

# DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



Cherry of a deal  
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Easter on the border  
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Area legacy ending  
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JUNE 2019

Volume 24 • Number 6







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Becky - Ext II



**TURN-KEY READY Country Home or Getaway** – This nearly-new home on 10 acres has stunning views in all directions, lots of privacy, easy-maintenance exterior, including metal roof, ceramic tile flooring throughout, excellent well, and comes completely furnished. Take a look! \$450,000. MLS # 36261



Becky - Ext II



**PRICE REDUCED!** This cute Cherry Hills charmer has end-of-the-road privacy, extra-large fenced lot, new tile floors, 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, attached garage, extra-large kitchen, and grassy front yard. Now only \$139,500. MLS #36022



Becky - Ext II



**THE PRICE IS RIGHT! CUTE & COZY 3 BR 1 BA** with hardwood floors + separate garage/workshop. Large fenced front & backs yards. Silver Heights area. Priced to sell at \$120,000. MLS# 36226



Becky - Ext II



**THREE BEDROOM AND TWO BATH, SOLAR HOME,** in the Indian Hills subdivision. You will love all the amenities that comes with this home. A huge garage with lots of storage. Fireplaces, pool table and much much more. Come see this one. \$425,000 MLS # 36304 Call Carol 575-590-6196



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**CUTE FIXER UPPER on very large fenced lot in Bayard** – So much potential here! Sun-room, carport, old-fashioned clothesline, and storage building – ready for your TLC, but all utilities are up to code and it's priced to sell at only \$35,000 – Bring us an offer! MLS # 35460



Becky - Ext II



**PRICE REDUCED! APARTMENTS, BED & BREAKFAST, or MANSION!** – This charming and roomy 3 story red brick home is currently set up for apartments. One large unit on the ground floor, several upstairs. Lots of possibilities – Now only \$265,000 – less than \$100/sq. ft. See it soon! MLS# 34272



Becky - Ext II

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**FIXER 2BD/1BA HOME IN BAYARD. LOTS OF POTENTIAL HERE!** Fenced yard, views of the Bayard Cliffs from the front covered porch, 1 car carport at the rear of the home. Utilities have been off for years, so inspections will be needed & systems brought up to code in order to turn back on. MLS #36294 **\$16,000**



**Not your typical Tyrone remodel!! This 3 bedroom, 1 bath has been completely remodeled inside.** Kitchen was opened up to the living area and features all new cabinets, appliances, modern vent hood, and fabulous counter tops. Bathroom has new vanity and custom tiled tub/shower. Light fixtures are new, bedrooms have new carpet and there is modern laminate flooring throughout the rest of the house. The living room is substantial and there is even an additional dining room. New roof was done in '18, outside of house has new paint, back yard is completely fenced with a cute patio and carport has a storage room. MLS# 36334. **\$129,000**



**IMPRESSIVE 4BD/3BA HOME ON NEARLY 1/2 ACRE WITH EXCEPTIONAL VIEWS AND PRIVACY.** This property is close to the downtown/ university area and has all city utilities. Oversized garage with workshop, fenced yard, decks, garden area, dog run. Large living areas, well-maintained & updated. Two climbing walls, a gym area, pantry, & game room. This home is priced correctly and ready to sell! MLS# 36298 **\$275,000**



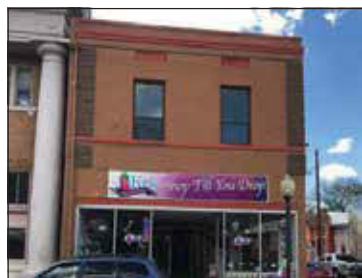
**SOUTHWESTERN Style home on .25 acres about a decade young.** 2 car attached garage and on all city utilities. This home practically sits on the city/county line and is close enough to still walk to the University or Downtown without much hill climbing. MLS#36296 **\$177,000**



**Get away after the workday in this well taken care of 3 bedroom 2 bath** Very spacious feeling 3 bedroom 2 bath home near Lake Roberts. The tasteful rock fireplace from floor to ceiling commands your attention and lends a certain ambience to this getaway in the Gila. Open kitchen/living area make a great place for entertaining with covered decks both front and back. This is one of the finer built mountain homes in the region by renowned builder, Craig Findley. You'll want to move right in. Call today. MLS# 36314. **\$274,500**



**NESTLED IN THE TALL PINES ABOVE SPIRIT CANYON!** Walking distance to Lake Roberts and Spirit Canyon Pictographs. Contemporary design with southwestern flair. Features include Ikea kitchen with endless storage, Living room with flagstone floor and beehive fireplace. Built in vacuum system and radiant in floor heat. Large deck with views to the Admiral Cliffs and Gila Wilderness. Master bedroom features large walk in closet with sliding door out the deck. Large master bath features a jet tub with shower. Oversize 2 car garage with loft on 4.55 acres bordering the forest. MLS# 36286. **\$249,900**



**COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT.** This multi-use property includes a large retail/storefront space fronting Bullard St. 1 or 2 possible storefronts on Yankee St. with a private patio. The upstairs space includes 5 artist lofts or offices with a shared bath & kitchen. A prime spot with great visibility! MLS# 36311 **\$279,000**



**Lots of room for everyone with this 4 bedroom home with separate casita/guest quarters.** 2.5 rural acres, close to town. Lots of mature trees create lots of privacy to enjoy multiple outdoor living areas. Separate entrance to two upstairs bedrooms, each with their own bath, make this a great Airbnb option! Also, the guest quarters above the shop could be rental income. Workshops/storage/stalls. Bring the critters and enjoy country living with easy access to town!. MLS# 36322 **\$285,000**



**Hidden in Salt Creek Canyon lies a 13 acre jewel, bordering Gila National Wilderness.** This turn key equestrian property could also serve as a perfect family, corporate or church retreat. The 2715 square foot executive home comes partially furnished and boasts two custom kiva fireplaces, 3 bedrooms, two baths with a large covered deck to sit back and take in the fresh mountain air. Two bedrooms are large enough to fit multiple beds. The 3rd bedroom has a loft, for even more sleeping area. The property has two large barns and round pen and could be your gateway to endless riding or hiking in the Gila. A real sanctuary to an abundance of turkey, deer, elk, black bear, bobcat, lion and prime hawk and eagle habitat. MLS# 36338 **\$539,000**



**3BD/2BA LIKE NEW HOME ON 10+ ACRES BORDERING NATIONAL FOREST.** Newer roof, stucco, leach field & well. Exceptional location minutes from town but feels miles away. Storage buildings, water storage, fenced backyard, covered porches & uncovered patio. 2 car attached garage. Trees thinned & defensible space has been created 100' from the home. Great horse property & unrestricted land. Plenty of room to build additional structures. MLS# 36301 **\$345,000**



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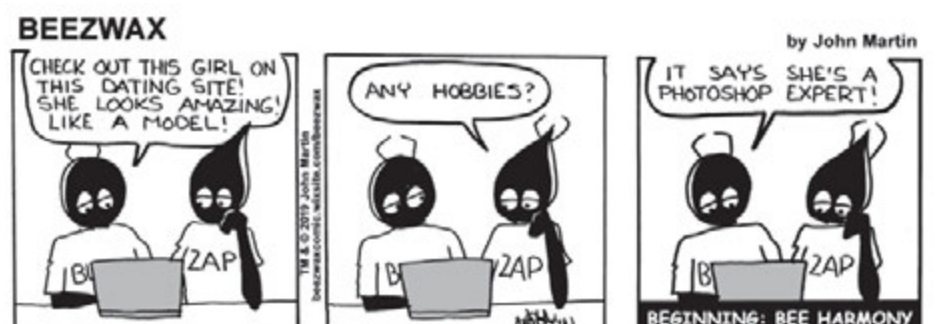
### ABOUT THE COVER:

Alfredo Ulises Balbuena from Izúcar de Matamoros, Puebla, Mexico, enjoys his art as he works at Western New Mexico's ¡Fiesta Latina! in 2018. Balbuena and his brother, Jorge Castillo Balbuena, will be back this year for the June 21-23 event. The fiesta schedule can be found at [fiestalatina.org](http://fiestalatina.org).

Cover photographer Jay Hemphill is a graduate of the photography program at Western New Mexico University and now serves as the official WNMU photographer. He moved to Silver City in 1999 on a tennis scholarship and, having taken a photography class, changed his degree and got his Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts. Hemphill's photogra-



phy work can be seen at [www.jayhemphill.com](http://www.jayhemphill.com).





**Desert #36**  
**Dumbfounder**  
by Dave Thomas

The following is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month's *Desert Exposure*. Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to nmsrdave@swcp.com, and be recognized!  
TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"KLR YZNRZY QEPXJWRN D QREVROK LPNK NJKR VPE DC RXRCK  
FJUR KLJN." - OLEJN PEIPFF, PC KLR BERDK NPZKLIRNK NKDE  
QDEKG DK KLR CY YZNRZY PV NQDOR LJNKPEG JC DFDYPBPPEWP.

Use the answer key below to track your clues, and reveal Secret Words!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "THE FUTURE IS DIGITAL. PRINT MAY NOT BE DEAD YET, BUT THEY'RE PUTTING DROPS OF POISON IN ITS BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING." - LAS CRUCES JOURNALIST WALT RUBEL  
\*Secret Words: "USING HARD COPY"

Congrats to #35 solvers: Will Adams\*, George Egert\*, Mike Arms\*, Shorty Vaiza\* and Skip Howard\*!

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## EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS ABE VILLARREAL

# Keeping the Spirit Alive

Celebrating Christmas in June

June is here and with it comes the summer heat. Days are longer and the thought of Christmas seems too far away.

Elvis Presley once asked why every day couldn't be like Christmas, and I'm here to say it can be, and it should be all year long.

I keep my Christmas lights up all day, every day. At bedtime, my Christmas tree becomes a night-light. During the day, visitors are greeted with a wreath at the door.

The thought of all this might have you scratching your head until you remember the feeling you get during Christmas time. Stores are filled with cheerful jingles. Kids are running through aisles loudly declaring their holiday wishes. Familiar movies are playing on every channel.

People seem happier as they think of distant family members soon to be seen again.

For me, those thoughts and feelings are worth drumming up any time of the year.

We all have our good luck charms or knick-knacks that carry special meaning and bring us a smile. To some it's a family photo hanging in the stairway. Others might find it in a souvenir on the fireplace.

To me it's a Christmas tree. Sure, you can only have one all year long if it's fake, so you lose that special real tree smell. Still, there are the lights that remind you of your grandfather unrolling a messy tangled web of ornaments.

He used to buy the big, bulky lights and staple them to the rim of his roof. One string of lights

around the house was enough. Somehow, the simplicity made it more poignant.

Then there are the ornaments. They remind me of kids' faces. You know, the school portraits inside a not-so-carefully made craft item your little one brought home from school one day to hang on the tree.

Probably most special are the candy canes. Think about it. You can only buy candy canes a particular time of the year. So if you have any up on your yearlong tree, you have to be careful not to eat every last one before the next holiday season.

Are we losing a sense of tradition in our country? I hope not, and it certainly doesn't seem lost in smaller communities like Silver City where you can find stores like the Pretty Sweet Emporium in historic downtown.

It's a yearlong Christmas store. There is one store, in the town where I live, that sells Christmas items all year long. It's enough for me to want to live here for the rest of my life.

If you feel like getting out the old string of lights and hanging them up a little early this year, don't think twice about it. Merry Christmas.

*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.*

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THE VIEW FROM HERE • WALT RUBEL

# Adapting to Change

Years of frustration don't lessen spaceport's potential

In the spring of 2006, then-Gov. Bill Richardson signed the legislation to create Spaceport America.

"This is a unique opportunity for New Mexico to be on the ground floor of a new industry that will bring new companies, more high-wage jobs and opportunities that will move our state's economy forward," Richardson said at the time.

If all had gone according to plan, Virgin Galactic would now have a thriving space tourism business operating out of the spaceport. Millionaires and billionaires from around the world would be coming to southern New Mexico for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, spending freely in our stores and restaurants as they prepared for their big day.

As we all know, things have not gone according to plan. In October 2014, co-pilot Michael Alsbury was killed during a test flight when the spacecraft violently came apart above the Mojave Desert.

The tragic loss of life brought an end to the cheery, overly optimistic predictions being made up to that point by Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson. He had originally predicted that flights would start in 2011 and was on the David Letterman show a month before the fatal crash assuring that launches would begin the next year.

The plan for Spaceport America was that Virgin Galactic would be the anchor tenant and the cash cow. Its success would lure other companies to the spaceport and provide the resources for it to grow.

The crash meant that for the spaceport to survive, it would have to flip the script and bring in other space-related companies before Virgin Galactic was able to get off the ground.

It is, perhaps, fair to criticize past leaders for being slow in adapting to the new reality. To generate the revenue needed to keep the lights on, the spaceport has even been reduced to a backdrop for photo shoots. But, the lights stayed on.

Last week, Branson announced that Virgin Galactic was moving more than 100 employees from California to the spaceport to complete final testing and preparations for commercial launches.

A photo from the press conference shows Branson hugging Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham from behind in what looks to be something akin to the Heimlich maneuver.

I suspect opponents of the spaceport will see it as an apt depiction of the billionaire putting the squeeze on our poor state. Supporters may see it as depicting Branson as lifesaver for the spaceport. Neither is true.

I've always supported the concept of a spaceport but have never been thrilled with its primary purpose being joyrides for the wealthy. At the press conference, Branson laid out a vision for the spaceport that was much more expansive. He foresees a network of spaceports allowing for supersonic travel, with hotels in space.

I don't know if any of that will ever come true. I'm still not 100 percent convinced that his plans for space tourism will be a success. They are in the final stages of


testing, and don't expect to have any more setbacks. But space is unpredictable.

I am, however, now convinced that the spaceport can be successful even if Virgin Galactic is not. The lean years following the 2014 crash forced the spaceport to find new business. Earlier this month, SpinLaunch announced it would build its new test facility at Spaceport America. They join Boeing, UP Aerospace, HyperSciences and EXOS Aerospace, which are already at the spaceport.

Despite all of the frustrations since 2006, I think what Richardson said then is still true today. Thirteen years later, we're still on the ground floor of this new industry.

Walt Rubel has been a journalist since 1982, working in Las Cruces since 2002. He can be reached at [waltrubel@gmail.com](mailto:waltrubel@gmail.com).






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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

## One Giant Leap for Mankind, One Step at a Time

In October 2010 I sat in the front row as Richard Branson and then New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson welcomed a new day at Spaceport America, a new era of commercial spaceflight. A completed runway with truly cool statistics.

I watched as WhiteKnightTwo appeared over the Gateway to Space building, an impressive feat, an impressive vehicle, it landed on that smooth and tailored runway to cheers and excitement. I saw it close when it parked, even touched it.

Before that day, in July 2009, I stood under an awning in a hot desert as actors dressed as Conquistadores appeared in the distance, wearing helmets and armor. They walked proudly across the desert toward us. There was Richardson, shovels, backhoes, talking about the past and the future on the Jornada del Muerto. When the Conquistadores arrived, the shovels started, and ground was broken for a new journey, from crossing the desert to crossing into space.

Back up another few steps,

all the way into the early 1980s: I work at Waldenbooks at Winrock Mall in Albuquerque. I design the window displays, so I usually end up with the coolest promotional items. That's how I ended up with a sweatshirt (today they are called hoodies). "Virgin Vision" was emblazoned in red across the front of pure black, most comfortable shirt I ever owned. Quality, simplicity, style.

That was closer to the time when the Virgin (Records) vision was more about signing controversial bands – Sex Pistols, Ozzy Osbourne, the Rolling Stones – than it was about sending tourists to space.

At 10 a.m. on May 10, 2019, in Santa Fe, Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson met with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and other officials to announce the next step in his goal of getting everyday people into space. Yes, he said, today the tickets are \$250,000; by the time our children are grown, the price will be considerably less. Maybe, instead of going to space and coming back to the same location, there will be locations

throughout the world to visit and a vehicle that can travel through space from place to place, he told us.

While this meeting was presented as a grand announcement, that 100 workers and their families will move to New Mexico this summer, officially bringing Virgin Galactic operations here, really it is just another step. One more stretch to commercial space travel, an industry that is moving forward and part of the progressing world.

Many are critical of the pace, the careful one step after another nature of progress, seemingly slower than it should be. But New Mexico, mostly Doña Ana and Sierra counties, put lots of money into this venture, trusting that the idea of space and Spaceport America could put us forward in the world, perhaps make us more than a couple of words on a map.

At the press conference Branson announced Virgin Galactic's development and testing program had advanced sufficiently to move the space-line staff and space vehicles from Mojave, California, to their commercial operations head-

quarters at Spaceport America.

"The move ... will commence immediately and continue through the summer, to minimize schooling disruption for families," according to a press release.

"Our Virgin Galactic adventure has been intertwined with New Mexico and Spaceport America right from the start and our stories have unfolded together," Branson said at the press conference. "New Mexico delivered on its promise to build a world-first and world-class spaceport. Today ... we are now ready to bring New Mexico a world-first, world-class space-line. Virgin Galactic is coming home to New Mexico where together we will open space to change the world for good."

Strong words and big claims were used at the press conference, making New Mexico "a magnet for inward investment." Lujan Grisham said the day marked "the beginning of the next chapter of aerospace in New Mexico."

Ten years is a drop in the bucket of stars that is space exploration. Ten years is less than NASA ever planned and completed anything.

One step at a time has brought us here and what will take us into the future.

As a 16-year-old boy Branson started a magazine for his school-mates and, over time, twisted it into a multibillion-dollar empire across the world. I have no doubt he will make it to space out of our own Spaceport America, and make money at it, not only for himself but for New Mexico as well.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of *Desert Exposure* and would love to meet *Desert Exposure*

readers during her office hours in Silver City on Thursday, June 27, at the Tranquilbuzz Café, located at the corner of Yankee and Texas streets. If that is not a good time, Elva will be glad to arrange another day to meet and you can always reach her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408.



## RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

## Fix This, Fix That

Who is messing with who?

My father is an evil genius. Either that or he just likes messing with me.

Not since he challenged the animal kingdom to a fistfight\* has he come up with such a wacky idea.

We were watching Tucker Carlson on Fox News. We're not opposed to watching CNN or MSNBC, but they spend so much time reporting on the crazy things Fox News says we decided to cut out the middleman.

Personally, I wish I could find a news outlet that reported just the news, no opinion – I'll connect the dots and come up with my own conclusions, thank you very much – and, when I say "the news," I'm talking about ALL the news. Surely, there's more happening in the

world than what's circling around in President Trump's orbit.

The former Dancing With The Stars contestant was reporting on a NEW caravan of hopeful immigrants from Central America heading toward the United States. This one consisted of 20,000 people.

"And the next one will be larger," he predicted.

I'm sure that's true.

Once the entitlement genie is out of the bottle, there's no putting him back in. President Trump blames Congress. Congress blamed President Trump. My ex-wife blames me. Yeah, there's plenty of blame to go around.

Maybe this problem will be solved by the time you read this, maybe not, but well before all this non-

sense happened, my wife and I went on a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico.

One of the things we enjoyed was a horseback ride along the beach. Before we mounted our horses, however, we were warned that there would be soldiers stationed along the ocean. Sentries, protecting THEIR sovereign nation from foreign invaders. What a novel idea.

"Whatever you do, DON'T interact with them," we were warned. "They are armed and have no sense of humor."

I offered one of the soldiers ten bucks to take a picture with my wife... and he ACCEPTED. I guess THAT explains how these migrant caravaners make it across Mexico's southern border in the first place.

"I could fix that," my father told me, nodding toward the TV.

"You could?" I asked, turning my attention to him.

"You bet," he said.

"How? There's TWENTY THOUSAND of them."

"Easy," he assured me. "These people are poor and uneducated. They just want a better life, but they're also very superstitious. Even Mexican drug dealers worship Santa Muerte, the saint of death. They know that all they have to do is make it onto American soil, find any border enforcement officer, ask for asylum and – BAM! – they're let right in. The trick is keeping them out. The way you do that is you change the uniforms of Border Patrol & I.C.E. officers so that they look like La Llorona!"

La Llorona?

For those of you who don't know who La Llorona is, there are several versions of the story, so let me tell you the one I heard as a little boy:

A single mother fell in love with a handsome stranger, but that love came with a horrible price. He would only marry her if she were childless, so she drowned her children in the cold, dark waters of the Rio Grande. Only then did her lover reveal his true self to her. He was, in fact...

DONALD TRUMP!

Just kidding.

No, the handsome stranger turned out to be the Devil. Then, in a puff of smoke, he disappeared faster than the evidence Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Adam Schiff all insisted they had proving Russian collusion, leaving the deceived mother to live with her sins. Since then, she has haunted the banks of the Rio Grande, crying as she searches for her dead children.

My father continued, "What migrant is going to willingly turn himself or his children over to La Llorona? In fact, forget the wall Trump wants to build, just station these La Llorona officers along the border. Say, one officer every five miles.

"Have them walk up and down the border. Maybe play some scary music. THAT would keep everybody on their side of the border."

Something was nibbling at my memory. A story my father had told me years ago. A story that, until now, I had forgotten.

There was a canal behind the house my father grew up in. When it was full, my father would fall asleep to the sound of the rushing water. He and his friends fished for crawdads in it, and, when one of the neighbors butchered a goat, they would toss the remains in it.

"You'd better not EVER go swimming in the canal," his parents

threatened, but he and his friends never listened.

When he was 12, some neighborhood punks began hanging around the bank of the canal just behind their house, drinking beer and being annoying.

This would happen almost every night and they'd stay there long into the evening.

One night, those delinquents were being especially loud. His parents weren't home, so my father put on his mother's robe, covering his head with the hood. In the darkness of the night, my father made his way to the edge of the canal and just stood there. After awhile, the hooligans noticed him. They grew quiet.

My father just stood there.

Trying to bolster their courage, they cursed at him.

My father just stood there.

One of them threw an empty beer can.

And THAT'S when my father finally moved.

TOWARD THEM!

"I've never seen anybody run so fast," my father laughed when he told me the story.

Back in the present, I thought, "Hmm... La Llorona."

"You know, pop," I had to admit, "THAT would probably work."

The next story was about the various presidential hopefuls, each trying to outdo the other in buying votes.

"I could fix that," my father said.

\*June 2018 "Never Fight An Angry Monkey"

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# Fences and Walls

## How about our Wildlife

Recently, while traveling on a rural road in our state, the new wire fences lining both sides peaked my interest. On one side of the road there was an old wooden post fence alongside the new metal fencing and there were man-made obstacles blocking the underpasses. As these fences went on for miles, I began to question how wildlife is to travel across our land for survival with these barriers in place. Later that week, I visited the border area and saw the miles of new border fencing being built causing even more obstacles to our wildlife.

Before human development such as fences, plows, oil, human, roads, and cattle that took their toll, New Mexico's wildlands were stunning. In the springtime wild grasses and flowers grew from the earth only to return at the end of their life cycle in the fall. New Mexico still has one of the most diverse wildlife populations in the nation, habitats to thousands of wildlife species, all playing their vital role in nature.

Habitat is the minimum area necessary for a wildlife species to naturally survive. The area in which an animal moves is its range and the size of the range depends on the animal and its requirements. Wildlife tends to migrate between different climatic regions for food exploration for new habitat, often driven by seasons. Today, the main problem wildlife face for its survival is that both wildlife habitats and ranges are becoming smaller because of human encroachment resulting in the inability of wildlife to move between habitat areas. Fences, the border wall, and other man-made obstacles deter many of our wildlife from meeting their basic needs for survival, thereby having a negative impact on them and on our environment.

Construction of new fences and walls is troublesome for many reasons. For the border wall, Homeland Security does not have to

comply with laws involving public lands, water and wildlife, therefore they are waiving 27 laws affecting endangered species, species of greatest conservation needs, and archaeological and historic preservation sites. Fortunately, there is a Federal Register where these waiver proposals have been published and allow for public input, which may be the only way our voices can be heard by those who are placing politics above the well-being of our planet.

Humans have caused the loss of over 80 percent of all wild animals, half of all plants, and now impact 75 percent of the earth's land surface. Without healthy environments, there are no healthy wildlife populations. Friendly places for wildlife can also be accommodating places for people and a sound argument supporting transformation to an outdoor economy. In today's world, with the overcrowding of our national parks and monuments, it only makes good sense that New Mexico would benefit from efforts to preserve biodiversity and wildlife corridors and habitat.

We must consider the impact of human expansion and its encroachment on the surrounding landscape if we are encouraging visitors to the Land of Enchantment to enjoy our wildlife and wild places. Some progress was made by our state legislature this past session by passing SB 228, the Wildlife Corridors Act, which will identify barriers to wildlife movement and develop an action plan between the Department of Game and Fish and the Department of Transportation to identify current corridors and barriers, map existing populations and needs, and seek opportunities to work with local communities and tribes to potentially reduce risks to our various wildlife species.

The bottom-line, let's restore habitat connectivity and allow our magnificent wildlife to move as nature intended, good for our environ-

ment and our economy.

*Nathan "Nate" Cote, PhD, is a former state representative; on the board of directors for New Mexico Voices for Children; and on the executive committee of the Rio Grande Chapter, Southern Group, Sierra Club.*



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ON THE SOCIAL SIDE

# Be a Cake Kingpin

## Silver City Museum seeks volunteers

Every July 4, Silver City Museum volunteers mingle with Independence Day celebrants, serve them refreshments, sell tickets, listen to live music, play traditional children's games, dress up in costume and set up tents and chairs.

Volunteers will be provided catered lunch as well as free tickets good for a variety of treats and games. Shifts are available for many positions throughout the day. Absolutely no experience is necessary, but volunteers with special skills like face-painting or juggling are invited to contribute their talents to make this event special.

Volunteers also run the Cake Walk. Each year the museum gives away more than 70 cakes, all of which are donated by individuals, organizations and businesses.

The event is acknowledging cake donors with fun mafia-themed signage. Donating six or more cakes (or \$75) will earn the title of Cake Kingpin. Four to five cakes (or \$50) make a Boss Baker and simply donating three cakes (or \$25) will get participants acknowledged as Crazy Cakerino.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating cakes should contact Volunteer Coordinator Jo Lutz at 575-597-0229 or volunteercoordinator@silvercitymuseum.org.

## The Fourth with Ice Cream

The Silver City Museum hosts its 36th Annual Ice Cream Social from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 4. A full slate of live entertainment, seasonal treats and old-fashioned pastimes will be featured, along with vendors and non-profit partners.

Admission and children's activities are free as always. Tickets are available at the gates for refreshments. The cakewalk and musical guests will entertain on the shady lawn of the museum courtyard. The event is MCed by the incomparable Raul Turrieta, hosting this year as the ring leader for the old-time carnival. "Uncle Sam" will still make an appearance.

Silver City Museum is located at 312 W. Broadway St., Silver City. For more information call 575-597-0229 or email volunteercoordinator@silvercitymuseum.org.

MAINSTREET

# Restroom First Step

## Silver City opens facility kicking off Plaza plans

Silver City MainStreet and the Freeport McMoRan Foundation along with the Grant County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new restroom building at the Main Street Plaza located between Seventh and Eighth streets just off of Bullard Street next to the Big Ditch Park.

The Main Street Plaza has been a part of the Downtown Action Plan for a number of years and Phase I, funded by the Freeport McMoRan Foundation, was for much needed public restrooms.

"Silver City MainStreet has leveraged this initial funding to receive another Freeport McMoRan Foundation grant of \$63,500, a NM MainStreet grant of \$76,300 and a State Capital Outlay grant of \$200,000," said

Patrick Hoskins, Silver City MainStreet Board President. "This will be used to implement Phase II, the upper part of the Plaza. We are truly grateful for the Freeport McMoRan funding and for support from the Town of Silver City."

The Main Street Plaza project will transform the parking lot into a multiple use area for events, farmers market, as well as continued parking. This project will benefit residents and tourists alike, increasing the economic vitality of downtown by providing a much needed event venue along with the public restrooms. The Plaza is so named because it is on the last remnant of Silver City's Main St. before it became the Big Ditch.

The mission of Silver City MainStreet is, "To encourage a

vibrant, historic downtown Silver City which is recognized as the heart of our diverse community."

Visit [www.silvercitymainstreet.com](http://www.silvercitymainstreet.com) to learn more.



Cutting the ribbon (toilet paper) to a new public restroom facility in Silver City are Alex C. Brown, town manager, and Cynthia Betison, town councilor. Holding each end are Erich Bower, FMI and Patrick Hoskins, Silver City MainStreet. Behind them from the left are: Carmon Steven, Cari Lemon, Charmaine Wait, Rebecca Martin, James Marshall, Evangeline Zamora, Jose Ray and Cissy McAndrew. (Courtesy Photo)

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The Grant County Community Foundation and the Southwest New Mexico Non-Profit Coalition joined with the Silver City Farmers Market to hold a fundraising event to raise money for local nonprofits.

Happy Father's Day!  
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Local bands kicked in their talents to entertain Give Grandly event attendees as they visited the nonprofit entities at the Saturday, May 4 fundraising event. (Courtesy photos)



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Give Grandly had 55 participating organizations, with more than 1,000 people attending the event/farmer's market throughout the day, Saturday, May 11. The combined organizations received a total of 817 donations, raising close to \$151,000.

The scheduling of donations began on May 4. The event featured donated music from local musicians and donated food from local restaurants. The owner of the Duckstop food truck said he made more money in that one day than he has ever made on any other single day.

"People loved the double event of Farmer's Market and Give Grandly," said Alexandra Tager, executive assistant to the event officers. "It makes for a festive and vibrant community gathering."

Tager said event organizers had a woman on site counting attendance, she had the following comments from attendees:

"I got a wad of money in my pocket and I plan to spread it around!"

"It is GREAT! I love having the Give Grandly event here."

"The Southwest New Mexico Nonprofit Coalition put in an enormous amount of time and energy, starting back in January, to make it all come off without a hitch," Tager said.

"I heard from many groups that it was also a fantastic outreach opportunity, as they were able to talk to people who didn't know that their organizations existed."

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ARTS EXPOSURE

# A Quilt Extravaganza

Festival in Alamogordo bursts with events, color

The 10th Annual Southern New Mexico Festival of Quilts, June 21 and 22, welcomes world-renowned quilter, photographer and author Pam Holland and International instructor/lecturer, pattern designer Debbie Maddy to Alamogordo.

Holland has been working in the quilting industry for more than 30 years. After a career as a photographer and fashion designer, Holland's experience in teaching and travel have been the inspiration for most of her quilts and has given her the reputation of shaping something new from the already established. Drawing, writing and filming while she travels form the basic plans that she uses to create quilts when she's home in the studio. website: [iampamholland.com](http://iampamholland.com).

Maddy has more than 37 years of experience in quilting, 17 years as a pattern designer and 22 as an international instructor/lecturer. She is now a fabric designer with Moda fabrics and has multiple lines of fabric being printed from her hand-dyed Shibori samples. She had studied the art of Shibori and indigo dyeing from notable artists in the United States, England and Japan. Website: [www.calicocarriage.com](http://www.calicocarriage.com).

International travelers Quilters de Mexico return from their world tour to share their exhibit. The Southern New Mexico Festival of Quilts is the only location in the United States to feature this exhibit, "My House is Your House."

The event is open to the public and held at the Otero County Fairgrounds in Alamogordo. Classes begin Wednesday, June 19 and conclude Saturday, June 22.

Vendors fill booths on Friday and Saturday with a wide range of fabric colors and patterns. Handcrafted items including woodworking, baskets, unique jewelry and custom-made shoes lend the event a festive feeling. The festival also includes a quilt display, antique car show, paint chip challenge, food court and Operation Child I.D.

Doors open at the Otero County Fairgrounds to general admission, 9 a.m. on Friday, June 21. The entrance fee is \$7 per day or \$10 for a two-day pass. To register for class or to ask about participating as a vendor visit [www.snmfq.com](http://www.snmfq.com) or stop by any First National Bank location.

Visitors to the Southern New Mexico Festival of Quilts in Alamogordo June 21 and June 22 have the opportunity to vote for the quilt of their choice to be awarded the People's Choice Award. (Courtesy Photos)



## Silver City set to begin annual infrastructure improvements



Local infrastructure improvements scheduled to begin this year include Ridge Road and streets in the Chihuahua Hill neighborhood. Peter Peña, director of the Silver City Public Works Department, said recently completed College Avenue improvements set a new standard for local streets. "College Avenue turned out really well," said Peña. "Not only does it look nice, but it functions well, creating a safe street for all types of users – people who live there, drivers, pedestrians and cyclists." College Avenue improvements were made possible through a collaboration between the Town of Silver City and Western New Mexico University. For more information, contact the Town of Silver City Public Works Department at 575-388-4640. (Courtesy Photo)



# SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL

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## SILVER CITY



Several historic photographic techniques bring process to the walls at Light Art Space.

• **Light Art Space**, located at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City's historic art district, is featuring "Playing with Process: Contemporary Photographic Art" with the work of more than 20 contemporary artists who use a variety of 19th, 20th and 21st century photographic techniques. The show runs June 29 to Aug. 18 with a reception 5-7 p.m. on June 29. Continuing at the gallery is "**5 Latinxs: Contemporary Works**," an exhibition featuring the work of five contemporary Latinxs from Arizona, California, New Mexico and New York. Exhibit runs through June 23. Works by **Karen Hymner** are ongoing with a variety of photographic media and concepts. 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](http://lightartspace.com), email [info@lightartspace.com](mailto:info@lightartspace.com) or 520-240-7075.



**Geisler Gallery features the work of a father and a son for June in honor of Father's Day.**

• On Sunday, June 16, Father's Day, **Geisler Gallery** opens a two-artist show "**Like Father/**

**Like Son?**" featuring the paintings of **Hiram Lewis** and the pen and ink drawings of **Travis Lewis**, son of Hiram. The artistically inclined are invited to the opening reception 5 to 7 p.m. June 16. Geisler Gallery is located at 102 West Kelly in historic downtown Silver City.



**The Grant County Community Art Guild features Luanne Brooten's art along with many others for the month.**

• **The Grant County Art Guild** is now at 316 N. Bullard St., formerly the Hester House in Silver City. **Luanne Brooten**, featured this month, is an artist who uses recycled materials whenever possible. She uses watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, and mixed media for paintings and recycled fabrics and trims to make her own line of one of a kind clothing and bags. GCAG 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).

## ALAMOGORDO

• **Phyllis Taggart** is the featured artist at **Creative Designs Custom Framing and Gallery**, 917 New York Ave. in Alamogordo for June. The exhibit is "**Imagination – An Artistic Journey**." A reception will be held from 6-8 pm on June

## ARTS EXPOSURE

## Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings



**Phyllis Taggart brings her imagination to Creative Designs Custom Framing and Gallery in Alamogordo.**

21. Regular Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Info: 575-434-4420.

## DEMING/COLUMBUS

• The June exhibit at the **Deming Art Center** showcases fiber arts. The definition of fiber arts has expanded exponentially over the last decade. Quilting no longer means making a bed covering. It has left the category of folk art and now proudly holds a firm place among the fine arts. The center is hosting an artist reception from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, and the exhibit will run from June 1 to 28. 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 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.

## LAS CRUCES



**Las Cruces Arts Association members are Keeping it Cool with water and woodwork at Café de Mesilla in June.**

• The **Las Cruces Arts Association** Members are "**Keeping it Cool**" at **Café de Mesilla** with a new exhibition running

June 8 through July. A special art opening will be held 4-6 p.m. at the café, located at 2190 E. Avenida de Mesilla. Info: 575-532-1046.



**The Ten O'clock Club is at it again in Mesilla, this time the exhibit is at the Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center.**

• On the 10th of each month at ten o'clock in the morning, a group of artists gather to exchange ideas, note progress and encourage each other to spend at least 10 minutes every day making art. They call themselves "**The Ten O'clock Club**" and their work is on display from June 3 to 27 at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center** gallery, 1740 Calle de Mercado in Mesilla. An artists' opening reception is 4 to 7 p.m. June 8 from during the Second Saturday 10-10 Arts Hop. The exhibit, titled "**TENSION**", explores the balance between competing forces in the environment and shows a variety of work in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pencil, pastels, clay and found objects. The exhibit is up through June 28. Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center located at 1740 Calle de Mercado in Mesilla during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during special events. Info: 575-523-6403.

• **The Branigan Cultural Center**, through July 20, features "**The Front Porch**," an exhibit by local artist **Storm Sermay**. The photographs provide a survey of front porches in the Mesilla Valley and beyond, offering a unique glimpse into life and culture in New Mexico and the way people present themselves through their homes. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays (June through August); and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at 501 N. Main Street. Info: [las-cruces.org/museums](http://las-cruces.org/museums) or 575-541-2154.

• **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 June, Bert Gammill and Naida Zucker. Gammill paints in watercolor, oil, pastel and pencil. Zucker is a mixed-media artist who combine gelatin



**"Old Tree Crescent City," is by Naida Zucker and on display at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.**

monoprinting (hectography) with digital photography. She produces one-of-a-kind art pieces. 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).

• **Converge Las Cruces** presents "**The Face of Climate Change**," a photographic exhibition at the Cottonwood Gallery located in the Southwest Environmental Center through June 14. The Face of Climate Change, examines climate change through the eyes of 12 photographers. The exhibition visually documents and comments on the status of our warming world. The Southwest Environmental Center, 275 North Main Street, Las Cruces. Info: 575-932-8866.

• **Jill Somoza** is showing a group of recent paintings titled "**Shards**" at the **Tombaugh Gallery** through June 7. Her paintings are abstract, acrylic on vinyl. The vinyl is stretched over irregularly shaped panels made of wooden slats. Most of the painting consist of multiple, connected panels. 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.

• "**A Fantasy Free-for-All**" is featured at the **Rokoko Art Gallery**, 1785 Avenida de Mercado in Mesilla, through June 22. The gallery is open from noon-5 p.m. on Saturdays. Info: 575-522-5553 or [rokoko@rokokoart.com](mailto:rokoko@rokokoart.com).



**Dinah Swan's down to earth creatures are the subject of the Farm & Ranch exhibit, "Animals of the Southwest."**

• **Dinah Swan's** deep appreciation of animals is reflected in her art. Thirty-four of the artist's pastel paintings are featured in the show, "**Animals of the Southwest**," at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. The show continues in the Arts Corridor through Aug. 4. Info: [www.dinahswan.com](http://www.dinahswan.com).



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“Great Basin Water is Life” addresses a \$15.5-billion proposal to pipe 178,000 acre-feet of water annually from a desert region of Nevada to Las Vegas.



In “Sacred Strides” members of several Native American tribes unify for the Healing Prayer Run of up to 800 miles to the sacred and threatened Bears Ears National Monument. (Courtesy photos)

ON SCREEN

# Getting Wild & Scenic

Gila Conservation Coalition hosts film festival

The Gila Conservation Coalition is hosting the eighth annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 28 at Western New Mexico University’s Light Hall. The four-day national event features more than 10 award-winning films and welcomes over 100 guest speakers, celebrities and activists who bring a human face to the environmental movement.

“The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a natural extension of the Gila Conservation Coalition’s work to inspire people to act on behalf of the Gila River and its wilderness watershed,” said Allyson Siwik, executive director of the Gila Conservation Coalition.

“The Wild & Scenic Film Festival shows us, through film, how communities like ours are working to protect their watersheds, unique landscapes and the environment, galvanizing us to do the same.”

A tour event in Silver City will feature the film “Sacred Strides,” which chronicles how a group of indigenous people from various tribes unified for a Healing Prayer Run of up to 800 miles to Bears Ears National Monument, currently under serious threat and considered sacred to many tribes.

**If you go:**

When: Doors open at 6 p.m. and show starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 28.  
Where: WNMU’s Light Hall, 1000 W. College Avenue, Silver City  
Ticket Prices: \$15 at the door; GCC members \$12; Admission + GCC membership \$20; Students free

“Hear Our Olympics” examines the effects of Navy jet electronic warfare training on the Olympic Peninsula, an area that is recognized as a national park, wilderness area, an international Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site.

In the film “Great Basin Water is Life,” we learn what is happening with the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s \$15.5-billion proposal to build a pipeline to transport water 300 miles from the Great Basin of Nevada to Las Vegas. The Great Basin is a desert, and there simply isn’t an extra 58 billion gallons of water per year; it would profoundly change the area and residents’ way of life.

Approximately 10 other short films will be screened, with special guest appearances and prizes raffled throughout the evening.

MUSIC SCENE

# Bob Dylan Tribute

Birthday concert includes area musicians

Come celebrate the music of one of the most influential, important and iconic figures of American music, Bob Dylan, who turned 78 years old on May 24, performed by some of the best musicians in Silver City.

Bob Dylan birthday celebrations are held all around the world, and this year, Silver City joins the party.

The Bob Dylan Birthday Concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City, 3845 N. Swan St. Featured musicians include Greg Renfro, Dale Rucklos, Amos Torres, Toni and Rick Spiegel, Sue and Eric Patterson, Barbara and Ron Gabioud, Stephanie Smith, John Mooney, Becky Harwood and Joe Neri.

Among his many honors, Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016.

The Swedish Academy honored Dylan with its prestigious prize “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.”

Joe Neri, Silver City resident and musician, has produced a similar Bob Dylan birthday bash in Cotton-



Bob Dylan

wood, Arizona for the past 14 years. He brings that experience and passion to Silver

City’s first Bob Dylan birthday bash.

The suggested donation for the event is \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City Social Justice Committee and the work it does in supporting immigration reform, income inequality, climate change and other social justice issues in the larger community including Annunciation House (El Paso) and No Mas Muertes (Tucson).

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Stills from short film "Pozole." (Photos courtesy Jenn Garcia and Jessica Mendez Siqueiros)

ON SCREEN • MIKE COOK

# Making 'Pozole'

CMI graduate produces award-winning film

A 10-minute film produced by a recent graduate of New Mexico State University's CMI program won the best narrative short film-comedy award at a major film festival and is now qualified to compete in the 2020 Oscars.

The 10-minute film is called "Pozole." The qualifying film festival is Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival, which drew more than 100,000 people to its 2019 festival earlier in April in San Jose, California. The film's producer is Jennifer "Jenn" Garcia, who graduated from CMI in 2016 and now works for Hardline Films in Albuquerque.

Garcia said only 140 short films qualify for Academy Awards nominations.

"Pozole" was filmed in Albuquerque's downtown and Martineztown over three days last summer, said its writer and director, Jessica Mendez Siqueiros, a filmmaker who divides her time between New York and Los Angeles.

The story is set in Tucson, where Siqueiros grew up and centers around the death of the lead character's great-grandmother five days after her 100th birthday. In the film, Siqueiros said she "wanted to explore the Hispanic traditions in my



Jenn Garcia

family," which go back at least five generations to Arizona statehood and even the Mexican-American War.

Siqueiros cast the lead roles in the film, she said, and then relied on Martinez to cast the remaining parts, help secure locations, hire the crew – including CMI students – and rent the cameras and other equipment to make the film.

CMI students working on the film, including the costume de-

signer, "helped a lot on the set," Garcia said. "Their training (at CMI) definitely helped in working on the film," she said.

"The mixed class productions and senior projects in CMI helped the most with my career," Garcia said. "The structure allowed me to build productions from the ground up under the guidance of the professors and helped me find a group of talented filmmakers that I still hire and work with to this day."

Garcia grew up in Roswell and moved to Las Cruces to attend NMSU, where she obtained degrees in creative media and marketing.

Garcia and fellow CMI alumni Keagan Karnes and Sheridan O'Donnell started Hardline Films in Albuquerque.

Cinequest was founded in 1990, said Matt Opsal of Cinequest, Inc. Submissions just opened for the 30th annual festival, which will be held March 3-15, 2020. (Visit [www.cinequest.org/submissions](http://www.cinequest.org/submissions).)

For more information, visit [www.cinequest.org/cinequest-2019-wrap-awards](http://www.cinequest.org/cinequest-2019-wrap-awards). For more information on Jenn Garcia, visit [www.JennNicoleGarcia.com](http://www.JennNicoleGarcia.com), [www.HardlineFilms.com](http://www.HardlineFilms.com) and [cmi.nmsu.edu/2019/04/jenn-garcia/](http://cmi.nmsu.edu/2019/04/jenn-garcia/).



ARTS EXPOSURE

# Art Camp

Workshop in Silver City for young artists

The 2019 Summer Art Camp is the third annual art workshop for young artists, ages 7-9, to be held again at the Elk's Lodge Building in downtown Silver City. The Elk's Lodge offers the art students a vast room with plenty of space to think and comfortably create large and small works.

This year's Summer Art Camp is scheduled in two consecutive Monday-through-Friday separate sessions:

Week One: 9 a.m.-noon, June 17-21

Week Two: 9 a.m.-noon, June 24-28

Young artists may join for a one-week session or two.

Young artists interested in learning and practicing a variety of art disciplines and techniques will meet to create art, think, spend time with old and new friends, work individually and in teams, and, most of all, have lots of fun.

On the last day of each session the artists will have an opportunity to set up a gallery to exhibit their finished works.



They may choose to sell their art for summer spending money. It is recommended to bring small change to purchase art. Invitations made by the artists will be presented to family and friends, and the public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Carmen Ruiz is the program director and instructor. She is an award-winning, professional visual artist and a passionate, bi-lingual art educator with more than 30 years of teaching experience. Contact Ruiz for more information and registration at [carmen.ruiz105@comcast.net](mailto:carmen.ruiz105@comcast.net).

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We strongly recommend gallery patrons call locations before visiting as gallery hours are subject to change and do so often. Contact Desert Exposure at 575-680-1978 or editor@desertexposure.com to update listings. All area codes are 575 unless indicated otherwise.

## Silver City

**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.

**Cow Trail Art Studio**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

**Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery**, 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.

**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.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.

**Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.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.makersvc.com.

**Manzanita Ridge**, 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.

**Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery**, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas streets, 388-2646. Fine arts and crafts.

**Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery**, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.

**Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing**, 203 N. Bullard, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

**Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile**, 104 W.

Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30-10 a.m. Monday to Friday.

**The Place at the Palace**, at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.

**Seedboat Gallery**, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

**Soul River Gallery**, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.

**Sterling Fine Art**, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.

**Studio Behind the Mountain**, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

**Studio Upstairs**, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

**Szygy Tile Gallery**, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.

**Tatiana Maria Gallery**, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.

**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.

**Zoe's Studio/Gallery**, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

## Mimbres

**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@gilinet.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.

## ARTS EXPOSURE

## Gallery Guide

## 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 a.m.-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@delvalleprinting.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Las Cruces Arts Association**, located in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.

**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, virginiamariaromero.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 Granada St. 575-585-4407. Art, southwest furniture and decor.

**The Merc**, 316 Granada 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.

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DELICIOUS DAYS • JENNIFER GRUGER

# It's a Cherry of a Deal

## High Rolls festival changes venue

**B**ob Nichols sold cherries from his booth at the High Rolls Cherry Festival for 20 years. Then, due to new construction at the senior center in High Rolls, it became evident that it would not be safe to hold the event at the traditional location.

Nichols was encouraged by many of the vendors who had traditionally had booths at the High Rolls version of the event and decided to offer up Nichols Ranch as the new venue for 2019. The festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 15 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 16.

Nichols' older son, Brad, coordinates the vendors, food, music and beer and wine.

"Our event will be different from the High Rolls event in a few ways," Brad said. "The cherry orchard is right there, the petting zoo is new and wine and beer are new. And, you can bring your dog."

The petting zoo is hosted by Runyan Ranches in Mayhill. Bonito Valley Brewing Company,



A young cherry picker at Nichols Ranch in 2018 carries her bucket off the field. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)



Cherry lovers take advantage of the u-pick option at Nichols Ranch in 2018. There will be plenty of opportunity for participants to pick their own cherries during the Cherry Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16.

Cloudcroft Brewing Company and Tularosa Vineyards will all be present. The Nichols family will open their cherry orchard for some controlled picking.

Live bands include "Against the Grain," a country and rock band; "Wait for What," blues and rock duo, "Rockabilly Strangers" from Las Cruces; and "Cavern City Boys" from Carlsbad, with

some Tejano music. Arts and crafts vendors of all types and from all over, including Arizona, Albuquerque, and west Texas will be there. Food vendors include Au Jus BBQ, Justin's and more. There will also be face painting.

This event has been well-attended in past years and the Nichols family is prepared for 8,000 to 10,000 guests during the two-day event.

"We felt bad about breaking the routine, but it was just unsafe with the construction equipment and so on," said Paula Poindexter, a Lions Club board member who has been involved with the High Rolls event for many years.

Until the construction is completed, a decision about future cherry festivals can't be made,

but the High Rolls Apple Festival is still scheduled for Oct. 19 and 20.

Poindexter believes the Lions Club has been the host of the High Rolls Cherry Festival since the 1970s but that it has been tradition in the area since 1961.

The Lions Club helped prepare the cherry cider and another traditional favorite, cherry pies, are provided by Community Church in Tularosa.

The Nichols family came into the area in 1882 and lived on the property for many years. They moved to the Gila River by Red Rock for a time and had two goat ranches and a cattle ranch. Bob Nichols' father came back to the

original ranch in 1942 and they have been there ever since.

"About all I've ever done is this ranch," Bob said.

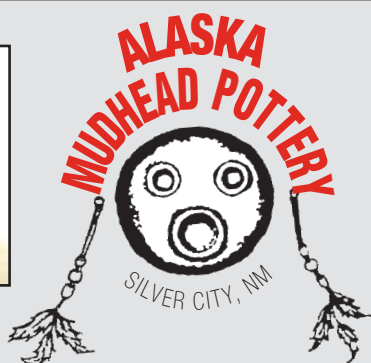
They have 17 or so different varieties of black cherries, apples and apricot orchards as well as cattle.

Bob's wife, Sue Nichols, is a painter and stained-glass artist. Look for her work decorating the packing shed when you go.

For more information, follow Nichols Ranch and Orchards on Facebook or contact Brad Nichols at 512-808-7459 and nicholsranchfestivals@yahoo.com. The Nichols Ranch is at 236 Cottonwood Canyon Road, seven miles east of La Luz.



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Vendors from Mexico bring textiles, arts and crafts to sell at ¡Fiesta Latina! At Western New Mexico University in Silver City.

CULTURE EXPLOSION

# ¡Fiesta Latina!

## Folk art, music, at WNMU

**T**he third annual Western New Mexico University ¡Fiesta Latina! is slated to kick off June 21, and continue through June 23, in Old James Stadium on the WNMU campus, 1000 W. College Ave.

The event is a celebration of Latin culture through art, music and film. By hosting Mexican artists north of the border for this summer's festival, WNMU aims to build global relationships and honor traditions by providing a

weekend's worth of activities and entertainment for families.

"We're delighted to offer ¡Fiesta Latina! again. I hope the entire community turns out to enjoy the multitude of events," said WNMU Assistant to the President for Cultural Affairs Faye McCalmont, who organizes the international festival each year.

In 2019, ¡Fiesta Latina! will again offer attendees an opportunity to get acquainted with ancient handcraft trades through

demonstrations and the Transcending Borders film and discussion series. Forty vendors from all over Mexico will display and sell their handcrafted pieces at the Artisan Mercado, which will be open for extended hours this year.

Also returning for the third edition is a robust performance lineup.

CULTURE

continued on page 17

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## ARTS EXPOSURE

# Workshops for Youth

Virus Theater offers summer learning for kids

**V**irus Theater is pleased to present a second year of summer youth theater workshops this June at the El Sol Theater in historic downtown Silver City.

"This year we are pleased to be expanding our program to include a tech workshop as well as a theater and circus performance and writing workshop for kids and teens," Artistic Director Teresa Dahl-Bredine said.

The circus/theater workshop for 9- to 12-year-olds is a chance for children to challenge themselves by learning circus skills such as stilt walking, tumbling, juggling and more. They'll also have fun with slapstick comedy, dance and theater techniques, while practicing a play that will be performed for the community.

The teen performance camp will give youth 13-17 an opportunity to help create the show they will perform, while learning physical theater techniques and working with a great group of other young people. In last year's production, participants learned to walk on stilts, fly using aerial silks, and slapstick routines.

The tech camp allows teens to explore the world of set-building, lighting design and costuming — all the elements that go on backstage to make a show hap-

## Youth Theatre Workshop with Virus Theater

**What:** Virus Theater Performance & Writing Workshop, creating two original plays from their youth theater workshops

**When:** June 3-30

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

**Contact:** Teresa Dahl-Bredine, [teresamdb@aol.com](mailto:teresamdb@aol.com) or <https://virustheater.com/coming-soon>.

pen. They will use these skills to bring to life the performances of both the circus/theater workshop and the teen performance workshop.

The teaching staff includes Maria Casler, Kristen Warnack, and Melanie Zipin, as well as Dahl-Bredine. Casler has been teaching and directing for 28 years, in the states and abroad. She has been teaching circus arts for the past 11 years and co-founded the Monsoon Puppet Theater in 2007.

"I've been enjoying combining giant puppets, circus arts and theater to create fun and magical works of art that appeal to kids of all ages," she said.

Warnack holds a master's degree in teaching from Western



The 2018 Youth Theater crew prepare for their 2018 production. (Courtesy Photo)

New Mexico University and has taught for a number of years in the Silver Consolidated School district.

She has been a Virus Theater ensemble member for 19 years and taught and directed last year's workshop with Casler.

Zipin, a writer and musician who has been leading workshops in the local schools and with the Youth Mural Project

and Fine Arts Fridays, joins the teaching staff this year. Doug Shelton and Patrick Rogers will join the technical theater staff.

"I was so impressed with the growth in strength, creativity, and confidence I saw in our participants over four short weeks," Warnack said. "Theater and circus give kids such an opportunity for fun and growth, and I'm excited to see what they accom-

plish this year."

The cost is \$200 and scholarships are available through a generous Community Investment Fund grant from Freeport McMoRan.

The workshops will culminate in performances held June 28-30, and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact [teresamdb@aol.com](mailto:teresamdb@aol.com).

## CULTURE

continued from page 16

Headlining ¡Fiesta Latina! is Little Joe y la Familia, a top Tejano band that imbues its sound with norteño, country, blues and rock-and-roll music.

Additional musical acts will include the Naucualti Atlachinolli indigenous dance and drumming group, El Paso's Frontera Bugalu and San Antonio-based singer and musician Azul Barrientos.

"The stage is moving to allow for more space to include a large dance floor, but we still expect tickets to Grammy-winning Little Joe y la Familia will sell out quickly, so people interested in this show shouldn't wait to secure their tickets," McCalmont said.

This summer's edition of ¡Fiesta Latina! promises other fam-

ily-friendly activities such as a huacha (washers) tournament and children's crafts. Food vendors will also be onsite through the duration of the festival.

"Everything at ¡Fiesta Latina! from the food to the games honors Latin tradition and culture," McCalmont said.

General admission and parking for ¡Fiesta Latina! are free, although some events, such as evening concerts and the tequila tasting experience with handmade ceramic tequileros, do require tickets that can be purchased online or in person at the WNMU Cultural Affairs Office in Hunter Hall. Details about ¡Fiesta Latina! are available at [fiestalatina.org](http://fiestalatina.org).

## The Front Porch

By Storm Sermay



Branigan Cultural Center  
May 3 - July 20, 2019

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## ARTS EXPOSURE

# CLAY Festival Returns

## Silver City event gears up for 8th year

In 2010, the Silver City CLAY Festival was an inspired spark in the eye of Lee Gruber, then the owner of Syzygy Tile. In 2011 the CLAY Festival had its inaugural year, offering workshops, exhibitions, a marketplace and events for clay aficionados and the wider community. Since then, it has evolved each year with new and different offerings and venues and will celebrate its eighth year this summer.

The 2019 CLAY Festival will run Monday to Sunday, July 15-21, in and around downtown Silver City, including various workshops, demonstrations, presentations and events for artists, visitors and Grant County community members of all ages. Event sign-ups and listings can be found at [clayfestival.com](http://clayfestival.com).

Multi-day workshops will allow students ages 18 and up to experience in-depth learning and

practice with renowned clay artists. Internationally admired clay artist Sunshine Cobb will lead a two-week workshop, July 8-19, called "Exploring Functional Hand Building, Discovering the NEW in the OLD."

Artist Brad Klem will teach a four-day workshop, Tuesday to Friday, July 16-19, called "Imagery through China Painting and Decals." Students will explore brush techniques, glaze mixing,



A previous CLAY Festival workshop held at a Western New Mexico University filled the rooms with participants. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

pen-work and firing methods, and will leave the workshop with finished pieces. And for those interested in working with CLAY in an outdoor setting, this year, CLAY Festival is offering a symposium of workshops involving outdoor construction techniques using adobe, cobb and earthen plasters, led by local artists.

One-day workshops will be offered during the course of the CLAY Festival as well. Bear Mountain Lodge will host a Million Bones Project workshop on Monday, July 15, in which participants will make clay bones for One Million Bones, the international art installation addressing genocide which has made a permanent home at Bear Mountain Lodge.

On Saturday, July 20, the Empty Bowls workshop will offer students of all ages the chance to hand-build a bowl to be used for a fall community event to raise money and awareness for hunger and food security issues in the community. Both workshops are free but require advance registration.

For youth, CLAY Play will be

hosted at area public libraries, offering children in grades three to six a chance to make their own clay art inspired by stories. Mud Fun will offer kids pre-k through sixth grade a chance to get dirty and play with clay, creating straight from their imaginations.

The outdoor CLAY Makers Market will feature a curated selection of clay artists selling exquisite clay artwork, with live music, dancing and storytelling all day long. The Mud Pie Contest will be hosted at the Silver City Farmer's Market, with prizes going to the most magnificent mud pies. Silver City's Silco Theater will host Claymation films.

On Sunday, July 21, CLAY Rodeo will give fast-moving artists a chance to move from one workstation to the next, making art with clay, competing as teams.

CLAY's 2019 juried exhibition CURRENT will feature artwork selected by juror Sunshine Cobb, aligned with the theme of artwork that speak to this moment in time. The grand opening of the CURRENT Exhibition will be 5 p.m., Monday, July 15.

**CLAY**  
BUILDING BRIDGES

Silver City CLAY Festival  
July 15-21, 2019  
[www.CLAYfestival.com](http://www.CLAYfestival.com)



## EVENTS

Lecture Series

Pueblo Artist Demonstrations

Hands-on Workshops

CLAY Makers Market | Story Telling | Live Music

Gallery | Studio Exhibitions

Clay Rodeo

Youth Activities

Mud Pie Contest

for more info visit:

[www.CLAYfestival.com](http://www.CLAYfestival.com)

## WRITTEN WORD

## New Poet Laureate

### Bessier selected to represent Silver City and Grant County

The SWFWW selection committee has chosen the next poet laureate of Silver City and Grant County, Eve West Bessier.

This honorary role is awarded to a person who has established a presence in the world of poetry, demonstrated a commitment to the literary art form and embraces the opportunity to engage in civil discourse. Following the tenure of co-poets laureate Beate Sigridaughter and Jack Crocker, the committee received several applications for the role and after interviewing all applicants, the committee offered Bessier the position.

Bessier was born in the Netherlands. At age 7, she and her mother immigrated to San Francisco. Bessier holds a Master of Education Degree from the University of California, Davis as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from San Francisco State University. She moved to New Mexico almost five years ago and is the new host and coordinator of the monthly Just Words literary reading series.

Bessier is an award-winning author of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, whose latest poetry collec-



Eve West Bessier

tion, "Roots Music: Listening to Jazz," has just been published, and her novel, "New Rain," was just released in paperback.

Bessier is a retired social scientist, studio musician, jazz vocalist, voice coach and visual artist. A nature enthusiast, she hikes on the Continental Divide Trail daily and enjoys the many cultural events Silver City offers.

The poet laureate will serve a two-year term, beginning May 1 with an option for a third year if mutually agreed. The poet laureate program is run by the Southwest Festival of the Written Word.



BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

# Where Can They Go?

## Asylum seekers dropped off in Deming

It was a familiar scene on internet and TV since the first Central American migrant caravan last fall — mattresses and pillows spread on the floor, children playing with toys here and there, and lines of people waiting for supper. In the late afternoon sunlight, some clothes dried while hanging on a chain link fence.

In the morning of Sunday, May 12, the Border Patrol let out 50 or more asylum seekers near MacDonald's in Deming. That's the transportation hub in town, where interstate buses often let people out to eat a meal.

Amazingly, the Border Patrol had called town authorities just 24 hours earlier to announce their plans, offering no assistance to the impoverished town of Deming.

Residents had to scramble to help the asylum seekers.

The asylum seekers were gathered and moved to the State Fairgrounds. Generous people from city and county government, the Ministerial Alliance, New Mexico CAFé, restaurants, individuals, people in the health professions and others quickly swung into action and found the food, clothing, toys and toiletries that they needed.

"I have mixed emotions about the migrants. I don't think we should be allocating our money for this, but on the other hand, these people need our help," City Administrator Aaron Sera said.

"This is not the situation we orchestrated," he said. "The worst thing is that the Border Patrol left them in the streets. I think there is going to be plenty of resistance."

Monday afternoon, May 13 Chris Brice, director of the Luna County Detention Center, unfolded the sheet of paper that showed that about 60 percent of the people dropped off are from Guatemala, with Honduras in second place, El Salvador third

and a few more people from southern Mexico, Brazil and Cuba.

On Monday evening the Border Patrol dropped off another 44 people at the fairgrounds. The asylum seekers already there were being shifted away from the scene with the help of bilingual volunteers who have made phone calls to the migrants' relatives in other parts of the United States. Other volunteers used donated money to buy tickets for them to travel.

The next day about 50 people were brought to St. Ann's Church for assistance. Organizers discussed the arrival of even more groups of asylum seekers in the following days. The groups were shifted again.

I wasn't allowed to speak to anybody but a couple of authorities and some volunteers. I couldn't take any photos.

"This is a hot situation," a city officer said with a wry smile.

### Positive and negative opinions

An organizer from the activist group New Mexico CAFé, Alex Luna, talked with several women at St. Ann's Church about their schedules. He scratched out their hours on a white-board and talked to them about the remarkable response by people with "unselfish love."

He also brought up the subject of what he called "a mass call-out for violence" he had heard about. In my short survey of people in Deming businesses, I didn't find any evidence of this. But I heard a couple stories about resentment against the migrants.

"A woman told me that two people at her RV park lost their food stamps and believe it's because of the arrival of immigrants," an acquaintance of mine said.

An equally loony story was that someone thought gas prices

had gone up 5 cents because of the onslaught.

"A lot of Mexican Americans are against this arrival of migrants, too," said Chris Brice, "not just Anglos. They're afraid of the drain on tax dollars, and of disease."

But I saw Pat Danser, the director of Animal Guardians in Luna County, in the parking lot at Peppers Supermarket, and she had positive stories to tell. The couple she was talking to had made a \$30 donation despite their low income. Pat knows someone from Silver City who donated \$60 in rice and another who gave \$200 worth of underwear.

People from religious and political backgrounds were feeling privileged to be able to help in this dire situation.

Among locals the fear of disease clusters around the arrival of the asylum seekers. But at the fairgrounds, the medical technicians of the fire department could usually be seen washing migrants' hair and checking for lice. A conscientious health check-up is made on all immigrants.

There was an avalanche of assistance that can never be calculated.

"I know someone in Silver who is so impressed with Deming," Pat said.

### Attitudes in the Bootheel

When I went a few weeks ago to the Bootheel of southwest New Mexico, there was some overt resentment to the large groups of Central Americans that were spilling over the border by the hundreds.

From what was said, it seems that a lot of people there had little understanding of the overwhelming violence and poverty the border-crossers were fleeing from. Did they really grasp the perversity of the drug gangs'

threats against and murders of the children of innocent people?

If one needs proof that this is going on, one only has to look as far as Palomas. There's a woman there with three children in the Columbus elementary school. They cut off their plans to go visit their family in El Salvador because they feared her oldest

son, in third grade, would get kidnapped by the gangs. He only comes up to my waist.

But a negative attitude to the immigrants is widespread. One woman said with great assurance, "They get more benefits

BORDERLINES

continued on page 20

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Alex Luna on the right and his assistant, Crystal Gonzalez, are with New Mexico CAFé, a group that advocates putting the needs of families and the common good first. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

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This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts,  
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HUMAN CONDITION • MIKE COOK

# Processing People

## Inside Las Cruces' response to aid asylum seekers

As of May 15, the joint City of Las Cruces-Doña Ana County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) had processed about 5,000 asylum seekers in Las Cruces over a span of 32 days, with fewer than 20 remaining in the area with local sponsors. The rest were in Las Cruces for a day or so before departing to their sponsors around the country.

Working with the state, other cities and local nonprofits, OEM is processing 150-200 asylum seekers each day on average, said Las Cruces Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Daniels, who has been temporarily reassigned to OEM and is the area commander. He and other Las Cruces firefighters are serving as part-time staff and as volunteers for the humanitarian effort.

The asylum seekers are being brought to Las Cruces by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and dropped off at the former armory on Brown Road that the City of Las Cruces now rents to temporarily house asylum seekers from the time they arrive in Las Cruces until arrangements are made for their transportation to sponsors across the country.

"We're not seeing people who are causing problems," Daniels said. "We're not seeing people who are hardened criminals." Most of asylum seekers are "genuinely appreciative" of the services they receive in Las Cruces. Many have suffered great hardship on their way to the U.S., he said, often leaving their home countries with their entire

## Immigration at a glance

*From the City of Las Cruces, which cited sources including U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Paso sector*

- There are approximately 45 million immigrants in the United States, about 14 percent of the total population.

- An estimated 900,000 Central Americans are coming to the U.S.: about 50 percent from Guatemala, 35 percent from Honduras and 15 percent from El Salvador.

- Federal Immigration laws passed: Immigration Act of 1924, Immigration and Nationality Act (1965), Refugee Act

(1980), Immigration Reform and Control Act (1986), Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (1996), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) (2012).

- Key terms – Refugee: seeking protection and safe place to live from outside the U.S.; asylum seeker: seeking protection and safe place to live from inside the U.S.; alien: any person not a citizen or national of the U.S., including permanent resident alien and illegal alien.

- Undocumented aliens: An estimated 12 million living in the U.S. in 2015, including 6.6 million from Mexico. 80

percent have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, 6 percent entered within the past five years. Temporary protection from deportation: DACA: 673,340 active participants (2019); temporary protection status: 417,000 (2019).

- Asylum process – Affirmative asylum: physically present in the U.S.; defensive asylum: apprehended by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) or port of entry without valid visa; credible fear and reasonable fear screening process within 30 days, final determination hearing within three-10 years.

life savings, only to have part or all of it stolen by gangs and cartels in Mexico. There have also been rapes, kidnappings, murders and human trafficking of asylum seekers as they make their way to the U.S.

"We hear story after story of things that have happened," Daniels said. "These people are defenseless for the most part."

"Can you imagine if this wasn't being done?" Daniels said of the local humanitarian effort. The asylum seekers are "rolling the dice" when they arrive in the U.S., few have access to phones and don't know how to navigate the asylum process. Without local assistance, the asylum seekers would be "out on their own recognizance," he

said. Responsibility for them has fallen to local government, he said, and "we're assuming the risk. That's the process our system allows right now."

"The city of LC should have the support of the Trump administration and the federal government," U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, said in a recent telephone interview. "We are seeing the administrative branch of the government walking away from its responsibility," said Lujan, who is running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated in 2020 by Sen. Tom Udall.

It costs \$75-\$100 per day for each asylum seeker in Las Cruces, Daniels said.

"We're more than happy to be advocates," state Sen. John

Arthur Smith, D-Luna, Hidalgo, Sierra and Doña Ana, said at a May 15 briefing he and other legislators received from Daniels at the armory.

Earlier this year, the state approved \$2.5 million to help deal with asylum seekers, Smith said. "We have a responsibility and we stepped to the plate before rather than after, and we will again," said Smith, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee.

"If they weren't here, they'd be on the streets," said state Senate President Pro-Tem Mary Kay Papan, D-Doña Ana, who also attended the briefing, along with state Reps. Doreen Gallegos and Ray Lara, both D-Doña Ana.

"Situations like this bring out the worst of people and the best

of people," said Smith. "It's a very vicious atmosphere out there."

"We were not given a choice," Las Cruces City Councilor Greg Smith said at the council's April 15 meeting. The federal government chose to "drop them on our streets and leave them to fend for themselves."

Greg Smith volunteered to assist the humanitarian effort to help "reduce the level of hostility," he said.

The City of El Paso is not housing asylum seekers, but the Annunciation House nonprofit in El Paso is continuing to do so. Since the end of February 2019, "400-700 refugees per day are being sent to Annunciation House," according to annunciationhouse.org. About 100 asylum seekers a day are sent to Deming.

"This is a public safety issue," Daniels said, and a social and public health issue.

Las Cruces firefighters, including Chief Eric Enriquez, have volunteered with the humanitarian effort, including driving asylum seekers to other cities, including Albuquerque, that are assisting Las Cruces, Daniels said. One day when OEM ran short of food, the local firefighters' union bought lunch for about 200 asylum seekers at the armory.

Daniels said donations most needed for asylum seekers are socks, underwear, shoelaces, small- and medium-sized shirts, towels, blankets and hygiene products. Donations can be taken to the armory, 1300 W. Brown Road.

### BORDERLINES

continued from page 19

than we do." But I couldn't find proof of what she was saying.

Asylum seekers either are hardly eligible for any benefits or are eligible for a reduced

kind. For instance, migrants can get temporary help in a natural disaster or in a medical emergency, but no sustained assistance.

The children of asylum seekers do get free schooling.

Molly Molloy, recently retired research librarian at New Mexico State University, e-mailed me about asylum seekers on May 9:

"No one gets anything like a benefit," she said in her email. "Even if they are released, they have to wait for months to have a court date, and no one can work legally until at least six months after they file an official claim for asylum. Some people apply from inside detention and they may stay in detention for 2 years or more."

Asylum seekers can't get food stamps until they win asylum,

which can take years.

Before they get work permits, some migrants in El Paso also are being returned to Juarez, where they have "no defense from the violence, extortion, robbery, kidnapping." Vice News reported in May that this abuse of Central Americans is expected to rise this summer.

The asylum process is undoubtedly a long, difficult road for anyone to travel. The percentage of applicants who get asylum in El Paso is extremely small — only in the single digits.

### Uncertain future

It's very unclear at the moment what the future will be for Deming as the tidal waves of refugees continues and possibly increases this summer.

But there's at least one con-

structive effort going on right now to help reimburse organizations that are providing relief to the immigrants. The democratic-based delegation has sent a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee asking non-governmental organizations, both state and local, to be reimbursed for assisting asylum seekers.

Nothing else is really known right now.


Contact Kara Naber at southernexposure44@yahoo.com for a list of donation and volunteer opportunities in Deming.

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming*



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# Grant County Weekly Events

**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 Church. All singles welcome. Contact Sally, 537-3643.

**Al-Anon family group, New Hope** — 12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, corner of 20th and Swan Streets, Silver 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.

**Silver Chorale** — 7-9 p.m. rehearsal, First Presbyterian Church, corner 20th and Swan streets, Silver City. New members welcome. Contact Anne, 288-6939.

**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.



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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# We All Need a Little Practice

## Thinking it all through deliberately

A few months back, during one of those cold dreary winter days, I fell down the old rabbit hole, also known as the internet. I wasn't searching for anything in particular, but sometimes I've stumbled on an article or thought in an odd place that has inspired my work with horses and riders.

Often when this happens, I'm not even looking for anything to do with horses. More likely, I'm trying to figure out a new way to help people think about their role in a relationship with a horse. More and more over the years I've come to believe that whatever is going on with a horse, either good or bad, has a human as the root cause.

This particular discovery was an article by James Clear from January 2017, titled "The Beginner's Guide to Deliberate Practice."

At about the same time I found this little thought-provoking gem, a wonderful new horse trotted her way into my life, a green, inexperienced blank slate, looking for guidance from her first owner. I felt I was facing a level of responsibility I hadn't experienced with a horse in a long time, and I thought this article gave me the proverbial "kick in the pants."

In the article, the author defines deliberate practice as a

"special type of practice that is purposeful and systematic." He goes on to say that "while regular practice might include mindless repetitions, deliberate practice requires focused attention and is conducted with the specific goal of improving performance."

Offering examples, the author comes to this conclusion – "deliberate practice always follows the same pattern: break the process down into parts, identify your weaknesses, test new strategies for each part, and then integrate your learning into the overall process."

His final point is important – "The greatest difference between deliberate practice and simple repetition is feedback. Is your performance actually improving? There is always quantitative measurement. Just as important may be coaching. One consistent finding across all disciplines is that coaches are often essential for sustaining deliberate practice and measuring progress."

Does this kind of thinking about practice have any merit when applied to working with horses, a very different kind of activity? With horses you're working with a partner that is another species – a non-verbal prey animal that is not rational and does not see anything in this world the same way you do. Practicing and mindless reps make no sense to an animal who instinctively just wants to eat, live in a herd and conserve energy to flee any predators.

But we certainly can help them be better at what we want them to do, and more comfortable with what we're asking of

them, if we improve our skills. Since communication with horses is based on our physical movements, our body language and our timing, then it is easy to make the case that deliberate practice can improve our abilities to communicate our intentions to our horses, which in turn makes it easier for them to understand and follow our directions.

Years ago, I was told learning to be good with horses as a handler and rider went something like this: you start off very mechanical in your movements, eventually the movements become habitual and then you can become creative and develop the feel necessary to really work in partnership with your horse. Sounds like the formula for deliberate practice described in Clear's article.

I really took this to heart when I realized just how much the behavior and performance of a horse, even their very health, was dependent on how well we develop our physical and mental skills. If I couldn't "speak" clearly and consistently with my body, movements and equipment, then I could never expect the horse to give me what I was looking to achieve.

So, I practiced – a lot. Initially much of it was without the horse. When I traveled on business, I'd bring along my rope lead so at night in my hotel I could practice swinging the rope, shifting it from hand to hand, directing it at very specific targets. On long plane rides I'd go through the movements of lifting a rein,

TALKING HORSES  
 continued on page 24

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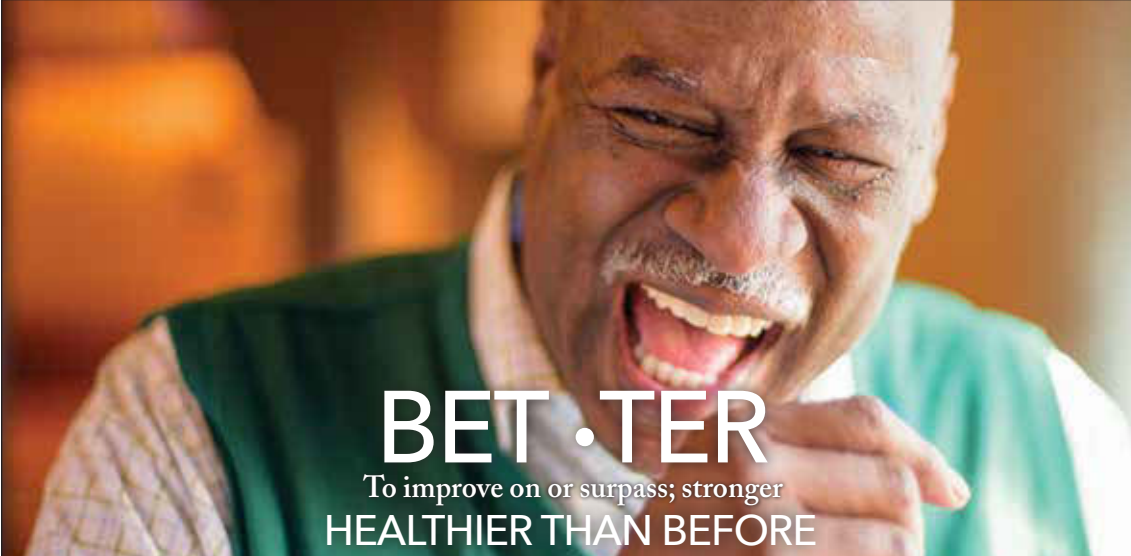
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# Adapting to Congestion

## Tolls can help the environment

**H**ave you heard of congestion pricing yet?

This term was new to me in recent weeks despite my interest and frequent participation in urban meetings, conferences, and the like. It refers to a system of taxation applied to public and private vehicles using roadways during peak hours. The concept has been applied mostly in Europe, which as usual is ahead of us in such matters.

The idea is to make sure that people who impose extra costs on others, because of their road use during peak times, understand what's happening in terms of wear and tear, pollution, and congestion – and begin to take responsibility for these problems through taxes. London, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Milan and Singapore are among the places where the practice has been put into use. Singapore is the most sophisticated example of these implementations. Recently activists, many of them cyclists, have rallied at the governor's mansion in Manhattan to press for congestion pricing in that city.

I have driven and cycled the famous Seventeen Mile Drive around Monterey Peninsula of Northern California through some of the most scenic areas you'll find in the USA. Motor vehicles pay \$10.50 to use this roadway. Bicycles are free. Since the road is a closed circuit the toll is easy to monitor, easy to pay and rather painless.

Back to congestion pricing: the issue has been how to monitor such issues and appropri-

ately tax them. In some places, a central area of known congestion has been cordoned off, and to get into it you pay a toll. In others, entry to a particular lane requires a fee. The practice ultimately seems sensible, though, in an era when we are growing more and more concerned about greenhouse gases and environmental and noise pollution in general. If you have ever driven the Cross Bronx Expressway in New York or Interstate 10 in Southern California, you are aware of the extraordinary amount of exhaust, noise, and junk that's spread about when traffic slows to a crawl or, worse, a standstill, during peak hours. Whole neighborhoods have been adversely affected by this congestion.

How does this relate to bicycles? When dedicated cycling lanes run through congested areas, as we are beginning to see in places like Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago, incentive to cycle to work increases, congestion decreases, pollution is at least partially minimized, and the need for extra tax is allayed. For example, London's bicycle superhighways have greatly reduced pollution and congestion because close to three-quarters of a million people (!) now commute in the central city. New York, once the bane of motorists and even more of cyclists, is becoming an American example of good planning for bikes.

Las Cruces is not New York or Philadelphia, much less London; nor are Albuquerque or Santa Fe. But we should continue to pressure our cities for more

bike lanes, not to keep cyclists in their place, which many drivers think is off the roads, but to enable both motorcar drivers and bicyclists to navigate the city safely for all concerned. One of the common and understandable excuses you hear from people is that they would cycle if there were safe routes to travel. People know that cycling is good for you and for our surroundings, but they need help getting back on bikes and lanes help. As we add more lanes, any need for congestion pricing will diminish. I have never been nuts about bike lanes, because I think motorists should share the road, but I see their merit in cities; there is every reason to think that more lanes in Las Cruces and elsewhere would be of solid long-term benefit for all people of the city.

*Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and chairman of the Hub (community bike shop of Las Cruces) steering committee. Email at: gabrielcroch@aol.com.*



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## TALKING HORSES

continued from page 22

applying a leg aid or shifting weight from one seat bone to the other (I'm sure making some passengers wonder what I was up to!). I'd go in the arena and imagine I had my horse, picturing certain events and going through the movements of how I would react with my equipment and positioning.

When I was with my horse, I'd try to break down each step of the task I wanted us both to learn, and I would strive to have both of competent at each step before we tried the whole thing. I looked for physical weaknesses in both of us and tried to improve those areas before asking for things neither one of us could do. If I was stiff with no fluidity posting a trot going to the right, how could I expect my horse to be comfortable and collected going in that direction. If my horse couldn't reach under himself going to the left, how I could ask him to do lateral work in that direction?

The rate at which I advanced in my horsemanship and the "feel" I developed years before I thought it would happen were a direct result of this early concentration on practicing all the basics rather than just going for a ride on my horse.

But, like so many people with horses, over the years I stopped paying attention to a lot of the details and as a result I believe, as Clear suggests, that when I thought I was improving I was merely reinforcing habits. It took a new horse, one looking for leadership and a clear understanding of who I am and what I want in our partnership, to jolt me back to understanding just how big my responsibility is in this new journey. I can't ask anything of this horse until I know I'm prepared physically and mentally to lead the way. It'll never be a partnership if I'm not willing to do my part.

For me, it's back to horsemanship 101 and lots of deliberate practice. For my horse, it's a promise that we'll learn and progress at her rate, taking things step by step, and we won't move ahead unless we're both prepared to do so.

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship and foundation training. You can contact him at [hsthomson@msn.com](mailto:hsthomson@msn.com) or 575-388-1830.



## NATIVE ROOTS • PATRICIA HURLEY

## Spring to Summer Blooms

Welcoming the change of season

Our canyon penstemon welcomed early spring hummingbirds with its showy magenta spray of blooms along numerous tall flower stalks this April and May. It is one of my favorite penstemons for its beauty and toughness. Unlike many other penstemons it will grow in clay soil and in sun or shade. Most penstemons desire a high draining, sandy soil, or at least a hillside which provides some drainage. If overwatered they get leggy, root crowns tend to rot, and they begin to flop over. Canyon penstemon re-seeds and naturalizes readily as well. Last year we had several growing side by side, and one evening we all clustered around them to see how close we could get to the 30-plus Sphinx moths buzzing in and out of the tubular flowers.

Other noticeable spring bloomers include California and Mexican Gold poppy. The California poppies cheerfully welcome tourists to Downtown Silver City, they spread easily by seed and can be found growing throughout the older neighborhoods. The Mexican Gold poppies blanket our hillsides and the Gila River Valley.

The pink Mexican Evening primrose are a pretty ground cover but be careful where you plant this one as it can be an aggressive spreader.

The intense yellow of Damianita form a nice low growing shrub that is drought tolerant and sun-loving.

The Fendler's sundrops blanket the roadsides with their yellow flower closing into a soft marmalade in the heat of the day.

One of my favorite native yellow daisies, chocolate flower, starts blooming in May as well. Yes, it really does smell like chocolate. It is also sun loving and drought tolerant, and a great bee plant.

Many of our trees and shrubs were off to a slow start with the colder temperatures that marked this spring. I had to counsel a few folks not to worry about their desert willows and Anisacanthus (Wright's desert honeysuckle), as they were concerned that they didn't make it through the winter. These native plants have adapted to our late cold frosts and are slower to come out of dormancy. These patterns may be harder to predict



California poppy

as climate change causes more erratic and fluctuating weather resulting in warmer spring temperatures than normal.

Some of these showy blooms will be fading as the heat of June settles over the Southwest. Chocolate flower will continue until fall frost and will be joined by other summer blooming penstemons like Rocky Mountain, Palmer's penstemon, and scarlet bugler (penstemon barbatus) all of which attract butterflies and native bees. Make sure your garden has a diversity of continuous native blooms from spring to fall in order to support pollinators. Studies have shown that native pollinators prefer native plants over most ornamentals and that many of the new cultivars or hybrids do not provide the same quality of nutritional benefits.

As the cooler Spring temperatures fade, I think of our tougher plants that can withstand intense sun and heat. Arizona Rosewood is a multi-trunked evergreen tree that tolerates tough conditions. It provides a visual screen and is a wind barrier with its numerous branches and long linear, serrated leaves. Deer leave it alone and it has creamy white flowers in June that attract pollinators. Plant it with other drought tolerant shrubs like Apache plume, four-winged saltbush, and turpentine bush, which also provide good screening, as well as structural habitat for birds and pollinators.

As we head into the heat of summer, group your plants together that share the same growing conditions, this will consolidate and minimize your watering efforts.

Other tips for June planting include



Canyon penstemon

mulching heavily to conserve water. Use gravel or decomposed granite around your heat loving plants and a good wood mulch around plants that don't mind more dampness. Newly establishing plants often require daily watering with the hot dry winds of June. Our relentless sunshine can cause sunburn for new plants that we're grown under shade cloth, so screening them for a few days could help as well. For your already established plants, remember to water infrequently, deeply and slowly; this will prevent runoff from hydrophobic soil.

Overwatering is a frequent problem with native plants, make sure the soil has dried between watering. Keeping a plant constantly wet (true for new plants as well) will cause root rot and prevents the plant from forming the important fungal relationships, called mycorrhizae, necessary for plant longevity.

June, with its brutal heat and low humidity, is the easiest time to convince people that tough and adapted natives are the appropriate choice.

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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Family looking through border wall.



Tarahumara girls in front of their home. (Courtesy photos)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

# Easter on the Border

## Checking in with old friends and new sites

“We’re going to see a bullfight in Juárez, Mexico,” we said to our friends in Santa Fe when asked about our Easter plans. But that’s never the whole story. These monthly trips always contain the unexpected.

We made the five-hour drive to Juárez on Friday, April 19, crossed the border at the Santa Teresa crossing west of the city and drove to a small school for Tarahumara Indians. Mexico has some 62 indigenous groups, most of them with their own languages and all of them extremely poor. The Tarahumara culture is centered in the southern part of the state of Chihuahua, mostly in the Copper Canyon area, a popular tourist destination, and the Tarahumara women are known for their bright dresses.

The small colony of Tarahumara in Juárez is located in an area of muddy dirt streets and miserable shacks made of chunks of plywood. The only saving grace is this school run by a heroic young woman named Lorena Solares. The bags of oranges we bring are probably the only fruit these kids ever see.

The second stop was at a house built for the Elvira Romero family with funds donated in memory of my wife, Julie, who died in April, 2016. An El Paso non-profit, Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesus, (SPJ) has built hundreds of houses in this area but many more are needed.

Our third stop was at Vision in Action, a mental asylum run by a former addict named José Antonio Galván. With a budget of about \$200,000 a year, he cares for some 120 patients, most of whom would be living on the streets of Juárez, eating garbage and in danger of being killed by local gangs. I’ve been visiting for more than eight years now, bringing food and clothing, helping to raise money, and writing articles about his work.

On the way back to El Paso, we made a spur of the moment decision to follow a narrow dirt



Tarahumara girl with orange.

road that the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) uses to patrol the U.S. side of the huge border wall. To our surprise, we found this massive wall simply ends as you near El Paso. This is where migrants are crossing as they seek asylum. There are plans to replace sections of the existing wall closer to Columbus and Palomas. Why spend money there when there is absolutely no wall in this area next to El Paso?

Nearby on the bushes, we spotted an encampment which turned out to be the militia encampment that has received so much recent publicity. I turned our car around, told Sherry to stay behind the wheel in case I encountered trouble and then approached the encampment carefully. The three militia – two men and a woman – wouldn’t give me their names or home towns or allow a photo but they were cordial.

On Saturday, we drove some 60 miles west to Palomas for dental appointments with Dr. Lamm. There are many excellent dentists along the Mexican border who charge a fraction of what it costs in the U.S.

That afternoon I revisited the



The end of the border wall near El Paso.

migrant camp. Only one man was there, and he was quite nervous at being alone. Earlier he had spotted some 22 migrants coming through the gap in the wall and the CBP had come to detain them.

That evening we went to the Plaza de Toros Alberto Balderas for a fund raiser for La Escuela Taurina de Juárez, an evening of lots of talk and Modelo beer and excellent steaks.

Easter Sunday began with a visit to La Casa del Migrante, a facility founded by the Misioneros de San Carlos, known as Scalabrini priests named after their founder in Italy many years ago, a facility that has always provided care and shelter to migrants. This was my sixth visit since December. Most of the migrants here are from the three key Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Sal-

vador, countries consumed with corruption and violence. The per-capita murder rate in Honduras, for example, is 15 times higher than in the United States. Those who make the dangerous and costly trip to the border can be housed here while awaiting their initial asylum hearing with U.S. authorities. That is their right; they are not attempting to cross illegally. Nonetheless, the way the CBP drags out these hearings is an embarrassment to anyone who believes that laws are made to be followed.

Padre Javier Calvillo who runs La Casa, José Antonio Galván, Lorena Solares, the leadership of SPJ – these are the people whose work brings life to a region that has been largely abandoned by both its government and organized religious groups. So, it has been an honor for me to have been able to work with

them for many years now.

The bullfight itself began at 5:30 p.m. on a very pleasant evening and was a “rejoneo” featuring three riders on horseback or “rejoneadores” – Mexicans Jorge Garate and Emilio Gamero and Colombian Andrés Roza. Gamero, considered Mexico’s leading rejoneador, is a great showman and rider, rode one of his horses without a bridle for much of his performance and was the star.

Then something happened that I had never seen before. A group of forcados, Los Forcados Mazatlecos had come from Mazatlan and entered the ring to challenge the second bulls of the three rejoneadores. What they do is lure the bull to attack. The bull strikes the first forcado

**BORDER**

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DANGEROUS PAST • MIKE COOK

# A Game of Control

## Roots of Central American upheaval are deep

Weak economies, the breakdown of political institutions and environmental issues in Central America's Northern Triangle – along with American interventions and attitudes – are the root causes of the increase in the number of Latin Americans seeking asylum in the United States, said New Mexico State University Associate Professor of History Inigo Garcia-Bryce.

Garcia-Bryce, a native of Peru, teaches about Latin America and its history at NMSU and was director of NMSU's Center for Latin American and Border Studies 2011-16.

"The state doesn't provide them with security," Garcia-Bryce said of people living in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (the Northern Triangle), who make up a majority of those seeking asylum in the United States. Criminal gangs have great power in all three countries, he said, and often control local police forces. One asylum seeker Garcia-Bryce spoke to in Las Cruces said she operated a taco stand in Honduras and was told by a local gang to sell drugs or she would be killed. She couldn't go to the police because they would not protect her, so she fled the country.

The United States has played a role in the economic upheaval and increasing violence in these countries going back decades, Garcia-Bryce said. President Reagan's "obsession with communism in Central America" in the 1980s contributed to the "huge militarization" of its governments. For example, he said, Reagan used Honduras as a base in the U.S. opposition to then-Nicaraguan dictator Daniel Ortega, who has been that country's democratically elected president since 2007.

Tens of thousands of Salvadorans left their country during its long civil war, with many coming to the Los Angeles area, Garcia-Bryce said. "This included young men involved in the conflict," he said. "All they knew was



Inigo Garcia-Bryce

how to fight," so they joined gangs. Then President Clinton revoked their protected status in the early 1990s and many were deported to El Salvador, which has contributed to the level of violence there, he said.

The countries' weak economies offer few job opportunities, Garcia-Bryce said. One woman he spoke to from Honduras said Dole Food Company was the only large employer in her village.

The U.S. solution, he said, was to establish the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in 2005. It includes the U.S. and Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The net effect has been to "put a lot of people out of work" in member countries, Garcia-Bryce said, including small farmers who could not compete with U.S. farms. The area is the second largest export market for U.S. producers, behind only Mexico.

Droughts, floods and other environmental disasters have also plagued Central America, he said, especially its farming industry.

The convergence of these factors has left many Central Americans with few options, he said. "Things have to be really hard to leave your country."

While his native Peru has welcomed about 600,000 refugees from Venezuela in recent months, seeking asylum in a neighboring

### Central America's Northern Triangle: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

- El Salvador is about the size of the state of New Jersey, bordered by Guatemala, Honduras and the Pacific Ocean; population about 6.3 million; per capita income of \$3,600 in 2017, with a poverty rate of 29 percent, according to the World Bank; its currency has been the U.S. dollar since 2001.

- Guatemala is about the size of Tennessee, bordered by Mexico, Belize, Honduras, the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Honduras; population of about 17.3 million; per capita income of \$4,000 in 2017, with a poverty rate of 59 percent; the largest economy in Central America.

- Honduras is about the size of Tennessee, bordered by Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Caribbean Ocean and the Pacific Ocean; population of about 9.2 million; per capita income of \$2,250 in 2017, with a poverty rate of about 64 percent.

country is not a viable option for most Northern Triangle residents, he said, because few offer job opportunities. And, though it's easier to enter Mexico, also a poor country, the goal for most asylum seekers "is to come to the U.S.," Garcia-Bryce said.

Even so, Costa Rica saw a 222 percent increase in asylum applicants between 2014 and 2016 and Mexico saw a 156 percent increase 2015-16, according to www.humanrightsfirst.org.

"We're very interconnected," Garcia-Bryce said about the U.S. and Central America. The U.S. needs a "complete change in paradigm in the way we think about the region," he said, so it can "see the region really as our neighbors that we need to help in a lot of ways."

A good-neighbor policy in Latin America will build wealthier economies and more stable governments that encourage people stay in their own countries, Garcia-Bryce said, and it will provide even greater economic opportunities for the U.S.

"Short of that vision, I don't see how things are going to improve," he said. And, if the U.S. fails to capitalize on the opportunities in Latin America, China is anxiously awaiting a chance to step in, he said.

Garcia-Bryce said people in the U.S. need a more "accurate portrait" of Central America and the

U.S.-Mexico border.

The U.S. has a "long history of racism against brown-skinned people coming into 'our' country," he said. Many in the U.S. view Latin Americans as lazy and culturally inferior, Garcia-Bryce said, but "That's ridiculous." Latin America had the first universities in the Western Hemisphere and has "an incredibly rich" cultural history. In the 1960s, he said, Latin America was home to "the most important writers in the world." Latin America has contributed to the development of legal concepts, including self-determination and political asylum, that have influenced thinking around the world, Garcia-Bryce said, as has Latin American science and music.

Latin America is not just a place filled with people who want to come to the U.S., he said.

"A change of mindset also needs a change of attitude," Garcia-Bryce said. "How little we know about Latin America." People in the U.S. would be surprised, he said, if they knew how many Latin American issues "are completely different from their stereotypes. Many people want to go back to their country. They don't want to stay here."

As a volunteer phone interpreter (he is fluent in English, Spanish and French) in addition to aiding Las Cruces humanitarian efforts, Garcia-Bryce said he has spoken to many asylum seekers as indi-

viduals. They bring no threat of violence to the U.S., he said, and many will not be granted political asylum because they have come seeking jobs. The process of determining their legal status in the U.S. could take years, he said, and some likely will remain in the U.S. even without being granted legal residency. They will work in the U.S. and pay taxes, but "never get anything back."

As an aggregate, he said, asylum seekers make a legitimate case for immigration reform in the U.S., which he said should include a policy granting temporary work permits to immigrants.

"We need people from Latin America to come and work [in the U.S.]," Garcia-Bryce said. "Why not just accept it and make it a regularized process? I think we have to accept the economic realities and stop pretending that we don't need people to come here."

"There have to be rules," he said, including a limitation on immigration. The U.S. "cannot open the border and let everybody in."

For their part, governments in Central and South America need to clean up their own acts, he said. That's already occurring with anti-corruption efforts in Peru, Brazil and other countries, Garcia-Bryce said, and hopefully will take hold elsewhere.

Garcia-Bryce has dual U.S.-Peruvian citizenship. His father is from Peru, his mother is from the U.S. He has a BA from Harvard University and an MA in Latin American studies and a Ph.D. in history, both from Stanford University. He is the author of "Haya de la Torre and the Pursuit of Power in Twentieth-Century Peru," and "Latin America and Crafting the Republic: Lima's Artisans and Nation-Building in Peru, 1821-1879."

Garcia-Bryce's courses at NMSU have included Colonial and Modern Latin America; Rebels, Guerrillas and Terrorists in Latin America; The Cold War in Latin America; and the histories of Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Cuba and Mexico.

### BORDER

continued from page 25

and the others jump on it and try to control it. It's mayhem. The bull always seems to win and several of the forcados had to be dragged out of the ring.

For Jorge López, the manager of the plaza, it must have been a tough day because the plaza was only about a third full. The vendors were frantically busy, however. Beer, all sorts of tequila-related drinks, cigars, chips with fiery sauces, toy bulls! The crowds here are rowdy and full of laughter but also quick to criticize.

Being in Juárez amidst a happy, laughing crowd like this or walking down the bustling and recently-renovated Avenida Juárez with all its music and activities is always a pleasure,

even though Juárez still has its dangerous areas.

There is also the uncertainty and inhumanity of our approach to the immigration and border issues. We got a taste of that on the way home. Two of the three traffic lanes on the main international bridge were closed as well as nine of the 10 booths where you have to present your travel documents, resulting in a totally unnecessary three-hour delay.

*Morgan Smith travels to the border at least once a month to document conditions there and assist several humanitarian groups. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.*



Pedro, migrant from Honduras awaiting his asylum hearing at La Casa del Migrante in Juárez.





German soldiers practice setting up their Patriot equipment, including placing camouflage netting around the site. They recently went through their culminating training event in the desert of the Fort Bliss training area. (Photos by David Burge)



The Germans have had a presence at Fort Bliss since 1956. They continue to conduct important training in the desert, despite downsizing and eventual plans to leave.

HEADED OUT • DAVID BURGE

## Area Legacy Ending

German air force leaving Alamogordo, Fort Bliss

German soldiers are up at the crack of dawn, getting after some challenging training in the desert outside of Fort Bliss.

They convoy through the desolate landscape with their Patriot air-defense vehicles and equipment, stop and quickly dismount.

They scout out a site location, place camouflage netting all around and get ready to conduct realistic air-defense operations.

It is all part of the training the German air force is still conducting at Fort Bliss, despite downsizing in recent years.

About a dozen German officers and noncommissioned officers went through their culminating training event at Fort Bliss from April 16 to May 3. It put the exclamation point on six months of training they had received at the German air force Air Defense Center.

For two weeks, they would go out into the vast training area at Fort Bliss – more than 900,000 acres – and practice the air-defense skills they had been learning. Officers graduated from the program on May 21 and NCOs on May 20.

“We move out in the mornings, get our briefings,” said Capt. Felix Herold, senior instructor for tactical air battle management. “What is the field site? What is the route we are going? What is the function of each student?”

“We build up the system. We turn everything on. Do the camouflaging. We get the weapon system so ready we could fire it.”

Herold, a native of Dresden, said students go through training at Fort Bliss they would not be able to get back home in Germany.

“We can show the students all the functions the weapon system has, no restrictions,” Herold said. “It’s the best opportunity for us.”



Putting up camouflage nets is one of the key skills German soldiers practice in the desert outside of Fort Bliss.



German soldiers practice all skills, large and small, in setting up air-defense operations.

The Germans established their air-defense school at Fort Bliss in 1966, but their military has had a presence at the installation since 1956, just 11 years after the end of World War II. In 2013, the German air force closed its North American com-

mand at Fort Bliss, but has continued to operate its Air Defense Center.

There are plans to eventually move the school to Germany, but the target date keeps getting pushed farther into the future. Right now, the plan is for the



A German soldier prepares camouflage netting on the Patriot system.

center to stay open at Fort Bliss until spring 2022, German officials said.

The GAFADC has about 100 soldiers and civilians, about the size of a typical U.S. Army company. The center provides training for 350 to 400 German soldiers a year. That is a far cry from the 2,000 soldiers, civilians and students the Germans had at Fort Bliss in their heyday in the mid-1980s.

The Germans have also had a presence at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo since 1992, but that is about to end soon. They ceased flight training operations in September 2017 and their last soldiers are expected to leave Holloman by the end of the year.

German officers began their training with three months at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where they participated in a portion of the U.S. Army’s Basic Officer Leader Course. They then moved on to Fort Bliss for six more months of training.

German NCOs did not attend the Fort Sill portion of the program, but did a second tour at Fort Bliss. Previously, they went

through a year-long program in the basics of the Patriot air-defense system.

During the past six months, both officers and NCOs have been going through an extensive course in Patriot tactics while at Fort Bliss. Students take turns learning every job within a Patriot crew. That way, when they become leaders, they know exactly what each soldier needs to do, said 1st Lt. Johannes Liedtke, one of the students at the GAFADC.

The program is also used to build teamwork, said Liedtke, who is from Verden in northern Germany. Moreover, training at Fort Bliss and living in El Paso provide a great opportunity for German soldiers to practice their English, Liedtke added.

Even though the German air force is eventually slated to leave the Borderland region, soldiers are still making the most of their training opportunities while here.

“This is the ground stone,” said Master Sgt. Benjamin Asar, an air-defense student from Hunsrück, Germany. “Every day, you learn more and more.”



# RED *or* GREEN?

Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

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 categorization 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, sandwiches: 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, sea-

food, 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. Coffeshop. 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.

**HONEEBEGOODS "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. Coffeeshop.  
**JUMPING CACTUS**, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sand-



Las Cruces resident Chase Paul celebrates with his trophy after winning the city's inaugural taco eating contest Wednesday, June 13, 2018, on Plaza de Las Cruces. (Photo by Steve MacIntyre)

## TABLE TALK

# Taking to the Tacos

El Sombrero hosts contest at Plaza de Las Cruces

After premiering before a huge crowd last year, El Sombrero Patio Café is hosting the second annual Taco Eating Contest at the Plaza de Las Cruces in downtown Las Cruces on Tuesday, June 11. This free event takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. and is accompanied by live music, performances and the taco eating contest.

"We're so excited to bring this event back to the Plaza de Las Cruces," said Patricia Crawley, owner of El Sombrero Patio Café. "Last year's taco-eating champion Chase Paul will be back to defend his title, so we are encouraging people to register to be chosen for the contest."

Taco lovers can register at El Sombrero Patio Café at 363 Espina St., and participants will be chosen from those that register.

Positioned as the ultimate Taco Tuesday celebration, the Taco Eating Contest provides unlimited tacos to entrants to eat in a limited amount of time. When the time is up, the person who ate the most tacos will be proclaimed the Taco King (or

Queen) of Las Cruces, and will win a year's supply of tasty El Sombrero tacos, a cash prize, a trophy and other prizes.

Vendors, food trucks and a beer tent are available on site providing cold brew and margaritas. Anyone purchasing tacos will be entered to win a full range of door prizes from El Sombrero gift certificates, T-shirts, ice chests and more. Entertainment for the evening includes Sal & Maricachi Alma de Jalisco opening the event, followed by a demonstration by Luchador wrestlers. Then, the taco eating contest will take place, followed by Diamantes del Valle Ballet Folklorico and another wrestling demonstration.

El Sombrero Patio Café Taco Eating Contest is free to the public and free to enter to be chosen as a taco-eating contestant. El Sombrero Patio Café has been a local tradition in Mexican food since 1956 and is a proud member of the local community.

For additional information, contact Event Planner Staci Mays at 575-642-8338.

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For the full event schedule of our Silver City and Las Cruces locations, visit our calendar at [littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com)

**Bear Mountain Lodge**

**Blue Dome Gallery**  
Contemporary Art & Fine Craft • Our painters, sculptors, jewelers, furniture makers, glass artists & potters are known for their excellent craftsmanship and unique style.

**Café Oso Azul**  
Open for weekday Breakfast 8-9:30, Luncheon, Weekend Brunch 11-3, Nightly 5-7 for Dinner. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
Visit our website for holiday meal & brunch information.

The Lodge is perfect for get-aways, events, weddings & retreats. Open all year.

575.538.2538 • 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Rd.  
P.O. Box 1163 • Silver City, NM 88062  
info@bearmountainlodge.com  
[www.BearMountainLodge.com](http://www.BearMountainLodge.com)



wiches, 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, portos, menudo: 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: Monday to Saturday L D.

**BRAVO'S CAFÉ**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

**BURGER NOOK**, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding green-chile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.

**BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.

**CAFÉ DON FELIX**, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**CARILLO'S CAFÉ**, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday L D.

**CHACHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Locust St.-A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.

**CHILITOS**, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

**CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.

**DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, Water and Las Cruces streets, 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D.

**PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.

**DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

**DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D.

**DION'S PIZZA**, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

**DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.

**EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.

**ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.

**FARLEY'S**, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.

**FIDENCIO'S**, 800 S. Telshor, 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.

**THE GAME BAR & GRILL**, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.

**THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL**, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263, Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D

**GARDUÑO'S**, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.

**GO BURGER DRIVE-IN**, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005, 575-524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Specializing in Relleno Burritos and Other

Mexican Food

**GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.

**GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.

**HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D.

**HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953.

Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

**HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D.

**INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS**, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B L D.

**JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.

**KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.

**LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.

**LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524 Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B.

**LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers,

fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B.

**LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

**LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday.

**LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D.

**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial East, 373-0553. Mexican, L D.

**LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.

**MATTEO'S**, 1001 E. University Ave. C-1, 888-4310, Authentic Mexican: Monday through Saturday: B L D. Wonderfully simple menu, pleasant dining room and delicious aguas frescas.

**MIGUEL'S**, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.

**MI PUEBLITO**, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday B L.

**MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO**, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.





PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK  
RICHARD COLTHARP

## Chile Child

Socorro County native son re-opens Buckhorn

A green chile cheeseburger is not just something to eat.

It is a way to fully experience New Mexico.

It is also a way to engage New Mexicans.

Almost everyone has a specific answer to the question "What is your favorite green chile cheeseburger?"

There are great green chile cheeseburgers all over the state, but almost everyone's Top Five list includes one or both of the legendary restaurants in tiny San Antonio, New Mexico, The Owl Bar & Café and the Buckhorn Tavern.

They were across-the-street (technically, across U.S.-Hwy-380) neighbors for more than 70 years until we got the difficult news in December 2018 the Buckhorn was closing.

The Buckhorn's owner, Bobby Olguin, announced, due to his failing health, the restaurant would have to shut its doors.

You could understand his reasoning, but I was crestfallen. A decade or so before, the home of my all-time favorite green chile cheeseburger – the Outpost Bar & Grill in Carrizozo – closed with no warning. Agony. That moved the Buckhorn to No. 1 on my list.

When I learned their last day would be Dec. 11, 2018, a friend and I hot-tailed it from Las Cruces to San Antonio on a Tuesday after work. Alas, by the time we arrived, the makeshift sign on the door said, "Ran out of meat. Closed. Sorry." I collapsed on the porch.

That depression was replaced by elation a few weeks ago when I heard the Buckhorn was coming back.

Not only was it coming back, two of my favorite Las Cruces, the husband-and-wife team of Ernie and Stephanie Sichler, were the new owners.

Ernie is a graduate of Socorro High School and grew up just a few miles from the Buckhorn,

a product of two families – the Sichlers and Monettes – with deep roots in the region. He remembers going to the Buckhorn as a youngster and has known Bobby Olguin his whole life.

Ernie and Stephanie closed on the deal in March. Ernie said his new title is "chief toilet scrubber," and he will do "everything," while Stephanie will work on the business and marketing ends.

For several weeks, The "everything" for Ernie, who in mid-April left his job with Chaney & Marin Financial Planning in Las Cruces, includes construction, as he works to shape up the adobe building, which Bobby Olguin's father, Manny, bought in the 1940s.

The best part for Ernie, though, will be the cooking. As part of the sale, Bobby agreed to pass down the Buckhorn recipes, and work and train with Ernie on the creation of the legendary burgers.

"Ernie is an amazing cook," said Stephanie, admitting his culinary skills helped woo her.

The new owners' menu will be true to the Olguin legacy. Bobby learned at the grill of his father, Manny, who moved the cooking into the current building in the 1940s. For many years, there was a sign outside the restaurant that read, "Manny's Hamburgers." And the Sichlers recently learned Manny was preceded by his father, Miguel, who was cooking and selling food for coal miners and others in the area as far back as 1918.

The Sichlers do not want to mess with that kind of history.

"We specifically bought the Buckhorn," Stephanie said. "There is huge value in that. If we wanted to do our own thing, we would have just started our own restaurant."

Still, in order to comply with state laws the Olguins were

CHILE

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

## Lynx, the Lynx

Filling in the constellation gap

Above our northwestern horizon is the constellation representing a small mammal called a Lynx. It is composed of faint stars forming a crooked line running from Leo to Camelopardalis, while it is flanked on either side by Ursa Major, Cancer, Gemini and Auriga. The brightest stars in this constellation are third and fourth magnitude, with a total of 97 stars brighter than magnitudes (+6.5), the brightness limit for stars visible to the naked eye from a dark location.

This constellation is a modern creation of Johannes Hevelius in his 1687 atlas of constellations "Firmamentum Sobiescianum sive Uranographia" where he plotted 10 new constellations. Seven of these, including Lynx, have survived into current official nomenclature. The other three faded into history. These new constellations were part of an effort to fill in the gaps between the ancient constellations so the entire sky would be in a specific constellation.

The brightest star in Lynx, Alpha Lyncis, is magnitude +3.1 at the southeast end of the constellation. Located 203 light-years away from us, this star is entering its old age. It has moved off the main sequence where stars spend most of their lives and has become a giant star of spectral class K7. It used up all the hydrogen in its core about three million years ago and it is now burning helium in a sphere around the core with another sphere of hydrogen fusion around that. This produces much more energy than the star was producing when it was burning hydrogen in the core.

This extra energy heated the star, causing it to expand so that it is now 55 times the diameter of our Sun even though it is only twice the mass of our Sun. This increases the surface area that the star can use to radiate its energy out into space as light. This allows the surface to cool until it was glowing red, giving us the red glow of Alpha Lyncis. Even though its surface is cooler than our Sun's, the much larger surface area allows it to radiate six hundred seventy-three times the energy our Sun generates.

About 23 billion light-years away from us in Lynx is the quasar APM 08279+5255. A quasar is the heart of a galaxy where the supermassive black hole is consuming vast amounts of gas and dust. In the process, the black hole's tremendous gravity pulls the gas into a disc surrounding it. The incoming gas strikes gas already in the disc, releasing radio waves and light across the electromagnetic spectrum.

APM is very bright even for a quasar. It is magnitude +15.2. This is surprisingly bright for such a distant quasar. A higher magnification view of this quasar shows that there is not just one image of the quasar, but two bright ones with a fainter one in between. The images are almost identical, and their spectra are also identical, so we know they are the same



A crooked line of faint stars above our northwestern horizon marks the constellation of Lynx. A medium sized wild cat that has a short tail with characteristic tufts of black hair on the tips of their ears, the Lynx in the sky is a modern constellation, as compared to the ancient Greek constellations. One of the most distant globular clusters, NGC 2419 and one of the most distant galaxies, APM 08279+5255, reside in this constellation.

### Calendar of Events – JUNE 2019 (MST)

03	4:02 a.m.	New Moon
09	11:59 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
10	10 a.m.	Jupiter directly opposite the Sun
17	2:31 a.m.	Full Moon
18	8 a.m.	Mars 0.2 degrees south of Mercury
21	9:54 a.m.	June Solstice-Summer begins
23	5 p.m.	Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun (25 degrees)
25	3:46 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon

object.

One result of Einstein's Theory of Relativity is that any mass is able to bend light passing it more than classical physics predicted. The more mass, the more the light is bent. This effect provided one experimental proof of Relativity. During the 1919 total solar eclipse, astronomers took pictures of the star field beyond the eclipsed Sun and compared it to the same field taken six months earlier when the Sun was in the other side of the sky.

The comparison showed that the Sun's gravity shifted the position of stars near the Sun during the eclipse closer to the Sun as the Sun's gravity bent the star's light inward as Relativity predicted. Light from APM 08279+5255 is also being bent, but in this case, it is by a whole intervening galaxy. The intervening galaxy bends the quasar's light to form two images of the quasar.

In addition to forming three images of the quasar, the intervening galaxy's gravity also acts as a lens to focus the light from the quasar, making the quasar appear four times brighter than it would be otherwise. This process is called gravitation lensing or microlensing and usually forms two or four images. APM is an unusual case where three images are formed.

The image of APM we are seeing is around 12 billion years old, meaning it was formed shortly after the Big Bang. The expansion of the universe causes APM to move away from us so fast that visible light is Doppler shifted into the infrared. Its tremendous visible light output now shifted into the infrared, makes it a hyperluminous infrared galaxy.

### The Planets for June 2019

Mercury makes an appearance in our evening sky this month.

It rockets out of the west-northwestern evening twilight early in the month, reaching its greatest distance from the Sun on June 23. Then it will be 12 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon shining at magnitude +0.6. Mercury's disc at that time will be thirty-nine percent illuminated and it will be 8.2 seconds-of-arc across. During the month, the Messenger of the Gods moves from eastern Taurus through Gemini into far western Cancer before it turns back westward. Mercury passes just a half degree from Mars on June 17.

The God of War is low in the west-northwest as it starts to wrap-up its run in the evening sky. At midmonth its disc is 3.7 seconds-of-arc across as it shines at magnitude +1.8. Mars will be 13 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark and sets by 10 p.m. During the month, it moves from western Gemini into far western Cancer.

Jupiter moves slowly westward in eastern Ophiuchus this month. It is 12 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it gets dark and sets at 5:45 a.m. Shining at magnitude -2.6, the King of the Planets' disc is 45.9 seconds-of-arc across.

Saturn rises around 9:45 p.m. and it is visible for the rest of the night, ending up 24 degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets light. Saturn is moving westward in central Sagittarius. At midmonth, the Ringed Planet's disc is 18.1 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are 41.2 seconds-of-arc across and they are tilted down 23.9 degrees with the northern face showing. It shines at magnitude +0.2.

Venus's appearance in the morning sky is coming to an end this month as it drops down toward the Sun. It rises around 5

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**CHILE**  
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grandfathered into – literally – the new owners will be required to make some additions.

In order to qualify for a beer and wine license, a restaurant is required to have a minimum of four entrées with two side dishes. Stunningly, a hamburger does not qualify as an entrée. No, not even the Land of Enchantment's Holy Grail of food, the green chile cheeseburger. No, not even the big, beefy patty that is the hallmark of the Buckhorn, whose burgers were always about twice the size of the Owl's.

To fill out the menu requirements, Ernie will likely add a hamburger steak and a few other items, which may or may not include the secret Sichler Sauce. And there may or may not be a "secret menu." Regardless of the details, though, the green chile cheeseburger will be the focal point, and the ingredients will be "all fresh," Ernie said.

In New Mexico, we think nothing of driving two hours



through subtly changing desert landscapes and often dramatic skylines for lunch. It's a big part of the enchantment in Land of Enchantment.

A lot of that is going away, as longtime businesses and small towns diminish.

And that's what motivated Stephanie to make that phone call to Ernie when she learned the Buckhorn might be for sale, and there might be a way to save it.

"Let's buy the Buckhorn," she excitedly told a skeptical Ernie.

"If anyone could do it, I knew he could do it," she said later.

"There's so much history in

New Mexico," she said. "In Taos you have the longest continuously inhabited area in America (the Taos Pueblo). We have all these amazing restaurants and sights to see and things to do, all in a day's drive. But they're closing. They're disappearing. This would be a chance for us to save a little bit of New Mexico history, and put our own stamp on it."

There was another consideration, she said, thinking of their one-year-old daughter, Morgen.

"Why not raise Morgen in this farming community where her dad grew up?"

Before that, though, there's a lot of work to do on the building. Ernie is doing most of the construction work, with some periodic assistance from his father, Fred, who owns a construction business in Los Lunas. Barring any unforeseen issues, the Sichlers hope for an opening sometime during summer 2019.

Stephanie will continue weekdays in Las Cruces, working her job as director of development for New Mexico State University's engineering department. She will moonlight doing books

and marketing for the restaurant once it's opened.

Will it be exactly the same? No. Nothing ever can be. But thank God, someone has stepped up to make something great happen in New Mexico.

And not just anyone. The dirt of Socorro County runs through Ernie Sichler's veins.

What a perfect way to re-establish U.S. Hwy. 380 as the green chile cheeseburger capital of the universe.

*Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. When Ernie Sichler was cleaning the Buckhorn building, he found an old, dusty framed newspaper article about the green chile burger greatness in San Antonio. The 2001 article's author? Richard Coltharp, then publisher of the Alamogordo Daily News. Coltharp can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.*



**STARRY DOME**  
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a.m. on the east-northeastern horizon and it gets just five degrees high before dawn breaks. The Goddess of Love has a disc that is 96 percent illuminated and it is 10.2 seconds-of-arc across. Venus shines at magnitude -3.9 as it travels from eastern Aries to far eastern Taurus.

Summer begins with the June Solstice on June 21 at 9:54 a.m. The Earth's Northern Hemisphere will be tipped toward the Sun, placing the Sun at its highest point in the sky for this year. This will be the day with the most daylight this year as well. This makes the night the shortest night of the year as well, so make the most of the few dark hours 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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The entrance to Box Canyon west of Las Cruces beckons to the hiker. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)



Blacktail rattlesnake



Desert spider beetle

HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

# Box Canyon Dam

A short hike in a remote area – very close to town

Sometimes you feel like you just gotta' get out. Maybe you don't even know or acknowledge it to yourself consciously, but when you look back that's what it was. That little bit of outdoors saved your mind from going crazy that day. And that is a very good thing. Believe me, I know. Immersed in three books at the same time, all the while running your usual busy life, even an hour out in nature can be a life saver. It puts everything else into perspective. Like those posters of the universe with the arrow pointing to a speck, proclaiming "You are here."

So on this particular Thursday we made it our priority – for once there were no winds in the forecast – a blessing on any given spring day in Las Cruces. Driving out on I-10 towards Deming we took the Picacho Exit and headed North on Box Canyon Road, along the Eastern border of the Airport. One of my – many – New Year's resolutions was to explore more of the vastness of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, right in our backyard – which already turned 5



Blooming ocotillo

this past May, would you believe it? – the monument, not the backyard. That's much older actually. Which brings me back to that afore mentioned poster. But I digress.

The box canyon just below the Box Canyon Dam is a neat little area to explore when you don't want to go far but still get 'out there'. It's as desolate as it can get this close to town. No cars, no other people, just you and the great

outdoors.

And of course the usual assortment of critters. You know they are there, although invisible to your eyes. On our way back to the car we found our own footsteps crossed by the slalom line of a snake in the sand. But remember that the biggest danger out there is your own ego, overestimating itself, not bringing enough water, not wearing sunscreen, or the right

footwear.

We parked about a mile before we reached the dam because the road was too washed out even for our four wheel drive. I do not recommend this dirt road for any regular car. From there we walked towards the dam and then turned right in the direction of Picacho Peak to drop down into the canyon, all on wide jeep trails.

The dam is an interesting piece of history. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1940s as a flood control dam, it supposedly protected the city. And a second one, called Apache Dam is not far off. A strange undertaking though because even today the city isn't even close and wouldn't the water simply feed into the Rio Grande from there? Or was it protecting the farm and ranch land? The neighborhood of Picacho Hills was still a far off pipe dream in the 1940s.

The canyon is a lovely meandering hallway, closing to about 12 feet at its narrowest point. Grinding holes, called metates in the rock floor are proof that the area was

well known to our indigenous forefathers as well.

I vowed – like so many times before – to come back early in the morning or maybe right before sunset for the best photography light. The bright late morning sun launders all colors out of the pictures and also makes for a hot little hike, even early in the summer. At least we still got to enjoy some of the desert blossoms: ocotillo, prickly pear and even a few wild flowers dotted the landscape. The next hike description will be in some shady canyon or at much higher altitude, I promise. Summer is here.

*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.*



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# THE Candy Shoppe Calamity

~OR~

## THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE PRETTY

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by Mr Douglas Shelton  
& The Virus Theater Company

Fridays ..... May 31, June 7, June 14 at 8<sup>pm</sup>  
 Saturdays ..... June 1, June 8, June 15 at 7<sup>pm</sup>  
 Sundays ..... June 3, June 9, June 16 at 2<sup>pm</sup>

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## 40 DAYS &amp; 40 NIGHTS

## What's Going On in June

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; Desert Exposure 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call Elva at 575-680-1978.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1****Silver City/Grant County**

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Benefit Community Dance** — 6-9:30 p.m. at the Old Elks Lodge, 315 N. Texas St. in Silver city. The Big Ditch Crickets play polkas, Schottisches, circle dances, waltzes and gender free dances for all ages. Proceeds support the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance's environmental education programs. Info: upper\_gila\_watershed\_alliance@mail.vresp.com.

**Live Music: Sage Gentle-Wing** — 6:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Info: www.sagegentlewing.com.

**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 7 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Flickinger Street Dance** — 6-10 p.m. at the Flickinger Center of Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Info: flickingercenter.com.

**Deming/Columbus/Luna County Breakfast for trash pick-up crew** — After the pick up at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Cost: free. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Stars-N-Parks** — 9:15-10:45 p.m. at Rockhound State Park. Presented by Mike Nuss. Jupiter and Saturn are above the horizon before the program's end. Info: www.nmparks.com.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**

**Sierra County Farmers' Market** — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

**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.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**"Immortal Wars" Double Feature** — 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Film creator and Las Cruces native, Joe Lujan will introduce the first movie and the hang out with attendees from 4-5 p.m. at Zia Comics. Cost: 1 p.m. free. Info: 575-541-2150.

**CARE Life Tribute** — 5-11 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Cancer Survivors Day celebration with entertainment, food, vendors, children's activities and more. Tribute entertainers in-

clude Ladies of Disco, Santana tribute band Soul Sacrifice and Chicago tribute band Windy City. There will be a disco costume contest. Cost: \$15. Info: 575-649-0598.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County Third Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cookoff** — 9 a.m.-noon. Parade through Midtown Ruidoso, beds race to Zipline Park. Info: 917-446-1140.

**All American Country Music Festival** — 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at Wingfield Park, 300 Center St. in Ruidoso. Cost: \$35. Info: allamericancountrymusicfestival.com.

**Classic Country, Songs & Stories starring Linda Davis and Friends** — 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts in Alto. Nashville trio with Grammy-winning style. Info: 575-336-4800.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2****Silver City/Grant County**

**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 2 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County Claude Bourbon classical guitar** — 3-5 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenora St. Cost: 10. Info: hccnm.org.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4**

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Carl Maier photography presentation** — 7 p.m. at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Presentation on the use of Curves, an image editing tool found in almost all of the current programs in use. Cost: Free. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

**Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmers' Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in the Ace Hardware Parking Lot, 3025 U.S. Highway 180 E, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**"The History of Spaceport America"** — 2-3 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces. Part of the "Universe of Stories" adult summer reading program at the library offering Wednesday speakers. Info: 575-528-4005.

**Get ArtRageous! Applying Gold Leaf** — 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Dona Ana Arts and Cultural Center, 1740 Calle de Mercado in Mesilla. Art workshop with Linda Gendall. Cost: \$35. Must pre-register. Info: 575-523-6403.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**

**Silver City/Grant County How to Start a Nonprofit brown bag training** — noon-1 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University, Miller Library Conference Room A, 1000 W. College Ave. Silver City. Info: 575-538-6359.

**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, JUNE 7**

**Silver City/Grant County "Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 8 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Miss New Mexico Outstanding Teen Pageant** — 7-10 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Preliminary pageant for Miss America Organization. Info: 575-442-2322.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County "The Snow Queen"** — 7 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Performed by the Missoula Children's Theatre. Cost: \$18. Info: 575-336-4800.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla First Friday Art Ramble** — 5-8 p.m. downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2150.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

**Silver City/Grant and Catron Counties Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Second Saturday Gallery Walk** — 5-7 p.m. in Silver City, various locations. Info: 575-538-5555.

**Bob Dylan Birthday Concert** — 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist of Silver City, 3845 N. Swan St. Area musicians play in tribute to Dylan. Cost: \$10. Info: sandramichaud1981@gmail.com.

**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 7 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**

**Sierra County Farmers' Market** — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

**Dog Days** — All day at the Sierra County Fairgrounds, 2953 S Broadway, T or C. AKC all breed dog show, baby pup, farm dog, CGCC, trick dog and NOHS events. Info: 505-242-7004.

**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@torcmainstreet.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.

**Oliver Lee Ranch House Tour** — 10-11 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, about 12 miles south of Alamogordo, take U.S. Highway 54 about 8 miles and turn east on Dog Canyon Road for 4 miles. Meet at the visitor center to check in. Info: 575-437-8284.

**First Founders Day Celebration** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Alameda Park in Alamogordo. Food trucks, games, activities, a drawing and more. Cost: Free. Info: 575-434-4438.

**Tailgate Concert: "Windy City"** — 6:45-10 p.m. in the parking lot of the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3189 State Road 2001, Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202.

**Miss New Mexico Pageant** — 7-10 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Preliminary pageant for Miss America Organi-

zation. Info: 575-442-2322.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**\*Crafts for Kids** — 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, today it is a paper plate porcelain flowers for Mother's Day. Info: 575-522-4100.

**Children's Matinee, "A Bug's Life"** — noon at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Cost: \$1. Info: 575-541-2150.

**Classic Film, "On the Waterfront"** — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Cost: \$8. Info: 575-541-2150.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**

**Silver City/Grant County "Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 2 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus

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Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Truth or Consequences/  
Sierra County**

**Dog Days** — All day at the Sierra County Fairgrounds, 2953 S Broadway, T or C. AKC all breed dog show, baby pup, farm dog, CGCC, trick dog and NOHS events. Info: 505-242-7004.

**Black Cat Poetry Reading** — 1-2:15 p.m. at Black Cat Books & Coffee, 128 N. Broadway, T or C. Info: 575-202-8642.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**

**The Bellamy Brothers** — 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Country music duo joined by their 6-man band to perform chart-toppers. Info: 575-336-4800.

**MONDAY, JUNE 10  
Silver City/Grant County**

Columbus/Luna County  
**Bingo for Books** — 1-3 p.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Part of the children's summer program at the library. Info: 575-531-2612.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12  
Silver City/Grant County**

**Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo** — 8 a.m.-all day, at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off U.S. Highway 180 and Caballero Road just East of Silver City. Info: silvercityprorodeo.com.

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the Ace Hardware Parking Lot, 3025 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

\***Byron Trammell** — 6-9 p.m. at

the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Live music for spaghetti night. Info: 575-538-9911.

**Columbus/Luna County**

**Science Library returns** — 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Part of the children's summer program at the library. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**"Researching a Universe of Family Stories" genealogy** — 2-3 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces. Part of the "Universe of Stories" adult summer reading program at the library offering Wednesday speakers. Info: 575-528-4005.

**Get ArtRageous! The Art of Marketing Art** — 2-4 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Dona Ana Arts and Cultural Center, 1740 Calle de

Mercado in Mesilla. Art marketing workshop with Joy Miller. Cost: \$35. Must pre-register. Info: 575-523-6403.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13  
Silver City/Grant County**

**Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo** — 8 a.m.-all day, at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off U.S. Highway 180 and Caballero Road just East of Silver City. Info: silvercityprorodeo.com.

**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**

**Lunch and Learn: "Geronimo: Prisoner of Lies"** — 11:30-1 p.m. at the First National Bank Atrium, 414 10<sup>th</sup> St. in Alamogordo. Cost: Free. Info: 575-437-4880.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**Throwback Thursday, "Dirty Dancing"** — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Cost: \$5. Info: 575-541-2150.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14**

**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo** — 8 a.m.-all day, at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off U.S. Highway 180 and Caballero Road just East of Silver City. Info: silvercityprorodeo.com.

**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 8 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Las Cruces/Doña Ana County**  
**"Metalachi"** — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. The world's only heavy metal mariachi band. Cost: \$15. Info: 575-541-2150.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15**

**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo** — 8 a.m.-all day, at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off U.S. Highway 180 and Caballero Road just East of Silver City. Info: silvercityprorodeo.com.

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 7 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Full Moon Hike at Gila Cliff Dwellings** — Time TBA, at the Gila Cliff Dwellings. Info: 575-536-9461.

**Truth or Consequences/  
Sierra County**

**Junior Open Fishing Tournament** — 6 a.m.-1 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195 Elephant Butte. Info: 575-740-0119.

**Dog Days** — All day at the Sierra County Fairgrounds, 2953 S Broadway, T or C. AKC all breed dog show, baby pup, farm dog, CGCC, trick dog and NOHS events. Info:

505-242-7004.

**Sierra County Farmers' Market** — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

**Starlight Concert: Randy Granger** — 7 p.m. at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston. Potluck starts at 5:30 p.m. Singer/songwriter performs with Native American flute, percussion and guitar. Cost: \$18 Info: 575-895-5652.

**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/Cloudcroft/  
Otero County**

**Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival** — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Nichols Ranch and Orchards, 236 Cottonwood Canyon Road, La Luz. The High Rolls Cherry Festival has changed location but has the same old amenities including a petting zoo, wine garden, food, drinks, vendors and cherry picking. Info: 575-430-7953.

**Garden Stroll with music at Shady Pines** — 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. at 200 Fox (facing Wren) half-way up the middle unpaved road to the Lodge in Cloudcroft. Explore the fairy gardens and eavesdrop on chamber music jams. Info: 361-557-1960.

**Oliver Lee Ranch House Tour** — 10-11 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, about 12 miles south of Alamogordo, take U.S. Highway 54 about 8 miles and turn east on Dog Canyon Road for 4 miles. Meet at the visitor center to check in. Info: 575-437-8284.

**Food Truck Festival** — 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Heart of the Desert Pistachios & Wine, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70. Choose from a variety of food truck offerings, enjoy an adult beverage and listen to live music at the Heart of the Desert Pavilion. Bands performing are "Rosewater Blues" and "Hear No Evil." Info: 575-647-2115.

**Movies on the Stage: "Smallfoot"** — 8:30-10 p.m. at Washington Park amphitheater. Info: 575-439-4203.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**

**Youth Fishing Day at Grindstone Lake** — 9:30 a.m.-noon at Grindstone Lake, 535 Resort Drive in Ruidoso. Fishing, contest, canoe rides, face painting, snacks and Smokey Bear. Info: 877-784-3676.

**"Taste of the Spencer" fundraiser** — 6 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Hearty evening of hors d'oeuvres, fine wines and live and silent auctions including spa treatments, sporting adventures, mover vehicles and more. Cost: \$70. Info: 575-336-4800.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16**

**Silver City/Grant County**  
**The Black Range in Bloom field trip** — 8 a.m. meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre to carpool with the Native Plant Society to the Black Range. Info: hannablood@gmail.com.  
**"Candy Shoppe Calamity"** — 2 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. An original melodrama written by Doug Shelton and the Virus Ensemble and directed by Teresa Dahl-Bredine. Cost: 10. Info: virus-theater.com/coming-soon.

**Truth or Consequences/  
Sierra County**

**Junior Open Fishing Tournament** — 6 a.m.-1 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195 Ele-

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**HAPPY Father's Day!  
SUNDAY, June 16**

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phant Butte. Info: 575-740-0119.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Nichols Ranch and Orchards, 236 Cottonwood Canyon Road, La Luz. The High Rolls Cherry Festival has changed location but has the same old amenities including a petting zoo, wine garden, food, drinks, vendors and cherry picking. Info: 575-430-7953.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla MIG and Friends with Miguel Torres in concert** — 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo in Las Cruces. A Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues Society monthly concert. Cost: \$1-\$10. Info: 575-460-8752.

**MONDAY, JUNE 17**  
**Columbus/Luna County Bingo for Books** — 1-3 p.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Part of the children's summer program at the library. Info: 575-531-2612.

**Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Movie Night** — 6 p.m. at Ingo's Art Café, 422 Broadway, T or C. Info: www.sierracountyarts.org.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County Full Moon Night: First Armored Division Old Ironsides Band** — 8:30 p.m. at White Sands National Monument. Iron Will is the band's up-beat popular music group. Info: 575-479-6124.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Spaceport America Cup Presentation and Conference Day** — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Spectators are invited to see the rockets displayed and speak with the rocket creators from universities around the world. Info: www.spaceportamericacup.com.  
**Doña Ana Photography Club presentations** — 7 p.m. at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St., Las Cruces. The evenings theme is "worship. Cost: Free. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19**  
**Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the Ace Hardware Parking Lot, 3025 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla "Dark Skies, Astronomy and**

**Your National Parks"** — 2-3 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces. Part of the "Universe of Stories" adult summer reading program at the library offering Wednesday speakers. Info: 575-528-4005.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20**  
**Spaceport America/Sierra County Spaceport America Cup vertical launching** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spaceport America. Spectators are invited watch the competition as rocket creators from universities around the world launch their rockets. Info: www.spaceportamericacup.com.

**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, JUNE 21**  
**Silver City/Grant County Fiesta Latina** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Old James Stadium, WNMU, 1000 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Exploration of Latin culture, rhythms, flavors and artisan crafts including films and talks. Info: www.fiestalatina.org.

**Spaceport America/Sierra County Spaceport America Cup vertical launching** — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Spaceport America. Spectators are invited watch the competition as rocket creators from universities around the world launch their rockets. Info: www.spaceportamericacup.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Southern New Mexico Festival of Quilts** — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds in Alamogordo. Showcase of quilts, education, fabrics, machines, notions, textiles and antique cars. Info: www.snmfq.com.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County Fiesta Weekend** — At the Ruidoso Downs Race Track. Fresh Boys Car Club show, mariachis in the grandstand and more. Info: 575-378-4431.  
**Two Wheels and Tattoos** — 2-10 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center and MCM Elegante Hotel. Bike show and tattoo event with live music including Snoop Dogg (tickets extra). Cost: \$20 day; \$30 3-day pass. Info: www.twowheel-sandtattoos.com.

**Las Cruces/Doña Ana County Juneteenth Concert** — 6 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Multi-cultural concert featuring soulful, uplifting music by local musicians and choirs. Presented by the Doña Ana County NAACP. Cost: Free. Info: 575-541-2150.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**  
**Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.  
**Fiesta Latina** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Old James Stadium, WNMU, 1000 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Exploration of Latin culture, rhythms, flavors and artisan crafts including films and talks. Info: www.fiestalatina.org.  
**Stars-N-Parks** — 9:25-10:55 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Presented by Bill Nigg, Jupiter and Saturn are above the horizon before the program's end. Info: www.nmparks.com.

**Spaceport America/Sierra County Spaceport America Cup vertical launching** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spaceport America. Spectators are invited watch the competition as rocket creators from universities around the world launch their rockets. Info: www.spaceportamericacup.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Plant Field Trip to Bluff Springs** — 9 a.m. meet at the junction of U.S. Highway 82 and Florida Ave. in Alamogordo to carpool up the mountain to Bluff Springs near Cloudcroft. Info: 575-443-4408.

**Southern New Mexico Festival of Quilts** — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds in Alamogordo. Showcase of quilts, education, fabrics, machines, notions, textiles and antique cars. Info: www.snmfq.com.

**Oliver Lee Ranch House Tour** — 10-11 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, about 12 miles south of Alamogordo, take U.S. Highway 54 about 8 miles and turn east on Dog Canyon Road for 4 miles. Meet at the visitor center to check in. Info: 575-437-8284.

**Tailgate Concert: "Elektric Voodoo"** — 6:45-10 p.m. in the parking lot of the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3189 State Road 2001, Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202.

**Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Sierra County Farmers' Market**

— 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

**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.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla The Drifters in concert** — 6 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. An evening of classic American doo-wop. Cost: \$35. Info: 575-541-2150.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County Two Wheels and Tattoos** — 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center and MCM Elegante Hotel. Bike show and tattoo event with live music including Snoop Dogg (tickets extra). Cost: \$20

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day; \$30 3-day pass. Info: www.twowheelsandtattoos.com.

**Fiesta Weekend** — At the Ruidoso Downs Race Track. 7 p.m. Los Lonely Boys Concert (\$20). All day Fresh Boys Car Club show, mariachis in the grandstand and more. Info: 575-378-4431.

**Brewdoso 2019** — noon-7 p.m. at Ruidoso's Wingfield Park. Info: 575-937-2582.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 23

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Fiesta Latina** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Old James Stadium, WNMU, 1000 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Exploration of Latin culture, rhythms, flavors and artisan crafts including films and talks. Info: www.fiestalatina.org.

#### Ruidoso/Lincoln County

**Ruidoso Marathon and Half Marathon** — 6 a.m. starting at the Inn of the Mountain Gods on Carrizo Canyon Road. Info: 575-257-5030.

**Two Wheels and Tattoos** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center and MCM Elegante Hotel. Bike show and tattoo event with live music including Snoop Dogg (tickets extra). Cost: \$20 day; \$30 3-day pass. Info: www.twowheelsandtattoos.com.

**Brewdoso 2019** — noon-7 p.m. at Ruidoso's Wingfield Park. Info: 575-937-2582.

#### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**CrossTown Car Show** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Proceeds go to Alzheimer's Association. Info: 575-405-8884.

### MONDAY, JUNE 24

#### Columbus/Luna County

**Bingo for Books** — 1-3 p.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Part of the children's summer program at the library. Info: 575-531-2612.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 25

#### 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.

#### Ruidoso/Lincoln County

**First Armored Division Band** — 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Cost: Free (get tickets

early). Info: 575-336-4800.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the Ace Hardware Parking Lot, 3025 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**"Recent Discoveries in Astronomy"** — 2-3 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces. Part of the "Universe of Stories" adult summer reading program at the library offering Wednesday speakers. Info: 575-528-4005.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 28

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival** — 6:30 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Light Hall. An evening of films that show how communities are working to protect watersheds, unique landscapes and the environment. Benefit for the Gila Conservation Coalition. Cost: \$15. Info: www.gilaconservation.org.

**Live Music: An Evening with Slaid Cleaves** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Info: www.slaidcleaves.com.

#### Columbus/Luna County

**Back to School event** — 1-3 p.m. at the Columbus Library, 112 W. Broadway. Info: 575-531-2612.

#### Alamogordo/Otero County

**Fourth Fridays** — 6-9 p.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo, 1021 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Live music, food and craft vendors. Info: 575-439-4279.

#### Ruidoso/Lincoln County

**Pablo Cruise** — 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Five-man band who were the kings of 1970s disco-rock. Cost: \$39. Info: 575-336-4800.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 29

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### Truth or Consequences/

**Sierra County  
Sierra County Farmers' Market**

— 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

#### Alamogordo/Otero County

**Oliver Lee Ranch House Tour** — 10-11 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, about 12 miles south of Alamogordo, take U.S. Highway 54 about 8 miles and turn east on Dog Canyon Road for 4 miles. Meet at the visitor center to check in. Info: 575-437-8284.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

#### Alamogordo/Otero County

**Garden Stroll with music at Shady Pines** — 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. at 200 Fox (facing Wren) half-way up the middle unpaved road to the Lodge in Cloudcroft. Explore the fairy gardens and eavesdrop on chamber music jams. Info: 361-557-1960.

#### Las Cruces/Doña Ana County

**Classic Film, "Maltese Falcon"** — 7 at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Cost: \$8. Info: 575-541-2150.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the Ace Hardware Parking Lot, 3025 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**"Human Space Flight"** — 2-3 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces. Part of the "Universe of Stories" adult summer reading program at the library offering Wednesday speakers. Info: 575-528-4005.

#### Electric 5K & One-mile Fun Run

— 7:30 p.m. start at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesrunningclub.com.

### THURSDAY, JULY 4

#### Silver City/Grant County

**36th Annual Ice Cream Social** — 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Silver City Museum, 312 West Broadway, Silver City. Live entertainment treats and old-fashioned pastimes. Old-time carnival and events hosted by Raul Turrieta. Uncle Sam will

be in attendance. Cost: Free. Info: 575-597-0229.

#### Alamogordo/Otero County

**Red, White and Blue Brew and Music Fest** — 10 a.m.-midnight at Hang Glider Park Griggs Field, 3000 N. Florida Ave. Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4100.

**Fourth of July Parade** — 9 a.m. all along 10th Street, Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4203.

#### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**Fourth of July Celebration** — 6 p.m. live music; 9:45 fireworks display, at Pat and Lou Sisbarro Community Park, 3205 Arrowhead Drive, NMSU campus, Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-5981.

### SATURDAY, JULY 6

#### Silver City/Grant County

**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon in Historic Downtown Silver City at Eighth Street between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### Truth or Consequences/

#### Sierra County

**Sierra County Farmers' Market** — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

**Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza** — 9 p.m. at Elephant Butte State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-5923.

#### Ruidoso/Lincoln County

**Western Frontier Gun Show** — 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. Cost: \$6. Info: 575-430-8681.

**Pam Tillis Acoustic Trio Show** — 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road in Alto. Classic country superstar shares her singing style. Cost: \$66. Info: 575-336-4800.

### SUNDAY, JULY 6

#### Alamogordo/Cloudcroft/ Otero County

**Cello Chant** — 3-4:30 p.m. at the Cloudcroft High School Commons, 310 James Canyon Highway, Cloudcroft. The Shady Pines Chamber Players present master cellists in a conversation in-the-round of music from the dark ages to yesterday. Info: 361-557-1960.

#### Ruidoso/Lincoln County

**Western Frontier Gun Show** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. Cost: \$6. Info: 575-430-8681.

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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

# The Creation of Silver City RV Park

## All it took was a vision and 14 years of hard labor

We've all seen those small RV parks perched at the edge of a town or plopped down in the middle of a field, sometimes tucked into a residential neighborhood. It's obvious these parks weren't built by large corporations, but by individuals, real people who had a vision and were willing to put in the back-breaking, time-consuming, often frustrating amount of work necessary to convert that vision to reality.

I am fortunate to know one such person, Silver City resident Susan Golightly, who began building the Silver City RV Park in the early 1990s. I sat down with Susan to get an idea of the "why" and "how" of building an RV park from scratch, and came away with great admiration for her energy and determination, and the certainty that I never, ever want to work that hard.

In the mid-1980s, Susan and her family traveled from Maine across the U.S. in a converted school bus, staying at RV parks.

"The RV parks were friendlier than hotels," she told me, "and had laundry facilities, people to visit with, sometimes a lake or a pool. Often the settings were lovely, and it was like camping, although some parks were sterile, all bare blacktop."

In the summer of '87 they moved to Silver City and lived in student housing at Western New Mexico University while Susan earned her undergraduate degree, after which she began selling real estate. At that time, the property that eventually became the first half of Silver City RV Park was a "sleazy little trailer park" with a deservedly bad reputation.

Susan looked around the property and said, "Whoa, this could be a great RV park, and in-town RV parks are hard to find. But it would need more space, probably a whole block."

A few years later, she and her then-wife Julie were finally able to buy the park and the adjacent lot and installed a mobile home for their family's residence. The occupants of the trailer park were given a 90-day notice to move out along with \$150 each for moving expenses. Everyone moved except Mrs. McGinley, who was in her eighties. Susan explained to her that if she stayed the rent would be raised to \$125 a month, but she continued writing her rent checks for \$60. She stayed for a long time.

"I'd get off work, go home, and start digging," Susan said.

As Susan listed, in chronological order, each of the steps taken over the next 14 years to complete the project, I started getting dizzy. The entire property had to be leveled, many trees were planted. She designed the RV park by moving little cutouts of sites, buildings, and common areas about on a board, positioning them around and amongst the trees. After designing the bathhouse, she hired a professional carpenter to build it. Most of the plumbing she did



**Susan Golightly, one of the founders of Silver City RV Park, is still comfortable in the environment.**

herself, although expert commercial plumber Archie Archuleta installed the new lines. Electricians were hired to wire the bathhouse and the 8x16 prefab shed that became the office. A turf grower in El Paso let people follow the cutter around and for \$5, pick up a truck load of turf.

"We pieced together different shapes and sizes, and it was weird-looking for a while," Susan recollected. "One day we looked out our window at the tractor trailers full of lime chips for the sites and driveways and realized how mind-boggling it

was to orchestrate such a project. We asked ourselves, after having stayed in many RV parks, how would we like a park to be. We played a game in our minds, asking how does it feel? and what do I see? which led to the installation of misters under the bathhouse porch roof and little fences between the sites to create the feeling of privacy.

"We put up picnic tables and trash cans so old people coming across the 13th Street footbridge could rest and eat lunch, and we built a dog park. We installed wheelchair ramps, ADA approved toilets. The showers had hand rails and benches."

The park hired workcampers, RVers who worked in exchange for rent, laundry, and a small salary, and that was "the best thing we ever did," according to Susan. Grills were installed in the picnic area, and picnics were held for the guests. Many stayed monthly, creating a tight community.

Every day, for years, after working fulltime, Susan worked in the park, putting in 14-hour days, six days a week (Sunday was for church), building, digging, landscaping and plumbing. But after ten years, she and Julie, who handled the bookkeeping, realized the park was not making money. They were still charging \$16 a night, \$125 a month.

They talked to the other parks in the area and discovered they were severely underpriced, so slowly they began raising their rates until they were finally commensurate with the others, and they added a block of storage units. Finally, they started showing a profit.

The park was finished to Susan's satisfaction in 2004, and

they sold it in 2010.

"We met great people, had great conversations, and liked almost everyone that stayed with us," Susan reminisced.

Silver City RV Park continues to thrive today under the ownership of Keith and Julie Cason, with 45RV sites, several cabins, and one of the only areas for tent camping in Silver City. The Gila Bean Coffee Shop sits right in front, on Bennett Street, and the park is just a short walk from downtown. The trees have all matured, the stone walls are still charming. The Casons have made improvements over the years,

but the park's unique character of warmth and welcome, created from Susan's vision, is still bringing RVers back again and again to experience this charming respite from the road.

*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 [skssowder@aol.com](mailto:skssowder@aol.com).*



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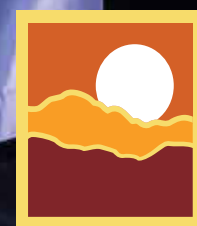
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