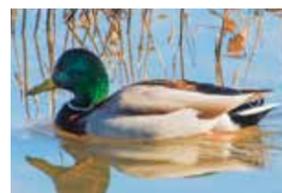


# DESERT exposure

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NOVEMBER 2020

Volume 25 • Number 11



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Some Things Never Change

‘A person’s a person no matter how small’

When I visited Estonia with my aunt in 2009 it was under the burden of history. My grandmother had always hated the color red, the color of invaders, murderers – the Germans, the Russians. She had to flee on a fishing boat, with her children, as Russian tanks took aim and fired at the boat.

In modern day Estonia, the divide is yet divisive and bitter between some Estonian and Russian residents of the country. Russian occupied since World War II, the country houses families who were told to move there from the Russian motherland. They were given the possessions and homes of the Estonian residents. Now Estonia is free, but the children’s children of those Russians still reside in Estonian homes, farm their fields, rock the old cradles they found there during the war.

Who really belongs there? Those who grew up in the houses, whose parents and grandparents lived there too, who know nothing else, live their lives and work their jobs? Or is it those who were displaced some 75-plus years ago, with their heritage and the land their ancestors worked for thousands of years, their homes ripped away by destructive regimes?

At the time we went to Esto-

nia I had a child at home in New Mexico, preteen, loved his bicycle. He went everywhere, practiced jumping over things, even broke his arm hitting a rock in a ditch. There in the streets of Tallinn in Estonia, there were children on their bicycles jumping over things, riding on the curbs, laughing, chattering – in Russian.

“Look,” I said to my aunt, “People are the same everywhere.”

“No,” she said. “They are not. They are Russian.”

But the truth is, they are the same. Their brains learn the same ways, they break their bones when they fall. They cry, holler and laugh. Children everywhere play the same, absorb the same – running kites in Afghanistan; hovering over Mancala in Africa; collecting shells on the shores of the United States; riding bicycles in Estonia.

When White Sands National Park Resource Program Manager David Bustos sees 10,000-year-old footprints crossing the sands at the edge of Lake Lucero, he also sees people being people.

There are prints, extending almost a mile, of a small person (child) and a bigger person (possibly a mother) traveling together. Sometimes the little prints disappear, the bigger person is picking up the smaller person. Sometimes the bigger person is heavier on

one side and at other times heavier on the other, she (or he) is shifting the child from one side to the other as she carries it.

“It looks like a giant ground sloth walks through a puddle also, it looks like they (people) are jumping in the mud,” Bustos said. “It looks like many of the activities they did back then, they are doing today – walking quickly, keeping them (children) up out of the mud.”

“The neat part of the story is people are always people. It’s always been that way – connecting us back through time. It doesn’t matter where you come from and where you live. You can see interactions through time. We think White Sands is new, but we realize it’s been visited for thousands of years.”

Bustos said they noticed the new prints a couple of years ago (2018).

“We call them ghost prints,” he said. “We only see them when the moisture is just right. Once we recognized what they were we worked with a team of experts.”

A new paper published in Quaternary Science Reviews documents the world’s longest fossilized human trackway discovered at White Sands National Park. An international team of scientists, including Bustos and other staff from the National Park Service,



On the shores of the ancient Lake Otero, a mother and child leave their footprints in this ice age landscape. (Art courtesy of Karen Carr)

has produced evidence through footprints showing how animals may have been hunted – but White Sands still has many stories to tell in the fossilized prints including the traces of children playing in puddles that formed in giant sloth tracks, friends jumping between mammoth tracks and the steady stalking of humans in search of large prey.

Designated a megatracksite in 2014, White Sands contains the largest collection of ice age (Pleistocene epoch) fossilized footprints in the world, which have been left behind by more than just humans. Mammoth, giant ground sloth, dire wolf, and American lion tracks have been found at White Sands.

“That’s how it goes out there,” Bustos said. “Who expects there to be anything out there? But there is so much more than you expect. There are many stories to be told.”

Across time and across the world, human growth and behavior is the same. We are

one species and despite the brain-bending we get, training to violent and divisive behaviors and beliefs, no one can change that. When a baby cried in the night, whether 10,000 years ago or yesterday, a parent answered the call, laughed at the strange faces she made and comforted her with reassuring mumbles.

This is our world, so much more than you expect, so many stories to be told.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure



readers in Silver City or any of our coverage areas. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408 to set a place and time to meet. The quote in the headline of this story is from “Horton Hears a Who!” by Dr. Seuss.

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**SO CLOSE TO TOWN** - 10 acre parcel with a well - horses OK. Solid producing well, tested at 10 gallons a minute for 8 hours. Property is at the end of Canyon Country Estates off a cul-de-sac. Some low oaks throughout. Long range views to the south and west. Driveway has been cut in. Several good building sites to be picked from. Some offer all around views and some are more sheltered.  
MLS # 37617 \$50,000

**Corner lot home, new furnace.** Metal roof. Home needs some repairs. Sold as is.  
MLS # 37569 \$70,000

**Older home on two acres.** Barn and fenced in lot could keep horse or farm animals. House in need of repairs.  
MLS # 37496 \$74,900

**Country living in rural New Mexico, this 4 bedroom 2 bath home has plenty of room for the kids, FHA animals and borders the fair grounds and Cliff School.** This property has Duck Creek, a semi-annual creek flowing through the east end of the 7.9 acres. You'll be delighted with the amount of covered storage this property boasts. Close to the Gila River, Bill Evans Lake and the Gila National Forest, this property is a great escape from the fast paced city life.  
MLS # 37424 \$245,000

**Vaulted ceiling, loft and separate office area, custom built-ins.** If you are looking for a setting close to the Gila National Forest this property is just a mile from the Gomez peak Recreation area and Continental Divide trail. Close to town with a forest feel. A-Frame style cabin with large framed addition on approximately 3 acres. Don't hesitate, this checks just about all the boxes for the cabin lover.  
MLS # 37587 \$219,000

**Spectacular views from the covered deck on this home.** The nearly 1.5 acres of pine and juniper trees provides cool, and tranquil mountain living. The additions to the home include large covered decks, and expanded bedrooms. Pellet stove insert provides warm living space through the winter. Private well perfect for maintaining a garden in the fenced in patio area. Driveway loop can park toys, trailers and possibly an RV. Come check out this amazing property.  
MLS # 37616 \$199,000

**Views, views, views!!** 2 bedroom, 2 bath split floor plan home sitting on little over an acre. Master bath has a full shower and the second bath has a tub. Pellet stove in living room which is has an open layout that flows into the kitchen/dining room. Large fenced garden area as well as an 8 x 15 lockable shop and an 8 x 10 storage shed. Several planter sections built on the east wall have irrigation. The entire property has a wire fence along with a large, double, galvanized gate for security and privacy.  
MLS # 37650 \$93,000

**Newly remolded home on a corner lot.** Metal roof, new plumbing, electrical, flooring, and stucco. Stainless appliances make the new kitchen shine. The remodel left some of the adobe walls to accent the structure of the original build. Covered porch and back patio area. Corner lots allows access to driveway from two streets.  
MLS # 37651 \$144,000

**Who doesn't want country living close to town?** This cute house has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, separate office, open living area, dining area, galley kitchen and fenced in area for the pets. Part of the original garage was converted to the office, but still room for a car. The property has amazing views, large trees, association water and room to spread.  
MLS # 37599 \$179,500

**One owner, custom-built home nestled in privacy in the Burro Mountains within walking, riding, biking distance to National Forest!** Custom Pine cabinetry throughout the home. True SW feel with vigas in the Living Area and brick floors throughout. Solid wood doors. Extra Bonus Room for office, library, hobby? Lots of outdoor living space and fenced garden area. Stucco is only a few years old and the entire interior of the home has just been painted!  
MLS # 37472 \$349,000

**You are about to encounter a 21st Century, Southwestern Ranch Style Home in the small corner of New Mexico that was home to many famous gunslingers, including Billy the Kid.** This custom built home borders National Forest, on 40 acres with mature landscaping, fruit trees and a commanding wisteria canopy on the front porch, lending a special ambience for outdoor entertaining. Main Home boasts almost 3,000 sq ft of flowing floor plan. Saltillo floors throughout the home give it the traditional flavor of the southwest. Open kitchen/den with breakfast area. The formal living and dining area are where you can entertain a crowd, conveniently located just off the kitchen. Cozy guest wing and office allow for a level of privacy. Two apartments are set up each with separate driveways, entrances, heating and cooling, respectively. There is a grand ol' art and craft room as well.  
MLS # 37485 \$689,000

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**ABOUT THE COVER:**

"Snows Arriving," is by Cloudcroft photographer Lynda Brugman. Since retirement in 2010 photography has become her passion and changed the way she sees the world.

"My goal is to create photographic works of art that portray the innate beauty of the world around us," she said. "Every picture tells a story as seen by the eye of the photographer and perceived in the heart of the viewer."

Brugman's work gained recognition in 2015 when one of her images, "Cooling off in the Late Afternoon," placed first in the animals category of New Mexico Magazine's photo contest and was published in the February 2016 issue. Her work can be seen in person at the Tularosa



Basin Gallery of Photography in Carrizozo and the Cloudcroft Art Society Gallery. Info: www.naturalworldphoto.com. More of Brugman's photos can be seen on Pages 16 and 17 of this issue.



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DESERT exposure

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# If We're Lucky

Temperatures and noises to drive you crazy

**M**y elderly father refuses to admit it, but his daily walks are taking their toll on him.

And me. Mainly me.

He no longer walks as far, he no longer walks as long, but he's still determined to get out there and worry me to death.

"I don't feel like going," he'll sometimes say, but before I can encourage him not to torture himself, he's grumbling his way

out the door. He's so stubborn, he even aggravates himself.

If it's hot, I'll tell him to wait until it's cooler. He'll refuse. Sometimes he'll even put on a light jacket. I'm positive it's just to irritate me. When it's cold, he'll head out the door in shorts and a t-shirt.

"At least put on a sweater," I told him.

"It's not cold," he argued.

"Pop, it's so cold even Miley Cyrus is wearing clothes." "Who?"

I didn't bother answering.

"It's cold," I said.

"It feels warm to me."

"That's because we're indoors."

"I'll be alright," he said, but what he meant was, "Nobody tells me what to do."

When he got back, his cheeks were bright pink, his nose running. He was briskly rubbing his hands together, trying to get the blood circulating.

"Man, it's cold," he growled as

if it was something I didn't know.

Meanwhile, my beautiful wife was simultaneously making him a warm tea and giving me the stink eye for letting him go. Yikes!

Suddenly, it was colder inside than it was outside.

When it's hot, he comes back looking as if he's just had a stroke.

"Why didn't you tell me how hot it was?" he complained to me back in July, gulping down the glass of water my wife always has waiting for him. Room temperature, in case you're wondering.

"I TOLD you how hot it was," I answered him. I didn't know if he was serious or yanking my chain. "CHICKENS are laying OMELETTES, for goodness' sake."

Later that night, he was sitting in his favorite chair watching his favorite sport on his favorite TV. His favorite team was playing. The score was tied. It was a good game. Even his dog was interested. Out of the blue, my father called it a day and shambled off to bed. My wife and I had been talking quietly in the kitchen. We just looked at each other.

Sooner or later, Father Time catches up with all of us. No matter how much we exercise. No matter how healthy we eat. We all get to the age where it's our doctor telling us to slow down, not the police.

For example...

I've noticed the older I get, the more noises I make. Sometimes I grunt when I sit down, but mainly I grunt when I get up. My father grunts too. When he does, he blames it on the dog.

When I go to bed at night I must

clear my throat about a dozen times. I don't know how my wife shares a bed with me, because it must drive her nuts. And thank goodness for my CPAP machine. You know the saying: "Laugh, and the world laughs with you. Snore, and you sleep alone."

"Why is it that men who snore always fall asleep first?" my wife once groused.

"Which other men have you been sleeping with?" I groused back.

My father, on the other hand, drives ME nuts with all of his lip smacking, ooh-ing and aah-ing, and massaging of his front teeth with his tongue. I've tried to sit down with him to watch TV, but, after a while, the only sounds I hear are the ones he's making with his mouth. Modern Family's Sofia Vergara could be jiggling around in one of her tight outfits and I couldn't enjoy it. I have to get up and go someplace else. Someplace where I can't hear the never-ending Smack! Smack! Smack!

Yesterday, the "Ah, ah, ahhs," "Oh, oh, ohhhs," and "Hee, hee, heees" were so loud I could hear him all the way in my bedroom upstairs.

"Sorry, Sofia," I told the TV, "I just can't give you the attention you deserve."

The noises were so loud, my wife even asked if my father was okay.

"He really likes 'Modern Family,'" I told her, not really explaining anything.

My lovely daughter came into our bedroom and made the mistake of asking me why I never sit

**LUCKY**

continued on page 5

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*QUIET & RELAXING GETAWAY*

# Letter to the Editor

## Election kudos

**Editor,**

Grant County Clerk and staff are to be commended for their COVID-19 practices during early voting. Voting at the County Administrative Building was very efficient and included COVID-19 innovation I'd not yet experienced. In addition to the usual masks and 6-foot spacing in line outdoors on the walkway, sanitation was clearly a top priority. Entry was con-

trolled at the County Clerk's Office door so check-in maintained spacing. At the check-in counter, voters sign the electronic signature pad with a fresh wooden coffee stick which is then deposited in a small countertop wastebasket. I was handed a clean felt pen with my ballot. Someone sanitized the check-in counter just after I vacated it. There were empty booths despite the

line behind me; I had a choice. When I left the voting booth to deposit my ballot, my booth was sanitized. I dropped my felt pen in a box by the door on my way out, fed my ballot into the machine, and happily accepted my "I voted early" sticker.

I was very impressed.

*Ronnee-Sue Helzner  
Silver City*

**LUCKY**

continued from page 4

with my father when he watches TV. She couldn't help but notice I was watching the same program upstairs in my bedroom that my father was watching downstairs in the den.

She shouldn't have asked. I told her the story. The WHOLE story.

She thought I was being mean and went downstairs to keep her grandpa company. A while later, she came back and moaned that I never should have told her about her grandpa's noises.

"That's ALL I hear now," she wailed. She had a bowl of cereal in her hands. "I can't even eat in the kitchen, because all I hear is the smacking."

She shook her head sadly. "Poor grandpa," she said. Poor grandpa, indeed. True, it's sad, but life is sad. And old age is a road we'll all have to travel one day.

If we're lucky. These days, my back goes out more than I do.

*Info: theduchenebrothers@gmail.com; @JimDuchene.*

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.

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

# Historical Lens

A love story told through a black-and-white photo

There is something that attracts us to our connections to the past. Black and white pictures of grandparents, or funky old items that are mirrors to the lives of previous generations. We come across them during visits to family and sometimes in sad moments as we commemorate a loved one's passing.

It was only a few days ago that I found a negative of my grandparents. I held it up to the light, trying to make out their faces. Taken in 1946, the wedding-day image of a happy bride and groom was a milestone moment in the history of my family tree.

Only a year before that, my

grandfather Abram was a Seabee in the Navy, deployed overseas. He was just one of 16 million Americans serving their country trying to defeat a faraway enemy that threatened the globe. The future bride's name was Rafaela. She was back home in a border town, living the quiet life of a Mexican-American, hoping to one day meet her life partner.

At least that's the way the story unfolds in my mind as I look at the photo. There's a lot you can take away from a black and white photo. Without the colors, your imagination comes to life. You picture the colorful adventure stories of a young soldier, and the quiet moments of hop-

ing and wishing of a young lady in waiting.

The wedding-day couple poses in front of a backdrop. It looks nice but not nice enough to know that it's still a picture on a curtain. There are columns on each side. The background imagery isn't what you would consider inspiring but that's okay. In this photo, it's your grandfather and grandmother that are the center of attention.

He stands at attention. She smiles beneath a veil and a large bouquet of flowers. They both look straight on and into the future, only imagining what life would bring to newlyweds, a son and daughter of immigrants in



Abram and Rafaela Villarreal in winter of 1946. (Courtesy Photo)

post-war America.

In 1946, the United States was being reborn into a new society filled with young G.I.s who were returning home to find themselves again. They had survived the unimaginable and the young ladies of the world were ready to welcome them into the new ordinary of an American life they fought to preserve.

Seeing my grandparents in a black and white photo on their wedding day makes me believe there was a time when two young 20-somethings could

stand for a pose, dressed to the nines, and looking straight into the camera, sending us a message of hope and wonder for the amazing possibilities that lay ahead of them. Most of all, they let us know how much two people could love each other.

It is that sentiment which was captured in one of the top songs during the year of their wedding by Bing Crosby titled "I Can't Begin To Tell You."

"I can't begin to tell you how much you mean to me, my world would end if ever we were through. I can't begin to tell you, how happy I would be if I could speak my mind like others do."

They are the words I hear when I see a love story in an old black-and-white photo of a bride and groom known as Grandpa and Grandma in the winter of 1946.

Abe Villarreal writes about the traditions, people, and culture of America. He can be reached at [abevillarreal@hotmail.com](mailto:abevillarreal@hotmail.com).



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QUEST COLUMN • TAYLOR STREIT

# Rio Grande Trail

## Following the tradition of Don Quixote?

There is a plan in the works to carve a 500-mile-long trail along the Rio Grande in New Mexico. This planning started many years back, and although little trail has been produced, lots of time and money have been spent. It all seems to have gone into hibernation since the pandemic started, but it is likely to be back, as a “gung-ho” response to any trail seems the norm – regardless of its feasibility.

I have lived, fished, hunted, and worked at both ends of our grand river in New Mexico for 50 years and think this trail is a bad idea for the potential hiker, for the environment and for legitimate outdoor businesses.

The cart came before the horse on this idea because, if you look at a map, it doesn't take five minutes to figure out that the terrain, the land status and river flow show this to be an impossible effort.

And since it will only be near a flowing Rio Grande a fraction of the time, I suggest a new name – the “Don Quixote Trail.” That man, while fighting through thorn thicket, imagined himself in fields of waving grasses, bubbling springs and shade trees.

Don Q was a thru-hiker for sure. The thru hiker of today is not the big spender the business-minded folks behind the trail are targeting. I met a lot of them when I guided out of Chama. These are nervous folks who pace back and forth between Canada and Mexico. They do little shopping in between.

The 97-page master plan of the trail is 96 pages of well-done fluff and must have cost a fortune. It has few real facts, but one of those is that the pueblos don't want the trail. So, the planning commission – when faced with such realities – goes to extremes of fancy. For instance, since the Rio water is full of heavy metals and the throng of hikers is gonna need water every eight miles, they suggest drilling wells. That's nearly 50 wells by my math – and maybe 1,000 miles of roads. And so many hikers are expected that good order must be kept to cut down on elbowing a “trail rangers' program where volunteers hand out local restaurant gift cards or other rewards for good trail behavior.”

But let's imagine a few months of a thru-hike on the “Don Quixote Trail.” (You have, of course,

chosen to do this in winter to avoid the 100-degree heat.)

To get a full international feel to your journey, start at the wall in Texas, just brace one foot against it and with a mighty shove leave the heartbreaking view of Juárez behind you. But good times are ahead because the Rio is dry in winter, and you can dance right up the channelized ditch for the first 100 miles! The trail is designed to go through the few towns along the way in case you want to shop, eat or buy a house and retire from hiking. They have all that at Elephant Butte Lake and Truth or Consequences. But you'll get to the north side of the lake and be glad to be out of that much civilization; but come up against a wall of savage wilderness. The roadless portions will fit the Don Quixote model well: cactus, mesquite, lions, bears, deer, oryx, bighorns, rattlers and wild cattle will have to give way to trail progress.

But the Bureau of Reclamation wildlife biologist might nix that, and if so, another route needs to be figured out. But as the nearby terrain is not conducive to a trail – and a Turner ranch is on the east side – the best route is the

old highway and/or I-25 itself.

No more wasting time with the slow routes, and Albuquerque can be conquered in a couple weeks on a proper highway (no hitch hiking please). The city has trails by the Rio, but remember that it also has got that crime thing going, so you will need an urban hiking mentality – pack accordingly.

So, hustle northward until you hit that massive expanse of Indian land and take the huge eastward detour through Madrid, New Mexico – a very nice town, though nowhere near the Rio.

Although not on the trail map, the capital city is just ahead. With the throngs of hikers, there will probably be some trick signage attempting to steal you toward the “City Different.” A glamorous shopping destination that will leave you penniless – unless you figure out that the “trail” is really a disguised shopping extravaganza and flee toward the tranquility of the mighty Rio – off to the west somewhere.

Our proposed portion of the hike ends here for now, and yes, there are some sensible places for a trail heading further north. It's just the lower 450-mile section that's problematic.

Let's hope all the money and effort spent for the Rio Grande Trail are being put to better use at this time of great trauma. But if the idea comes back, maybe gears will be shifted to a plan that works, perhaps highlighting

the individual towns along the Rio and the great wildlands that are in the vicinity of these towns. That could be good for everyone and would not insult the economy and the environment.

There are no less than a dozen mountain ranges from El Paso to Albuquerque within 30 miles of the Rio – with sensible lands for trails, including wilderness areas and wildlife refuges and even some miles of legitimate trail along the Rio for day use. This should help business that need a boost; and books, trail guides and outdoor-related stuff could be created.

I own a fly-fishing guiding outfit that has been booming since the pandemic started because outside-minded people quickly figured that being out in the breeze is the safest place to be in a pandemic. Same holds true for hiking – but a trail has got to be boots-on-the-ground good, not just a dream of Don Quixote's.

*Taylor Streit has guided fly fishermen for 40 years — primarily in New Mexico, but in the*



*Bahamas and Argentina as well. He recently moved to Grant County from the Taos area. He is the author of several fishing books and is more than familiar with New Mexico as wilderness.*

TUMBLE WEEDS • LUCINDA KARTER

# A Cat's Tale

## All the pretty roses

When Danny and I were house-hunting online from New York this past spring, planning our move to southern New Mexico, a property came up that we could afford in Tularosa. I deduced from the middling Spanish I have left from college that the village's name meant something approximating “all the roses,” and was immediately charmed. My inference came from assuming the first syllable, “tu,” had something in common with the French “tout” or the Italian “tutti,” both meaning “all.” Add “la rosa” to that to form “Tularosa” and there I was dreaming of a place to plant that rose garden I'd never been promised.

Months later, and somewhat settled into our new home, I came upon an old tourist brochure about the town in which I

read that the “tul” of “Tularosa” in fact refers to the “rose-colored tules,” or reeds, that grow in the marshy land around the Rio Tularosa, the small river that provides water to the town's famed “49 blocks” and their original 19th century irrigation system, the acequias.

To add to the confusion surrounding its name, it turns out that Tularosa is in fact actually nicknamed “the City of Roses,” and for good reason; centuries-old rose bushes can be found in many a garden, growing in front of old adobe walls, gracing otherwise pragmatic chain-link fences with beauty, and even lining the median of the town's vector, Route 54. Tularosa's unusual irrigation system and a seemingly endless supply of sunshine provide the

roses with all they need to flourish here.

As East Coast gardeners with minimal experience with roses, we looked around our neighborhood outside of the coveted “49 blocks” with its acequias and saw roses growing plentifully there too. We bought two, one red and one pink, and planted them with high hopes. After their first month, there was an imposed ban on watering outside for two weeks. Our roses went into shock, our hopes for a rose garden on hold for now.

The 10 locust trees that provide the blessed shade from the desert sun may have also blocked too much sun for the poor things, to add to the stress of the drought. But the City of Roses had another surprise in store for us.

Where I come from, we would probably call the rose-colored tules found along the marshes of the Rio Tularosa “cat tails.” Which brings me to another apt name for this town, having nothing to do with roses: City of Cat Tails.

Everywhere you look you see them, little cat tails, big cat tails, bushy ones, scrawny ones. Never in my life, save perhaps in Rome, have I seen so many cats hightailing it around town, peering around corners, from under bushes, from atop roofs, from under abandoned trucks. They are feral or domestic or something in between. It isn't unusual here for a cat to frequent several homes, sleeping in one and eating in another. Friends and

neighbors live with eight, 10, 14 cats. It now makes perfect sense to me why our house, much to our surprise – though no one else is around here – came with two cats. Like many cats in Tularosa, they have several names. To us they are Jo-Jo and Louise, after our grandmothers. To our neighbors, they are Laverne and Shirley.

We recently found ourselves considering adopting two kittens from a litter born to a feral cat living with two dear new friends. And this is how it happens, I suppose. We will go from having two cats to having four, and just as simply, we will start to blend in among all the cat tails, and maybe someday, all the pretty roses.

**Desert #53 Dumbfounder** by Dave Thomas  
 “Desert Dumbfounder” by Dave Thomas is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month's *Desert Exposure*. Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), and be recognized!  
 TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"JD EBM UJEPJEPBMU UCVMUE, NG XBCFM IJEEMU XJD JVCYE J LMJLFG  
 IFJAYM DXMMIOKA EBM XCUFL JKL BCX OE PBJKAML MZMUGEBOKA." -  
 VCV LOZMK, CK EBOD GMJU'D UMKJODDJKPM JUEDWJOU

Use the answer key below to track your clues, and reveal Secret Words!  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR HOBBY AND HOPE TO GET EVERYONE AS INTERESTED IN IT AS WE ARE." - JEANNINE WEINER OF THE GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY \*Secret Words: "PROUDLY MAGNETIC"  
 Congrats to #52 solvers: Will Adams\*, Shorty Vaiza\*, Skip Howard\*, Mike Arms\*, and Claudette Gallegos\*!

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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

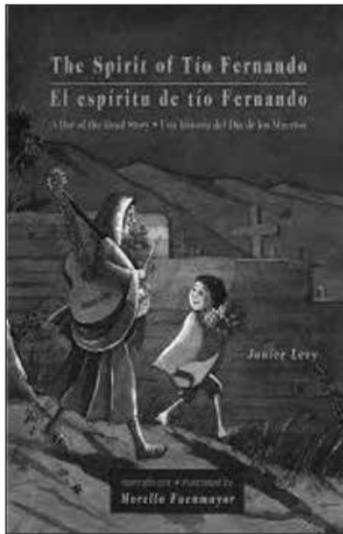
# What's going on in November?

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 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 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, NOV. 1**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Bilingual Storytime: "The Spirit of Tio Fernando/El espíritu de tío Fernando"** — 7 p.m. with the Silver City Museum. Info: www.silvercitymuseum.org or 575-597-0229.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**"Saturday Family Science: Ornithology" Take-out STEM activity** — By reservation only, the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science offers kits free, available while supplies last. Learn about ornithology through owls. Dissect an owl pellet to learn about owl diet. Recommended ages 7 and up. This kit will be accompanied by an

instructional video posted to www.facebook.com/lcmuseums on Nov. 7. Info: To reserve contact Stephanie, shawkins@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120.

**"Nature & Science Discovery Pre-K" Take-out STEM activity** — By reservation only, the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science offers kits free, available while supplies last. Practice paleontology with two dinosaur-themed activities with a Junior Paleontologist kit. Recommended for ages 2-5. This program will be accompanied by instructional videos at www.facebook.com/lcmuseums on Nov. 12 and 19. Info: To reserve contact Stephanie, shawkins@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 5**  
**Virtual New Mexico**  
**Downtown Gallup Rocks: James Mecale of Gallup** — 7 p.m. Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District offers a virtual concert series to be recorded in Historic Downtown Gallup, featuring seven local and regional musicians. A new concert will be released every Thursday from Nov. 5 until Dec. 17 on GMSACD's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 6**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Artist Talk and Demonstration with Chantelle Yazzie-Martin** — 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Zoom Webinar with the Branigan Cultural Center. Hear from local indigenous and LGBTQAI+ artist about her exhibit and methods of creating her pieces. Link: rebrand.ly/ChantelleYazzie. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 7**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 12**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Transcending Borders Film and Presentation Series online** — 10 a.m. with Western New Mexico University's Fiesta Latina. "Pottery of Mexico Vol II Trees of Life -Izucar de Matamoros, Acatlan and Metepec" lecture with Marta Turok,

applied anthropologist, follows the film. Info: Zoom link available at fiestalatina.org.



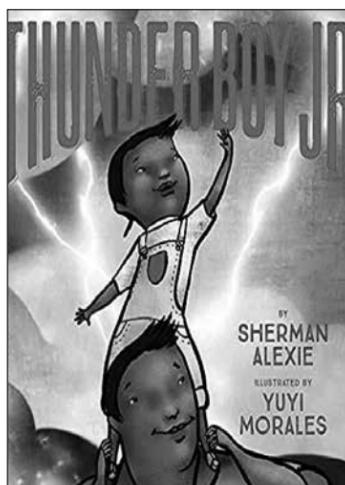
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**History Notes: "Significance of the Afro-frontier: Blackdom" with Dr. Timothy Nelson** — 1-2 p.m. on Zoom Webinar with the Branigan Cultural Center. Nelson explores the Afro-Frontier to identify history evoked by the Compton Cowboys when they joined Black Lives Matter protests by horseback. Link: rebrand.ly/Blackdom. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

**What's the Word: Arabic** — 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Zoom Webinar with the Branigan Cultural Center. Monthly meeting to learn the Arabic language and get a view into Arabic culture, this month Iraq is featured. This session is for high school aged learners and up. Register to attend by emailing Kayla at kmyers@las-cruces.org. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

**Virtual New Mexico**  
**Downtown Gallup Rocks: Tyan Biter of Flagstaff, Arizona** — 7 p.m. Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District offers a virtual concert series to be recorded in Historic Downtown Gallup, featuring seven local and regional musicians. A new concert will be released every Thursday from Nov. 5 until Dec. 17 on GMSACD's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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, NOV. 15**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Bilingual Storytime: "Thunderboy Jr."** — 7 p.m. with the Silver City Museum. A book by Sherman Alexie, read by Ted Pressler (English) and Xochitl Hernandez-Moctezuma (Spanish). Info: www.silvercitymuseum.org or 575-597-0229.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Community Care: Cruces Creatives presents CommunityShare** — 1-2:30 p.m. on Zoom Webinar with the Branigan Cultural Center. For those interested in sharing their knowledge with Las Cruces Community Schools. Register to attend by emailing Kayla at kmyers@las-cruces.org. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

**"Animal Track Identification Kit" Take-out STEM activity** — By reservation only, the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science offers kits free, available while supplies last. Take a nature walk in your neighborhood and learn how to identify animal tracks with the help of an interactive guide. Recommended for all ages. Info: To reserve contact Stephanie, shawkins@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120.



**"Be a Water Chemist" Take-out STEM activity** — By reservation only, the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science offers kits free, available while supplies last. Be a water chemist with this "GSK Science in the Summer" hands-on experiment. Use pH as an indicator of safe water and test different water treatment methods. Recommended ages 7 and up. This kit will be accompanied by a live demonstration on Zoom Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. Info: To reserve contact Stephanie, shawkins@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120.



**Silver City/Grant County**  
**WNMU Zoom Open Mic** — 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico University. Info: wnmw.edu/culture or 575-538-6496.

**Virtual New Mexico**  
**Downtown Gallup Rocks: Rippy and the Sillyettes of Gallup** — 7 p.m. Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District offers a virtual concert series to be recorded in Historic Downtown Gallup, featuring

seven local and regional musicians. A new concert will be released every Thursday from Nov. 5 until Dec. 17 on GMSACD's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 21**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 26**  
**Virtual New Mexico**  
**Downtown Gallup Rocks: Felix Gato Peralta of Albuquerque** — 7 p.m. Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District offers a virtual concert series to be recorded in Historic Downtown Gallup, featuring seven local and regional musicians. A new concert will be released every Thursday from Nov. 5 until Dec. 17 on GMSACD's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



**SATURDAY, NOV. 28**  
**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, NOV. 29**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Bilingual Storytime: "How Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico"** — 7 p.m. with the Silver City Museum. A book by Rudolfo Anaya, read by Correa Hemphill (English) and Javier Salas (Spanish). Info: www.silvercitymuseum.org or 575-597-0229.



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## ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Chickens and Children

## Artist on mission to spread awareness

When human traffickers (“coyotes”) get their hands on children, they are often referred to as “pollos,” the Spanish word for chickens. When local artist Sonya Fe heard the phrase, it affected her so strongly she was motivated to investigate the situation more and now she has decided to do something about it.

“I was aware of this nightmare and did small paintings of it,” she said.

As an artist, Fe is spreading awareness through her art. She was offered a wall and went big with the work. Now she is encouraging artists across the country to take up the call of “Chickens and



Children do Not Belong in Cages.”

“The kids [in detention along the border] are lost they are going to human trafficking,” she said. “Life goes on we all forget. This is a horrible state for us too to be in. My mural is showing the emotional depression they are all going through.”

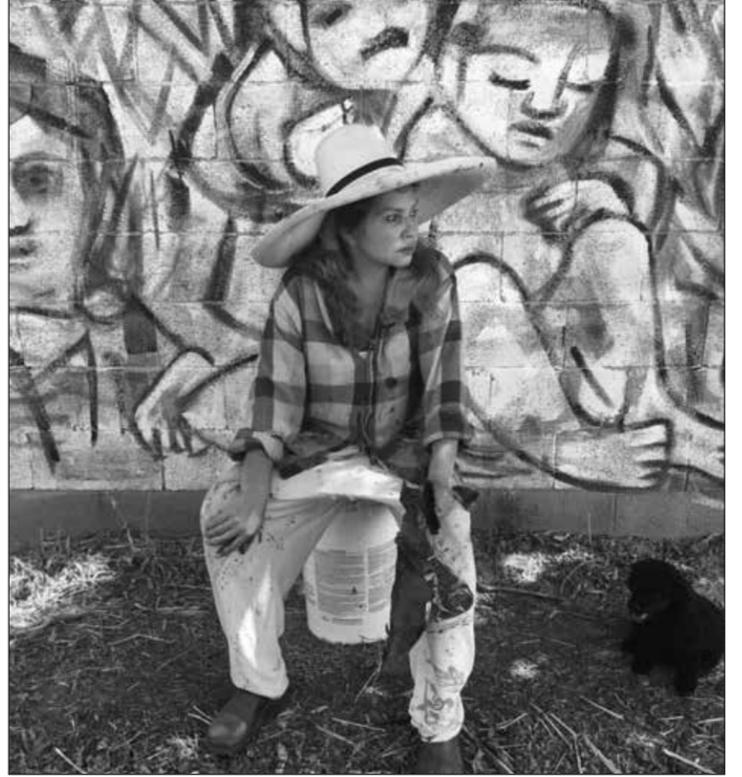
A friend of Fe’s, another artist Lalo Garcia, is also be working on the same theme in California.

“We are trying to have artists in other states get on board with this campaign,” she said. “I’m an angry artist. My paintbrush will be mightier than the sword. Maybe we can get together a fundraiser for the supplies. It’s just two of us now and eventually it’s going to snowball.”

Fe said she and Garcia are calling on artists to submit their artwork under the umbrella of “Chickens and Children do Not Belong in Cages,” but the work can be of any style or subject they would like but should have the phrase on the image somewhere.

“The more murals we paint, the louder the voice for these kids,” she said.

The mural is located on the wall along the railroad tracks off Hoagland Road, behind the house at 2005 Carlisle Drive in Las Cruces. Fe can be found on Facebook or reached at 926-606-8213 for more information.



Artist Sonya Fe sits with her Las Cruces mural, “Chickens and Children do Not Belong in Cages.” (Courtesy photos)

## ON THE SHELF • ALETHEA EASON

# Dreaming America

## Voices of Undocumented Youth in Maximum Security Detention

### From the Earth

*From the earth grew a fruit  
So delicious  
I paused to wonder,  
Who harvested this fruit?*

“From the Earth,” is one of 40 poems included in the poetry collection *Dreaming America: Voices of Undocumented Youth in Maximum-Security Detention*. These poems were written by young men who are undocumented immigrants, ages 12 to 17, incarcerated in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The editor, Seth Michelson, chose the

poems included in the book from poetry writing workshops he conducted within the facility. The poems are offered in both English and Spanish, the translations provided by Michelson’s students at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

During a recent poetry event, organized by Georgina Marie, the Poet Laureate of Lake County, California, in which three Silver City, New Mexico poets participated, Michelson spoke of the “pre-pubescent boy” who could not read or write and how he dictated “From the Earth” to another boy who had literacy skills.

Michelson used the term “poets” to describe his students, most of whom traveled from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and a few from Mexico. On average, they have a second-grade education, were orphaned between the ages of six to eight, and underwent substantial trauma and abuse in their home countries, which led “to threats to themselves or others, often gang or cartel related.”

This collection is full of dreams, heartbreaks, vulnerability and hope. Many of the writers spent time in solitary con-

finement between poetry sessions. Despair seeps through selections such as in “I Forget.”

*Without reason to exist  
I often forget that I am/  
real and this makes me ache  
the soul I don’t have  
or can’t find me  
as I wander/somewhere else.*

But a fragile joy also is found in this collection. In “The Future,” another poet reflects,

*The future is something new  
that comes bit by bit.  
The bad, the mistakes/  
remain behind/  
The important thing is to keep  
going in life and see  
the best in the world.*

Michelson says the act of writing poetry transformed how these youth interact. Each poet also has found personal transformation as he expresses his individual story of living with violence, fear, and hopes for the future. “Crossing Borders” expresses this in a tender manner.

*These borders are hard to cross.  
With their fears, furies, frustrations  
But I keep fighting to learn  
Although borders are hard/  
To transverse  
I’ll one day make it across and improve my life.*

All proceeds from “Dreaming America” go directly to a legal defense fund for the young men in detention. The book can be ordered at [www.settlementhouse.us/dreaming-america](http://www.settlementhouse.us/dreaming-america).

## ON STAGE • MIKE COOK

# Great Theatre at Home

## Black Box Theatre offers streaming

Black Box Theatre’s resident No Strings Theatre Company has kept busy doing creative projects since the Black Box Theatre (BBT) shut down in March because of state public health orders.

The theatre’s production of “Bosoms and Neglect” was presented as a streaming play in September, and past productions of “The Importance of Being Earnest” and “The Rivals” are viewable on the NSTC’s YouTube channel.

In addition, Las Cruces actors Scott Brocato, Debbie-Jo Felix, Luz Resendez, Rachel Thomas-Chappell and Joshua Taulbee are in rehearsal for BBT’s upcoming production of Tony-winning playwright Mark Medoff’s play, “The Majestic Kid.” They recently took a break from rehearsals and

used Zoom technology to present “Mr. Icky,” a short comic play written by novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1922.

BBT also has available online a collection of Shakespeare monologues, directed by Taulbee.

Also online are monologues and short plays written by Colorado playwright Dinah Swan (who is also a talented artist whose work has recently been on display at the Doña Ana Arts Council and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum).

Two of Swan’s pieces were directed by Herman and are available on YouTube: “The Make Over” and “White Trash Etiquette.”

BBT’s streaming plays can be viewed under the “Now Streaming” tab at [www.no-strings.org](http://www.no-strings.org).

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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.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.  
**Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway St.. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.  
**Lloyd Studios**, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.  
**Lois Duffy Art Studio**, 211C N. Texas St., 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.  
**Lumiere Editions**, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.  
**The Makery**, 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

# ARTS EXPOSURE Gallery Guide

- 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.

- 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 Touchón Studio**, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.  
**The Potteries**, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## 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

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

## Tularosa

- HorseFeathers**, 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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 11 am - 1 pm



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Monday, Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday, Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Monday, Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>

**Deming**  
 1st Tuesdays of the Month  
 11 am - 1 pm



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Tuesday, Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>
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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

### SILVER CITY



Silver City Museum

• Tuesday, Nov. 20, the fifth annual **Arte Chicano Exhibit** begins at the Silver City Museum. The exhibition series is a chance for the museum to support and celebrate Chicano artists working in the area. **Arte Chicano 2020** features the work of Chris Alvarez and Buck Burns as curated by Diana Leyba-Ingalls. The exhibit will be installed in the **Dodge Gallery** and will be viewable at [www.silvercitymuseum.org](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org) in the form of a video tour with commentary by the artists. It will be waiting for in-person viewing when the museum is able to reopen to the public. Info: 575-597-0229.



The Grant County Art Guild

• The **Grant County Art Guild** is celebrating the second anniversary of the opening of the gallery in the former Hester House at 316 N. Bullard Street in Silver City. The gallery opened its doors two years ago on Nov. 17, 2018. Thirty-six members, all Grant County residents, display their work at the Gallery and

offer a diversity of creativity in painting, photography, glass and mosaics, pottery and wood working, jewelry, clothing, and fiber arts. To celebrate, the guild is holding a drawing for a \$25 Gift Certificate. Entries for the drawing will be taken at the gallery from Nov. 17 through Saturday, Nov. 28. Info: [www.gcag.org](http://www.gcag.org).



"Etched glass" by Paula Geisler

• Also at the **Grant County Art Guild Gallery** four artists are featured through Nov 15: Tom Vaughan Sandy Feutz of FeVa Fotos; glass artist Paula Geisler; and traditional rug hooker, Anita McDaniel. The Grant County Art Guild Gallery is located at 316 N Bullard Street in Silver City. It is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

• **Donna Foley's** show of new works titled "**Desert Light & Inner Landscapes**" at **Wild West Weaving** gallery in downtown Silver City. 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 & madder root in conjunction with local dyeplants, i.e. cota, chamisa and snake-weed on a high luster yarn. The yarn is custom spun wool that comes from sheep that she has raised for over thirty years. Also in the gallery are some of her handwoven scarves and shawls. "**Desert Light & Inner Landscapes**" will be up through No-

vember at Wild West Weaving, 211 North Texas St. D in Silver City. For more information visit Donna's website at [www.fourdirectionsweaving.com](http://www.fourdirectionsweaving.com).

### DEMING

• November 2020 at the **Deming Art Center** is the month for the annual **Recycle Show** which is sponsored by "Keep Luna County Beautiful." Featured are pieces of art made from 90 percent recycled materials and crafted by artists of all ages. Intake will be Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The show will be judged and prizes awarded. The exhibit will run from Nov. 1-28. Deming Art Center is located at 100 S Gold St., Deming. Its hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 or [www.deming-arts.org](http://www.deming-arts.org).

### CLOUDCROFT

Cloudercroft Art Society Gallery  
• The **Cloudercroft Art Society's Annual Holiday Art & Crafts Show** features original work by regional artists and artisans. The gallery is located in the

### ART SCENE

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<p><b>SPECIAL THANKS</b> Escher Bowers Erika Burleigh Michael Darrow Joel Davis Torie Grass Linda Hannan Marcus Hanson Kirsten Kairos Carol Martin Gabriela O'Keefe Elva Österreich Nick Prince Joe Saenz Sonnie Sussillo Doyne Wrealli Hannah Wynne</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS &amp; MODERATORS</b> Sharman Apt Russell Jeff Arterburn Steve Bassett Bryan Bird Indi Blake Kay Bounkeau Cate Bradley Kate Brown</p>	<p>Casey Camp-Horinek Rachel Conn Phil Connors Martha Cooper Stacey Cox Camille Dungy Alicia Edwards Fred Fox Carol Ann Fugagli Hawk Fugagli Mike Fugagli Jon Fuller Norm Gaume Asher Gelbart Jeff Goin Collin Haffey Emily Haozous Steve Harris Jay Hemphill Tricia Hurley Miya King-Flaherty Carolyn Koury Mayor Ken Ladner Priscilla Lucero Kristin Lundgren Shivani Ma Loretta Marrufo Cissy McAndrew</p>	<p>Kendra Milligan Lt. Gov. Howie Morales Mountain Horse Singers Gary Paul Nabhan Laura Ramnarace Anita Rose Tony Russ Miguel Santistevan Todd Schulke Catlow Shipek Tom Solomon Anthony Stewart State Sen. Mimi Stewart Stacy Timmons Jack Triepke Senator Tom Udall Gabe Vasquez Simon Walker Janet Wallet-Ortiz JJ Amaworo Wilson</p> <p><b>MAJOR SPONSORS</b> New Mexico Humanities Council &amp; National Endowment for the Humanities Center for Biological Diversity Cissy McAndrew, United Country Mimbres Realty</p>	<p>High-Lonesome Books New Mexico Wild River Network The Nature Conservancy Western Institute for Lifelong Learning</p> <p><b>SPONSORS</b> Aldo's Silver City Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness Ann McMahon Photography Chiricahua Apache Nation Defenders of Wildlife Fort Sill Apache Tribe Gila Haven Gila Native Plant Society Nuestro Gila Pitchfork Ranch Sierra Club-Rio Grande Chapter WolfHorse Outfitters</p> <p><b>FRIENDS</b> Carol Morrison Conservation Voters New Mexico</p>	<p>David Rose &amp; Ceil Murray Desert Woman Botanicals First New Mexico Bank Silver City Bob Garrett &amp; Mary Hotvedt Lee &amp; Linda Hannan Lindee Lenox &amp; Shelby Hallmark Lone Mountain Natives Nursery Lotus Center Lynda Aiman-Smith Melvyn Gelb &amp; Mary Ann Finn Morning Star Pauline &amp; Richard Matthews Ron Henry Ron Parry</p>	<p>Sierra Club-Southern New Mexico Group Silco Theater Silver Architects Silver City Food Co-op Single Socks Southwest Festival of the Written Word Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society Vicki Allen, MSW, LCSW- Psychotherapy for children, individuals &amp; couples</p> <p><b>See you in September 2021!</b></p>
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**Watercolor Demo**  
Carol Carpenter, NMWS

**Sunday, Nov 8 at 2 pm over ZOOM**

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**ART SCENE**  
continued from page 11

old red 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. on Saturdays through the end of November.



"Deer" by Patricia Black



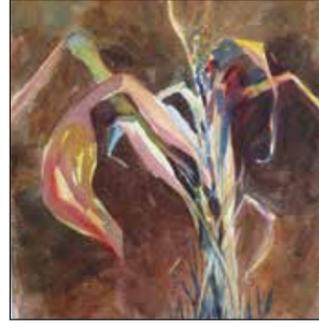
"Squashblossom" By Theresa Montoya Basaldua

**LAS CRUCES**

RenFaire 2 Photos

• Many **Renaissance Arts-Faire** vendors and local artists have generously donated well over 100 fine art items that will be part of an online auction through Mesilla Valley Estate Sales. Shoppers can expect to find extraordinary paintings, photographs, sculpture and jewelry donated by local artists such as **Carolyn Bunch, Wayne Suggs, Patricia Black and Theresa Montoya Basaldua**. The auction also includes collectible items, local art tours,

and drivable art on wheels, a 2012 Toyota Prius, the first in the "**Baby, You Can Drive My Art!**" series. The auction may be pre-viewed at [www.nmesteauctions.com/](http://www.nmesteauctions.com/). Shoppers may start bidding on Sunday, Nov. 1; the auction closes Saturday, Nov. 7. Info: [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org) or 575-523-6403.



"Tired Leaves" by Penny Dunclee

• The **10 O'Clock Artists** will be exhibiting at **AA Studio Gallery** starting Nov. 13. The show is about reimagining and reinterpreting an existing work of art. Each artist has taken an art piece they may not have been completely satisfied with and reimagined and recreated the piece. AA Studio is located in Las Cruces on Calle de Oro behind 2645 Doña Ana Road. A Covid-safe artists reception is scheduled for 5 p.m., Nov. 13. Info: 828-467-9060.

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



Art By Jan Severson



Art By Meredith Loring

work. Two local fiber artists are featured for the month of November, Jan Severson and Meredith Loring.

Severson prefers the colors of nature, you will often find her weaving with colorful reed, yarns, wood objects and beads. Loring's interest in fabrics and fiber started early when she first learned to sew. She primarily uses recycled fabric, yarns, beads, and leather, along with found objects and decorative items from thrift stores, for a variety of techniques. First American Bank in Mesilla, is well represented by gallery members who rotate their artwork monthly. In addition, the 30 artists of the Gallery offer art in various media, which include original paintings, oil, acrylics, pastels, watercolor, fused glass art jewelry, unique one of

**ART SCENE**

continued on page 13

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ART SCENE

continued from page 12

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**VIRTUAL NEW MEXICO**

• 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/.

• An area created format showcases artists' work on Facebook at "Las Cruces NM Artists & Art Showcase" on a page 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 FaceBook page is meant to be a digital art gallery, rather than a sales tool. This FaceBook page is the creation of Robert Paquette, a long-time volunteer for many Las Cruces community service organizations.

ON THE SHELF

# 'Being Home: A Southwestern Almanac' Tales from the Mimbres Valley and more

Award-winning Grant County author Catalina Claussen has released "Being Home: A Southwestern Almanac" with Progressive Rising Phoenix Press. This collection of humorous vignettes is featured monthly on KURU 89.1 FM and is now available in print.

"Being Home: A Southwestern Almanac" is a laugh-out-loud story collection made for radio featuring quirky characters shaped by the seasons, the desert landscape, and small-town living, making audiences feel right at home in the Mimbres Valley. From Brandon Johnson's mystifying encounter with a coyote to Ernesto Puro Corazon's 6th grade drive to school with his abuela in his Chevy Impala SS, Claussen captures moments and people that are sure to surprise and entertain.

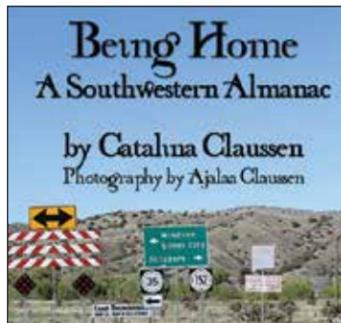
The collection is illustrated with a unique photographic series taken by Claussen's daughter, Ajalaa Claussen.

"I wanted to capture the essence of each story in the imag-

es, placing the reader in the moment," Aialaa said. "But, I also wanted to create space for the viewer to imagine themselves as one of the characters."

Catalina is a southwestern storyteller, young adult novelist, and poet whose works include young adult novels "Diamonds at Dusk" (2016), "Diamonds at Dawn" (2018), "Holding on to Hope" (2020), and many poems. Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and now a long-time resident of the Mimbres Valley, Claussen said she has gained an appreciation for the slow pace of small-town living. Her work has been recognized by the Arizona-New Mexico Book Awards, Wishing Shelf Book Awards (in the UK), and the New Apple Book Awards for Independent Publishing.

*The Being Home* podcast is available at [catalinaclaussenbooks.wordpress.com](http://catalinaclaussenbooks.wordpress.com). Follow Catalina on Instagram @catalinaclaussen or on Facebook.



"Being Home: A Southwestern Almanac" cover

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BUSINESS PROFILE • FELIX TORRES

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**Who owns/manages it?** Felix Torres  
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**What are your hours of operation?** open daily 8:30 a.m. -6:30 p.m.  
**How is your business adapting to the COVID-19 outbreak?** Open daily so people can shop at the store.  
**What should our readers know about your business?** Support a local family-owned business that works hard to keep a good selection of products.  
**How can potential customers contact you?** Stop by the store during convenient hours open daily.



BUSINESS PROFILE • TRISH SEE

## Tulie Treasures

314 Granado Street in Tularosa

**Who owns/manages it?** Trish See  
**How many people do you employ?** none  
**What are the core products of your business?** Farm home, vintage, rustic, southwest, cabinets, furniture, art, gifts; items change week to week  
**When did you first open and what are your hours of operation?** March 2020; Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 12:30-4 p.m.  
**How is your business adapting to the COVID-19 outbreak?** I can't really say because we still get people; it is affecting people who travel, local people stay home more.  
**What should our readers know about your business?** It's fun, it's new and our items change day to day; different items all the time; we're very friendly  
**How can potential customers contact you?** 575-585-0087.



BUSINESS PROFILE • DARRYL WILLISON

## The Merc in Tulie

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**Who owns/manages it?** Owned and run by participating artists  
**How many people do you employ?** No actual employment, we volunteer our time but get paid a set commission on all the daily sales we work that day.  
**What are the core products of your business?** Art! Art gifts, functional items, wearable art, cards, pottery, etc.  
**When did you first open and what are your hours of operation?** 2016, current hours are (as per allowed for now) Wednesday-Sunday, typically 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**How is your business adapting to the COVID-19 outbreak?** Adapting as well as we can; being a small business, not made of money, we ask that each artist adhere to the mandate of wearing a mask, wash hands and disinfect where and when necessary.  
**What should our readers know about your business?** We have and are eternally grateful to have a regular base of clients. They, like first-time shoppers, see and appreciate the local diversity of art, affordability of our art, the fun in the function and best of all, the personal attention they receive unlike the commercial stores. You actually get to talk with an artist in the shop and get the stories behind the art – it's awesome.  
**How can potential customers contact you?** We suggest connecting through our web site, www.themercintulie.com, or social media, Facebook: The MERC; or Instagram: tulie\_merc.



BUSINESS PROFILE • KAREN KEREZMAN

## HorseFeathers Gallery

318 Granado St. in Tularosa

**Who owns/manages it?** Karen Kerezman is the new owner since July 2019, after being the store manager for the previous owner, Jacque Day, for three years.  
**How many people do you employ?** We presently employ one associate, Pat Douville, a well-known member of the local retail community and a very knowledgeable asset to our gallery.  
**What are the core products of your business?** We feature mainly Southwest art, including jewelry, home decor, pottery, fabric, leather, wood, metal and lots of rustic furniture. Our artists come from all around the Southwest, including our native tribes and our neighbors in Mexico, but we do feature our talented local artists, which makes it possible for our customers to order custom-made pieces.  
**How is your business adapting to the COVID-19 outbreak?** We re-opened in mid-May after a six-week shut-down due to the virus, and now require masks, social distancing and limited occupancy, which has been very manageable.  
**What should our readers know about your business?** We offer gift certificates, layaway, local delivery and shipping. Our Facebook page shows photos of new products as they arrive.  
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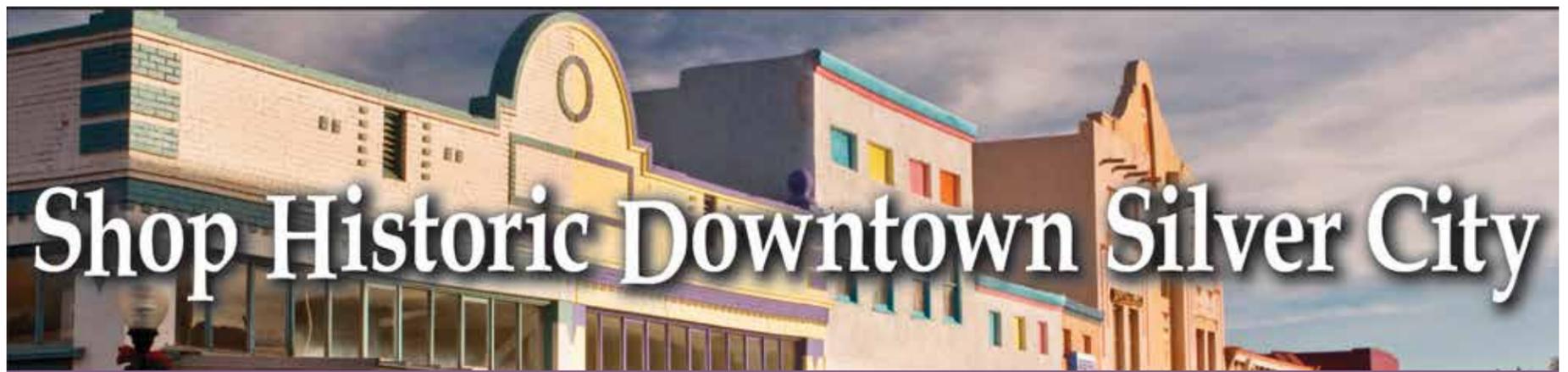
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“Tranquility-Fall in the Bosque” (Photos by Lynda Brugman)

BOSQUE TIME • EDWARD M. RICHSTONE

# Traveling the River

Festival of the Cranes goes online this year, birds still come

Perhaps most unique and memorable about the sandhill crane are its migratory flight sounds and its mating/bonding rituals.

“This charismatic bird continues to fascinate people in so many ways,” Bosque del Apache National Refuge Park Ranger Amanda Walker said. “For example, it is amazing how a bird like this, awkward on the ground, suddenly becomes graceful once it takes flight.”

Bosque del Apache is 130 miles north of Las Cruces and 18 miles south of Socorro. Sandhill crane boosters maintain refuges throughout North America to preserve the species by combating degradation of their habitats ([www.savingscranes.org](http://www.savingscranes.org)). It is sobering to realize that human activity threatens the survival of this most ancient of all currently living birds, whose lineage to direct ancestors can be traced back to confirmed fossils formed at least 2.5 million years ago.

At Bosque del Apache thousands of sandhill cranes, ducks and geese stay from late October to late January, and then fly back north. Others remain only about two days before continuing their migration southward. By visiting the Bosque del Apache website, ([fws.gov/refuge/Bosque\\_del\\_Apache](http://fws.gov/refuge/Bosque_del_Apache)) anyone contemplating an in-person visit to the refuge during the pandemic can find updates about closing and re-openings of the visitor center, tour loops, and amenities like bathrooms, observation blinds and guided tours.

An auxiliary organization, The Friends of the Bosque del Apache, raises money that sup-



“Mid Day Reflection-Winter Bosque”

plements federal funding to maintain the refuge through such means as preserving and expanding sources of water and reducing the spread of invasive, non-indigenous species of plants.

The Friends’ live Festival of the Cranes has been canceled because of the pandemic, and replaced by Crane Fiesta 2020, offered entirely online for this year.

While the Friends’ nature store onsite is closed, the online store continues to operate, now with even more products than before. Other key updates about the fiesta can be found at the Friends’ website ([friendsofbosquedelapache.org](http://friendsofbosquedelapache.org)).

One already scheduled event is a fly-out and fly-in of sandhill cranes that can be viewed on Nov. 19. Just before the crack of dawn, the cranes start communicating among themselves with a variety of distinctive sounds. For example, they gurgle, hiss, and honk and then fly off to the fields to feed, starting at sunrise. They return to their roosting grounds shortly before sunset.

Also, slides and videos, plus real-time Q & A, will be part of two webinars about cranes, which then will be archived.

Contributing a festive spirit are artists from the New Mexico Tech Performing Art Series, a stargazing party at the Magdalena Ridge Observatory about 50 miles from the refuge, and a craft demonstration involving the intertwining of yucca fibers to make sandals and the weaving of turkey feathers to create blankets.

The southern part of the state is part of the Rocky Mountain Flyway, the swath that is traversed by migrating sandhill cranes as they head due south, some even as far as northern Mexico. The cranes come from the northern states (including Alaska), Canada and even Siberia. Some cranes linger in the Mesilla Valley until their return trip to the north. In the spring, some of the northbound cranes choose instead the longer route



“BosqueEagle-Winter Bosque”



“Avocet-Spring Bosque”

BOSQUE

continued on page 17



“Into the Corn-Fall Bosque”

**BOSQUE**

continued from page 16

that crosses the Platte River Valley in Nebraska, a route that avoids the Rocky Mountains, which, in many places, are still covered in snow.

Migrating sandhill cranes fly in the daytime. So, a sighting can be made. But their usual flight elevation of around 5,000 feet often makes it difficult to identify them, or see them altogether, especially when the cranes catch a warm upward draft to much greater heights in order to glide considerable distances. And they are difficult to spot also when small family groups break away from the flock. But their loud, always audible, rattling bugle calls dramatically announce their approach from as far as 2.5 miles away.

The sandhill crane breeds and begin raising young exclusively in the far north. So, in our region we are not treated to their famous mating rituals. A male tries to attract a female by various means, such as tossing pieces of vegetation into the air, pumping his head, leaping into the air, spreading and fluffing his wings, shaking his tail feathers.

All the while, a female, if interested, exchanges calls with him. The effort is well worth it because if they end up bonding, it typically endures as long as both members of the pair live. The romance stays alive throughout the year over a lifetime with occasional cavorting and duets of calls, which can be observed at Bosque del Apache.

Julie-Anna Blomquist, who manages for The Friends auxiliary the celebrations of crane migration and the website in all seasons, is grateful for their partnership with the USFWS and City of Socorro.

“Visiting the refuge is a magical experience but maintaining this fragile oasis does not happen by magic,” she said.

*Sources: “Sandhill Cranes’ Mating Dance a Stunning Spectacle,” by Sherry Boas Orlando Sentinel (Nov. 7, 2010); “Sandhill Crane,” National Geographic; “Sandhill Crane, Overview;” The Cornell Lab, All About Birds; “Fall Migration of the Cranes,” by Alyx Vogel, The Prairie Pulse (Oct. 10, 2018).*



“Mass Ascension”



“Bosque Gobblers-Winter Bosque”

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

# COVID-19 in the fields?

## Southern New Mexico laborers share concerns

Farmworkers in Luna County have worked in the fields in southern New Mexico for decades, bending over in the sun and dressed in sweats, hats, and jeans, no matter what the weather is.

But a new issue faces them now. For years they've experienced the usual meager wages by labor contractors, meager Social Security and Medicaid benefits, the issue of clean toilets in the fields, and harmful pesticides. (I know of one man who's making only \$500 a month in Social Security after working 40 years in the fields. He and his wife are living on this.)

But now Mexican workers are mentioned in the news in some media because the COVID-19 virus is affecting Blacks and Hispanics more commonly than Anglos. This is apparently because these people live and work more closely together than other peo-

ple. Some journalists are asking whether laborers in fields and food processors are wearing face masks, practicing social distancing and disinfecting hands.

On a late September morning I drove around southern Luna County a few miles from my house. I was in search of green chile fields, as I've occasionally done for years. The purpose this year for me was not just to try to protect the rights of farmworkers, but for the protection of the general public, too. The Corona virus may be discriminatory toward Blacks and Hispanics, but also hits Anglos and everyone else you can think of.

I found two fields of workers a few miles from where I live, both with about 40 pickers. The fields are often near paved roads. You can usually see from your car whether people are wearing masks.

I saw one chile field where

just about everyone was wearing masks and another one, in stark difference, where almost no one was. Social distancing among workers and washing was not very visible.

A week or so later I visited a trailer park, north of Deming, where farmworkers have rented mobile homes for more than 25 years. Talking to them helped give a clearer look at whether the workers and the public are being protected.

One older woman had worked for one particular contractor this year and earned only \$20 on one recent day. This was in the last phase of the harvest, called "la tercera," or the third phase, when there were fewer chiles left on the plants. She didn't want to give her name. The contractor told workers to bring their own face masks, she said.

A man named Lupe Rivera has lived at least a couple decades at the trailer park, which looked almost tropical in the long-lasting heat this fall. He worked for another contractor. "I can't work with the mask on," Rivera explained. "Other people do wear them. I know one woman who wore one because of the dust."

"Some wear them, others don't. But you need to wash your hands."

Rivera pointed out a young man across the road who had

done some picking this year. His name was Juan Arrolines, a teenager who spoke English easily. He had worked in the fields only about one day a week this year and earned \$100 the most recent day. He'd worked for the second contractor, too.

It's clear that if the pickers aren't impelled by the contractor to wear a face mask, maintain social distancing, or wash their hands; they'd rather not bother doing it.

"It's very unusual that people take precautions [with masks, etc.]," Arrolines said. "[The contractor he works for] never takes precautions. They have water, but they don't use it."

I told him I'd heard several workers say, "I'm not afraid," regarding the lack of masks and so forth. Arrolines laughed and said he'd often heard the same thing. It's as if some workers believe their fortitude would protect them from the virus.

Workers have different opinions. "The majority of people wear masks," said Cirse Alejandra Fernandez, a woman who worked in the fields. She came from Palomas three years ago to live in a tiny oval-shaped trailer with her 13-year-old son Miguel.

This article is only a vague estimate of how many farmworkers and contractors are ignoring Covid rules. But there's no doubt

that there have been a lot.

Some workers will be working until December. Then work will start again in the spring for a while. The issue of the Corona virus will almost certainly still be alive at that point and the following summer.

Several organizations, including the New Mexico Chile Commission, OSHA, Department of Labor and the Agricultural Extension Office, have distributed flyers or held seminars to inform people involved with agriculture of the ways they should protect themselves from the virus.

But it seems to me that field workers and contractors need more instruction in why people should follow the anti-virus rules. It's something especially important to do because, with their low level of education, these workers have a hard time understanding what the pandemic is.

There's been no serious outbreak of the Coronavirus contagion among New Mexico agricultural workers, but we need to be sure there won't ever be one.

*Borderlines*  
columnist  
Marjorie  
Lilly lives in  
Deming.



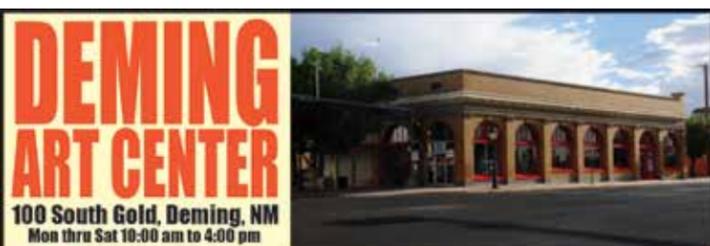
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SALVATION ARMY • MIKE COOK

## Holiday Events Scheduled Las Cruces captain ready for the season

The Salvation Army of Las Cruces has a variety of events and activities coming up for the holiday season, Corps Officer Capt. Michael P. Evans said.

Here are the events:

- Annual Red Kettle Campaign: Sunday, Nov. 8-Thursday, Dec. 24. Every year, Salvation Army volunteers and the familiar red kettles are in front of businesses across the community to raise funds "to help Doña Ana County residents all year long," Evans said. "We are in dire need of assistance with volunteer 'bell ringers' to help this year," he said.

- Las Cruces Cruising Council "Turkey Palooza": Saturday, Nov. 21. The Cruising Council is made up of local car clubs that help the community. The Salvation Army will host the council's event at 1590 California St. It will include games, candy, food, cars, trucks, inflatables, music and more.

- Annual Toy Drive: Saturday, Dec. 5. Beginning

at the old K-Mart location on Bataan Memorial West, the drive will travel down Main Street to Lohman Avenue to Telshor Boulevard and a stop at Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q, 1020 N.

Telshor Blvd. For the past two years, the Salvation Army has had more than 125 cars, trucks, motorcycles and off roaders participate in this cruise across Las Cruces to help collect toys for The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program to provide toys for families that may not have a Christmas this year without the community's help," Evans said. "People can participate by driving their vehicle (each vehicle is asked to donate a boy- and a girl-gift valued at \$10) or by stopping by Rudy's, checking out the cars and donating their gift to the program.

For more information on the Turkey Palooza and Toy Drive, contact Capt. Noel Evans at 907-209-5491. For information on the Red Kettle program, contact Capt. Michael Evans at 907-723-0238.



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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings. We are asking restaurants to pay a small fee for listing their information. Restaurant advertisers already on contract with Desert Exposure receive a free listing. For other establishments, listings with essential information will be \$36 a year and expanded listings, up to 10 lines, will be \$48 a year. To buy a listing in Red or Green?,

contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614.

We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except

as specified.

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

## GRANT COUNTY

### Silver City

\* **ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D; **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.

**HONEEBEEGOODS "A Smudge of Fudge,"** 714-515-0832. Dessert Catering. Specialty Bakery and more! Honeebegoods.com. 7 Days a Week.

**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 RESTAU-**

**RANT**, 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**

Cliff

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

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY

### Las Cruces & Mesilla

**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.

\* **ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican

plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D. **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.



Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

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

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**

\* **LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B. **P T/O**

\* **LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L. **T/O**

\* **LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday. **C/S DEL T/O**

\* **LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D. **C/S DEL T/O**

\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**

\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**

\* **LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. **C/S P T/O**

\* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

\* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D. **D/T T/O**

\* **LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D. **T/O**



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HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

# Frisco Box near Reserve

## A long day hike, far away from everything

I won't sugarcoat it: This is a long one! With the drive from Land to Glenwood it took us eight hours and we didn't even make it far into the box itself. But is it ever worth it! We are already planning to go back, probably with one or even two nights camping on the way. But don't let me get ahead of myself.

We drove up from Glenwood to Reserve, turned left (at the only intersection in town, yes) and then left after some miles onto a dirt road called Higgins Flat Road. You find it on the map

as Forest Road 49. Turn left onto Forest Road 41 and take that all the way to the trailhead at the end. This is quite literally the middle of nowhere. We saw a ranch gate with a sign "El medio de nada" on the drive in – if that doesn't prove it.

Warning: You will have to cross the San Francisco River five times before you get there, so a four-wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended. On the day of our hike we got hit by a thunderstorm in the afternoon and scurried back out as fast as



A thunder storm is catching up. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)



Molly works to catch up to the rest of the group.

our Subaru Outback could carry us. And the actual rain had only started to hit us when we were almost back, a few hundred yards away from the car. Within minutes we were soaked, but happily so. The day had been hot, hot, hot.

As you climb up onto the mesa at the onset of the trail, you can already see your goal, the Frisco Box in the distance. It looks gorgeous and very impressive.

The trail is well visible the whole way across the wide-open mesa and into the canyon. Once you hit the water's edge, though – unfortunately that is three miles in – it can get sketchy. And when you seriously enter the box, towering canyon walls to both sides, the trail disappears. There is only one way up: Climb over the boulders and go through the water. The going got really slow at this point and with half our

group already heading back, we turned around as well, but not before taking a dip in the icy waters to cool us off.

On the water's edge we found some good camp sites for small tents and took a mental note. That would be the way to do it. Day 1: Hike in and set up camp. Day 2: Hike up the canyon all the way to the end and climb up to

### FRISCO BOX

continued from page 22



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# December Deadlines

**Thursday, Nov. 12 noon: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.**

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

# Water Woes

## Sitting in the desert, waiting on the rains

I lost track of what rain looks like.

You? And I don't mean the liquid dirt we get when it spits a few hundred drops right after a dust devil hits, that spots your windshield like the underbelly of a hound dog.

Have you seen Elephant Butte lately?

The rings around the rim look like rust on an old bathtub, sad reminders of where the waterlines used to be. The striped bass probably don't have room to even turn around.

As much as I love the dryness and consistent weather of our Chihuahuan Desert, I'm more than ready for one of those days when it rains 24 hours straight.

Longtime New Mexico journalist Marvin Tessner wrote about agriculture and climate issues in our region right up to his death at age 85, when he still was doing work for the Las Cruces Bulletin.

Marvin, a crusty Anglo fluent in Spanish on account of his Mexican wife, Irma, had the same refrain for the last decade of his life, when asked about the water situation south of I-40: "It's not good."

I miss Marvin's musings nearly as much as I miss the rain.

On every Southwesterner's Top 10 List of best fragrances is the smell of the desert after the rain. It's been so long, I've almost forgotten that blessed aroma.

About 15 years ago, the rains came pouring down the Sacramento Mountains into Alamogordo with such fierce force it moved boulders and automobiles. The microburst was so narrowly focused only a few streets were affected, but it filled several homes with mud. And, of course, two hours later it was sunny again.

Just this past July, I was having a pleasant drink on a pleasant porch on a pleasant night in Truth or Consequences, when a sudden, violent storm blew through, chasing me indoors. As quickly as it came, though, the rain quit, leaving behind little or no trace of anything wet, save for the seat of my pants when I sat on the wrong chair.

I long for an evening with a long, slow rain that lasts past breakfast. The kind where

you're under the covered porch having a tequila at 9 p.m. hearing the steady rain fall, and it's still going at 9 a.m. when you're having your morning coffee.

Just as you don't truly appreciate rain until you live in the desert, the desert can teach you other kinds of patience as well. In many parts of the world, beautiful, colorful flowers are taken for granted. In the desert, a small weed with a bright flower can be enough to generate a smile. A purple or yellow bloom on the end of a cactus can put you in a good mood all day.

Nobody's keen with a rattlesnake encounter, but a striped lizard or an iridescent gecko can be a lovely delight to see. A bright blue Steller's Jay, in the Gila, the Sacramentos or the Organs can put many a bird to shame.

"Look at that blue cardinal," my daughter once said.

More than once this past summer, I did the white man's rain dance, where you go wash your car, then park it with the windows rolled down.

And all I had to show for it was a couple of bees and a half-pound of dust trapped in my vehicle.

When will the rains come? I don't know. Our annual monsoon tease didn't amount to anything. And the high temperatures into mid-October don't help.

But there is one thing I know can bring rain. I don't go camping that often, but when I do, expect a downpour. I've camped from Wisconsin to White Sands, from Cooperstown to the Golden Gate, and every time, it's rained.

Climate change be damned, I bought me a new tent in hopes to alter the weather.

When I come to your town, I'll let you know. You can break out the umbrellas.

*Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure.*

*His coldest camping was in Guelph, Ontario. His hottest camping was on Bull Shoals Lake in Arkansas. Those, and all of his other camping trips, brought rain.*



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**FRISCO BOX**

continued on page 20

the warm springs on top. Day 3: Hike back out.

We only saw two other hikers the whole day – and that was on a Saturday – when our host in Glenwood predicted up to 3,000 people at the Catwalk for a weekend. We had opted to hike that trail already two days earlier to avoid the crowds.

One embarrassing admission: I did not take enough water – I know, I know, I am preaching this every month to you all and yet, here I was. Our group expected this to be a much shorter hike and thus I only carried two quarts of water. It adds weight,



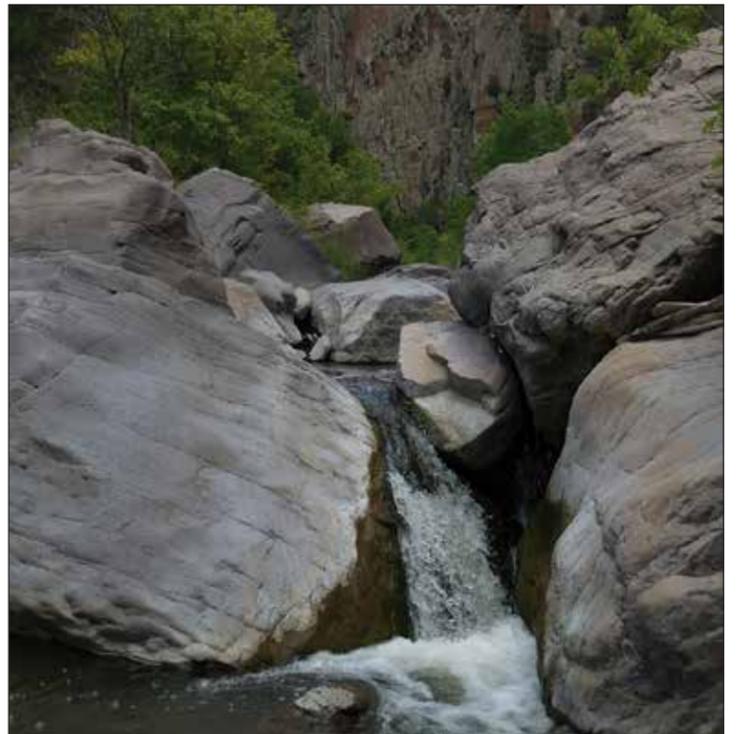
**A horned toad visits the hikers. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)**

right? So, I took my chance. I ended up refilling my pouch with the river water but was hesitant to drink it because I didn't bring a filter. I drank some and still feel fine, thanks for asking. I had planned ahead and stashed an insulated bottle in the car – ice

cold water that I looked desperately forward to on the hike out. But please let this be a lesson to you all. Never, ever underestimate the time you will be on the trail. It can be dangerous very fast.

Stay safe out there!

*Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for more than 20 years — and loved every minute of it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding area and all over this beautiful state.*



A cooling bathing spot offers respite at the turn-around.

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# 2020 Writing Contest



TOM HESTER

## A Lodger's Death

In the one afternoon when we talked, Howard was just a little older than I am now. He told me of his boyhood in Silver City, New Mexico, and of the TB lodger. We were in the front room of his brick and pebble-dashed cottage on Pinos Altos Street. The room's stained wallpaper had columns of red roses and pink peonies. There were a slumped sofa and an over-stuffed chair with brittle antimacassars. The place smelled of dusty geraniums, old breakfasts and mold.

Howard's faded blue eyes darted about the room, showing none of the blariness that often comes with age. Along the way through his story, tears welled up, and a single tear coursed down his left cheek, directed by wrinkles through the stubble of three days. After saying lodger Joseph Nowak's name, Howard had fallen silent, working the edge of his afghan with fingers of both hands.

Howard sniffed and coughed. The cough was weak.

"I was just a boy, you know," he said. He shook his head, as though to clear it.

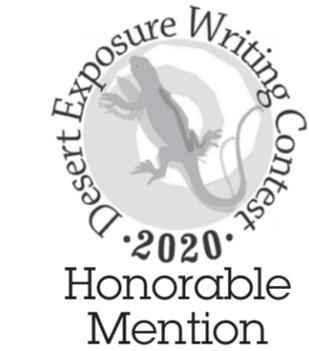
The death of Joseph Nowak had followed by more than a year the death of Howard's own father, Michael Pilcher. Yet Howard remembered clearly the end of Nowak; that of his father lingered only like a feverish dream.

Seventy years after Nowak's death Howard lived not five or six blocks from the house his mother kept in Silver City. Michael had been an undertaker for the furniture store and mortuary on Broadway Street, and a burst appendix carried him away as efficiently as horse trips and childbirths had killed dozens of his customers.

After her husband's passing, Anna Pilcher doubled her work to keep her family fed and clothed. Howard recalled her as a heavy-set woman with long brown hair that she braided into a bun. He said she spoke with an accent, a gift of her parents, immigrants who had settled in St. Louis.

When he introduced his mother into his account, I asked him how he remembered her. "I never heard her laugh," he said, "unless it was to laugh in mockery of someone. She had big hands. Big, rough hands and the nail on her right thumb had the appearance of a hoof. She had hit it with a mallet while driving a stake."

She took in washing and mending and labored by lantern light pressing faded garments, stiff from the sun. Because her German cooking had earned a reputation, when apples were in season she delivered pans of strudel



to the American restaurants and assigned her son to go about the neighborhood to sell sweet buns. Standing on the corner of Spring and Arizona, he hawked little paper bags of lebkuchen.

"I hated that work. De...de-spised it," Howard confessed to me.

Anna hung a "Room for Rent" sign on the porch balustrade within a few weeks of Michael's death. "A person can't afford to be sentimental in times like these," she had told her son. Grief was a rich widow's luxury, and Anna Pilcher was not rich. She would rent to the well or the ill, to female or male, meals included or not.

The three children, Howard and his two younger sisters, crowded into the back bedroom and their mother moved into a sort of lean-to that Michael had built to house his photographic laboratory. She had running water in her little cabinet but no basin to receive the water.

The first guest in the front room with its big bay window open to March blasts was a mousy fellow from Indiana. Within a month the doctor was making visits deep in the night, and Howard in the back room heard the muffled voices, footsteps and strange knockings, as though Dr. McIver were bumping against the ornate mahogany table under the window.

The children were at school when the railroad freight company came and took away the coffin. Anna opened all the house to air it out, for she still believed stories about "bad air" even though modern folks knew that tuberculosis is caused by a bacillus. Anna again stuck the "Room for Rent" sign onto the nail in the porch railing and placed an ad in the Independent.

Though as frail, Nowak was friendlier than the dead Hoosier had been. He answered the newspaper ad one evening, carrying a scuffed ox leather Gladstone bag, as though he were to stay the night. After he did take possession of the front room and tested Anna's cooking during the next week, a freight wagon hauled a wooden crate to their front door. Howard said that the box consumed nearly all the extra space in the lung-

er's room.\* Anna was forced to remove a ladder-back chair, and when Howard sneaked a visit, he had to sit at the foot of the bed.

"My daughter Helen is just a bit younger than you," Nowak told Howard. The lodger spoke from the high four poster bed, which had once been Anna's and Michael's. His yellowish skin was slack on his body and when he stretched up his arms, Howard thought of bare elm branches.

"It were my job to empty the bed pan and the spit bucket," Howard told me, "because the consumption dried out a person every way. Nasty, nasty work. Ma'm would warn me not to get even a speck on me and to cover my face. We had water but no indoor toilet, and in the morning, at noon and fore bed, I did that terrible chore. But because of that, I got to know Mr. Nowak better than Margaret and Susan did."

Yet, Anna didn't want her oldest near the sick lodger and scolded him if she caught him in the room without a bedpan to empty.

"But Mr. Nowak had nothing to do but lie there and look at the ceiling. It were hot that year and Ma'm had flung open the big window in his room. We had no screens on the windows, and bugs of every kind would come flying in, exploring. That's part of the treatment, you know." During our interview, Howard offered many such asides about treatment, about eating fatty meats and drinking gallons of milk, about keeping fresh air even when the weather was storming or frigid.

"We had an ice box to keep the milk, and Old Man Cummings delivered the ice in his buck board. His horse carried the name Traveler, after Robert E. Lee's horse, because Cummings had served in the Confederate Army. The two of them, horse and man, were broken down. I don't know how the old man found the strength. He would take his ice tongs and come swinging the block into our kitchen just a whistling. Well, one day, and I don't recall why, Cummings didn't deliver and Ma'm sent me to fetch the block of ice in the little wagon I used for the sweet buns.

"The ice house was way cross town, near where the coal station was. The railroad station was there too, down the hill. On my way, I met Manny Fernandez. Manny was bigger than me by some, and he said that we should go to the candy shop on Bullard, just up the street from the ice house.

"I told Manny that I didn't have no money. He said, 'Well, you got money for the ice block, don't you?' And I said that my Ma'm would whale me good if I didn't come back with the dime change. The ice was fifteen cents, see, and she had given me two bits.

"Somehow Manny convinced me that I could say that I had

lost the dime along the way and Ma'm would credit me. We went to the candy shop and I must of got lemon drops because I've favored those my entire life. I shared them with Manny. We knowed that we had to consume all the drops because I'd really be in trouble if I left any evidence.

"The truth was, I was in plenty of trouble without evidence. I had wrapped the block in a piece of canvas ducking that we used for that purpose. Still, by the time I got home, a sizeable portion of the block had melted and Ma'm who was always out of sorts was mightedly upset.

"Ma'm had a rough, gravelly kind of voice and as soon as I hoisted the ice block into the box, she demanded the dime in that no-nonsense tone. Every penny, you see, was to be accounted for when Anna Dietrich Pilcher was involved. I told her the story Manny and I had worked out.

"She grasped me by my ear and hauled me out of the kitchen. We had a small ash tree there. Ma'm forced to me bring down a branch for her to whip me. I suppose she figured it would add some pain if I had to choose my torture. She done that dozens of times. I wonder now how that tree stayed alive.

"Well, she thrashed me good and I set up to hollering, for I was truly hurting. When she dragged me back into the house, me sobbing, Mr. Nowak appeared at the door of his room, leaning against the frame. He had on the sleeping suit Ma'm had fashioned for him out of flour sacks. The cloth

was covered with violet flowers and them flowers somehow emphasized his pale skin.

"There we was, Ma'm grasping my arm in her big hand and me squalling and Mr. Nowak about toppled over against the door. 'Mrs. Pilcher, I found the dime the boy dropped,' Mr. Nowak said. He held up a silver dime. I knowed it wasn't mine and Ma'm knowed the same. If Mr. Nowak had to bend over to pick up the coin where he indicated it had rolled, he'd still be on the floor. But Anna Diedrich Pilcher never turned down a shiny dime. She let go of my arm and took the dime from Mr. Nowak.

"Mrs. Pilcher,' Mr. Nowak said in the queerest voice, 'I would give anything to have my beloved daughter here with me. When life is the harshest, we need love, especially the love of our children.' He turned and shuffled back toward his big bed. Until that moment, I had never had a thought about Mr. Nowak traveling thousands of miles from Hudson, New York, to meet death in the company of strangers. It came over me that here was a man of real courage. Ten years old and I had an idea like that. I think it still.

"Knowing how much I owed him, I visited him the next morning, when Ma'm was out of the house, buying groceries. Mr. Nowak was propped up in bed, arranging some papers. 'Want to see some pictures I've drawn,'

LODGER

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(♥)

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Learning About Life

## Things your horse can teach you

We spend most of our time with our horses trying to teach them what we want them to do – stop, be safe, don't spook, be calm with the grandkids. If you're a competitor, you may add lessons in how to run the barrels, work a cow, or ride a dressage pattern. It is a one-way relationship where we are always asking and expect them to always be listening and learning.

It occurs to me that given this crazy world we live in, a time more

confusing and at times more frightening than anyone can remember, where it is virtually impossible to predict what the next day will bring, maybe it's time to let our horses teach us a few things.

You are probably aware of the incredible things horses are doing in therapeutic riding programs, helping returning veterans with the emotional and physical scars of war work their way back to improved levels of confidence and self-esteem. Or, in these same programs, helping children chal-

lenged by physical and mental issues gain the kind of positive energy necessary to face the lives they have in front of them.

Horses make incredible contributions in Equine Assisted Therapy programs where they play an integral part in helping couples, individuals and even groups deal with the kind of emotional conflicts that can influence or destroy lives. There are some interesting programs where horses are used to help corporate leaders and executives learn to com-

municate better with their employees or customers, or to help develop better problem-solving techniques to keep a company or organization thriving.

If horses can give this much back to us, maybe it is time for us to start looking to them a bit more for valuable input to our own lives. Let the horse sit at the head of the class for once, passing along the practical knowledge gained from millions of years of experience.

What has my horse taught me,

and what does he continue to teach me every day?

• Patience – this may not seem important these days given the drive for immediate solutions for everything, but in a Covid world I think we'd all do better if we had a bit more of it. When I started working with horses, I was a consultant and managing partner of a small firm in the Bay Area, with a lifestyle to match. I had

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### LODGER

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he asked. I agreed. He turned one of the pages toward me. It was a drawing of a river, much wider than I'd ever seen in New Mexico, and there was a small boat on the water.

"This is where I'm from. I draw pictures for a living," he told me. Some years ago, it were after the end of World War Two, I came across a book of pictures from old newspapers and magazines of those days. There were two or three by Mr. Nowak when he was a young feller. They took up whole pages. He were mighty good."

According to Howard, Nowak pointed a gaunt finger toward the box and told the boy to find a chisel or screwdriver to open it. After a struggle the ten-year-old had pried the top from the crate to reveal brushes, oil color tubes, bottles of varnish, stones for mixing colors, mortars for grinding them.

"Please bring me the long, narrow case of pencils," Nowak told Howard. When Howard did as directed, the artist sketched with great speed the room where they were sitting and a boy looking very much like Howard in front of a window, through which, in fading and thin lines, were shadows of bushes, trees and houses.

In that early morning hour apparently the life of a boy and of a man who followed that boy through seventy years was transformed. Despite Anna's strict in-

structions to stay out of the sick man's room, at every opportunity Howard kept Joseph Nowak company. Through the summer and into the fall Howard heard about the Hudson River and its Dutch settlers, he heard about perspective and color, he heard about a beautiful woman named Harriet and her daughter Helen.

One afternoon Nowak opened a leather portfolio that was in the wood crate. Howard told me that the memory was clearer than glass. "Funny, ain't it?" he said to me. "Millions and millions of things happen to a man during his life and what he recalls most, like it was ten minutes prior, is a pad of watercolor pictures spread out on bedcovers."

Nowak shuffled sketch books on the counterpane and opened one. It showed a small black and white terrier with a girl. "There you go, Master Pilcher. Nickels, with Helen."

Howard wanted to know how Nickels got his name.

"Oh, I paid a fellow on a street corner three nickels for him when he was a puppy no bigger than my hand."

"The truth of it was that I wanted to be with that girl and that dog, more than anything. I asked him if he had any more pictures of Nickels. He did not but he had drawings of a tree placed in front of a forest. The fir's limbs and needles almost brushed gainst my hands while

the trees behind barely had shapes. There was a picture of a locomotive gushing steam at the station. A team of horses pulling a dray. A city street full of automobiles and trolley cars.

"I'm telling you, in the scheme of things, a ghost of a man who was coughing away his very life and a little kid who so missed his pa wouldn't seem like much. But those hours. Well, those hours were something. Then, toward the end, Mr. Nowak give me a gift, a wooden box with a sliding lid and inside were what he called pastel colors, deep as a rainbow made of crystal."

I had thought the interview had reached its end. The roses and peonies had grown dim in the light from a setting sun. When I had met Howard for the first time, sitting in Sue Lime's Bullard Street café, he was with a gaggle of Chino guys he had mined with, and he insisted in the middle of laughter and teasing that he would spend only one afternoon with me.

It turned out that I should have negotiated for a week of afternoons. Now his white head had fallen forward, his chin on his chest. There was no sound but the drip of water from a leaky faucet. Suddenly, straightening up, Howard had one last story. An important story.

He had gone to bed and was already asleep when Anna shook him roughly and told him that he had to go to fetch the priest at St. Vincent de Paul church.

"I knowed where the Catholic priest lived," Howard said, more or less pointing toward the location of the church. "But I didn't know the man. We didn't attend church much, but on the few occasions when we did go, we went to the Methodist church on Broadway Street, cross from the courthouse. But nobody could argue with Ma'm. There were a lamp burning in Mr. Nowak's room, and I could hear Dr. McIver's bass voice calling out commands. I stumbled out of bed, jerked on overalls and took off.

"I hadn't gone a block but I started wondering how a boy who had never met the priest could persuade him to come out in the dark. I knowed I needed help. It was then I thought of Manny. I was sure that the priest knowed Manny. He was a hard kid to ignore, and Man-

ny had once told me about confession and everything.

"I slipped around to the back of Manny's house on Seventh Street and threw pebbles at the window of the room where he slept with his three brothers. Of course, all four boys got up, making all amount of racket before Manny climbed out the window.

"When we arrived at the front door of the priest's house, we were all out of breath. 'Now who is Father supposed to come out for?' Manny asked. I told him Mr. Nowak, our TB lodger from New York. 'He's Catholic,' I said. 'Well, I figure you wouldn't be getting Father for no Methodist,' Manny said. 'Ma'm said that he's got to hurry cause Mr. Nowak's dying,' 'Well, ring the bell,' Manny said. So I did. I pulled the bell. We waited. No answer. I pulled it again. Stronger.

"Lights come on, cause the church could afford electricity, and the priest pulls open that heavy oaken front door like it was made of paper. He's standing there in a night shirt, his thin hair all ruffled. He had red cheeks that puffed out. 'Father,' Manny said at almost a yell, 'You gotta come quick cause their lunger's dying.' 'Manuel,' the priest said in the sweetest way. I was relieved that I had thought of Manny.

"The priest, who was German so that Ma'm could have fetched him much better than I, closed the door gently and in a very short time came out in a black woolen robe. He carried a little leather box. We hurried up Cooper Street, the three of us, to my house. The priest huffed and when we come to a street, he stopped and bent over, so to take in more air.

"Ma'm had changed the top sheet on Mr. Nowak's bed, for it had been soaked in blood. He had hemorrhaged and the room stank of blood and infection. The priest went in and put his little box on the table under the window. He took out and kissed a scarf, long and thin and with gold threads glittering in the lamp light. Dr. McIver and I left the room and stood in the parlor with Ma'm and Manny.

"After the longest time, the priest finished his visit and with sad face came from the room into the dark of the parlor. He said, 'He wishes to speak with the boy Howard.'

"I was shaking but I went in directly and shut the door and stood at the side of the high bed. Mr. Nowak made a slight, very slight moaning sound but seemed to be at rest. Maybe Dr. McIver had given him something to quieten him. Maybe the priest had. After some moments he opened his eyes and they were swimming in his head and for only an instant he focused on me. "Young Pilcher. You've been a great friend. May you always be as good to others as you have been to me." He closed his eyes again and turned his head. And I could hear nothing more. I waited but after a time I went back into the parlor and Dr. McIver rushed past me into the bedroom. When he came out, he said Mr. Nowak had died."

Here, Howard, sitting in the dark, his hands dropped into his lap, ended his story. He sat as though he were meditating.

Then he said, "I told my dear wife Kate about Mr. Nowak and when they come of age, my three children. I think the eldest, Howard, Junior, who teaches at a community college in Santa Monica, knowed best as to why the account was so important to me. But now I told it to you and you can record it. We learned a lot from those people coming to little Silver City for the cure. A whole lot."

Again there was a stillness and Howard arose from his chair as fast as an eighty-five year old man can move and went into the next room. When he returned, he cradled something in his right arm. He fumbled with the light switch that lit a floor lamp in the corner.

The wooden box, with no sign of wear and about the size of a cigar case, had a sliding lid. On the lid, in an imprinted oval seal of brown ink, faded by age almost to extinction, I could read "Emerson's Artistic Requisites" over an image of a group of women garbed in flowing robes. Below them inside a banner were the words "12 Pastel Sticks."

Finis

Footnote: \*"Lunger" was the informal label people attached to tuberculosis sufferers, the health seekers. Although T.B. can infect all parts of the body, its classic presentation was in the lungs. T.B. itself was often termed "Consumption" or "Phthisis."

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## BODY • MIND • SPIRIT

## Grant County Weekly Events

## SUNDAYS

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

## MONDAYS

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

## TUESDAYS

**Alzheimer's/Dementia Support**  
 Margaret, 388-4539.  
**Bayard Historic Mine Tour** — Call 537-3327 for reservation.  
**Figure/Model Drawing** — Dan Larson, 654-4884.  
**Gilawriters** — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.  
**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group**  
 email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

## PFLAG Silver City —

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. 575-590-8797.  
**Republican Party of Grant County** — 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).  
**Slow Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
**Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild** — Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.  
**Westerners Corral** — Jody Bailey-Hall at: Jody\_bailey88045@yahoo.com or call 575 342-2621 and leave a message.

## WEDNESDAYS

**Al-Anon family group** — Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: 313-7891.  
**Archaeology Society** — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.  
**Babytime Sing & Play** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Back Country Horsemen** — WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.  
**Brain Injury and Stroke Support Group** — GRMC Billy Sasper Rehab & Wellness Center, 300 E. 16th St., Silver City.

## A Course in Miracles —

Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**Future Engineers** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Gin Rummy** — corner of Yankee and Texas Streets in Silver City.  
**Grant County Democratic Party**  
 Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.  
**Ladies Golf Association** — Silver City Golf Course.  
**Prostate Cancer Support Group** — 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**Storytime** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Yoga for happiness** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 574-5451.

## THURSDAYS

**Blooming Lotus Meditation** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.  
**De-stressing Meditations** — New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.  
**Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society** — Memory Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.  
**Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting** — Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

**Little Artist Club** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**TOPS** — First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

**WildWorks Youth Space** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

## FRIDAYS

**Overeaters Anonymous** — First United Methodist Church. 654-2067.

**Silver City Woman's Club** — 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Lucinda, 313-4591.

**Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery** — La Clinica Health and Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop, Silver City. Contact:313-7891.

## SATURDAYS

**Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip"** — First United Methodist Church.

**Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition** — Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839.

**Kids Bike Ride** — Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.

**Narcotics Anonymous** — New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

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

## HORSES

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clients all over the United States and overseas as well, and was always on the go, stuck in traffic, running through airports, going to meetings and pretty much on call 24/7. People used to ask me how I stayed so calm and even tempered with all the stress, and I had one simple answer — my horse.

I realized early on that working with a horse required you to slow down and put everything else aside for the time when you were with your horse. I also saw you needed to learn a different language, be far more observant of little things, and be able to work at the pace of another living thing to get anywhere. To me, it was no coincidence the most productive years I ever had in business came after horses came into my life.

• Collaborative problem solving — it is impossible to get through life without the help and guidance of someone else. Two heads usually are better than one. I learned this quickly with horses. Developing a horse, physically and mentally, and to the greatest level of safety, requires you and your horse to work together — accepting his point of view and needs are equal to yours. He knows how he sees the world and how he would solve a problem if you weren't there, and he knows how his body works, so things get done a lot faster and with more permanence when he's involved in the process.

Focus on and praise the behaviors you want, don't dwell on the negative ones — I can't count the number of times I've heard a story about a child who comes home with a report card with 3 A's and a B, and the parents focus on the B rather than praising the A's. Same in business — "this was a good thing you did, but you should have also done that." The same thing happens with horses. If you want your horse to consis-

tently exhibit a desired behavior, then you need to recognize and praise that behavior. Don't dwell on the fact it took him 10 steps to get a certain result, and maybe he bucked a bit on the way, but stop everything and praise him excessively for the last step that was perfect. I'm not talking about false praise or recognition just for the sake of giving it but making sure when there is obvious success it is clear to horse and human alike that it was a success.

• Living in the moment — The one thing I learned immediately from horses was when you're with them you need to be 100 percent there and focused on them — if not, you literally could get killed. I was amazed at the number of injuries and wrecks I saw because the human took a call or was gabbing with a friend or simply daydreaming about something else, and the person didn't see a situation developing that could become dangerous. I've always found this need to be centered and focused very relaxing and calming. I think most people would admit they exert far too much energy thinking and worrying about things beyond their control, especially these days, at the expense of enjoying the moments right now. Watch your horse and let him teach you about living in the moment — that's all that matters to him.

• Setting boundaries — a lot of the political rhetoric out there would seem to indicate that we should all be able to do whatever we want, whenever we want to. Interesting thought, but society could never work like that. I believe most of us need to know there are some boundaries and some rules that you can rely on and that will be consistent. This is certainly a challenge for parents — how do you set boundaries, how firm should they be, what should the consequences be for ignoring them, etc. This may be one of the most valu-

able lessons we can learn from a horse. The safest, most reliable and most responsive horses are the ones that know what and where the boundaries are. It goes to the most basic rule of herd behavior — how to get along to belong. Boundaries make them feel safe and secure, and this allows them to grow and develop. Maybe we need that, too.

• Clear communication — maybe it is just that we're in a major election year that gets me thinking about this, but I get really tired sometimes about the "grey" contradictory world we live in. Rarely does anyone say what they really think about something. I think parents and kids, bosses and staff, teachers and politicians are all so worried about saying the wrong thing that it becomes impossible to clearly communicate actual facts, things that need to be said and understood. This isn't the way it is in the horse's world. Things are or they aren't, there is no room for maybe's or might's. As a prey animal that relies on flight for survival, clarity is all important. It is no coincidence that the best owners or trainers are the ones that use clear, consistent and precise communication in the horse's language, making it easy for the horse to understand what is being asked and to respond based on that understanding, and not on fear, confusion or intimidation.

Maybe next time you're with your horse, pay a bit more attention to what he is saying and doing — then take that home and try to apply it to your life. I've never found a better teacher or advisor.

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




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# Capricornus, the Goatfish

## Source of the cornucopia lives in the stars

Halfway up in our southern sky is a half-goat, half fish named Capricornus. This constellation is composed of third- and fourth-magnitude stars in a crooked "V" lying on its side, with the point facing east. Capricornus is depicted as a goat body, but instead of rear legs, the body merges into a fish tail. This sea-goat is the 40th largest constellation at 414 square degrees.

While this is not the brightest constellation in the sky, it has been recognized as a goatfish all the way back to the Middle Bronze Age when the Babylonians used this constellation as the symbol of their god Ea. This constellation was recognized as

the Black Tortoise of the North by the Chinese.

In Greek mythology, Capricornus was thought to be the goat Amalthea (the Nourishing Goddess), that suckled the baby Zeus after he was saved by his mother, Rhea, from being devoured by his father, Cronos. The cornucopia, or the "horn of plenty" is Amalthea's broken horn, ripped off as she played with the powerful Zeus. He then used his powers to transform it into the horn of unending nourishment.

The brightest star in this constellation is not the Alpha star, but the Delta star. Delta Capricorni is a white giant star of spectral type A7, twice the mass

of our Sun and almost twice its diameter. At magnitude +2.8, this star is not a solitary one, it has a close companion in orbit around it. The companion completes an orbit in just over a day.

The companion (Delta Capricorni B) is around two-thirds the Sun's mass and almost its diameter. Its orbit brings it in front of the primary from our point of view. This provides an eclipse almost every day. When the secondary star crosses the front of the primary, the magnitude of the combined star system drops by 0.24 magnitudes. The repeating eclipses make Delta Capricorni an eclipsing binary star.

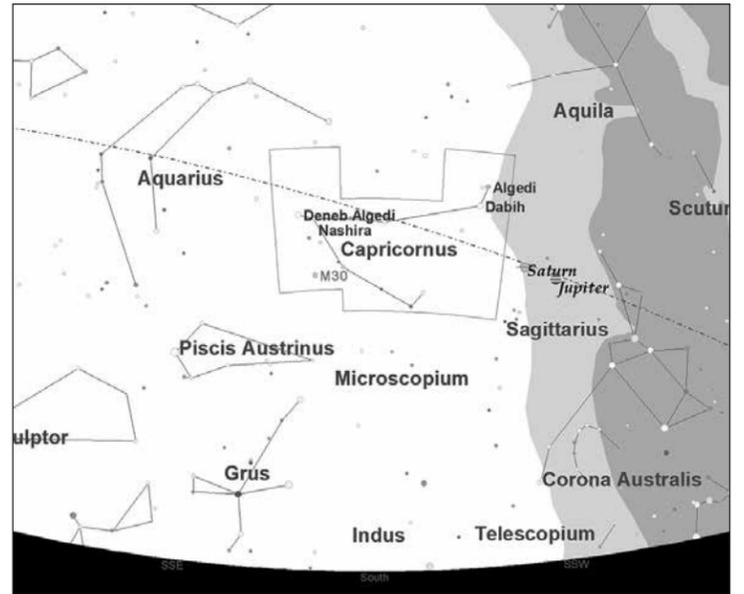
One of the deep sky objects in Capricornus is the globular cluster M30. This star cluster is located around 27,000 light years away from us. It is well south of the Milky Way's spiral-arm disc, almost directly under the end of the central bar nearest us. While the Milky Way is a spiral galaxy, it does have a central bar, classifying it as a barred spiral galaxy. The bar is angled about 45 degrees to our line of sight, so M30 is south and west of the center of the Milky Way.

M30 is magnitude +7.7, visible in a good pair of binoculars. It was discovered by French astronomer Charles Messier in 1764. It is about 12 minutes-of-arc across, which corresponds to a diameter of 93 lightyears. The stars in this tiny area represent a mass of about 160,000 suns. It is orbiting backward from most globular clusters, so it was probably stolen from a satellite galaxy rather than being formed as part of the Milky Way.

Globular clusters are old clusters bound to their parent galaxies by gravity. While most of the galaxy's stars are in the disc of the galaxy, globular clusters orbit the core of the galaxy in orbits that are inclined to the galactic disc at random angles. This means that their orbit takes them above and below the galactic plane where they spend most of their time.

A globular cluster like M30 is a very compact group of stars. The stars are farther apart near the edge of the cluster and they become very tightly packed near the center. The density of stars in a globular cluster increases steadily approaching the core. Then the density becomes constant all the way to the core. However, about 20 percent of globular clusters, including M30, do not plateau, but continue in increase in density all the way to the core.

M30 is said to have undergone a core collapse. The binary stars in the young core encounter neighboring very massive stars, causing the binary to be torn apart and the companion star to be thrown toward the edge of the cluster, stealing some of the speed from the remaining two stars in this encounter. These stars left in the core now move



Capricornus is a medium sized constellation about halfway up in our southern sky. This constellation represents a sea-goat and is composed of third and fourth magnitude stars in a crooked "V" shape lying on its side. It is just off the Milky Way, so we can get a view of object outside of the plane of our galaxy like the globular cluster M30. Globular clusters belong to our galaxy, but they do not stay in the Milky Way's disc.

### Calendar of Events – November 2020 (MST)

01	2 a.m.	Daylight Savings Time Ends
03	1 a.m.	Mercury stands still
08	6:46 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
10	10 a.m.	Mercury greatest distance west of the Sun (nineteen degrees)
14	10:07 p.m.	New Moon
15	Noon	Mars stands still
17	4 p.m.	Leonid Meteor Shower peaks
21	9:45 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
30	2:30 a.m.	Full Moon

more slowly, allowing them to be closer together. This results in a continuing increase in the density of stars all the way to the core.

### The Planets for November 2020.

Saturn and Jupiter are still together in far eastern Sagittarius about four degrees apart. Both are moving slowly eastward, with the faster Jupiter starting to close in on Saturn. They are 33 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. Jupiter sets a little after 10 p.m. with Saturn following 20 minutes later. Jupiter's disc is 35.5 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth and it shines at magnitude -2.1. At the same time, Saturn's rings are 36.0 seconds-of-arc across and they are tilted down 22.3 degrees with the northern face showing. The Ringed Planet's disc is 15.9 seconds-of-arc across, glowing at magnitude +0.6.

Shining at magnitude -1.1 like a ruby in the eastern sky, Mars is already 30 degrees above the eastern horizon as it gets dark. It starts the month moving westward in south-central Pisces. At midmonth it turns around and heads eastward, resulting in very little motion this month. The God of War's disc is 14.4 seconds-of-arc across and it sets around 3:45 a.m.

The morning sky is graced by both Venus and Mercury. Brilliant Venus is moving eastward from western Virgo across the constellation, entering western Libra as the month ends. The Goddess of Love glows at magnitude -4.0 with a disc that is 12.3 seconds-of-arc across and it is 84 percent illuminated. It rises at 5:10 a.m. and is 23 degrees above the east-southeastern horizon as

it gets light.

Mercury erupts from the morning twilight at the beginning of the month, reaching its greatest distance from the Sun on Nov. 10. On that date, it will be almost 12 degrees above the east-southeastern horizon after rising at 6 a.m. The Messenger of the Gods will have a disc 6.8 seconds-of-arc across which will be 58 percent illuminated. The magnitude -0.5 planet will travel eastward from western Virgo through most of this constellation and into western Libra for the last two days of the month.

Comet Temple-Tuttle's orbit comes near the Earth on Nov. 17. Tiny dust particles from the comet spread along the comet's orbit will enter the Earth's atmosphere and burn up as meteors. Due to the motion of the particles in the comet's orbit and the motion of the Earth, these meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Leo, giving the meteor shower the name the Leonids. The largest Leonids are less than half an inch across with a mass of two hundredths of an ounce, generating a meteor that shines at magnitude -1.5. So, in the early morning, park your chaise lounge facing southeast at a dark site, throw on a blanket and watch about 15 of these meteors per hour streak through the night 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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# Voting and Food Shopping

## Changing the world could be simpler than you think

A lot of voters wonder why a sizable percentage of young people are not planning on voting. Isn't this election the most important election we have ever had? The answer is, for most of them, no; it is not. From their perspective, almost every election has been the most important election we have ever faced. They see two parties squabbling with each other, which looks very similar to their parents squabbling over things that never change. So, elections come and go, and our society stays the same – nothing changes. Yes, there have been some minor changes, such as Title 9, integration, Rowe vs Wade,

etc. But they have not changed the general trend of our country. There is still a great disparity between wealth and poverty; we are still destroying the planet with petro-chemical farming, unnecessary fossil-fuel use and fracking. We offer chemically laced sawdust instead of real food. More people than ever are feeling isolated, lonely and finding life meaningless. Alcohol and barbiturate use is greater than ever. People spend hours every day living vicariously through watching television and playing video games – always hungry and never satisfied. No wonder the younger generations are feeling alienated and disenfranchised,

feeling there is no point in voting because no matter who is elected everything stays the same.

Note: I vote, and personally, I feel it is important to do so.

So, what is causing this alienation among our younger generations? Let's take a look at one example that might be causing this alienation and disenfranchisement felt by the younger generation – food shopping.

This is my shopping experience at the big-box stores. It is a huge space with very high ceilings and bright florescent lights glaring down on us. I rarely see people I know. Most of the time,

**VOTE AND SHOP**  
continued on page 28

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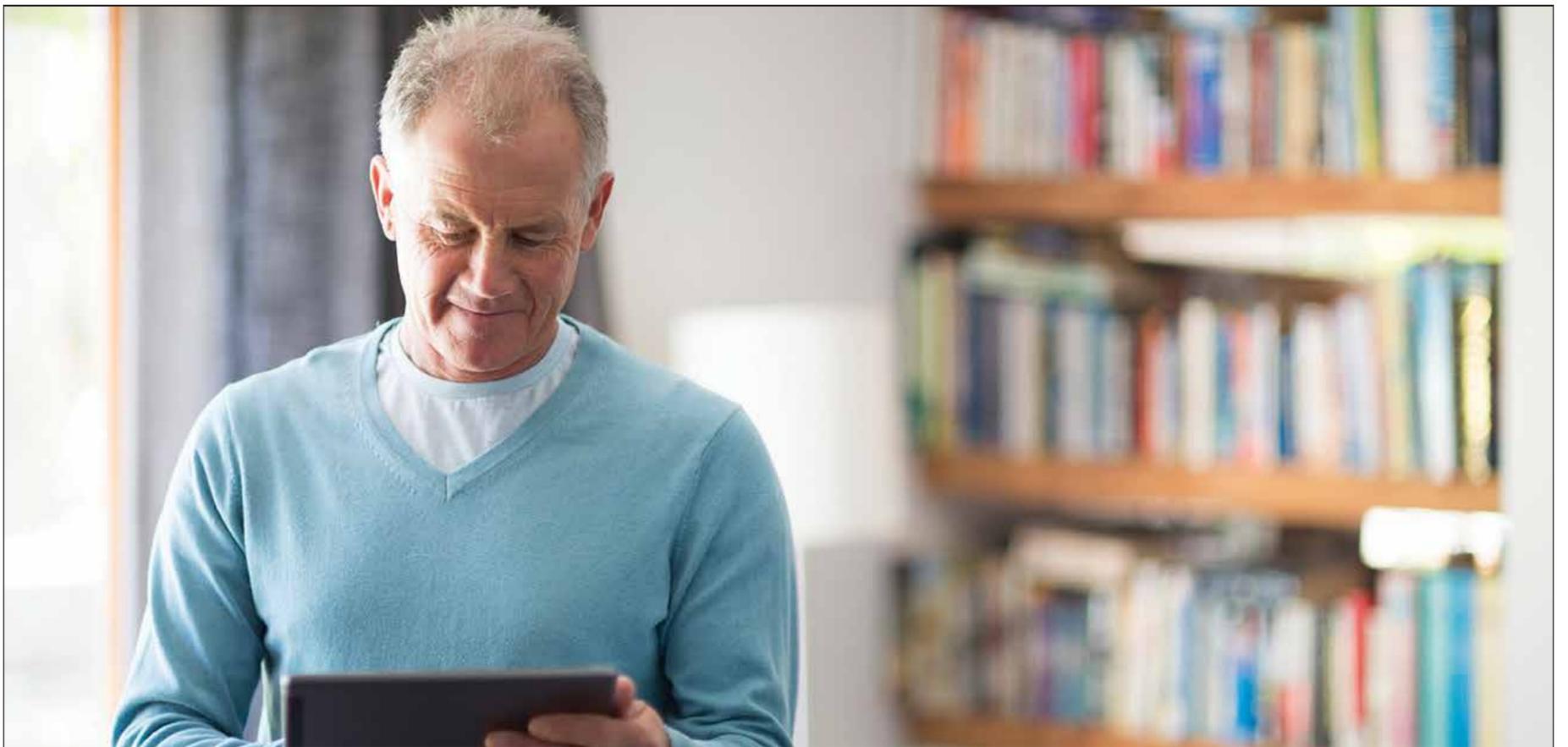
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**VOTE AND SHOP**

continued from page 27

I don't feel any relationship with the employees that work there. The atmosphere is all business – do your shopping and leave – emotionally cold. When I check out, it is almost always impersonal. Most of the food sold centers around shelf life and display value. Food is a commodity; nutrition is a distant concern. It is all about taste and appearance. And, of course, most of all it is about profit. I generally have a feeling of relief when I leave the store.

Disclaimer: Don't blame the employees.

I have friends who work at Walmart. I know that the employees there try to do the best job they can in some very alienating and impersonal situations. Employees have no say in what is sold, how it is sold, how employees are treated and what they are paid. Basically, the employees are a cypher on a led-

ger in some accounting office. Walmart, the corporation is only thinking about profit. Can we make more money by having fewer employees? Can we cut hours, so we don't have to pay employee benefits? Can we find a cheaper source for a commodity, regardless of that company's record on pollution and/or exploitation of its employees?

If this is what drives Walmart, then how can the employees feel anything but alienated from the process. I am not just picking on Walmart. All for-profit businesses struggle with the need to increase profit. Try telling the shareholders that you are going to increase pay so consequently profits will go down. Try telling a Walmart employee that voting is going to change his or her life.

For many people in the United States, this is the only shopping experience they have had, not just with food shopping, but shopping for anything. Every-

thing is a commodity and the people who bring us this commodity, whether it is spoons, hammers, clothes, medicine or cars, have no thoughts about you and me other than trying to get us to buy their product. People who work in factories and assembly lines are not thinking about how the product they are working on will benefit you and me. They are thinking about their wages, or their personal struggles, which are often numerous and overwhelming. It's the individual against the world.

Now let's look at how food shopping can be different. I will use the Silver City Food Co-op as an example. When I go into the co-op, which I do almost daily, I see people I know and I see people I don't know, but they seem like people I would like to know. I feel community. I feel here we all are shopping and buying good food to nourish our bodies. Most importantly, at least for me, there

are no differences between the employees working there and the customers. We are all one family. I can trust that the co-op is doing its best to buy organic, safe and healthy food. I can trust that they look into where their food comes from and try to not buy food or other non-food items from companies that exploit their workers or pollute the environment. I feel when I shop at the co-op the staff, from the managers to those that stock the shelves, care more about me than about profit. After all, it is a cooperative and I am one of the owners.

So, what's the connection between food shopping and voting? If we grow up in a world that looks and feels like big box – a world of giant malls, strip malls and fast foods; a world where there is no dirt, no ground; a world where money is God and materialism is our faith, then what is there to vote for? No matter how we vote, we only get more soulless materialism. I know this is harsh, but in the face of all of that, I still vote. But, if you are not going to vote, and believe me, I understand why,

then work to change the world into something worth voting for.

We need to vote with our actions too. When at Walmart, treat everyone there as a friend. Thank the checkout person for working and risking his/her health because of COVID-19. We need to start living in one world together and that means everyone. Jesus said "love your enemies." Well, if you really loved your enemies, you wouldn't have any enemies. There would only be people who just needed more love, more compassion, more understanding and more prayers.

*Susan Golightly, 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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**Figure 1: Osteoarthritis slowly wears away the cartilage in the knee**

Chronic knee pain and arthritis is a condition that too many seniors have been told they have to simply live with. Doctor give medications or injections to cover up the pain temporarily, but basically tell you your joints are worn out.

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- **Do you have pain in your knees going up and down stairs?**
- **Do you take pain medication for your knees?**
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**Figure 2: ATP Resonance BioTherapy dramatically helps the body rebuild and fight knee pain**

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# Advice to First-Time RVers

## It might not be as easy as you think it is

Can you tell me what a full hookup site is? More newbies, I think as I explain one of the basics of RV life. So many people are buying RVs right now that the RV lots are practically empty; and don't

even think about negotiating for a lower price. Who are these people buying up all the RVs? People who believe it is the safest way to travel during this pandemic, an easy way to be somewhere else. People who have no experience

traveling and living in an RV.

To all of you newbie RVers, a big WELCOME from all of us veterans. But also, some words of advice. Uh-oh, I hear you thinking, here it comes. But wait! Before you write us off as a bunch of old farts who think they know everything because they managed to live a long time, try to think of this as an introduction to a foreign country to which you've been transferred by your company; in order to live there peacefully and smoothly, you need information about its culture and societal norms.

First, if you're buying a used RV, invest in a thorough inspection by a good RV mechanic. And this is



RVs of all shapes and sizes line up at a Las Cruces dealership, ready to serve as somebody's homes. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

good advice even if you've bought a new rig, since they often have flaws that could prove inconvenient and expensive later on. Then, before you hit the road, get to know the basics of daily, weekly and yearly maintenance. To give you the best information possible, I gathered my usual group of full-timers, knowing they love nothing better than giving advice.

All agreed that the most important step you can take before hitting the road is to get to know your water and sewer system. Either take lessons from an experienced RVer or research it online. But learn it or you're going to end up with a really nasty situation that can't be ignored. Find out how much water to keep in your black water tank, how often to empty it, what product to treat it with. Ditto your grey water tank. Get a water pressure gauge and reducer because water pressure is very high at some RV parks, and without this inexpensive gadget, you're just asking for a major flood in your new home. Find out

about leveling and wheel covers and wheel chucks and the power box and roof sealers and the peculiarities of your TV and sound system. And for goodness sake, learn how to drive the thing, and that includes backing up. The more you know, the easier life will be.

Now let's talk about a subject near and dear to my heart – RV parks. An RV park is a business. As with any other business, it has the legal right to set rules. Remember the sign in restaurants – NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, NO SERVICE? If you don't agree with the rules, find another place to stay.

What's the big deal? you may be thinking. How hard is it to follow some stinking rules? Well, my friend, let me explain.

Let's say you've never stayed in an RV park before and you think just because you are living in a home you own, you have the right to do anything you would do if your home was perched on your

RVERS

continued on page 31

**Victor A. Nwachuku, M.D.**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

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