

# DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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# DESERT

## exposure

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**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. This place is becoming not just a place to stay, but a destination to repeat customers. 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 ambience. Sellers have many beautiful memories here and are seeking to pass the torch to new owners with their fresh ideas and energy! There is hardly a place with such wonderful surroundings, abundant wildlife and beautiful night skies with 4 gentle seasons. **MLS#37199. \$469,900**



**Beautiful, peaceful 11.1 acres** on Bear Creek Road. There is public electric near the property for easy improvements. Bear Creek runs through the north part of the property, and seller will provide a 1/8 acre-foot water right (split from owner's adjacent property.) **MLS#38767. \$39,900**



**Practically move in ready commercial building** with plenty of off street parking. Three interior offices and large open reception area. Walking distance to downtown. Would make a great professional office with very high visibility and Highway 90 traffic. Call today, this location at this price is opportunity waiting to happen. Ask about the building availability next door, to the north. **MLS#38020 \$215,000.**



**Horse property overlooking the Mimbres River Valley.** 51.49 acres with spectacular views. Large barn /storage/workshop & corrals. Small seasonal dirt tank for wildlife. Adobe casita 1 bedroom 1 bath home would be perfect to live in while you build a custom home or enjoy tiny home living. Living room features a wood stove. Kitchen has a antique wood cook stove. Bathroom has a clawfoot tub with shower. Large utility room with washer and dryer hookups. Covered front porch. All metal 2 stall carport with storage. 6 miles to endless recreation and hunting in the Gila National Forest. Short drive to Bear Canyon Reservoir, Lake Roberts & City of the Rocks & Faywood Hot Springs. Enjoy the nearby Esperanza Winery and restaurants in Mimbres. 45 minute drive to Silver City. Also listed as residential under **MLS#38476. MLS# 38519. \$289,999**



**Assisted Living Facility, located in beautiful historic Fort Bayard offering stunning setting and views.** A great room with an open dining and ample size kitchen give this a home like setting. There are 12 private rooms that allow residents the liberty furnish to their liking. Well maintained outdoor space for outdoor cooking, guest entertaining or just to enjoy the beautiful sunsets. This is a turn-key and operating business with equipment and industry furnishings. Possibilities are there to be hospitality/hotel operation. **MLS#38669, \$1,100,000.**



**Hidden in Salt Creek Canyon lies a 13 acre jewel, bordering Gila National Wilderness.** This turn key equestrian property could also serve as a perfect family, corporate or church getaway. The 2715 square foot executive home comes partially furnished and boasts two custom kiva fireplaces, 3 bedrooms, two baths with a large covered deck to sit back and take in the fresh mountain air. Two bedrooms are large enough to fit multiple beds. The 3rd bedroom has a loft, for even more sleeping area. The property has two large barns and round pen and could be your gateway to endless riding or hiking in the Gila. A real sanctuary to an abundance of turkey, deer, elk, blackbear, bobcat, lion and prime hawk and eagle habitat. Brand new 18kw Kohler Propane with auto/transfer switch for powering on and off. Privacy. **MLS#38601. \$599,000.**

**This park is easy to operate and shows** a history of steady income. There are 35 units all owned and all existing mobiles convey with the park. The monthly rental income can be \$18,000/monthly with some very minor rent adjustments. Great opportunity for an owner operator and handy person. In the park center is a doublewide manufactured home for an owner or operator to have full view of the park. Call today. **MLS#38610. \$1,450,000.**



**Spectacular property** with over-the-top views. Great rock formations on this piece with awesome options for building sites and long-range views! Very private! Great opportunity to own your own piece of privacy before it's all gone! **MLS#37903. \$158,400.**



**ENERGY EFFICIENT GREEN HOME...IN TOWN!** Only 6 yrs. old. 2BR/2BA with passive solar windows with an open living area, scored concrete floors, 1 car carport and beautiful views. Appliances are practically brand new and home has been well maintained and is MOVE-IN Ready! **MLS#38779, \$190,000.**



**WOW! Talk about views!** Everywhere you look from this parcel there are great views. Rural living just 10 minutes from Silver City, NM. This property already has a well, so bring your house plans and start living the SW Dream! Sip your morning coffee as you watch the Elk wander through. **MLS#38765. \$99,500**

**2019 doublewide on 2 lots** totaling 1.5 acres. 4 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms. Split floor plan. Large master bedroom with huge walk in closet. Double doors into large master bathroom with soaking tub and shower. Office area with built in desk and closet. Laminate tile flooring throughout. All electric. **MLS#38658. \$169,000.**



**End of Mineral Creek Road lies a 120 acre jewel,** bordering Gila National Forest. This unique property has all the water you've dreamed of, including irrigated pastures, an old orchard, all with a recently engineered and updated irrigating system ready to open up the flood gates. There are 11 acre feet of water rights that include surface, ditch and irrigation rights. Wild New Mexico game frequent the pastures and orchard making this a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a property with this much water in the great southwest. **MLS#38758. \$950,000.**

*See more photos of these and other properties*  
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Letters to the Editor

Grateful for volunteers

Editor: We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for the overwhelming response to the recent End of the Ranch Horse Rescue article. And, of course, we also want to acknowledge all the hardworking and dedicated volunteers who have been committed to helping the rescue in their endeavors over the past years. Animals do bring out the best in people and the rescue, and everyone involved, is proof of this.

If you are interested in helping the horses and donkeys that are lucky enough to have found refuge at End of the Road Ranch please contact Carol at 575-313-5714 or email Endoftheroadran-chrescue@gmail.com. Please remember that cell service in the outskirts of Silver City can be spotty so if you do not hear back within a few days please try again. Emails will be answered as soon as Carol gets done with all the chores involved with caring for 32 horses and a donkey!

Once again, thank you to everyone who has been a part of, or will be in the future, the lives of these horses and donkeys by helping give them with a second chance in life.

Laurie Ford  
Glenwood

SCCT Gets Great Community Support

Editor: On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12, Silver City Community Theatre (SCCT) was delighted to return to live theatre with SCCT's Youth Project's performance of "Bug" at Main Street Plaza. We were thrilled to have so many of our community come out to see the play and honored to have Virus Theater's Teresa Dahl-Bredine and Kristen Warnack and The Silver City Daily Press and Independent in the audience.

It took the contribution of a great many Grant County residents including an eight-member cast of young people who worked for months led by local director, Brenda McFarlane assisted by Wendy Spurgeon. Wendy has also been the driving force behind "SCCT Radio Hour," every Sunday at 5 p.m., on KURU 89.1 FM. And Christopher Wellman provided indispensable support as sound technician for both "Bug" and "SCCT Radio Hour."

It takes more than a few theatre people to put on a play and SCCT wants to recognize all those who donated their time and money to "Bug" as well as the help of the Town of Silver City, Wendy Sublasky, Silver City's Department of Public Works, and the folks at The Silver City Mainstreet Project.

A small organization such as SCCT cannot exist without the support of our Silver City and Grant County community. SCCT's motto is "Be the Community in Community Theatre;" our friends without fail have been that community

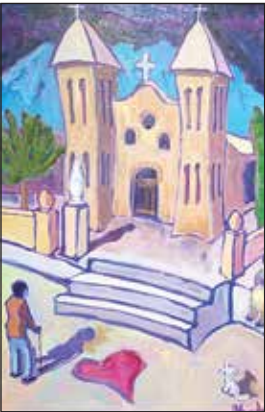
MaryAnn Marlar, President,  
Board of Directors,  
Silver City Community Theatre

CORRECTION

In the December 2021 issue of Desert Exposure, on Page 23, a hike mentioned in the article "Bill's Excellent Adventure," directs hikers into areas that trespass on closed federal lands in the Soledad Canyon area. According to a Bureau of Land Management official, all involved entities are working toward a plan to make the area accessible but for now even going to the Soledad Canyon waterfall is officially trespassing. Hikers should always watch for "No Trespassing" signs and be respectful of their message.

ABOUT THE COVER:

"San Albino is Love," by Michelle Augustyniak, reflects the community of Mesilla by honoring the basilica on the plaza, at the Corner of Calle Principal and Santiago streets. Augustyniak, is a plein air oil painter who catches whimsical, compassionate view of the world around her. Her art can be seen at The Bean in Mesilla and The Merc in Tularosa. For more images visit her website at michelleaugustyniakfineart.com.



Desert #68  
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

"LMNAELBUE, IPQJIBQJEE, AJEUMBN MQA VJMN. HLJR MNJ PVHJQ  
ABVVBXFIH VPN OJ HP NJOJOGJN, GJXMFEJ BQ JYJNR XMEJ HLJR  
ZJNJ VPIIPZJA GR MOMWBQC GIJEEBQCE." - EFEMQ CPIBCLHIR

Use the answer key below to track your clues, and reveal Secret Words!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "WE ARE WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO COME ON BOARD. WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER, TO GET IDEAS FROM MIND TO PEN TO PUBLICATION." - CHARMAYN SAMUELSON OF THE LAS CRUCES WRITERS GROUP \*Secret Words:"SOCIETAL BURGH"

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# Beautiful Nonsense

When your movie likes don't gel with everyone else's

There are some classic movies I'll watch just because I don't like them.

Why do I torture myself? Because I'm trying to understand what it is I don't get. "2001: A Space Odyssey" is a good example. Whenever it comes on TCM, I'll watch it.

"What are those monkeys doing?" my 5-year-old granddaughter asked the last time I saw it, referring to the first part of the film which takes place at the dawn of man. My father, who was watching with me, looked to see what I was going to say.

"I... don't know," I admitted.

"They're ugly," she noted. A little later into the movie, she asked, "What's that black thing?" Again, I... didn't know.

I looked over to my father.

He was asleep.

Yeah, the movie does that to me, too.

I understand on a technical level what an amazing achievement it is, especially for its time, but "2001: A Space Odyssey" is such a slooow movie to slog through, even by old movie standards. Maybe my mistake is that I read the novel by Arthur C. Clark first.

Loved the book.

The movie?

Not so much.

When the psychedelic finale came on, it caught my granddaughter's eye, and she crawled onto my lap to watch it with me. When it ended, she said, "Wow! I've never seen that before."

My father?

Still asleep.

A movie he did stay awake

for was "Citizen Kane," another classic I don't care for. My granddaughter either.

"Why's the movie gray?" she wanted to know. She didn't bother hanging around to see if there would be a psychedelic conclusion.

"You know," my father told me, "William Randolph Hearst always thought this movie was about him. Orson Welles denied it, but Hearst ruined his career anyway."

"Really, pop?"

"Yeah. And he once killed a man."

"Who?"

"Hearst. He was trying to shoot Charlie Chaplin because he thought Chaplin was having an affair with his girlfriend, but he ended up shooting someone

else because they were on a yacht and drunk. Mainly drunk. If Orson Welles had put that in his movie, Hearst would have gone out of his way to deny the movie was about him."

Who knew my father was such a film scholar?

"Did he get away with it?" I asked, not knowing much about Hearst, other than my brother and I had once hiked up the California coast from his house in San Clemente to Hearst's castle.

"He was rich," my father sniffed. "What do you think?"

Again, "Citizen Kane" is a visionary film of technical brilliance.

So why don't I like it?

On the other hand, I love "Casablanca." A film that, judging by the number of writers it had, should have been terrible.

Heck, I even like Elmo Lincoln, the original Tarzan of the silent era. I think it comes down to this: Orson Welles and Stanley Kubrick are amazing filmmakers, but boring storytellers. Stanley Kubrick took the only novel that ever scared me, Stephen King's "The Shining" and turned it into beautiful nonsense.

"Doctor Strangelove"?

I just don't get it.

Peter Sellers was a comic genius and hilarious in Blake Edwards' "Pink Panther" movies – "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" in particular – but I find him trying too hard under Kubrick's heavy hand.

Now that I think about it,

**NONSENSE**  
continued on page 5

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of the Year



MAY 5



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FRANK RAY



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MAY 6



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Featuring  
Chris Pérez



Bri Bagwell



LA ENERGÍA NORTEÑA



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# In the Moment

## Normalizing the act of doing nothing

Even as I write this, I'm thinking of sitting outside my second-floor apartment and just staring out at what seems like nothing. Thoughts of seeing little movements of almost somethings happening are making me happy.

The sounds of cars passing by or doors closing in the distance only happen after long stretches of hearing almost no sound. Still, there must be sound happening all around. I just can't hear it, and I like that there isn't much of anything to hear.

When I think of the happiest people in the world, I think of older men sitting outside their front doors and looking out into the world with appreciation that there are moments to do just

what they are doing in that moment. They've lived their life. They've heard a lot of noise, sometimes too much noise. Now, they want to sit and appreciate what they see around them.

They aren't waiting for a parade to pass by or hoping for a ride to pick them up. They know what time it is because it's about the same time of day that they come together for a whole lot of nothing. They aren't listening for the phone to ring. The TV set is inside and turned off.

They are doing what I feel like doing right now – nothing. I think people that do nothing for good chunks of their existence live happier, longer lives. They do what they have to do to feed their families and pay the bills,

and when that is out of the way, they just sit and relax.

During those times of silence and thought, their appreciation for what they have intensifies. At the end of the day, they have time to think about what they did, how hard they worked at doing it, and how much others are benefitting from it. After thinking about all that, they smile, knowing that life is passing by too quickly and sitting and smiling isn't done as much as it should be done.

Society frowns at those of us that are even thinking of spending time doing nothing. We are told that there is too much to do and too little time to do it. We are lectured on the value of using our free time going above

and beyond, spending more time at work, doing something for someone else.

I, too, am guilty of pushing these mindsets. I spend too much of my free time staying busy. And each year I promise myself that I need to use more of my time just sitting and doing nothing. I know that even if I dedicated one or two extra hours a week to nothingness that I would still have time to do all the other things that I'm meant to do.

I want to be like those older men sitting outside their front porch all smiles. They lived their life and now they are enjoying it, but I don't want to wait until my life has been lived to enjoy it. When I see their faces, they look like faces that have experienced

many ups and downs, with lines running in all directions, and still, they're expressions are more rested than most people I encounter at work or at the store.

Take a moment of your time this week to do nothing. Don't feel guilty about it. Forget about deadlines and worries. Grab a chair, go outside, and sit.

Life will be waiting for you when you get back, until then, just do nothing.

*Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in southern New Mexico. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.*



### NONSENSE

continued from page 4

I can't think of one Stanley Kubrick movie I've liked. R. Lee Ermy was great in "Full Metal Jacket," but that's about all. Reading "A Clockwork Orange" by Anthony Burgess was a challenge, but watching it was impossible. Even the nudie parts. And don't get me started on Alfred Hitchcock. Some critics consider him our greatest film director. I consider him a safer

alternative to Sominex.

But don't take my criticisms seriously, because, to be honest, I'd make a lousy movie executive. When James Cameron's "Titanic" came out, I was certain it would flop, and not just because Kate Winslet couldn't be bothered to scoot over for Leonardo DiPopsicle on that board she was floating on after the ship sank. No, my problem was at the end, when she was an old lady and died in her sleep. Heaven,

as it turned out, was the "Titanic" with her one-night stand there waiting for her. Everybody thought that was sooo romantic, but I could only think about her poor, dead husband – the one she had children, grandchildren and lived her life with. I couldn't help but think of that dumb sap waiting for all eternity in another part of Heaven for a wife who will never show up. Anyway...

A billion dollars later, I'm eating my words.

My granddaughter's favorite movie is "Trolls World Tour," which will be almost 2-years old by the time you read this.

"Watch it with me, grandpa," she pleaded when we first bought it for her on Pay Per View or whatever it's called. This was during the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020, when all the movie theaters were closed. For \$20, she could see it as many times as she wanted in a 48-hour period. Over \$100 later, she was

still watching it. I couldn't believe how happy it made her. She sang along with it. Got up and danced. Told me to be quiet when I tried to get her to clarify a particular plot point, and you know what?

It became my favorite movie.

*What do Titanic and The Sixth Sense have in common? Icy dead people. theduchenebrothers@gmail.com. @JimDuchene*



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PUBLISHER’S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

# Walking with Wonder

## Hiking hints for southern New Mexico



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The title of this column, “Walking with wonder,” has at least two meanings. One, if you’re walking almost anywhere in southern New Mexico, you’ll be surrounded by elements of nature’s wonders. The second meaning regards the attitude with which you walk. Be open, inquisitive, curious and magical discoveries await.

Whether you’re a seasoned hiker, or just trying out it, a good time can be had by all.

Here are a few things I’ve learned from casually hiking the Chihuahuan Desert in New Mexico since 1995.

**WEATHER:** A great thing about New Mexico is there are plenty of sunny winter days warm enough to hike without being miserably cold. But, and it’s an important but, be aware of weather changes with little or no notice. Dress in layers. New Mexico is very unpredictable. You can be freezing in the morning, and sweating by noon. Also, bring something you can pack the layers in. If you have three shirts tied around your neck and waist, you’re still going to be too warm.

**TOOLS:** Have some sort of knife or tool. I recommend a Leatherman or something similar that has decent pliers. You can use this to pull cactus needles out of yourself, your friend, or your dog. Don’t be that person who, when taking the needle out of your friend, just gets it stuck worse in your own hand. The Leatherman is strong enough and long enough to prevent that.

**WATER, WATER, WATER:** Basically, you can’t have too much water with you. And use it! Stay hydrated through your walk. Food is good too, at least the right kind. A solid fruit, like an apple or an orange is good. Nix the bananas, unless you enjoy eating the equivalent of warm baby food halfway through your hike. There are dozens of power bar snacks out there, all of them better than trying to eat a melted candy bar on the trail. And leave your cigarettes at home. Maybe you like them, but other hikers don’t. They’re trying to breathe. Once, I saw a teenage girl at the beginning of a hike carrying a Sonic Route 44 soft drink and a vaping device. Not sure how long that hike lasted.

**PHOTOS:** Take photos of your hike, but don’t overdo it. You’ll want a nice souvenir, but you don’t want to hike with someone who wants to take a selfie every 17 feet.

**GOOD SHOES:** Wear good hiking shoes, and shoes you’ve walked in before. Even if they’re the best hiking shoes, they won’t serve you well if you’re not familiar with them. Plus, they can cause blisters. Last year, I saw a guy, on a 40-degree day, leaving out for the hike in shorts, a T-shirt and flip-flops. My guess is, he didn’t have an enjoyable hike.

**HAVE A PLAN:** Don’t start too late in the day, and keep track of your time. A simple method is to decide how long you want to hike. If you want to hike for two hours, set your ringer to go off in one hour, then turn around and come back. Don’t assume you’ll have cell service, and don’t assume you won’t get lost. Some trails are marked better than others. Build in extra time if it’s an unfamiliar trail.


**REST:** Take some time to rest. If you’re the type of hiker determined to make a certain mile marker by a certain time, do that when you’re hiking by yourself. If you’re hiking with others, take

the time to rest, enjoy the scenery and enjoy each other’s company.





**DOGS:** A dog can be your best friend on the trail. Or your worst nightmare. If it’s a dog not built for hiking, or a dog that yaps at every passerby, leave them at home. Many trails don’t allow dogs. Check that before you even make the trip.

**VARIOUS:** A new trend I’ve noticed is hiking poles. If this is something that lends you comfort and security on the trail, do it. Many trailheads will have signs telling you to pack out everything you pack in. That’s important, as it makes the trail better for all of us. Finally, don’t forget the urban hike. If you’re going to walk for two hours or more, you’re going to get good exercise whether you’re going up a mountain or walking across town. Last summer, I had a great urban hike all around Silver City, up and around the Western New Mexico University campus. I have a later urban hike planned in Las Cruces, from the tip of where Lohman and Amador meet in the east, to their western confluence and back. I call it the islands. In Alamogordo, you can hike from the western edge of First Street at the railroad tracks to the eastern edge along the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains.


Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He loves the Pine Loop Trail at Aguirre Spring, walking up Dog Canyon, the OSHA Trail near Cloudcroft and hiking barefoot at White Sands National Park.




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# For the Flaming Chef

## Does your gas stove just need to vent?

My best friend and I agree on many things but cooking with natural gas isn't one of them. He says, "Just don't ask me to change out my gas range." I, on the other hand, cook on an electric range and have recently become intrigued with electric induction cooking. No one is asking him to replace his relatively new gas range. However, everyone who is at the point of needing to switch out their gas range should consider the implications gas cooking has on our planet and their health.

Natural gas, a fossil fuel, contains a mixture of gases, the largest being methane, a powerful greenhouse gas (GHG). Methane is 80 times more potent at warming the planet than carbon dioxide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 2019, methane emissions from natural gas were the source of about 29 percent of total U.S. GHG emissions.

Efficient natural gas extraction techniques have, until very recently, resulted in an inexpensive home energy source but the growing renewable electric energy marketplace is quickly outpacing natural gas as the economical residential alternative. But why is the beloved gas stove such a focal point in a growing fight to electrify our homes? At first, it may seem like an odd choice because other gas-burning appliances, notably gas furnaces consume far more

fuel. The stove, however, is seen as a "gateway appliance." It's just not sexy to talk about your water heater, but you can probably talk to friends about your stove. Once the change to an electric stove happens, people will be more likely to switch to electric water heaters, dryers, furnaces and fireplaces. Bragging rights come into play when their utility bills drop precipitously.

Natural gas has been known since about 1000 B.C. The Greek Oracle at Delphi was built where natural gas seeped from the ground creating a flame. In the U.S., Native Americans discovered natural gas near Lake Erie. In 1821, the first successful natural gas well was dug in Fredonia, New York.

Once industrial pipeline construction began in the 20th century, the use of natural gas grew exponentially. Today, U.S. gas utilities number more than 900. In the 1930s, to promote in-home gas use, the industry embraced the marketing slogan "cooking with clean natural gas." For well over 80 years advertising campaigns have shaped our thinking about gas cooking. Today, over 35 percent of Americans use gas stoves.

Those who swear by gas cooking know and love its so-called attributes – immediate ignition; constant heat control; a visual flame-controlled determination of heat; ease of stove top cleaning; effectiveness with uneven pots; increased British thermal

units in a selection of "pro" models; and for some, the simple elegance of using a flame.

However, even gas aficionados know there are definitely downsides to using a gas flame. House fires and gas leak detection are two concerns. Natural gas has been advertised as being odorless and difficult to detect without specialized equipment. So, for safety reasons, gas companies add an odorant called mercaptan to the gas before it is distributed to customers. The distinctive smell you associate with natural gas is the mercaptan that makes potential leaks detectable.

While many Americans might think illness linked to indoor gas cooking is a problem confined to the developing world, natural gas stoves found in millions of U.S. kitchens can produce a range of health-damaging pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. If you are not at the point of needing or affording a replacement stove, at least make sure your stove is well-vented and that the vent is working effectively.

Over the past four decades,

researchers have linked the use of gas appliances, especially for cooking, with a higher risk of respiratory problems and illnesses. Since the 2020 publication

of two reports from the Rocky Mountain Institute and the

CHEF

continued on page 8

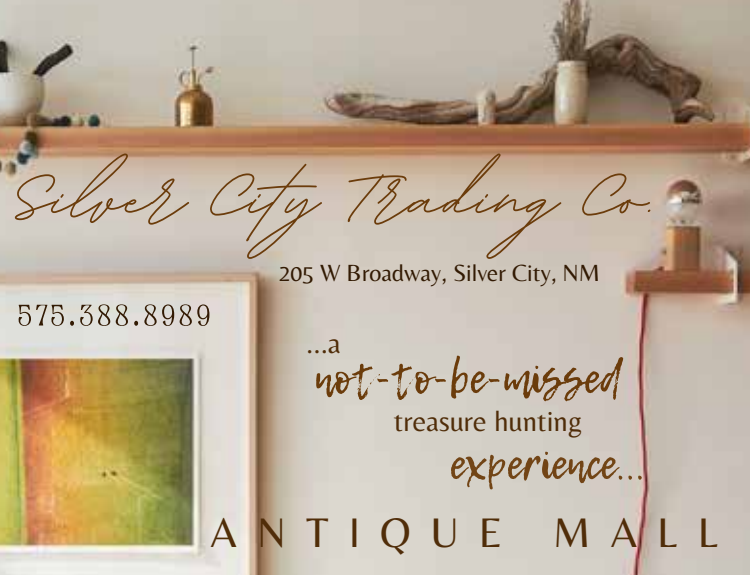
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CHEF

continued from page 7

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, gas-fired appliances have garnered increasing media scrutiny. But less discussed has been how the Covid-19 pandemic has compounded the risks of this pollution and how key regulatory agencies have lagged behind the science in acting to protect families. A recent peer-reviewed

study examined Covid-19 mortality data in more than 3,000 U.S. counties, and found that long-term exposure to elevated NO2 was correlated with a higher risk of death from Covid-19. The hazards now have a growing chorus of scientists and public health experts insisting that burning gas indoors has a health threat hiding in plain sight. The cumulative evidence was enough for the New England

Journal of Medicine to publish an editorial recommending that “new gas appliances be removed from the market.” Despite such calls and compelling evidence that gas appliances can produce levels of air pollution inside homes that would be illegal outdoors, indoor air quality remains largely unregulated in the U.S. Gas appliances still retain their deceptive reputation as “clean.” Across the nation, building codes

typically only require natural gas furnaces and water heaters to be vented outside. Look for signs of ventilation problems throughout your home including moisture condensation on windows or walls, smelly or stuffy air, dirty central heating and air-cooling equipment and areas where books, shoes or other items become moldy.

Unless it is part of your green home transition plan and you can afford the expense, it is perfectly reasonable to wait until an appliance wears out or down before replacing it. After all, it took resources to build that appliance and waste is waste. As with any home investment, choosing a new stove involves weighing both upfront costs and the long-term operating costs.

There are not dramatic cost differences between gas and electric ranges but shop around. If price tags give you pause, be sure to look online for Bob Vila’s article titled “7 Smart Tips for Saving Big Money on Major Appliances.”

Also, be on the lookout for existing and forthcoming consumer rebates and incentives to cover at least the partial purchase and installation of electric appliances. Check regularly online at the “Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency.” Incentives are designed to help put the country on a path to fully electrifying its housing stock and are calibrated to make sure the upgrade to electric appliances is no more expensive than a fossil fuel replacement, even before counting the subsequent energy bill sav-

ings. (Did you know that utility bills are the number one use of payday loans in the U.S.?) Federal investments to accelerate this market transformation are effective, equitable and necessary parts of the nation’s build back better efforts.

Finally, for my friend and fellow home chefs who spend hours cooking with their gas stoves, I recommend pursuing the “CA Pocket Guide to All-Electric Retrofits of Single-Family Homes.” It provides many tips, resources, and reasons for greening your kitchen and home. I know the plethora of reasons to switch from gas to electric are not a one-size-fits-all scenario but whether we realize it or not, we are all making the slow but steady transition from gas to electric vehicles. Maybe switching from gas to electric stoves will evolve in a similar fashion.

Footnote - A future article will cover induction cooking. If you own one, feel free to email me with your thoughts on its use.

Wendy Hamilton, Ed.D, NMSU emeritus professor, can be reached at whamilto@nmsu.edu. Hamilton’s science background has led to her interests in anthropogenic factors causing global warming. Having traveled extensively she has seen many examples of positive community climate stewardship.



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QUILT TALES • MIA KALISH

# Getting To Beauty

## A garden journey into a quilt

Many people, especially those who have been gifted with a gorgeous quilt, marvel at its beauty, warmth and softness, but don't often wonder, how did this come together?

Over the centuries, the technology by which quilt designs are shared has changed, from close contact with other quilters, to patterns in newspapers, to quilter-focused books and magazines and now to television and online videos.

In today's fast-paced world, one of the great masters of quilting design is Kaffe (rhymes with safe) Fassett, who went from painter to one of the most famous textile designers over the course of his lifetime. One reason for his popularity among quilters – and the recipients of quilts made with his fabric and quilt patterns – is his willingness to be bold, to design out-of-the-box and to share his ideas willingly and generously with others.

Some of this philosophy from his popular book “Glorious Knitting (1985),” worked for me as I was finishing a special anniversary quilt for my cousin's daughter and son-in-law. And I think this quilt turned out to be as unusual as some of Kaffe's quilts. Here's how it happened.

The happy couple are farmers in New Hampshire and my cousin had said, “Anything green



The Finished Quilt shows a section of the blueberry and light beige 9-patch center surrounded by the brightly colored fruits and vegetables of Farmer John's Garden Party and the Pastel Millefiore backing and binding. (Photos by Mia Kalish)

and they will love it.” While surfing the web for fabric options, I found Farmer John's Garden Party. It had raspberries, cherries, apples, lemons, oranges, and for veggies, green beans, mushrooms, onions and olives. It was not green, exactly, but very agricultural. I chose a pattern that was blocks of print fabric,” alternating with solids that might resemble an actual garden.

The center is what's called a 9-patch, three squares across, three rows down, made of blueberries combined with light beige squares. The fruits and vegetables were then combined with a soft green to surround the center for four additional columns on each side and five additional rows top and bottom. This rectangle was then surrounded by a border of alternating light beige and yellow and green fruits and vegetable squares.

And then, there was only one problem: to the Kaffe fanatic in me, the quilt just didn't look “alive.”

Kaffe's motto from “Glorious Knitting” came to mind as I regarded my poor baby with a quilter's dismay: “When in doubt, add 20 more colors.”



The chocolate Wilderberry Haus border adds pizzazz.

I was lucky enough to find Wilderberry Haus, in chocolate, from Alexander Wilder, designed by Nicole de Leon for Alexander Henry Fabrics.

This fabric is in the same theme as the overall quilt, but on a much smaller scale than the Garden Party prints, with little buildings that could be farmhouses or barns or cottages surrounded by a profusion of brightly colored flowers. It brought the quilt top to life, creating movement away from the static garden.

And then, inspired by my new changes, I selected Kaffe's wide back Pastel Millefiore for the backing, a totally wild selection considering the somewhat conservative top. I chose a spring green thread for the top and a bright cobalt blue thread for the back, finishing this queen-sized magnificence in flowery swirls on the longarm, a quilting machine designed to handle large pieces.

The quilt was finally finished on the day after Thanksgiving, complete with wool batting to protect against the New Hampshire winter chill, and posted north, arriving just in time for the first snowfall.

Mia Kalish lives in tiny San Miguel, NM. She began sewing couture clothing at 16 and became fascinated with the hugeness of quilting

about 5 years ago. Her favorite projects are lap and pet quilts. She sews on her Bernina 475QE. Follow her on Instagram @Joe'sRoomQuilts.

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### SILVER CITY

• **Grant County Art Guild Gallery Annex** is open for a drop-in workshop from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Feb 5. This workshop is for all ages. It's free and offers a large variety of materials. Also at the Annex this month is the **Artisans Market** on Saturday mornings and an art pop-up Feb. 12. The Annex is at 106 E Market, directly behind the **Guild Gallery**. The Gallery offers a large variety of fine arts and crafts in a wide range of price points. It is located at 316 N Bullard Street, in Silver City. Hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day. Info: gcag.org.

• **Light Art Space**, 209 West Broadway in Silver City, is showing an exhibit called "Living near the Borderlands: Photographic Imagery by Grant County Photographers." This will be an in-person exhibition in the North Gallery Feb. 4-March 5. A reception will be held Friday, Feb. 4. Info: 520-240-7075, [www.lightartspace.com](http://www.lightartspace.com).



Work by Isadora Stowe

• **The Western New Mexico University McCray Gallery** highlights **Isadora Stowe** through Feb. 17 as the guest artist for the **Edwina & Charles Milner Women in the Arts Lecture & Exhibit Series**. Stowe is a New Mexican based multimedia artist whose work focuses on the narrative of environment translated and coded into complex psychological landscapes. Info: 575-538-6273.

### DEMING

• February 2022 at the **Deming Art Center** features **Deming High School** art students after a 2 two year break due to Covid 19 restrictions. The center is located at 100 S. Gold St.,

in Deming, and is open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 or [www.deingarts.org](http://www.deingarts.org).

### ALAMOGORDO

• **New York Art & Music Studio** at 1120 New York Ave. in Alamogordo, represents around 40 artists ranging from traditional to contemporary styles in many mediums. The gallery has musical instruments for sale and offerings for art and music classes and event hosting. Info: 575-430-1306.

### MAGDELENA

• **La Posada de Maria Magdalena Art Gallery**, 902 First St. in Magdalena, is featuring a retrospective exhibit of work by **Louis DeMayo** (1926 - 2016). A contemporary and friend of R. C. Gorman, DeMayo is considered a trailblazer in the realm of contemporary southwest art, abolishing the stereotypes of what the viewing public considers Southwestern. This exhibit

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includes original signed acrylic paintings, lithographs and serigraphs. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and by appointment. The exhibit runs through May. Info: 910-297-9904.

LAS CRUCES

• **The Mandrake Fine Art Gallery**, 501 E. Hadley Ave. in Las Cruces presents “**Sweet Dreams**,” a show of multimedia serigraphy collages by **Anne Q. Anne Q.** Is an artist, designer, and printmaker based out of Las Cruces. her work explores themes of mental and physical dystopia using a combination of analog and digital mediums. The show opens with a reception from 5-0 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11 and will be on view through April 1. Info: 646-345-1169.

• **Mesquite Art Gallery**, 340 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, has a reception for Santa Fe artist, **Carolyn Lamuniere**. 4-6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4. The exhibit continues through Feb 26. Lamuniere’s oils on canvas feature many old adobes in the Mesquite



Mesquite 1898 Adobe by Carolyn Lamuniere

Street Historic District (with a few from Mesilla added for good measure). Info: 575-640-3502, www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

• **The Erotica 2022** art show takes place in February with an opening reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11 and the exhibit open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 12 and 13. The media runs the gamut, as it encourages artists to venture outside their comfort zones, after all, this show is about comfort zones and pushing artistic boundaries. The show takes place in a private home at 3390 Apple Cross Place in Mesilla Park. Info: 575-202-7981.

• A deep appreciation of farm and ranch life in New Mexico

is the impetus behind a new art show at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** in Las Cruces. “**An Enchanted Vision: The Artistic Celebration of Farming and Ranching in New Mexico**” features the artwork of artist Sue Nichols. The show will be on display through March. The museum at 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Info: 575-522-4100.

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the his-



Wall art by Patricia Black



Wooden basket by Richard Spellenberg

toric Fountain Theatre features two local artists for the month of February: **Patricia Black** and **Richard Spellenberg**. Black is a gourd artist and watercolorist. Spellenberg is a botanist, and has written several books directed toward the amateur who is interested in plants of the Southwest. His medium, wood, is a continuation of his scientific endeavors. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• **The University Art Museum (UAM)** at New Mexico State University presents **Nikesha Breeze’s “Four Sites of Return: Ritual, Remembrance, Reparation”** and “**Reclama-**

**tion and Remembered Landscapes: The Sacred Space of Home**, new works by **Jackie Mitchell Edwards**,” two site-specific exhibitions of commissioned and existing works and public programming. Both installations showcase Black, indigenous and people of color – New Mexico-based artists who partake in real and imagined searches for ancestral lands and black futures through the creation of projects that include acts of research, resilience, resistance collecting and ritual. Both exhibitions are on view through March 5. The UAM is open noon-4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. UAM is in Devasthali Hall, 1308 University Ave. in Las Cruces. Info: uam.nmsu.edu.



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ON SCREEN • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# William H. Macy back for LCIFF

## ‘Shameless,’ ‘Fargo’ star discusses acting, storytelling, future

William H. Macy does not remember playing a truly evil character.

The actor, perhaps best known for his parts in the movie, “Fargo” (1996), and the streaming show, “Shameless” (2011-2021), will be in Las Cruces March 3 for the Las Cruces International Film Festival and is looking forward to coming back to New Mexico.

He said he has played weak guys, like Jerry Lundegaard in “Fargo,” and ruthless guys like Walt Price in “State and Main” (2000), but it is the actor’s task to “humanize the character and be a champion of that character regardless of who that is,” he said.

“The vast majority of terrible things come from weakness or delusion or mental illness,” he said. “I played rascally, and corrupt guys and I really like them. I certainly like playing Frank in ‘Shameless.’”

Macy said he doesn’t like violence in movies and has gone as far as taking a political stand against incredibly violent roles. He believes the “completely fake” gratuitous violence hurts the world.

Macy’s experience with New Mexico is reflected in the comedy “Wild Hogs” (2007), a movie he loved doing and is especially

fond of. Macy and his co-stars, John Travolta, Martin Lawrence and Tim Allen, played a group of suburban biker wannabes looking for adventure who get more than they bargained for.

“Oh, my lord we had a good time,” he said. “We were riding motorcycles. It was liberating, efficient and athletic. I loved the film; it had so much heart to it”

He said the mountains of New Mexico were spectacular and called it “magnificent country.” Many of the crew members came from the state and they always do a good job. And Madrid, the town much of the movie took place in, was the “cutest place,” he said.

Macy said he has been an actor his entire life. He is married with two children.

“I love to tell jokes,” he said. “I love funny, I am an optimist and a serendipitist.”

Macy said, as an audience, we have all grown up watching television and film and have been told thousands of stories.

“We are sophisticated in stories,” he said. “If the audience gets ahead of you, it’s death. If the climax has an unexpected twist, you have a good script, and if then, you can put another twist, you too can have multiple homes.”

When “Shameless” ended,

Macy thought he would retire, but it didn’t exactly work out that way. He said he wants to spend more time at his Colorado home, but he does still want to keep working, probably even doing another film starting in February.

For now, he is working as a “spokes-dude” for Woody Creek Distillery in Colorado and writes little tunes for his ukulele, which he loves to play.

At this year’s Las Cruces International Film Festival, Macy is to receive the “Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment” award and will be present to accept it. On March 3, he will screen his Academy Award-winning film “Fargo” at the Allen Theatres Cineport at 7 p.m. and host a question-and-answer session with the audience. Earlier that afternoon, Macy will speak at New Mexico State University about his long and esteemed career. After the screening, at the LCIFF VIP Party at the Amador Bar & Grill he will receive his award.

Tickets and updated Covid protocols are available at [www.lascrucesfilmfest.com](http://www.lascrucesfilmfest.com).

“Theater is one of the places you go to learn the truth,” Macy said. “It’s an amazing way to make a living.”



Actor William H Macy and his ukulele. (Courtesy photo provided by Mark Kleckner)



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# The Art of Kitty Care

## Steffanie Mininger loves cats – all 40 of them

They come from places like Lordsburg and Cotton City, others arrive from Tucson and beyond. “It started out with a friend who needed a home for a stray cat and a neighbor with a litter of abandoned kittens, so I took them in,” said Mininger who has fostered dozens of felines over the years.

“But the need has grown so much,” said Mininger of her home shelter in Cotton City. In recent years, she began to follow social posts, to respond to calls about homeless cats and abandoned ferals. “The animal shelter is open again in Lordsburg,” said Mininger as she cuddles 2-month-old kittens in her lap. “But I follow media posts and there’s such a need for foster homes.”

At her house, cats are cared for, nursing kittens are bottle-fed and some of the homeless or injured are brought to her home – no questions asked.

In recent years, she partnered with volunteer and feral expert Kim Tankersley, who likewise has a heart for homeless or injured felines with or without kittens. “She gets calls about feral cats or people will post notes about helping them, so that means going to the location and trying to trap, neuter and then release (TNR) again.”

She houses a handful of ferals in a storage barn that doubles as a “cattery.” Her temporary adoptees need bags of kitty food, cat litter and sometimes, veterinarian care with bills that add up.

Still others are domestic cats needing a forever home. Today, you can find up to 30 cats who live in and hover around the house, around the barn, free-range cats who she believes are compatible with the multiple ducks, chickens, goats and four dogs that live in harmony with her family.

“When it got to ‘snowballing’ in numbers, was when the local shelter closed (this past year) – and I took in at least 15 more cats over a six-month period.”

According to Roxann Randall, former Lordsburg City Council member and shelter volunteer, the need grew with the closure and the lack of an on-site Animal Control Officer (ACO). “Unfortunately, there were a lot of animals running around Lordsburg,” Randall said. “Before that we tried our best to return dogs and cats to their owners, or do an adoption; find a foster home, or (if needed) to transport them to another rescue,” said Randall of time period 2015- 2019.

“The location was good, but the building was in need of upgrades from ceilings and plumbing, to electrical, heat and air-conditioning systems.”

“The county needs foster-families to help with animals wait-



Steffanie Mininger and family Priscilla, 10; Luke, 14; Steffanie; Ben, 12; Doug, 11; and Isaac, 9, are part of a network of rescue families who care for homeless cats, kittens both domesticated and feral. (Photo by Dawn Aerts)

ing for adoption, or those going to another rescue...In some cases it’s a time issue, so fosters can save a life.” Mininger, Randall and (rescue volunteer) Kim Tankersley often work with groups that rescue, place or find temporary homes.

As a rescue volunteer, Mininger also worked with Tankersley on feral cat abandonment and much-needed spay and neutering issues. “Sometimes, that project involves orphaned kittens left to starve under abandoned homes or finding them

beneath trailers,” Mininger said.

“The trap, neuter, return (TNR) work isn’t easy. It involves a ‘stakeout’ in order to secure a cat or to find her kittens by using food bait in a carrier – It can take hours or days to do that. Once a feral cat or (kittens) are secured, they may need medical treatment or a veterinarian,” said Mininger of a closet well-stocked with tiny bottles, antibiotics, Gerber jars and bandages.

You never know what you might find with a rescue.

“We have people who want

to help with cat rescues or they are part of smaller organizations that post online,” Mininger said. “But we haven’t had an open facility in Lordsburg, so I partnered with Tankersley on taking in homeless cats from this area and from places near her home in Tucson.”

Spring is a “season of need” for homeless animals.

“It’s so important that people get their pets spayed and neutered – especially the female cats. We’re pretty remote and a poorer community, but places like the High Desert Humane Society can help with some of that cost.” She refers to coupons available (SNAP) to help defray some of the cost; and the Furry Friends of Lordsburg who can assist with the plight of homeless animals.

Randall, who worked with the Lordsburg shelter and budget, often assisted with donations, kennels, staffing and setting up a network of fosters and volunteers. In 2016, she secured a PetSmart Grant of \$30,000 to spay, neuter and vaccinate animals in Hidalgo County. But those funds have likely run out.

Austin Cannon, the new animal control officer (ACO) in Lordsburg, will open the doors to the Shelter Monday through Fridays and will work towards finding an animal’s owner, an adoption or a foster home.

“My main goal is to maintain the shelter, give the animals care and to find the owners,” Cannon said of leashed or collared dogs.

### DONATIONS

Donations can be made to High Desert Humane Society, Silver City, or to Mininger’s Kitty Cottage, a 501c3 at thewhimswitch@gmail.com.

Cat food, litter and other supplies for the Lordsburg Animal Shelter can be dropped off at the administrative office in care of: Animal Control Officer Austin Cannon. Interested volunteers or foster families can call 575-313-6572.

“The groundwork for foster care was laid, repairs were handled, but we need volunteer help, people to assist, to walk dogs on a Saturday or consider a donation of food or supplies.”

Volunteers help with everything from kennel care and feeding to socializing pets. “It takes a lot of coordination to find an open rescue, they often run full, and there’s need for volunteer drivers to transport them,” Randall said. “One employee can’t do it all.”

Mininger and her children enjoy caring for cats in need a good home and they hope to add a “whimsical” kitty cottage to their acreage: “I’m looking for someone to adopt my two smallest kittens, Bonnie and Clyde – They deserve to have a forever home.”

# Silver City Territorial Charter Day Urban Challenge Fun Run

Saturday February 12, 2022

Sponsored by Silver City MainStreet, the Town of Silver City, Copies on the Run, and Western New Mexico University

WHERE

Downtown Silver City, NM, approximately a 5K  
Start and finish: Start under the Downtown Arch on Broadway St, finish at the Market St. Walking Bridge  
Entry Fee: 3 cans of food to be donated to the WNMU food pantry and the Grant County Food Pantry

WHEN

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022 Race time: 9:00 am

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration - To be sure to get a t-shirt in your size mail to Silver City MainStreet by February 1, 2022. Race day registration: 8:00 am next to the Murray Ryan Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson St.  
For more info contact: 575-534-1700 or scmsinfo@silvercitymainstreet.com

FEATURES

The first 100 registered participants will receive a t-shirt to be picked up on race day at the registration table.  
Medals for the first 75 participants to cross the finish line. Fluids will be provided on the course and at the finish line. Markers and volunteers will direct the course through downtown.



GILA TRAILS • MELISSA GREEN

# Ready for Adventure

A new year, outdoor opportunities

Now is the time to plan adventures for 2022. We have so many outdoor opportunities in our area. Below, we highlight a few recently improved trails. For a list of additional trails improved in 2021, check out: [www.gilatrailsinfo.org/2021-trail-accomplishments](http://www.gilatrailsinfo.org/2021-trail-accomplishments).

**Railroad, Crest and Gallinas Trails – In the Black Range near Emory Pass**

This popular creek to crest to creek loop, which starts at Railroad Canyon Campground, was affected by the 2013 Silver Fire. Some sections burned hot while others still support mix conifer. Thanks to Gila BCH, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance who worked on these trails in May 2021 and a Montana Forest Service Trail Crew who



Hiking to work on the Flying V Trail. (Photos by Mary Dowse)

continued the work in October. Over 800 logs were removed in addition to other trail work. Be aware of the high intensity burn areas since logs are still falling at a rapid rate in these sections.

Due to its popularity, this trail will likely receive yearly maintenance. Funding for this trail project was thanks to National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and Forest Service funding

**Flying V Trail #706 – North End of the Gila Wilderness**

The Flying V trail is on the northside of the Gila Wilderness is near Aeroplane Mesa Campground and within an hour of Snow Lake. The trail travels through open grassland with expansive views, then flows into Pinion /Juniper until it drops steeply into Flying V Canyon with open ponderosa canyon bottom leading to the Middle Fork. This trail can be used as an out and back, or as a part of a loop when connecting it with other trails recently maintained. See trail cleared map at [www.gilatrailsinfo.org/trails-cleared-map](http://www.gilatrailsinfo.org/trails-cleared-map) to know what other trails have been recently worked.

The trail work in October 2021 improved from the trailhead to the Middle Fork Trail addressing over two decades of deferred



Blazing a tree on the Flying V Trail.

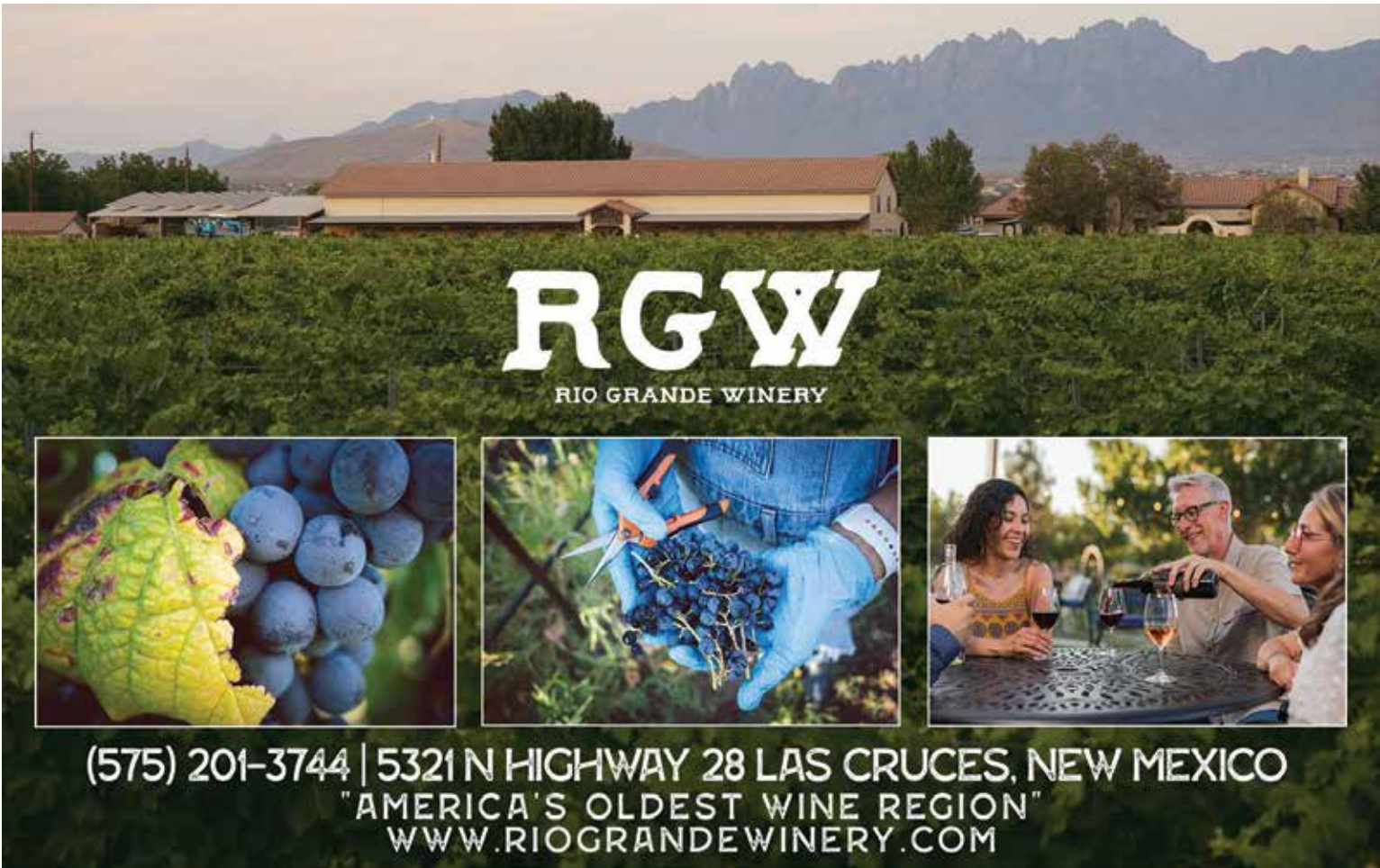
maintenance. Gila BCH plans to work on the remainder of the Flying V Trail which connects with the Trotter Trail. Stay tune. Thanks to the Forest Service, through the Great American Outdoors Act, for covering expenses for this trail project. Note: the 2-mile side road to the Flying V trail is only suitable for high clearance vehicles or bikes.

For more information about these 3 trails, check out [www.gilatrailsinfo.org/desert-exposure](http://www.gilatrailsinfo.org/desert-exposure)

As always – trail conditions can change at any moment. So, travel at your own risk.




**Future Trail Projects**

Highlighting Gila BCH: Trail projects organized by Gila Back Country Horsemen (Gila BCH) are open to all trail users. No membership or horse required. Our trail volunteers are hikers, bikers and equine riders. Each group focuses on their strengths and together we are more effective and efficient at opening trails. Melissa Green and Gerry Engel are the current leaders of these Gila BCH trail projects. Learn more: [www.gilabch.org/trail-projects](http://www.gilabch.org/trail-projects). The spring 2022 trail project schedule is posted.



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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# What’s going on in February?

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](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com); Desert Exposure 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call Elva at 575-680-1978.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 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.  
**Paint Nite: Vibrant Bouquet**— 6 p.m. at the Picacho Peak Brewing Company, 3900 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces. Info: [hello@yaymaker.com](mailto:hello@yaymaker.com).  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Middle Eastern Dance Class** — 5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Cost: \$5 over 65 and \$8 under 65 donation to Otero Arts. Info: 575-442-3029 or [claudia@tularosa.net](mailto:claudia@tularosa.net).

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers** — 1-3 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. square dancing and refreshments. Info: 575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842.  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 4**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**“The Colored Museum”** — 7 p.m. at the University Art Museum, 1308 E. University Ave. Written by George C. Wolfe and presented by the Be Group, The Colored Museum

consists of 11 satirical “exhibits” of **African American culture** – from the depths of the Celebrity Slave Ship to the spinning heights of Harlem. Info: 575-646-2545.  
**“Little Miss Sunshine”** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: [lcctnm.org](http://lcctnm.org).  
**“Radium Girls”** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. The shocking true story of female flinfo: 575-523-1223.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 5**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Silver City Farmer’s Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at Pope Street and College Avenue in Silver City. Info: [silvercityfarmersmarket.info](http://silvercityfarmersmarket.info).  
**Artisans Market** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 106 E. Market Street, Downtown Silver City behind the Grant County Art Guild Gallery. Info: [annex@gcag.org](mailto:annex@gcag.org).

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Golden Gears Car Show** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at White Sands Mall, 3199 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-491-9804.  
**Gun and Knife Show** — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-8681.  
**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: [farmersmarketsnm.org](http://farmersmarketsnm.org).  
**Saturday Night Standup Comedy** — 8 p.m. at the Hemporium New Mexico, 700 E First St. in Alamogordo. Joe Rodriguez & Carlos Castorena bringing the laughter. Info: 575-323-1117.

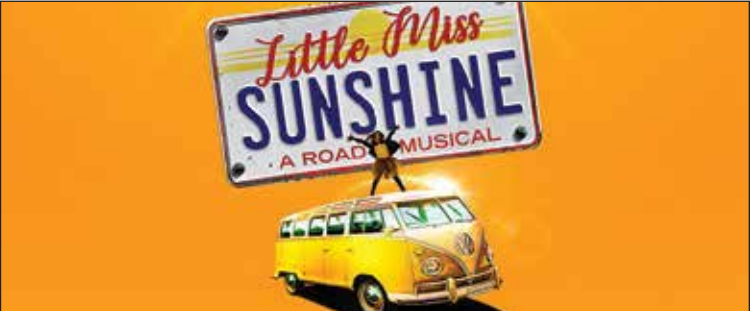
**Socorro County**  
**Community Arts Party** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Finley Gym in Socorro. Hands-on Arts Workshops for all ages for free. Food for sale by the gym and bake sale by Socorro Coop Nursery. Info: 575-835-5688.  
**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Art Hop** — 6-9 p.m., downtown Truth or Consequences. Info: [director@torcmainstreet.org](mailto:director@torcmainstreet.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/Dona Ana County**  
**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.  
**“Little Miss Sunshine”** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: [lcctnm.org](http://lcctnm.org).  
**“Radium Girls”** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1223.


**SUNDAY, FEB. 6**  
**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Story Lab: “Parts Unknown”** — 1-2 p.m., at T or C Brewing Company, 410 N. Broadway, T or C. Info: 360-628-4499.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Southern NM Cinderella Pageant-Dona Ana County** — 9 a.m. at Alma d’Arte Charter school, 402 W. Court Ave.

**40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS**  
continued on page 16



“Little Miss Sunshine” at the Las Cruces Community Theatre.



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## New Mexico Senior Olympics

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Visit [www.nmseniorolympics.org](http://www.nmseniorolympics.org) for Game Schedule in early ’22

*“You don’t stop playing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop playing!”*



40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
continued from page 15

in Las Cruces. For girls and young ladies from newborn to 29 years old and boys newborn to 6 years old. Info: 850-461-9173.  
"Little Miss Sunshine" — 2-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: lcctnm.org.  
Valentine's Book Lovers Book Signing and Sale — 2-4 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Society Social Center, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. The Las Cruces Writers Group is bringing 13 authors together for

this event and they cover many genres from fiction to non-fiction and young adult books. Info: las-cruceswritersgroup.org.  
"Radium Girls" — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1223.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County  
Paint Nite: Lover Birds — 7-9 p.m. at Lost Hiker Brewing Company & Taproom, 2536 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso. Info: hello@yaymaker.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9  
Alamogordo/Otero County

Ranch House Tour — 10-11:30 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, 409 Dog Canyon Road. Info: Katherine.german@state.nm.us.  
Middle Eastern Dance Class — 5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. L. Cost: \$5 over 65 and \$8 under 65 donation to Otero Arts. Info: 575-442-3029 or claudia@tularosa.net.

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, FEB. 10  
Las Cruces/Doña Ana County  
"Radium Girls" — 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1223.

FRIDAY, FEB. 11  
Las Cruces/Doña Ana County  
"Little Miss Sunshine" — 2-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: lcctnm.org.  
"Radium Girls" — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1223.

SATURDAY, FEB. 12  
Silver City/Grant County  
Territorial Charter Day Fun Run — 9-11 a.m. start under the Downtown Arch on Broadway Street. Approximately a 5K event, ends at the Market Street Walking Bridge. Cost: 3 cans of foods to be donated to the WNMU food pantry and Grant County Food Pantry. Info: 575-534-1700.  
Artisans Market — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 106 E. Market Street, Downtown Silver City behind the Grant County Art Guild Gallery. Info: annex@cgag.org.

Alamogordo/Otero County  
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmers-marketsnm.org.  
Science Saturday — 10 a.m., at Pizza9 in the White Sands Mall, offered by the New Mexico Museum of Space History. "Put Your Spin on Space Art" and learn how stars are born in a giant gas cloud, then use special spinners to create a nebula. Info: 575-437-2840, ext. 41132.  
New York Avenue History & Ghost Tour 1900 to Present — 10:30 a.m. starting at the Roadrunner Emporium, 928 New York Ave. which was built as a bank in 1900. Led by Historian Chris Edwards. Info: 707-880-6238.  
Gerardo & Chocolate Buffet — 7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Cuban born guitarist Gerardo plays an array of compositions from many genres. Each ticket to this performance includes access to a decadent buffet of chocolate. Info: 575-437-2202.

Socorro County  
Big Band on the Rio Grande — 7:30 p.m. at the Macey Center, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro. Playing the

big band music of the past. Info: 575-835-5688.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County  
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/Doña Ana County  
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.  
Pet Vaccination Clinic — 9-11 a.m. with Action Program for Animals, 537 N. Solano Drive. Info: apalas-cruces.org.  
Paint Nite: Love Garland — 1 p.m. at Boba Café & Cabaret, 1900 S. Espina St., Las Cruces. Info: hello@yaymaker.com.  
"RON" Talk, what it takes to summit the world's highest peaks — 2-4 p.m. at the Picacho Peak Brewing Co., 3900 W. Picacho, Las Cruces. Retired mountain climber and double doctorate Dr. Ron Lautenbach talks about his personal and professional experiences in summiting the world's highest mountain peaks. Presented by Southwest Expeditions. Info: 877-808-6877.  
"Little Miss Sunshine" — 2-4 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. When 10-year-old Olive Hoover learns she is qualified for the Little Miss Sunshine contest the entire family sets off in their VW camper van for the trip from Albuquerque to California. Info: lcctnm.org.  
Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra's POPS concert — 7:30-9 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 Horseshoe at NMSU, Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-2601.  
"Radium Girls" — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. The shocking true story of female factory workers who contracted radiation poisoning from painting watch dials with self-luminous paint and what they had to endure when they sued their employers. Info: 575-523-1223.

SUNDAY, FEB. 13  
Las Cruces/Mesilla  
"Little Miss Sunshine" — 2-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
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When 10-year-old Olive Hoover learns she is qualified for the Little Miss Sunshine contest the entire family sets off in their VW camper van for the trip from Albuquerque to California. Info: lcctnm.org.  
"Radium Girls" — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1223.  
Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra's POPS concert — 3-5 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 Horseshoe at NMSU, Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-2601.

MONDAY, FEB. 14  
Silver City/Grant County  
Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m. at Cross Point Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. The speaker is Melody Collins from the Museum Bookstore. Cost: Lunch is \$12. All singles are welcome. Info: jimccord@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 15  
Las Cruces/Dona Ana County  
Paint Nite: Pop Valentine — 2 p.m. at the Bean of Mesilla, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla. Info: hello@yaymaker.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16  
Alamogordo/Otero County  
Ranch House Tour — 10-11:30 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, 409 Dog Canyon Road. Info: Katherine.german@state.nm.us.  
\*Middle Eastern Dance Class — 5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Long time dance teacher Claudia Powell offers this class. Cost: \$5 over 65 and \$8 under 65 donation to Otero Arts. Info: 575-442-3029 or claudia@tularosa.net.

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, FEB. 17  
Las Cruces/Dona Ana County  
Paint Nite: Owl Love — 6 p.m. at the Picacho Peak Brewing Company, 3900 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces. Info: hello@yaymaker.com.

FRIDAY, FEB. 18  
Silver City/Grant County  
"Spring Blooms in the Southwest: Not Just Creosote Bush" — 7-8 p.m. via Zoom with the Gila Native Plant

Society. Free and open to the public. Info and Zoom link: gilnative@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla  
Kids Can Give Back Day — 8 a.m.-noon at El Caldito Soup Kitchen. An opportunity for families and children to volunteer their time helping in the community. Info: 575-527-8799.

SATURDAY, FEB. 19  
Silver City/Grant County  
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at Pope Street and College Avenue in Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket.info.  
Artisans Market — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 106 E. Market Street, Downtown Silver City behind the Grant County Art Guild Gallery. Info: annex@gcag.org.

Alamogordo/Otero County  
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmersmarketsnm.org.  
Cloudcroft Winter Festival — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Burro Avenue in Cloudcroft. Info: 575-682-2733.  
Paint Nite: Radiant Tulips — 7-9 p.m.

at the Picacho Brewing Company, 902 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Info: hello@yaymaker.com.

Truth or Consequences/  
Sierra County  
Polar Bear Plunge 2022 — 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Elephant Butte Lake Damsite Marina. An annual jump into the frigid waters of the lake. First jump is at high noon. Free chili dog lunch is served. Info: 575-894-2073.  
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/Dona Ana County  
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.  
The Museum ROCKS! Gem & Mineral Show — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. An event that brings together wholesale and resale dealers of cut and uncut gemstones, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry and jewelry-making supplies. Info: 575-522-4100.  
Candle-Lit Haunted History Tour at the Courthouse — 7-9 p.m. at the old

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
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courthouse, 251 W. Amador Ave. in Las Cruces. Southwest Expeditions provides a guided, walking tour through the “Grand old Lady,” to experience firsthand the areas in the building that paranormal investigators have documented paranormal activity. Info: 877-808-6877.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**  
**Las Cruces/Doña Ana County**  
**The Museum ROCKS! Gem & Mineral Show** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the New

Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. An event that brings together wholesale and resale dealers of cut and uncut gemstones, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry and jewelry-making supplies. Info: 575-522-4100.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 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.  
**The reunion Beatles: “Get Back”** — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande The-

atre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Info: www.riograndetheatre.org.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Middle Eastern Dance Class** — 5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Long time dance teacher Claudia Powell offers this class. Cost: \$5 over 65 and \$8 under 65 donation to Otero Arts. Info: 575-442-3029 or claudia@tularosa.net.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers** — 1-3 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. square dancing and refreshments. Info: 575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 25**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**“Let’s Rock Broadway” starring the Diamonds** — 7 p.m. at the Western New Mexico university Fine Arts Center Theater. The Grant County Community Concerts Association presentation features hits from favorite Broadway musicals like “Jersey Boys,” “Grease,” “Mamma Mia” and “Motown.” Info: 575-538-5862.

**Socorro County**  
**Eileen Ivers Band** — 7:30 p.m. at the Macey Center, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro. Ivers has established herself as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today. Info: 575-835-5688.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 26**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Artisans Market** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 106 E. Market Street, Downtown Silver City behind the Grant County

Art Guild Gallery. Info: annex@cgac.org.

**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**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.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmers-marketsnm.org.  
**William Lee Martin Off the Leash Comedy Tour** — 7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center of Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202.

**Deming/Luna County**  
**CHANCES fundraiser Dinner, Dance and Art Auction** — 6 p.m. at 200 Friar Santa Maria Ave. SE in Deming. Proceeds are for screening and educating women in Luna County about the dangers of alcohol and other drug use during Pregnancy. Cost \$50 or \$90 for two. Info: 575-694-0383.

**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, FEB. 27**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**William Lee Martin Off the Leash Comedy Tour** — 3-4 p.m. at the Flickinger Center of Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202.

**MONDAY, FEB. 28**  
**Truth or Consequences/**  
**Sierra County**  
**Sierra County Rock & Gem Society** — 6 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center

Auditorium, 480 W. Fourth St. in T or C. Members should bring a stone or mineral beginning with the letter J and be prepared to share information about it. Info: 929-916-1299.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Pet Vaccine Clinic** — 5-7 p.m. at 1211 Cuba Ave. in Alamogordo. Register before 4 p.m. Rabies, distemper/parvo, Bordetella, rattlesnake and cat vaccines. Info: 575-434-4343.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Ranch House Tour** — 10-11:30 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, 409 Dog Canyon Road. Info: Katherine.german@state.nm.us.  
**Middle Eastern Dance Class** — 5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Long time dance teacher Claudia Powell offers this class. Cost: \$5 over 65 and \$8 under 65 donation to Otero Arts. Info: 575-442-3029 or claudia@tularosa.net.

**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.  
**Las Cruces International Film Festival** — 7 p.m. at Allen Theaters Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces. This five-day festival features independent film screenings in multiple categories, panels and workshops. Info: lascrucis-filmfest.com.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**  
**Las Cruces/Doña Ana County**  
**Las Cruces International Film Festival** — 7 p.m. at Allen Theaters Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces. This five-day festival features independent film screenings in multiple categories, panels and workshops. Info: lascrucis-filmfest.com.


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THE STARRY DOME • BY BERT STEVENS

# Eridanus, the River

## Flowing across the southern sky

Flowing from half-way up in the southern sky downward reaching below the southern horizon, the river Eridanus is the sixth largest constellation in the sky. This constellation runs from just north of the celestial equator all the way south the almost 58 degrees south, the longest vertical constellation in the sky.

Eridanus is a classical constellation, listed by Ptolemy in his Almagest, as part of his list of 48 constellations. The name was coined by Greek poet Aratus living in south-central Turkey. Around 277 B.C. he wrote the astronomical poem Phenomena which listed many of the constellations including Eridanus. Ptolemy listed it as Potamos, Greek for river. The name Eridanus was more popular in star catalogs and

atlases going back to at least 800 A.D. and it became the official name of the constellation in 1922 when it was accepted by the International Astronomical Union as part of the list of eighty-eight constellations.

The brightest star in Eridanus is also the southernmost bright star in the constellation. It is only six tenths of a degree north of Eridanus's southern boundary. This star is so far south that it appears in our sky for less than two hours each day. Known as Achernar (Alpha Eridani), this is the sixth brightest star in the sky, shining at magnitude +0.4. It is a blue spectral class B3, with a mass of 6.7 of our Suns. It is 139 light-years away and it is about 37-million years old.

Achernar (Arabic for "The End of the River") spins very rapidly,

turning once every 2.1 days. This causes the equator of the star to bulge outward 56 percent further from the star's center than the poles. This makes the star appear like a squished basketball. It also has a secondary star, spectral class A2, orbiting it at a distance of slightly further than Saturn orbits our Sun.


There are a number of small galaxies in Eridanus. Astronomer studying galaxies take special images that spread the light out into its different colors. To isolate the different colors, the light is passed through a slit, to keep the colors from overlapping. The resulting image (called a spectro-

gram) spreads the colors just like a rainbow, from red through yellow, green and blue. Glowing gas gives off light in specific colors. In the rainbow spectrogram, these glowing colors appear as lines in

the image. This process is called spectroscopy and provides much information about the galaxy.

STARRY DOME  
continued on page 20

Calendar of Events – February 2022 (MST)		
03	3 p.m.	Mercury stands still
04	Noon	Saturn passes the far side of the sun
08	6:50 a.m.	First quarter moon
12	3 p.m.	Venus greatest brightness
12	6 p.m.	Mars seven degrees south of Venus
16	9:56 a.m.	Full moon
16	2 p.m.	Mercury greatest distance west of the sun (twenty-six degrees)
23	3:32 p.m.	Last quarter moon



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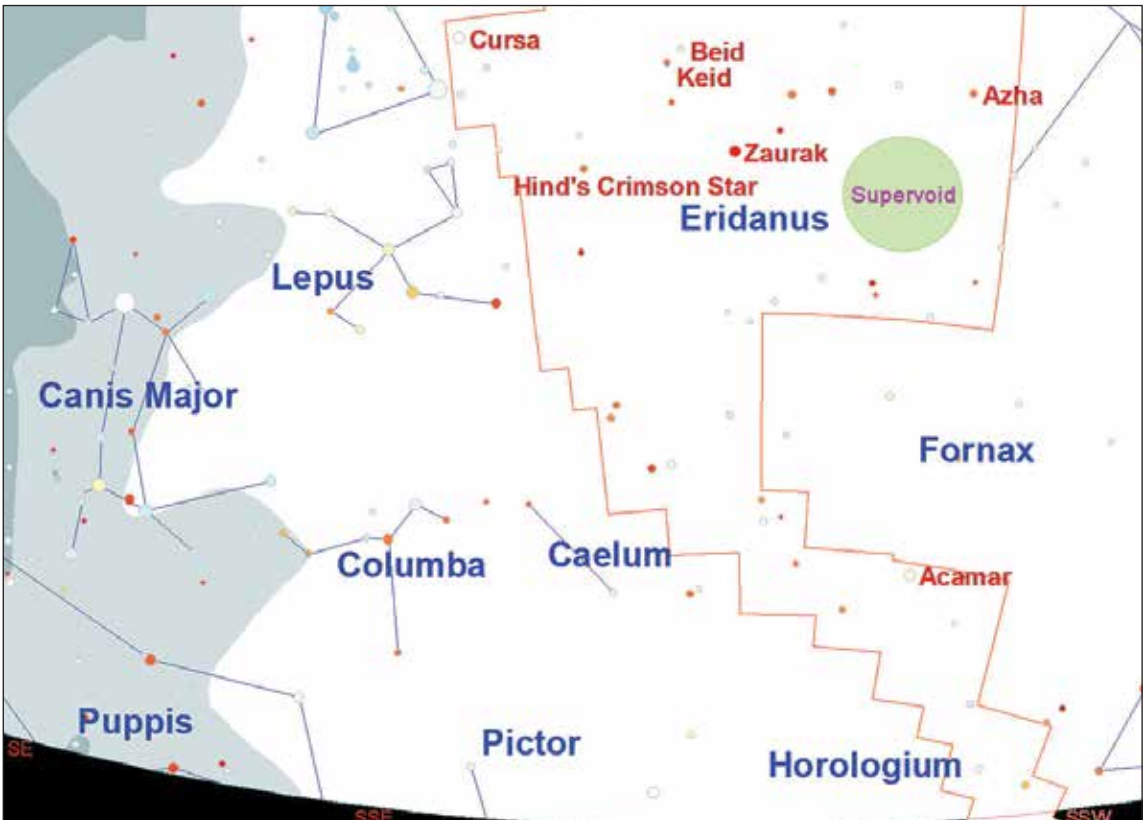
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Occupying a large part of the southern sky, the constellation Eridanus, the River, flows southward down to our horizon and further south. This constellation is the sixth largest constellation in the sky. It's brightest star, Achernar, is at the southern end of the constellation, only in the sky during daylight this month. Hind's Crimson Star has a large amount of carbon in its atmosphere which filters out much of the blue light. This makes the star very red. The amount of carbon in the atmosphere varies, and with it the brightness of the star. This star's magnitude runs from +5.5 to +11.7.

STARRY DOME  
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Spectrograms compare the bright lines from the galaxy with those produced here on the Earth from the same gas. The amount the line from the galaxy shifts compared to the line produced on Earth depends on the speed the galaxy is moving. If the galaxy is moving toward us, the line shifts slightly toward the blue end of the spectrum. If the galaxy is moving away from us, the line shifts toward the red end. The faster it moves, the more the line shifts.

As more and more galaxies had their spectrograms taken; astronomers were surprised to find that virtually all the galaxies had a red shift. They all appeared to be moving away from us, no matter what the galaxy's direction. This led to the conclusion the all the galaxies were moving apart. The only way this could happen is if the fabric of space between the galaxies was expanding. This conclusion led to the Big Bang.

Because the universe is expanding, the space between Earth and the more distant galaxies had expanded more than closer galaxies, so distant galaxies appear to be moving away from us more quickly. The higher apparent speed, the greater the red shift. This allows the amount of red shift to be a measurement of the distance to the galaxy. By

measuring the position of the galaxy in the sky and its distance (from the red shift), astronomers can build a three-dimensional map of the universe.

In the southwestern corner of the northern rectangle of Eridanus NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) found a five-degree wide "cold spot" in the microwave radiation left over from the Big Bang. This area corresponded to a lack of galaxies in the maps astronomers put together. It is the second largest void (about a billion light-years across) in the known universe after the Giant Void in Canes Venatici.

This supervoid is likely similar to smaller voids that form the bubbles in the sponge-like structure of the universe. The material of the sponge is composed of groups of galaxy clusters that form the walls surrounding the voids. Exactly why galaxy clusters form into walls to create a void is still a mystery that astronomers are working to solve.

**The Planets for February**  
Jupiter will be visible in the evening sky for only the first few weeks of the month before it sinks into the Sun's glow. On Feb. 1, it will be 16 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. It sets by 7:33 p.m. Shining at magnitude -2.1, the King of the Planets' disc is 33.6 seconds-of-arc across. Jupiter is moving eastward in central Aquarius.

The Goddess of Love is now in the morning sky, not far from Mars. At midmonth its disc is 38.7

seconds-of-arc across and it is a 28 percent illuminated crescent shining brilliantly at magnitude -4.6. Venus rises around 4:15 a.m., reaching 22 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it gets light. It moves eastward in north-central Sagittarius.

Seven degrees south of Venus, Mars is moving eastward as well from central to eastern Sagittarius. Rising around 4:30 a.m., Mars is 17 degrees above the southeastern horizon as dawn breaks. The God of War's disc is just 4.5 seconds-of-arc across and it shines at magnitude +1.3.

Mercury makes an appearance in the morning sky this month. It reaches its greatest distance from the Sun on February 16 when its disc will be sixty percent illuminated and it will be 6.9 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude +0.0. Rising around 5:15 a.m., the Messenger of the Gods will be 10 degrees above the east-southeastern horizon as it gets light. During the month it moves from eastern Sagittarius to eastern Capricornus.

Saturn is still too close to the Sun to be visible this month, but next month it will be in the morning sky along with Mercury, Venus and Mars. Get up early and enjoy the morning "planet party" and "keep watching the sky"!

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



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# New Beginnings

A time of change

We have witnessed, in the last couple of years, many people facing extreme hardships. Fires have consumed whole towns with thousands of homes being destroyed. Thousands have become homeless and face starting all over again. Covid-19 and the new variants Delta and Omicron have taken about 850,000 lives in the U.S. For many, the results of these hardships and deaths have left people in the situation of having to start over – to begin again. Often with the absence of a loved one or with the absence of all of one’s belongings or both. Some new beginnings and startovers happen because of circumstances beyond our control. For some people, new beginnings happen when a person or a family feels a change in their life is necessary. They find their current life is going nowhere. They are stuck in a dead-end job. Their everyday life has become stagnant and dull. There may still be love, but joy has gone out of their life. For some, a new beginning is a fearful and exciting start of a new adventure. I think of those brave souls who started west in a covered wagon. A chance for a new life but having no idea what that life might be. It could end with thirst, starvation and even death, or it could end with the building of a homestead where their new life flourished. In a sense, my family and I were like those people heading west in a covered wagon. My wife and I and our two daughters moved into a school bus and headed west from Maine. Not be-

cause we weren’t doing well in Maine. We had a successful printing business in Bar Harbor, an incredibly beautiful place to live. We just felt there was something missing in our lives. We didn’t know where we would end up or if we would know anybody when we got there. At the time, we were thinking of Homer, Alaska as the place to go. But, after traveling 3,000 miles we found ourselves in Silver City, New Mexico. We didn’t know a single person here, but we ended up building a new life. We have never had any regrets with our choice to leave Maine. Silver City, for us, was a true new beginning. A personal new beginning for me was the time I came out as a gay man. I was so afraid to come out of the closet. I thought I would be harassed, beat up and become a ridiculed and despised person. All that happened. But at the same time, I met a lot of new friends – friends that understood me, and friends I could trust. I became a drag queen in Boston. I can say it was one of the truly happy times in my life. And, later when I came out as being transgender, right here in Silver City, I was shunned and rejected by everyone I knew. I’m sorry to say, but these people were “Christians.” At that time, I was a devout Christian, and my life centered around my church and Christianity. I still love Jesus but not as a deity, but as an archetype of how we should live in this world. Now, when it comes to doctrine, I distrust any belief system that teaches their way is the only way. Yes, it was a difficult time. I think it was

the most difficult time of my life. I sat in my apartment stared at the wall and just wept. After a while, I begin to venture out and experience life. Now, almost 15 years later, I am again living one of the happiest times of my life. I think I have had many of the “happiest times in my life.” Each time it was a new beginning. Each time it was terrifying, and each time my life became better. I think all my new beginnings have made my life spiritually richer and more fulfilled. On the other hand, there are people who will do everything they can to avoid a new beginning. That is to make a profound change from their status quo. There are people who believe they are comfortable with everything staying the same – no changes. These people will have many rational explanations for why they avoid change. But the bottom line, no matter what they say, is fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of change. All change is stepping into the unknown. Without people risking change – venturing into the unknown and starting a new beginning, we would still be living in caves huddling together in the dark of night fearing all the nighttime noises. Making that step into a new beginning is the reason we have music, art, plays, inventions, cars and trains. Almost every major change was accompanied by fear, by people who tried to prevent it from happening because it was different from the status quo. Did you know that when trains were first invented, there were laws passed making it illegal for a train to go faster than

a horse could run? Many people are forced into new beginnings against their will. People who have lost their families and homes through fire, floods, hurricanes, tornados and even war had to face a new beginning. For those who embraced their new beginning, they often

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
continued on page 23



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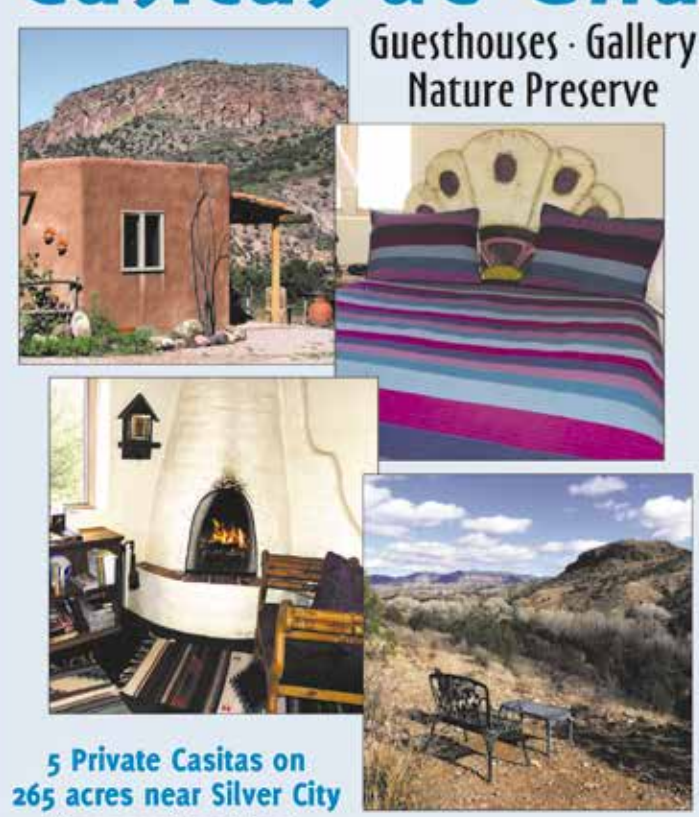
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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings.

We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what

meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up to

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



**GRANT COUNTY**  
**Silver City**  
**ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.  
**BIRDWELL'S VINTAGE VIBES**, 808 N. Bullard St. 956-6467.  
**CACTUS JACK'S**, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L.  
**CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only.  
**CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D.  
**CORNER KITCHEN**, 300 S Bullard St., 590-2603.  
**COURTYARD CAFÉ**, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.  
**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.  
**EINSTEIN BROS BAGELS**, 1000 W. College Ave.. 538-6555.

**DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.  
**FORREST'S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m.  
**FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D.  
**GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.  
**GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D  
**GRINDER MILL**, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.  
**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.  
**KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.  
**LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.  
**LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.  
**LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT**, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.  
**LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY**

**& DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Monday to Sunday L D.  
**MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D.  
**MINT CHIP CREAMERY**, 2340 601 N. Bullard St. in the Hub 575-597-8272.  
**PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.  
**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.  
**REVEL**, 304 N. Bullard St., 388-4920. Elevated comfort food. Weekdays LD, weekends BD, closed Wednesdays.  
**SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: Daily L D.  
**SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson St., 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D.  
**TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.  
**TRANQUILBUZZ COFFEE HOUSE** 300 N. Arizona St. 575-654-2057.  
**WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.  
**W&Z ASIAN BISTRO AND SUSHI BAR** 1740 US HWY 180 575-956-6219

**Bayard**  
**EL BURRITO CALIENTE** 106 Hurley Ave., 575-537-3967  
**FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP** 1108 Tom Foy Blvd.  
**M & A BAYARD CAFÉ** 1101 N. Central Ave., 575-537-2251  
**SPANISH CAFÉ** 106 Central Ave., 575-537-2640

**Cliff**  
**TAMMY'S CAFÉ** 8414 Highway 180, 575-535-4800.  
**DUCK CREEK CAFE**, 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"

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**THE PATIO** 100 Cortez Ave., 575-537-4938  
**Mimbres**  
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**BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE** 32 Main St., 575-538-9911

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
**Las Cruces & Mesilla**  
**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.  
**ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.  
**ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.  
**AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.  
**THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.  
**A BITE OF BELGIUM**, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily B L.  
**BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D.  
**BRAVO'S CAFÉ**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.  
**BURGER NOOK**, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding greenchile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.  
**BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.  
**CAFÉ DON FELIX**, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**CHACHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Locust St.-A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D., 505 Joe Gutierrez St., Doña Ana.  
**CHILITOS**, 2405 S. Valley Drive, 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.  
**CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.  
**DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, 245 N. Main

St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D.  
**PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.  
**DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.  
**DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D  
**DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.  
**EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.  
**ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.  
**FARLEY'S**, 3499 Foothills Road, 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.  
**FIDENCIO'S**, 800 S. Telshor Blvd., 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.  
**THE GAME BAR & GRILL**, 2605 S. Espina St., 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.  
**THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL**, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263, Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D.  
**MEZCLA**, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: BLD.  
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**GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.  
**GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D.  
**HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D.  
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# We're All in This Together

## A terrifying day, a plea for respect

Over the past two years of a pandemic, partisan politics and climate disasters, where nobody seems to agree on anything, there's one phrase you've probably heard more than once. "We're all in this together."

It's a plea for some sanity, respect, compassion or empathy in our daily lives. A plea for understanding that almost everything we do in our lives has some effect on other people, the animals that live with us or the planet.

Sadly, for me at least, you only have to watch a little TV news or observe a day's worth of human behavior to come to the conclusion that too many just don't see things this way.

A recent frightening experience made me realize just how far out of touch we've become with understanding the possible consequences of our actions and attitudes.

Back in November I was out on a wonderful ride on my horse. She doesn't have a lot of trail experience, but she has a great mind thanks to her bloodlines and amazing early training from her breeder. We always ride alone. We were on a narrow trail that was new to her. The trail was maybe a bit over 2 feet wide with a steep drop off of several hundred feet on one side, and an equally steep upslope on the other. As with many trails in the woods around here, the trail was lined with trees, rocks, cactus, and yuccas. In other words, no place to go if anything went south. As a dominant mare she seemed unfazed by the terrain and actually was enjoying seeing something new for a change.

As we were coming to a blind turn, she suddenly froze, eyes fixed straight ahead. I didn't see or hear anything but after all these years of training horses I

know her senses are far better than mine. I relaxed in the saddle and gently stroked her withers. Out of nowhere, an aggressive dog came running around the corner straight at us. My horse jumped a bit and started to spin.

But, with no place to move to deal with this surprise, my horse's hind quarters went off the trail to the downside. There was nothing I could do to help her as she scrambled to try to keep us from going over and falling hundreds of feet. There was also no way for me to dismount without risking serious injury or worse. I held on to her neck, trying to keep all my weight forward and prayed she wouldn't flip over backwards. I know a rider who was killed in exactly this situation.

I still don't know how she did it, but with more than half her body off the trail and the two of us starting to fall, she somehow managed to get enough footing with her frantic scrambling to get us back up on the trail. I immediately did an emergency dismount without blowing out an ankle or knee, and instinctively grabbed my get down rope as I was coming off so I would have some control over her when I landed. We both stood there, I think each of us knowing how close we came to our last ride. There was blood on her hooves from her efforts to save herself.

As we stood there looking at this dog, exactly what I expected to happen happened. A couple came around the corner, holding the dog's leash in their hands, having no idea what just happened, and uttered the phrase all horse people love to hear – "Oh, my dog loves horses."

Having come so close to what would have surely been a fatal fall for me or my horse, I was about to really lose it, but restrained myself, knowing people

are on edge these days, and many of them are armed. So, I calmly tried to make two points.

First, whether your dog "loves" horses is irrelevant. The real issue is whether the horse, a 1,000-pound flight/prey animal, is OK with dogs. My horse grew up with dogs and has no problems with them at all, but a surprise of any kind out of nowhere is going to cause most horses to pay attention and maybe get silly. The horse doesn't know it's a dog until he gets to size it up visually. You should never, ever assume any horse is OK with dogs. You're putting your dog at risk – have you ever seen what happens when a horse kicks a dog – not to mention the horse and the rider. In a tight space, maybe yourself as well.

So far, the conversation was going well. I could tell these people were new arrivals to the area, probably Covid refugees as I like to call them, but they seemed to understand my point.

Then I lit the fuse by pointing out that they couldn't possibly be on this trail without having passed several signs saying that all dogs must be leashed. That did it. Out came the "You can't tell me what to do. I have a right to walk my dog however I want. Maybe you shouldn't ride on this trail or you should train your horse better (gee, I've only been training horses for 25 years), etc. etc." End of conversation, no Christmas cards would be exchanged.

So much for we're all in this together. I took my horse, walked past them (my horse, of course, put his nose down to sniff the dog, like hey, what's your name), checked her out, mounted up and finished an almost great ride.

Here's my point from this little slice of my life. We have a lot of open space in our small piece of the universe here in Silver, but we also have a lot of people out

there. If you're on foot, maybe it's smart to take off the headphones or ear buds and listen to nature, or just as importantly, what might be coming around the corner. If you're walking with your dog, remember there are plenty of people afraid of dogs, many horses see them as predators and there is always a chance of a dog-on-dog confrontation. A mountain biker surprised by a dog can get into trouble pretty quickly as well. So maybe keep your dog with you and under control.

Same for bikers. If you want to blast, pick your spots where it's clear what's ahead of you. Slow down for corners. Listen for obvious sounds of hikers or riders. Remember: We have a lot of seniors here who aren't so steady on their pins anymore, react slowly and maybe don't hear so well, so cut them some slack when coming up behind them or encountering them head on. Lose the ear buds.

And riders. We have equal responsibilities. Don't have your rides be a gabfest where you're not paying attention to signals from your horse or listening for sounds of other people enjoying the trails. If you want to ride fast,

pick clear and open spots. Make yourselves known and heard. If you have a dog with you, remember what could happen if that dog surprises someone else. Take the time to do a little education if you encounter someone with zero knowledge of horse behavior and how best to interact with them on the trail.

We're very lucky to live here and have access to such beautiful country. But that also comes with a responsibility for making sure we understand what we do out there and how we interact with other people and animals can have serious consequences.

You may not want to think this way in the rest of your life, but when you head out into nature, for everybody's enjoyment and safety, act like we are, actually, all in this together.

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



### NEW BEGINNINGS

continued from page 21

did well and would even come to believe their experience was a blessing in disguise. For those that resented the change, grumbled and complained and resisted the new circumstances, they never got to experience a new beginning, and often their lives ended in poverty, both materially and in spirit.

Why is it that for so many people change is so difficult? Perhaps it has to do with where they put their faith – what they have faith in. So many people put their faith in their possessions, their money and their social status. Or they put their faith in their abilities, their intellect, their strength, and their good health. All these things can be lost in the blink of an eye through a change of circumstance.

For me, I put my faith in a higher power. I put my faith in love. The love I feel in the oneness of all things. The love I feel for my friends and the love I feel from my friends. And the deep and abiding belief that I know that I am loved.

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



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**Tobi**  
hound mix male 1 half year old

**Sponsor  
a pet in this  
space.**

**Contact  
Desert Exposure  
at 575-524-8061**

SPONSORED BY  
**Monika and John**



**Merrily**  
lab heeler mix female 1 year

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**Las Cruces Bulletin**



**Brownie**  
pit lab mix male adult

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**Desert Exposure**



**Slippers**  
domestic short hair, female  
2 to 3 years old

SPONSORED BY  
**Las Cruces Bulletin**



**Chatty Cathy**  
domestic short hair, female  
4 to 5 years old

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**Life is Good Silver City**



**Scooch**  
domestic short hair, male, 1 year

SPONSORED BY  
**Charis Mosely**



**Elsa**  
shepard mix, female, 10 weeks old



**OUR PAWS CAUSE THRIFT SHOP**

703 N. Bullard, SC NM, Open Wed-Sat 10am to 2pm, 575-313-1929

**Donations needed! We want to expand and build a new Adoption Center. Please help.**

**To JOIN THE PET PAGE CONTACT DESERT EXPOSURE AT 575-524-8061**