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Garden Truths

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DECEMBER 2022

Volume 27 • Number 12





PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK . RICHARD COLTHARP

Desert Light

Celebrating people who brightened our paths

Tts liminal quality was captivating."

That quote was frequent Desert Exposure contributor Vivian Savitt describing the mist on the island of Mull off the coast of Scotland.

She could have just as easily been describing herself, or any of us, really.

Liminal comes from the Latin root "limen," meaning on the threshold.

When Vivian's elegant phrase was published in Desert Exposure about a year ago, she could not have known she herself was on the threshold, on the precipice of something new and unexpected.

Vivian passed away recently, her liminal qualities taking flight.

Those qualities filled her prose on many of these pages over the years, touching many readers.

Her meticulous, caring nature, her astute observations, we can only hope, found ground in at least some remaining souls here as she left.

Desert Exposure recently lost another contributor of sorts, a distributor, to be more accurate.

In the bed of Nancy McCauley's well-worn white Toyota pickup, you could always find some sorts of debris. Dirt, straw, magazines, chunks of wood.



Vivian Savitt

And sometimes you could find me in the back of that pickup, crouching to keep from hitting my head on the camper shell.

Nancy delivered Desert Exposures throughout Grant County every month for several years. Many of you encountered her smile and easy countenance as she popped in the local stores and businesses with the latest month's stack.

But before she could bring them to you, someone had to bring them to Nancy. Often that was me, driving a truck from Las Cruces to Silver City, and **Nancy McCauley**

meeting Nancy for the delivery of 60 or more bundles of Desert Exposures. Frequently, I would crawl inside that pickup bed to arrange and stack the bundles.

I had many conversations with Nancy the last few years, but here's the odd part. Two minutes after the very first conversation, I felt like I'd known her 50 years. She had that way about her, and when her daughter Tara told me Nancy was a popular Walmart employee, I was not surprised in the least. "Everybody in town knows her," Tara said. Which made me think, "If that's so, then

everybody in town likes her, too." She was definitely one of those people for whom, to know her was to like her.

Every business is defined by numbers: How many did you make? How much did you sell? What were your costs?

But every business is also built by people. Those human building blocks can be counted but can't be quantified.

The skills Vivian Savitt and Nancy McCauley brought to help us build Desert Exposure could not have been more different. Neither one could have brought

the same passion, style and personality to the other's duties. Yet Desert Exposure could not have been the same without either one of those beautiful souls.

It's the time of year we should be thinking about others. And thinking about the beauty and joy some people bring to this often dark and ugly world. It sounds corny as can be, but sometimes all it really does take to make someone's day is a smile and a kind word or some grace and consideration.

Nancy seemed to be made wholly of smiles and kind words and Vivian of grace and consideration. And captivating liminal qualities.

Liminal qualities we all need whether we realize it or not.

Peace be with you all as we stand on the threshold of another year.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He'll be the

annoying guy whose overly loud Christmas music you'll be hearing from his vehicle in traffic.



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Located 9 miles north of Historic Downtown Silver City, this beautiful Contemporary home combines mountain living with modern conveniences. Nestled on 4 private wooded acres, this home offers views of the Gila National Forest and those southwestern sunsets. Custom alder cabinets, antler chandelier, juniper stairway and mantel, central vacuum with an auto-dustpan feature, and Pella Windows. A formal dining room, private office/4th bedroom and two primary bedrooms, one on the main floor with walk-in shower, and double sinks combined with a sitting area that can be used as an office nook, extra sleeping space or yoga mat. Downstairs is another private bedroom and great room/kitchenette and a two car attached garage. A must see for any enthusiast. MLS 39214. \$765,000



Move in ready, well maintained home. Great views from a top of this manufactured home subdivision. South facing windows provide great natural light to the main rooms of the home Owner has kept this clean, and updated. Schedule a showing to view. MLS# 39389. \$115,000





Business Opportunity! Located on the corner of Hwy. 180 and Pope Street. High traffic & visibility location. Front lobby with a private office. Previously was being used as a dry cleaners but has other business potential. Call today for a showing! MLS# 39252. \$225,000

Well maintained manufactured home in Oakwood Estates, 3 bd 2 ba home is 5 minute drive from Western New Mexico University or Downtown Silver City. Nice fenced in back yard w/ shed and a large screened in back and front porch. MLS#39360, \$225,000.



University area 4-plex in Silver City. One contiquous house with 4 units: 703 W. Market, 705 W. Market, 319 Black St. and 321 Black St. Three units currently occupied on mo. to mo. and 705 W. Market has always been a vacation rental 705 has had a long term tenant and her rent reflects that. All in excellent condition with offstreet parking, yard areas and all metered seperately for gas and electric. Can be sold completely furnished, inventory list will be provided per unit. Would make an excellent owner occupied property with income great income potential. MLS# 39383. \$375,000



Charming Southwest style home just minutes up Highway 15 from 32nd Street/ Bypass Rd. A TRUE 4 bedroom, 2 bath home plus an office with outstanding views. Split floor plan, large living room w/cathedral ceilings, large windows, formal dining room and on CITY water. Bathrooms have been upgraded with new Talavera sinks, tile countertops and decorative mirrors. New appliances (2021) including granite countertops and a hammered copper farmhouse sink. The yard has native landscaping, fruit trees w/a drip system and 2 greenhouses. Detached 1 car garage w/a workshop and storage. Lots of wildlife, privacy and RV access. Make an appointment today!! MLS#39351. \$488,500







Up on the high chapparral! 95+ acres with 360-degree views to the Black Range, Cookes Peak and the Kneeling Nun. Unrestricted with various sites available to build your dream home or getaway cabin. Electric nearby & well has been drilled. Interesting geologic area for rock hounding. Abundant wildlife. Short drive to the Gila National Forest, Bear Canyon and fishing at Bear Canyon Reservoir and Lake Roberts. Services available in Mimbres Valley ~ restaurants, gas station, clinic and post office. Silver City just 20 minutes away. Horses and livestock allowed. MLS# 39391. \$240,000

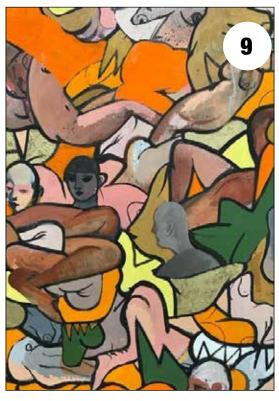


End of Mineral Creek Road lies a 120 acre iewel, bordering Gila National Forest, This unique property has all the water you've dreamed of, including irrigated pastures, an old orchard, all with a recently engineered and updated irrigating system ready to open up the flood gates. There are 11 acre feet 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# 39191. \$950,000

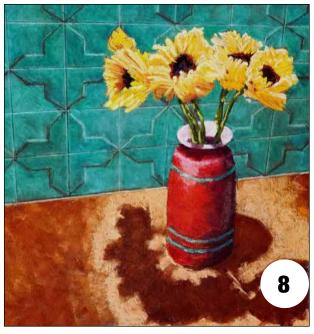
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ABOUT THE COVER:

"Cactus Flowers" by Jennipher Cunningham invokes the colors of the desert for the holiday season. Cunningham grew up basically feral on the back of a spirited, spotted horse exploring the the plains of Colorado and finding inspiration in scuffed knees and dirty hands. She studied every animal she could find, catch, and maybe cuddle. The love of animals and wild spaces inspired her paintings. She lives in Santa Fe now and paints every day.

Her work can be seen at the Dancing Dog Gallery in Tularo-



sa and on her website at www. jupiterjennyarts.com.

FACES OF DEMING

Marilyn Page has been one of the central energy sources for the Deming **Gem & Mineral Society** since moving to Deming in 2003. Her love of working with stones and gem quality minerals began in New Hampshire. Marilyn was attracted as a young girl to the "real" black and white granite readily found there. Now she puts her love of stones into sharing what she has amassed by teaching classes for children on the weekends, usually in jewelry making and small loom beading. The main activity for TDG&MS is the yearly spring **Round Up at the Deming** Fair Grounds, which has

been growing steadily since the club's beginning in 1965. The second activity is the guided excursions to the "Big Diggin's" where collectable rocks are there for the "pickin." Visit thedgmsclub.com to find out more about the club. (Photo by Stanley Sabre)



Desert #78 Dumbfounder

"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

"JE JH K WGOJXFENVO GYIGZJGLQG EP TPZR PL 'EFG XJUGZ' TJEF

EFJH GLEFVHJKHEJO KLW OZGKEJUG OKHE." - TGLWC HIVZXGPL, PL

HJOUGZ QJEC QPBBVLJEC EFGKEZG'H KOO-CPVEF QKHE.

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: "COOLER WEATHER DOESN'T MEAN AN END TO THE Congrats to #77 solvers: GARDENING SEASON. IF YOU LOVE GARLIC, IT IS PLANTED LATE IN THE SEASON BEFORE THE COLDEST PART OF WINTER." - BETTY LAMBRIGHT *Secret Words:"ICY GARDEN SUBPLOT"

Mike Arms*, Will Adams* Claudette Gallegos*, Skip Howard* David Pino*, and Sue Merrick!

December Deadlines

All stories and notices for the editorial section due Friday Nov. 18.

Space reservation and ad copy due Tuesday, Dec. 20.

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS . ABE VILLARREAL

Where Do You Come From?

Let people know what it means to you

nytime you tell someone where you are from, an impression immediate is formed about you. People always want to know who they are speaking to on a basic level, and part of that discovery is learning where someone comes from. His roots. Her beginnings.

When someone says, "I'm from the South," I start to think of accents and mannerisms. I can't help it.

The first time I went to New Orleans, I listened and watched, and learned my ideas of a Southern person were a little on point, and a lot off point.

Other people say they are from the city. They mostly say that when they are in places far away from the city. What do they mean when they say they

are from the city? I don't think it always refers to their physical residence but their way of life.

Sounds of cars honking, steam coming out of manholes, and people walking like they are always late for something. Coffee shops on every corner to help those late people get to where they are going. That's what I think about people when they say they are from the city.

Other people say they are from out-of-town. They say that to tell you that they are not from your neck of the woods, that they are there for a short time, just visitors. They give you permission to open up and share about your town with someone new.

Out-of-town people are loved and hated. Sometimes they are welcomed with open arms. Other times, an instant skepticism is sharing stories about its most fashaped about them.

Why are they here? What do they want?

Then there are people who say they are from a specific place like California or Texas. When they say that, they don't mention their hometowns. They mention a state. That's for a reason. They want others to understand them on a basic level. Most of us, being basic people, can understand what California or Texas means to us. Those words mean something to all of us.

I tell people I live on the border. It's easier than saying the name of my small hometown, which people don't recognize. It's easier than describing how far it is from the nearest big city, describing its population size, or mous and historic buildings.

I like to say I live on the border because of what that word means to me. It means beauty and desert. It means language and culture. It means commerce, trade, dialogue and partnerships. It means a certain kind of food and music. It means living between two worlds. Understanding two different kinds of people and ways of life. It's about balance.

When I say that I'm from the U.S.-Mexico border, I'm sure many images come to mind who have never lived here. Mental pictures of danger, of poverty, and people in need. Thoughts of drugs and violence. Ideas of people crossing back and forth in search of something.

Where we grew up, where we choose to live, is much more complex than the instant ideas others get when we answer the question, "Where are you from?"

I always answer that I'm from the border. It gives me the opportunity to share about the kind of life and traditions that are worth experiencing by others. And maybe, just maybe, help change minds and open eyes.

Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in America.He can be reached at



abevillarreal@hotmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Health security: more important than ever

t's depressing. Health costs are continuing to rise - im-Lpacting patients, employers, providers and the state budget. What can be done?

The Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign, a diverse coalition of 170 organizations and thousands of New Mexicans, has developed a homegrown solution.

The Health Security Act would enable New Mexico to create its own health plan that guarantees comprehensive coverage and freedom of choice of provider (no more networks) for most residents.

Three independent studies have concluded that this plan would dramatically slow health care cost increases, and that is due to more than the advantage of large enrollment numbers. There are countries, even small ones, that guarantee health coverage, spend far less than the United States, and have better health results.

What is New Mexico doing?

In 2021, the legislature allocated funding to the Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) to oversee the design of

the Health Security Plan.

The Health Security Act. which sets out guidelines for the Plan, does not provide the details about how the Plan will work. This is the purpose of the design process.

In 2022, more funds - close to \$800,000 – were allocated to OSI to continue working on Health Security policy solutions.

In May, Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino and Rep Dayan Hochman-Vigil shared with Insurance Superintendent Russell Toal a list of six topics that we and our legislative sponsors identified as critical to addressing rising costs. They seemed acceptable to Toal. They included conducting a cost analysis of the privatized Medicaid managed care program, gathering annual NM health expenditure data to evaluate the cost impact of any new policies that are implemented, and developing:

- a global budgets program for
- · a standardized payment sys-

tem for health professionals

- a program that lowers drug costs
- an inter-operational IT sys-

Based on public statements by Toal and Secretary of Human Services David Scrase, the administration is focusing on ensuring that more New Mexicans are able to receive coverage through Medicaid and beWell-

While important, covering more people will not address the key systemic problems of why costs (and premiums) are rising. It will not result in simplifying a complex system that frustrates providers and patients alike. In addition, focusing on current health care access issues should not preclude simultaneously moving ahead with long-term systemic solutions.

Last year, OSI did an excellent job of hiring experts who provided useful information, including options that should be pursued during this second year of de-

Unfortunately, there has been almost no discernible action on five of the six priority topics. (A request for proposals for a global budgeting study was finally released on September 30.)

New Mexico cannot afford to continue on the path of patching up a flawed system. Interim solutions are important, but costs will continue to rise unless we establish policies that enable us to take control of what has become an out-of-control system.

The design process provides an incredible opportunity for New Mexico to come up with a coordinated solution that will work for our state and our residents.

Let candidates know that they need to support the Health Security Plan design process.

Mary Feldblum, Executive Director, Health Security for New Mexicans Campaignwww.





Quaker Meeting for Worship is held Sundays 10:00am- 11:00am

If you are interested in online or in-person worship or more information, please contact us at (575) 590-1588.

fevafotos@gmail.com

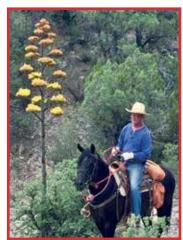
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RAISINGDAD . JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

Death & Other Minor Inconveniences

'Never ask anyone about anybody'

Lingry or not, my father insists on eating on a schedule. You know what that means? It means I eat on a schedule, too. HIS schedule. You wouldn't believe the pounds I've packed on as a result. Although, if I'm honest, women are the primary reason there's more of me to love. By women, I mean Betty Crocker, Little Debbie, and Dolly Madison. My beautiful wife doesn't think I'm overweight, though. Just six inches too short for my weight.

Getting back to my father, my wife's concerned he'll choke on something while eating, so she makes me join him as a sort of culinary bodyguard. This chore is less of a calling and more of a burden because my father likes to drone on about who's sick or has died. These conversations begin benignly enough— "Shouldn't you be mowing the lawn?" he'll say, confusing me with the guy who mows our lawn-and go downhill after that. Something as innocuous as my going to the store turned into a tale of woe.

"Be careful," he warned. "My friend went to Costco and ended up in the hospital. He went there for the free samples, because his wife doesn't cook anymore. 'I've cooked enough,' she told him. He fell in the dog food aisle. Which is funny, because he doesn't have a dog."

He stopped as if that was the end of the story.

"Did he break his hip?" I asked.
"I don't know, but now he can't walk. All because his wife

won't cook."

My grandson and I recently walked past an older gentleman in the Costco parking lot. He was squatting at the back of his car, fiddling with something under the bumper. His wife sat in the passenger seat.

We were only in the store for five minutes. Shopping doesn't take me long. Unlike my wife, I only go into a store to buy something, not to look for something to buy. On our way back, he was laying on the pavement.

"Are you okay?" I asked him.
"Can you help me up?" he said,

"Can you help me up?" he said, lifting a hand in my direction.

I did, and he thanked me. He explained he squatted down to do something but didn't have the leg strength to get back up. The harder he tried, the weaker his legs got, until they finally crumpled. Embarrassed, he laid there, hoping to build up enough

strength to try again.

"Will you be okay?" I asked

He assured me he would. His wife, meanwhile, never moved. She was probably preoccupied with the war in Ukraine. Walking away, I told my grandson, "It's always good to help people."

"Why didn't his wife help him?" he wanted to know.

"That," I told him, "is a good question."

Another time, I was walking behind an elderly couple. The lady had a cane and was having trouble walking, so her husband, who had walking issues of his own, held her by the arm to steady her. Unfortunately, he leaned into her so much she angrily pushed him away, snapping, "Stay on your side!" I felt sorry for him. He only wanted to help, but his age made him an annovance.

These kinds of annoyances are why I've made improvements to my father's bathroom. I'm trying to avoid a tragedy rather than react to one

He steps tentatively into his bathtub like an astronaut negotiating outer space, so I've put friction strips on the floor of his tub so he won't slip on the wet porcelain. I've installed shower handles for him to steady himself with, as well as a handle by his commode. He fought the idea at first, but has come to agree that life is easier with them. I've also installed a toilet-seat bidet. He swore he would never use it, but now, on hot days, I think he likes to go in there to give himself a spritz.

The thermostat has developed into a problem between us. He's always changing the temperature, and then denying he does it.

"Who raised the temperature?"

"Not me," he'll say.

But, really, who else can it be? I'm practically to the point of attaching a fake thermostat to the wall, and hiding the real one behind an oil painting, the way the rich hide their valuables in the movies.

Even though my father doesn't like talking on the phone, occasionally he'll get a call from a friend or relative. When he does, it sounds like a contest to win the title of Most Depressing. That's when I learned to never ask anyone about anybody. It's always bad news. The last time I did, I was told, "Haven't you heard? He's in jail for..." Well,

you don't want to know why he's in jail, but you might find a picture of it in Hunter's laptop. Better to be like my father and his cronies who can barely hear each other.

"Guess who died?"

"What?"

"Not what, who."

"Who what?"

"Just guess."

"I can't hear you!"

It's like listening to an Abbott & Costello routine.

A few months before my uncle died, he called my father.

"I have some good news and I have some bad news," he said.

"Give me the good news first," my father told him.

As soon as his brother finished telling him the good news, my father hung up.

"Why did you hang up?" I asked him.

"I'm too old to listen to bad news," he said.

Sadly, now that my father's learned to make the most out of life, it's almost gone.

I like my wrinkles. They cover my age spots. theduchenebrothers@gmail.



The Holidays are upon us!



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CALL: 575-541-7417

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BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD . WENDY HAMILTON

PowerUp With Electricity

Save money, increase well-being at January EXPO

PowerUp your home with electricity. Find out what this means by attending the first Las Cruces PowerUP Expo and Training, Jan. 20-21, 2023, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. This event, with over 50,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit space, will bring in exhibitors from near and far to showcase

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the latest electric home, building, and vehicle technologies. The PowerUP Expo and Training will also officially launch the Las Cruces Electrification Initiative.

When Congress recently passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), it provided every American with financial incentives to purchase electrical appliances and/or new vehicles (EVs). But, the cost savings doesn't end there. Following the purchase of any new electric appliance or EV, a family's utility and/or gasoline bills will decrease.

It is estimated that home utility bills will fall an average of \$1,800 per year (if previously using all fossil fuel powered equipment) when a home is fully electrified. Electricity incentives encourage people to replace worn-out gas-powered appliances and vehicles. That's good news for everyone and good news for the planet.

The PowerUp Expo and Training offers something for both business professional and families.

On Friday, professional trainings will be offered for employers, employees, independent contractors, and anyone wanting to upgrade their skills and understanding about what it means to go 'all-electric'. With the investment of a small amount of training, businesses in southern New Mexico and west Texas can create more demand for their products and increase their knowledge about the all-electric economy.

A list of professional trainings, times, and training registration information is available at the Las Cruces Convention

Mountain

Christmas Eve

\$36 per person

Lodge

Center website under Events or at meetinLasCruces.com. With only a \$20 registration fee you can attend the trainings, receive a box lunch, join the Expo & Training Opening Ceremonies, and connect with colleagues at the Friday evening Reception.

The public is welcome to attend the opening ceremonies beginning at noon on Friday and all day Saturday (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The entire event is free so bring your family and browse the latest electric appliances and exhibits, tour an all-electric trailer designed as a home, talk to vendors about appliance pricing and installation incentives, enjoy tasty recipes cooked on induction stovetops, meet and mingle with leading national electrification executives, get your questions answered, speak with neighbors who've already transitioned to electricity, and familiarize yourself with construction companies building all-electric homes in Las Cruces. Throughout the event brief talks and longer workshops will be announced and offered on topics including renter electrification, gas cooking health hazards, renewable energy, the electric grid, community solar, heat pumps, and many more

The event will be at the Las

New Year's Eve

\$80 per person

Cruces Convention Center on the corner of University Avenue and Union Road. It is co-sponsored by the City of Las Cruces, the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Center, El Paso Electric, Metro Verde Builders, Mitsubishi Electric, New Mexico State University, Doña Ana Community College, Nusenda Credit Union, and Trane. Builders, bankers, appliance experts, chefs, energy efficiency specialists, and homeowners will share advice on financing, rebates, home retrofits, and new all-electric builds.

The PowerUp Las Cruces Expo and Training will showcase the many ways electricity can have a positive charge on your life.

Meet the best appliances, talk with energy saving retailers, receive estimates for converting your living and working spaces to energy-reducing equipment, learn about green home loan and mortgage programs, and take home all the information you need to take advantage of discounts, rebates, and incentives to go all-electric. Find out about home energy audits to eliminate home energy leaks. Wander through a parking lot of electric vehicles, e-bikes and scooters to learn about the latest chargers, batteries, rebates, incentives, and savings.

The Las Cruces Natural History Museum will have children's activities to occupy the little ones while you mingle among the exhibitors.

There will be raffles for appliances, plenty of free information, and volunteers on hand to answer your questions. You might even discover yourself in the middle of a flash mob dancing to the Electric Boogie. A snack bar will be available to purchase food and beverages.

The PowerUp Expo & Training is designed to generate excitement and "buzz" about the availability and affordability of new electric technologies and demonstrate how we can all power our cars, heat and cool our homes, cook our food, dry our clothes, and heat our water, all while saving money.

Mark your calendar for Jan. 20-21, 2023, and plan to bring your entire family and friends.





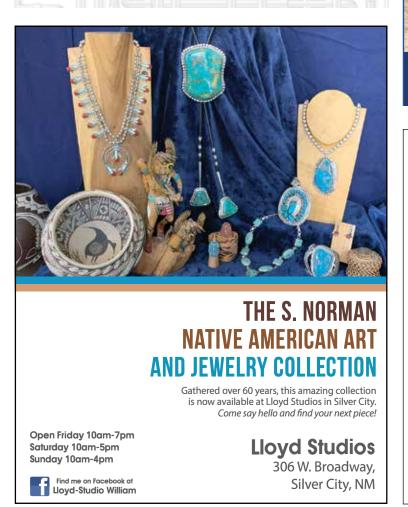
nmsu.edu. Hamilton's science background has led to her interests in anthropogenic factors causing global warming. Having traveled extensively she has seen many examples of positive community climate stewardship.

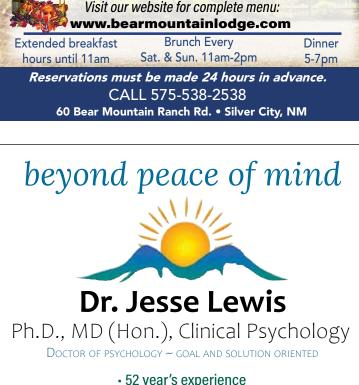


Sewing Machine and Serger *

service and repair.

Nice selection of 100% cotton quilting fabrics





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Christmas Day

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DESERT EXPOSURE DECEMBER 2022 • 7

QUILT TALES . MIA KALISH

Cryptography and Oasis

December Arts Council show focus on creative art quilts

t the beginning of this month, the Doña Ana Arts Council is presenting quilts in two wildly different themes, Cryptography, and Oasis, created by art quilt group 4 Common Corners.

Four Common Corners is composed of quilters who reside in the four states that meet in the famous Four Corners location, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. The group was organized a number of years ago by Vicki Conley, who lives in Ruidoso. Vicki is famous for her art quilt depictions of national parks. On a side note, the entire national parks sequence will be on exhibit at the upcoming Las Colcheras Quilt Show in Las Cruces in February.

Every three months, members suggest themes with the potential to explore the beauty of the Southwest, its mountains, deserts, cacti, hidden recesses; and its walking, crawling inhabitants, in the unique tradition of the art quilt. Two are chosen for the next show and the artists make their offerings that are then available for people to appreciate and fall in love with at one of the many galleries, museums and public venues around the country. The art quilts are as

t the beginning of this diverse and interesting as the month, the Doña Ana Larts Council is presentits in two wildly different diverse and interesting as the towns and cities where the quiliters live and equally as diverse as the Southwestern landscape.

Endemic to the Southwest are its hopes and dreams. In December's show, Cryptography, suggested by Michelle Jackson, of Sandia Park, fits that bill. A collection of hidden ideas, "secret writing," brought to the fore by artistic dreams, the collection includes titles such as "The World for the ASCII, Yes," and "Hidden in Plain Sight."

"Hidden in Plain Sight" by Bev Haring of Longmont, Colorado, was inspired by Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan, famous for his groundbreaking work in media theory.

"Inspired by McLuhan's quote 'The Medium is the Message' each of the six encoded messages on this piece is that quote" Bev said. "But in the end the real message is about the play of shape and color, no matter what the words are."

And McLuhan's ideas on the how tools evolved, beginning with our hands and progressing through the different creations that emerge from their power and skill are reflected both in

OASIS continued on page 8



"Hidden in Plain Sight" by Bev Haring was inspired by Marshall McLuhan's book "The Medium Is the Message." (Photo by Mia Kalish)



Mariachi Christmas Spectacular

DEC 16 | 7 pm | Fine Arts Center Theatre



Mariachi Plata de WNMU performing live with Ballet Folklorico Paso del Norte | \$15



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OASIS

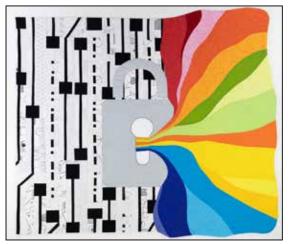
continued from page 7

this piece and in the two collections, where what the 4 Common Corners artists imagine in their minds and hearts takes form with hands, fabric, thread, needles and machines.

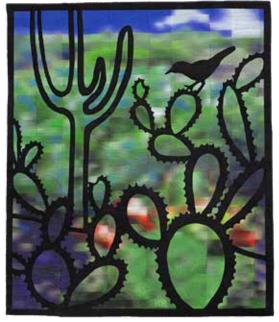
The dramatic contrast of black and white with a vibrant rainbow in "Imagine Color" portrays color's emergence from its modern representation in bits and bytes in keeping with the cryptographic theme of hidden messages but has a much deeper meaning.

"I thought a lot about how someone would/could acquire an understanding of color if they could not actually see it," Diana Fox said of her piece. "What would be the key that unlocks the mind's eye to the incredible world of color?"

The second theme, Oasis, is soothing. Vicki Conley's "Through the Garden Gate" speaks to the fertility of those glorious spots in the desert where life-giving water seeps – or sometimes even gushes and flows. The lush background composed by many small pieces of different hues of blue and green harken to the warmth of the Arizona winter,



This combination black & white/ vibrant color quilt by Diana Fox in the Cryptography collection posits the question: "What if you can't see color? How do you imagine it?" (Photo by Mia Kalish)



"Through the Garden Gate" in the Oasis collection by Vicki Conley reflects the tranquility and fertile vistas of desert oases. (Photo by Mia Kalish)

so different from the harshness of the Sierra Blanca mountains.

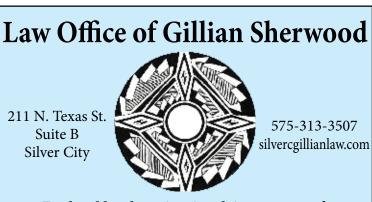
This month, we are fortunate to have them here in the Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery, 250 West Amador. Suite B.

The show opens on Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m., hosted by quilt artists Vicki Conley of Ruidoso and Nicole Dunn of Albuquerque, formerly of Los Alamos. This will be followed by a second reception on Saturday, Dec. 10, hosted by Lynn Welsch of Mimbres.

Mia Kalish lives in tiny San Miguel, NM. She began sewing couture clothing at 16, got away from it as life took over, and then became fascinated with quilting about 5 years ago.



Follow her on Instagram @Joe'sRoomQuilts.



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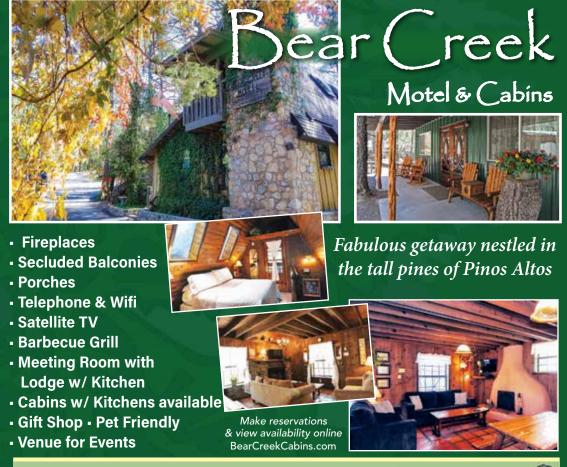
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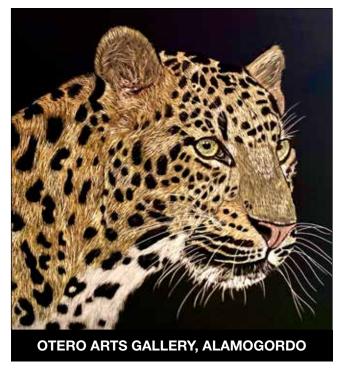
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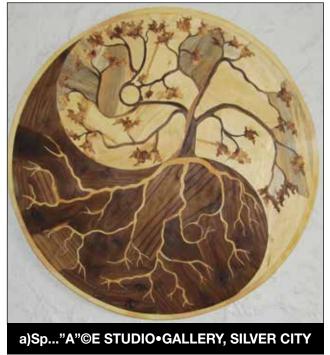


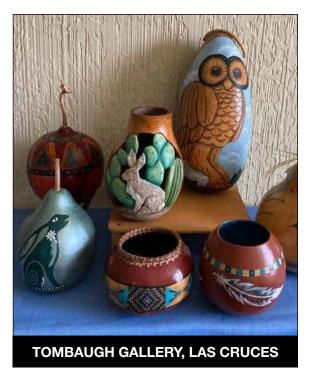
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DESERT EXPOSURE DECEMBER 2022 • 9







ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVAK. ÖSTERREICH

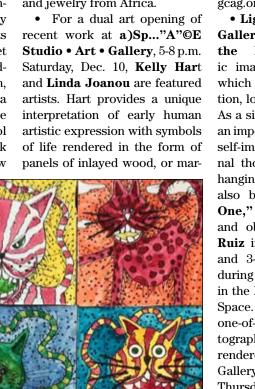
Art Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY

- Stewart Grange has created Krazy Katz in time for the holidays. What started with a neghbor's one-eyed cat expanded to a collection of reasonably priced fanciful Katz. Just a Little off the Wall Gallery, 4215 Pearce Road in Silver City is now home to all the Katz. Call for appointments. Info: 612-616-2843.
- From 5 to 7 p.m., Friday Dec. 2, Silver City's Aldea Gallery, 217 N. Bullard St. Downtown has a holiday opening event featuring a great selection of new fine art and folk art. New from fabric artist Donna Flenniken is a series of Low Rider quilted tapestries. Multimedia artist Brent Flenniken's newest work includes a collection of dragonfly paintings along with new prints of colorful Silver City street scenes and historic sites, including St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, the Buffalo Bar, Parade on Bullard Street and El Sol Theatre downtown. Other work in the gallery's holiday show

includes sculptures by James Stuart Kane; folk art by Nan Chalat-Noaker; prints by M. Fred Barraza; pottery by Kate Brown and ceramics by Susan Porter; paintings by Cynthia Carlson, Paula Manning-Lewis, and Susan Porter; heirloom quilts and hand-painted furniture by Donna Flenniken, and jewelry by four local artisans. In addition, for a limited time, Aldea is showing a private collection of Native American jewelry by Navajo, Hopi, Santa Domingo, Zuni, Lakota Sioux and Cochiti silversmiths and jewelers. From 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 a special trunk show is featured offering more of the private collection of Native American art and jewelry from Africa.



Krazy Katz by Stewart Grange can be found at Just a Little Off the Wall Gallery in Silver City. (Courtesy photos)

quetry. Joanou creates sculpture variations of recycled rubber bicycle tubes, yarn and cast bronze. The dual exhibits are up through January. The gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday and is at 110 W. 7th Street, Silver City. Info: 575-538-3333.

• The Grant County Art

• The Grant County Art Guild, now over 50 years old, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase art awareness in the community. On display at the gallery will be the art of over 35 local artists working in a wide range of mediums. The GCAG Gallery is located at 316 N Bullard in Silver City, in the historic Hester House (Look for the big purple building). Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day. Info: gcag.org.

• Light Art Space Fine Art Gallery features "Navigating the Internal," photographic imagery by Karen Hymer which explores themes of isolation, loneliness and body image. As a single woman over 60 with an imperfect body, Hymer makes self-images to navigate her internal thoughts and feelings. Silk hangings and gilded prints will also be on display. "One-of-**One.**" hand-made photographs and objects d'art by Carmen Ruiz includes her photographs and 3-D photographic objects during the month of December in the Flash Gallery of Light Art Space. Ruiz art includes unique, one-of-a-kind, hand-printed photographs of the world around her rendered in varied techniques. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday and by appointment. Info: 520-240-7075.

DEMING

• December is the time for the annual **Holiday Gift Boutique** at the Deming Art Center Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, (closed Christmas Day). The boutique runs from Dec. 2-30, and there will be a time to meet the artists from 1-3

p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4. The Art Center is located at 100 S. Gold St., Deming. Info: 575-546-3663 and at www.demingarts.org.

ALAMOGORDO/ TULAROSA

• Jennipher Cunningham, from Colorado and, more recently, Santa Fe, is the featured artist from through Christmas at the Dancing Dog Gallery in Tularosa. Affordable art for the adventurous art lover can be found Tuesday-Saturday at the Dancing Dog Gallery, 313 Granado Street in the Arts District. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Info: 575-585-2228 or sunny@dancingdog.art.

• Otero Arts Inc. and Cloudcroft Art Society (CAS) have partnered for an exhibition of a group of CAS artisans and fine artists for a Holiday Gift Show. The exhibition will begins with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at the Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. Lyn Canham, pastelist; Lynda Brugman and Chip Greenberg, photographers; and Winston McInnis, scratchboard nature artist are among those who will be showing their work. John Tieman creates wooden hangings appropriate for the holidays. Nancy Apprill, Ella Olson, and Janet **Amtmann** will have paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel. Several artists have art cards and matted artwork for sale. Info: 575-434-2238.

CLOUDCROFT

• The Cloudcroft Art Gallery has many works of art and juried crafts ranging from paintings in all media, fine art photography, framed and matted prints, cards, pottery, fine jewelry, baskets, glass, fiber art, gourds, carved wood, and intarsia. All of the art on display and for sale is by local artists. The gallery is located at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects with Swallow Place in the old

Red Brick School House that also houses the Nivison Library. The gallery is open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June through December. Info: ccartsociety@gmail.com.

LAS CRUCES

- Doña Ana Arts Council features the work of 13 quilters in December. The exhibit is comprised of two separate collections of art quilts: "Thorns and Spikes," and "The Wisdom of Trees." The 13 artists of "4 Common Corners" are Vicki Conley, Shannon Conley, Michelle Jackson, Bev Haring, Lynn Rogers, Lynn Welsch, Betty Hahn, Sandra Hoefner, Debra Goley, Diana Fox, Anne Moats, Nicole Dunn and Frances Murphy. Continuing to exhibit in the Staszewski Gallery in December is Laura Goldstein's custom, one-of-akind jewelry. Both exhibits are at the Doña Ana Arts Council gallery located at 250 W. Amador Ave., Suite B, Dec. 2 - 29, 9 a.m.-5p.m. Monday through Friday in addition to the First Friday reception 5-8 p.m. Dec. 2 and the Second Saturday reception at noon-5 p.m. Dec. 10. The gallery will be closed Dec. 23, 26, and 30. Info: www.daarts.org or 575-523-6403.
- Agave Artists Gallery is holding a holiday party Dec. 10 featuring markdowns and percentage off pricing on artwork from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday to Sunday, the gallery is at 2250 Calle De San Albino, Mesilla. Info: haikulife3@gmail.com.
- The Tombaugh Gallery features seven New Mexico artists, each using their own unique style to create one-of-akind pieces for December. Carol Blaschka creates handmade greeting cards, many special for the holiday season. Cindy Dexter's primary medium is fused

ART SCENE

continued on page 10

ART SCENE

continued from page 33

glass, both functional pieces for your dining room table and art pieces to hang in your window or place in your garden. Jeannie Hunter is a textile artist and will feature a variety of fabric ornaments. Mary Kay Shannon designs wind chimes often from vintage bottles, cholla, beads and found objects. Steph Ross creates whimsical characters from gourds and clay that are sure to bring smiles. Sylvia Hendrickson, a long time artist, styles maidens and masks from gourds using jewelry and found objects, feathers, carving, woodburning, painting and so much more. Teri Mc-Catherin incorporates many southwest designs into her gourd ornaments and paintings on slate. The gallery generally asks that you pick up purchases at the end of the show. But for this show patrons are invited to purchase pieces to share or gift during the holiday season. The exhibit begins on Dec. 4 and ends Jan. 8, 2023. The artists have a reception at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, to give brief presentations about their work and to answer questions. Visit the Tombaugh Gallery at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive. Las Cruces. The gallery is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Info: jelicht@gmail.com.

• The Mesilla Valley Fine **Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of December: Mark Morden and Bobbie Widner. Morden is a retired architect from the Pacific Northwest who paints still lifes and portraits. In addition to pastel painting, Mr. Morden also draws charcoal pencil portraits and figure studies. Widner is a native New Mexican whos paintings most often reflect the southwest and its people. First American Bank in Mesilla, is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists' work monthly. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• In a first for the New Mexico State University Art Museum, the exhibition titled "Contemporary Ex-Votos: Devotion Beyond Medium" pairs 19th and 20th century reta-

blos from the NMSU Permanent Art Collection with new works by contemporary Latinx artists. UAM is located inside NMSU's Devasthali Hall at 1308 E. University Avenue. The exhibition runs through Dec 22 and is free and open to the public. The exhibition presents 15 artists including Guadalupe Maravilla, Yvette Mayorga and Francisco Guevara. Art museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

• The Branigan Cultural **Center** features exhibition, "Desierto. Arte. Archivo." This exhibit displays a compilation of art from 16 artists who have interacted with the Chihuahuan Desert and created a series of individual and collective artsbased inquiries based on their experiences. The participating artists interpreted the desert as a holistic lifeway where all desert dwellers - human, animal, and plant comingle and inform each - other. "Desierto. Arte. Archivo" is on view through Dec. 31. The Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission fee. Info: www.las-cruces.org/ Museums or 575-541-2154.





Art exhibit honors 100th anniversary of T.S. Eliot poem

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the publication of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land," Las Cruces artist Michael Poncé has created a series of paintings inspired by Eliot's 1922 poem.

The project is the result of a collaboration with New Mexico State University professor and Philosophy Department Head Timothy Cleveland, who called "The Waste Land" "one of the masterpieces of modernist literature."

Cleveland had asked Poncé to create cover art for Cleveland's latest book, "Beyond Words: Philosophy, Fiction, and the Unsayable," "a crucial section of which is devoted to "The Waste Land," Cleveland said.

In the process, Poncé created "The Waste Land" series of paintings "that are not only abstract representations and impressions of 'The Waste Land' but also Poncé's own distinctive and original reflections on the legacy of modernism 100 years later," Cleveland said.

"The Waste Land" exhibit will open with a reception, 5-8 p.m. Saturday Dec. 3, at Poncé Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica studio, 501 E. Hadley Ave.

"The Waste Land," which is 434 lines long, first appeared in the United Kingdom in the October 1922 issue of "The Criterion," and in the United States in the November issue of "The Dial." It was published in book form that December. Eliot was born Sept. 26, 1888 in St. Louis, Missouri. He became a British citizen in 1927 and died in London Jan. 4, 1965 at the age of 76. Read the poem at https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/

Contact Cleveland at 575-646-4444. Contact Poncé at michaelponce@hotmail.com.

The Waste Land.



"The Waste Land" exhibit, featuring the art of Michael Poncé, opens at the Mandrake Fine Art & Botanica Studio Dec. 3. (Courtesy photo)



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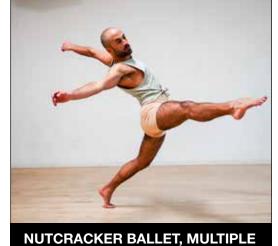
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DESERT EXPOSURE DECEMBER 2022 • 11







FIRST ARMORED DIVISION BAND, DEC. 15

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS . ELVAK. ÖSTERREICH

What's going on in DECEMBER?

Desert Exposure would like to include your special events, from any southern New Mexico community. Please submit your event title, time, location and contact information to editor@desertexposure.com; Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005: or call Elva at 575-443-4408.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Alamogordo/Otero County Winter Wonderland 2022 - 4 p.m. at First American Bank, 1300 N. White Sands Blvd., in Alamogordo. Fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs of Otero County. Info: 575-439-9800.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Square Dancing - 1-3:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Square dancing and refreshments. Info: 575-313-997.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Christmas in the Park -5:30-8:30 p.m., Wingfield Park, 300 Center Street, Ruidoso. Tree lighting, pictures with Santa, cookies, Christmas carols and more. Info: 575-257-5030.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Celtic, Folk & World music with Four Shillings Short -7-9 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Benefit concert for St. Andrews Hospitality House. Cost: \$20 adults and \$15 for children. Info: 575-541-2290 or www.riograndetheatre.org.

Socorro/Socorro County Festival of the Cranes -7 a.m. Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 1001 NM 1, San Antonio. Info: 575-835-1828.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Silver City/Grant County Jingle and Mingle: New Mexico Wonderland — 5-8 p.m. at Western New Mexico University Regents Square, 1000 W. College Ave. Silver City. Live music with Mariachi Plata and Christmas carols, a performance of Christmas Carol, children's activities, Santa and elves. Info: wnmu.edu/culture. Live music: The Rudy Boy Experiment — 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Swinging dirty blues with that true rock'n'roll

Alamogordo/Otero County Live Music: Sage Gentlewing - 6-8 p.m. at the Roadrunner Emporium, 928 New York Ave. Alamogordo. Info: 707-880-6238.

feel. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla La Casa, Inc. Annual Holiday **Bazaar** - 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. Vendors from all over the southwest, Santa Claus, cookie cupboard and a gift-wrapping station. Info: 575-526-2819.

"Elf the Musical" -7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

"A Christmas Carol" -7:30 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Classic Dickens tale performed by the NMSU Theatre Department students and community members. Info: theatre. nmsu.edu.

Socorro/Socorro County Festival of the Cranes -7 a.m. Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 1001 NM 1, San Antonio. Info: 575-835-1828.

"A Christmas Carol" -7:30 p.m., New Mexico Tech Macey Center. Classic holiday tale. Cost \$15, free for students. Info: 575-835-5688.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmers Market -9a.m.-12 p.m. 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City. Info: www.silvercityfarmersmarket.

Holiday Artisan Market -10a.m.-4 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial & Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Hiway 180 E in silver City. Info: facebook/silvercityholidaymarket. Celtic, Folk & World music with

Four Shillings Short -7-9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City, 3845 N. Swan St. Silver City Info: 575-574-2170. Live music: Lottie & the Ohm Wreckers — 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Kas Nelson, Michele Parlee and Billy Jack Dominguez team up with

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.

Nashville fiddle player Jesse Stock-

man. Info: 575-956-6144.

Christmas on MainStreet -4-9p.m. 800-1100 blocks of New York Avenue. Info: cloya@alamogordomainstreet.org.

Socorro/Magdalena Walter Salas-Humara House Concert and exhibition opening - 7-10 p.m. at Kind of a Small Array gallery, 106 N. Main St. in Magdalena. Info: 210-473-9062.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Holiday Chile Cook Off - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Caballo Lake State Park, Highway 187, Caballo. Info: 575-740-2907.

Christmas in the Foothills -10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore, Hillsboro. Info: rioabajorio.nm@ gmail.com.

Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-

Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monticello Plaza in Monticello. Info: south4059@windstream.net.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County **County Christmas Bazaar** - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101, Fifth St., Capitan. **Ruidoso Festival of Lights**

Parade - 5:30-8 p.m., Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso. The theme this year is "Christmas in the Stars." Info: 575-257-7395.

Festival of Lights After Party -7-10 p.m., Wingfield Park, Ruidoso. Food, drinks, winter activities for the kid, fire pits for roasting marshmallows, an outdoor movie and Santa. Info: 575-257-7395.

Socorro/Socorro County **Festival of the Cranes** -7 a.m. Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 1001 NM 1, San Antonio. Info: 575-835-1828.

Las Cruces/Mesilla La Casa, Inc. Annual Holiday Bazaar - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. Vendors from all over the southwest, Santa Claus, cookie cupboard and

a gift-wrapping station. Info: 575-

526-2819.

Kids Can: International Youth Market — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Local yo9uth aged 6-17 are invited to create a business plan, develop a product or service and open their business at the youth market. Info: 575-527-8799, Ext. 117.

Friends of the Branigan Library Book Sale — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Roadrunner Room of the Branigan Library, 200 W. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-528-4000.

Elves' Workshop at the Depot — 11 a.m.-noon at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum Depot, 351 N.

continued on page 12

40 DAYS

WORDS MATTER

SOUTHWEST Word FIESTA

SWWF congratulates the Silver City Daily Press on its recent acquisition of the Deming Headlight and the continuation of the Headlight's history of fine and timely journalism for the Deming community and beyond.

Our mission is to celebrate the written and spoken word by bringing together those who create with those who appreciate - with special emphasis on fostering community involvement. We support locally owned independent media!

Located in Silver City, we are marking our 10th anniversary in October 2023 with a week-long celebration entitled "We Are All Connected."

> Check out our redesigned website www.swwordfiesta.org

2023 Southwest Word Fiesta Oct. 27, 28, 29



40 DAYS

continued from page 11

Mesilla Ave. Creating winter crafts.

Info: 575-528-3426. **Trombone Christmas Concert**

- 2 p.m. at New Mexico State University's Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe Street, Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-2421.

Letters to Santa at the Depot -2 p.m.-3 p.m. at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum Depot, 351 N. Mesilla Ave. The elves will help write letters and deliver your letters. You can pick up responses 3 days later. Info: 575-528-3426.

"Elf the Musical" -7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

"A Christmas Carol" -7:30 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Classic Dickens tale performed by the NMSU Theatre Department students and community members. Info: theatre. nmsu.edu.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 Silver City/Grant County

Holiday Artisan Market - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial & Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180 E in silver City. Info: facebook/silvercityholidavmarket.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Yuletide in Chloride - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-0493.

Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monticello Plaza in Monticello. Info: south4059@windstream.net.

Silent Blender — 10 a.m.-noon, Studio de la Luz, 308 S. Pershing, T or C. Come as you are and leave your inhibitions and words at the door for an all-instrumental moodand-genre-jumping dance party. Info: blendersilent@gmail.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Holiday Art and Music Gala -1-4 p.m. at Hurd la Rinconada Gallery in San Patricio, on U.S. Highway 70 between mile markers 281 and 282. World Class Jazz

and Wine Tasting Southwest Art Alliance Inc. presents "Art in the Neighborhood." Info: 800-658-

Las Cruces/Mesilla La Casa, Inc. Annual Holiday

Bazaar - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. Vendors from all over the southwest, Santa Claus, cookie cupboard and a gift-wrapping station. Info: 575-526-2819.

"Elf the Musical" -2 p.m., LasCruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

"A Christmas Carol" - 2 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Classic Dickens tale performed by the NMSU Theatre Department students and community members. Info: theatre. nmsu.edu.

Recital by Italian flute virtuoso Mario Carbotta - 3 p.m. at the Doña Ana Arts Council. 250 W. Amador Ave. Las Cruces. Cost: \$30. Info: 575-523-6403.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Las Cruces/Mesilla **Musical Musings of Christmas**time with George Jarden -2

p.m. at George's Living Room Stage, 3100 Karen Drive, Las Cruces. Sing-along, history and stories with George Jarden. Call or text for reservations. Info: 575-652-7301.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Silver City/Grant County Movie: "Ralph Breaks the Inter**net"** - 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

Live music: Brea Burns - 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Classic Honky Tonk. Info: 575-956-6144.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7 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.

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

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

or claudia@tularosa.net.

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-

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Silver City/Grant County Adult Children of Alcoholic and **Dysfunctional Families meeting** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St. Info: 575-567-9410.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Yuletide in Chloride - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-0493.

Square Dancing — 1-3:30 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-

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Silver City/Grant County Hi Lo Silvers Christmas Con**cert** — 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Info: 575-388-8771.

Return of the Mischief with DJ Mischievous — 9 p.m. - midnight at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Alamogordo/Otero County **Christmas Tree Lighting** — 6-9 p.m. at Washington Park Stage, 100 N. Washington Ave. Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4279.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-0493.

Old-Fashioned Christmas — 6-9 p.m. downtown T or C. Info: director@tocmainstreet.org.

"A Twisted Christmas Carol" -7

p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County "Elf the Musical" -7:30 p.m., LasCruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 Silver City/Grant County

Silver City Farmer's Market -9a.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.

Victorian Christmas 2022 — 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Silver City Museum courtyard, 312 W. Broadway, Silver City. Info: 575-538-5921.

Alamogordo/Otero County **Christmas Parade of Lights**

- 5:30 p.m. along 10th Street from Oregon Avenue to New York Avenue. Info: shayella.yarbrough@ alamogordo.com.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Yuletide in Chloride - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-

Monticello Holiday Store - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monticello Plaza in Monticello. Info: south4059@windstream.net.

Luminaria Beachwalk and Floating Lights Parade — 5-8 p.m. at



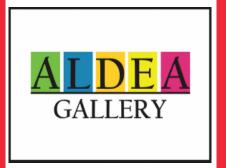








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Elephant Butte Lake State Park, enter through the main gate, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-5567. Second Saturday Art Hop — 6-9 p.m. Downtown Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-6673. Old Time Fiddlers Dance -7-9p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137. "A Twisted Christmas Carol" -7p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

Alamogordo/Otero County **Alamogordo Otero County** Farmers Market — 8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmersmarketsnm.org.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County **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.

"Elf the Musical" -7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

SUNDAY. DECEMBER 11 Silver City/Grant County Hi Lo Silvers Christmas Con-

cert — 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Info: 575-388-8771.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Yuletide in Chloride - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wall Street in Chloride. Holiday charm in a ghost town and great deals from more than 30 local artisans at the Monte Cristo Gift shop and Gallery. Info: 575-743-

Monticello Holiday Store - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monticello Plaza in Monticello. Info: south4059@windstream.net.

"A Twisted Christmas Carol" - 1 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

Live Music: Jo Baker — 4-7p.m. at the Truth or Consequences Brewing Company, 410 N. Broadway St., T or C. Info: 575-297-0289.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County "Elf the Musical" — 2 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Silver City/Grant County Widows and Single Persons of Grant County - 10:30 a.m. sign in at Cross Point Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. Entertainment with Randy Salars Music Program. Cost: Lunch is \$14. All singles are welcome. Info: jimccord@yahoo.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

"Truth or Consequences" documentary fill screening — 6 p.m. at El Cortez Theater, 415 Main St. T or C. The creators of the film will be on hand for an evening of reflection and conversation with the filmmakers and some community members featured in the film. Info: bethany@ humanities.org.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Public Library program: Robot building — 4-6 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

Alamogordo/Otero County Mariachi Christmas - 7 p.m. atthe Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave, Alamogordo. A bit of fun music with the well-known group. Info: 575-437-2202.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

Silver City/Grant County **Silver City Farmers Market** — 3-6 p.m. 3025 U.S.-180 in Silver Citv. Info: www.silvercityfarmersmarket.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market -

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Musical Musings of Christmastime with George Jarden -6p.m. at George's Living Room Stage, 3100 Karen Drive, Las Cruces. Sing-along, history and stories with George Jarden. Call or text for reservations. Info: 575-652-7301.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Silver City/Grant County Adult Children of Alcoholic and **Dysfunctional Families meeting** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St. Info: 575-567-9410. **Holiday Concert with the First Armored Division Band** - 7 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Theater. The band is from Ft. Bliss in El Paso, hosted by the Grant County Community Concert Association. Cost: Free. Info: 575-538-5862.

> Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Square Dancing — 1-3:30 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, DECEMBER 16 Silver City/Grant County

Create a December Craft - 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

SCCT Winter Gala -5-7:30 p.m. at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W. Broadway St. in Silver City. Dinner, beer and wine, live auction, youth performances and music by the Brandon Perrault Trio. A Solver City Community Theatre event in support of Silver City Youth Theatre. Cost: \$20 in advance. Info: www.silvercitycommunitytheater.

Mariachi Christmas Spectacular

- 7-9 p.m. at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. Mariachi Plata de WNMU will perform live with Ballet Folklorico Paso Del Norte. Info: wnmu.edu/culture.

Live music: Famous Raymos - 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Covers from the 70s, 80s and 90s as well as addictive dance groove originals. Info: 575-956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

"A Twisted Christmas Carol" - 7 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

Deming/Luna County State Park Astronomy Program

- 5:10 p.m. at Rockhound State Park. Info: 575-536-2800.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County "Nutcracker" ballet - 7 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, Las Cruces. Joint production with Borderlands Ballet Company, the las Cruces School of Dance & Music and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Info: 575-525-5670.

"Elf the Musical" - 7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

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. **State Park Astronomy Program**

- 5:10 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Info: 575-536-2800.

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.

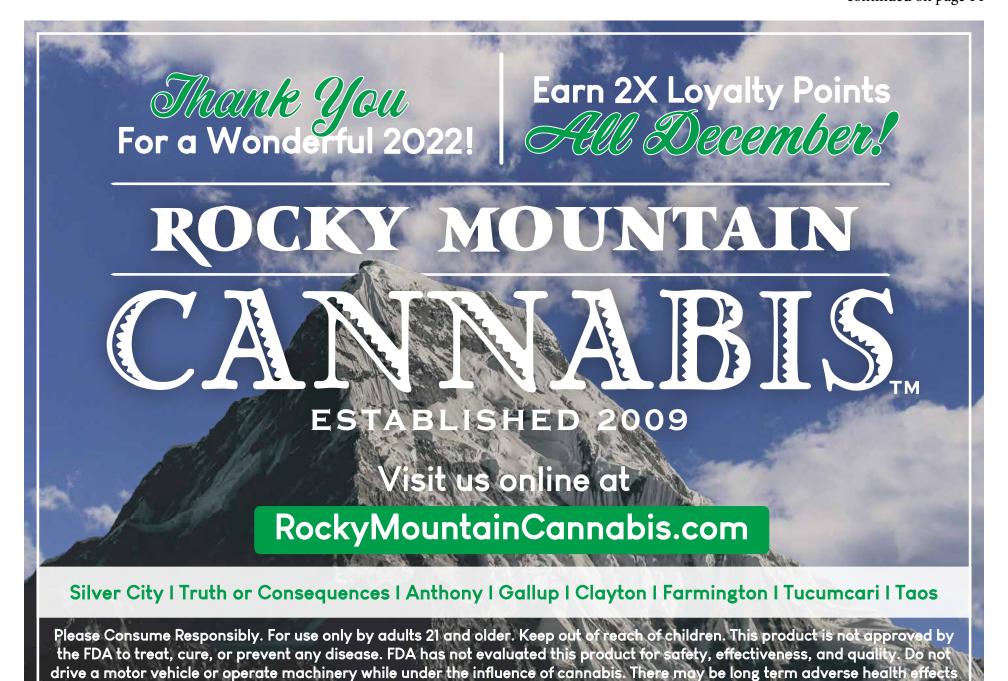
Christmas Zoobilee - 6-9 p.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo, 1021 N. White Sands Blvd. Info: 575-439-4279.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Farmers Market - 8:30-11 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside at Cedar in T or C. Fresh seasonal produce, baked goods, prepared foods and handmade items. Info: 575-894-9375.

"A Twisted Christmas Carol" - 7 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C

> **40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS** continued on page 14



from consumption of cannabis, including additional risks for women who are or may become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Silver City Community Theatre

Winter Gala!

In Support of Silver City Youth Theatre

Friday, Dec 16, 5-7:30 pm

In The Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W Broadway St
Dinner ~ Beer & Wine ~ Live Auction!
The Brandon Perrault Trio

~Tickets in Advance:

\$20 Individual, \$35 Couple

~On-line go to www.

silvercitycommunitytheater.com

~In-person go to

Tranquil Buzz Coffee House 300 N Arizona St at Yankie St (Only Cash or Check at the Buzz)

~Tickets at the Door: \$25 Individual, \$50 Couple

SCCT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Original watercolor by Deborah Hutchings

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS continued from page 13

Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

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.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Zas (Snow) Festival — 10 a.m.-6
p.m., at the Ruidoso Convention
Center. Winter festival includes
food, jewelry, baked goods including pueblo bread and Mescalero
frybread, artwork and more. Info:

575-937-3901.

"The Nutcracker" — 7 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Airport Highway 220, Alto. A Ruidoso

Academy of Ballet and Dance Company production. Info: 575-336-4800.

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.

"Nutcracker" ballet — 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, Las Cruces. Joint production with Borderlands Ballet Company, the las Cruces School of Dance & Music and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Info: 575-525-5670.

Munchies Festival — 4-9 p.m. on Plaza de Las Cruces. Food, music, artists and cannabis vendors from around the state. Info: tierna@ tellabq.com.

"Elf the Musical" — 7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 Silver City/Grant County

Live music: Michele Parlee Trio

— 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery and Distillery, 200 N.
Bullard St. Silver City. Info: 575956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

"A Twisted Christmas Carol" — 2 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. Presented by T or C Community Theatre. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town. Info: 575-740-2174.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Zas (Snow) Festival — 11 a.m.-5
p.m., at the Ruidoso Convention
Center. Winter festival includes
food, jewelry, baked goods including pueblo bread and Mescalero
frybread, artwork and more. Info:
575-937-3901.



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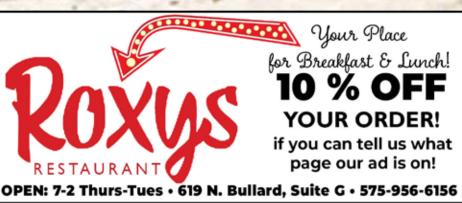
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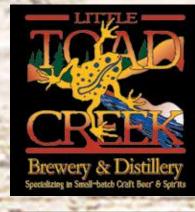




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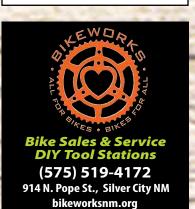
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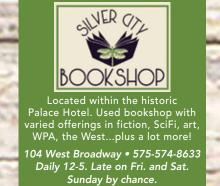
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Las Cruces/Doña Ana County "Elf the Musical" - 2 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200.

"Nutcracker" ballet -2 p.m., ASNMSU Center for the Arts, Las Cruces. Joint production with Borderlands Ballet Company, the las Cruces School of Dance & Music and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Info: 575-525-5670.

Musical Musings of Christmastime with George Jarden -3p.m. at George's Living Room Stage, 3100 Karen Drive, Las Cruces. Sing-along, history and stories with George Jarden. Call or text for reservations. Info: 575-652-7301.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Silver City/Grant County Movie: "Polar Express" -3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21 Silver City/Grant County **Silver City Farmers Market** — 3-6 p.m. 3025 U.S.-180 in Silver City. Info: www.silvercitvfarmersmarket.

Alamogordo/Otero County Middle Eastern Dance Class -5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Longtime 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 de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 Silver City/Grant County Adult Children of Alcoholic and **Dysfunctional Families meeting**

- 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St. Info: 575-567-9410. Movie: "Meet me in St. Louis"

- 7 p.m. at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Musical classic from 1944 with Judy Garland. Info: 575-956-6198.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Square Dancing - 1-3:30 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, DECEMBER 23 Silver City/Grant County

Live music: Blues Dawg — 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. High-energy electric blues band. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla **Musical Musings of Christ**mastime with George Jarden

 6 p.m. at George's Living Room Stage, 3100 Karen Drive, Las Cruces. Sing-along, history and stories with George Jarden. Call or text for reservations. Info: 575-652-7301.

SATURDAY. DECEMBER 24

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmers Market - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City. Info: www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info.

Pajama/Onesie party with Local Legends Travis and Adam as **DJs** — 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Party

while you get ready for Santa. Info: 575-956-6144.

Alamogordo/Otero County **Alamogordo Otero County** Farmers Market — 8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmersmarketsnm.org.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County Farmers and Crafts Market -8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Musical Musings of Christmastime with George Jarden -2p.m. at George's Living Room Stage, 3100 Karen Drive, Las Cruces. Sing-along, history and stories with George Jarden. Call or text for reservations. Info: 575-652-7301.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

Alamogordo/Otero County Middle Eastern Dance Class -5:15-6:30 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave, Alamogordo. Longtime 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 de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Silver City/Grant County Adult Children of Alcoholic and **Dysfunctional Families meeting** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas St. Info: 575-567-9410.

> Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Blues Dawg performs at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery in Silver City on Dec. 23. (Courtesy Photo)

Square Dancing - 1-3:30 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-

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 Silver City/Grant County

Live music: Blues Dawg — 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. High-energy electric blues band. Info: 575-956-6144.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmers Market - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City. Info: www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info.

New Year's Eve Party - 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Favors, live music, midnight champagne toast and DJ dance party with DJ Mischievous.

Info: 575-956-6144.

Alamogordo/Otero County **Alamogordo Otero County** Farmers Market — 8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmersmarketsnm.org.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Ring it Inn New Year's Eve Cel**ebration** — 7 p.m. – midnight at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, Info: 800-545-9011.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County Farmers and Crafts Market -

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Old Farts' New Year's Eve - 7-9 p.m. Downtown Blues Coffee, 130 S. Main St. Las Cruces. An Austin tradition with Cleve Hattersley and Sweet Mary. Dress code: pajamas. Cost: \$10. Info: info@downtownbluescoffee.com.











ART QUILT

EXHIBIT

DOÑA ANA







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GARDEN TRUTHS . BETTY LAMBRIGHT

Hidden Life

The fall garden has much to share

he first heavy frost recently signaled the end of the bustling garden season and I'm glad for the respite from battling the prolific weeds from this summer's monsoon rains.

However, we still have plenty of pleasant sunny afternoons that entice us to get out there and tidy up the yard.

What if I told you, it was really a good thing to procrastinate

on fall garden cleanup chores? Like most other landscaping companies, I used to offer a fall cleanup service. As I pivoted toward a more sustainable ecological footprint, I had to step back and look at those dead flowers and ornamental grasses from the perspective of the birds and other critters trying to make it through another cold winter.

The insects and birds that delighted us during the summer have their own strategies for surviving the coming deep freeze, and plants again play a major role in their survival. The monarch butterfly is the only pollinator in North America that always migrates to a warmer climate, so

how do other pollinators cope?

Bumblebees die at the end of summer, except for the fertilized queen. She burrows into soil or leaf litter so that there is less variation in winter temperatures. And here's a great Trivial Pursuit factoid: the hibernating queen produces glycerol, a natural antifreeze!

Depending on the species, butterflies will overwinter as eggs, caterpillars, pupae, or adults. They too depend on the production of glycerol or other sugars during the fall to prevent the formation of ice crystals in their cells. My garden hosted black swallowtail butterflies, which overwinter as pupae. The host plant (where it lays its eggs) for the black swallowtail in my yard is dill, so I'm sure the next generation is present somewhere in the yard. Tall grasses, bushes, fence posts, a pile of leaves or sticks...this is where next year's butterflies are sleeping. They don't know to put out 'Do Not Disturb' signs, so we need to remember for them.

If you have an extra sensitive tidiness gene, cut back the offending perennials or grasses and leave the debris lying in the bed until spring to avoid throwing away hibernating pollinators.

Another aspect of closing

GARDEN

continued on page 23



Personal Guidance & Coaching

for individuals & couples

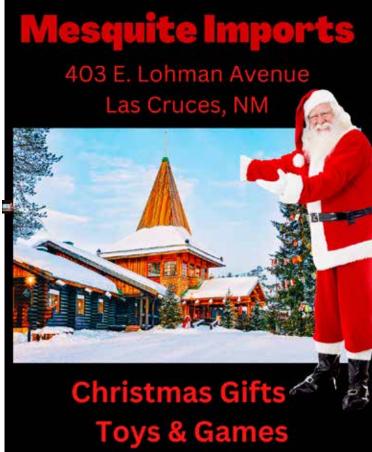
Listen for your strength.

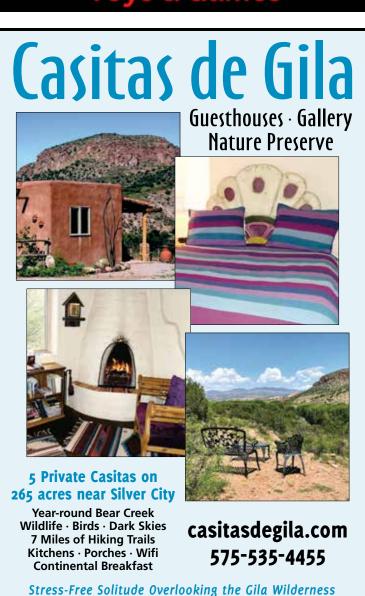
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DESERT EXPOSURE DECEMBER 2022 ● 17

2022 Writing Contest



HONORABLE MENTION . M. JOHN FAYHEE

Hiking Sticks

Author's note: The following is excerpted from my book, "A Long Tangent: An old man and his young dog hike every day for a solid year," tentatively scheduled to be published in 2023 by Mimbres Press of Western New Mexico University.

't was the kind of late-model, heavily modified Mercedes Sprinter van that simultaneously elicits eye-rolling and envy. Lifted, four-wheel-drive, total off-road, off-grid package. Probably a hundred grand. Though I hesitate to admit this, I would love to add it to my already bloated vehicular quiver, but, sadly, I could not even afford the tires adorning that van. I greeted its presence at the Gomez Peak Trailhead with a low-volume growl that bespoke jealousy more than irritation. It did not help matters any that the unblemished Sprinter sported license plates from a certain state that most often indicates some manner of navigational ineptitude is likely to manifest itself before you have time to strategize, much less execute, a workable defensive plan. I pulled my dog, Casey, close in preparation for some serious evasive maneu-

The driver pulled a fast one, though, by approaching slowly, rolling down his window and greeting me in an affable tone of voice. Caught me totally off guard. Made me feel like a douchebag for having, three seconds prior, applied negative stereotypes to his entire existence.

The driver, a man in his 70s, asked directions to the Continental Divide Trail. I resisted my normal childish inclination to provide him with a memorable adventure by sending him 47

miles down some wretched Jeep track in completely the wrong direction. (There were numerous available options.) But he seemed like a kindred spirit. He also seemed genuinely appreciative of my detailed input. Before pulling away, he said, "That's a really nice hiking stick."

As he drove off, I stood in semi-stunned silence. I don't know what manner of compliment that Sprinter-driving man could have paid me that could top a flattering remark regarding the piece of wood grasped by my left hand. Maybe praising my wife, my dog or my old 4Runner. But that's about it.

That he referred to it as a "stick" instead of a "staff" earned the man extra style points. "Staff" has always grated my plebian sensibilities, making it sound as though the bearer fancies him- or herself a wizard, perhaps even a direct descendent of Gandalf.

One of my favorite things about hiking in the Gila is that it remains a bastion of hiking sticks, which differ from "walking sticks" in that, "hiking sticks" are, like, clavicles high, and have woodsy applications - which I'll get to here in a minute — whereas "walking sticks" are more waist high, have decorative metal top pieces and are used solely by tweed-clad English gentlemen sauntering to and from pubs named something like "Eagle and Child," "Bear and Billet" or "Lamb and Flag."

Most hiking sticks are unadorned, but a growing craft industry — probably inspired by "The Lord of the Rings" — now produces ornate sticks that are often decorated with semi-precious stones, representations of runes and, at the top end, faces

of elves or the heads of owls carved into the wood, which is usually exotic in nature. Artisanal, free-range hickory or some such. These kinds of sticks can be found for sale at music festivals and art fairs in mountain towns, in between the tie-dyed T-shirt and organic honey stands. As well, many companies purvey high-end hiking sticks online. They are generally far too pretty to consider actually being taken onto a trail, lest they be dented or dinged. Kind of like Mercedes Sprinter vans.

My first hiking stick had suitably humble roots. It came to me while camping in a state park in Wisconsin. I was set to embark on a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail two months hence and had been on the lookout for a stick to complament a period ensemble that consisted of a flannel shirt, blue jeans, heavy leather Raichle Montagna hiking boots, wool Ragg socks, a forest-green Eddie Bauer felt crusher hat, a forest-green 60/40 parka and a forest-green poncho. A stick pretty much was a de rigueur component of that very weighty outfit.

The right-of-way of a nearby dirt road had recently been cleared and, consequently, a treasure trove of felled saplings awaited my scrutiny. I spent an entire morning picking through the arboreal corpses and finally arrived upon one that felt right in my hand. Proper width, proper height, proper heft. I took it back to camp, skinned it, trimmed it and gave it a name. Given that I had been told by someone who may or may not have known what he was talking about it was green ash, and given that I was heading toward the Appalachian Trail, I christened my new stick "GrATash," which I considered to be an impressively witty portmanteau. Though near-bouts everyone on the AT in those days carried a stick, far as I knew, none of the others had had a proper name upon bestowed upon them.

GrATash, which stayed with me for my entire AT hike, was directly involved in the most-serious injury I have ever suffered out in the woods. Two buddies — who I'll call Red and Modern Man — had joined me for a couple weeks in North Carolina. The second day out of Hot Springs, we ascended the switchback-free side of Snowbird Mountain. Near the summit, while crossing an otherwise innocuous trickle of a stream, my left foot slipped out from under me and my left eye came directly down onto GrATash's pointed top end. My entire field of view exploded with a crimson hue.

I bellowed "HELP!!!" down the hill, which was tough, given that I was hyperventilating. When Red arrived, having dropped his pack and sprinted to my location when he heard my high-decibel call for assistance, he was so winded he could scarcely stand. When he saw my bloodied face, he literally yelped and spent the next few minutes freaking out, which did nothing to calm my nerves, which were right then already pretty frayed.

Modern Man, who arrived at what I considered to be an overly leisurely pace, by contrast, was shockingly unruffled, given the immediate eye-gushing-blood situation. He spoke reassuringly, directed me to tilt my head back and said something like, "Well, you don't see that every day." Turns out, my eyelid had nearly been torn off.

You could pull it down and see the top of my orb, which might make for an amusing trick at a Halloween party, but, out in the middle of nowhere, it amounted to a stressful turn of events. Modern Man, grimy fingernails and all, plus-or-minus re-attached my eyelid with a couple improvised butterfly bandages and pronounced me patched up enough to resume our hike with the words, "Not sure I lined your eyelid up perfectly, so it might end up looking a bit weird, but it's the best I could do under the circumstances."

For the next few days, whenever we passed other hikers, they would invariably let loose with some variation on the shocked exclamation theme—things like, "OH MY GOD ... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE???" Their faces would often contort into a grimace I found disconcerting. Since none of us had in our possession a mirror, I had been unable to eyeball my eyeball.

There was some concern that, given the near-tropical climate of western North Carolina in the summer, my entire ocular system could get infected and completely rot away. My on-board pharmaceutical options consisted solely, and predictably, of pot, hash, speed and a wide array of hallucinogens. Maybe some 'shrooms. And aspirin, in case of dire emergencies.

So, we — three extremely funky long-hairs — decided the best course of action would be to hike down a country lane the trail crossed till we located a residence, upon which time we would knock on its front door

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and ask if the inhabitants happened to have any unexpired antibiotics they could spare. I thought — and I use that word very loosely — my by-then-oozing eye would add a veneer of undeniable authenticity to our pharmaceuticals-procurement mission.

Here would be a good time to make some blatantly judgmental socio-economic observations about that part of the country at that time. If you have seen the movie "Deliverance," well, this was that — the dark heart of dirt-poor, inbred Appalachia. The cluster of houses we eventually found was defined by a bleak tarpaper aesthetic augmented by snarling, tick-covered dogs chained to trees and understated landscaping consciousness dominated by ancient appliances and antiquated automobiles in various states of disrepair propped up on cinderblocks.

We were not welcomed warmly. No invitation to share in a vat of boiled possum entrails was forthcoming. Actually, despite what I thought to be a well-rehearsed spiel — and I had the trashed eye to back it up! — we were greeted with the business end of a double-barrel 12-guage shotgun being wielded by a toothless man who was clearly deficient on the chromosome front — crossed eyes being a little too close together, skin a sickly shade of blue — wearing, of course, greasy overalls. Somewhere in the background, a banjo played. Given that his already unintelligible accent was compromised both by his dentition situation and the disgusting reality that he was chomping on a wad of chewing tobacco big as a watermelon, we were unable to directly translate his clearly agitated and befuddled response to

our presence. It appeared that, in addition to the unsurprising fact that he apparently did not have any spare antibiotics lying around his malodorous pigsty, he would prefer we leave his property post haste lest we be shot dead on the spot. It was the first time I'd ever had a firearm pointed directly at my head. It was an exciting experience that caused my one good remaining eye to near-bouts pop out.

(I have no doubt that the neighborhood has gentrified in the interim. The shacks have likely been replaced by high-end second homes and the tick-covered mutts replaced by -doodle variants.)

We enthusiastically hiked back up to the trail with the full understanding that I would likely be going through the rest of my life sporting the descriptive sobriquet, "Ol' Mono-Peeper." Or maybe "Cyclops." I began thinking in terms of whether a pirate-looking eye patch would be more likely to attract or repel women. Maybe I'd need to get a parrot and a peg leg to complete the effect.

A few days later, I was able to hitchhike to a backwater town that sported a medical clinic that would have looked at home in rural El Salvador. The doctor removed the improvised butterfly bandages that had pretty much been absorbed into skin that had achieved a color somewhere between bruised apple pulp and dog vomit. An unappealing odor filled the room. The doctor amused himself by pulling my

detached lid down far enough that he could see the top of my eye. This he did several times, while giggling. He even invited several staff members and a couple patients who were sitting in the lobby into the examination room to observe this once-in-alifetime spectacle. The doctor took some Polaroids to immortalize my visit and I'm certain every conversation in that town for weeks to come centered upon the hippie hiker whose eyelid could, with minimal manipulation, be worked both ways. I suspect children in that town were thereafter threatened by their parents with a visit from the Oozing-Eyed Hippie should they ever misbehave.

The wound was sanitized and patched, and I was loaded up with enough Amoxicillin to see me through whatever other mishaps might befall me on what remained of that 2,100-mile trek from Maine to Georgia.

Ordinarily, you would think, after almost losing an eyeball, I would have heaved GrATash off the nearest cliff, or incinerated it in a campfire, and never again even considered carrying so much as a twig while on the trail. But the incident was not GrATash's fault; it was nothing more than one of those unpredictable, vexatious occurrences that occasionally occur in the backcountry without warning that you either survive or you don't, that you either learn from or you don't.

At the next opportunity, I used my pocketknife to round

off GrATash's top. Then we continued hiking toward the end of that particular journey. It was three months before my eye started looking right.

GrATash stayed with me for several more years. It eventually got sucked into the black-hole vortex of my in-laws' storage shed while my wife and I took an extended trip to Central America. It has yet to resurface. To this day, I half-expect the hiking stick that nearly de-eyeballed me to eventually turn up when some random member of my wife's clan is rooting around in that storage shed looking for a pair of ice skates or some such. "Hey, what's this old stick doing in here?" that person will ask, right before tossing it in the trash. I would love to hold GrATash one more time, to revisit our time together along the Appalachian Trail, which was so long ago that I can scarcely recollect the names of the geographic features we passed by or the names of the people we met along the way.

In the early 1990s, I found another hiking stick — which had been left leaning against a fence post at a trailhead in Colorado — but it and I never truly bonded. It was a tool, not a companion. It was clearly someone else's stick that mistakenly came to be mine. That stick died when I broke it over the head of a large dog that was viciously attacking my last dog, Cali, while we were hiking on the fringe of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. I left its splintered, blood-soaked parts



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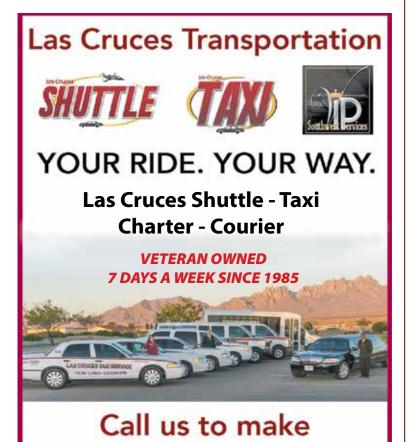


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He attended school and completing prerequisites for physician assistant school and was accepted into at Pacific University outside Portland, Ore. Kyle gained experience at clinics and hospitals throughout Oregon and Arizona. The relationships he formed with patients during that time was the driving force leading Kyle to primary care. Kyle and wife, McLane, decided to move back to the Southwest and find a smaller town to begin his new career.

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lying in the woods.

By that time, trekking poles had become all the rage. I was gifted a pair, which I used only for a few months. While understanding the supposed benefits - aiding in propulsion, relieving pressure on the lower back and padding the bottom line of gear companies — I never felt comfortable with them. I often paid more attention to the placement of the pole tips than I did the placement of my feet. Plus, whenever I needed to blow my nose, get a drink or take a photo, I had to uncouple my hand from the pole's straps. It was not a match made in hiking heaven, which was a bit strange because I have long used poles while snowshoeing and, of course, cross-country skiing. I re-gifted the trekking poles the following Christmas.

Shortly after moving back to southwest New Mexico, my wife and I (read: my wife) were perusing the offerings in a dusty antique emporium downtown Silver City. Not exactly my favorite activity. To kill time while the love of my life was examining overpriced rickety end tables and chipped china, I started exploring the cobweb-covered back corners, where I hoped to find a cask of brandy or perhaps a bottle of long-lost laudanum. Instead, I found a hiking stick, the dimensions of which almost perfectly matched those of GrATash. I asked the proprietor how much? He shrugged his shoulders and said "uh, how about five bucks?" He was obviously expecting an incredulous counteroffer. He did not get one. As I paid up, the proprietor smirked like, "Damn, they grow 'em stupider every year."

That is the stick that elicited the compliment from the Sprinter-driver at the Gomez Peak trailhead. It is a plain stick that was obviously once varnished by a previous owner. No ornamentation. It has a crook about two-thirds of the way down. It has been with me now for more than a decade. Longer than I had GrATash. Longer than I have had Casey. I'm not certain how many more miles it has left. It used to be 59 inches high. It is now 55 inches, worn down by time and distance. (I know the feeling.) Its body is scuffed, dinged and sports a crack running almost its full length. Breakage assuredly looms. I need to retire my stick, which I never named, before that happens. That will be a sad day. It would be impossible to calculate the distance we have covered together.

So, why carry a hiking stick?

They have practical value that, in my mind, exceeds that of trekking poles. The fact that my hand can easily slide up and down its shaft depending on circumstances makes it very versatile while traversing sketchy terrain and crossing creeks. I use it to steady my momentum on a dicey descents. It serves as a deterrent when aggressive dogs approach. And it provides something of a psychological salve

when traversing snake country. On some primal level, I believe my reflexes could out fast-twitch a striking rattler, which is pure fantasy, but, who knows? Maybe adrenaline would win the day.

Plus, hiking sticks have distinct personalities, flat-out look cool and serve as a direct connection to a bygone era when hikers wore flannel, wool, leather and felt. I no longer wear flannel, wool, leather or felt. So, there's only this one physical thing left that connects me to my personal good ol' days. This stick in my hand.

The difference between a hiking stick and trekking poles is similar to the difference between a wooden canoe and a plastic canoe. No would will argue that the latter is more practical than the former, but plenty of people still cast their lot with the undeniable beauty of natural materials.

There is a fairly regular crowd of hikers that congregates, then dissipates, heading off in their own various directions, every summer morning at the Gomez Peak trailhead. Almost to a one, they carry with them hiking sticks. In that regard, we are trail kin, a slow-dying breed that is being replaced by folks whose ensembles include trekking poles and the latest brand-name outdoor clothing made from materials with scientific-sounding names.

When those of us who stick with sticks pass each other on the trail, we often compare them and relate their origin stories. That, of course, is silly. Most of this is silly. I'm sure, in the eyes of an ever-increasing number of mountain bikers and trail runners zooming by, we must look like anachronism incarnate. A breed that will soon become extinct.

Not sure what I'm going to do when I finally retire my current stick, which needs to be done before it snaps in the middle of some activity I ought not be doing at my age anyhow.

Maybe GrATash will serendipitously emerge from the depths of my in-laws' storage shed. Failing that, perhaps I'll order one of those fancy "staffs" available

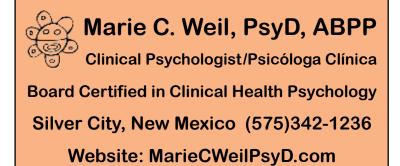
online. One sporting semi-precious stones, with an owl's head carved into its peak. Maybe I'll then become a wizard.

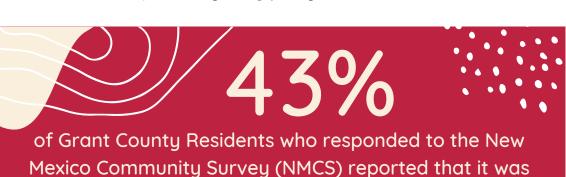
"Technology may make it easier to reach beauty, but it does not simplify the process of possessing or appreciating it."

— Alain de Botton, "The Art of Travel"

For 12 years, M. John Fayhee was the editor of the Mountain Gazette. Fayhee, author of 12 books, was a long-time contributing editor at Backpacker magazine. He lives in Silver City







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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!



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ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 614 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.

BIRDWELL'S VINTAGE VIBES, 602 N. Bullard St. 956-6467. CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUN-TAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only.

CHAOS SANDWICHES, 801 N. Hudson St. 654-8175.

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180 E, 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 I

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L. EINSTEIN BROS BAGELS, 1000 W. College Ave., 538-6555.

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. GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D

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

315 N. Texas St.

JALISCO CAFÉ, 103 S. Bullard St.,
388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Sat-

urday 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., 534-4980. 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, 601 N.
Bullard St. in the Hub 519-0955.

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N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday. **Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO,** 101 E.

College Ave., 534-4401. American,

day to Saturday L D.

SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ,
2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612.

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Daily L D. **TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.

TRANQUILBUZZ COFFEE HOUSE 300 N. Arizona St. 956-6476. WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL 2005

WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.

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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.

Calle de Guadalupe, 652-3337. Eclectic, B L. Closed Thursday. A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www. abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily B L.

THE BEAN AT JOSEFINA'S, 2261

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.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, 2420 W. Picacho Ave. Suite B, 386-0554. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecansmoked 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.

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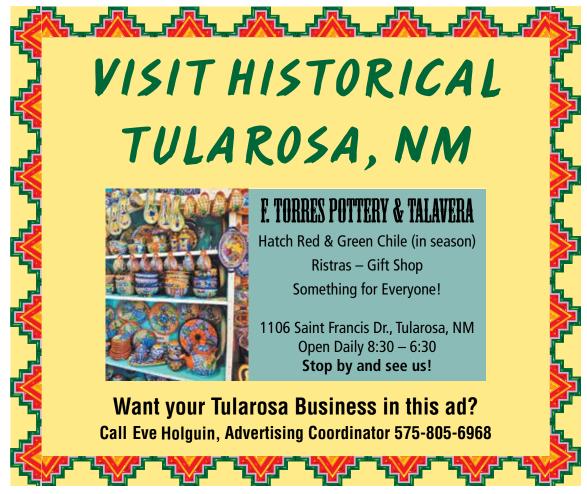




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TALKING HORSES . SCOTT THOMSON

Horses Being Horses

Even the best have bad days

ack in September we witnessed an event we're not likely to ever see again, the passing and celebration of the life of service of Queen Elizabeth II. It's unlikely we will ever see a world leader with a career spanning eight decades, some of the most fascinating and turbulent decades in history, again.

What I always found interesting about her was her extraordinary love for horses. From her first horse, actually a Shetland pony, through many other favorite riding horses, she never missed an opportunity to ride, and managed to do so until her

90s. Many said she may have been the most knowledgeable horsewoman in all of Britain, especially in her thorough knowledge of breeding and historical bloodlines. She visited the U.S. to learn more about thoroughbred breeding. She enjoyed all riding disciplines. She even had Pat Parelli come to England so she could learn more about natural horsemanship.

I watched much of this historic event because I enjoy watching the many ways horses are involved in the pageantry and British traditions. These are spectacular horses trained to the highest levels with skilled riders, and they're faced with the daunting task of remaining calm and dignified even when surrounded by thousands of people and the noise from ceremonial gun and cannon salutes, planes and helicopters, drones and countless other distractions that would send most horses around the bend. This is what they have been bred and trained to do. They are most highly trained public performance horses in the world.

I've always believed that no matter how well a horse is trained or how impressive his breeding, that in his soul he is still a horse and there will always be some situations that will cause him to exhibit his most basic natural instincts. It is why the best horsemen and women will always tell you to "ride every stride" with a horse, no matter how old, experienced or well-trained the horse may be. There is a set of circumstances out there for every horse that can come together and make any horse forget all his training, ignore his rider and take care of himself.

I found a clip of the palace guards practicing, something the do virtually every day, usually in Hyde Park so the horses are exposed to the distractions of modern life. As the group of 25 horses was moving in a tight formation through the park, one of the horses in an important spot, on the outside of the first row, where you want a calm experienced horse and an excellent rider, simply exploded. Why? Who knows. It bucked the rider off, sending her so high it looked like she had been shot from a circus cannon. The horse spent several minutes running around the group, off into the trees and back again, bucking and jumping the whole time. Finally, two other riders broke ranks and quietly cornered the horse near a fence. All the other horses remained calm and in place. With much effort the rider was hoisted back on her horse. She brought her sword to her shoulder, rode back to her spot in line and the training session went on without another problem.

Given what can happen in practice, I was not surprised some of the horses involved in the Queen's funeral and the lengthy processions through crowded streets proved the axiom that horses are still horses. In Scotland, as the procession moved through the streets, one horse in particular was on the verge of becoming unglued, constantly jigging, backing up or trying to spin while all the other horse were moving more or less in formation and in time with one another. As he became more animated and agitated, you could see the other horses feeding off the energy and begin breaking stride and tossing their heads. They were starting to look like a nervous herd rather than a group of horses that practice for this every day.

It's a testament to the skill of the riders that they were able to keep this all together as their role is to appear calm and quiet in the saddle at all times. This scene of one or two horses losing it while most of the horses were just about perfect was repeated through the many days of ceremonies. I saw a policeman watching the crowd get knocked over when a horse in the procession going past him spun. At one point there was a riderless horse in the procession, meaning the rider had come off. During some cannon fire, one horse went from a slow beautiful walk to a flat-out canter, surprising the rider who some how managed to stay on and get things under control before the horse headed into the crowd.

It became obvious throughout the ten days of ceremonies that the magnitude of the event was going to test many of the horses designated to participate, and near the end the decision was made to remove horses from some of the program to reduce the risk to the public, the riders or the horses, or to disrupt the solemn proceedings. Despite years of training and practice for just such an event, some horses could just not be anything but horses on these particular days. Nothing wrong with that in my book. They're not machines.

On the other side of the world, I caught another glimpse of horses being horses in a very different kind of event. In this case it was the opening ceremony of the Pendleton Round-Up Rodeo, one of the oldest and largest rodeo events of the year. In this case, a young woman was riding around the outside track in front of the crowd, leading another horse that was saddled but riderless, with cowboy boots turned backwards in the stirrups, a universal tribute to the passing of someone special. The name didn't mean anything to me as I don't follow rodeo, but it was clear the deceased was someone loved and respected in this community.

The rider was his granddaughter I believe. She had a beautiful calm horse and was obviously a skilled and confident rider. The pony horse was equally calm and it was a pretty and moving picture.

Just as she was completing her lap around the stadium, a photographer opened a gate and came out to take some pictures, kneeling down for the shot. Once again, for a reason only the horse knows, this person coming out and kneeling down was a trigger. The horse instantly changed to a frightened flight

HORSES











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GARDEN

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down the garden for the season is reviewing what worked or didn't and planning for next year. I'm dating myself by saying that I loved looking at the "Monkey Ward" catalog as a child to see what Santa might bring. Looking through seed and plant catalogs in the depth of winter fulfill that function! One aspect of plants the catalogs emphasize is attractive fall color.

I lived in New England for 13 years, so I've experienced the most intense fall colors you can imagine. Our fall colors may be less intense, but still appreciated. I would like to introduce you to an excellent plant that provides season round interest and fantastic fruit to boot.

This shrub/small tree is called serviceberry (Amelanchier species) here in the west because it blooms about the time of the spring thaw, indicating to the pioneers that basic services like funerals, baptisms, and marriages could be performed. It's also called saskatoon, june-



Serviceberry in summer. (Photos by **Betty Lambright)**

berry, or shadbush depending on where you live in the continental US. The beautiful white flowers produce blueberry-like fruits in June, much loved by wildlife and humans.

People compare the taste to a cross between a blueberry and apple. The serviceberry's fall color is also reminiscent of blueberry bushes, as can be seen in the adjacent photo. Blueberries cannot be successfully grown here due to the alkaline soil, but serviceberries are totally adapted to our soils. The serviceberries



Serviceberry in the fall.

in my back yard were schlepped from southern Colorado to Silver City, and after a season spent recovering from the move are producing again.

I do have a couple of caveats about growing serviceberries in this region. First, they seem to like higher elevations. Some horticulturists have noted the plants are happier at 4500-feet or higher. Second, they will need additional moisture, especially during the fruiting stage

I have partially solved the moisture is-

sue by creating rain gardens around the plants. Rain gardens and their creation will be discussed in a future article.

People in New England may brag about fall colors, but WE know where Georgia O'Keeffe got her color combo inspirations. I see it through my kitchen window nearly every evening, as well as in the stunning art coming from our regional artists. Moreover, I don't have to freeze my "you know what" off for several months of the year to experience a few fleeting weeks of intense color. I consider that a change for the better!

Betty Lambright has 40-plus years of experience in gardening and landscape design. She has a master's degree in resource management and

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 $administration\ with$

an emphasis on water

HORSES

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animal, backing up and spinning and looking for a way out. The rope on the pony horse got tangled up. Other people involved in the event had come out on the track and had to jump out of the way to avoid getting run over. Somehow the rider kept her cool and held on to the other horse, even when her horse bolted through the now open gate.

Keep in mind this rider had gone around the entire arena with people taking pictures, music playing and an announcer talking about the person the rodeo community had lost. None

of that bothered the horse, but one photographer kneeling on the track was something different and threatening at that moment in time for this horse. A calm, collected picture became something else in the blink of an

You may ask why horse stories like these are worthy of a column about horsemanship. For me, they emphasize what is at the very core of today's approach to horsemanship. The best horsemen no longer believe in breaking a horse to the point where they lose their spirit and the qualities unique to their species. Today it's about gentling, teaching and developing a horse, and accepting his nature and all that goes with that, including sometimes unexpected behavior. None of the horses in these stories were disciplined, either in the moment or back at the barn, because these top riders all know and accept horses are what they are, and reactions to new or different things, or maybe even things they've seen a hundred times before, may surprise us but mean something to them.

No matter how well-trained they are or how skilled you are, it's a good reminder to see the best trained horses in the world behave like horses. The good horseman or woman never forgets this and never falls asleep at the switch. They ride every stride because you just never

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural

horsemanship and foundation training. You can contact him at hsthomson@ msn.com or 575 388-1830.





"You become responsible forever for what you've tamed."

-Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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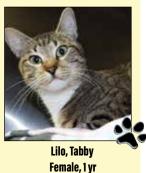
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Various kittens Daisy Koda **Bubbles**

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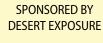


Husky, Female, 1 yr



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Gomez, Chihuahua Mix Male, 1 yr





Penny Tabby Female, 2 mos.





Jack



Ooberman male, 2-3 yrs

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Stacv

Lab mix, Female, 1 yr



Lanev ChiWeenie, Female, 2 vrs









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