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ABOUT THE COVER:

A few spooky details may crop up at the new location of the Tranquilbuzz Coffee Shop at 300 N. Arizona St. in Silver City which is open for October. The photo is by editor Elva K. Österreich who will be resuming her Tranquilbuzz office hours from 10 a.m.-noon on Oct. 23. Call for an appointment, 575-443-4408, or any time to share information or set up a meeting.



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RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

All the Way Home

Adventure in the great outdoors

I like to kid my brother that his grandson would rather do anything else than go hiking with him.

“Sorry, grandpa, but I have calculus to do.”

“But you won’t have calculus until you get to high school.”

“I don’t want to wait until the last minute.”

Before hiking trails and playgrounds were taped off like crime scenes, my granddaughter had a great idea: “Let’s have a picnic on the mountain,” she said.

She was talking about a hiking trail where I’ve taken her before.

“That’s a GREAT idea,” I told her. I like how all the female hikers fuss over her.

“She’s so pretty,” they’ll say, and I’ll modestly agree.

So, we packed up our Chick-fil-A nuggets and headed for the great outdoors, only it was kind of breezy in the great outdoors. Inside the city wasn’t bad, but we were no longer inside the city.

“Are there any snakes?” she asked, as we started up the trail.

“No,” I assured her, but kept my eye on the trail. I remembered how a snake once made my brother-in-law glad he wore brown shorts when a group of us

went hiking.

“Don’t worry,” I assured him. “It was a baby snake.”

“How do you know?”

“I heard its rattle.”

Meanwhile...

“How about hyenas?” my granddaughter asked, going through her list of Disney animal villains.

“There’s no hyenas either,” I told her. “I would never take you someplace dangerous.”

But she wasn’t so sure.

“The animals won’t try to get our food when we’re eating?” she asked.

You know, that was a pretty good question.

“Sweetie,” I assured her, “the animals are afraid of YOU. They’ll stay away. You don’t have to be afraid.”

“I’m not afraid,” she said in her little girl voice.

The breeze was more like a wind now. The sun’s rays were warm, but the wind was cold—maybe the devil is only beating his mistress when that happens*—so I handed my granddaughter the light jacket my beautiful wife insisted I bring for her.

“We don’t need it,” I had argued.

“Take it,” she insisted.

So, I took it.

How do mommies know? Anyway...

My granddaughter didn’t care for the cold wind.

“You shouldn’t have brought me,” she told me.

“It was YOUR idea,” I told her back.

“It wasn’t a good idea,” she said.

“It was a GREAT idea,” I said back, trying to sound chipper.

Well, to make a long story short, we found some big rocks that blocked the wind and had a nice picnic.

On the hike back down, she asked me, “What’s THAT?”

She was referring to the long sticks some hikers were using as walking staffs.

“They’re called Desert Spoons,” I said, pointing them out to her. She didn’t buy my explanation.

“They don’t LOOK like spoons,” she told me. She was right, but I went on with my explanation anyway.

“The trunk growing out of the middle is what they’re using,” I said.

“Can I have one?” she asked.

“Sure,” I told her, meaning we’d pick up a discarded one somewhere along the trail. I’m

not one to vandalize some poor desert plant if I don’t have to.

She immediately began walking into the desert to get her own.

I stopped her.

“Don’t EVER go off the trail,” I warned her. “NEVER.”

“Are you mad at me?” she wanted to know.

“No,” I assured her, “but don’t ever leave the trail.”

I was going to add, “You could get lost,” but I didn’t want to scare her. She has enough issues with Bambi’s mom and Simba’s dad.

I found one further down the trail. It was about five feet into the desert. I let go of her hand.

“Wait here,” I told her.

As I took one step into the desert, she pulled me back.

“Grandpa,” she chastised, “don’t EVER go off the trail.”

“You’re right,” I told her, but how was I going to get it for her if I didn’t? So I said, “Don’t let go of my hand,” and I stepped into the desert.

“Don’t fall into the lava,” she warned me.

I smiled.

What is it with kids and lava?

I picked up an older, uglier stick and used it to drag over the one I wanted. I then used a sharp rock to shave off the jagged parts that could give her a splinter. I wanted her walking stick to be smooth. She picked up a rock and started to help me. When we were done, I handed it to her.

“Here,” I said, and she took it.

“Thanks, grandpa,” she said, admiring her new walking stick.

A boy ran past us. Seconds after, a girl did, too.

“Don’t run, you fools,” I said, under my breath. I explained to her that if you run down a mountain gravity takes over and you can’t stop.

“And you’ll get hurt?” she asked me, her eyes wide with concern.

“Hurt bad,” I said.

She looked down toward the two disappearing figures and yelled, “DON’T RUN, YOU FOOLS!”

When we made it back to my truck, I put her new walking stick in the back and told her, “Next week we’ll go to a DIFFERENT hiking trail. We’ll stop at Chubb’s and get some of the best barbecue for another picnic. At the top of the mountain there’s a big cave. We can eat there.”

She thought about the cave.

“Do wild animals live there?” she said.

I assured her it was safe.

“I don’t like wild animals,” she said. “They can eat you.”

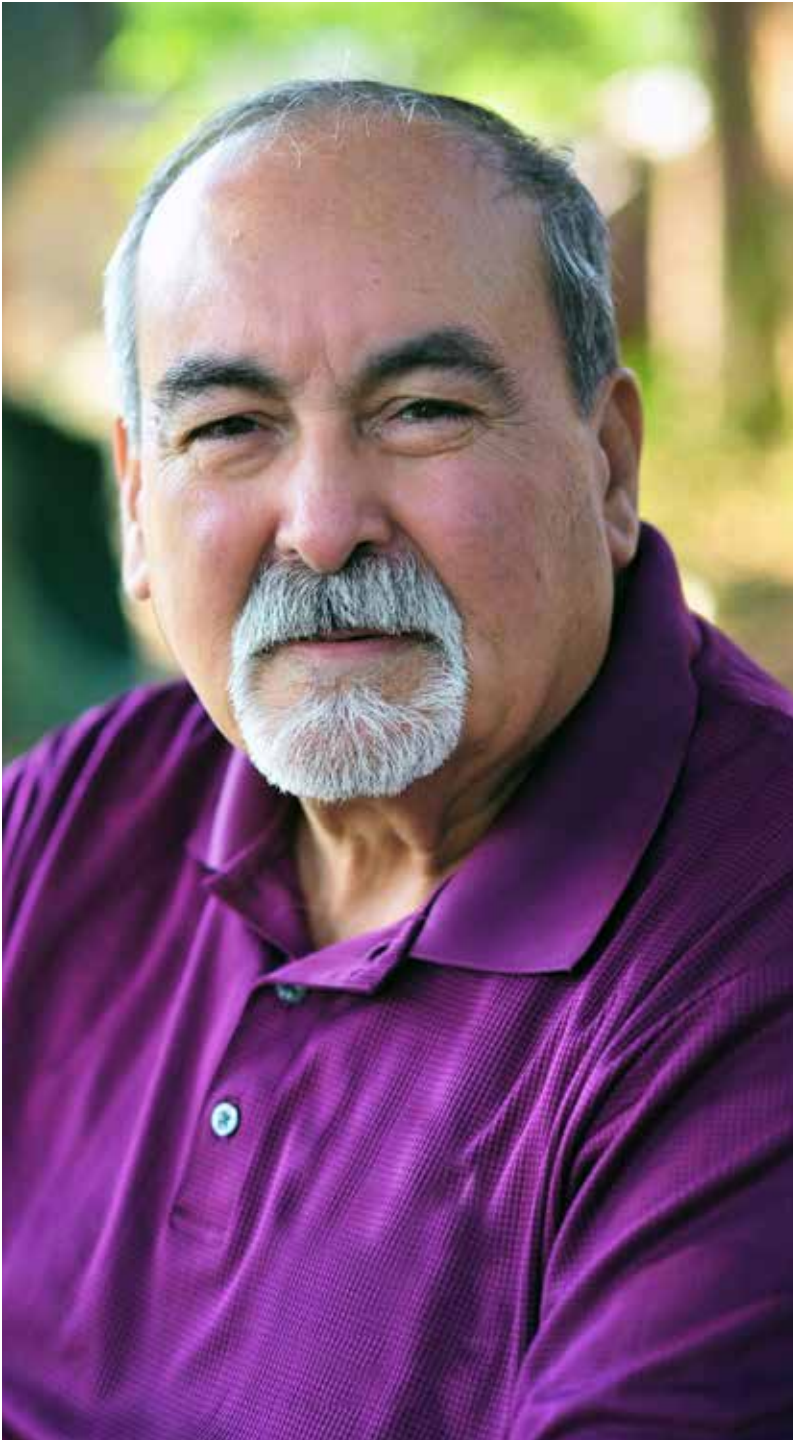
My little girl had a point.

We got on the road and she slept all the way home.

Sadly, we never made it to Chubb’s.

The world stopped turning before we could, and, shortly thereafter, they went out of business.

**Read “Moonheads” in the April 2020 edition of Desert Exposure. theduchenebrothers@gmail.com @JimDuchene*





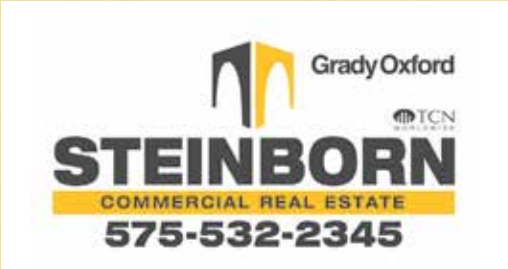
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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rudy Martinez - Linda Hannan, Treasurer

Human Systems Research, Inc. initially postponed and has now cancelled its 9th Annual Buffalo Roast Fundraiser scheduled for last March. HSR and its Board of Directors wish to thank the organizations listed below who have graciously converted their event sponsorships into donations for HSR. Those donations along with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New Mexico Humanities Council are enabling our nonprofit to continue its mission of research and education in Southwest archaeology and anthropology. Thank You!



Faith Hutson & John Verploegh

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

Close to Home

The world would be better if we listened to our moms

When I first moved away from home, in the small town I grew up in, I felt freedom. I was only one state away from the only community I knew as a kid, but for me it was an opportunity for a 20-year-old to prove that he could make it out on his own.

One thing has remained consistent for the almost two decades since that move: my mom's hints that I should move closer to family.

In phone conversations and during holiday visits, she always made subtle suggestions on how great it would be for all the kids to be close to each other.

It's something that Mexican moms do. I always brushed it off, but as time passed by, I began to appreciate those convincing subliminal messages. It's not just countries like Italy where families live in very close quarters. The Italians don't even have a word for privacy. It's also barrios in Mexico where generations of families are destined to live with each other, never leaving home or the town of their grandparents.

In some ways, this pandemic has forced us to leave the comfort of our relatively luxurious lifestyles and live like our poor ancestors. Our abuelitos and abuelitas lived in one home, often the one handed down from their parents. All their lives they had one profession and shopped at the same local market. They had a family butcher and doctor. Their addresses and phone numbers didn't change. You knew where to find them because they were always there.

They were living in quarantine not because they were told to but because their circumstance dictated it. Through it all, they were happy. Come to think of it, they were probably happier than we are today.

When you are poor, you don't worry about buying the latest phone or trading in your new car for an even newer model. Your decisions are limited because the world has already decided them for you. Saving for a garage remodel is not a thing. The money you have is spent on everyday things like food. You don't have much to spend on much else.

This life of quarantine has made us a little depressed because our modern-day comforts seem far and away, but what we do have remaining is what really matters. Mom kept hinting this valuable lesson to me for years, but I didn't get it until the world forced me to realize it.

Why don't we listen to moms first? They have this supernatural power to be right about everything. Instead, we wait to learn the hard way. Recently, I did move closer to family. I'm not exactly across the street, but I'm just one town and a short drive away. The move has been a blessing and I've been growing closer to my brothers. Just being available when needed is such a good feeling.

The pandemic has taught us many things. It gave me time to think about the important life lessons that had been told to me in obvious and subtle ways by a parent who knew what was best for me, quarantine or no quarantine.

The quiet time of a national shutdown took away the unnecessary distractions of life and stripped me down to the little boy in the barrio, growing up in a time when what really mattered was always close to home.

Abe Villarreal writes about the traditions, people and culture of America. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.






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Letters to the Editor

Under scrutiny - the response to COVID-19

Editor:
As we all are aware of, in response to COVID-19, under the Emergency Management Act, serious violations of the Constitution are taking place, including violations of free speech, freedom of movement, freedom to work, freedom of assembly, medical freedom and much more. While many people wholeheartedly support this, others with doubts about the severity of the epidemic wholeheartedly do not. These voices are being systematically silenced. I think they need to be heard. In dispute are the mortality rate, rate of spread, cause of spread, possibility of asymptomatic spread, validity of the testing procedure and vaccine, effect on children and the science behind lock down, social distancing, masks and vaccine.

There are hundreds of reputable scientists and doctors worldwide with an abundance of scientific and experiential evidence coming forward at great expense to their reputations and livelihoods disputing the narrative of many politicians and mainstream media. They have been responded to with hysteria fear and censorship, rather than openness and reason.

Because of the worldwide suffering and destruction of lives and communities involved and the lack of success of the measures to control the situation, it is unreasonable and destructive to continue to censor these voices of dissent on social media, in our political system, in our community and especially in the courts. In the interest of worldwide health and civil rights, serious opinions from highly credentialed professionals regarding the pandemic must be heard and seriously considered by anyone with power over other people's lives.

As a result of overriding the Constitution to protect our health, our lives have become severely restricted and entirely unhealthy in psychological, spiritual and physical ways. Avoiding contact with infected people, of

course, is always wise, but that can be overdone and there are other considerations to staying healthy even during a pandemic. A healthy immune system demands a happy, healthy lifestyle with personal meaning, a sense of well-being, emotionally honest relationships, physical touch and pleasant interactions. Without respect for free will, individual freedom of thought and speech, freedom of movement, added to forced isolation, a lack of normal pastimes and enjoyable activities, the immune system is bound to weaken.

Instead I see in our community a lack of respect and even disgust between people, demand for conformity, rude behavior, habitual avoidance, judgment instead of understanding and tolerance, and lonely, depressed and anxious individuals. Beyond that, there is ongoing mob hysteria demanding conformity down to the most intimate aspects of our lives (mob rule). We in Silver City have always been better than that.

This brings us to the intense controversy over masks, which centers on the questionable assumption that masks work only one way and we all must accept them to make everyone safe. It seems rational that if the mask works, one doesn't need to control the personal choices of other people to feel safe. If one believes it works only from the other person to oneself, they can wear it backwards. I strongly believe that no healthy person should ever be forced to wear a mask at all times against their will, especially because of the known health risks of wearing them. And with a raging controversy occurring over the validity of the pandemic, this becomes even more meaningful.

To watch the steady decline of Silver City from a pleasant town with friendly, open people to what we see today is excruciating. I hope we can find our way to something better soon.

Ronnie Diener
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.

PRC should remain elected

Editor:
While in the national arena Trump-Republicans have been undermining institutions upon which our capitalist democratic society relies, in New Mexico it has been the Democratic leadership in state government that have been undermining an essential, constitutionally mandated, institution: the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC). They have even threatened to impeach PRC commissioners simply because they were trying to do their jobs and balance the public's interests with industry interests.

This November, New Mexico voters will be choosing whether to retain the current five-member PRC that is elected by and therefore accountable directly to us, or, to enact constitutional amendment No. 1 on the ballot, which would turn the PRC into a three-member body, appointed by the governor of the state from a pool selected by a legislative nominating committee.

Here are two examples of how a governor-appointment approach to industry oversight has recently failed here in New Mexico:

1) In 2019, the Democratically controlled New Mexico government passed the Produced Water Act, which allows for radioactive and chemical-laden "produced water" (i.e., fracking wastewater), to be used outside of the industry, potentially even upon on agricultural lands. Usage outside of the industry will be regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). (The bill was sponsored by Democrats Brian Egolf and Nathan Small on behalf of Marathon Oil, the author of the law.)

Disposal and reuse within the oil and gas industry is to be regulated by the Oil Conservation Division (OCD), a three-member Commission. The governor appoints one commissioner, the governor appoints the head of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, who in

turn appoints one commissioner, and the head of the New Mexico State Land Office appoints one commissioner.

Recently, while enacting rules on this toxic carcinogenic wastewater, the commissioner who was appointed by the State Land Office recused herself; she expressed concern regarding inadequate public engagement before the "produced water" rule was promulgated. This left the decision to just two members, the commissioner appointed by our governor and a petroleum engineer appointed by an appointee of our governor.

The result was that, after meeting on break with Marathon Oil personnel, the commissioners adopted a rule that fails to "protect public health, environment and fresh water sources" (the commission's mandate).

Despite OCD's duty to protect human health and the environment, the rule allows oil and gas wastewater to spill, discharge and contaminate our land; it will

cause injury to New Mexicans now and future generations. OCD's general counsel admitted that produced water accounted for more than 50 billion gallons in 2019, and that the rule to regulate these vast quantities is gray, just "less gray" than before. So much, for the governor's supposed concerns with effective regulation and the meritocracy and professionalism of commissioners.

2) NMED's governor-appointed personnel have FAILED in their methane rule: according to the Environmental Defense Fund, their proposed rule would leave 95 percent of wells unregulated! Due to emissions, New Mexico's two largest fracking areas have received an "F" from the American Lung Association. 58,063 vulnerable people live within one mile of these wells. Methane standards are overdue.

Lesson learned: Don't trust this governor and legislators to decide. Having commissioners appointed insulates them from public scrutiny and accountability.

ity. Now this governor wants to appoint PRC commissioners as well, but her record for regulation of industry is a disaster. Let's have public-representative PRC commissioners decide on gas and electric utility rate cases, NOT government-appointed insiders. Gov. Lujan Grisham hasn't shown any ability to put the public interest above her campaign interest.

I voted for Lujan Grisham, but after seeing what she has done, I certainly do not trust her to appoint commissioners who will look out for the public good; and, who will be the next governor?

Let's keep our democracy as direct as possible and in this upcoming election, vote NO on Constitutional amendment No. 1., so that WE can continue to appoint our own PRC commissioners.

Tom Manning
Director, Citizens for Fair Rates and the Environment
(an association of residential ratepayers of PNM)

DESERT DIARY

Life in the time of coronavirus

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

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
- PSA: Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Homeschooling is going well. Two students suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks, we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone

- So, after this quarantine, will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?
- Quarantine Day 64: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
- Day 18 of Homeschooling:

One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

- Classified ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good, clean fun.
- Day 48 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.
- Quarantine Day 56: I've started taking calls from tele-

marketers.

- In Germany they are preparing for the crisis by stocking up with sausage and cheese. That's the Wurst Käse scenario.
- Can't name a virus after a beer and expect it to scare people. Should have named it getajobovirus. That would cause a panic.
- Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under!

QUEST COLUMN • DEB DENNIS

Respecting History

Area nonprofit thanks community for continuing support

Human Systems Research, Inc. (HSR) expresses its deep gratitude to those who are continuing to support HSR, an archaeological research nonprofit organization founded in February 1972 and based in Las Cruces. In March HSR was forced to postpone its sold-out ninth annual Buffalo Roast fundraiser due to the first round of statewide health and safety restrictions stemming from the pandemic.

With public gatherings still severely limited, the HSR board of directors decided to cancel both the dinner and the associated lecture – a very significant decision since this premier local event has been our only annual fundraising activity. Since 2012, funds raised through sponsorships, ticket sales and our silent auction have enabled HSR to continue with its mission of archaeological research, cultural preservation and education pertinent to southwestern archaeol-

ogy and anthropology.

Like many local nonprofits, HSR has been buffeted by the effects of the oil and gas industry's collapse on New Mexico's economy and by work restrictions related to the pandemic. In March, environmental projects were shelved indefinitely and opportunities for new contracts with state agencies have also disappeared. Unlike many nonprofits, however, HSR, as a scientific entity not associated with provision of direct social services, is not eligible for most financial relief grants. In times such as we are now experiencing as a country, nonprofits that provide for the human needs of food, shelter, utilities, medicine and services must take precedence.

HSR is all the more appreciative and grateful to all of those in the community who have stepped forward to help the nonprofit keep its doors open and research moving forward. The first

assistance came from Citizens Bank when Business Banking Officer Taryn Armitage worked with us to secure a Payroll Protection Program loan in April. Then in June, HSR was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New Mexico Humanities Council. That grant secured the building that houses HSR operations through October 2020.

More recently, a number of Las Cruces have stepped forward and are generously converting their sponsorships into outright donations. They include:

- Marcy Oxford, PhD., member of HSR board, and Grady Oxford, associate broker, Steinborn & Associates Real Estate
- Faith Hutson and John Verploegh, longtime HSR volunteers
- William Little, former president of the HSR board, and Christina Little
- April Tate, co-owner of American Document Services

- Andrea Schneider, owner of Andele Restaurant and Andele Dog House in Mesilla
- Carol Calista, DVM, founder and owner of Calista Animal Hospital
- Rhena Phillips, vice president and marketing and business relationships officer for Citizens Bank
- Denise Cooper, member of Clifford, Ross, Raudenbush & Cooper, CPAs LLC
- Christopher Sanders, vice president of First American Bank
- Jerean and Tom Hutchinson, owners of La Posta de Mesilla
- Charlie Estrada, commercial lines agent, Pat Campbell Insurance
- Pam Rossi, advertising consultant, Las Cruces Bulletin

HSR's good news has been multiplied by more than 150 ticket holders who have chosen to convert the value of their tickets into direct donations. Each and

every contribution strengthens the lifeline that is helping HSR to persevere. As an organization, HSR is deeply grateful to the many individuals and businesses that have provided support and encouragement throughout our nearly 50 years of work in southern New Mexico. February 2022 will mark HSR's golden anniversary. We hope to be able to celebrate that occasion with the Las Cruces community.

Deb Dennis is executive director of Human Systems Research, Inc. a New Mexico nonprofit doing archeological research. HSR's office is at 535 S. Melendres St. Contact Dennis at 575-524-9456 and ddennis@humansystemsresearch.org. Visit <http://exhibition.canadaalamosaproject.org/>.



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The opening scene of the 1978 movie "Convoy" shows Kris Kristofferson driving a semi through what is obviously our White Sands.

But after a few seconds, the superimposed title on the screen reads: "Somewhere in Arizona."

I was watching a rerun of the movie late at night on cable, probably in the late 1990s, when I was living in Alamogordo, about 15 miles from White Sands.

Here were my reactions, yelling at the TV.

"Hey, cool, they're at White Sands."

"What?! 'Somewhere in Arizona'?"

Loud laughter.

Then, perturbed: "Come on. I can't believe that. Why would they do that? How does that fabrication help the plot of a movie about truckers and CB radios? It could have just as easily said, 'Somewhere in New Mexico.' Oh, well. That's Hollywood."

It still was not as ludicrous as the scene in the 1996 Kurt Russell/Steven Seagal movie "Executive Decision." That movie features an F-117 stealth fighter, just like the ones whose squadrons were stationed at the time Holloman Air Force Base, right next to the White Sands. Again, I was like, "Hey, cool!" Until they cut to what was supposedly inside the stealth fighter, where 12 men sat in a cargo hull, like it was B-52 or something. I, and probably everyone living in Alamogordo and southern New Mexico at the time, knew the stealth fighter



The white gypsum dunes draw visitors for recreation, release and refuge. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

was only large enough to carry one person: the pilot. Oh, well. That's Hollywood.

After thinking about the "Somewhere in Arizona" line, I decided I didn't care what they called it. The White Sands are unique, beautiful and inspiring no matter the name. Technically, even the name White Sands is wrong, because it's not sand but gypsum.

Now, after being White Sands National Monument from 1933-2019, those remarkable gypsum dunes actually do have a different name. It's White Sands National Park.

For all my 25 years living in New Mexico, the first half of those just 20 minutes from the dunes, the second half 40 minutes away, White Sands has been a recreation area, a release and a refuge for me. I have not been able to go to the sands since it got its new name, and that's the longest I've gone without being there since I became a New Mexican.

I realize the actual White Sands aren't going to change just because the name did, but I am looking forward to going again just to go, and maybe get some new national park swag. After so long seeing it abbreviated as WSNM, though, it's going to take me some time to get used to WSNP.

The first writing award I received in the New Mexico Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest, was an editorial titled "Saving the Soul of America." As editor of the Alamogordo Daily News, I was goading Congress, in 1996, not to make proposed funding cuts to the National Park System. In the editorial, I boasted the benefits not only of White Sands, but the other great national parks and monuments in New Mexico that help make this the Land of Enchantment.

I still think Teddy Roosevelt's idea of national parks was a great one, and I encourage everyone to spend time there. No matter what they're called.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure and the Las Cruces Bulletin. Once, on a 65-degree day, his digging daughter Jessica found, buried under a few layers of gypsum, snow from a week before, preserved by the White Sands. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com



WILD ART • MIKE COOK

RenFaire Goes Virtual

There won't be a dragon in the lake this year, but Magellan will come roaring back bigger and better than ever in 2021.

To protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC) has decided that the 49th annual Renaissance ArtsFaire will be a virtual event on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, DAAC Communication Director Kathleen Albers said.

"Many fun activities will be offered, but at a safe social distance from your computer," Albers said. "We are looking forward to a spectacular 50th Faire next year in November 2021."

"We hope that good health and safety will be reasonable expectations by this November, but we know that a 'normal RenFaire' will simply be impossible this year," said DAAC Executive Director Greg Smith.

Smith said DAAC staff are still refining details for the virtual event, but added, "We are expecting that those who join us for a virtual renaissance experience this year will thoroughly enjoy a range of activities: learning experiences with a focus on the arts and cultures of both Europe and the Americas 500 years ago in our Feed Your Mind series; some exciting offerings to be auctioned; costume contests focusing mainly on traditional Renaissance garb, but also introducing what was being worn on this side of the Atlantic; a wide range of video connections to how and why artists and performers do what they do; and a number of video ads for artists and vendors."

The virtual RenFaire is also expected to include videos of jousting and other medieval and renaissance activities. The crowning event will be the live, online auction of several great works of art, including drivable art on wheels, appropriately named "Baby, You Can Drive My Art!"

"The way we experience entertainment has changed dramatically with the pandemic,"



The Renaissance ArtsFaire Crimson Bear Court. (Photos by Emmitt Booher)

said Las Cruces musician Randy Granger, who has been performing at RenFaire since 1998. "We are forced to be even more creative in how artists and audiences experience each other. Most of the festivals I had been scheduled to perform at this year have gone virtual via livestreaming or recorded performances and workshops. Instead of cancelling the Renaissance Faire, the highlight of our fall fiesta season, we are also going virtual involving as much of the familiar acts and activities as possible along with new ones to keep folks interested. I know major touring acts who are postponing touring for a while. No one knows with certainty when we will all be able to have crowds again. In the meantime, we are working hard to provide some entertainment and community with Ye Ole Virtual Renaissance Faire and hope everyone joins us. Being online will increase our audience exposure worldwide. That is exciting."

RenFaire is an annual fundraising event produced by DAAC since 1971. It has been held for many years at Young Park. One of the event's most popular attractions is always Magellan the Dragon.

Artist Bob Diven built, launched and maintained the original dragon for more than 25 years, before creating a new robotic dragon, in partnership with the New Mexico State University College of Engineering and the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium, turning

over its continued maintenance to Doña Ana Community College's Engineering Manufacturing Program led by DACC Engineering and Manufacturing Department Chair Luis Meza.

With a budget of less than \$1,000, Diven built the dragon out of chicken wire, upholstery fabric and plywood, using a Peterbilt truck horn to give him a mighty roar.

Early on, Diven enlisted the assistance of Boy Scouts in canoes helping to hook up the dragon once it was placed in the lake at Young Park. Canoe rides became an annual part of RenFaire as a result.

Diven said the name for the dragon came from a children's contest the year the dragon was made. The two finalists were "Magellan" and "Pants on Fire," Diven said. "I chose Magellan because it was an elegant name," he said, and because it honored Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who organized the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe in 1522.

"As The Ratcatcher Robert, my whole patter was about a deadly plague sweeping the world and how it changed everything: economies, systems of rule, language," Diven said. He portrayed Ratcatcher Robert at RenFaire beginning in 1996 until retiring him in 2019.

"Our current pandemic has put huge parts of our regular lives on a deep hold, and in a way that gnaws at our essential humanness: it isolates us from our community," he said. "The Renaissance ArtsFaire is one of the communities within our community and is as much an annual reunion of volunteers and friends as an art event. I don't really know how much of that communal experience can be captured in a virtual way, but I know we have to try. Until, as Queen Elizabeth (the current, living one) said 'We'll meet again.'"

For more information, call 575-523-6403. Visit www.daarts.org.



49th annual Renaissance ArtsFaire contests

- Renaissance-Related Contests for people to complete at home and submit photos online for judging. Submit entries Oct. 1 through Nov. 5; Winners and prizes announced Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m., live on the DAAC Facebook page.
- **Costume Contest:** The only rule is it must fit the time-period. Send submissions to admin@daarts.org. The royal Court will be the judge of the best costumes. The winner will receive \$50; second and third places receive a gift certificate. Children may also compete and the winner in that category will receive \$25, and second and third will also receive gift certificates. Costumes will be featured on social media pages. Also, for children, a downloadable Children's Renaissance coloring book is available on the website, www.daarts.org/event/49th-annual-renaissance-artsfaire/, and social media.
 - **Mask Contest:** Anyone can enter the mask contest by creating a partial or full-face mask and submitting a photo of the mask for judging. Lisa Carlson and Dennis Milligan-Lujan will be judging the masks. The judges are looking for creativity and craftsmanship. The best mask in show will receive \$50. Images of masks should be sent to tkjewel-snm@gmail.com.
 - **Recreating Art or Art History Contest:** Since the pandemic started, people have been looking for creative ways to keep busy. Recreating famous works of art with things found around the house now includes world famous museums and can be found all over Instagram. DAAC is inviting the community to recreate famous Renaissance art. Use items from around the house. Submit images to manager@daarts.org. Also submit an image of the original artwork so we can compare them. There will be a first prize of \$50. These images will also be featured on social media.

MUSIC EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Backing into the Music

Musician starts with words, guitars

James Ethington III started collecting guitars long before he could play them.

"I had five guitars and couldn't play a lick," he said.

Fascinated by music and liking the way guitars looked, it was not until he was 19 that he picked one up and learned how to play it. Today, his collection has grown to 40 guitars, and he can play them all.

"Alamogordo is a small town, not much to do," Ethington said. "Through the years I was planting seeds for music. I had fun exploring sounds, and it was positive. I could have gotten into

a lot of negative."

It was the late '90s and the music Ethington loved was his father's: Al Green, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles and most of all, the Jackson 5.

"I would be mesmerized just watching them," he said. "I watched Tito playing guitar, watched Jermain playing bass. Then I got into the Beatles, Eric Clapton, and I knew whatever I can do with music, I have to try, because I've got to do something with my life."

But for Ethington, it was the lyrics that came first. He started out with stories, writing when he

was in elementary school.

"I was known for writing stories," he said. "I was either writing stories or making up stories. I used to get in trouble."

In his early days he told his teacher he had nine brothers.

"I would come to school every day and tell her elaborate stories about all these brothers – my brother did this to me, my brother did that to me – then one day I told her one of my brothers died, and she believed it."

When his parents went to the

ETHINGTON III
continued on page 10

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We strongly recommend gallery patrons call locations before visiting as gallery hours are subject to change and do so often. Contact 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 St., second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.
Borderlands Gallery, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.
The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622- 0251. By appointment.
Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. Open by chance or by prior arrangement. 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.
Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.
The Place at the Palace, at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.
Soul River Gallery, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.
Sterling Fine Art, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.
Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388- 3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.
Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
Szygy Tile Gallery, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.
Tatiana Maria Gallery, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.
Tree Spirit Gallery, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.
21 Latigo Trail, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.
Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas St., 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.
Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.
Wynnegate Gallery, 1105 W. Market St., 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, 250 W. Amador Ave., 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 St., 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 St. 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 St., 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 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.

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ETHINGTON III
continued from page 9
school soon after, the teacher got “all mad because they weren’t sad about it. My dad told her, ‘I’m glad he’s gone, because James always makes up these stories.”
Soon he got into writing poetry and then, in sixth grade, one of his poems was published in an anthology.
“I was always writing, but never had the music,” he said. “I couldn’t play anything. I just loved to write and create.”
So, the words came first, the playing came after. But there is no doubt today that the music has been mastered, as Ethington sits and plays on the patio of a café, his fingers dancing their way across the strings as he talks about his dreams.
“At the end of the day, I want to look back where I came from,

and I want to talk to kids who, like me, felt hopeless,” he said. “I felt the world is too big to conquer, and there’s not a way out when you feel like that. There’s a lot of things to hold you down. Drugs, alcohol and all these other things are right around the corner everywhere. Hopefully, I can be as successful as I can be with music. It’s going to be great for me, but it’s going to be even better if I can leave a lasting impression that is positive – if I can be a trailblazer for kids.”
In addition to performing for area charity events like Relay for Life, Ethington has performed in Santa Monica Beach, California, Phoenix, and Austin.
Ethington recently released a new EP, “Rheacycle,” which is an eclectic, five-song mix reminiscent of the glory days of alternative acoustic music.
Tracks on “Rheacycle,” include

Ethington’s signature song, “Becca,” and “Sexy, Juicy, Bouncy.”
“Becca” is based on a character in a movie he is writing. And, he said, “‘Sexy, Juicy, Bouncy’ – there is nothing bad in it, but I wouldn’t want my mom to listen to it.”
“The whole EP is just moments,” he said. “Regardless of if the world accepts you, you know it was pure. I didn’t try to impress you, but if you hate it, it’s okay, I did it for me.”



James Ethington III plays on a café patio in Alamogordo. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY

• **The Southwest Fiber Arts Collective** is featuring a **Pop-up Fiber Art Gallery** from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31 at 602 N. Bullard St. The gallery features fabulous, unique and high quality fiber art, including weavings, quilting, knits, hand-dyed items and more. Info: www.fiberartscollective.org.



“Blue Burro” by Mariah Walker

• **They Call The Wind Mari-ah**, is back on scene. Find Mariah’s cards, prints and originals – along with a few other surprises. Open 10 a.m.-2p.m. every Saturday in October at the Maker’s Market at the Main Street Plaza. Cards are also available at the Corner Kitchen and at the Tranquil Buzz Coffee House downtown. Info: 575-993-8193; facebook.com/callthewindmariah88061; Instagram - wind_mariah88061.



“Meditation 3, Solitude Series,” photopolymer gravure by Karen Hymer

• **Light Art Space** features **“Facing Forward,”** a juried exhibition of handmade prints, in-

cluding photographic processes, created by women of color. Participating artist Satpreet Kahlon is a Punjabi-born artist, curator, and educator based in Seattle. Through her work, which has been featured in Hyperallergic and Artforum, she is interested in creating visual language and immersive encounters that express and explore intersectional cultural experiences as well as the manufactured systems of inequity that dictate their boundaries. Exhibition dates are Oct. 10 - Jan. 2, 2021. Visit lightartspace.com for more information and to enter. Current exhibition “New Perspectives: recent work by Karen Hymer, Mimi Calise Peterson, Claudia Porcelli and Carmen Ruiz” features a variety of media including painting, printmaking, fashion and photography. Also on view is the work of Light Art Space gallery artists **Joel Armstrong, Valerie Galloway, Karen Hymer, Carmen Ruiz, Eugene Starobinskiy, Art Peterson and Mimi Calise Peterson**. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday - Saturday and by appointment. Social distancing is observed and masks required. Info: 520-240-7075; www.lightartspace.com.



“MesInCanyon” by Donna Foley

• **Donna Foley** will be opening a show of new works titled **“Desert Light & Inner Landscapes”** at Wild West Weaving gallery downtown. The show features the contemporary Southwest tapestries Foley is known for throughout the region. Her work consists of using

the traditional natural dyes of indigo, cochineal and madder root in conjunction with local dyeplants, i.e. cota, chamisa and snakeweed on a high-luster yarn. The yarn is custom-spun wool that comes from sheep that she has raised for over 30 years. Also in the gallery will be some of her handwoven scarves and shawls. There will be a meet the artist event 3-4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. **“Desert Light & Inner Landscapes”** will be up through November at Wild West Weaving, 211 N. Texas St. D. For more information visit Donna’s website www.fourdirectionsweaving.com.

• **The Grant County Art Guild Gallery** is located at 316 N. Bullard in the purple former Hester House. Hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday - Sunday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. With close to 40 members, the gallery carries a wide range of art, in-

cluding original Silver City work from potters, painters, jewelers, artisans, photographers, weavers, woodworkers and more. They also feature three members each month by displaying

ART SCENE
continued on page 12

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November Deadlines

Friday, Oct. 16 noon: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

EDITOR Elva K. Österreich 575-680-1978 Cell: 575-443-4408 editor@desertexposure.com	DISTRIBUTION Teresa Tolonen 575-680-1841 teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com	ADVERTISING COORDINATOR Pam Rossi 575-635-6614 pam@lascrucesbulletin.com	SILVER CITY SALES MANAGER Mariah Walker 575-993-8193 mariah@desertexposure.com
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ART SCENE

continued from page 11

their artwork in the front windows. Info: 309-323-4688.



Oil paintings by Thia Utz are on display at the Grant County Art Guild

DEMING

• In October 2020, the **Deming Arts Council** presents the artwork of **José Andrés Girón** with an exhibit entitled “**Vida Y Muerte**”. Girón has a rich Southwestern history having spent time as a child between Arizona and New Mexico. Girón studied art in California and Arizona and soon started showing in parks and community events. He met and was active for a time with civil rights leader Cesar Chavez – this time became an inspiration for his art. In 2009, he was involved with establishing Arizona’s first Latino Arts and Cultural Center in downtown Phoenix. Girón continues to play an active role there and mentors younger up and coming Latino and Native American artists. The exhibit will run Oct. 2-29. Deming Art Center is located at 100 S Gold St. Hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday - Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 or www.demingarts.org.



Painting by José Andrés Girón

CLOUDCROFT

• The Cloudcroft Art Society’s gallery is open every Saturday during the summer months. Many artworks, ranging from paintings in all media, fine art and digital art photography, both framed and matted prints, cards, pottery, fiber art, gourd art, intarsia, jewelry and glass art, are on display and are for sale. The gallery is located in the old red



Cloudcroft Art Society Gallery

brick schoolhouse which houses the Nivison Library at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects Swallow Place. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

CARRIZOZO



“Sierra Blanca Sunset” by Sherry Hayne

• **The Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography**, 401 12th St., has reopened and can be visited 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays or by appointment. Call 612-963-1499 for appointments. Occupancy is limited to six people at a time, and masks are required. If you don’t have one, we will provide one for you. We ask that you use our hand sanitizer upon entering the Gallery. **The New Mexico Magazine 2020 Photo Contest** winners’ exhibit is currently on display. Call the gallery after 10 a.m. on Saturday morning to confirm arrival at 575-937-1489. Info: PhotoZozo.org.

LAS CRUCES



“Seahorse” by Wendy Weir

• **The Agave Artists** cooperative gallery welcomes the cooler weather and coming holiday season with an outdoor **Artists’ Stash Sale**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17 in Josefina’s Garden. New, current, old and experimental works for keeping and giving as well as artist’s stash are included and for sale. The artists in the garden are Car-

ol Wortner, paper art and experimental jewelry; Vickie Morrow, ceramic jewelry, handmade jewelry components and found-object stash for other artist’s work; Paul Maxwell, paintings and prints; Wendy Weir, experimental works, prints and her collections; and Lisa Carlson, jewelry, pottery, experimental work and bulk beads. Josefina’s Garden is located at the gallery’s side yard, accessible through the blue gate at 2250 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla, or through the restaurant patio. Masks, social distancing and limited numbers will be observed. Info: 602-615-1146.



“Pop Art Owl,” by Richard Harris

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC)** will feature the work of Las Cruces artist Richard Harris with “Wing Whispers, Avian Life Lessons” throughout the month of October, opening Monday, Oct. 5, and continuing through Friday, Oct. 30. The show includes 50 pieces of Harris’ art in a variety of sizes. This is his first show for DAAC. All his pieces will be for sale, and “reasonably priced,” Harris said. DAAC is located at 250 W. Amador Ave., at the corner of Amador and Alameda Boulevard. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and DAAC will open for Second Saturday on Oct. 10 noon - 7 p.m. For more information, visit the website www.daarts.org or call the DAAC at 575-523-6403.

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre in Mesilla, is currently accepting applications from artists to display their artwork. Currently the

ART SCENE

continued on page 13

THINE FAIRE IS VIRTUAL

Doña Ana Arts Council's 49TH ANNUAL Renaissance ArtsFaire

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Sacred Return

Chiricahua Nation president speaks for October event

On Saturday, Oct. 10 at noon, Chiricahua Apache Nation President Joe Saenz will give a virtual talk about the return of the Apache to their homeland in the Gila. He will be joined by Doug Dinwiddie of the Fort Bayard Historical Society.

Visit silvercitymuseum.org to sign up to attend the talk.

Silver City and the Gila forest are at the center of the National Nde Benah – traditional homelands of the Chiricahua Apache. From the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, Apache bands living in the area were scattered, executed or sent to distant lands to perish. Join Saenz and Dinwiddie as they offer insights on the return of Apaches to the Gila region and the plans to establish a Chiricahua and Warm Springs



Chiricahua Apache Nation President Joe Saenz will give a virtual talk about the return of the Apache to their homeland in the Gila at 10 a.m. on Oct. 10

Apache headquarters at Fort Bayard where the Apache can sustain and celebrate their heritage and again be a voice for protecting their original territory.

Saenz, a Warm Springs Apache descendent and current Nantan (president) of the Chiricahua Apache Nation, has been a cul-

tural and environmental activist for most of his adult life. At home in the wilderness, Saenz has spent more than 40 years in the far-reaches of the Canadian, Alaskan, Northern Mexican and New Mexican wilderness as a guide focused on educating people about Apache culture.

ART SCENE

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“October” by Naida Zucker

gallery features two local artists for the month of October, Naida Zucker and Bonnie MacQuarrie. Zucker is a mixed-media artist who combines gelatin mono-printing (hectography) with digital photography. She produces one-of-a-kind art pieces. MacQuarrie specializes in art tile. She learned her craft under the direction of Susan Gamble, owner of Santa Teresa Tile Works in Tucson. Mark Morden, a pastelist, is the newest member of the

gallery. He is a retired architect from the Pacific Northwest who moved to Las Cruces in 2018. He focuses on capturing light and shadow along with design and composition of the piece. COVID-19 adjusted gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

VIRTUAL NEW MEXICO

• An area-created format showcases artists’ work on Facebook at “Las Cruces NM Artists & Art Showcase” on a page that is specifically for the many undiscovered artists and artisans in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. No matter what it is you do, painting, photography, sculpting, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, woodworking, decorative arts, etc., anything created by you is welcome to be displayed. Please note, this page is meant to

be a digital art gallery rather than a sales tool. It 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/.



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Saturday, October 3
HOMECOMING EVENT



Baracutanga

LIVE FINE ART CENTER THEATRE (FACT)

6:30PM VOTER REGISTRATION & MARIACHI PLATA OUTSIDE FACT

8PM LIVESTREAMED & PROJECTED ONTO THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE FACT, FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DRIVE IN & TAILGATE.

Wednesday, October 7



FIESTA LATINA

Transcending Borders
Film & Presentation

THE MEXICAN REBOZO: HISTORY AND ARTISANS OF MEXICO

10 a.m. | Zoom Link for Presentation with Stephanie Schneiderman

Thursday, October 15



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LIVE MUSIC

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7 p.m. | Zoom Link

Tuesday, October 27



DUKE CITY HORA

Albuquerque-based Klezmer Trio Livestream “Live from Light Hall”

7 p.m. | Zoom Link



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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS

What's going on in OCTOBER?

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Makers Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at the MainStreet Plaza downtown. An outdoor market

hosting artists, makers and growers from around southwest New Mexico. Info: makersmarket@thefutureforge.org or 575-313-5665.

Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Baracutanga drive in or live stream voter registration tailgate concert — 10 p.m. at Western New Mexico University. Tailgate and on-site voter registration begin in the Fine Arts Center Theatre parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Info: wnmu.edu/culture or 575-538-6496.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
Silver City/Grant County
Bilingual Storytime: "Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del Otro Lado" — 7 p.m. with the Silver City Museum. Info: www.silvercitymuseum.org or 575-597-0229.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Silver City/Grant County
Transcending Borders Film and Discussion Series — 10 a.m. virtual event. Watch the film "Rebozos con Pluma of Ahuran," featuring artisan Albertina Bautista, available on YouTube and join the discussion. The topic:



Baracutanga voter registration tailgate concert Saturday, Oct. 3

The Mexican Rebozo: History ad artisans of Mexico presented by Stephanie Schneiderman, Latin American tour guide, artisan advocate and rebozo collector. Info: wnmu.edu/culture or 575-538-6273.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Makers Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at the MainStreet Plaza downtown. An outdoor market hosting artists, makers and growers from around southwest New Mexico. Info: makersmarket@thefutureforge.org or 575-313-5665.
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



Transcending Borders Film and Discussion Series Wednesday, Oct. 7

Apache's Sacred Return — noon on Zoom. Chiricahua Nation President Joe Saenz will talk about the return of the Apache to their homeland in the Gila. He will be joined by historical consultant Doug Dinwiddie and Dale Giese of the Fort Bayard Historical Society. Info: silvercitymuseum.org or 575-597-0227.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Silver City/Grant County
MainStreet Business workshop: "Websites 101" — 5:30-7 p.m. via Zoom. Info: charmeine@silvercitymainstreet.com.
Zoom Open Mic with local musicians — 7-8 p.m. at Western New Mexico University. Info: wnmu.edu/culture or 575-538-6496.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Makers Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at the MainStreet Plaza downtown. An outdoor market hosting artists, makers and growers from around southwest New Mexico. Info: makersmarket@thefutureforge.org or 575-313-5665.
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 15

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ON THE SHELF • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

The heart of Heart for the World

Pastor pens “Plenty Too Much, Making Your Biggest Difference”

Dale Walker has been a pastor since he was 20 years old, almost 40 years. During his time as a pastor in El Paso he met a man from the Philippines who talked about the “plight of a lot of people without food and in great need.”

That plight challenged Walker to action.

“In 1987 I went to visit [the Philippines] and became extremely challenged by the rest of the world being so underserved, especially orphans and others that had great need,” he said. “They lacked so much, and I would say that up until that time, I certainly lived in a box.”

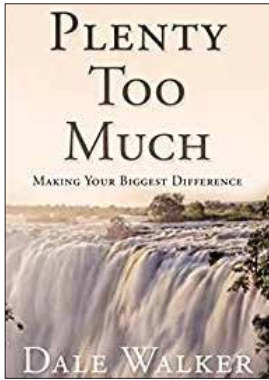
He said he cared about his people and his church, but he heard a call to become more generous and more effective in helping people who were doing good work in other countries.

As Heart for the World grew, Walker felt called to move to Las Cruces with the idea that he could do more good by mobilizing people to find their gifts and ways of helping the underprivileged.

“So that became the calling card of this church – giving our best to those who have the least, being a neighborhood church on a worldwide mission,” he said. “It’s that feeling of God saying to me that if I would care for the needs of these people, he would always take care of our needs. I think that I have proven that.”

He has written a book, “Plenty Too Much: Making Your Biggest Difference,” which is about the mindset of generosity, he said.

“I believe it [the generosity



mindset] allows God to work in many ways,” Walker said “We limit him because of the size of our faith or the fear that we have. My hope was through my story and what this church has been able to do, just to prove a principal that is true, giving more than you can ask is happiness. The happiness was just sort of my story.”

Walker believes people want the permission to be generous. People have experienced the “giver’s high,” and want to keep giving.

Part of the Heart for the World mission is to identify the “hidden heroes,” Walker said. These are people who live in the small towns and villages in remote places where people are in high need. They would never send out a mailing list, or create social media posts, he said, “but they are doing heroic community work.”

For example, he said, Vicky Ponce has been working just across the border near Ciudad Juarez, where she not only started a church but also feeds children and makes sure they can be in school and mentors them. She has faced all kinds of opposition and is right in the middle of the cartel operations.

“We helped her build a fence around her place,” he said. “Now, for 20 years, she has helped a whole generation of kids from broken families.”

Other hidden heroes include a pastor helping with the refugees in Palomas, Mexico, since the asylum seekers have been turned back – they created a shelter and a schoolhouse. In the Philippines, two social workers started a clinic among the Bajau, sea gypsies, who had no access to any kind of health care.

“These kinds of people are incredible in their faith and generosity,” Walker said. “We have about 30 different ones [hidden heroes] who we help including in Mexico, the Philippines and Zambia. It doesn’t make sense to not care about those who are at extreme risk and on the edge of survival.”

Heart for the World parishioner and former Bulletin Editor Marty Racine offered to help edit the book when he heard Walker was working on it. Racine said he was one of several helping with the project.

“I think it’s basically what Christians do is help people less fortunate than themselves, turn people on to Christianity,” Racine said. “[Walker] is kind an average guy. He doesn’t hold himself up as special. He’s just a regular guy like the rest of us. He teaches you to appreciate what you have and not pine after what you don’t – you already have plenty too much.”

To get a copy of the book and/or contribute to the global causes of the Heart for the World, visit hftw.global.



Pastor Dale Walker speaks from his office at Heart for the World church on Valley Drive in Las Cruces. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

continued from page 14

and College Avenue, Silver City.
Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market** —
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of
Las Cruces and along Main Street.
Info: 575-805-6055.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Silver City/Grant County
**Bilingual Storytime: “Friends from the
Other Side/Amigos del Otro Lado”** — 7
p.m. with the Silver City Museum.
Info: www.silvercitymuseum.org or
575-597-0229.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
Virtual New Mexico
Family Cancer Retreat — Free online
educational webinar for New
Mexico’s adult cancer patients/
survivors, their families, friends
and loved ones who care for them.
Video Zoom Conference. Info: www.cancerservicesnm.org; 505-288-
0331.

Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Makers Market — 8:30
a.m.-noon at the MainStreet Plaza
downtown. An outdoor market

hosting artists, makers and growers from around southwest New Mexico. Info: makersmarket@thefutureforge.org or 575-313-5665.

Silver City Farmer’s Market — 9
a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope
Street and College Avenue, Silver
City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market —
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of
Las Cruces and along Main Street.
Info: 575-805-6055.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Virtual New Mexico
Family Cancer Retreat — Free online
educational webinar for New Mexico’s
adult cancer patients/survivors,
their families, friends and loved
ones who care for them. Video
Zoom Conference. Info: www.cancerservicesnm.org; 505-288-0331.



**Live from Light Hall with Duke
City Hora Tuesday, Oct. 27**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

***Silver City/Grant County**
Live from Light Hall with Duke City Hora
— 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico
University. This is an Albuquerque-based band playing Klezmer
music, a Jewish folk tradition from
eastern Europe. Info: wnmu.edu/culture or 575-538-6496.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Silver City/Grant County
**MainStreet Business workshop: “Online
meeting platform primer”** — 5:30-7
p.m. via Zoom. Info: charmeine@silvercitymainstreet.com.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Makers Market — 8:30
a.m.-noon at the MainStreet Plaza
downtown. An outdoor market
hosting artists, makers and growers
from around southwest New Mexico.
Info: makersmarket@thefutureforge.org or 575-313-5665.
Silver City Farmer’s Market — 9 a.m.-
noon at the corner of Pope Street
and College Ave., Silver City. Info:
silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market —
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of
Las Cruces and along Main Street.
Info: 575-805-6055.

October Exhibit:
“Vida y Muerte”
by Jose Andres Giron

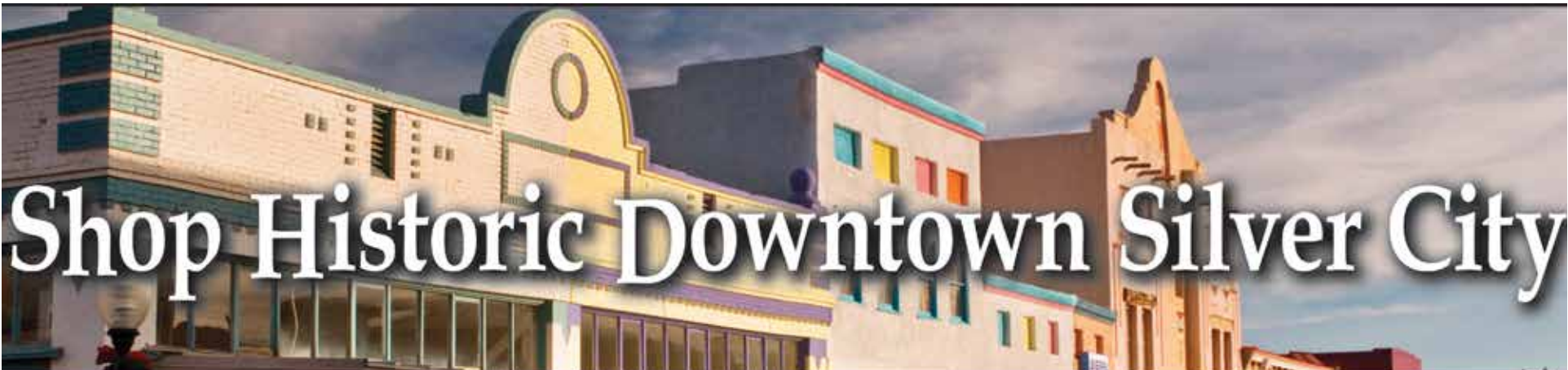
Exhibit Duration:
October 2-29, 2020

Hours:
Monday through Friday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am to 12:30 pm


We will need art for our Recycled Show
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This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts,
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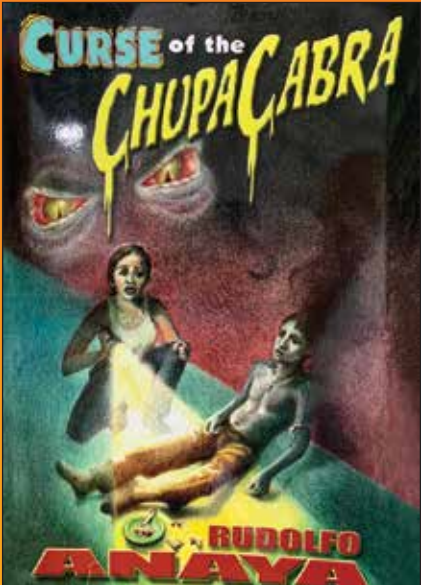
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TRICK OR TREAT

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Penny Z. White aka “Pinky Zoot,” of Silver City, has a habit of dressing her house up for Halloween. A Silver City artist and writer, she loves to go all out with her collection and design sense for the season. This year, because of covid-safe practices, she can’t open her home up to the community but has decided to put the spookiness together and display it anyway.



Aunt Claire



“Halloween is not only about putting on a costume, but it’s about finding the imagination and costume within ourselves.”
- Elvis Duran

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!



Update of open restaurants and services being offered.
* = Open; C/S = Curb Side; DEL = Delivery; D/T = Drive Through;
P = Patio; T/O = Take Out

GRANT COUNTY
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* **ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D; *P/O T/O*
* **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. *T/O DEL*

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

reservation only. *P T/O*

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

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. *T/O*

* **FORREST'S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m. *T/O D/T*

* **FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D. *T/O DEL*

* **GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. *P T/O*

* **GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D. *D/T T/O*

GRINDER MILL, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.

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JALISCO CAFÉ, 103 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

* **JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse. *T/O*

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. *T/O D/T C/S*

* **LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D. *C/S*

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. *P T/O*

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. *T/O*

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

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.

* **Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D. *P T/O*

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

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

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

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

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 *P T/O*.

* **WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D. *P T/O*

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ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.
* **ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D. *P T/O*
* **ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D. *DEL P T/O*

* **AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD. *DEL P T/O*

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. *P C/S*

* **BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D. *C/S DEL T/O*
BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

* **BURGER NOOK**, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding greenchile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D. *T/O*

* **BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer. *T/O*

CAFÉ DON FELIX, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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. *C/S DEL D/T*

* **CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D. *C/S DEL D/T*

* **DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, 245 N. Main St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D. *C/S*

* **PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D. *P T/O*

* **DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D. *P T/O*

* **DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D *C/S P*

* **DION'S PIZZA**, 3950 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3434. Pizza: L D. *DEL D/T*

* **DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *P T/O*

* **EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D. *P T/O*

* **ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D. *T/O*

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. *P T/O*

* **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. *P T/O*

* **GARDUÑO'S**, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D. *P T/O*

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave. , Las Cruces, NM 88005, 524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Specializing in relleno burritos and other mexican food.

GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.

* **GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D. *D/T T/O*

* **HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D. *P T/O*

* **HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. *C/S P*

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

JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.

* **KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D. *P T/O*

* **LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L. *T/O*

* **LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B. *P T/O*

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Renya Craig and Lisa Debussy chat on the stage at the new Tranquilbuzz Coffee Shop location. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

TABLE TALK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Love Lives Here

Tranquilbuzz still has coffee, a block up the road

Dreams can come true, especially when a community comes together to pitch in and help, as the owner of Tranquilbuzz Coffee Shop in Silver City discovered.

When he found out he had six months to leave the historic location at the corner of Yankee and Texas streets, Dale Rucklos thought he would have to close down. But, just a block up the road an opportunity opened up and now Tranquilbuzz has a new home.

“I always wanted to be in this place, blessing in disguise,” Rucklos said of the 300 N. Arizona St. location, recently Finn’s Gallery.

When Ruklos moved to town in September of 2011, a friend told him Yankee Creek Coffee Shop was looking for a barista. Yankee Creek had been there since 1996. He worked there for a year, at the picturesque corner of Yankee and Texas streets, until the business was sold to two people from Alaska. But he still worked there and eventually when one of the partners sold, he bought out her half. Three years later, the other partner wanted out of the business, and Rucklos managed to pull it together and buy him out as well.

“I opened Tranquilbuzz on April 15 of 2017, 3 ½ years ago,” he said. “This whole thing is really community driven. It’s not about making money, it’s about bringing people together – friends, strangers, travelers, artists, musicians, poets. I love it.”

The new location, open Oct. 1, is truly a community effort.

Friends and community members have come together to help with the monumental task of creating a homey, friendly atmosphere at Tranquilbuzz. Numerous area artists and craftspeople have pitched in, leaving permanent marks around the café. Walls, floors and ceiling are painted by the work of Deborah Hutchings, Mariah Walker, Kelly and Andrew, Karen from Mimbres, Gavio Encasio from Mimbres, Jennifer Teper and more.

“There is a big collective here working together here,” Rucklos said.

And the community has put it’s money where it’s mouth is



Tranquilbuzz proprietor Dale Rucklos at the new location, 300 N. Arizona St.

too through the Tranquilbuzz Gofundme account organized by a friend, without which he said he never could have brought the dream together. There is still a bit to go to finish the garden area, but the account has brought in \$18,000 of the \$25,000 needed and Rucklos can’t begin to express how grateful he is.

His gratefulness extends to the town he loves and has made his own. He said he is not interested in competing with the other coffee shops in the area, rather in working together to provide what people want.

“The old paradigm of having a business and being competitive is gone,” Rucklos said. “We all need to take care of each other. I will tell people there are 12 other coffee shops and they are all friends of mine and I want all of them to succeed. I want everybody to succeed. I think that’s what draws people here is the uniqueness of this town and the people and all it has to offer as a place out in the middle of nowhere.”

When the Buzz opens Oct. 1, it will be with the mandated 25 percent occupancy. Future plans for the business include Sunday music, Saturday poetry, book releases, story telling and possibly theater groups in performance.

“We will be open six to six every day,” he said. “We will have an outside deck with a waterfall, koi ponds, stages, lots of seating, a studio gallery with multiple artists displayed.”


Other ideas Ruklos has for the future include offering a Covid-safe space for yoga; a woman’s group (Soul Sisters Unite) and a men’s group (Men’s Open Heart Club); a lunch time rotation of

guest chefs; and meet the artists events.

“Social gathering places used to be bars and I’m glad to see a lot of people are moving away from that,” he said. “Now coffee houses have become your second home. This is a sanctuary for people. That’s what I want – new friends, old friends, families together. I can’t even count how many want to come and help.

“So that’s what I want to strive to do, is help each other. The secret too is you are never too old to live your dream. I’m 67. So these three words are the key to the whole place ‘Love Lives Here.’”

Rucklos and the Tranquilbuzz can be contacted on Facebook or by calling 575-654-2057.







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Empty Bowls

Local potters have supported event for more than a decade



POTTERS' GUILD OF LAS CRUCES

Potters Randy and Jeannine Summers began creating ceramic pieces many years ago in their studio in Chimayo, New Mexico and selling their wares at local shops and fairs in the northern part of the state.

When Randy retired from the Los Alamos Lab in 2008, The Summers moved to Las Cruces and immediately joined the Potters' Guild of Las Cruces (PGLC).

"Our first Empty Bowls event was that year," Randy said. "We are proud that every subsequent year the event has gotten bigger, and better, and has earned more money for El Caldito," the soup kitchen that is part of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.

"In normal years, guild potters gather for a marathon event of bowl making, usually completing about 250 bowls in a weekend," Randy said. "With the pandemic, we have to produce bowls by working alone at home." Randy said he and Jeannine likely will make about 50 bowls for this year's event.

Each bowl "is a simple, but complex shape," Randy said. "It can be utilitarian and still decorative in terms of color and embellishment. We try to create a mix of styles, colors and sizes."

"Our garage is our studio and it is equipped with a roller, a wheel and a kiln, so we are self-contained," he said. "However, we miss the camaraderie of working with our fellow potters, as it was always fun sharing our stories and pizza."

"Empty Bowls has been a great way to help the community, raising money by doing what we love best, creating pottery," Randy said.

Visit www.pottersguildlc.org



Bowls made by Potters Guild of Las Cruces members Randy and Jeannine Summers (Photo courtesy of Randy and Jeannine Summers)

Here's the dish: Empty Bowls live event is a go!

"Yes! Empty Bowls is still happening," said Potters Guild of Las Cruces (PGLC) event chair Erica Cordero.

Empty Bowls 2020 Empty Bowls will be held 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave.

The event benefits El Caldito Soup Kitchen, which is located on the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope campus.

"The need to feed the hungry has not changed and we are committed to continuing to support our community," Cordero said.

The event "will be held outside and will follow health regulations," Cordero said, including facemasks, social distancing and limited attendees at any one time.

Advance ticket sales are encouraged, Cordero said. Ticket information is TBA. Visit www.facebook.com/emptybowlslc and @emptybowlslc on Instagram for the latest information.

Tickets will be \$20.

Soup will not be sold this year because PGLC does not want to add to the burden on local restaurants that are already dealing with closures and limitations, she said. However, bowls will still be for sale and there will be an online silent auction, provided by Mesilla Valley Estates.

PGLC was founded in 1981, and Empty Bowls began in Las Cruces 11 years later. PGLC sold 600 bowls and raised \$3,500 for El Caldito in 1993. In 2015, more than \$22,000 was raised, and the figure passed \$23,000 in 2016. It reached \$25,000 in 2018 and \$27,000 in 2019.

Proceeds from Empty Bowls benefits El Caldito Soup Kitchen, which was founded in 1984. It began by offering a mid-day meal one day a week. It was relocated to the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope campus in 1998. In early 2002, services were expanded to offering a hot mid-day meal Monday through Friday. The program was further enhanced in December 2002 to provide a carry-out sack lunch on Saturday. Then in early 2010, a hot Sunday lunch was added. El Caldito serves an average of 250 people at every lunch.

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2020 Writing Contest

Desert Exposure continues its annual writing contest with submissions from people who harbor a love for this beautiful corner of the world. Many of the 2020 submissions reflect the times we are learning to live with as well as the area we live in. They were all a pleasure to read and the judges had a difficult time choosing between many of the submissions.

Contest winners are determined by points which are accrued according to how the judges rank each piece. This year's grand prize, "Back Home Again" by Efrem Carrasco, is a bittersweet memoir reflecting not only the Mesilla Valley but the culture and life of southern New Mexico.

Contest honorable mentions in the prose

division are "A Lodger's Death," by Tom Hester and "Still," by M. John Fayhee. Each tying the human in us with the environment around us. Watch for those two stories coming in the November issue. The two poems ultimately chosen are "What Remains: Pandemic August 2020," by Beate Sigriddaughter, and "The Wall," by Alethea Eason, both poignantly reflecting the climate and reality of our current world.

But these are not the only pieces received that touched on our varied lives here, so many submissions brought emotions to the surface, we regret we cannot print them all. We would like to thank all who entered sharing their hearts, ideas and passions with us.



EFREM CARRASCO

Back Home Again

It has taken me a good part of my life to find my true home. I lived in many places in many states, exiled to most, and always with the sense my existence there were transitory. I was nothing more than a visitor, even when I lived there for many years, never taking stock in any of the cities or towns, and never feeling a connection with them. There was one exception, though, a place where I found comfort and joy, a place with which I felt a strong connection and a true sense of belonging—a place called Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I was born in the heart of west Texas in 1952, and shortly after, we moved to Ysleta, Texas. My first recollection of Las Cruces was at the tender age of two; I was blessed with a great mem-



ory. My grandparents moved to Las Cruces in 1949 to work in the pecan orchards at Stahmann farms where my grandfather became a foreman a few years later. Raising all girls, my grandmother wanted a son and I was the only male child available to her at the time. On a warm Sunday morning, I'm told, my grandparents arrived at our home for a visit

and by afternoon my things were packed and I was on my way to New Mexico.

The area was covered with pecan trees as far as the eye could see. It was Mesilla, but everyone referred to the area as Las Cruces. From the paved road, now known as Snow Road, we turned onto a dirt road that led us west to a rustic stucco house near the Rio Grande River. It was located in a large open space surrounded by wooden outbuildings. It was a farm, but everyone called it the ranch. The orchards surrounded the ranch

and the trees seemed to stretch out to all eternity to the north and to the south from the house. The ranch seemed far from the main paved road at the time, but as I discovered years later, it was only a mile away. There were only two bed rooms in the house, my grandparents slept in one and their two younger daughters, my aunts, slept in the other. I was small and the sofa in the living room became my bed. The only plumbing in the house was the water pump at the kitchen sink. Business had to be taken care of outside in the out-

house located behind the house and just far enough not to be of any nuisance. Baths were taken in the middle of the kitchen floor in a metal tub filled with hot water carried from the wood burning stove and carried to the tub in a white enamel water basin. No one was allowed inside the house while the adults bathed, but when it was my turn, everyone was inside and watched grandma wash and scrub me. Perhaps that explains my shy-

HOME AGAIN
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HOME AGAIN

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ness.

Grandpa came home in the evenings and he took me for walks along the Rio Grande, a slow and silent moving stream of brown water heading south to create the border between the

United States and Mexico. He pointed out the various species of wildlife, the turtles, whose heads popped out of the water for air, the ducks as they swam in the river and flew off as we neared them. I saw lizards, quail, and roadrunners. One time we saw a fox, which scared me

because I thought it would eat me. He took me deep into the orchards, and even though the sun was still out, the dense tress made it dark, ominous, and disorienting. It was a forest to me and I thought it inhabited by big bad wolves, witches, and ogres like the ones I saw in the Fairy

tale books, and it also reminded me of the forest I saw on television in the Wizard of Oz. Grandpa added more to my fear with his story about the huge “Zorro,” (fox) that lurked about at night in search of children for his meals, and the trees that walked and talked. Although I feared the orchards, it was still fun to listen to grandpa’s stories as we walked and picked pecans from the ground and ate them. We returned to the ranch and he let me sit on the red antiquated and rusted tractors parked in the in front yard, and I pretended to drive; this was almost a daily routine. I enjoyed living with my grandparents and I wasn’t only visiting, I lived there for weeks at a time with occasional visits to Ysleta to see my parents.

Apparently, my father was not content with my new status as a resident of New Mexico; he preferred that I be a Texan instead. On a rainy Saturday morning, I was told, my father left the Lone Star State and headed to the Mesilla Valley to regain possession of his son, which actually took a lot of courage because my grandmother was the matriarch of the family and everyone feared her, but like a true Texan, my father stood his ground. Later that day I was back in Texas reunited with my parents. Funny, but no one asked me how I felt about returning home. I continued to stay with my grandparents after that, but only for short periods, and not over a week’s time. Later, when I was about thirteen, my father said to me, “Your mother and I went through the trouble of having you for our pleasure, not for your grandparents’.” It was years later, after a lot of education and mind-expanding, that I finally understood the double entendre of his statement. The visitations to my grandparents’ house continued for a year, but in the spring of 1955, my father decided to start a new career in Arizona. We moved and I lived there for the following twelve years, but that did not detach me from Las Cruces.

In August my father took his vacation and we spent two wonderful weeks at the ranch with my grandparents. He spent only a few days of his vacation in Las Cruces, just enough for a short visit with his in-laws; the rest of the time he spent it in Texas to visit with his parents and other relatives. I played outdoors most of the time, and walked with grandpa in the evenings. Sometimes friends and relatives came to the ranch with their kids to visit us during our stay. I played with the kids; most of them were about my age. To scare them, I told them about the Zorro that lived in the orchards, and it was safe to do so because we were not allowed to go into the orchards or stray far from the house, otherwise I would have had to prove my bravery and venture into that dark forest.

I always enjoyed when my Aunt Martha and Uncle Jorge came to the ranch to visit and then take me with them to their new home in a neighborhood considered upper middle class at

the time. I spent half of my vacation with them. Their house was fabulous- a ranch style, painted white with turquoise trim, and an opened porch with a built-in storage shed. The back yard was a desert landscape- flat, then terraced up slope at the back of the property. The entire back yard was enclosed by white-painted cinderblock walls capped with decorative see-thru cinderblock. I had never seen a yard like that before and I thought they were my rich relatives. My aunt was a great cook; breakfast was the usual eggs, potatoes, and bacon. Lunch was light, but dinner was a feast. Every day the table was topped with a different meal and she cooked a vast variety of dinners ranging from Mexican food to beef wellington and everything in between. What I enjoyed the most about her meals, whether it was breakfast, lunch, or dinner, she served all the meals with her home-made corn flour tortillas- they were the best.

My uncle Jorge always kept the conversations interesting at supper time. He was a civil engineer and a man of erudition; he taught me many things through the years when I spent time with him- he was my sage. Vacation came to an end and the good-byes were always sad for me; I watched my mother and grandmother embrace tightly with tears in their eyes. When we boarded the car to leave, I sat at the back of our Mercury Station Wagon, by myself, among the luggage. When we left, I faced back towards the city and watched as the Organ Mountains faded into the horizon. I watched them until I could no longer see them, and it would be a year before I saw those mountains again. I laid down, pulled a blanket over my head and silently sobbed for many miles.

For a child, a year was an eternity, but the vacations did eventually come, and they were much the same and they ended the same- with tears. In 1960 my grandparents divorced. Grandma moved into one of the row houses located at the intersection of Snow Road and the private dirt road that led to the ranch where she previously lived. The houses were built for the farm’s employees and their families. The pecan orchards surrounded the housing area, but towards the east was a clear view of the Organ Mountains. I missed the evening walks with my grandfather, but now there were plenty of kids to play with. The foreman of the farm lived in the large house next to my grandmother’s house. He and his wife had many kids, with whom I developed a great friendship for the next several years, and every August they waited for my return, as did the mountains.

By 1964, the kids at the ranch had changed, they were older and taller. I turned twelve, and I learned that with time nothing ever remains the same. The orchards also changed. Fence surrounded them and hundreds,



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HOME AGAIN

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if not thousands, of white geese had been placed in the orchards. There were so many white geese that at night time the ground looked as if covered with snow. I never knew if the farm had gone into the geese business, or if the geese just provided a good source of fertilizer for the pecan trees. Vacations became more fun because my friends and I were able to venture farther from our homes. We played hide and seek among the trees and ate the pecans from the ground. Our biggest adventure was the walk to the Rio Grande River on the private dirt road. It was a long road to travel, but it was a worthy journey. We arrived there and played around the ranch where my grandparents previously lived. The place was abandoned but the old tractors were still there and everything look different from what it looked like when I was four. The wooden buildings were dilapidated and falling over, the flat roof of the adobe house caved in, and the outhouse laid sideways on the ground. The entire place had fallen victim to the sun, the seasons, and time. Time changed everything. That was the last time I played in the

orchards and I never saw my friends again, and it was the last time I saw my grandparent's old home by the Rio Grande.

1965 came around, and that summer I learned to swim. A couple of weeks after school was out for the year, mom took me to the Greyhound Bus depot and set me on my way to Las Cruces to live with grandma until August. Grandma left the Mesilla Valley and moved into a small home, with her two daughters, on Griggs Avenue across from Klein Park. It was not an active vacation as the others because there were no kids to play with in that neighborhood, but my two aunts and my grandma kept me entertained. I liked to swim and my aunts took me to several swimming pools in town. One of my aunts, who never learned to swim herself, knew the techniques and taught me. My great triumph over water took place at the public pool in Radium Springs. It was up by the side of the mountain, an archaic concrete pool unlike the ones I swam before. The water was not clear and it smelled like algae, but regardless of its condition, I learned to swim in deep water and no longer feared drowning.

On the day of my birthday Grandma took me downtown to shop at the stores on Main Street. She was not the type to buy anything cool that I wanted- like the latest album of the Rolling Stones, Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs, or even a guitar. No, with her it was always clothes- socks, sweaters, pants, and underwear- because they were utilitarian.

It was an exciting, warm July evening. We parked on Church Street and strolled towards the clamor of Main Street. The Street was aligned with stores of all types. The buildings were of the original red brick with

ornate façades, some were stucco-covered adobe buildings standing out as symbols of the southwest and reminders of the Spanish and Mexican heritage of New Mexico. The stores lit up the street and the sidewalks were busy with people as they walked in every direction. Grandma blessed herself as we walked past Saint Genevieve Church, an old church with two towers, one on each side of the main entrance with a cross affixed on top of them. They stood tall and rigid like two guards protecting the church. The doors and windows reminded me of bullets with the pointed ends aimed up towards heaven. My grandmother made me bless myself as reverence for the old symbol of spirituality. While grandma visited Zales Jewelry store, I ventured towards what later became my two favorite places- The State and The Rio Grande movie theaters. I could not resist the delightful aroma of freshly popped popcorn. I loved movies and I loved popcorn. I hoped my grandmother would take me to the movies for my birthday, but she was more inclined to shopping. She bought some nice clothes for me and the evening ended with a milkshake at a drive-in on Church Street near Griggs Avenue, and was walking distance from our house. I took many walks to that drive-in for my cheeseburgers, fries, and chocolate shakes that summer.

Grandmother went to Old Mesilla every Thursday evening to visit with her lady friends. She called it a visit, but to be more precise, it was nothing more than a good old fashion gossip session. The denizens of the town called it Mesilla and that's what we called it, although it was very old. Most of the houses were made of adobe covered with water-stained and cracked stucco, an indication of old age. On the road to Mesilla before crossing the canal, stood a brown stucco building- it was a museum and gift shop- and in front was a sign boasting to have the head of Pancho Villa on display. I wanted to go in to see the head of this man who was a hero to some and a bandit to others, but grandma said there was nothing there see and Pancho Villa's head was not there. Later in a college history class, I heard that the actual missing head of this Mexican Revolution leader was in possession of the Skull and Bones society at Yale University. We continued into town and up to then I had only been on the road from Las Cruces through Mesilla, now called Avenida de Mesilla, numerous times; always driving past the local grocery store, the cantina, and the school. It was the way to get to the ranch house on Snow Road.

This was my first time at the plaza, a town square with a large open grass field centered in the plaza delineated large wood logs on both side of the grass field. At the north end of the plaza stood San Albino Church facing south. The cantina, with the large mural of a Billy the Kid shoot-out

that took place there, was on the south side of the plaza, and ironically, facing the church. The shops and stores were aligned on the east and west side and most of them were adobe. All the roads were dirt, including the one that encircled the plaza. It looked like an old town, like the ones I saw in western movies. Grandma told me that covered wagons used to line up on that road around the plaza to deliver or pick up supplies from the trading post, now known as La Posta Restaurant. I joined other kids and we played in the grass area while the women sat on the logs and exchanged stories, I was there every Thursday. The local residents gathered in the plaza in the evenings to shop, attend church, drink at the local cantina, or to visit with friends, it was home to them. Years later Mesilla became a tourist attraction. The rest of my summers, thereafter, were the same until the big change came into my life.

In May of 1968 my parents decided to let me live with my grandmother permanently. It was the biggest change of my life- I had a permanent home in Las Cruces. Grandma bought a mobile home and moved to a mobile home park at the south end of Dona Ana Road near the Hostess day-old bread store. I had a great and active life. I did well in school, I made many friends, and I traveled a lot throughout southern New Mexico. Grandma and I went to White Sands Missile Range to watch the missile demonstrations for Armed

Forces Day, picnicked at White Sands Monument, visited Carlsbad Caverns, swam and fished at Elephant Butte, took road trips to Silver City, to see the home of Billy the kid, and drove south to Columbus, New Mexico at the border where Pancho Villa crossed and attacked the town in 1916. We took Sunday drives to Cloud Croft and Ruidoso, and on other weekends we picnicked at the Rio Grande River just outside of Las Cruces.

Every Saturday I walked from my house to either the State or Rio Grande movie theaters where I spent all day and returned home at dusk. It cost seventy-five cents to get into the theater, the popcorn, hotdogs, and sodas were cheap, and the movies were always double features with a cartoon in between, and it was continuous until late at night. During the summers I visited my parents and returned for the school year. In the spring of 1970 grandma bought a parcel of land on Sacramento Street and we moved the mobile home there. I left my hand print and name on the wet concrete pad and it's still there today. After high school, I attended New Mexico State University and lived in the dorm at Breland Hall- that adventure is a novel in and of itself.

I went to visit my parents in Arizona in the summer of 1971. It was a time of war and though I was doing well in school, my college deferment was rescinded and I was drafted. I enlisted in the U.S. Army, went overseas,

and didn't return to the United States during my entire enlistment. After the fall of Saigon, in 1975, I returned to my parents' home and attended Arizona State University. What followed was a career, marriage, move to Colorado, kids, divorce and retirement.

Throughout my work career I lived in five cities in California, five in Colorado, and one in Texas. I took vacation time to visit grandma at least twice per year. Improvements had been made to the house and it no longer looked like a mobile home. I saw my grandmother for the last time in the spring of 2002; she passed away in September. My parents moved into her house the following year and I continued to visit them every spring and the fall until 2012, when they moved back to Arizona. My Aunt Martha passed away in 2014, and Uncle Jorge moved to Arizona. There was no one left; everyone moved away and I no longer had familial ties to Las Cruces.

Through all my adult years, I looked for the perfect place to live, a place in which to retire. I considered many places, given that I had a wife and kids, but they preferred to remain in Colorado. Each Time I visited Las Cruces I drove throughout the city and the rural areas with the hope I would have a home there one day. I saw people driving to work, and go about their everyday lives. I thought to myself, how lucky they are, to wake up

HOME AGAIN

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each day in this place, to work, to play, to see the Organ Mountains, and to live where their whole lives revolved around this great part of New Mexico. That's what I wanted. I often wondered if these people actually appreciated what they had. Perhaps they just went about their lives too busy to realize what a unique place they live in.

I moved to Texas in 2012 and lived there for seven years. I was only four hours away from Las Cruces, and although I no longer had family to visit, I went there every other week just to be there. I took everything it had to offer; the friendly people, the farmer's market, the food, the university, the history, and the multitude of events that took place there. Most importantly, to me, Las Cruces developed into a great art center, a home for art-

ist. It was a place to call home. What is home? For me it's a place that has a connection to one's heart, and it's more than just a house, it's everything things that surrounds it, the things that give meaning to one's life, and the things that fill one with joy. In the Mesilla Valley it's the city, the pecan orchards, the aroma and tastes of cultural foods, the history, the culture and its people, Old Mesilla, the art culture, the local artist-writers and poets, and the proximity to many locations of interest and activity. The list goes on. But mostly, home is where one wakes up every day thankful and proud to be part of that community.

Life is not perfect. In 2019, on my birthday, I was diagnosed with cancer, and subsequently forced to retire. Life continued and it was only by the grace of God that I found a house, an adobe home sitting on an acre

of fertile land with a huge Mulberry tree, several pecan trees, and a large pasture. It's the home I now share with my new wife, and every day I wake up thankful to be living in that area of southern New Mexico where I first developed a strong connection to it on a warm Sunday morning in 1954.

My pecan trees remind me of the summer of 1964 where I played in the orchards for the last time and ate many pecans; I haven't eaten pecans since. In the mornings I sit outside on the patio with my glass of juice and I looked out towards the Organ Mountains, those unchanging mountains standing there majestically over the Mesilla Valley and I'm glad they waited for my return.

Someone wrote, Home is where the heart is; it's an old cliché, but one which carries so much truth, and I am thankful to be back home again...finally.



BEATE SIGRIDDAUGHTER
What Remains
Pandemic August 2020

Orion pre-dawn in the eastern sky bonds my fragility to a sturdy forever. It is time to celebrate all that remains, the gentle greetings on the mountain trail, the recognition or the mystery in someone's distanced eyes. Making strict sense is not required. Layers of community remain among the aches of missing unlived lives. Once upon a time dreams fade and crumble like a mirage. A slow chance to discover what remains. I notice more and more things I like but really don't need. Roses, bananas, puffed wheat, mascara. I notice things I never saw before. These are my fingers, my toes, my wishes, my doubts. I notice roses never sleep and grasses reach toward the moon; stars shower from the sky. Sometimes the wind sounds like the ocean I may never see again. Was my goodbye three years ago forever? Sunsets swirl in patient progression like pieces of music I have never known before, and now I am in love with all I can still do to not waste life or squander paradise that is so briefly on loan.



BY ALETHEA EASON
The Wall

Metal shafts lay down shadows on the border, south and north. Human tracks trace the line, disremembering the grace of nature. Javelina loses a baby through the bars. Rattlesnake sneaks through, citizen of neither country. Ocelot's allegiance is forced and unexpected. She slumbers beneath a cottonwood that sips from springs on the other side. Her thirst has declared its native land. On the top of the shafts, blackbirds converse in grackle language about their passports made of sun and a wind whipping from the sierras.



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One day last month I was riding my young Morgan mare in the arena, going through one of my favorite riding routines. A couple was walking down our dirt road with their two kids, a family Covid walk as I like to call it these days, and asked if they could stop for a few minutes and watch what I was doing, I'm always happy to spread some horse joy so told them watch as long as they wanted as I just kept doing what I was doing.

After a few minutes they thanked me, and before they moved on, they asked a question, "why are you riding the horse just at the walk and not trotting or galloping?" I could tell they didn't know much about horses so gave them a simple answer to satisfy their curiosity. They thanked me again for my time and headed down the road.

However, their question happened to be a really good one, one that I get asked about all the time. I believe the answer is at the core of good horsemanship and essential to good riding.

When I started riding, one of the first things I heard from a respected trainer was you should

have everything working well at the walk before you even think about increasing speed to the other gaits. It made sense even to a relative novice. If you can't be balanced and comfortable at the walk, with a good grasp of all the aids you need to communicate with your horse, there is no way you can be a good partner with your horse when you start going faster. You may get a bit bouncier in the saddle, maybe hold the reins a little too tight and may grip more than you should with your legs, making the whole riding experience pretty miserable for your horse. It becomes more about staying on than riding well.

Like most riders who ignore most of what their trainers tell them, when I was on my own or out on the trails it was about trotting and cantering, enjoying the speed and power of my horse, and not about whether or not I was actually riding well. We were flying along together; I was staying on and we both seemed to be happy.

As I progressed and studied more, I began to realize I had a lot more responsibility for the mental and physical well-being

of my horse, and it all started with becoming a good rider, not just someone who could stay on under most circumstances.

Fortunately, I came across an early YouTube video that really changed my thinking and approach, as well as the way I wanted to teach in my horsemanship business. The rider in the video was either from Spain or Portugal, I can't really remember at this point. He was just riding in a small square pen, what is known as a picadero, and not is some big fancy arena. His horse was good looking, but not all polished up for the shoot. The rider just wore good working riding clothes.

What was interesting is that all the rider did for the 20 minutes of the video was move the horse at the walk. He never once changed gaits. It was just a beautiful, flowing dance where the rider was executing the most basic movements that every rider should be able to do with a horse and doing it with lightness and softness. It was hard to see any movement at all in the reins

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

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

TUESDAYS
Alzheimer's/Dementia Support
Margaret, 388-4539.
Bayard Historic Mine Tour — Call 537-3327 for reservation.
Figure/Model Drawing — Dan Larson, 654-4884.
Gilawriters — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group
email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.
PFLAG Silver City — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. 575-590-8797.
Republican Party of Grant County — 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).
Slow Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.
Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild — Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.
Westerners Corral — Jody Bailey-Hall at: Jody_bailey88045@yahoo.com or call 575 342-2621 and leave a message.

WEDNESDAYS
ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families) — 714 N. Bullard St. Athena, 575-590-8300.
Al-Anon family group — Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: 313-7891.
Archaeology Society — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email

webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.
Babytime Sing & Play — 538-3672 or ref @silvercitymail.com.
Back Country Horsemen — WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.
Brain Injury and Stroke Support Group — GRMC Billy Sasper Rehab & Wellness Center, 300 E. 16th St., Silver City.
A Course in Miracles — Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
Future Engineers — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.
Gin Rummy — corner of Yankie and Texas Streets in Silver City.
Grant County Democratic Party
Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.
Ladies Golf Association — Silver City Golf Course.
Prostate Cancer Support Group — 388-1198 ext. 10.
Storytime — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.
Yoga for happiness — Lotus Center,

211 W. Broadway. 574-5451.
THURSDAYS
Blooming Lotus Meditation — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.
De-stressing Meditations — New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society — Memory Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.
Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting — 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.

HORSES
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or any influence from the legs. The ride was continuous with no stops except for an occasional stop to shift from forward movement to a back-up or to isolate a movement with the forequarters or the hindquarters. I was taught that good riding in any discipline is the ability to cause the horse to give you one of nine basic movements, without force from the rider or resistance from the horse. To be able to get any one of these movements by itself or combine them, all with softness, is really what makes you a rider and not just a passenger. It's also what makes the horse a good riding horse and a horse that has good overall fitness and suppleness, the keys to healthy longevity and better performance. As I watched this video over and over, I realized what the rider was doing was a continuous exercise of moving seamlessly from one basic movement to the next. It was just the basics executed perfectly at the walk. He had enthusiastic

forward motion with perfect soft vertical flexion and lateral flexion when it was required to position the horse for the next movement. He stopped the horse and moved immediately into a back-up without pulling on the reins. He was able to bring the shoulders around in a counterturn and move the hindquarters in either direction. He could flow the whole horse away from a bend in a classic leg yield or into a bend in a morse challenging half-pass. The rider rode circles where the horse was bent correctly with the nose toward the inside of the circle, as well as circles where the horse was in a counter-bend with the nose to the outside. He could bring the shoulders around with the nose into the turn or away from the turn. He could move the horse to a larger circle or a smaller circle by slight adjustments to the horse's bend and with a light leg aid. The horse had to continually change his bend, cross his legs, change direction and generally stretch and move his body for the entire ride.

At the end of the video, the rider dropped the reins on to the horse's back and the horse dropped his head almost to the ground as they walked around the pen, showing that it was a tiring work-out, both mentally and physically, and that the horse was relaxed and comfortable. And they never went above a walk and it was just for 20 minutes. There is no doubt this rider could have done all this at any speed he wanted. He was that skilled. But the point of his video was obvious. This kind of riding partnership with your horse, where your horse is fit enough and understands what is being asked of him, and where you have the skills and timing to communicate with and position your horse, has to be achieved at the walk first. You have to walk before you run. Whether you ride on the trails or ride to compete in any discipline, your control and mastery over these nine basic movements – forward motion, vertical flexion, lateral flexion, stop, back-up, counter-turn, hindquar-

ter disengagement, leg yield and half pass – is what makes you a good rider. You don't have to ride for hours to condition your horse or to make yourself a better rider. Try 20 minutes of continuous quality movement and you'll be amazed at what can happen. So, if you walk by my arena and wonder what I'm doing, most likely I'm trying to get better at my communication with my young horse and trying to help her learn how to use her body

better and to learn how to softly respond to my requests without resistance or fear. And, for now, I'll be doing it at the walk.

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



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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Corona Australis, the Southern Crown

Is it a wreath or a boomerang?

There are two crowns in our sky. Corona Borealis, the Northern Cross is descending toward the western horizon on these October evenings, but Corona Australis, the Southern Cross is about 20 degrees above our southern horizon. This circlet of fourth magnitude and fainter stars opens toward the west-southwest.

The Greek poet Aratus in the third century B.C. described this constellation as a circlet of stars

under the forefeet of Sagittarius. They understood this to be a wreath rather than a crown. This wreath may have fallen off the Sagittarius' head. It is also associated with a wreath of myrtle leaves left by the god Dionysus as a gift to Hades as he retrieved his mother from the underworld, though this myth is associated with the other crown, Corona Borealis, as well. In any case, this constellation is listed in Ptolemy's Second Century list of 84 constellations in his star catalog, the Almagest.

While the Greeks saw this constellation as a wreath, in Australia the indigenous Boorong people saw this grouping of stars as a boomerang. In Central Australia, the Aranda people saw Corona as a baby in carrier dropped to Earth by a group of sky-women dancing down the Milky Way. The carrier's impact created the Gosses Bluff meteor crater about one hundred nine miles west of Alice Springs.

The brightest star in this constellation is the only one that has a name. Meridiana (Alpha Corona Australis) is the official name for the star dubbed by the Arabs as Alphekka Meridiana. They named it after the brightest star in Corona Borealis, Alphecca. Loosely translated, the Arabic name means Southern Alphecca. It is a magnitude 4.1 yellow star of spectral type A2 about 125 light-years away from us. Meridiana makes a complete rotation every fourteen hours, compared with our Sun which takes twenty-five days at the equator. There is more infrared radiation coming

from this star than is usual for its type, indicating there is a ring of dust surrounding this star.

In the northern part of this constellation is the Corona Australis Molecular Cloud. This molecular cloud is 430 light-years distant, making it one of the closest of these clouds. It contains around 7,000 solar masses of material, mostly hydrogen but a quarter of it is helium. Molecular clouds are a special type interstellar cloud that are large enough and dense enough to form molecular hydrogen. While most of the universe is made of hydrogen, it is usually in the form of atomic hydrogen, a single hydrogen atom floating through space. Molecular hydrogen has two hydrogen atoms sharing their electrons to complete the lowest quantum level in an atom.

In addition to molecular hydrogen, other molecules form in a molecular cloud like carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide can be detected in the infrared and radio spectrum, while molecular hydrogen is not detectable. By mapping the sky in carbon monoxide emissions, the location of molecular clouds can be detected. They are mainly found in the spiral arms of our galaxy, areas where star formation is known to be occurring.

In addition to being denser than the surrounding space, molecular clouds have clumps that are even denser. These clumps are composed of dust and high-density gas with the highest density gas cores being the hearts of future stars. The gravity of the gas cores will pull in gas

and dust from the surrounding cloud, making the cores larger and hotter as they progress toward becoming a star. Only in molecular clouds is there enough gas at a high enough density to form stars.

Once these gas cores have pulled enough of the surrounding gas and dust inward, the resulting star is often hidden by the remaining gas and dust of the cloud. Excess gas is ejected from the new star in narrow jets that stream outward in opposite directions, generally along the star's poles. These jets strike the material surrounding the new star, making the surrounding gasses glow. These glowing gas clouds are called Herbig-Haro objects, after the Hawaiian astronomer George Herbig and Mexican astronomer Guillermo Haro who studied them.

Herbig-Haro (HH) objects are very colorful, glowing in any color of the rainbow. Since HH objects are related to a single star, they are all very small, only somewhat bigger than Jupiter appears in our sky. The HH objects can change their brightness in just a few years' time as the strength of the jets change. HH objects only exist for a few tens of thousands of years as the new star clears the dust and gas around it by blowing it away with its solar wind. As the gas clears away and the jets diminish, the HH object becomes just a memory.

STARRY DOME
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Changing World

Are we experiencing a new paradigm shift?

“When scientific theory says something's wrong with so many people, perhaps the theory is wrong and not the people.” – Dr. Joan Roughgarden, author of Evolution's Rainbow

The above quote refers to gay and transgender people who are 7 percent and ½ percent respectively of the population. That number is many orders of magnitude more than the possibility of gay and transgender people being simply a genetic anomaly or a mutation. In other words, gay and transgender people must be a needed aspect of our human gene pool. However, we don't know what the needed aspect might be because of millennia of repression and persecution.

I am one of those people whose inclusion gives an organization points for being diverse. I find it a bit depressing that people

can get social creds for employing me. By the way, I don't see myself as diverse. I just see myself as me. The whole concept of diversity is created by the dominant members of a hegemonic society who separate themselves from people who are different from the majority.

Actually, diversity is the norm. What isn't normal is the desire to create a homogeneous society where conforming to the dominant majority is the goal. Our world and an even our whole universe are incredibly diverse. Let's just look at the animal world. A commonly accepted estimate is that there are approximately 8.7 million species of animals in the world, with, approximately 5 million of them being insects. That is a lot of diversity. But there is more. No two animals of the same species, or even plants for that matter,

are the same. In other words, just like humans, there is diversity within the species. We have all been around dogs and cats. I think we can safely say no two dogs and no two cats have the same personality and physical characteristics.

When I was a kid, I used to catch tarantulas in my backyard. I can tell you that they all had different behaviors. Most would be quite docile, but not always. I used to keep finches. All the finches that were of the same species had different personalities, slightly different coloring, and other unique characteristics. DNA coding is unique to every living creature. Personally, I think God planned it this way. I'm sure other people have other explanations. But regardless of

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STARRY DOME

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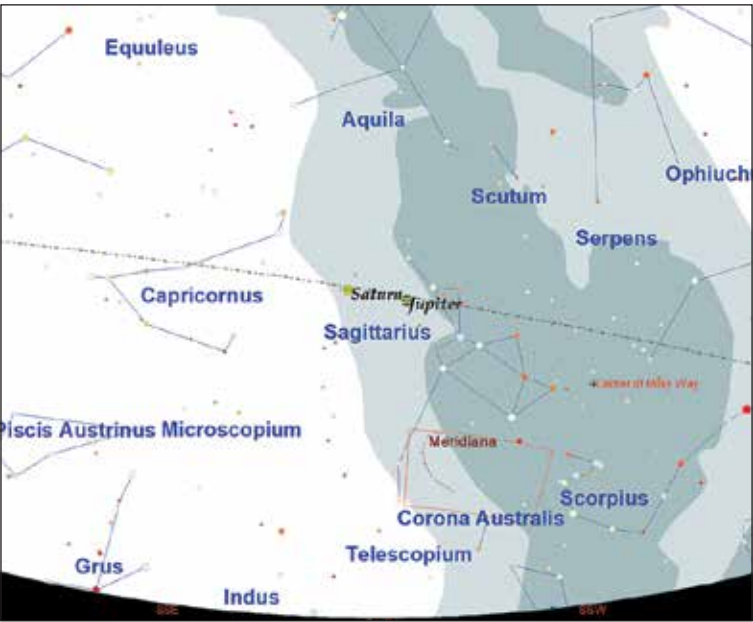
The Planets for October 2020.

Mercury is still low on our west-southwestern horizon, reaching its furthest distance from the Sun as the month begins. It will be gone by the middle of the month. During the month, it moves from far south-eastern Virgo, into western Libra and back into Virgo where it ends the month. On the first, the Messenger of the Gods’ disc is 6.8 seconds-of-arc across and it is 59 percent illuminated. It will be five degrees above the horizon as it gets dark and it sets around 7:45 p.m.

Saturn and Jupiter are 35 degrees above the southern horizon as it gets dark. Jupiter will set around 12:45 a.m., with Saturn setting half an hour later. Both are moving slowly eastward in eastern Sagittarius, about 6.5 degrees apart. Midmonth will see Jupiter with a disc 38.6 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude -2.3. Saturn’s disc is 16.7 seconds-of-arc across while its rings are 37.9 seconds-of-arc across. They are tilted downward 22.8 degrees with the northern face showing.

The God of War is moving westward in eastern Pisces. It is already seven degrees above the eastern horizon as it gets dark, setting around 7 a.m. Mars shines at magnitude -2.6, brighter than even Jupiter this month. It has a disc that is 22.1 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

Venus peaks over the eastern horizon around 4:15 a.m. Shining at magnitude -4.0, Venus moves eastward from western Leo into west-central Virgo. The Goddess of Love’s disc is 14.1 seconds-of-arc across and it is 77 percent illuminated. Venus is 30 degrees above the eastern horizon as it gets light.



Corona Australis is a small, faint constellation low in our southern sky. From a dark location, this circlet of stars is easy to pick out below the Teapot of Sagittarius. This constellation is in the Milky Way and there are some deep sky objects, but its small size limits the number of objects. There are a few open clusters, one or two galaxies and several gas clouds, both dark and light.

Calendar of Events – October 2020 (MDT)		
01	10 a.m.	Mercury furthest east of Sun (16 degrees)
01	3:05 p.m.	Full Moon
06	8 a.m.	Mars closest to Earth
09	6:39 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
13	5 p.m.	Mars opposite side of Earth from Sun
13	10p.m.	Mercury stands still
16	1:31 p.m.	New Moon
23	7:23 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
25	Noon	Mercury between Earth and Sun
31	8:49 a.m.	Full Moon

This month, Mars reaches both its closest point to the Earth and opposition (being on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun). These two events do not occur on the same day, in fact they are a week apart. If both planets had circular orbits, Mars would be closest when the Earth passes between it and the Sun. However, Earth and Mars do not have circular orbits, but elliptical (egg-shaped) orbits. Mars’ orbit is slowly taking it away from the Sun, while the Earth’s orbit is moving it toward the

Sun. This means that they reach the closest point before opposition, since each day the distance between the two orbits become larger. Enjoy the brilliant red “star” that graces our nights 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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why, that is the way it is.

Humans are no exception to this diversity. Let’s look at a couple examples of how amazingly diverse humans can be. The more isolated humans were from each other the more they developed unique characteristics that helped them survive in the environment they inhabited. For instance, humans who found themselves living in equatorial jungles developed dark skin and some became small in stature (pygmies). Those humans who found themselves living in the cold arctic tundra developed more body fat for warmth and narrow eyes and flat noses to help with snow blindness and frostbite. Still, we are all the same species, homo sapiens, and when we look at all the different body types, we can see that humans are amazingly adaptable to their environment. Our physicality is only one aspect. Every human being has a unique personality and the capacity for unique creative abilities. Unfortunately, many people either repress their own uniqueness or other people repress it

for them in order to conform to the dominant majority.

Here’s the thing, if a white newborn baby from Silver City were raised by a family in equatorial Africa, the baby would grow up just like all the other kids in that community. Except, of course, having to deal with the prejudice and racism for having white skin. And, if you took a dark-skinned newborn baby from equatorial Africa and raised him or her here in Silver City, the baby would grow up and be just like all the other kids in our community. Except, of course, having to deal with the racism and prejudice for having dark skin. These two babies will have the same intelligence and the same language skills as their adopted community. Let me say this again. All human beings are one species. When we mate with those who look different from us, the babies are fertile. We don’t produce “mules” that are sterile. Race is a construct promoted by Darwin and many others.

Considering all of that, why do people persist in othering and rejecting those who are different? This behavior is not a new phenomenon. Many early civili-

zations used the same word for stranger and enemy. Suspicion and rejection of those different from the “norm” often resulted in expulsion from the community or quite often they were just outright killed. I know there are examples of exceptions to this behavior, but exceptions are just that, exceptions. The norm was quite brutal to those that were different from the pack – the community.

So, where am I going with all of this? I think our society and many others are at a crossroads. We are experiencing a major paradigm shift in how we want to treat those that are different from the majority. This is one of the reasons our country is so divided. One group wants the world to stay the same way it has always been, that is, persecuting those that are different in order to maintain a hegemonic dominant class. The other group has become open to exploring new ways of forming society – ways that include embracing people that are different from themselves or different from the dom-

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- Moving from Surviving to Thriving

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inant majority. And, in the process of embracing diversity, they begin to acknowledge their own diversity and their own behaviors that don't fit the hegemony, that they have been forced to repress out of fear of bullying and rejection.

Here I am, openly queer, that is transgender, gay, polyamorous, pan-sexual and non-binary. Yet, I have found in our small community an incredible love and acceptance. How is that possible? Even just 50 years ago, I might have been run out of town if I dared to live my true identity. Here is the thing. When we engage with people who are different than ourselves – and I mean truly engage, that is, love them, reach out and let them into our hearts and into our psyches – we will find that we grow and expand in ways we never thought possible. Our hearts and our minds expand to where we become new people. A new creation. I fully believe this is the way God, Gaia, Goddess, planned it for us. Love your neighbors, love your enemies, and above all else, love yourself. We can together create a new paradigm for human community that will save our planet, our mother earth, from destruction.

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





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<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Roll Tabby female, 4 months old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Seti Tabby male, 10 weeks old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</div> <div></div> <div>Tang Red Heeler X male, 1 year old</div>	<div>SPONSORED BY Diane's Restaurant & The Parlor</div> <div></div> <div>Zen and Wick DSH males, 4 months old</div>



OUR PAWS CAUSE THRIFT SHOP

703 N. Bullard, SC NM, Open Wed-Sat 10am to 2pm
Donations needed! We want to expand and build a new Adoption Center. Please help.

TO JOIN THE PET PAGE CONTACT MARIAH AT 993-8193 OR EMAIL MARIAH@DESERTEXPOSURE.COM

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Where Have All the Bunnies Gone?

The world is changing under our noses

Until recently you couldn't look in any direction here at Rose Valley without seeing either a jackrabbit or its cousin, the cottontail. I'd often look out my office window and be entertained by a couple of jackrabbits playing tag: they always reminded me of cartoon rabbits with those long legs and floppy ears, and I loved the way they just loped along in time to an old cowboy tune only they could hear.

Not anymore, though. At some point this summer, I realized that most of them had disappeared. There would be days between one sighting and another, and then it was always a cottontail, not a jackrabbit. At first, I thought maybe I was imagining it, then briefly considered that they might have all retreated up into the Gila Forest to escape this summer's heat. Or maybe they were all off on a rabbit sabbatical—learning meditation at a Buddhist bunny monastery, or creating sand sculptures at a natural arts colony, or learning the benefits of a keto diet at a homeopathic retreat.

But no, the cause of the bunny disappearance is a lot more serious than my fantasies. It turns out that rabbits, especially those in the Southwest, have



their own virus, one that is much more deadly than the coronavirus is for humans, with a 70-90 percent mortality rate. It can live for more than three months on surfaces and withstand extremely high and low temperatures.

Officially known as the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Virus Type 2 or RHDV2, or unofficially as the "bunny virus," it was first reported in China (yeah, China again) in 1984 with variations of the virus hitting Australia and then Europe. In the U.S., some cases among pet rabbits were recorded in 2018 in Washington State and New York, and it was theorized that the virus came into the country with imported domesticated rabbits. However, this new version of the virus, first noticed by biologists in New Mexico this spring, has jumped from domestic rabbits to the wild rabbit population. It has since spread

throughout the entire Southwest and has been killing wild rabbits at an alarming rate.

No other species of animal, and that includes humans, can catch RHDV2, which is especially good news since humans have enough on their plate right now, but other animals can help spread it. For example, rabbit meat is a staple for many other animals, such as coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, foxes, owls, hawks, and eagles, even snakes. While these animals are immune from the virus, if they eat an infected rabbit, they can then spread it through their urine or feces. And spread by insects—fleas, mosquitos, flies—is common.

The symptoms of the bunny virus are loss of appetite, a slight fever, and lethargy, but in the wild there are no visible signs until the rabbit suddenly drops dead and then bleeds from the nose. And even those few that survive it are still carriers.

I drove around Rose Valley for about half an hour looking for jackrabbits and cottontails. I saw none, but I did see a coyote who looked much healthier than most coyotes I've seen around here. He was a little less scrawny, his fur not as patchy and matted, which made me wonder

whose pets he's been chowing down on, because that's a great concern now that the rabbits' natural predators have been deprived of their main food source. Another concern is that these predators will turn to more endangered species such as the pronghorn antelope.

A vaccine has been developed in Europe, but the USDA has not yet certified it for use in this country. Some states have been able to get emergency permission for its use, but since it's an injection, there's no way it can be used on the wild bunny population. A long line of bunnies in the parking lot of CVS is an image that can only exist in my imagination. However, scientists in Portugal have been working for a couple of years on an oral vaccine which has much more potential among the wild crowd.

Unfortunately, it will take at least two to three more years to bring it to market, and there's no rabbit presidential campaign to put pressure on the manufacturers. Robert Dusek, a wildlife biologist at the National Wildlife Health Center, said "That's a long road to go down and pretty expensive," and Carlos Rouco, a wildlife ecologist at the University of Cordoba, declares "...the virus is unstoppable."

But Ann Justice-Allen, a wildlife veterinarian with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, is a little more optimistic. "We are still seeing live rabbits in areas where the outbreak has been going on for more than a month. So that is reassuring."

Meanwhile, an article in the "Silver City Daily Press" on Sept. 15 announced that "Birds die en masse across NM." Our songbirds, both the summer visitors and the NM natives, have recently been falling to the ground stone cold dead, and no one knows why. State biologists have been collecting their little corpses and sending them off to the National Wildlife Health Center, but it could take some time to get the results. First the bunnies, now the birds. And don't forget COVID-19. Buckle up, people, we're in for a rocky ride.

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 solder@aol.com.





Silver Smiles

Dr. Caytlyn Foy Bonura



Your Health and Safety is Our Top Priority

Here is what we're doing in our office to ensure the health and safety of our patients and team.

Using Proper PPE

You'll notice that our team members are wearing personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, face shields, and gowns. This gear is being used according to ADA and CDC guidelines and is cleaned/changed properly between every patient and during your appointment if needed.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Throughout your appointment, you will be instructed by our team to use hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands. Please comply with these instructions. If you are asked to wash your hands, please wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

Sterilizing and Cleaning

Our office has always followed infection control recommendations made by the ADA, the CDC, and OSHA and will continue with our already vigilant disinfection/sterilization procedures. All surfaces, instruments, and equipment are sterilized between every patient and as needed throughout your appointment.

Safe Distancing

You will only come into contact with team members who are crucial to your care during your appointment. Patient appointment times have been spaced out to allow for proper distancing and minimal traffic in the office. You will be taken directly into your operatory upon arrival and will bypass the front desk and reception area entering and leaving our office.

Air Filtering

We have purchased 5 medical grade air filtration systems to be used throughout our office to keep the air as clean as possible. You might notice other small changes that we've made in our facility and during your care that we deem necessary to keep you safe. Please ask us if you have questions!!

Conducting Business Digitally

Patient forms, treatment planning, payments, and scheduling will be handled digitally through our website and other channels to limit the handling of pens, tablets, paper forms, cash/credit cards, insurance cards, etc. Specific information and instructions will be made available as needed.

HOURS: Mon. Tues. Thurs. 8AM to 5PM. Friday 8AM to 4PM. Closed Wednesday.

1608 North Bennett St. • Silver City, NM 88061

(Office) 575-534-3699 • (Emergency) 575-956-6045

www.SilverSmilesDental.com

NUMBNESS? TINGLING? PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?

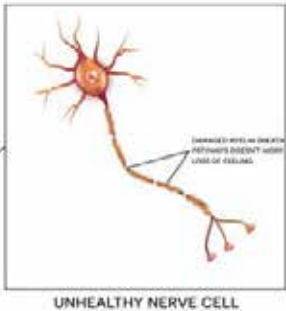
Are you tired of taking Gabapentin, Lyrica, or Cymbalta and seeing no results, or worse, experiencing negative side effects?

Are you tired of not being able to enjoy your grandkids because your feet hurt?

Are you tired of feeling like you are walking on pins and needles? Feeling like broken glass under your feet? Feeling burning and tingling? Feeling like your feet are on fire?

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and debilitating balance problems.

This damage is commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet which in turn causes them to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow. As shown in Figure 2, the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased and shrivel up. This prevents the nerves from getting the nutrients needed to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to “die” they cause pain, numbness, tingling and burning.



Three Factors to Effectively Treat Neuropathy:

- 1) What are the underlying causes?
- 2) What is the amount of nerve damage experienced?
- 3) How much treatment is needed?

Three Goals of Treatment at Sonoma Acupuncture:

- 1) Increase blood flow
- 2) Stimulate fiber nerves
- 3) Decrease brain-based pain

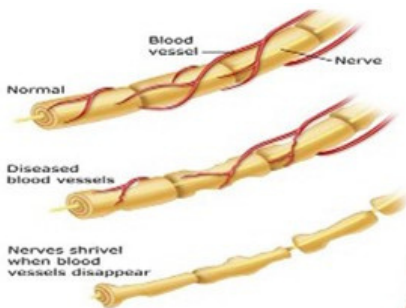


Figure 2: Shown here are small blood vessels, once they become diseased the vessels shrink and the nerves degenerate.

And because neuropathy is a degenerative disease, those symptoms will only worsen, eventually causing balance issues.

The main problem is that your doctor has told you to "just live" with the problem or prescribes drugs that you don't like taking because of the uncomfortable side effects.

There is now a facility right here in Las Cruces with a medical solution that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs with serious side effects!

The treatment to increase blood flow utilizes a specialized ATP Resonance Bio Therapy™ and O3 Regenerative Therapy™. These technologies were originally developed by NASA to assist in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing!

ATP is like watering a plant. This therapy will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair. The amount of treatment needed to allow the nerves to fully recover varies from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. As long as you have not sustained at least 85% nerve damage there is hope!



Figure 3: The blood vessels regrowth around the nerves is similar to how plant's roots grow when watered.



**SONOMA
ACUPUNCTURE**
Integrative Health

Dr. Janet Quintanilla will do a neuropathy severity examination in order to assess the extent of the nerve damage.

The exam includes sensory testing, vascular testing, and an analysis of neurological findings.

**141 N Roadrunner Pkwy, #226
Las Cruces, NM**

(575) 618-6900

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Mention this ad for a \$40 neuropathy consultation
(a \$240 value)