

# DESERT exposure



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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

JUNE 2020

Volume 25 • Number 6





EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

# Keeping Watch

Finding a new perspective in new times

Everyday a reminder pops up on my computer at 2 p.m. It's a daily notification that I set up titled Do Something Nice for Someone. Lately, I began to feel guilty about ignoring the reminder. A simple click

and it's gone in a blink of an eye. When I first set it up, the idea I had was to stop everything I was doing, leave the office, and do something nice for someone. The sad reality is that it became more difficult than I first imagined. And

isn't that a tragedy? It's easier to stay put, answer emails, accomplish tasks, and keep doing what you're doing, even if at the end of the day you are not doing much at all.

We pride ourselves on doing a lot. We get things done. We stay late at work and go in early, not because we were asked to, but there is so much to do, we don't want to fall behind. And isn't that a shame? We use most of our energy to please others, not for a sense of our own satisfaction, but in fear that we might fall into trouble.

I don't think that's a life worth living. So, I've decided that now things should be different. It's


OK to do like the Argentinians and have an afternoon siesta. I don't think they're missing out on anything or contributing any less than we are to the bigger picture. What great attributes. What outsiders might not see are the outcomes of our constant-work lifestyle: the bad eating habits, the breakdown of the nuclear family, and the rising medical costs due to preventable diseases.

Let's make a pact that these interesting times are showing us to live differently. We can still get stuff done, but we also appreciate each other a little more. Let's bring each other less stress, and a little more fun. My resolution for life after quarantine is to read and

act on that daily reminder to do something nice for someone. If I stop and think about it, I'm sure I can come up with 365 different ways to make someone happy. That's step number 1. Step number 2 is to get it done. Except this time, I'll be getting something done that really means something, not only to myself, but to someone else.

Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in southern New Mexico. He can be reached at [abevillarreal@hotmail.com](mailto:abevillarreal@hotmail.com).





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**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?  
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**This a lovely 3 bedroom home with a terrific sunroom in back.** Come and see it today!  
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**Hidden in Salt Creek Canyon lies a 13 acre jewel, bordering Gila National Wilderness.** This turn key equestrian property could also serve as a perfect family, corporate or church retreat. The 2715 square foot executive home comes partially furnished and boasts two custom kiva fireplaces, 3 bedrooms, two baths with a large covered deck to sit back and take in the fresh mountain air. Two bedrooms are large enough to fit multiple beds. The 3rd bedroom has a loft, for even more sleeping area. The property has two large barns and round pen and could be your gateway to endless riding or hiking in the Gila. A real sanctuary to an abundance of turkey, deer, elk, black bear, bobcat, lion and prime hawk and eagle habitat. MLS # 37212 **\$539,000**



**Spacious two story home with upgraded electrical, large combination family/living and dining room, and sun room or hobby room with lots of light.** Two bedrooms and one full bath upstairs, and a lower level bedroom with 3/4 bathroom downstairs. Built-ins throughout this home provide lots of extra storage, and there is a utility/storage/bonus room in the basement area as well. Easy to maintain backyard with privacy fencing. MLS # 36681 **\$180,000**



**OFF-GRID IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLACK RANGE!** Custom log home on 89 acres. Secluded and private with seasonal creek. Living room features a huge thermal mass stone fireplace, built in's plus custom built seating. Kitchen features an antique wood cook stove plus fireplace cooking option, pantry and gas range. Master suite has fireplace, walk in closet and 1/2 bath. Additional bathroom with garden tub/shower. Loft bedroom with 2 closets. Lower living area has stone walls, fireplace, bedroom, walk in closet. Large laundry room with pantry and wine cellar. 1200 square foot shop with kitchen, full bath, loft and work pit. 2 stall carport. 2 wells, windmill, raised garden beds and garden shed. Automatic backup generator. State land boundary on the SE side and 1/2 mile to Gila National Forest Boundary. MLS # 37104 **\$399,000**



**3 bedroom 2 bath home on over an acre was built in 2001 and shows some potential.** This property borders an acre owned by the town of Silver City and provides a nice buffer. There is a 2 car garage and the home sits away from Cottonwood and has a private feeling.  
MLS # 37266 **\$199,000**



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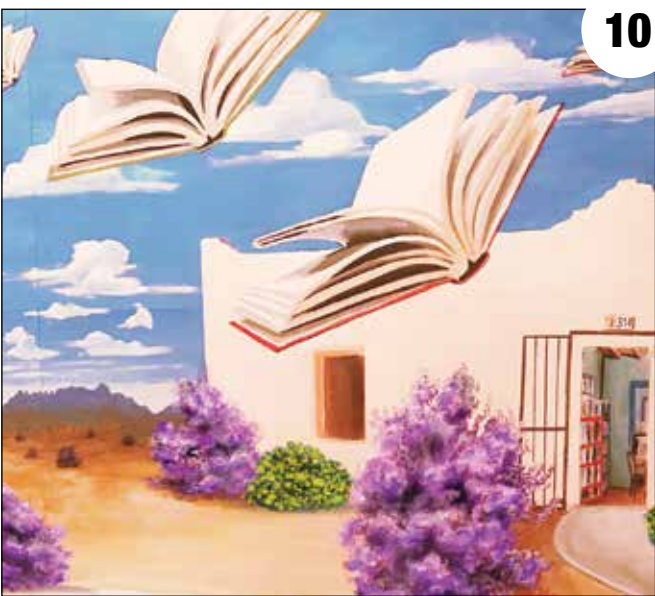
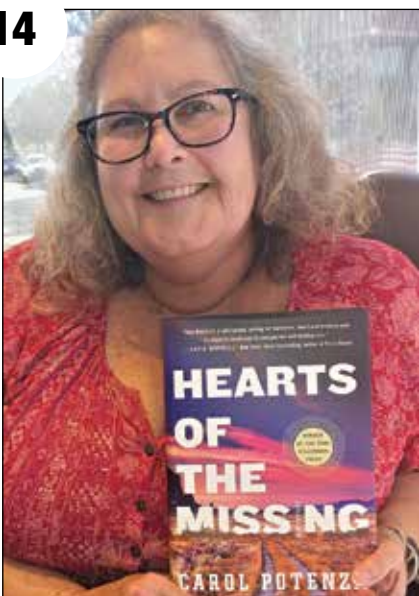
**This home fits all the criteria for comfortable southwest ranch style living.** Bring the animals and enjoy this fantastic 3 bedroom 2.5 bath home on over 46 5 wire/ fenced acres just 10 -15 minutes from Walmart or Tractor Supply. This property comes complete with a horse barn with tack room and 4 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**



**Very spacious feeling 3 bedroom 2 bath home near Lake Roberts.** The tasteful rock fireplace from floor to ceiling commands your attention and lends a certain ambience to this getaway in the Gila. Open kitchen/living area make a great place for entertaining with covered decks both front and back. This is one of the finer built mountain homes in the region by renowned builder, Craig Findley. You'll want to move right in. Call today. MLS # 37242 **\$269,000**



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## ABOUT THE COVER:


"Pages of Enchantment" by Albert Vasquez honors area authors who often choose Southern New Mexico to work in and be inspired by. In this issue you will find a number of local authors, their books and their stories.

Vasquez is a Las Cruces based Graphic Artist and an employee of the Las Cruces Bulletin. He is a Las Cruces native and a New Mexico State University graduate.







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# Letters to the Editor

## We need health security

**Editor,**

As a hospital pharmacist, I am seeing daily what the COVID-19 pandemic reveals: the unacceptable weaknesses in our health care system. To address them, a good place to start is by evaluating the mindset and structural issues that have led us here.

Let's start with mindset. Rugged individualism is an aspect of American culture that has been ingrained in our society. Having grown up on a ranch in Cliff, New Mexico, I get this. I learned the value of self reliance, independent critical thinking, and perseverance at a young age.

However, is an individualist mentality appropriate when it comes to the health of our society? In some respects, the answer is yes. We do have responsibility for our own health. On the other hand, a mentality that values the collective health of our society is just as important. As COVID-19 is showing us, my health impacts you. Your health impacts me. Our health impacts our neighbors, our communities, our country and economy.

A mindset that places greater value on our collective health would lead to a more robust public health system that is better prepared to prevent and fight pandemics. Such a mindset would also embody the opportunity for every person, regardless of status, to see a health professional when needed without experiencing financial hardship. That leads me to the structure of our system, starting with the big picture. The U.S. spends about twice as much per person on health care as other developed countries. Yet we have the lowest life expectancy, highest suicide rates and highest chronic disease burden. Despite the amount we spend, millions of Americans are uninsured or cannot afford care

because of high deductibles, premiums and copayments.

The economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic is only worsening this. Which leads us to a crucial question: Should health coverage continue to be tied to employment? Because of the pandemic, millions of people are losing their jobs, and along with this, their health coverage. A recent study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that the layoffs caused by the pandemic could result in 7.3 million American workers losing health insurance by June 30. In addition to facing unimaginable financial insecurity, Americans are living in fear of not affording medical care if they get sick and not being able to continue with their medications and other treatments. This is a tragedy not experienced in most other countries.

Health care should be a human right, not an employee benefit. So, how do we create a more effective, just health care system? New Mexico has been working on its own homegrown solution for 20+ years. The N.M. Health Security Plan would allow our state to set up its own non-profit health plan, run like a cooperative, to ensure coverage for all New Mexicans. It would include freedom of choice of providers, comprehensive benefits throughout our lives and fair premiums. If you lose your job or change jobs, your health coverage stays with you. There would be no surprise bills, and people with preexisting conditions would be covered. Visit [www.nmhealthsecurity.org](http://www.nmhealthsecurity.org) to learn more.

COVID-19 is changing our lives. And it won't be the last pandemic we face. I hope we New Mexicans can have serious conversations about how we can change our mindset and improve the structure of our health care system. Let's lead the nation in guaranteeing health security for all our residents.

Davena Norris, Pharm.D.,  
PhC, BCPS  
Cliff/Las Cruces



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o Ann Alexander	o Elizabeth Toney	o Nancy Wachholz
o Anna Liska	o Fred Barraza	o Pat Bouchard
o Anna and Chon Villalobos	o John Wachholz	o Patricia Black
o Bill Kaderly	o Jude Wasechek	o Phoebe Lawrence
o Cathie Eisen	o Kate Brown	o Robert Luria
o Caleb Jimenez	o Linda Fout	o Susan Rice
o Debra Nudson	o Mike Boyle	o Teryl Hartman
	o Myron Weckwerth	

Finally, Kitty, thank you for all you have contributed in the last year.  
You are a good friend!

## Thank you friends



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QUIET & RELAXING GETAWAY



Keep asking questions

**Editor,**

I have done a modest amount of research on the covid virus and I have learned some very disturbing things. The science behind the COVID virus is being questioned by many. The test for covid does not actually test for the virus itself but a related RNA sequence. One doctor who has studied this, Andrew Kaufman, estimates 75 percent of the COVID positive tests are false positives.

The COVID death statistics are equally questionable. Since the tests for COVID may not be reliable and deaths ascribed to the virus are based on those tests, we do not know if those deaths were really from COVID. Hospitals receive significantly more money for treating a COVID patient than they do for treating, for example, a patient with pneumonia.

The World Health Organization has recently issued a statement that Sweden's response to COVID was an appropriate one. Sweden is the one western country that did not order any kind of lockdown or stay-at-home orders, that allowed people to continue to work and businesses including, restaurants, to remain open.

We all contain many viruses and bacteria and we exchange

them on a regular basis with our environment and with each other. We gain immunity from getting sick, from having contact with and having in our bodies these bacteria and viruses. For a person to wash their hands all the time, stay at home and disinfect their house is actually lowering their immune system's ability to fight disease, making them more susceptible to becoming seriously sick if they do get COVID.

Stress and fear have a strong negative effect on our immune systems and our ability to fight a virus or a disease. This is scientifically proven. Patients who come into hospitals with COVID symptoms could suffer detrimental effects because: they are told they may or do have the dread COVID disease, are isolated in a room with no ability for relatives to contact them; sometimes nurses who are afraid of contracting COVID stay out of their hospital rooms and monitor them with tubes which run out of the room; respirators are high-pressure and can actually do harm, especially for a sick and weakened patient and when not properly monitored. There are other less extreme ways to provide oxygen which should be used first and are being bypassed. The lack of family and friends being present and looking after their loved one can cause less attention to the patient by the staff. Nurses on YouTube have said that this is happening.

Imagine coming to a hospital because you are sick, being diagnosed with COVID, then being

isolated in a room and cut off from all your family and friends with even the nurses avoiding contact with you. Stress and fear perhaps?

Also disturbing is that there have been videos removed from YouTube and Facebook accounts closed because they contain some of the information I have cited or other information which contradicts the mainstream news and politicians' story that this is a terrible pandemic and everyone must stay at home. This is a real infringement of free speech. Since the internet has become a primary means of communication and expressing views to the world, banning the expression of views there is a serious matter. One YouTube video I saw that was removed was an interview by a local news station of two doctors who own and work in several urgent care facilities in Kern County, California. These are serious medical professionals whose clinics had administered thousands of COVID tests and treated many thousands of people during this time. Their conclusion was that COVID is nothing more than a normal flu and that the closing down of the California economy and society was totally unnecessary. Why were their views censored?

It's time to ask questions people. What you are being told is not the truth. The real contagion that is spreading across the world is fear not a virus.

Jonathan Diener  
Mule Creek

Desert #48 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 [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), and be recognized! TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

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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: "MORE THAN ANYTHING, ELSE, THOUGH, THIS CRISIS REMINDS US OF HOW WISE THE FIRST GENERATION OF AMERICANS WAS IN DEMANDING A FREE PRESS." - KEN PAULSON OF MID. TENN. ST. UNIV. \*Secret Words: "TOUCHY VIRAL NEWS"

Congrats to #47 solvers : Mike Arms\*, Will Adams\*, Skip Howard\*, Connie Tull\*, and Shorty Vaiza\*!

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Marie's Italian Grill

Mimbres Hospital

Patio Café

Peppers Supermarket

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HATCH

Hatch Public Library

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Valle Mimbres Market

SILVER CITY

Adobe Springs

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Bayard Food Basket

Bayard Public Library

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Blue Dome

Bright Funeral

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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

Szygyg

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



HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL

# Cooler Crevasses

## Moving away from matters of men

I'd just about had enough. I leaned back in my favorite comfy chair, the red one that creaks when I shoot my legs out across the floor. A sigh of exasperation escaped me as I put down the newspaper. I pondered what is to be done when the world loses its collective mind. Remembering something

from my misspent past, I visited the Lightcap Library, conveniently located within reach of my red chair. My finger traced the threadbare spines of many worn-out volumes and finally landed on a collection by Rudyard Kipling, as magnificent an imperialist bastard as ever adapted the message of the

Bhagavad Gita. After locating my reading spectacles, I found what I was looking for: "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs..." I pulled off my glasses, set them aside and rubbed my stubbly chin in deep thought. The events of the last few months were weighing on me like a bed-

load of shivering dogs on a cold winter's night. It was high time to change my outlook, remove myself from the ceaseless turmoil of a headless world, and heed Kipling's advice. "Good on you, Rudy," I thought.

I rummaged through my garage and liberated an old Igloo and filled it with a troop of cold barley pops and the sublimating dregs of an abandoned ice tray. I plucked my tattered old cowpoke chapeau from the nail by the door and a moth-eaten saddle blanket. A quick twist of the screwdriver that serves as the ignition key for my hoary Ford truck was answered by the min-

istrations of 352-cubic inches of Detroit fury.

I pointed the weary pickup toward the desert, the depot for everything my soul required. The truck's mismatched, bald tires dropped into the sandy floor on an arroyo that hadn't felt the sweet heft of its motorized bulk in far too long. Mesquite and creosote raked the flanks of the truck, attempting to vandalize paint that hadn't been there since 1976.

Eventually, the truck tossed its one singular fan belt in a pique of mechanical angst, but I was not worried. I have addressed this machine's needs for many decades, and that too is in keeping with Kipling's words: watching the things we give our lives to, broken, and stooping to build 'em up with worn-out tools. That's why there's a pair of wallowed-out pliers in the glove box.

I left the truck where it surrendered, taking my cooler and blanket. I pushed on up the arroyo and smelled the perfumes of the Chihuahuan desert. My boots crunched in the gravel and a distant buzzing greeted me. Cicadas or snakes, it mattered not as my intentions were far loftier than theirs. I scrambled over a small dry waterfall and slithered under some unruly mesquite limbs on my way to a small knob of rock at the top. I threw down my blanket and cooler just in time to pregame the sunset.

I cheerfully greeted the hundred-mile horizon by cracking open the first beer. There is a purity to the desert that can sometimes make my heart want to explode. It's comforting to know that the realm of the snake and lizard vastly predates me and will most assuredly continue long past my personal expiration date. I turn my brambly face to the west, my undisputed favorite point on the compass, and reflect on the hope I've always felt when facing that direction. Across the valley, I can faintly discern the hazy canyons filled with shadows, the critters beginning to stir after a long day in the cool crevasses. I see a hawk tracing through the sky, and a dry breeze stirs the hair on my arm.

The matters of men are as far removed from my desert as the moon is from Manhattan. Stock markets and fake news have no place at this glorious table, where coyotes and jack rabbits hold court. I leaned back, driving my fingers into the scratchy soil, and felt eternally cool soil just an inch below the surface. The desert is still here and will matter forever.

As I procured a second round from the cooler, I thought of Rudy again. "Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it..." That's enough for me.

*Henry Lightcap's Journal ran monthly in Desert Exposure for about a decade before he hung up his typewriter in 2014. We coaxed him out of his creaky red chair for reprise.*

## New Mexico Water & Electric

### Hillsboro, NM



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**.



RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# Coronavirus, Schmoronavirus

At the beginning of The Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020, I was packing my bags, getting ready to leave for the airport when I got the text: “I’m here for you.”

“Thanks,” I wrote back. “Yeah, it’s a bad situation, but I’m sure it will be okay. I just wish the doctor would have some good news for a change. The series of enemas my father has to go through isn’t going to be any fun, but what can I do? I asked the doctor how bad it was going to be since my father will be treated at home. He said it would be “explosive.” And “messy.” And who’s going to have to clean it up? Me. He’s my dad, so I can’t leave it for my wife to do. Anyway, thanks for being there for me, but I’ve gotta go. I’m waiting for my Uber driver.”

“I AM your Uber driver,” came the reply, “and I’m here for you.”

I’m glad someone’s there for me because every month my elderly father likes to check his bank statement. Sadly, he’s been diagnosed pre-Alzheimer’s. One of the symptoms of the disease is it’s effected his relationship with numbers. Every month, after checking those statements, my father claims “those characters” at the bank are cheating him, and my beautiful wife is the only one sympathetic enough to be talked into driving him there so he can harass the vice president of this or that in person.

“How did things go at the bank, pop?” I asked him this last time when they came back.

“Two men came in wearing masks,” he told me. “Thank God they were only there to rob the bank.”

I laughed at my father’s caronavirus joke, but I had heard it before.

At the risk of a Hollywood celebrity accusing me of being a racing enthusiast, there’s a Chinese curse that goes, “May you live in interesting times.”

Well, we’re living in interesting times, my friend. So interesting that my wife is constantly after me to social distance when I go out, and shower when I get back. Maybe it will be different when you read this. Then again, maybe not. Whichever it is, it won’t be the same.

“But the coronavirus doesn’t affect the young,” I told her.

“You’re not that young anymore,” she told me back.

Whaaat?

That was news to me.

Well, maybe not to my knees.

Now that I think about it, it’s too bad I’m not young anymore. Back in my day, the popular pickup line was, “What sign are you?” These days it’s, “I have toilet paper.”

Things have gotten so bad my DOG doesn’t even want to shake my hand any more. So I wear a mask, I wear gloves, I sanitize, I disinfect, I wash my hands, my face, my donkey... you get the idea. And I do all of that without touching my face. Here’s a tip, if you hold a glass of Pappy Van Winkle’s premium bourbon in one hand and the bottle in the other, it keeps you from touching your face.

I was at Costco the other day with my father. It’s his favorite store. Yeah, I know he should have stayed home, but YOU try getting him to. To be fair, he’s good the majority of the time, complaining mostly when he’s constipated.

Among other necessities, nitrile gloves were on my list of things to buy.

“How much are they?” he wanted to know.

I told him.

“WHAT?” he sputtered, his eyes wide with disbelief. “Why, these characters are nothing but a bunch of... Leave it to big business to gouge us during a pandemic!”

“They’re not gouging us, pop,” I told him.

“Really?” he said, rubbing the white stubble on his chin. “Then get me a box.”

The problem is, not only do we have the coronavirus to contend with, but we still have all our other ailments as well. I told you about my heart attack back in the September 2019 issue of Desert Exposure. What I didn’t tell you was, thinking I might not make it, I told my wife, “Honey, if I die, the contents in my safe are yours.”

My wife just smiled sympathetically.

“And everything else, too,” she said.

If I went to the hospital now, I would probably run into some couple being told they tested positive for the coronavirus.

“That’s just not possible,” they might answer back. “We protected ourselves by buying all the toilet paper we could find.”

I can even imagine them at home.

“Thank God the pandemic is over,” their children might rejoice once there’s a vaccine.

“Just shut up,” they’d say, “and eat your toilet paper.”

My father and I were watching the news. They were reporting about a Broadway actor whose leg was amputated due to “complications from the coronavirus.” That was the first and only time I had heard of THAT particular result from being stricken with COVID-19, so I wondered if the poor guy lost his leg BECAUSE of the coronavirus or he

lost his leg and just happened to have the coronavirus. At the risk of sounding like Alex Jones, it sometimes seems to me that the government, the medical community, and the news media all seem intent on connecting the dots for me, rather than just reporting the facts and letting me come up with my own conclusions.

“Who lost his leg?” my father wanted to know.

“Nick Cordero,” I said, telling him the unfortunate actor’s name.

“Never heard of him,” my father said, bluntly. “Too bad about his leg, though.”

“Yeah,” I agreed. “Too bad. I’ve heard the coronavirus can even make you lose one of your senses.”

“Of course, it does,” my father confirmed. “When you get it, you lose your sense of humor.”

*Lost YOURS? Find it at JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com, RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com, or @JimDuchene.*

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We strongly recommend gallery patrons call locations before visiting as gallery hours are subject to change and do so often. Contact Desert Exposure at 575-443-4408 or editor@desertexposure.com to update listings. All area codes are 575 unless indicated otherwise.

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

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June 21



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ARTS EXPOSURE

# Gallery Guide

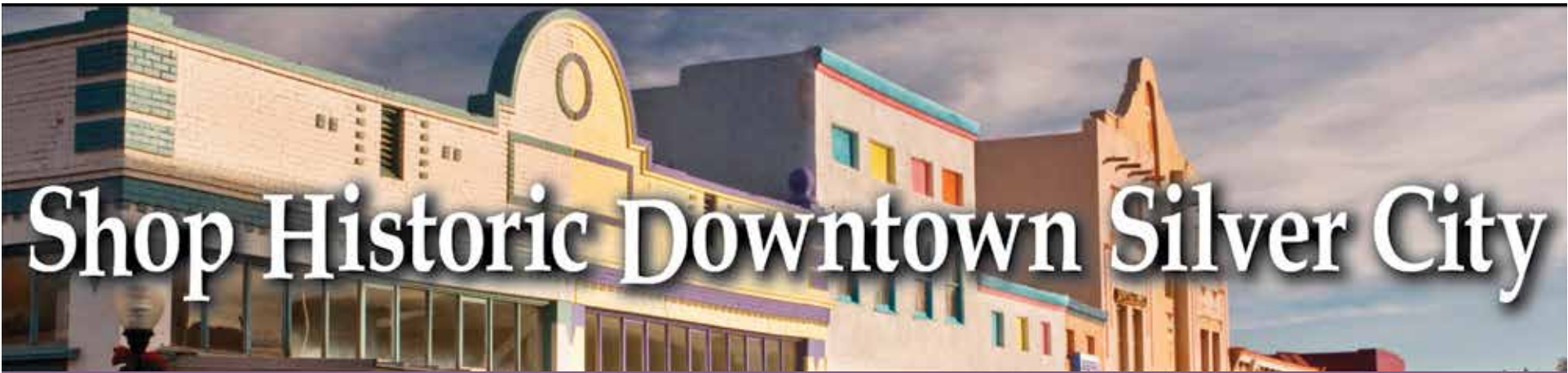
**The Barking Dog Studio,** 512 Bremen St. (off Cooper Street). Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. 534-9620.  
**Blue Dome Gallery,** 307 N. Texas St., second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.  
**Borderlands Gallery,** Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.  
**The Cliffs Studio & Gallery,** 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622- 0251. By appointment.  
**Common Ground.** 102 W. Kelly St..

534-2087. Open by chance or by prior arrangement. 534-2087.  
**Cow Trail Art Studio,** 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533- 1897, www.victoriachick.com.  
**Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery,** 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.  
**Elemental Artisans,** by appointment only, 215-593-6738.  
**Finn's Gallery,** 300 N. Arizona St., 406-790-0573  
**Francis McCray Gallery,** 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**The Glasserie Studio and Store,** 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Grant County Art Guild Gallery,** 316 N. Bullard St. 10 a.m-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.  
**Guadalupe's,** 505 N. Bullard St., 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Leyba & Ingalls Arts,** 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.  
**Light Art Space,** 209 W. Broadway St.. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.  
**Lloyd Studios,** 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.  
**Lois Duffy Art Studio,** 211C N. Texas St., 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.  
**Lumiere Editions,** 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.  
**The Makery,** 206 N. Bullard St. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.  
**Manzanita Ridge,** 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.  
**Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery,** 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas streets, 388-2646. Fine arts and crafts.  
**Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery,** Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.  
**Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing,** 203 N. Bullard St., 538- 5538. www.ramollaart.com.  
**Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile,** 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.  
**The Place at the Palace,** at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.  
**Soul River Gallery,** 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.  
**Sterling Fine Art,** 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.  
**Studio Behind the Mountain,** 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388- 3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.  
**Studio Upstairs,** 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.  
**Szygy Tile Gallery,** 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.  
**Tatiana Maria Gallery,** 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.  
**Tree Spirit Gallery,** on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.  
**21 Latigo Trail,** 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.  
**Wild West Weaving,** 211-D N. Texas St., 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.  
**Wind Canyon Studio,** 11 Quail Run


Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.  
**Wynnegate Gallery,** 1105 W. Market St., 575-534-9717, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.  
**Yada Yada Yarn,** 621 N. Bullard St. 388-3350.  
**Zoe's Studio/Gallery,** 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.  
**Mimbres Chamomile Connection,** 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.  
**Kate Brown Pottery and Tile, HC** 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.  
**Bayard Kathryn Allen Clay Studio,** 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.  
**Northern Grant County Casitas de Gila,** 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. By appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.  
**Deming Community Gallery,** 1721 E. Pine St. located in the restaurant at OYO's. 6 a.m.-2p.m.  
**Deming Arts Center,** 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Gold Street Gallery,** 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Orona Art Studio,** 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.  
**Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery,** 200 S. Copper St., 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.  
**Studio LeMarbe,** 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708. By appointment.  
**Thursdays Gallery,** 207 S. Silver St. 545-2994. Art works, plants and a boutique. Thursdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**Columbus Village of Columbus Library,** 112 Broadway St., 531-2612, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Rodeo Chiricahua Gallery,** 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Hillsboro Barbara Massengill Gallery,** 895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.  
**Mesilla Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center,** 1740 Calle de Mercado, Suites B and D, 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza,** 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.  
**Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery,** 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522- 2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Ouida Touchõn Studio,** 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.  
**The Potteries,** 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.  
**Rokoko,** 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.  
**Las Cruces Big Picture Gallery,** 2001 Lohman Ave, Suite 109, 647-0508. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.  
**Blue Gate Gallery,** 4901 Chagar St. (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road) open by appointment, 523-2950.  
**Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery,** 314 S. Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Cottonwood Gallery,** 275 N. Main St. (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**Cutter Gallery,** 2640 El Paseo Road, 541-0658. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.  
**Justus Wright Galeria,** 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**Las Cruces Arts Association,** located

in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.  
**Las Cruces Museum of Art,** 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.  
**Mesquite Art Gallery,** 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.  
**M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery,** 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.  
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**Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography,** 401 12th St., 937-1489, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Monday; noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Exclusive exhibit venue for the winners of New Mexico Magazine's photography contest and the largest photo gallery in the state.





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BOOKS IN TIME • DENISE CHÁVEZ

# The Ability to Read

## For my father, E. E. Chávez

Have you ever rightly considered what the mere ability to read means? That it is the key which admits us to the whole world of thought and fancy and imagination? To the company of saint and sage, of the wisest and wittiest at their wisest and their wittiest moments? That it enables us to see with the keenest eyes, hear with the finest ears and listen to the sweetest voices of all time? – James Russell Lowell

Books have always been a part of my life. My father read to my sister, Margo, and I as children. The memory of sitting on the large, warm burgundy arm of that sturdy old chair in our living room is always fresh and accessible. Books have given me a memory of who I was as a child and who I am now, a woman always looking backward and forward in time to those places and people – many of them real, many imagined – all present and fleshed-out in the memory of creation.

Magic and mystery existed in the stories my father told us of the giant twin brothers, Hilo and

Milo, as they wandered the earth – crossing the Southwest in enormous strides, hopping over the Grand Canyon – and then traveling back home, their home and mine, the desert of New Mexico, after a short walk-about in a world my father made real for us. These imaginings later became my children’s book, “The Grand Adventures of The Two Giant Brothers Hilo and Milo.”

As I looked wide-eyed and expectant with wonder at the drawings of Maxfield Parrish in my children’s book, “The Arabian Nights” and “Poems of Childhood,” I was mesmerized with not only the Dinkey-Bird poem set in The Land of Wonder-Wander, but by Parrish’s soaring imagination that matched my own.

*Speed, little dreams, your winging  
To that land across the sea  
Where the Dinkey-Bird is singing  
In the amfalula tree!*

– Eugene Field

I never knew what an amfalu-

la tree was, and yet I did. I knew other, brighter and better worlds existed out there – worlds imagined and longed for. Worlds available to me at any time and held sacred, even now.

I was predisposed to be a writer. I was first a reader, and for that I thank my father, the storyteller extraordinaire, for his vocal theatrics and rapid-fire imagination. My father had unparalleled Little Lulu and Sluggo voices that my sister and I delight in remembering to this day.

My mother was the teacher, practical, cultured, always challenging, as any good teacher would and should be. “How do you spell \_\_\_?” I would ask her, and not giving any answers, ever, she would make me sound out the syllables of the word in question. I remember quizzes at home, work sheets from school, the words of the day and week, in English and Spanish.

In the summertime, in that expansive time of supposed vacation and rest, a book-worm sheet was a requirement. I kept a tally of all books read, and for each book a segment of that ever-present and looming bookworm’s body was colored in Crayola. Each segment represented a book read, finished, completed, enjoyed. My bookworms were always filled, and I might complete several sheets each summer. I still have a number of those sheets or variations, and I still treasure them.

I recall large expanses of many days spent reading – in bed, in chairs, in cars, at relatives’ houses, most particularly on those trips to visit family in far west Texas. My Tía Chita’s library was extensive and eclectic, and it was the focal centerpiece in her living room. Large wooden bookshelves lined the back wall facing the long, hot summer road that led to Big Bend Park. My aunt and uncle owned the Madrid Grocery Store, and they were readers. The selections from their shelves, not confined to the giant ones in the front

room, but in each bedroom and in the hallway, offered classic fare in many languages, as our lives as border people were always a strengthening affirmation of who we were.

One of my Texas cousins became a priest, and it was proudly stated that he spoke and read nine languages. Another cousin became an artist and arts professor, and another a historian. Nothing and everything was expected of us, which is a good way to grow up, knowing that all is possible.

Books gave me the bravado to become. What I found in books was love for myself and others. Books gave me empathy for the small and the smallest, for the faraway and the near, for the exterior and the interior.

In those days, I created my own library cards on sheets of paper which I then notarized with my father’s notary seal, oblivious in my 10-year-old’s understanding that to notarize any piece of paper other than official ones was illegal. My older sister, Faride, reminded me of this travesty several years ago. I still have that notary seal and treasure it.

My mother, later a single parent, would leave my younger sister and I at the library after school and on Saturdays, as she attended to her many side jobs – selling encyclopedias, teaching after-school Spanish classes, taking care of any number of elderly people, including my wheelchair-bound grandmother, and many of our helpers from México who were now family. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces was a refuge for all of us. I read books there, checked many more out and was delinquent in returning most by their designated due dates.

Our lives were topsy-turvy at times, but my stability and solidity were found in books – their wisdom, their imagination, and yes, their physical companionship. A book is a solid friend.

Recently, after a sudden rain, I found a group of ARCs (Ad-

vanced Reader’s Copies, the book before the book, sent out to reviewers and bookstores by publishers) at my bookstore, Casa Camino Real, sitting limp and soggy on the bench in a room of the store. I raced to the kitchen and stuck them all in the freezer. The freezer? Yes! That is where you put a book that gets wet. The water and dampness will crystalize and if you catch a book early on, you can probably save it, or at least prevent major damage. Maybe not all, but most. There is nothing sadder than coffee-cup-stained covers or water-damaged edges, not to mention myriad food spots on a beloved book.

As my father, Mr. C., would say so eloquently, “Lordy Canordy!” What I have seen done to books defies the imagination. Libraries saved my life and yet, they are some of the worst offenders in book defilement, that and well-intentioned teachers with their heavy-handed, huge, permanent black markers and sticky, nearly impossible to remove gooey labels. (Try a hair dryer on those.)

In these days of my book life, I own a bookstore, which is every writer’s dream, or at least, mine.

I have seen the moldy, mildewed, foxed, torn, tattered, bumped, bent, dog-eared and just-plain ugly specimens of what were once good books. I have seen slight and excessive edgewear, shelf wear and rubbing. I know what constitutes a fine copy and its poor relative. I have thrown books away that I found distasteful and dark, as well as a large donation of moldy rotten books that traveled across countries, lived in a barn with mice and cockroaches and found their way into our bookstore. Once you have seen a cuca skid mark, you know the book is compromised.

I have learned to evaluate books, measure their height and width, find their provenance and make a judgement into each one’s overall condition in

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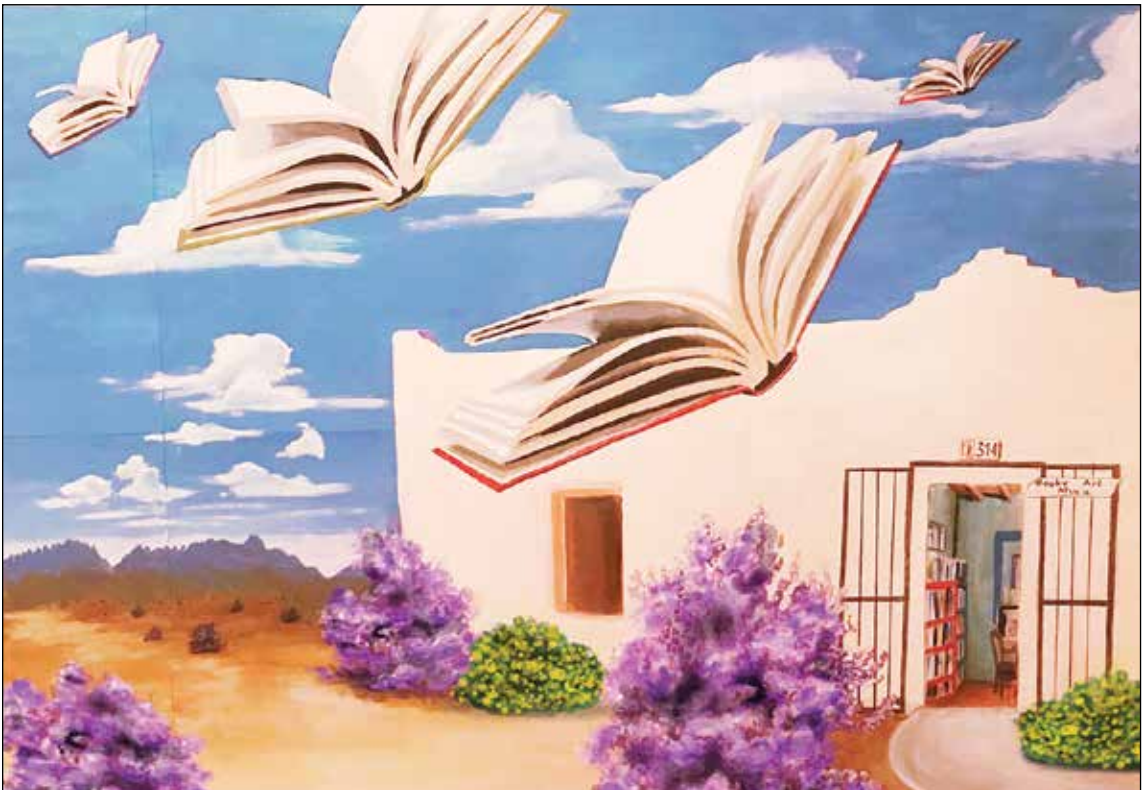


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A mural at the University of Arizona Poetry Center is the image of Casa Camino Real Bookstore honoring Chavez and her participation in a program called Brave Books (Courtesy Photo)

a world where a book is barter and trade, and often has a monetary value.

Last summer I attended a week-long book boot camp named CABS – the Colorado Antiquarian Book Seminar – and rigorously worked long hours to understand how you can tell if a 16th century manuscript is missing a leaf and how to discern if the signature is really John Steinbeck’s.

That intensive, grueling, fantastic, exhilarating and very exhausting week will always remain with me, as I handle each book with love and yes, wonder.

One of the seminar teachers,

antiquarian bookseller Loren Bair, shared this advice: “Handle as many books as possible.” I appreciate his authentic love and respect for all books, and yes, it was a relief to spend time with kindred spirits to whom books are not burdensome. Too many people have entered my bookstore and sighed with angst and distaste over “having too many books.” I will never feel that way.

In this time of times, hold your books sacred. They, in turn, will succor and uplift you.

That little summer girl loved coloring another segment of that never-ending bookworm.

She still does.

Denise Chávez is a novelist, community activist and bookseller at Casa Camino Real Bookstore, 314 S. Tornillo St., in Las Cruces, an independent bookstore and member of the American Booksellers Association. Her family memoir, “A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture,” has been reprinted and tells the story of her family in tacos. She sells books internationally on Abebooks: [www.abebooks.com/casa-camino-real-las-cruces-nm/55655980/sf](http://www.abebooks.com/casa-camino-real-las-cruces-nm/55655980/sf). Chávez can be reached at [comezon09@comcast.net](mailto:comezon09@comcast.net).

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ON THE SHELF • MIKE COOK

# Looking to the Land

New book details the geology of southern New Mexico

Did you know some of the rocks in southern New Mexico are nearly two billion years old? Just one of the many many revelations in “The Geology of Southern New Mexico’s Parks, Monuments, and Public Lands” (GSNM) published by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, a research and service division of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro.

“We produce a lot of technical material that is aimed towards geologists, so the Southern Parks book is important in the sense that it’s an approachable resource that educates our customer base about New Mexico’s geology,” said Bureau Publications Resource Specialist Elena Taylor. “Most of our customers enjoy exploring public lands and it’s definitely a plus that the southern parks book is written as a guidebook.”

With its amazing photography and some beautiful prose, this

book is a work of art as well as a work of science. The book includes a cover photograph of Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument by Las Cruces photographer Wayne Suggs.

The 400-page edition is broken into six parts, including these five “broad, overlapping geologic provinces: the Mogollon Slope/Colorado Plateau, the Basin and Range, the Rio Grande rift, the Mogollon-Datil volcanic field and the Great Plains, along with a separate section on the Permian Basin.

The book contains nearly 400 color photographs, plus maps and other illustrations that detail the state’s geology from the Precambrian Era through the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras to the present-day Cenozoic. (We’re in the Holocene Epoch of the Quaternary Period of the Phanerozoic Eon.)

Elephant Butte was formed more than 419 million years ago, Carlsbad Caverns is 250-300 mil-

lion years old, the City of Rocks is about 56 million years old and the Organ Mountains rose about 36 million years ago. During the Pennsylvanian Period, about 300 million years, ago, “as much as 80 percent of New Mexico submerged beneath warm, shallow, tropical seas, (because it) lay close to the equator at that time.” Human settlement, by contrast, began about 12,000 years ago.

Closer to home, GSNM says “the majority of rocks exposed in the Organ Mountains are intrusive or volcanic in origin, the latter including both ash-flow tuffs and lavas.” The oldest rocks in the area are 1.4-billion-year-old granites. And get this: “Thin layers of Pleistocene volcanic ash in the upper part of the Camp Rice Formation include those from the Yellowstone caldera in Wyoming and the Long Valley caldera in California. These far-traveled ashes are a testament to the explosive power of

the these modern calderas.”

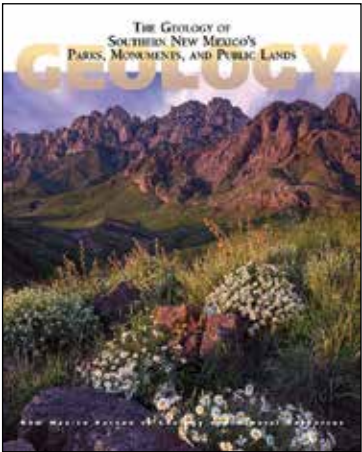
The earliest geologic history of the Organ Mountains region is well more than one billion years ago, the books says. Between 1.7 and 1.1 billion years ago, “volcanic islands and continents collided with the fledgling North American continent to build what is now much of the Southwest.”

You can find the same information about White Sands National Park, Prehistoric Trackways National Park, the Robledo Mountains – a total of 62 parks and public lands sites throughout southern New Mexico.

All told, the book “provides an understanding of the exposed rock units (and fossils) that record more than 1.7 billion years of geologic and biologic changes in this region.”

GSNM costs \$29.95 and is worth every penny.

Find it online at <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/guides/nmparks/southern/>.



The cover of “The Geology of Southern New Mexico’s Parks, Monuments, and Public Lands” features a photograph of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Wayne Suggs.



“The Geology of Southern New Mexico’s Parks, Monuments, and Public Lands” includes a chapter on the geology of White Sands National Park.

HISTORICAL FICTION • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Second Wind

‘No Place That Far’ brings the past to life

After more than 35 years working in the packaging industry, Bruce Wilson of Silver City is in his second career. At 74 he is writing books.

Growing up in California, serving in the Navy, then putting a business degree to good use, Wilson moved a lot and lived a lot of places across the country. Then when he was thinking about retiring, he and his wife, Mary, visited a friend in Las Cruces who showed them a New York Times article, “Ten Things to Do in Silver City.” They took a detour to Silver City, were able to get eight of the 10 things done in a weekend and started looking into living there.

They moved to the town in 2008 and he went back to school, got a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary studies, English and history and, even before graduating, was invited to teach.

“So, I ended up getting paid to do something I really wanted to do,” Wilson said.

Writing and reading had always been something he did.

“When I was a kid I read, read, read,” he said. “I remember bookmobiles, I would come out with a stack of books. Reading was always there.”

Wilson’s first novel, “Death in the Black Patch,” came out a couple of years ago and was based on an event from his family history, a turn of the century shootout in a Kentucky general store where two of his rel-

atives died.

For his new book, “No Place That Far,” Wilson took a fictional character from the first book, a bad guy and made him the main protagonist.

“He was a bad guy, just dirty, rotten, mean and nasty and I thought I am going to challenge myself and try to write a book about a bad guy as the hero,” he said.

He looked at mug shots of criminals in 1907 Memphis and found one with no name or copyright, printed it out and pasted it to his wall to look at every day as he wrote. That nameless face became J.D. Hooper.

“So, I wrote this story,” Wilson said. “It’s about him doing bad things for powerful people and enjoying the heck out of what he does. But I had to come up with a redeeming value for this guy. So, while he can do evil things, even threaten people with danger to their families, he would never hurt women or children.”

With his interest in history, Wilson has crafted a story around real events beginning with a mysterious rail yard fire in 1917 Memphis. The fire was real, but he had Hooper be responsible for it. When Hooper ends up in El Paso, he crosses the bridge into Mexico and encounters Pancho Villa for whom he does some of his evil work.

When he goes on the run from El Paso, he ends up in Bisbee, Arizona, where he res-

cues a young boy from a flood, another real event. The boy’s mother turns out to be the laundress for the local brothels.

In the meanwhile, a railroad detective, who started out investigating the Memphis fire, has been investigating, and tracking Hooper through his journeys.

“This is a story about running away,” Wilson said. “J.D. discovers something about himself along the way. He wonders, ‘Why can’t I always be tough?’”

Wilson also discovered something about himself.

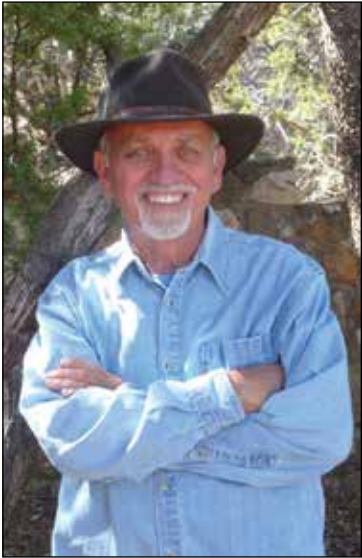
“J.D. Hooper is one of my favorites,” he said. “He has been an interesting character to write. I found it’s fun to think about it — writing about violence. Thinking about questions like ‘What does blood smell like?’ and ‘What does it sound like to drop a rock on someone’s head.’ How can I make him really bad but provide something in him that my kids could think ‘okay, whew.’”

Now that this book is done and under his belt, Wilson is already well into his next one. This will also continue in the world of J.D. Hooper and takes up the story of the little boy he saved. Set in 1917, the boy has grown up to be a reporter ...

“I find myself getting caught up into what I’m writing to the point where the characters are kind of doing their own thing and I’m just catching up with them,” Wilson said.



“No Place That Far” will be released July 14.



Bruce Wilson





# Getting Dirty

## Essay collection out to support authors

Editor EJ Randolph, and the Borderland Writers Co-op have put out “Deep Down and Dirty Writing Secrets.” This essay collection is devoted to inspiring and supporting authors, new and old.

Randolph moved to the Silver City area to pursue a dream.

“On January 1, 2009, I sat down to write a novel. Writing clicked like nothing else had. I felt centered,” she said. “The formerly disparate parts of my life fell into place.”

In Silver City, she found a community of passionate writers. Inspired by her own curiosity and a desire to showcase area talent, Randolph invited some of these writers to contribute to “Deep Down and Dirty Writing Secrets.” She asked them to fill their essays with advice to ease the journey of a fledgling writer. Contributors wrote about topics dear to their hearts.

Short story author and novelist Alethea Eason opens with rules of writing and in her second essay advises authors about plot

development. Award-winning young adult author Catalina Claussen discusses how to create multi-faceted characters using internal and external dialogue. Chris Lemme, editor of the “Silver City Quarterly Review” and author of three novels for adult audiences, shares editing strategies.

Writing instructor for the Writers’ Program of the UCLA Extension School and award-winning short story, mystery, fantasy, and general fiction author Kris Neri gives advice on series writing. Fantasy and sci-fi author Randolph encourages authors to create a deep connection to audiences by developing deep point of view.

Kate Rauner, retired engineer, sci-fi author and poet, charts a course through the daunting task of fictional world-building and the art of getting started. And Eve West Bessier, award-winning Poet Laureate of Silver City, explores how an author’s values and spiritual orientation inform and enhance their writing.

In the non-fiction section, Luanne Broo-

ten discusses writing for the internet. Award-winning memoirist and essayist Sharleen Daugherty encourages writers to dream and adventure. John Maberry shares his knowledge of writing a memoir. Dr. Sharon G. Mijares, author of several books on psycho-spiritual development, teaches writers the art of collaboration. Freelance writer and self-help author Joni Kay Rose contributes to many publications from Omni Magazine to Desert Exposure. She illustrates how one can write from their pain in “Turning Oppression into Creativity.”

“In these pages, you will meet writers who love the art of writing and are willing to share the secrets of their successes,” Randolph said.

She hopes this collection will be the first of many.

“Deep Down and Dirty Writing Secrets” is available at Amazon Books. Visit Borderland Writers on the web at [borderlandwriters.wordpress.com](http://borderlandwriters.wordpress.com).



The Borderland Writers Co-op has published a book of advice and know-how for both new and experienced writers.

### A POETIC TAKE

# ‘Emily’

## Meandering through life

“Emily” is a collection of poems by Beate Sigriddaughter, published by Unsolicited Press this year.

Emily meanders through everyday experiences as a slightly detached witness to the acknowledged beauty of her world and to its huge disillusionments, misunderstandings and betrayals. At times even desire fades in the face of tiredness of trying to understand. Wanting to be noble and often wanting to please those around her through compliance with their wishes, she constantly runs into snags.

Too early for anyone’s taste she begins to question God and her own role in the world,

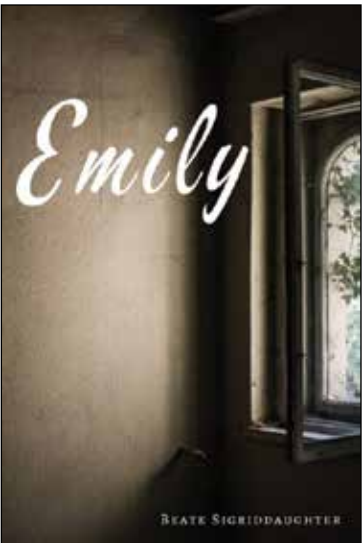
as well as the role of others, especially women, around her. She is troubled by uneasy relationships with other people, notably men. They seem to not just be on different wavelengths, but as though swimming in different oceans altogether, and the connections appear to be elusive. Nothing is ever quite as she expected or hoped for or planned. Fundamentally, however, she is not given to despair, but instead to gratitude for the irrevocable and undeniable beauty of the world.

“Emily of Emily is a child of Beate Sigriddaughter, no doubt of this,” Writes Mathew Paust in a review. “There’s her dance with

joy and innocence. Her dance with disillusionment, disappointment, remembered horrors. Her hope for meaning, for the whisper of Divine. Her gratitude.”

A former Poet Laureate of Silver City, 2017 - 2019, Sigriddaughter grew up in Nuremberg, Germany, close to the castle and World War II ruins. Her poetry and prose are published in many literary magazines, by several small presses, and have received numerous Pushcart Prize nominations and several independent prizes.

“Emily” is available from the publisher as well as all major online booksellers, including Kindle Unlimited.



“Emily” dances with the poetry of Silver City author Beate Sigriddaughter.

# DESERT exposure

## July Deadlines

Friday, June 12 noon: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

<b>EDITOR</b> Elva K. Österreich 575-680-1978 Cell: 575-443-4408 <a href="mailto:editor@desertexposure.com">editor@desertexposure.com</a>	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> Teresa Tolonen 575-680-1841 <a href="mailto:teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com">teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com</a>	<b>ADVERTISING COORDINATOR</b> Pam Rossi 575-635-6614 <a href="mailto:pam@lascrucesbulletin.com">pam@lascrucesbulletin.com</a>	<b>SILVER CITY SALES MANAGER</b> Mariah Walker 575-993-8193 <a href="mailto:mariah@desertexposure.com">mariah@desertexposure.com</a>
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ON THE SHELF • MIKE COOK

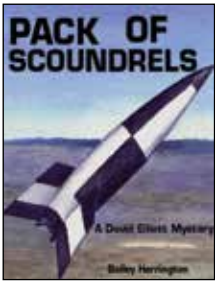
# Las Cruces authors join the game

Pack of Scoundrels

Las Cruces author and storyteller Bailey Herrington published “Pack of Scoundrels,” in June 2019.

Elliott is a college student who followed his future wife, Judy, to Las Cruces in 1954.

“The suspicious death of a



friend leads to their discovery of a ‘Confidential’ memorandum stolen from White Sands Proving Ground, epicenter for the development and experimental flights of top-secret ballistic missiles and military rockets,” according to amazon.com. “The memo plunges David and Judy into the center of a conspiracy to conceal the deadly truth behind America’s postwar space program. Pursued by cutthroats ordered to kill them and recover the memo and its damning contents, betrayed by one whom they trusted, Judy

and David struggle to uncover the real name of the mysterious Cholla, the key to unlock the secret of the memo and the unsolved murder of a teenager.”

The book is the fourth in Herrington’s David Elliott series. Find Herrington’s books on amazon.com. Contact him at herringtonbd@gmail.com.

President by Attrition

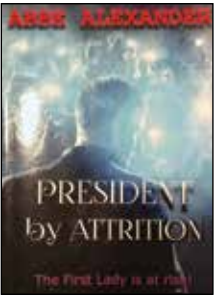
Las Cruces author Abbe Alexander (the pen name of Gail Hewitt) began writing novels and movie scripts about 10

years ago, following in the success of her mother, Rena Hewitt, a published poet.

“I said, ‘I think I can write a novel,’ Hewitt said. Instead, she wound up writing a screenplay called “Cheap Charlie” which she discussed turning into a full-length movie during several meetings with actor Robin Williams shortly before his 2014 death. “He really liked the movie,” Alexander said.

That script and a number of other movie scripts and several books by Alexander are available variously on amazon.com, smashwords.com and inktip.com. Her titles include “President by Attrition,” “Beyond Hope” and “Pro Bono,” and Alexander said she has nearly a half-dozen other books and scripts “in the hopper.”

Alexander is particularly fond of her novel “President by Attrition,” published in 2018. The book is about “how to be president for life,” she said. I think it’s the best thing I’ve written.”



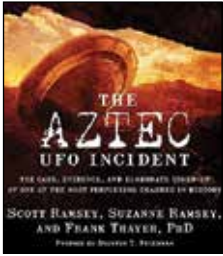
Mexico and has written novels about an alien invasion and other tales of horror in southern New Mexico.

“It’s real,” Thayer said about the March 25, 1948 crash that is the basis of “The Aztec UFO Incident: The Case, Evidence and Elaborate Cover-Up of One of the Most Perplexing Crashes in History.” The book reveals “the exact spot where the craft landed and show(s) how the 100-foot diameter saucer was moved to a secret laboratory,” according to www.theaztecincident.com. “Witnesses to the incident who were interviewed by the authors affirm that they were sworn to secrecy by the military. The authors also reveal the names of scientists who worked on the craft after its recovery.”

Thayer’s works of fiction include “Terror Tales of the Southwest” (2017) and “The Whispering Darkness” (2018), which is the story of an alien invasion that takes place in the circa-1880s gold- and silver-mining boom town of Mogollon, New Mexico, where Thayer once owned an art gallery. The book also includes some of his photography of the Mogollon historic district.

The Aztec UFO Incident: The Case, Evidence and Elaborate Cover-Up of One of the Most Perplexing Crashes in History

Retired New Mexico State University journalism professor Frank Thayer has co-authored a nonfiction account of a UFO crash in northern New



Hearts of the Missing

“I’ll try writing a book,” New Mexico State University biochemistry professor Carol Potenza, Ph.D., told



Carol Potenza

herself after she switched from doing mostly research to teaching a few years ago and found she had a lot more free time.

Potenza submitted her third completed but unpublished manuscript, “Hearts of the Missing,” for consideration in the 2017 Tony Hillerman Prize competition. She won, beating out 75 other entrees to be recognized

ON THE SHELF  
continued on page 15

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

# Coronavirus rules both sides of the border

There's been a quarantine in place in Mexico that is more or less the duplicate of that on the U.S. side and governed by international rules.

On both sides the coronavirus is being taken seriously, with face masks, sheltering in place and "distancia social" being carried out.

In Palomas, the usual evening promenade of trucks, cars and people of all ages is prohibited on the main street (Cinco de Mayo). Evening traffic has been cut back to almost nothing due to the personal efforts of Mayor Ramón Rodríguez and his associates who go out into the street to warn people directly.

All public schools on both sides of the border have been shut down until further notice. On May 8, I visited the Torres Elementary School north of Deming, across the street from subsidized farmworker housing.

The women of the school kitchen were cooking on the outside sidewalk, smiling while looking up at a nest of recently born baby birds chirping. One of the food workers, Mary Ester Girón, said families drive up to their spot and get meals for their children.

"We give Saturday and Sunday meals too," she said. "We made 400 lunches for Friday."

Meals are made up of usual cafeteria food – pizza, ham and cheese sandwiches, milk, apples. If you see yellow school busses on the dirt roads outside of town that's because they are delivering food to schoolchil-

dren whose parents can't get to the schools easily.

The Deming school system will be continuing to provide food to the kids into the summer months, but it is unknown if by bus or by truck. Jessica Eccheverria, public information officer with Deming schools, said there will be more information at [www.demingps.org](http://www.demingps.org).

Parents in Deming and in Palomas were able to pick up worksheets for their children to do. Miguel Aguirre, a 5th grade bilingual teacher at Torres, said students are provided laptop computers. Aguirre grew up in Palomas and went to college in Mexico.

Students in Palomas were able to get worksheets and other information on their phones, according to Palomas Schools superintendent Arsenio Morales, but they are not provided meals by the schools.

It hasn't been decided yet what the Palomas schools will be doing for the summer. Palomas has a very different method of dealing with businesses during the coronavirus crisis. They have been required to remain open only from 10-4 this is because the town is so small, according to Jesus Quinteros, director of social communication in the mayor's office.

We're not making money to help the people we help," said Debbie Collings of Silver Linings Thrift Shop in Deming. "But people have been so generous during this time it's unbelievable.

We feel surprised and loved."

Collings said it looks as if more middle class than poor people have lost their jobs in Deming. There has been no important increase in the use of the thrift shop. Silver Linings is just one organization helping the poor.

In Palomas, if you ask people in the street what their government is doing to help hungry people, you'll probably hear, "Nada."

The roughly 150 Palomas people who were laid off in the maquiladores in Juarez may be the largest sector of hungry people in Palomas. But Juan Rasem of Border Partners sits in his kitchen and rolls off the names of several organizations giving out food. Mayor Rodríguez said he had distributed 410 boxes. Rasem said other food is being given out from private restaurants, churches, individuals and the U.S. organization Border Partners.

The Palomas Facebook page has a simple but ingenious place that asks anybody who is hungry to call a phone number they have. The Pink Store, the largest single source of employment in Palomas, should be given a big shining trophy or medal. They have laid off everybody but are paying everyone their usual wage.

In May, Bryan of Amigos Mexican Food on Poplar Street in Deming made a lavish donation of 300 tamales, which divided up into 10 tamales for 30 families. Eddie of Silver City donated many packages of adult

diapers plus walkers and other things left over when her mother passed, things super helpful to the elderly and sick in Palomas.

Monetary donations to help the people of Palomas can be made to Casa de Amore, Light at Mission Vieja, Care of Jim No-

ble, 4601 Mision Viejo, Santa Fe, NM, 87507.

*Borderlines*  
columnist  
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## ON THE SHELF

continued from page 14

as the author of the best first-time mystery set in New Mexico or one of seven other western states. The book is available at COAS Books and Barnes & Noble and on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Online and audio versions are also available.

Potenza's protagonist is Sgt. Nicky Matthews, a pueblo police officer investigating a suicide at the fictional Fire Sky Pueblo in northern New Mexico. Matthews finds that "something is missing" from the victim's body, Potenza said. With help from close friends who are pueblo members, she finds herself on the trail of a serial killer, learning about Native American legends and rituals along the way and relying on supernatural guidance, including visions and "true ghost stories."

One of Potenza's goals in writing the book, she said, was to "introduce readers to pueblo culture and history," just as author Tony Hillerman did with his tribal police series of novels featuring the characters of Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Sgt. Jim Chee.

### Rattlesnake Lawyer

Award-winning author and long-time attorney Jonathon Miller is the author of the award-winning Rattlesnake Lawyer books, said city Library Assistant Charlotte Zimmerman. Miller's novel, "Luna Law," was a co-win-

ner of the 2017

Tony Hillerman award for best new fiction set in the Southwest.

His books

"Rattlesnake & Son" and "Navajo Repo Special Edition" are finalists in the suspense/thriller fiction category for New Mexico Book Awards. Miller is an attorney who has practiced criminal law in New Mexico for more than 17 years. ([rattlesnakelaw.com](http://rattlesnakelaw.com))

"Miller's expertise as an attorney in the field of criminal law, combined with his admiration for New Mexico shines through in his writing," according to Goodreads, as quoted by the city. "He leads the reader by the hand to the inside scenes of the courts where justice is served, after walking in from an outside world that's covered in crime. He clearly describes the good, the bad, and ugly from the eyes of an experienced criminal attorney who has seen it all. For the icing on the cake, he adds a great deal of wit through all the drama, with his keen sense of humor."

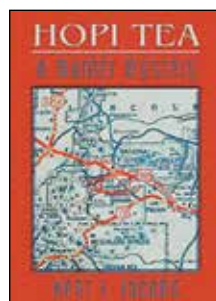
### Hopi Tea

Las Cruces author and retired physician Kent F. Jacobs, M.D.



Jonathon Miller

has won a 2019 Silver Award for Best Regional Fiction for his latest book, "Hopi Tea."



In "Hopi Tea," published in 2018, border patrol agent Tracker Dodds deals with a mysterious murder "as he assumes control of the first prisoner of war camp in the U.S. under a mandate from the Department of Justice," according to PenPower Book Marketing Services based in Santa Fe. "It's a hot summer day in 1942 when he enters Fort Stanton and he is shocked to discover a brutally scalped German inmate floating in its Olympic-sized swimming pool. A river separates the camp from a state-of-the-art tuberculosis hospital in this alpine backcountry of southern New Mexico, which adjoins the massive Mescalero Apache reservation. Could someone from the reservation have done the scalping? Or was the murderer another distressed German seaman? The camp is packed with German sailors. Did a bystander see the chance to silence his blackmailer? Though the camp is remote and cut off from civilization, every soul involved feels the crushing destruction of a world at war."



**Deming Arts Center is now having virtual shows on our website: [demingarts.org](http://demingarts.org)**

Some of the artists works are for sale. Instructions on how to purchase are on the website.

**May the exhibit is: Luna County Artists**  
**June will be: Animals, Animals**

We will contact artists to bring in their artwork if and when we open. Anyone can enter their art for the Animals, Animals exhibit.

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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](http://www.demingarts.org)

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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. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.  
**PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.  
**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

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

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

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

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

**TAPAS TREE**, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 597-8272. Monday to Thursday L, Friday and Saturday L D (closes at 4 p.m.).  
**TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.  
**WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.

Cliff

**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 Road, 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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**HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D.  
**HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

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

**JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.  
**KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.  
**LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.  
**LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B.  
**LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B.  
**LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L.  
**LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday.  
**LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D.  
**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.  
**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.  
**LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.  
**LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.  
**LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D.  
**LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.  
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Grant County Weekly Events

**SUNDAYS**  
**Archaeology Society** — 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.  
**Cocaine Anonymous** — allwaterman@yahoo.com.

**MONDAYS**  
**AARP Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County**  
Contact Sally, 537-3643.  
**Al-Anon family group, New Hope**  
Contact: 313-7891.  
**Grant County Federated Republican Women** — 313-7997.  
**Meditation for Beginners** — Jeff, 956-6647. www.lotuscentersc.org.  
**Silver City Squares** — Kay, 956-7186 or Linda 590-1499.  
**Silver Chorale** — Contact Anne, 288-6939.  
**Southwest New Mexico ACLU**  
Bob Garrett, 575-590-4809.

**TUESDAYS**  
**Alzheimer's/Dementia Support**  
Margaret, 388-4539.  
**Bayard Historic Mine Tour** — Call 537-3327 for reservation.  
**Figure/Model Drawing** — Dan Larson, 654-4884.  
**Gilawriters** — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.  
**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group**  
email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.  
**PFLAG Silver City** — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. 575-590-8797.  
**Republican Party of Grant County** — 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).  
**Slow Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
**Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild** — Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.  
**Westerners Corral** — Jody Bailey-Hall at: Jody\_bailey88045@yahoo.com or call 575 342-2621 and leave a message.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families)** — 714 N. Bullard St. Athena, 575-590-8300.  
**Al-Anon family group** — Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: 313-7891.  
**Archaeology Society** — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.  
**Babytime Sing & Play** — 538-3672 or ref @silvercitymail.com.  
**Back Country Horsemen** — WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.  
**Brain Injury and Stroke Support Group** — GRMC Billy Sasper Rehab & Wellness Center, 300 E. 16th St., Silver City.  
**A Course in Miracles** — Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**Future Engineers** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Gin Rummy** — corner of Yankie and Texas Streets in Silver City.  
**Grant County Democratic Party**  
Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.  
**Ladies Golf Association** — Silver City Golf Course.  
**Prostate Cancer Support Group** — 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**Storytime** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Yoga for happiness** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 574-5451.


**THURSDAYS**  
**Blooming Lotus Meditation** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.  
**De-stressing Meditations** — New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.  
**Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society** — Memory Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.  
**Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting** — Bavard Community

Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.  
**Little Artist Club** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**TOPS** — First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.  
**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
**WildWorks Youth Space** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**FRIDAYS**  
**Overeaters Anonymous** — First United Methodist Church. 654-2067.  
**Silver City Woman's Club** — 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Lucinda, 313-4591.  
**Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery** — La Clinica Health and Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop, Silver City. Contact:313-7891.

**SATURDAYS**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip"** —First United Methodist Church.  
**Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition** — Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839.  
**Kids Bike Ride** — Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** — New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.  
**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

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

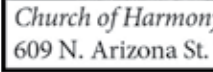


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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

# Time and History

## A journey through an active life

Both time and history are mostly and generally subjective for me. My sense of time changes all the time. My own chronological timeline seems impossible for me to get accurately. And, as far as my sense of my history goes, I'm not sure if I have remembered it right or in the right order, but I'll do my best.

1943 - 1953: 0 to 10 years old

By the time I was 10, I had already lived in almost 10 different places: Bremerton, Washington, where I was born; Pasadena, California, where I lived in several foster homes and with my mom; San Diego, where I lived with my grandmother on her chicken and rabbit ranch, and then later with my mom and stepfather. During the time I lived with my stepfa-

ther, I spent almost all my free time at the San Diego Zoo. The zoo was like a second home for me. I also spent a great deal of time roaming around Balboa Park. I remember taking the bus to the zoo when I was around six or seven. Sometimes the bus drivers would not let me on the bus because they would think I was too young to ride by myself. I would just wait for the next bus.

1953 - 1963: 10 to 20 years old

By the end of this decade, I had been married and separated, in and out of the Navy, hitchhiked four times across the country, lived in New York City, Cambridge, Austin, Berkeley and San Francisco. I was in jail five times, starting with juvenile hall at the age of 13, the Navy brig, El Paso County Jail, Travis County Jail (Austin), and in Springfield, Missouri. I was innocent, I tell you. I was innocent! In that decade, I lived in numerous places before and after high school. At the end of the decade, I lived with Janis Joplin in Austin and hung out with Angus MacLise of the Velvet Underground in NYC. I used to hang out and watch The Fugs rehearse in an old theater in San Francisco, hang out in a garage in Berkley and listen to John Fahey play guitar, and sit on the sidewalk in front the Café Wha? in the Village and listen to Bob Dylan and Dave Van Ronk, and sit on the sidewalk at the Village Gate, and listen to Thelonious Monk.

1963 - 1973: 20 to 30 years old

At the beginning of this decade, I was 20, living and working in a small town in northern California. I remember being in the kitchen of the residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children with the other counselors when we heard the news over the radio of President Kennedy's assassination. Everyone started crying. It's hard now for people to realize how much

hope people had for the JFK presidency, and how popular the president and his wife, Jacqueline, were to the public.

I then moved to Sebastopol, California, to be the director of a halfway house for emotionally disturbed adolescent boys. For sure, it was like the blind leading the blind. On weekends I worked in a motorcycle shop building chopped hogs for outlaw bikers. In Santa Rosa, California, I met my second wife, Gaza, opened a head shop, drove tractor-trailers in the San Juquin Valley and drove a school bus. My head shop morphed into an import store called Creative Imports. We sold out and moved to Mendocino, where I hauled logs, delivered babies, made sandals and opened a bookstore. In 1968, my son was born on my 25th birthday. My wife and I split up around 1969 (I think). I moved to Boston, drove a cement mixer, got involved with the anti-war movement and was a member of the Socialist Workers Party. I was their token worker. I didn't like the militancy of the anti-war movement, so I started protesting the war through puppet theaters. The first was the Stomach-ache Street Theater, then the Bread and Puppet Theater and then my own puppet theater, the Alms and Protest Puppet Theater. While performing at Kent State with the Bread and Puppet Theater, on the anniversary of the Kent State Massacre, I hung out with Allen Ginsburg. Gaza and I got back together, and we bought a small house in Acton, Massachusetts. I then started driving trucks again – heavy oversized loads weighing sometimes more than 80 tons and 130 feet long. I have no idea how many places I lived in that decade.

1973 - 1983: 30 to 40 years old

My second wife and I split

### HISTORY

continued on page 19



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HISTORY

continued from page 18

up, and I became a drag queen, founded the Gay Men's Center in Boston, lived and worked at Saks Fifth Avenue as a woman, de-transitioned and made a living playing darts. I did theater work in Boston, met my third wife, Julie, and we traveled together with the Boris Goldovsky Opera Company out of NYC, moved to Maine and had babies, drove a truck again and then opened a printing business in Bar Harbor, Maine.

In 1980, our first daughter, Zoë, was born in a little cabin on the shore of Herman Pond. I also got my pilot's license in 1980. Zoë and Julie were my first passengers. Later in Bar Harbor, our second daughter was born in May 1983. I hadn't turned 40 yet. As you can see, my life started calming down and being more stable during this decade.

1983 - 1993: 40 to 50 years old  
I'm married with two babies and still living in Bar Harbor and running our printing business, Island Images. After three years, we moved into a school bus in the middle of the winter and headed south as fast as we could go. The temperature was six degrees when we left Maine. We beelined south to Florida. After many adventures, we left Florida and arrived in Silver City in 1987.

Soon after we arrived in Silver City, we got "saved." That is, we gave our hearts to the Lord and became pretty darn fundamentalist Christians. Our third daughter was born, Ruth

Marigold, and I started going to Western New Mexico University. I graduated in 1992 and started selling real estate and building the Silver City RV Park. We opened the RV park on April 1, 1993, with six sites.

1993 - 2003: 50 to 60 years old  
This was the decade of work. I was working full time selling real estate and soon had my own brokerage. Also, I was working all my spare time putting in the RV park – 60 to 70 hours a week, week in and week out for 14 years. Now, I am really being more stable. I didn't mention that I had two horses, an airplane and an apartment in Jerusalem, Israel. Oh, and I put in our self-storage business – Silver City Self Storage.

2003 - 2013: 60 to 70 years old  
Not much happened this decade. I transitioned from male to female and was shunned by every "Christian" I knew, got divorced, went back to school, got my master's degree and moved to Seattle. Then I moved to San Luis Obispo to take care of my mom. Moved back to Seattle a year later after she passed on. In Seattle, I drove a school bus for a small private school, read my poetry at various venues, facilitated a transgender support group and was active with the Gender Justice League – a transgender advocacy group.

2013 - 2020: 70 to 76 and counting  
I moved back to Silver in 2015, threw myself back into small-town life, and the adventure continues.

So, why am I sharing all of

this? I was trying to figure out my timeline, and after I had started putting it all down, I felt it might be interesting enough for my column. Actually, for the sake of space, I have left a great deal out: living off the land, working professional theater and movies, and much, much more. It was not all good times. There were times where I went days without food. I OD'd on drugs and ended up in Bellevue, lived homeless in NYC. I panhandled and dumpster-dived. I find it amazing I survived.

My life now is calmer and more stable. I credit this with me finally giving up fighting my gender issues and transitioning from male to female, to finally become the person I was supposed to be. Now, I no longer have that constant itch, the constant anxiety, and the constant gender dysphoria. I am finally living as me. I can sit and smell the roses. Well, I'm planning to as soon as I quit having so many things to do.

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



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# Canes Venatici

## Hunting dogs in the heavens

**H**erders frequently use dogs to keep their flocks together and moving in the right direction. Boötes, The Herdsman, has a pair of dogs in the sky to help him control his flock, Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs. This constellation is directly overhead on these June evenings. The stars of this constellation are all rather faint, so it can be hard to pick out the constellation.

The Hunting Dogs were listed in the ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy’s star catalog, the Almagest, as a group of unfigured stars below the constellation Ursa Major. This grouping became a constellation through a series of mistranslations. In medieval times, this area was Boötes’ club. In translating the Almagest from Greek to Arabic, the translator did not know the Greek word for club, so he translated it to a similar word meaning “the spearshaft having a hook.”

Later, the Arabic text was translated into Latin. The Italian

translator, Gerard of Cremona, mistook the word hook for the similar word meaning dogs. A 1533 depiction of Boötes by German humanist Peter Apian had Boötes accompanied by two dogs. Finally, in 1687, Polish astronomer Hevelius depicted this area as Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs, in his star atlas.

The brightest star in this constellation is Cor Caroli (Alpha Canum Venaticorum), a magnitude +2.9 star near the middle of this constellation. This name first appeared on a star map in 1673 created by Francis Lamb who called it Cor Caroli Regis Martyris (“the heart of Charles the martyred king”). The name was created by Sir Charles Scarborough in 1660 to honor King Charles I of England. The king was executed in 1649 during the English Civil War. The name was latter shortened to Cor Caroli.

This star is a binary star with the two components 19.6 seconds-of-arc apart. The brighter star is a white spectral class A0 star shining at magnitude

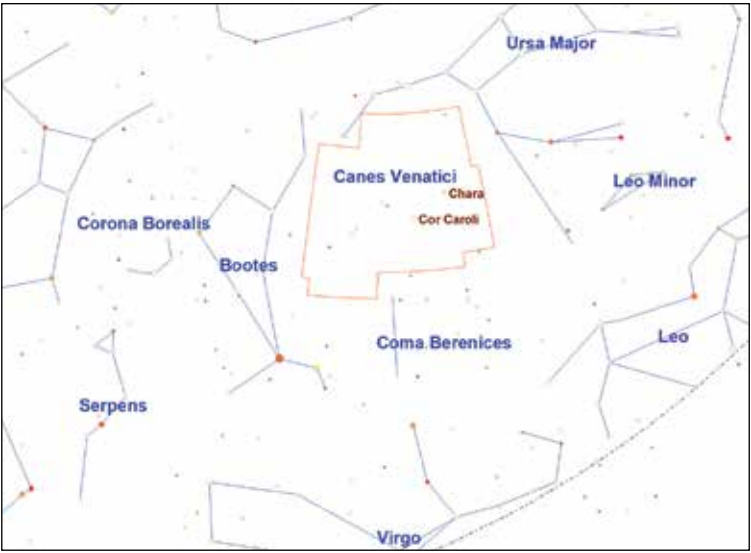
+2.8 and the fainter star is a yellow-white spectral class F2 shining at magnitude +5.6. Both are more massive than our Sun.

Cor Caroli is 128 light-years away from us. That is over 700-trillion miles from us, right next door in the universe. Our entire Milky Way galaxy is 120,000 light-years across. A cluster of galaxies is 16-million light-years across. But there are even larger structures in the universe.

A cluster of galaxies does not exist in isolation. Galaxy clusters form long thread-like structures called filaments. The filaments not only have galaxies, but a more-than-the-average amount of gas and dust than in the rest of the universe. While some filaments exist in isolation, there are usually multiple filaments that are arranged into a rough plane. This plane is called a sheet or a wall.

Between the walls are areas where there is much less-than-average density of dust and gas, called voids. A scattering of galaxies still exists in the voids, but many fewer than are found in the walls that separate the voids. In some ways, these structures give the universe a sponge-like structure, with randomly arranged holes surrounded by the sponge’s material.

The voids and their surrounding sheets are the largest structures known in the universe. One of the largest voids, actually a supervoid, can be found here in Canes Venatici. The Canes Venatici Supervoid is 1.3 billion light-years across. This is around one 1,200 times larger than the typical void. There are only 17 galaxy clusters inside this supervoid, concentrated in a spherical region 160 million light-years across, but these galaxy clusters are not moving together or influencing each other. This supervoid was discovered



**Directly over our heads on these June nights, a pair of hunting dogs trot through our sky. Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs, is a constellation of faint stars just below the tail of the Big Dipper in Ursa Major. The Hunting Dogs is composed of mostly faint stars, with the brightest being Cor Caroli. This star is name after an English king. There are a few galaxies and nebula in this constellation, but it is also the home of the Canes Venatici Supervoid, a huge area bereft of galaxies.**

Calendar of Events – June 2020 (MDT)		
03	Noon	Venus passes between the Earth and the Sun
04	7 a.m.	Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun
05	1:12 p.m.	Full Moon
13	12:24 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
17	2 p.m.	Mercury stands still
20	3:44 p.m.	June Solstice. Summer begins
21	12:41 a.m.	New Moon
24	Noon	Venus stands still
28	2:16 a.m.	First Quarter Moon

in 1988.

This large-scale structure of the universe was discovered in the later 1970s when astronomers started to plot the distances to galaxies based on their red-shift. This produced three-dimensional maps that exposed the existence of the walls and voids. These concentrations of mass are believed to be echoes of density fluctuations from the Big Bang.

### The Planets for June 2020

Low in the west-northwest, the Messenger of the Gods is making an appearance as it loops around in the constellation Gemini. Mercury is farthest from the Sun early in the month and then turns and heads sunward, disappearing in its glare for the last third of the month. At its greatest height on June 4,

Mercury’s disc is 36 percent illuminated and it is 8.7 seconds-of-arc across. Mercury passes between the Earth and Sun on the last day of the month.

Jupiter is moving slowly westward in eastern Sagittarius. Shining at magnitude -2.7, its disc is 46.2 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. The King of the Gods rises around 10:15 p.m. and it is visible for the rest of the night, reaching 28 degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets light.

The Ringed Planet is just five degrees east of Jupiter, moving slowly westward in far western Capricornus. It rises 20 minutes after Jupiter and it is thirty-two degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets light. At mid-month, Saturn’s rings are tilted 20.9 degrees downward with

STARRY DOME

continued on page 21

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

# Mental Meanderings

## Here's to appreciating the moment, right now

The proprietor of a small, old hotel not far from the Continental Divide walks across the lobby of his establishment and greets the only guest, who is also walking through.

They stop and the guest makes a comment about the sky, and how the evening's coming sunset might be a nice one.

"Hey, you got a little time?" the proprietor asks.

"Time's the thing I got most of right now," the guest replies.

The proprietor leads the guest through the hotel's dining room, the chairs all up on the tables due to the restaurant closure, on account of the global pandemic. They walk toward the bar, the proprietor behind, the guest in front.

"This may or may not be against the law," the proprietor says. "But the front door's locked, the sign says, 'No Vacancy,' it's Sunday

and, most of all, what the hell."

The proprietor sets two glasses on the bar.

"What'll it be, friend?" the proprietor asks.

"Well, whaddya got, whiskey-wise?" the guest asks.

"I'm a little partial to this one," the proprietor says, holding up a bottle of Early Times, a Kentucky classic. "Work for you?"

In silent approval, the guest pushes his glass closer to the proprietor.

They exchange some pleasantries and the guest says he stopped to "de-compress" in the hotel for a few days to break up a cross-country road trip on the way back from his brother's funeral.

He says the death was NOT from the coronavirus and then they talk the obligatory bit about "these weird times."

"How many people right now

in this country — this world, even — are able to do what we're doing right now?" the guest asks, adding they might still be breaking some order or another despite being 8-10 feet apart. "I mean, we're in a public place, having a drink, contemplating the human condition."

"And a year ago at this time," the proprietor says, "this scene was taking place a million times over, in almost every country in the world."

"Most of those people didn't give it a second thought," the guest says. "A lot of them were even wishing they were somewhere else, with someone else or doing something else. A lot of them probably wished they were at home. Now a lot of them would do anything to get out of their home."

"And some of them were having deep, heart-to-heart conver-

sations," the proprietor says. "Some were drinking their sorrows away. Some were flirting. And there may have even been a few like us — grateful to be doing what they were doing and appreciating the moment."

"I'm lucky," the guest says. "My sister's a nurse out on the East Coast. She couldn't leave her job for the funeral. She's been slammed with work for weeks.

Super stressful, and a little dangerous. I retired last year, so I got both the time and the money to wander a bit. To meander, if you will. And this is beautiful meandering country."

"Yeah, I'm lucky too," the proprietor says. "Got this place and no debt. Taken advantage of the time to fix up a few things that'd

### MEANDERINGS

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### STARRY DOME

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the northern face showing with a width of 40.9 seconds-of-arc across. Its disc is 18.0 seconds-of-arc across. Saturn shines at magnitude +0.3.

Around 1:15 a.m., Mars rises in the east, shining at magnitude -0.2. It reaches an altitude of 45 degrees above the southeastern horizon by daybreak. Moving eastward from central Aquarius into southern Pisces during the month, the God of War's disc is 10.2 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

Appearing on the east-northeastern horizon starting at mid-month, Venus begins its sojourn in the morning sky, where it will be for the rest of the year. By the end of the month, its disc is

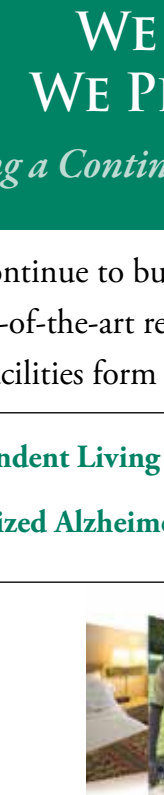
19 percent illuminated and 42.8 seconds-of-arc across. As it gets light, the Goddess of Love is 18 degrees above the eastern horizon. Venus loops around in central Taurus during the month.

Earth's north pole is tilted toward the Sun on June 20, marking the June Solstice and the beginning of astronomical summer in the Northern Hemisphere. With our northern hemisphere tipped toward the Sun, the Sun appears at its northernmost point in the sky that day. As the North Pole starts to swing away from the Sun, the Sun will appear to retreat southward. The Solstice will have the longest day and the shortest night. So, make the best of the fewest hours of darkness and "keep watching the sky!"

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



Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



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# Raft the Rio

Annual event hits the bathtub

Every year in Las Cruces the community comes together in creativity and adventure to craft watercraft out of recycled materials and launch on Father's Day weekend for a raucous float down the Rio Grande.

The event is called Raft the Rio and this year, like so many other things, it has gone virtual. Folks of all ages are invited to use their quarantine time to create smaller-scale rafts out of recycled products, float them anywhere and submit photos to the organizers as part of a competition.

"Normally we do Raft the Rio on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, where people build rafts out of recycled material and float from the Picacho bridge to the Del Norte Bridge," said organizer John Northcutt. "The theme this year was going to be 'Mark Twain Discovers the Rio Grande.'"

Northcutt is the president of event sponsor Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces and has been chairman of the event since the club took it over several years ago.

"We just said we don't want to let this thing go," he said. "We are not giving up, we are going to do the coronavirus version of the event. It will be the first time our local club members have the time to build a raft."

The main stipulation for this contest is it must float, Northcutt said. Make it out of recycled materials, post it to the Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces



From last year's Raft the Rio, the fun moves indoors this year encouraging creativity at home. (Courtesy Photo)

Facebook page no later than midnight June 30 and possibly get a \$100 in prize money (or gift card).

"We wanted to have some fun with this," he said. "Use your time at home to create a model raft from recyclable materials then take a picture of it floating in your bathtub, hot tub, kitchen sink, swimming pool or mud puddle."

When you post your raft, include its name and your name for contact. There is no cost or age restriction to enter. There will be a prize for the most original and creative raft. All entries will be posted on the Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces Facebook page. The winner will be posted on the Kiwanis Facebook page on July 14. For more information contact Northcutt at 410-925-9126.

MEANDERINGS

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been needing fixing. I know some folks who've lost almost everything they have. I got a nephew out of work up in Denver, damn near homeless, with no real prospects after this thing lifts."  
"But for now, you and me," the guest says, hoisting his glass.  
"To right now," the proprietor says.  
"To right now," the guest says,

clinking glasses and momentarily breaking the six-foot rule. "I appreciate your hospitality."  
"You're quite welcome," The proprietor says. "I appreciate your business. And your company."

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure and the



Las Cruces Bulletin. He can't verify the above story actually happened, but he sure hopes it did somewhere. He appreciates your hospitality, your business and your readership, now and in the future. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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# Random Thoughts

## More life in the time of the coronavirus

Do your thoughts seem a little more philosophical than usual lately? About life and time and family and friendships and what it all means? Past events and decisions and how they shaped your life? The world and how we fit into it? The future... Welcome to this stay-at-home, slowed down, minimal-contact, previously unimaginable life in the time of the coronavirus.

I've been thinking about time.

Time in the now: Without the obligations or appointments or social plans or deadlines. No

pressure to be somewhere or meet someone to do something. It took a week or so to get used to it, but it has been pleasant and relaxing, yet strangely invigorating. Like getting a good night's sleep after a period of insomnia.

Time in the future: When this pandemic first hit the collective consciousness, it was beyond my ability to imagine it could go on long-term. I felt shock at the speed with which the world shut down, but it still seemed like a novelty — a month or so of lockdown and then back to normal, definitely by summer. When we

had to cancel all the reservations for our June trip to Boston to attend our grandson's high school graduation, the long-term consequences began to seep into my still-resisting brain. All kinds of questions: How long does it take to develop, produce, and distribute a vaccine? How safe will it be to take it the first year or so? When will it be safe to fly? When can I travel to see my family? and How long do I have to wait to take that trip to Portugal that we'd planned for fall?

I've been thinking about changes.

Changes in our habits: I don't know about you, but I won't miss handshakes if they go away forever. Ditto hugs from strangers. And it would be a good thing if everyone continued the handwashing. I once saw a news story about a group of scientists that analyzed the microscopic yuck on those dishes of candies some restaurants set on their reception desks, and I've never been able to eat anything from that type of communal bowl since. Also, there is no reason for anyone to handle your credit cards besides you. Other countries make it mandatory for all restaurants, stores, etc. to bring a credit card machine to the customer so no one else touches it and it is never out of your sight.

Does anyone besides me have more food in their kitchen than ever before? I've always been a



Illustration by Fred Koptonak

buy-what-you-need-when-you-need-it type of gal, so it's a shock to open my cabinets and see all that food. Will I be a food hoarder from now on? Should I buy a larger freezer?

When will I be able to travel again? Although I must admit the idea of social distancing on a plane sounds wonderful, I don't believe it will ever happen. I've been thinking about places in New Mexico I've never seen, as a substitute for Portugal and Wales and every other country on our hope-to list.

Have you noticed that social distancing is now a verb?

I read that excessive speeding has greatly increased, along with more highway accidents and deaths. In many places, citations for speeding have doubled. "People are doing it because they think they can get away with it," says Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors' Highway Safety Association. Emptier streets and highways, boredom, emotional release from the current stress and pressures are possible causes. Apparently, speeding is like a drug to some people. And by the way, drinking and actual drug-taking are also increasing.

I've been thinking about patience.

Never one of my strong suits. But I think we all need to ramp up a little more patience than we usually have right now. I've had to be more patient with people calling into Rose Valley's office. Many of them just want to talk to another human being. One guy called me while eating MacDonald's in his car in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to check our availability and rates. I quickly realized he wasn't making a reservation, just dreaming about escaping his present life.

Grocery stores are experiencing shortages ("I can't find boxed wine to save my life," a friend complained to me), puzzles are impossible to find, pet supplies must be back-ordered. But what is there that we can't find that we really can't live without? Be

patient and it will all come back. Look at toilet paper — it's back!!

Strange times can cause strange behaviors. The current uncertainty is making people fearful and feeling the need to exert some control. The temptation is to lash out at both friends and strangers when we see something we disagree with, to lecture and preach. It just makes things worse, so try not to do it. And try to be patient with those that do.

I watched the governor's press conference yesterday and am so impressed with the thoughtfulness and competence of her administration during this crisis. The explanations from Gov. Lujan Grisham and her health and medical people were based on science and easily understood. Her explanation for why wearing masks in public are important is the best I've heard and eliminated any doubts I've had. And I was so thoroughly impressed and entertained by her demonstration of how to easily make a mask out of a bandana-size piece of material without sewing that I immediately made some of my own and I love them. Check out her video on the New Mexico State website.

One Last Thought

Nothing, even a pandemic, is all good or all bad. One positive result of our coronavirus experience is we're all forcibly reminded that there is no way for anyone to predict the future. No sure thing exists, so live your life with as much joy and gratitude as possible, figure out what is really important to you, and don't put off too many things that you could be enjoying right now.

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 [skswolder@aol.com](mailto:skswolder@aol.com).



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