

DESERT exposure



Atomic Age
Page 8



Bobcat Encounter
Page 19



July 4 Events
Page 17

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

JULY 2020
Volume 25 • Number 7



What do you Mean?

Misleading slogans can damage a cause



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Dan Cook, Broker

This is the place you've been looking for to build your Lake Roberts cabin. Just a few miles from the lake and walking distance to Sapillo Creek. A great family vacation spot that's affordable. Not many available lots in the Lake Roberts area left, so don't hesitate on this one.

MLS # 37252 **\$18,500**

Nice rural setting south of the golf course with great long range views. If you've been looking for acreage to build or set up a manufactured home, this may be what you're looking for.

MLS # 37127 **\$19,500**

Outstanding views from this Wind Canyon lot with many options for building sites! 360 Degree views! This is the nicest lot for sale in Wind Canyon and priced to sell!!!!

MLS # 36608 **\$29,500**

2.34 ACRES IN THE COUNTY, BORDERING TOWN OPEN SPACE.

All city utilities available, this property was once a successful 11 space trailer park. Paved road, cul-de-sac location, views. One fixer single-wide to convey. A great investment opportunity to develop back into a mobile home park or RV park with money making potential.

MLS # 37278 **\$75,000**

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

Very charming 2 bedroom, two bath country cabin on 15+ acres, solid construction and open concept floor plan. Passive solar with strategic windows placement to take full advantage of the Southwest New Mexico sunshine. Wood stove and in floor radiant heat make this a cozy home throughout the winter. The attached Trex deck is perched above Tularosa River and allows for some spectacular canyon views. Master suite has an attached sunroom to allowing for some massive solar gain. This cabin home really lets you escape. Detached garage and shop allow for plenty of storage and shop space. Detached 1 car carport. Just 10 minutes from Reserve. Expect a couple creek crossings getting in and out as you also cross the San Francisco River as you head in and out of the canyon. Look for the video link. Not many opportunities like this, call today!

MLS # 37151 **\$325,000**

MOUNTAIN HOME IN THE MIMBRES VALLEY! Nestled in the trees on 4 acres with views of the Black Range. Upgrades include metal roof, ceramic tile, kitchen upgrades and new septic. Master bedroom downstairs with two bedrooms upstairs. Nice shop garage plus 2 stall carport and two storage buildings. Dog run and plenty of parking for all your toys. Unrestricted with horses allowed. County maintained road. Minutes from Bear Canyon Lake and short drive to the Gila National Forest for world class hunting, hiking and recreation. MLS # 37301 **\$179,000**

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**

Located in the Lake Roberts Subdivision overlooking Sapillo Creek. Minutes from the quality bass waters at Lake Roberts, world class hunting (GMU 24/16B) and endless hiking in the Gila National Forest. Cozy 4 bedroom 2 bath 2001 Oakwood manufactured home. Large kitchen with pantry and all new stainless appliances. Living room features a wood stove. Recently remodeled guest bathroom with gorgeous tiled shower with etched glass doors. Large shop/garage with two double doors. Two RV hookups. MLS # 37306 **\$145,000**

In a very private setting, this passive solar design in southwestern New Mexico will certainly delight. This home was custom designed by the original, retiring owner for "single level living and enjoyment", with the expansive master suite, formal living area, dining room, kitchen, den and private office/library, all gracing the main floor. The second floor boasts another 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and den/office/entertaining space, to act as "guest suites". This luxury home features top of the line windows, fixtures, counters, cabinetry and appliances, custom second floor walkway and landing, a "secret room", and an outdoor deck with views all the way to Mexico. Be sure to look the virtual tour.

MLS # 37279 **\$649,000**

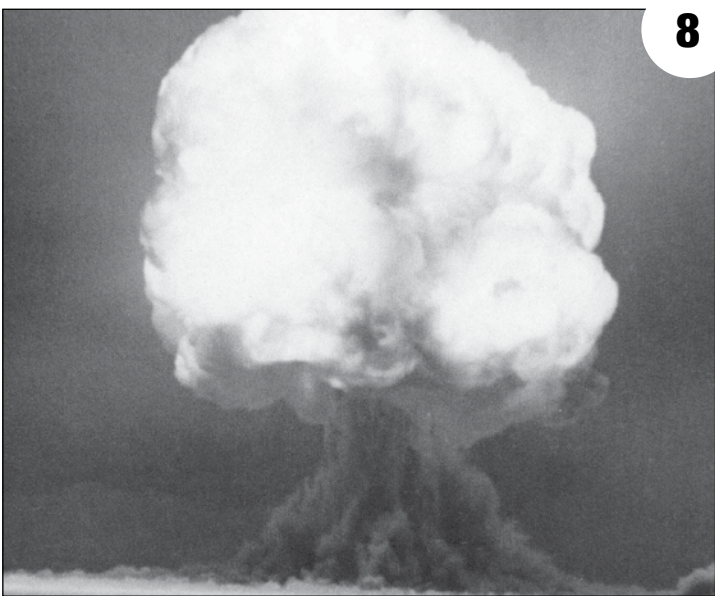
You are about to encounter a 21st Century, Southwestern Ranch Style Home in the small corner of New Mexico that was home to many famous gunslingers, including Billy the Kid. This custom built home borders National Forest, on 40 acres with mature landscaping, fruit trees and a commanding wisteria canopy on the front porch, lending a special ambience for outdoor entertaining. Main Home boasts almost 3,000 sq ft of flowing floor plan with Saltillo floors throughout the home. Cozy guest wing and office allow for a level of privacy. Two apartments are set up each with separate driveways, entrances, heating and cooling, respectively. There is a grand ol' art and craft room as well.

MLS # 37068 **\$689,000**

Contents



10



8



15



24

2 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • What do you Mean?
Misleading slogans by Elva K. Österreich

4 LETTERS • Health and More Questions
Encouragement for health and safekeeping

5 RAISINGDAD • Mr. Lucky
Choosing family by Jim and Henry Duchene

6 HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • Visiting Ghosts
Rosedale residents hard to find

7 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • What's going on in July?
Essay collections out to support authors

8 STRANGE REMEMBRANCE • Into the Atomic Age
The day the sun rose twice, 75 years later

9 ARTS EXPOSURE • Gallery Guide
Area galleries and art studios

10 ARTS EXPOSURE • Arts Scene
Upcoming area art happenings

12 CLAY EXPOSURE • Pit-Firing Journal
Nov. 2, 1991 by Paula Geisler

14 ARTS EXPOSURE • CLAY Festival
Creating a balancing act by Elva K. Österreich

15 ARTS EXPOSURE • 'Dawn of Discovery'
Celebrating the spirit of by Elva K. Österreich

16 ARTS EXPOSURE • A Sunny Day
Artist shows from her truck by StanleydelGozo

17 CELEBRATION • Fireworks Extravaganza
Sky over Alamogordo lights up by Cathy Harper

17 JULY 4 • Across the Area
Southern New Mexico Independence Day events

18 WILDLIFE RISING • Deer, Bobcats, Javelina
Critters not out to hurt people by Elva K. Österreich

19 BOBCAT ENCOUNTER • A Visit from Outside
Surprise guest takes a drink by Marjorie Burr

20 TALKING HORSES • Improve Your Riding
The key to better horsemanship by Scott Thomson

21 BODY • MIND • SPIRIT • Grant County Weekly Events
Support and club happenings calling information

22 STARRY DOME • Corona Borealis
Planets forming, galaxies colliding by Bert Stevens

23 WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? • Paws and Reflect
It's Smokey THE Bear, thank you by Mike Cook

24 ACROSS THE BORDER • Coronavirus
Numbers misleading by Morgan Smith

25 RED OR GREEN • Dining Guide
Restaurants in southwest New Mexico

27 FIRST RESPONDERS • Support Needed
Dispatchers trauma deserve attention by Michael Shinabery

28 LIVING ON WHEELS • Working from Their Rigs
RVers find ways to work on site by Sheila Sowder

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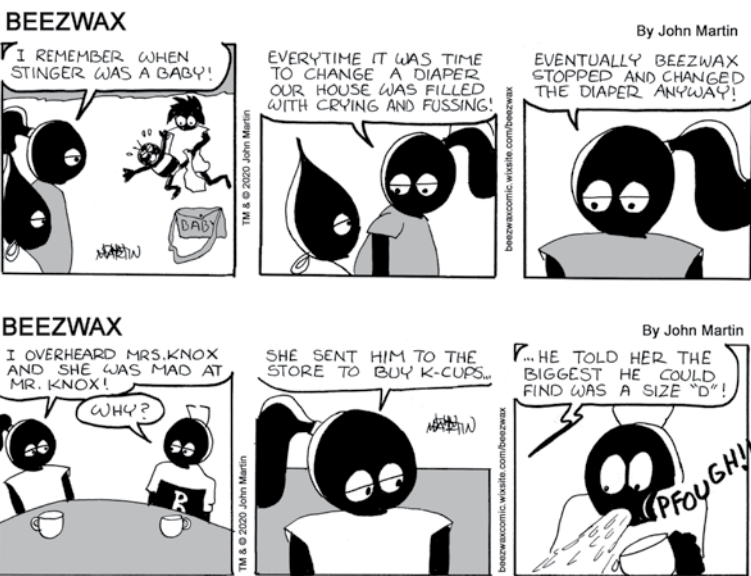
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ABOUT THE COVER:

João Galera finishes up the community art project he spearheaded during his year in Silver City. Galera held the position of Artist in Residence and was sponsored jointly by the city and Western New Mexico University, completing several projects during his tenure there. The community art project will be displayed permanently in the city, location to be determined. Photo by Felipe Feltrin.



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Letters to the Editor

Healthcare should be about health

Editor,

After reading Davena Norris's letter in the June edition of D.E., I was inspired to write this letter of support for the NM Health Security Act from a small-business point of view. My husband and I recently retired from our electrical contracting company. For about 30 years, we installed and repaired electrical systems, including rooftop solar, for homes and businesses in the Silver City area. We typically employed two or three electrical workers in addition to ourselves.

We were paying for a dizzying array of insurance policies and programs with healthcare components, and at one point we decided to make a list of everything. The total number of policies came to 14. For example, most of us pay for personal health insurances through the bodily injury portion of our automobile and homeowner's policies, as well as for our own hospitalization insurance. Examples of business costs include the bodily injury liability portion for commercial automobile insurance, workers compensation, and business liability policies. Further health insurance expenses that we all pay are included in payroll taxes (Medicare and Social Security Disability) and gross receipts tax (one-eighth of one percent for the Gila Regional Hospital indigent fund).

Maybe for potato chips, you want to have 14 flavors. But stop for a moment and consider the astronomical amounts of time, money, and resources that are wasted by organizing our health insurance system into this tangled mess. No wonder it's so hard to navigate.

As a business cost accountant,

I wanted to know if we were, at least, getting good healthcare from these 14 ways that we were paying for it. Unfortunately, it turns out that in the United States, life expectancy is lower (79 years) and infant mortality rate is higher (six per 1000) when compared to other wealthy countries, according the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development Health Database. In fact, by just about every other measure, healthcare outcomes in the U.S. place last. And you can't blame our poorer outcomes on age or smoking because those averages were higher for the other wealthy countries.

Our costs are higher too. Small businesses and their employees are paying for health insurance in a complex, fragmented healthcare system that, according to National Health Expenditure data, costs \$10,224 per person, per year, compared to an average in other wealthy countries of just \$5,280 per person, per year. Our healthcare system delivers poorer health for about twice the price!

I agree with Davena. We need reform! Healthcare should be about health, not about corporate profits. The Health Security Act will ensure coverage for 99 percent of New Mexico residents and will reduce rising healthcare costs for all of us. For businesses, it will mean lower commercial automobile insurance and workers compensation rates, along with healthier employees. You can learn more at www.nmhealthsecurity.org. Our state could lead the way toward a better, less costly healthcare system for the whole country.

*Gayle Simmons
Silver City*

Better safe than virulent

Editor,

While I appreciate being included in the local author section of the June issue (Page 13), as the author of two previous books, one a self-help book and the other a memoir, I have some concerns regarding a letter to the editor in that same issue ("Keep asking questions" Page 5).

Despite the enormous difference between the two books I wrote, both deal extensively, in different ways, with denial. We can see some examples of denial regarding this new and especially virulent virus which is ravaging the world. Though I'd heard of it by February, I didn't want to believe it would have a serious effect on New Mexico. I was wrong. We can find more recent examples of denial of the seriousness of COVID-19 even now, including in the June issue of Desert Exposure, where we have a letter encouraging people to ask questions, while accepting uncritically several debunked, anonymous, and questionable sources that are at odds with hundreds of more reliable experts. It's also odd to champion Sweden, which apparently due to its anti-lock-

down ideology has a surging infection rate not matched by any of its neighbors.

Also, in Grant County we have at least one person claiming that the rate of infection is still very low here, and that the way to overcome such a pandemic is to let the disease run its course by creating herd immunity. That would require that the great majority of people must catch and transmit the virus until there are no longer people to become infected. If the rate of infection is still low, it would take a very long time for enough people to become infected to establish herd immunity. Meanwhile many more people would be severely sickened, permanently damaged, or even killed by the virus.

Plus, that would presume that no one can get the virus more than once. We don't yet know that. It would seem far more reasonable to do everything we can to protect as many people from catching it as we possibly can, even if it means adapting our living habits to the situation. We all need to face reality.

*Joni Kay Rose, M.Div., CHT
Silver City*

LETTERS

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

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

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

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

We still love you

sure amidst these trying times. Putting out publications these days takes a lot of persistence, assistance, and probably a lot of insistence under normal circumstances, but now with some financial flow being blocked for a while, it's probably a Sisyphean task trying to get the physical publication to the people.

The recalcitrant restaurateurs and hopeless horn-honkers in the streets will still get the atten-

tion they sorely want, but often don't deserve, but with some judicious editing it will always be the final script that will make any publication worth the read. Carry on folks.

I always look forward to each month's edition online.

*Rod Stasick,
Formerly with KURU-FM,
Silver City
Dallas, Texas*

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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL

Visiting Ghosts

Rosedale residents hard to find

On a fine and sunny morning recently, I decided to go to town. What charms can town hold for an anti-social desert rat that has elevated complaints of civilization to Olympic-medal proportions, you might ask? Immune from the charms of seven-dollar coffees that can't be ordered in sensible

sizes like 'large' or plug-in parking spots, I wanted to visit a town populated solely by wayward spirits and ethereal apparitions. The west is positively bedazzled with various types of ghost towns, but the type I prefer boast a distinct lack of gift shops and electricity. I'm talking about hardcore, desolate sites where

the only reason the ghosts are still around is because they can't grip car keys in their vaporous digits. Places with ancient plats masked by creosote and juniper, only faint traces of roads and rusty metal cans peppered on the ground. Former haunts of optimistic miners, opportunistic merchants, and opulent

dames that couldn't know that the fruits of their labors would surely fall victim to time. I had just such a town on my itinerary that particular day, so I packed my gear, fueled up the hybrid F-250 (burns both gas AND oil) and hit the road.

Tucked away near Big Rosa Canyon on the eastern slopes of the San Mateo Mountains, there is a remnant of an abandoned town by the name of Rosedale. According to a dog-eared book I found in my neighbor's outhouse, a salty prospector named Jack Richardson and his wife found some float up there in 1882 and after having it assayed, decided they had finally struck it rich. Unfortunately, the original owners of the property took exception to their presence and employed their wily Apache skills to produce a few Caucasian ghosts over the next few years. This sort of behavior made it difficult for a prospector to prospect.

Regardless, there were about 200 people in Rosedale by 1899. The mines at Rosedale produced 46 percent of all the gold in New Mexico in 1908. I imagine cowboys were wearing Gucci chaps and horses had platinum shoes right up until the gold ran out in 1916, derauling the optimism for the chamber of commerce's annual banquet. By 1928, the post office, businesses, and schools were closed.

Although I had left the house close to sunrise, I arrived in Rosedale about 110 years too late. I bounced the Lightcap Express over a bar ditch and shut her down near the Rosedale Cemetery. It's cared for by the remaining hardscrabble ranch families in the area and as such contains the bones of their an-

cestors. A few headstones proclaim disembarkation dates as early as 1899 and there is also the unmarked grave of a soldier from Fort Craig that was killed by Apaches. I spent some time stumbling among the Ponderosa and the juniper, and found a few old house foundations, a solitary chimney, and the remains of the old mining operation.

I was as alone as I've been in a long time, at least 50 miles from the nearest Tall Latte. The wind was keening through the bristly tops of the pine trees, and unseen birds sang their high lonesome sounds. I was treading on the earth trod by long-gone pioneers over a century earlier, filled with ideas and plans that all amounted to naught. The canyon looks today much as it probably did in 1881, before the Richardsons spotted a panful of glittery future and the first house was built. Dark-bellied rain clouds scudded over the ridge, and my skin felt an unexpected chill. Was it the wind or the breath of a forgotten population that outlasted their dreams? Where do ghosts go when they no longer have a place to call home? I sat down and dug a sandwich out of my cooler, contemplating the people and the history of the town. For a brief moment, voices rang out and Rosedale bustled again.

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 a reprise.







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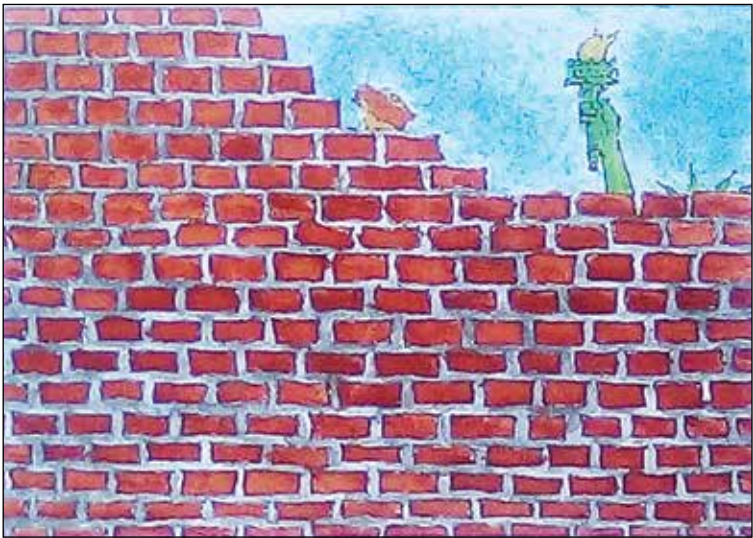
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By Fred Koptonak



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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS

What's going on in JULY?

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

For Independence Day celebrations, including fireworks, see Page 17.

For information about the Silver City CLAY Festival, see Page 14.

Virtual summer at the Silver City Museum



Andy Hernandez, professor of history at Western New Mexico University.

Local History Lectures

July 25, 11 a.m.: "Bandit Wars Along the US-Mexican Border" with Professor Andy Hernandez

Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82522002786>; Zoom Meeting ID: 825 2200 2786

Andy Hernandez is professor of history at Western New Mexico University. Violence along the U. S.-Mexico associated with the Plan de San Diego and Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus are often treated as discrete events. This presentation will explore the connections between Venustiano Carranza's Machiavellian use of the Plan de San Diego, Villa's decision to raid Columbus and the resulting punitive expedition and offer a more cohesive understanding of border violence during this period.

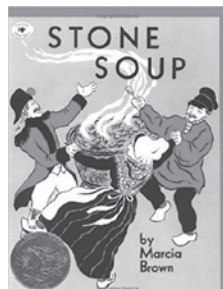
Bilingual Storytime

July 12, 7 p.m. "How Chile Came to New Mexico" by Rudolfo A. Anaya, read by local musicians Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler

Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87048966090>; Zoom Meeting ID: 870 4896 6090

July 26, 7 p.m. "Stone Soup/ Sopa de Piedras" by Marcia Brown, read by Museum Administrative Assistant Amanda Gomez and Director Bart Roselli

Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84629311937>; Zoom Meeting ID: 846 2931 1937



Shady Pines Chamber Players in Cloudcroft



The Shady Pines garden in Cloudcroft is open July 6-10 and the musicians are practicing for the July 11 virtual concert presentation of "All Those Cellos – A Virtual Quilt." (courtesy photo)

July 11 "All Those Cellos – A Virtual Quilt" with at least nine musicians (cello, oboe, piano), will be available virtually.

Live garden strolls: Drop by Shady Pines to see the fairies, other mystical creatures and garden fancies: 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. July 6-10 and Sept 5-12. To protect everyone, they require visitors to properly wear masks while in the garden. There will be a limit of no more than five people in the garden at a time. Please respect us and one another by keeping a distance of at least six feet from others. Donations are welcome and benefit Cloudcroft Schools music programs and help defray our costs.

Shady Pines is at 200 Fox St. facing Wren (halfway down the middle unpaved road from The Lodge) in Cloudcroft. For more information contact Suzannah Cox at 361-557-1960.

Drive-in Movies in Las Cruces

Folks can have a throwback experience watching a movie on a big screen, outdoors, from their own vehicle. Movie-goers can enjoy some classic choices visiting the parking lot of Allen Theaters Telshor 12 theater.

For \$20 a car-load, movie-goers can join the action any day of the week. On Fridays and Saturdays, there are double features. Bathrooms and concessions are available, including \$5 personal pizzas. For the movie line-up call 575-523-4837 or visit www.allentheatresinc.com. And select Telshor 12 as the theater.

Allen Theaters also offers curbside popcorn sales from 3-7 p.m. Saturdays at the Las Cruces Cineport 10 and Fridays and Saturdays at the Alamogordo Aviator 10.

Comedy in Las Cruces

Thursdays in July from 9-10:30 p.m. the Amador Patio Bar & Grill offers "It's time for a good laugh," an Amador LIVE and Hot 103 Comedy Nights Series.

Stand-up comics from all over the Southwest will ply their trade. Limited table seating available (no more than six guests per table at this time). Patio opens for dinner and drinks at 7 p.m., Show starts at 9 p.m. Reservations required, call 575-541-7417. Tables are \$35 for two, \$70 for four and \$100 for six (includes show tickets and chef's complimentary sampler appetizer – food and drinks not included in table reservation fee).

Virtual summer programs for N.M. children

From engaging camps to hands-on activities, the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) provides educational and quality programming for children in a virtual environment this summer.

As a starting point, parents are encouraged to check out the Summer Youth Programs portal at www.newmexicoculture.org. From there, easily navigate through the programs offered by many of the state museums, historic sites and cultural institutions.

Without leaving home, young minds can explore the culture, nature and history of the Land of Enchantment with online summer camps offered by New Mexico Historic Sites. Learn about the plants of the desert, go on wild west adventures, discover what life is like on the reservation and listen to campfire stories.

Budding astronauts can reach for the stars with the Rocketeer Academy In-a-Box program from the New Mexico Museum of Space History. This virtual space camp is open to children who've completed grades 4-7 and consists of hour-long activities ranging from building rocket launchers and spacecraft to designing spectrometers and learning about chemical reactions.

Visual art instruction is available on the Museum of International Folk Art website with lesson plans and projects geared toward children. Do-it-yourself activities include working with symmetrical paper cut-outs, decorative paper beads and aluminum amulet necklaces, while lesson plans are accessible for download in both English and Spanish.

Families can enjoy the virtual music concert series "Our Fair New Mexico," available for viewing on Facebook. In partnership with state museums, historic sites and cultural institutions, these concerts feature at least one performance each week by musicians of various genres living in New Mexico.

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STRANGE REMEMBRANCE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Introducing the Atomic Age

The day the sun rose twice, 75 years later

Fay Lisk was 12 years old and fast asleep at 5:30 a.m., July 16, 1945, when her mother was outside and saw a big flash in the sky. The family ranch was some 45 miles to the north of the place the Atomic Age began, now known as the Trinity Test Site.

Fay said her mother-in-law lived in Mountainair, 75 miles as the crow flies, from Trinity Site, and she saw the windows shake like a big earthquake had hit her house. It wasn't until the United States dropped the bomb on Japan, Aug. 6 and 9, that the people of the Tularosa Basin, Jornada del Muerto and surroundings knew what happened in their area of the world. Then it was a headline scream that the US had destroyed two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the successful test in southern New Mexico was a back-page story.

"It was after they bombed Japan that we found out that they set the test bomb off," Fay, who was born in 1932 and now makes her home in Globe, Arizona, said. "Everything was such a secret. We knew there was a town of Los Alamos, but all the contact we actually had was a radio, and we would get a little news that way."

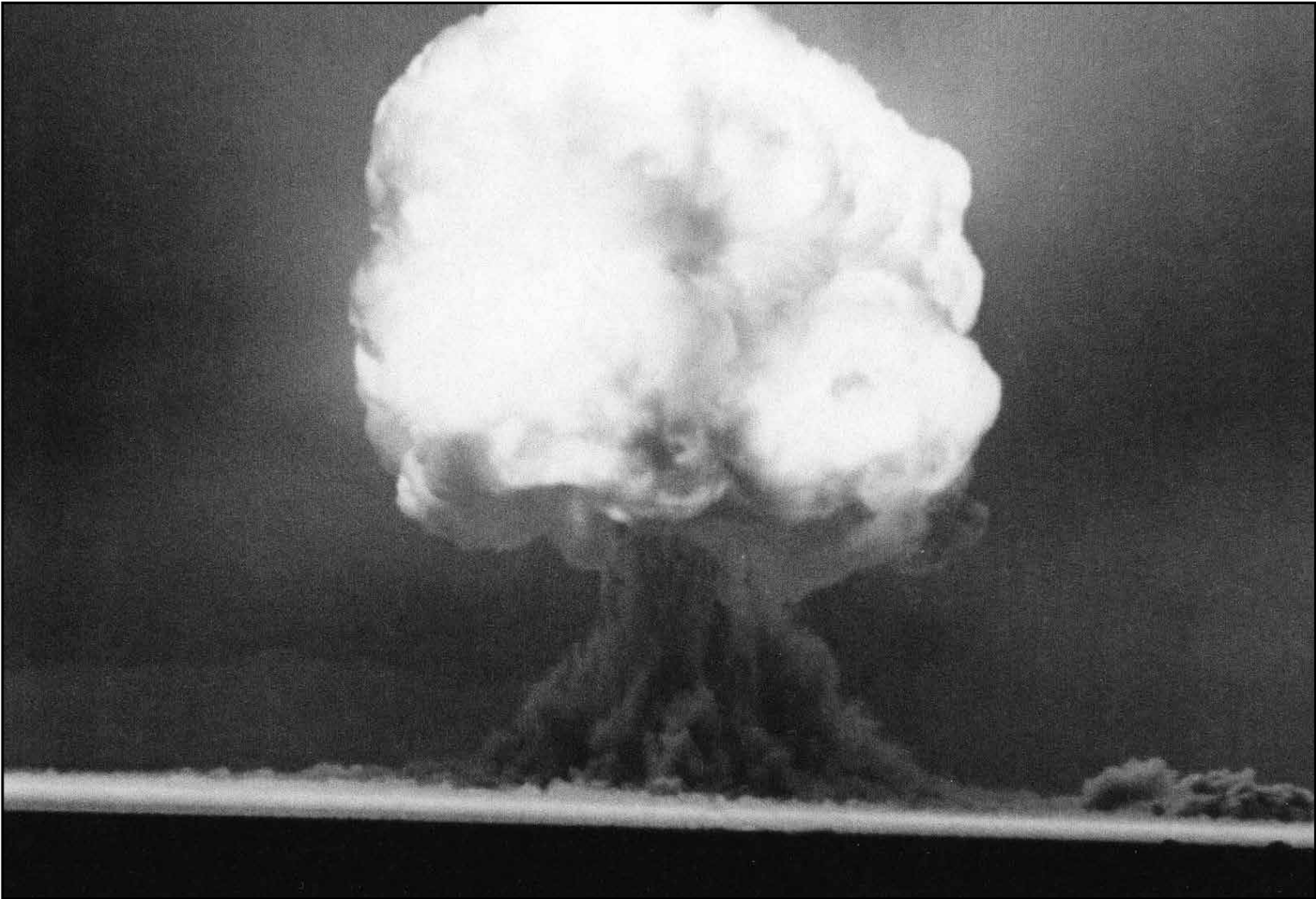
At Bingham, 20 miles north of Trinity Site, was the local schoolhouse where Lisk went to school growing up. She stayed with Ted and Sylvia Myers during the school week. Ted and Christian Myers drove the two school buses that served the school. Fay graduated from 8th grade in May 1945.

"At the time, Bingham was on the old dirt road that went across there," she said. "There was a little post office and a little store and some little cabins. There was one teacher and that year I think we had 12-13 kids who went to school there. I was the only one in 8th grade. I loved school."

Living next to the Myers was a younger couple, the husband's name was Henry, Fay remembers. And they would visit to play cards during the time she boarded there.

"He [Henry] had a short scruffy black beard – all of a sudden he had these big blotches all over it," Fay said. "They were gray like if you had thrown bleach on somebody. And [another family] had ducks that hatched out deformed. There was just a lot of this that people started talking about. Cows and cats with blotches. They [the government] never did say or do anything about it."

Fay went on to say the people who ran the Bingham store, Harold and Sally Dean died, she thinks, of lung cancer. The Myers moved to Farmington and suffered early deaths, although she didn't know why. Fay's mother died in 1970 from lung cancer.



The Atomic Age begins in the early morning July 16, 1945, in southern New Mexico. (Public domain photo)

As an adult visiting the United Nations building in New York, Fay saw a display about the things that happened in Japan. She said she saw it was truly terrible but said the bombs ended the war and feels many more people would have died had the atomic bombs not been dropped.

"I think that if it hadn't had been for that, we would have lost a lot more Americans," she said. "And it ended the war. It ended – poof – right then."

Many more oral histories contain stories of cows, cats and other creatures with gray blotches. There was a black cat turned blotchy in Tularosa, reportedly sold to a tourist for \$5. Effects were reported to be seen and felt across the state including in Los

Alamos, Hillsboro, Fort Bayard, El Paso and the Sacramento Mountains.

But it is memories of those even closer that provide amazing descriptions of the event itself. The scientists and personnel who were watching through their eye protections as the first atomic bomb in the world lit up the New Mexico sky.

"The effects could well be called unprecedented, magnificent, beautiful, stupendous and terrifying. No man-made phenomenon of such tremendous power had ever occurred before. The lightning effects beggared description. The whole country was lighted by a searing light with the intensity many times that of the midday sun." – Brig. Gen. Thomas Farrell

Trinity Site today is a national historic landmark, declared so in 1975. The 51,500-acre area includes base camp, where the scientists and support group lived; ground zero, where the bomb was placed for the explosion; and the Schmidt/McDonald ranch house, where the plutonium core to the bomb was assembled.

The site, part of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), is opened twice a year for visitors. Traditionally, the open house is the first weekend of April and the first weekend of October. This year the April event was canceled.

Two Tularosans, Tina Cordova and Fred Tyler, watched family and friends dying in what seemed abnormally high numbers of cancer incidents in the area. They, with the help of many area residents, organized the Tularosa Basin Downwind-



An obelisk stands today at the Trinity Site commemorating the first atomic bomb to be set off in the history of the world. The site is generally opened twice a year to visitors who visit from around the world. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Eyewitness to the blooming of the Atomic Age

"I was staring straight ahead with my open left eye covered by a welder's glass and my right eye remaining open and uncovered. Suddenly, my right eye was blinded by a light which appeared instantaneously all about without any build up of intensity. My left eye could see the ball of fire start up like a tremendous bubble or nob-like mushroom. I dropped the glass from my left eye almost immediately and watched the light climb upward. The light intensity fell rapidly, hence did not blind my left eye, but it was still amazingly bright. It turned yellow, then red, and then beautiful purple. At first it had a translucent character but shortly turned to a tinted or colored white smoke appearance. The ball of fire seemed to rise in something of toadstool effect. Later the column proceeded as a cylinder of white smoke; it seemed to move ponderously. A hole was punched through the clouds but two fog rings appeared well above the white smoke column.

"There was a spontaneous cheer from the observers. Dr. von Neumann said, 'that was at least 5,000 tons and probably a lot more.' My estimate of the width of the ball of fire was guessed to be 1 to 2 miles at that time. Someone said keep your mouth open and just then, about 1-1/2 to 2 minutes after the light flash, a sharp loud crack swept over us – it reverberated through the mountain like thunder. Several small flashes took place some distance from and after the big flash, apparently part of a measuring system. Commander Bradbury said that the cloud was up over 20,000 feet and still rising. The top of the cloud was moving slightly northeast and was being sheared off."

– Signed by Ralph Carlisle Smith

Ralph Smith was a lawyer at Los Alamos. He watched the Trinity Test (5:29:45 a.m., July 16, 1945) from Compania Hill near present-day Stallion Range Center on White Sands Missile Range. Source: www.wsmr.army.mil/Trinity/Pages/TrinityHistory.aspx

ers Consortium in 2005. Cordova is the fourth generation of her family to have cancer since 1945.

"The test was the only time the government tested a bomb 100 feet above the ground," Cordova said. "The reason they never did it again is because of the fallout. They believe it went seven miles past the atmosphere. It created

more light than the sun, gathered up an enormous amount of plant, sand, material and took it into the air. Ash fell for days.

"They never evacuated anybody or warned anybody. From the census there were tens of

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

Silver City
Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery, 371 Camino de Viento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Wolfe, potter, 907-783-2780.
Anthony Howell Studio, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.
[a]SP“A”©E, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.
Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.
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, second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.
Borderlands Gallery, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.
The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622- 0251. By appointment.
Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. Open by chance or by prior arrangement. 575-534-2087.
Cow Trail Art Studio, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533- 1897, www.victoriachick.com.
Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery, 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.
Elemental Artisans, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.
Francis McCray Gallery, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Gila Gallery Photographs of the American Southwest, 206 N. Bullard St., 342-1914.
The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
Grant County Art Guild Gallery, 316 N. Bullard St. 10 a.m-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.
Guadalupe's, 505 N. Bullard St., 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com. LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.
Light Art Space, 209 W. Broadway St.. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other

media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.
Lloyd Studios, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.
Lois Duffy Art Studio, 211C N. Texas St., 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.
Lumiere Editions, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.
The Makery, 106 E. Market Place. 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.
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.
Oi' West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.
The Place at the Palace, at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.
Soul River Gallery, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.
Sterling Fine Art, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.
Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388- 3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.
Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
Szygy Tile Gallery, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.
Tatiana Maria Gallery, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.
Tree Spirit Gallery, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.
21 Latigo Trail, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.
Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.
Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.
Wynnegate Gallery, 1105 W. Market St., 575-534-9717, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.
Zoe's Studio/Gallery, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Mimbres
Chamomile Connection, 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.
Kate Brown Pottery and Tile, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.
Bayard
Kathryn Allen Clay Studio, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.
Northern Grant County
Casitas de Gila, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. By appointment. gallery@casitasdegila. com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.
Deming
Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Gold Street Gallery, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
Orona Art Studio, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@ gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.
Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery, 200 S. Copper 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.
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 Touchon Studio, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon. com.
The Potteries, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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.
Justus Wright Galeria, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Las Cruces Arts Association, located in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.
Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.
Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.
M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.
New Dimension Art Works, 615 E. Piñon St., 373-0043. By Appointment.
NMSU University Art Gallery, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.
Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite St., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday.
Quillin Stephens Gallery, behind downtown Coas Books, 312-1064. By appointment only.
Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.
Unsettled Gallery & Studio, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment.
Virginia Maria Romero Studio, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment, agzromero@zianet.com, virginiamariaromero.com.
Magdalena
Atelier Studio 605, 605 W. First St. A collective space containing Village Press Print Studio; DOrkyART.us; Glennoznap.com; Es•Press•O. 838-6452. Letterpress Cards and Journals, Fine Art Printing & Photography. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Bear Mountain Gallery, 902 First Street. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Paintings by Eddie Tsosie, jewelry and navajo rugs.
Blue Canyon Gallery, U.S. Highway 60 (1 mile east of Magdalena), 575-854-2953, 9 a.m.to 5 p.m. daily. Paintings, pottery and jewelry.
C&S Morning Star, 805 First Street, 505-288-6361. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Navajo jewelry and rugs.
Evet's Café and Gallery, 501 First St., 854-2449. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Photographs,

plein air landscape paintings and illustrated childrens books.
Judy's Studio, 104 N. Main St. 375-743-9110. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Drawings and sculpture.
Kind of a Small Array, 106 N. Main St. 210-473-9062. A humble space for art, music and poetry. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.
La Posada Gallery, 1008 First St. 910-297-9904. Affordable original art, photography, paintings, pottery, santos and icons. 1-4 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday.
Old S'cool House Gallery, 500 Main St., corner of Fifth Street, 360-298-1461. Abstract paintings, textiles and fabric creations. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.
Warehouse 110, 110 N. Main St. 517-0669. Contemporary art and performance gallery. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. www.warehouse110.com.

Alamogordo
Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery, 434-4420, 917 New York Ave.
Patron's Hall/Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 434-2202, 1110 New York Ave.

Tularosa
Horse Feathers, 318 Granado St. 585-4407. Art, southwest furniture and decor.
The Merc, 316 Granado St. 505- 238-6469. Art gifts by regional artists, books.

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

Carrizozo
Malkerson Gallery 408, 408 12th St. in Carrizozo. 648-2598.
Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography, 401 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-937-1489, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Monday; noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Exclusive exhibit venue for the winners of New Mexico Magazine's photography contest and the largest photo gallery in the state.

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

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

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

ATOMIC AGE

continued from page 8
thousands of people that lived within 50 miles, and some ranchers within 12 miles. When the ash fell it settled on everything.”
Painting a picture of life in 1945, Cordova said there was no running water. People relied on cisterns for their water, used the ditch water for bathing and laundry. There were no grocery stores, only mercantiles selling basic goods like sugar, flour, rice, coffee, cereal – nothing that was refrigerated. Everything else consumed was grown or hunted.
“People went back to their lives not understanding what all this meant,” she said. “They damaged us. People have been dying of cancers. We were the first people ever exposed to radiation in the world.”
Cordova said in 1990 the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act was created, and \$2.3 billion was paid out to downwinders of the Nevada test site but the peo-

ple of southern New Mexico “got 100 times more radiation than the Nevada test site and we have never been included.”
She said the damages resulting have devastated the people of rural New Mexico generationally. Families affected by cancer exhaust their financial resources with medical and death issues which prevents them from being able to pass along accumulated resources to their children.
“This is a social justice issue,” she said. “We were unknowing, unwilling and uncompensated.”
Usually in July the Tularosa Basin Downwinders hold a candlelight vigil in Tularosa and often one in Socorro, to commemorate those who died of cancer but will not be doing so this year because of coronavirus restrictions.
“Last year we had over 800 luminarias, and called out more than 800 names,” she said.
Cordova said there is an event planned in Albuquerque around 5 a.m. on July 16 commemorat-



Tina Cordova and Laura Greenwood, members of the Tularosa Basin Downwinder's Consortium, hold signs up as visitors enter White Sands Missile Range on an open house day. (Photo courtesy of the TBDC)

ing the 75th anniversary of the explosion but had no details available at press time. For more information on the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, visit trinitydownwinders.com.
White Sands Missile Range also has a commemoration event planned, but due to the

need to limit attendance, it will not be open to the public, according to Drew Hamilton with WSMR Public Affairs. It may be available on line after the event. For more information about the Trinity Site and history of the event, visit wsmr.army.mil/Trinity/Pages/Home.aspx.

In Silver City, the Gila Friends hold a yearly Hiroshima Peace Day Observance at Gough Park which this year will be at noon on Sunday, Aug. 9, dependent on whether the city has opened the park by that date. For more information about the observance, call Tom Vaughn at 575-590-1588.

SILVER CITY

• **Light Art Space**, located at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City features three exhibitions during July. “**Provocation of Place**,” ending July 5, is a juried exhibition featuring the work of 36 members of PaperWorks, a Tucson art group. Painting, sculpture, drawing, artist books, photography and printmaking are included in



ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

the exhibition. “**It’s Time to Address’er Drawers**,” also ending July 5, is an interactive wire based installation by Joel Armstrong. This exhibit was first conceived after Armstrong’s mother passed away and when cleaning out the house, he discovered in her chest of drawers a stack of sealed envelopes. Inside were her journals that documented various disappointments in her life. “**Art in the Time of COVID-19**,” begins July 11 and continues through

Oct. 4 with an opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m. July 11. “Art in the time of Covid-19” is an invitational group exhibition of works by artists from Silver City and the surrounding area. The works exhibited were completed March 1 and later while living the pandemic. A wide variety of media will be shown including photography, painting, fiber arts, sculpture and clay works. Also on view is the work of gallery artists **Joel Armstrong, Valerie Galloway, Carmen Ruiz,**

Eugene Starobinskiy, Art Peterson and Mimi Calise Peterson. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, also 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 5 and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com, email info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-7075.

DEMING

• **The Deming Art Center** reopens for July with an exhibition of “**Fire and Fiber**.” Each piece is the result of a special collaboration between a member of the Potter’s Guild of Las Cruces and a fiber artist from the southern New Mexico region. Fire & Fiber is a display of visual art that combines fired clay and fiber medium such as wool, cloth, paper, wood, or other fibrous materials into unique works of art. Due to Covid-19 restrictions there will be no artist reception. The show will run from July 2-30. Masks will be required. Deming Art Center is located at 100 S Gold St., Deming. Its hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 or www.demingarts.org.

LAS CRUCES

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of July, Nanci Bissell and Roberta Widner. Bissell



The art of Roberta Widner and Nanci Bissell is featured at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery for the month of July.

sell graduated from Texas A&M University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education with a minor in art studies. Her paintings have been exhibited in numerous art shows around the United States. Her artistic interests include seascapes, portraits and landscapes. Widner is a native New Mexican. The state and its people have been frequent subjects for her varied media paintings. She has also gained inspiration from her travels to the Iberian/Italian and French regions of Europe. First American Bank, Mesilla, is well represented by gallery members who rotate their artwork on a monthly basis. In addition, the 30 artists of the Gallery offer art in various media, which include original paintings, oil, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, fused glass art jewelry, unique one of a kind wood turnings, stained glass, photography, ceramics, mixed media, unusual decorated gourds, handmade textile weavings, fiber art, art tile, affordable quality natural gemstone jewelry, handcrafted basket weavings, pencil, charcoal and ink drawings, prints, cards and miniature paintings. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesilla-valleyfinearts.com.

VIRTUAL NEW MEXICO

• An area created format showcases artists’ work on Facebook at “**Las Cruces NM Artists & Art Showcase**” on a page is specifically for the



The art of Nanci Bissell.

CLAY 2020 is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of our community gathering together in support of our arts, our culture and shared histories; a gathering of collaborative groups and populations, using the connectivity of clay as a metaphor for all that binds us together.

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many undiscovered artists and artisans in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. No matter what it is you do, painting, photography, sculpting, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, woodworking, decorative arts, etc., anything created by you is welcome to be displayed. Please note, this FaceBook page is meant to be a digital art gallery, rather than a sales tool. This FaceBook page is the creation of Robert Paquette, a long-time volunteer for many Las Cruces community service organizations.

• Desert Exposure Virtual Gallery offers a visit to the art of southern New Mexico artists in their web-based galleries. While we can't yet go to all these galleries and studios and spend our time perusing the amazing work of southern New Mexico artists and craftspeople, we can take a journey through their creativity. This section of the Desert Exposure website journeys through some of the talent we have south of Interstate 25. If you are a southern New Mexico artist and would like to be included in this listing, please contact us at editor@desertexposure.com or by calling Elva at 575-443-4408. Website: www.desertexposure.com/virtual-gallery/.

• The Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) in



MOIFA: Work by Alexander Girard is featured in the Museum of International Folk Art virtual gallery.

Santa Fe exhibition “Alexander Girard: A Designer’s Universe,” is available for viewing until Dec. 31, 2021. With this virtual exhibition, visitors can open the door to Girard’s creative universe from home. Featured are Girard’s designs in textiles, furniture, and sculpture, as well as his interior architecture projects for residences, restaurants, and retail spaces.

Girard was also a pivotal figure in the history of MOIFA. He and his wife, Susan, donated their vast folk art and toy collection of more than 100,000 objects to the museum. In 1982, the museum opened its beloved long-term exhibition “Multiple Visions,” which Girard curated and designed from his collection. Girard’s playful designs attest to his passion for color, ornamentation, and inspiration from folk art.

“A Designer’s Universe was the ideal candidate for our first virtual exhibition,” said Laura Addison, MOIFA’s Curator of

North American Collections. “Because Girard’s textiles designs are colorful and graphically bold, it is a show that makes for a great fly-through experience online.”

This is MOIFA’s first virtual exhibition, making use of 360-degree camera technology and software that allows visitors to navigate and select tour stops that provide text panels, videos, articles, and links to more information about Girard and his legacy.

“The digital life of exhibitions used to be secondary to the development of the in-person museum visit experience,” said Addison. “The intention has always been there to have exhibitions live on in other ways once a show is over, and to reach an audience is unable to visit the show in person, but it wasn’t always the priority.

“Now the virtual experience is foremost on museum professionals’ minds. These can’t replace the experience of seeing

artworks in person — the scale, the skilled hand of the artist, the materiality. But museums are now adapting to this new reality with creativity and resourcefulness, by sharing ideas and tapping into technical know-how on staff or in the community.”

Organized by Vitra Design Mu-

seum in Weil am Rhein, Germany, this is the first major retrospective on Girard’s work.

To experience the virtual exhibition “Alexander Girard: A Designer’s Universe,” visit <https://fivedmedia.com/3d-model/alexander-girard-a-designers-universe/skinned/>.

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CLAY EXPOSURE • PAULA GEISLER

Journal of a Pit-Firing

Nov. 2, 1991

Daybreak: The world all pink and white. About a foot of snow, rime-ice everywhere, the sky “lowering” as they say. Cold. Bitter cold . And wet. I make my plan: Coffee, warm clothes, moon-boots, a shovel. Going outside is a shock; I look forward to the fire ...

Daybreak + one hour: Second cup of coffee (maybe third). A perfect pit dug smoothly into easy friable earth – a pile of in-

tended adobe plaster like a tiny Kilimanjaro in my back yard. Now a heavy thought – rocks! Round rocks and quite a few of them. My hands become wet and very cold as I pry them loose from a reluctant earth. Detour through the house grateful for the easy gas heat, hot water on my hands. Ahh – pain and pleasure are so close.

Daybreak + two hours: Two necessary chores completed – many round rocks surround the

pit. Much trabajo. And the FIRE! Nice charcoal briquettes (cheating here) glowing red-hot in the confines of the barbecue pit. THE PACE QUICKENS! Some scurrying for a bucket, change of gloves, scoop those embers up and a quickstep to the pit. Damn my gimped leg, not moving as fast as I used to but quick enough the embers placed in the pit – on top some twigs – and then, the pots. The POTS. All nine of them lovingly pinched and squeezed and cradled and patted to perfection. Little orbs, I think – hope they don’t break. Terracotta, red earth. Vessels. My vision is pinch-pots filled with pinon nuts boxed and wrapped for Christmas giving. I can see it all in my mind and the thought puts a smile on my face.

Daybreak + three hours: The pit stacked: on top of the smoldering twigs, with embers secure and alive below, I begin to position the pots. Some upside down, some not, which is right? Time will tell. Chunks of cow-pies, all relatively dry and crumbly (Yuk! I’m touching shit). I place all carefully around the small red orbs. Little red bottoms sticking up out of a smoking heap. Pat pat. Acrid smoke following me as I circle the pit – not letting pots touch each oth-



The annual CLAY Festival in Silver City gives area communities an opportunity to see what can be done with a flexible medium. (Photos by Jay Hemphill)

er. Cow-pies make great dividers and before long the pyre is assembled. A little funeral pyre for the chrysanthemum I sacrificed to the fire gods in the pit.

Daybreak + four hours: Leave it alone to do its fire-thing. Waiting. Good excuse to go inside and get warm again. I think metaphysical thoughts: Sun in Scorpio – we can all feel it – hot inside and frozen without. Perfect Scorpio Day. Mix it with earth, fire, air. The four elements – all assembled and witness to a miracle – all things through time. A paradoxical statement if there ever was. Other memories – the snow on the dormant volcano, white and pure, the shock of turning up dark dirty dirt. It looked better all white. At least I put the earth from the pit into a pile of its own – nearby and useful sooner than I expected. I see I have to bank this blaze – it’s really going too fast; I hear an ominous “pop” from within. A worry, but I am so caught up in tending the fire that I forget ev-

everything but smoke curls, my fire ring, round rocks – so that when all is melted into a heap of ashes my pots will be spared. Prayers to the fire deities and vigilance.

Banking the fire requires that I locate a piece of chicken-wire (cheating here too) and place it over the now busily smoking mounded up pile of clay, fire and manure. On top of the chicken-wire, I position more round rocks, smaller is better here, until I craft what I need: the burning mound is covered with stones from whose interstices issue smoke. I plug these vents with soil. Minor tending of shovels of earth here and there to contain the process. And now really leaving it, with only looks out the bathroom window every 20 minutes or so to confirm that all is as it should be.

The Next day: Twelve below zero! A glance out the bathroom window confirms that all is as I left it. As I open the closet a waft of smoke-smell. Acrid. Same clothes and back out I go. Amazingly, there is still heat as I pull back the chicken-wire. Uh,oh, a broken pot! Careful. Careful! My furtive gropings in the hot gray ash bring forth seven intact pots. Two broken. Not bad. Not as smoke-blackened as I had hoped – fire too good, lesson learned. More earth, less fire.

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THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin



Tile submissions were created as the art competition for CLAY 2020 in silver city. (Courtesy photos)

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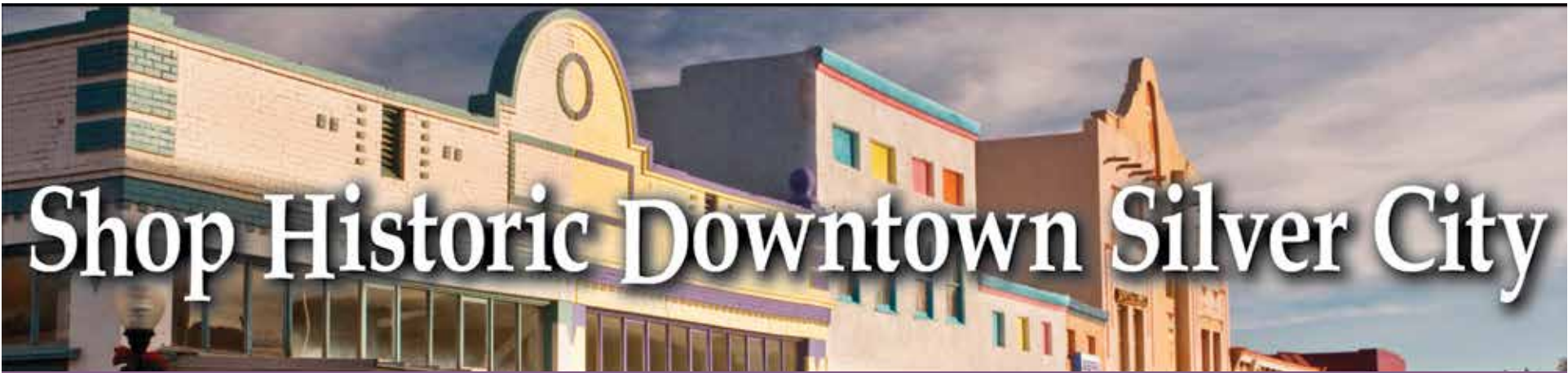
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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

CLAY Festival

Creating a balancing act

Challenged by the times, Lee Gruber, CLAY Festival founder and director, said the signature Silver City event is still in the plans for the week of July 13-19 and has not been canceled.

“It’s an interesting challenge in that I keep it in my head and maybe we can do something that is a combination of virtual and on the ground all with social distancing in mind and anything we do will be outside,” she said.

The event will morph into a combination of virtual and live events, offering workshops and market on line and displays in area galleries as well as possibly demonstrations under a tent during the farmer’s market.

“CLAY 2020 is potentially an opportunity to celebrate the gift of communities gathering together in support of our arts, our culture and shared histories,” Gruber writes on the festival website, clayfestival.com. “[It is] a gathering of collaborative groups and populations, using the connectivity of clay as a metaphor for all that binds us together. Let’s look forward to that.”

Gruber said the featured guest artist Sanam Emami, is still willing to participate.

“She is a marvelous artist in Colorado,” Gruber said. “We may be able to have a small workshop



The annual CLAY Festival in Silver City gives area communities an opportunity to see what can be done with a flexible medium. (Photos by Jay Hemphill)

with our headliner if the university [Western New Mexico University] agrees. If not, she will do something virtual, we are just not sure what. And we will probably present part of her workshop virtually as well. Visit the website for info about Sanam and if she doesn’t get to do it this year we’ll do it next year.”

Gruber said they did a call for artists for a tile entry exhibit, asking artists to make tiles. The response was not as robust as usual. She said because of the virus, school closures and an inability to find clay sources, entries are down.

“We hope to show the tiles in the window of one of our down-

town establishments so people can view from the outside,” she said. “And we will be awarding prizes and we will do it again next year.”

She said the artist’s market we will take place on the website.

“We did do a survey on our constant contact list,” Gruber said. “Asked if they would be willing to attend things with social distancing. Enough responded to convince us we can keep the spirit of the fest alive, but no huge crowds at all. We are going to try doing this with actual human beings on the ground within guidelines. My goal list is to be able to give people a bit of hope even if it is in small doses.”

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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

'Dawn of Discovery'

Celebrating the spirit of space exploration

The Las Cruces Space Festival is alive and active as it has posted a virtual gallery, "Dawn of Discovery," to showcase the artists who were chosen as part of the live event that was canceled because of the COVID-19 crisis.

The gallery, a multi-media exhibit featuring international and local artists portraying the beauty of the universe and the excitement of space exploration, can be found at lcspacefestival.com/gallery/.

Karen Conley, currently director at the Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC), curated the show before the Space Festival was canceled.

"I love curating," she said. "We were so excited and happy

about the amount of work and the quality of work that was submitted for this show, which was supposed to happen this spring. We decided we needed to go ahead and build an online platform as a gesture of good will for the artists – to do something for them to get their work out there."

Conley and Alice Carruth, a festival organizer, also wanted to show that the festival is still part of Las Cruces. Now, the online gallery features over 70 images of artwork created by 43 artists and will be available until Aug. 1.

"We want to be visible in the community," Conley said. "We felt like it would be a good venue.

Last year almost 3,000 people came through that art show [on

display at the Mesilla Valley Mall]."

She said they don't know yet if the festival will be able to happen in the fall or will have to wait to next year, but it is still sponsoring events.

The artists in the gallery are welcome to sell their art, Conley said. She said the sale is still between the potential artist and the buyer, with a recommended donation to United Way of 20 percent of the sales.



"Crab Nebula" by Jo-an Smith



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StanleydelGozo and Diana Le Marbe with “Bookends” sculpture. (Photo by Resha Sabre)

ARTS EXPOSURE •
STANLEYDELGOZO

A Sunny Day

Artist shows from back of her truck

A few days ago, I received a phone call from Diana Le Marbe, of Studio Le Marbe in Deming. Diana was excited to share with us her new line of wood sculptures. Her recent modality has been clay, however these wooden shapes have seemed to take on a life of their own and it was her wish to unveil them at our house in a “driveway” showing.

Early the next morning, Diana arrived with her pickup full of sculptures, protection pillows and cardboard separators. Diana parked next to our pickup and with both tailgates down created the perfect showcase for her new line of sculpture... The entire array radiated Light and Love, as she introduced us to each piece... “The Shrine, The Sanctuary, The Flock, Contemplation which were entirely wood with a few embellishments of stone etc. added. However, the piece which drew my attention was “Bookends” a combination of modalities which Diana calls “Assemblage Art.”

Diana has been showing her art in the Southwest for years and her recent show entitled “Braceros, Melding History and Art” has found a home in the “Bone Creek Museum and Agrarian Art Gallery in David City, Nebraska after spending almost a year on tour in New Mexico.

We are truly blessed to have Diana’s work available to us as she is a gentle and gracious example of artists, world-wide, who labor to uplift and create pathways to make life beautiful.

Diana Le Marbe can be reached at 575-544-7708.

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Fireworks Extravaganza

Sky over Alamogordo to light up

The City of Alamogordo’s annual July 4th Fireworks Extravaganza, a community tradition for more than 40 years, is scheduled for Saturday, July 4. Coordinated by the New Mexico Museum of Space History, the show is one of the largest in the state and draws visitors from across the region to watch. This year, for the first time in its 42-year history, museum members and the public will not be allowed on the museum grounds due to health concerns related to the ongoing pandemic.

“Following the guidance of the governor’s office and the Department of Cultural Affairs, we’ve come to the difficult decision of canceling public attendance on the grounds of the museum,” said museum Executive Director Chris Orwoll. “The fireworks show is always visible across the basin and we encourage people to enjoy it from their yards or other favorite viewing location.”

The Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m.; all events are weather permitting with a back-up date of July 5. Music for the fireworks program will be carried live on KZZX Radio, 105.3 FM, through the support of Burt Broadcasting. The public is encouraged to tune in early for the show, which will feature a special musical tribute to the military and first responders.

The museum, which is currently closed due to Covid-19 precautions, will remain closed to the public July 4. Residents are reminded that the NMSU-A parking lots and grounds are closed that evening as well. However, the show may be viewed from almost anywhere in the city. Museum members who have purchased a VIP parking pass for the event are eligible for a refund for the cost of the pass and will be contacted via email.

The July 4 Fireworks Extravaganza is sponsored

by the New Mexico Museum of Space History, the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation, the City of Alamogordo and Burt Broadcasting. In addition, the Alamogordo Police Department, city fire department, county fire departments, the Lincoln National Forest and a large contingency of volunteer fire and safety personnel make the event possible.

The New Mexico Museum of Space History, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a division of the NM Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information on museum events or on how you can become a member of the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation, call 437-2840 or 1-877-333-6589, or visit www.nmspacemuseum.org.



An explosion of color above the city highlights the annual Fireworks Extravaganza at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. This year, because of the pandemic, museum members and the public will not be allowed on the grounds of the museum for the show. (Photo by Diana Powell)

Southern New Mexico July 4 events

Las Cruces

The annual “Electric Light Parade” is going virtual and lights are optional for this parade. The parade, “Celebrating our Heroes” Virtual Electric Light Parade, is a tribute to all those who have kept the community going through this pandemic. Las Cruces showed their appreciation by submitting photo entries aligned with the theme which were entered into several categories. Categories include Yard and Vehicle Decorations, Patriotic Family Photo, Patriotic Pets, Patriotic Hairstyle or Face Paint and Patriotic Face Covering.

All entries will be showcased in a virtual parade event on CLC TV-20 and social media. For more information about the Virtual Electric Light Parade, go to las-cruces.org/FourthofJuly or call Parks and Recreation Department at 575-541-2550 or email clcengage@las-cruces.org.

The City of Las Cruces had not determined if it would hold a firework display at press time.

Socorro

At noon Saturday, July 4, online concerts begin on Facebook, Youtube and Twitch featuring Socorro bands Roon, Doug Figgs Trio, Mine Country Drifters, The Murillos, Rob Lopez & The Infidels and Suavecito as recorded live at Socorro Sessions Social Distance Concert Series.

New Mexico Tech’s annual July 4 fireworks display will take place at dark. In order to ensure everyone can see the display while practicing proper social distancing in accordance with New Mexico’s COVID-19 guidelines, the fireworks will be relocated to near the top of M Mountain. This will allow the Socorro community to take in the fireworks from the comfort of their homes. While the Socorro community usually takes in the display from the New Mexico Tech Golf Course, the course will not be available for spectators this year. In order to protect the health and wellbeing of the Socorro community, NMT’s main campus is closed for viewing of the fireworks, as well as all other 4th of July festivities.

Alamogordo

The “Reverse Parade” 4th of July event will be unlike any parade the city of Alamogordo has planned or hosted before. This year’s Independence Day Parade will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 4 at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road. Parade entrants will be parked, and the viewer will drive by them. Citizens are encouraged to decorate their vehicles, which they will slowly drive through the stationary parade, to add to the festivities. Participants will be able to tune their radios to KHII 88.9/100.5 FM Alamogordo or KEDU 102.3 FM Ruidoso for special patriotic music and parade commentary.



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Deer, Bobcats, Javelina

Critters not out to hurt people

There have been multiple visits to neighborhood yards in Las Cruces, particularly on the east side, of wild critters. Bobcats in particular have enjoyed multiple sightings and reportings.

Las Cruces district Game and Fish Department Sergeant Chris Ortega said an increase in wildlife in the backyards of the city is not unusual for this time of year.

“There are a lot of bobcats that come to the golf course area,” he said. “People are watering, drawing in the prey base. The deer are coming in. The Talavera area, Las Alturas, is where we are getting all the animals.”

If you see a bobcat, the thing to do is make noise, he said. Avoid direct eye contact and back away from the animal and they will move off. If you have

Lush, friendly habitats are a draw for prey animals seeking nourishment which in turn, entices some predators like this bobcat spotted by Jim Enright in the Sonoma Ranch Golf Course area. (Courtesy photo by Jim Enright)

pets, take them in at night and their food and water also. The big cats come to town following prey who are coming in for the moisture. But the predators like

the moisture too and will enjoy laying around on cool concrete and sometimes even pool covers as well as taking sips from the local ponds.

“They are sometimes habituated to people and not usually sick,” Ortega said. “We don’t do a whole lot with them. If we remove that predator that is not causing hate and discontent, the chance of another one coming in and being dangerous is pretty high.”

Las Cruces has a lot of urban sprawl, so it is creeping into the territory of the animals. Also, rainfall is below average making the hot, dry conditions encourage creatures to look to lush places for nourishment.

Ortega said his department is also getting calls from people picking up birds from the ground they think are hurt. Most of the time, they are not hurt, but fledglings learning to fly. The parents will watch and feed their young at that stage.

“The best thing to do is leave it alone,” he said. “We don’t want to try to rehab when there is nothing is wrong with the birds. COVID is making it more difficult to transport those critters. If we can, we put them back in the nest.”

Another animal commonly sighted in urban sprawl of Las Cruces is the javelina. Several years ago as drought plagued the area, Ortega said, the farmers started pumping more and more water as river allowances dropped. This caused the water at Burn Lake to dry up and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District stopped putting water in the drainage canals. In turn, this made an avenue of the drainage ditches for the javelina.

“We have javelina where we never had them before,” he said. “There is a fine balance which has to do with the participation levels. It happens every year.”

If javelina are cornered, they can be dangerous. Ortega said if you encounter javelina, make yourself known, make a lot of noise.

“Their sense of smell and hearing is excellent, but they can’t see worth a darn, so they will take off,” he said. “Any animal can be dangerous. If they have young or you corner them, they will protect themselves.”

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BOBCAT ENCOUNTER • MARJORIE BURR

A Visit from Outside

Surprise guest takes a drink

Our house was built 20 years ago on a lot inside the city limits in a subdivision carved out of the edge of the desert. Behind our back wall the land dips into a shallow arroyo and then extends for several miles without habitations for humans.

When we moved into our new house, we knew we were in the territory of beings that had been

there long before us and that we should try to intrude as little as possible. At first it was hard with black widow spiders, tarantulas, centipedes, and the like. We prevailed. The insects and arachnids mostly moved on.

Then there was the year of the rattlesnakes. It seems that a nest of rattlers had hatched somewhere nearby, and we had several encounters with snakes

that summer. The animal control people we called, trapped them live and said that their policy was to release them somewhere far from human habitations.

We have had, now, several years of distant co-habitation with desert-dwelling critters. That is, until Saturday morning. We walked out to see if any new flowers had bloomed in the garden or if a quail family had scaled the wall to breakfast under the bird feeder. Alex had his camera ready for these possibilities. We were surprised to see a large creature lapping water from our small fishpond. He turned his head to look at us and then went back to drinking.

This began an approximate 20-minute encounter with a wild bobcat. After his drink he walked over to the wall, jumped over, and settled down for a nap under a bush in the arroyo. We



A bobcat visits the Burr home and checks out the photographer, apparently unafraid. (Courtesy photo by Alex Burr)



A visiting bobcat grabs a drink at the Burr home in Las Cruces. (Courtesy photo by Alex Burr)

continued chattering, pointing, and photographing. For a reason unknown to us, he abandoned his nap and jumped back into our yard. He explored another part of the yard and then settled down near the wall. His curiosity or caution may have induced him to keep an eye on the person pointing something at him. Thus, the photographer got several shots of him staring into the camera.

Eventually, he ambled over to

the corner, leapt over the wall again and turned south through the desert behind the subdivision. Will he return for another drink of water sometime? Has this wild animal at some point in his past been somewhat domesticated? Will he jump on a small, yapping dog, and become an enemy of civilization? Our cursory research re to us that bobcats hunt mostly at dawn and dusk, and sleep during the day.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Improve Your Riding

Improving yourself is key to better horsemanship

One day, back in the pre-Covid world, I was out on a hike with my young horse, taking the opportunity to give us both a little exercise. I ran into a nice couple on the trail, out for a nice walk as well on a beautiful day. After some basic pleasantries, they asked me why I wasn't riding my horse and was there something wrong with her.

Given my quest to make everyone I meet a little bit smarter about horses, hoping this will somehow help the future of horses in our world today, I offered them a mini free lesson right there. I described how I was actually "riding" my horse right now, teaching her what kind of behavior and pace I wanted on the trail, and what my expectations where for her around new people in a place she'd never been. I showed how I was teaching the horse by the way I was leading her or using my body or my lead rope to ask for certain responses, just the way I would if I was in the saddle. I explained that horses are visual learners, and that this particular horse has a problem with patience, and that it's more effective to teach her about patience from the ground first where she can see me rather than from the saddle.

I also explained that as a young horse with relatively little trail experience, it made sense from the viewpoint of safety to see how she reacted to a new place from the ground first, especially in an area where there are many hikers, bikers and other riders.

They seemed to really appreciate the time I took and the information I gave them. Maybe they'll respect horses a bit more and see there is more to them than just jumping on and riding without taking the time to know and teach a horse.

Seeing how these people re-

acted to a point of view that was so different from their perception of horses as just animals to be ridden for fun got me thinking about a larger subject, what it takes to be good with horses and, by extension, a good rider. For the past 20 years I've tried to figure out ways to convince people it's about so much more than just riding, and that the keys are in us and we can always do better, no matter how old or experienced we may be.

A few months later I came across an article by Denny Emerson. I hadn't heard of this rider/trainer but after doing some research found that he is a legend in the disciplines of eventing and endurance riding. His is a fascinating story, and the article "The Best Kept Secrets of Riding Success" in *Equus* magazine, and the book "How Good Riders Get Good," are both worth a look.

Much of his writing is aimed at competitive riders but I found some of his specific points and his overall philosophy about personal but improvable traits touch on much of what I have tried to focus on in my own teaching, especially to everyday recreational riders.

There are three areas I've always had as part of any teaching relationship, and for the most part I've driven my students crazy with how I've stressed the necessity to work on these things to get better with horses. So, I was happy to see someone at the level of Denny Emerson including these same issues on his list of qualities critical to success for any equestrian.

Patience. "If I could choose a single trait to confer to any rider or trainer, it would be patience. Webster's Dictionary defines patience as 'the will or ability to wait without complaint... the bearing of suffering, provo-

cation, delay, tediousness, etc. with calmness and self-control.' All the words from the dictionary are implicit in the training, schooling or riding a horse."

Or, in different words but with the same message from Ray Hunt – "it'll take as long as it takes."

As a trainer, the questions I hate the most from any horse owner tend to the ones that indicate a lack of patience by the owner. How long will this take? How many times will I have to do this before I can move on or before my horse understands? Why is it taking so long for my horse to get this? Is any of this even necessary? Believe me, it is very hard to take the long view with horses, to feel good about slowly building a foundation and skills, in yourself and your horse, that will pay dividends maybe years down the line. Sometimes it just doesn't feel like fun. But I can say this for sure. If you don't have the patience to deal with the up and down journey with a horse with "calmness and self-control," you'll never get better or be as good as you could be.

Work ethic. This certainly goes hand in hand with patience. Emerson says, "so many riders these days have been deprived of or denied the privilege of struggle. Maybe parents today don't see it as important to instill a work ethic, but without one, tolerating the daily grind, even enjoying the daily grind of horse work, and all the obstacles, may seem insurmountable. What a true work ethic gives an individual is the fortitude to realize the goal of being good with horses will take a very long time, and that's OK."

In all my years of teaching, I can honestly say I haven't had a single student that was a natural and didn't need to spend hours of practice with a focused commitment to get better. I put myself

firmly in that camp. I was anything but a natural. I've worked at it and continue to do so every time I go to the barn, but I'm still nowhere near where I want to be. I suppose my New England roots had something to do with my personal enjoyment of work and practice. Who knows? I do know students I've had with the right kind of drive and the willingness to work on things – even the not so fun things - even at the expense of a ride with friends or when hearing skepticism or criticism from other riders, have improved and have more good things going on with their horses than others will ever get.

Detail orientation. Nothing drives my students crazier than my attention to details. How you tie a horse, how you hold your lead rope, what you wear, the condition of your tack, how you manage your reins – the list goes on and on. I've always said it disrespects your horse if you aren't fully prepared and organized, and that your horse appreciates the thoroughness. To him, it's a sign you care and that you're a good leader. Attention to all the little things will also keep your safer. So, I was happy to read this from Emerson:

"Meticulous horsemen are more likely to become good riders because they pay attention to the details. It's not easy to be picky about small details but if the finished performance is no more than the sum of a hundred parts, then each part must be polished and finished in its own right. Excellent horsemen are meticulous and knowledgeable about everything, not just riding. They know feeding, shoeing, medications, the importance of clean well-fitting tack, clean grooming equipment, tack rooms and horse trailers."

Emerson's list of "secrets"

is quite a bit longer but what I found interesting is the way he brings them all back to define the "character" of a rider. "Our emotions, taken together with the way we respond to these emotions, create what is often called character. We experience the same range of emotions as all other human athletes, but with a difference. We're not alone. Our horse also has emotions. Our emotions affect him, and his affect us. Each horse has his own unique character, just like us, so if we want to influence our horses most effectively, we should strive to model our own character on that found in the best riders."

I will continue to take my time with my young horse, paying attention to every little detail and listening to everything she says about each step we take. I'll make sure I'm clear in my own mind about what we're trying to do and that I'm competent in both the mental and physical aspects of what I need to do, and that the horse is ready mentally and physically as well. I know everything we do can be better, softer, quieter and more relaxed, and I'll take whatever time is necessary to get there. And I won't be disappointed if we never get there.

I think that's the best way, and apparently so do some of the greats. I urge all riders to do the same.

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship and foundation training.

You can contact him at hsthomson@msn.com or 575-388-1830.



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Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 15. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit entries to a maximum of two. Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words. Include name, postal address and email if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

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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 Yankee 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 — Bayard 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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SILVER CITY MAINSTREET

Signs Keep Going Up

New street light banner welcomes folk

Silver City MainStreet has installed banners on the Street Lights downtown that say “Welcome” and “Main Street Plaza” at the entrance to the Plaza in downtown Silver City. The signs were installed by the Community Youth Building Project lead by Gary Stailey.

The signs are one more step of implementing the Historic Downtown Signage Plan written in 2016 with input from community members, the Town of Silver City and Silver City MainStreet. NM MainStreet revitalization specialists helped MainStreet and the Town with the design and details for the comprehensive wayfinding plan.

Four wayfinding signs have already been installed downtown with maps and distances in minutes to key walking destinations. Highway signs using the design work were also installed in 2018 for the Stories from our Streets interpretive guide. The banners are another part of the plan implementation. Historic street signs are also in the signage plan.



(Courtesy Photos)

“We are so lucky to have a very walkable downtown,” said Patrick Hoskins, board president of Silver City MainStreet. “The banners make an attractive and friendly welcome to downtown. Having signs at the entrance to the Main Street Plaza will also help merchants direct residents and tourists to that location.

“Our hope is that organizations and businesses will sponsor more signs. They can have their logos printed at the bottom of the signs. We are especially hopeful to have holiday banners on each light pole this upcoming season.”

Silver City MainStreet Project is celebrating 35 years of service to Silver City this year. The MainStreet program is a national program fostering economic development in local communities and operates under the NM MainStreet program and the state Economic Development Department.

The mission of Silver City MainStreet is “To encourage a vibrant, historic downtown Silver City which is recognized as the heart of our diverse community.” Please visit our website, www.silvercitymainstreet.com to learn more.

THE STARRY DOME • BY BERT STEVENS

Corona Borealis, The Northern Crown

Planets forming, galaxies colliding

Overhead on these July evenings, Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown, is a small constellation of mostly fourth-magnitude stars forming a semicircle opening to the east toward Hercules. Greek astronomer Ptolemy listed Corona Borealis as one of the 48 constellations in his second century star catalog, the Almagest.

In Greek mythology, the god of wine and winemaking, Dionysus, married the Cretan princess Ariadne. He presented her a crown on the day of their

marriage. The gold crown was studded with jewels from India impressed into the gold by Hephaestus, the god of fire. Later, Dionysus put the crown in the sky as Corona Borealis.

While most of the stars in this constellation are fourth magnitude, the brightest star is Alphecca (Alpha Coronae Borealis), shining at magnitude +2.2. It is located at the center of the arc of stars that forms Corona. The name Alphecca is taken from the Arabic name for this constellation, but this star was once

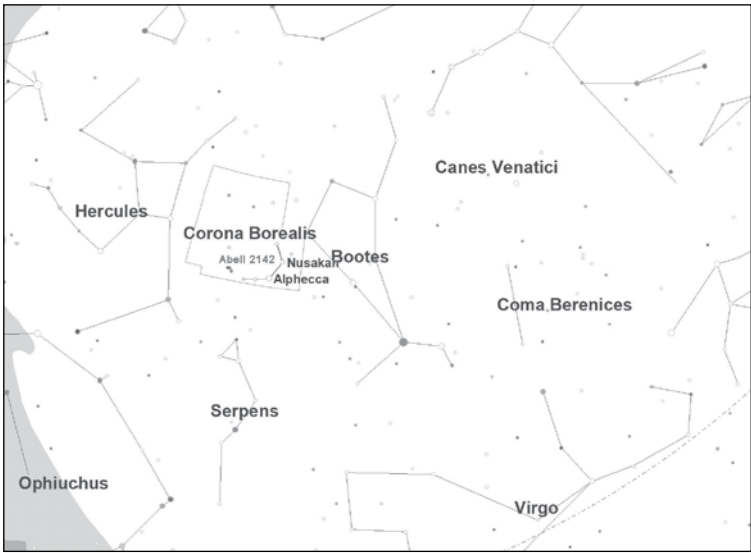
named Gemma, Latin for “jewel.” Alphecca is about 75 light-years distant from us.

Alphecca is not a single star, but a binary star with the two component stars circling each other every 17.36 days. The two stars are much closer together than the distance from Mercury to the Sun. The primary star is 2.6 times the mass of our Sun, a white star with a spectral class of A0. The secondary star is slightly smaller and yellower than our Sun, with a spectral class of G5. An excess of infrared light coming from this star system is due to a large disc of dust encircling the two stars extending out to one and a half times the distance from the Sun to Pluto. It is possible that this disc will eventually form planets that will orbit the two stars.

At the southern end of Corona Borealis is the massive galaxy cluster Abell 2142. This cluster is six million light-years across, but at 1.24 billion light-years, it is less than a third of the Moon’s diameter across in our sky. Galaxies come in a vast range of sizes, from tiny dwarf galaxies, barely 200 light-years across, to giant elliptical galaxies more than 700,000 light-years across.

Larger galaxies are usually accompanied by smaller galaxies that orbit them. Our Milky Way galaxy is surrounded by at least 20 companion galaxies that, along with the Andromeda Galaxy and its companions, make up the Local Group of galaxies. Galaxy groups can contain just a few galaxies up to dozens of galaxies. Our Local Group has more than 50 galaxies.

Galaxy clusters, on the other hand, have hundreds to thousands of galaxies. Abell 2142 has hundreds of galaxies that swim in an ocean of gas that surrounds this cluster. The surrounding gas contains enough material



Corona Borealis passes directly overhead on these July evenings. The Northern Crown opens to the east, facing Hercules. Most of the stars in the Crown are fourth magnitude, but the center star, Alphecca, is magnitude +2.2. Corona Borealis is nestled between the kite-shaped Boötes and the keystone of Hercules. There are only a few galaxies visible with a small telescope in this constellation.

Calendar of Events – July 2020 (MDT)

| | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 04 | 10:44 p.m. | Full Moon |
| 10 | 2 a.m. | Venus greatest brightness for this apparition |
| 12 | 1 a.m. | Mercury stands still |
| 12 | 1 a.m. | Aldebaran 1.0 degrees south of Venus |
| 12 | 5:29 p.m. | Last Quarter Moon |
| 14 | 2 a.m. | Jupiter opposite side of the Earth from the Sun |
| 20 | 11:33 a.m. | New Moon |
| 20 | 4 p.m. | Saturn opposite side of the Earth from the Sun |
| 22 | 9 a.m. | Mercury greatest distance from Sun (20 degrees) |
| 27 | 6:32 a.m. | First Quarter Moon |

to make thousands of additional galaxies. The gas is very hot, with the outer gas cloud over 100-million degrees. Inside that cloud, the density increases, but the temperature cools to seventy million degrees. Down near the center of the cluster, the gas is a “cool” 50-million degrees.

Abell 2142 is surprisingly not a single galaxy cluster, but two clusters that are colliding. Even in a cluster, the galaxies are so far apart that that the two clusters are passing through each other without harming the individual galaxies. The gas surrounding the clusters is another matter. The gas cloud associated with each cluster collides with the other, heating up to the high temperatures seen in this cluster. These temperatures are high enough to emit X-rays that were observed by the Earth-orbiting Candra X-Ray Observatory.

In addition to the two colliding clusters, there is another small group of galaxies well outside the colliding clusters but being pulled toward them. This small group consists of four large galaxies, along with some smaller ones that were too faint to be observed. As this group falls toward the colliding pair, the gas surrounding the group is being stripped away by outlying gas from Abell 2142.

This leaves a trail of hot gas that Chandra can see in X-rays. The trail marks where the group has been and shows that the group is heading straight toward Abell 2142. The first 800,000 light-years of the trail is still fairly narrow, being held together by magnetic fields. Beyond a million light-years, the tail spreads out, indicating the magnetic fields are no longer containing it.

STARRY DOME
continued on page 23

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WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? • MIKE COOK

Paws and Reflect

It's Smokey THE Bear, thank you very much

Finally know why Smokey Bear doesn't have a middle name ... anymore.

When I was growing up, it was always Smokey THE Bear. Then, mysteriously, Smokey's middle name began to disappear, becoming a sort of now-you-see-it, now-you-don't ex-the. The only explanation was, "You don't say, 'Santa THE Claus' or 'Easter THE Bunny.'"

Oh, yeah? Tell that to Winnie Pooh and Jack Ripper.

It turns out, the "the" came about in 1952 when Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote a song called "Smokey the Bear." (Nelson and Rollins also wrote "Frosty the Snowman.")

At last, the vital detail: The ex-the is all about getting the meter right in a song lyric!

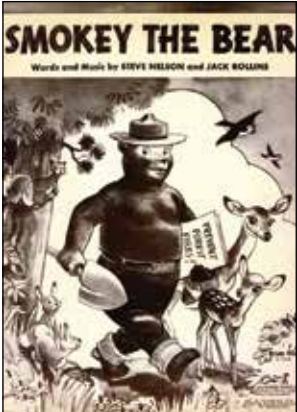
Here's the chorus: "Smokey the Bear, Smokey the Bear

Prowlin' and a-growlin' and a sniffin' the air

He can find a fire before it starts to flame

That's why they call him Smokey, That was how he got his name."

Listen to Eddie Arnold's 1952 recording at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Myz93sXW66Y and just try to sing along without the ex-the; it's unbearable.



The "Smokey the Bear" sheet music has words and music by Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins, artwork by Rudy Wendelin. (Photos are from www.nal.usda.gov)

The song was part of the non-profit Advertising Council's public service program to prevent forest fires – apparently the longest running PSA series in the Ad Council's 78-year history. Bambi was the first character featured on a fire-prevention poster, replaced by a bear named Smokey in August 1944.

A small black bear was discovered with burned paws clinging to a dead tree after the Capitan Gap wildfire that started May 4, 1950 in the Capitan Mountains of the Lincoln National Forest in Lincoln County, New Mexico. The fire destroyed 17,000 acres

and orphaned the bear, who was rescued by a forest ranger and nicknamed Smokey. The little bear was flown to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. to become the living symbol of fire prevention. Before he died Nov. 9, 1976, Smokey received so much fan mail that he was given his own zip code.

Smokey also became one of New Mexico's most enduring icons, along with RALF (Roswell Alien Life Form) and Billy THE Kid. He (the bear) is buried in Smokey Bear (grrr!) Historical Park in Capitan. Alas, even his grave marker omits the ex-the.

"Smokey the Bear (sic) Lyrics and Music" is the title of the website with the Smokey song sheet music (www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/items/show/8214?collection=15). The sic obviously refers to the ex-the. Sigh.

What's the grammar lesson here? Simply – and sadly – that the ex-the in Smokey THE Bear exists only in song. Saying it is like using a turn signal: polite but no longer considered necessary.

For me, the ex-the is simply an article of faith.

In any case, the world's most famous bear likely would have turned 70 years old in 2020. Happy the birthday, Smokey!



Smokey the Bear music and lyrics

STARRY DOME

continued from page 22

The initial collision between the two galaxy clusters in Abell 2142 occurred between one and two billion years ago. Chandra's observation of this collision will help astronomers better understand the dynamics of galaxy cluster collisions, a truly cosmic event.

The Planets for July 2020

About half an hour after the Sun sets in the west-northwest, Jupiter rises in the east-southeast and it is visible for the rest of the night. It is moving slowly westward in eastern Sagittarius, shining at magnitude -2.8. The King of the Gods' disc is 47.6 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. It is 35 degrees above the southern horizon around midnight.

Saturn rises just 20 minutes after Jupiter, following the same path. Saturn moves westward from western Capricornus into eastern Sagittarius at the beginning of the month. By midmonth, the Ringed Planet's disc is 18.3 seconds-of-arc across. Its rings are tilted 21.2 degrees downward with the northern face showing spreading over 41.4 seconds-of-arc. Saturn shines at magnitude +0.2.

Just after midnight, Mars comes over the eastern horizon. Moving from southern Pisces across a northwestern corner of Cetus and back into eastern Pisces during the month, the God of War shines at magnitude -0.8. Its disc is 12.8 seconds-of-

arc across at midmonth. Mars reaches an altitude of 57 degrees above the southern horizon as it gets light.

Now undeniably in the morning sky, Venus rises around 3:30 a.m., reaching 27 degrees above the eastern horizon as it gets light. The Goddess of Love shines at magnitude -4.5 at midmonth, when its disc is 34.3 seconds-of-arc across and it is 31 percent illuminated. This month Venus moves from central to eastern Taurus.

Mercury moves from western Gemini to eastern Gemini this month. The magnitude +0.3 planet will reach its furthest distance from the Sun on July 22, when its disc is 7.8 seconds-of-

arc across and it is 37 percent illuminated. It appears in the east-northeast around 4:45 a.m. after the first week of the month and it is will be heading back toward the Sun by the end of the month. It will be just 10 degrees above the east-northeastern horizon as it gets light. Catch little Mercury's appearance on these July mornings and "keep watching the sky"!

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



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 This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts,
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ACROSS THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

Coronavirus

on the Border

Numbers coming out of Mexico could be misleading

Three hundred fifty-six deaths in Juárez, 437 deaths in the state of Chihuahua. – El Diario, June 12, 2020.

“There are 1,525 deaths from the virus in Juárez”: Pastor José Antonio Galván. June 9, 2020. He is the founder and director of Visión en Acción, a mental asylum with 120 patients on the west side of Juárez. Both he and his wife are recovering from the coronavirus.

Who to believe?

“The situation here in Ciudad Juárez is not good. Many do not wear masks and people hang out together without distance,” said Sister Betty from the Tabor House Ministry in Juárez.

“There are many precautions,” said Aurora Ramos, citizen of Juárez.

Who to believe?

The story is different in Palomas 70 miles to the west.

“I have not heard of any cases in Palomas,” said Ivonne Romero, the owner of the Pink Store. Juan Rascon from Border Partners agrees. Pat Noble, one of the founders of La Casa de Amor Para Niños, visited Palomas June 12 and adds, “They don’t know of any cases here, but we did not see anyone wearing masks.”

Recently, I wrote about the failure of Mexico’s President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (better known as AMLO) to take the coronavirus seriously and the even larger problem of a continuing lack of programs for the poor. This has been confirmed by a May 8 front page article in the New York Times. That article focused mainly on Mexico City and indicated that the federal government there had only reported about 700 deaths whereas officials in Mexico City had tabulated more than 2,500. This dramatic under-reporting has led residents to believe that the coronavirus is not a serious threat and that social distancing is not important.



Jane Fuller of Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús with one of the children they care for. (Photos by Morgan Smith)



Pastor José Antonio Galván, the founder of Vision in Action and Josué Rosales, right, who is a patient but also is trained as a nurse. (Photos by Morgan Smith)



The Missions Ministries housebuilding project in better days.

How had this affected those United States-based organizations that do so much to provide aid along the border, particularly Juárez and Palomas?

Missions Ministries has its headquarters in Colorado but has been heavily involved in the colonias on the west edge of Juárez since 1992, building houses and maintaining a medical clinic and two libraries. Susy Pineda with the staff in Mexico reports that “While food, masks, gloves are needed, Missions Ministries is not able to take items across the border at this time.”

“Even those who are sick are fearful of going to the hospital as there was a shortage of medical staff even before the pandemic,” she said.

On an earlier crossing, Pat Noble was able to provide “despensas” for 75 families.

“We bought flour, rice and beans to Mexico,” she said. “[And] took toilet paper, oil, sugar and candy from here. They (the Mexican customs officials) did not stop us at all. They still have the Central Salud tent set up where they ask you who you are and where you are going but they had so many complaints that they only did it one day.” On her most recent crossing, the tent was there, but inactive.

Reporter Angela Kocherga said she has gone through the process entering Juárez.

“The sanitizing ‘modulo’ sprays a fine mist over you and it happens quickly as you walk through the ‘tunnel’ which is hardly long enough to qualify as a tunnel,” she said. “The modulo looks like an inflatable plastic

arch. I don’t know how effective it is since it does not seem like enough disinfectant to do much.”

Another reporter, Debbie Nathan, “went through a five-foot tunnel that sprayed me with some kind of mist, and also had my temperature taken by a Mexican official.” Coming back, she asked a Border Patrol agent to help maintain six foot social distancing and said that he screamed at her and told her to get out of line and go back to Mexico.

There is a phone number where you can report this kind of behavior: 915-832-4400.

The director of Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús (Following the Footsteps of Jesus), Jane Fuller, reports there are no masks and no social distancing in the area on the west edge of Juárez, where her program has built some 500 homes.

Patricia De Dios said most of the factories are closed but that workers are receiving half pay or being fired.

In short, it is a very confused and rapidly changing situation in Mexico. As for those from the United States and Mexico who have programs in Juárez and Palomas, they are dedicated and won’t be deterred. This is a mark of their commitment and I wish them the best.

Morgan Smith is a free-lance writer from Santa Fe who has been documenting conditions on the border for years. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

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.
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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.
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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.

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

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

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

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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.
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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.
THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263, Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D.
GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.

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GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D.
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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.
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FIRST RESPONDERS • MICHAEL SHINABERY

Support Needed

Dispatchers’ trauma moments deserve attention too

Imagine yourself as a law-enforcement dispatcher. The hours are long, and don’t expect a nine-to-five schedule. The stress is high. Your every action on the radio and phone is scrutinized. Maybe you save a life, and if you cannot through no fault of your own, there’s still the “what-if-I’d-only” thoughts that will never quite quit drifting around in your mind.

The job isn’t the best paying, either, but then dispatchers don’t really see the work as a job. To them, their efforts are a high calling.

So, you’re the dispatcher on duty on a lazy spring Sunday afternoon when the 9-1-1 line rings. In the Sacramento Mountains between Cloudcroft and Mayhill, on U.S. Highway 82, the caller says a motorcycle has left the road and struck a tree. Getting help to the scene is critical. You hurriedly but professionally dispatch law enforcement and EMS to respond.

In rural Otero County, medical and fire activity is performed by dedicated volunteers, many of whom will have to leave jobs and family, race to the fire station, and from there speed to the scene. On this afternoon you call for fire and rescue from the closest station: Mayhill. That done, maybe you say a quick prayer that help will arrive in time.

An Otero County sheriff’s deputy wastes no time in reaching the motorcyclist. State police soon follow. The deputy hurriedly assesses the situation; the outcome is, well, there’s really only one. The officer asks for a representative of the Office of the Medical Investigator, who arrives and pronounces the man dead at the scene.

Now the question is: Who is the decedent? Officials will need to notify relatives. There’s a duty to be done here. The officer retrieves the man’s wallet, extracts the driver’s license and then radios the dispatcher with the name.

Suddenly, the situation is no longer an “imagine if” scenario. Tee Mackewich is the Otero County Sheriff’s dispatcher on duty on Sunday, April 26. She has years of experience behind her, but with this one call she won’t need to contact his family. The six-foot, four-inch motorcyclist whom loved ones and friends called “a gentle giant,” is Justyn Miller. Mackewich gave birth to

him 33 years earlier.

“The deputy radioed his driver’s license for them to run and it just fell apart from there,” Mackewich’s husband, Mike Mackewich, said. “Her heart was just broken.”

Compounding her grief is that only three days earlier, Tee Mackewich had to endure the five year anniversary of the death of another of her three sons, Bryan Miller, who passed away after an illness. And in yet another gut-wrenching twist of fate, Bryan’s widow, Mary, is the City of Alamogordo dispatcher who alerts the city’s AMR ambulance service. She had no idea who the victim at the accident scene was.

Mike Mackewich himself is a retired deputy from the sheriff’s department, and as a former first responder has experienced his share of carnage and devastation. For these personnel, much-needed grief counseling is readily available in such situations. Except for one small glitch; under federal law, dispatchers are not classified as first responders.

“No,” Mike Mackewich said, “they’re considered secretaries. That benefit is not available to secretaries.”

In Otero County, Tee Mackewich is fortunate, because this local government provides EAP (Employee Assistance Program) counseling to all employees. Not all counties across the country do that, however. Mike Mackewich praised Sheriff David Black and Undersheriff Sean Jett for stepping in to ensure his wife received the help she needed.

“They’ve been supportive of the situation,” he said.

The Mackewiches are spearheading a drive to change what they see as an unfairness. He pointed out the counseling benefit is not the only disparity. Because dispatchers are not considered law enforcement officers, they must work additional years before receiving the same retirement pay that those on the street receive for less years’ service. Dispatchers also must undergo background checks, pre-employment psychological testing and must attend an academy.

“They are subject to the same stresses, the same emotions that the police officers are,” Mike Mackewich said.

In 2018, the federal Office of Management and Budget cate-

gorized dispatchers as “clerical workers.” Public comments submitted at the time asking OMB to not classify them thusly went unheeded.

“It really needs to be done on a federal level to be effective,” Mike Mackewich said.

To get Washington, D.C. to sit up and take notice, he stressed the movement needs to start locally before advancing to the New Mexico Legislature. Constituent support would be paramount. If a bill is passed and signed by the governor, state lawmakers can then take the issue to the state’s congressional delegation. To that end, Amy Barela, Republican Party of Otero County chair, recently worked on a resolution that, if passed, will be a first-step. Titled “Resolution to Support Efforts to Change the Federal Occupational Classification of Emergency Dispatchers,” the document asks for the support of Otero County commissioners.

Two bills were introduced early in the 116th Congress addressing this very matter: S.1050 in April 2019 in the U.S. Senate, the “Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act”; and H.R. 1629 in March 2019, a like-titled bill known as the SAVES Act. H.R. 1629 is co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Norma Torres, from California, who spent 17 years as a 9-1-1 dispatcher before election to public office. Several unions have endorsed the legislation, including the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, according to efficientgov.com. The websites govtrack.us, and congress.gov, reported both have bipartisan support but have yet to advance.

In reality, a majority of other states would need to participate as well. In mid-May, lawmakers in the New York proposed just such a bill.

A big part of what motivates the Mackewiches is that no one should have to go through what she has without an emotional safety net. Three days after the crash she visited the site to leave a memorial.

“As much as we are heartbroken,” Miller’s obituary cited, “he left the world doing his favorite thing, riding his motorcycle. Justyn was the kindest person you would have the privilege



Miller and his motorcycle (Courtesy photo)

of knowing. If someone needed help, he would be first in line all the while saying ‘come on guys, let’s get this done.’”

The Mackewiches hope that, in his memory, a groundswell of supporters will say likewise: “Come on guys, let’s get this done.”

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RVers Work from Their Rigs

Teaching English to Chinese children is one of many jobs

Many fulltime RVers work jobs from home. Because of the internet, the sky is practically the limit for home-based jobs, from medical consultations to astrology to paid phone sex.

I thought I had heard it all until I met Joy Wolfe, a current resident here at Rose Valley RV Ranch. Recently we invited her to a Saturday evening gathering, but she said she couldn't come "because I teach English to Chinese kids on Saturday evenings."

Back in the early 2000s, Joy owned a successful yoga studio in Portland, Oregon, but it got slammed financially during the 2008 recession and she had to close. She decided to try something completely different and signed up for a Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) course.

Once she was certified, she accepted a job in South Korea, and her two-year adventure was launched. All the teachers in the private school to which she was assigned were from either the United States or Canada. The company paid for their housing, and she lived in a large apartment building with other teachers. Her apartment was tiny, containing little more than a stool, a couch, and a bed. "It prepared me for RV living," she said.

She tried to learn the language while she was there. "I'd been to Europe, but this was totally different. Do you know what it's like not being able to read any signs? And most Koreans get their exposure to Western culture through our movies but see few Westerners in person, so everyone is looking at you all the time. Their ideal of personal beauty is a blonde with blue eyes. But all in all, it was a wonderful experience."

"Why Korea?" I asked her. "Why not Europe where you'd have been more comfortable?"

"Europe doesn't need many outside English teachers because so many Europeans already speak the language. Asia uses more outsiders and pays better. In addition, a TESL job in

Europe usually requires a teaching degree, specifically for teaching English. Asia requires just a bachelor's degree and it can be in any field."

"How did you go from living and teaching kids in Korea to living in a travel trailer with three dogs and two cats and teaching English to Chinese kids?" I asked.

"After I left Korea, I lived in Florida for seven years to be closer to my mother. But I was miserable, so eventually I sold my house, put my stuff in storage, and bought a truck and an RV." She told me that about five years ago China began hiring TESL-certified teachers to give private on-line English lessons to children and is still the only country that provides this service. "Anyone that signs up for this must have patience, though," she warned, "there's a lot of paperwork. I kept taking workshops and getting more certifications because it's very competitive. Chinese parents receive our bios and pictures to compare teachers, and they talk to each other about which teachers are the best."

The lessons are private and, because of the time difference, can be at odd hours. Joy told me a lot of the younger teachers will get up in the middle of the night to teach, but the earliest she teaches is 5:30 a.m., which is 7:30 p.m. for her students. Weekends she will begin at 6:30 p.m. which is 8:30 a.m. for her students.

Asian parents push their kids hard to do well and believe a fluency in English will help them get into the best American universities. The kids are competing with millions of other kids and

their parents are obsessed with their offspring's success. "If the neighbor's kid gets two hours a week of English, your kid has to have four," she explained. All children take English in school, but the wealthier parents insist on private lessons as well. Joy has taught children as young as three and as old as 14, but her best rapport is with the seven to 10 year-olds.

"All the kids are incredibly smart, so if they're not doing well, I take it as a reflection on me, not them, she said. "Maybe I need to change my style, or maybe smile and laugh more. I've learned to choose kids whose personalities match mine."

Sometimes the kids are exhausted by the time she sees them.

"Another teacher advised me to make their lesson the best 25 minutes of the day, to be goofy, have fun and make them laugh," she told me. "Some of these kids are so busy with lessons that they only get six or seven hours of sleep, so it's not unusual for them to nod off if I don't keep them engaged." Sometimes she plays games with them. Or she'll show them a variety of plastic Easter eggs with miniatures inside, which helps with color and language. She also begins each class with songs such as "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands."

The location of the student can also be a problem.

"I've taught kids who were in restaurants, or the back seat of a car going through traffic."

The teachers must speak English at all times, and Joy said she has to strip down everything



Joy Wolfe uses her time in Silver City to learn weaving at Wild West Weaving. (Photos by Sheila Sowder)

she says to the fewest words.

"Because they repeat everything. If I say 'OK, now say this,' they will say 'OK, now say this,'" Wolfe said. "And they are often working on a second computer during our lessons, doing homework or playing games. I noticed this one very smart seven-year-old was messing with some stuff off-screen, so I asked her what she was doing. She tried drawing me a picture, then she finally took something out of a jar and put it on the screen. It was a big, ugly newt. Another day she pulled a glob of frog eggs from her backpack and put them on the screen."

Cultural differences are often explained on the platform of the company Joy works through. For example, she wondered why so often the parents would be walking around in the background in their underwear. It just seemed a little strange. The platform explained that they rarely use their air-conditioning because it is so expensive. The same with heat, and often kids will be wearing

coats during their lessons.

When I asked Joy what was next in her life, she said, "I'm looking for a home. I need a house and some land."

Fulltime RVing isn't for everyone, as I've mentioned before, but it is a good way to travel around checking out different areas.

"I was interested in a town in Colorado," she told me, "but after a couple of months I realized it was a good place to visit, but not to live."

In the meantime, considering the current situation in our world, she'll hang out here in Silver City and continue teaching those Chinese kids.

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 sk Sowder@aol.com.



Wolfe's feline and canine roommates like to nap during the English lessons for Chinese children.

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