want to escape the noise and the crowds? Two stargazing parties are being held on Friday April 12; one at White Sands National Monument and one at Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains where the NMSU Astronomy Department and the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will guide visitors to get the best views of star constellations and distant galaxies.
- The Las Cruces Space Festival is all about “making space for everyone.” On Saturday, April 13 there will be tons of interactive exhibitions and booths on the Plaza de Las Cruces from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Younger audiences will also be entertained by “WALL-E” at the Rio Grande Theatre at noon, followed by “Science Girl’s Laboratory.”
- Yuri’s Night events will also be held in Truth or Consequences on Saturday April 13 with a space-themed Second Saturday Art Hop.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Satellites, Water & New Mexico’s Agricultural Future

New Mexico State University Professors Zohrab Samani and Hatim Geli will each give presentations in the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum’s Theater about how satellites are being used to gather information to aid water management in New Mexico. This special presentation, which is part of the Las Cruces Space Festival, is free, and begins at 7 p.m. on April 11. Samani will present “Application of Remote Sensing Technology in Water Management,” and Dr. Geli will talk about the use of satellite information to improve New Mexico’s agricultural production and water efficiency. Sa-

mani is Forman Professor of water resources at New Mexico State University and has more than 40 years of experience in teaching and research of remote sensing, water management, irrigation systems design, groundwater hydrology and international technology transfer. He has worked in 18 different countries promoting water management technologies. Geli’s research also focuses on water management and remote sensing. One of his major research activities involves understanding and modeling food-energy-water nexus to enhance its resiliency due to the impacts of drought and socioeconomic shock.

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Will Scott, who serves in the Youth Conservation Corps garden crew at Aldo Leopold Charter School, pushes a wheelbarrow of weeds. (Photo by Tricia Hurley)



NATIVE ROOTS • TRICIA HURLEY

# Protect Our Planet

## Ready for a Spring Garden?

This year's Earth Day theme is "Protect Our Species" and what better way to protect them than to plant a garden providing the food and shelter they need? Early spring is a good time to plant in the Southwest. The nights are still cool and the days have not reached the unrelenting heat and dryness that plague our summers. Many of us are coming out of winter dormancy just as the plants are and the urge to be outside digging in the dirt is enticing.

The concept of Earth Day came from John McConnell, who created a global Earth Day proclamation, which was supported by 36 countries and the UN secretary general in 1970. In the same year, U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin set April 22 as the official day to celebrate Earth Day in the United States.

Planting a tree, shrub or small garden has been a symbolic gesture honoring our planet dating back to Earth Day's inception.

Lucky for those of us in Silver City, our Earth Day celebration at Gough Park will have several vendors selling plants and offering advice on gardening for food, herbs and wildlife. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) garden crew from Aldo Leopold Charter School will be offering a variety of veggie starts, from tomatoes, squash, chards, and herbs as well as some mixed pollinator plants to get folks started with their organic backyard garden.

There will also be free seeds and plants if you choose to participate in the Pollinator Walk hosted by the YCC students. The Gila Native Plant Society (GNPS) will have leftover native plants for sale from their spring pre-order sale as well as field guides, landscaping and gardening books. The last day to order from them is April 8. You can view their availability at [www.gnps.org](http://www.gnps.org). For tips on gardening with native plants, you can attend GNPS's April program on Friday, April 19 with local grower Hanna Blood.

If you would like to start your plants from seed, now is the time to get started. You don't need anything fancy for vegetables, just some peat pellets, or small containers full of a good seed-starting mix, seeds and a sunny window. It's easy to make your own soil for seed germination. We remove bark and any other large pieces found



Children with Guadalupe Montessori school in Silver City dig through seed packets last spring to choose what kind of sunflowers to plant. (Photo by Andrea Warner)

in our organic Black Gold potting soil with a strainer, then we mix in perlite to help aerate the soil. It is important for young seedlings to have good drainage. Sometimes we use vermiculite for species that require a damper medium.

Here at Lone Mountain Natives, we started our penstemon, columbine, verbenas, basket flower, sulfur flowered buckwheat, fernbush and clematis back in January and February. These natives need to be cold stratified. We started them in our unheated greenhouse, exposing the seeds to the cold temperatures that they need in order to germinate, mimicking wild conditions. If you don't have time to start wildflowers from seed, come and see us or other plant vendors on Earth Day where there will be plenty of perennial wildflowers, trees and shrubs for sale. Purchasing your plants on Earth Day is a great way to support local growers with the added benefit of obtaining plants that are already acclimated to Grant County's erratic climate.

Local growers are more likely to use integrated pest management and organic fertilizers and employ pollinator-friendly practices than big-box growers as well. If you are planning on seeding a wildflower garden, don't spread the seed until about 10 days before our last projected frost date, which is usually the first or second weekend in May.

Lastly, recruit some young gardeners to help in your planting endeavors. The future of the planet is

in their hands. Several Silver City schools have active gardens including Sixth Street and Jose Barrios elementaries and San Lorenzo Elementary in the Mimbres Valley. Aldo Leopold Charter School is working on grants for the middle school and the high school to start raised-bed gardens. Silver City's Guadalupe Montessori School incorporates a gardening program into its curriculum.

The Commons, formerly the Volunteer Center, engages youth in gardening and has a Food Corp Program to work with local schools, engaging teachers and students in gardening on school grounds. For more information about these programs, visit [guadalupeмонтessori.org/](http://guadalupeмонтessori.org/) and [www.tvcgrantcounty.org/](http://www.tvcgrantcounty.org/) and email [lonemtn@q.com](mailto:lonemtn@q.com) regarding ALCS's gardening efforts.

Tricia Hurley is co-owner with her husband, Mark Cantrell, of Lone Mountain Natives in Silver City. They have been growing, selling and learning about native plants for the past 13 years where they have a home nursery and sell at the local farmers market in downtown Silver City. Contact them at [lonemtn@q.com](mailto:lonemtn@q.com) or visit their website at [www.lonemtnnatives.com](http://www.lonemtnnatives.com).



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**SUNDAYS**  
**Archaeology Society** — First Sunday of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

**MONDAYS**  
**AARP Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County** — 10:30 a.m., second Monday, Cross Point Assembly of God

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# Grant County Weekly Events

City. Open meeting. Contact: 313-7891.

**Meditation for Beginners** — 5:30 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. Jeff, 956-6647. www.lotuscentersc.org.

**Silver City Squares** — Dancing 6:30-8:30 p.m., Methodist Church Santa Rita Street entrance. Kay, 3884227 or Linda 534-4523.

**Southwest New Mexico ACLU** — noon, first Monday (except September when it's the second Monday), Little Toad Creek, 200 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Bob Garrett, 575-590-4809.

**TUESDAYS**

**Alzheimer's/Dementia Support** — 1:30 p.m., First Tuesday, Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.

**Bayard Historic Mine Tour** — 9:30 a.m., Second Tuesday, meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map. Call 537-3327 for reservation.

**Figure/Model Drawing** — 4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583. First Tuesday, 6 p.m. at the headquarters, next to the Chevron/Snappy Mart in Arenas Valley. Dan Larson, 654-4884.

**Gilawriters** — 1:00-3 p.m., Visitors Center at Hudson and Broadway in Silver City. Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.

**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group** — 11:30 a.m., first Tuesday at a local restaurant;

email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

**PFLAG Silver City** — First Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. Confidential support for LGBTQ persons and their families. 575-590-8797.

**Republican Party of Grant County** — 6 p.m., second Monday, 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).

**Slow Flow Yoga** — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

**Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild** — 9:30 a.m., first Tuesday, Grant County Extension Office, 2610 N. Silver Street, North entrance. Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families)** — 7-8:15 p.m. meets every Wednesday at the New Church of the Southwest Desert, 714 N. Bullard St. Athena, 575-590-8300.

**Al-Anon family group** — 6 p.m., Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race Track Road, Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: 313-7891.

**Archaeology Society** — 6 p.m., third Wednesday every month, October-April at 2045 Memory Lane, Silver City; May-September meetings begin with a pot-luck dinner at 6 p.m. at Roundup Lodge in San Lorenzo-Mimbres, convening for business at 7 p.m. Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.

**Babytime Sing & Play** — 1 p.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Stories, songs, rhymes and movement for infants 0-12 months and their caregivers. Free, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**Back Country Horsemen** — 6 p.m., second Wednesday, WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.

**A Course in Miracles** — 7:15 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

**Future Engineers** — 4-5 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Free creative construction fun with Lego, K'NEX, and Strawbees! For children ages 6-12, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**Gin Rummy** — 1 p.m. at Tranquilbuzz, corner of Yankie and Texas Streets in Silver City.

**Grant County Democratic Party** — 5:30 p.m., potluck; 6:20 p.m., meeting, second Wednesday, Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.

**Grant County Federated Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Third Wednesday, WNMU Cafeteria, Sunset Room. 313-7997.

**Ladies Golf Association** — 8 a.m. tee time, Silver City Golf Course.

**Prostate Cancer Support Group** — 6:30 p.m., third

Wednesday, Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

**Storytime** — 10:30 a.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. For children ages 0-5, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**THURSDAYS**

**Blooming Lotus Meditation** — 5:30 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.

**De-stressing Meditations** — Noon-12:45 p.m., New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

**Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society** — 6 p.m., second Thursday, 2045 Memory Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.

**Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting** — 10 a.m., second Thursday, Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

**Little Artist Club** — 10:30-11:30 a.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Free creative fun for children ages 0-5. No registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**TOPS** — 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

**WildWorks Youth Space** — 4 p.m. For children ages 10+ Space for youth to hang out, experiment, create and more. Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**Yoga class** — Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, Seventh and Texas. 574-5451.

**FRIDAYS**

**Overeaters Anonymous** — 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church. 654-2067.

**Silver City Woman's Club** — 10:30 a.m., second Friday, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Monthly meeting, lunch is at noon. Lucinda, 313-4591.

**Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery** — 5:30 p.m., La Clinica Health and Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop, Silver City. Contact:313-7891.

**SATURDAYS**

**Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip"** — 11 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church.

**Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition** — 5 p.m., Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839.

**Kids Bike Ride** — 10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.

**Narcotics Anonymous** — 6 p.m., New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

**Spinning Group** — 1-3 p.m., First Saturday, Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — 10-11:30 a.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. All levels. Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

**All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.**



HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

# A Local Pilgrimage

With music along the way

Some hikes are pilgrimages. The long trail from the French border all the way across Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela is called the “camino.” Several hundred miles of trail can humble believers and non-believers alike. Or so I’ve heard.

Lucky for us there are shorter pilgrimages available. And I mean real pilgrimages this time, not the drive up to Hatch to get a green chile cheeseburger. One popular local pilgrimage happens twice a year on the Texas-New Mexico border. It leads up to a big statue of Christ. If you’ve ever driven on Interstate 10 between Las Cruces and El Paso, you have seen it. Visible from miles away on a mountain to the South side of the freeway

stands the statue known as “El Christo Rey.”

Celebrated with a pilgrimage every last Sunday in October since it was erected in 1940, you can climb up the slopes of the hill for two-and-a-half miles to reach the base of the statue. Several sites along the way invite to pause, reflect, and catch your breath. Beware though – hundreds of people make the trip that day. Solitude you will find not.

But here you trade solitude for safety. Because the mountain also borders Mexico there have been many reported incidents of robberies, thefts and kidnappings. So, even on their own website the Mt. Christo Rey Restoration Committee ([www.mtcristorey.com](http://www.mtcristorey.com)) recommends

hiking up only on days of special events. And besides the October celebration there is the Easter weekend. With the date falling on April 21 this year, you have a chance to hit the trail from Thursday through Saturday before Easter Sunday between 7 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. The early morning hours are recommended because the trail offers no shade and the end of April can be fairly hot already. On these days ample police security is on site. Also on site are various food booths offering cold drinks, burritos, and the like. Check out the monastery booth by the trailhead, too. They offer various religious trinkets but also some potent home brew. Remember, it was monks and nuns who invented beer and wine making. They know what they are doing.

One more word about the trail experience: Invariably you will want to pass some slower folks while others try to get past you. On a sometimes-narrow trail, please be polite and announce yourself with an “excuse me” or “perdón” and wait for them to step aside. Nobody wants to end their day at the bottom of the ravine. Come to think of it, be polite not only on a narrow trail but on all other trails of life, too.

My favorite part of the whole hike? The Native American and other dance groups. They hike up in costumes, jingling their maracas and other instruments along the way and then perform as a group on top of the mountain, 20 steps below the base of the statue. When you take your break on the hill side, eat a snack and sip your water you get to listen to the music and watch the dancers.

As always, remember your sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat and water.

Enjoy your Easter weekend,

and all the other April weekends! Hopefully outdoors!

*Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for almost 20 years — and loved every minute of*

*it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding area and all over this beautiful state.*



The trail to El Christo Rey is well maintained and traveled during the Easter weekend. (Photos by Gabriele Tech)

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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIEL ROCHELLE

# Kudos to Community Bike Shops

## Crossing the state with support

Four community bike shops dot the state of New Mexico. The most active one is Esperanza Community Bike Shop, 5600 Esperanza Drive in Albuquerque. Esperanza is open four days a week for clinic and earn-a-bike programs. Esperanza is funded by the city of Albuquerque and focuses on bike education and safety, and the education part extends to learning bicycle repair and maintenance. Intimately tied into the city, Esperanza also leads the way in bike advocacy.

In Santa Fe, Chainbreaker Collective at 1515 Fifth St. began as a small group of people concerned about transportation, particularly about transportation for those who could not afford big-ticket items. It morphed quickly into a place to learn how to build and fix and maintain bikes. Chainbreaker works on a membership basis; you become a member and then learn how to work on your bike.

The Bike Works has two locations in Silver City, the Root at 815 E. 10th St. and the Branch at 820 N. Bullard St. Their programs include the usual fix- or earn-a-bike program and they also have a mobile bike repair

shop that is available throughout Grant County. Bike Works also sponsors bike rides in the area.

The HUB Community Bike Shop in Las Cruces is located at 215 E. Lohman Ave. The newest in this group, the HUB has been in business slightly over a year, continues to grow and expand, and is now open two days a week.

The HUB, like Bike Works in Silver, sells reconditioned bikes in order to fund its programs which center around assisting the homeless and children who have minimal resources. Because of the broad spectrum of volunteers, the HUB is also connected to other programs, such as Ride Right Ride Bright, a twice-annual event at the Community of Hope in Las Cruces, where volunteers fix bikes for homeless folks and outfit them with helmets, reflector vests, and lights. Several HUB volunteers are involved directly in providing bikes for children in our community and in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. We continue to merge interests, skills and ideas as we develop.

These programs, all of which are committed to bike education and advocacy, are able to change lives. You see the change when you see a child who couldn't afford a bike beaming at their first ride. You see the change when you give people even the smallest amount of information on how to fix their own bikes. You see the change when you have given persons mobility that they did not previously have.

Pamela suffered a traumatic brain injury as the result of an accidental shooting. She was jogging one day and was struck by a stray .22 caliber bullet, which entered and lodged in her skull. As a result of this injury she had to learn how to speak, walk and eat and care for herself once again as an adult. She was also unable to drive and was, thus, in need of an alternative form of transportation.

The HUB is also connected to a small program called Bikes-4-Vets, founded by Ken Perrone of Las Cruces, for which we were doing repairs and providing fixed bicycles. Through that connection Pamela received a bicycle just before Christmas of 2018. The bike had been donated by another person to the program, and when the former owner got the message that her bike had found a new home, she wrote, "My heart sings and my bicycle will be ridden! All is right with the world for a moment."

That's the impact these shops have on their communities. Find time to learn about them, contribute to them and, if possible, volunteer with them.

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and chairman of the Hub steering committee. The Hub website is: [www.velocruces.org](http://www.velocruces.org) or phone 575-323-0883.



## Flowing With the (Forward) Fold

Flowing With the Fold is a class appropriate for all levels of yoga experience and ability. It is a tune up for your yoga practice by tuning into your body.

Join Kelsi Skee for this 2.5 hour forward fold intensive. Through awareness of anatomy

and intention, we will be dissecting poses and learning how to make basic poses challenging, and advanced poses approachable. Cost \$25. The class will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway in Silver City. For information call 575-956-6647.

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A chuckwagon is one of the features that line the trail through the ruins at Fort Selden. The National Ranching Heritage Center and Texas Tech Museum, both in Lubbock, Texas, have donated wagons to the site in recent years. (Photos by David Burge)

Make plans

- **Location:** Fort Selden is located 13 miles north of Las Cruces off Interstate 25. Take exit 19 off I-25.
- **Hours:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.
- **Cost:** \$5 for adults; free for children 16 and younger.
- **Military:** Fort Selden participates in the Blue Star Museum Program, which offers free admission to active-duty military and their families from May 18 – which is Armed Forces Day – to Labor Day.
- **Special events:** Site offers a range of special events throughout the year. There may be an extra cost associated with these events.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteers are always needed to help with different aspects at the historic site.
- **Information:** 575-202-1638 or nmhistoricsites.org.

HISTORIC EXPLORATION • DAVID BURGE  
Fort Selden Infused

As you walk around the grounds at Fort Selden Historic Site, you can feel the history. You can imagine all the soldiers who manned the adobe fort during the mid- to late 19th century. But you can also feel the centuries of history that came before that making this site a crossroads and gathering place for more than 1,500 years. You can sense the presence of Native Americans and Spanish conquistadores who came long before the U.S. Army chose this spot to serve as a frontier outpost. Fort Selden Historic Site is located along Interstate 25, just 13 miles north of Las Cruces in the town of Radium Springs.

“What was going on in the

Southwest pre-dates the settlement of the East Coast, but people forget about that,” said Leslie Bergloff, regional manager for Southern New Mexico for New Mexico Historic Sites. The 25-acre site preserves the ruins of an old Army frontier fort that was in operation from 1865 – shortly after the close of the Civil War – to 1891. But it is so much more than that. While the fort was only in operation for a few short years, the site has a much longer history. The fort was built on high ground near a ford in the nearby Rio Grande. That made it an attractive gathering spot and campsite for centuries before that. The Mogollon Native Americans

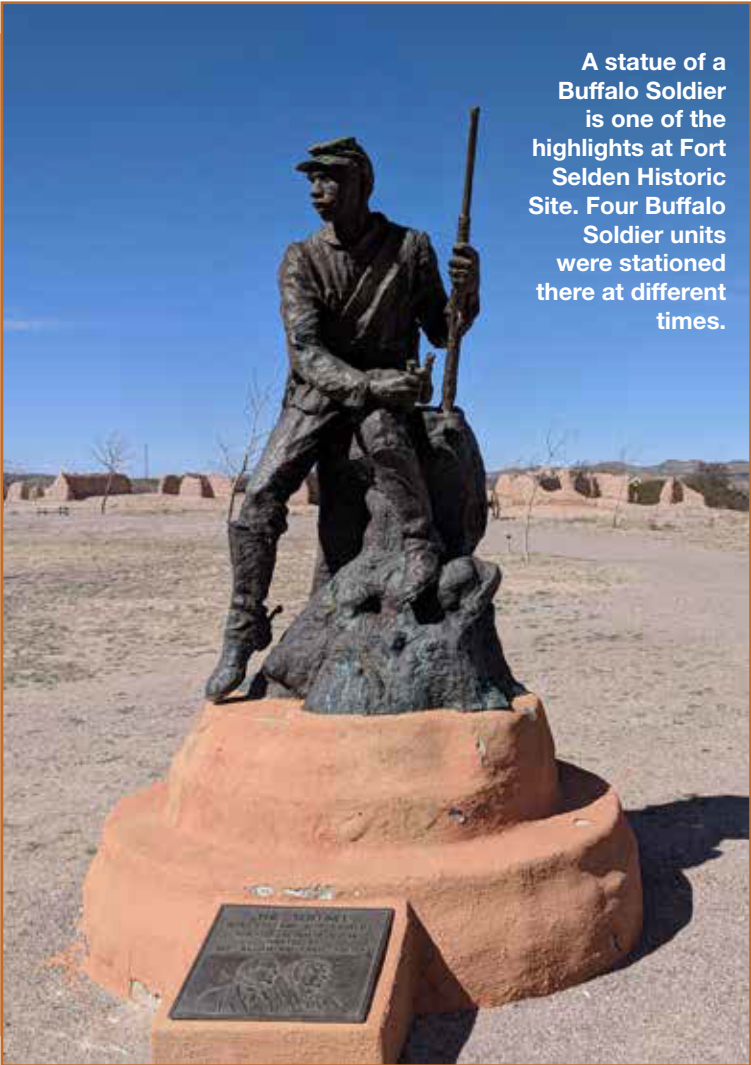
lived in the area from about 400 A.D. to the 1300s. Conquistador Juan de Oñate established a camp at the site in 1598 while forging the Camino Real – the famous trade route between Mexico City and Santa Fe. You can stand in part of the Camino Real while visiting Fort Selden. “We want to tell the fort’s story,” Bergloff said. “But we also want to tell the story of the Camino Real. We want to tell the story of the Mogollon. We want to tell the whole history and even what happened to this area after the fort.” The site includes a half-mile trail through the ruins of the adobe fort. In the past two years, numbered interpretive signs have been added along the trail, creating a

self-guided tour. Besides taking you on a walk-through history, the trail also offers a stunning view of the ruins, the big New Mexico sky and the nearby Robledo Mountains. The site also includes a small museum full of artifacts – like an Army uniform from the frontier period and a large collection of vintage glass bottles – that document life in the Army and in the 19th century in general. One of the highlights is a statue of a Buffalo Soldier. Four units of the Buffalo Soldiers – segregated African-American units – were stationed at the fort at one time or another during its existence. Bergloff and her staff have some big plans to update and improve the site and tell some of those other stories. They would like to upgrade the exhibits at the museum, offer more interpretation along the trail through the ruins and continue with preservation efforts. Bergloff said those plans will be paid for with a generous gift of capital improvement funds awarded to the site by state Sen. Jeff Steinborn, D-Las Cruces. “We are very thankful for his generosity,” Bergloff said. Those capital improvement funds will allow her team to broaden the historic interpreta-

tion of the site and tell stories that haven’t been told in the past. “As we begin to broaden that approach and interpret the site in a more comprehensive way, I hope it will bring more people who are interested in all of those different stories,” Bergloff said. One missing piece has always been the history of the Apache Native Americans, Bergloff said. Another big area that they plan to expand into is adding some interactive exhibits, especially along the trail through the ruins. They have already added one place where you can experiment and make your own adobe brick. In the future, the Museum of New Mexico system will lend them some artifacts to make the museum and their overall interpretation of the site’s history more interesting, Bergloff said. Park ranger Nathan Stone said the site offers a combination of history and scenic beauty. Stone urges people who have never visited to stop by and experience Fort Selden and all its history. “If you have been here before, it will continue to change for the better,” Stone said. “If you live around here, come out and visit every couple of years and see what you find.”

Fun facts

- Part of the historic Camino Real trade route runs through Fort Selden. Visitors can actually stand in part of this legendary highway.
- Four units of Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at the fort during different parts of its history. There is a Buffalo Soldier statue on the grounds to remember this part of Army history.
- A young Douglas MacArthur, the future five-star general and Army legend, spent part of his youth at Fort Selden. His father, Arthur MacArthur, served as commander of the fort.
- Many of the soldiers at the fort were immigrants who came from countries such as England, France, Switzerland, Poland and Ireland.
- Fort Selden is considered one of the best examples of an adobe-style frontier fort in the state of New Mexico – along with Fort Union National Monument in Las Vegas, N.M.



A statue of a Buffalo Soldier is one of the highlights at Fort Selden Historic Site. Four Buffalo Soldier units were stationed there at different times.



A collection of vintage bottles and glassware is one of the gems that await visitors at the small museum at Fort Selden.





Larry and Tresa VanWinkle with a cancer fighting organization, CAPPED, talk about their healing labyrinth design with interested community members at the 2017 Community Earth Day Fair in Alamogordo. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

## Earth Day

Alamogordo gets its Earth on

The Annual Community Earth Day Fair in Alamogordo brings together people from across several states to wander activities and enjoy the happenings on stage while recognizing the importance of respecting the earth. The Fair takes place Saturday, April 27, at the Alameda Park Zoo. The gates open at 8:30 a.m. and the opening ceremonies will start at 9 a.m.

Late last year, Chairman Stet Reid stepped down from his position as Earth Day director. As a result, the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce has agreed to take over and follow in his footsteps.

"Earth Day has gotten the amount of success that it has in past years because of Stet," said GB Oliver executive director of The Alamogordo chamber. "This year, with his guidance we expect to host another great community Earth Day fair."

Last year, attendance exceeded 8,000 and more than 80 vendors. This year, the chamber is

expecting the same number of participants, or more. Invited speakers include Mayor Richard Boss, Oliver and Superintendent of Alamogordo Public Schools Jerrett Perry. Exhibits include local nonprofits, gardening clubs and educational booths.

At 9 a.m., the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and a student from Alamogordo High School will sing the National Anthem. Alamogordo Public Schools has student displays in two tents and will provide entertainment on the stage throughout the day. One of the most anticipated events of the day is a mass butterfly release, which takes place at 11 a.m.

The Alameda Park Zoo is the oldest zoo of the west Mississippi and entrance is free during Earth Day festivities.

Vendor space is still available. Call the chamber at 575-437-6120 or stop by the office at 1301 N. White Sands Blvd. for information.

A young lady gets to take home a wood burned logo from a previous Continental Divide Trail Days event in Silver City. (Photo by Amanda Goldstein)



HIKING THE CDT

## Trail Days Draws Hikers to Silver City

Now in its fifth year, Continental Divide Trail Days, April 26 and 27, marks the start of thru-hiker season on the divide, promotes southern New Mexico as a destination for outdoor recreation, and celebrates the individuals who set out to enjoy the CDT. Two days full of games, music, classes, adventure films, dancing, raffles, presentations, and free pancakes mean that Continental Divide Trail Days has something for everyone, from Silver City locals to experienced long-distance hikers visiting New Mexico for the first time.

The weekend's events include a day of fun for all at the Trail Days Festival at Gough Park, a CDT Party at the Power and Light Press, free pancake breakfast and

Friday's talks of the Trail Education Series. Also, for the first time ever, hikers can camp for free at Gough Park.

Continental Divide Trail Days is free to attend, except for a ticketed film festival on Saturday night. Ticket sales and proceeds from the weekend's raffles all benefit the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and its work to complete, promote, and protect the CDT.

"Join us in Silver City to explore the Continental Divide, its unique communities and cultures, and the wonderful, wacky world of long-distance hiking," said organizer Gabe Etengoff.

For information and schedule visit [continentaldividetrail.org/trail-days-2019/](http://continentaldividetrail.org/trail-days-2019/).



A voter registration booth is but one of many community outreach booths participating in Earth Day events in Silver City. (Courtesy Photo)

CELEBRATING EARTH

## Earth Day at Gough Park

Silver City businesses come out in full force

This year's Gila Earth Day will be celebrated 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Gough Park in Silver City. More than 30 organizations and businesses will showcase their mission, services, or green products for your yard, home, and person. The event features live entertainment throughout the day, as well as food and activities for children.

This year's theme, "Protect Our Species," focuses on the rapid extinction of animals around the world. The number of land-dwelling animals has fallen by 40 percent since 1970, and animal populations in freshwater ecosystems have plummeted by 75 percent since 1970. "In recent news, approximately 41 percent of insect species have been determined to be in decline, which could have far-reaching and catastrophic effects," said event organizer Doyné Wrealli, Program Associate for Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP). "What can we do, individually and as a community, to Protect Our Species both locally and globally? We'll get some answers from our local experts."

The day will kick off with a parade based on this year's theme, starting at the intersection of Bullard and Sixth streets in downtown Silver City at 9:30 a.m. The parade will be led by Maria Casler of the Monsoon Puppet Theater. Parade participants are encouraged to dress as an animal or plant, or just come as a representative of the human species. The parade will go north on Bullard Street, proceed west on College Avenue, then north on Pope Street to Gough Park.

At half-past each hour, starting at 10:30 a.m., there will be species protection teach-ins under the ramada at the park. Local experts will present information on regional native

species that are endangered, global species' extinction, the rapid decline of insects, and the concept that all species, animals (people included) and plants, are inter-connected and dependent upon one another.

The Gila Earth Day celebration couldn't happen without the participation of the volunteers who make up the planning committee. "The dedication of the planning committee is absolutely vital to the event. They make all the big decisions and do the hard work," said Wrealli. "We're delighted to have three student interns from Aldo Leopold Charter School's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) garden crew on the planning committee this year: Marisa Holguin, Sarah Lynn, and Danny Mahl, in addition to GRIP's Aldo Leopold Charter School intern, Rhiannon Blankenship. These students are planning a special event for children this year, a Pollinator Walk."

"The Pollinator Walk will work like a cake walk," said YCC student Danny Mahl. "There will be areas marked on the ground with an image of a pollinating species, like a butterfly, hummingbird, or insect, on each one. We will play music, participants will walk around, and when the music stops, the participants will stop. A pollinator species will be called out by common name first, then Latin name, and the person who is standing on that area will be given seeds or a seedling of a plant that feeds the pollinator."

The grand prize for the event will be to release some young butterflies, if they have emerged from their chrysalis stage, under the care of the students.

Another popular activity will be returning this year Sharon Bookwalter will be registering adult voters, and kids can vote

for their favorite of three native species candidates.

"This was such a big hit that the newspaper published the results of the election the next day,"

Bookwalter said. "The kids were very engaged in the process!"

This year, there won't be recycling collection in the adjacent parking lot as in previous years.

"Global and national problems with purchasers of recycled materials have trickled down to Grant County," said David Krisch, a former member of the Silver City Recycling Advisory Committee. "There just isn't a market right now. We need to focus on reducing and reusing, the other two Rs. We should add a fourth R: Refusing to purchase items that use a lot of plastic packaging and communicating to the manufacturer why we are not purchasing from them."

A local alternative to recycling will also be showcased. The Future Forge will demonstrate its machine that recycles plastic by extruding used plastic into "strings." These strings can be used with their three-dimensional printer, which will also be operating at the park, to make almost anything.

The sponsors of this year's Gila Earth Day include Aldo Leopold Charter School, The Commons, Gila Native Plant Society, Gila Resources Information Project, Grant County Beekeepers, J&J Signs, Monsoon Puppet Theater and Lone Mountain Natives.

"There are always last-minute additions and great surprises. We'll have something for everyone," said Wrealli.

For more information, go to [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info), or contact Doyné Wrealli at [earthendoyne@gmail.com](mailto:earthendoyne@gmail.com) or call 575-297-9734.



TABLE TALK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Oh, Pecans!

## Pecans take Mesilla Valley by storm

Pecans are worth \$220 million a year to Doña Ana County, according to New Mexico State University's Doña Ana County Extension Agent Jeff Anderson. Because Georgia lost crops due to a hurricane last year and other trouble the year before, New Mexico is No. 1 in pecan production, and in Doña Ana County, there are 31,200 acres of pecan orchards.

"Doña Ana is the largest agricultural county in the state," Anderson said. "Outside of dairy and cattle, pecans are the largest market (in New Mexico)."

Anderson said pecans make a huge economic impact here. In addition to sending pecans to markets outside of the state, they are a draw for tourism, and there are all kinds of secondary products that come from the industry.

So, while pecans use about 60 inches of water per tree, Anderson said the economic significance makes the water use an arguable point.

"The water is going by in the river," he said. "It can go right on by or we could use it."

Before there were people in the Mesilla Valley, the river would flood across the valley, Anderson said. So, while people may think flooding (the trees) is bad, it recharges the valley's aquifer by spreading the water out.

"If it stays in the river, it stays in that area," he said. "But if you spread it out, it actually recharges the aquifer."

Anderson said pecans came to the Mesilla Valley around the turn of the previous century when Fabián García started experimenting with different nut crops. The Stahmann family picked up on the pecan business in the 1930s and made it a local industry. They now farm about 3,200 acres of pecans.



**Pecan grower Kristen Worthington with a bucket of pecans, stands next to a tractor at her pecan orchard in Mesilla Park in mid-March. (Photo by Steve MacIntyre)**

In the 1990s, the Chinese market opened up and the pecan industry boomed and kept booming until 2018 when trade wars caused the international tariff to go from 7 percent to 47 percent. The price local growers get for their in-shell pecans went from \$3.40 to \$1.50 or less.

Kristen and Shawn Worthington have been growing pecans for two years in Mesilla Park. As small growers, they felt the impact of the price drop in a big way. The couple are transplants from the California Sacramento Valley and still excited about their new business.

Kristen Worthington is not too dismayed by the loss in crop value, although she said, "it was like a punch in the gut for some of the smaller growers." She is planning to get machinery for shelling pecans and create a co-op with the other small growers around the Worthingtons' 5-acre place. She said the market for shelled pecans is less volatile than the inshell prices.

"If I can make this land pay for itself, that would be really good," she said. "The pecans are really perfect. As long as I can get them out of the shell, there is a lot of stuff I can do with them — can-

dies, baked goods, boils, soaps and pecan butter."

Worthington said she plans on making various pecan products and taking them to the farmer's market to see what people like.

"I noticed at the farmer's market there wasn't a whole lot of people doing just pecans," she said. "But we are from a pecan area; this stuff tastes good. So, if I just make it all pecan-related stuff, I think people would enjoy it."

Worthington said she believes being creative as a small farmer is essential. And she is used to staying busy; she raised three homeschooled children and served on school boards in California. Here in the Mesilla Valley, she and her husband keep busy by volunteering at a local food co-op on the weekends.

Worthington is also exploring options for using the shells and trimmed limbs of her trees — "smoking chips maybe, or a compost pile," she said.

Worthington still thinks pecans are the perfect crop.

"I love pecans," she said. "After learning a lot about them, they are like the perfect thing. You don't have to worry about them going bad on the trees. You have a longer harvest time for them."

## Pecans and New Mexico State University

New Mexico State University Interim Associate Dean and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station Natalie Goldberg spoke at the Western Pecan Growers Association Conference, which took place March 3 to 5.

Goldberg said the university has been going through an introspective phase, working on focusing its efforts as an economic engine in New Mexico.

One of the four pillars of NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is food and fiber production and marketing, which pecans fit in well, Goldberg said.

NMSU is the lead institution with six others in a \$4 million-plus USDA-NIFA funded project. The college sequenced the pecan genome for the first time, Goldberg said.

"Genetic markers assist breeders in developing varieties and rootstocks for specific regions and conditions," Goldberg said. "We are very proud we are work-



**Natalie Goldberg at the Western Pecan Growers Association Conference. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)**

ing in that area."

Goldberg said water is the most limiting thing in terms of growing pecans, and USDA funded research is happening at the Leyendecker Plant Sciences Research Orchards. Three research orchards are developing irrigation techniques and technologies, including drip irrigation that will help pecan growers in the West optimize irrigation efficiency and increase production and profit-

ability for farmers per acre-inch of water applied.

"All aspects of water use affect agricultural efficiency, profitability and human health," she said.

Goldberg also talked about the health benefits of pecans and research being done in the area of nutrition and food science.

"Pecans have numerous health benefits," she said. "NMSU is a leader in human health research related to pecans and an NMSU researcher, Dr. Wanda Eastman, was the first to show a link between pecan consumption and cardiovascular health."

The NMSU Cooperative Extension Service is a leading authority on pecan production, Goldberg said. It provides a comprehensive course on pecan production held every other October. The course attracts participants from all over the world, offers a solid foundation for beginners and lets experienced growers brush up on new information and techniques. The next course is in October 2020.



**A pecan orchard in Mesilla gets its first thorough watering of 2018, kicking off the growing season. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)**

# HIGH DESERT

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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings. We are asking restaurants to pay a small fee for listing their information. Restaurant advertisers already on contract with Desert Exposure receive a free listing. For other establishments, listings with essential information will be \$36 a year and expanded listings, up to 10 lines, will be \$48 a year. To get an updated listing in Red or Green?, contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614.

We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief cate-

gorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up to date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email editor@desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!



**GRANT COUNTY**  
*Silver City*  
**ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sand-

wiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.  
**CACTUS JACKS**, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and

beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L.

**CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only.

**CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D.  
**COURTYARD CAFÉ**, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.

**DIANE'S RESTAURANT**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D, Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

**DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI**, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, pastries, sandwiches, deli: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday L.

**DON JUAN'S BURRITOS**, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.  
**DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.  
**EL GALLO PINTO**, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. Mexican: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday B L Thursday to Saturday B L D.  
**FORREST'S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St. Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, Slices until 7 p.m.  
**FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D.  
**GIL-A BEANS**, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.  
**GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D.  
**GRANDMA'S CAFÉ**, 900 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2627. American, Mexican: B L.  
**GRINDER MILL**, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.

**HONEEBEEGOODS "Making Life A Little Sweeter,"** 116 N. Bullard. 714-515-0832. Specialty Bakery and more! BLD. Honeebegoods.com. T-F 8 to 6, SAT 8 to 8, SUN 8 -4:30.

**JALISCO CAFÉ**, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.  
**JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffee-house.  
**JUMPING CACTUS**, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.

**KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.  
**LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.  
**LA FAMILIA**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.  
**LA MEXICANA**, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.

**LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Monday to Sunday L D.

**MEXICO VIEJO**, Hwy. 90 and Broadway Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.  
**MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D.  
**MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE**, 602 N. Bullard St., 597-2253. Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tuesday to Saturday B, L.  
**NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ**, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.  
**PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.  
**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

**REVEL**, 304 N. Bullard, 388-4920. Elevated comfort food. Weekdays LD, weekends BD, closed Wednesdays.

**SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: Daily L D.

**SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D.

**SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only.

**TAPAS TREE**, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub. 597-8272. Monday to Thursday L, Friday and Saturday L D (closes at 4 p.m.).  
**TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.  
**VICKI'S EATERY**, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. www.vickiseatery.com. Saturday-Sunday breakfast; Monday-Saturday lunch; and Friday-Saturday dinner.  
**WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak,

burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.  
**TRANQUILBUZZ CAFÉ**, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffee shop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.

*Bayard*  
**FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP**, 1108 Tom Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.  
**LITTLE NISHA'S**, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wednesday to Sunday B L D.  
**LOS COMPAS**, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portas, menu-do: L D.  
**M & A BAYARD CAFÉ**, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. Mexican and American: Monday to Friday B L D.  
**SPANISH CAFÉ**, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.  
**SUGAR SHACK**, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: Sunday to Friday B L.

*Cliff*

**Tammy's Café, U.S.** Highway 180, Cliff, 575-535-4500. Visit Tammy's Café on Facebook.RVs/Big Rigs welcome, Mexican/American food. Gluten free and vegetarian by request. Thursday to Saturday LD, Sunday L. "Bring home cooking to your table"

*Mimbres*  
**RESTAURANT DEL SOL**, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.

*Pinos Altos*  
**BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE**, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Monday to Saturday D.

*Santa Teresa*  
**BILLY CREWS**, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY Las Cruces & Mesilla**  
**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.  
**ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.  
**ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.  
**AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.  
**THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.  
**A BITE OF BELGIUM**, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily B L.  
**BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso:





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**LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.  
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**LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial East, 373-0553. Mexican, L D.  
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**MIGUEL’S**, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.  
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**NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sunday to Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday. L D.  
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April 13th: CW Ayon Blues Duo  
April 14th: Wait For What  
at Noon  
April 20th: Earth Day Jam with  
The Exbats  
Love and the Emotions  
Flesh Prism  
Shirley Shrimp  
April 26th: Moody Little Sister  
Americana Folk-Soul Duo  
April 27th: Flat Blak  
Mondays Salsa DJ Night (1st & 3rd)  
Tuesdays Open Mic  
with Kalista & Damian or  
Karaoke with V & C Music Factory  
Wednesdays Trivia



THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Mensa, the Table

Named after a mountain

There are some constellations in the southern sky that we can never see from the desert southwest. These constellations are all below 58 degrees south declination. The furthest south constellation that does not actually contain the south celestial pole is Mensa, the Table. Its southern boundary is at 85 degrees south declination. The only more southerly constellation is Octans, which actually encircles the south pole.

French astronomer Abbé Nicolas-Louis de Lacaille travelled to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa in 1750 to record the precise positions of more than 10,000 southern stars. Using these observations, he created 14 new constellations in 1763. While most represent instruments from the Age of Enlightenment, Mons Mensae is the only constellation that represents a geographical feature, Table Mountain, which overlooked his observatory. Later the name was shortened to Mensa.

The stars in this constellation are all faint, with the brightest, Alpha Mensae, at only magnitude +5.1. The rest of the Greek-letter designated stars in this constellation are between fifth and sixth magnitude, visible to the unaided eye, but they do not jump out at you.

Alpha Mensae is 33 light-years away. Just a quarter of a million years ago, this star came within 11 light-years of our sun. At the time it would have shined at almost second magnitude. It has a red dwarf star orbiting it at a distance of around 30 times the distance between the Earth and the sun. In our sky, the red dwarf



Mensa, the Table, is a modern constellation consisting of faint stars that never rises above our horizon. This map of Mensa shows stars down to sixth magnitude, since the fifth magnitude limit used for the main map showed no stars in Mensa. There are only a few deep sky objects in Mensa, but the constellation is the closest to the south celestial pole without actually containing the pole.

Calendar of Events – APRIL 2019 (MST)			
05	2:50 a.m.	New Moon	
10	11 a.m.	Jupiter stationary	
11	2 p.m.	Mercury furthest west of the Sun (28 degrees)	
12	1:06 p.m.	First Quarter Moon	
19	5:12 a.m.	Full Moon	
26	4:18 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon	
29	8 p.m.	Saturn stationary	

is three seconds-of-arc from the primary star.

A star similar to that of our Sun in Mensa is Pi Mensae. This star is spectral class G1 star (our Sun is G2). It is also 230 million years younger than our sun and a little bit larger. Pi is almost 60 light-years away from us, shining in our sky at magnitude +5.7.

Pi Mensae is not alone in space. One of the most massive known exoplanets (planets outside our Solar System) circles this star every 5.9 years, called Pi Mensae b. It is in a very eccentric orbit, that first takes it near the star and then farther out.

This orbit travels through Pi's habitable zone, where a planet gets just the right amount of sunlight for life to exist. If Pi had an earth-like planet in this zone, Pi Mensae b's traversal of this zone would have thrown it either into the star or out into space.

Pi Mensa b is between 10 and 30 times the mass of Jupiter. This puts it in the mass range of a brown dwarf star, so this may actually be a very small star instead of a very large planet. Unfortunately, astronomers are unable to differentiate between the two, since a brown dwarf star generates very little energy for us to detect.

Just last year (2018), the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) was launched. It observes over half a million stars, watching for an exoplanet to transit (cross in front of) the star, blocking some of the light from the star. It soon discov-

ered that Pi Mensae had another planet, a super-Earth, some five times more massive than our own planet. This planet is in a very close orbit around Pi, taking only 6.27 days to complete a revolution. It is too hot for life to exist, being far inside the inner boundary of the habitable zone.

TESS discovered this planet by observing eighty-five percent of the sky, taking images of a any star in this area multiple times. Each time, it measures the brightness of the star, looking for any change in its brightness. A dimming might indicate that a planet has passed in front of the star. This has to be done from space, since variations in our atmosphere would keep astronomers from being sure a dimming is actually happening at the star instead of from our atmosphere.

One dimming does not confirm a planet. The star must dim again and again, with a regular period. This is why it takes time for TESS to discover these exoplanets. TESS only has a two-year mission, one year observing the southern celestial hemisphere and one year observing the northern hemisphere. Exoplanets that are nearer the star will transit more frequently, making them easier to confirm. Those that only transit once or twice a year will not be discovered until a future mission is launched with a longer lifetime.

The Planets

for April 2019

Mars is the only planet in the evening sky. At midmonth, it has a disc that is 4.4 seconds-of-arc across. The God of War moves from western to east-central Taurus this month, shining at magnitude +1.6. It is 36 degrees up in the west as it gets dark, setting a little after 11 p.m.

The King of the Planets rises around midnight in the east-southeast, shining at magnitude -2.4. It will be 33 degrees above the southern horizon as

it gets light. Jupiter will move slowly westward in eastern Ophiuchus during the month. At midmonth, it will have a disc that is 41.7 seconds-of-arc across.

Saturn is moving slowly eastward in northeastern-central Sagittarius, shining at magnitude +0.5. Its Rings are 37.9 seconds-of-arc across, tilted down 23.5 degrees with the northern face showing, while the disc itself is 16.7 seconds-of-arc across. The Ringed Planet is 35 degrees above the south-southeastern horizon as dawn breaks after it rose around 2 a.m.

The Goddess of Love shines brilliantly at magnitude -4.0, being just 15 degrees above the east-southeast horizon as it gets light. During the month, Venus moves from central Aquarius eastward into Pisces, clipping the corner of Cetus and ending up back in south-central Pisces. Venus rises at 5:30 a.m. with a disc that is 12.6 seconds-of-arc across which is 83 percent illuminated at midmonth.

Mercury reaches its greatest distance from the Sun in the morning sky on April 11, at a whopping 28 degrees. It is seven degrees above the eastern horizon as it gets light. The Messenger of the Gods is 7.8 seconds-of-arc across and it will be a 48 percent illuminated crescent that shines at magnitude +0.4. Mercury moves from eastern Aquarius eastward into Pisces, clipping the corner of Cetus and ending up back in south-central Pisces. It will be between five and 10 degrees to the left and below Venus all month, being closest on April 16. Enjoy the dance of these two planets this month and "keep watching the sky!"

An amateur astronomer for more than 45 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

A Place for Space

New Mexico's role in space history is undeniable

New Mexicans are not used to being on the cutting edge of things.

We regularly see our state at the bottom of the U.S. rankings of good categories, and at the top of the rankings of bad categories.

When it comes to science, however, and, more specifically, space exploration, New Mexico has long been at the cutting edge.

One of the most important science projects of humankind, an event that changed the course of history, took place in New Mexico.

I'm speaking of the first atom-

ic bomb, created right here in New Mexico, devised and built in Los Alamos, and detonated outside of San Antonio in 1945.

German-engineered V-2 rockets were tested and launched between Alamogordo and Las Cruces at White Sands Proving Grounds (now the Missile Range) beginning in 1946.

"Something" happened in the desert near Corona and reported in Roswell in 1947. It may or may not have been spacecraft-related and/or extra-terrestrial.

So New Mexico was rife with space-age activity as far back as the 1940s.

It goes back further, though.

A thousand years earlier, Anasazi in what is now northwest New Mexico studied the stars and skies and space with great intent and sought meaning in their alignments.

Go visit their one-time home, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, for one of its Night Sky Programs. You'll get to see how the architecture was designed to highlight certain astronomical alignments.

It's not easy to get to Chaco Canyon. It's about an hour-and-a-half rough and rocky drive from



SPACE

continued from page 30

the nearest city, Farmington. Getting there is worth it, though. I was there once for a full moon night, and it was chilling to see the moon and stars come through the windows designed by the ancient inhabitants.

Since the dawn of man, humans have stared at the stars and skies wondering what is out there, and how to get there.

They figured out a lot of it right here in the Land of Enchantment.

None of those Anasazi, or even the atomic bomb builders or V-2 rocket workers, could have predicted that, one day, a New Mexican would walk on the moon.

That man was Harrison Schmitt, born in Santa Rita, a town that's now a giant hole in the ground, used for mining copper.

When Schmitt and his astronaut colleague, Gene Cernan, climbed back into the Apollo 17 lunar module on Dec. 13, 1972, no one knew they would be the

11th, 12th and last humans to grace the moon's surface for 46 years and counting.

Space-age F-117 Stealth fighter jets flew from Holloman Air Force Base from 1993 to 2008. I lived in Alamogordo most of that time, and saw them a lot. But I can never forget one night driving just west of Holloman when I heard this deafening whoosh from what felt like 10 feet above my Honda Civic. I looked north and saw the Stealth zoom past. I should say I saw the silhouette of the Stealth zoom past. I could never make out the whole thing, and I certainly didn't see it when it was within view southeast of me seconds before. Stealth was truly the right name for that remarkable craft.

Many remember the day in 1982, when the Space Shuttle landed at White Sands Space Harbor on White Sands Missile Range.

Space activity at WSMR stood on the shoulders of such people as Clyde Tombaugh, who in 1930 discovered the planet Pluto (yes, I called it a planet!). Tom-

baugh worked at the range from 1946-55. He then moved over the Organ Mountains to join the faculty at NMSU, where he helped found the astronomy department and for 20 years share his passion for science and the stars. When he died in 1997, his were the first ashes ever to be shot into space.

Alan Hale, a resident of Cloudcroft and graduate of NMSU, wrote an astronomy column for many years for the Alamogordo Daily News. When I joined that newspaper as its editor in 1995, Hale had just weeks before co-discovered the Hale-Bopp Comet, probably the brightest one of the 20th century.

Hale's Sacramento Mountains are also home to the National Solar Observatory and Apache

Point Observatory. A little lower in the Sacramentos, in Alamogordo proper, sits the New Mexico Museum of Space History, a gleaming copper-colored cube on the hill. You need to go check it out.

NASA has operated for generations on the Las Cruces side of the Organ Mountains at White Sands Test Facility where, among many other things, unique guns shoot microscopic particles at supersonic speeds to test for spacecraft safety.

Up Interstate 25 a few hours in Albuquerque is the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History.

Back down I-25 between Truth or Consequences and Las Cruces, Spaceport America is New Mexico's latest foray into the

dark cusps beyond Earth's atmosphere. In its Spaceship craft, Virgin Galactic will soon be taking people just like you and I (if you and I had an extra \$200,000 lying around) into space.

Demonstrating once again, New Mexico's place on the cutting edge in space.

*Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. The closest he ever got to space was flying in a T-38 jet over southern New Mexico. Either that, or playing with his G.I. Joe space capsule as a kid. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.*



By the Book

"Images of America: New Mexico Space Trail" catalogs sites within the state that have inspired humankind to reach for the stars. The Space Trail includes various archaeoastronomy locations, rocket development in Roswell, missile launches in the Tularosa Basin, astronomy efforts around the state, and commercial space flights current and future.

Las Cruces Ukefest 2019

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

# What's Going On in April

Desert Exposure would like to include your special events, from any southern New Mexico community, in our listing. Please submit your event title, time, location and contact information to [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com); Desert Exposure 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call Elva at 575-680-1978.

**MONDAY, APRIL 1**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Latin DJ** — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Karaoke** — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Wine Down Wednesday** at

**Heart of the Desert** — 6-9 p.m. at The Patio at Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Live music and libations. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-434-0035.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Free Film: "The Iron Horse"** — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory, six miles East of Silver City on U.S. Highway 180. This film is part of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society movie series "Trains, Rails and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse." Info: 575-388-4862.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers Square Dance** — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm in T or C. Main stream and plus dancing. Info: 505-804-3842.



Military personnel move "Jumbo" to Trinity Site on White Sands Missile Range which will be open to the public on April 6. (Photo courtesy atomicheritage.org)

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Audubon program: When the swallows return to Silver City** — 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico University, Harlan Hall, Room 219, 12<sup>th</sup> and Alabama streets. Ornithologist Carol Ann Fugagli and the Audubon Swallow Monitoring Team review the results of last year's cliff swallow nesting season on campus. Cost: free. Info: swnmaudubon@gmail.com.  
**“Marjorie Prime” with Virus Theater** — 7:30 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard, Silver City. A play by Jordan Harrison presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series. Cost \$10. Info: halliedallie@gmail.com.

**Columbus/Luna County**  
**“Celebrating Earth Day with Recycled Arts” reception** — 1-4 p.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**  
**Granger Smith in concert** — 8-11 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mesclero. Cost: \$29. Info: inofthemountaingods.com/event/urban-cowboy-reunion/.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Dead Like Disco** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**“Marjorie Prime” with Virus Theater** — 7:30 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard, Silver City. A play by Jordan Harrison presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series. Cost \$10. Info: halliedallie@gmail.com.  
**High Desert Playboys live music** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Rock and country from Albuquerque. Info: 575-956-6144.  
**Stars-N-Parks Program** —8:50-10:20 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Bill Nigg is the presenter. Mars is in the west, Orion and Canopus are setting Info: 575-635-0982.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Culpepper and Merriweather Circus** — Performances at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. under the big top, Sierra County Fairgrounds, 2953 S. Broadway, T or T. Info: 866-BIG-TOP.  
**Old Time Fiddlers Dance** — 7-9 p.m. New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Deming/Luna County**  
**Stars-N-Parks Program** — 8:40-10:10 p.m. at Rockhound State Park. Mike Nuss is the presenter. Mars is in the west, Orion and Canopus are setting. Info: 575-635-0982.

**Socorro and Otero counties**  
**Visit the Trinity Site** — 8 a.m.-2 p.m. enter White Sands Missile Range at the Stallion Gate on U.S. Highway 180 or caravan in from Tularosa High School, where the caravan leaves promptly at 8 a.m. Info: 575-678-1134.

**Socorro/Socorro County**  
**Hammel Museum Open** — 9 a.m.-noon, corner of Sixth and Neal streets in Socorro. Info: 575-

835-3138.  
**First Saturday Star Party** — 8 p.m. at the New Mexico Tech Etsorn Observatory on Buck Wolf Drive in Socorro. Info: 575-835-6431.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Love INC of Otero County Shredding Event** — 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church Parking Lot, 1316 Scenic Drive. Bring personal documents and for a donation you can have them professionally shredded. Info: 575-439-4812.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Band** — 3 p.m. at Western New Mexico Fine Arts Theater. Program includes marches, patriotic repertoire, vocal and tuba solos. Cost: free. Info: 575-574-5397.

**Deming/Luna County**  
**Jam Session** — 2-4 p.m. at Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. Deming. The Jammers play and serve coffee and cookies. Info: 575-546-2674.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Cultural Film Series: “The Great Debaters”** — 2 p.m. at the New Mexico State University-Alamogordo Townsend Library, 2400 Scenic Drive, Alamogordo. Inspired by a true story, Denzel Washington is a brilliant but politically radical debate team coach who used the power of words to transform a group of underdog college students. Info: 575-439-3650.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**“Space Race” bicycle to Spaceport America** — 6:30-10 a.m. T or C to Spaceport America. Info: lcspacefestival.com.  
**Spaceport America Open House** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Spaceport America. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**David Borrego live** — noon at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**MONDAY, APRIL 8**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County** — 10:30 a.m.at Cross Point Assembly of God Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. The speaker is Karen Beckenbach, President of Community Concert Association with updates for the season. Cost: lunch is \$12. Info: 575-537-3643.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Museum Volunteer Appreciation Celebration** — 12:30-2 p.m. in the Silver City Museum Annex. Volunteers and prospective volunteers invited. Info: 575-597-0229. Please RSVP.  
**“Marjorie Prime” with Virus Theater** — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard, Silver City. A play by Jordan Harrison presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series. Cost \$10. Info: halliedallie@gmail.com.

**Columbus/Luna County**  
**Columbus Book Club** — 11 a.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Open Mic** — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N



The Las Cruces Space Festival, April 7 to 13 offers a variety of speakers including astronaut Donald Pettit. (Courtesy Photo)

Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**\*Wine Down Wednesday at Heart of the Desert** — 6-9 p.m. at the patio at Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Live music Gerardo Capdevila performing classical guitar and libations. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-434-0035.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Library Week talk** — 2 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Lori Thornton, Public Services Bureau Chief at the New Mexico State Library speaks. Info: 575-528-4102.  
**Las Cruces Space Festival: Big Space Quiz** — 6-9 p.m. at the Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St., Las Cruces. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Free Film: “The Great Locomotive Chase”** — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory, six miles East of Silver City on U.S. Highway 180. This film is part of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society movie series “Trains, Rails and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse.” Info: 575-388-4862.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers Square Dance** — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm in T or C. Main stream and plus dancing. Info: 505-804-3842.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Holloman AFB Industry Day/Contracting Event** — 8 a.m.-noon at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Civic Center, 800 E. First St., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-3660.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Las Cruces Space Festival: Pre-K Planeteers** — 9-10 a.m. at the Museum of Nature and Science 411 Main, St. Las Cruces. Children learn about comets through hands-on activities ages 0-5. Info: lcspacefestival.com.  
**Las Cruces Space Festival: Making Contact Showcase** — 11

6:30-11 p.m. at Dripping Springs Natural Area, 15000 Dripping Springs Road. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Las Cruces Space Festival: Astronomy Program at White Sands National Monument** — 7:30 -10 p.m. at White Sands National Monument, 19955 U.S. Highway 70 W. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Spring Luau** — 6 p.m.-midnight at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Tunes by DJ Mischievous; games; tropical food and drink. No cover. Info: 575-956-6144.  
**“Marjorie Prime” with Virus Theater** — 7:30 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard, Silver City. A play by Jordan Harrison presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series. Cost \$10. Info: halliedallie@gmail.com.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Recycled Art Show** — All day at the Geronimo Springs Museum, 211 Mains St., T or C. Continues through April 22. Info: tmyatorc@icloud.com.  
**Second Saturday Art Hop** — 6-9 p.m. in Downtown T or C along Main, Broadway, Foch, and Austin streets. Galleries, studios, shops and restaurants open late for exploration. Info; promotion@torc-mainstreet.org.  
**Old Time Fiddlers Dance** — 7-9 p.m. New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Science Saturday** — 10 a.m.-noon at the Museum of Space History New Horizons Dome Theater, 3198 State Route 2001, Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2840, Ext. 41132.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Las Cruces Space Festival: Meet and greet astronaut Donald Pettit** — 10 a.m.-noon at Plaza de Las Cruces and Main Street. Info: lcspacefestival.com.  
**Spring Fling** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort Seldon Historic Site. A day of outdoor fun including demonstration of life on the frontier. Butter



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**Las Cruces Space Festival: Making Space for Everyone** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces and Main Street. Activities and entertainment. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**Las Cruces Space Festival: Science Girl in Dr. Von Heister's Hijinks** — 2-3:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. A celebration of the Anniversary of Human Spaceflight. Info: lcspacefestival.com.

**Crafts for Kids: Satellites** — 10 a.m.-noon at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Children of all ages welcome to create their own craft to take home. Info: 575-522-4100.

**CW Ayon Duo** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County The Satin Dollz** — 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater of the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Tight vocal harmonies, show-stopping tap dance and a roaring big band sound. Info: 575-336-4800.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14 Silver City/Grant County Blues Brunch: Wait for What** — 1 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144. **"Marjorie Prime" with Virus Theater** — 2 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard, Silver City. A play by Jordan Harrison presented as part of the Virus New Directors Series. Cost \$10. Info: halliedallie@gmail.com.

**Deming/Luna County Jam Session** — 2-4 p.m. at Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. Deming. The Jammers play and serve coffee and cookies. Info: 575-546-2674.

**MONDAY, APRIL 15 Las Cruces/Mesilla Latin DJ** — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.



The 1st Armored Division Band offers a free concert in Silver City at Western New Mexico University on April 7. (Courtesy Photo)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16 Las Cruces/Mesilla Karaoke** — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 Alamogordo/Otero County \*Wine Down Wednesday at Heart of the Desert** — 6-9 p.m. at the patio at Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Live music with Julia Cozby performing country, Americana and pop and libations served. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-434-0035.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18 Silver City/Grant County Free Film: "Breakheart Pass"** — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory, six miles East of Silver City on U.S. Highway 180. This film is part of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society movie series "Trains, Rails and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse." Info: 575-388-4862.

**Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Sierra Twirlers Square Dance**

— 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm in T or C. Main stream and plus dancing. Info: 505-804-3842.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19 Silver City/Grant County Gila Native Plant Society Presentation: "I Bought Native Plants, Now What"** — 7 p.m. at WNMU Harlan Hall, Room 219, on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Alabama streets. Presentation by Linda Blood, public is welcome. Info: hannablood@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Contra Dance** — 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. The Muletones, a West Texas band will be playing and Lonnie Lude-man will be calling. No partner is needed. Beginners and newcomers are welcome and can go for basic instruction at 7:30. Info: www.snmmds.org.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20 Silver City/Grant County Gila Earth Day Celebration: "Protect our Species"** — 9:30 a.m. parade; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Gough

Park in Silver City. Celebrate Mother Earth with more than 30 local organizations. Info: 575-297-9734. **Open Mic & Comedy Show** — 9 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Hosted by the Ray Cressler Band. No cover. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Easter Egg Hunt at Elephant Butte** — 10 a.m.-noon at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, U.S. Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-952-0201. **Old Time Fiddlers Dance** — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Easter in the Park** — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Washington Park Stage. Food, craft vendors, an Easter egg hunt for kids and adults and games.

**Las Cruces/Dona Ana County Red, White & Blues Festival** — 3-9 p.m. at St. Clair Winery &

Bistro in Las Cruces, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, The Border Blues All Stars, The Rockabilly Strangers and The Lucky Losers play. Bring chairs, blankets, small umbrellas. Cost: \$15 advance, \$20 door. Info: mvjazzblues.net.

**Earth Day Band Jam** — 7 p.m.-midnight at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Four bands. Info: 575-556-9934.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 Silver City/Grant County Gila Native Plant Society Field Trip: "Low Desert Wildflower Wander"** — Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Fine Arts Center Theatre at WNMU. Info: hannablood@gmail.com.

**Blues Brunch Series: Jerry G. and the Cold Cash Band** — 1 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Deming/Luna County Jam Session** — 2-4 p.m. at Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. Deming. The Jammers play and serve coffee and cookies. Info: 575-546-2674.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23 Las Cruces/Mesilla Open Mic** — 7 p.m.-midnight at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.

**Alamogordo/Otero County The Phil Leas Writer's Group: all writers welcome** — 11:30 a.m. at Desert Lakes Golf Course, 19 Hole Restaurant, 2351 Hamilton Road in Alamogordo. Enjoy lunch together and bring some of your work to read after dining. Info: 575-585-5545.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 Alamogordo/Otero County \*Wine Down Wednesday at Heart of the Desert** — 6-9 p.m. at The Patio at Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Live music with Dale Young performing alternative rock and libations available. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-434-0035.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25 Silver City/Grant County Free Film: "Murder on the Orient**

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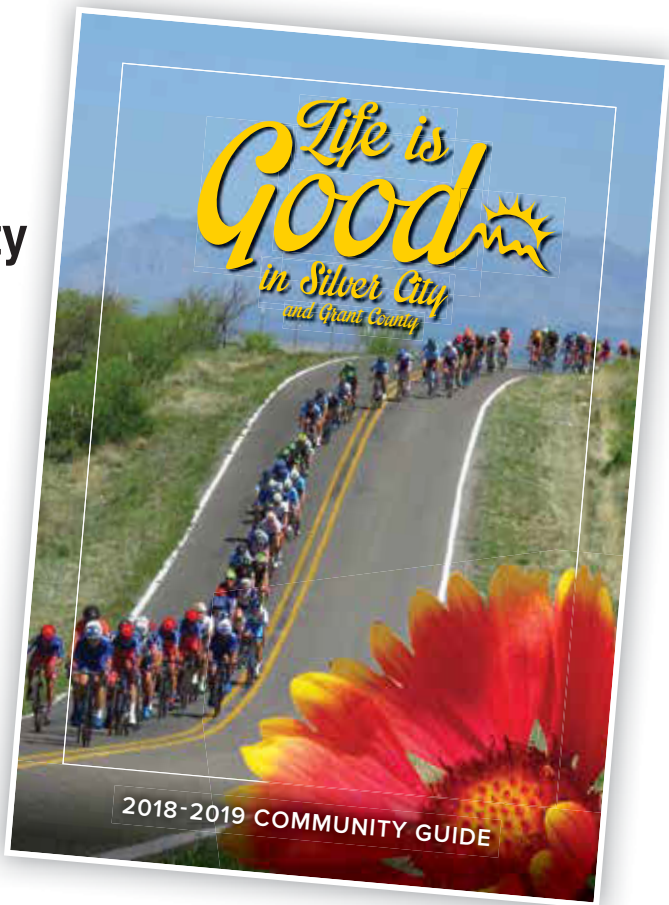
Life is Good in Silver City" is a full-color, glossy community guide, serving as a valuable resource book for residents and businesses, a helpful tool for newcomers and a vital handbook for visitors in a handy 7x10 size. "Life is Good in Silver City" will be a 12-month publication available in locations throughout Silver City and at key regional locations, such as visitor and information centers. 6,000 copies will be published.

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**Express** — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory, six miles East of Silver City on U.S. Highway 180. This film is part of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society movie series “Trains, Rails and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse.” Info: 575-388-4862.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers Square Dance** — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm in T or C. Main stream and plus dancing. Info: 505-804-3842.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Continental Divide Trail Coalition Trail Days** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. panels and presentations, WNMU Student Memorial Building; 6-9 p.m. Evening Celebration, Seedboat Gallery. Live music, door prizes etc. Info: [www.continentaldividetrail.org](http://www.continentaldividetrail.org).  
**CW Ayon Duo** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Rock n’ blues duo from Las Cruces. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Moody Little Sister** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.  
**The Selina Show, a tribute** — 8 p.m. at the Plaza at Las Cruces. Cost \$25. Info: [visitlascruces.com](http://visitlascruces.com).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Continental Divide Trail Coalition Trail Days** — 9-10 a.m. pancake breakfast at Gough Park; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Outdoor Gear Expo; 7-9 p.m., Outdoor Film Festival. Info: [www.continentaldividetrail.org](http://www.continentaldividetrail.org).  
**Toadfest: New Mexico Brewer’s Guild Tap Takeover** — 3-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Games, alley party, 22 NM specialty beers on-tap from across the state. Moody Little Sister 3-6 p.m.; Gila River Band 8-11 p.m. No cover. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Old Time Fiddlers Dance** — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Columbus/Luna County**  
**Recycled Books Contest** — 11 a.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Knights of Columbus Flea Market Fund Raiser** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Judes Hall, 1404 College Ave. Alamogordo. Info: 603-686-1518.  
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Earth Day Fair** — 8:30 a.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo in Alamogordo. Booths from across the southwest, food, science fair and butterfly release. Info: 575-437-6120.  
**Red Reeds and Roses Art and Music Jamboree** — 2-10 p.m. at the Old Tularosa Dry Goods Building, 308 Granado St., Tularosa. Live music, food and local artists gather and invite everyone. Info: [jengruger@gmail.com](mailto:jengruger@gmail.com).

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**  
**The Jive Aces with Makina Ridgway** — 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater of the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Legendary British swing band. Info: 575-336-4800.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Monthly Bird ID Tour** — 8-10 a.m. meet at Leasburg Dam State Park Visitor Center for a 2-mile round trip walk along the Rio Grande and learn to identify resident and migratory bird species. Cost \$5 day use fee. Info: [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).  
**Music and the Stars** — 7-9 p.m. at Leasburg Dam State Park Visitor Center. Folk, rock and country music with Tom Foster Morris followed by star gazing, telescope on site. Cost \$5 day use fee. Info: [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).  
**Flat Blak** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 119 N Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9934.



Science Girl in Dr. Von Heister’s Hijinks performs her experiments at the Rio Grande Theater April 13 as part of the Las Cruces Space Festival. (Courtesy Photo)

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Saturdays 10am-7pm

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**\*Twilight Tour\* Friday**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>: 4pm-9pm**



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Finn’s Gallery in Silver City hosts a style show April 28 featuring local textiles and jewelry. (Courtesy Photo)



**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Style Show at Finn's Gallery** — 2-4 p.m. at Finn's Gallery in Silver City. Handcrafted clothing, jewelry, scarves and accessories created by Silver City artisans. Info: finns-406bullard@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Jam Session** — 2-4 p.m. at Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. Deming. The Jammers play and serve coffee and cookies. Info: 575-546-2674.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Wine Down Wednesday at Heart of the Desert** — 6-9 p.m. at The Patio at Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Live music

with the music of Wait for What?! Performing blues, country and classic rock. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-434-0035.

**THURSDAY, MAY 2**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Free Film: "Von Ryan's Express"** — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory, six miles East of Silver City on U.S. Highway 180. This film is part of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society movie series "Trains, Rails and Imagination: Hollywood and the Iron Horse." Info: 575-388-4862.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers Square Dance** — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fiddlers

Playhouse, 710 Elm in T or C. Main stream and plus dancing. Info: 505-804-3842.

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**America's Wild Horses** — 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Meeting House, 3845 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Their history, heritage, habitat and perpetual connection with humans Info: 575-539-2503.

**Audubon program: Birds of Australia** — 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico University, Harlan Hall, Room 219, 12<sup>th</sup> and Alabama streets. Gary Emerson, birder, astronomer and systems engineer will speak. Cost: free. Info: swnmaudubon@gmail.com.

**Sissy Brown** — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Singer songwriter on tour from Texas. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**70th Annual Fiesta** — 10 a.m.-10p.m. Downtown T or C. Dances, tournaments, games and contests and more. Info: info@annualtorcfiesta.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Launch Pad Lecture** — 9-10 a.m. at the Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001, Alamogordo. "Able and Baker: Monkeying Around With Spaceflight" with Michael Shinabery. Info: 575-437-2840, Ext. 41132.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**America's Wild Horses** — 11

a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Meeting House, 3845 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Their history, heritage, habitat and perpetual connection with humans. Info: 575-539-2503.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**70th Annual Fiesta** — 10 a.m.-10p.m. Downtown T or C. Dances, tournaments, games and contests and more. Info: info@annualtorcfiesta.com.

**Old Time Fiddlers Dance** — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Deming/Luna County**  
**Stars-N-Parks Program** — 9:10-10:40 p.m. at Rockhound State Park. Presenter is Mike Nuss, Orion is setting, Leo is on the meridian and Bootes is in the northeast. Info: 575-635-0982.

ONE DAY OF GIVING • SUPPORT LOCAL NON-PROFITS

SAVE THE DATE • MAY 11, 2019

GIVE GRANDLY!

GIVE LOCAL!

SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.GIVEGRANDLY.ORG](http://WWW.GIVEGRANDLY.ORG)



The New Mexico Stars-N-Parks brings guided stargazing to state parks in the southern part of the state on the weekends. (Courtesy Photo)

**DESERT exposure**

**May Deadlines**

**Monday April 15, noon:**  
Space reservation and ad copy due

**Tuesday April 16, noon:**  
All stories and notices for the editorial section

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GIVE GRANDLY

# Nonprofits Gather

Grant County opportunities for giving

On May 11, as the Silver City Farmers’ Market opens for the season, the Give Grandly! Give Local! 2019 nonprofit fair will set up right next to it. For the sixth year in a row, the Southwest New Mexico Nonprofit Coalition, with the support of the Grant County Community Foundation, is organizing this 24-hour community fund-raising marathon for its 50+ member non-profits.

Nearly two centuries ago, a visiting French nobleman named Alexis de Tocqueville noted that Americans were remarkably willing to band together in voluntary groups to address the needs of their communities. It is striking that our small communities in Grant and neighboring counties support scores of nonprofits, most

of which depend heavily on volunteers. These groups run food pantries and shelters; rescue animals; provide activities for children; promote literacy; support libraries, museums, schools and the University; foster economic development; advocate for the environment; maintain trails; preserve historical and archeological sites; and organize community festivals, plays, concerts, lectures, field trips – to name just some of the things they do for the community.

But even with the time and energy provided by volunteers, nonprofit organizations need funds to accomplish their aims. Give Grandly gives the community a chance to give back to those who add so much to the quality of life here in southwest New Mexico.

In 2014 the Give Grandly effort was statewide. But when the rest of the state took a break from participating in 2015, people in Grant County decided to go it alone. The community response was overwhelming, generating substantial online and in-person contributions, most between \$10 and \$25. That year, Grant County organizations, joined by some nonprofits from Luna and Catron counties, made history by raising \$56,852 in 24 hours. The nonprofit group decided to band together as the Southwest New Mexico NonProfit Coalition to organize future events – always counting on the support of the Grant County Community Foundation. Each year donation totals have been higher. Generous local



Give Grandly! Give Local! sets up at the entrance to the Silver City Farmers’ Market. (Photo by Tyler Bingham)

businesses have provided matching funds. Last year the overall total raised in the five years from 2014 to 2018 exceeded \$500,000.

From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11, the Give Grandly! Give Local! non-profit fair will be set up on Eighth Street off Bullard at the entrance to the Silver City Farmers’ Market. Participating nonprofits will have tables with staff or volunteers to highlight their work on behalf of southwest New Mexico, accept cash

and check donations, and answer questions. Computers will be set up at the fair for donors to make tax-deductible donations to their favorite projects online. There will be musical entertainment and food – lots of it – locally sourced, hearty breakfast and lunch food, coffee and tea. Community members can visit Bullard Street, enjoy the festivities, learn more about these organizations and donate, if the spirit moves. Or donate online at [www.givegrandly.org](http://www.givegrandly.org).

ARBOR DAY

# Las Cruces Holds Tree Give Away

City will donate 100 trees to residents

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department was recently awarded a grant for 100 native and climate-adapted trees by the Apache Corporation Tree Grant Program. The city will offer trees to residents of Las Cruces as part of an Arbor Day giveaway to promote neighborhood beautification using native and climate-adapted trees.

“Trees provide many functions that benefit residents and the environment,” said City Manager Stuart C. Ed. “Trees provide shade, which reduces cooling costs, filters air pollution, produces oxygen and food for people and animals, and sequesters carbon, which helps mitigate a warming climate, reduces runoff from rainfall, and increases property values to name a few.”

This year, the annual Apache Tree Grant Program donated 50,000 trees across Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. More than 4.6 million trees have been planted with partners in 17 states since the program’s launch in 2005.

“Apache is excited to provide trees for this year’s Arbor Day event, and we’re so thankful for the work of the City of Las Cruces and the residents who will plant and care for these trees as they grow. Our Tree Grant Program would not be successful without such wonderful partners,” said John J. Christmann IV, Apache’s chief executive officer and president.

The City will be receiving 25 of each of the following: desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*). Each of these trees are extremely drought tolerant once established, which usually takes between two and three years.

Las Cruces residents can receive up to two free trees of their choice on a first come, first served basis. Along with the tree(s), residents will receive a refrigerator magnet with recommended watering instructions; four tree care pamphlets regarding new tree planting, pruning young trees, proper mulching techniques, and trees in turf; as well as tree guards for anyone who will need to mow around their newly planted tree.

To participate in the Arbor Day give away, residents will need to register in advance at the Parks and Recreation office in the Mondy Castañeda building, 1501 E. Hadley Ave. (look for the flag pole with both United States and New Mexico flags). To be eligible, residents must provide a copy of their most recent water bill. Last day to register will be Monday, April 22. Trees will be given between 8 a.m. and noon on Arbor Day, Friday, April 26 in front of the Parks and Recreation office.

Specifications for the trees are as follows:

- Desert willow is a medium-sized native tree that can grow to about 20 feet tall with a 15-foot spread and get beautiful pinkish bell-shaped flowers in spring, often reblooming throughout the growing season. Desert willows are beneficial to hummingbirds, orioles, and many species of bees.
- Chinese pistache are large shade trees, growing to about 40 feet tall and wide, with a beautiful fall color ranging from bright yellow to fire engine red and all colors in between. Although related to pistachio trees, they do not produce nuts, but the female plants produce clusters of blue berries that are popular with birds.
- Honey mesquites are medium to large trees that tend to be broader than tall, reaching a

height of about 25 feet tall with a 35-foot spread. These trees are excellent plants for attracting both native and honey bees. Honey mesquites do have thorns on new growth but as the tree grows these thorns get covered up by the tree’s bark. Flour can be made from the dried seeds of

honey mesquite and the pods can be chewed on and taste like honey, thus the name.

- Screwbean mesquites are another native mesquite that is found growing along the Rio Grande but also does very well outside of the valley. Screwbean mesquite gets its name from the

clusters of corkscrew-shaped seed pods. The trees get to a medium height of about 25 feet with a 20-foot spread and older trees have an interesting shaggy bark. Screwbean mesquites also have thorns on newer growth and are excellent trees to attract native and honey bees.

## Gila Earth Day 2019



### Protect Our Species

**Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 2 pm**  
**Gough Park, Silver City**

**Protect Our Species Parade starts at The Hub downtown at 9:30 am**

**More than 30 local organizations and businesses showcasing their mission, services, or green products for your yard, home, and person**

**Entertainment, food, and activities for kids**

**“Teach-ins” under the ramada starting at half-past each hour**

**For more information go to [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info) or contact Doyne Wrealli at [earthendoyne@gmail.com](mailto:earthendoyne@gmail.com) or 575-297-9734**

Brought to you by Gila Resources Information Project, Aldo Leopold Charter School, The Commons, Gila Native Plant Society, Grant County Beekeepers, J&J Signs, Monsoon Puppet Theater, and Lone Mountain Natives






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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

# Why Do RVers come to Silver City

## And stay...and stay...and stay?

I am intrigued by how RVers find Silver City in the first place, and then why so many decide to stay and make it home. It's a Continental Divide town, but that attracts hikers and bikers, not RVers. It's on the way to the Gila Cliff Dwellings, and that attract lots of tourists, but that's no reason to hang around indefinitely. I set off to do a little informal research, find out why so many RVers have decided to adopt this community as home, and how they found us in the first place.

"It's comfortable," said Reed Stevens, fulltime RVer and a Rose Valley RV Ranch, 2040 Memory Lane, resident since last November. "Originally, we came to Silver City to visit a friend of my wife Vicki, but we were tired of moving around a lot, and, well, we're comfortable here, so we stayed."

Okay, maybe it's not bumper sticker potential, but isn't that what we're all looking for, a home where we feel comfortable, at ease, relaxed and safe? And that could mean something different to each person.

"We're birders and hikers, and Silver City looked like a good place to spend a few months," said Richard Drummond of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Linda Rogers, from Long Beach, California, first came here to deliver some boxes that a friend back home had been holding for a Silver City artist for 10 years.

Dean Maxwell spent his professional life in Alaska and had a friend that raved about Silver City. So, after he retired, he set off in an RV and eventually made his way down here.

He was in and out for several years, generally coming for Bluesfest, making more friends

with each stay. Finally, he gave in and declared himself permanent. You might run into him at a local coffee house – he's the guy who periodically asks, "Don't you just love this place?"

Heinrich Wichmann and his wife read about Silver City in a travel book back home in Germany, and first stopped by on their way to White Sands National Monument.

Dave Shaw passed through while trying to avoid highways on his way back to Houston from picking up his travel trailer in Oregon. He was in and out while traveling fulltime until he decided to put down roots here for a while.

Phillip Miller and his wife, RVers from Scottsdale, came looking for Silver City after watching the 2001 movie "Rat Race." Although not filmed here, the comedy's plot centers around the misadventures of a group of Las Vegas gamblers trying to reach Silver City and a \$2 million treasure. And strangely, talking to the Millers reminded me that I also first heard of the town from the movie, years before my brother-in-law, a building contractor, moved here to build houses. Years before we discovered the arts and music scene here, the great climate and friendly people, and decided to stay.

Ray Stryker, a 25-year Army retiree, has lived in Rose Valley since 2011 and originally came here to pursue a degree in Renewable Energy at Western New Mexico University, which he has since completed. Diane and Jim Fausser first arrived at Rose Valley for a week's stay about six months after the park opened, after a friend in Las Cruces recommended it.

Then in 2007, while staying

at an RV park in Arizona, Diane told Jim, "Let's go back to Rose Valley – it doesn't look like most campgrounds."

I used to say that no one finds Silver City by accident because it's an hour off the main highway, but Dennis Jensch's experience proved me wrong. He was traveling on Interstate 10, returning home to California from visiting his kids in Artesia, when he stopped for gas in Deming. Somehow, he got on Highway 180 by mistake, saw the Gila Wilderness sign and decided to camp out for a couple of days. His plans changed when he ran into heavy snow. He saw the sign for Rose Valley and pulled in to wait it out. The manager told him to go straight to his site while he could still get through the snow, and he could pay later. The next day he explored the town and thought to himself, "I could make a difference here. It's small and friendly, and my life would benefit."

After spending several years here at Rose Valley, Dennis recently moved into his own home in the historic district, but you can often find him relaxing in the downtown hangouts, lifting people's spirits with his positive attitude and looking for ways to help others.

Rene Blalock first heard about Silver City while staying at City of Rocks State Park, and was in and out for several years, developing an affection for the town, especially loving the Food Co-op and the restaurants. After retiring, she came back to stay permanently, telling me, "I like it even more now."

Finally, Bob McClure first visited Silver City in 2010 after being on the road in his RV for four years. He was in and out of the town for the next year, and after

adopting his dog Sally in 2011, he returned to Rose Valley for a visit and stayed for the good dog-walking.

"I'm not going to travel anymore," he recently told me, "and when I finally croak and get up to those pearly gates and St. Peter asks me what I consider heaven, I'll tell him I just want to live in an RV park where I can walk my dog in the field."

So that's it, folks. Many reasons why we came, many reasons why we stayed. But I think

Reed Stevens spoke for us all – we are indeed comfortable here.


*Sheila and husband, Jimmy Sowder, have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City for four years following five years of wandering the US from Maine to California. She can be contacted at [sk Sowder@aol.com](mailto:sk Sowder@aol.com).*





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