

DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



Honoring those who served
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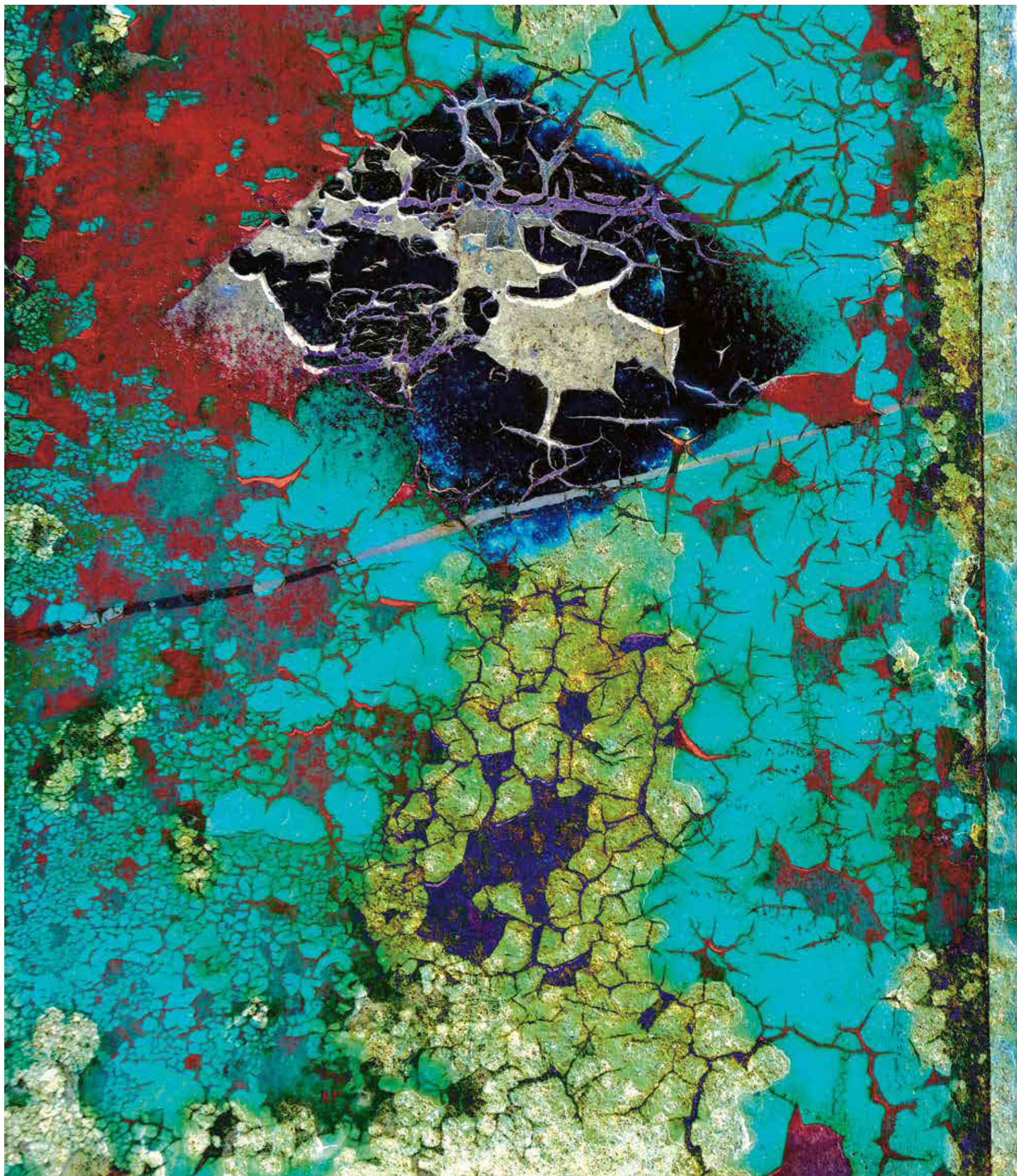
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NOVEMBER 2018

Volume 23 • Number 11



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Country Living right in Town! – One acre with 2 BR 2 BA brick home + extra house for guests or studio-space. Backs up to streambed with big trees. Garden space, city water + well, and room to expand. All for only \$149,000. MLS #35588



CAMPSITE or RV or Building Lot This ¾ acre lot in the Upper Mimbres is situated on the way to Lake Roberts and the Gila National Forest. Electricity is in, + 40 ft. storage container to keep your incidentals. Perfect for a self-contained RV, or add water and septic, & building a house! \$25,000. MLS # 35587



LARGE, VERSATILE COMMERCIAL BUILDING – GREAT OPPORTUNITY!
Large metal industrial building with over 6000 sq. ft. includes built-in living quarters, overhead loft storage and over 4 acres in 2 parcels. City water + well. \$624,000 Lots of potential here! MLS #33983



COUNTRY LIVING – SPLENDID VIEWS
overlooking Silver Acres, practically new home with over-the-top wonderful kitchen, + large metal bldg./shop, all on 1 acre just minutes from Silver City. 4 BR, 2 BA, + covered patio, storage building and more! \$268,500. Will also consider Lease. MLS #35523.



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DOWNTOWN INCOME PROPERTY! – Solid income stream on this roomy downtown classic with storefronts and offices downstairs, + 4 apartments & more office space upstairs. Good financial track record, and in good overall condition. Plus Seller Financing! \$495,000. MLS #34068

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Solid home with nice size rooms! Lots of trees (including many fruit trees) offer great privacy for this home. Home has 2 water heaters and 2 swamp coolers. Would make a great First Time Buyer home for someone. MLS# 35797. **\$175,000**



A SECLUDED 0.82 ACRE PARCEL, just outside of Glenwood on Catwalk Rd. The property has a level building site & an old rustic cabin building. Lots of trees and vegetation offer privacy. There is a great mountain view. This could be the place for that weekend getaway. Property is adjacent to #51 Catwalk Rd., also for sale. MLS# 35817. **\$27,000**



Hard to find, 4 bedroom home just on the edge of the City Limits. Open, large rooms with lots of windows and light. Great room with French Doors out to the back patio brings the wonderful back yard and patio inside and makes for great entertainment space. Home has 2 Master Suites. New ADA shower in one master bathroom. This home offers rural privacy just minutes from town, schools and medical centers. Mature fruit trees and wonderful roses make the back yard a great place to entertain and enjoy the views. Take a look! The views are wonderful! MLS# 34317. **\$324,000**



ONE OF A KIND SILVER CITY HOME BUILT IN 1870! This walled-in compound consists of a 3,191 sq.ft. adobe home with front covered porch plus a 1,621 sq.ft. studio/workshop abutting Boston Hill. Character and charm throughout, with wood floors, plaster walls, tasteful updates, & guest quarters. Private patio with pond, seating area, & off-street parking. Walking distance to downtown and the University. Additional acreage is available. MLS# 35833. **\$597,000**



You are about to encounter a 21st Century, Southwestern Ranch Style Home in the small corner of New Mexico that was home to many famous gunslingers, including Billy the Kid. This custom built home borders National Forest, on 40 acres with mature landscaping, fruit trees and a commanding wisteria canopy on the front porch, lending a special ambiance for outdoor entertaining. Main Home boasts almost 3,000 sq ft of flowing floor plan. Saltillo floors throughout the home give it the traditional flavor of the southwest. Open kitchen/den with breakfast area. The formal living and dining area are where you can entertain a crowd, conveniently located just off the kitchen. Cozy guest wing and office allow for a level of privacy. Two apartments are set up each with separate driveways, entrances, heating and cooling, respectively. There is a grand 'art and craft room as well. MLS# 34733 **\$689,000**



Lake Roberts Motel owners have continuously remodeled since purchase, which had a major overhaul in 2012 on almost every inch of the original structures. There are 6 "cabin style suites" that are more than adorable, the rooms are spotless, decorated with love in a southwestern theme. This place is becoming not just a place to stay, but a destination to repeat customers. There is also a cabin rental in addition to owners retreat and store. A "Woodhenge" fire pit area. There is hardly a place with such wonderful surroundings, abundant wildlife and beautiful night skies with 4 gentle seasons as the Lake. MLS# 35802. **\$688,000**



3BD/2BA ON 1 ACRE WITH ALL CITY UTILITIES. Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen & dining area. Great outdoor space with walled-in back & side yard, covered patio, hot tub. Private bedrooms with walk-in closets, ceiling fans. Close-in location near town & all services. MLS# 35630. **\$275,000**



MAJOR FIXER-UPPER IN SANTA CLARA ON NICE CORNER LOT ACROSS FROM THE SCHOOL. Additions have active roof leaks, core part of the house has attractive hardwood floors. Property to be sold as-is and for cash, as condition will not qualify for a loan. MLS# 35830. **\$15,000**



This well constructed 3 bedroom home with metal roof, on 5 wooded acres is sure to charm just about anyone. The cabin style home is very close to town. The convenient location, great price, and generous size bedrooms are going to be what make this sell. Hurry, you won't find 5 acres with this kind of privacy this close to city limits. Forced air furnace was added this year and is just about brand new. Don't miss this opportunity. Recent appraisal suggests that, with a kitchen & bath remodel, there is room for a lot of equity. MLS# 35807. **\$137,500**



1970s 2-STORY CONTEMPORARY, ARCHITECT DESIGNED 3BD/2.5BA ON 1.5 ACRES CLOSE TO TOWN. 3,000+ SQ.FT., 2 CAR GARAGE & 2 CAR CARPORT. This home & property has incredible potential. It's being sold "as-is". Inspections & survey are complete, so this property can close quick! MLS# 35814 **\$215,000**



SEASONAL HOME IN GLENWOOD ON CATWALK RD. Set above the road, this property has breathtaking views of the Mogollon Mountains from the covered Trex deck & screened-in porch. 1-2BD/1BA single-wide has site-built additions on the front & back providing a more spacious feel. Owner will finance, and the place will come furnished. New septic holding tank installed 2017. New well pressure tank 2018, roof re-done 2017/2018. Electric updated 2008. ADJACENT 0.82 ACRE is available, See MLS# 35780 **\$55,000**

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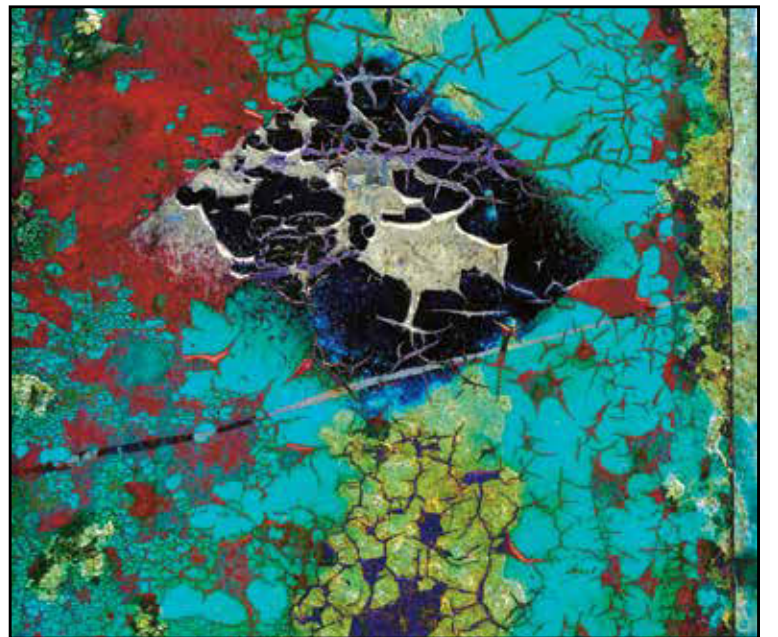
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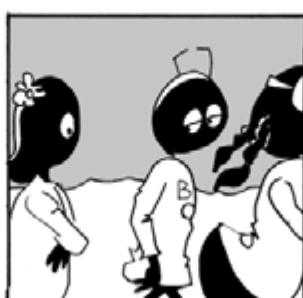
ABOUT THE COVER:

Lawrence Costales, USMCR (Ret), photographer, actor, and director/producer used photographs of trains as part of his study of texture and color in the environment to create abstract images, some of which have been featured at the Rokoko Gallery in Las Cruces as part of an abstracts show. The cover image here is "Difference of Two Train Textures." His work has been displayed at the ARCO Towers in Los Angeles, the United States Embassy in Bogota, Colombia; Galleria Nina Moreno, Tijuana; and various shows throughout Southern California and the southwest. Most of his travel fine art images were shot with a Mamiya 645 camera. Find more of Costales's images at larrysphotoart.weebly.com.

Postcards From the Edge Desert Exposure Travels

If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

Long Talks and Family Time

Words out of the past mean touching the future



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I've never been much of a talker. I prefer to let my thoughts flow out on paper, in stories. Words on paper, in notebooks or online. We all have our preferred ways to communicate.

Think of the Aunt Sally in our families. Most of us have one. She's the kind that will go on and on. To her, it's all in love and in your best interest, but it's also never-ending. She asks you about your day, and before you get a chance to answer, she starts sharing about hers.

Aunt Sally is well-intentioned and as annoying as you might find her at times, she's the one you will end up missing the most. That was true for me with my nana Rafaela.

I'll never forget the times the family would get together during holidays, form a circle and hold hands for a prayer. Someone would give a blessing in English and then nana Rafaela would take a turn in Spanish. We knew that our eyes would be closed for a good while.

Nana Rafaela, a devout Catholic, used to walk around her home, praying with her eyes open. Every moment, every thought, was a selfless one. That's what praying is when it's done

right. You are asking for others, communicating your heart and your intentions of love to the guy upstairs. She put everyone else before herself.

I miss Nana Rafaela all the time, and I miss her long, long prayers. I would love to hear one again.

My mother's father was nearly the complete opposite. Tata Hector was the traditional, sweet old man who rarely spoke a word. He could sit at his rocking chair for hours, quietly thinking, and nodding off. I can only imagine the thoughts traveling through his mind.

A couple of years ago when I was spending a good amount of time building my family tree, I took advantage of some time at the dinner table and asked him a few questions.

Once he got going, he really got going. Tata Hector shared about his family growing up as laborers. All poor Mexicans did in those days. He talked about his panaderia in Mexico, which he named after my mother. At the panaderia, he sold Mexican sweet bread and based on his reminiscences seemed to really enjoy it.

I'm not sure why the bakery

closed, but it did, and now Tata Hector is gone so that little piece of history may have left with him.

I cherish the few times that we had those interesting talks. He only spoke in Spanish and his sentences were short, saying just what he needed to say. His storytelling wasn't filled with colorful expressions, just simple conversation. I liked that about him.

Words are important and can be life-changing. I like to say them on paper, but I love to hear them from the Aunt Sallys, the Nana Rafaelas and the Tata Hectors of the world.

Take a little time to listen to the words from the people you love the most, no matter how long and never-ending those moments may seem. You'll long for them once they are gone.

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.



QUEST COLUMN • ROB SCHNEIDER

Why vote?

Social Security. That's why.

The next Congress may determine the long-term fate of Social Security.

Social Security is a compact between generations that has worked remarkably well for 83 years. Current workers contribute payroll taxes into the system, and retirees, who paid in throughout their working lives, collect benefits.

Unfortunately, too many younger workers believe today that Social Security won't be there for them. Why do they think that? Because when some members of Congress talk about the budget deficit, they talk about Social Security even though Social Security has never contributed one cent to the federal deficit. Social Security pays for itself, and it has enough money to pay full benefits until 2034. After that, with no changes, Social Security will pay 77 percent of benefits.

How important is Social Security? It's so important that today without it, 41 percent of Texans who are 65 and older would have incomes below the poverty level. Social Security may become even more important to younger people, few of whom have workplace pensions or significant savings.

The sooner Congress addresses Social Security's long-term solvency, the easier it will be to do. Finding the political will is hard though and including Social Security in deficit discussions is a political smokescreen.

So, the Congress elected in November could decide to improve the program, keep the status quo, or worse, degrade the system.

If you think Social Security is as important as AARP thinks it is, find out if your candidates are truly committed to preserving the prom-

ise of Social Security. All candidates say they are for Social Security, but don't let them off the hook. Instead, find out if they will support cost-of-living increases that keep up with inflation. Find out if they would raise the retirement age. Find out if they would raise the cap on Social Security payroll taxes above the current \$128,400. Find out if they would work to reduce waits on the phone or at Social Security office so people can get the assistance they need.

Once you have the answers to these questions, you can decide whether a candidate has earned your vote. Then, show up in November and elect a Congress that has the will and commitment to honor the 83-year-old promise of Social Security.

Rob Schneider is the director of advocacy at AARP Texas.

Desert #29 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 and www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg

Δ = M :enD

"ZJH ZD KBQ IODXVBQ ZHLQ BG XDIDIAXHCYD GDHVOXD GDQVJWJVJDQ
 HCZ VND YBIIOCJVL YBIJCP VBPVDNDX VB YBIIDIBXHVD VNBQD
 KBWDZ BCDQ PBCD ADGBXD." - ZJHCH JCPHKKQ KDLAH

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: "LIVE ACOUSTIC BLUES BY JAMMIN' JEFF CERWINSKE, WHO GOT HIS NAME FROM CLASSIC OLD TIME BLUESMAN BO DIDDLEY." - VALERIE MCCAFFREY, ON THE MIMBRES VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL. *Secret Words: "THE LAW OF MUSIC"

Congrats to #28 solvers: George Egert*, Shorty Vaiza*, Will Adams*, Skip Howard*, Mike Arms* and Ann Boulden*!

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

Shrimp for Dinner

Would you like regular or coconut?

“Dad, I’m cooking shrimp for dinner,” my wife says. “Would you like regular or coconut?”

Meanwhile, the guy who’s actually helping make dinner – namely ME – his opinion goes unrequested.

I really can’t get upset. My wife’s just trying to make my father feel at home. It wasn’t that long ago my beloved mother passed away. After a brief time of him living on his own, we decided to ask him to move in with us. It’s not a decision I regret. Given the opportunity to do it over again, I would, but it’s been tough. You can’t have two alpha males in the same wolf pack without one wolf becoming incredibly annoyed at the other.

“What?” my father says.

“I’m cooking shrimp for dinner.”

“You’re cooking dinner?”

“Yes.”

“What are you cooking?”

“Shrimp.”

“Shrimp?”

“Yes, shrimp. Would you like regular or coconut?”

I turn my head so my wife can’t see me laughing. That’s what she gets for not asking me how I would like the shrimp prepared. I can feel her eyes boring into the back of my skull like angry twin lasers. She knows I’m finding amusement at her expense.

“Shrimp...” my father continues, “...shrimp.... Yeah, that sounds good.”

Pause.

“Would you like regular or coconut?”

“What?”

“WOULD YOU LIKE REGULAR OR COCONUT?”

“What are you yelling at me for?” my father yells back. “I can hear.”

It’s true, my father can hear. Unfortunately, he only seems to hear the things he’s not supposed to hear. Never the things he’s supposed to.

“Pop!” I could yell. “There’s a fire! Grab your mutt and get out!”

“What?” my father would say, not moving his eyes off the TV.

“A fire! Get out!”

“What are you yelling at me for? I can hear!” he’d yell back. And then, “Are you grilling chicken? Save me a leg.”

On the other hand, my father could be sitting down in his Tommy Johns watching his two favorite baseball teams playing each other on TV, and I could be in the next room with my wife. If I leaned over and whispered in her ear, “Let’s go upstairs,” my father would shout to us, “If you’re going upstairs, bring me back that soft blanket I like.”

Meanwhile, my wife apologizes for yelling and my father says, “What kind of shrimp did you say?”

“Regular or coconut.”

“Hmm... regular. What’s the other kind?”

“Coconut.”

“Coconut? Yeah... I like coconut shrimp.”

“So you want coconut, then?”

“What’s the other kind?”

My wife is getting flustered now. Me? I’m still chuckling under my breath. Personally, I prefer coconut, but no one’s asking me. I don’t know why she’s giving him a choice. If she feels like eating regular shrimp, she should make regular shrimp. If she feels like eating coconut shrimp, then she should make coconut. It’s that simple. You see, my wife has the good fortune of being married to someone who appreciates whatever she cooks.

“Regular,” my wife says.

“What’s regular?”

My wife sighs, and then explains how she prepares regular shrimp. I don’t think my father understands a word of it. Heck, even my eyes starts to glaze over.

“I like coconut,” my father says, so coconut shrimp it is. I win, without even having to play the game, and I got a good chuckle out of the whole thing as well.

I remember when I was a kid, my mother never cooked shrimp, those little cockroaches of the sea. The closest thing to shrimp my mother ever cooked was liver, and that’s not close at all. To eat that liver, I added ketchup to get it down. A LOT of ketchup. In those days, what you were served is what you ate. If you chose not to eat, you went hungry. The way it should be. Go to any country where people are starving. You don’t have picky eaters. You don’t have eating disorders. You don’t have morbid obesity. What you have is a country of people who would be grateful for some mudwater and a chickpea.

So, even though I might have preferred a hamburger, I ate pretty much whatever was placed in front of me, adding ketchup to whatever I didn’t like. Liver? Ketchup. Beans? Ketchup. Heck, I even added ketchup to scrambled eggs, and I like scrambled eggs.

Why am I telling you all this? Because my wife takes her time when she cooks. She cooks with love, and, as that great philosopher Diana Ross once sang, “You can’t hurry love.”

Finally, my wife serves all of us a delicious plate of coconut shrimp on a bed of tropical rice. I take a quick inventory. Hmm, my father’s got seven. I’ve only got six. Not that I’m keeping score or anything.

As my father studies at his plate, my wife serves herself and joins us. My father continues studying his plate. Why? Who knows? I get started on mine. I don’t believe in having a staring contest with food.

“Do you have any ketchup?” my father finally asks.

“It’s coconut shrimp, dad,” my wife says softly.

“What?”

“It’s coconut shrimp.”

“I know what it is,” my father says. “Do you have any ketchup?”

I step in.

“Pop, it’s coconut shrimp. You don’t put ketchup on coconut shrimp.”

“Sure you do.”

My wife doesn’t argue. She doesn’t say a word. She just gets up and brings back a bottle of ketchup, hands it to my father, who drowns his shrimp with it, much like I used to do to the liver my mother would also cook with love. I find myself wishing I could tell her, “I’m sorry.”

My father spears a soggy shrimp with his fork.

“Oh, yeah,” he says, “this shrimp is good.”

He turns to me.

“Your wife’s a good cook,” he says.

You can't hurry love, but you CAN hurry to RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com, JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com, or @JimDuchene and read more of my nonsense.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

The Rhetoric of Politics

Looking for answers in a mish mash of word play

When I see those nasty political ads on television, and as they clutter up my work email, I think this is the worst it has ever been. But then I think it's always the worst, so I don't really know.

"The commercials in the political races would absolutely gag a maggot," my Facebook friend Skeeter Laird said in a post. "If you have any illusions about getting folks to take a hand, understand and vote, it was impossible to tell it. Even with candidates I personally know and wish well, the level insults the process. If there are any responsible adults in my party or the other one, will they please show up."

Perhaps the worst was in 1800, when John Adams and Thomas Jefferson squared off in a race for the White House.

If Jefferson won the election "murder, robbery, rape, adultery and incest will be openly be taught and practiced."

And Adams, he was a "repulsive pedant" and "gross hypocrite" who "behaved neither like a man nor like a woman but instead possessed a hideous hermaphroditical character."

The thing is, they think we are stupid. They think that pounding twisted words into our brains associating the opposition with

negativity, we won't vote for that person.

The unfortunate thing is, they are right.

We are not stupid but brainwashing by use of commercials – distracting and hateful – works. It's like shampoo, "lather, rinse, repeat." Then do it again.

"Negative campaigning has been around as long as campaigning," Mitchell Lovett, associate professor of marketing at the Simon Business School has said repeatedly in public forums and on YouTube, "It stays around because it works."

People tend to remember bad things better than good things, Lovett points out. And, we give more weight to the negative than we do to the positive. Also, people learn more from the negative ads because they have more facts, even if they are twisted facts.

How do we fight that? One way is to consider the rhetoric and the tactics used and recognize them when we hear them.

Lexington Herald Leader columnist Jim Brutsman writes "it's easy to interpret campaign commercials if you attach labels to the statements. Some of the most popular ploys are easy to spot:

- "Half-truths are where the

candidate only tells part of the story.

- "Out of context is where a few words are plucked from an opponent's previous statement, ignoring the other words that are inconvenient.

- "Diversion is where the message is: Look at her, not at me.

- "Labeling is like sticking a Post-it-Note on the back of an opponent that makes them easy to hate, as in 'too liberal for Kentucky.' This also is used in conjunction with scare tactics: telling the listener 'be afraid, very afraid, only voting for me can save you.'"

So, let's look at a few of the phrases cropping up in our campaign ads.

"Hapless," "the swamp," "not telling the truth," "enemy of the people," "failed attempt," "extreme budget cuts," "hiding from the voters," "out of touch," "shady business dealings," "refusing to invest in New Mexico's kids," "shortchanging future generations," "on the wrong side of the law," "downplayed the seriousness" and the "terrible ethical violation."

What all this boils down to is essentially, "My candidate has a different platform than your candidate."

I am not saying all the candi-

dates are clean and blameless in the world. Clearly, it's not so. There are things done and money passed from hand to hand beyond our ability to find out. And there are those found out as well – and taken to the court system. But the things others are blamed for in campaign ads are usually simply differing points of view.

For example, "refusing to invest in New Mexico's kids," could mean the candidate is against raising taxes, while "shortchanging future generations," could mean the candidate is trying to use certain funds to build schools today instead of saving the money for the future.

To know what politicians and parties intend and plan, there are excellent places on the internet to explore those answers. For example, at www.youdecidenm.org, you can find where each of the candidates have answered questions posed on a joint website launched by New Mexico Voices for Children and the New Mexico Pediatric Society.

The questions at youdecidenm.org range from issues like child health and well-being to the environment, immigration, education funding, the economy, the 2020 Census and more. Photos and short biographies are also included.

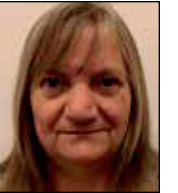
The gubernatorial candidates answered questions at nmpolitics.net/index/2018/10/guv-candidates-differ-on-plans-for-nms-troubled-criminal-justice-system/ about issues relating to the justice system, such as their positions on solitary confinement and private prisons.

Engagement is the answer to the question of who to believe and why. Seeing past and through those words and images, or even just investigating them. Why did so-and-so say this? Where is the evidence?

"The power to question is the basis of all human progress." – Indira Gandhi

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, Nov. 29 at the Tranquilbuzz Café, located at the corner of Yankie 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.



Share your holiday traditions!

What do your family and friends do on special December days? We will publish your traditions, if selected, in the December edition of Desert Exposure. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 9.



Do you cut figures out of radishes?



Do you hide glass pickles in your trees?



Do you paint tumbleweeds?



Do you eat KFC on Christmas?

Please submit traditions and special recipes, old or new, to editor@desertexposure.com or by mail to Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces NM, 88005. Call editor Elva K. Österreich at 575-680-1978 for additional information.



Letters

We would like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

We welcome letters to the editor including your opinions and feedback regarding news, events and issues published here. Traditional letters to the editor offer an opportunity to start a new discussion, share your opinions or provide information you believe is of interest to other readers.

Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse let-

ters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print, but we need to be able to verify the author.

The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor published by Desert Exposure do not necessarily reflect those of Desert Exposure or its advertisers. It is the responsibility of the reader to research facts/opinions expressed in the letters to the editor to form their own opinions from an informed position.

Letters to the Editor

Energy is important

Editor,

With Election Day only a few days away, residents are drowning in a dizzying array of political ads, with potential lawmakers promising jobs, jobs, and more jobs. Here's a platform I want to see more candidates run on: energy.

The state Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) describes our energy sector as "one of the state's greatest assets," noting it "provides revenue that funds schools, hospitals, and state government and lessens the

tax burden on New Mexico's citizens."

What will the men and women running for office do to encourage growth in this important industry? Will they support natural gas distribution and development?

That's important because the growth in natural gas exploration is one of the main reasons our state is running a surplus and it's why we're in a good position even if there's a recession soon.

Every candidate must go on record and let voters know whether they are willing to support this growing sector.

Grace Reif Clayton, N.M.

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Flocking to Bosque Del Apache

“Harrier!” A brown hawk flies straight at intent birders, his image reflecting in a still pond where flocks of ducks and geese dip their heads, quack and cackle. A cool breeze ruffles golden willows, filling the air with the

uniquely autumn aroma of dry leaves. Telephoto lenses and binoculars leap to attention.

It's November again at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Birds fly south for the winter; we've been taught that since

childhood. But where exactly is “south?”

For sandhill cranes, snow and Canada geese, bald eagles and other birds that summer in the northern United States and Canada, “south” is New Mexico. They flock to the Rio Grande bosque, their own winter resort, and can be found at Bosque del Apache two hours north of Las Cruces like Midwesterners basking in sunny beach resorts.

Birders flock here too, where wintering and migrating species offer excellent watching and imaging opportunities all during fall and winter. Although Bosque del Apache's premier event is Festival of the Cranes, this year Nov. 14-17, one can enjoy Bosque del Apache migratory thrills from November through February.

Late this November 2017 afternoon, I join another migrating group, genus photographer.

“We're trying for a shot of the birds against the daytime full moon,” explains Celia, a photographer from Tucson, Arizona, mounting her camouflaged 400-mm telephoto as long as her arm on a camouflaged tripod. A dozen identically equipped photographers congregate at the south end of the car-accessible Marsh Loop.

On one side of the dirt road, flocks of snow geese cackle and flutter among low dry grasses. Eight Canada geese, darker and larger than the snow geese, poke about by themselves at the edge of the road. A flock of starlings swirls into the distance. Two helmeted bikers wheel past silently.

Across the road, photographers aim their cameras on the large pond where pintail ducks and mallards quack and dip their bills.

“We shoot with the setting sun behind us for the reddish effects,” Celia said. “Cranes and geese fly in here as the sun sets.”

At sunset, after feeding in the fields during the day, the cranes and geese fly into ponds and marshes to spend the night protected from coyotes, bobcats and other predators. This activity is called “Fly In.” At sunrise, they fly out from the water and return to the fields to feed, called “Fly out.”

Turning north onto Farm Loop,



Sandhill cranes in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo by Yvonne Lanelli)

Let's Flock to The Bosque, Too!

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Reserve is off Interstate 25 north of Las Cruces. Take Exit 124 (San Marcial), go east on the dirt road 1.5 miles, then north on Old Highway 1 to the Visitor Center.

Festival of the Cranes: www.friendsofthebosque.org
Bosque del Apache is open year-round, however the Visitor Center closes Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and July 4. There is a \$5 vehicle fee for the self-guided auto tour, but all federal passes are honored.

I stop at wooden observation decks. The setting sun turns cottonwoods, willows, bulrushes, phragmites reeds (carrizo), cornstalks and cattails from soft gold to bronze. Ring-necked pheasant scour cornfields that are cultivated by local residents for the Bosque's bird population.

Cirrus clouds frame a flock of red-winged blackbirds. One flies so low I look directly into its eye.

When the sun begins to disappear behind the Chupadera Mountains, I stop at wetlands to wait for a Fly In. The waning sun silhouettes two photographers and a great blue heron that tucks its neck as it struts.

Two mule deer stop for a drink, a roadrunner scoots in front of the car, and a V of 13 Canada geese fly into the setting sun. Twilight replaces sunset, the moon brightens in the darkening sky, but no large flocks fly in.

Suppressing a small sigh of disappointment, I plan for tomorrow's sunrise Fly Out.

Part of the experience is just being here, knowing the Fly Out will happen whether you're here or not, according to Carolyn and John, wildlife enthusiasts from Alaska, visiting Bosque for the second time.

It's barely 6 a.m. the next day, and dozens of photographers have lined up on a west-facing bank on the northern edge of the Bosque. They focus on a football field-sized white blotch that cackles in rolling tones, the cackling increasing as the sky lightens.

Salmon-pink sun reveals the white blotch to be hundreds of snow geese. Sandhill cranes, bigger and darker than the white geese, flap and strut along the northern edge of the geese.

A few geese fly out, framing the single star remaining in the sky.

As the sky glows more orange, cackling and fluttering crescendo. Photographers murmur excitedly.

One points south. There's a huge flock taking off. Any time now ...

Crows circle overhead “like buzzards,” chuckles John.

A wildlife artist from Phoenix examines a small V overhead through powerful binoculars.

“A blue goose!” she announces gleefully. “Blue geese are a color variation of snow geese, like black sheep.

“Look, a coyote!”

My binoculars pick out a gray blur that disappears and reappears several times in the brush. A red-tail hawk glides above.

Several voices suddenly chorus, “They're dancing!” as cranes now strut, flap and weave about one another.

“Move one F-stop and go 1/60th of a second,” one photographer quietly advises his companion.

“Look behind!” a voice shouts.

While we concentrated on the cranes in front of us, flocks of geese from the southern Bosque behind us had filled the sky, creating a blur of gray and white against the gray-brown Chupadera Mountains. One immense V soars overhead, so close that you can see the birds' yellow bills clearly without binoculars.

“They're off!”

A shout returns our attention to the cranes we'd watched since before dawn. They're moving!

The entire football field-sized flock lifts off as one and shoots directly overhead, so close I feel the movement of air from their wings. I've never heard birds' wings flap so loudly.

Motorized shutters follow the cranes' soaring flight until they disappear into the sun. In less than five seconds, it's over.

“I'm hit!” One photographer moans and wipes bird droppings from his cap. His companion chuckles, “You were ‘muted.’ Birds lighten their load before they take off.”

This information doesn't appease the “muted” victim.

He shakes his head ruefully and smiles, “Well, I got some great shots. I guess it was worth it.”

What adventures will you have at Bosque? Tell me and I'll share with readers.

Novice birder Yvonne Lanelli (evlanelli@yahoo.com) remembers her first trip to Bosque and looks forward every year to another adventure there.

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Fort Bayard National Cemetery in December 2017 when almost all the graves received their own wreath in honor of those who served. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

REMEMBRANCE

Honoring Those Who Served

Wreaths Across America at Fort Bayard National Cemetery

Planning is once again underway for Saturday, Dec. 15, when members of the Grant County community will gather to honor veterans during the Christmas holiday season as part of the annual Wreaths Across America Day. The ceremony will be 10 a.m. at Fort Bayard National Cemetery.

The mission of Wreaths Across America, a 501C3 organization, is to remember, honor, and teach.

Remember the fallen, honor those who serve including their families who sacrifice, and teach

our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day.

Last year, 1.57 million wreaths were placed at 1,422 locations across the United States and abroad, including Arlington National Cemetery where every marker had a wreath.

Organizers are offering individuals, organizations and businesses the opportunity to sponsor wreaths to place at Fort Bayard cemetery markers this December.

Each wreath costs \$15, for every two wreaths purchased, an additional third wreath will

be donated to the Fort Bayard National Cemetery. Unique to Fort Bayard is that local special requests for wreath placements are honored with those placements guaranteed.

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SILVER CITY



Silver City's Soul River Gallery is featuring the paintings of Steve McCluskey.

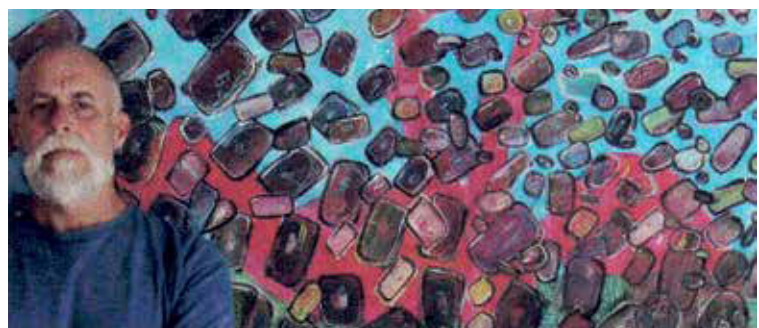
• **Soul River Gallery**, 400 N. Bullard St., in Silver City is featuring original oil paintings and water colors by **Steve McCluskey**, a regional artist new to the gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Info: 707-490-4367.

• **Women in the Arts: Lecture and Solo Exhibition** with artist **Jen Pack** at Western New Mex-



Jen Pack's artwork opens at the McCray Gallery with a lecture on Nov. 8.

ico University in Silver City. The show opens at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8 with an artist lecture at **Parotti Hall**. The exhibition opening follows at 7:30 p.m. at **McCray Gallery** and will be up through Dec. 10. Info: 575-538-6469.



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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

• **Light Art Space**, located in Silver City's historic art district at 209 W. Broadway St., features the work of the Arizona Print Group. This group of printmakers display a wide variety of techniques including woodcuts, etchings, linocuts and monotypes. Also on exhibit is "Age & Seduction," photopolymer gravures by Karen Hymer. Both exhibits run through Dec. 22. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: lightartspace.com, info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-4075.

• The exhibition **Arte Chicano De San Vicente 2018**, will be on display through Dec. 9 at the **Silver City Museum**. Artwork in a variety of media and styles highlight the range and talent of Chicano artists working in Silver City. This year's selection features one well-established artist and three fresh out of Western New Mexico University's BFA program. A reception for the artists will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 1. Info: 575-538-5921, info@silvercity-museum.org or www.silvercity-museum.org.



"Hi-YO Silver Away" at a) Sp... "A" @e Contemporary Studio•Art•Gallery, holds up the walls in November.

• a)Sp... "A" @e Contemporary Studio•Art•Gallery, 110 West 7th St., **Hi-YO Silver Away** show continues through November. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Also available by appointment. Info: 575-538-3333.

ALAMOGORDO/ CLOUDCROFT



Photographer **Tom Blessum** mixes it up at **Creative Designs** in Alamogordo in November.

• During November, **Tom Blessum**, fine-art landscape photographer, is the featured artist at **Creative Designs Custom Framing and Gallery**, 917 New York Ave. His vivid canvas and metal prints are clean and colorful, with unique, contemplative imagery that is easy to lose yourself in. A reception open to the public will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16. Reg-

ular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Info: 575-434-4420.

• **The Cloudcroft Art Society Holiday Art and Crafts Show** is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays (weather permitting). The gallery is in the old red brick schoolhouse which houses the Nivison Library at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects Swallow Place in Cloudcroft. Info: ccartsociety@gmail.com.

DEMING/COLUMBUS

• November 2018 at the **Deming Art Center** is the annual **Recycle Show** sponsored by "Keep Luna County Beautiful." Featured will be pieces of art made from 90 percent recycled materials, and crafted by artists of all ages. The show runs through Nov. 28. An Artist Reception will be held from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4. The gallery is located at 100 S. Gold St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays. Info: 575-546-3663, www.demingarts.org.

• **The Columbus Village Library** hosts an **ofrenda** display for **Dia de Los Muertos** until Nov. 5, and on Nov. 9 a community show of self-portraits opens with a reception at 4 p.m. and to be on display through Jan. 15. The library is at 112 W. Broadway in Columbus. Info: 575-531-2612.

LAS CRUCES



The **Ten O'Clock Club** get creative with a **Mel Stone** photograph at the **Mesquite Art Gallery** in Las Cruces.

• What would a group of painters do with this image? That's the basic premise of the November Exhibit at Mesquite Art Gallery. The group of painters is called **The Ten O'clock Club** (they call themselves Tennesseers) in the Las Cruces area. Photographer **Mel Stone** chose an image of Tres Hermanas (The Three Sisters) south of Deming as the base image and added a native American woman riding her Medicine Hat pinto as the beginning image. There will be a reception from 5-7 p.m., Nov. 2 during the November Art Rumble in Las Cruces. The gallery is located at 340 N. Mesquite St. in Las Cruces. Info: stonem6@gmail.com.

• **The Blue Gate Gallery**, 4901 Chagar Court in Doña Ana County a few feet from the intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, is hosting a private collection art sale through

November and December. Work includes artists like **Robert Bateman**, **Bill Rakocy**, **Nona Church** and more, plus paintings by **Flo Hosa Dougherty**. Info: 575-523-2950, call to let her know you are on your way.



The **Duece** by **Ray Baird** is one of the works on display for November at the **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**.

• **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 November, **Judy Bess** and **Ray Baird**. Bess is a Las Cruces acrylic painter who loves capturing the beauty and energy of the desert Southwest. Her art can be found in public, private and corporate collections in North and South America and Europe. Baird's work, lightly described as impressionism, uses translucent, complementary colors that represent his feeling, rather than a true representational image. The gallery's newest member, **Ray Ponteri**, began painting about four years ago and enjoys painting what he sees and feels. He particularly enjoys painting people because their faces usually tell what is going on in their lives. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.



Mary Cost's Night Comes Over the Mountains is one of the tapestries on display at the **Tombaugh Gallery** in Las Cruces.

• The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents "The Language of Tapestry" featuring the Tapestry Artists of **Las Arañas** which includes weavers from northern and southern New Mexico. The tapestries tell stories through careful choices of color, technique, and pattern. This exhibit demonstrates how the ancient art of tapestry weaving is still alive, vibrant, and relevant in today's world. The exhibit runs from Nov. 4 through the 28 with an opening reception and gallery talk at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4. The Gallery will also offer a presentation about tapestry weaving at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18 by two members of the tapestry group, **Elizabeth Buckley** and **Nancy Wohlenberg**. The artists included in the exhibit are; **Ann Blankenship**, **Lynn Breckenridge**, **Elizabeth Buckley**,

ARTS SCENE

continued on page 12

ON THE SHELF • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

'Haunted Hotels and Ghostly Getaways'

New book makes a spooky journey across New Mexico

When author Donna Blake Birchell threw out the idea for "Haunted Hotels and Ghostly Getaways" to editors at Arcadia Publishing, they were a little skeptical. But she persisted, and they agreed to go with it. The result is a detailed look at some of the most-famous and least-known haunted getaways in the state.

She found hotels and other places around the state, some of which she already knew and some she found in her internet research. To her surprise, many of the better-known locales didn't want to participate.

"One of the precursors was Albuquerque had to be involved," Birchell said. "I called every hotel purported to be haunted and they just didn't want to do it. So, I just started looking at the bed and breakfasts and found a couple of those."

The Painted Lady Bed & Brew and the Red Horse Vineyard Bed & Breakfast, both in Albuquerque, turned out to be interested in her offer, and ultimately quite interesting, she said. The Painted Lady is 135 years old and within

Book signing

Haunted Hotels and Ghostly Getaways of New Mexico author **Donna Blake Birchell** will be signing her books at **Arrowsmith Books during Día de la Muerta celebrations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Arrowsmith Books in Lincoln and from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 19, 2019 at Coas Books in Las Cruces.**



walking distance of six taprooms and breweries. The site on which it sits is where the Battle of Albuquerque took place, housed a brothel and, later, the Swastika Saloon with its own special drinking song.

Five miles away, the Red Horse is also connected to the Battle of Albuquerque, where on its outskirts location a cannon was once fired that reached Old Town.

The closest location to Las Cruces, Birchell said, is Hatch, where she went to experience the Saint Francis lodgings herself.

"I ran over on my days off and they did a paranormal investigation of the church itself and the little casita where I stayed," she said. "There was more activity in the casita than anywhere. At first, it kind of takes you aback cause you are like, 'oo, hey this is real!'"

The church in Hatch is run by two sweet sisters from Iowa, she said. The community has em-

braced them.

"They have the grave of a little gypsy boy outside the sacristy and we were talking to him through the flashlight," Birchell said. He was answering by making the light blink. They told him to make it blink twice for yes."

Birchell believes ghost are made up of residual energy.

"Some of these deaths were pretty much shocks and they don't know they are dead, or they do and they don't know where to go," she said. "They want to stay with what they are familiar

with. Or they have something they have to complete, and they haven't done it yet."

Birchell didn't stay in all the places mentioned in the book, but a lot of them. Her first experience was at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, New Mexico. She had heard that the old owner, Byron T. Mills, went after women who traveled alone.

"I was traveling alone, and I thought I would test it out," she said. "The minute I walked in the room I felt like someone was watching the whole time. I didn't get the haunted room. Just one on the third floor, but let me tell you, taking a shower, that was difficult. I felt like someone was watching me the whole time. I just wanted to take a shower in my clothes."

That night after she went to sleep she remembers having the light on and turning over.

"I woke up and I tried to turn over and I couldn't do it because there was somebody with their back against mine," she said. "Terror, terror, absolute terror. Then I remembered I thought, 'oh well, this is kind of what you are here for.' Finally, I said, 'you know, I have a busy day tomorrow, please leave me alone. Boom, gone.'"

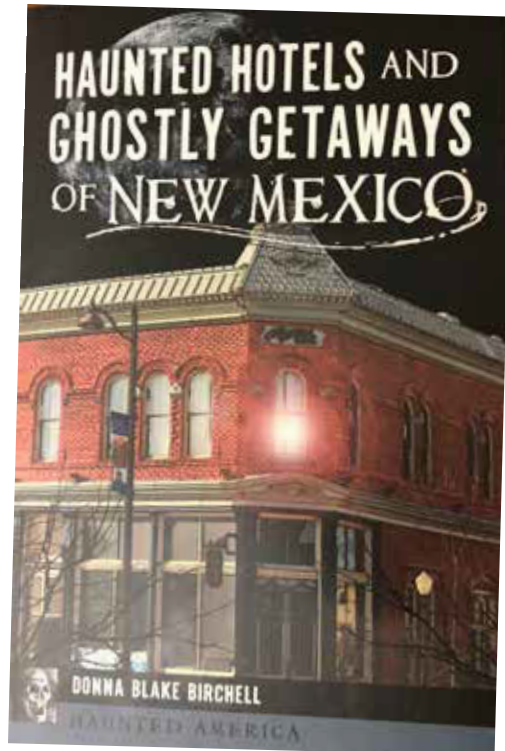
At the St. James in Cimarron Birchett stayed in the Mary Lambert Room, across from TJ's (Thomas James Wright) Room. TJ apparently had just won the hotel in a card game and got shot in the back on the way to his room.

"He kinda crawled to his bed and died in his bed," she said. "He's kind of a snarly little ghost. He likes whiskey. They let me into his room. As a thank you, I put a shot of whiskey up on the transom and it was gone in the morning. I smelled cigar smoke at night and there is no smoking in the hotel."

Born and raised in Carlsbad, Birchett said she has a job playing with dirt and chemicals all day. She is a lab tech with Mosaic Potash in Carlsbad. Writing books, "Haunted Hotels and Ghostly Hideaways" is the eighth, and photography are her loves. She has two grown sons who live in Texas and Albuquerque.

She's now working on two more books on the Frontier Forts of New Mexico and one on hidden gems, roadside attractions.

"With every book, it's something different," she said. "I get to meet a lot of great people. Without the book I would just have sat at home."



Calling Artists

• Artists of all media are invited to submit up to two works for a judged show at the **Tombaugh Gallery** in Las Cruces, opening Jan. 12 and continuing through Jan. 27. Submissions should reflect the concept of or be inspired by, the song "What's That I Hear" by Phil Ochs. First, second, third and people's choice cash awards (\$300, \$200, \$100 and \$100) will be given. There is no submission fee. Please email your intent to participate to:

gallery@uuchurchlc.org before Nov. 30. You will receive the lyrics to the song and information about bringing your work to the gallery.

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC)** seeks artists to apply for the **Ninth Annual Las Cruces Arts Fair** that will take place in the Las Cruces Convention Center on March 1 through 3, 2019. Artists may apply on-line at www.Zapplication.org through Nov. 30; a \$35 application fee is required.

Artists may apply in the following categories: fiber arts, jewelry, mixed media (including creations made from recycled materials), prints/photography, porcelain/pottery/glass, painting/drawing and woodwork/metalwork/sculpture. The Las Cruces Arts Fair is a juried fine art show with approximately 85 artists. For more information, go to www.daarts.org, email admin@daarts.org or call the DAAC office at 575- 523-6403.



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ARTS SCENE
continued from page 10

Evelyn Campbell, Mary Rawcliffe Colton, Mary Cost, Cindy Dworzak, Linda Giesen, Dan Klinglesmith, Judy McCarthy and Nancy Wohlenberg. Tombaugh Gallery is located within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces at 2000 S. Solano Drive. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Info: Linda Giesen at 575-636-4516.

• **Passing Through** exhibit, work by artist **Jimin Lee**, is open at the **Branigan Cultural Center** through Feb. 2, 2019. Lee transforms photo-based images of industrial landscapes, miniature sets, and other loci otherwise ignored, into central subjects through a series of techniques that incorporate technology and craft. Lee's work speaks to the U.S./Mexico borderlands by eliciting conversation about cross-cultural and transnational exchanges occurring every day. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from

9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: 575-541-2154.

• Also at the **Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St. in Las Cruces, **Lightning Field**, featuring artist **Ken Morgan**, continues through Feb. 16, 2019. Lightning Field is an interplay of light and dark that challenges the boundaries of painting mediums and brings the digital age to the forefront. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: 575-541-2154.



Dia de Los Muertos continues through November at the Rokoko Art Gallery in Las Cruces.

• **"Recollection Reconnection"** at **Rokoko Art Gallery**, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, at the edge of Mesilla, reflects a joyful **Dia de Los Muertos** group show by artists throughout the community. The exhibit runs through Nov. 24. Gallery hours

are noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays or by appointment. Info: 575-522-5553 or rokoko@rokokoart.com.

• **"Dressed for the Occasion,"** an exhibit at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, runs through March 3, 2019 in the museum's Legacy Gallery. Learn about women's clothing from the pioneer days of the 1870s to the Depression Era of the 1930s. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info: 575-522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

• Also at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, **"Jacob Pfeiffer: My Long Journey"** is on display in the Museum's Arts Corridor through Dec. 2. Pfeiffer's long journey covers 80-plus years and two continents. Samples of his work can be found at www.jacobpfeiffer.com.

• **Las Cruces Arts Association Annual Members Show**



Jan Hampton's work is displayed with that of many other members of the Las Cruces Arts Association at the Cottonwood Gallery in November.

"Embracing The Earth" opens with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2 at the **Southwest Environmental Center Cottonwood Gallery**, Downtown Las Cruces during the First Friday Art Ramble. Info: jacklsg1@gmail.com or call 575-532-1046.

• **Rosario Jeremias** is the featured artist during the Las Cruces Arts Association First Friday Ramble, from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 2 at **Nopalito's Galeria** (next to Nopalito's Restau-

rant), 326 Mesquite St. The LCAA Gallery is open during the First Friday Rambles and noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

• New York City-based artist **Eric LoPresti** has a solo exhibition at **New Mexico State University Art Gallery**. This exhibition examines the complicated effects the Cold War and nuclear testing have had on the Southwest American landscape and the global psyche. Comprised of oil paintings, large-format watercolors, digital works and a multi-channel video (a new medium for the artist), **"Superbloom"** will be accompanied by a series of performances. The UAG will host a live Aikido performances from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. A panel discussion, focusing on the complex history of nuclear development in the West and the potential role art can play as a catalyst of change, will also be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. All events are free and open to the public. Info: 575-646-2545.



<p>Yada Yada YARN 621 N. Bullard, Silver City (575) 388-3350 Open Wed.-Sat. 11-5 Check us out on yadayadayarn.com</p>	<p>SEWING MACHINE AND SERGER SERVICE AND REPAIR CALL CINDY FOR APPOINTMENT AND INFO 575-538-2284 SNEEZEWEEDS@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>STERLING FINE ART 306 N BULLARD . STERLINGNM.COM</p>	<p>the BEDROOM & GUITAR shoppe Mattresses, Furniture Guitars & Accessories 910 N. Hudson • Silver City, NM OPEN Monday 9:30-5:30pm and Saturday 10-2pm 575-388-5555 TheBedroomShoppe.com</p>	<p>SYZYGY Tile Handmade in America 106 N. Bullard • 388-5472 info@syzygytile.com www.syzygytile.com</p>
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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.

The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankee and Lyon streets, 520-622-0251. By appointment.

Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087. During the months of September and October open by prior arrangement or chance. If the sign is out, the gallery is open. 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. Yankee, 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.

The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Guadalupe's, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.leybalngallsARTS.com, leybalngallsART@zianet.com.

Light Art Space, 209 W. Broadway, 520-240-7075, lightartspace.com.

Lloyd Studios, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Lois Duffy Art Studio, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

Lumiere Editions, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.

The Makery, 206 N. Bullard St. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.

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

Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankee 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. Yankee 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, 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.

Pinos Altos

Pinos Altos Art Gallery-Hearst Church Gallery, 14 Golden Ave. Pinos Altos, 574-2831. Open late-April to early October. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

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@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

Bayard

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

Northern Grant County

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

Deming

Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gold Street Gallery, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Orona Art Studio, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.

Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.

Studio LeMarbe, 4025 Chaparral

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

SE, 544-7708. By appointment.

Columbus

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

Rodeo

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

Hillsboro

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

Mesilla

Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center, 1740 Calle de Mercado, Suites B and D, 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ouida Touchon Studio, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

The Potteries, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Rokoko, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

Big Picture Gallery, 2001 Lohman Ave, Suite 109, 647-0508. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Blue Gate Gallery, 4901 Chagar (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, open by appointment, 523-2950.

Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery, 314 South Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cottonwood Gallery, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

Justus Wright Galeria, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Las Cruces Arts Association, Community Enterprise Center Building, 125 N. Main St. www.lacrucesarts.org.

Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.

M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.

New Dimension Art Works, 615 E. Piñon, 373-0043. By Appointment.

NMSU University Art Gallery, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

Quillin Stephens Gallery, behind downtown Coas Books, 312-1064. By appointment only.

Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

Unsettled Gallery & Studio, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment.

Virginia Maria Romero Studio, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment, agzromero@zianet.com, 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 Granado St. 575-585-4407. Art, southwest furniture and decor.

The Merc, 316 Granado St. 505-238-6469. Art gifts by regional artists, books.

Capitan

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

Carrizozo

Malkerson Gallery 408, 408 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-648-2598.

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

Lincoln

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

San Patricio

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

White Oaks

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

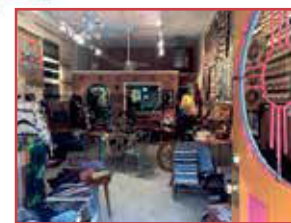
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ON SCREEN

Heroes, Hops and Hollywood

Truth or Consequences hosts Film Fiesta

Truth or Consequences presents “Heroes, Hops and Hollywood,” which can be found throughout Downtown T or C over Veteran’s Day weekend, Nov. 9-11. The Film Fiesta joins the debut of comic-con, T or C Con, on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the T or C Civic Center.

The Film Fiesta runs Friday afternoon through Sunday and includes several films with ties to New Mexico. Friends of New Mexico Film, The Santa Fe Film Festival and the Borderlands Film Festival will share films and help bring an exciting line up to the fiesta.

The Film Fiesta honors Hillsboro resident Rod McCall with a retrospective of his long career and celebrates his induction into the New Mexico Film and Television Hall of Fame. McCall is the writer and director of award-winning movies such as “Lewis & Clark & George,” “Becoming Eduardo,” and the recently completed “Rose.”

Participants will also be watching “2001 Space Odyssey,”

and the premiere of “Beyond Roswell,” among others. The event will also feature a party each day at the T or C Brewery and other art gallery locations.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at www.torcfilmfiesta.com, tickets are \$40 and include entrance to T or C Con and all parties. T or C locals can buy tickets for \$30 at 108 Main Street.

Film Fiesta guests of honor are Bruce Logan, cinematographer of “Tron,” effects coordinator for “2001 Space Odyssey” and “Star Wars A New Hope,” as well as many other films. Local legend Ashe Cravenook of “Forged in Fire” will be attending and WWF and WWE Legend Gangrel the Vampire.

Tickets for T or C Con are available at torccomicon.com at \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids, free for Film Fiesta ticket holders. Booths start at \$200 with \$50 off for T or C locals.

All this joins the Veteran’s Classic Car Show on Saturday day and Art Hop on Saturday night.

Holiday Trails

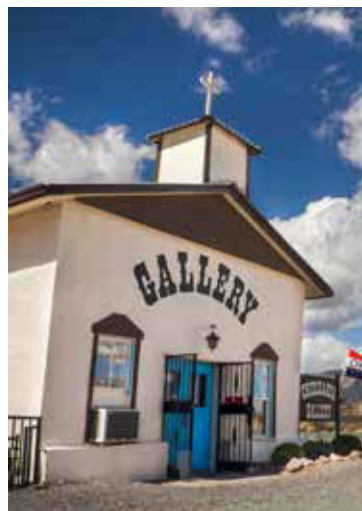
Things to do, places to buy stuff



Nov 10: Holiday Open House

Las Cruces – Six artists come together to provide an open house, including live music by Alison Reynolds from noon to 5 p.m. at Debra Vance’s Studio, 2200 W. Union Ave.

Tapas and beverages will be served, and door prizes given out. For information call Vance at 970-405-5784. Please no pets or small children.



Nov. 12-18: Chiricahua Gallery Holiday Show

Rodeo – Chiricahua Gallery Events run from Monday, Nov. 12 through Sunday, Nov. 18. A preview runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 12-15. A members’ only reception is from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 and the show is Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17 and 18.

Those with a gallery membership receive the first opportunity to purchase new works at a discount during the members’ only reception. Non-members may apply for membership at the door for \$25 per household.

The Gallery is at 5 Pine St., corner of Pine and U.S. Highway 80. Call 575-557-2225 for information.



Nov. 16 and 17: Holly Day House

Las Cruces – The Artists of Picacho Hills will host Holly Day House from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Avenue, in Las Cruces and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17.

Parking is south of the church. Turn on May Avenue (one way) from Alameda Boulevard.

There will be paintings in many media: sculptures, metalwork, ceramics, fused glass, jewelry, drawings, quilting, gourd work, reed weaving, knives, and artwork created on the computer using Excel. Participating artists include Lori Shallet, Greta Burger, Larry Felhauer, Wanda Sparks, Paul Maxwell, Sharon Cunningham, Marilyn Payne, Steve Bailey, Rosemary McKeown, Jan Severson, Linda Lee, Judy Bess, Marilyn Hansen, Michelle Marshall, Wallace Hammond and Lana Payne.

A raffle of items created by the artists will benefit Mesilla Valley Hospice.



Nov. 23 and 24: Holiday Fiber Art Sale

Silver City – A Holiday Fiber Art Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24, at the Grant County Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East in Silver City. The sale is sponsored by the Southwest Women’s Fiber Arts Collective.

All of the items for sale are handmade by the artisan selling them. Items include weavings, knits, hand painted silks, quilts, quilted items, wall hangings, tapestry weavings, fiber art tools and more.

A small educational exhibit of quilts, weavings and other fiber art will be on display in the lobby. Admission is free.

The SW Women’s Fiber Arts Collective’s mission is to celebrate fiber art and realize its economic potential. To accomplish this, we nurture and empower both novice and skilled artists and enrich the community by fostering opportunities to experience, learn and earn. Visit www.fiberartscollective.org for more information.



Nov. 24: A Storybook Christmas

Silver City – The 28th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade, with theme “A Storybook Christmas,” will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24 in Downtown Silver City. “The theme allows for some

creative interpretations and we look forward to seeing what groups and businesses design,” said Board President Patrick Hoskins.

A horse-drawn wagon will shuttle shoppers around the downtown area, which will be lit with Christmas lights and a merchant window decorating contest. Free totes and merchant discounts will be available Saturday, for the Shop Small promotion. A Community Choice award will be given to the most popular merchant.

In addition to floats, parade entries can be walking, biking, dancing, classic cars and other vehicles if they are well lit. The event is sponsored by Silver City MainStreet, the Town of Silver City, and Hidalgo Medical Services.

Get an entry application online at silvercitymainstreet.com, or in person at 201 N. Hudson St.

For information or an application, email Charmeine@silvercitymainstreet.com call 575-534-1700. The deadline for applications is Saturday, Nov. 10.

Dec. 1: Christmas in the Foothills

Hillsboro – Hillsboro’s annual holiday festival, Christmas in the Foothills, takes place from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Hillsboro Community Center.

Highlights of the festival include a wide array of vendors selling specialty arts and hand-crafted gifts; holiday cards and posters featuring the Christmas in the Foothills 2018 artwork; and the ever-popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale.

The \$49.99 Art Show and Sale began many years ago as a way for Hillsboro’s many artists, authors, and craftspeople to give back to the community at Christmas time.

Each item in the Art Show will be sold for \$49.99 to a winning ticket holder, even though items are guaranteed to be worth more than that.

Winners each go home with a unique and valuable gift or addition to their home, whether painting, photograph, pottery, furniture, fiber art, jewelry item, or other treasure.

Proceeds from Christmas in the Foothills 2018 support several nonprofit organizations serving Hillsboro and the surrounding areas.

In addition to Christmas in the Foothills at the Hillsboro Community Center, Hillsboro’s Main Street Merchants will be celebrating the day with food, music, and special holiday offerings.

Signs and complementary village maps will direct visitors to Christmas in the Foothills and other village holiday events.

Hillsboro is located on Highway 152 approximately 17 miles west of I-25 at exit 63. From Silver City take Highway 152 east 57 miles to Hillsboro. For information contact Mary Anne Ciancia at 575-895-5117 or maciancia@gmail.com.

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ON STAGE

Fall Concert

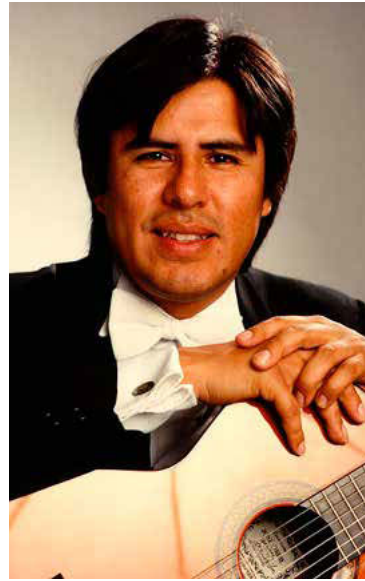
New Horizons Symphony performs

New Horizons Symphony will dedicate its fall concert to Dr. Marianna Gabbi, the group's music director and conductor, who passed away Sept. 11. The concert will be directed by Jorge Martinez-Rios, associate professor of viola at New Mexico State University. Martinez is also a member of the award-winning La Catrina String Quartet.

The concert will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, in NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe Road and is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

Marianna Gabbi took the helm of New Horizons Symphony in 2012. She created challenging and exciting programs which broadened the audience base and the musical boundaries of the members, according to a press release from the group. She may be best known for leading the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra from 1975-1999, bringing some of the world's finest musicians to the area as guest artists.

She established Young Artist



Javier Calderon

Competitions, Summer String Workshops and a Youth Concert Series.

She was the first American woman invited to conduct in China and the first woman to conduct the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra.

Guest artist Javier Calderon, guitar professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will perform the Rodrigo guitar concerto, "Concierto de Aranjuez."

Calderon is lauded as one of the most expressive guitarists of our time and he tours extensively. Calderon was a dear friend of Dr. Gabbi who invited him to perform with the orchestra last February. Unfortunately, he was hospitalized a week before the performance.

The concert will also include "West Side Story (Selections for Orchestra)" by Bernstein, "Postludio" by Heras, "An Outdoor Overture" by Copland, and the third movement of Mozart's Violin Concerto #5 performed by NMSU Associate Professor of Violin, Daniel Vega-Albela.

New Horizons Symphony is a nonprofit organization and a member of the New Horizons International Music Association which provides opportunities for adults to either return to their musical roots or explore their musical side for the first time. The NHS gives free concerts three times a year and rehearses Thursday evenings in the NMSU Band Room.

For information, call 575-521-8771 or email Gay Lenzo at gml53@comcast.net.

ON THE SHELF

Double Signing

Science fiction authors to appear at Coas

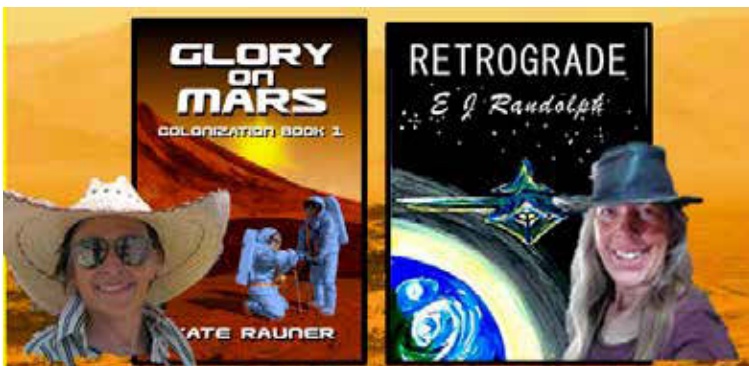
Area authors Kate Rauner and E.J. Randolph are signing books from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 10 at Coas Bookstore in Las Cruces. They will be featuring the first two books of their respective science fiction series. Randolph will also be signing her two children's dragon stories books.

Rauner's Mars series creates the life of colonists on a future settlement on Mars with all the dangers, interpersonal problems, and scientific and technical aspects such a life would entail.

She writes science fiction novels and short stories, and science-inspired poetry. She also serves as a volunteer firefighter (inspiring her short story "How I Became a Witch," one of the writing contest winners in this issue of Desert Exposure).

She's a retired engineer and Cold War Warrior (a term used by the US Congress) because she worked in America's nuclear weapons complex. After a few years at the copper mines around Silver City, she now lives on the edge of the Gila National Forest with her husband, cats, llamas, and dog. Kate says she's well on her way to achieving her life-goal of becoming an eccentric old woman.

Randolph's is the author of the science fiction series "Federation Diplo-



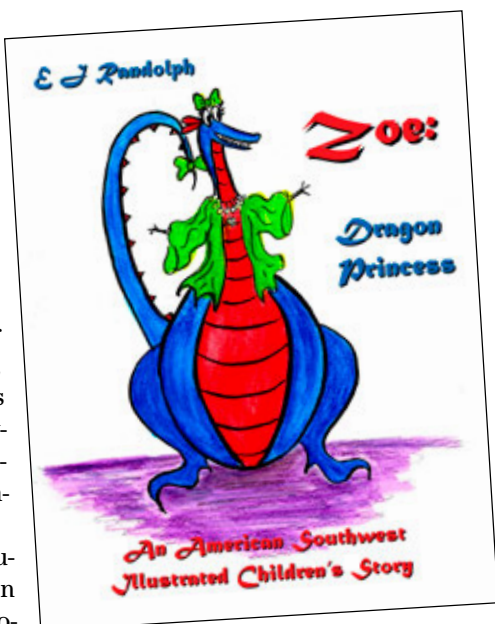
mat," two children's dragon stories, and a short writing manual based on her five years as a history writing tutor. She is a longtime resident of New Mexico and has lived in the Gila since 1999.

Burrowing deep in the forest provided her with the inspiration to write and paint. Her science fiction books feature diplomatic and military themes.

She used her knowledge of how things work developed from her study of history to construct her story lines.

Her main character goes to planets in the midst of political upheaval or war and develops unusual yet historically valid solutions. "Call Me Tony" and "Zoe, Dragon Princess," two illustrated children's books, feature two friendly dragons who illustrate aspects of Southwestern life. Her "A Very Short Writing Manual for the Utterly Clueless" is based on asking questions - the most basic way we learn - to not only research but to write, making the process of preparing a paper simple and fun.

All of Rauner's and Randolph's books are available on Amazon in both eBook and paperback formats. Rauner also has her eBooks on Smashwords. In Silver City, some of their books can be found at O'Keefe's Book Store. The same paperbacks are also available at Coas Bookstore in Las Cruces.



COLORFUL TRAILS

Second Saturday Open Studios

Las Cruces artists make themselves available

Opening their studios once a month, some Las Cruces artists will be available from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 10.



Sonoma Ranch Area

John Schooley and Ali (Keyes) Schooley: John is a watercolorist and Ali works in acrylics, photography and sculpts.

2287 Evening Star Ave
Contact at 214-906-6086

Central Las Cruces

Penny Dunclee is a watercolorist who works plein aire and in her studio from photos and sketches.

1201 Second Street: Take Picocho to Second Street. Go north two blocks and her studio sits back from the street.

Contact at 575-523-1889

North Las Cruces

Roy van der Aa works in acrylic and mixed media and will have Michael Ponce exhibiting in his display area. Michael will be showing "Depressing Fu@%ing Landscapes" There will be a special event on Dec. 2 when Michael will destroy any work that has not sold.

2645 Doña Ana Road, the studio is behind the house on Calle de Oro.

Contact 575-520-8752.

Holly Day House
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
225 W. Griggs Ave. Las Cruces, NM
(enter from the parking lot on May Ave.)

Friday-November 16th 10am-5pm
Saturday-November 17th 9am-5pm

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www.artistsofpicachohills.com Facebook: Artists of Picacho Hills

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Rocketeer Playground

Space history museum opens space for small folk



Jonathan Sepulveda tries out the Rocketeer Playground during the grand opening, brought by his mom, Astrid Sepulveda. They visit the museum regularly with other families from Holloman Airforce Base and were excited about the playground. (Photo by Jennifer Gruger)

A longtime dream come true sits at the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, in the sometime shade of Little Joe II, (the largest rocket ever launched from New Mexico.) The Rocketeer Playground in Alamogordo is open and ready for visitors of all ages, fully equipped with rock retaining walls, safety ground cover and brand-new playground equipment.

During the Grand Opening ceremony on Oct. 4, dignitaries, volunteers and families from all over the Tularosa Basin came to inaugurate the new playground. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Chris Orwoll, director of the New Mexico Museum of Space History, said the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation started raising money for this project back in the 1980s. Funding from PNM and the State of New Mexico combined with the Foundation's contribution finally made it possible. Retaining walls and installation costs were funded by the State and equipment costs were covered by a PNM Power Up Grant and the Foundation.

"It's kind of fun to have a rocket climber because I remember climbing on one of those," Orwoll said. "It was little bit more dangerous back in the '60s and



Cutting the Rocketeer Playground ribbon, starting in the center, are Chris Orwoll, (ribbon cutter) director of the New Mexico Museum of Space History; Tina Martinez, director of The International Space Hall of Fame Foundation and Mary Parra, community liaison with PNM. They are flanked by volunteers, Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce ambassadors, community members and children (aka playground experts).

'70s of course, but it's nice to have this new one right up next to Little Joe. We are going to keep improving not just the interior but the grounds as well."

Cathy Harper, PR Director for the museum said she sees the playground as a great attraction for all visitors as well as a nice addition to the already robust birthday party packages offered by the museum.

The parties are based around science and children can do things like build rockets and even launch them.

"It's fun to talk to the grown-ups that remember participating in the museum's summer camps," she said. "I am pleased to see that young people do go into STEM-related fields and that even adults report that we helped generate that interest here at summer camp."

Harper also talked about a new program called Science Saturdays. These events are free and occur the second Saturday of every month at the New Horizons Dome Theater & Planetarium. The program includes an activity for kids and parents and is appropriate for ages kindergarten and up.

Launchpad Lectures are also an option for families. These free lectures are typically hour-long presentations based on some aspect of space history and include coffee and doughnuts provided by the Foundation. They occur the first Friday of each month and take place on the first floor of the museum at 9 a.m.

More information about these programs as well as birthday party packages is available on the museum website or by

contacting Harper. Details for the 2019 Rocketeer Academy's summer camp for K-9th graders will be available online before Christmas.

The museum is one of 15 divisions of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and has the following permanent installations: The Museum of Space History, The International Space Hall of Fame, The John P. Stapp Air & Space Park, Daisy Track, The Clyde W. Tombaugh Education Center, The New Horizons Dome Theater & Planetarium, Astronaut Memorial Garden, The Hubbard Space Science Research Building and The Museum Support Center.

Orwoll said the next big project is the construction of a large building for artifacts that can't be installed in the museum because of their size. This building will likely be in the parking lot below the New Horizons Dome Theater & Planetarium.

Events in November:

Friday, Nov. 2: Launch Pad Lecture, 9 to 10 a.m.

"From the Earth to the Moon: Science Fiction to Science Fact" presented by Museum Educator Michael Shinabery.

Saturday, Nov. 10: Science Saturday!, 10 a.m. to noon

Join museum educators as they bring science down to earth and then across the universe. Hands-on activities, planetarium programs and more.

Sunday, Nov. 11: Free admission for veterans all day in the museum

For information contact Harper at 575-437-2840 or msh.info@state.nm.us or visit www.nmspacemuseum.org.

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

La Santa Muerte

A saint of death shines positive light on believers

If you drive south from Palomas toward El Entronque you will see a small painted building on your left about a mile south of the military encampment. It is a shrine to La Santa Muerte or the Saint of Death. Four miles farther south there is another shrine, although much smaller and apparently abandoned. Three miles later there is a third perched on a small knoll, also on the left.

What is this Santa Muerte? What does it mean?

La Santa Muerte is a skeletal figure usually wearing a long robe and holding a scythe. Its background is unclear, but it is thought to come from a combination of indigenous Mesoamerican culture and Spanish Catholic beliefs, although it is not sanctioned by the Catholic church. It is particularly popular along the border and associated with healing and protection. Some say that also means protecting drug traffickers from arrest and prosecution.

I first read about La Santa Muerte in a 2008 New Yorker article, "Days of the Dead, the New Narcocultura," by the well-known writer, Alma Guillermoprieto. She said, "The cult is known for the drug traffickers' devotion to it ..."

If La Santa Muerte is a protector of drug dealers – if criminals and drug dealers come to believe that this saint gives them some special immunity or protection from arrest or prosecution – this is very troubling. For that reason, I began to look for these shrines several years ago in the hope of interviewing those who came there to worship.

My first visit was the sanctuary in Mexico City described by Guillermoprieto. I persuaded a taxi driver to take me and a nervous friend into the Tepito district of Mexico City.

"I may be big," my friend, Jorge, said, "but I am very scared." We found the sanctuary and were greeted by a very pleasant man named Raimundo who was the caretaker. He assured us that La Santa Muerte was really to help people in need, not to protect criminals.

Subsequently I have visited

both the sanctuary and the nearby church several times and have never seen any evidence of a drug culture or felt no sense of danger either during the early morning or the evening visits.

Since those early visits, I've seen La Santa Muerte in Juárez, in a series of little capillas south of Nogales, along the highway west of Naco and in a "santuario" in Tijuana managed by a very dedicated woman named Lorena Mendoza.

"I'm a Catholic," Mendoza said, "but the Church always wants money. You even have to pay for the final Mass."

So she turned to La Santa Muerte and maintains it for the whole neighborhood. While remodeling this lower floor, she moved it temporarily to another location. Her nephew, Humberto, 15, took me to see it.

"I have always believed in La Santa Muerte," he said.

The only truly frightening moment occurred south of Nogales where there were about a dozen little shrines or capillas next to the highway. As I was taking photographs, a battered pickup truck came thundering off the highway and headed toward us through a cloud of dust. The cab driver who had brought me jumped in his cab and locked the doors. Two young guys leapt out of their truck, ran to one of the shrines, lit marijuana cigarettes and began to pray. They turned out to be very friendly. One of them, Ariano, said the Santa Muerte is for people who have "real problems."

She doesn't necessarily have anything to do with drugs, he added.

As for Palomas, what is odd about the shrines along the highway is that, on one hand, they were built openly with the north-south traffic passing by yet now it seems impossible to see anyone there actually worshipping or taking care of the shrines. (There are always freshly lit candles in the closer one.) And so far, I have been unable to find anyone in Palomas who will admit to knowing anything about them.

On the other hand, there is a church in Juárez right along the

busy Avenida Oscar Flores called El Santuario de la Niña Blanca. I spotted it on July 1, the day of Mexico's national elections, spoke to Isidra (nicknamed Chili) the woman in charge and she invited us to come to a Sunday noon mass.

Before going on Sunday, Sept. 23, I was warned several times it could be dangerous and therefore took two "bodyguards"

SAINT
continued on page 19



Josefina Ramirez, the priest, blesses a souvenir. (Photos by Morgan Smith)



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The mission of DAG is to improve the lives of Luna County animals by making spay and neuter surgeries more affordable. Income-eligible county residents can call Robyn at 575-546-9711 to request discount spay/neuter vouchers. The group also operates an emergency pet food bank al-

lowing indigent pet owners to retain their pets. Contact Sunshine Grooming at 575-545-8862 for information.

DAG also operates a trap-neuter-return program for feral cat overpopulation and takes humane education to elementary students in the area.

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 This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts,
a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs **www.demingarts.org**

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Silver Whiskers

New shop supports animal cause

Deming has a new gift shop with a big heart. It's called Silver Whiskers, and it's on Silver Street. It was conceived as a thrift shop to benefit Deming Animal Guardians (DAG), which assists about 400 stray and abused animals every year and carries out 1,000 to 1,500 spays and neuterings in this very low-income town.

It's become the place to go to find sensational gifts and other items at an impressively low price.

"We're getting people from Lordsburg, Silver City and Cruces," said Judi Taylor, one of the managers. "Facebook has been a great advertiser for us."

Silver Whiskers has been surprisingly successful since its start on Aug. 6 and has become a major support to the DAG.

"Several times we've posted an item on Facebook, and we get a caller that says, 'I just saw you have such-and-such in there. I'll be down in 15 minutes.' This has happened many, many times," Judi said. "Deming is very much an adult community. They often have had outstanding, unique items that they pass on to us.

"We've given everybody a rea-

son to clean out their basement, attic, garage and closets, wherever they have it stashed."

One feature of this commercial space is the mural of an 11-foot-tall bull painted on the brick wall to the north. It was put there in 1912 by the "Bull" Durham tobacco company, one of the first companies in the U.S. to do murals. This one used to be on the side of an alleyway outdoors.

In 1914, locals made the space into an outdoor theater called the Air Dome, which showed silent films. There's a wide array of items for sale.

You can probably find hats that date back to the 40s and 50s, and boxes of puzzles hardly used. There are several elegant Capodimonte ceramic roses and other flowers at low prices, and a wedding gown for \$150. There's a 50-lb. can of Heil's Princell Brand Pure Lard, illustrated with royal French dancers.

There are red ski boots and green, red and pink Sluggers plastic boots, and on a shelf is a peppy yellow ceramic duck with a cart. A cello made in Albuquerque by Robertson and Son is for sale

and there's also a floor lamp with black feathers hanging from the lampshade.

An appealing several-foot-long row of hand-made, decorative Mexican store-fronts and houses is for sale. There's a sparkling bracelet made of safety pins. There's a ceramic set of a dancing Fred and Ginger.

Silver Whiskers is a short step for Judi from The Galleria antique store she owned on Eighth Street until 2015 that was overflowing with an enormous variety of opulent and interesting items. It closed partly because it was so far from the business district in Deming. But this new one nicely takes its place.

It's worth it to stop off from a trip from Las Cruces to Silver City to see Silver Whiskers. The phone is 575-545-7205 and the address is 118 S. Silver Ave., with the sign partly covered by leaves.

*Borderlines
columnist
Marjorie Lilly
lives in Deming.*



Judi Taylor stands at Silver Whiskers gift shop in Deming in front of a wall sporting a mural from 1912. (Courtesy Photo)



A Santa Muerte priest, Josefina Ramirez, begins a sermon at a Juárez Santa Muerte shrine. (Photos by Morgan Smith)



Silvia, visiting the Santa Muerte sanctuary in Juárez, claims her diabetes symptoms have receded thanks to the skeletal figure.

SAINT
continued from page 17

from the mental asylum, Visión en Acción with me. One of them, Juan Carlos is a former patient and now a trustee. The other is Edgar Corona, a dental technician who is trying to recover from a meth addiction.

We arrived early and were greeted warmly by Chili. Another woman, Carla, was there. She lit a cigarette and blew the smoke on one of the Santa Muerte figures. Three puffs for purification. A third woman had come 230 miles from the city of Chihuahua to thank La Santa Muerte for helping a relative recover from a serious illness. A

fourth woman, Silvia, said she was dying from diabetes-related problems and La Santa Muerte saved her.

"Today is the first day in three months that I have not had a temperature," Silvia said.

Slowly the small room filled. Families mostly. The priest arrived, a serious blond-haired woman named Josefina Ramirez.

"This is eerie," Edgar said.

I disagreed. Yes, the dozens of skull-like Santa Muertes surrounding us are eerie at first but if this "saint" can bring relief to those who live on this harsh border, how can that be bad? In my many years of working in this area, I have never once seen any evidence of either the

Catholic Church or the Mexican government out in the community helping people in need. So why wouldn't people turn elsewhere?

For now, I have to believe that this strange skeletal figure is a positive. But I am still looking for those who maintain the shrines south of Palomas.

Morgan Smith is a freelance writer who reports regularly on border issues and also works with a variety of humanitarian groups in Juárez and Palomas. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

by the book

"Santa Muerte: The History, Rituals, and Magic of Our Lady of the Holy Death" by Tracey Rollin is a ritual guide to working with this Mexican folk saint. It goes beyond the sensational headlines explore why Santa Muerte is so beloved to so many.



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The third farthest shrine south of Palomas seems abandoned in the desert.



One of three Santa Muerte shrines near Palamos, Mexico.

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Destination: Diversity in the Gila

Yoga, tai chi, hypnosis, therapy: These are only a few of the techniques people practice in their efforts to relieve stress and find inner peace.

Why not just take a pack trip into the Gila Wilderness and let nature do the healing?

Located in southwest New Mexico where rugged mountains meet the high desert, the Gila, as it is fondly referred, is the ultimate of wildness. Founding the concept of “roadless” travel and minimal human impact, it became the world’s first designated wilderness area in 1924. Unlike national parks and forests, motorized vehicles or equipment are not permitted, and the only way to access this magnificent country is by foot or from the back of a horse or mule. With elevations ranging from 6,000 to 12,000 feet, the Gila Wilderness encompasses an amazing diversity of life molded over thousands of years by volcanic activity, floods, fires and other forces of nature. Conservationist Aldo Leopold declared the Gila contained “all the best types of mountain wildlife and scenery” in the Southwest and it would be hard for anyone to dispute this. It is a true creation.

At one point in time the rugged environment and remoteness of the Gila deterred many newcomers, but today these same characteristics are what entice and challenge visitors to explore its depths. Some people have a desire to place themselves back in time – a modern-day pretend experience — while others seek the serenity or spirituality that can only be found in nature. And there are those who simply want to get away from things on horseback and enjoy new scenery. Whatever the reason, they all share a quest for adventure.

No one understands this, or knows the wilderness, quite as well as Jim Mater, who has owned and operated UTrail Horseback Adventures for more than 25 years. His exceptional knowledge and love of the Gila are what makes his pack trips so special.

The trip commences from the trailhead east of Snow Lake on Aeroplane Mesa, a vast plateau teeming with myriad wildflowers and greenery. Here you get your first glimpse into the past, watching the ancient art of packing as the wranglers carefully load the mules and horses with everything you will need during your stay in the wilderness. You’ll meet the horse, or mule, who will be your constant companion and guardian for the duration of the trip and the wranglers, whose extensive knowhow can only be acquired through years of experience.

The three-hour trek to base camp is only an introduction to the breathtaking landscapes you can expect to enjoy over the following days. The ride traverses lush fields and rolling hills, through pinon and juniper woodlands, and down into a



deep canyon where you follow a side creek of the Middle Fork River to camp. Tents are spread out to provide privacy and are equipped with cots to ensure a good night’s sleep. The cook’s tent is the hub of activity, miraculously producing good food, and plenty of it, the moment you arrive.

Meals are traditionally eaten around the campfire – the living room of the camp. Here you will also find your inhibitions melting away as you rediscover the joys of meaningful conversations and dialogue using words rather than devices. Having left the cluttered, busy world behind, it seems only natural to share your deepest thoughts and dreams with confidence they are safe in this new trusting environment.

Your morning alarm is the sound of sizzling bacon and a chorus of cheerful “good mornings” drifting through the air. Rather than groaning and pulling the pillow over your head, you fling open the tent flap and savor the scent of cowboy coffee on the cool, crisp air wondering what new discovery the day will bring.

It could take you riding along the riverbed of the Middle Fork, classified as a river but little more than a creek during the summer, meandering through deep canyons in the shadows of aged cottonwood and sycamore trees. Ancient petroglyphs and natural caves adorn the rock walls that spiral and mushroom up into the sky in the form of multi-colored columns and “hoodoos” (meaning bewitched). Soaring overhead a bald eagle calls out, and behind the tree line curious deer and elk watch quietly before bounding off.

The day might also take you in a different direction, through stands of ponderosa pines and up onto ridgelines where the wilderness stretches out in front of you for miles before fading into the deep blue sky. Riding across a grassy meadow you arrive at the old Prior Cabin where, wrapping your reins around the hitching post and closing your eyes, you can almost hear the

muffled banter of mountain men and trappers of long ago.

Or, perhaps you are headed to the cliff dwellings of the Paleo Indians, the earliest known inhabitants of the area dating back thousands of years. These large family groups of gatherers and hunters lived peacefully until disappearing, for no known reason, around the 13th century. It wasn’t until the 16th or 17th century when nomadic tribes of Apache arrived that residency was, once again, taken up in these rugged mountains that had remained quiet for so many years.

No matter where the day’s ride takes you, be assured that around every bend a new adventure will unfold.

While the tempo of nature is slow, the days go by quickly. The morning of departure a somberness settles over camp – no one is quite ready to end the trip. But, as you retrace the route back to the trailhead you realize it isn’t over at all. You have become a fearless explorer, no longer afraid of the unknown, and that will stay with you forever. You now know the trail. You sway back and forth in sync with your mount. You’ve seen that bear. And, after wondering how early settlers, Indians, and explorers crossed these mountains and survived the wilderness, you now have an idea, because you too, have traversed this magnificent, unspoiled country.

So, drop your smartphone, pick up the reins and discover the Gila Wilderness.

Laurie Ford moved to New Mexico 15 years ago. Photography and horses have always been her passion. For the past five years she has been travelling around the west, camping in wild horse areas to observe and photograph the animals in their natural environment.



Nardo’s Return to the

Head high, nostrils flaring, his ears flicking back and forth, Nardo was the essence of nobility as he led the pack-string down the trail deep into the Gila Wilderness. Like the guests behind him, it was Nardo’s first trip and he was performing his new job like a seasoned pro.

Captured during the Bureau of Land Management’s Silver King 2016 roundup, Nardo was a stallion who

would never see his home in the Great Basin Desert of Nevada again. Instead, he spent the next two years in dusty corrals until he was adopted earlier this year. With love and patience, Nardo was transformed into a leader once again; only this time it was on the trail protecting his new herd – the mules and horses and riders of the pack-trip.

The Silver King Herd Management Area has a history of gallant, coura-

geous horses with a powerful will to survive and protect – some to the death. In 2010 during a previous roundup, one such stallion, Braveheart, made national news with his chivalry.

Separated from his mare and foal, Braveheart was fatally injured after repeatedly slamming into a metal fence attempting to reach them. Shortly after he fell to the ground the mare was loaded into a trailer

and her tiny foal left behind to watch his father die.

But not all their stories ended so tragically. The noble leader, Silver King, was also separated from his family during this tragic roundup.

He was rescued by Return to Freedom, a wild horse and burro rescue and sanctuary, who, by 2017, succeeded in reuniting Silver King with his lead mare, Grace, and other family members.

HEART OF WILDNESS • LAURIE FORD

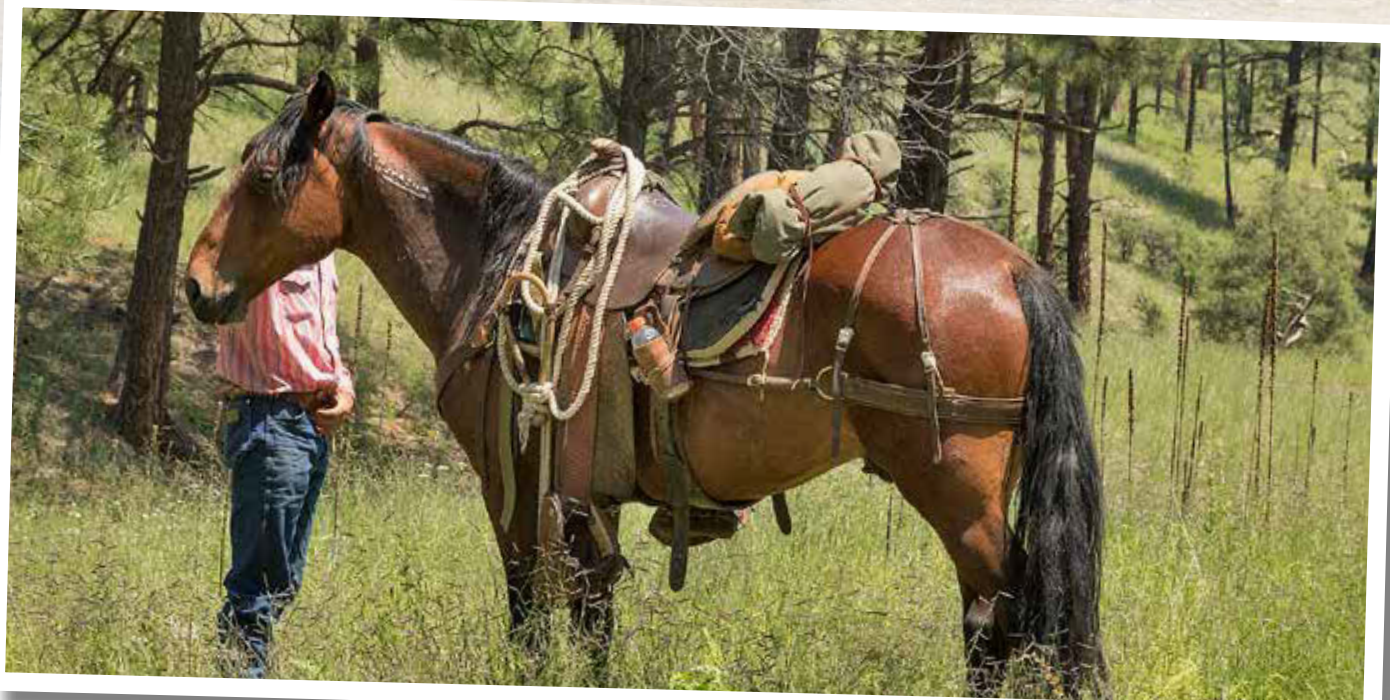
Hitting the Wilderness



Wild

They are now peacefully living out their lives in the rolling hills of the California refuge – never to be separated again.


The valiant history and spirit of the Silver King herd is reflected in Nardo's character. He is bold and beautiful, yet gentle in nature. And, like stallions are devoted to their families in the wild, Nardo is just as dedicated to his new family who he will now be making history with.



Nardo at work. (Photos by Laurie Ford)

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GETTING OLDE

The time is nigh!

Renaissance ArtsFaire returns to Young Park

A world of wizards and maidens, a realm of dragons and knights, makes a return to Las Cruces on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 3-4 at Young Park in Las Cruces, hosted by the Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC). The 47th Annual Renaissance ArtsFaire offers two days of family fun, entertainment, shopping and merriment 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

"Who can resist the allure of dragons, knights, and royalty in Las Cruces?" said Kathleen Albers, executive director of DAAC. "For generations, people have looked forward to the Renaissance ArtsFaire for a totally unique and family friendly weekend, and we are proud of the exciting program we've put together for the 47th annual event."

The Renaissance ArtsFaire brings an authentic medieval village to the park with lots of food, activities and unique artisans who provide an ideal opportunity for holiday gift shopping. Visitors can enjoy traditional favorites like rat-on-a-stick and funnel cake, visit the Dragon's Eye Tavern to relax in the wine and beer garden, and take the



Lori Keleher Bursun is a bell ringer in the 2017 royal procession. (Photo by Steve MacIntyre)

torical stage productions, brave knights engaging in combat and medieval singing and dancing throughout the park. Each day, there will be jousting exhibitions and tours of the realm as well.

To help with traffic around Young Park, there will be a free Royal Shuttle departing the southwest parking lot of the Mesilla Valley Mall, starting at 9 a.m. daily. The last shuttle leaves the park at 6 p.m. on Saturday, and at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$10 for adults at the gate, children 12 and under are free. Save 25 percent by purchasing two adult tickets in advance for just \$15, available at Pic Quik convenience store locations, at the Doña Ana Arts Council office, 1740 Calle de Mercado, Ste. B-D in Mesilla, or online at www.daarts.org. A special VIP pass is available for \$80 which provides one-day all-access for two adults, preferred parking near the entrance, and access to two VIP areas: one adjacent to the main stage with complimentary food and beverages, and the second with a royal view of jousting with the Queen.

For information, call 575-523-6403 or visit www.daarts.org.

Both days will feature a full slate of entertainment and activities, including a royal procession at 1 p.m. each day. There will be juggling and acrobatics, trained hawk demonstrations, live his-



Tigua Dancers visit Leasburg Dam State Park for Winter Solstice events in 2016. (Courtesy Photo)

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WINTER SOLSTICE

Turning Back the Sun

Native dance, food and storytelling at Leasburg

Visitors to Leasburg Dam State Park Saturday, Dec. 1 can celebrate Winter Solstice with special events such as a demonstration of traditional pueblo adobe oven bread baking and pueblo Indian social dances during the day.

Right before sunset, visitors can gather around several warm campfires in an amphitheater and enjoy traditional coyote/winter stories from Dine, Apache and Pueblo and Black-foot peoples.

Traditionally, these stories can only be told during the winter months. There will be samples of buffalo stew with oven baked

Pueblo bread and hot chocolate while supplies last.

Following the stories visitors can enjoy the quality night sky of Leasburg Dam State Park and look through several types of telescopes, including through the park's observatory 16-inch research-grade telescope.

Several volunteer astronomers from the Astronomy Club of Las Cruces and the Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park will be on hand to assist and answer questions.

The event is free with paid day use or camping fee.

Contact Alex Mares at 575-524-4068 for more information.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

The Pate of Politics

Hair, no hair: Do voters care?

Depending when you're reading this column – before or after Nov. 6 – you may know something about the mid-term election results.

If you're reading after Nov. 6, you'll know, for example, if our state's new governor is mostly bald or has a thick head of hair.

Should Steve Pearce buck the odds and defeat the locks of Michelle Lujan Grisham, he would be the baldest New Mexico governor since, well, the very first one, William C. McDonald.

And while Grisham is bucking the odds by aspiring to be a female governor (still a male-dominated field in America), that glass ceiling was already broken in New Mexico by our current governor, Susana Martinez. Pearce is battling more than a century of state history in his quest.

An elected official's hirsuteness is not relevant to one's leadership ability or governing skills, but maybe relevant to the first part of that two-word phrase, "elected official."

It seems Americans are not terribly keen on electing bald men.

The last baldish U.S. President was Gerald Ford. You may or may not recall, though, Ford was not elected. He moved over to the Oval Office from the boringly rectangular Vice President's office when Richard Nixon resigned the presidency in 1974.

Could baldness be a form of prejudice, at least in the voting booth?

The last time we elected a bald president was in 1956, when we ushered Dwight Eisenhower in for his second term. And as if to show how badly we wanted to correct that move, the next president, elected in 1960, was John F. Kennedy, whose hair was so thick you'd feel comfortable hanging onto it over the edge of a cliff.

Before that, you have to go all

the way back to 1836 for a time Americans elected a truly bald president, Martin Van Buren.

Van Buren made up for the lack of hair on top of his dome by letting the hair on the sides of his head, and particularly his sideburns, go completely wild and free, giving him the appearance of a raging owl.

Maybe because there was no TV – not even photography – at the time, Americans didn't vote as much on image as they have since television's proliferation. Kennedy memorably out-haired Nixon according to those who watched the first televised presidential debate, but those listening on radio had Nixon even or winning the debate.

Way pre-TV, John Quincy Adams, our sixth president, and his father, John Adams, our second, were quite bald. The senior Adams also let the side of his head flourish and Quincy, in later years, grew white sideburns that put even Van Buren to shame.

In the past 15 years or so, Americans have taken more of a shine to male baldness. Athletes such as Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley, actors such as Ed Harris and Vin Diesel, and TV hosts such as Dr. Phil and Steve Harvey have followed the lead set by Bruce Willis. Jordan and Barkley once argued in a Nike commercial about which one "went bald first," debating who set the trend.

Even a few female celebrities have gotten some mileage out of the hairless look, notably singer Sinead O'Connor and Persis Khambatta, who played the bald Iliia on Star Trek, which featured another strong bald character, Patrick Stewart as Captain Picard, the anti-Captain Kirk. Apparently, the show's message: There is a place for baldness in the future.

Willis may have set the tone for the demise of the comb-over when he chose not to fight Moth-

er Nature and instead turned his fading pate into a strength.

As Hollywood has turned baldness into a power move, native New Mexican Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, has taken it into the business arena. That, no doubt, has caused frustration to many men who still want their hair.

"Bezos is the richest man in the world," some men might think. "If HE has given up on having hair, what does that mean for the rest of us?"

Bezos has the wherewithal to do what he wants, but elected officials still have to rely on voters.

The mostly bald John McCain made an unsuccessful run at President in 2008, and political experts will debate for generations whether his campaign was hurt or hindered by the healthy hair of Sarah Palin, his vice-presidential running mate.

While I still haven't quite figured out Donald Trump's hair, at times it seems like he has almost as much as Hillary Clinton, his 2016 Presidential opponent.

Here in New Mexico, we have elected the hair-free Hector Balderas as a state representative, state auditor and, currently, attorney general. You'll know, if reading after Nov. 6, if we've elected him to another term.

But could a state or nation's top spot really depend on what's on a candidate's top spot?

It's a hairy dilemma.

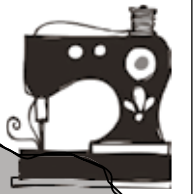
Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure and the Las Cruces Bulletin. Four times he has shaved his head to raise money for children's cancer research. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.



Martin Van Buren

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7:30 p.m. Reception | McCray Gallery
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Thursday, November 15



LOUISIANA SWAMP POP BAND

7:00 p.m. | Light Hall Theater
TICKETS \$15

Tuesday, November 27



Piano Quintet

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7:00 p.m. | WNMU Light Hall Theater | TICKETS \$15

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Wrights goldenrod (Photo by Tricia Hurley)

NATIVE ROOTS • TRICIA HURLEY

Autumn Blooms, Fall Planting

Breathing in the air and color of the season

Golden yellow blooms of chamisa and goldenrod herald the arrival of autumn across New Mexico. It is a warm and inviting color. We sigh in relief; the heat of summer has finally broken. Just as we think of reds and oranges for the Midwest's fall, we see a kaleidoscope of yellow hues in the Southwest. The subtle variations of this fall color are depicted in many of our native plants – the bright yellows of sunflowers, velvet ash and New Mexico olive; the amber gold of aspens and cottonwoods; the russet of oaks; and the lime-yellow of Goddings willows and boxelder just beginning to change. Fall is also a great time to plant all these natives.

Planting in fall makes sense when you look at it from the plants point of view. All of your energy went into leaf and flower spring and summer, now you can focus on your roots as you head into winter dormancy. You are not so thirsty with cooler days and nights. A fine dew coats the ground most mornings and the hot desiccating winds of spring and early summer are long gone. Fall planting means less work for the gardener and will reward you with a bigger more established plant in the spring. Most of our native perennials, shrubs and trees can be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen. Just avoid planting cold sensitive species like certain cacti and some salvias.

It is an easier time to plant, water requirements are down from daily to weekly, then monthly as winter sets in. If you feel the need to fertilize, go easy as most natives like a lean native soil. Avoid chemical fertilizers, as they feed only the plant and not the soil, with continual use they deplete the soil of important microbes that help the plant survive. Soil Mender's YumYum organic fertilizer is good for the growing season but switch to their Winterizer in the fall. These were developed by a local New Mexican for our nutrient poor, alkaline soils. Winterizer provides potassium, phosphorus and trace amounts

of nitrogen from its alfalfa, cottonseed and kelp meals as well as from greensand and rock phosphate. Other ingredients provide vitamins, minerals and elements necessary to feed and nourish a healthy soil community.

Supporting soil mycorrhizae and microorganisms promotes plant growth as it is their relationship with plants that secures the nutrients and water for plants to thrive in a sustainable manner. Mulching is important for this time of year too. Use a rock substrate for the most drought tolerant or cold sensitive species. This will keep the root crown drier and warmer with reflected heat and thermal mass. Gila Wood Products in Santa Clara has a composted wood mulch that has been inoculated with beneficial microorganisms and mycorrhizae fungi from SoilSecrets (SoilSecrets.com). We use it in our gardens and for all of our nursery plants.

Fall is an important time to support our local pollinators and chamisa and goldenrod do just that with their nectar and pollen rich blossoms. While trading goldenrod plants for honey at our local Silver City Farmers Market with the Red Rock Honey folks, they explained that fall is an especially important time to support honeybees since they do not hibernate like our native bumblebees do. Only the Queen hibernates. The rest of the colony is active keeping the hive safe and warm. This requires a lot of stored food to sustain them over the winter. My Wright's goldenrod (*Solidago wrightii*) is covered with hundreds of bees every fall. I often have to step over the 3-foot-tall blooms and am amazed at how focused the bees are on their work, ignoring my intrusions.

While admiring the colors in one of Hosana Eilert's beautiful wall hangings at Wild West Weaving, Hosana told me she has been actively collecting goldenrod blossoms for the dye she makes for her weavings. She will be collecting the better known chamisa blooms next. Both plants have a long history of traditional uses with Southwestern Native Amer-

icans.

Chamisa, or rabbitbrush (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is often covered with a diverse array of butterflies and numerous other insect pollinators in late fall. Both of these autumn bloomers are recognized by the Xerces Society (xerces.org) and the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center (wildflower.org) as important for native bees and for supporting predatory insects which prey upon insect pests.

As you head out to soak in the fall color, rest assured that these two native plants are not the culprits triggering your hay fever. They are both falsely accused simply because they are the plants people notice. It is actually the ragweeds, the chenopods (amaranths), grasses and sagebrush which are wind pollinated that are causing your symptoms. The flowers of these plants are inconspicuous since they do not rely on pollinators. They also produce massive amounts of lighter pollen as a better guarantee that it will make it to the right plants. Goldenrod and chamisa do not produce as much pollen because insects are more reliable pollinators than wind. Their pollen is denser and sticks to the insects.

Goldenrod has other beneficial properties. It is a great mulch maker and is attributed with drawing nutrients deep in the soil with its long taproots and making them accessible for other plants. Hopefully you now have plenty of reasons to plant these great natives this fall or winter.

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 or visit their website at www.lonemountainnatives.com.



BODY • MIND • SPIRIT

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 7-9 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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. (new location). 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.

Gilawriters — 1:00-3 p.m., Silver City Food Co-op's Market Café Community Room, 615 N. Bullard St. Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.

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

ARTS Anonymous — 5:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. Artists recovering through the 12 Steps. 534-1329.

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.

Double Feature Blockbuster Mega Hit Movie Night — 5:30-11 pm., Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

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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February 1 - 6, 2019
Nicolle Neill Jensen
hello@neillspace.com

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Dr. Nilam Patel has joined the team at Silver Health CARE and is accepting new podiatry patients. He attended Des Moines University for his doctorate and University of Florida for his post-doctorate surgical residency, where he also served as Chief Resident. He is Board Certified. Dr. Patel is



Silver Health CARE would like to introduce our new pediatrician, Dr. James Dennemeyer. He attended medical school at the University of Brussels in Belgium and residency in Brooklyn, NY at the Brookdale Hospital. He is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and German. We are

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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIEL ROCHELLE

Preparing for a Commute

How to choose the bike

My mileage calculators tell me that, for the past half dozen years, I have ridden my commuter bicycle 2,800 miles. That's about 40 percent of my total mileage; in other words, a good chunk of time I've spent negotiating traffic. The rest is recreational road cycling. Mountain bikes are a bit too risky at my age.

If you are going to commute to work – and I want you to do so, if at all possible, for reasons of sheer enjoyment, health, mental acuity, and environmental consciousness – you need a proper ride. Better still, you deserve a proper ride. People pay attention to a stylish commuter bike. You gain more respect from drivers and your street cred increases markedly.

Before you run out and buy a commuter bike, however, think through this set of questions: how fast do you want to go? How fast

are you able to go on the route you have calculated for getting from points A to B? How far do you have to go? Is your ride going to be flat, hilly, or mixed? What kind of grades do you need to negotiate on this bike? Will you be commuting at night as well as in the daytime? Will you be commuting year-round? Do you need protection from rain and snowy weather? How much carrying capacity do you need for going to your workplace? Will you carry clothing to shower and change at your workplace? Answers to these questions will affect your decision on a bicycle.

Be prepared for a major uptick in weight from your 18-pound road bike. Your commuter will weigh between 27 and 40 pounds depending on the brand you purchase. Part of that weight will be from larger tires, sturdier rims and spokes; part of it will be from built-in gear on com-

muters, like generator lights and hub brakes. The good news is that commuters are what I call "rollers"; that is, once you get going, the bike will pedal at a reasonably good rate without a lot of extra effort.

You can spend between \$400 and \$5,000 for a commuter. There is no reason to go to the high end. You can buy a perfectly serviceable bike between \$500 and \$1,500. Choose how much you can spend and then look for the ride with the best components for the least amount of money. Check with your mechanic, who will be knowledgeable about such matters. Remember, this is not a toy or something for pleasure. This is a vehicle, so its cost will be commensurate with the cost of any good vehicle.

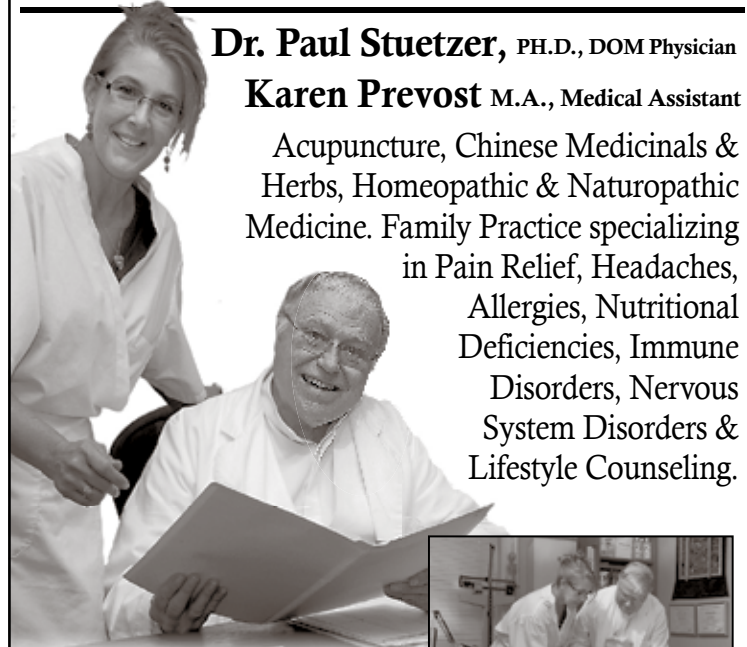
Even if you don't live where there is much rain (like New Mexico), choose a model with fenders (aka mudguards in Britain) and a chain guard for extra insurance. The chain guard also keeps your trouser cuffs (if you're a male rider) from getting caught in the front sprocket. I prefer internal gear systems (Sturmey-Archer, Shimano or Sram) because I rode for decades where there was a lot of rain and snow. They require minimal cleaning because the mechanism is inside the hub. Most commuters come with built-in hub generators for lights. These may need supplementing because they extinguish when you come to a stop. Hub or disc brakes are the preferred braking system these days on commuters. Flat or mustache (riser) or cruiser handlebars are the preferred steering mechanism. Extras include panniers for your rear rack to carry your gear to work, and a kickstand will come in handy.

You can do it: you can commute to work, and it will be an enjoyable experience.

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and chairman of the Hub steering committee. Please email at: gabrielcroch@aol.com.



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TABLE TALK

Night of the Nachos

Nearly 5,000 pounds of nachos to be constructed in downtown las cruces

Las Cruces will see heaps of cheese, pounds of tortilla chips and mountains of chile come together to become the world's largest nachos on Saturday, Nov. 10, in Downtown Las Cruces.

"Noche de Nachos," which aptly translates to "Night of the Nachos," will create nearly 5,000 pounds of nachos built for a crowd of intrigued spectators.

The current Guinness World Record for the World's Largest Nachos is 4,689 pounds and was set in Lawrence, Kansas.

"The moment I learned that Kansas held the record for the world's largest nachos, I knew we'd be going for it. Las Cruces does so many things well and we simply refuse to be bested at nachos," said Jennifer Bales, executive director of Visit Las Cruces, in a press release from Visit Las Cruces.

The top three performers from the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference Student Showcase Competition will perform, as well as winning vocalist of the Elisa Gastellum Scholarship and two ballet folklórico dance groups. The evening's headliner, Grupo Status, a 25-person musical group from Ciudad Juarez, will bring an evening of entertainment. Grupo Status plays



If you go

Noche de Nachos
When: 5:30-10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10
Where: Plaza de Las Cruces, downtown
Price: \$15 for adults, children 12 and under free

a diverse range of songs from salsa to rock and everything in between.

This will be an evening of music, dancers, local artisans, food trucks and nachos on the plaza. "Nacho Libre" will be screened at 3 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theater, across the street from the Plaza. Tickets are \$5, or free with a Noche de Nachos ticket. Space is limited, and doors for the movie open at 2 p.m.

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte said the event is the perfect opportunity to promote New Mexico food products.

"Our state's growers produce many high-quality foods, and our agriculture industry also offers numerous value-added products," Witte said. "This event is ideal for showcasing many of the tasty, locally-sourced New Mexico products our ag industry has to offer. And when you put those products together, they create great food and great fun!"

The nacho ingredients will come from New Mexico – Taste the Tradition® (TTT) and New Mexico – Grown with Tradition® (GWT) program members. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture developed the TTT and GWT programs to identify and promote New Mexico agricultural products, including food, fiber, wine, produce, nuts and livestock through one, easily recognizable logo.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, with the nacho build starting at 5:30 p.m. The official weight announcement will be at 7:30 p.m., with the headliner performing at 8:30 p.m., and the event concludes at 10 p.m. Entry costs are \$15 for adults, children 12 and under get in for free.

For information and tickets, visit DowntownLC.com or call 575-541-2286.

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RED or GREEN?

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or
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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico.

We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings. We are asking restaurants to pay a small fee for listing their information. Restaurant advertisers already on contract with Desert Exposure receive a free listing. For other establishments, listings with essential information will be \$36 a year and expanded listings, up to 10 lines, will be \$48 a year. To get an updated listing in Red or Green?, contact Anita Goins at anita@lascrucesbulletin.com or at 575-680-1980.

The listings here are a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at www.desertexposure.com. 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.

Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at www.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.
BURGERS & BROWNIES & BEER, OH MY! 619 N. Bullard St., 575-597-6469.

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, with special brunch Sundays.

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

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

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.

EL GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. Mexican: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday B L Thursday to Saturday B L D.

FORREST'S PIZZA, 601 N. Bullard St. Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, Slices only at lunch time.

FRY HOUSE, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964.

GIL-A BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.

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.

HEALTHY EATS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: L.

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse.

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Monday to Sunday 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: 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 and now serving barbecue on Saturdays: Tuesday to Saturday.

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tuesday to Sunday 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: Monday 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: 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, Wednesday to Sunday L, Fridays L D.

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBEQUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbeque to go: L D.

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. www.vickiseatery.com Fresh...made just for you!. Saturday-Sunday breakfast; Monday-Saturday lunch; and Friday-Saturday dinner.
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Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.

TRANQUILBUZZ CAFÉ, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffee shop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.

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.

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.

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: L D.

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

L D.
EMILIA'S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: Tuesday to Sunday 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.
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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.
JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alley), 526-8855. Mexican, American: 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 MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: 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.
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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.
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.
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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.
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. D3, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D.
MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9345 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffee shop, Mexican, American: B L.
MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 1300 El Paseo Road, 523-0436. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Monday to Saturday: B L early D.
NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tuesday to Friday B L.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605

Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sunday to Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday. L D.
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.
PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PHO A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.
PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.
PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO., 3900 W. Picacho, 575-680-6394. www.picachopeakbrewery.com
PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Herb Wimberly Drive. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.
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ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.
ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 300 N. Main St., 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Saturday to Thursday B L, Friday B L D.
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THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wednesday to Sunday B L.
SI SEÑOR, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.
SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.
SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.
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Cepheus, the King

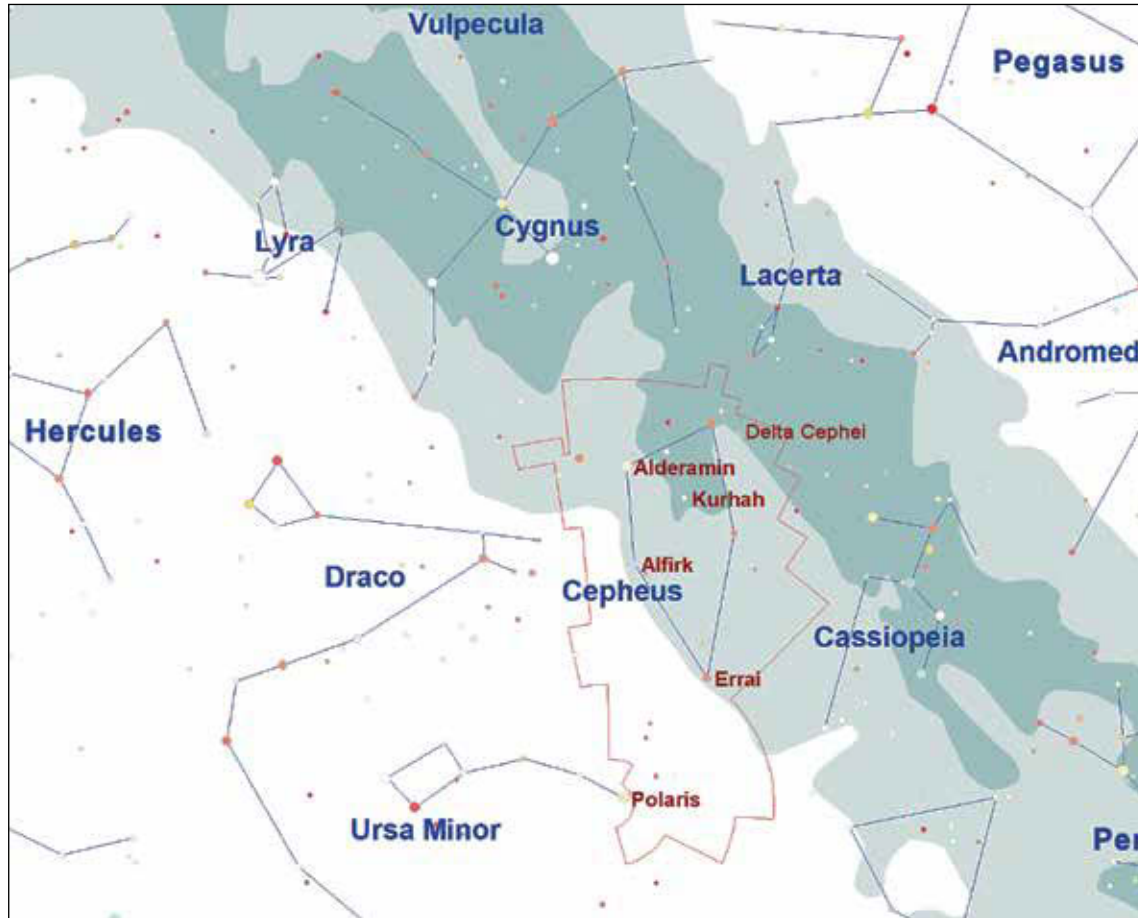
Proud father grants daughter's hand to Perseus

If you look toward the north this evening, above Polaris, the North Star, you will find Cepheus, the King of Aethiopia. He is standing upright, almost balancing on Polaris. The five brightest stars of this constellation form a tilted square with a triangle hanging down from the bottom edge. These five stars range from magnitude +2.5 to +3.5, so they can be easily picked out in moderately dark skies.

Cepheus is one of a group of constellations in this part of the sky with a common Greek mythology. King Cepheus was married to Queen Cassiopeia. They had a daughter, Andromeda, that the Queen boasted was more beautiful than the Nereids, daughters of the sea-god Nereus. This enraged the god Poseidon, who sent a sea monster, Cetus, to ravage Aethiopia. After consulting an oracle, they chained Andromeda to the rocks as a sacrifice to the sea monster.

The hero Perseus was riding by on his flying horse Pegasus as the sea monster approached Andromeda. Being a hero, he slew the monster and freed the beautiful Andromeda. King Cepheus gladly gave his daughter's hand in marriage to Perseus. They eventually had a son, Perses, who was the ancestor of all the Persian kings.

The brightest star in Cepheus is Alderamin (Alpha Cephei) whose name is a contraction of the Arabic phrase meaning "the right arm" of Cepheus. It will be the pole star around the year 7500 A.D. This spectral class A8 white star is forty-nine light-years away from us. It is running out of hydrogen to fuse in its core and it is becoming a sub-giant star. It will eventually become a red giant. The star spins very quickly, completing one revolution in just twelve hours, over fifty times faster than our Sun. Alderamin is 1.74 times the



Cepheus is just above half-way up in the northern sky on these November evenings. This constellation of second and third magnitude stars takes the form of a square with a triangle hanging down below it. Cepheus is surrounded by other constellations from a Greek mythological story that includes Andromeda, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cetus and Pegasus. Over the next ten thousand years, the North Celestial Pole will be moving through Cepheus as the Earth's axis precesses like a top that is slowly spinning down.

Calendar of Events – NOVEMBER 2018(MST)

04	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Savings Time Ends
06	8 a.m.	Mercury greatest distance east of Sun (23 degrees)
07	9:02 a.m.	New Moon
13	8 p.m.	Venus stationary
15	7:54 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
16	10 p.m.	Mercury stationary
17	5 p.m.	Leonid meteor shower peaks
22	10:39 p.m.	Full Moon
27	2 a.m.	Mercury passes between the Earth and Sun
29	5:19 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon

Sun's mass and it is seventeen times more luminous.

Finding the distances to other objects in space is not easy. You cannot take a tape measure and stretch it to a star. We can only study the light from a star to determine its distance. The most direct way is to measure the position of a star from opposite

sides of the Earth's orbit. Just like surveyors on Earth, astronomers then use triangulation to determine the distance to nearby stars. Stars that are more distant cannot be measured by triangulation, since the star does not move enough as the Earth Moves from one side of its orbit to the other to compute an accurate distance.

Studying the spectra of the nearby stars that astronomers could measure by triangulation, astronomers discovered how the different stellar spectra are related to the actual brightnesses of stars. They could then use this information to determine distances to the farther stars. Delta Cephei is part of a star cluster and by studying the spectra of stars in the cluster, astronomers determined a reasonably precise distance to Delta.

Harvard College Observatory was regularly taking photographic plates of the sky there from the late 1800 into the early 1900s. Each star on the plate

needed to be manually measured. Henrietta Leavitt was one of the women computers who worked making those measurements. In the process she discovered several thousand variable stars. In 1908 she discovered a pattern among the variable stars in the Small and Large Magellanic Clouds, two small galaxies that orbit our Milky Way galaxy.

Leavitt noticed that the variable stars like Delta Cephei (called Cepheids after Delta Cephei) changed brightness in relation to the period of the pulsation. The dimmest Cepheids had the shortest periods of around a day, while the brightest Cepheids took over a hundred days. Since they were all the same distance away in the Clouds, once you knew the period of a Cepheid, you knew its luminosity.

Henrietta published her paper in 1912 and a year later another astronomer had determined the distances to a few nearby Cepheids, calibrating the scale. Now if an astronomer finds a Cepheid in a distant galaxy, they could measure the period of its pulsations, which would allow them to compute its real brightness.

Using the observed brightness of the Cepheid, they could then compute the distance to the Cepheid and thereby to its underlying galaxy. This "standard candle" employed routinely by astronomers to determine

distance, discovered through tedious hard work and brilliant insight by Henrietta Leavitt.

THE PLANETS - NOVEMBER

Jupiter slid past Mercury at the end of last month and it is now lost in the Sun's glare, leaving Mercury sliding slowly southward along the west-southwestern horizon. It is just six degrees above that horizon, shining at magnitude -0.2 with a disc that is 6.0 seconds-of-arc across and seventy-seven percent illuminated. The Messenger of the Gods sets around 6:10 p.m. During the month it travels eastward from Scorpius into Ophiuchus. Turning back westward, it returns to Scorpius, passing through its northern panhandle into far eastern Libra.

The Ringed Planet is moving slowly eastward in central Sagittarius. Just nineteen degrees above the southwest horizon as it gets dark, Saturn sets around 8:00 p.m. It shines at magnitude +0.6. The Rings are 34.9 seconds-of-arc across, tilted down 26.3 degrees with the northern face showing, while the disc is 15.4 seconds-of-arc across.

The next planet east in the evening sky is Mars, halfway up in the southern sky. Setting just after midnight, it is shining at magnitude -0.3 with a disc that is eighty-six percent illuminated and 10.5 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. During the month it moves eastward from eastern Capricornus to central Aquarius.

Just before it starts to get light, Venus rises over the east-southeastern horizon. Entering the morning sky for the first time this year, it spends the entire month traveling first westward and then turning back eastward near Spica in central Virgo. It shines at magnitude -4.5. Its closest approach to Spica is on November 14 when Venus is stationary. On that date the Goddess of Love's disc is a thin crescent, just eleven percent illuminated and it is 52.8 seconds-of-arc across. It rises around 4:30 a.m. and reaches an altitude of sixteen degrees as it starts to get light. Enjoy Venus's entry into the morning starry dome 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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Writing Contest Winners

2018 WRITING CONTEST • KATE RAUNER

How I Became a Witch

I was ridiculously pleased with myself and grinned like a fool. Our volunteer fire department had wanted an official Smokey sign for years, and I'd badgered the Gila Forest district office into donating one.

Our chief smiled and clapped me on the shoulder as we admired the new fire danger sign, a half-pie of colored wedges arching from low to extreme. But Smokey was the star. Cut from a heavy metal sheet and brightly painted on both sides, he stood six feet tall.

The ranger who'd delivered the sign shoved his hands into his pockets and tsk-tsked. "I hope your sign lasts. People steal Smokeys, and this one's hard to miss."

The ranger's words left me fretful all day. There's no way to guard a rural roadside sign.

I was still worrying when I went out to the barn where a pile of sun-bleached bones caught my eye. I keep things my dog brings home from the forest. I had two vertebra, a rib, and most of a deer's skull. The muzzle had splintered away, but the brain case and eye sockets were intact. I rubbed my palms on my jeans, thinking, until a flutter started in my stomach.

I had an idea.

I selected a few feathers dropped by the water trough—shiny, black raven feathers. In the house, I rummaged through drawers for an old string of beads. They were only plastic, but a rich, mottled blue.

Now that I had a plan, the notion that Smokey could be gone churned my stomach, so I drove straight to the station with my supplies.

Smokey stared at me as I pulled in, smiling and holding his shovel.

I looped the beads through the skull's eyes, stuffed feathers halfway in, and tied the whole mess around Smokey's feet.

I wasn't sure anyone would understand my threat, so in the station shop I dug out brass disks and the letter punches we used to make tags. I stamped one disk

CURSE

U

THIEF

There are no such things as curses, but a lot of people are superstitious. If I didn't scare thieves away, at least I might give them a sleepless night.

My cheeks warmed as I walked back to Smokey. I felt silly and checked up and down the road to



HONORABLE MENTION

be sure I was alone before wiring the tag to the beads. Set down in the grass, only a thief would see my curse. And the guys of course, before the next meeting, when they walked out to admire Smokey. I laughed at their good-natured teasing. When you fight fire with people, you become friends.

Our year's fire calls progressed as usual. A few roadside burns when cars pulled off into the tall grass, one idiot burning trash—which is illegal anyway—on a windy day, and lightning starts from thunderstorms. But whenever I passed him, Smokey brightened my day. On my way to town, I'd sing along with the radio.

Then it happened.

It was during the break between summer lightning and the chimney fire season. I arrived for our monthly meeting to find Smokey gone.

The guys swore and shook their heads, but I was beyond angry. So frustrated I could cry. Some low-life scum stole Smokey and got away with it. Every time I drove by, my back stiffened and I flipped the radio off. I would have cheerfully bashed the thief's head in, and I'm usually a peaceful soul.

A surprise came in mid-winter. When I walked in for our meeting, Smokey leaned against the classroom wall.

I joined the guys examining scuffs and scratches to his paint. "Where was he?"

"Laying on the ground when I got here," our chief said. "With this note taped to the door."

I'm very sorry I took the bear. I'll never steal anything again. Please lift the curse.

Our chief shrugged. "It was probably some dumb kid. Ah, you can let this go, can't you?"

"There're no such thing as a curse." I crossed my arms tightly and shifted back on one foot. "Besides, whoever took Smokey de-

serves a guilty conscience."

We canceled the meeting in favor of fabricating new brackets and bolting Smokey to the fire danger sign.

Another surprise waited at the next month's meeting. The guys watched as our chief handed me an envelope. "Take a look."

Scrawled on the outside was a message.

Please, please lift the curse.

Inside was cash. I counted twenty-dollar bills onto the table. "Two hundred forty dollars."

Furrows creased the chief's forehead. "I guess it's yours."

I sucked in a deep breath and huffed it out. "Heck, no. This is a donation to the department."

"Whoever stole Smokey has paid for the crime, don't you think?"

"There's nothing I can do about it." I looked around for support, but the guys seemed tense. A few of them moved away to examine wall posters yellowed with age.

What was their problem? "There're no such thing as a curse." I waved the stack of bills. "This isn't my fault."

Our chief slid into a chair and rifled through his notes. No one sat next to me at the meeting.

Dreams of the guys backing away woke me several times that night, so the next day I drove to town and wandered Walmart's crafts section, looking for something to remove a curse. I found packages of long white feathers, from a turkey I suppose. And a skein of white yarn embedded with silvery sparkles. At home, I braided lengths of yarn into a rope and wove in the feathers.

A new brass tag completed my efforts. I stamped it

FOR GIVEN.

I felt even sillier than before as I looped the feathers around Smokey's shoulders, and the back of my neck tingled when a car passed, but I wanted everyone to see the glittering rope.

There were no more notes taped to the station door and no more envelopes of cash. Everyone continued to be very polite to me, which isn't really a bad thing. People sit next to me at meetings, too. When one of the guys asked for a charm to hang on his chicken coop, to keep coyotes away, it seemed mean-spirited to say no.

So I'm the fire station witch. That's how it happened.

2018 WRITING CONTEST
SUSAN RIVERA

Solitude

She had been walking the sandy track, the dusty sort-of road that beckoned walkers here in the desert, a road affording solitude but little shelter, meditating on yesterday's happy news for about thirty minutes when the urge to relieve herself rose, now a more frequent and irritating occurrence. Corinne found a cluster of mesquite and creosote just off the track and backed into it, unbuttoning and lowering her pants and underwear before squatting. She sent a long, satisfying river of hot urine onto the desert's dusty surface, its pearly beads finally disappearing into the ground. She watched mesmerized until all of her leavings were as though they had never been. As she reached into her



HONORABLE MENTION

jacket pocket for the tissue she always carried, voices stopped her. Two male voices...arguing their way toward her. The first voice, light and soft, held forth

SOLITUDE

continued on page 32

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COWBOY HERITAGE

Saddle Makers of the Southwest

Exhibit features Southwest legends

Exhibits at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum are in galleries, hallways, outdoors, and even in barns.

Inside the towering Horse & Cattle Barn on the southern edge of the 47-acre campus in Las Cruces is a revamped exhibit that gives visitors a look at the importance and art of saddle making. "Saddle Makers of the Southwest" features a leather-stamping activity for children, dozens of tools, and saddles in various stages of creation.

The saddle was the most critical tool of the cowboy; it was one of the most expensive purchases he would make, so he wanted a good, durable saddle that was specific to the work he was doing – whether it was riding the range on a cattle drive, roping and branding calves or at the rodeo. Cowboys sought out particular saddle makers for their custom orders and based their selections on the makers' reputations for making exactly what the cowboy needed and used.

Four of the region's top saddle makers are featured in the exhibit.

Austin "Slim" Green (1916-2007) made saddles and harnesses for the U.S. Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas during World War II. After his service, he settled in the

Santa Fe area where he created strong, durable, comfortable and beautiful saddles popular with everyone from working cowboys to celebrities. He retired in Las Cruces in the early 2000s and donated all the items of his shop to the Museum.

S.D. Myres (1871-1953) opened his first shop in Sweetwater, Texas, in 1897 and relocated to El Paso in 1920. During World War I, he volunteered his entire saddlery business to the War Department. Described as a great conversationalist and storyteller, Myres attended cattlemen's conventions to advertise his business. He felt that a saddle maker's reputation relied upon high-profile trophy saddles, such as the \$10,000 diamond- and ruby-studded saddle he made for the Miller101 Ranch Wild West Show. Even though his saddlery filled hundreds of orders each year, individual craftsmanship was the hallmark of a Myres saddle.

James Morris, who was born in 1943 in Carrizozo, N.M., grew up on a New Mexico ranch 40 miles west of Roswell. Morris built his first saddle when he was 18 years old while an apprentice for Harlan Webb, who had worked for E.T. Amonett. Morris still builds custom saddles, chaps, purses, belts, and other leather goods

at his shop just west of Caballo, New Mexico.

E.T. Amonett (1868-1950) started out in the leather business as a harness maker. It is unknown if he was already a saddle maker when he moved his family to Roswell in 1898, where he purchased an existing saddle and leather shop. E.T. Amonett Saddlery quickly became one of the major businesses in the region. By 1912, E.T.'s recently married son, Edd Amonett (1892-1963), had joined his father as a leather worker and saddle maker. E.T. decided it was time to expand so, leaving Edd to operate the Roswell store, he opened a second location in El Paso.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens, \$3 for children ages 4 to 17, and \$2 for active U.S. military members and veterans. Children 3 and under, and members of the Museum Friends receive free admission. The Museum is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

For information, call 575-522-4100 or visit nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.



Saddle maker Austin "Slim" Green in his shop in Tesuque, N.M. in the 1980s. (Photo courtesy of the Slim Green family)

SOLITUDE

continued from page 31

in an effort to persuade, anxiety clearly pushing his plea. Then the second voice, impatient, urgent, fully indignant, resisted the plea. Corinne envisioned them: one smaller, the other just plain big.

Their argument intensified as they neared; the big one began yelling; she could hear his feet scuffing the ground. Was he pacing or menacing? To her horror, they stopped not fifteen feet from her seclusion. She

mentally checked for defensive means but knew there was only the mace spray in her left pocket now hidden in the tangle of jeans around her ankles, and that was for the dogs people let run free in the area. Then, as though

some invisible force flipped a switch, their roles reversed. The calmer, smaller man began shouting, "I've had enough. There's no reasoning with you!" Silence. She imagined them glaring at each other, searching for any word that could win their respective arguments. But instead, she heard only the unmistakable click, the definite and usually irreversible click, of a trigger being cocked. She gasped and prayed they hadn't heard, then began breathing as shallowly as she could without passing out.

"Are you crazy?" the big man demanded, "Put that away, you fool!"

"I'm no fool, at least not your fool anymore. I want love!" His voice strained with desperation, desperation for understanding, the lack of which now frustrated him to this precipice. The big man had let him down, probably for some time now. Corinne knew they were done; whatever they had cherished was gone. They resisted this cleaving, the separating that would leave them alone, unbearably alone, even if only for a week or two.

Then, with an almost inhuman, angelic tenderness, the big man simply said, "Tommy."

Some minutes passed. Corinne struggled to ignore the cramp nibbling at her left calf. Then she heard the sobbing. She imagined the big man gently taking the gun from his lover;

Tommy would be collapsing or clutching himself; the big man would cradle him until comfort found Tommy. Then what? Would they act on this knowledge, or would they begin the relentless struggle once again?

It was not until their voices drifted away along the track she knew reached hard concrete that Corinne dared relax her now-stiffening body and then contemplate standing. She had already decided not to tell Sam; he'd never let her walk out this way again. But just as her brain sent the impulse to stand, she heard a faint rustle to her right in the shelter she thought she had owned in solitude. More rustling guided her eyes to a spot of movement. Slowly, carefully, a small desert fox emerged. Their gazes locked in clean understanding.

It broke first, lowered its nose to the place her urine had marked, pulling her essence into itself, looked out over the desert, yawned, and trotted over the next rise. Corinne sat concentrating on her breathing. The little fox had her scent, knew her from other beings now, had silently shared her fear. She stood finally and, while zipping her jeans snugly over her enlarging belly, was suddenly caught by a melancholy so profound she began to sob. How would she ever distinguish this little fox from others, she, a mere human being? How would she ever recognize it again?

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going On in November

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Silver City/Grant County
Dia de los Muertos celebrations — 3:30-5:30 at the Silver City Museum, opening for Arte Chicano de San Vicente 2018, Galleries open 4-7 p.m. Info: 575-388-5725.
The Great War Film Series: "The Red Baron" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. Presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society.

Deming/Luna County
Dia de los Muertos Ofrendas — On display at the Columbus Village Library, 112 W. Broadway through Nov. 5. Info: 575-531-2612.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

Square dancing — 6-8 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences, hosted by the Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club. \$3 per dancer. Info: 505-804-3842, 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Pre-K programs — Join the Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St., from 9-10 a.m. every Thursday for exploration designed for preschoolers. No registration required. Free. Parents asked to stay with their children throughout the program. Info: 575-522-3120 or visit museums.las-cruces.org.
Los Chismosos Toastmasters — noon-1 p.m. in Skeen Hall, Room 128, on the NMSU main campus in Las Cruces. Visitors are always welcome. Info: 575-541-5744.
Las Cruces Ukés — 5:15-6:15 p.m. Thursdays beginner group; 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays performance group at Good Samaritan Society, Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Free. Info: lascrucesukes.blogspot.com, 575-405-7133.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Silver City/Grant County
Dia de los Muertos: Ofrendas Procession — 4:30 beginning at the Silver City Museum, winding through downtown stopping at ofrenda locations to bless each altar and ending at the third floor of the Student Memorial building at Western New Mexico University.



Jim Shearer and the La Catrina String Quartet perform Nov. 2 as part of the NMSU Chamber Ensemble and Friends event at Atkinson Recital Hall in Las Cruces. (Photo by Sterling Trantham)

Some transportation available for those unable to walk. Info: 575-388-5725.

StillHouse Junkies at the Buckhorn — 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Bluegrass/roots. Info: stillhousejunkies.com.
"The Old Man and the Vultures" with SWNM Audubon — 7 p.m., Western New Mexico University Harlan Hall, Room 219, 12th Street and Alabama. Learn about the three species of vultures in North America with Dave Manning. Info: swnmaudubon@gmail.com.
Derick Nelson & Family, GCCCA Concert — 7-9:30 p.m., Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Center. Info: www.gccconcerts.org.

Deming/Luna County
Dia de los Muertos Ofrendas — On display at the Columbus Village Library, 112 W. Broadway through Nov. 5. Info: 575-531-2612.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Launch Pad Lecture "From the Earth to the Moon: Science Fiction to Science Fact" — 9-10 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Road 2001. Presented by Michael Shinabery, museum educator. Info: 575-437-2840.
Otero County Fall Fiesta — 6 p.m.-11 p.m., at American Legion Post 34, 20880 U.S. Highway 70 in Alamogordo. Dinner, drinks, live band, silent auction and a cash drawing. Cost \$125 per couple.

house Park. Cost: Free. Info: www.ddmartfest.com

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

Chicken and a Pickin' — 5-9 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore St. in Hillsboro. Barbecued chicken with baked beans and coleslaw, dessert and old fashioned pickin' by local pickers. Stomping and dancing allowed. Benefit for Sierra County Animal Rescue Society. Cost: \$10. Info: 575-895-5551.

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.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Dia de Muertos Festival in Historic Lincoln — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Old Lincoln Gallery and Annie's Little Sure Shot Espresso House in Lincoln. Honoring the stories, lives and legacies of those who passed away. Info: 575-653-4045.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Las Cruces Downtown Main Street Plaza. Info: 575-805-6055.

Diabetes Expo — 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Alma d' Arte High School, 402 W. Court Ave. in Las Cruces. Pan-

els, talks, screenings and cooking demonstration. Cost: \$12. Info: 575-522-0289.

Crafts for Kids — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Children get to make their own paper rocking horse while learning how horses have been used through New Mexico history. Info: 575-522-4100.

Renaissance ArtsFaire — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Young Park in Las Cruces. Medieval village with food, activities, artisans and more. Cost: \$10. Info: www.darts.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Renaissance ArtsFaire — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Young Park in Las Cruces. Medieval village with food, activities, artisans and more. Cost: \$10. Info: www.darts.org.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Silver City/Grant County
Open mic with the Black Teas at the Buckhorn — 7-10 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Info: 575-538-5555.

Deming/Luna County
Dia de los Muertos Ofrendas — On display at the Columbus Village Library, 112 W. Broadway through Nov. 5. Info: 575-531-2612.

Info: 575-491-7906.

Las Cruces/Mesilla/Doña Ana County

First Friday Downtown Art Ramble — 5-7 p.m. Downtown Las Cruces. Art openings, exhibits, entertainment and more. Info: 575-538-5555.

New Music Premiere: NMSU Faculty Chamber Ensemble — 7:30 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall at New Mexico State University. New works by composers Lester Pack and James Grant will be performed along with a rare performance of the "Octet for tuba, string quartet, electric bass and percussion" by Vaclav Nelhybel. Info: 575-646-2601.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Silver City/Grant County
Big Ditch Crickets — 6-9:30 p.m. at the Old Elks Lodge, 325 Texas and Market, behind Vickie's Restaurant. Family fun and lots of music. Info: 575-534-0298.
Lloyd Lamar Quartet at the Buckhorn — 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Bluegrass/roots. Jazz at the Buckhorn. Info: stillhousejunkies.com.

Deming/Luna County
Dia de los Muertos Ofrendas — On display at the Columbus Village Library, 112 W. Broadway through Nov. 5. Info: 575-531-2612.

Dia de los Muertos Art Festival — 8 a.m.-10 p.m. at the Court-



Voodoo Boogaloo play Truth or Consequences Brew House on Nov. 17. (Courtesy photo)

December Deadlines

Tuesday, Nov. 13, noon:
 Space reservation and ad copy due

Wednesday, Nov. 14, noon:
 All stories and notices for the editorial section

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**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

Zero – Three & Me — 1-3 p.m. at Wildflowers – art form the start, 400 N. Broadway St. in Truth of Consequences. Free play and support group for caregiver and infants/toddlers. Info: 575-323-1787.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Las Cruces/Mesilla**

Doña Ana Photo Club awards evening — 7 p.m. at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Cost: Free. Info: daphotoclub.org.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Silver City/Grant County**

Silver City Farmers' Market — 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180, Silver City. Info: 575-538-5555.

Gin Rummy — 1 p.m., Tranquil-buzz Coffeeshouse, 112 W. Yankie St., Silver City. Beginners welcome. Experts challenged. Info: 575-535-9355.

Byron Trammell at the Buckhorn — 7-10 p.m. at the Buckhorn

Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Info: 575-538-5555.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Silver City/Grant County**

Milner Women in the Arts: Jen Pack lecture — 6:30 at Parotti Hall, Western New Mexico University. Artist talk sponsored by Western Institute of Lifelong Learning. Cost: Free. Info: 575-538-6469.
The Great War Film Series: "The War Horse" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. Presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society.

Deming/Luna County

Open House, Mimbres Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home — 5-7 p.m. at Mimbres Memorial Hospital, 905 S. Eighth St. New Medical Office Building opens for a visit.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

Square dancing — 6-8 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences, hosted by the Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club.

\$3 per dancer. Info: 505-804-3842, 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Ukes — 5:15-6:15 p.m. Thursdays beginner group; 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays performance group at Good Samaritan Society, Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Free. Info: lascrucesukes.blogspot.com, 575-405-7133.

Francisco Bouorquez: The Cowboy Sheriff of Sierra County — 7 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Part of the museum's Culture Series, Karl Laumbach is the presenter. Info: 575-522-4100.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Silver City/Grant County
Scott van Linge at the Buckhorn — 7-10 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St. Pinos Altos. Info: 575-538-5555.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

Film Fest: "Herros, Hops & Hollywood" — 2:30-6:30 p.m. Downtown Truth of Consequences. Full weekend of films and special guests. Info: www.torcfilmfiesta.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Ruidoso Christmas Jubilee — noon- 6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. The Ruidoso Greeting tradition and fundraiser offers 80 local merchants and a food court with activities for children as well. Info: www.ruidosochristmas-jubilee.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Silver City/Grant County
114th Annual Church Bazaar — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parish Hall, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St., Silver City. Info: 575-388-2015.

Friends of the Library Book Sale — 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1510 W. Market St. in Silver City. Info: 575-538-5555.

Stars-N-Parks — 6:20-7:50 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Presenter is Bill Nigg. Info: 575-538-5555.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Science Saturday — 9-10 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Road 2001. Kids get to be hands-on scientists. Info: 575-437-2840.

Veterans Day Parade — 10 a.m.-noon From Oregon Ave. down 10th



A Dia de los Muertos procession will travel through Silver City to visit various ofrendas set up around town on Nov. 2. (Photo by Sandy Feutz)

St. to New York Ave. Info: 575-437-6616.

Night Sky Program — 5-8 p.m. at Oliver Lee State Park. Hosted by the Alamogordo Astronomers Group, at the group shelter. Info: 575-437-8284.

Galaxy Gala 2018 — 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. in Historic Downtown Tularosa on Granada Street. Fundraiser for Children in Need of Services, a black tie, star studded affair including dinner, spirits, live music, silent auction and more. Cost: \$60. Info: www.chinsnm.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Ruidoso Christmas Jubilee — 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. The Ruidoso Greeting tradition and fundraiser offers 80 local merchants and a food court with activities for children as well. Info: www.ruidosochristmas-jubilee.com.

Big and Rich Live in Concert — 7-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: innoftthemountaingods.com/event/big-and-rich/.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

Annual Veterans Day Car Show — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Mexico State Veterans Home, 992 S. Broadway, T or C. Info: 575-894-4222.

T or C Con — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center/Ralph Edwards Auditorium, 400 W. 4th St. in T or C. Includes guest of honor Bruce Logan, Ashe Cravenook and more. Info: torc-comiccon.com

Granite Vietnam Wall Dedication Ceremony — 10 a.m.-noon at the Veterans Memorial Park, 996 S. Broadway in T or C. Info: 575-894-6673.

Film Fest: "Herros, Hops & Hollywood" — 2:30-6:30 p.m. Downtown Truth of Consequences. Full weekend of films and special guests. Info: www.torcfilmfiesta.com.

Second Saturday Art Hop — 6-9 p.m., Downtown Truth or Conse-

quences. Info: MainStreet, promotions@torcmainstreet.org.

Desert Diamond Casino Night — 6-11 p.m. at Sierra del Rio Golf Course, Turtleback Mountain Resort, Elephant Butte. Annual Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce Annual fundraiser. Info: 575-744-4708.

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

**Las Cruces/Mesilla/
Doña Ana County**

Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Las Cruces Downtown Main Street Plaza. Info: 575-805-6055.

Natural Dye Workshop — All day at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Registration required. Info: 575-496-7678.

Crafts for Kids — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Make a beaded ear of corn and join a scavenger hunt. Info: 575-522-4100.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Silver City/Grant County
114th Annual Church Bazaar — 1-4 p.m. at the Parish Hall, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St., Silver City. Info: 575-388-2015.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

Poetry Readings — 1-2:15 p.m. at Geronimo Springs Museum, 211 Main St. T or C. Black Cat Sunday Poets meet every second Sunday. Info: 575-202-8642.

Film Fest: "Herros, Hops & Hollywood" — 2:30-6:30 p.m. Downtown Truth of Consequences. Full weekend of films and special guests. Info: www.torcfilmfiesta.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ruidoso Christmas Jubilee — 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca

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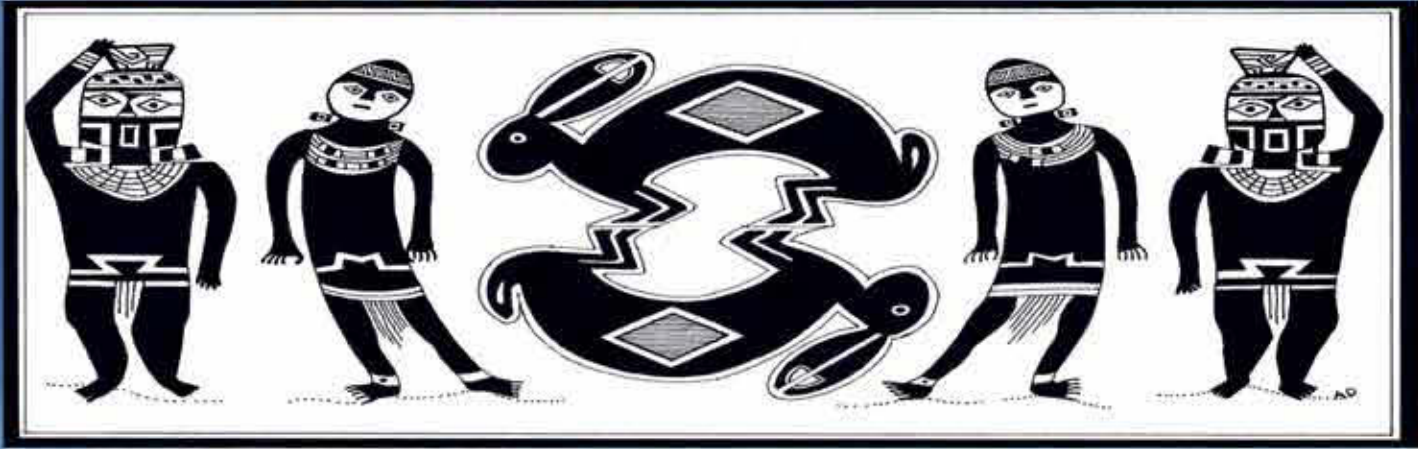
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5th Annual Artisan Holiday Market



December 1 10 am to 4 pm

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| •Myron Weckwert The Double W Gourd Art | •Mary Gardina Wild Crafted Clay Pottery |
| •Susan Porter Dancing Threads Handwovens | •Vicki Pelham Photography |
| •Susan Rice Spirit Glass | •Lisa Crowder Natural Dyes, soaps, organic art |
| •George Thompson Ollas | •Lynnae McConaha Weaving, Naturally dyed scarves |
| •Sally Hansen Sally Rocks Jewelry | •Melanie Zipin Zelanie Beaded Heart Creations |
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| •Rick O’Ryan Woodsongs | •Pat Bouchard and Bill Blakemore Moonstruck Art |
| •Joe Holguin 2020 Woodturnings | •Pamela Gibson Olive Ewe Handwovens |
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[facebook.com/SilverCityHolidayMarket](https://www.facebook.com/SilverCityHolidayMarket)

Drive, Ruidoso. The Ruidoso Greeters tradition and fundraiser offers 80 local merchants and a food court with activities for children as well. Info: www.ruidosochristmas-jubilee.com.

Chautauqua: 100th Anniversary of the Armistice/Beth and Edith: Two First Ladies and World War I — 2 p.m. at Capitan Public Library, 101 E Second St. Capitan. Info: 575-354-3035.

Las Cruces/Mesilla/Doña Ana County

New Horizons Symphony Concert — 3-5 p.m. at the NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N.

Horseshoe in Las Cruces. Cost: Free. Info: www.nhsocruces.com.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Silver City/Grant County
Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m. at Cross Point Assembly of God Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. The speakers are Barbara and Randy Salars about their travel in Ireland. Info: 575-537-3643.

Rodeo/Hidalgo County
Chiricahua Gallery Holiday Show preview — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Chiricahua Gallery, Pine Street and U.S. 80 in Rodeo. Preview

continues through Thursday. Info: 575-557-2225.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
The Sound of Music at Spencer Theater — 7-10 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Ruidoso/Lincoln County
The Sound of Music at Spencer Theater — 1-4 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmers' Market — 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180, Silver City. Info: 575-538-5555.

Gin Rummy — 1 p.m., Tranquilbuzz Coffeehouse, 112 W. Yankee St., Silver City. Beginners welcome. Experts challenged. Info: 575-535-9355.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Silver City/Grant County
The Revelers — 6:30 at Light Hall Theatre, Western New Mexico University. Masterful mix of Cajun, zydeco and 50s inflected swamp rock. Cost: \$15. Info: 575-538-6469.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Silver City/Grant County
"Ollas: Ancient Irrigation: Past, Present and Future" — 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, Room 219, on the corner of 12th and Alabama streets. George Farmer presents a talk with the Gila Native Plant



Willy Sucre and Friends are part of the WNMU President's Chamber Series Nov. 27. (Courtesy photo)

Society. Info: www.gilanps.org.

Rodeo/Hidalgo County
Chiricahua Gallery Holiday Show Reception — 4-7 p.m. at the Chiricahua Gallery, Pine Street and U.S. 80 in Rodeo. This is a members reception but non-members can apply for membership at the door, \$25. Info: 575-557-2225.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Silver City/Grant County
Just Words and Violin at the Tranquilbuzz — 2 p.m. at the Tranquilbuzz, 112 W. Yankee St. Phoenix poet David Chorlton and violinist Roberta Chorlton perform followed by open mic for poetry and prose. Info: sigriddaughter@gmail.com.

Deming/Luna County
Holiday Craft and Gift Show — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Southwest New Mexico Fairgrounds, 4300 Raymond Reed Blvd. in Deming. Info: 575-544-9019.

Rodeo/Hidalgo County
Chiricahua Gallery Holiday Show — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Chiricahua Gallery, Pine Street and U.S. 80 in Rodeo. Info: 575-557-2225.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Fort Stanton Garrison Program Holiday Edition — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Stanton Historic Site, 104 Kit Carson Road, Fort Stanton. Create historic holiday crafts and interact with living historians to discover what life was like at a frontier fort during the holiday season. Info: www.nmhistoricsites.org/fort-stanton.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Arts and Craft Fair — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 2290 Hamilton Road, Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-1897.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
Fourth Annual Cedar Cove ATV Poker Run — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cedar Cove RV Park, 48 Cedar Cove Road, Highway 195 and Yapple in Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-4472.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Voodoo Bugaloo at T or C Brewing — 7-9 p.m. at T or C Brewing Company, 410 N. Broadway in T or C. Psych-pop trip-hip duo from Texas. Info: voodoooboomusic@gmail.com.

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

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Las Cruces Downtown Main Street Plaza. Info: 575-805-6055.

Home Grown: A New Mexico Food Show and Gift Market — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-4100.
Crafts for Kids — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Children get to make turkey puppets. Info: 575-522-4100.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Rodeo/Hidalgo County
Chiricahua Gallery Holiday Show — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Chiricahua Gallery, Pine Street and U.S. 80 in Rodeo. Info: 575-557-2225.

Deming/Luna County
Holiday Craft and Gift Show — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Southwest New Mexico Fairgrounds, 4300 Raymond Reed Blvd. in Deming. Info: 575-544-9019.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
Fourth Annual Cedar Cove ATV Poker Run — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cedar Cove RV Park, 48 Cedar Cove Road, Highway 195 and Yapple in Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-4472.

Mickey Mouse's 90th Birthday Party — 2-4 p.m. at the Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort Event Center, 402 Butte Boulevard, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-740-1685.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Home Grown: A New Mexico Food Show and Gift Market — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-4100.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Opening Day at Ski Apache — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Ski Apache, 1286 Ski Run Road, Alto. Weather permitting. Info: skiapache.com.
Ruidoso Winter Park Opening — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Ruidoso Winter

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Silver City/Grant County
Lighted Christmas Parade — 7 p.m. through downtown Silver City. "A Storybook Christmas" themed parade, followed by awards at Little Toad Creek. Info: 575-534-1700.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

Christmas in the Foothills 2018 — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore St. in Hillsboro. Info: 575-895-5457.
Old Time Fiddlers community dance — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Raymon Ayala Live in Concert — 7-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: innothemountaingods.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Crafts for Kids — 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces. Celebrate the fall by making a 3-D paper pumpkin. Info: 575-522-4100.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

Zero - Three & Me — 1-3 p.m. at Wildflowers - art form the start, 400 N. Broadway St. in Truth of Consequences. Free play and support group for caregiver and infants/toddlers. Info: 575-323-1787.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Tango dance instruction — 7-8 p.m. Monday nights Mesilla Community Center 2251 Calle de Santiago. Instructor Tommy Nations. Dance 5-9 p.m. Cost: \$10. Info: 575-635-6903.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Silver City/Grant County

Mountain Bike Ride — 5:15 p.m., bicycles, Little Walnut Picnic Grounds. Carpool and meet up for 1.5 hours of riding. Level of difficulty: intermediate.

Annual President's Chamber Music Series: Piano Quintet Featuring Sandra Rivers — 7 p.m. at Light Hall Theatre, Western New Mexico University. Concert featur-



Louisiana music will ring across Silver City with the Revelers performing at Light Hall Nov. 15. (Courtesy Photo)

ing Willy Sucre and Friends. Cost: Free. Info: 575-538-6469.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Silver City/Grant County

Gin Rummy — 1 p.m., Tranquill-buzz Coffeehouse, 112 W. Yankee St., Silver City. Beginners welcome. Experts challenged. Info: 575-535-9355.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

Square dancing — 6-8 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences, hosted by the Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club. \$3 per dancer. Info: 505-804-3842, 575-313-9971.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Christmas in the Park — 6-8 p.m. at Schoolhouse Park, 501 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. Christmas carolers, music, sleigh rides and Santa Claus. Info: 575-257-5030.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Pre-K programs — 9-10 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St., every Thursday for exploration designed for preschoolers. No registration required. Free. Parents asked to stay with their children throughout the program. Info: 575-522-3120 or visit museums.las-cruces.org.

Los Chismosos Toastmasters — noon-1 p.m. in Skeen Hall, Room 128, on the NMSU main campus in Las Cruces. Visitors are always welcome. Info: 575-541-5744.

Las Cruces Ukles — 5:15-6:15 p.m. Thursdays beginner group; 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays perfor-

mance group at Good Samaritan Society, Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Free. Info: lascrucesukes.blogspot.com, 575-405-7133.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Silver City/Grant County

Bayou Seco and Tomas Wentz — 6:30-10 p.m. at the Buckhorn in Pinos Altos. Rollicking Chile Gumbo and more. Info: 575-534-0298.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Christmas Tree Lighting — 6-8 p.m. at Washington Park in Alamogordo. Food, games, music and more. Info: 575-439-4279.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Voice Play at Spencer Theater — 7-10 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. A five-member a cappella group shares the harmony and recreate the sound of a musical production with nothing but the human voice. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Silver City/Grant County

Artisan Holiday Market — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Gant County Conference Center, on U.S. Highway 180 East. Area artists with their handmade items from jewelry, gourd art, fiber arts, painting and much more. Food will be available by the Duck Stop. Info: scholiday-market@gmail.com.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Olde Fashioned Christmas — 4-9 p.m. Downtown block of New York Avenue in Alamogordo. Santa's village, gorse drawn trolley, ugly

sweater contest and much more. Info: cloya@alamogordomainstreet.org.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

Christmas in the Foothills: A Hillsboro Tradition — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center in Hillsboro, on U.S. Highway 152. Info: 575-895-5117.

Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 388 Calle del Norte Road in Monticello. Sale of many handmade products in cluding winning knives from "Forged in Fire" and America's only true traditional balsamic vinegar. Info: 575-743-0200.

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.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Holiday Bazaar — 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Capitan Public Library, 101 E. Second St. Capitan. Info: 575-354-3035.

Ruidoso Festival of Lights Parade — 5:30-7 p.m. in Ruidoso beginning from the corner of Sudderth/Mechem, through Midtown and down to the Chamber of Commerce. Info: 575-805-7395.

Festival of Lights After Party — 7-10 p.m. at the MCM Elegante Lodge and Suites. Santa Claus will be there to join in the fun and taking pictures with everyone. Info: 575-805-7395.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Las Cruces

Downtown Main Street Plaza. Info: 575-805-6055.

Turning Back the Sun: Winter Solstice — All day at Leasburg Dam State Park. Live demonstrations, pueblo Indian dances, at sunset gather around the fire for traditional coyote/winter stories of native peoples. Info: 575-524-4068.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Silver City/Grant County

Artisan Holiday Market — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Gant County Conference Center, on U.S. Highway 180 East. Area artists with their handmade items from jewelry, gourd art, fiber arts, painting and much more. Food will be available by the Duck Stop. Info: scholiday-market@gmail.com.

Truth or Consequences/
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Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 388 Calle del Norte Road in Monticello. Sale of many handmade products in cluding winning knives from "Forged in Fire" and America's only true traditional balsamic vinegar. Info: 575-743-0200.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

Zero - Three & Me — 1-3 p.m. at Wildflowers - art form the start, 400 N. Broadway St. in Truth of Consequences. Free play and support group for caregiver and infants/toddlers. Info: 575-323-1787.



Bayou Seco brings its special Chile Gumbo tunes to the Buckhorn in Pinos Altos Nov. 30. (Courtesy Photo)

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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

Fulltime RVers May Not Be Totally Sane

But they sure know how to enjoy life!

“What is sane?” you might ask. And how dare I accuse such a large segment of society, estimated to be a quarter of a million by some industry groups, of being mentally ill? After all, your Aunt Sandra and Uncle Bill travel around in their motorhome full time and they seem perfectly sane to you. Come to think of it, you are just a little offended by anyone casting aspersions on your favorite relatives.

OK, calm down, I don't mean insane. More like odd, not quite on the normal spectrum of attitudes and actions. Sure, they can act like normal people, dress like normal people and sound like normal people. They could even seem rather cautious and conservative. But dig deeply enough, there's going to be some quirkiness under there. After all, most of them chose to leave their homes and friends, the familiar and safe, to wander. Like those Pennsylvanians back in the day that packed the wife and kids into a covered wagon, left their fertile farms, and headed west.

In our current era of manic consumerism and a bigger-is-better mentality, what totally sane person would build himself a 63-square-foot tiny home on wheels, and live in it as he travels the Southwest? Pace out a seven-by-nine-foot space, then imagine it as home. Yet this miniscule structure was sitting on one of our sites for a couple of

months, while the owner spent much of his time on its little deck, seemingly deep in thought. Perhaps about why he's living in a tiny wooden box.

Recently there were two guys, fulltime RVers, staying on adjoining sites. One had a couple of dogs and thought he could get away with not having to pick after them. The other guy decided to play park police and reminded the dog owner of the rules. Next morning, the rules guy discovered a large pile of dog poop sitting right in front of his RV. By afternoon, the noxious mound had been transferred to the driveway of the dog owner. Back and forth went the pile of poop throughout the day. Our staff was following this event with interest, maybe hoping it might escalate into hand-to-hand poop combat before either of these guys were scheduled to move on. Alas, the park's owner quite sensibly intervened and requested the dog owner to pick up the poop and get on with life, thus ending the poop war before any casualties ensued.

Fulltime RVers often get into bragging contests about how little they possess, a rare boast in our materialistic society.

“We've only got two plates, two cups, and two sets of silverware,” one matron bragged.

“Oh, you still use real tableware? We went to all paper years ago,” her companion gloated.

The first lady countered with “My entire wardrobe fits into a two-foot square closet and mostly came from Walmart.”

“Pooh, that's nothing,” scoffed the second lady, “Mine fits under the bed and it all came from thrift shops!”

A few weeks ago, a friend and I went to the Copper Canyon Cruisers car show here in Silver City. As we passed a 1964 Ford Falcon Wagon that had been converted to a camper, she told me that when she was about 10 years old, her father had quit his teaching job and the family had lived in a similar improvised camper for a couple of years as they wandered through Central America. The 10-year-old buried inside me, who was born longing for adventure, is still seething with envy.

I've had many conversations with fulltime RVers, most of whom are over 60, and I'm usually surprised by the subjects they don't talk about, such as their kids and grandkids, their aches and pains and how much better things used to be – common conversational topics of more stationary senior citizens.

So, what do they discuss? The fantastic ride they just took on their motorcycles. The great musical group they heard last night at a local watering hole. What time they're meeting up for the hike out at Fort Bayard. How many states they've visited since they began their RV adventure. New experiences they just had or are anticipating. Their enthusiasm for life seems more characteristic of the young than those of an age to be winding down.

Recently, my husband Jimmy and I went out with another full-timer couple to Diane's Parlor for the evening. While the other wife and I listened to the musical group, our husbands carried on their own conversations that ranged from who starred with Burt Reynolds in the movie “Boogie Nights,” to who recorded “Up On Cripple Creek,” to the best treatment for RV toilets, to where to buy the softest T-shirts, to

who would be at a party we were all going to next day up in the Gila.

I was trying to decide if their conversation was typical of all men their age when Jimmy walked up to tip the band as they were playing their last song, the schmaltzy “Goodnight, Irene.” He got caught up in the music on his way back and started a graceful solo waltz, whereupon the other husband jumped up and the two of them waltzed all the way back to the table. Just your typical retirees? Or a couple of slightly insane RVers reminding themselves and the rest of us that enthusiasm

for life and new quirky experiences doesn't have to end with retirement. Or as Paul Simon put it, “still crazy after all these years.”

Sheila and husband, Jimmy Sowder, have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City for five years following five years of wandering the US from Maine to California. She can be contacted at skwsowder@aol.com.



This 1964 Ford Falcon wagon turned camper, owned by Keaton Kadous, is similar to the one in which Gail Home-sack's family traveled through Central America. (Photo by Sheila Sowder)



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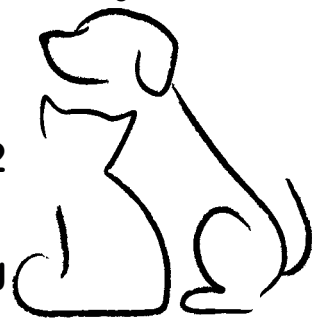
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