

DESERT exposure



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JANUARY 2023

Volume 28 • Number 1



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Backyard Angst

Out with the bland, in with the getting-to-work

I am told the trend to move indoor activities outdoors that was made popular during the pandemic, known as “backyarding,” will continue to expand in 2023. Backyarding is a trend to use the backyard for everything from teleworking and working out to relaxing and recreating.

So, I look at my backyard, see if I can spot my two chicken ladies in the disaster and sigh. It is time to scrap away the detritus on the outdoor rug that my mom gave me two years ago and I can barely see under the piles of stuff.

In the cool winter air, I can move last year’s holiday boxes into the shed and then put this year’s decorations on top of them. I can untangle the chimes so at least they sound better and then fold up the fold up chairs to put them where they won’t blow away. It might be more fun to sit in the chair and watch the chicken ladies take their dirt baths and cluck at each other.

I can weed eat the tall grasses and rake the leaves where they will be more useful mulch. And then I will clean out that shed – wait, I better do that before I put the decorations away and put the boxes in there. But then the boxes will be in the way. Hmmm. But “Our yards have truly be-



One of Elva’s backyard chickens, happily backyarding. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

come one of the most important parts of our homes,” said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. “As we master the backyard in new ways, we are also realizing more long-term mental and physical health benefits of spending time outside.”

As a trend, I certainly approve, the world needs more outdoors and less slouching inside. I hope it is true that these things are happening, so I am sharing some predictions here.

The TurfMutt Foundation

(www.turfmutt.com) predicts the following backyarding trends for 2023:

- Communities will expand in big ways. The building industry will incorporate the hottest amenity around – outdoor space – when conceptualizing planned communities and developments. Get ready to see hiking trails, dog parks, outdoor eateries, green concert spaces, community gardens, pollinator plantings, playgrounds, rooftop gardens and terraces, and more in communities that expand and

revitalize.

- Say goodbye to bland yards and parks. As green space becomes curated spaces, more Americans will use themes or personalities to focus the purpose of their outdoor living spaces around specific activities. Parks and other community spaces also will reflect their more purposeful nature.

- Vacation vibes are year-round. Whether it’s adding Greek-themed elements and plantings to the backyard because a homeowner adores Mediterranean vacations, or adding quality furniture, a deluxe fire pit, a covered outdoor kitchen, or luxury seating with heating – more backyards will transport people to lush experiences that feel a world away.

- Homeowners will continue to plant with wildlife in mind. Knowing the backyard is a habitat for pollinators, insects, birds, and other wildlife, homeowners will choose plants, trees and shrubs that nurture and support wildlife, delighting in discovering them. They will also observe backyard wildlife as a hobby and families may incorporate bird or bat nesting boxes into outdoor learning for children and grown-ups alike.

- Pet pampering will remain

strong and expand. Fencing, sandpiles for digging, dog houses, and even agility courses for pets to enjoy will become more common.

The backyard is embraced as a sanctuary for personal growth. Whether it’s reaping biophilic benefits of observing wildlife in the backyard while drinking coffee, to doing yoga on the grass, or journaling while listening to birds – backyards will continue to give people a respite from the stresses of daily life.

So, for the new year, I will play more, cook more, enjoy more, dance more, plant more, relax more and work more in that back yard. I know it can give me peace, what am I waiting for? Just a step out the back door.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure readers in Silver City or any of our coverage areas. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408 to set a place and time to meet.



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Mobile Home Park for Commercial Income. This park is easy to operate and shows a history of steady income. There are 35 units all owned and existing mobiles convey with the park. The monthly gross income can be \$300,000/annually with some very minor rent adjustments. Great opportunity for an owner operator and handy person. In the park center is a two bedroom doublewide manufactured home for an owner or operator to have full view of the park. Call today. **MLS 39438. \$1,450,000.**

Southwestern style Hacienda with huge restaurant style kitchen with butcher block island, beamed ceilings and breakfast nook with bay window, stone countertops farm sink with commercial faucet, double convection oven. Huge master suite w/ vaulted ceilings, PVT covered patio. Master bath w/ pebble stone, dual shower heads, jetted tub, limestone countertops. Intercom, walk in closets, leaded glass door, French doors, 2 car garage. Great room with passive solar, clerestory windows, formal dining, 3 massive wrought iron chandeliers. Desirable Indian Hills estate on cul-de-sac. Park like setting, stone walls, sprinkler system, for patios, stargazing deck, stone barbecue, brick fire pit, post lighting, amazing views. **MLS#39236. \$599,000.**

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 chapparal! 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**

This historic two-story adobe hotel is located in Southwestern New Mexico. Built in the late 1800s, this property is thought to have served soldiers of the Buffalo Soldier Regiments of the U.S. Cavalry stationed at nearby Fort Bayard. The hotel is located in the heart of Santa Clara, New Mexico where residents are actively charting a renaissance for this charming community. Located at a gateway to the Gila Wilderness- the largest Wilderness Area in New Mexico and one of the few with protections from motorized vehicles. **MLS 39414. \$120,000**

Spacious home with views from the living room to the east. The spacious main bedroom suite features a modern bathroom remodel and a walk-in closet, plus a pellet stove insert. The main level includes the kitchen, living room, three bedrooms and two baths. The main floor shared bath also has a jetted tub/shower combination. Upstairs is a guest suite/4th bedroom with private bathroom/shower stall. Plenty of storage closets, laundry and two car garage round out the basement. Don't hesitate, you'll be pleasantly surprised with the three bathroom remodels. **MLS 39447. \$317,500.**

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ABOUT THE COVER:

"The Hidden life of trees," an art quilt by Anne Moats reflects a world of sunlight and light, while below the canopy can lie a world of hidden life in the dark shelter of the oldest trunks and roots. Moats has been a closet art quilter for 10 years, but only recently had the luxury of indulging her inner artist. She spent her adult life as a scientist in Albuquerque, but now calls the southern Arizona town of Bisbee home.



Moats is a member of the 4 Common Corners art quilt collective which includes New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Arizona quilters.

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE



Mary Ihlefeld, left, and Jill Olson of Silver City recently traveled to Turkey and Greece. The photo was taken at La Veranda restaurant on the Greek island of Rhodes.

If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Desert #78 Dumbfounder
by Dave Thomas

"Desert Dumbfounder" by Dave Thomas is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month's *Desert Exposure*. M = ù 'x = λ :ənto
Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to nmsrdave@swep.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 GLEFVHJKHEJQ KLW QZGKEJUG QKHE." - TGLWC HIVZXGPL, PL
HJOUZG 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 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"

Congrats to #77 solvers:
Mike Arms*, Will Adams*,
Claudette Gallegos*, Skip Howard*,
David Pino*, and Sue Merrick!

February Deadlines
All stories and notices for the editorial section due Sunday, Jan. 15.
Space reservation and ad copy due Monday, Jan. 16.

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RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

The Sky is Black

A glitch in the simulatrix

It was raining. Not pouring, but steady. I had already let the dogs outside to do their business. They weren't happy, but they do what they're told. My father, on the other hand, is a stubborn old coot. That's okay. So am I. He was sitting at the kitchen table. At the HEAD of the kitchen table. You know... MY chair. "You'll have to skip your walk today, pop," I told him. "It's raining." "No, it's not," he said. My father is a man who doesn't like to be told what to do. It had only rained all night. That morning was no different. "Of course it's raining," I told him. "Look outside." "I AM looking outside," he said, not looking outside. "Touch your dog. He's wet. That's because it's raining." My father called his dog over and petted him affectionately. I could tell he was hoping for dry fur to prove me wrong, but the look on his face told me he was touching a wet, stinky dog

"Dry as a bone," he insisted. The situation started to get frustrating. "He's wet, because it's raining. Can't you hear it?" "Hear what?" "The rain." "The what?" "The rain." What was I thinking? My father's ears... well, let's just say if he went to court, it wouldn't be called a hearing. He pretended to listen. "I don't hear anything," he finally said, which was probably true. My father is pre-Alzheimer's, so he has his moments, but rain is rain. Still... at my age... why argue? He may have been the immovable object, but I wasn't in the mood to be an irresistible force. That's when my wife made her entrance. Have I told you she's beautiful? She is. Anyway, she walked into our kitchen just as I had conceded defeat. She's got that kind of timing. "Good morning," she greeted us cheerfully.

My father wasn't so cheerful. "I'm going for a walk," he grunted, making his statement sound like a complaint. "A walk?" my wife sputtered, giving me the stink eye. "But it's raining." "It's not raining," he insisted. "Touch my dog." I remember telling her something similar when we were first dating. All it got me was a sharp elbow to the gut. I still laugh about it, and she still pretends to be mad. "Dad," my wife pleaded. "It was, but it stopped. Now's my chance to get my walk out of the way. Before it starts up again." "But it hasn't stopped." "Sure it has. Touch my dog. He's dry as a bone." "I'm not going to touch your wet dog." That's similar to what I heard just before I was assaulted. Which reminds me of a joke: "A peanut walks into a bar. He was assaulted." Think about it. Anyway, she lectured him

that not only was it wet, but the rain clouds were low and it was foggy. Did he want to catch a cold? My father's not one to be lectured. "There's no fog," he pooh-poohed. "Yes, there is," my wife insisted. "Where?" "Outside!" My father looked outside. I looked at my wife. My wife looked at me. "He's your problem," her eyes said. There must have been a glitch in The Simulatrix (April 2022). Otherwise my father wouldn't be insisting it wasn't raining when it obviously was. When I was in high school I was about as obnoxious a know-it-all as they come—you know, your typical teenager—and that led to countless arguments between my father and I. "The sky is black!" he would finally tell me when he had enough. The sky is black?

What he meant was it didn't matter if he was wrong. If he said something, then it was so. Of course, I didn't buy that argument for a second, and that led to even more arguments. Which brings us back to... He got up, grabbed his windbreaker, his hat, and headed to the back door leading out of the house, probably trying to will the precipitation to stop, but it didn't. The rain was as stubborn as my father. I know what you're thinking, but what could I do? Tie him down? There's not enough duct tape in the world for that. Plus, I don't think I'd do well in prison for elder abuse. Two minutes later, he was back. Not soaking, but wet. He walked in, shaking his head with a sheepish grin. He sat down and didn't say anything. And neither did I. *Why walk in the rain when you can jump in the puddles? theduchenebrothers@gmail.com @JimDuchene.*

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

So Many Questions

All the things I want to know in 2023

There are many things I want to know in the new year. Things I haven't learned yet, and a new year is always a good reason to try something new. Or to learn something new.

I want to know why we still work more than we do anything else in life. I get it. Productivity helps us move forward. We are creators, innovators, people of ideas. I'm sure most of the most significant advancements of society were hatched by overworkers, thinking, thinking, and thinking late into the night.

Let those people think, and overwork. We need those people, but it's not for me. I like to work too, always have. When I was 16, my parents told me I

was old enough to get a job, so go get one. A few days later, I was taking orders at Kentucky Fried Chicken. I haven't stopped working since. From fast food to housekeeping, auto glass repair, taxi driving, teaching, and writing, every experience has been worthwhile and edifying.

There is something to be said for working hard and going the extra mile, until you taste what life is like outside the office. Walking around the park on an autumn afternoon when you are home early enough to see the sunset. Getting up late, turning on the percolator, and just sitting and listening to the bubbling sound of a new day beginning. I'd like to do more of that.

I want to know why it takes

us so long to decide on the little things. I was reading an obituary the other day of a lady who lived to be almost 100 years of age. Born here and raised there, worked for them, and then for someone else. Important details, but where she really came to life was who she was as a person in her free time. Her success in growing a garden. Her volunteer work with several organizations. Her spontaneity in traveling when she felt it was time to see something new. Living in the moment and realizing moments are not infinite.

We take too long to make life decisions in a life that is too short for us to take the time to decide on things.

In 2023, I want to know why

it's so hard to believe in things. In big things and little things. In the kind of things that are obviously believable and in those things that seem utterly unbelievable. We don't believe in almost anything anymore.

I'd like to believe it's still easy to shake someone's hand. Someone you've never met before. Someone you want to get to know because he is someone you don't know. Someone who will teach you something new.

I also want to believe the new year will bring me more opportunities to be the kind of person I've been trying to be for a long time. I think if I believe it can happen, I can be that person, as unbelievable as it may be to others. A person that is a little soft-

er, a little warmer, a little more understanding.

In the new year, I want to know it's O.K. not to know most things. To start something not knowing where it's going to end. To pick something up not knowing how heavy it may feel. To put something down and to hand it off to someone not knowing where it will reach its final destination.

I think what I want to know most is knowing I don't know that much at all and that it's O.K. It makes room for the desire to want to know so much more.

Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in America. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.

Video shot at White Sands released

Imelda Gabs, 24, an artist and producer from Switzerland, visited White Sands National Monument and Las Cruces last October with film director Dariy Mambetov to film a music video at White Sands. The single and video, "Reckless," have just been released, Gabs said. Visit www.imeldagabs.com to see the video. (Courtesy photos)



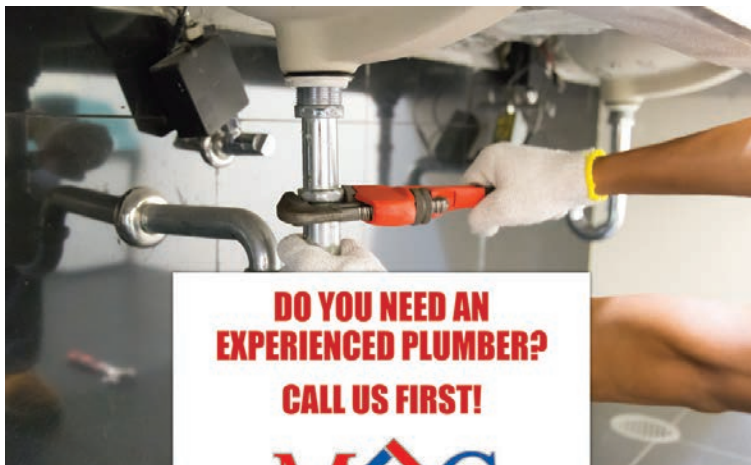
January

By William Carlos Williams
1883-1963

Again I reply to the triple winds running chromatic fifths of derision outside my window: Play louder.

You will not succeed. I am bound more to my sentences the more you batter at me to follow you.

And the wind, as before, fingers perfectly its derisive music.



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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

New Show, Old Work

Part of WNMU art collection brought to light

In a new exhibit at the Western New Mexico University Francis McCray Gallery, pieces of art are going up that haven't been seen for more than 20 years. The "Pen, Pencil and Print" exhibition consists of works of art from the WNMU Permanent Art Collection.

A glimpse of original works on paper from lithograph prints to pen and ink and pencil drawings includes a sample of some incredible works of art spanning several decades that include local, national and international

artists.

Gallery director Jill Winburn is most excited about the work coming back into the light.

"It's artwork that has been in storage for a while," Winburn said. "Only pen and ink and pencil, a variety, like Harry Benjamin to Picasso, Dali. It's exciting just to have people see what we have."

Winburn has been doing a lot of research on these pieces, and said she had no idea the college had such a huge collection.

"It's amazing to me," she said.

"It's a history lesson. We are hoping some people will be able to shed some light on some of the work that doesn't have that much information."

The collection is important historically because it is about the culture of the time periods it comes from, she said. The work creates an appreciation of art and should be out there around campus.

"It's part of the research and teaching part of WNMU," Winburn said. "When you have a pencil drawing from the 1700s its good to get it up and have people appreciate it. It's good for the culture."

The pieces in the permanent collection are in a safe storage location and Winburn is spearheading efforts to re-catalog everything. While there are pieces hanging around campus and many pieces have been re-framed, she wants to get more of the historical artwork out and on display.

She said the gallery is a teaching and research location, mostly for the students at the college. Because there is a limited amount of shows they can do every year, they can't produce a permanent collection show every year, but will certainly do them more than every 20 years, she said. The next one might be of a Japanese collection she has been uncovering in storage.

"What you will see within this exhibit is a collection of artists from around the globe whose artworks share a process that is



Grandmother Image III, a 1971 etching by Leticia Tarrago. (Courtesy photos)

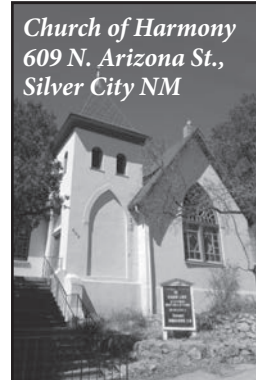
sometimes formal, informal and innovative," Winburn said. "The exhibit consists of pieces that range from 1798 to 1922, to the 1960s and 1970s and displays the breadth of artwork that is a small sampling of the collection itself."

Also included in the exhibit are works by John Battenberg,

Woodford Johnson, Diana Ingalls Leyba and Francisco Goya.

"Pen, Pencil and Print," will be on display from Jan. 23-Feb. 17 at the gallery with an opening reception taking place at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26. For more information call the gallery at 575-538-6517.

Untitled by R. Palm, pen and ink, date unknown.



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ARTS EXPOSURE

Collaborating

Blue Dome Gallery, Sterling Fine Art come together

Blue Dome Gallery and Sterling Fine Art have entered into a strategic partnership that benefits both galleries and the Silver City artistic community. The agreement brings together two top-tier galleries, their artists and respective collectors. Blue Dome is a gallery located at both the Bear Mountain Lodge and 307 N. Texas St., and Sterling is a collection of distinguished artists, both local and from Santa Fe that will now reside in the gallery on Texas Street.

"We are pleased to announce that Sterling Fine Art will be moving into Blue Dome Gallery space downtown this month," said Linda Brewer, Blue Dome Gallery owner. "The Blue Dome Gallery will continue to have the upstairs open with artwork there as well as the lodge. We are very excited to welcome Miriam



Owners of Blue Dome Gallery and Sterling Fine Art work together to display their arts offerings to the public. (Courtesy Photo)

and her artists."

Customers of Blue Dome will now have exposure to a wider range of fine art, as well as classes, she said.

"It's a win-win for the community, visitors and both galleries." Sterling owner Miriam Hill said. "Sterling will double its previous space (on Bullard Street) providing more exposure of represented artists. This also allows us to

conduct classes in watercolor and oil painting."

"Each piece we display reflects the care and creative force of the artist," Brewer said. "Our painters, sculptors, jewelers, furniture makers, glass artists and potters are known for their excellent craftsmanship and style."

Hill said she was always drawn to the area because of the

artist nature of the community.

"I finally made the leap and have been part of the artist community since early 2017," she said. "I'm continually amazed at the variety and quality of work and decided to provide a venue. My aim is provide both collectors access to this hidden gem of artistic talent, and artists a

means to market their work to a wider audience, and the adventurous ones an invite to visit our fine city."

Contact Brewer at the Blue Dome Gallery at info@bearmountainlodge.com or 575 654-6155 and Hill at Sterling Fine Art at miriamhill@mac.com or 505 699-5005.

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<p>Thursday, January 19 @ 7PM</p> <p>BIG RICHARD Neo-Acoustic Americana Tickets \$15 Light Hall Theater</p>	<p>Thursday, January 26 @ 6PM</p> <p>WNMU PERMANENT COLLECTION: PEN, PENCIL, AND PRINT Opening Reception – January 26; Closes February 17 Francis McCray Gallery</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 31 @ 7PM</p> <p>Tickets \$15 Light Hall Theater</p> <p>The President's CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES</p>	
	<p>WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY</p>	<p>Cultural Affairs 575.538.6469</p>	<p>Tickets & Details: wnmu.edu/culture</p>

ON SCREEN

Giancarlo Esposito Coming

April film fest features 'Breaking Bad,' 'Kaleidoscope' actor

On April 13, 2023 the Las Cruces International Film Festival will honor multiple award winning actor Giancarlo Esposito with the "Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment" award.

Esposito will be on hand to accept the award in Las Cruces. Past recipients of the LCIFF award include William H Macy, Danny Trejo, Brendan Fraser, George Lopez, Cybill Shepherd, Richard Dreyfuss and Edward James Olmos.

Screening a film of his at the Allen Theatres Cineport at 7 p.m. he will host the following question-and-answer session with the audience. Esposito will also be speaking at New Mexico State University about his long and esteemed career.

"Giancarlo Esposito is an iconic New Mexico actor known for his historic roles in 'Breaking Bad' and

'Better Call Saul,'" said Las Cruces International Film Festival founder and Executive Director Ross Marks. "His outstanding and diverse body of work has brought so much recognition to our great state.

"It is a thrill the Las Cruces International Film Festival can honor him in person. He is the consummate character actor whose values and work ethic reflect Las Cruces. We are beyond ecstatic to have him as the face of the 2023 film festival."

Esposito was born in Copenhagen, to an Italian carpenter and stagehand father from Naples, Italy, and an African American opera singer mother from Alabama.

He is well known by television audiences for his iconic portrayal of drug kingpin Gustavo "Gus" Fring in "Breaking Bad" for which he won the 2012 Critics' Choice Award and

earned a 2012 Emmy nomination. Esposito can be seen reprising his role of 'Gus Fring' on "Better Call Saul," which has earned him 2019 and 2020 Emmy Award nominations.

Esposito will next be seen leading the cast of Netflix's heist drama series "Kaleidoscope." The series premieres on Jan. 1.

Esposito began his career working in theater, making his Broadway debut in the 1968 musical "Maggie Flynn," starring opposite Shirley Jones. He also starred in the original cast of the Stephen Sondheim-Harold Prince production "Merrily We Roll Along."

The eighth Las Cruces International Film Festival takes place April 12-16 and will be live and in-person at the Allen Theatres Cineport. Tickets are available at www.lascrucesfilmfest.com.



Giancarlo Esposito will be in Las Cruces in April to receive an "Outstanding achievement in Entertainment Award" and chat with students, and present a film. (Courtesy photo)



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ON STAGE

Shakespeare Goes Viral

New take on 'Romeo and Juliet'

Virus Theater brings its highly physical and emotive theatrical style to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. The troupe focuses on creating theater that is relevant and interesting to its audiences by developing original, devised theater pieces and, as in this case, bringing classical works to life in ways that are, according to a press release, "incredibly fun, purposefully accessible, and deeply meaningful."

Virus Theater's "Romeo and Juliet" will be a design mash-up of Renaissance meets the 80s. The majority of the cast is teenagers, as is fitting for this story of two deeply feeling young lovers navigating the divide

between their families.

Performance dates: Jan. 27, 28, and 29, and Feb. 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances at 7 p.m., and Sunday performances at 2 p.m.

All performances will be at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St. in historic downtown Silver City.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Advance tickets can be purchased starting in mid-January at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, email virustheater@gmail.com and follow Virus Theater on Facebook and Instagram.



Dominic Rasmussen, left, and Dara Werber in rehearsal for Romeo and Juliet. These two young actors play the titular roles. (Photo by Tyler Bingham)

Special Epiphany exhibit

"The Epiphany: Día de los Reyes" is an exhibit sharing creches (nacimientos) from the collection of Faith Hutson and John Verploegh, including creches from their world travels.

The exhibition will be noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at 706 B S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, Hutson said in a news release. A suggested donation of \$4 will help increase the fund for public art in the Mesquite

Historic District, Hudson said. Café de olla and Rosca de Reyes pastry will be served.

"The event is a recreation of the story of the birth of Christ through the creative lens of artists from around the world," Hudson said.

The Hutson/Verploegh historic home is on the original El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, which was used 1598-1882, Hudson said.



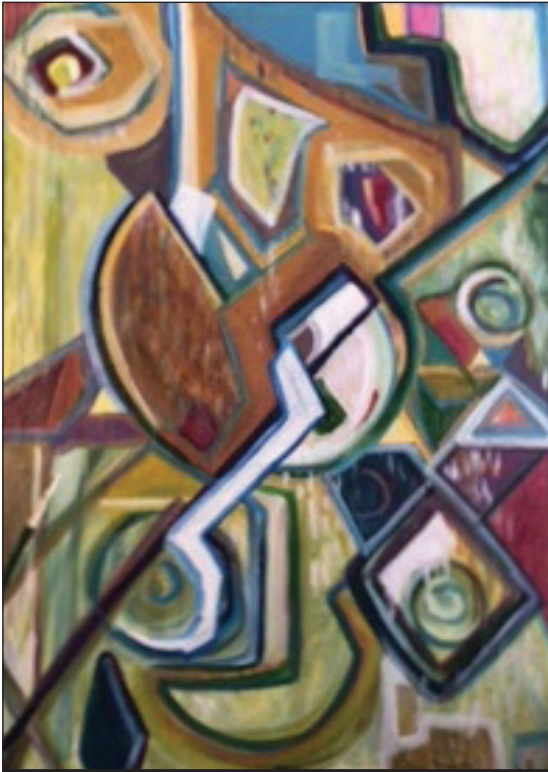

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Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

OPPORTUNITY

• **The Art in Public Places Program of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs** is seeking 15 artists to create double page spread coloring book illustrations for the **2023 DCA Activity Book** exploring poetry, visual art, and science. Chosen artists will respond to poetry by New Mexico Poet Laureate **Lauren Camp**, and themes of togetherness, community and environment. The activity book will be printed and distributed across the state of New Mexico. Artists of all career levels working in New Mexico who demonstrate an ability to create artwork commensurate with the scope of this project are invited to submit qualifications. Artists will be paid \$2,000 per double page illustration, inclusive of all applicable costs, taxes, and fees. The submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 9. Email Meredith.doborski@dca.nm.gov for information.

SILVER CITY

• In a dual art exhibit of recent work at **a)S p... "A"© E Studio • Art • Gallery**, 5-8 p.m. **Kelly Hart** and **Linda Joanou** are featured artists. Hart provides a unique interpretation of early

human artistic expression with symbols of life rendered in the form of panels of inlaid wood, or marquetry. 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 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 is the art of over 35 local artists working in a wide range of mediums. In February 2023, the Guild will be opening a new downtown Silver City venue, **The Studio**. The motto for The Studio will be "Create, Teach, Exhibit." Classes and open studios currently held in the GCAG Annex will move to this new location February 1. The GCAG Gallery is located at 316 N Bullard in Silver City, NM, in the historic Hester House (Look for the big purple building). Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day. Info: gcag.org.

• **Stewart Grange** has created **Krazy Katz**, now available at



Works by Yannick Garreau and two others open at the Otero ArtSpace in Alamogordo Jan. 6. (Courtesy photos)

his gallery. What started with a neighbor'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.

DEMING

• **The Ten o' Clock Club**, aka, "**The Tanners**," are presenting their exhibit, "**Reflections**," as the January exhibit at the **Deming Art Center**. In 2005, interest in art and public art projects brought five Las Cruces artists together. They decided to meet in various Las Cruces cafes at 10 am on the tenth of each month, dubbing the group as The Ten o' Clock Club. Known for "contagious enthusiasm" and even "eccentricity," artists represent a diversity of art mediums: assemblage, ceramics, collage, encaustic, jewelry design, pastels, photography, printmaking, and weaving. The Deming Art Center will host a time to meet the artists on 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8. The Art Center is located at 100 S. Gold St., Deming. Info: 575-546-3663 and at www.demingarts.org.

ALAMOGORDO/TULAROSA

• **Otero Arts** presents the

work of three artists in January: **Arlene MacLean** whose work is abstract; **Yannick Garreau**, who paints in the Impressionistic style; and **Linda Ray**, whose work is considered ethereal and spiritual. The opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. Friday Jan. 6 at the **ArtSpace** located at 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. Maclean has been an artist for many years having recently moved from the East Coast to Alamogordo. Her paintings are abstract. Garreau, born in France, came to the US in 2016. He says his paintings bring him a sense of peace. Ray incorporates celestial images of imaginary and actual animals set in a blue/purple background. Her subjects are wolves, owls, lions and butterflies as well as imaginary creatures of her own invention. The exhibition continues through the month of January. The ArtSpace gallery is open from 1-4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. For further information: contact.oteroarts.org

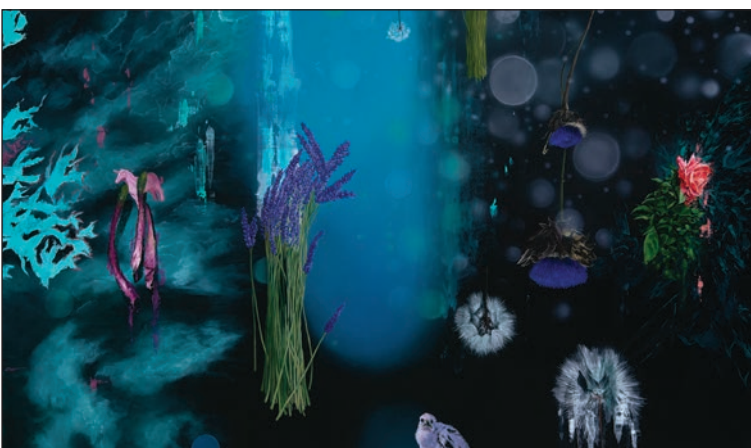
CLOUDCROFT

• **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

• **The Tombaugh Gallery** features seven New Mexico artists, each using their own unique style to create one-of-a-kind pieces for December/January. **Carol Blaschka** creates handmade greeting cards, many special for the holiday season. **Cindy Dexter**'s primary medium is fused glass, both functional pieces for your dining room table and art pieces to hang in your window or place in your garden. **Jeanie 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, wood-burning, painting and so much more. **Teri McCatherin** 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 ends Jan. 8. Visit the Tombaugh Gallery



"Tethered Decent" by Craig Cully and Kelly Leslie is part of the exhibit featuring work of faculty and staff at NMSU.

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 January: **Frank Rimbach** and **Naida Zucker**. Zucker, a mixed media artist, combines gelatin monoprinting (hectography) with digital photography. She produces one-of-a-kind art pieces. She is a retired NMSU biology professor.

Rimbach earned his Master of Fine Arts from New Mexico State University. His work can be found at Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery and in private collections. 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.

• Two exhibitions at the **New Mexico State University Art Museum** help usher in 2023 in collaboration with the Department of Art. They are focused on artists who teach.

One, **"Together Through as Within,"** is scheduled from Jan. 20 through March 11 and curated by **Leslie Moody Castro**, an independent curator and writer based in Mexico City and the Inaugural Curatorial Resident at NMSU's Department of Art. The exhibition features the work of staff and faculty within the



"Wheat Field and Pecans on Shalem Colony" by Carlitta Harvey is featured in the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum Arts Corridor.

Department of Art in NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences, where each educator is also an artist. A second exhibition running concurrently will be **"Ad Infinitum: Artists Against War and Imperialism,"** scheduled from Jan. 20 through May 20 and curated by **Joanna Matuszak**, visiting assistant professor of contemporary art history in NMSU's Department of Art in the College of Arts and Sciences. The show will feature war-era posters and artworks from the NMSU Permanent Art Collection in the Bunny Conlon Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery. The artwork highlights twentieth-century imperialism and its effects such as militarization, the nuclear arms race, the destruction of human lives and damage to the natural environment. An opening reception for both shows will be open from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20 at the UAM, 1390 E. University Avenue. Art museum

hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

• **Carlitta Harvey's** artwork is featured in a new exhibit at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** in Las Cruces. **"Rural Life in New Mexico: Paintings by Carlitta Harvey"** is open in the Museum's Arts Corridor. Growing up on a farm, Harvey's inspiration and foundation as an artist were cultivated at an early age. She painting farm scenes when she was old enough to buy her own watercolors. Coming from four generations of farmers, and marrying a cattle rancher, her love of the rural life is apparent in her paintings. She frequently creates her work "plein air," outdoors on site. There are 23 paintings in the show, which will be on display through April 2. The museum, at 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Info: 575-522-4100.



OTERO ARTSPACE

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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

What's going on in JANUARY?

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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Silver City/Grant County
Hangover Brunch at the Toad — 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Live music with Znora. Info: 575-956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

First Day Hike at Elephant Butte Dam — 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Elephant Butte Dam, Highway 51 east to the dam overlook. Built in 1916, the dam is closed to all traffic except for this one day a year when it is open to walkers as part of the first day hikes programs. Info: 575-744-5421.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
White Mountain Christmas at Flying J Ranch — 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Flying J Ranch, 1028 U.S. Hiway 48, Alto. Dinner and a Christmas show, holiday lights, a winter hayrides and a visit with Santa. Info: 575-336-4330.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Danzantes at Tortugas Pueblo close their Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations — 3 p.m. as they escort the virgin back to her

Capilla. The day's events are open to the public to attend and take place at the Tortugas Casa del Pueblo.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Silver City/Grant County
Arenas Valley Al-Anon Family Group — 6-7 p.m. at the Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race-track Road, Arenas. Info: 575-313-7791.

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 or claudia@tularosa.net.

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

Free Lecture: History of Truth or Consequences — 6 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, 101 Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Learn about the town formerly known as Hot Springs. Presented by Dimid Hayes. Info: 575-744-5923.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

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

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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at Pope Street and College Avenue in Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket.info.
Artisans Market — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 106 E. Market Street, Downtown Silver City behind the Grant County Art Guild Gallery. Info: annex@gcag.org.
Breakin' Up Christmas Dance — 6:30-9 p.m. at the Murray Hotel, 200 W. Broadway St. Silver City. Fundraiser for KURU Community Radio and presented by the Big Ditch Crickets. Info: 575-534-0298. Live music: Lottie & the Ohm

Wreckers — 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. A night of dance music in a variety of styles. 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: farmers-marketsnm.org.

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

Saturday Science: Fossilization — 10 a.m.-noon at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Learn how fossils are formed through hands-on experiments and specimens for children ages 6 and up. Info: 575-522-3120.

The Epiphany: Día de los Reyes — noon-4 p.m. at 706 B S. Mesquite St. in Las Cruces. A one day exhibit sharing cheches from around the world at a historic Mesquite District home.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Silver City/Grant County
Live music: Mystic Maude — 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Acoustic versions of favorite songs. Info: 575-956-6144.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Live: Extreme Dwarfactors Wrestling — 6-8 p.m. at Sgt. Willie

Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. First St. Alamogordo. Info: www.dwarfactors.com.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
T or C Story Lab — noon-1 p.m., at El Cortez Theater, 415 Main St. T or C. Info: torcstorylab@gmail.com.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
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. WNMU Museum director Danny Romero speaks on the Mimbreno pottery collection. Cost: Lunch is \$14. All singles are welcome. Info: jimccord@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
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
Taos Artist Angus Macdonald at the library — 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo. Join to be enthralled by the story of the artist, the actor, the monk and the man. There will be a book signing following the talk. Info: 575-439-4100.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 12

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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

continued from page 11

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

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

Hidden Word of the Mimbres: Glimpses of Daily Life Through Pottery — 4 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Museum. A free presentation by Dani Romero. Info: 575-538-6386.
 Arenas Valley Al-Anon Family Group — 6-7 p.m. at the Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race-track Road, Arenas. Info: 575-313-7791.

Alamogordo/Otero County Brand Launch Party at the library — 4-6 p.m. at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo. A festive event to celebrate the library's new and improved services, fresh logo and brand. Info: 575-439-4100.
Meet and Greet/Book signing with Amy Rivers — 6 p.m. at the Tularosa Public Library, 515 Fresno St. Tularosa. Info: tularosalibrary@yahoo.com.

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.
Teen Takover: Back to school self-care — 6-8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Museum only open to teens, play with the exhibits, experiment, eat snacks and play games. This program is for teens 12-17. Info: 575-522-3120.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Silver City/Grant County
"Hopalong Cassidy" double feature — 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Armory. Film series, "How the West was Fun" presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. Cost: free. Info: 575-388-4862.
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
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.

Alamogordo/Otero County Writers' Workshop: Story Craft — 3-4:30 p.m. at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo. Facilitated by award winning novelist Amy Rivers. Following the workshop Rivers will participate in a meet and greet and book signing. Info: 575-439-4100.
New Mexico Museum of Space History Astronomy League — 7 p.m. at the Clyde W. Tombaugh Education Building on the campus of the Museum of Space History, front classroom. Info: www.nmspacemuseum.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

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.



New Mexico Poet Laureate Lauren Camp will be reading Jan. 20th at Otero ArtSpace in Alamogordo. (Courtesy photo)

Live music: Catfishry Blues Band — 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Blues from Texas, Delta, Chicago including jump and swing. Info: 575-956-6144.

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.

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.

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

Alamogordo/Otero County 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, JANUARY 19

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.
"Gene Autry" double feature — 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Armory. Film series, "How the West was Fun" presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. Cost: free. Info: 575-388-4862.
Live Music: Big Richard — 7-9 p.m. at Light Hall Theater on the Western New Mexico University campus. Neo-acoustic super group. Cost: \$15. Info: wnmw.edu/culture.

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, JANUARY 20
Silver City/Grant County
 Create a January Craft — 3:30-4:30

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p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

Deming/Luna County

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

Alamogordo/Otero County

NM Poet Laureate Lauren Camp — 6 p.m. at Otero ArtSpace, 12th Street and Indiana Avenue in Alamogordo. Writer and educator Camp works in the confluence of sound, psychology and language. Info: www.laurencamp.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

PowerUp Expo and Training — noon-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Learn about availability, affordability and benefits of technologies surrounding electricity. Info: meetinlascruces.com/powerup-expo-training/. **“Green Day’s American Idiot,” the musical** — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

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.

State Park Astronomy Program — 5:10 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Info: 575-536-2800.
Live music: Big Al & the Sh*kickers — 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Classic country ballads with Big Al. 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: farmers-marketsnm.org.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County

“High Tea at the Liberty Library” murder mystery dinner/game — 6 p.m. at the T or C Community Theatre Club House, 311 N. Date St. in T or C. The setting is May 1955 during the monthly meeting of the Liberty Library League. A gourmet meal is included in the event. Cost: \$30. Info: torccommunittheatre.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Live Music: Los Huracanes del Norte — 6-11:30 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Sarrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. One of the most influential norteño groups celebrates 50-year anniversary. Info: 575-464-7777.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County

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

PowerUp Expo and Training — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Learn about availability, affordability and benefits of technologies surrounding electricity. Info: meetinlascruces.com/powerup-expo-training/.

Fossils — 9 a.m.-noon at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Learn about the earliest life on Earth from the Precambrian Era 4.6 billion years ago. Info: 575-522-3120.

“Green Day’s American Idiot,” the musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Silver City/Grant County
Live music: Juniper Djinn — 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Multi-instrumental Bill Stroller and Jessica Fleet bring dark waltzes, old blues and tradition swing melodies to Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
“Green Day’s American Idiot,” the musical — 2 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Silver City/Grant County
Movie: “Up” — 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silvercitypubliclibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Silver City/Grant County
Arenas Valley Al-Anon Family Group — 6-7 p.m. at the Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race-track Road, Arenas. Info: 575-313-7791

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, JANUARY 26

Silver City/Grant County
“Billy the Kid Returns” and “The Arizona Kid” Roy Rogers double feature — 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Armory. Film series, “How the West was Fun” presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. Cost: free. Info: 575-388-4862.
Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families meeting — 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

continued on page 14

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This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued from page 13

N. Texas St. Info: 575-567-9410.

Alamogordo/Otero County
BYU: Living Legends — 7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. Alamogordo. Culturally inspired dance, music and costumes celebrates the Latin American, Native American and Polynesian cultures. Info: flickingercenter.com.

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, JANUARY 27
Silver City/Grant County
Create some fashion — 3:30-4:30

p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Info: silverscitypubliclibrary.org.
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Info: virus theater@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County
"Green Day's American Idiot," the musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
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.
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Info: virus theater@gmail.com.
Live music: Resonant Rogues — 8-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City. Appalachian folk paint musical picture of lives in the mountains of Western North Carolina and on the road. Info: 575-956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Live Music: Camerata Del Sol — 7 p.m. at Rio Bravo Fine Art, 110 N. Broadway St. in T or C. Performing rarely heard chamber music works. Cost: \$15. Info: sierracountyarts.org.



Fossils are featured at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science Jan. 7 and 21. (Courtesy photo)

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
Live Music: Dust City Opera — 5-8 p.m. at the Lost Hiker Brewing

Company, 26394, U.S. 70, Ruidoso Downs. Info: 575-808-8072.

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.

STEAMPunk: Ynes Mexia, botanist — 10 a.m. at the Las Cruces

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Museum of Nature & Science, 411 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Discover stories behind science heroes who break barriers, then explore what they did. Info: 575-522-3120.
"Green Day's American Idiot," the musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
Silver City/Grant County
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 2 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Info virustheater@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
"Green Day's American Idiot," the musical — 2 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. Produced by Blank Conversations Theatre Company the production is based on the iconic 2004 punk album released after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the Iraq conflict. Info: www.blankconversations.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31
Silver City/Grant County
Live Music: Camerata Del Sol — 7-9 p.m. at Light Hall Theater on the Western New Mexico University

campus. Part of the President's Chamber Music Series, performing rarely heard chamber music works. Cost: \$15. Info: wnmu.edu/culture.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Silver City/Grant County
Arenas Valley Al-Anon Family Group — 6-7 p.m. at the Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Racetrack Road, Arenas. Info: 575-313-7791.

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, FEBRUARY 2
Silver City/Grant County
"The Lone Ranger" with Clayton Moore double feature — 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Armory. Film series, "How the West was Fun" presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. Cost: free. Info: 575-388-4862.
"Billy the Kid Returns" and "The Arizona Kid" double feature — 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Armory. Film series, "How the West was Fun" presented by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Soci-

ety. Cost: free. Info: 575-388-4862.
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Info virustheater@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Silver City/Grant County
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic trag-

edy. Info virustheater@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Colcheras Quilt Show — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Cost: \$7. Info: lcqg.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Silver City/Grant County
"Romeo and Juliet" with Virus Theater — 7 p.m. at El Sol Theater at 406 N. Bullard St., Downtown Silver City. Highly physical and emotive theatrical style brought to William Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Info virustheater@gmail.com.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Live Music: Camerata Del Sol — 7 p.m. at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana St., Alamogordo. Seven-member ensemble and a string quartet performing innovative string repertoire including "Through the Refining Fire," a setting of works from the 1920s. Cost: \$25. Info: www.oteroarts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Colcheras Quilt Show — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Cost: \$7. Info: lcqg.org.


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

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

as specified.

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



GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 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 MOUNTAIN 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 L.
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 Saturday L D Sunday B.
JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse.
KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.
LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.
LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-4980. 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.
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Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.
SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: 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 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.
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AQUA REEF, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.
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Calle de Guadalupe, 652-3337. Eclectic, B L. Closed Thursday.
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CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.
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DAY'S HAMBURGERS, 2420 W. Picacho Ave. Suite B, 386-0554. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D
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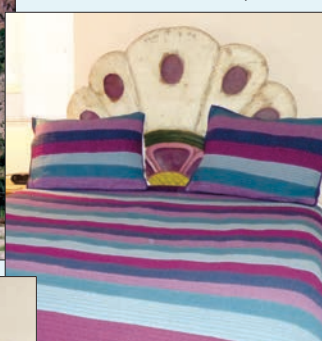
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ON THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

Erika and AMLO

Changing the way it has to be

It was April 29, 2022, and I was at the Vision in Action mental asylum on the west edge of Juárez with my 17-year-old grandson, Chet. This was Hot Dog Day. A generous group of volunteers from El Paso led by Art Moreno had made their monthly visit to prepare a meal of hot dogs, sodas and chips for the approximately 120 patients. The food here is ample but bland; therefore this monthly feast is always a welcome break and a cause for great excitement.

Chet was struggling in school and liked to feel sorry for himself so I brought him to Juárez to see what really tough lives are like. He immediately jumped in and helped serve the hot dogs.

Then I noticed him talking to an attractive young woman. Her name was Erika, she was 17old and she had been here several times for drug issues. She gets clean, returns to her family in Juárez but soon relapses.

She and Chet chatted. Her English was excellent and she offered to teach him Spanish. He was awed by the whole experience.

Later I check with friends in Juárez. Can they help find some sort of aftercare program for patients like Erika, some way to watch over them so that they don't relapse after they are released? But there is nothing available in the whole city, even though drug addiction is an enormous issue.

I see Erika twice more. On Oct. 28 she is in a cell because she had been acting out. There are two other young women there – Gabriela and Daniella. What is go-



Erika in a cell at Vision in Action mental asylum in Juárez on Nov. 5, 2022. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

ing to happen to them when they go home and then relapse again?

Then the terrible news comes. On Monday, Nov. 21, Erika is found dead; she has been strangled.

In the meantime, Mexico's President, Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador better known as AMLO is much in the news. On Sunday, Nov. 27, some 1.2 million Mexicans marched in a huge demonstration of support for him and his first four years in office. This was to counter huge demonstrations against him two weeks earlier because of his proposal to take more control of the electoral system.

Despite the high crime rates and a weak

economy his approval rating is about 60 percent; this compares to 41 percent for President Biden. When I think of his first four years in office, however, I think of Erika and our total inability to find basic mental health services for her.

I think of the west side of Juárez where I have never seen a government health care worker, where there are no clinics, no health services. I think of Vision in Action which receives no government support even though it is the largest facility for the mentally ill in Juárez, a city of 1.2 million people.

The answer, at least in the short term, is the same one that motivates the many non-profits and humanitarian organizations that work on the border. Do it

yourself. Don't just complain because some political leader has failed to carry out his campaign promises. In this case, we are putting together a proposal to expand and enhance the medical assistance available at Vision in Action and I predict we will find supporters and donors as we have for other projects like building a separate dormitory for many of the women patients.

Will this help other patients? Will it be in time for young women like Gabriela and Daniella? Please contact me if you would like to help.

Morgan Smith writes frequently about border issues and can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.



Erika and the author's grandson, Chet, in Juárez on April 29, 2022.

FACES OF DEMING



Since 2018, Henry Bukurson has been the computer "go to" person for the Deming Area. Henry began working for Luna County as an IT Technician and then opened Bukurson Technology on Pine Street.

This office quickly became a center for community outreach. Henry offered free computer training and internships for students of all ages. The local drama group "The Florida Mountain Players" also held rehearsals and readings in the space.

In 2020 the name changed to Heaven Technology LLC, which is more conducive to Henry's spiritual life style and in October 2022 the office was moved to 900 S. Platinum, providing more business and office space for Henry to put his very creative mind to work. He is planning to add a professional certification testing center, enhancing the Deming business community.

Henry met his wife Jeanie and they now have a beautiful daughter, Ellie.

"I Love Deming and plan on spending the rest of my life here," Henry said. (Photo by Stanly Sabre)



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Diving Into Film

Deming students learn from professional armorer

Students at Early College High School (ECHS) in Deming had a visit from Hollywood in the action form of Game of Thrones Armorer Natalia Lee on Wednesday, Dec. 14. For their peek at the film industry the students took part on a symposium on career possibilities in the film industry.

Lee brought an insider's perspective to working with Hollywood and film studios. Highlighting the presentation will be a staged, a staged fight scene using real film props and re-enactors from the Society for Creative Anachronism provided some action excitement for the watcher. The sword fight was presented in several takes, giving kids a behind the scenes glimpse of how each shot is set up, the way props are used, and backstage lingo.

The students also had opportunities to speak with film directors, film school and film studio representatives and more. All presentations were held at the Western New Mexico-Deming Learning Center and hosted by ECHS.

"It's so rare for Deming to have real access to legitimate Hollywood personnel," said Bryan Simpson, Principal of ECHS, "Our students were excited to experience the film industry magic and make connections for



Students at Early College High School in Deming got hands on experience working with film armorer Natalia Lee, standing, in pink. (Photos by Deana Orosco)

career exploration."

Lee, the "Woman of Weapons," is known for her work on Game of Thrones as a film armorer. She designed weapons for the show including the iconic "Heartsbane Sword," and worked with Weapons Master Tommy Dunne throughout the series to help create some of Film and TV's most memorable weapons.

She also had the opportunity to guest star as tribal leader "Chella," a grizzly character in the early seasons and can be seen weapons training and stunt

doubling in the background also.

Born in Poland and raised in Australia, Lee began her career in security and police armories, then applying her skills to major motion pictures locally and then internationally.

"I immigrated to Australia from Poland when I was 6 years old and worked my way up from the bottom of the film industry," said Lee. "I came to New Mexico because of the burgeoning film Industry. But I came to Dem-

ing because this community reminds me of where I came from. There is so much opportunity for these kids to build a strong economic base through film work."

This was a joint event conceived by the SBDC, Deming ECHS and The Council, Inc. and funded by Luna County in support of economic development, job creation and local job opportunities. Approximately 250 people attended including students, staff, sponsors, government officials, and film industry professionals.

In addition to Lee the event featured Iman Shervington, a filmmaker from The Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies based in New Orleans and Los Angeles; Ian Simon, a 1st Assistant Director with the Directors Guild of America, based in Las Cruces; and Andrew Jara, a film liaison from Film Las Cruces.

During the staged fight principal Simpson played evil "Lord Simpson," the Society for Creative Anachronism played his band of dark knights, Dr. Bailey played the princess in distress, student Jocelyn Romero played the heroine and student Eric Granillo played the director, complete with clapperboard. Simpson was vanquished in the bloody swordfight.

"With the expansion of Netflix into the Albuquerque Studio and development of 828 Studio and the Creative Campus in Las Cruces, our students have a real chance of pursuing a film industry career and we want them to hear about it first-hand" Simpson said.



Deming ECHS Principal Bryan Simpson takes losing with a grain of salt following a staged sword fight during the Dec. 14 demonstration.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Oceans of Opportunity

Montoya makes long journey: Grant County to Annapolis

What makes a little boy growing up in the Desert Southwest want to join the Navy?

Family, for one thing.

Robert Montoya Jr.'s father and uncle both served in the Navy. Their father was also a military man.

Not only did Robert want to join the Navy, he wanted to make it to the U.S. Naval Academy. So, growing up, he studied hard in school and worked hard at everything else, knowing only about 1 in 1,000 Naval Academy applicants earn the appointment.

A key accomplishment to making the grade was becoming valedictorian of his Cobre High School class of 2020. And academics weren't Robert's only focus. He ran cross country in the fall, and in the spring, during track and field season, he competed in the pole vault, an event he took up because "it looked like fun."

But the efforts started as early as age 6, when he first took swimming lessons at Western New Mexico University, thinking, correctly, an aspiring Naval



Robert Montoya Jr., taking mariachi to Detroit with the Navy. (Courtesy photo)

officer should at least know how to swim.

Even with all that, it didn't happen through the most direct route. For applicants who come very close, but don't get the academy appointment, there is an offer of Naval prep school in Rhode Island. Robert saw that as a path, so he took it. After a

year shining there, he earned the full appointment, and is now an ensign at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Robert's dad, Robert Sr., is, of course, bursting with pride over his son's achievements so far.

While other kids were goofing off and doing kid things, Robert Jr. was striving to reach his

goals. But it was no surprise to his father.

"That's just who he is," Robert Sr. said.

One thing that did surprise the father was his son's musical abilities, especially with the acoustic and electric guitar.

And while it may seem like a bit of a fish out of water seeing this desert kid join the Navy, the kid is also teaching the Navy a thing or two about New Mexico.

With some fellow Navy ensigns from El Paso, Robert formed the Mariachi Marineros, performing mariachi music at events as far away as Detroit.

"I wanted to help spread our culture up north," Robert said.

In the group, Robert plays the guitarron. If you're familiar with mariachi, you'll know the guitarron is the really big guitar with a full, deep acoustic bass sound.

Robert honed his skills in his younger days listening to those classic mariachi groups such as Def Leppard, the Scorpions and Van Halen.

Robert Sr. broke into a big grin when he heard his son sav this.

On the day I interviewed them, Robert Jr. was wearing his crisp, dark Navy uniform and Robert Sr. was wearing a Black Sabbath T-shirt, another metal band the father introduced to the son.

And while music is a great hobby for a mental change of pace, Robert knows his focus the next few years will be on the academic and physical readiness requirements of the academy. So far, Robert said, the academy has lived up to his expectations "and more."

He's studying ocean engineering, which teaches him how to build structures on coastlines, understand how boats float and the unique requirements of ocean-based construction.

That should be fairly straight forward for Robert, who's been building his dream his whole life.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He was never in the Navy, but once got seasick playing ping-pong on a cruise ship.

ON SCREEN

How the West Was Fun

Winter film series has funny movies all season

"HOW THE WEST WAS FUN" FILM SCHEDULE

- Jan. 12 "Hopalong Cassidy" Double Feature
- Jan. 19 "Gene Autry" Double Feature
- Jan. 26 Roy Rogers in "Billy the Kid Returns" and "The Arizona Kid" Double Feature
- Feb. 2 Clayton Moore stars as "The Lone Ranger" Double Feature showing how it all began
- Feb. 9 "Paint Your Wagon" starring Clint Eastwood and Lee Marvin
- Feb. 16 "They Call Me Trinity", a classic satire on "Spaghetti Westerns"
- Feb. 23 "Blazing Saddles", Mel Brooks' irreverent classic, starring Slim Pickens and Gene Wilder
- Mar. 2 "Rustlers' Rhapsody", hilarious spoof of singing cowboys and white hat good guys
- Mar. 9 "Three Amigos" starring Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, and Martin Short
- Mar. 16 "City Slickers", starring Billy Crystal and Jack Palance
- Mar. 23 "Wagons East", starring John Candy in his final role

The Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society will present its 2023 Winter Film Series, entitled "How the West Was Fun", at the Santa Clara Armory, every Thursday evening from January 12-March 23. Doors open at 6 pm, with movies beginning at 6:30. Admission is free, donations accepted.

The series will feature both



comedy westerns and old time classics starring "singing cowboys" like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, and gallant good guys such as Hopalong Cassidy and the Lone Ranger.

For more information contact Doug Dinwiddie at 575-388-4862, or consult the FBHPS website at historicfortbayard.org.

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Gomez Park After a Rainy Day

Exploring Silver City with a friend

Finally, after many months of crazy hiking adventures in faraway lands, I hiked a trail in the vicinity of home again that is worthwhile reporting.

Our good friend Molly recently relocated to Silver City and in early October we went up for a visit. It was the Southwest Print Fiesta on Saturday with an unfortunate heavy rain almost all day.

Sunday promised to be better and we headed out to the Little Walnut Day Use Area to hike Gomez Peak. In the few weeks since Molly moved here, this has become her regular exercise hike, short enough to do after work, long enough to get the heart rate going and the legs moving. The signage is excellent, there is little chance of getting lost here. After the Saturday rains, the little creek ran profusely. The wildflower bloom was mostly over by this date, just a few sun flowers and occasional asters were left. Molly raved about the fields of Cosmos, swaying in the wind, she had seen only a few weeks earlier.

The trail starts amongst pine trees and is not steep at first, but gets gradually steeper as you get closer to the top. Pine trees make way for junipers. The trail



Some wildflowers still bloom in the October fall on the trail to Gomez Peak near Silver City. (Photo by Gabriel Teich)

ends with some rock steps. The top of the mountain is fairly bare of vegetation and Wow, what a view it is. 360 degrees of beautiful rolling hills and mountains, covered in trees, with Silver City nestled neatly in the nearest valley. The sky was still cloudy and some of the higher mountain tops were shrouded in fog, adding a mystical element to the experience.

We only encountered five other hikers on this trail which took us just over two hours to complete. You can find more detailed information about this trail on the alltrails app. One thing I was unable to find out was who the mountain was named after. Who was Gomez? Maybe a reader can enlighten me. I will skip the Addams Family pun here.


Silver City is always worth a

trip with its funky downtown area, and with a good friend living there now we are sure to explore more trails there in the near future.

As always, stay safe and remember to take enough water. See you on the trails, Gabriele

Of German origin, Gabriele

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

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