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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Economics Gone Crazy

Weird moment for the world

What the heck? The unemployment rate plummets, but there are few available employees, restaurants are shutting down or cutting back hours. Houses are doubling in cost. Used cars are disappearing off the lots faster than people can get there to find them. Airports are full and the roads are crowded. Retail prices, particularly in the building industry, are skyrocketing.

It's truly a weird moment for the American economy. Coming out of a pandemic seems to be causing confusion, inflation and some desperation.

New York Times business reporter Ben Casselman was the guest on the NYT Daily podcast recently, talking about the issue.

He said a recent jobs report suggested a loss of momentum in the pandemic recovery — the economy added just 266,000 jobs in April, which was just a quarter of what was expected. That was down from the more than 900,000 jobs added in March.

"This recovery is not going to go the way we all thought," Casselman said.

He said there are three theories about what is happening to the United States in the recovery

process.

First, maybe job growth is weaker in April because the recovery itself is weaker, he said.

"Think about the economy as a car trying to get to highway speeds but maybe we are not ready for the highway and stay on the access roads," Casselman said. "We are not ready for the highway because we are still in a pandemic, not able to do all the things."

Second, the economy is getting up to speed but in a highway merge moment.

"Anybody who's merged onto a highway at a busy time of day knows that that can be a tricky moment" he said. "You're trying to get over. You're trying to get up to speed quickly. You're trying to merge into traffic. It's tough to go from access road speed to highway speed."

With a lot of businesses trying to reopen quickly, they are trying to staff up fast and have a lot of people to hire in a short period of time. So, it's not that the economy isn't ready to reopen, just that it's tricky to get there and will take a couple of months to get there.

"The third theory is that, actually, we're already on the highway," Casselman said. "The econ-

omy has kind of emerged from most of its pandemic restrictions already, but we are continuing to jam on that accelerator beyond what the engine can handle, that we are going to risk overheating the engine, overheating the economy, and ultimately, end up in worse shape than if we backed off the accelerator and kind of allowed the economy to continue on its own path."

If we pump too much money into the economy all at once, we risk overrunning the system, he said. When the economy is weak, the standard approach is giving out money, and economic activity is spurred by spending. But if the economy is already good, factories are producing, and stores are selling, giving people money doesn't lead to more spending, it just leads to more competition to buy the stuff available, which leads to higher prices, which leads to inflation.

Talking to business owners, especially in the restaurant and hospitality industry, they are unable to find workers. Tom Hutchinson, an owner at La Posta de Mesilla, told me he will have to close in-person dining two days a week because his wait staff is at 50 percent and his kitchen staff is at 20 percent.

Even after offering higher wages and other incentives, many times when Hutchinson offers the job, they don't show up. Some businesses, after surviving the pandemic, may have to close due to the labor shortage.

This problem is not necessarily because the government is providing stimulus and extra unemployment monies, but there are also issues of unstable childcare and school hours provided.

Casselmann suggests people are being pickier about jobs, making them willing to hold out for better pay, to wait a little bit longer. And so, there are a lot of people who might theoretically be willing to work, but they're not rushing back to work right now, because provided benefits make it easier.

I think things will smooth out over a few months. People will go back to school, find regular schedules and then more and more will filter back into the work force creating a transition into a more comfortable place.

Meanwhile, we all must weather the long waits for fast food, timed reservations for everything, and the tightening of our belts to wait for prices to stabilize in retail, auto and housing markets.

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.

LETTERS

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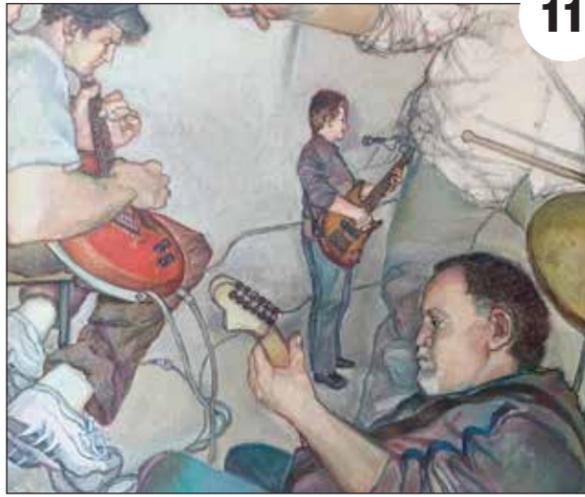
Country living in rural New Mexico, this 4 bedroom 2 bath home has plenty of room for the kids, FHA animals and borders the fair grounds and Cliff School. This property has Duck Creek, a semi-annual creek flowing through the east end of the 7.9 acres. You'll be delighted with the amount of covered storage 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 \$235,000

Lake Roberts Motel owners have continuously remodeled since purchase, which had a major overhaul in 2012 on almost every inch of the original structures. There are 6 "cabin style suites" that are more than adorable, the rooms are spotless, decorated with love in a southwestern theme. There is also a cabin rental in addition to owners retreat and store. A "Woodhenge" fire pit area is equipped with roasting forks, a cooking grate, and a generous supply of firewood, topped off with Tiki torches surrounding the pit to create a special ambiance. Sellers have many beautiful memories here and are seeking to pass the torch to new owners with their fresh ideas and energy!
MLS # 37199 \$489,900

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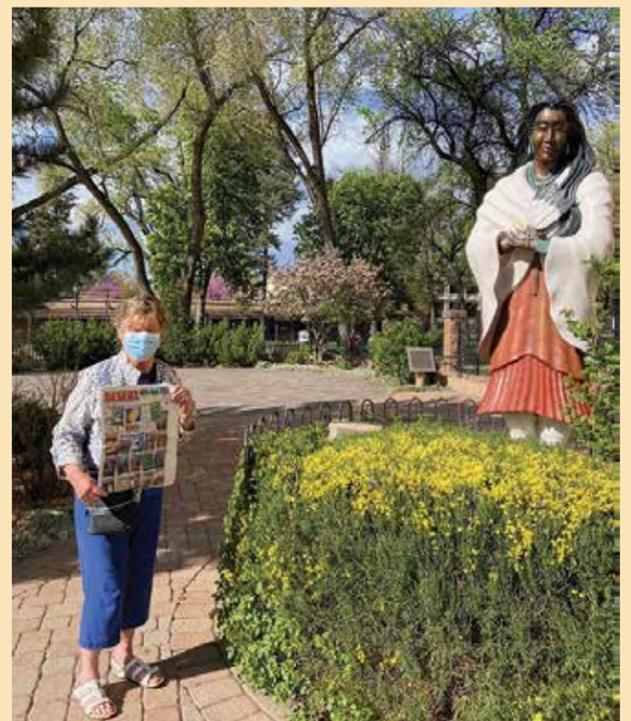
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ABOUT THE COVER:

"Palm Beach Sometime Later," a collagraph by Linda Kannel, is part of the Victoria Chick Collection of fine art prints destined to be part of the new Southwest Regional Museum of Art and Art Center currently in development in Silver City. See the story on page 11.



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

Silver City resident Barbara Smith visited her daughter Bobbi and family in Santa Fe, NM over Mother's Day weekend. While in Santa Fe, she attended mass at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Here she is holding the May 2021 edition of Desert Exposure after mass. If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Desert #60
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, and be recognized!
TIPS: www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm and www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg

"VB VBLB POSCGA VGOR MVB. TF ORB OGYB RB KMYB RBLB NLEY OMEP,
RB RMA M LBCBLOEGLB EN CMGHOGHI. RB VMP MHA POGDD GP ESL MLO
ISLS." - CEOOBL GWF RBFYMHH EN VRGOB EMZP, EH XGY YMKZ

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: "THANKS TO [ESTHER CHAVEZ] CANO'S DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE FOR THE MURDERED WOMEN AND GIRLS OF JUAREZ, THEIR STORIES WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN." - CYNTHIA BEJARANO OF NMSU *Secret Words: "JUDICATE WRONGS"

Congrats to #59 solvers: William Bender*, David Kinder*, Mike Arms*, Shorty Vaiza*, and Skip Howard*!

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

An Unfair Life

Missing out on cinnamon rolls while growing older

I've told you before, but my father likes to watch the very expensive MLB channel my beautiful wife was kind enough to force me to buy for him. I know baseball is our nation-



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al sport, but I personally don't understand its appeal. How can a game that lasts so long and passes so slow be so popular? However, that's not a fault in the game. That's a fault in me. You see, I was born missing the sports gene.

My guess to why my father spends so much of his elderly life watching baseball is that it slows down time for him. Now that the finish line to his life is fast approaching, he's looking for anything to slow it down, and baseball fits that bill.

I'll join him in front of the TV sometimes, and that's where I was when my beautiful wife came back into the house after a trip to the mailbox. She handed my father a letter from his brother who lives in another state. Once a year, my father travels to the part of the country where he grew up to visit his brothers and sisters and their families –

the ones who are still alive, that is. He stays for about a week. I'll usually travel with him, trying to keep him out of trouble.

One memorable trip in particular, his brother rented out the party room at a restaurant. Family from all over traveled into town to attend the mini-family reunion. Deep into the festivities, well, accidents happen. My father excused himself. After some time, he came back, wanting to leave.

"How come?" I asked.

"Let's go," he said.

We made our way around the room saying our goodbyes. No one wanted us to go, but my father insisted he was tired. On the drive home, I asked him what was wrong.

He was reluctant to say, but finally admitted that when he was in the bathroom, the stall was taken, and, well, nature did what nature does.

"And don't worry about your jacket," he told me. "I'll pay for the cleaning."

"What cleaning?" I asked him.

"Well, I had to take off my underwear. I didn't know what to do, so I put it in the pocket of your jacket."

I was going to ask him why he didn't just throw them away in the bathroom's trash, but decided it would be better to let the conversation drift.

You see, I hadn't brought a jacket.

As my wife walked away, my father handed me the letter.

"Read it to me," he said, not taking his eyes off the television set.

"You want me to wait for the next commercial?" I asked him.

"Naw," he said. "I'm listening."

So I began to read the letter from his brother. It wasn't a collection of insults and jokes like the kind my brother and I write to each other. My father and his brother are from another generation who were taught to be polite.

The letter asked my father how he was, how his family was – wishing us the best – and asked him if he planned on visiting this year. With the pandemic, last year's trip was canceled, and it's not like they have that many years to squander. He encouraged my father to make the trip, assuring him that everybody

there had already gotten their Covid vaccines, so he would have nothing to worry about.

"Are you listening?" I stopped and asked when it seemed he wasn't. "I'm listening," he said, so I continued.

His brother talked about how they were all looking forward to my father visiting, how they were disappointed that he couldn't make the trip last year, and the meals they were planning on preparing. He said it would probably be better for them not to have any large gatherings, but they would have a good time nonetheless.

"We'll all be wearing masks so you'll feel comfortable," he ended the letter with, but I think he meant that THEY would be more comfortable if WE wore masks.

"That was a very nice letter," I told my father, folding the letter up and putting it back in the envelope.

My father grunted in agreement.

I handed the letter back to him, and he placed it on the TV tray next to his chair, just as my wife was bringing him a freshly baked cinnamon roll.

"You always feed me too much," he griped, but he didn't turn it down.

"Can I have one?" I asked, but I knew what her answer would be.

"You have to watch your sugar intake," she told me.

It's not fair, but, then, life isn't fair. It's not fair that my father survived serving his country and his best friend didn't. It's not fair that while my father was away at war, his baby sister died when she was only an infant. It's not fair that my father outlived my mother, who was 10 years younger than he was. And it's not fair that my father's body is outlasting his brain. No, life isn't fair, so I guess I can bravely live without the occasional cinnamon roll.

"Are you going to visit your family this summer, pop?" I asked him.

"I don't know," he told me.

"Why not?"

"I haven't heard from my brother yet," he told me.

*I've had short-term memory loss for as long as I can remember.
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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Cautious Coronavirus Comeback

Hoping to once again dance in airports

In December 2019, I flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for my parents' 79th birthday party.

There was a layover in the Houston Hobby airport, which was cheerily decorated for Christmas. Above all the bustle, a live band played in the Southwest Airlines concourse. They launched into a particularly grooving song, and I found myself moving to the grooving. A stunningly beautiful Southwest flight attendant walked up, grabbed my hand and suddenly we were dancing in front of 100 or so people. The whole airport was alive, and the overwhelming feeling was joy.

Flash forward to April 2020. I'm going back to Tulsa, and again, there's a layover in Houston Hobby.

Most of the restaurants were closed due to Covid, and the airport was a ghost town. There were 18 people on my flight from El Paso to Houston, and 13 from Houston to Tulsa. Everyone was masked, and many wore gloves. Where there had been ribbons of bright red and green in December, there was now cheerless yellow Do Not Cross tape.

In the early days of the pandemic, many of us wondered if we were risking our lives by touching the gas pump handle. Driving around, you felt like yours was the only vehicle on the road.

Gradually, we learned to accept and navigate our new world, even if we weren't happy about it. Young kids having school from home was particularly complicated and stressful for working parents.

Perhaps worse were all the working parents and non-parents who were no longer working at all.

Those who were working learned a word (both a noun and a verb), we hadn't been familiar with before: Zoom. If 2020 had a work motto, it would be, "Umm, you're on mute."

As humans always do, we settled into routines.

Then, at some point, someone you knew personally got the virus. That made things a little less like a science fiction movie.

Then, at another point, someone you knew personally died from the virus. That really brought it home.

By the late summer into fall, however, case numbers dropped. We felt like things were calming down.

Halloween weekend, I traveled to Santa Fe and Taos. Things were definitely not normal, but I was able to dine in public, and walk the plazas of both those cities. It felt like we were on our way back.

Then came the big resurgence, from November through Valentine's Day. Numbers were higher than ever. We were already all struggling with Covid fatigue, so it was extra disheartening.

Finally, with the emergence

of the vaccines, we began to see progress, and hope.

There were some unexpected responses during the Coronavirus.

The toilet paper hoarding was strange and a little comical. I was not prepared, however, for the mask furor, with the hyper-militant pro-maskers, and the hyper-militant anti-maskers. I didn't perceive the masks as a definitive cure-all or protection device, as some did. Nor did I perceive them as government's tyranny on my life, as others did. I saw it as a piece of cloth that could potentially prevent me or someone else from getting sick. The mask was a hassle at times, mainly when I forgot it, but mostly a minor inconvenience.

The worst parts of the pandemic, for me, have been:

1. Learning of the Covid deaths of the people I knew.

2. Not getting to see family members, especially those in assisted living centers.

3. Watching businesses people spent their lives building suffer and, in some cases, fail.

4. In Santa Fe, at the opening of the 2021 Legislative session, seeing the Roundhouse totally barricaded. State Police blocked all roads around the capitol, and a tall, ugly fence ran around the perimeter of the grounds. Police had bomb-sniffing dogs scouring the grounds. While the building was restricted due to Covid, the heightened security was more due to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, and follow-up threats on all the state capitols. I was there in Santa Fe, witnessing all this. It felt like the culmination of all the political division that had been sown all during the 2020 election season. I don't often get depressed, but the whole scene in Santa Fe got me down.

As vaccinations increase, and the Covid numbers keep decreasing, everyone is, or at least should be, a little cautious with their optimism, knowing different strains are out there and, worldwide, the virus is not under control yet.

Still, people are talking about what they're going to do when we're "fully open." I've got my list, as I'm sure you do too.

The thing we should all have on our list is this: Let's not take things for granted.

Let's appreciate all we have. Let's be grateful for our friends and family. Let's remember the next days are not guaranteed.

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

has a faint scar on his left shoulder from receiving the smallpox vaccine as a child. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.



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Getting Up and Getting Out

Each of us reacts to the pandemic in our own individual way

Every day, during my 50-minute drive to work and my 50-minute drive back home, I see the movement, the rumblings of what looks like a society stretching its arms and wanting to get back up again.

People are walking dogs. The same lady in the reflective yellow vest is running around the same corner each day. As the sun rises so does steam off the rooftops of small businesses which are warming up neighborhoods with their baked goods and coffee.

School parking lots look a little fuller. Lanyards with name tags bumping up and down on chests are seen as administrators and counselors file their

way onto campuses to do their work no matter where students are learning.

On early evenings, kids can be seen running barefoot at city parks. Teens walking in groups, looking down on their phones, but still walking, outside, together.

The morning street sweepers are slowly and noisily doing their cleaning of streets that are starting to get dirty again. Restaurants are looking for workers. The city visitor center has a "We're Open" sign even if it's just for a few hours a day, and a few days a week.

Bulletin boards are getting filled up with flyers announcing events and happenings. Authors

are signing books at small coffee shops. Only a few can come in at a time, but they can come in. Mainstreet movie theaters are not just selling popcorn to passers-by, some of them are showing movies. They might be older movies and the seating is spaced out, but going to the movies is a thing again.

When I go grocery shopping, people can be seen talking to each other a little longer, and a little closer. Some fist bumps are turning into handshakes. Some handshakes into hugs.

People of all ages are dusting themselves off, shaking the blues away. Still, with a lot of eagerness by many to move forward, we have one foot outside

and one foot inside. Precaution, even now, seems necessary.

We react differently to adversity -- whether it be a pandemic or an uncomfortable phone call. It's OK that some will want to stay inside a little longer while others welcome the distractions of life. Personally, I enjoy the sunshine and the smiling faces I see around me. They make me feel better.

One thing we didn't lose as a society is our compassion and love for one another. We continued to demonstrate it in different ways, even if we had to learn new ways to do it. Now, that life seems to be giving us permission to be our old, familiar selves, we want to do old, familiar things.

Those are the kinds of things I like to do because I know what works for me and what doesn't. I like to shake people's hands when I first meet them and give them a hug once I know them. I like to go to a park and see people laying out on the grass with

their dogs, feet in the air and face to the heavens.

I like to go to the movies, not just to watch the latest motion picture, but also to hear everyone else in the room laughing or screaming in fright.

I like to go to restaurants where I have to wait a little while to be given a seat. I know other people like that too.

It's OK that some of us are taking it slow and others of us are ready to move on. Part of what makes us appreciate each other is how we take on life challenges, good ones and hard ones. It might take us a little longer than we wanted, but the important thing is that we are moving forward.

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



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Letters to the Editor

Jeff to the Rescue

I was moved by Jeff Berg's poignant reminisces of his rich writing career and his life. I was blown away by the first Berg article I read nearly twenty years ago. It was a lengthy, comprehensive "Desert Exposure" article on the history of Western movies filmed in New Mexico. Soon after that we became "pardners." We shared a passion for Westerns, growing up as we did in the 50s watching such black and white TV shows as "The Lone Ranger," "The Rifle Man," "Cheyenne," and a posse of other oaters.

Jeff was always the good guy, much like the Western TV and big screen hero: the chivalrous

defender of the downtrodden and damsels in distress, and his writing reflected that. Jeff wrote nobly and empathetically about disrespected carnival workers and abandoned animals; the deaf and the blind, tirelessly giving voice to the voiceless.

I was sad when, like Shane, the hero from the Western movie of the same name, Jeff rode off to another town that needed his services. As Jeff set off on the Santa Fe Trail, I called out to him, "Happy trails, pilgrim." Glad to know Jeff is still riding tall in the saddle.

Paul Hoylen
Deming

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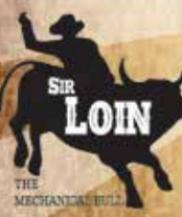
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WINE
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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

What's going on in June?

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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers 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, JUNE 3

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Songwriter Night — 7:30-9:30 p.m. at New Mexico Vintage, 2461 Calle de Principal, Mesilla. With Bob McDaniel, Clinton Wilcox, J. Cameron Stewart and Joel Hutchison. Info: 575-523-9463.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Live music with C.M. Adams — 5-8 p.m. at Josefina's Old Gate, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: 575-888-4799.
Dallas David Ochoa live music — 7:30-9:30 p.m. at New Mexico Vintage, 2461 Calle de Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-523-9463.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

New Mexico
Free Fishing Day — Anyone can fish for free in public fishing waters throughout the state Saturday, June 5, but everyone must observe bag limits and all other rules and regulations. Maps of public fishing waters, lists of where to find family-friendly fishing and tips on how to fish also can be found on the department website. Info: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.
Virtual Southern New Mexico Unpacking Silver: Federal Expansion and the Role of Government — 11 a.m. presented by Dr. Doug Dinwiddie of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. Visit www.silvercity-museum.org to register.

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.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park,



June 5 is Free Fishing Day across the state. Recently, Matthew Kennedy of Silver City caught a nine-pound, four-ounce largemouth bass at Bill Evans Lake. (Photo courtesy New Mexico Game and Fish)

corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.
Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMLETR Torch Run (Southwest Region) — 8 a.m. starting at Albert Johnson Park in Las Cruces and end at the Downtown Plaza. Special Olympics fundraiser hosted by area law enforcement officers. Info: 575-528-4517.
Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.
Acoustic Algorhythm — 5-8 p.m. at Don Felix Café, 2290 Calle de Parian, Mesilla. Sharing music that will hit you with that nostalgia necessary to escape the insanity that is life. Info: 575-222-0876.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Seek n' Find with CFSNM — 10 a.m. with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico. A socially distanced adventure throughout Las Cruces to seek and find many local treasures. The most valuable being the impact YOU can make in the community. Info: www.cfsnm.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

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

Deming/Luna County
Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
 continued on page 8

Do you enjoy **Desert Dumbfounder** in Desert Exposure? by Dave Thomas

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Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces is held downtown every Wednesday and Saturday morning. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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WRITING CONTEST

Desert Exposure continues its longstanding writing contest.

Winners will be featured in the October and November issues of Desert Exposure.

There are two categories: Prose and poetry

Prizes include publication, four \$25 runner-up prizes and a \$100 grand prize.

Mail entries to: **Desert Exposure**
 1740-A Calle de Mercado
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 or email to: contest@desertexposure.com

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

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

continued from page 7

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Paranormal Cirque '21 Tour — 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Mesilla Valley Mall. Big top "terror-dome" circus acts. Info: 941-704-8572.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Lincoln County

Ruidoso Futurity and Derby — Racing starts at 1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track, 26225 U.S. 70, Ruidoso Downs. Which two-year-old becomes an overnight sensation by winning the first leg of quarter horse racing's triple crown? Info: 575-378-4431.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Travis James Manning live music — 6:30 p.m. at Hacienda de Mesilla, 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla. Info: 575-652-4953.

Paranormal Cirque '21 Tour — 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Mesilla Valley Mall. Big top "terror-dome" circus acts. Info: 941-704-8572.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Virtual Southern New Mexico

Unpacking Silver: The West in Pop Culture — 11 a.m. presented by Jim Smith, history teacher, author and lecturer. Presentation focus is on Billy the Kid with a focus on tourism, community pride, historical confusion and understanding. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.

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.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Lincoln County

Ruidoso Futurity and Derby — Racing starts at 1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track. 26225 U.S. 70.

Ruidoso Downs. Which two-year-old becomes an overnight sensation by winning the first leg of quarter horse racing's triple crown? Info: 575-378-4431.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.

Art Hop — 5 p.m. in downtown T or C. Visit downtown galleries, opening receptions and get a chance to socialize with the artists. Info: 575-744-4708.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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

C.M. Adams & the 3W Band — noon-3 p.m. at Dick's Café, 2305 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces. Live folk rock music. Info: 575-524-1360.

The MIXX band of El Paso live — 6-10 p.m. at the Game II - Extra Innings, 4131 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. Soul, blues, rock and variety grooves that make you move. Info: 575-373-4263.

Paranormal Cirque '21 Tour — shows at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Mesilla Valley Mall. Big top "terror-dome" circus acts. Info: 941-704-8572.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Lincoln County

Ruidoso Futurity and Derby — Racing starts at 1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track, 26225 U.S. 70, Ruidoso Downs. Which two-year-old becomes an overnight sensation by winning the first leg of quarter horse racing's triple crown? Info: 575-378-4431.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Paranormal Cirque '21 Tour — 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Mesilla Valley Mall. Big top "terror-dome" circus acts. Info: 941-704-8572.

MONDAY, JUNE 14

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Share the Road Visibility Bicycle Ride — 7:15-8 a.m. starting at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum at the west end of Las Cruces Avenue and ends at Starbucks on the corner of University and Espina. Info: 575-323-0883.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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



Ruidoso Downs Race Track offers special days in June, including the Futurity and Derby, June 11-13, and Family Day, June 20, in honor of Father's Day and healthcare heroes. (Courtesy photo)

Deming/Luna County

Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Lincoln County

Kings of Chaos live music — 4-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mesalero. Rock 'n' roll royalty includes Robin Zander (from Cheap Trick), Dee Snider (from Twisted Sister), Jack Blades (from Night Ranger) and more. Info: 575-464-7059.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Virtual Southern New Mexico Juneteenth Jazz Fest — 9 a.m.-noon. Experience the power of jazz, history, and Black Movements with this celebration of Juneteenth and jazz, hosted by Las Cruces Museums.

Lincoln County

T.I. Harris live music — 4-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mesalero. Grammy award-winning recording artist. Info: 575-464-7059.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Virtual Southern New Mexico Juneteenth Jazz Fest — 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Experience the power of jazz, history, and Black Movements with this celebration of Juneteenth and jazz, hosted by Las Cruces Museums.

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.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival — 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at 236 Cottonwood Canyon Road, La Luz. Music, cherry picking, petting zoo, wine and craft beer available. Info: 575-224-2023.

Lincoln County

Old Dominion live music — 4-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mesalero. "Band Behind the Curtain Tour." Info: 575-464-7059.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

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.

Alma D'Arte Pup Wash Extravaganza — noon-6 p.m. at 920 N. Alameda Blvd. in Las Cruces. The high school kids and their parents will be offering dog washes, nail trims, hair dye and human/ animal treats will be available. Pricing will be per pet. Fundraiser for the Summer Europe trip. Info: see Facebook page, event name.

Sam J. Jones aka Flash Gordon signing event — 1-4 p.m. at Zia Comics, 125 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Event is free but the first signature is \$40 and the rest are \$20, no limit. Info: 575-222-4347.

Travis James Manning live music — 6-9 p.m. at La Posta de Mesilla, 2410 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla. Mother's and Father's Day dance with "The Tip" — 7 p.m. at the Moose Lodge 2081. Info: 575-524-1088.

Jojo Siwa at Pan American Center — 7 p.m. at the Pan American Center, Las Cruces. Tickets: ticketlance.com/tickets/4280991/jojo-siwa-tickets.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Alamogordo/Otero County

Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 236 Cottonwood Canyon Road, La Luz. Music, cherry picking, petting zoo, wine and craft beer available. Info: 575-224-2023.

Lincoln County

Father's Day and Salute to Healthcare Heroes — 1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, 26225 U.S. 70, Ruidoso Downs. Family Day features stick horse racing for kids on the racetrack and \$1 hot dogs, popcorn, sodas and ice cream. Info: 575-378-4431. Old Dominion live music — 4-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mesalero. "Band Behind the Curtain Tour." Info: 575-464-7059.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Alma D'Arte Pup Wash Extravaganza — noon-6 p.m. at 920 N. Alameda



Cirque Italia presents the Paranormal Cirque, an R-rated fusion of circus, theatre and cabaret, in Las Cruces, June 10-13. (Courtesy photo)



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The long tradition of celebrating cherries in the Tularosa Basin continues June 19-20 with the Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival in La Luz. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued from page 8

Blvd. in Las Cruces. The high school kids and their parents will be offering dog washes, nail trims, hair dye and human/ animal treats will be available. Pricing will be per pet. Fundraiser for the Summer Europe trip. Info: see Facebook page, event name.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23
Las Cruces/Mesilla

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

Deming/Luna County

Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Alamogordo/Otero County
Fourth Friday at the Alameda Park Zoo — 6-10 p.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo, 1021 N. White Sands Blvd. Info: email jsides@ci.alamogordo.nm.us.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Virtual Southern New Mexico Unpacking Silver: Community Building — 11 a.m. presented by Susan Berry, author and retired director of the Silver City Museum, on the convergence of influences that destined the town's evolution as a colorful, distinctive and resilient entity. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.

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.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

Lincoln County

AIM HIGH Annual Sporting Clay Competition — 8:30 a.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Door prizes, banquet, games and chances to win a Beretta A-400. Info: 575-257-2120.

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, JUNE 27

Lincoln County
AIM HIGH Annual Sporting Clay Competition — 8:30 a.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Door prizes, banquet, games and chances to win a Beretta A-400. Info: 575-257-2120.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers 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, JULY 1

Lincoln County
Smokey Bear Stampede — 2 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, kids events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Lincoln County
25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.

Smokey Bear Stampede — 7 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, kids events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

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.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

Elephant Butte Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza — 9-10 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-5923.

Lincoln County

25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.

Smokey Bear Stampede — 7 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, kids events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.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.

Electric Light Parade — 9 p.m. starting at Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave. Travels south on Solano Drive, east on Hadley Avenue and ends at Maag Softball Complex. Entries are open until June 25. Info: 575-541-2550.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Alamogordo/Otero County
Reverse 4th of July Parade — 6-8 p.m. at the Otero County Fair-

grounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road in Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4279.
Fireworks Extravaganza and Festival — 9:15 at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Info: www.spacehalloffame.org.

Lincoln County

25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.

Smokey Bear Stampede — 4 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Independence celebration with a campfire Dutch oven competition, mutton bustin', steer riding, evening rodeo, fireworks and a dance. Info: somkeybearstampede.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Fireworks Display in Las Cruces — 9:15 p.m. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2550.

Fireworks Display in Mesilla — 9 p.m. in Mesilla. Launched from the corner of Tierra de Mesilla. Info: 575-624-3262.



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

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Pandemic in an Enchanted Land

Quilts tell big-picture story of Covid and its impact

My grandfather, Ignacy Golub, was a great storyteller. He loved to talk about events in context, big events, the war in Eastern Europe, the destruction caused by Stalin, his work helping others escape to safety.

His view was big; and unlike Spielberg who painted his children in pink and yellow to focus his audience on the individual, my grandfather saw way beyond the precise scope of one creature, one person, one family or one town to the interactions of the entire field of his story. My grandfather saw everything, all at once, and that vision was the music that structured his stories.

Raised in large measure by my grandparents and treated to his reflections of the world of Eastern Europe where he had lived and then left “the Old Country,” my vision of story is like his: broad in scope, conjectural, eventful.

My quilts are “story” quilts, “talking” quilts. They are not about me; they are not about times in my life or people I knew. Instead, they tell the story “out there.”

In the recent challenge, Say Yes to Kaffe Collective, I made three quilts using Kaffe’s Roman Tiles pattern as a foundation. Flowers of Burano told the story of the flowers along the walk-

ways in this small island in the Venetian lagoon, while Gardens of Saint Erasmus told of the fruits and vegetables growing in the exquisite Italian light. The fiery Fornaci di Murano literally represented the furnaces of the glass blowers with its compelling reds and golds. All were quilted in the soft, sinuous pattern of the lapping waves in the lagoon.

Recently, I learned about the virtual exhibit, Metaphor for a Virus, a program of the Doña Ana Arts Council. It was a chance to see how others were viewing this fantastical event that had spanned the entire globe for many months.

It was also a chance to see what stories my quilts would tell. One quilt, the smaller of the two, Sheltering at Home, was secure in its identity and didn’t waver from beginning to final completion.

The second quilt, Pandemic in an Enchanted Land, was constantly evolving its story. In the beginning, it saw New Mexico communities beleaguered by the virus from outside, from elsewhere. It likened this to the impact of the Spanish invasion on the indigenous peoples over 400 years earlier; the dark red sashing in the approximate shape of the trail speaks to this bloody history.



“Pandemic in an Enchanted Land” quilt came out as an evolving story connecting with the history of the Spanish invasion on the indigenous people and their trail of destruction signified by a red streak through the quilt. (Photos by Mia Kalish)

As the pandemic increased in force, quilters set themselves to making masks for hospitals, for caregivers, for their friends and families. And in the midst of the chaos, our quilt stores stood strong, using technologies that they had never encountered before, to stay afloat in times of closed doors and to provide fabric and supplies for the quilting community.

These quilt shops are represented by blocks of vertical stripes, standing tall, standing strong, beacons of hope, connection and support for our quilters when our Guilds were shuttered and closed, connected only by emailed newsletters.

Two collections of charm squares from my stash, Collage from Boundless and Butterfly Garden from Benartex, seemed to say they wanted to become something just days before I learned of the Metaphor for a

Virus project. Then in what can only be called serendipity, a shipment from Art Gallery Fabrics called Decostitch Elements arrived at Threadbare in Las Cruces on a day when I was there to see it and realize that the tiny Zia motifs and the nice selection of colors made it perfect for the project. There was a pale green for the Llano Estacado and the tender grasses of spring, blue for the sky, grey for the mountains and brown and ochre for the land itself.

Multiple strips of color represented the siege of the virus; pinwheels were our communities staying in motion, staying together and at home. But the real “speaking” began with the backing. The original plan was to have one vertical portion of the Zia at the upper left corner and on horizontal portion at the lower right with a Zia using the stylized form from the fabric in the center. But something happened and that center Zia became a full-blown figure, albeit with a slightly rectangular center instead of a round one.

The brown and salmon patches represent the community on the land, as originally planned, but additional elements show the penetration of the virus with our Zia standing strong against it. Unusually, this quilt is quilted on the backing, rather than on the top, with a silver-gray thread, so that the shadow of the Zia, of our New Mexico and its strength in this time of adversity, shows through as a shadow.

This quilt grew to 68 inches square, almost 6 feet, and the quilting isn’t yet finished. When it is, I will submit to the Metaphor for a Virus exhibit. Artists may submit entries through June (Daarts.org/for-artists/). There is a nominal cost of \$5 for three images and items can be sold directly from the site. The Doña Ana Arts Council suggests that 20 percent of the purchase price be shared back with the organization. Karen Conley, the Council’s program director, says that there is a possibility that the virtual exhibit may become a live exhibit sometime in the future.

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Zia motifs on fabric inspires the backing of a quilt created in a stylized zia symbol.

ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

A Passion for Fine Art

Silver City group plans for new museum

Victoria Chick started collecting art at an early age and has been acquiring quality work all her life.

She started collecting prints because she did not have a lot of money. Later, she was able to start buying paintings. Much of the work she has picked up over the years has been by well-known artists, a legacy of fine art.

With no children of her own, Chick started thinking about the art, her savings and what would become of them. At the same time, she was thinking about her city, Silver City, and its “art town” reputation. The germ of an idea for a museum of fine art began to form and, quite suddenly, the Southwest Regional Museum of Art and Art Center (SRMA) became more than a thought.

“I never thought this would happen so fast,” she said. “I asked these people to be my board and they said, ‘Oh we’ve got to do this right now,’ so it was out of my control which is probably a good thing.”

Chick came to the area in 2005, attracted to the art town nature of the place but also because of the forest and because it is a great place to keep a horse.

“I feel like this is the best place I’ve ever lived,” she said. “And I have lived in some nice places – San Diego and Kansas City.”



Artist and art collector Victoria Chick at a drawer in her Silver City studio housing some of her print collection which are part of the Southwest Regional Museum of Art and Art Center legacy. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

The entertainment and galleries in Grant County create culture.

“Silver City is an art destination,” Chick said. “People come here from out of state for various reasons, only one of those is for art. Another might be to enjoy the Gila National Forest. We want to be open 360 days a year so that people who are visitors will never be disappointed, so something will be open from the visual arts standpoint.”

Chick has been involved in the Silver City Clay Fest for several years as well. She said there is

always a scramble finding an appropriate venue. The SRMA will be a perfect location, offering a professional gallery setting for the annual festival, she said.

The committee has been considering several Silver City locations. The facility will feature several galleries to include a rotating display of the permanent collection, a curated show featuring people or organizations who apply to exhibit and are accepted and juried art shows.

“In this quadrant of the state, we are very underserved from a visual arts standpoint,” Chick

said. “We realized the closest museum is Las Cruces, two hours away. But if somebody from Reserve or closer to the Arizona border like Rodeo or Lordsburg, that’s even more of a stretch timewise and distance-wise to Las Cruces. If people are really

interested, they will make the effort, but it might be more convenient to have something closer.”

While the journey to create SRMA is still a long one, beginning with a building, renovation,

MUSEUM

continued on page 12

New Mexico Humanities Council
This organization is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New Mexico Humanities Council.



Come join the conversation!

Unpacking Silver City is a discussion series focusing on seven themes from Southwest New Mexican history featuring presentations by accomplished local scholars and inviting audience questions and viewpoints.

- Federal Expansion and The Role of Government:* June 5
- The West in Popular Culture:* June 12
- Community Building:* June 26
- The Economy:* July 10
- Sustaining and Changing Cultural Identities:* July 24
- Health and Medicine:* August 7
- The Land and the Environment:* August 21

Learn more, register and attend at
www.silvercitymuseum.org

Glasswork collection to be part of new museum

The mission of the Southwest Regional Museum of Art and Art Center is to preserve and exhibit works of art in a permanent collection and foster growth of regional artists through exhibitions juried by outstanding artists and curators from other parts of the United States.

Especially exciting is the intended gift, to the permanent collection of SRMA, of the Ralph Johnson Collection of Contemporary Fine Art Glass, said board of directors’ member Victoria Chick. This is one of the largest private collections of museum-quality, hand-blown glass in the United States.

Chick said Johnson was attracted to Silver City by the support for visual arts he saw here. The Ralph Johnson Collection will join the Victoria Chick collection of American original prints from 1875 to 1975, and gifts of paintings from others by significant American artists.

“I think the Johnson Glass Collection is fabulous,” she said. “He’s moving here, retiring from New York. He feels very directed to do this, personally.”

The Johnson Collection will draw people from all over the United States, Chick said. There are many people who collect glass, but this collection has more than 700 pieces from various artists around the world.

“His collection alone would be worth a side trip to Silver City,” Chick said.



“Flesh Snake” (of a series of colors) ca. 1982-1984, by James Harmon.



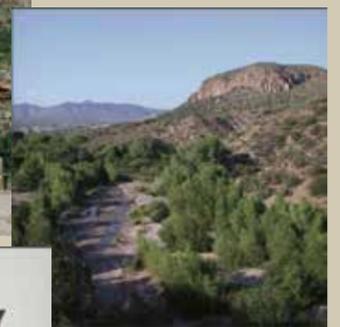
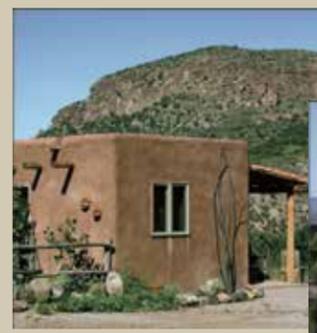
A glass piece using encalmo technique, with saturnic sub-ring, ca. 1996, by Art Reed.



Glass piece, 2002, by Seattle artist Dehanna Jones. (Photos courtesy Ralph Johnson)

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QUIET & RELAXING GETAWAY

MUSEUM

continued from page 11

collection and more, plans for a website will proceed more quickly, she said. The virtual gallery will offer a curated collection of the art already acquired which includes a narrative history of the pieces and information about the artists.

“It will be a window into the artwork we own now – why it’s important, who did it, several pieces how they are related,” she said. “We are also going to have

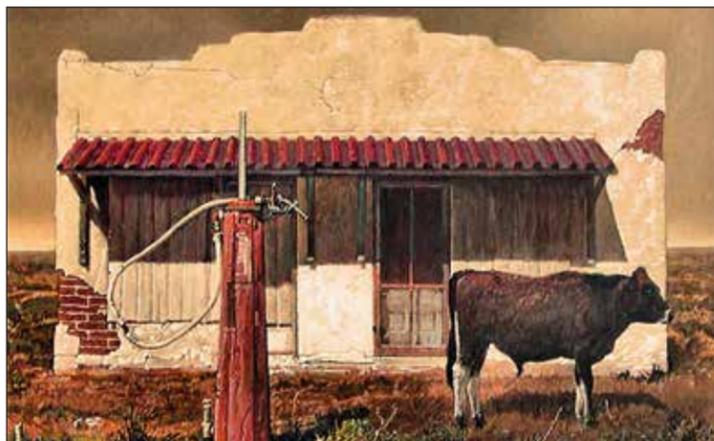
videos from our art center with people about how to do particular techniques.”

With Silver City’s other museums – the Western New Mexico University Museum with its outstanding collection of Mimbres pottery and the Silver City Museum focusing on area history – the Southwest Regional Museum of Art and Art Center will provide visitors with enriching experiences, according to a release. The board anticipates scheduled lectures and scheduled art-making classes for chil-

dren and adults in addition to curated exhibitions. It is the intention of the Museum’s Board of Directors that the Museum will be open 360 days a year.

“Raising enough money for a place will be a slower process than we would like,” Chick said. “We have received our 501(c)(3) status as a not-for-profit organization and are embarking on an ambitious fund-raising campaign.”

For more information, contact Chick through her website www.VictoriaChick.com.



“Steer at the Gas Station” ink and casein by Leighton Fossum

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Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY



“Looking Back”
by Paula Geisler

• **103 Kelly West**, at the heart of downtown Silver City, is a transformational arts space where guests can expect the unexpected: custom etched-glass memorials, drawings, paintings, prints, local-history documentaries, drawing boot-camps, art-critiques and so much more.

103 Kelly West is open 11a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and anytime by prior arrangement. Info: 575-956-6940.



“Follie”

• **Light Art Space** features exciting photography exhibitions: “**Layered Light: Contemporary Pinhole and Zone Plate Photography**” is an international exhibition juried by Nancy Spencer and Scott McMahon which features black and white and color images made with film and digital tools. The work of 34 photographers from across the planet have work in the exhibition. “**Renner, Spencer and McMahon: A Three Decade Convergence**”

features the work of three renowned pinhole photographers. Nancy Spencer exhibits “Images from Asia” taken during trips to China, Thailand and Japan from 2006-2010. Eric Renner’s work will consist of his six pinhole images of the Southwest. Scott McMahon will display works from his Tales of Screams and Silence and other series. These exhibitions celebrate images made in the spirit of experimentation and play and is dedicated to the late Eric Renner. They will be up until June 26.

The gallery, at 209 W. Broadway St. in Silver City is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and by appointment. Social distancing is observed and masks required. Info: www.lightartspace.com.



• **The Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, located at 316 N. Bullard St., Silver City is celebrating summer with a Dog Days of Summer mini-show, June 1-July 31. Summer themed art, 10”x10” and under, will be available in a special section of the gallery, with new pieces being added throughout the show. The Guild is also featuring three artists during June: freestyle weaver and bookbinder **Wendi Oliveira**, clay artist **Stacy Sollisch**, and glass artist **Dora Klein**. Each of the artists will have a display in one of the gallery’s large windows in addition to their displays inside the gal-

lery. The guild normally open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Info: www.gcag.org.

CLOUDCROFT

• **The Cloudcroft Art Society Gallery** has many works of art and juried crafts ranging from paintings in all media, fine art photography, framed and matted prints, cards, pottery, fine jewelry, baskets, glass, fiber art, gourds, carved wood and intarsia. All the art on display is for sale is by local artists. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. It’s at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects with Swallow Place in the old Red Brick School House that also houses the Nivison Library. Info: sznana@totacc.com.

DEMING



Art by Irma Lee

• June at the **Deming Art Center** features the work of Las Cruces artist Irma Lee. Lee specializes in experiential contemporary painting and traditional Southwestern artwork. With a bachelor’s degree from NMSU, Lee has studied with many artists in the area – artist mediums include acrylic, oil, watercolor and others. The Exhibit continues through June 29, The Gallery is located at 100 S. Gold Ave. in Deming, and open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Info: 575-546-3663 or www.demingarts.org.

LAS CRUCES



“Bowing to the Sun”
by Wayne Suggs

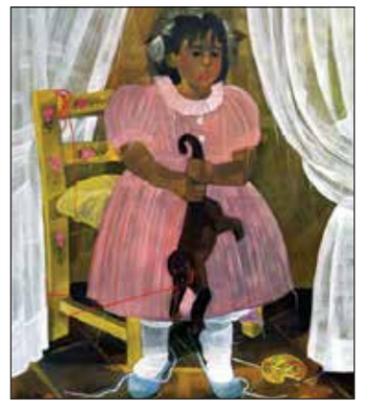
• **The Doña Ana Arts Council** is exhibiting the photography by Wayne Suggs during June in a show titled “Visions of the Southwest.” A Las Cruces native, Suggs was introduced to the wonders of nature at an early age by parents who knew the importance of having a relationship with the Great Outdoors. He has spent most of his life exploring and capturing majestic landscapes and night skies through his photography. The exhibit is up through June 29 at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center**, 250 W. Amador Ave., during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 8. Info: www.daarts.org or 575-523-6403.



“Organs”
by Kayla Blundell

• An art show inspired by the **Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument** and the nearby ranches and farmland is open at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**. “**Monumental Territory**” is in the Museum’s Arts Corridor through the end

of July. The show features 22 creative works by Las Cruces artist **Kayla Blundell**. Her artist-in-residence selection for the Friends of the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument program in 2016 inspired the art in this show. The exhibit displays abstract paintings, including acrylic spray paint, and photographs. The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Saturday at 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-4100.



“Let’s Get This Holy Communion Over With”
by Sonya Fe

• “**Are You with Me?**” an exhibition by contemporary Chicana artist **Sonya Fe** runs through July 24 at the **Las Cruces Museum of Art**. Fe’s exhibit is both a biographical depiction of her own life and of those who are often overlooked. Her work reflects social and cultural issues with themes centering around women and children. The museum is located at 491 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: museums.las-cruces.org or 575-541-2137. Visitation is currently permitted by reservation only. Email education@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120 to reserve a time to visit.

ART SCENE

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Tuesday, June 15 at 11AM: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

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MUSEUM MUSINGS • DAVE BURGE

Evolving Legend of Billy the Kid

How the story changed over time

Billy the Kid is one of those legendary characters that is eternally fascinating, especially among people interested in the Wild West and its rambunctious history.

At 11 a.m., Saturday, June 12, the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway St., will delve into the Kid's evolving legend, how he has been portrayed over time and what that means for the West in popular culture.

As part of the museum's "Unpacking Silver City" discussion series, renowned U.S. history teacher, education consultant and author Jim Smith will make a presentation titled "The West

In Popular Culture: Silver City and the Legend of Billy the Kid."

"As a subject of legend and myth, Billy The Kid is one of the most well-known characters from the American West," a news release announcing the talk stated. "In stories that stretch across the spectrum from light entertainment to serious art, The Kid has been portrayed as a violent punk and a champion of the oppressed, a rebellious youth and a populist hero, a black-hearted soul and a tragic young boy who went bad after the death of his mother."

"For more than 140 years, people have been telling stories about Billy the Kid and will no

doubt continue telling them far into the future," the news release added.

The presentation will also look into the role Silver City played in Billy the Kid's life and legend and how it is forever linked to him.

Smith is a history teacher and education consultant who has made presentations on teaching U.S. history to teachers and administrators throughout the country, Europe and Asia.

Smith has written four books, including a novel about Billy the Kid titled "Catherine's Son," a book that was selected as a finalist for the New Mexico-Arizona Books

Award for best historical fiction.

Smith has been honored as the New Mexico teacher of the year and as a finalist for the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

All "Unpacking Silver City" presentations are 30 to 45 minutes, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session and a discussion.

Information gathered in his series will become part of the Silver City Museum's future exhibit Silver City 101, which will serve as a look at local history for both visitors and residents.

To register and attend, go to the Silver City Museum's website www.silvercitymuseum.org.



Renowned teacher, education consultant and author Jim Smith will present "The West in Popular Culture: Silver City and the Legend of Billy the Kid" at 11 a.m. on June 12. (Photo courtesy of the Silver City Museum)

ART SCENE

continued from page 13

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre features two local artists for the month of June: **Kurt Van Wagner** and **Mary Zawacki**. Van Wagner, a photographer, is a native of California and has been a MVFA Gallery member for 14 years. Kurt's photographs capture the local scenes of New Mexico as well as tasteful figurative nudes and his world travels. Zawacki

paints primarily with oils and pastels. She has a career as an advertising art director and graphic designer, working over 20 years in Los Angeles for advertising agencies specializing in the movie industry. **First American Bank in Mesilla**, is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists' work monthly. COVID-19 adjusted gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.



Photography by Kurt Van Wagner



Painting by Mary Zawacki

ART

GALLERIES

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ON THE SHELF • IAN CLARKE

'Gila Lost and Found'

New book details tips on how to avoid needing a rescue

The editor of this fine publication has a J.R.R. Tolkien quote on her vehicle that reads "Not all who wander are lost." Marc Levesque aims to say, "None who wander are lost."

Levesque has been a search-and-rescue first responder for 20 years and has been lecturing and instructing on the topic for at least 10 of those years. As of 2021, he is also a published author on the topic.

His first book, "Gila Lost and Found Search and Rescue New Mexico" from Red Planet Press in Silver City features stories from the backcountry and tips for staying safe.

After reading this in-depth compilation of accounts, I found myself contemplating the amount of personal equipment search-and-rescue responders carry and how heavy it must be. Also, think of the countless items and their uses. It takes skill to be able to apply them in the right situation. No wonder one must pass a written test as well as a field assessment to be dubbed worthy of being activat-

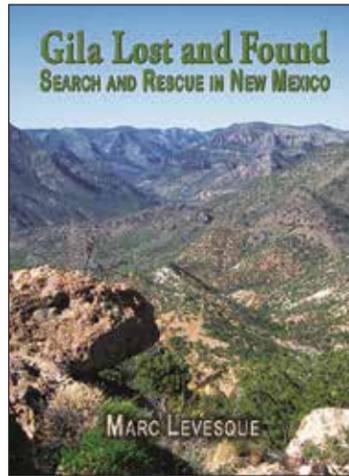
ed as a SAR team member.

For the gear heads here: In the chapters "Technology Related Incidents" and "How We Find You," Levesque explains search-and-rescue satellite-aided tracking and the protocols in place to ensure effective SAR missions.

Maps, compass, ropes, radio, first-aid supplies are just a few of the basic tools a search-and-rescue team member would carry. The radio, you would use often enough to communicate over vast distances. The maps and compass, less you would hope. First-aid, even less. I would pray to never need to use the rope. Having to retrieve someone and escape from terrain by rope seems like the least desirable situation. Either way, everything serves a purpose. For some of these items, you would rather have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

Hiking in this climate pushes us to rethink some of the "essential items" we usually wouldn't go without in the backcountry.

I know when I hike in southern New Mexico, it seems like



90 percent of what I carry is water. Often there are zero sources available, paired with an oppressive down force of heat, stripping away any water your body was holding. Levesque profiles the preparations needed to prevent dehydration in his chapter "Too Little Water" as well as "Appendix A: Trip Planning and Trail Tips."

While the struggle to possess enough water is all too common, there is a time when there could indeed be too much water. Weather in southern New Mex-

ico can be temperamental, and when the snow melt combines with a good monsoon, water levels can explode. Levesque's chapter "Too Much Water" profiles those times of year when the snow is melting from the peaks, and the Gila River can run with a fury.

He tells the tale of a lost couple and a group of paddlers who, by chance, escape certain danger after a memorable spring deluge, when the Gila River reached flood levels. Right now, at the Cliff Dwellings on the Middle Fork of the Gila River, the water is flowing at about 40 cubic feet per second, maybe a little over knee high at the deeper crossings, but rapidly changing because of

backwater. Currently, the area is in one of those "lookout" situations. I would not want to be out in that at 80 cubic feet per second with a 25-pound pack on.

If you are an outdoor type and you want an inside view of backcountry survival and everything to consider along the way, this is a fabulous resource. If you are only mildly interested in actually being outside, but you love the drama of a good story with redeemable characters and unforeseeable twists, this is pretty great for you too. Marc Levesque is a most redeemable character in southwestern New Mexico for his love of the outdoors and service to all of us who live to play outside.

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR • DAVE BURGE

'Unpacking Silver City'

Museum takes a look at role of government

The Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway St., will take a look at the role of government and politics in the history of Grant County as its "Unpacking Silver City" series kicks off at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 5.

Historian Doug Dinwiddie, Ph.D., a resident of Pinos Altos, will make trace how government has helped to shape Grant County and Silver City's place in it.

His presentation, titled "People, Places and Politics: The Role of Government in Grant

County History 1868-1912," will trace the county's history going back as early as the 1820s when English-speaking mountain men shared stories about the region's natural resources and their potential for profitable extraction.

His talk will also explore how Silver City created its own unique governing charter that still exists today.

Dinwiddie is a graduate of Silver City High School and received his bachelor of arts in history and a master of arts in

Southwest history from Western New Mexico University. He received his doctorate degree from Northern Arizona.

He served as the curator and director of the Western New Mexico University Museum from 1974 to 1987. He has also taught at Colorado State University, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad and Front Range Community College in Colorado.

For more information, contact the museum at 575-538-5921 or visit www.silvercitymuseum.org.



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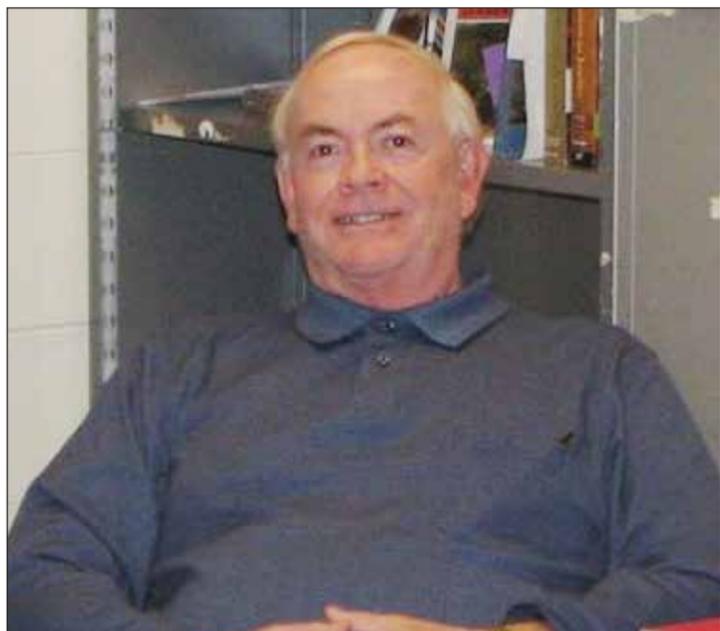



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Doug Dinwiddie, Ph.D., will lead a presentation on the history of government and politics in Grant County. (Photo courtesy of Silver City Museum)

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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. Lvon 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.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

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 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.
Szyggy 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.

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@gilnet.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.

Rodeo

Chiricahua Gallery, 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hillsboro

Barbara Massengill Gallery, 895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.

Mesilla

Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center, 250 W. Amador Ave., 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.
Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ouida Touchon Studio, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

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@delvalleprintingllc.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 children's books.
Judy's Studio, 104 N. Main St. 375-743-9110. 1-4 p.m. Saturday

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CONNECTIONS • JOAN PRICE

Motifs in Motion

Mimbres maps of the universe

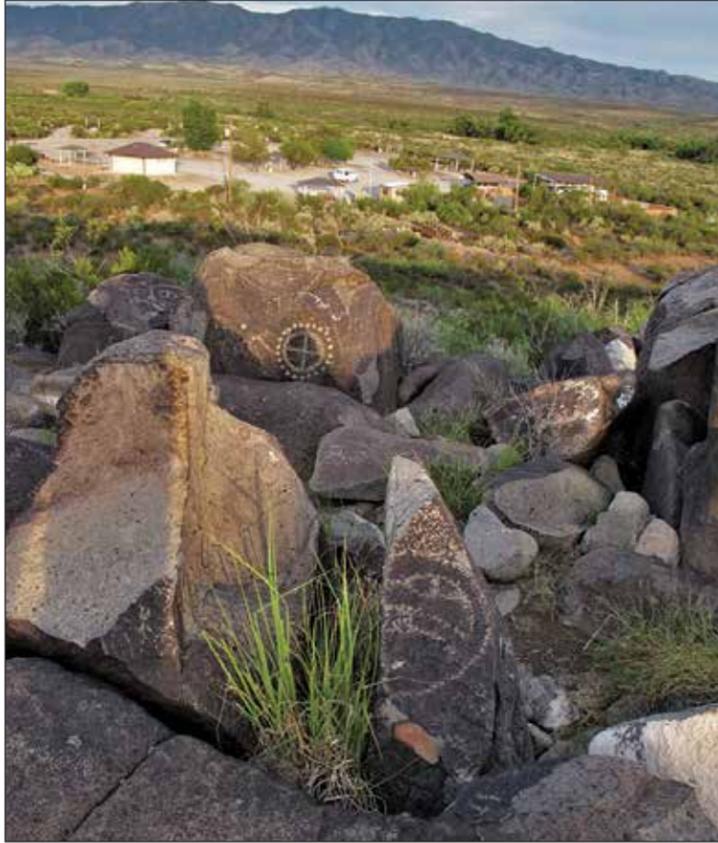
Nikolaus Copernicus, a Renaissance mathematician born in 1473, kept his mathematical findings that the Earth is not the center of the universe to himself. Rather, he found, Earth is one of several bright planets that were heliocentric, in other words (Latin at that time), they circled the Sun in concentric orbits.

The Sun is the center of the universe. Each day the sun rises and sets, creating shadows that come and go, becoming shorter or longer depending on the season. By demonstrating that the laws of the universe were mathematical, the mathematician essentially removed his God as the thoughtful controlling divine mind of known civilization.

Galileo di Vincenzo Bonaiuti, who died in 1642, was imprisoned by the church as a heretic during the Inquisition for openly building on the careful diagrams of Copernicus. But, that vast design they so meticulously laid out and debated to friend and foe for over 100 years, was already mapped out in hemispheric clay pots several hundred years earlier right here in the Gila River watershed where people now known as the Mimbrenos lived from 600 to 1150 A.D.

Ancient concentric circles and circle motifs are found incised on stones throughout this area and beyond. Descendants of Mimbres people, Native Americans from Acoma Pueblo, identified them as sun symbols representing the increasing levels of awareness as one grows in experience — a diagram of a cosmic sun centered on a path of life that would mirror the vast sky world.

The Mimbreno world, through prehistoric artifacts, was uncovered by archaeologists scouring the southern Arizona/New Mexico landscape in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Archaeologists recovered innumerable sherds of pottery. Intact bowls ranging from two inches to 20 inches in



On Summer Solstice sunset, half of a face on a cone shape stone casts a cone shadow into a circle and cross behind it at Three Rivers Petroglyph Site. (Photos by Joan Price)

diameter were carefully revealed with soft brushes in ancient settlements, admired and packed up to be sent far away to university museums, analyzed, archived in numbered rows, to be brought out to authorized specialists. Looters took the rest.

Eventually, Mimbres black and white painted designs became a source of wonder. Anthropologists studying the designs find two clear records of the Mimbreno world as the ancestors understood it. They left precise paintings of their activities such as hunting rabbits and birds, ceremonial activities, fish, game and predator figures, giving birth and, equally revealing, they left complex geometrical designs, all painted inside hemispheric domes of fired clay.

Those early painters paid remarkably close attention to the equal division of black and white areas of paint as they laid out

their perceptions of an active spherical space that everyone could see and discuss while they were being painted. These motifs in motion of dynamic black and white spaces expressed an encoded sense of balance integrated into the forces of sun and season, heat and cold, plant cycles, animal movement and human social organization.

Mimbrenos incised their designs onto stones, painted them inside caves, onto carved flat wood ritual pieces and elegant woven fabrics to be worn on special occasions. Their world was inside and outside their heads just as the world of nature is inside and outside us over 1,500 years later.

The painters gathered clay in the surrounding landscape, pulverized the clay, carefully added water and prepared it for making fragile earthen ropes wound from a center point to construct

a clay spiral rising into a bowl. It was then smoothed inside and out becoming hard enough to manipulate and paint.

That clay spiral became a spatial three-dimensional architecture of a white hemisphere that Native Americans often equate to the Sky World. While we see the flat reproductions of painted designs on pages, they were embedded in a far different space for their paintings defying the conventional Renaissance perspective that we take for granted.

Black and white spirals were the earliest designs known to be made by the early Mimbrenos. A few generations later, the spirals were being painted in quadrants and halves of the internal design of the clay hemispheres. They were being painted in bands framed by concentric circles parallel to the rims, interlocking other equally spaced motifs such as terraced mountains and highly energetic zig zag motifs.

As the focus on dominance shifts between the black to the white space and back again, the viewer experiences the ambiguity the Mimbres painters were playing with, according to art historian J.J. Brody. Just as one adjusts to everchanging natural conditions, the paintings invoke flexibility of perception within an ordered cosmos.

The spiral could be seen everywhere in the landscape around

them. Water itself spirals in its journey down creeks, bean plants stretch long tendrils out to find and wind their way up supports, corn spirals out of its seed into the earth atmosphere, the stars spiral around the northern star. Wind evokes spirals in the everchanging clouds overhead and forms fine dust and leaves into small tornadoes. The Hopi Pueblo language perceives the spiral motif as a representation of union, relationship and/or friendship not only between humans but between qualities in nature.

All sorts of opposite but equal images began to appear. Fish and game animals were a favorite in the bowls; feet, hands, animal footprints and birds faced each other in the white and were incised on stones as far away as Three Rivers Petroglyph Site in south-central New Mexico. Corresponding petroglyphs interacted with the sun each day in an additional cosmic dance to the ones discussed at hearths of the homelands. The Earth was in a cosmic dance with the sun painted on the clay and carved in the stones.

Author Joan E. Price lives in Tularosa, New Mexico. She is developing an educational exhibit of the spatial and geometrical aptitude of the ancient Mimbrenos cultural landscape.



A Mimbres-style petroglyph of a vertical open-ended chain mirrors the chain in a closed circle in a Mimbres painted bowl. The painters' skills in geometry and symmetry often transform flat images to three-dimensional images.

THE GOOD FIGHT • TAYLOR STREIT

Global Warming Still Devastating

Trout waters, streams may soon feel impact in N.M.

Although global warming is becoming quite unkind to planet Earth, it has generally been positive for the trout fishery in northern New Mexico — up to this point, that is. We're in something of a "sweet spot," no doubt. What used to be long winter months of inactivity on the trout stream has changed to prosperous periods for trout. (And there's been no big forest die-offs, or vast fires either!)

It's a tenuous situation, how-

ever, as the rest of the world is going down the tubes. It would seem extremes have become commonplace. For instance, after the horrible drought of 2018, when water levels in the Rio Grande were the lowest on record, the following year, 2019, had nearly the highest recorded flows.

Some small streams dried up in 2018. This is not that unusual and, normally, these little creeks bounce back in just a year or two.

Several of our fisheries are below dams, making them somewhat insulated from these extremes, as their waters have stable, colder flows.

Most concerning is that some of the smaller streams and lakes — especially in the lower elevations — are experiencing significant algae growth, high temperatures and loss of fish and, probably, insect life. This is exacerbated by too many homes along waters with outdated sep-

tic systems.

I had almost closed this book without this chapter. Our 1960s vision of an America where people would discover that they had enough money has not quite come to fruition yet. And the huge catastrophes of climate change make it sort of passé to even notice the little infractions of mankind upon the Earth. Clean water is attacked by mining, overgrazing, erosion, pollution (in its thousand forms) and

development of all sorts.

But global warming is about this myriad of items, some big and splashy like an iceberg crashing in the sea, and some local that make only ripples — like your neighborhood trout stream turning green.

Recently, I had two folks remind me of my place in these plain old "environmental issues."

DEVASTATE

continued on page 18

DEVASTATE

continued from page 17

First was Greta Thornburg on the tele, and the second was a visit from an old friend — Steve Harris of Rio Grande Restoration.

We all love Greta because her face seems incapable of showing lies or denials. Maybe that girl was just “raised right,” or perhaps deception forms in our faces later in life — after years of trying to survive in a phony world. I wonder if she hasn’t learned that adults can’t handle — or fathom — what is happening.

If you look close, it’s easy to say, “What’s the use?” But that ain’t going to work, is it? And those who have been working at saving a sick world — rather than a dying one — need to stick with their job and not go to the dark place. While adults are bickering about another little ugly matter, the youth of the world might win over the powers that run the universe. Save the world, kids. Adults are incapable.

My old friend Steve Harris brought me to this conclusion when he stopped by too. His 501(c)(3), Rio Grande Resto-

ration, has done decades of work to protect many aspects of the Rio Grande and Chama rivers.

High Country News printed: “It’s hard to pin accomplishments on Steve Harris because he usually works behind the scenes. While other environmentalists make headlines, Harris toils quietly, in search of nuts-and-bolts solutions.” That was written almost 20 years ago, and Steve has since been “pinned” with many medals — all while working for the rivers of New Mexico.

I’m not going to go over a huge list of our water’s problems, as many are addressed in the chapters as overall conditions that negatively affect individual watersheds. But here are a few items that my years outdoors in New Mexico have taught me something about.

Grazing is a monster that devastates trout waters, their riparian areas and the entire watersheds of rivers. New Mexico state land is going to look a lot healthier than federal land because the state charges four times as much to graze a cow/calf unit than the Bureau of Land

Management, Bureau of Reclamation or Forest Service does. That’s \$5.50 per head per month rather than the sweetheart deal of \$1.35 on federal lands (that’s \$8 per year per cow!).

Real estate development is a real heartbreaker to me personally; I become depressed when I visit a place I used to frequent that has been ruined by building. When I moved to New Mexico 50 years ago, houses didn’t litter the countryside but were in town where they belong. When all the ranchettes are added up, they cause a lot of damage, including erosion, habitat degradation and wildlife displacement and extinction.

One step further is the dreaded billionaire class buying up the rare — and consequently expensive — riverfront properties. You don’t get that rich by being good neighbors, and this crowd needs ousting. If we could get a stream-access law, it would help curb this huge threat to our waters. It’s no fishing allowed — for free or fee.

The revised federal Clean Water Act is a horrible ruling for New Mexico because it ends

protection for “intermittent” waters, which include many of our watercourses. In the Gila, most streams fall into this category, as they go underground and then pop back up.

I, personally, devoted a lot of time and energy to battling the “moly mine” on the Red River (please read “Red River Blues” in Man vs Fish). More recently, my son, Nick, and many others have helped the Questa area get back on its feet with stream and lake improvement projects.

That mine is finally shut down, but as I write this there is a proposal for a mine on a branch of the Pecos. The governor has finally come out against this, but mines along other watersheds— where there aren’t so many people living nearby, like Copper Flat near Hillsboro — get approval because they “create jobs.” What good is a job if your surroundings are dying?

All mines pollute, but some more than others. I once fished a stream in central Colorado with my famous fly-fishing brother, Jackson Streit. After a great day on the water, we were driving up

the same drainage we had been fishing. We passed a group of mine buildings and I asked him what it was.

“A molybdenum mine,” he said. I, accustomed to the devastation from the moly mine along my favorite Red River, said, “Can’t be. We were just catching big, wild trout a few miles downstream.”

My brother said, “Yes, but there are too many people around here, so they do it right.”

We don’t hear talk of the Sagebrush Rebellion much lately, but the threat to privatize public land has not gone away. Greedy people are on the top rung of the ladder all over the world right now, and they like stealing land. It’s usually done in sneaky and convoluted ways.

But, lots of groups are watching this and other issues that are important to our waters. These include Amigos Bravos, Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Taos Land Trust, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and New Mexico Wildlife Federation. They really need our support.

GETTING OUT • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

ThreadBear

New Las Cruces shop offers quilted comfort

Ann and Michael Siewert had a successful and popular fabric shop in Las Vegas, New Mexico they had been running for 11 years or so. They decided it would be a good thing to move their business to Las Cruces. It was February 2020 when the deal was completed and the lease signed, so there was no turning back, Ann said.

When the coronavirus hit and everything shut down, the Siewerts had no choice but to keep their business plans moving. Opening in May 2020, ThreadBear Quilt and Yarn Shop, 2205 B, Main St. Las Cruces, made its bid to survive.

"We just needed a bigger market," Ann said. "So, we are just making the best of it."

The couple started ThreadBear because Ann loves fabric. The quilts she made became the excuse to use the materials. Currently, she is working on a chicken quilt, putting out one chicken square after the other.

"We started during the great recession at the bottom of 2009," Michael said. "That wasn't nearly as scary as this. But it is driven by the passion. That's why you do this. It is no get-rich-quick scheme. It's about color and beauty and the integrity of hand work."

Michael is a knitter. The shop contains a large selection of quilting fabrics, as well as a wall covered with skeins of yarn. It also has a long-arm quilting machine with a two to three-month back-up of customers who want their creations quilted by the machine.

Michael said they are enjoying their new home and the warmer weather in Las Cruces.

"Down here, it seems all light and warmth and nice people," he said.

When the Siewerts found their location, they were prepared to lease the front part of the store, about 3,000 square feet. But there was an additional space at the back of the building that was not being utilized, and it was offered to them at a good price.

"We ended up with what we would consider to be a luxuriously large classroom," Michael said. "As it turns out it, was a



Michael and Ann Siewert welcome quilters and other customers to explore the offerings at ThreadBear Quilt and Yarn Shop. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

lucky deal."

Now, the extra square-footage is paying off. ThreadBear can offer space for people to work and holds classes with room to socially distance.

As things open up and people keep becoming more aware of ThreadBear, stock will be growing fairly significantly, he said.

"Because of what we have learned about our customers here, we are adapting to the needs of the area," he said. "Soon, we'll be carrying a good deal more yarn."

They are working with area wool dyers too. Michael said there is a woman who lives in Doña Ana, Ladonna Maxwell, whose dyed yarns they carry.

"Were always looking for local yarns in particular," he said. "Fabric tends to be a larger scale operation. but there are a lot of gifted dyers out here. We may even move into looms and weaving supplies at some point."

In the meanwhile, ThreadBear is an open and comfortable space for quilt groups, knitters and learners to visit, filling a niche in Las Cruces.

"We hope we are filling a real need in the community, and we hope we are building a relationship that will last long after this is over," Michael said. "Right now, it's great to have the space and offer a facility for groups that traditionally met in senior centers and churches, many of which are still kind of locked down."



Ann Siewert works on her chicken quilt in the classroom space at ThreadBear.



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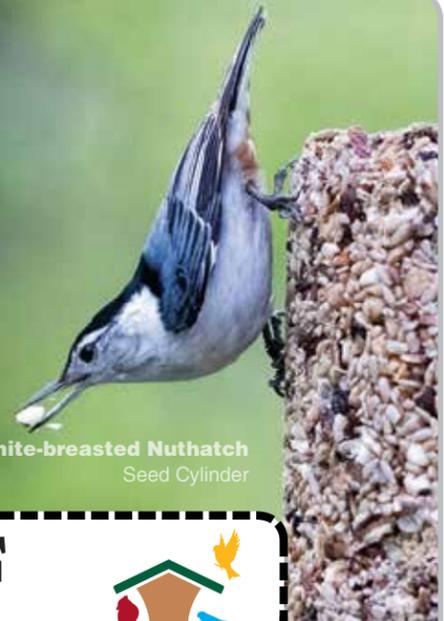
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MUSEUM MUSINGS • CATHY HARPER

Reservations Open for October Trinity Site Tour

Museum to host motor coach tour



In this historic photo, military personnel are seen moving "Jumbo" to Trinity Site. What remains of the \$12 million dollar vessel can still be seen at Trinity Site today. (Photo courtesy atomicheritage.org)

Reservations for the October Trinity Site motor coach tour, hosted by the New Mexico Museum of Space History and International Space Hall of Fame Foundation, are now being taken through the museum's website. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2. Trinity Site is where the world's first atomic bomb was detonated in 1945.

White Sands Missile Range typically opens Trinity Site to the public on the first Saturdays in April and October, although both events in 2020 and the April 2021 tour were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Several thousand people usually visit the site on those dates.

"As always, the safety of our visitors and staff are our highest priority. If the Missile Range approves the October Trinity Site tour, we'll work with the tour bus company to make sure all required safety protocols are in place and strictly adhered to," said Museum Executive Director Chris Orwoll. "In light of the uncertainty of the event, we are only taking reservations at this time. Once the tour has been approved, we'll begin the actual registration process."

The New Mexico Museum of Space History and International Space Hall of Fame Foundation

host a motor coach tour to the site each April and October as part of educational outreach and as a fundraiser for the Foundation. Local historians accompany guests on the coach, giving an in-depth talk on the bomb and its history, along with unique insight into local history.

Once on site, guests enjoy a brown bag lunch, visit the McDonald House and go on a walking tour of Trinity Site. On the way back, guests wind down with an onboard movie and upon return to the museum are treated to a guided tour.

Reservations are available now through the museum's website and no charges will be incurred until the tour is confirmed by White Sands Missile Range. Once the tour is confirmed, those who have made reservations will be contacted to finish the registration process. Tickets

include the round trip to Trinity Site, site tour, brownbag lunch, onboard movie, and guided tour of the museum. The ticket price will be \$95 per person, or \$85 for museum members. In addition, the collectible book "Trinity Site: The History of an Atomic Bomb Historic Landmark" by local historian Jim Eckles is available for purchase when guests register online, or the book can be purchased separately at the museum gift shop. To reserve your tickets or for more information, visit nmspacemuseum.org.

The New Mexico Museum of Space History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is a division of the NM Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information, call 575-437-2840 or toll free 1-877-333-6589 or visit the website at www.nmspacemuseum.org.

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, 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.
Gilwriters — 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 — 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 342-2621 and leave a message.

WEDNESDAYS
Al-Anon family group — 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 — Subject to change. 574-2888.
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 — 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 — 574-5451.

THURSDAYS
Blooming Lotus Meditation — 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.
De-stressing Meditations — 313-4087.
Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society — Anita, 907-830-0631.
Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting — 537-3327.
Little Artist Club — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.
TOPS — 538-9447.
Vinyasa Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.
WildWorks Youth Space — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

FRIDAYS
Silver City Woman's Club — 313-4591.
Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery — Contact:313-7891.

SATURDAYS
Alcoholics Anonymous "New Beginnings" — First United Methodist Church.
Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition — 537-4839.
Kids Bike Ride — 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.

THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Sextans Mark Southwest Sky

Constellation remembers burned observatory

The sky is full of stars, but they are not uniformly arranged in the heavens. The brighter northern stars were grouped into constellations by ancient civilizations, culminating in Greek astronomer Ptolemy's star catalog, the Almagest. It listed 48 constellations that are considered the classical constellations. While the Almagest did list the constellations, it did not list their boundaries.

This left regions of the sky where there were only faint stars that did not belong to any classical constellation. Starting in the 15th century, astronomers started defining the boundaries of the constellations and also created new constellations to fill in the gaps. Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius was observing the sky with non-telescopic instruments such as an azimuthal quadrant, an alidade and a huge brass sextant from his home observatory in Danzig.

Hevelius made many observations of the sun, moon and comets with these instruments. On Sept. 26, 1679, a fire destroyed his observatory, instruments and books. He eventually was able to repair the observatory and continue his observations. To commemorate his destroyed sextant, he created a constellation named Sextans.

Sextans is about halfway up in our southwestern sky. It is shaped like a square, surrounded on two sides by the constellation Hydra and the other two by Crater and Leo. The brightest star in Sextans is the magnitude +4.5-star Alpha Sextantis. This is a spectral class A0 giant star that is three times the mass of our sun. It radiates 120 times more energy than our sun and it is around 280 light-years away from us.

Sextans is just south of the zodiacal constellation of Leo. Leo is one of the 12 signs of the Zodiac, constellations traversed by the sun every year. The path the sun follows each year is called the ecliptic and it passes through all 12 zodiacal constellations and Ophiuchus as well. It just misses the northeast corner of Serpens. The ecliptic is defined by the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

A flat tabletop can represent the plane of the Earth's orbit. The sun would be in the center of the table and the Earth would roll around the sun, making one revolution every year. If you extended the tabletop out into the sky, its very distant edge would mark the ecliptic. If you could stand in the center of the sun, you would see the Earth travel along the ecliptic every year. Both the sun and the Earth travel on the ecliptic, whether the sun

Calendar of Events – June 2021 (MDT)

- 02 1:24 a.m. Last Quarter Moon
- 10 4:52 a.m. New Moon
- 10 7 p.m. Mercury passes between the Earth and the Sun
- 17 9:54 p.m. First Quarter Moon
- 20 9:32 p.m. June Solstice
- 20 11 p.m. Jupiter stands still
- 22 5 p.m. Mercury stands still
- 24 12:39 p.m. Full Moon

is viewed from the Earth or the Earth is viewed from the sun.

All of the other planets stay close to the ecliptic (tabletop) since they all orbit in (very roughly) the same plane as the Earth. Astronomers have defined the plane of the Earth's orbit as the reference plane of the solar system. All the orbits of the other planet are referred to Earth's orbit. For example, the plane of the orbit of Mars is tilted 1.8479 degrees to the plane of Earth's orbit, while Saturn's tilt is 2.4863 degrees. Both will travel above and below the tabletop as they orbit the sun.

While the Earth revolves around the sun yearly, it also spins on its axis daily. The Earth's axis connects the north and south poles. Extended out into the sky, the North Pole of the axis points to a spot very near the star Polaris, the North Star. The pole does not stand still, and it will eventually move away from Polaris due to precession, the Earth acting like a wobbly top.

Earth's axis is tilted 23.4 degrees to the ecliptic. Like a spinning top, the axis currently points toward the North Star, but the motion of the Earth around the sun does the work of changing the seasons.

In June, the Earth's Northern Hemisphere is tipped toward the sun. Six months later, the Earth is on the other side of the sun, tipping the Southern Hemisphere toward the Sun. This year, the Earth's axis will be most tipped toward the sun on June 20 at 9:32 p.m. MDT, dubbed the June Solstice. This will mark the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and the start of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Planets for June 2021

Mercury drops toward the sun's glare in the first few days of the month, leaving Venus shining brightly in the evening sky. The Goddess of Love travels from eastern Taurus, through Gemini and into central Cancer this month. It shines at magnitude -3.9 with a 93 percent illuminated disc that is 10.7 sec-

onds-of-arc across. It starts the evening 11 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark, setting around 9:45 p.m.

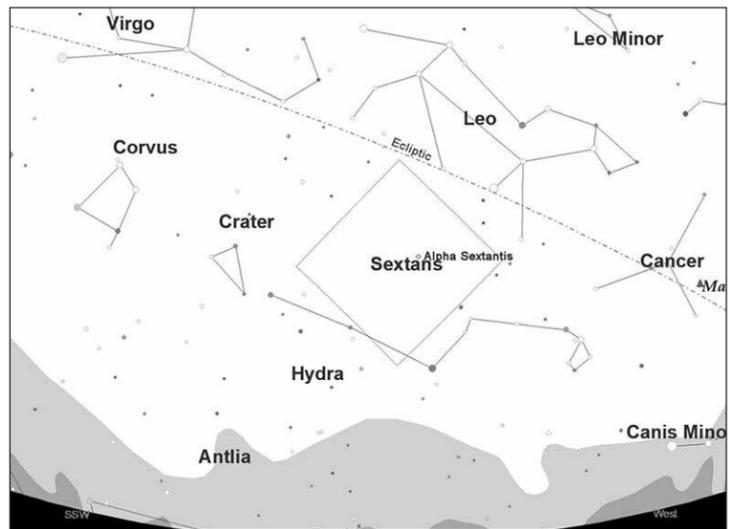
The God of War drifts from eastern Gemini to eastern Cancer this month. It is moving slowly closer to the sun each month as it fades, now at magnitude +1.8 with a disc that is only 4.0 seconds-of-arc across. Mars is 23 degrees above the western horizon as night begins, setting by 10:45 p.m.

Saturn shines at magnitude +0.5 as it rises around 11:15 p.m. It is moving slowly westward in central Capricornus. At midmonth, Saturn's Rings are 40.6 seconds-of-arc across, tilted down 17.0 degrees with the northern face showing with the planet's disc being 17.9 seconds-of-arc across. By dawn the Ringed Planet is 38 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon.

Jupiter is not too far east of Saturn. It rises half an hour after Saturn and it is 45 degrees up in the southern sky as it gets light. The King of the Gods starts the month moving slowly eastward in western Aquarius until June 20 when it stops and turns back westward ending the month almost back to where it began.

Mercury passes between the Earth and Sun on June 10, entering the morning sky. At the end of the month, it is 7 degrees above the east-northeastern horizon as dawn breaks after rising at 4:45 a.m. It remains in eastern Taurus all month, first moving westward and then turning back eastward. The Messenger of the Gods' disc is 8.9 seconds-of-arc across and it is 26 percent illuminated, shining at magnitude +1.0. Enjoy watching the planets move among the stars 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.



Sextans is a square constellation mid-way up in our southwestern sky. A modern constellation, this constellation represents an astronomical sextant. All the stars in this constellation are faint, with the brightest being the magnitude +4.5 Alpha Sextantis. There are few objects located here, with the most prominent being Sextans B, a dwarf irregular galaxy 4.4 million light-years away. It is most likely a one of the galaxies orbiting our Milky Way galaxy. If it actually a member of our Local Group, it is the most distant.



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ACROSS THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

Living with Covid-19

Still providing essential services

On Tuesday, May 4, I crossed the border at Santa Teresa for the first time in more than a year. Previously, I had made this crossing at least once a month for more than a decade in order to document conditions there and assist several humanitarian groups as well as individual families. Now having been fully vaccinated, I realized that I had to begin these trips once again.

Mexico's President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (better known as AMLO) is a Covid skeptic, the number of Covid deaths there have been dramatically under-reported, there is no vaccination program, and he has made little effort to work with President Biden on these issues.

In addition, Mexico hasn't had the kind of stimulus programs that have brought economic salvation to so many in the U.S.

As a result, my expectations were low but I was wrong. Take, for example, Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesús (SPJ) which I had first known as a house building program, one that has built more than 500 houses in the last 20 years. It is a dominant force on the west edge of Juárez and typifies the kind of determination and spirit that so many non-profits there bring to their work. Here is a summary.

Fundraising



Jane Fuller with one of the kids in her colonia. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

SPJ's director, Jane Fuller, said that fundraising in 2020 was much more successful than she had expected. Perhaps her traditional donors – being unable to spend money on travel and other normal expenses – had more to commit to her work. Their annual fundraising dinner is scheduled for Nov. 13 in El Paso.

House Building

SPJ continues to build about two houses a month. Although there are other house building groups in the area, I prefer hers for two reasons. Built of cinder blocks, they are extremely durable. And she uses local labor rather than volunteers from the U.S. Those jobs are essential to the community.

Community Building

SPJ's real strength, however,

is that it is not just a house-building program; it is building a community.

There is a market or mercado where local people can buy and sell goods. Keep in mind that this area on the west edge of Juárez has none of the normal amenities that you would expect – grocery stores, shops, etc.

Health is a huge issue; the rate of diabetes and obesity is enormous. SPJ has built a gym with a basketball court and a stage for theater and musical performances by the children. At one end of the gym, there are two exercise rooms, one for men and one for women. There are exercise machines that have been donated. Zumba classes are held three days a week.

SPJ has other exercise and weight loss programs. Every Sunday, there is a six-mile walk. Those who participate regularly are given \$30 rewards. Those who lose the most weight are given \$100.

Next to the gym is a workshop where I saw furniture being made. Once a house has been completed, newly built kitchen cabinets, kitchen tables and chairs, and new beds are installed as well as donated used furniture.

Jane indicated that there was no Covid testing unless you had to go to a hospital for another reason such as childbirth or surgery. The only vaccine that

she had heard of was what she called the Sputnik from Russia.

Russia started sending the Sputnik V vaccine to Mexico in February. Pfizer has just started sending its vaccine there. As an aside, it seems obvious that Biden and AMLO ought to join forces on not only a vaccine program but a cross-border health initiative, especially given the number of workers who need to move back and forth between the two countries.

The Monthly Clinics

Before Covid, SPJ had a superb program whereby doctors and nurses would come over from El Paso once a month to run a clinic for its community. I observed this program several times and it was always packed with families. Juárez – and particularly this area on the western edge of the city – has nothing like the expertise that these medical volunteers offered and the hope is that the program can get restarted soon.

The Biden administration should also reinstate the permit process whereby people with serious medical problems could get permits to go to El Paso to visit specialists who were willing to see them on a pro bono basis.

Other Programs

Next to the workshop area is another room full of clothing, shoes and other family household items. These are gathered in El Paso and brought across to SPJ, often with difficult contacts with Mexican customs officials. Families can stop by the storage building and can freely obtain what they need. When a sufficient amount has been gathered, SPJ will notify the community and distribute the items.

There is also a library and a program to help with computer issues.

Education

The schools are closed and, unlike the U.S., there is no gov-



Making furniture for SPJ

ernment capacity for online learning – no availability of computers, no Internet access. The only online learning is through SPJ's Internet access on SPJ co-routers at its library and mercado. Our struggles with online learning pale in comparison to what Mexico is facing.

Safety

Although violence here is much less than in Juárez itself, it is still an issue. Recently, the police found the body of a woman who had been tortured and shot five times.

Staffing

Jane has put together a strong team led by her very capable assistant, Nury who lives in the area and has been trained by SPJ. The construction team has a wonderful foreman, Martín, who also lives in the area.

Conclusion

In short, this was a highly encouraging visit. Under Jane Fuller's tireless leadership, SPJ has managed to continue and even expand its important work. This is what I see so often on the border – human services provided by relentless individuals like her. This is why I keep going back.

Morgan Smith is a freelance writer and photographer who has been writing about border issues for many years. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

Sore Losers: Inability to Accept Change

Humans have been evolving as a way to survive and prosper

Being a sore loser has taken on new proportions in our country, from elections to just refusing to accept change.

Change is a constant. Those who try to stop change will always lose. But they don't lose gracefully. They're always bitter about it and hate everything that is new and different. Even if it isn't actually new and different, that is how they perceive it, so they hate it — sore losers.

The Earth and the life that it supports have always relied on change to adapt to the planet's changing conditions. All we have to do is look at dogs and humans to know that change happens. An interesting thing is that it is generally accepted that dogs have adapted from one species. Of course, they have had a little help from humans who wanted dogs to fit their every whim. However, when it comes to humans, we have adapted to fit almost every environment on Earth. No one bred us to do so. We did it to ourselves through natural selection.

Humans come in an amazing number of shapes, sizes, colors and personalities. No two humans are exactly alike. Even identical twins have different personalities. All creatures are unique. This was designed into our DNA so that all animals, plants, viruses and even human beings could adapt to a changing world.

Sore losers are those who want to have a certain outcome, whether it be a bicycle race or the human race. When life doesn't conform to their expectations, then they try to change the outcome. Human history is filled with examples of people killing or destroying people and things that are different or misunderstood.

A pet peeve of mine is the idea of invasive species. Most likely, all species were at one time invasive. There is no way to keep migratory birds and other animals from carrying seeds or small plants or animals. There is no way to keep the wind from blowing small critters and plants about. Often, an invasive species turns out to be beneficial. So, when that happens, we quit calling them invasive.

Horses, cows, dogs, cats, people, etc. are good examples. It seems pretty egotistical for people to take responsibility for all invasive species. People who want to protect us and the environment from invasive species don't like change. They want the world to stay the way they found it and the way they grew up to see it. They even went so far as to poison the Gila River to get rid of all the "invasive" trout, so that they could re-establish the Gila trout. Even though the brown and rainbow trout adapted quite well to their new environment

and fishing people liked them better.

Why are brown and rainbow trout bad, while dogs and cats are good? We seem to be rather

selective in what is good and what is bad. This brings me to the point that started me thinking about all of this. Recently, I read in our daily paper that someone

was complaining about all the genders young people are identifying with. As though multiple

SORE LOSERS

continued on page 25

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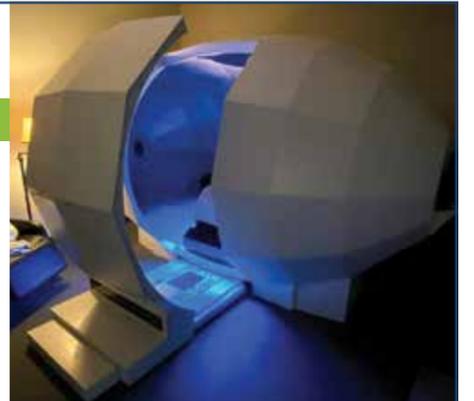
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Here is what we're doing in our office to ensure the health and safety of our patients and team.

Using Proper PPE

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

Safe Distancing

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

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

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

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

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

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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!



Update of open restaurants and services being offered.
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GRANT COUNTY

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- * **ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D; **P/O T/O**
- * **CACTUS JACKS**, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L. **T/O DEL**
- * **CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only. **P T/O**
- * **CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway

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

COURTYARD CAFÉ, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D, Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, 601 N. Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, pastries, sandwiches.

deli: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday L.

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

* **DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout. **T/O**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N. Bullard St., 654-7367. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.

* **LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D. **T/O D/T C/S**

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

LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.

* **LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails:

Monday to Sunday L D. **P T/O**

MI MEXICO VIEJO, 202 E Broadway St. Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.

* **MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D. **T/O**

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

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* **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, week-

ends 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. **C/S P T/O**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Passive Leadership

Sometimes you get more by doing less

If you've been around horses and taken lessons with a competent teacher grounded in good horsemanship, or perhaps watched one in a clinic or even on YouTube, you've certainly heard how important good leadership is when it comes to handling and developing a good horse.

As a prey animal that looks to the safety of a herd and the comfort of strong and consistent leadership within the herd, it only makes sense that a horse needs the same from you. A horse's needs in this area haven't changed over the millions of years he's been on this planet.

When I talk about leadership, I'm not talking about the all too frequent comment "you have to show your horse who's the boss." There is a very big difference between being the boss and being the kind of leader a horse needs.

In fact, when I hear this, I immediately think the person has no understanding of the nature and needs of the horse. In my experience, this is a person who thinks the horse needs to behave and be controlled, and is more likely to use force, intimidation and coercion to bend the horse to his or her will. Working with the basic nature, intelligence and curiosity of the horse usually is not an alternative for these people.

Being a good, consistent leader for a horse doesn't mean there

aren't times when you have to take a hard line and set boundaries with a horse. That's really no different from what goes on in a herd every day. Observe a group of horses for any length of time, and you will see the constant reminders of the rules and boundaries between horses – perhaps with just a look or pinned ears, sometimes with some movement or stronger body language – but you will never see the kind of anger and frustration you often see in the relationship between horses and humans.

If you don't accept this basic responsibility with your horse, not only will your horse most likely fall short of his potential, but you will also be denying the horse one of the most important aspects of his emotional and physical well-being – the security of knowing where he stands in your herd and the confidence and calmness that comes with having a leader he can follow.

I've always thought of leadership with horses as something active. A good leader establishes boundaries and space, often just in the way he/she moves around a horse. They usually do all the little things well. They handle their equipment correctly and smoothly, and they anticipate and see things early on.

They have good timing on when and how to apply pressure, and when to make the all-im-

portant release that teaches. If you look closely at the horse of a good leader, you'll see a horse that is focused on the human and works in relaxation. The horse with a poor leader is more likely to be pulling on the lead rope, looking off in other directions, fidgeting a bit and generally not paying attention.

Recently, I've been introduced to a concept that presents a different aspect to leadership with horses, one that's labeled "passive" leadership. The difference between active leadership and passive leadership is pretty much the difference between doing something and doing nothing. With active leadership, you are doing something that teaches the horse what you want him to know. You want him to go to the left in the round pen, so you position yourself and use your tools to make it easy for the horse to understand what you want. You make the "right thing" – going to the left – very easy, but you're prepared to make the wrong thing – going to the right – more difficult by blocking that path in some way. When the horse goes to the left, you release the pressure that directed him to go that way so he'll understand the same request in the future. At its most basic level, this active approach to leadership is what teaches a horse and establishes your position as a leader he can trust and follow.

Passive leadership is more about empathy and sensitivity to what a horse is saying with his behavior or his most subtle movements, and demonstrating that you "get it" by passively observing and letting the horse tell you when the "doing" can start. Passive leadership gets you closer to synergy with the "in the moment" state of mind of the horse. The approach is much less active, and in many ways more time consuming, but if it becomes part of your approach to working with your horse, it can bring profound and more permanent changes to your relationship. It's not a replacement for active leadership. It's an additional tool to make

you a more complete leader.

This is a difficult concept to convey in words but I'll try to give an example from a recent working session with a rescue horse. I walked up to the horse on his left side but want to go to his right. When I approached, he turned his head away from me to the right. An active leadership approach to get to the right side would have been using the lead rope to pull (not yank or jerk) his head back to the left so I can go to the right side, or possibly reaching under his jaw and then smoothly pulling his head over to the left. Both approaches I've

HORSES

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SORE LOSERS

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genders were a new thing and that it is some sort of an abomination.

I would suggest the writer of the letter to the editor read Joan Roughgarden's book, "Evolution's Rainbow." Dr. Roughgarden talks about how in the animal kingdom there are many varieties of gender expression, both physically and behaviorally.

This has always been true of humans too. The Hijra of India, who define themselves as a third gender, date back for thousands of years. Almost all known peoples of the world have had people in their community who don't fit with the limitation of two genders. The Wintke, the Kathoey, the Ihamana, the Two-spirit and the Muxe, to name but a few examples from around the world.

Unfortunately, to the detriment of the community, people who are born different from the norm are often killed, or, which is often the case, kill themselves because of social pressure.

Those societies which embrace those that are different from the majority have discovered these people help their society flourish.

Studies have shown that where a gay population moves into a community that community tends to flourish. Silver City is

a good example of that. For the size of our town, we have a great many artists, musicians and writers who benefit our town with many creative events, such as the Blues Festival and many others. Interestingly, Silver City, a town of 10,000 has approximately 15 coffee houses. That's more than Las Cruces, a town of 100,000.

Right now, the latest fad amongst the haters is to hate transgender people. And, like all bullies, they pick on the smallest and most vulnerable group. At the most, transgender people make up less than a half of a percent of the population. But just this year there have been more than 200 bills being put forth to make life more difficult for transgender people. Young transgender girls are being denied the right to participate in sports. The myth is that they have an unfair advantage.

If this was so, why haven't more trans-women won in their particular sports? Transgender women have been allowed to participate in the Olympics since 2004. Yet not one has even qualified to enter the Olympics for any sport.

Finally, a transgender woman won a bicycle race, and all hell broke loose. The person who came in third complained that the winner had an unfair advantage. This one incident started a

whole spate of anti-transgender legislation. And no, trans-women do not have an advantage as evidenced by the history of the last 20 years. But again, when did sore losers care about the facts?

Eventually, sore losers and those who resist change eventually die out. But unfortunately, they can do a lot of damage while resisting change. About half of the people who voted in the last election supported a man representing misogyny, sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia. He is a bully, and those who voted for him were OK with his bullying behavior. Witness the behavior of those who stormed the Capitol building. They were all sore losers. The thing about sore losers is that they are losers.

Susan Golightly 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 has had more than her share of life-changing experiences.



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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

I Hear Your Pain

That simple phrase may be key to changing attitudes

Recently, one of our visiting RVers became too ill to drive his RV to his next destination. His wife asked relatives up in Colorado to drive down and help her get the rig back home, and she asked the two women whose RV was parked nearby to help her hook it up to her truck. The women told me later that they were both alarmed by the husband's symptoms and recommended to his wife that he go immediately to the ER, a suggestion that she pooh-poohed, explaining that she would rather wait until they were back home.

At that point Patrick, the maintenance manager here at Rose Valley RV Ranch, drove up to see if they needed his help. When he was told about the husband's symptoms, he also recommended the ER. The wife immediately agreed with Patrick and called an ambulance.

The 1960s was a time of major calls for change which resulted in

the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts, the anti-war movement, and the Stonewall Uprising in 1969 that sparked the gay rights movement. And during all this push against the established cultural and legal standards, the women's rights movement emerged, with the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution the ultimate goal.

In the summer of 1970, when women were marching in cities and towns around the country, a news anchorman at the TV station where I worked told me that women would never be on-air reporters or anchor the news because "no one wanted to hear their news from a woman."

The same excuse was given for why women were not hired as radio DJs and announcers. Women weren't "tough enough" to handle sales or "authoritative enough" to be doctors and lawyers, and they were "too emotional" to be good managers. There was always a reason why

women weren't good enough, and girls were encouraged to pursue the lower paying teaching, nursing and clerical jobs.

The times, they were a'changin', though, for women and people of color and LGBTQ and people with disabilities. Blatant discrimination was under attack, and with nudging from legislation and regulations, a lot of the old discriminatory systems were being fixed. But legislation doesn't change attitudes. That must happen naturally. As our culture began to change, so did the public's attitudes.

For example, I'm sure that seeing mixed race couples on television sitcoms and commercials has changed cultural attitudes. Ditto LGBTQ couples. Familiarity often weakens people's need to condemn, although there are always some who will hold onto their prejudices forever because they like the resulting feelings of superiority or righteousness.

I just read an article by an

evangelical minister from Indiana who asserted that women and girls should never wear slacks or shorts because they

emphasize their crotch and this affects men erotically, and it's not

YOUR PAIN

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HORSES

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used a million times, and support the idea that I'm the lead horse. I move you first and you need to yield to my request.

I decided to try a passive approach this time. The horse was telling me that for some reason he didn't want me on the right side. I saw that. I didn't understand why but I understood this meant something to him. I had to show him I understood, so when he turned his head away from me, I stopped my approach, stepped back a step or two, and simply stood, relaxed and observed. I didn't do anything else – no talking, no trying to touch him – until I saw the head come back to center and turn a bit to look at me. When it did, I tried my approach again. He turned his head again and I stopped, stepped back and stood relaxed. This went on for several minutes but then, out of nowhere, he turned his head and allowed me to pass to his right side. I had done nothing but let him know I wouldn't move to his right until he was comfortable. I simply let him set the pace for solving this issue.

This doesn't sound like much and it takes a lot of patience, but I've tried this in many situations where it appeared the horse needed less from me. I believe what's going on with this passive approach is that the horse is trying to tell you something – he's afraid, he hurts, he's been treated badly in this situation in the past, whatever – and he wants you to know it. In a sense, in this particular moment it's about what he's feeling and he wants to know that you know.

Recognize this and give him the time to come to the conclusion that you understand and you'll figure this out together in a way that's comfortable for him.

I have been trying out this idea of "doing nothing" until I see a sign the horse knows I know, and I like what I'm seeing. These animals are so intelligent and curious it seems pretty short-sighted to not allow them the opportunity to communicate with us in certain situations before we charge ahead to change or influence their behavior just to get something done so we can do what we want. I believe a better bond can develop when

the horse feels he has some say in what's going on, and the appropriate use passive techniques seems to make the active approaches to teaching and establishing respected and trusted leadership much more effective.

Take the time to stop, look and listen to your horse if you think the situation calls for "less is more." You're doing a lot by doing nothing, and you're becoming a true leader for your horse.

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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YOUR PAIN

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the men's fault, poor dears, because God made them that way. On the other hand, it was a woman's godly duty to look as good as possible, nylons, full make-up, to please those very same men. And he came up with Biblical references to back up his opinions. Now this guy is never going to change his mind no matter how many jeans-clad moms and shorts-clad teens he sees on TV.

By the way, have you noticed that people who are quick to quote the Bible to justify their intolerances rarely throw in "judge not lest ye be judged?" My husband Jimmy used to work with some seriously self-righteous bigots who used the Gospel to justify their hatreds, and he'd quote right back at them various

Old Testament passages exhorting followers to all kinds of extreme behavior, such as stoning your mouthy teenager. It is so easy to choose to believe only those passages in any holy book that confirm your opinions and discard the rest.

Intolerance has many different forms. One of the strangest I experienced was when, in my mid-20s, I worked for The Kennedy Foundation in Washington, D.C for a year. I hadn't been there long before I noticed a coolness from the other young women who worked there. I didn't understand it—none of us were paid much, we were all approximately on the same age and job level. But it was definitely there. Years later, I realized that the young women who worked for the Kennedys always came from

the East Coast Ivy League universities, and by comparison my Indiana University credentials were considered vastly inferior.

Often, we have prejudicial attitudes that we learned as children, buried so deeply in our psyches that we don't know they are there. Hence the RVer's wife ignoring the advice of women but acting on that advice when it was delivered by a man. I don't know if it is possible to totally get rid of these attitudes, but it's important to admit we have them, work on changing them, and if that's not possible, make sure they do no harm.

One of Bill Clinton's better-known quotes was "I feel your pain." But can we really? Is that even possible? I can relate to a woman who has been sexually harassed at work or passed

over for a promotion because her childcare is unreliable, but I've never been stopped by law enforcement simply because of the color of my skin, or been physically attacked because of my nationality, or anguished over the inadequate education my children are receiving because the neighborhood I can afford to live in doesn't have a large enough tax base to pay for better schools. All I can do is listen to the abused and believe it happens, and do what I can to change the circumstances that cause the pain.

The first step toward change is believing a thing must be changed. That means believing people when they say they've experienced harassment or intolerance and the subtle discrimination that is so hard to define, expose and eliminate.

That means not brushing them off with "that was just a joke" or "don't be so defensive" or "that's not what I meant." Don't make excuses, just listen and accept what they're saying. You may not actually feel their pain, but you can at least believe that they are feeling it and that the cause of that pain is very real. If enough of us can do that, we really can change the world.

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



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