

DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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MAY 2020
Volume 25 • Number 5



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

The Infodemic

Conspiracies, misinformation, nonsense

Cell towers, 5G, are spreading the coronavirus; Dr. Anthony Fauci sent the virus to China in 2015; Medicare is incentivizing hospitals to lie on admittance and death of patients giving out \$39,000 for each death; miracle cure gets rid of COVID-19; Bill Gates did it; vaccinations are designed so governments can depopulate the world; Schweppes tonic water prevents the virus; COVID-19 is a bioweapon developed by China; more; more; and more.

Why write about this?

There is the chance that some of you reading this will jump on the bandwagon, saying, “Oh sure, that sounds reasonable.” I am just asking that you investigate before jumping on. Look at sources that are NOT in your social media streams but search elsewhere.

The problem is the current ability of misinformation to spread like , a yes, virus. Social media algorithms look at what the reader is exploring and suggest more of the same, so if you look up the 5G conspiracy, you will find it, and a thousand more reinforcing videos and posts to support it. Finally, you might think, “Well so many people talk, write, video and post about this, it must be true.”

It is not.

To make things worse, when celebrities start to chime in, people believe them even more. Just because someone famous says something, doesn't mean it is true. Actor Woody Harrelson and UK personality Eamonn Holmes chimed in on the 5G theory, and people went crazy. This theory got so far out of control that

5G towers in the UK have been set on fire and broadband engineers threatened.

Then there's the idea that secret messages about 5G and coronavirus are hidden in the design of the new 20-pound note in the UK. To quote an article from theconversation.com, “In reality, 5G relates to viruses and bank notes as much as the tooth fairy relates to zoology – not at all.”

There are some especially frightening ideas out there promoting dangerous and disgusting thoughts which have been around for a while but are being adapted to the pandemic situation. QAnon is a complex political conspiracy theory group that easily adapts to several of the COVID-19 misinformation flows. For example, QAnon promotes the use of Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS) which in the past has been touted as a cure for everything from autism to cancer and HIV/AIDS. Now, MMS reportedly can cure COVID-19. What is this miracle cure? Um, it's chlorine dioxide, also known as bleach. What can happen if you take it in amounts as small as 1 gram? Results could be nausea, vomiting, shedding of the mucous membranes in small and large intestines and hemolysis.

Please, don't drink bleach.

It is our nature, as human beings, to look for answers to make sense of the world. We are organized and logical and unwilling sometimes to believe in the randomness of the universe. This sometimes means that any coincidence can be interpreted as a conspiracy of some

kind. Like the fact that Bill Gates gave a TED talk in 2015 warning of a possible staggering death toll in the case of a worldwide pandemic, then participated in a 2019 exercise hosted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security focusing on emergency preparedness in the case of a severe pandemic. Suddenly Gates becomes the leader of a conspiracy to vaccinate for COVID-19 and introduce a worldwide digital ID into everyone in the world (an idea backed by, yup, QAnon).

Oh and, yes, garlic is good for you and hot baths are nice, but they don't prevent this virus. Drinking water is essential but won't “flush” out any virus that enters you however much you drink. The sun won't kill the virus and ice cream won't encourage it. You cannot buy a test kit that you can test yourself with. And, holding your breath for 10 seconds without coughing means only that you can hold your breath for 10 seconds without coughing, not that you don't have the virus.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet with you in Silver City or whatever New Mexico town you live in. Please give her a call or drop her a line and she will be glad to arrange a day to meet up. Reach her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408.



LETTERS

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

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

Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse letters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print, but we need to be able to verify the author.

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

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

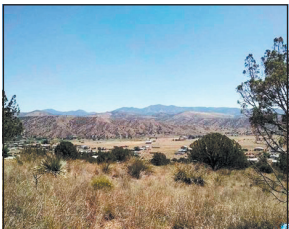
Self-quarantine? Hanging out with your Desert Exposure? Please send us a “postcard” of you and your Desert Exposure, in your garden, in your lovely home, with your family and/or pets, on a hike or wherever you are ensconced at the moment. Share, do the selfie thing, and send it to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

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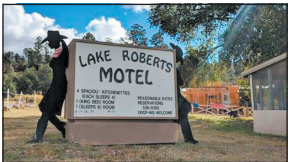
Nice lot with views of the Black Range, Cookes and Hendricks Peaks. 3/4 acre with water and electric available. Abundant trees and wildlife. For flying enthusiasts, build your home here and purchase a hangar lot on runway or taxiway for private airstrip NM 069. Additional parcels available on both sides of property if you want more acreage. Site built or true modular homes only with 1300 sf minimum. Motivated seller!
MLS # 36942 \$19,000



Great country living in this 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 5 +/- acres with large metal shop. Enjoy the long range views and privacy this property has to offer. This property being sold “as is”.
MLS # 37098 \$160,000



20+ acres of rural land ready for your site-built home. Property borders BLM land for lots of privacy! Electric and phone are to property lines. Nice views of the Pyramid Mountains with wide open space to relax and enjoy life in New Mexico! MLS # 37046 \$25,000



Lake Roberts Motel owners have continuously remodeled since purchase, which had a major overhaul in 2012 on almost every inch of the original structures. There are 6 “cabin style suites” that are more than adorable, the rooms are spotless, decorated with love in a southwestern theme. This place is becoming not just a place to stay, but a destination to repeat customers. There is also a cabin rental in addition to owners retreat and store. A “Woodhenge” fire pit area is equipped with roasting forks, a cooking grate, and a generous supply of firewood, topped off with Tiki torches surrounding the pit to create a special ambiance.
MLS # 37199 \$499,900



Spectacular is now affordable. Only 6 minutes to town, this land offers some of the most amazing views around: Kneeling Nun, Cook's Peak and even Mexico. Fantastic southern exposure would be perfect for something solar. Driveway is in, building pad has been cleared, electric is to the property and there are proven wells in the area. Site -built or manufactured housing. Did I mention views?
MLS # 36748 \$39,500



This home fits all the criteria for comfortable southwest ranch style living. Bring the animals and enjoy this fantastic 3 bedroom 2.5 bath home on over 46 5 wire/ fenced acres just 10 -15 minutes from Walmart or Tractor Supply. This property comes complete with a horse barn with tack room and 4 stalls, an separate open tractor /equipment barn and an enclosed metal garage with plenty of electric to double as a workshop.
MLS # 37125 \$499,000



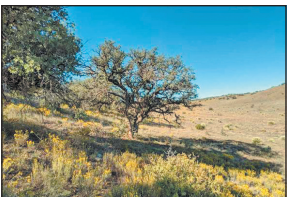
Lots of potential with this acreage close in to town! I have records that there is a well on the property as well as an old septic. There is an older single-wide as well as an older travel trailer on the property. Take a look!
MLS # 36429 \$50,000



HOME WITH A VIEW - STORAGE FOR “TOYS” - 8+ ACRES - and just minutes from downtown. Home has been remodeled and expanded. Stucco exterior and a metal roof make it very low maintenance. The living room has a huge picture window overlooking Silver City. Spacious kitchen has a breakfast bar. Master bedroom has 2 bathrooms and a closet with cedar insert. Back yard has raised beds for some great gardening and a few fruit trees. Extra large garage has 3 single bays and 1 double bay with an access pit to one of the bays, plus a closed in RV storage. Garage is plumbed for a bathroom. Additional two storage buildings on the property. Great 360 degree views. MLS # 37206 \$258,000



OWN A PIECE OF OLD WEST HISTORY! Located in historic Georgetown. Billy the Kid hid out in this area. 20.261 acres with mineral rights. Gila Nat'l Forest boundary on two sides. Quiet and secluded. Gorgeous views and nice rock outcroppings. Juniper, pinon and manzanita trees. Close to Bear Canyon Lake and short drive to Lake Roberts and the Cliff Dwellings.
MLS # 37171 \$65,000



A great price on this 41+ acre parcel located south of Silver City. Some mature oak and great grassland give this property that western range feel. There are limited restrictions that allow for double wide manufactured home or site built. The power line traverses through the property in a north south direction. There is enough elevation change to pick a building spot in the oaks or lower without trees. MLS # 36787 \$105,000

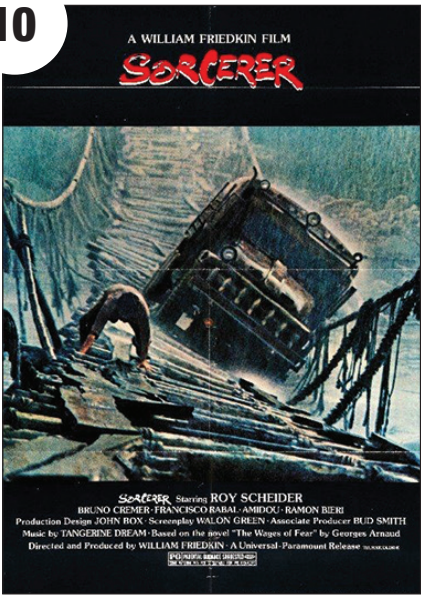


This once flourishing mechanics shop is available with plenty of off street parking in front and in back. Huge double bay area and a couple office up front. This would also make a great place to develop into storage units.
MLS # 37086 \$68,000



Very charming 2 bedroom, two bath country cabin on 15+ acres, solid construction and open concept floor plan. Passive solar with strategic windows placement to take full advantage of the Southwest New Mexico sunshine. Wood stove and in floor radiant heat make this a cozy home throughout the winter. The attached Trex deck is perched above Tularosa River and allows for some spectacular canyon views. Master suite has an attached sunroom to allowing for some massive solar gain. Detached garage and shop allow for plenty of storage and shop space. Detached 1 car carport. Just 10 minutes from Reserve. Expect a couple creek crossings getting in and out as you also cross the San Francisco River as you head in and out of the canyon.
MLS # 37151 \$325,000

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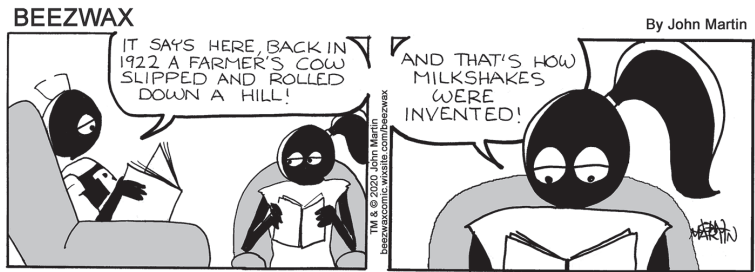
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ABOUT THE COVER:

“We be Searchin’” by Victoria Chick reflects her continued goal to express aspects of the human condition. The chair in this painting is familiar territory. The cats, like some of us, are searching for something, but really prefer to stay within safe boundaries. They look beyond familiar territory but don’t want to jump off into it. Chick established her painting studio near Silver City after a 40 year art career as studio artist, registered art therapist, and a combined fifteen years as adjunct instructor at the University of San Diego and Palomar College in California teaching life drawing, paint-



ing, and art history. She is one of the many artists in the Arts Scene section of this edition, providing a virtual gallery where many area artists can be found.



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RAISING DAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

A Tale of Two Tortoises

I took my granddaughter to see the house where I grew up. Across the street is the elementary school where I got into all kinds of shenanigans as a kid. I wouldn't say my friends and I were troublemakers, but if there was trouble, we were usually around. Sadly, there's a chain-link fence surrounding the school now, so the playground is inaccessible.

"Inaccessible," my granddaugh-

ter repeated. "What's that?" "That means we can't get to it." "Aw," she groaned. I pointed out where mint bushes used to grow. My friends and I would sit on the grass, chew the leaves, and lie to each other. They're no longer there. Nor are the bushes that grew little pods that popped open when you'd wet them. I never knew what they were and still don't. Also missing were bushes that grew

red berries. "If you eat them, you'll die," we warned each other. "They're poison." "Are they really poison?" my granddaughter asked when I gave her the same dire warning. "I don't know," I said, "but why take a chance?" Flying around some flowers were what looked like blue bees sniffing after pollen. Maybe someone can tell me what they

were, since I've never before seen a blue bee in my life. "Will they sting me?" my granddaughter asked, peeking her head from behind me. "If you leave them alone, they'll leave you alone," I assured her, but I wasn't really sure, so I led her away from those flowers to an irrigation hole I used to yell into. The echo sounded like some kind of monster calling back to me. "HEY!" I yelled, so my granddaughter could hear. "Hey!" the echo called back. "Is that the monster?" my granddaughter squeaked, her eyes wide. "Yes," I told her, but I must admit it sounded scarier when I was younger.

Driving home, I noticed a statue of a tortoise in the yard of a corner house. Only it was moving. Holy smokes! That statue was ALIVE. The tortoise, leisurely strolling its domain, was about the size of a small dog crate. I stopped my truck. "Look at THAT," I told my granddaughter. "What?" "It's a giant tortoise."

"Where?" she said, squirming in her car seat to get a look. "There!" "Let's get down! Let's get down!" she squealed. They say my granddaughter has me wrapped around her little finger. I deny it, of course, but it's true. She has me doing things and meeting people I wouldn't normally meet or do.

I put my truck into park, and we got out. I love putting her in her car seat and helping her out. It just feels like a very loving thing for me to do. It was the same when I used to change her diapers as a baby. Doing the things she can't do for herself. We walked up to the chain link fence. The tortoise was lumbering alongside it. As my granddaughter reached through to touch its shell, a big friendly

dog quickly ran up to be petted. I pulled her back because I like my granddaughter having a hand. The owner of the house was outside and came over to where we stood. He was friendly and invited us in for a closer look.

I was about to politely decline when my granddaughter said, "You bet!" and ran to the front gate. I always tell her to be careful with strangers, but what kid really listens? I remember walking down the street when I was about 10, and a man with a crying boy in the seat next to him drove up beside me. "Hey, kid!" he said. "Do you want some comic books?" "You bet!" I said. I LOVED comic books. Still do.

The man got out of his car and pulled out a box that was almost too heavy for me to carry. "My son's being punished," he explained as he handed me the box. "Thanks," I said, waving to the crying boy.

I didn't care what the explanation was and quickly headed home. What a great collection that kid had. DC's "Plastic Man," "Elongated Man," "Metal Men," "Deadman," "Metamorpho."

"Where did you get those?" my father wanted to know, and I made the mistake of telling him. After warming my hiney, he made me throw that box of comics in the trash. That boy who was crying in the car? His tears had long stopped, but mine were just beginning.

"If you EVER do that again," my father warned me. "Grandpa!" my granddaughter called, impatiently.

I joined her at the gate. He was a neighbor, after all, but I guess even Jeffrey Dahmer was a neighbor to somebody.

The man's name was Juan. "But my friend's call me Chino," he said.

As it turned out, Chino had two tortoises – a male and a fe-

TORTOISES
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June Deadlines

Friday, May 15 noon: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

Learning to do Good

Getting on the same page, always

A friend taught me a new phrase in Spanish. It goes like this: “Haz el bien sin mirar a quien.”

It roughly translates to, “do good without seeing who is benefiting.” I love it, and I’ve been seeing a lot of that in practice lately.

I saw it when a friend named Sarita posted on her Facebook account that she would make

free face masks for anyone who needed them in the community. Hundreds of requests later, she’s busy cutting and sewing, sending them out across our region, and trying to meet a desperate and unexpected need.

Sarita doesn’t know whose faces will end up under her masks. She is practicing “Haz el bien sin mirar a quien.”

I saw it when a community

member starting a Facebook group for anyone to post the needs of individuals or families. People quickly joined and answered the call. Within 24 hours, toilet paper and food were being delivered to strangers’ homes. People were doing good without knowing who was benefitting.

I saw it when a local communications company quickly created free Wi-Fi spot areas

throughout a four-county area. There was a need to give others Internet access for homework or to do business. The company employees will never know who ended up using their service in this time of need. They decided that an important necessity of the community should be solved.

The stories go on and on. At the moment, regular people and big corporations are on the same page on this notion: “Haz el bien sin mirar a quien.”

When times get tough, we are reminded of ideals taught to us by our ancestors, who, for the most part, had it tougher than we did. The sacrifice which fell

upon them through job losses, food rationing or the call to war, created sayings, or dichos, such as: “Haz el bien sin mirar a quien.”

It’s a saying that invokes selflessness. Good deeds are done better when they are done anonymously. Somehow, it means more to the person who benefits from generosity. It means more to the giver too.

Other cultures have similar sayings, also born out of difficult circumstances. Save one, save the world. It’s a Jewish concept practiced heroically by the likes

DO GOOD
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TORTOISES

continued from page 4

male – and two dogs, Duchess and Coco.

“Do you want to ride the tortoise?” he asked her.

She was on that poor reptile before he even finished the sentence.

“Don’t worry,” Chino told me. “That tortoise is strong.”

And it was true. The tortoise didn’t even seem to notice she was on his back. He carried her all over that yard. The female tortoise was relaxing nearby, leaving her mate in charge of hospitality.

While my granddaughter was

having a good time, I got caught up on how the neighborhood has changed. The elementary school I went to was empty now, not being used for anything but storage. My friends, all grown. Some retired, some dead. Sports. Politics. Chino was easy to talk to. It was like I knew him my whole life.

“Can I come back?” my granddaughter asked him when it was time to leave.

“You bet,” he said.

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DESERT DIARY

Life in the Time of Coronavirus

With special thanks to long-time *Desert Exposure* reader and *Desert Diary* contributor Geerichard.

- And just like that, no one asked stay-at-home moms what they do all day, ever again.
- Our cleaning lady called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.
- Anyone who is still going to work because their job is considered essential should be receiving hazardous-duty pay.

- For the first time in human history, we can save the human race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's not screw this up.
- Gas is finally affordable, and we can't go anywhere.
- Want to find out who your real friends are? Ask them for a roll of toilet paper.
- Just think, people who kiss their dogs knowing they lick their butts every day are in a panic to buy hand sanitizer.
- Many parents are about to discover the teacher was not the problem.

- Three hours into homeschooling and one is suspended for skipping class and the other one has already been expelled.
- We're having our own "Spirit Week" at home since there's no school for the kids. Today, we're kicking it off with "Meltdown Monday."
- Our homeschooling curriculum includes: Honors Laundry and AP Vacuuming.
- Homeschool Day 1: Wondering how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.
- Homeschool Day 2: You think your cat is pretty easy going, but then the kids want to find out if cats float in the bathtub.
- Homeschool Day 3: They all graduated. #Done
- This is the day dogs have been waiting for. They realize their

- owners can't leave the house and they get them 24/7. Dogs are re-joining everywhere. Cats are contemplating homicide.
- Don't know why my fishing buddy is worried about the coronavirus. He never catches anything.
- The truth is, it's not so boring at home. But it's interesting that one bag of rice has 7,456 grains and another has 7,489.
- We are about three weeks away from knowing everyone's true hair color.
- I've eaten 22 times and taken 13 naps. It's still today.
- My house got TP'd last night; it's now appraised at \$875,000.
- Day 6 of quarantine: Preparing to take out the garbage, so excited, can't decide what to wear.
- Home invasions should de-

cine. Everyone is home with guns and enough bleach and paper towels to clean up the scene.

- You thought dogs were hard to train? Look at all the humans who can't sit and stay.
- I was in a long line at 7:45 a.m. today at the grocery store that opened at 8 a.m. for seniors only. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane.

He returned and tried to cut in again, but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the line for the third time he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

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Letters to the Editor

The Coronavirus and Mexico

Editor,

Mexico's government doesn't appear to be taking the COVID-19 pandemic as seriously as the United States

For example, on the weekend of March 14-15, Mexico City's "Vive Latino" fiesta was allowed to go on, a huge two-day rock music festival that attracted more than 100,000 people.

Isn't the danger from crowded situations now obvious to everyone? Look at the Feb. 19

soccer game that is believed to have started the terrible spread of this virus in Italy, or the huge crowds that gathered, despite health warnings in cities like Madrid on March 8 for the International Women's Day, or the always-crowded daily life of New York City, or Mardi Gras.

We are two countries with a common border 2,000 miles long that has been largely closed, but will that be enough? Our New Mexico/Mexico border is 180

miles long, but Mexico is New Mexico's largest trading partner; if nothing else, this business relationship is critical.

In mid-March, government officials notified Vision in Action in Juárez, the privately-run mental asylum that we've been helping for years, that they would be getting no food assistance for the next two months.

LETTER

continued on page 7

Desert #47
Dumbfounder
by Dave Thomas

"Desert Dumbfounder" 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 nmredave@swcp.com, and be recognized! <https://www.smar.org/secretword.htm> and www.smar.org/cyphex-how2.jpg

"ECKP BFLO LOGBFJOY, PMRP, BFCDYF, BFJR EKJRJR KPEJOVR DR CX

FCQ QJRP BFP XJKRB YPOPKLBJCO CX LEPKJELOR QLR JO VPELOVJOY

L XKPP UKPRR." - WPO ULDMRCO CX EJV. BPOO. RB. DOJI.

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: "I WANT TO TAKE WHAT SPEAKS TO ME AND THEN SHOW THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER SEEN WHAT I HAVE SEEN, AND THEY CAN EXPERIENCE SOMETHING THEY NEVER KNEW EXISTED." - LISA ALDEN

*Secret Words: "PROD NEW MYSTICAL"

Congrats to #46 solvers: George Egert*, Will Adams*, Sherry Vaina*, Mike Arms* and Skip Howard*!

We're still here!

Due to the many stores closed due to the Coronavirus, DESERT EXPOSURE'S distribution locations have been reduced, but quantities have been increased at those that remain open. Below, highlighted, are the current locations, and the ones in gray are where we hope to return. Information is subject to change, but you can always find us at www.desertexposure.com. Listings below do not include our locations in Las Cruces, where 29 of our 68 spots remain open.

ALAMOGORDO
Bangkok Tokyo
Alamo Chamber / Vis. Center
Alamogordo Public Library
Alamogordo Regional Airport
Bamboo Garden Restaurant
Blue Stone Jewelry
Books Revisited
BZ Rockin Burgers
Capped INC.
Civic Center
Creative Designers Cust. Frame
First National Bank
Flickinger Center
Heart of the Desert
Hitchin Post BBQ
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
La Hacienda
La Luz Market
Loco Credit Union
Lowe's Signature Market
Magnuson Hotel & Suites
Margo's Mexican Food
NM Museum of Space History
Plateau Espresso
Super 8 Motel
The Old Post
Tularosa Basin Museum

CLOUDCROFT
Big Daddy's Diner
Cloudfcroft Senior Center
High Rolls Market
Mad Jack's Mountain Top BBQ
Old Apple Barn
Cloudfcroft Public Library

DEMING
Adobe Deli
Apache Café
Campo's Restaurant
Days Inn
Deming Library
Deming Arts Council
Deming Visitors Center
Deming Mimbres Museum
Desert RV
La Fonda Restaurant
Learning Center
Lo-Hi RV Park
Las Cazuelas Mexican Restaurant
Marie's Italian Grill
Mimbres Hospital
Patio Café
Peppers Supermarket
Rancher's Grill
Readers Cove

HATCH
Hatch Public Library
Hatch Visitors Center/Museum
Jim's Super Market
Pepper Pot
Pic Quik
Village Market

HILLSBORO
Black Range Lodge
Black Range Winery
Enchanted Villa B & B
Hillsboro Antiques
Hillsboro Historical Society
Hillsboro Post Office
Kingston Clay
Kingston School House Museum
The General Store Café

LORDSBURG
Visitor Center

MESILLA
The Bean Coffee House
Las Cruces Bulletin
Mesilla Book Center
Mesilla Town Hall
Mesilla Visitor Center

MIMBRES
La Tienda Restaurant & Gas
Living Harvest Bakery
Mimbres Senior Center
Post Office
RV Park
Valle Mimbres Market

SILVER CITY
Adobe Springs
Albertsons

All My Momma's Junk
Amos Lash
Aunt Judy's Attic
Bayard Food Basket
Bayard Public Library
Bear Creek Cabins & Motel
Bear Mountain Lodge
Bedroom Shoppe
Better Homes & Gardens
Blue Dome
Bright Funeral
Cassie Health
Chevron Station
Comfort Inn
Country Girl Nursery
Creative Hands
Curl Up and Dye
Dandelion Wish & Pilates
Datura Day Spa
Daylight Donuts
Diane's Bakery
Eagle Mail
Enchantment Realty
Encore
Finn's Gallery
First American Bank
First New Mexico Bank
Food Basket
Foxworth - Galbraith
Ft. Bayard Medical Center
Furniture Gallery
Gila Animal Hospital
Gila Eye Care
Gila Hike & Bike
Gila Mountain Inn
Gila Regional Medical
Gila Valley Library
Grant County Art Guild Gallery
Grant County Humane Society
Grinder Mill

Guadalupe's
Habitat For Humanity
HMS Hidalgo Medical
HMS Mental Health
Holiday Inn Express
Home Furniture
Innovations Hair
Insurance 1st
Javalina
Jumping Cactus
KOA Campground
La Cocina
La Familia Restaurant
Laundry Land
Leyba & Ingalls Arts
Light Art Space
Little Toad Creek
Lloyd Gallery
Lois Duffy
Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery
Massage Clinic
Mimbres Region Arts Council
Mis Amigos Pet Care Center
Morningstar
Motel 6
Murray Hotel
Old World Antiques & Oddities
Our Paws Cause
Palace Hotel
Pink Store
Pretty Sweet Emporium
Quality Inn
Railroad Museum
Ramolla Arts
Red Hat Chiropractic
Remax
Revel Restaurant
Rock Center
Rose Valley RV
RPM Motors

SC Zen / Dr. Stutzer
Senior Center
Sherman Dental
Silco Theater
Silver Bowling Center
Silver City Book Shop
Silver City Co-op
Silver City Library
Silver City Museum
Silver City RV Park
Silver City Trading Co.
Silver City Women's Club
Silver Health Care
Silver Leaf Floral
Smith Realty
Snappy Mart
Soul River
Stinar Clinic
Sun Valley Hardware
Sunrise Espresso II
Syzygy
Tatiana Maria Gallery
The Market Place
Tom Blanchard Insurance
Tranquilbuzz Coffee House
Transitions for Women
United Country
UPS Store
U-store-it
Vicki's Eatery
Visitors Center
Wagon Wheel Realty
Western Bank
Wild West Weaving
WNMU Gym
WNMU Student Life
Wrangler Beverage Co.
Ziryabs

TRUTH or CONSEQUENCES
Blackstone Hot Springs
Bullock's Super Market
Chamber of Commerce
Charles Motel & Spa
Chevron
Comfort Inn
Conoco Gas Station
Davis - Fleck Drugs
Denny's
Elephant Butte Chamber
Elephant Butte Inn
Elephant Butte RV
Elephant Butte State Park
Elephant Butte Store & Marina
Geronimo Springs Museum
Geronimo Trail / Visitors Cen.
Grapes Gallery
Grapevine Bistro
Holiday Inn Express
Johnny B's
La Paloma Hot Springs
Marina Del Sur State Park
Old Brick Café
Passion Pie Café
Pelican Spa
Rio Bravo Fine Art Gallery
Riverbend Hot Springs
Sea Properties
Shell Gas Station
Sierra Grande Lodge
T or C Brewing Company

TULAROSA
Horse Feathers
Loredos Restaurant & Bakery
The MERC
Tularosa Old American Center
Tularosa Public Library
Tularosa Travel Center

LETTER

continued from page 6

Almost simultaneously and without any warning, officials reduced by 50 percent the stipends for students at La Casa de Amor in Palomas and cut off their “dispensas.” (oil, flour, beans, rice, lentils, canned tuna and other food).

The lunch program for seniors that Esperanza Lozoya had provided in Palomas was closed by government officials.

At Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús on the west edge of Juárez, government officials have provided small “dispensas” with food for residents, telling them that this miserly allotment must last them for a month.

In my nine years of visits at least monthly to Juárez (mostly the colonias south of the Santa Teresa border crossing) and Palomas, here is what I’ve seen:

• In those nine years – more than 100 visits – I have only seen government social workers out in the community on one occasion.

• Most medical care is provided by non-profits like the monthly clinics in Juárez organized by Siguiendo Los Pasos de Jesús (Following the Footsteps of Jesus, an El Paso non-profit.) and Colorado-based Missions Ministries, using medical personnel from the US. Both have now been halted, because of coronavirus.

• Vision in Action is the largest mental-health facility in Juárez, with roughly 120 patients but,

unlike here in the US, it receives no per-patient support, just some food on a monthly basis which has now been cut off.

• Crime hasn’t abated. According to the newspaper, El Diario, there were 156 murders in Juárez (population 1.5 million) in March. That compares to 42 murders in New York City (population eight million) and 39 in Los Angeles (population four million), but those New York and Chicago figures are for the first three months of 2020, not just March.

In other words, violence is more of a threat than coronavirus in Juárez, explaining why there has been little “social distancing” to date.

The only decent housing in that area of Juárez is that which has been built by non-profits, especially Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús.

When we finally have this global pandemic under control, countries around the world are going to ask themselves: What is the most basic obligation we have to our citizens? The answer is obvious. Their health and safety. That clearly includes future pandemics which we know will occur, but it also involves the day-to-day obligations like providing clean, affordable water, having medical clinics, assuring a reasonable level of safety from violence and investing in housing.

Morgan Smith
Santa Fe

DO GOOD

continued from page 5

of Oscar Schindler.

Times of sacrifice do much in bringing the good out of us. We have little, but we give plenty. We forget our own needs and look to the needs of others. Our worldly possessions seem insignificant. They are replaced with moments and occasions we suddenly find more valuable.

In all of us is a yearning to shake a hand and give a hug. In many of us, there is a desire for more. For some reason, we keep it hidden, in a secret place, waiting to bring

it out at the right moment.

If these times have taught us anything, is that it’s O.K. to be the people we are now, not just today, but always.

There is never a wrong time to practice my new favorite saying: “Haz el bien sin mirar a quien.”

Abe Villarreal
writes about
life and culture
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He can be
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COMMUNITY

Going Virtual

Give Grandly! Give local!

Every year since 2014, the Grant County Community Foundation has sponsored the wildly successful fund-raising push for area non-profits known as Give Grandly! The May event lasts 24 hours with more than 50 non-profit groups participating from Grant, Luna, Catron and Hidalgo counties. Somewhat typically, Silver City turned this into yet another historic and completely unique festival – one that raised more than \$150,000 in 2019, all for community services that add to the quality of life in southwestern New Mexico.

But this year, since life as we know it has been turned upside down, the festival is going virtual! Give Grandly! will host an event-day telethon next to the Farmers' Market that will be live-streamed on the www.givegrandly.org website from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 9. The event will showcase the participating non-profits and the good work they do in videos created by the organizations themselves. There will be music and leaderboard updates to track donations as they are reported.

Watching the total figure rise with the contributions of each organization is always exciting.

The 2019 Give Grandly event raised more than \$150,000 for more than 50 area non-profit groups. For 2020 the event goes on line on May 9 and hopes to raise even more to sustain community causes in this difficult time. (Courtesy Photo)

With each successive year, more and more organizations have participated, and more funds have been raised: from \$57,000 in 2014 to \$152,000 in 2019.

“That amount of money is pretty incredible,” said Carol Ann Fugagli, one of the event’s organizers, “given where we are and the demographics of our populations. People here are just extraordinarily generous and civic-minded.”

Non-profit groups in Grant and neighboring counties range widely in their activities and services. They run food pantries and shelters, rescue animals, provide activities for children, promote literacy, preserve culture, support libraries, museums, schools and the University, grant scholarships, foster eco-

nomic development, advocate for the environment, maintain trails, preserve historical and archeological sites, and organize community festivals, plays, concerts, lectures, field trips – and much more. Although they accomplish most of this with the help of volunteers, they also need funds to stay in operation and reach their goals. The Give Grandly website has information about all the participating non-profits.

Donations can be made online at www.givegrandly.org, or checks can be mailed to the individual organizations – their addresses can be found on the website. No amount is too small, because it all adds up. Generous sponsors are providing matching funds.

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene/Gallery Guide

Please join us in visiting southern New Mexico artists in their web-based galleries. While we can't yet go to these galleries and studios and spend our time perusing the amazing work of southern New Mexico artists and craftspeople, we can take a journey through their creativity. This month's offering, replacing both Arts Scene and Gallery Guide sections, journeys through some of the talent we have south of Interstate 25.

If you are a southern New Mexico artist and would like to be included in this listing, please contact us at editor@desertexposure.com or by calling Elva at 575-443-4408. This virtual gallery will be available online at www.desertexposure.com from now on.

Agave Artists Gallery in Mesilla is a cooperative gallery featuring contemporary art in multiple media: oil, acrylic, water media, fabric, paper, assemblage art, photography, mixed media, pastel, metal, ceramics and jewelry. Website: agaveartists.com. The gallery features artists Ana Maria Uranga, Betty Krebs, Carol Wortner, Elaine Weber, Ella Alvarez, Emmitt Booher (zon-eviii.com), John Glass (john-glassfineart.com), Kathleen Carlson; Ken Krebs; Leslie Toombs (www.paintedtree.com), Nancy Dunn, Paul Maxwell (maxnew-mexart.com), Peter Poulos (lascrucesclayandstudio.com), Roy van der Aa (royvandraa.com), Sonya Fe (artistsonyafe.com),

Vickie Morrow (www.vickiemorrow.com) and Wendy Weir.

Lisa Alden has always loved art and has been creating since childhood. Before formal training in art she worked in hospitality and medical career fields and in 2000 earned a B.S. in chemistry from Eastern New Mexico University. In 2012, she earned a B.A. in art with double concentrations in ce-



Lisa Alden, "Dakota"

ramics and painting from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. After living in many places, she returned to Alamogordo following her husband's retirement from the U.S. Air Force. She works in her home studio, dividing her time as a ceramic artist making hand-crafted pottery and creating watercolor paintings inspired by the natural wonder and beauty of New Mexico. Lisa loves to feature animals in her art. She especially loves to paint watercolor pet portraits and is currently accepting new commissions. Website: www.LisaAldenArt.com, Instagram: @lisa_alden_art.

ARTS SCENE
continued on page 10

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Music Exposure

Blues Festival moves to Internet stream



In consideration of the health and wellbeing of the community and visitors, the Mimbres Region Arts Council is canceling the Silver City Blues Festival as planned in Gough Park. In its place, a series of live-stream performances will be scheduled during the week-end of May 22-24. CW Ayon, Missy Andersen, Brandon Perrault and Rhythm Mystic will perform from their homes. The Mimbres Region Arts Council, through a grant from New Mexico Arts, plans to broadcast the performances online. More information and the event schedule will be available at www.silvercitybluesfestival.org. Performers who would like to be included as part of the online festival should contact booking@mimbresarts.org or call 575 538-2505. Email info@mimbresarts.org or call 575 538-2505 for more information. (2017 Blues Fest photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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ARTS SCENE

continued from page 9

Jean-Robert P. Béffort is a mixed-media assemblage sculpture and collage artist who lives in Silver City and operates a 4,000 square-foot contemporary studio and art gallery called a) Sp... "A" © E that he founded in 2009. Béffort features local, out-of-the-box artists. provides stu-



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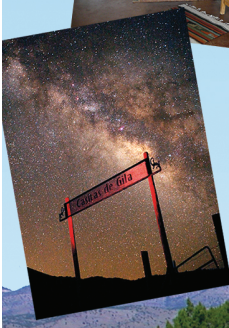


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dio space, hosts art installations, openings and intermittent music and poetry events on the performance stage. An innovative and interactive DIY component is "A" public art area where visitors are invited to make their own assemblage sculptures from found and recycled objects in the Art-on-"A"-Stick creation space dubbed The Land of Empower-

ment. A recent addition at the back of the gallery is an outdoor sculpture garden of metal and clay sculptures by newer artists that can be viewed from the safety of your car if you happen to be driving by. Website: jeanrobertpbeffort.com.



Jean-Robert Béffort, "Amazing Prosperity"

Mary Beagle has primarily worked with oil on canvas; her paintings reflect her love of native and Latino cultures and celebrations. She incorporates geometric or native designs into her compositions to compliment the faces and figures she paints. "I enjoy bringing life to a blank canvas with colors and shapes and finding a figure in a chunk of stone," Beagle said. In 2005 and 2008, she attended the Southwest Stone Carving Workshop in Jemez Springs, New Mexico and found a new medium of expression in limestone, alabaster and marble while working with nationally known sculptors Rolie Grandbois, Cliff Fragua, Jon DeCelles, Tim Nicola, T. Barney and others. Her work has been seen in "Southwest Art," "Art of the West" and "Cowboys and Indians" magazines. Website: www.mbeagleart.com.



Mary Beagle, "Dancer"

Margaret Bernstein was meandering through a profession of words, interviews and teenagers when, on a whim, she fell suddenly into experimenting with paints and brushes in Las Cruces. "Was it the dazzle of the sun, the desert, the sky so bright, bright after years of misty



Margaret Bernstein, "Tribute"

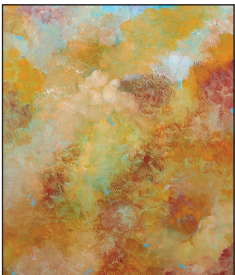
days, or just a burst of fleeting energy that caught me by surprise," she said. Taking inspiration from books, teachers, talks, Impressionist painters, but mostly friends, the mountains – their plants and trees, a family legacy and the paint itself, she takes the plunge into each piece, longing for work that pique's someone's, anyone's, imagination, curiosity, emotion. Artist website: www.newmexicoartistdirectory.com/lascruces.html.

Victoria Chick established her painting studio near Silver City after a 40-year art career as studio artist, registered therapist and a combined 15 years as adjunct instructor at the University of San Diego and Palomar College in California teaching life drawing, painting and art history. Her work reflects places and situations she has experienced using animals as anthropomorphic stand-ins. Her work is often humorous and always psychological. "I try to express something about the human condition in my work," she said. Website: victoriachick.com.



Victoria Chick, "We Be Searchin'"

Ruth Drayer's work is non-objective; she is painting color and color relationships and has developed her own technique. Rather than beginning with an idea, Drayer textures her blank canvas with a compound, paints on a sacred symbol or word and then works to conceal it. Acrylics allow her to build up layers. "After all the years of writing and rewriting my book, it just seems natural to paint and repaint," she said. "I think these are similar. Both are about communicating. Colors speak a language without words. Sometimes my paintings seem to whisper; other times they speak out boldly. My work is challenging to people who want to recognize what they see or try to understand what I am saying. I



Ruth Drayer, "Colors in the Spring"

love design and color and if you look through your imagination, you might find something you recognize." Website: ruthdrayer.com or search Artist Ruth Drayer on Facebook.

Dr. Lucky is a performance artist and curator of happenings influenced by exaggerated theatricality, camp sensibility and commitment to the absurd. A key figure in the emergence of neo-burlesque in New York City, her current work in Sierra County includes the Dada Ball (2020), an immersive surrealist masquerade ball, and Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue, staged at the civic center (2018) and the T or C Brewing company (2018) that is also a resident show at the Hotel Andaluz in Albuquerque. She also stages photos and video shoots in Truth or Consequences to juxtapose the beautiful and stark landscape with glamorous excess. Artist websites: www.vimeo.com/ondemand/bluerevue and www.doctorofburlesque.com.



Cathie R. Eisen works in wood, leather and clay. She is also a poet and writer. "My creativity is expressed in many ways," she said. "My words reflect insight and adventure. The leather pouches offer comfort and blessings to be shared with family and friends. The woodwork adorns walls and porches to inspire and bring pleasure to the eye. Art in all forms is meant to be shared so that we all can place ourselves wherever we wish to be, in mind, body or spirit. I believe we are meant to inspire each other, and I am doing my best to share that. I live close to the earth and send forth a small piece of that in each piece of my artwork that others may also be so blessed," Eisen said. Facebook: Carrizo Spring Trading Post, Blog: adventureasaconstant.com.



Cathie R. Eisen Gallery Art

For **Larry Felhauer**, art is a pastime that developed after re-



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tirement from the business world. He took classes in ceramics, welding and sculpting which got him thinking of ways to marry these skills into something unique. "I began experimenting with materials and techniques and found that ceramics and metal work well together," he said. "My work is primarily ceramic-on-steel yard art, but I also do some pure ceramic sculpting as well as glass fusing." Felhauer's work can be seen at the annual Art in the Garden event hosted each Spring by the Artists of Picacho Hills as well as their Holiday House show in November. Website: www.artistsofpicachohills.com, Facebook: Spirit Horse Designs.

Stan Ford is an award-winning nature photographer specializing in landscapes and wildlife. He works primarily in the public lands of the American West and Southwest. Ford's formal education led him to earn degrees in biology (B.S.) and natural resources (M.A.), and his artistic style draws upon his knowledge and experience in these



Larry Felhauer, statue

fields. His work was included in "Nature Photographer" in his articles "Yosemite: Beyond the Icons" and "Textures, Shapes & Colors." Ford's photographs have been exhibited in shows and publications and have earned numerous awards. In 2016, Ford was named by the National Parks Arts Foundation as the National Park Service's first-ever artist in residence at Pecos National Historical Park. Photographing nature and documenting his experiences has become his *raison d'être*. Ford is honored to be able to share his work with others and hopes visitors will enjoy his images as much as he did capturing them. Website: www.fotosbyford.com.

João Galera is Western New Mexico University/Town of Silver City artist in residence. This exhibition is the result of a year-long artist's residency in Silver City. During his year of residency (2019-20), Galera researched and produced a work about memory and desire, using the poem "The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot and the book "Os Sertões" by Euclides da Cunha as a basis for his project. With all this in mind, Galera explores through his art the memory of the land and the people of Grant County. He has also worked with different groups of people in the county to create a community art installation. The work in this virtual exhibition presents



João Galera, "April" Watercolor

a portion of an exhibition that had been planned for May at the WNMU McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art. Website: joagalera.wixsite.com/joagalera.



Grant County, Art Guild Gallery

The Grant County Art Guild Gallery showcases fine arts and fine crafts by 35 Grant County artists and artisans. The beauty and spirit of southwest New Mexico comes to life in oils, acrylics, watercolors, drawings, photography and prints. There are find mosaics, stained glass, clay art, wall hangings and artistic pillows to brighten and accent a home or garden. Handmade pottery and beautiful, hand-turned wooden bowls will add a stylish accent to any Southwest lifestyle. Give a gift of hand-crafted jewelry, unique clothing, handmade journals and artistic cards by guild members. The guild has represented Grant County artists for more than 50 years. Grant County Art Guild Gallery, 316 N. Bullard St., Silver City, N.M. 88061. Website: www.gcag.org.

Carrie Greer discovered she loved working in wax in the 1970s. She said it's been a "happy progression" from candles to batik on cloth and batik on pa-

per that recently it morphed into a most incredible experience called encaustic. Encaustic is painting with hot wax that has resin and color pigments added. The wax is applied to a substrate and heated



Carrie Greer, "Shake a Tail Feather"

with a heat gun or blow torch. In an artist's statement, Greer said, "The wax calls to me as I enter into a journey with it, it invites me to places unknown. We set out on a loosely charted course. The destination becomes visible as the flame has its way with the wax. Along the way it demands I choose a direction to use more heat, add color or to embellish with a shellac burn. These not-so-subtle additions morph into

ARTS EXPOSURE
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ARTS EXPOSURE
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a destination, but there is no finality with wax; melt and begin again." Website: www.waxart-therapy.com.

The photographs on the website of **Nancy Gregory** are her story. "I feel a deep connection to this gorgeous state of New Mexico, an inaudible calling to be present, to observe the life forms, to feel the energy, to compose an image that attempts to convey the spirituality of the place so that others may also be enriched as I am," she said. Gregory hopes her images will remind the viewer of just the kinds of places where there is peace of mind, rest and rejuvenation. "Being in the outdoors, hiking and enjoying the landscape have long been among my favorite activities," Gregory said. "I find myself getting lost in the world of the camera viewfinder as I look through and compose an image to keep. It is a relaxing feeling of being transported to special places. The beauty of this place, New Mexico, is just simply captivating." Website: nancysphotogallery.com.



Nancy Gregory, "White Sands"

Kelly Hart attended the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, where he worked as a freelance photographer. He then attended the San Francisco Art Institute and worked for the Berkeley Art Center. Hart was a cinematographer on various films, including a documentary about the San Francisco Diggers activist group. In the 1970s, Hart developed a technique for making animated movies and was awarded a patent. "I created a sequence of animation for 'The Naked Ape,' a Hollywood film," Hart said. In the 1980s he produced video programs on topics including llamas, animal telepathy, student life in the Soviet Union and Mexico and sustainable architecture. At the turn of the century Hart developed several websites related to sustainable architecture and wrote several books on this topic. Recently, Hart has turned to crafting wood sculpture. Website: hartworks.com/photography/kellys-wood-sculptures/.



Kelly Hart, "Gathering Place 1"

Sylvia A. Hendrickson is a gourd artist, finding her love for gourds after moving to Las Cruces in 2007 and discovering buffalo gourds in the desert. Friends introduced her to more gourds and she was off and running. "After some reading, I learned

most mediums can be applied to gourds," she said. "My technique includes carving, wood burning, using dyes, ink, paint, beads, feathers, leather, pine needles and a variety of other natural products. I find joy creating each one." Contact: sylviasgourds@gmail.com.



Sylvia A. Hendrickson, "Thunder Gourd"

Candi Hogan is inspired by color, light and shape. "I try to search out both the ordinary and the remarkable within our environment, to be captured with brush and oil paint," she said. "Although my genre is mainly still life, anything that calls to me may be found in my portfolio of work, including landscapes, architecture, and animals. My work is most commonly described as peaceful, serene and soothing. My hope is to brighten others' lives by sharing my impressions of our wondrous world through my interpretations in paint." Hogan studied at Honolulu Academy of Arts, Laguna Beach School of Art and Rockford College. Believing in continuous learning, she continues her studies online and by attending workshops. Website: candihoganart.com/.



Candi Hogan, "Day 4 Red Apple and Blue Pitcher"

Nichole Holmes is a new artist living in Truth or Consequences. Her primary medium is metallic acrylics on canvas and paper. The vibrant colors of Southwest sunsets were the initial inspiration behind her Desert Landscape Series. Holmes participated in several art shows and fairs during the last year and has expanded to an online presence in several online galleries, websites and social media. Her vivid, bold colors are the expression of fearless, happy, high-vibration art and increasing expansion of talents and skills. Artist website: journeywithnichole.com; Instagram: @journeywithnichole.



Nichole Holmes, "Full Moon Walk"

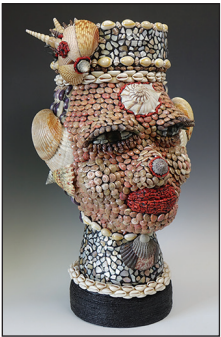
James Stuart Kane is a sculptor who works primarily with carved wood and cast bronze. His work spans many years of working serially, moving joyously toward simplification and clarification, striving toward the essence of his ideograph. Kane realized this simplification was

necessary to understand and discover particular essences of idea, and through this experience he has achieved a greater end in dealing with sculptures, each of which simultaneously works on many levels of meaning. Kane earned a B.E. from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and an M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He has exhibited and taught at universities in the South, Midwest and East and owned and operated the critically acclaimed Indigenous Image Gallery in Palm Desert, California. He now lives, works and exhibits in Silver City. Website: jameskanesculpture.com.



James Stuart Kane, "Box Turtle Sphere"

Karen J. Lauseng has been working on whimsical art recently, a change from the elegant jewelry she has made and sold for years. "Of late, my focus has been on the search for beauty," she said. "I look for the beauty found in common household items, garage-sale finds, recyclables, items found in nature or ordinary materials containing appealing shapes and textures. I strive to permit the energy of the materials to dictate the result. This allows each piece to unfold in a natural, unrestricted way. I am often surprised with what develops during the construction process." Mosaic art, art dolls, sculpture, books and masks are all part of her current interests. "And then, I always end up back at my jewelry bench with new ideas for jewelry designs and obsess on creating them," she said. Website: www.kjartworks.net.



Karen J. Lauseng, "Goddess of the Sea"

Light Art Space/Karen Hymer is a visual artist originally from Tucson. She relocated to New Mexico in 2018 to open Light Art Space in historic downtown Silver City. Although "trained" as a photographer and educator, Hymer's approach to image making explores the blending of photosensitive materials, digital media and printmaking. She is fascinated with how the passage of time affects the human body and other natural elements in the world. Hymer taught photography for more than 25 years



Karen Hymer, Light Art Space

at Pima Community College in Tucson. She currently offers workshops and private sessions in photopolymer gravure, digital printing and alternative photographic processes at her studio, a dynamic, contemporary art space which explores diverse perspectives and ideas through juried and curated art exhibitions, workshops and other events. With the discriminating collector in mind, the gallery features unique photography, printmaking and other media by Hymer. Websites: karenhymer.com and Lightartspace.com.

Dennis Lujan has lived in Las Cruces going on 17 years and calls the city his home with his husband, Jeff. Lujan has been in the art community from the day he arrived. He owned In Effect Gallery on Griggs Avenue, which, for three years, was a jumping platform to show his work and those artists needing exposure. Lujan also has created the annual Erotica art show and sale in Las Cruces, as well as the annual Spring Fling un-themed show. Lujan has an online shop featuring all his artwork. Marketing has been a strategy he believes in fiercely. Now, it's a whole new ballgame. Website: society6.com/dlujanarts/tabletop.



Dennis Lujan, "Pomegranets"

Steven W. Martin was educated as a geographer, historian and criminologist and spent 29 years protecting natural, historic and cultural resources on public lands throughout the western U.S. Retired from public land management service in 2013, Martin, a self-taught photographer, strives to create public awareness for protecting and preserving the nation's public lands and natural, historic and cultural resources through the medium of digital photography. His photography has been employed to support the conservation efforts of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the



Steven W. Martin, "Supply Wagon, Fort Union National Historic Park, New Mexico"

National Park Service and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and has been published in "New Mexico," "Black and White" and "Weatherwise" magazines. He and photography partner Lanny Wagner have previously led photography workshops for the Road Scholar organization and currently offer photography workshops in the Four Corners region and southern New Mexico. Martin is also available as a contract portrait photographer. Website: Rangerimages.smugmug.com.

Paul Maxwell began art as a little boy making squiggles on paper, but it was always something he was passionate about. As a young man he turned to other ways of being creative but has found himself drawn back to being creative through color, light, paint and brushstrokes on canvas or paper. "A bit of the squiggles are still there, but now, after many years, I have life experience that pulls on me to try to better capture what I see, what I feel, and to share that with others," he said. "I have traveled and lived in many parts of the world, so the subjects of my paintings vary from European, Asian-Pacific and southwestern landscapes, people or whatever. Whether I am painting in acrylic, oil or watercolor, I am always trying to communicate-create the emotion of whatever subject I am painting. Sometimes I am more successful than other times, but I have fun just in the trying." Website: www.maxnewmexart.com.



Paul Maxwell, "Santa Fe Reflections"

Though the world is constantly shifting, some things remain steadfastly in place. For oil painter **Charlie Meckel**, whose life has been full of change and movement, art has always been one of his important constants. Meckel's art has been influenced by the work of many masters of the past, including Neel, Wyeth, Cassat, Van Gogh and Rembrandt. His paintings have been praised as "highly expressive" and "soothing and moving." One writer said, "Meckel is an artist of the western tradition. His thirst for knowledge and grasp of the sublime have led him to participate in an extensive and



Charlie Meckel, "Journey to the End of the Night"

full lineage of traditional painting masters. He imbues each piece with deep observation, skill and aesthetic soul." Meckel feels that his mission as an artist is to contribute to the continuing rich tradition of western representational oil painting that has inspired his own artistic journey. Website: charliemeckel.com.

Mesquite Art Gallery/Mel Stone is a fine art photographer who opened an art gallery in a remodeled, 1898 adobe on Mesquite Street in an historic district of Las Cruces about five blocks east of downtown. The three gallery rooms feature the work of select artists and Stone's fine art photography. The adobe is also his home. "Most of my shooting is early morning or late in the day, although sometimes I have no say in the matter," Stone said. "My first, serious still photography was chasing butterflies around northern prairies – at



Mesquite Art Gallery, Mel Stone, "Chopes"

that time I was a one-man band TV news guy, which was pretty serious work." In 2005, he bought his first digital camera and high-quality inkjet printer and now carries around two

Fujifilm X-T2s. Websites: www.melstonephotography.com and www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

ARTS EXPOSURE
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ARTS EXPOSURE

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Vickie Morrow collects objects with history and patina. “The hunt and gathering is a joy,” she said. “I combine these findings to create a new ‘salsa’ – a series of work appealing to the eye or heart or one that triggers a memory. I see things not for what they are, but for what they can be.” Website: www.vickiemorrow.com.



Vickie Morrow, “Desert Exposure”

Lyn Orona started painting with oils in 1969 as a portrait artist and working in clay sculpture. She has been in many juried fine art, international shows, winning awards throughout New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Arizona and California. She is



Lyn Orona, “Wood for the Fire”

mostly self-taught but has taken courses with the Columbus Art and Design of Ohio and Foothill College in California. “I enjoy the history and stories of everyday life in the Southwest with the colorful cultures of Native American and Mexican people,” she said. Website: www.lynorona.com.

Mimi Calise Peterson and Art Peterson are represented by Light Art Space Gallery in Silver City. Before moving to Silver City in 2014, the couple lived and worked in Pennsylvania, where they learned their crafts and exhibited in the Mid-Atlantic region. They have also exhibited in The Bahamas, Canada, Colorado and New Mexico. Website: <http://www.pinonstudios.com>.



Art Peterson, Wood Sculpture



Mimi Calise Peterson, “Wandering”

The purpose of the Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces is the promotion, development, encouragement and support of the ceramic and clay process through workshops, exhibitions of local, regional and national artists, and providing members an opportunity to display and sell their art. The guild also supports community service by partnering with El Caldito Soup Kitchen in Las Cruces to help feed the hungry through the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser and raises funds for student art awards through the Renaissance Fair Dragon Toss. Website: pottersguildlc.org.



Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces

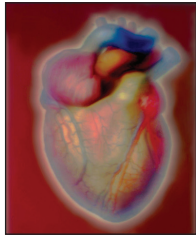
Joanna Schaefer began working with line in sculpture in 1969. Using twine, rope, wire and reed, she constructed three-dimensional pieces designed either to hang in space or stand free. She worked exclusively with line for more than 10 years. By 1980, Schaefer she had started adding other elements to the pieces, including branches, bones and leather. She now uses a wide variety of materials, from bone to Styrofoam. Schaefer’s early work appears abstract,

while more recent pieces appear figurative. To her, they are the same: arrangements of form, space, texture, color and attitude. An underlying factor throughout her work is a sense of space derived from landscape. Schaefer is also a printmaker, using wood, cardboard and other materials, sometimes combining relief with intaglio. Website: sites.google.com/view/2zwrks/showcase.



Joanna Schaefer, “The Desert Cried”

The art of Nancy Spencer and Eric Renner is unique in every way. For more than 30 years, they have worked as individual artists and collaborated in life and image making. Eric died recently in Las Cruces after a brief illness. They were co-directors of Pinhole Resource Inc., a nonprofit archive and educational organization dedicated to sharing information about pinhole photography. They also co-edited Pinhole Journal, published three times a year, 1985-2006. They gave lectures and workshops internationally and their photographs and assemblages are exhibited in major collections throughout the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, California Museum of Photography, National Gallery of Canada, George Eastman House and Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. They are the recipients of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, American Scandinavian Foundation and the Aaron Siskind Foundation. Their work is represented by Light Art Space in Silver City. Websites: Nancyspencerphoto.com and Ericrennerphoto.com.



Nancy Spencer and Eric Renner, “Heart zone” plate photograph

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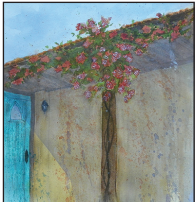
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Egle Urbonaviciute was born in Klaipeda, Lithuania in 1987 and grew up in a privileged natural world. Seeing beautiful surroundings such as forests and seashores made her fond of nature in all its various forms. She studied art at the Vilnius Academy of Arts in Lithuania and now lives in Silver City with her husband. “My works of art are as diverse as nature itself,” she said. “Sometimes my paintings represent



vibrant energy expressing life in different colors, while other paintings can be more serene, embodying a saintly patience, or embracing solitude. I have a special joy in drawing people, as I see them as a pure source not having completed their mission. In their natural fragility, I find God with an array of diverse colors. Painting is a very silent and humble form of art for me, which encompasses vision, sensation and especially gratitude.” Website: www.egleu.com/.

Debra Vance’s watercolor adventure started after retiring in Mesilla. Her art education comes from workshops at Scottsdale Artist’s School with respected artists in watercolor and drawing, art history, books, DVDs and on-line learning opportunities. Her family ran cattle for 18 years and her love of the outdoors makes landscapes a favorite – the years ranching, the western flavor. Thus, outdoor plein-air painting has become a regular endeavor. Painting on site offers so much more than just working from photos, Vance said. She is a member of the New Mexico Watercolor Society, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico and the Doña Ana Arts council. Website: www.DebraVance.ART.



Debra Vance, Watercolor

Monika Walter has been creating mosaics since 2016. She taught herself the art form when her husband lost his eyesight and she needed to stay at home. “Mosaics clarify to me that the whole is truly not just the sum of the parts,” she said. “I delight in working with glass. It is not only one of the longest-lasting handmade materials, but also reflects beautifully the visible spectrum of light. I use tiles and sheets of stained glass, which I cut and grind to form. Each finished piece is truly unique because it cannot be copied. Adding to the beauty of this world, one piece at a time, is my motto.” Website: blue-studio-mosaics.com.



Monika Walter, “Turtle Mosaic”

Jean Wilkey creates brightly colored worlds populated with plants, animals and people. Her oil paintings use fabrics to frame slices of land and sky that blur the line between indoor and outdoor, between still life and landscape. Rife with symbolism, her art can also be enjoyed for the bright color and harmony she infuses into each canvas. These painted metaphors attempt to highlight our relationship to animals, to nature and to ourselves. Her work has appeared in “Southwest Art” and “Exploring TOSCA” magazines and is held in private collections in more than a dozen countries. Wilkey has a master’s in painting and has taught at NMSU and UTEP. She currently teaches at Doña Ana Community College and privately at her studio. Website: www.jeanwilkey.com.



Jean Wilkey, “Just Peachy”

Lindsay D. Williams is a 2008 graduate of Parsons School of Design, a division of The New School, New York City, with a BFA in illustration. She studied comic-book and children’s-book illustration, poster design, typography and graphic design under

top professionals in the industry, including renown contemporary artist Tara McPherson. Originally from New York, Williams now lives in



Lindsay Williams, “Poppy Land”

Truth or Consequences after spending the last eight years in New Orleans. She has designed for many different types of clients, from large corporations such as Nike and Xerox to small, independent businesses, start-ups and production companies. While her focus in the past was in branding, print, web and poster design, she now finds herself back in love with illustrating and painting. Her art combines different medias and colorful style that finds influence in Japanese prints, low-brow art, ‘60s psychedelia and retro-kitsch. Website: www.lindsaywilliamsart.com, Instagram: [@lindsaywilliamsart](https://www.instagram.com/lindsaywilliamsart).



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ON FILM • JEFF BERG

Movies of Enchantment

New Mexico-made movies to help pass hours of hibernation

Although not all these titles were shot entirely in New Mexico, they all have some scenes that were filmed in the state, and each may help you from suffering pandiculation.

- Recently restored, “The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez” is based on the true story of the title character who, in the early 1900s, eluded a posse that pursued him for days after the accidental killing of a sheriff. Although the real story takes place in Texas, it was shot in New Mexico and is directed by the inimitable Robert M. Young (DVD and YouTube)
- “Lonely are the Brave,” shot entirely in New Mexico, stars Kirk Douglas and is based on a book by one-time New Mexico resident Edward Abbey. Douglas claimed for years that this was his favorite film of all those that he made. (Netflix, Amazon, YouTube)
- Sticking with the late, great Douglas, “Ace in the Hole,” was shot in Albuquerque and in the Gallup area. It’s a terrific “film-noirish” type movie based on a true incident that occurred in Kentucky. Directed by the great Billy Wilder, it flopped at the box office in its 1950s release, even with a title change, but has been rediscovered and restored in recent years. (Netflix, YouTube, Amazon)
- Although it took years to

find a distributor, and ironically opened in El Paso when finally released, “Bless Me Ultima,” based on the famed book by New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya and shot in New Mexico, is a true wonderment. (Amazon, Netflix, YouTube)

- This movie was also restored a few years back and even though many have not heard of it, it should be seen by all. “The Hired Hand” stars and was directed by Peter Fonda. It was his first film after the phenomenal release of “Easy Rider” (also partially shot in New Mexico), and the chowderheads at the studio tried to sell it as “Easy Rider” on horseback. It is not. It is a somewhat esoteric and believable feminist Western, which co-stars Verna Bloom. (YouTube and Netflix)
- Entirely New Mexico, the well-known “Milagro Beanfield War” was made in New Mexico, based on a novel by Taos author John Nichols, and pretty much covers all the things that one finds in New Mexico – beans, land-grabbers, cars and the “manaña” attitude that strikes some as part of our culture. All it needed was a side of chile. Directed by part time New Mexico resident Robert Redford.
- Though difficult to find since it has never been released on DVD or even VHS, “Red Sky at

Morning” from about 1970, is a beautiful coming-of-age work that stars Richard Thomas and Richard Crenna. The book it was based on was written by Santa Fe resident Richard Bradford. (fuzzy version on YouTube – try and find the version that opens with a sailboat scene.)

- One of the first movies of value to be shot in Las Cruces that didn’t involve zombies or guns, “The Burning Plain” debuted at the Fountain Theatre (post film-festival screenings) with director Guillermo Arriaga as a guest. It features Jennifer Lawrence in one of her first major roles. Arriaga, who had worked on “Traffic” (a couple of minor scenes shot in Las Cruces), insisted that he be able to shoot in Las Cruces despite static from the state film office. (YouTube and Netflix)
- Although never released in the USA, “Elvis Has Left the Building” is a great film to watch as you turn off your brain. Starring Kim Basinger and a host of Elvis impersonators, the 2004 film deserves a second chance and is directed by the guy who also did “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” Joel Zwick. (Amazon, YouTube, Netflix)
- Film noir fans have probably already seen “Ride the Pink Horse,” a 1947 film that was

partially shot in Santa Fe, but those who haven’t need to watch this edgy, dark work, which got Thomas Gomez a nomination for an Oscar, the first Hispanic actor/actress to be so chosen. He lost.

- Another work based on the work of a New Mexico author, Max Evans, “The Hi Lo Country” was shot entirely in New Mexico, but it was the last release of a studio that went under, thus dooming it to be a box office failure. The movie is based entirely on characters who Evans knew during his years cowboying and has a great performance by Woody Harrelson. Sadly, it was also the last American-made film that Katy Jurado acted in. (DVD only at Amazon – but worth it!)
- Although only a few scenes were shot in the Bisti Badlands near Farmington, the American remake of a terrific French film, “Wages of Fear,” is one of the most gripping and dark dramas ever to hit the screen. Titled “Sorcerer” by director William Friedkin (“Exorcist”), this film is NOT about witches, warlocks or sorcerers, but is the story of four disparate men stuck in an awful South American town who are hired to haul nitro to an oil-well fire. This is one of my favorite films of all time. (Netflix, Amazon, YouTube)
- Last but not least, a film that

drew a full house (and turned away even more people) at the Fountain Theatre when I screened it there in 2010 or so is the unbelievably coarse, vibrant and funny “Lust in the Dust.” This “Western” stars Divine, Tab Hunter and Lainie Kazan, and it must be seen to be believed. It is totally irreverent and, as does “Elvis Has Left the Building,” requires one to decommission one’s brain for 90 minutes. (Amazon and YouTube)

If you want more, check out “All the Pretty Horses,” “Red Dawn,” “Powwow Highway,” “White Sands,” “Them,” “Rocky Mountain,” the 2010 remake of “True Grit” and, if you are really daring (and bored), N.M.’s only (known) softcore pornography flick, “Teenage Seductress,” shot in Taos and starring a 28-year-old as a teenager! DVD is easy to find at Amazon.

Contributor and former full-time film reviewer for the Las Cruces Bulletin, Jeff Berg is the author of “New Mexico Filmmaking,” a book about the history of movies made in the state, “Historical Theatres of N.M.,” His next book (late 2020) is “Lost Restaurants of Santa Fe.” Available in Las Cruces at COAS.

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WILDERNESS WARRIORS • CAROL ANN FUGAGLI

For the Birds

Wilderness Starts Here

One lovely and lively day, while strolling on the campus of Western New Mexico University (WNMU) with a friend I hadn't seen for some time, conversation flowed like a river – gushing, overflowing, banks full. So completely absorbed in one another's words, my friend and I nearly walked smack into a modest barrier surrounding a small exclusion area. Startled, we stared at a creative sign: "Nest construction zone, please respect our Cliff Swallow neighbors." Well, this was a first!

Lifting our gaze skyward, we could see the graceful aerobatics of slender birds, soaring and swerving, in quick, staccato movements. Challenged to lock our gaze on one particular bird, we tried to count – five, six, 10, 12, 17, 27 – easily getting confused, but finally estimating well over 100 individuals. These swallows were rhythmically flying to a muddy spot, scooping up a small ball of mud, and returning to a campus building's eaves to construct their nests. The swallows' droppings and the mud spatters on the ground were what we assumed were the reasons for the temporary barrier.

Our conversation diverted to the birds, their gracefulness, industriousness and balletic beauty. We agreed that one of the main reasons we chose to live in Silver City was the close juxtaposition of urban and wilderness living.

Okay, I must confess: what I just described didn't actually happen, but it's a scenario I have imagined, and hope fervently will one day become a real possibility through efforts such as those of the society of Southwestern New Mexico Audubon (SWNM Audubon), which recently launched a five-year campaign titled "Wilderness Starts Here."

The fact that wild things live right at our doorsteps – our homes, businesses, institutions of higher learning – is the campaign's focus: to raise awareness in our community about the ben-

efits of this.

Cliff swallows not only gift us with their stunning aerial acrobatics and nimble charm, they eat millions of mosquitoes and other small insects while they are here each year. Their presence is a true blessing, one to be welcomed, though not everyone welcomes their mess on sidewalks or windows.

Cliff swallows are a colonial species, meaning they congregate in large groups, reaching upwards of several thousand individuals. Not only do they thrive in larger numbers, they depend on this company for their survival as a species – for nest building, foraging and migration.

The iconic colonial species in North America was the passenger pigeon, an evolutionary marvel that traveled in gargantuan flocks throughout the eastern and midwestern United States and Canada, with estimated numbers ranging into the billions. We managed to kill every last one due to lack of understanding, irrational fears and myopic vision.

Worldwide, about one in eight avian species is colonial. So why do some birds, but not others, nest in tightly packed colonies? One reason may be a phenomenon called predator satiation; eggs and nestlings represent a large food source but are available for only a short period of time.

This limited period may be too brief for predators to build or maintain populations to take full advantage of the food resource.

Another prospect is called the information-center hypothesis, which allow less-adept birds to follow more-successful foragers when they leave their colony to feed.

Large groups may also provide some protection from predators, affirming the safety-in-numbers concept. On the flip side, larger numbers of a species in one area allows for easier predator detection for those on the perimeter of the group. Studies show that in cliff swallow colonies, the older, more experienced birds



A cliff swallow packs mud into its nest creation in preparation for the babies that will inevitably follow. Inset: a baby cliff swallow is fed in its fully built nest. (Photos by Carol Ann Fugagli)

are located in the center of the colony, occupying the choice nest sites.

Cliff swallows have occupied structures in Silver City and the surrounding region for centuries. Reliable accounts by resident old-timers speak to the presence of adobe nests on Hillcrest Hospital, built in 1937 as Swift Memorial, now no longer standing.

When WNMU built the Physical Education building in 1988, the swallows took to it like ducks to water. The grainy stucco finish allows the birds to grip the building with their little clawed toes and provides an ideal substrate for the mud balls.

WNMU's maintenance personnel were promptly ordered to remove the nests due to the administration's worry about spreading disease through the fecal matter on the ground, although the droppings are sparse, exposed to the open air and are cleaned off the sidewalk every season.

Despite the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 having made it illegal to destroy nests or cause injury to eggs and birds, this practice on the campus continued for nearly 30 years without opposition.

Every April, when the migrating birds would return from their arduous journey from South America, they would build their nests, only to have them destroyed. The birds clearly became distressed, returning to the empty site for up to two days. This disruption to their breeding cycle can cause a lengthy delay to their nest building, and they may even need to wait until the monsoons begin in July to allow them to find mud, which means the juveniles may then end up not migrating until mid-August. Research indicates that the survival rate of these late-migration birds is greatly decreased.

In 2018, SWNM Audubon said, "Enough!" A small team

of members visited with the university's maintenance director, after which the college agreed to erect exclusion barriers in high pedestrian areas to deter nesting there, but leave other areas unobstructed.

This worked to a certain degree, until the swallows unexpectedly built nests in high-human-use areas and their nests were once again sprayed down. This same team of individuals from SWNM Audubon began a monitoring project to document the breeding success of the campus birds, and in 2018 and 2019, an estimated 402 birds fledged each season due to the agreement having greatly reduced the number of nests dismantled.

Pursuing this learning process of compromise, we hope to enter into an agreement that allows the university to erect nesting-deterrents in the non-breeding season, but to let the birds build their nests unimpeded once they return in April. This is about the time the students leave the campus for the summer, and the birds are gone by the time the students return in the fall.

We humans have choices, and in making our choices, we need to consider their consequences, to wildlife, air, water, soil and the ecosystem services of unborn generations. In a new report published by the National Audubon Society, it is shown that two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. One way to assist our local feathered friends is to allow our cliff swallow neighbors the freedom of breeding so they don't suffer the same fate as the passenger pigeon.

The window for protecting species, including ourselves, is rapidly closing, and the global community must collectively rethink and redefine how we value, protect and restore nature. I see

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO AUDUBON

SWNM Audubon is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that serves communities in Grant, Luna, Hidalgo and Catron counties. We are passionate about conservation of birds and their habitats through education and advocacy. Our activities include free monthly programs fall through spring, field trips, annual bird counts and The Ravens newsletter. Check us out at swnmaudubon.org.

the minor inconvenience of walking around a sidewalk smudged by nesting swallows as an honor, and approach it as such.

Seeing that wilderness starts here – now – with you, with me, right on our doorstep, by making moral choices for the benefit of all beings, we can begin protecting both wilderness and wildlife to a greater degree than we previously imagined.

Carol Ann Fugagli is an ornithologist and has lived with her husband and son in the Silver

City area for 20 years. She currently is the education and outreach director for the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. She enjoys hiking, playing the fiddle, guitar, contra dancing and loves all things wild.



Digging for treats to take home for its young, a cliff swallow roots in the moist sand.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Pajama Time in a Pandemic

The subconscious mind having a field day

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*"A candy-colored clown
they call the sandman
Tiptoes to my room
every night
Just to sprinkle
stardust and to whisper
'Go to sleep.
Everything is all right.'"*

— Roy Orbison, "In Dreams"

Well, maybe everything isn't all right.

There's Judd Shepard, as a middle-aged man, still looking like he did in third grade, even wearing his Cub Scout uniform, that somehow fits his 6-foot, 200-pound frame. There's a teaching assistant I had in college whose name I can't come close to recalling. There's some B-grade actor from a 1990s sitcom. There's about 25 other people, some of whom I recognize.

The colors are bright and the smiles are wide.

This, as you may have guessed by now, was a dream I had a few weeks ago.

The next day, my 16-year-old daughter, unprompted, began telling me of her vivid dreams, and that her friends were having them too.

Like many of us do, I woke up at 4:38 a.m. one morning, knowing I had an hour and 35 minutes before my alarm went off at 6:13. Usually this means a lot of tossing and turning, frustrated I can't get back to sleep, cursing insomnia. This time, however, I blinked, and the alarm went off. Obviously I fell asleep, but it felt more like the time vanished. I recalled one weird scene from one more vivid dream, but that could NOT have taken 95 minutes. Could it?

Two nights later, the same thing happened.

I've read a couple of articles about people's increased dreams during the Time of Coronavirus, but none of the psychologists interviewed had a conclusive explanation.

The big differences in my recent dreams are the vividness and the increased number of people in them.

Usually, my dreams "star" three or four people, tops.

Lately, though, the dreams are like big movie casts.

My daughter said hers have more people too.

Our theory? Since our human interaction has decreased so much, our brains are filling in the blanks for the people we normally see.

Interpreting dreams is always a crapshoot, but only one of my recent dreams has been obviously COVID-related.

In that one, everyone walked around with literal 10-foot poles, except for one person, who had a 39-and-a-half-foot pole, an obvious reference to Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

A friend of mine once said the most boring thing you can possibly endure is listen to another person describe, in painstaking detail, one of their dreams.

I've definitely lived through those, but I've also heard some very bizarre dreams that were actually entertaining.

I almost never have nightmares, but a couple of years ago, I woke myself up from my own screaming. I was not specifically terrified in my dream, but I was screaming out a warning to someone else, who was about to get attacked while we were in a giant, old, abandoned, decaying insane asylum.

In one dream, I got a reassuring message about an important life decision not from a family member, or a spiritual guide, but Roger Staubach, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback. Staubach by the way, is the only Pro Football Hall of Famer who went to a New Mexico school. He attended the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell before entering the U.S. Naval Academy, where he won the Heisman Trophy in 1963. But I digress.

Or can you really digress when discussing dreams? Part of the fun is the stark, disconnected plot changes featured in dreams.

I'm convinced I dream more when I've eaten mushrooms, especially on a pizza or in pasta. Does that mean it could actually be the tomato sauce?

One of my favorite dream stories involves the song "Ring of Fire."

Country music legend June Carter wrote the song, and gave it to her sister, another member of the famous Carter Family.

It didn't do much for her, but the song stuck in the head of Johnny Cash, who at the time, had only recently met June, who would eventually become his wife.

Then one night, Cash had a dream. In the dream, "Ring of Fire" was playing, but not in a traditional country arrangement. It was enhanced by Mexican mariachi horns.

And thus, the song that became one of the most signature songs, of one of the most signature singers in popular music history, was born of a dream.

Here's hoping the Coronavirus doesn't put you or a loved one in a ring of fire, but, unfortunately, we will not all wake up one day and realize it was just one big mutual dream.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of *Desert Exposure* and the *Las Cruces Bulletin*.

His favorite "dream" songs include "Dream Baby" by Roy Orbison, "I've Got Dreams to Remember" by Otis Redding and "Dreamin' Again" by Jim Croce. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.



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Leo, the Lion

Devourer of heroes, stealer of women

Prowling high in our southern sky, Leo, the Lion, is easy to identify with the backward question mark (sometimes called the Sickle) of bright stars marking his head and front paws. The brightest star in Leo represents the period at the bottom of the question mark. That star, Regulus, is a blue subgiant, first magnitude star that shines at magnitude +1.4.

Leo has been identified as a lion for at least 6,000 years. The Persians, Turks, Syrians, Jews and Indians all called this constellation a lion. The Greeks identified this constellation with the Nemean lion, a ferocious beast that would kidnap women from nearby towns and imprison them in his cave. When local heroes would come to rescue them, the lion would devour the heroes after defeating them. Finally, Hercules came to the rescue as one of his Twelve Labors. Hercules fired one of his arrows at the lion, but it bounced off the lion's impervious hide.

This lion could resist any weapon that was available, so Hercules came up with a new plan. He blocked up the second entrance to the cave and came in the main entrance bare-handed. The lion leaped at him. Hercules caught the lion in midair, grabbing the front paws in one hand and the rear paws in the other. He bent the lion backwards, breaking its back and killing it. Zeus put Leo in the sky to memorialize this labor.

Alpha Leonis, Regulus, is the 21st brightest star in the sky. It is just 79 light-years away from us. While it is visually a single star, it is actually four stars arranged as two pairs. The brightest star is Regulus A, which is a blue-white star of spectral class B8. This designation includes a white dwarf companion that appears in Regulus's spectrum, but because it is so close to the brilliant star, we have never seen it directly. Its close orbit allows the white dwarf to take only 40 days to orbit Regulus. Regulus has 3.5 times the mass of the Sun and it spins once every 15.9 hours, which causes it to be a very flattened sphere.

One hundred seventy-six seconds-of-arc away from Regulus A is HD 87884, a pair of small red stars with spectral classes K2 (magnitude 8.1) and M4 (magnitude 13.5). These two stars take about 600 years to orbit each other. Together they move with the same motion as Regulus, so they are believed to be related to Regulus.

Below Leo's hind quarters are three galaxies that collectively are referred to as the Leo Triplet. The three spiral galaxies are identified at M65, M66 and NGC 3628. The first two are bright enough to have been identified by Charles Messier in 1780 when he was compiling his catalog of fuzzy objects in the sky that could be misidentified as comets. The third, NGC 3628 was listed in the The New General

Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars (abbreviated as NGC) compiled by John Louis Emil Dreyer in 1888.

These three galaxies are all spiral galaxies with arms like pinwheels. They are tilted at different angles, with M66 being the most face-on. It is an ellipse 9.1 by 4.2 minutes-of arc in size and it is the brightest of the three at magnitude +8.9. M65 is less face-on, making it appear more elliptical, 8.7 by 2.5 minutes-of-arc in size with a magnitude of 9.3. NGC 3628 is almost edge-on, with a size of 15 by 3.6 minutes-of-arc and a magnitude of 10.2.

These three galaxies are bound together by their mutual gravity. They are grouped together in an area about 40 by 50 minutes-of-arc in the sky. They are between 31- (NGC 3628) and 35- (M65 and M66) million light-years away. This places them within 450,000 light-years of each other. Their proximity allows their mutual gravitational pull to distort their shapes.

The least distorted of the three is M65, but even its disc is slightly warped and there has been a recent burst of star formation probably caused by the gravitational interaction. M66 is also experiencing a high rate of star formation in the deformed and unusually long spiral arms.

The Planets for May 2020

Mercury makes an appearance in the evening sky this month while Venus sings her swansong for this apparition. About a third of the way into this month, Mercury appears above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark. By midmonth it will be five degrees up, shining at magnitude -1.1. Mercury's disc will be 5.6 seconds-of-arc across and 84 percent illuminated and getting less full. It moves from Aries, through all of Taurus and into western Gemini as the month ends. It will be best placed for viewing early next month.

Venus has passed its highest point this apparition and it is starting back toward the Sun, shining at magnitude -4.4 with a disc that is 11 percent illuminated and 49.3 seconds-of-arc across. Venus is 18 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark, setting around 9 p.m. The Goddess of Love does not move much in Taurus until the end of the month, when it heads west. It will disappear into the Sun's glare early next month.

Jupiter and Saturn are about five degree, apart most of the month. Saturn is in far western Capricornus while Jupiter is in far eastern Sagittarius. Both are moving very slowly eastward at the beginning of the month. Saturn stops on May 11 and Jupiter on the 14th. They then turn west and slowly separate, with Jupiter moving away from the slower Saturn. They rise around 11:15 p.m. and they are visible the rest of the night. Jupiter shines at


magnitude -2.5, while Saturn is at +0.5. The King of the Gods has a disc that is 42.5 seconds-of-arc across, while the Ringed Planet has a disc that is 17.3 seconds-of-arc across.

The God of War rises around 1:15 a.m. with a disc that is 8.3 seconds-of-arc across at mid-month. It is thirty-five degrees above the southeastern horizon as it gets light. Shining at magnitude +0.2, Mars moves from eastern Capricornus to central Aquarius this month.

With Mercury zipping past Venus and Jupiter and Saturn hanging together in the morning sky, this is a great time to "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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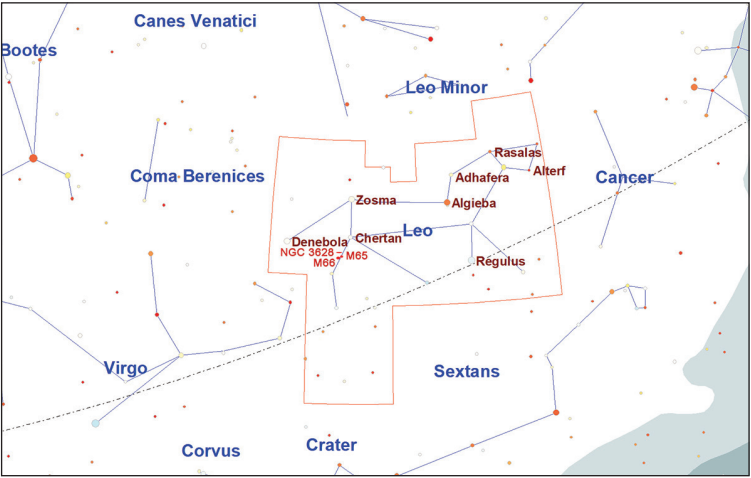
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Leo, the Lion is easily identifiable high in the southern sky. The backward question mark or sickle is punctuated by Regulus, the 21st brightest star in the sky. The ecliptic runs right past it, allowing solar system objects to hide or occult it from time to time. The Moon does this most often, with Venus being the second most frequent hider. Below Leo's hind quarters are the Leo Trio, three spiral galaxies that are gravitationally bound together into a small galaxy cluster.

Calendar of Events – May 2020 (MDT)		
07	4:45 a.m.	Full Moon
11	3 a.m.	Saturn stands still
13	4 a.m.	Venus stands still
14	8:03 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
14	Noon	Saturn stands still
22	1 a.m.	Venus 0.9 degrees north of Mercury
22	11:39 a.m.	New Moon
29	9:30 p.m.	First Quarter Moon

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The Fountain Theatre will remained closed for the next few weeks. Stay in touch by visiting our website and sign up for our e-blast at mesillavalleyfilm.org/membership.



New Mexico Water & Electric



The use of solar energy to either offset standard utility costs or to move entirely away from the established power grid continues to be an ever-improving option for many home and business owners in Southern New Mexico.

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.

CAVEAT EMPTOR



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.



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Luna County Exhibit

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Watch our Facebook page and website,
demingarts.org for more info as the date approaches.
Also, June we have "Animals, Animals" scheduled.
We will be posting an update to this information
as we get closer to the scheduled time.

*There will not be Kids Class during May and artists
receptions are cancelled until further notice.*

Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St, Deming NM 88030
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 This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts,
a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs **www.demingarts.org**

NATIVE ROOTS • MARK CANTRELL

Think Like a Plant

Planting hope in a time of the virus

I have a friend who thinks like a plant. At least that's how I see it. She worked for us in our nursery a year ago planting up seedlings, while I worked on willow cuttings for a forest service restoration project. She had the habit of setting up the mister on the hose nozzle overhead, working within a wet cloud in our arid corner of the Southwest, the weeks-old seedlings dripping between pots.

My habit when setting out plants is to create tidy rows and columns grouped by species, a proper rhythm for my human agricultural urges. This friend set plants in a wet riot of spaces, clustered and jammed, with no interest in clustering species together unless by chance. The plants were thrilled. Everything she touched flourished – even the ones I would have considered weeds that had invaded our precious native seedling pots. I have a mullein she rescued in a terracotta pot out front. It is beautiful.

This friend has the habit of growing bananas in Silver City. She has created a pocket of tropical wonder in a greenhouse at Western New Mexico University. I wonder at the exotic nature of one so enthralled with the plants of the world and the creative urge to transform space. This year, I taught her daughter in sixth grade. Clearly her mother's daughter, I now see how people can believe in elf kind.

Another friend is planting gardens in neglected spaces. Just this morning, while many of us hunkered safely in our homes, I found her, at an appropriate social distance, working well-aged manure into small spaces penned between building and sidewalk, determined to harvest radishes and greens where most see bare

waste. What to make of this optimism and resolute action?

Our human urges in relation to plants and gardens often reveal our tendencies toward creativity, determination and, of course, optimism. In a time when we find ourselves under siege from the microscopic world, many are returning to gardens and rekindling our relationship to soil and water and the conception of food.

As a native-plant grower, I often entertain the idea that perhaps there are many plants that are native to human habitat, or perhaps we are mostly native to theirs. We grow our tomatoes and zucchini with determination, while holding to the hope frost won't take the stone fruits again. We plant for beauty, but also for pollinators and birds. We restore damaged land. One wonders how a species so capable of destruction can also be one so capable of altruism and mindful of beauty. We plant hope.

Just days before social distance and locked-down homes I had the pleasure of sitting in a courtyard at Saint John's College in Santa Fe, where I eavesdropped on a conversation of students discussing the nature of a virus. One said that viruses are just evil, they have no mind and they aren't even alive.

My immediate thought was, how like nature. Of course, I see nature as that nexus between the biotic and abiotic world. I resisted the urge to jump in with ideas of our tendency to define the elements of nature by our own concerns. No need for an old guy with a wandering mind to interfere.

What to make of a virus so capable of destruction? One must not forget that viruses act like a biological ferry (or fairies),

moving and altering genetic material, likely a creative force in diversity and change within the living world. That is a pretty creative act for something without a mind or the benefit of being alive. How like us. How much like nature itself.

But I digress. I intended to write about gardening and rekindling our relationship with land. My intent was to fill the page with ideas about companion planting with natives like yarrow, monarda and blanket flower under fruit trees. I should write about wild currents and native lycium and their use for food and beauty. There is much to say about fern-bush's ability to attract beneficial insects. I could go on about our long relationship with yuccas and agaves, and the unfair war we wage on fungus, insects, bacteria and, yes, viruses.

We plant, things die, we plant again. We hope, we create, we remain resolute in the face of a seemingly benign and thoughtless world beyond our control. So, go plant things. Get back to the garden. Tend to the health of the patch of earth where you live. Create something in the world that was not there before, and may all of us come out something better at the other side of what we together endure.

Mark Cantrell
owns Lone
Mountain
Natives with
his wife, Tricia
Hurley, in
Silver City.


When he's not teaching his 6th graders at Aldo Leopold Charter School, you can find him at the Farmers Market. You can get in touch with them at lonemtn@q.com or on Facebook.




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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Leadership in a Crisis

Leading the bandwagon in hard times

Strange times we're living in. These columns need to be written weeks in advance of publication so there's really no way to know what life will be like in May. Given the spread of my own family and close friends across the country and beyond, some in the hardest hit areas during this pandemic, it feels like it will be a very long time before anything looks and feels normal again.

As I'm writing this, for now it appears our little corner of the Earth here in Silver City and Grant County has been spared the worst of this scary event, but until there is a vaccine that is proven to work I don't think any one of us will feel completely comfortable going back to our old routines.

Under the circumstances, it's a bit of a challenge to come up with a story about horses that is relevant or might bring a smile, but I suspect that anybody lucky enough to have a horse in their life has probably found the perfect companion and therapist for these dark times. I know my two wonderful horses are probably getting tired of seeing so much of me, of listening to the frustrations of the current human condition and of the continuous stream of new and fun things they're being asked to learn. As much as they would like me to go back to helping other horses and their owners, they still stand there and listen patiently, even though they have no idea what I'm talking about.

For them, this is a lot more home schooling and companionship than they ever agreed to. I'm sure what they're really thinking is "if I put up with this for awhile longer, maybe it'll be time for our next meal."

I did notice one interesting thing during all this uncertainty that made me feel really good about being involved with horses

and the kind of people I consider to be the best and most professional in the business. Long before anybody started taking all this seriously or getting any kind of truth or guidance from our politicians, or concerned or action-oriented communications from various insurance companies or health care providers, most of the national horse community was all over this.

It started months ago with a thorough and detailed communication from US Rider, an equestrian roadside assistance plan developed specifically to help individuals hauling horses. Stuck by the side of the road with a trailer full of horses is a special case that may require not only vehicle repair or towing, but also vet assistance or even temporary housing for the equines and the humans. This company reached out to all of its members to let them know how they were adding people in their call centers, lining up additional towing companies with the experience and equipment to handle the unique emergency situations involving hauling horses, and finding new options for temporary housing of horses on the road. They let every member know that whatever this virus might become, they would be there to help. Impressive stuff.

Shortly thereafter I was contacted by the American Morgan Horse Association regarding their plans for continuing their

operations and with their suggestions and decisions regarding showing, training, breeding and travel. All very straight-forward, to the point and well thought out.

Next came a long note from a trainer association that I belong to, with the names of more than 150 of the top trainers in the country supporting the position that professionals in the business should lead by example and should not think they're immune to the risk associated with what could be coming. The note pointed out that too many people in less populated areas, or people using more free time to be at the barn, might think whatever the general population might be asked to do didn't apply to them. It was up to the trainers, barn managers and professionals to make sure this didn't happen.

Next came contact from my supplement supplier, Platinum Performance Equine, that described its plans for keeping their manufacturing facility running and their customer support up to their usual high standards, ensuring that there would be no disruption to the supplement program for your horses.

Then there was a wonderful note supported by many of the top horse associations, including the two that we belong to, The Morgan Horse Association and the International Andalu-

TALKING HORSES
continued on page 23



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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 phone numbers are area code 575 except

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



GRANT COUNTY
Silver City
ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 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.
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. Bul-

lard 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.

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Duck Creek Café, U.S. Highway 180, Cliff, 535-4500. Visit Duck Creek Café on Facebook.RVs/Big Rigs welcome, Wednesday to Saturday LD, Sunday LD. "Bring home cooking to your table"

DOÑA ANA COUNTY Las Cruces & Mesilla
ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.
ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.
ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
AQUA REEF, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.
THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.
A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily B L.
BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina 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 green-chile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.
BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.

CAFÉ DON FELIX, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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 Drive, 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.
CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Road 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 Ave. 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.
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GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D.
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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.



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TALKING HORSES
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sian and Lusitano Horse Association, that reminded members of the potential financial hardships that trainers, barn managers, farriers, etc. could face with the possible economic downturn. It talked about creating a fund and other ideas for economic assistance, as well as help for navigating the maze of federal support programs, for those in the business, especially given so many are small or even one-person businesses.

I even had a nice note from my equine insurance company about their plans, many weeks before I heard anything from my own insurance companies.

With a little extra time on my hands, I sent off a note to one of the legends in the business, Dale Myler, about a training issue I was having to see if he had some thoughts on a bit idea I was thinking about. Within 24 hours he was back to me with a detailed response and some really good ideas, like he was my best friend living next door a true professional, following through and immediately responsive to

someone he's never met.

You get the idea. The horse world seemed to know what could be coming long before the people "in charge" did. Every night as I sit home self-isolating, trying not to deplete my supplies of beer, wine and toilet paper too quickly, I wonder why this small segment of the population seemed to get it before so many others did. Maybe it's because if you're in the business you've seen how quickly disease or infections can spread through a horse population in a barn or on a ranch, and the emotional and economic impact that comes with it. Action has to be taken and quickly.

Or maybe it's because we professionals know that after our families, for many of us the next most important things we have are our horses, and we'll do anything necessary to keep them healthy and safe. Any individual or company that helps us do that will get our trust, support and thanks for as long as we have horses.

For all those companies and organizations that showed forward thinking and took action,

and that reached out to me and my operation during the darkest time most of us will ever see, I tip my hat and say thank you. There's been more than enough stress in our daily lives during all this. Thanks to these kinds of people and companies, we have one less thing to worry about.

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.





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ON STAGE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Poetry Out Loud

Facing the poetry challenge

When Lizzett Solis stepped on the stage in Albuquerque to recite three poems, she felt like everybody there could hear her heartbeat.

“It was pretty awesome and frightening but it was actually one of the greatest experiences of my life,” she said. “Overall, what I learned with my experience is, if you put your heart to it, be yourself, as long as you have the courage to go up there, it’s OK. People really liked the performance. If you put your mind to it, you can do it.”

Solis was one of seven finalists from across the state participating in the 2020 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, hoping to go on to the national level, which was slated for April 27-29 but now has been canceled. She represented Las Cruces’ Rio Grande Preparatory Institute.

Simran Grover of Arrowhead Park Medical Academy was the other local participant for the state event, which was held March 8. Arrowhead sponsor Reyes Duran described the event as a national poetry recitation competition.

“In schools all over the country students memorize poems and recite them,” Duran said. “The winner gets a big prize. It’s a pretty nice event, and they do win money at the state level.

Duran and the other Arrowhead sponsor, Kernie Zimmerman, are English teachers and have been running a Poetry Out Loud Club for students who are interested in poetry and public speaking.

“So, we had two girls who loved poetry,” she said. “It is good for both of them to have to stand up and do it in front of the public. Some teachers do it too.”

Judging the recitations is based on several things, she said, including memorization, understanding, articulation and overall performance.

“How do they stand or add dramatic effect, use their voice, do hand movements?” Duran said. “And then I think articulation is the last category. Our students just really enjoyed poetry and thinking about how they express themselves.”

Solis faced additional challenges to get herself to the state competition. A 23-year-old senior, she returned to high school after “going on the wrong path.” A single mother, Solis became an alcoholic and drug addict, then she pulled herself up and got out of that life.

“I had a choice, either I worked or went back to school,” she said. “I barely got out, got purpose, went to recovery, and have been sober and clean since last May.”

So, Solis and the other 6 finalists from around the state gathered in Albuquerque March 8 and took their turns on the stage, each reciting three poems they had chosen.

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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

RVing in the Time of the Coronavirus

The office phones have been busy this month here at Rose Valley. And almost every call reflects a problem caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Rose Valley RV Ranch. This is Sheila. How can I help you?”

“Just checking to see if you’re still open.”

Many RV parks have closed for the duration, and many others are not accepting new reservations. causing major problems for snowbirds trying to get home after a winter in Arizona or Florida. The camping facilities of the national parks, Army Corp of Engineers parks and most state parks are closed. Here in New Mexico, private RV parks are under an order to operate at 25 percent capacity. We’re normally full this time of year, so that limit means we sometimes must turn away folks in the habit of stopping here every spring. Added to the park scarcity problems are the travel restrictions in some states that make it difficult for RVs to either enter or leave.

“Rose Valley RV Ranch. This is Sheila. How can I help you?”

“I need to cancel my reservation.”

Oh, yes, we’re getting plenty of cancellations from occasional RVers choosing to hunker down at home rather than risk the possibility of falling ill in an unfamiliar place, or because the event they were coming in for has been canceled. I received a call from a woman who had

planned a cross-country odyssey this summer; we were the first of 19 cancellation calls she needed to make. Most callers are apologetic, as though the situation is their fault. Actually, they’re helping us keep to the state’s 25 percent limit.

“Rose Valley RV Ranch, this is Sheila. How can I help you?”

“Do you have any long-term sites available for a few months? We need someplace to sit out the pandemic.”

These are the calls that are causing us the most difficulty. Mostly they’re from full-timers, the folks that live year-round in their rigs, and maybe spend the winter in one location but like to travel around during the summer. Or, maybe in the habit of changing the locations every few months, often following the workamping jobs circuit around the country. Many of them normally work for state and national park campgrounds as seasonal hosts, or for the larger resorts in a variety of jobs. For these full-timers, the coronavirus is causing major financial problems, because with most workamping jobs comes free site rental, sometimes with a small salary. The winters my husband and I worked at Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley, we not only got free rent and utilities, but also free meals along with a salary. Most of those jobs that many RVers count on are gone this spring.

The Centers for Disease Control has recommended that

people not travel, but that’s impractical advice for these transient RVers. Many of them are desperately looking for a place in which they can stay until the stay-at-home orders end, preferably a reasonably-priced park near adequate medical services

LIVING ON WHEELS
continued on page 26



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The following websites offer information to RVers concerning the coronavirus:

- RVtravel.com/coronavirus939
- boondockerwelcome.com/rvers-and-coronavirus
- compendium.com/camping/guidelines-for-full-time-rvers-during-covid-19
- doityourselfrv.com/self-quarantine-covid
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These five RVers aren't planning to rob a liquor store, they're just following the governor's orders. (Photo by Sheila Sowder)

LIVING ON WHEELS
continued from page 25

since many of them are in the high-risk groups.

Boondocking, the act of unof-

ficially parking your RV on public or private land for overnight stays, is blossoming. While there are always a certain number of boondockers around, mostly in small trailers or converted vans, now they can be spotted everywhere, as many of those displaced-workcampers have resorted to trying to find free spots to park. I read a recommendation for boondocking that listed church parking lots as possible safe havens for a night or two, since most churches are closed for the duration. The writer recommended calling the emergency number listed on the church's website for permission. Another recommendation was to call the local police station for information on places to safely and legally boondock. If you're looking for free RV parking, check out the website book-dockerswelcome.com for a list of hosts that allow RVs to park on their private land. Many are still accepting guests despite the coronavirus, subject to certain regulations.

Single RVers have a particular worry, especially if they're sitting out the restrictions in an unfamiliar location among strangers. If they get sick, not only do they have the dilemma of navigating a strange medical system, but also have no one to care for them. RV websites are advising readers to stock up on food and supplies, but no one has a suggestion as to

who is going to prepare that food or take the single RVer to a hospital if they are too sick to drive.

"Rose Valley RV Ranch. This is Sheila. How can I help you?"

"Can you tell me if it's safe to drive over to Silver City from Florida?"

And then there are questions that have no answers. "Will your stores and restaurants be open in May?" "Which is safer – Silver City or New Braunfels, Texas?" "Will my parrot be safe in your park?" We do our best to explain and we listen to their problems, because we're all looking for answers, and perhaps a little kindness on the way. We remind ourselves that life is still going on, even though we're having to adapt to many changes. We're all going to get through this and maybe, just maybe, we'll be a slightly better neighbor than before, a little more patient, a little less critical, and a little more helpful to our friends and to strangers.


Sheila and husband, Jimmy, have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City since 2012, following five years of wandering from Maine to California. She can be contacted at skowder@aol.com.



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