

DESERT exposure



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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

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PUBLISHER

Richard Coltharp
575-524-8061
editor@desertexposure.com

EDITOR

Elva K. Österreich
575-680-1978
editor@desertexposure.com

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Pam Rossi 575-635-6614
pam@lascrucesbulletin.com

SILVER CITY SALES

Mariah Walker 575-993-8193
mariah@desertexposure.com

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Teresa Tolonen 575-680-1841
teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Stacey Neal, Elva K. Österreich
and Monica Kekuewa

COLUMNISTS

Susan Golightly,
Sheila Sowder, Bert Stevens,
Jim Duchene and Tricia Hurley

WEB DESIGNERS

Ryan Galloway
Elva K. Österreich

1740-A Calle de Mercado
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-524-8061
www.desertexposure.com



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ABOUT THE COVER:

"The Astronaut's Book of Hours – The Space Shuttle," by artist Marilyn Flynn had been accepted as part of the March 30-April 4 art show for the now delayed Las Cruces Space Festival. It is a hand painted digital art inspired by an illustration representing the month of April from the medieval "Book of Hours."

Flynn's style is to combine science fact, artistic vision and informed imagination to create her works. She creates her digital paintings using a tablet and pen instead of a canvas and brush but with the same style and technique as in her traditional media works. She does not use computer-generated scenes. More of her work can be found at htarsisartworks.com.

"The Space Shuttle program, like life in a medieval village, has now become a thing of the past," said the artist in statement. "Like the medieval towns and castles of the past, the Kennedy Space Center still exists but is evolving



into a new kind of launch facility. With this painting I wished not only to pay an homage to a style of artwork I have admired all my life, but to draw a comparison between the contemporary illustrations of medieval life in its heyday and my 'contemporary depiction of life at 'The Cape' as it revolved around that period in our space program."

Postcards From the Edge Desert Exposure Travels



Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps Garden Crew students: Carlos Arias, Marisa Holguin, Darynn Smith, Morgan Bighley, Ava Bjornstad, Sam Scott, Josiah Marshall, create pots for plants. (Courtesy photo)

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.

Desert #46
Dumbfoundler
by Dave Thomas

"Desert Dumbfoundler" by Dave Thomas 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

"O IQGN ND NQVH IWQN MBHQVM ND KH QGE NWHG MWDI NWQN ND
MDKHDGH IWD 'M GHXHC MHHG IWQN O WQXH MHHG, QGE NWHL PQG
HYBHCOHGPH MDKHNWOGZ NWHL GHXHC VGHI HYOMNHE." - ROMQ QREHG

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: "IT WAS A DREAM TO HAVE THIS PLACE, BUT I REALIZE WE ARE ALWAYS CHANGING, ALWAYS GOING THROUGH PHASES AND TEN YEARS WAS A GOOD LONG TIME." - A.ME ALAMAG OF THE ROKOKO GALLERY *Secret Words: "MOVING ACUTELY"

Congrats to #45 solvers :
Mike Arms*, Will Adams*,
George Egert*, Skip Howard*,
Shorty Vaiza*, and Connie Tull*!



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RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

Moonheads

What are grandchildren for anyway?

The best thing about taking your grandkids camping? Making them do all the work.

You don't love your grandchildren more than you love your own kids, but it's a different kind of love. Maybe the difference is as simple as, by the time your grandkids come around, your own children are grown, and you've forgotten what it was like when they were babies.

My grandson is up for anything, so I like to take him hiking and camping with me. In my opinion, winter is the best time to camp because that's when the creeps and the crooks stay home. When he was about two, we were hiking in the Joshua Tree National Park. Since there was no one else around, I was letting him throw rocks, which I don't normally let him do.

"Throw one HARD," I told him, and he did.

He let one fly and the rock hit a tree, bounced back, and

smacked my poor grandson in the forehead. He cried, but only for a while. After that, we laughed about it.

"We're the only people in a hundred miles, and you have to hit the one tree who got mad and threw it back," I kidded him.

He's older now, but until he came into my life I had forgotten how seriously kids take things. Just the other day he was telling me about a friend of his who told him that when it rains and the sun is out, the devil is beating his wife.

"It's in the Bible," his friend swore.

"When someone tells me something's in the Bible," I told my grandson, "it's usually not in the Bible."

"So the devil's NOT beating his wife?"

"I don't even think the devil is married," I told him.

"No?"

"Well, maybe he is," I said. "That would explain why he's so

mean."

I think the time we spend together is good for my grandson. It gives him a chance to appreciate nature and consider profound considerations.

"What did God do before he made people?" he once asked me. "Wasn't he bored?"

"What do YOU think?" is my go-to response when he asks me something I can't answer.

"I'd be bored," he said, thinking about it. And then he thought about it some more. "What did he do all that time alone?"

I didn't know.

"Why didn't he just make the earth already?"

Beats me.

Then he got to what was really on his mind.

"Why are we here?" he wanted to know. "What's our purpose in life?"

Hmm... those were some pretty adult thoughts for such a little kid. It would seem my grandson is no longer the innocent two-



Jim Duchene's grandson proves useful during an expedition that required some slippery road work. (Photo by Jim Duchene)

year-old throwing rocks at trees. Summoning up all the wisdom I had, I told him to go ask his grandmother.

"She reads a lot of books," I said.

So, he asked her.

"Grandma, what's our purpose in life?"

My wife was stumped.

"Maybe there is no purpose," she finally told him.

Her answer was honest and

sincere, and she was as right as anyone can be. There was more truth in those five words than in anything else I've heard or read. We are born, only to grow old. We live, only to die. We love, only to have our loved ones taken from us. Maybe, indeed.

However, I have to admit that my grandson's thoughts aren't always so serious. This past Super

MOONHEADS
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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

A Cross, a Penny, a Smile

Finding comfort in small things

I carry a little penny with a cutout cross in my pocket. Yes, it's a shiny penny and right through the middle is the cutout shape of a Christian cross.

When I recently showed it to a friend, the first question she asked me was, "Isn't that against the law?" I shrugged my shoulders, not understanding what she was asking. Apparently, according to Title 18, Chapter 17 of the U.S. Code, it is a punishable crime to deface coins and currency.

My friend was missing the point. I shared the penny with her because it makes me happy. Everything about it makes me happy. It reminds me of my Sunday mornings with Julio and George, the two breakfast buddies I get to sit with each weekend at The Drifter.

It's there, at the diner-style bar, where a friendly waitress gave me the penny. I was complimenting her on a shirt she had on at the time. She always wears shirts with positive messages or Bible verses. She said thank you, and then gave me the pen-

ny. She said I should have it so that I would always carry a cross wherever I go.

Her little act of generosity gave me a big smile. It reminded me of the parable in the Gospels where the poor widow gave two coins at the temple treasury. While others gave gifts based on their vast wealth, the widow gave more than she had to live on.

From what I have seen living in high poverty areas and in my many trips to barrios along the Mexican border, it is the poor that give the most. Every time I have been welcomed into the home of a humble family with none of the treasures of our material world, I am welcomed with the kinds of provisions that mean more to me than any modern-day treasure.

It is the poor that make little money but share the most with others. It is the poor that don't hesitate to break bread with the hungry even if they only have one piece of bread to break.

I often wonder why we don't look to the poor like we look to the rich for inspiration. We ap-

plaud the great gifts of philanthropy that are given by people who can afford to give much more. What we don't notice is the sharing of a life-changing meal by a person who only had one meal to give.

To me, that little shiny penny with a cross on it was not a small act of generosity; instead, it was a large act of love by someone who probably couldn't give me more. Really, she didn't need to give more. She gave me all I needed and reminded me that we can all give more.

For now, that penny makes me smile and it gives me little reminders that when I see someone that needs a moment of hope, I'll pass along that penny without hesitation because that is what a poor man with a rich heart should do.

Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in southern New Mexico. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.



MOONHEADS

continued from page 4

Bowl, when he learned there's a time difference between our state and Florida, he asked me, "If Miami is ahead of us, they should know what happens before we do, right? You should call somebody and find out who wins the Super Bowl, then we could bet money on the winning team."

Made sense to me.

Could Einstein disprove my grandson's theory?

Nope.

Mainly because he's dead.

Where my grandson gets these profound considerations, who knows? One cool night I was outside enjoying a cup of coffee when my father joined me. He looked at the sky. It was a clear night, so the stars were sparkling. One in particular caught his eye. It was very bright compared to the others.

"Look at THAT," he said, pointing. "That is one bright star."

"That's the North Star," I told

him. "Sailors once used it to navigate the ocean."

"The North Star, you say? Why haven't I seen it before? And they navigated the ocean with it? Hmm..."

"That's right, pop," I said, with all the authority I could muster.

"Well, it IS the brightest," he said.

Later I found out it was Venus.

Don't ever let me sail the Seven Seas, I guess.

Good thing I don't have to depend on astronomy to go camping. Just on which side of a tree moss grows on.

My grandson and I were again on one of our camping trips. We were there to hunt wild grizzlies or capture Bigfoot, whichever came first. At least that's what I told him. There was a full moon on the horizon, which made it look HUGE, I don't know why. We were enjoying the sight when he told me, "Grandpa, I see PEOPLE on the moon!"

"Oh, yeah?" I responded.

"Yeah," he said. "MOON people."

"What are moon people called?"

He didn't even have to think about it.

"They're called Moonheads," he said.

"Is that right?" I said. "Can you see what they're doing?"

He squinted his eyes to get a better look.

"They're all running to Walmart," he told me, "to go shopping."

I coughed to keep from laughing, because, like I said, you take things seriously when you're a kid.


"Hey," I said, sitting up, "you're right! I can see them, too! Those Moonheads ARE running to Walmart."

"I TOLD you, grandpa," he said, giggling.

Grandkids are the best.

...and they're God's reward for having children against your better judgment.

theduchenebrothers@gmail.com.



Marie C. Weil, PsyD, ABPP, LLC
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THE VIEW FROM HERE • WALT RUBEL

Relying on the Experts

Don't listen to everything you hear

It feels like we're all in the opening scene of a horror movie, with birds flocking ominously on power lines all over town.

Things are calm now. Some people see the danger coming and scramble to board up the windows. Others scoff at the nervous Nellies and go about their business as usual.

There is no certainty as to what the next few weeks and months will bring. But experts tell us a lot of people will get sick from the coronavirus here, just as they have in other countries.

And so, the government is taking measures that are clearly disproportionate to the problem that now exists. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham shut down the schools. Casinos have also been closed. Bars and restaurants lim-

ited, to 50 percent capacity.

Any event intended to draw a crowd has been cancelled. No gathering in the state can have more than 10 people, even if it's private.

The decision by the NBA to cancel its season seemed rash until we learned that same night that two players for the Utah Jazz had tested positive for the virus.

Many of the things I look forward to each spring won't happen this year.

The Sunshine Week event we had scheduled for last week had to be cancelled. Our topic was the future of community journalism, and I felt like we had a strong panel of both traditional and new-media journalists for the discussion.

My Nuggets and Avs had both locked up playoff spots with

young, exciting teams. The Aggies looked like a lock to go back to the NCAA Tournament.

My team in the fantasy baseball league started years ago by former Sun-News Sports Editor Teddy Feinberg was eager for revenge after losing to former Sun-News copy editor Wes Schwen-gels in the finals last year.

I've tried not to pay much attention to the stock market's wild swings and calamitous plunge, given the fact that I can neither change it nor predict where things will be at the end. I do expect that a great deal of wealth will be lost.

But all that matters now is staying healthy.

I know there are brilliant people working tirelessly to address this pandemic, and I have tremendous faith in their knowledge and skills. But I don't trust

the person who is leading the nation.

The president has told us that everyone who wants a test can get one. That wasn't true. He told us sick people were still going to work and doing fine. That wasn't wise. He told us at the start that only 15 people were infected, and the number would quickly go down to zero.

We're taking our cues from the medical experts. We're staying off airplanes and avoiding cruise ships like the plague. We're working from home and holding our conferences by Skype.

We recognize that friendly gestures like a handshake may hold hidden dangers.

We're washing our hands more and paying attention to the public surfaces we come in contact with. I didn't realize how often I touch my face. If I don't think

about it, my hands just instinctively go to my eyes and mouth all the time. And so now I think about it.

We stay home more. And when we do go out, we give a wide berth to anybody who looks like they may have the sniffles.

There will be more closures and enforced restrictions in the days ahead, as the numbers of those infected continues to grow.

Some will accuse the government of over-reacting. I sure hope those folks are proven right in the end.

But I'm not relying on it.

Walt Rubel can be reached at waltrubel@gmail.com.



QUEST COLUMN • KEN PAULSON

Sunshine Week

Fighting a virus with truth and transparency

As the scope and threat of the coronavirus pandemic becomes clear, people all over the world hunger for two things: an effective vaccine and truthful information about the disease.

The former may be more than a year away, but the latter is critical to stemming the pandemic in the meantime.

Sunshine Week (March 15-21) is a time each year when people like me write columns about some legislature's wrong-headed move to limit access to public records, and then try to make the case for greater access to public

information and transparency in government.

But we're facing something far more dangerous than any state legislature could conjure up. It's a worldwide crisis worsened by governments whose impulse is to hide, control and censor news and information.

When a Chinese doctor shared with his colleagues his concerns that a mysterious new virus might be emerging, he was reprimanded and silenced. The doctor, Li Wenliang, died last month of coronavirus. After China mis-handled and hid the virus from the public, the epidemic dramatically worsened. The Chinese government "is now leading a sweeping campaign to purge the public sphere of dissent, censoring news reports, harassing citizen journalists and shutting down news sites," according to the New York Times.

When the public is desperate for information, government needs to maximize authoritative information from scientists and experts on the public payroll. That appropriately gives Americans what they need to know, and counters irresponsible pundits who have sought to minimize the threat to score political or ratings points.

More than anything, else, though, this crisis reminds us of how wise the first generation of Americans was in demanding a free press. Despite the inevitable accusations by some that the news media were "hying" this threat, traditional media have been measured and thorough in their coverage, making the most of their on-air medical and scientific consultants. Closer to home, local newspapers and broadcasters have devoted extensive resources to reporting how the virus will affect the communities they serve.

President Trump told the nation last week that "we are all in this together" and that's exactly what needs to happen: the government sharing what it knows truthfully and without spin or bravado, private and public institutions engaging constructively with America's most pressing challenge and news organizations keeping the public informed in a thorough and even-handed way.

In the end, science will prevail in curbing this virus. Yet the path to that victory can only emerge from true collaboration and collective sacrifice, fueled by a shared understanding of exactly what we're up against. That can only come from the free flow of information.

Ken Paulson is the director of the Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Facing Future

The Time of Coronavirus will reveal humanity's resiliency

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While the basics of most solar energy systems are somewhat easy to comprehend, assuring the installation of an appropriate array designed to meet specific customer needs can be difficult and costly, especially with a growing number of variously qualified service providers now vying to install systems before the 2022 sunset of a 26-percent federal tax rebate offer.

Southern New Mexico-based owners and licensed contractors with New Mexico Water & Electric are not only fully qualified and experienced with the installation of all types of solar energy systems, they are fully versed in both the benefits and often misleading information relating to the current federal rebate program and other available support for consumers.

With the federal tax rebate program set to end in less than two years, solar energy service firms from outside the community and state are now flocking to Southern New Mexico to provide solar energy options, which ostensibly will allow local home and business owners to take advantage of the available cost returns. Officials with New Mexico Water & Electric want all of those considering this opportunity to understand that the federal program does not apply to everyone. The current rebate offer applies only to "taxable income," which means many retired citizens and those living on fixed income will not qualify.

New Mexico Water & Electric also wants local consumers to recognize that without the installation of considerable back-up components most residential/small commercial solar energy systems will still be reliant upon connections to the local power grid, and therefore could be wholly ineffective if and when the power grid fails or is otherwise taken off-line.

In addition to this concern, New Mexico Water & Electric reminds potential customers how the installation of most residential systems will involve considerable roof-work and the drilling of possibly hundreds of holes into the roofing surface. This factor makes it critical to assure the installation process is not only professionally executed, but also raises questions about how non-local firms might respond, or not respond when eventual roofing repairs or replacement becomes necessary.

Average costs associated with the installation of residential solar energy systems presently hover at or above \$20,000+, leading many consumers to consider package deals and enticing financing options being forwarded by the increasing number of service providers. Assuring the viability of such deals and options, as well as securing connections for followup repairs, maintenance assistance and other services are therefore vital, for customers to both justify and feel good about such an investment.

Having hands-on experience with the installation of all available types of solar arrays and integrated components, throughout Southern New Mexico, NMWE's contractors are eager to help area residents secure the most effective solution for every possible need or concern.

Whether you may be looking to supplement power for your home or business, or if you're looking to install a system to be completely independent of the power grid, New Mexico Water & Electric is fully qualified and prepared to help you realize your goals. In addition to quality installation and service capabilities, NMWE's staff stand ready to assist New Mexico residents in making the best decisions possible for their energy future.

Aside from solar energy concerns, New Mexico Water & Electric's licensed contractors are further prepared to assist customers with the development of water wells, water purification systems, as well as with all other types of electrical services.



New Mexico Water & Electric (NM License No. 394531) is based in Hillsboro, New Mexico, with offices located at 10849 Highway 152. Further information about how they might help you achieve your solar energy goals, is available by phoning (575) 895-3306, or by connecting online through the firm's website at www.nmweinc.com.

CAVEAT EMPTOR

U.S. history books didn't tell us much about Great Britain in post-World War II.

But we do know that much of the nation, particularly London, was bombed repeatedly during the war. Most of us cannot imagine enduring a single bombing on the street where we live. The thought of dozens of bombings and air raids on a regular basis is unfathomable.

Yet millions of people carried on with their lives, trying to keep as normal as possible. They did what they could to stay employed, stay fed and take care of their children.

The children who grew out of that English era included some remarkably talented people. People with names like Starr, Lennon, McCartney, Harrison, Jagger, Richards, Clapton.

As I write this, on March 15, the Ides of March, there are 17 cases of presumptive positive coronavirus in New Mexico. By the time you read this, in early April, there are likely to be a few hundred, if not a couple thousand. My hope, of course, is the numbers will be as low as possible.

I'm not trying to compare a flu virus to being bombed by Nazis; at one point in 1940, the Luftwaffe attacked London 56 out of 57 days.

But COVID-19 is going to change America for a while. Sports are canceled. Schools are called off. Events are postponed. The day I write this, the New Mexico Department of Health

has announced restrictions on numbers of customers at restaurants and bars. Many restaurants and businesses of all kinds will face incredibly tough times. Some will "self-quarantine" by restricting hours or days of operation.

Life, however, will go on.

We will continue the efforts to take care of our children, stay fed and stay employed.

Those things will become more difficult, and some, indeed, will lose their jobs. Some businesses may not survive.

Yet we will still laugh. For many, work will not only stay, but it will greatly increase. Think of our healthcare workers.

In the future we will look back at this time and it will become a historical marker.

It will likely have a name, maybe The Time of Coronavirus.

We will think of friends or family who got sick with the illness or, possibly, God forbid, died with it.

We will also think of children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews who were born in the Time of Coronavirus. We will talk of grand weddings reduced to very small affairs. We will talk of the great deal we got on a car. We will spend time with loved ones we might not have with all of the usual distractions. We might take some of the extra time to finally build that deck in the backyard, or make other changes.

While it's still going on,

PUBLISHER
continued on page 9



Rose has been growing her garden for over thirty years. The best part of my day is hearing all of Rose's memories rooted in her backyard. The slam of the garden gate reminds her of her kids running home from school. As a Home Instead CAREGiver, I can help Rose keep hearing that gate slam shut, because that is home.

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Rose's CAREGiver



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PUBLISHER

continued from page 8

though, let's make a pact not to threaten each other over toilet paper. Maybe after we get stir-crazy staying in the house binge-watching cable TV, we'll go outside, maybe to White Sands, or maybe to a nearby park, or to one of our great hiking trails. Being outside, away from a lot of other people, especially as spring and summer temperatures rise, can be a good escape and, at least according to early information, possibly a way to combat the illness.

We also need to look out for each other. At our local food pantries, supplies will be diminishing much quicker. With school out, younger children may need extra babysitters, and students may need additional meals. We can all pitch in and help out. In turn, we may need some help at some point during all this.

At some point in the future, on the other side of the Time of Coronavirus, I will be at a ballgame or some other event with friends. Maybe I'll even have a beer. My friends and I will laugh about something, or cheer excitedly about something on the field, and I'll realize I haven't thought about Coronavirus in a while, and I'll think about it. And then my mind will come back to the activity in front of me. And I'll look around and think, "We made it through." And I'll realize how much I appreciate all of these freedoms that, for so long, I took for granted.

In the meantime, I'll be washing my hands a lot.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure.



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NATIVE ROOTS • AVA BJORNSTED, CARLOS ARIAS, MARISSA HOLQUIN AND TRICIA HURLEY

Every Day is Earth Day

The Aldo Leopold Charter School garden crew hits the ground running

Wednesday, April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of the worldwide celebration of Earth Day. What started as a protest for environmental protection in 1970 became the driving force for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Endangered Species, Clean Air, and Clean Water acts and has grown into the world's largest national event. Planting a tree, shrub, or small garden has been a symbolic gesture honoring our planet since Earth Day's inception.

Silver City's April celebration has been postponed because of New Mexico's restrictions on public gatherings due to the Coronavirus. The Gila Resources Information Project is organizing the event again this



Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps members build a retaining wall as part of their springtime work in Silver City. (Courtesy photo)

year. The planning committee is considering a virtual event held online if they are unable to re-schedule the event soon. Visit GilaEarthDay on Facebook for updates or to help with this year's Earth Day celebration.

Aldo Leopold Charter School's (ALCS) Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Garden Crew is exploring three themes for Earth Day – "Footprints for the Future," "End Plastic Pollution" and "The Canopy Project." The

school takes sustainability seriously, and with the help of ALCS Middle School, they are creating a community garden at their new location on the Western New Mexico University campus.

The gardens will be designed with water harvesting, dry-land, and permaculture practices and will include plants for pollinators.

"The first step was to begin creating stronger, more fertile soil and in the process of doing that we got some manure from a local source," said YCC member Ava Bjornsted. "However, we discovered that there is a possibility that it may contain herbicides that could have a negative effect on the plants."

The crew found out that some alfalfa crops are treated with herbicides that can be eaten by

livestock with no negative effects on the animals, but that the herbicide persists in the manure. They started an experiment to test whether there are herbicides in the manure by planting beans in 10 pots using the manure and 10 with normal potting soil.

The Garden Crew sees that "this change in seasons has people itching to be outside" and they encourage people to celebrate the earth "by getting their hands dirty and starting their own garden."

Because Earth Day celebrations have been a traditional place to purchase plants for the garden, the Garden Crew will still be giving away veggie starts for donations with potential

EARTH DAY
continued on page 11



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Celebrating Earth Day every day Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps members get some garden prepara-

EARTH DAY continued from page 10

pop-up fundraisers and offering advice on growing food, herbs, and native plants.

In their effort to address plastic pollution, the crew has been making biodegradable pots out of newspaper. “The Daily Press” and “Desert Exposure” donated leftover newspapers so the crew could make these alternatives to plastic pots. Crew leader, Carlos Arias, is also working on growing flowerpots out of mycelium and is excited to share the idea of using pots that can be planted directly into the ground.

Crew-member, Morgan Bighley enjoys being on the garden crew because “you are working out in the community, and it is something everyone can appreciate. We planted for butterflies and trimmed the sacaton grass at the 10th Street Median and the Gough Park Orchard.”

Crew member Darynn Smith said “being on garden crew has helped me be more aware of the world around me. It showed me how humans affect the world around them. A garden is an ecosystem and by changing one small thing it affects all other plants around it. And that is applicable to the whole world.”

April is a great time to get started but remember that our last frost date for Silver City can be as late as Mother’s Day. If you do purchase veggie starts to support the crew’s fundraiser before this date, just remember to watch the weather and protect your seedlings outside by covering them if there is a freeze.

It is a good time to plant natives, cold hardy perennials, and

herbs before the heat of May and June settle in. Seek out local growers and you will have the added benefit of plants that are already acclimated to Grant county’s erratic climate. Local growers are more likely to use integrated pest management, organic fertilizers, and employ pollinator friendly practices than big box growers as well. If you are planning on seeding a wild-flower garden, don’t spread the seed until about 10 days before our last projected frost date.

If you are able to help with the community garden by donating materials or sharing grant ideas, contact the Garden Crew supervisor, Tricia Hurley at lonemtn@q.com or Catalina Claussen, YCC and Internship Coordinator at ALCS at cclaussen@aldocs.org.

For more information on garden crew’s pop-up fundraisers contact the Garden Crew supervisor, Tricia Hurley at lonemtn@q.com.

Tricia Hurley owns Lone Mountain Natives Nursery with her husband, Mark Cantrell, in Silver City.

They have been selling and growing native plants at the farmers market for 14 years, you can contact them at lonemtn@q.com. She has been the ALCS Garden Crew supervisor for four years. Ava Bjornsted, Carlos Arias and Marissa Holguin are seniors at ALCS and helped write this article. Sam Scott, Morgan Bighley and Darynn Smith are juniors, and Josiah Marshall is a sophomore.



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50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020

Gila Earth Day 2020

In response to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, Silver City’s Gila Earth Day celebration in Gough Park will not be happening on April 18th as previously scheduled.

However, we feel strongly that the 50th anniversary of this watershed event is too important to cancel.

This year, Gila Earth Day will be live-streamed as a virtual celebration!

For updates and information, please join our Facebook group at **Gila Earth Day, or contact Doyne Wrealli at earthendoyne@gmail.com.**

Thank you all for your participation and patience!

Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)

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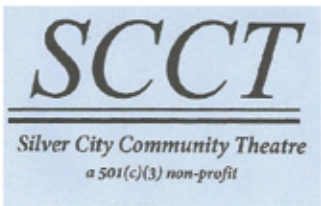
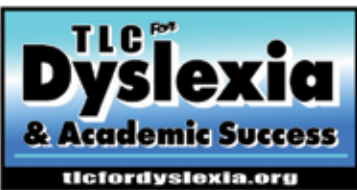
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Note: While many galleries are determined to keep their doors open for art lovers in this time of COVID-19, most receptions have been canceled. Patrons are strongly encouraged to contact listed galleries before visiting them to enquire about their open hours.

SILVER CITY

• **Light Art Space**, located at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City features “Provocation of Place” through April 19. Provocation of



“Provocation of Place,” a display of the work of 36 members of PaperWorks is on display at Light Art Space. work is on view at the gallery alongside pieces by Valerie Galloway, Carmen Ruiz, Eugene Starobinskiy, Art Peterson and Mimi Calise Peterson. Please contact the gallery for current hours. Info: info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-7075.

Place is a juried exhibition featuring the work of 36 members of PaperWorks, a Tucson art group. Painting, sculpture, drawing, artist books, photography and printmaking are included in the exhibition. Also on display is “It’s Time to Address’er Drawers.”

An interactive wire based installation by Joel Armstrong, whose work is on view at the gallery alongside pieces by Valerie Galloway, Carmen Ruiz, Eugene Starobinskiy, Art Peterson and Mimi Calise Peterson. Please contact the gallery for current hours. Info: info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-7075.



Students and faculty at Western New Mexico University come together for a pottery sale on April 18.

• Students and faculty of Western New Mexico University’s clay department will hold their 15th annual “**Friends of Clay Pottery Sale**” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, April 18, at the corner of College and Pope streets in Silver City (the former Life Quest building). The sale features a great selection of pottery and clay art works donated by current and former WNMU clay students, faculty and professional potters. All proceeds from the sale will be used for the benefit of Western’s clay program. A main attraction of the annual sale has been the wide variety of clay works offered, from beginning-student pots to gallery-quality pieces, all at reasonable prices. Also included are works by internation-

ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene
Upcoming area art happenings

ally-known ceramic artists such as Tom Coleman and Malcolm Davis. Info: 575-313-7278.

• **Sterling Fine Art**, 306 N Bullard Street, historic downtown Silver City, is featuring work by gallery artists **Richard Harper, Crystal Foreman, Tony Bonanno, Steve Collins, Alec Johnson, Rick O’Ryan, Jim Pepperl, Monica Welsh, Sharon Chastain, Gay Marks, and Miriam Hill.** Info: sterling-nm.com.

• **The Grant County Art Guild**, 315 N Bullard St., has been in the **Hester House** location for just over a year now and shows the work of nearly 40 artists. Three windows showcase the work of three featured artists each month. April’s featured artists are **Karen Lausing, Karen Danhauer and Julia Miller.** Info: karenhealy11@gmail.com.

ALAMOGORDO

• **Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery**, 917 New



The work of **Bob Shepherd** is up at **Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery** in Alamogordo.

Portraits have always been one of Shepherd’s great joys. He uses the five-step Venetian method of painting, featuring drawing, grisaille, warm/cool stage, many glazes and final varnishing in his work. He is offering his “**Paint Like a Venetian**” method classes, including a stay at his beautiful cabin in cool Cloudcroft, in August. Info: 575-434-4420 or cd_customframing@aol.com.

CARRIZOZO



The **J. Malkerson Gallery 408** in Carrizozo features the work of **Eddie Torres.**

The **J. Malkerson Gallery 408** has been displaying the work and hosting exhibitions for well-known artists for the past 16 years. This exhibition will add to that legacy. The gallery can be found at 408 12th Street in Carrizozo. Info: 575-648-2598.

• **J. Malkerson Gallery 408** in Carrizozo is featuring **Eddie Torres** of Roswell and his portraits.

The **J. Malkerson Gallery 408** has been displaying the work and hosting exhibitions for well-known

DEMING

• **Plein Aire** painting (painted on location indoors or outdoors) is the focus for the April 2020 exhibition at the **Deming Art Center**. Intake will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. There is no age limit for participants and each artist may enter up to three pieces. The show will run April 2-29. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts. Deming Art Center is located at 100 S Gold St., Deming. Its hours are 10-4 a.m., Monday to Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 or www.demingarts.org.

T OR C



“**Pink Cloud**” an ink and watercolor by **John Johaneck** on display at **ZIA Gallery.**

• April is the last chance to visit **ZIA Gallery** in Truth or Consequences before it closes for a summer hiatus. The gallery is extending its winter hours through the first week-end of May to coincide

with T or C’s annual fiesta celebration. Sunday, May 3, will be the final day the gallery will be open. **ZIA Gallery** is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, Sept. 30. The gallery features a broad range of New Mexico-made art, including pottery, paintings, basketry, jewelry and fiber arts. **ZIA Gallery** is located at 415 Broadway in downtown Truth or Consequences. Info: 405-539-7017 or info@ziagallerynm.com.

LAS CRUCES



“**Collapse**,” acrylic on paper by **Margaret Bernstein** is part of the **10 O’clock Artists** exhibit at the **Frame and Art Center** in Las Cruces.

• The eclectic artists of the **10 O’Clock Artists** are exhibiting their work in a multimedia exhibit through April 30 at the **Frame and Art Center**, Suite 108, 1100 South Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-526-2808.



This work by **C.S. Cunningham** is part of “**Beyond Words – One Word Two Visions**” at the **Las Cruces Tombaugh Gallery** through April 10

• The **Tombaugh Gallery** features artists **C. C. Cunningham** and **Noël Sandino** with the exhibit “**Beyond Words – One Word Two Visions.**” Cunningham and Sandino, both abstract artists, admired each other’s work and came up with a unique idea for the Tombaugh exhibit. They decided to create a list of 18 words and challenged each other to paint their own vision of each word. Cunningham described the process: “With a sense of discovery, playfulness, emotion and thoughtfulness, we developed a body of work illustrating how we as process, abstract artists responded to our challenge.” The exhibit continues through April 10. The Tombaugh Gallery is located inside the Unitarian-Universalist Church, at 2000 S. Solano Drive in Las Cruces. Info: jelicht@gmail.com.

• The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of April, **Nanci Bissell** and **Roberta Widner**. Bissell has been an educator, teacher, assistant principal and principal in the elementary schools, retiring after a 26-year career. Her artistic interests include seascapes, portraits and land-

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Calls for Artists and Musicians

Tribute to Mark Medoff: Submissions sought for an exhibit that will hang in the Black Box Theatre lobby gallery in Las Cruces from April 17 through May 3, in conjunction with the run of “The Majestic Kid,” which was penned by Medoff in the 1980s. Ceil Herman will direct. Any form of art is acceptable. Info: margaretpaints@yahoo.com.

Memorial Medical Center’s Art Initiative seeks works of art for the Administration Building of the MMC Cancer Center on Telshor Avenue and the MMC HealthPlex, Surgical and Women’s Imaging Center on Northrise. Mediums: oil, watercolor, acrylic, dyes, collages, ceramic, mixed media, indoor and outdoor sculpture, pottery, fabric, weaving, quilting, stained glass and others. Themes: hospital appropriate, warm, positive, humorous and uplifting, with people, animals. Deadline: ongoing. Submit 3-4 jpgs of completed works with title, medium, size, price, artist name, email, phone, bio and personal pic to: Janice Jones, Janice.jones@LPNT.net, and Cynthia de Lorenzi, Cynthia.de.Lorenzi@gmail.com.

Tombaugh Gallery: Submission deadline: April 10. Regional artists within a 200-mile radius of Las Cruces may submit proposals for exhibitions for the 2021 calendar year. Non-traditional media or subject matters welcome. All artwork must be for sale. Include a letter of proposal with information about the artist, type of work to be shown and USB flash drive containing eight representative images as JPG files. For group shows, sup-

ply a list of all members and two images from each member. Info: jelicht@gmail.com or uuchurchlc.org/about-us/our-art-gallery.

Las Cruces In Effect Gallery’s “Spring Fling” show: Submission deadline is April 21 for the second annual “Spring Fling” art show Friday, May 8, 6-10 p.m. Any media accepted, but maximum sculpture height is 36 inches. Two-dimensional artwork not to exceed 22 x 24 inches, including frame, horizontal or vertical. Entry fee: \$15 per piece. All work must be for sale. Info: dennis_lujan@yahoo.com or deserthoundmilligan@gmail.com.

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra: Holding auditions from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, in the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at the University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W University Ave M301, El Paso, TX 79968, for the following positions: Concertmaster, section violin, section viola, assistant principal cello, section cello, principal oboe, 2nd oboe, principal clarinet, 3rd bassoon/contrabassoon and principal harp. Audition application and requirements can be downloaded at www.epso.org. For further information contact El Paso Symphony Personnel Manager Leann Isaac at 915-637-8144. Applications are due by May 1, 2020.

Singing Out Las Cruces: Seeking accompanist. Paid position. LGBTQ+ choir meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. Performances throughout the year. Info: singingoutlascruces@gmail.com.

Male barbershop quartet looking for experienced tenor or lead singer. Must be able to read music and be available to practice at least once a week. Contact Chuck Riggs: 575-521-1729; chuck.riggs@mac.com.

The Mesilla Valley Swing Band has openings for baritone sax, trumpets, trombone, drums and percussionist. The band rehearses from 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays at The First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road. Contact Jim Helder, 575-373-2188, 575-540-9701 or drh@cognizor.com.

New Horizons Band of Las Cruces is looking for players. The band rehearses 6:45-8:15 p.m. Tuesdays in the NMSU Music Building, 1075 N. Horseshoe. Contact band Director Judy Bethmann at msjudy@hotmail.com or www.nhsocruces.com.



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ARTS EXPOSURE

continued from page 33



The work of Roberta Widner is highlighted at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery along with the art of Nanci Bissell.

scapes. Widner is a native New Mexican. The state and its people have been frequent subjects for her varied media paintings. She has also gained inspiration from her travels to the Iberian/Italian and French regions of Europe. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.



During April the Las Cruces Mesquite Art Gallery celebrates the art of Lois Smith.

• In April, **Mesquite Art Gallery** goes on a journey of sorts, celebrating 74 years of art making by **Lois Smith**. In fact, she’s calling the show an “**Art Journey**.” She was born in the Midwest but has called Las Cruces home for many years. Since the age of 12 Smith has used encaustics, watercolors, oils, acrylics, and so on

to produce art. The gallery can be found at 340 N. Mesquite St. in Las Cruces. Info: visit www.mesquiteartgallery.com or call 575-640-3502.

• “**Local Color: Landscape and Architecture**” with the **Mesilla Valley Weavers Guild** will be in the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum’s Arts Corridor**. The show is on display through April 5. The Guild includes weavers, spinners, knitters, basket makers and others interested in the textile arts. Members draw inspiration from the southwest landscape and the environment in which they live. The Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Info: 575-522-4100

• A newly created format showcases artists’ work on Facebook at “**Las Cruces NM Artists & Art Showcase**” on a page specifically for the many undiscovered artists and artisans in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. No matter what it is you do, painting, photography, sculpting, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, woodworking, decorative arts, etc., anything created by you is welcome to be displayed. Please note, this Facebook page is meant to be a digital art gallery, rather than a sales tool. This new Facebook page is the creation of Robert Paquette, a long-time volunteer for many Las Cruces community service organizations.

SILVER CITY ART ASSOCIATION

Spring into

2020 RED ART DOT STUDIO TOUR

April 25th & 26th, 9-5

Opening event, April 24th, 5-8pm
Light Art Space Gallery, 209 W. Broadway
silvercityart.com



ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

'It's Time to Address'er Drawers'

Artist comes face to face with mother's words

Silver City artist Joel Armstrong is exhibiting his wire-based installation "It's Time to Address'er Drawers" at Light Art Space, 209 West Broadway in Silver City through April 19.

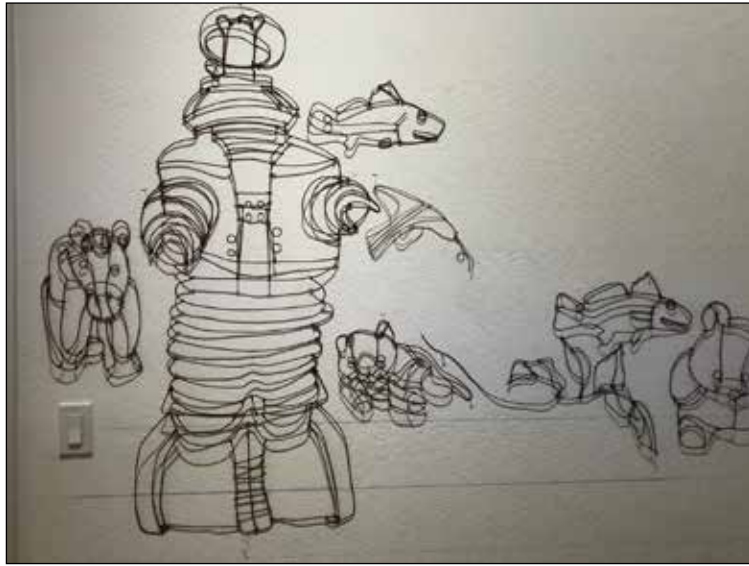
Armstrong, 63, and his wife moved to Silver City to live near his daughter, who recently had twins. Armstrong has been artist his whole life.

"I've been doing installation work," he said. "I went to grad school in my late 30s and started working with wire and drawing with wire."

He started with bailing wire, and now works with a nickel/silver combo and soldering wire. The Armstrongs have three grown children, all artists. He thinks because they were children when he was in grad school, they followed in the lifestyle.

"Right out of school, I started getting work as an illustrator," he said. "In 1980-81, I was an illustrator and graphic designer. I actually just retired from 15 years teaching art at the University of Arkansas."

Armstrong brings his life out in his art, bringing everyday things – and out-of-the-ordinary things – out into the light. With "It's Time to Address'er Drawers," he created an installation reflecting



Childhood memories are depicted by Joel Armstrong at Light Art Space Gallery as part of his installation including reflections created in wire of happy times watching "Lost in Space," fishing with his father and enjoying "Winnie the Pooh."

unseen elements of his own childhood.

Armstrong created the piece after his mom passed away in 1992. While cleaning out his mom's belongings, he found many journal pages sealed in blank envelopes in his parent's chest of drawers. The journals contained many longings, misgivings, and, most importantly, documented his parents' physical and emotional abuse of one another.

The installation centers around the actual wooden chest that he artificially rusted. The mirror is obscured,

not allowing the viewer to be distracted by their image. Each of the six drawers contains a bright colored light that highlights silver wire words taken from one of his mother's journals.

The viewer can pick up these words, read them, and sort them while listening to the recorded audio of the journal. The viewers are encouraged to interact and pin these words onto notebook paper-like lines on the wall. On the opposite wall, there is a set of two-inch blinds that contain the written words

as well. Rusted wire drawings of family life surround the chest and help define a family who has been unaware of what has been hidden. "It's Time to Address'er Drawers," has been displayed in different venues across the United States and even in Europe. When it was being shipped to London, it got stuck on a boat and had to be picked up by a helicopter. The first time it was shown it was about 2001, he said, in Colorado. Its also been in Arkansas, Tulsa, Lubbock and other cities.

"I generally get grants to do installations," he said. "I showed one last year here called 'Clothesline,' where you walk into an environment. They are all (his installments) generally personal stories."

"Clothesline," was about Armstrong's children's clothes, about missing them growing up and how the clothes were smaller than he remembered.

"What's great about doing installations is how it connects with people," he said. "Women's shelters have brought women to experience it. The stories people tell are the best. Two people have written me and said, 'this is exactly what I experienced, and this is why I am who I am.'"

Because of his childhood, Armstrong said he is very cautious about people and hates confrontation, and although he did not experience the physical violence between his parents, he remembers a lot of yelling.

"I do what I can to make people happy," he said. "I try to prevent arguments. I didn't witness the pulling of knives and banging heads on the wall. I just remember everything was like my fault."

Creating this installation has been cathartic for Armstrong. Putting his mother's words into actual physical form and finding someone who sounds like his mom for the audio recording that is the background noise of the installation, has made it real for him.

"I have been able to grieve about them later in life," he said. "This has helped with the grieving process. I am bipolar, and my doctors have said that she probably was bipolar and my father was a severely depressed military man."

But Armstrong himself has found a way to being healthy and happy.

"I am actually a very happy person," he said. "My brother and I are able to laugh all the time."



Silver City artist Joel Armstrong talks about his installation art for the exhibit "It's Time to Address'er Drawers" (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

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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 Wolfe, potter, 907-783-2780.
Anthony Howell Studio, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.
[a]SP.“A”@E, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@ gmail.com.
Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.
Blue Dome Gallery, 307 N. Texas, second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.
Borderlands Gallery, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.
The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622- 0251. By appointment.
Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. Open by chance or by prior arrangement. 575-534-2087.
Cow Trail Art Studio, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533- 1897, www.victoriachick.com.
Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery, 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.
Elemental Artisans, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.
Finn’s Gallery, 300 N. Arizona St., 406-790-0573
Francis McCray Gallery, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.
The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
Grant County Art Guild Gallery, 316 N. Bullard St., 10 a.m-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.
Guadalupe’s, 505 N. Bullard St., 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.
Light Art Space, 209 W. Broadway St.. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.
Lloyd Studios, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Lois Duffy Art Studio, 211C N. Texas St., 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 Yankie and Texas streets, 388-2646. Fine arts and crafts.
Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.
Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing, 203 N. Bullard St., 538- 5538. www.ramollaart.com.
Ol’ West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway St., 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.
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, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.
Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388- 3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.
Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
Szygy Tile Gallery, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.
Tatiana Maria Gallery, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.
Tree Spirit Gallery, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.
21 Latigo Trail, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.
Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.
Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.
Wynnegate Gallery, 1105 W. Market St., 575-534-9717, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.
Yada Yada Yarn, 621 N. Bullard St. 388-3350.
Zoe’s Studio/Gallery, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.
Mimbres Chamomile Connection, 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

ARTS EXPOSURE
Gallery Guide

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
Community Gallery, 1721 E. Pine St. located in the restaurant at OYO’s. 6 a.m.-2p.m.
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 St., 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.
Studio LeMarbe, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708. By appointment.
Thursdays Gallery, 207 S. Silver St. 545-2994. Art works, plants and a boutique. Thursdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Columbus
Village of Columbus Library, 112 Broadway St., 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 Touchón 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 St. (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, open by appointment, 523-2950.
Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery, 314 S. Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cottonwood Gallery, 275 N. Main St. (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo Road, 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, located in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.
Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.
Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.,

Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.
M. Phillip’s Fine Art Gallery, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.
New Dimension Art Works, 615 E. Piñon St., 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 St., 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 Drive, 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.

Magdalena
Atelier Studio 605, 605 W. First St. A collective space containing Village Press Print Studio; DOrkyART.us; Glennoznap.com; Es•Press•O. 838-6452. Letterpress Cards and Journals, Fine Art Printing & Photography. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Bear Mountain Gallery, 902 First Street. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Paintings by Eddie Tsosie, jewelry and navajo rugs.
Blue Canyon Gallery, U.S. Highway 60 (1 mile east of Magdalena), 575-854-2953, 9 a.m.to 5 p.m. daily. Paintings, pottery and jewelry.
C&S Morning Star, 805 First Street, 505-288-6361. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Navajo jewelry and rugs.
Evert’s Café and Gallery, 501 First St., 854-2449. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Photographs, plein air landscape paintings and illustrated childrens books.
Judy’s Studio, 104 N. Main St. 375-743-9110. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Drawings and sculpture.

GALLERY GUIDE
continued on page 18

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GALLERY GUIDE

continued from page 17

Kind of a Small Array, 106 N. Main St. 210-473-9062. A humble space for art, music and poetry. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.

La Posada Gallery, 1008 First St. 910-297-9904. Affordable original art, photography, paintings, pottery, santos and icons. 1-4 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday.

Old S'cool House Gallery, 500 Main St., corner of Fifth Street, 360-298-1461. Abstract paintings, textiles and fabric creations. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.

Warehouse 110, 110 N. Main St. 517-0669. Contemporary art and performance gallery. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. www.warehouse110.com.

Alamogordo Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery, 434-4420, 917 New York Ave.

Patron's Hall/Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 434-2202, 1110 New York Ave.

Tularosa Horse Feathers, 318 Granado St. 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, 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.



Courtesy photos

MUSIC EXPOSURE

Optimistically Cautious

So far, so good for 2020 Silver City Blues Festival

The organizers of the 2020 Silver City Blues Festival have not given up on plans to bring the event to life in Grant County May 22-24.

The blues festival brings top and regional performers to the area for this annual event. Performing artists in the May lineup include Sarah Grace and the Soul, Hector Anchondo Band, Tas Cru, the Laurie Morvan Band, Sofie Reed, Roman Barten-Sherman, the Connie Brannock Band, Pat "Guitar Slim" Chase and the Brandon Perrault Band.

The event is free and held at Gough Park, a public venue in Silver City at the corner of North Pope and 13th streets. Children are welcome, but pets are not allowed in the park. Alcohol is also not allowed in the park, but a beer garden is provided.

The Mimbres Region Arts Council is monitoring the latest developments surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19). MRAC postponed several events based on the recent ban on public gatherings set to expire on April 12. A final decision on the Festival



will be made by April 15, based on the success of the preventive measures put in place.

"We have been in contact with event partners and the town of Silver City to confirm this plan of action. We will announce the final decision to you via email and to the general public via a press release, event website, and social media accounts," according to a news release from MRAC.

"Like you, we are looking forward to celebrating with a weekend of music, art, food and

community in Silver City. The health and well-being of our attendees, performers, volunteers, staff and community are at the center of our concerns," the release said.

"We realize that everyone is dealing with challenging and uncertain times: you're not alone. Should the situation change, we pledge to communicate any updates."

For more information, visit silvercitybluesfestival.org, email info@mimbresarts.org or call 575-538-2505.

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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Something Old, Something New

Mandrake Gallery features fine art, herbal products

The Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica Gallery is showing off what it has to offer at 501 E. Hadley Ave. in Las Cruces.

Well known in Las Cruces, herbalist Trisha McCaul and artist Michael Poncé have collaborated on the gallery side of the building.

“We have art and antiques in this space,” McCaul said.

Poncé said he has had the space for about 12 years and feels like the area is ready for the enterprise. The gallery, he said, is a place not only containing art, but also a place where people can learn about art, culture and other, more esoteric things.

The gallery space reflects the couple’s lives at home, Michael said.

“This is what our house looks like,” Poncé said. “We collect art, so this is just an extension of what we like. We both have very old professions – art and herbs.”

Poncé studied in New York, and while the paintings on display in the gallery are his own, plans for future exhibits include other area artists, as well as bringing in work from other places. He maintains close contacts with fellow alumni from the New York Academy of Art and the New York Studio School.

“I lived in New York City for 20 years and maintain a strong connection with the art community there,” he said.

Poncé’s oil painting work has a traditional feel to it, harking back to the old masters.

“It’s just reading and writing,” he said. “You want to write really well, hone your craft for people to understand you. It’s the same with my paintings, they are very subtle



Art by Michael Poncé

messages. Sometimes I play with the composition to make it a little bit eerie or dark.”

But Poncé doesn’t always paint in that traditional style. He has put his hand to more contemporary pieces as well.

“The problem I have is you want to stick true to yourself, but you want to be edgy, too, like contemporary styles of art, as well like graffiti artists, outside artists,” he said.

The gallery has plenty of nooks and crannies and surprises in the corners. It also contains striking collections of artwork and furniture. On one shelving unit is a group of small and strange sculptures, old artifacts.

“Some of these pieces are centuries old,” Poncé said. “These represent Christianity, Buddha, Mexican god. They are all different, but they go really well together. All these things were discarded at one time, and I always wonder who made it and I just find

that the pieces really interest me.”

McCaul has a room in the gallery where her trade is represented, and she has her herbal products and some esoteric supplies available for sale like Tarot cards and Roses of Jericho. She has been studying herbalism for 12 years and started her company, Mother McCaul’s, in 2007.

“I do salves here on this table – topicals and aroma therapy products,” she said. “I have plans to do more: candles and Tarot decks and botanical incense.”

McCaul identifies herself as “an ingredient snob,” using organic or wild harvested ingredients, often harvesting native plants from the desert and mountains herself. Her most popular product is a joint/muscle balm, which she blends from multiple ingredients, including the medicine aspirin was originally derived from. “Meta sweet and white willow bark and a bunch of different anti-inflammatories are in it,” she said.

Mandrake Gallery open hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.



Artist Michael Poncé and herbalist Trisha McCaul welcome guests to their gallery, Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica Gallery. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

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Proposals must be submitted at www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCMS2021. Applications must include a brief narrative, artist’s or group statement, and images of proposed art or objects for display.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

A Journey I Hope Never Ends

This month marks a couple of significant milestones for my relationship with this wonderful paper and the local horse community. It was 10 years ago, April 2010, when I wrote my first column for the paper, a feature article about using the power of a more natural approach to horsemanship to rebuild the relationship between a local rider and her horse after a life-threatening bolt and crash. The story covered a year long journey that went from selling a beautiful horse and never riding again, to competing in and winning some of the most challenging equestrian events for horse and rider.

This month also marks my 100th column for this paper. That's a pretty amazing number by anybody's standard. Over the years, the column has occasionally been picked up and reprinted in other horse-oriented publications around the country. I've heard from people as far away as New Jersey, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Idaho, Washington and California. It has given me the opportunity to remind riders of some important techniques and in some cases change the way people interact with their horses, even without ever meeting them in person. I've made some new friends and gained some outstanding students from the reach of Desert Exposure.

My main goal when I started writing the column was to ask people to think a bit differently about their horses, how they relate to them, teach them, care for them and ride them. The columns could never be long enough to give step-by-step solutions to particular training or behavioral issues, although the answers to many of these problems were contained in the more general philosophical points I've tried to get across.

As I've said many times over the years, I've never been involved in any activity where there is so much bad advice being given by unqualified and inexperienced people, friends or "trainers," or so many beliefs about the nature and behavior of the horse that are so far from the truth. I've tried very hard to keep my columns fact-based and filled with advice from the best horsemen, vets, equine scientist and my 20 years of experience working with more than 350 horse-and-rider partnerships.

Perhaps my second goal has been to figure out and put into words the mystery of the horse and why the horse continues to be such an important icon for many cultures around

the world, and why the horse remains an important and powerful emotional partner for so many people in a world that has become so unfriendly to the horse.

This has been a bit more challenging. It's pretty easy to see the beauty of the horse, and the strength, spirit and athletic ability of this magnificent creature. This is the image conveyed to us in the movies and advertising, and in all the pictures and stories of the wild horse herds around the world. It is easy to find examples of how the history of man, good and bad, has pretty much come from the back of a horse. It's hard not to tear up or get angry when you read a story of abuse or neglect of any horse, or their fate in the never-ending stream of natural disasters. Or, feel immense joy when you read about the good works of rescues and successful adoption programs. Whether you own a horse, or you've never come any closer to a horse than watching "The Black Stallion" or "Seabiscuit," there's something about horses and humans that is unique to the relationships we have with any other animals.

Working with horses for so long has convinced me the reason so many people have problems with their horses, why so many people get hurt, or why so many simply don't understand these animals, is that we want them to be more like us. We want them to behave. We want them to be logical. We want them to instinctively know what they're supposed to do, even if we aren't skilled enough to teach them or confuse the heck out of them with all our requests. We want them to always be in a good mood and be ready to entertain us no matter how they feel. We want them to accept and live in our world, forgetting their 60 million years of evolution and what their lives would be like if they could choose for themselves.

Maybe this is why it's so hard to put the magic of the horse into words. On one hand, we admire and love them for being horses. On the other, we want them to be more like us.

I recently came across a quote that in many ways, for me at least, is as close as anything I've ever read to capturing what makes the horse so special. The quote comes from Buck Brannaman, an inspirational trainer and one of the best horsemen alive today. His words come at this in a way I'd never thought of, but in the usual Brannaman way, they make complete sense.

"Horses don't think like us. Something that's most unique about the horse, something

that I love, is not what he possesses, but what he doesn't possess – and that is greed, spite, hate, jealousy, envy or prejudice. The horse doesn't possess any of those things. If you think about people, the least desirable people to be around usually possess some or all of those things. And the way God made the horse, he left all that out."

I'd probably add a few things to his list – they don't look to get even, they don't hold a grudge, they don't have ulterior motives – but he has hit the nail on the head. What makes horses so special is they aren't like us.

Maybe our unique bond with the horse is that we can project any of our emotions, our psychological needs or human interpretations of behavior on our horses, and they simply stand there with their long beautiful faces and seem to understand – even though they don't. They're great listeners even though they have no idea what we're talking about or why it matters. There are no human motivations, especially the negative ones, behind anything they do. They're just horses, perfect in every sense as horses.

Maybe this is what every horse owner or lover should consider when looking at a horse. The greatest gift we can give back to them is acceptance – accepting they are not like us, they don't think like us, they don't understand us, they don't see or react to the world as we do and they're not motivated by the same things that motivate us – and knowledge – the knowledge that we need to teach, ride, handle and care for them based on what they need as horses, not what we need as humans. As they've shown for thousands of years, they'll meet us more than halfway.

For as long as I continue with horses, I'll strive to give my horses, and every other horse I ever meet, the respect they deserve for what they are. No matter how much I bend their ears about my life, I won't look at anything they do in human terms and I won't expect human-like responses for any of my crazy requests or special needs. They aren't like us, and that is the absolute best thing they can be for us.

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



ENVIRONMENT WARRIORS
JESS WILLIAMS

Recycling in the Rio Grande Corridor

What is good for the planet is good for us too

Recycling is good for your conscience and good for the planet, but it's not always easy. Pizza boxes spring to mind. They're cardboard, and that's recyclable, right? Wrong. It's dirty cardboard, with grease soaked through the bottom layer of the box and – in most cases – little tidbits of fused cheese, crust morsels and topping residue clinging to the inside. The pizza box is trash. But the confusion doesn't stop at pizza boxes, so the Rio Grande Recycling Corridor — a group comprised of recycling and solid waste agencies from Las Cruces to Santa Fe — has launched a statewide recycling education campaign geared to teach New Mexicans how to recycle correctly. "There are many misconceptions about what can and can't be recycled, and there is a view that it is difficult," said Patrick Peck, director of South Central Solid Waste Authority. "Our goal is to set the record straight. Recycling right is simple, and with a few easy tips, every New Mexican can ensure they're doing their part to recycle the right materials." Peck has been in the sol-

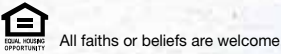
id-waste industry for decades and is sought-after for his protocols and experience. According to a press release, the "Know What to Throw New Mexico" campaign aims to combat the most pressing issues found across the state, including eliminating food waste and plastic bags from blue bins. Three basic rules can help serious recyclers contribute to the solution rather than remain lost in recycling purgatory, not knowing what to do with what materials. Rule 1: **Empty, clean and dry items get recycled.** Food residue and liquids should be rinsed from containers before recycling. Dirty materials are not recyclable and can create costly errors in the process. Rule 2: **Loose items get recycled. Don't bag your recyclables, and don't put cords or bands around them, as they can disable the sorting machinery.** Plastic bags and plastic wrap should never be placed in the blue recycle bins. All items should be loose. Rule 3: **Know what to throw for your area.** Go to Recycle-NewMexico.com to determine what can be recycled in your area and where. Don't make assumptions. Be in the know.



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Shamanism, the Original Spirituality

Embracing ancient medicine for modern healing

“...The word “shaman” in the original Tungus language refers to a person who makes journeys to non-ordinary reality in an altered state of consciousness ... Although the term is from Siberia, the practice of Shamanism existed on all inhabited continents.” - an excerpt from “The Way of the Shaman.”

I am a skeptic, a journalist and political scientist by training. Imagine my surprise at being energetically “grabbed” by an announcement for La Escuela de Curanderismo one early morning while catching up on emails, having just returned from Oaxaca the night before. I had a visceral response to a voice saying, “Pay attention! You will do this!” Upon my graduation nearly a year later, my beloved Escuela teacher and Shamanic practitioner Virginia Nañez, called me out as the most skeptical student to fully embrace these ancient healing arts. This personal transformation occurred only as a result of direct experience, not simple belief. Nearly four years later, I am now midway through a three-year shamanic studies program of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies (FSS), a non-profit organization founded

by the legendary anthropologist Michael Harner, who is largely credited with the revival of Shamanism with his 1980 book, *The Way of the Shaman*.

Shamanism is the original spirituality, so it’s really no surprise that more and more people are “being called” or, more correctly, “called back” to this ancient system of healing and wellness, which recognizes the truth of who we are: spiritual beings of energy and light having a human experience, each of us connected as one with all of creation. Shamanism offers useful tools for healing both the individual and the collective and is the best hope for restoring balance on the planet.

Evidence of Shamanic practice dates back 60,000 years or more. Native Americans have practiced Shamanism for millennia and understood their role as stewards of the Earth. And though indigenous peoples throughout the continent developed sophisticated architecture, were skilled mathematicians and astrologers, their stories and medicinal teachings were transmitted orally, from generation to generation.

Their rich spiritual traditions were largely ignored by early scholars in favor of Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity, which were recorded in writing.

These indigenous cultures of both North and South America were one with all of their relations and understood that their very survival depended upon a harmonious relationship with the natural world. Their decimation and slaughter for land and other natural resources paved the way for the missionaries whose God was without, not within, and only accessible through the patriarchal hierarchy of the church. The earth-centered, feminine way of spirituality – the belief that every person can have a direct experience of God, and that people can speak to the plants, the animals and the waters - went into hiding. It wasn’t until anthropologists like Harner began studying these ancient peoples and gaining a deep appreciation and respect for their beliefs and traditions, that this ancient spirituality was revived.

Modern-day Shamanism refers to the adaptation and application of ancient healing techniques to address the many challenges of

contemporary life. FSS teaches “core Shamanism” – shamanic techniques common to shamans all over the planet. Thus, Harner’s life work offers a pathway for reclaiming one’s own original spirituality and wisdom teachings, while respecting cultural sovereignty.

As spiritual beings experiencing this human life, no one escapes emotional wounding or trauma, yet each of us has the opportunity to shift our perspective and view these challenges as opportunities to heal, grow and evolve our souls. Shamanic healing practices support this process in part by rebalancing our energetic bodies, restoring the body’s innate ability to heal itself.

The physical body is surrounded by an energetic field or light. Jesus Christ, various Catholic saints, La Virgen de Guadalupe and others are often depicted with this crown of light or aura around them.

As energy beings, we are always being impacted by the energy that surrounds us. Throughout our lives this aura absorbs energies from daily life experience, causing it to become imbalanced and sluggish, leading to disharmony and dis-ease as the energies are introduced into the body via the seven chakras, or energy centers.

A practitioner is often called to clear and rebalance the energetic body, to remove liquid or crystallized energies, or even unwanted entities or attachments. Yes, otherworldly entities exist that can attach themselves to a person’s energetic body, especially when that person is in a weakened state, due to trauma, addiction or other factors. Sometimes these entities are spirits of the dead who’ve not been able to move on from this physical world. Many Shamanic practitioners become skilled at psychopomp work, which is the ability to guide spirits to where they need to go in the afterlife.

Shamans understand that there is much more to reality than meets the eye; that there exists a world beyond the physical, which is as real or more so than the world of form and matter. They refer to this world as non-ordinary reality or the world of spirit.

Among ancient Shamanic cul-

SHAMANISM

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SHAMANISM

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tures, the most common way of accessing non-ordinary reality is by sonic driving – rhythmic drumming or rattling used to shift brain waves to theta waves, altering consciousness. This trance-like state allows the practitioner to temporarily leave the physical world and journey to non-ordinary reality to retrieve information for healing and divination.

Journeying is the foundation of Shamanic practice and is commonly taught in workshops throughout the world. Practitioners journey initially for themselves, then increasingly on behalf of others as their relationship and trust deepens with their spirit guides.

People who seek Shamanic healing do so for help with common, everyday issues, both painful and joyful.

Shamanic practitioners may create sacred ceremony and ritual for the blessing of marriages or births, or provide support and healing of generational trauma, sexual violence, divorce, dysfunctional relationships, finan-


cial issues or chronic illness.

Shamans comfort the sick and dying and are often called to assist when a person is preparing to transition from this physical plane to the realm of spirit. In a process called recapitulation, the shaman helps the dying person make peace with his or herself and loved ones, allowing them to die consciously and peacefully, unburdened by unfinished business.

At its core, Shamanism is really a way of life; a spiritual path that helps the sincere practitioner reconnect to their own inner wisdom, recognizing the divine in all things and living life with greater compassion, joy and love.

These sacred wisdom teachings offer a well-traveled path forward in these challenging times, helping us to live from the heart, with acceptance, non-judgement, non-suffering and beauty.

Lisa Jimenez is a freelance writer and teacher, and a practitioner of Shamanic healing arts and Reiki. For more information, contact her at lmjimenez13@gmail.com.



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Birth/Life/Death

Ruth Marigold, Aug. 26, 1988 ~ March 10, 2018

It's been two years. Two years of trying to figure it out. There is no figuring it out. There is only acceptance.

Ruthie was born on the corner of 12th and Virginia streets. Right here in Silver City – across the street from the Child Development Center – in a little white house that is now painted brown. Every time I drive by that house, I remember Ruthie and her birth.

Our three children were born at home – just us, just our family.

The first birth was Zoë Rose. She was born in a small cabin on the southern end of Herman Pond, just outside of Bangor, Maine. In Maine, ponds can be big. Herman Pond was 1 mile by 3 miles. We heated and cooked with wood in our small cabin. It took 10 cords of wood a year to keep us warm. Zoë was born the day the ice broke up on Herman Pond – at the end of April.

Three years later, near the end of May 1983, Erica Sage was born

in a small house in downtown Bar Harbor, Maine. We had a printing business we ran out of the house. We closed the shop, put a mattress on the floor, and Erica joined our family. Four years later, we moved into a school bus and headed for Homer, Alaska. We never made it past Silver City.

Each of our children's births were unique and special – each birth, a story in itself. This story is about Ruth's birth and a little about Ruth's short life.



Ruthie, a few weeks old with her father, Susan Golightly before transition. (Courtesy photo)

in a Spanish language school. Ruthie blossomed there. Also, it was one of my happiest times. I believe this is when she fell in love with all things Mexican. When we came back, she said she didn't want to go back to Stoneybrook School, even though she would have been welcomed back. Instead, she chose to go to the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI, pronounced Nimmy) in Roswell. She loved it there.

She started spending her summers in Mexico with various families of students. By the time she graduated, she was fluent in Spanish. She ended up studying at the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. There she met her soon-to-be husband, Enrique "Quique" Rodriguez Duran. With Quique, she had two children, Caleb Abel and Hannah Sophia. Ruthie loved living in Mexico; she planned to live the rest of her life there. No one expected it to be so short. She died of asphyxiation from a mini seizure. Nobody really knew the cause of it.

How can I explain how much Ruthie loved and was loved? She lived life to the fullest. Many people loved her, both in Mexico and here in Silver City, at NMMI and at Stoneybrook School. Everyone who knew Ruthie will say they felt blessed by knowing her. As her father, I feel blessed for knowing her. Ruthie, wherever you may be, know that you are wrapped in our prayers.

Susan, 76, stays active riding her bicycles. She earned both a BA and an MA from Western New Mexico University. Both times she was valedictorian, the first time as a man and the second time as a woman. She has lived all over the country and has had more than her share of life-changing experiences.



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We used to joke that when Julie could set a cereal bowl on her stomach, we knew it was time for the baby to come. From the very beginning, we felt Ruth was a gift from God. We knew she was going to be special. If the baby was going to be a boy, I wanted to name him Obadiah. Julie prayed ardently for a girl. However, we both agreed that if the baby was a girl, she would be Ruth Marigold. Thankfully, we had a girl.

Just like we did with our other births, we put a mattress on the living room floor. We felt beds were too confining. We bought shoelaces to tie off the umbilical cord. We kept the light low to make the house feel cozy. I gave Zoë and Erica flashlights to help keep an eye on the birth's progress. I wanted them to feel involved and not just be spectators. This was a family affair; we all needed to be part of the birth process. I also bought lots of popsicles. Giving birth can be exhausting and having something cool and wet to moisten the mouth and lips is really helpful.

Julie did not want to lie still. She would often walk around, get on her knees, sometimes lie on her back, and sometimes sit up. We had the shoelaces in boiling water. Unfortunately, we boiled the water out of the pan and had to start over with new shoelaces. Eventually, the baby began to emerge. It's amazing how scrunched up babies are when they are coming out. Finally, after a big push from Julie, Ruthie was born. Let me say, none of this would have been pos-

sible without Julie's bravery, trust, and faithfulness in the naturalness of childbirth.

How can one describe the radiance and love that fills a room when a new baby is born? Our smiles were so big our cheeks ached. Something very magical happens when a new life comes into the world. There is a feeling of incredible energy, and the room felt like it was glowing. We all just stared at Ruthie, like she would go away if we took our eyes off her. We all had just witnessed a miracle. No matter how one looks at it, new life is always a miracle.

Ruthie was loved, and Ruthie loved us in return. Ruthie loved people and she loved life. Julie homeschooled our children. When they reached high school age, they could decide where they wanted to go to school. Zoë chose to go to Stoneybrook School on Long Island, New York. Erica chose to stay in Silver City and go to Silver High School. When it was Ruthie's turn, she chose to go to Stoneybrook School. She was only in the eighth grade, but she wanted to go. That year didn't work out so well for her, and she had to come home early.

That was the beginning of a difficult time for Ruthie. She was seduced by the temptations of the world – drugs, sex, and rock and roll, accompanied with angst and anger. Julie and I were in a panic about what to do.

We decided I would take her to Mexico, just Ruthie and me. We went to La Paz, Baja California. We stayed in a B & B and enrolled

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ENVIRONMENT WARRIORS • ALEXANDRA TAGER

Glass Crusher Crush

A bit of recycling returns to Silver City

Sometimes laying around watching Facebook videos for hours isn't a big waste of time. As I scrolled through the life-chatter, up came a video of a New Zealand brewery that had built a machine that pulverized all its glass empties in a matter of seconds. Returned them back to sand from whence they had come, almost instantly. Not only was it a brilliant recycling method, but, wouldn't you know, the world is running out of sand. Humans are using so much of it to make cement that the world's beaches are literally being carted away.

When in the past I might have felt a sort of feckless rage at yet another man-made climate disaster in the making, this time I thought to myself, crushing glass is a no-brainer! Knowing very little about the mechanics of things, even I could see that this was a simple, low-impact machine, that could easily be affordable and in use by any entity that had heavy glass consumption. And it couldn't be that expensive, in the grand scheme of things.

Enlisting a friend who knows a lot about the mechanics of things, it was mere minutes before we found a small machine being advertised for use on yachts, (makes sense that on yachts, space is not lavished on the garbage), which could reduce the space a glass bottle takes up to 1/10th its original volume. It cost under \$5,000 shipped.

This was doable. This was an idea it would not be hard to get Silver City and its inhabitants to get behind. Lots of people were likely having similar thoughts in the wake of Silver City's canceled recycling program. The recently opened Future Forge makerspace downtown seemed like just the place to find those



Trying out the new glass crusher in Silver City for the first time, organizers Chris Lemme, Alexandra Tager and Stephen Lindsey get ready to drop in their empty bottles. (Courtesy photos)

like-minded folks, so I asked the former director, Nick Prince, could we house it at the Forge if we could get the town to chip in for a glass crushing machine? I was sure we could raise any money the town wasn't willing to spend from people I knew. Of course he said, being an all around get it done kind of guy, and not only that, he pointed to a list of names scrawled on the wall, of people in town already working on glass and other recycling. Nick suggested they would certainly want to help.

I called the first two people on the list, Chris Lemme, owner of Best Brixx and Kelsey Patterson, owner of Revel.

Within a week we were sitting down together to discuss how

to get it done. A week after that, we were sitting in Town Manager Alex Brown's office, armed with specs for a bigger, better, industrial capacity machine, a list of uses and value added products that use sand, figures about land fill reduction, ideas for economic development, and a verbal commitment from the United Way of Southwest New Mexico to support the project financially.

Bureaucrats don't have the best reputation. But we'd done our homework, the timing was right, and Mr. Brown is not your average bureaucrat. He had set aside some of the savings from switching the Town to a private waste hauler, to seed recycling projects just like this one. It seemed he was eager to appease the many angry folk who blamed him for eliminating recycling, when in fact it was a world-wide chain of events that actually rendered recycling dead. (Not that the practice had ever been as rosy as we had wanted to believe, as we dutifully maintained dual trash cans.)

We presented our materials and again, seemingly within moments, Mr. Brown proposed a plan. The Town would purchase the machine, and would lease it to our fledgling nonprofit, Silver City Recycles, which Chris Lemme had already been in the process of forming. The lease would require that all the pulverized glass would be given to the Town, for use in a myriad of Public Works projects: road beds, laying pipe, even at the Town owned golf course, for sand traps.

The pulverizer that the Town purchased was made by Contractor's Inc., an outfit out of the

Southeast (American Made!) It pulverizes 1 ton an hour, sorts the resulting product into two grades –a fine sand and a soft-edged gravel–and spits out the labels from it's business end.

The humble, high powered green machine (it's painted green) arrived on February 14, just three months after the idea sprang to mind. Clearly the idea had been percolating in the collective brain, and to see the speed with which things can get done when folks have a common goal. Our precious pulverizer has been placed on Stuart Egnal's property adjacent to the Old Custom Steel forge, now home to Future Forge. Stuart graciously lent his property, which also houses a composting project.

Silver City Recycles is now in the process of obtaining 501 (c) 3 status as a nonprofit. It's mission is not just to recycle and reduce waste deposited in landfills, but also to research resource conservation, educate the public about reductions in consumer waste, increase the demand for recycled products, innovate through the reuse and repurposing of waste materials and incubate businesses that do any of the above. Under its auspices, 5 trainees will receive a stipend to learn to operate it under the guidance of OSHA certified Stephen Lindsey, current Board Chair of the Future Forge. United Way of Southwest NM has provided funding for the training, as well as safety equipment, bins to sort and shuttle glass, and promotion.

Chris Lemme and others at Future Forge have begun to devise products that can be made from the sand and gravel, such as pav-

ing bricks for walkways/garden paths, etc. Silver City Recycles hopes to be a catalyst for entrepreneurs who have ideas for using recycled glass, and down the road, other recycled materials. Currently, Future Forge owns a plastic shredder, and an extruder. Folks are already experimenting with options to combine materials to make value added products.

Alex Brown also recently greenlit the purchase of an adobe brick maker, through the guidance of Lee Gruber and Bridgette Johns of Southwest New Mexico ACT, the nonprofit that runs the Clay Festival, among other projects. The Town appears to be full steam ahead on seeing innovative forms of recycling come back to Silver City. The SCR Facebook page has received over 200 requests to join in under two weeks. Willing partners in the recycling game are everywhere. If you are one of them, and you have an idea for other recycling methods, ideas for products, or would like to volunteer, please contact us through our Facebook group, Silver City Recycles, where we will post details about location and drop off times. The first public crushing session is slated for early this month. People will be able to drop off clean glass only, if you're ambitious please have it pre sorted by color. If you are constitutionally incapable of cleaning out your empties, please send your dirty glass directly to the landfill, Silver City Recycles will not accept it.

Ideas are the power that run the world. If you have one, don't be afraid to share it. In a small town, you might be surprised how much you can get done.



Glass is already piling up to be made into sand by the Silver City glass crusher.

THE STARRY DOME • BY BERT STEVENS

Cancer, the Crab

Scuttling off to harass Hercules

Crabs scuttle along the beaches of the world, but there is also a crab in the sky. As the heavens darken on April evenings, Cancer, the Crab, is high in the April sky nestled between the constellations of Gemini and Leo. The principle stars of Cancer are fourth magnitude or fainter, making this constellation only readily visible from areas where the sky is dark.

In Greek mythology, Cancer is an ancient constellation representing the crab that Hera, queen of the gods, sent to harass Hercules while the hero was fighting the Hydra. The crab pinches Hercules' toe. Irritated, the hero steps on the crab and crushes it, ending the story for the crab. But there is another myth around this constellation.

A giant immortal crab named Crios was left to guard the sea nymphs when the monster Typhon terrorized the other gods, forcing them into hiding. A few of the nymphs felt they were not in danger and escaped to the open sea. Crios sent the giant squid Vamari to bring them back. Vamari (translated as "Vampire Squid") caught up with the escaped nymphs and devoured them.

When Vamari returned to Crios, he told Crios that he could

not find the escaped sea nymphs. Crios knew Vamari was lying and a battle ensued. Crios finally triumphed, but he was badly crippled, but being immortal, he could not die. The sea god Poseidon finally returned to relieved Crios' suffering by placing him in the sky.

The most famous object in Cancer is the Beehive star cluster (M44). This cluster takes up an area nine times the size of the full moon, so it is visible to the naked eye from a darker sky location. It appears as a fuzzy patch near the middle of Cancer. Binoculars or a small telescope reveals its true identity as a group of individual stars between sixth and seventh magnitude.

In his star catalog, Greek astronomer Hipparchus (c.130 BC) noted the Beehive as Nephelion, the Little Cloud, while the Chinese saw it as a demon riding in a carriage across the sky. Galileo pointed his telescope at this cluster in 1609, discovering it was composed of forty stars. Today we are able to identify one thousand and ten stars that belong to the cluster.

This cluster is one of the nearest open clusters to the Earth at a distance of 593 light-years away. The Beehive's estimated age is between 600- and 700-million years old. All the stars in an open

cluster move in the same direction and speed, since they all had a common origin. The Beehive's age and motion is similar to that of the Hyades open cluster two constellations over in Taurus, the Bull. This indicates they had a common origin.

Another open cluster in Cancer is M67, discovered by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Koeher in 1779. This cluster is much older, around four billion years old. It is around three thousand light-years away from us, making the stars in this cluster fainter than in the Beehive. The brightest stars are around magnitude ten, with the total magnitude of the cluster at +6.1. It takes up the same area in the sky as the full moon, 30 minutes-of-arc across.

Astronomers carefully observed the stars in open clusters since there is a diversity of star types all at the same distance. The relative brightness differences of these stars are due to actual differences in each star's intrinsic brightness due to their different energy outputs and not to the stars being at different distances. By plotting the color of cluster stars (their surface temperature) against their brightness, a band appears of stars that are still burning hydrogen in their core known as the main sequence.

Stars are spread along the



The open star cluster M44, the Beehive, is directly in the center of the constellation, Cancer, the Crab. This constellation is composed of faint stars between Leo and Gemini. All three of these constellations lie on the ecliptic, the imaginary path in the sky the Sun travels every year. By virtue of having the ecliptic pass through them, they are called zodiacal constellations. The Sun and the planets all travel on or near the ecliptic, since all the planets are roughly in the same plane.

Calendar of Events – April 2020 (MDT)		
01	4:21 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
07	8:35 p.m.	Full Moon
14	4:56 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
22	8:26 p.m.	New Moon
27	7 p.m.	Venus near maximum brightness
30	2:38 p.m.	First Quarter Moon

main sequence depending on their mass. The more massive stars are hotter, brighter and bluer than the dimmer, cooler red stars. A star's lifespan depends on its mass. More massive main sequence stars burn hotter and brighter, using their hydrogen fuel more quickly. They then burn out very young and leave the main sequence.

By looking at the plot of stars in the cluster (called a Hertzsprung-Russell diagram), there is point where there are no longer stars along the hot end of the main sequence. This "turn-off" point marks where stars have reached the end of hydrogen burning in their core. Knowing the lifespan of that color star at the turn-off point indicates the age of the cluster, since the more massive stars have already burnt out.

The Planets for April 2020

Venus is the unmistakable brilliant star appearing out of the evening twilight 36 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon. Still the only planet in the evening sky, the Goddess of Love stays in Taurus all month, moving from the far western end to the north central end of this constellation. Its disc is 31.0 seconds-of-arc across and it is a 34 percent illuminated crescent at midmonth. Venus shines at magnitude -4.5 and it sets around 11:15 p.m.

It is not until 2:15 a.m. when Jupiter rises that there is another planet in the sky after Venus sets. Shining at magnitude -2.3, the King of the Gods has a disc that is 36.3 seconds-of-arc across as it moves slowly eastward in eastern Sagittarius. It is 34 degrees above the south-southeastern horizon as it gets light.

Saturn rises 15 minutes after Jupiter and is a degree lower in the sky as it gets light. It is moving eastward in western Capricornus. Saturn's Rings are 37.3 seconds-of-arc across, tilted 20.6 degrees downward with the northern face showing while the planet's disc is 16.5 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude +0.6.

Mars moves from western to eastern Capricornus this month, shining at magnitude +0.6. It rises around 3:15 a.m. and it is 29 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it gets light. Mars' disc is 7.0 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

Mercury shines at magnitude -0.5 in the eastern sky just before sunrise for the first two-thirds of the month before disappearing into the Sun's glare. The ecliptic is strongly tilted relative to the horizon, so Mercury will not be very high during this apparition. On April 1, the Messenger of the Gods will be six degrees above the eastern horizon with a 64 percent illuminated disc that is 6.6 seconds-of-arc across. It rises around 5:50 a.m., shining at magnitude +0.1. During the month it moves from eastern Aquarius, through far southern Pisces, across central northwestern Cetus, reentering southeastern Pisces and ending the month in western Aries. If you are up early, watch Mercury zip along the ecliptic this month and "keep watching the sky!"

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





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PLANNING AHEAD

Summer Camp Doubles Up!

Programs launching in Alamogordo and Las Cruces

This summer, the New Mexico Museum of Space History's Rocketeer Academy Summer Camp will host students in Alamogordo and Las Cruces. The Alamogordo camp will be held at the NMMSH and the Las Cruces camp will be held at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Registration for both camps is now available on the Museum's website, www.nmspacemuseum.org.

Alamogordo camp programs:

Whether it's exploring the universe looking for alien lifeforms or discovering what rockets and dinosaurs have in common, Comet and Mercury-level cadets (K-3) are in for an exciting summer adventure. In Alien Hunter, cadets make their own alien (from pasta) and dissect a totally different alien (pickle), along with building their own scale model of the Solar System and learning about astrobiology from NASA. Or, your cadet can build his or her own comet in the popular Dinosaurs & Asteroids program, where building dinosaurs and exploring craters is top of the menu.

For older cadets, the Gemini and Apollo programs take the wonders of space exploration up a notch. Space 101/201: A Giant Leap introduces cadets to space and the intricacies of traveling there. Cadets engage in twisted weather, building a rocket fuel farm, astronomy, telescopes and a star party. Want more? Build your own Mars habitat in Space

201/202: Homesteading Space, figure out how to get clean water, explore the surface and see what it takes to be a real astronaut! For cadets who want to pilot their own spaceship, or aircraft, Wheels UP! is Rocketeer Academy's premiere flight program featuring basic aviation to teach aircraft design, atmospheric entry vehicles and even flight simulators. Gemini and Apollo programs also plan field trips to real-life working environments like White Sands Missile Range and White Sands Test Facility.

Cadets in all levels build and launch their own model rockets. The program is open to cadets who have completed kindergarten through ninth grade.

Las Cruces camp programs:

"With so much interest in space today, we felt it was time that we had a permanent presence in Las Cruces for our summer camp program. The Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces is a perfect partner for us, especially since both of our facilities are operated by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs," said NMMSH Executive Director Chris Orwoll. The department fosters an environment of partnerships and teamwork between its museums, historic sites and other divisions.

"It's a win-win situation for everybody. The daily commute for Las Cruces parents during summer camp was a challenge and this will make it much easier for

them," Orwoll said.

Rocketeer Academy summer camp in Las Cruces is for cadets who have completed grades 4-6 and will include a wide range of STEM-related activities and projects. From surviving Mars to exploring the cosmos, this camp

is geared for adventure.

FLARE (the Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts) will work with the cadets as they build and launch their own rockets. The camp will be held at the NM Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.



What goes up, must come down...but will it survive? The only way to find out is to try, and that's exactly what these summer camp cadets are ready to do – launch their basketful of peeps and prepare for the results. (courtesy NMMSH)

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Cabalgata Draws a Crowd

Celebration in the midst of poverty

There were the usual food stands and stands selling clothes, jewelry, and toys in the Columbus plaza. The library had a sale on used books, and several people sang Mexican songs and did folklorico dances for the crowd.

It was maybe the sixth or seventh time I'd been to see the Cabalgata, the annual even in March commemorating Pancho

Villa's attack on Columbus, on March 9, 1916, during the Mexican revolution, and turning it into a Fiesta de Amistad (Fiesta of Friendship).

A crowd waited near the center of town to watch the horseback riders striding up from the border, looking minuscule as they started approaching Columbus from about five miles away. The "entrada" was as dramatic as usual. Mexican and American flags billowed like sails on ships. Some rider had travelled all the way from the town of Vicente Guerrero, Chihuahua (near the middle of the state) where the original ride to Columbus with Villa's men began.

When they reached town, they swung around the corners in the streets and ended up near the library. There was a scratchy, blaring "Mexico a grito de Guerra" (Mexico at the shout of war) and a similarly jangly "Star Spangled Banner." Both anthems were sung with pride. This kind of thing moves me to tears, and I tried to sing along with both of them.

Chamber of Commerce representative July McClure, who as usual was up to her elbows in organizing the event, publicity and playing music on her guitar brought a change of pace for the event by reading her thanks to the horses that made the trip, first in English and then in a high-pitched whinny.

The solemnity of the anthems was a reminder of the sober purpose of this event. It is the remembrance of an attack that produced the deaths of 18 Americans and many more Mexicans. And it is a forgetting of the event

in the name of peace and brotherhood.

It was a reminder that the border to this day and for the foreseeable future is a pact, a handshake, and a shared space in the world. The primary issues are economic.

Field workers and others from Mexico cross it to get better pay for their work. Americans go to the Pink Store, which is the most important generator of employment in Palomas, and to the dentists, oculists, and pharmacists with mercifully low prices for Americans. Some Palomas children go to school in Luna County, where they can learn English and maybe get a job on "el otro lado" (the other side). Activists and church people bring food across the border for poor people.

There isn't much hope for a better economy in Palomas. An automotive harness factory started up early last year didn't last because the town doesn't have a bank.

Palomas residents still need help

Maria Lopez and I, along with some of her relatives, are asking again (under the auspices of Casa de Amor) for donations for hungry people in the poorest section of Palomas, the southwest sector. I wrote recently about the awful deprivations of many people there—the sick and elderly—who have far from enough food in their difficult situations. And then there are children. To them hunger is especially hard.

We've gotten generous and enthusiastic donations from a few

people, but it is of course not nearly enough. We also have a major need for adult diapers, for instance.

I've been doing some simple thinking recently. Everyone has heard about the great things that Demingites accomplished when asylum seekers were brought to our town last May. I can't help but wonder if more can be done to help Palomas by the people of Luna County, now that the refugees are not arriving anymore.

I loved writing about the DAG-SHIP animal rescue operation run by Deming Animal Guardians. Mike Dietz of Sunshine Grooming does an admirable job collecting funds to help animals. I respect his work because it's obvious he and his wife are doing their jobs out of love. You can't say that about many people.

Mike understands poverty issues. Both humans and animals need help. I wonder how much human effort could be mobilized to rain down food on the people of Palomas on the other side of the border.

We would be glad to pile up our truck with donations. Border Partners (info@borderpartners.org) is another option for distributing donations, as well as churches.

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Cabalgata participants travel from various towns in Mexico to Columbus commemorating Panco Villa's attack on the town March 9, 1916. (File photo by Elva K. Österreich)

ABRACADABRA • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Mall Magic

Illusionist, magician get together for bewitching business

For 33 years Jamie O'Hara has been on the scene in Southern New Mexico for your entertainment.

He has made a very real living, traveling to the towns with magic, slight-of-hand skills and even his own music as well. In fact, he's been doing magic since the age of 9 and performing music since he was 13.

Now he has hung up his traveling hat for a while.

Last year, O'Hara became friends with the amazing Raze, illusionist extraordinaire who turned out to be local physician Imran Raza who started performing shows in Las Cruces and decided to open his own magical storefront/theater.

With the help of magic, Raza worked his way through medical school in Pakistan as a young man, O'Hara said. Eventually Raza's magic performance ability even helped him gain the med-

ical residency program at Memorial Medical Center.

"One thing led to another and his medical practice is doing well," O'Hara said. "He decided to reignite his practice in magic because he loves magic and loves to perform. He had two shows last year that were very successful and had sold out crowds."

O'Hara and Raza became friends over coffee, and soon Raza asked O'Hara to perform at the facility. But O'Hara's schedule kept him on and off the road, performing often in eastern New Mexico lately. After the financial crash 13 years ago, he has been struggling to make ends meet and often travels as far as Carlsbad, Roswell and Artesia to ply his double trades as magician and musician.

"I came up with this crazy idea and I honestly thought he was just going to chuckle and say for-

get it," O'Hara said. "Why don't you give me a retainer fee so I can clear my decks and refocus largely on this," I said. "Then give me a salary for three months and I'll do what every show you can book in here, in fact I'll help you book them and train other peo-

ple and produce your shows.' And he asked if I would do that for a year."

So now the partnership storefront has been open for 12 weeks and hosted several birthday parties as well as two sold-out illusion shows. The magical facility

welcomes the visitor with lush colors, welcoming chairs and a deep red curtain across the stage. It also offers a museum's worth of magical history, including a Houdini display, a guillo-

MAGIC

continued on page 30





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As a magician Jamie O'Hara has been offering birthday parties with magic shows for 33 years. Now he is able to continue the tradition in one place, Raze Studio Illusions & Magic where even a basic birthday package includes things he has not been able to provide before. (Courtesy photo)



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Illusionist Raze performs for a recent audience at Raze Studio Illusions & Magic. (Courtesy photo)



Imran "Raze" Raza and Jamie O'Hara in front of the Raze Studio Illusions & Magic stage as the facility celebrates three months of being open and offering shows and services to the community. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

MAGIC
continued from page 29

tine, kabuki swords and various other illusion accoutrements.

Also, at Raze Studio Illusions & Magic can be found and magic boxes with illusions card tricks for sale and various other feasts for the eyes. Ephemera line the walls behind the counters, and, for the shows, concessions are open.

"I know it's crazy we've got a theater in a shopping center," O'Hara said. "We have a magic shop. Come to a show, pay a ticket price, enjoy concessions and visit the back of the room for sales after the show."

After a handful of birthday parties and the two live shows, the facility is making some money and building its capabilities.

"We really we need to have four or five times that for this to become a humming operation," he said. "When that happens, we can do two shows a month for him [Raza] on consecutive weekends. Pretty soon I'm going to do a show too, an evening of magic and comedy, probably with a lower ticket price (Raze's illusion shows are \$25)."

This is such a huge change of pace for O'Hara after being on the road for so long sometimes it feels like a bit like a cage.

"While I do love being on the road – I've got friends on the road and I love doing shows – it was weary," he said. "I have been a free-range animal for 33 years and now I have a cage and that's a difficult adjustment. But as a guy who does magic tricks if you have to have a cage and the cage is a theater where you hang out with magicians and listen to music and do all this other stuff – WOW – like pretty cool."

Raze Studio is open by 4 p.m. to visitors Wednesday through Sunday, sometimes earlier, so give them a call before you head out. The museum-quality displays alone are worth the trip to check the place out. For information visit the website at razestudioillusions.com or call 575-250-RAZE.

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VIEW FROM THE CUBE • DAVE DOOLING

Never Say ‘Never’

Space Shuttle sports mysterious payload

An Alamogordo junkyard briefly held parts of the Air Force’s first secret payload aboard the Space Shuttle, and led this writer to reconsider why a “rinky dink” set of telescopes become Top Secret.

The fourth Space Shuttle mission, in July 1982, carried the Air Force payload identified only as DOD 82-1. Reporters were told that none of it, even its Experiment Support Structure, would ever see the light of day. But technical articles and press releases revealed details: ultraviolet and infrared telescopes to help design better missile warning sensors, space environment instruments, and a Space Sextant to guide missiles during launch.

This wasn’t exotic enough for many people and fueled wild speculation like hijacking a Soviet spy satellite. But why would a “rinky-dink collection of minor stuff,” as mission commander T.K. Mattingly called it, be of concern? An odd misstep suggests an answer: crowd control.

Each Shuttle mission had emergency landing sites around the world. On STS-4, the Air Force withheld the name of one site “at the request of the host nation,” an Air Force major explained. No one told NASA to keep quiet, and page 39 of its press kit identified Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as the mystery site.

The U.S. military has had a large, troubled presence on Okinawa since World War II. This has inspired protests, including riots in 1955 and 1970. The possibility of the Shuttle landing there with a payload that might connect to nuclear missiles may have been more than the Japanese government could bear, so DOD 82-1 was kept secret.



This view towards the aft end of Space Shuttle Discovery shows instruments that made up the AFP-675 payload flown in 1991. The gold-colored Experiment Support Structure and several of the instruments first flew on the STS-4 mission in 1982. (Photo: NASA)



Most of DOD 82-1—minus Space Sextant—flew again on STS-39 in 1991. A few years later the Air Force sold its transport trailer to a scrap dealer in Alamogordo. When the dealer opened the trailer, he discovered that the Air Force had accidentally left the once-classified Experiment Support Structure (minus telescopes) inside. He asked the

museum to help identify it, thus giving this writer a chance to examine a secret now turned surplus.

The payload was briefly exhibited in the Space Museum parking lot and then disappeared into a private collection, never to be seen again.

But, then, never say never.

NMMSH Education Director Dave Dooling is a veteran space writer and educator who has covered Space Shuttle missions and written for NASA and the National Solar Observatory. He has co-authored several books and written for international science and engineering magazines.

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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 buy a listing in Red or Green?, contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614.

We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All

GRANT COUNTY
Silver City
ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.
CACTUS JACKS, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L.

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

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.

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

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, 601 N 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.
FORREST'S PIZZA, 601 N. Bullard St. Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, Slices until 7 p.m.
FRY HOUSE, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D.
GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.
GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D.
GRINDER MILL, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.

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JALISCO CAFÉ, 103 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.
JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse.

RED or GREEN?
Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide



phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up to date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after

this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email editor@desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N. Bullard St., 654-7367. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.
KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.
LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.
LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 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.

MI MEXICO VIEJO, 202 E Broadway St. Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.
MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D.
NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.
PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.
Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

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

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

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

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 388-2927. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only.

TAPAS TREE, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 597-8272. Monday to Thursday L, Friday and Saturday L D (closes at 4 p.m.).
TASTE OF VEGAS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.
WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.
TRANQUILBUZZ COFFEE, 112 W. Yankie St., 654-2057. Coffee shop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.

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Duck Creek Café, U.S. Highway 180, Cliff, 535-4500. Visit

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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 St., 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 greenchile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.
BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.
CAFÉ DON FELIX, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
CARRILLO'S, 330 S. Church St., 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, 245 N. Main St., 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 Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D.
DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.

EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.
ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.
FARLEY'S, 3499 Foothills Road, 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.
FIDENCIO'S, 800 S. Telshor Blvd., 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.
THE GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina St., 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.
THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263, Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D
GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.
GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave. , Las Cruces, NM 88005, 524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Specializing in Relleno Burritos and Other Mexican Food.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.
HABANERO'S 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D.
HACIENDA DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

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

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 Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite St., 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 Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L.
LET THEM EAT CAKE, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday.
LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.
LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
LOS MARIACHIS, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D.
LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.
MATTEO'S, 1001 E. University Ave. C-1, 888-4310, Authentic Mexican: Monday through Saturday: B L D. Wonderfully simple menu, pleasant dining room and delicious aguas frescas.

MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday B L.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.
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 W., 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.
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho Ave., 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.
PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PHO A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.
PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO., 3900 W. Picacho Ave., 575-680-6394. www.picachopeakbrewery.com
PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Herb Wimblerly Drive (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.
RANCHWAY BARBECUE, 604 N. Valley Drive, 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D.

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.
SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Drive, 527-4212. Gorditas, chicken tacos. Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.
SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. Greek, Mediterranean: Monday to Saturday L D.
SALUD DE MESILLA, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla B, 323-3548. American, Continental: B L D.
THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Drive, 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.
ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-2408. Wine tasting, bistro: L D.
SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D.
TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: Mon.-Sat. L D.
THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.
TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd. #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek, deli: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.

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<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Luca Male, Dobie X, 2 yrs. old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Mary Gould Female, DMH, 1 yrs old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Octo Male, Silver Tabby, 3 mos. old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Diane's Restaurant & The Parlor</div> <div></div> <div>Sandy Female, DLH Calico, 2-3 yrs old.</div>



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What's going on in APRIL?

Not much in person apparently: Here are some things happening that you can participate in at home. We are looking forward to a May that will once again feature events people can get out and attend.

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

Here are some cool things to reach out and participate while stuck at home, with or without children.

Read:

The Children's Reading Alliance reminds parents and caregivers reading should not stop because schools are closed. According to Executive Director Audrey Hartley, "Time off of school is an excellent opportunity for learning." It begins with a three-tiered approach to organizing the day: play time, down time and family time.

Play time is best done in the early part of the morning, just after breakfast. One of the best places for play time is the back yard. Fill the back yard with toys such as jump ropes, balls, and other games that encourage children to be physically active.

Down time is the perfect time to offer younger children a snack and a nap. Older children can be encouraged to play with puzzles, board games, and other quiet activities. Screen time may be tempting but limiting screen time – especially during special circumstances – is important. Recent research also suggests that children enjoy reading from a book better than staring into a screen.

Family time is an excellent time to share stories and books

for children of all ages. Reading to children makes an incomparable example for them and sets them up for a lifelong love of reading. Older children can also be recruited by parents and caregivers to read to their younger siblings.

The Alliance is posting daily reading and other interactive tips and resources on their Facebook page. Parents who have questions or need assistance in obtaining reading materials for their children may call the Children's Reading Alliance at 575-522-3713.

Virtual made free:

- Many performing artists are offering free virtual concerts. Cooks, artists, writers and many others are offering free interactive lessons as well.
- Museums around the world are physically closed because of the coronavirus outbreak but many can be explored virtually thanks to Google Arts & Culture.
- Epic Games is offering a trio of free games worth \$48.
- Free eBooks and audiobooks are available from several sources including Libby and Scibd.
- Hoopla is a web and mobile library where you can borrow movies, television shows and more for free.
- Studios and gyms are streaming classes online including Planet Fitness.
- Frozen actor Josh Gad is reading to kids on Twitter each night.
- Free online educational courses are available through Scholastic; Minecraft: Education Edition; Mystery Science; SmartMusic; and Radish Kids as well as many others.

Webcams:

Not only can folks watch eagle eggs ready to hatch, penguins at multiple zoos and the hysterical otter shenanigans, many of the

already live streaming zoos and communities are now offering activities and extras from their locations. For example, the New England Aquarium is live streaming virtual visits with activities for kids. Virtual field trips across the country are happening online.

Check out homeschool resources:

While homeschoolers are already in the know, now everyone fits the bill. There are tons of resources already out there for those who are educating at home. Here are a few favorites: Homeschoolingbytheholidays.blogspot.com Clickschooling.com Paulasarchives.com Blog.bravewriter.com Quizlet.com Bookadventure.com

No children in your house:

- Meditate. Try lying down with your eyes closed, palms up while focusing on your breath. Or spend 20 minutes sitting crosslegged and repeat a soothing word to yourself in your head. (The latter is more like transcendental meditation.)
- Finally read "Infinite Jest," "Les Miserables" or even "The Stand." Go all in and read "Ulysses."
- Watch the films that won Oscars for best picture.
- Use Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts or Marco Polo to video chat with your long-distance friends.
- Take a bubble bath (bonus: Add a glass of wine)
- Interview your grandparents (over the phone, of course) and save the audio. Can you create an audio story or book with that file?
- Make coffee, but this time study how many beans you use, which types, how hot the water is, how long it brews and whether any of that makes a difference.



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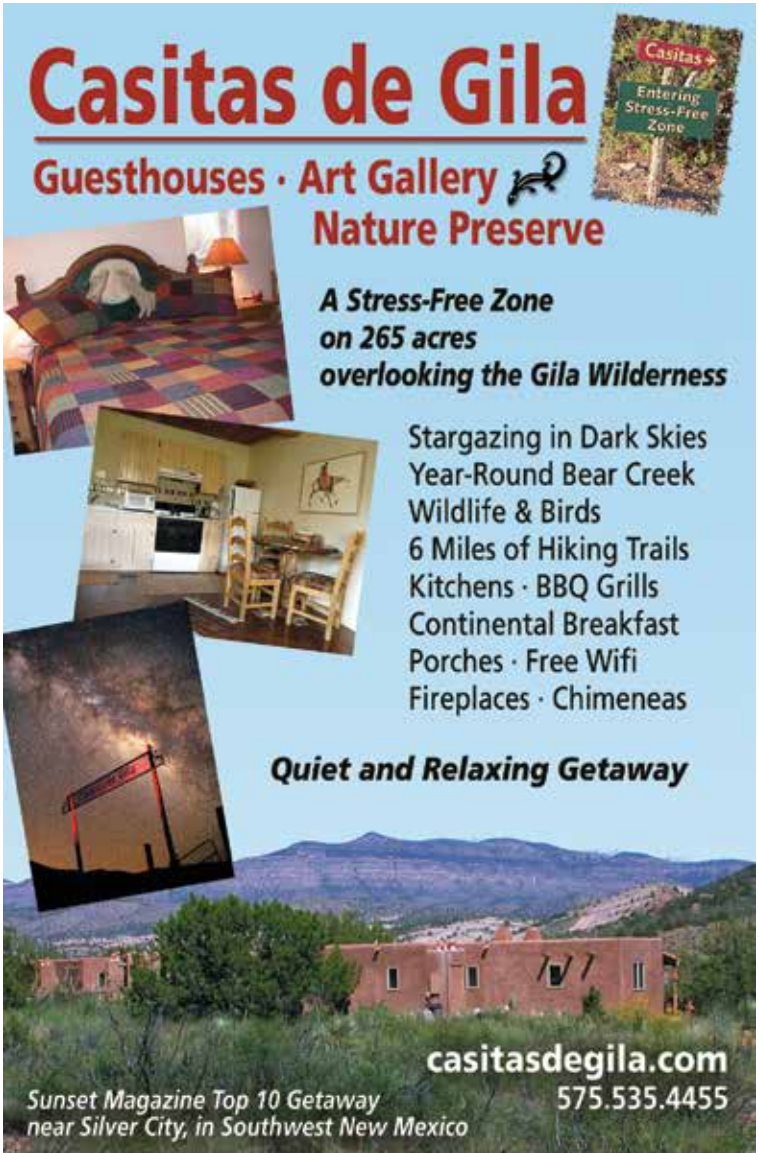
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DESERT exposure

May Deadlines

Friday, April 14 noon: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

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Alamogordo Grows Artistic

Local transforms Magnuson Hotel into southwest showcase

On any given morning during the summer of 2019, drivers on White Sands Boulevard in Alamogordo, New Mexico, passing by the Magnuson Hotel might have noticed a slender man in a cowboy hat leaning a ladder against the adobe walls and drawing what appears to be designs visible to only him. But as each day passed, dark lines and bright colors merged to become a series of stunning Southwestern Native American patterns.



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The artist, Paul Vesey, traces his lineage to the Chiricahua Apache and honors his ancestors through his work by being true to a love of harmony in nature. He has been a professional artist for more than 45 years. His skill is a culmination of a lifetime of experience and a life-long love of art and nature. “As a child, I liked to draw and my mom encouraged me – at first by giving me comics to copy and then came a set of paints,” he said. The other thing he liked as a child was bugs, and they inspired his youthful paintings.

Over the years, Vesey believes he probably has created artwork of different types in 40 states. He spent many years in Indiana living in a log cabin where his son was born, letting nature inspire his painting. While working with the Mennonites, he learned the art of woodworking and later



Alamogordo Magnuson Hotel's General Manager Nate Mandallia and artist Paul Vesey show off one of Vesey's paintings.

took that talent to Taos where he received several awards for his furniture creations.

“I loved Taos, it's beautiful,” he said, “but the winters are harsh, and Alamogordo offered

ARTISTIC
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Artist Paul Vesey and his son worked together on the Magnuson Inn murals, a labor of love and family. (Photos courtesy Magnuson Hotel)

ARTISTIC

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new opportunities for my family.” Ten years ago, Vesey and his family moved south, and he is once again practicing his favorite art of painting. Today, the bugs he loved as a child have transformed into a series of birds on canvas that he’s working on now called “Birds of New Mexico.”

Pictographs have always been a favorite of Vesey’s, so when the Alamogordo Magnuson Hotel’s General Manager Nate Mandalia asked Vesey about helping him turn the hotel into a destination with a distinctive New Mexican flair Vesey immediately thought of the ancient art of pictographs. “It’s always a style I’ve loved, particularly when it had to do with wildlife. This gave me an opportunity to work towards bringing the ancient tradition of pictographs into today’s world,” Vesey said. “What I’m designing here represents what’s around us and in our lives and shows the connection between man and nature.” A combination of daring lines and colors, mixed with dragonflies and medicine bears,

accented by lightning have transformed the exterior walls of the hotel from desert drab to a study of color and design.

“It’s very exciting to watch the process,” Mandalia said, “to see the rich tones pop off the walls and the eye-catching patterns emerge from Paul’s sketches has been amazing. It’s my dream to make this hotel into a place that represents what our Southwestern heritage and hospitality is all about. Paul’s amazing talent is helping to bring that about.”

Since Mandalia has managed the hotel, he’s remodeled the front desk area with a distinct western flavor and he’s in the process of turning each room into a warm, comforting place for guests to relax. The Alamogordo Magnuson features one of the few outside pools in town, offers two separate meeting rooms for area businesses and groups to take advantage of, and deluxe spa suites, along with standard rooms and kitchenettes.

“Our goal is to make this the hotel people want to come home to,” Mandalia said.

Vesey is not only a talented large format artist, but he also

creates unique smaller pieces that Mandalia is offering for sale in the hotel’s gift shop including high quality custom shirts, prints and small stones. His artwork will complement the wide selection of southwestern gift items already offered, like handmade jewelry and novelty items from local artists. “Our guests will have an opportunity to take a piece of Paul’s beautiful artwork home with them and hopefully remind them of the wonderful time they had in our community and encourage them to come visit again,” said Mandalia.

The Magnuson Hotel and Suites of Alamogordo is located at the crossroads of U.S. Highways 82, 70, and 54. This pet-friendly hotel is close to many area attractions and facilities including the New Mexico Museum of Space History, White Sands National Park, White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base and Trinity Site. Just a short 20-minute drive up Highway 82 brings guests into the heart of the Lincoln National Forest and the quaint mountain community of Cloudcroft. For more information or reservations, call 575-437-2110.

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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

Flyin' Jane and the Winnebago

The tale of an upwardly mobile RV dog

Over half of all RVers have pets, and I've written about them from every possible angle except one. The angle of "what if your pet doesn't want to give up its nice, comfy house and yard to go live in your tiny RV?" In fact, that angle would never have occurred to me if not for the story told to

me by one of the permanent residents and part-time office clerks here at Rose Valley RV Ranch.

Anne and Chris Brown moved here permanently about a year ago after having been on the full-time RVing trail for a year and a half. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Anne ran a training stable for Arabian horses in Cor-

rales for 20 years and showed them all over the country. She met Chris at a horse show in Canada and ended up marrying him and moving to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked as a legal researcher and she opened a dog grooming shop.

One day she stopped at a Flying J truck stop for gas, and

when she went inside to pay, a malnourished, scraggly-looking dog kept trying to get in the door.

"Whose dog is that?" she asked the clerk. "Yours," the clerk said. "She's been hanging around for two weeks. Get her out of here."

When Anne held open her truck door, the dog jumped right in. "I thought she might kill me, but instead she just licked me," said Anne, "so I took her home, cleaned her up, and called the vet." The dog, which Anne called Flyin' Jane, had heartworms, other worms, a broken tooth, and various other problems that needed treating. Fifteen hundred dollars and a week later, Anne brought her home and began looking for a new family for the dog. But because she was part pit bull, no one wanted her, so she became part of Anne and Chris's family, which a year later includ-

ed a blue heeler named Dot that they adopted as a puppy.

Six years later the couple retired, sold their Columbus house, and bought a 22-foot travel trailer so they and the dogs could hit the road fulltime. Only one problem—Jane was a couch potato whose favorite pastime had been lying on their couch in front of the fireplace. The travel trailer had no couch, no fireplace. Sure, each of the dogs had its own comfy bed, but Jane really missed that couch.

Eventually, the Browns landed in Arizona for a month's stay, and there they met Sue, a single RVer with a huge luxurious Winnebago Motorhome. Sue's dog had recently died, and during the long walks she took with Anne and

WINNEBAGO

continued on page 39

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CALL FOR ARTISTS AND WRITERS

May 23 is World Turtle Day

In 2019 Desert Exposure held a cover art contest calling for turtles in honor of World Turtle Day, May 23.

The collection of amazing and beautiful work that resulted deserves a

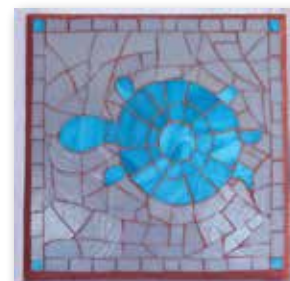
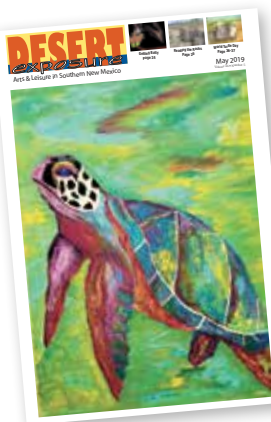
forum of its own and the folks at the Tombaugh Gallery in Las Cruces agreed. So we will showcasing the turtle art work submitted last year and would like to invite other southern New Mexico artists to submit work to the May turtle show at the gallery.

In addition, on Saturday, May 23, we will hold a poetry/story reading reception for the show and are calling for turtle related poems, stories and essays to be selected for reading on that day. Several of those pieces may be chosen to appear in the May edition of Desert Exposure.

For information and to submit art or writing to this collaborative turtle tale, contact Desert Exposure editor

Elva K. Österreich at editor@desertexposure.com or by phone at 575-680-1978.

Please send images and text by email by April 5 and we will coordinate delivery of the art works to the gallery.



**DESERT
exposure**



Flyin’ Jane, the upworldly mobile pooch. (Photo by Sheila Sowder)

WINNEBAGO

continued from page 38

her dogs, she and Jane bonded. Jane loved going over to Sue’s RV for happy hours. She’d stretch on Sue’s couch in front of Sue’s fireplace, or sometimes take a nap on Sue’s queen-sized bed with its soft, fluffy white comforter.

One day after a walk, Jane refused to go into the little camper with Anne. “Let me take her overnight,” said Sue, “she’s just upset. Jane never slept in the camper again.

“Hey, even I wanted to move in with Sue, so I can’t blame her,” Anne told me. “She has a 4-wheeler and Jane gets to sit in the passenger seat when they go for rides. And Sue cooks lots of meat, like roast beef and steaks, and shares with Jane. They spend summers outside Seattle and winters in Arizona. Jane loves it all.”

Still, it’s a bit of an ego-crusher when your dog chooses to divorce you. “Sometimes Sue would bring her by the camper

and Jane would let us pet her, but then she’d drag Sue back to the motorhome. If she could talk, she’d have said ‘thanks for the seven years—see you later. At least Dot didn’t miss her—she’d always wanted to be an only child.”

I know dogs have a reputation for being blindly loyal to their humans, so it’s refreshing to know that here and there, you’ll find one with discernment, who knows a good thing when she sees it and takes the steps to make it her own. A pooch with an eye to the main chance. A pooch after my own heart.

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



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