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AUGUST 2023 | VOL. 28 NO. 8

DESERT

EXPOSURE

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Art studio tour coming up
in Silver City • PAGE 8

PAINTING THE TOWN PAGE 5 | INTO THE GILA PAGE 12 | ALL THINGS NERDY PAGE 18



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"Currently, a book is being written about his life. I am proud of my heritage, which was built from hard work and dedication to the great Southwest. Like my father and grandfather, I am committed to seeing this area thrive."

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Overlooking the town of Silver City, this 5 bedroom, 3 bath home is impeccably designed & thoughtfully updated. Mountain Views, Built-in Bookcases, Custom Stone Fireplaces, Formal Dining Room and a sleek, Modernized Kitchen with Granite Countertops and Stainless Appliances. Primary suite boasts oversized bathroom with jetted tub, double vanity and a walk-in shower. Large patio offers a perfect space for entertaining. Seamless Metal Roof, Tankless Water Heater, A/C plus evaporative cooling, enclosed garages for 4 vehicles, workshop with restroom, gas fireplace inserts, hot tub. **MLS39787. \$680,000.**



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Located in Manhattan Park Subdivision. 2011 Champion home features a sunken family room with fireplace plus living room. Extra-large kitchen with huge island and pantry. Master bath has double vanities, garden tub and large shower. Nice sized bedrooms, three have walk in closets. Laundry room with utility sink & storage cabinets. Storage shed. Inactive title and green tag ready for financing. **MLS 39682 - \$229,000**



Located in the Silver City, New Mexico historic district. The Elks Lodge was built in 1923. Currently houses the High Desert Pies Restaurant and 2 rental units. Large ball room is used for special events would make nice bar, brewery or distillery. Two outdoor patios. Top floor could be converted into a hotel, hostel, Airbnb rooms, penthouse apartment(s), offices or worker's quarters. Corner lot. More pictures of the inside coming soon. **MLS39773. \$700,000**



Custom home nestled in the mountains below Pinos Altos. Minutes from Gila National Forest and historic Silver City. Tongue and groove ceilings, pine viga beams and fireplace with wood stove insert. Chef's kitchen includes wine frig and stainless appliances. Master suite has wet bar, private deck and upstairs room perfect for an office with another private deck. Guest suite with a private bath and lower level for office. Wood circular staircase leads to the 2 bedrooms upstairs with bathroom. Private 5 acres with rock outcroppings, ponderosa pine, juniper, pinon and oak trees. **MLS39769. \$599,000**

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by Danielle Masters

DESERT exposure

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Desert #86
Dumbfounder
by Dave Thomas

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

"SI SMKK QID HMX BY XCNVFDIH XMRMUQ LUX NLZI DEI CUMRIHFMDA
L NBHI SIKJBNMUQ LUX WIDDIH-KBBZMUQ VKLJI, LUX SI SMKK QMRI
WLJZ DB DEI JBNNCUMDA." - SUNC 'F MDTIKL XLHZIUSLXX

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: "SOME OF THESE LAST 2000-SOMETHING YEARS. THE LOST-WAX PROCESS IS THE SAME AS FROM PRE-ROMAN TIMES, ONLY WE HAVE WAY BETTER MATERIAL." - COLETTE BEERS, ON LIFE-SIZED SCULPTING. *Secret Words: "MYSTICAL BRONZE"

Congrats to #85 solvers:
Kaustuv Sengupta*, Skip
Howard*, Mike Arms*,
David Pino*, and Shorty Vaiza*!

SEPTEMBER DEADLINES

All stories and notices for the editorial section due Wednesday, Aug. 16.
Space Reservation and ad copy due Friday, Aug. 18.

EDITOR'S NOTE | ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Through a Glass Darkly

Stepping back to see more of the picture

When I was very pregnant (this happened three times) I saw pregnant women everywhere. It seemed wherever I looked, somebody was ready to pop. Clearly it is not possible so many more people would be pregnant than at other times, but it is what my eyes and heart saw.

We all do this, we see things through our own experiences, our own circumstances and our own knowledge. Our amazing brains pull everything together in a way that makes sense to us, filtering our view of the world. The hard part is to realize we are doing this internally and to counteract it, to step back and say, "Maybe I can look at this through other lenses, other people's perspectives."

I recently went to see the movie "Oppenheimer." You can see my review of it at www.desertexposure.com. Yes, I loved it. Nothing in my recent experience has proved this filtered-vision tendency of people more than

this film.

Tina Cordova, one of the founding members of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium has called the film exploitive and failing to recognize the people right here living under the test of that first nuclear bomb – the Trinity Test (I disagree, but you'll have to read my review to see why).

In Desert Exposure this month it won't be that tricky to sort out the views. You will find how one man's view of Truth or Consequences inspired him to add color to the whole town; how to explore the multiple colors of Silver City during the yearly studio tour; how ducks in Deming draw colorful people to town for the Great American Duck Race; and how a meaningful hospital legacy in Otero County continues.

As we explore these and other filters of southern New Mexico, we can watch respectfully the views of our fellow desert dwellers

and disagree if we want.

While you are at it, why not write your views down and submit them to our Desert Exposure writing contest. The deadline is approaching, Aug. 15, and all views including poetry, prose and story formats are welcome as long as they relate to southern New Mexico.

Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on literary quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit your entries to one or two submissions.

Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words.

Mail entries to: Desert Exposure Writing Contest, 1740-A, Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email to editor@desertexposure.com. Include name, phone number and postal address, plus email address if you have one. Entries cannot be returned. Prizes are publication and a \$100 grand prize as

well as four \$25 runner-up prizes.

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.



ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover was designed by Bryan Hyde to reflect the diverse members of the Silver City Art Association who are featured during the Red Dot Studio Tour over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3.

WRITING CONTEST

There are two categories: Prose and poetry

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

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Desert Exposure
continues its
longstanding
writing contest.

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

Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 15. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit entries to a maximum of two. Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words.

Include name, postal address and email if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

ART + REVIATLIZATION

Painting the Town

Muralist dedicated to brightening T or C

By Elva K. Österreich

David Larcom has been visiting Truth or Consequences since 2019. The first winter he wandered into town he met Sidney Bryan who took him seriously and invited him to paint on the walls of his businesses, including several of the town's motels and spas like the Pelican Spa.

"I have been coming down every winter since that first winter after I met Sid," he said. "I work with his painter, and we have been trying to improve the look of the place."

And when he says "the place," he means the whole town. Larcom's work can be found on walls all across town.

When Larcom got to town that first year he looked around and thought it was a nice enough little place but seemed a bit run down, and he came up with the idea of making an art gallery out of it.

"This town is sitting in the center of three large cities," he said. "They ought to have a good tourist trade. My thought was to do a drive through art gallery for T or C."

He started at Ace Lodge up on Date Street with a mountain lion and roadrunner and has been painting the town ever



David Larcom with one of his first Truth or Consequences paintings, done in 2019. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

since.

Born and raised in Colorado, Larcom has painted across the United States and, during his time with the Navy, in many other countries as well.

"I've been to all 50 states and 16 countries, I always make a point of leaving a mural in each one," he said. "For 10 years I've been driving back and forth just painting pictures, then I came across this place, it was a junky town, but it just seemed to have so much potential."

There were already a few art galleries in town, so Larcom stopped for a while, met Sid, "did all sorts of work for him, spread my wings and did other stuff."

Since that summer, he has completed some 40 murals across town and in people's houses as well.

After many years of experience, more than 400 murals and thousands of paintings, Larcom said, "I can draw pretty well. I can do just about anything – except abstract. I just couldn't do that, wouldn't want to do that."

Abstract art, he said, has no story and he likes art that tells a story, a joke and has some narrative meaning to it.

"I think it's important if you are painting public murals that you paint for the public," he said. "You have to do things that appeal to as many people as possible."

Having traveled the world, Larcom said he has never had



any trouble finding inspiration for his artwork.

"The old world is kind of beautiful and I like doing animals anyway," he said. "So I just paint animals. If I'm not sure I'll look on the internet, maybe do a couple of sketches and then I can just do it without a photo."

Painting on a large scale is a skill he has earned; he's been doing it a long time.

"I call that practice," he said. "All those years of practice – I always wanted to do a horse, now I can just do them, any horse, any breed."

Larcom is happy to bring color and work to Truth or Consequences. He has taken that kindergarten talent he had when he won every art contest he entered and built it as a discipline he is good at.

"I'm not looking for credit," he said. "I would like to see the plan work and turn this town into the gem it should be."

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ON THE SHELF

‘Seasons of the Blue Pearl’

Varner’s book creates myth in a story of family

“In the time of long ago,” in a land where mountains rise from the surrounding desert like the jaws of a wolf, evil has once again emerged from beneath the arroyos and infected the only village in that vast landscape. A young girl and her family hold the key to defeating this evil, but to find help they must journey into a land from which few have returned and search for a place out of ancient legend.

Southern New Mexico author Nicholas Varner began writing “Seasons of the Blue Pearl” book in the late 1970s while living in the setting of the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. He finished it, sent it out for consideration, and when it was rejected, it went in a file – for decades.

“I thought I had finished it,” he said. “I completely rewrote it four decades later. After all the changes from rewrites, it bears very little resemblance to what I wrote back then.”

Varner has taken his experiences from memories of his mentor, Apache Bill Russell back in the 1950s to his travels as a book deliverer on the Tohono O’odham reservation in the 80s and 90s, mixed them with a landscape familiar to all in the southwest deserts, and created a story without vio-

lence (on humans), drugs or sex.

For all that, it is a compelling tale about a girl and her family on a quest to fight evil.

“Seasons of the Blue Pearl” is a Nautilus Book Award winner in young adult fiction, but Varner said it is also for adults.

“It expounds really important values like friendship, sacrifice for others and perseverance,” he said. “I was told it would never sell because it has no sex, no human-on-human violence and no drugs. It has three strong female characters, the main character, Mia; a woman named Salt Woman; and Mia’s mother, Tumas; maybe another, known as Old Woman.”

The book is also the winner of the Speak Up Talk Radio

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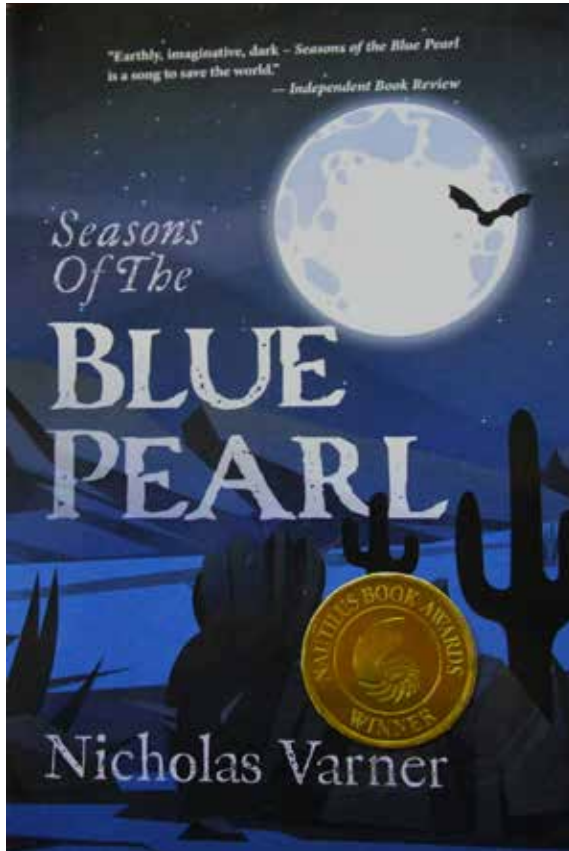
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Firebird Book Awards.

By the time he finished writing the book he had been reading a lot of mythology, not only native American but Celtic and Norse, and seeing many similarities in the systems.

Varner said his lyrical abilities come from the sacred wind.

“Sometimes I dream some of this,” he said. “I write from the top of my head; at the end of the day I don’t know where its going to go. Sometimes I see a place in the distance, but I don’t know how I’m going to get there.”

“Seasons of the Blue Pearl” can be found on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble as well as at SWAG Bookstore in Silver City and directly from the Friesenpress website. It is also available as an eBook.

From 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 23, Varner will be doing a book signing and talk with fellow southwest New Mexico author Sharman Apt Russell at Western New Mexico University’s C. Cloyd Miller Library in Silver City.

Visit nicholasvarnerbooks.com for more information.



AGAVE LEGACY

Irene Brewer’s father planted this century plant in his Silver City yard with the rest of his cactus garden years ago. Now it has sprung up preparing to spread its golden flowers before dying and passing along its own legacy in the form of smaller plants along its base. Brewer’s grandson, Henry Sosa Sotelo, 4, provides some scale to the tall agave americana. Although it is called a century plant, it typically lives between 12 and 30 years and the stalks can reach a height of 30 feet. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Creatures of the Gila
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ART + DISCOVERY

Getting Dotty

Red Dot Studio Tour coming to Silver City

By Marcia Tinker

The 2023 Red Dot Art Studio Tour returns to Silver City once again during Labor Day weekend. The studio tour begins the 25th anniversary year of the Silver City Art Association. Starting with a celebration of the participating studio artists 5-7 p.m. is a Friday, Sept. 1, night reception spectacular of art, food and music at the studio tour headquarters, Light Art Space, in the Flash Gallery space, 209

W. Broadway St..

This year's self-guided tour features 23 studio members who are opening their private work studios to the public. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2 and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 3.

A comprehensive brochure can be found at the opening reception or on brochure racks located around Silver City businesses, galleries and at the Silver City Visitor Center. Brochures will be available all weekend at Light

Art Space.

The studio brochure is also available on the SCAA website, www.silvercity-art.com. The brochure offers two maps suggesting two routes for visiting the studios. If your time permits, spend one day for each tour route. Map A travels to eight studios near Silver City on a beautiful road trip from Mimbres to Hanover, Bayard, Arenas Valley and Wind Canyon. Map B continues the studio tour through historic Downtown Silver City and surrounding streets.



Letha Woolf unloads a kiln. (Courtesy photo)

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Each artist studio is numbered. Use the Red Dot numbers and find the number location on the respective map and follow the written directions provided to get you exactly where you want to go.

Three new studio artists have joined the tour this year for the first time: Susan Mach, Marcia Tinker and Bryan Hyde.

A relatively new artist in town, and new this year to the studio tour, Mach moved to Silver City two years ago after teaching art and ceramics in southern California for 30 years.

She creates functional and sculptural work using both hand-building and wheel techniques. Her studio will be open over the tour weekend and also on Monday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

"I'm so fortunate to be able to have my first real studio, which means it's spacious enough to hold my materials and

tools and turn around in. I enjoy watching visitors look through my workspace and asking questions," she said.

Marcia Tinker and Bryan Hyde share "Tinker's Hyde-Away Studio." Moving to Silver City five years ago, their first art project was to renovate a 140-year-old adobe. The last project just completed has been their cozy studio. Bryan comes from an advertising design career and now entertains himself and others with his imaginative photo illustrations.

"My work takes the form of prints, notecards and art shirts," Hyde said. "After 40-plus years in the advertising business, my digital art is somewhat therapy."

Tinker has a BFA in photography from State University of New York-New Paltz and has worked as a creative use consultant for Polaroid, sold photo supplies to government agencies and was a visual

merchandise manager for Macy's. Her photographic work includes hand-colored silver prints, image transfers and fabric photo images. Currently, her primary body of work is re-imagined fashions which she creates from vintage and used clothing, fabrics and trims.

"I grew up in a creative family," she said. "I thought everyone had a darkroom in their basement and sewing was a way of expression. I now incorporate a variety of art forms which also include collage, fiber art, mixed media, found objects and, of course, garden art."

SCAA is made up of independent artists, studios, galleries, a new category this year is "friends." Originally the studios and galleries held a combined event in October. For more info on all of SCAA's events, pick up a RED DOT Art guide or visit the website www.silvercityart.com.



Susan Mach at work. (Courtesy Photo)

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SPLASHING AROUND

Everything is just Ducky in Deming

More than just a duck race

Story and photo by Elva K. Österreich

The 44th Annual Great American Duck Race will be held in the southwestern New Mexico town of Deming on Aug 24-27.

Albuquerque has hot air balloons, Santa Fe burns Old Man Gloom and Deming has its ducks.

Since 1980, Deming has hosted the annual Great American Duck Race. In addition to the race itself and the opportunity for everyone to participate, many other events take place this weekend in Deming: Tournament of Ducks Parade, Duck Royalty Pageant, carnival, hot air balloon rally and outhouse racing. There also will be arts and crafts, food vendors, entertainment and the St. Clair Winery Beer and Wine Garden.

There are plenty of ducks on hand and a team of volunteers to help choose a duck racer participants can call their own for the event.

While duck racing may be serious business to

some competitors, the key word for the weekend of duck racing is fun. For instance, in order to become Duck Royalty, participants will be judged not only on their costume, but their knowledge of waterfowl and ability to “waddle” and a two- to four-minute routine designed to “impress the judges.” The winners, of course, will become the Duck King and Queen.

There will also be competitions in skateboards, horseshoes, softball, tortilla tossing and cornhole.

There are prizes for all the competitive events which already started when Jasmine Almanza won \$100 with her theme suggestion of “Disco Duck Hustling to Victory!!” This year’s logo was designed by Jerran Duty and features a John Travolta look alike disco dancing duck. The theme and logo will be seen throughout this year’s festivities and will be used for judging the Duck Royalty Pageant and the Tournament of Ducks Parade.

For more information, visit www.demingduckrace.com or call 575-567-3905.



On your mark, get set, duck! (File photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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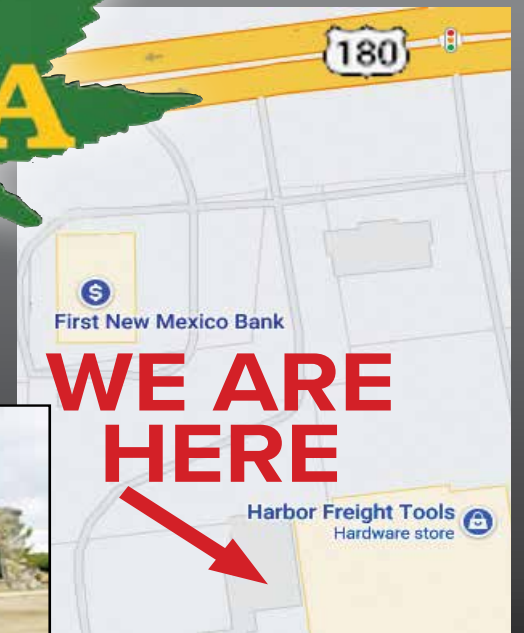
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INTO THE GILA

'Untrammeled Wilderness'

Leading the way to the Wilderness Act

By Donna Stevens

As a young forester in the Gila National Forest, Aldo Leopold recognized the need to preserve fast-disappearing wildlands, and persuaded his Forest Service superiors to implement his idea. In June 1924, the Forest Service set aside 755,000 acres as the Gila Wilderness Area (the

acreage has varied over the last century), the first such designation in the nation, as a way to preserve the land in its natural state.

Leopold was ahead of his time, to say the least. Four decades elapsed before Congress caught up with him and passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, 16 years after Leopold's untimely death. Standing on Leopold's shoulders

was Howard Zahniser, a fellow lover of wilderness, and the main author of the Wilderness Act.

Growing up near the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, Zahniser developed a love of nature and an appreciation for literature. As an adult, he worked in several federal agencies, including the Bureau of Biological Survey, the predecessor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1945, he left federal employment and became the president of the Wilderness Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1935 by Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall and others to preserve America's last remaining wildlands.

As Zahniser worked on the campaign to prevent the construction of the Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument, he began to see the need for pro-active legislation to protect wild areas, rather than engaging in endless struggles to protect each special place individually.

In 1956, Zahniser finished his first draft of the Wilderness Act, which was promptly killed in the U.S. Senate. But Zahniser was nothing if not practical and persistent, and the Wilderness Act ultimately went through a remarkable 66 versions before it was passed eight years later. Extractive industries

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such as mining and logging were staunch opponents, and Zahniser and wilderness supporters made a political concession to the livestock industry, stating in the bill that “the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue...”

In April 1964, Zahniser testified before Congress for the last time. He died just days later and, tragically, was not present to witness his beloved legislation being signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in September 1964.

For a modest man, Zahniser left an outsized legacy. The Wilderness Act is surely one of the most eloquent laws on the books, as demon-

strated by its definition of wilderness:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

“An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area...which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation...”

“Untrammelled,” not a word in common usage, is not synonymous with “untrampled.” Rather, it means, “not deprived of freedom of action, not restricted, confined, or hampered.” Freedom of action, a distinctly American value, is manifest in wilderness, where visitors live – or die – by their own wits.

In 2024, the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act coincides with the centennial of the Gila Wilderness Area.

Events to commemorate these monumental tributes to wilderness will be featured in Desert Exposure in the coming months. In the meantime, remember to visit the Gila Wilderness, the nation’s first, right here in our backyard.



Backpackers on Turkey Creek in the Gila. (Courtesy Photo)

Donna Stevens is executive director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, a watershed protection nonprofit that

“promotes the long-term health of the Upper Gila Watershed and its communities of life.” This is the second in a series of articles about the Gila Wilderness Centennial.

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ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY

• The **Silver City Art Association First Friday Gallery Walk** is from 5-7 p.m., July 7. During First Friday walks, SCAA downtown galleries stay open until 7 p.m. to hold receptions, and feature art demonstrations or other special activities. For a map showing SCAA downtown gallery locations, look for the big red dots, or to find out more about SCAA galleries, studios, and independent artists, see silvercityart.com.

• **“Trifecta.”** featuring artwork by **Charlee Alexander, Tom Manning, and Rebecca Rousseau** is at the Silver City Library, 515 W. College Ave. through Sept. 30. The opening reception is 3-5 p.m. Aug. 2. Info: 575-538-6359.

• The **Ikebana** work of **Alice Fujita** is on display at the **Francis McCray Gallery Contemporary Art**, Western New Mexico University, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 19-20. She will be demonstrating the art, which is Japanese flower arranging, at 1 p.m. on both days. Info: fujitaalice@yahoo.com.

• At **Light Art Space** gallery presents **“The Still(ed) Life: Celebrating Hand-made Photographic Art.”** Juror **Diana Bloomfield** chose 48 images by 35 artists from across the United States. Each work on display was created by the artist using hand-made photography pro-

cesses, many of them from the 19th and 20th centuries. A new exhibition opens in the flash gallery called **“New Photographic Images by Janey Katz,”** Aug. 4 with a reception 5-7 p.m. Aug. 4. Also on view at the gallery is work in various media by the Light Art Space Artists: **Joel Armstrong, Joe Huebner, Karen Hymer, Kathleen Koopman, Rhonda Munzinger, Art Peterson, Susan Porter, Eric Renner, Nancy Spencer, and Juan Velasco.** The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (until 7 p.m. on First Fridays); 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday; and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com.

• **The Grant County Art Guild** is marking the 55th anniversary of its founding with an open house cele-

bration from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, during the Silver City First Friday gallery walk. Refreshments will be served. The GCAG is a non-profit organization that promotes creativity in the community through art shows, classes and other art events. The Guild encourages the creation of local art by running a Silver City gallery that shows the work of about 35 Grant County artists. Both fine art and crafts are valued by the Guild, and the Guild gallery carries a wide range of art mediums. The GCAG Gallery is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with extended hours for special events. The GCAG Gallery is located at 316 N Bullard. The STUDIO is at 200 W Market, both in Silver City. Info: gcag.org.

DEMING

• **“Three Amigos,”** is the title of the August exhibit at the **Deming Art Center.** Local oil painters **Lyn Orona** and **Linda Anderson** will be joined by watercolorist **John Glass.** Orona was always drawn to the legendary cowboys of the old west, Native American and Mexican Cultures and began with oil and clay sculptures. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. Anderson is a self-taught artist who began painting and drawing at age 12 with some paints from a paint by number kit. In the early ‘80’s she began her professional painting career. Glass lived his early life on the edge, racing motorcycles, riding horses and playing sports. In the process, he endured many injuries that caused him to rethink the

course of his life. He said he already knew how to draw and paint and decided it was time to make a change. There will be a time to meet the artists 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6. The exhibit is on display through the month. Deming Art Center is at 100 S. Gold St., Deming. The gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 and at www.demingarts.org.

ALAMOGORDO

• **Otero Arts Otero Arts Inc.’s** August exhibition at Artspace will focus on the beauty found in everyday things. The public is invited to view works by two photographers, **Lynda Brugman** and **Gabe Mauger**, from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 4 at 1118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo.

Brugman first developed an interest in photography during the 1980s while taking a black and white film photography class. Brugman said her photos provide a window through which others may share her appreciation of nature and experience “its infinite variations and beauty.” Mauger said he has always been interested in the arts, including theatre, digital drawing, story writing and performing and writing music. His presentation, “Interpretation of Recovery,” was born from a photography class he took while working on a degree in Computer Sciences. Mauger said his photography combines everyday sights and locations with music lyrics to evoke an emotional response. The gallery is open throughout the month 1-4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Otero Artspace is located at 1118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo. Info: oteroarts.org.

CLOUDCROFT

• **The Cloudcroft Art Society’s Gallery (CAS)** is open every Saturday during the summer months. Many artworks ranging from paintings in all media, fine art and digital art photography, both framed and matted prints, cards, pottery, fiber art, gourd art, and glass art are on display and are for sale. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19, CAS features its **annual fundraising sidewalk sale.** CAS is a local non-profit organization



Charlee Alexander’s “Where the Light Is” on display at the Silver City Library.

whose mission is to promote individual creativity and understanding of the visual arts and to provide a showcase for area artists. CAS serves Cloudcroft, the surrounding Sacramento Mountain communities and the Alamogordo-Tularosa area. Info: sznana@totacc.com.

MAGDALENA

• **“Milton’s Bar,”** Opens Aug. 5 at kind of a small array, 106 N. Main St. in Magdalena and will be on display through Aug. 27. It’s 2050, the 25th anniversary of artist Milton Faver’s breakthrough. Tragically, Milton passed away last year at 82 years old. We are presenting his bar, a place where Milton made art, friends, and the occasional enemy. We believe this is how he would like to be remembered. Last January, **Hayden Pedit**

go, Hills Snyder, Bryan Wheeler and Jeff Wheeler met up for **“The \$%& Show,”** a Lubbock tradition for close to a decade. Invited by curators Christina Rees and Hannah Dean, the four artists had 24 hours to come up with materials and respond to this year’s prompt, **“The year 2050.”** Come join us in Magdalena for the second iteration. You can sit on a bar stool next to Milton, maybe sense his presence, maybe hear some stories, maybe tell some of your own. Info: 210-473-9062.

LAS CRUCES

• **Agave’s Artist of the Month** is ceramicist and jeweler **Lisa Carlson**. As Carlson grew her ceramic business, she established her jewelry line using silver and semi-precious stones. Be on the watch for this year’s



Part of **“The Still(ed) Life”** exhibit at Light Art Space in Silver City.

backyard sales when Carlson will feature her garden art – mosaic tiles tables with wrought iron bases, hanging garden tiles with wood

and natural stones plus ceramic bowls. Carlson’s work can be found in Las Cruces at Agave Artist Gallery, 925 Gallery, and the Franciscan Festival of the Arts on Labor Day weekend. Her work is on Instagram @TK-jewelsNM. From 4-5 p.m. Aug. 5 Carlson will offer a short ceramic demonstration using paper stencils with clay. To view her art, the gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday to Monday at 2250 Calle de San Albino. Info: 575-339-9870.

• Three art exhibitions at **New Mexico State University’s Art Museum**, run through Sept. 16. **“Cara Despaigne: Specter,”**

ART SCENE

continued on page 16

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ARTS SCENE

continued from page 15

is on view in the UAM's **Contemporary Gallery**, is an immersive multimedia exhibition featuring work by Miami-based artist **Cara Despain**. "Agnes Martin & Karen Yank: Meditations on Mentor and Student" is on display in the **Bunny Conlon Modern & Contemporary Art Gallery**. This exhibition explores the work and intersecting lives of the artists **Agnes Martin** and **Karen Yank**. For nearly 17 years. "Wild Pigment Project" curated by Wild Pigment Project's founding director **Tilke Elkins** is on display in the **Mullenix Bridge Gallery**. This group exhibition, which originated at **form & concept gallery** in Santa Fe, brings together painters and dyers, ink-makers and ceramicists, researchers, scientists and traditional cultural practitioners to explore pigments found in plants, minerals and the industrial waste stream. The University Art Museum is

open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 1308 E. University Avenue. Info: uam.nmsu.edu, call 575-646-2545 or email artmuseum@nmsu.edu.

• "From Mesilla to the Mountains" is an exhibit of local scenes painted outdoors by watercolorist **Arlene J Tugel**. The show runs through Aug. 7 at the **Mas Art Gallery**, 144 Wyatt Dr, Las Cruces. A reception will be held on Friday night, Aug. 4 during the **First Friday Ramble**. Regular gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. A resident of Las Cruces for 25 years, Tugel said "my preferred medium is watercolor because it allows me to reveal the play of light and shadow across the land. My paintings show how light in the Southwest creates magical landscapes." Info: www.masartllc.com or 575-526-9113.



"New Beginning" by Linda Anderson can be found at the Deming Art Center.

• **The Las Cruces Museum of Art**, is featuring "ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN: Transforming Paper to Sculpture," featuring innovative artwork of Santa Fe artists **Kevin and Jennifer Box**. Through a laborious process using the lost-wax technique, Kevin Box transforms both large- and small-scale paper origami pieces into metal sculptures. The exhibition is on view through Sept. 23. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30

lightly described as impressionistic expressionism, uses translucent complimentary colors that represent his feelings, rather than a true representational image. O'Neill, a ceramicist, has had a passion for art since early childhood. 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.

p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at 491 N. Main St. Info: www.lascruces.gov/museums or 575-541-2137.

• **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 **Ray Baird** and **Kerry O'Neill**. Baird, an oil painter, grew up in the Midwest., His work can be

• At **Branigan Cultural Center** the newest exhibition, "Trinity: Legacies of Nuclear Testing - A People's Perspective" is on view through Sept. 23. With collaboration from the **Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium** and 17 juried artists, this empowering and impactful exhibit exposes the long-term effects and ramifications of nuclear testing in New Mexico. Branigan Cultural Center, is at 501 N. Main St., in Las Cruces. In "Trinity: Legacies of Nuclear Testing - A People's Perspective," featured artists shed light on the environmental injustices placed on New Mexico downwinder communities.

This exhibit was assembled by The Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, a group formed to bring attention to the negative health effects that plague the communities surrounding the Trinity Test. The museum is open from 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday. Info: www.lascruces.gov/Museums or 575-541-2154.



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GLITTERING + LEARNING

Rolling Stones Show Off

Gem and mineral show grows and grows

The Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society brings its 38th Annual Gem & Mineral Show to Silver City over Labor Day weekend. The Show opens 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, and continues 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 3, at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 E., next to Ace Hardware.

With activities for children, baked goods and a variety of food options, the event promises to be a cool

experience. In addition to all the wonderful gem and mineral vendors from around the Southwest, the Rolling Stones local Grant County Maker's Market artists are vendors this year. The Show has expanded to fill four event rooms at the conference center and offers a dedicated educational activity area for children featuring "mining" for Pecos diamonds.

The three-day event also features off-site field trips, wire-wrapping and lapidary demonstrations, educational displays, museum exhibits,

hourly silent auctions, daily raffles, wheels of fortune and more than 50 vendors. Presentations by historian Bill Cavaliere and paleontologist Rose Fowers are featured. Cavaliere provides a look into early mining around the West with his talk "Death in the Depths" at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Flowers presents a slide show and talk regarding her mid-1990s excavation of a Late Pleistocene Mastodon – a native "elephant" that lived and died in central Arizona at the end of the last Ice Age.

The Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society is a nonprofit corporation with a mission of stimulating interest in lapidary skills, geology, and mineralogy; fostering the growth and sharing of knowledge in these areas; and creating educational opportunities.

The society accomplishes this goal through educational programs, teaching rock-hound etiquette and public lands stewardship, providing a lapidary workshop, and presenting an annual Gem and Mineral Show and other public events.



People wander through the rows at the Gem & Mineral show in Silver City. (Courtesy Photo)

The 38th Annual Show schedule of events and vendors is regularly updated at rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com Email grantcountyrollingstones@gmail.com with any questions.

the
Three Amigos
Western and Southwest paintings
by artists
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1-3 pm

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ALIEN INVASION



'All Things Nerdy'

Comics, sci-fi and more invade convention center for Comic Con

By Elva K. Österreich

Comic book and multimedia dealers from across the country will gather Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 19-20, at the Las Cruces Comic Con.

The event, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, will offer a vast variety of

pop-culture merchandise including comics, art, t-shirts, movie memorabilia and more. Comic book creators, writers and artists as well as actors from the television and movie industry will be on hand to meet and greet kids young and old.

The event is a community-based experience for all

that reflects today's fandom, said organizer Troy Stegner.

"At Las Cruces Comic Con, you'll get to indulge in all your favorite fantasy, sci-fi, and other pop culture genres, such as comics, games, film, television and more," Stegner said. "You'll also get to attend panels and workshops hosted by cre-

ative pros as well as get autographs and photo ops with your favorite creators and celebrities."

Stegner said attendees are encouraged to dress in their favorite costumes.

"Las Cruces Comic Con is a safe, nerdy environment where you can express your joy for all things nerdy with



Las Cruces Comic Con features a costume contest anybody can participate in. (Courtesy Photo)

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no judgment,” he said.

If people want to compete, the annual costume contest starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, and there is \$2,250 in cash prizes to be awarded among three categories: Adult, kids and groups. Besides the cash, winners get trophies and bragging rights. Signup is the same day. Entry is free, but you must have a valid convention ticket to enter.

Also with a valid ticket, guests can participate in a trivia contest on Sunday, Aug. 20. The winner gets a trophy, swag and the label of being the smartest person in

the room.

On-site autograph authentication is available with JSA. According to lascrucescomiccon.com, the “JSA trusted and coveted certification enhances the value and marketability of your items. Your certificate of authenticity includes a JSA registration card with a unique certification number that corresponds to the alpha-numeric tamper evident label. Each certification number is uploaded into our exclusive database for 24-hour customer verification access.”

Tickets can be purchased

on the Las Cruces Comic Con website at www.lascrucescomiccon.com. General Ticket prices and packages:

- Saturday – \$25
- Sunday – \$20
- Weekend Pass – \$40
- VIP – \$80
- Child Day Pass (age 3-12) - \$5
- Kids 2 and under are free with paid adult

The 2023 Las Cruces Comic Con is 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.



Polyxena is there for cosplay. (Photo courtesy Polyxena)



Admiring their own portrait at Comic Con. (Photo courtesy of Ken R. Salinas)



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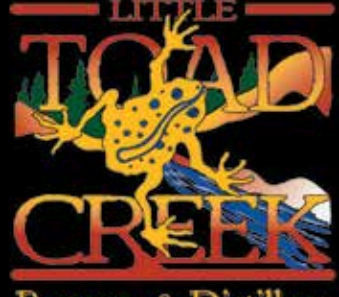
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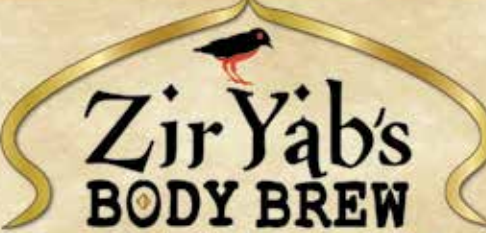
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EDITORIAL

Featured Columns

**Everyday Observations
A New Sound**

Three strangers and two guitars
By Abe Villarreal

Three guys just met each other in the middle of an uneven and old historic street. They are musicians, or at least want to be musicians. I was sitting a few feet above them. The street is not really a street but more of an area with old brick-shaped stones that have moved in different directions over the years. The many years that they've been there.

"Hey, I just moved here," said the younger guy with the red colored beard and overalls. "I'm looking to be in a band, and I'm good." That's what he told the second guy who had been playing a guitar while singing something that sounded like it came from the early seventies.

"Really?" the second guy asked. They started chatting about Portland, Maine, where I am visiting as I write this to you. Then, a third guy showed up. A really skinny guy with a few missing teeth but a great big smile. He also had a guitar, and a few moments later, I was treated to a free concert. A concert of sorts.

It was three guys, three strangers, making music. The red-colored beard guy was singing in a kind of country, deep country sounding voice. He wasn't from Maine, and he didn't sound like it. The other guys were jumping in where they fit best. One with a guitar he kept trying to tune as he played along, and the other with an upside-down bucket he turned into a drum. You could tell he's been here and he's done

this more than once or twice.

As I looked down towards them and looked past them, there was the blue waters of Maine. Boats and people passing by. Things keep moving without much stopping, as they do in tourist communities. Meanwhile, three strangers were getting to know each other.

That's something we don't do much anymore. Get to know each other. We think we are better connected than we've ever been, but it's a thin layer of connection that doesn't go too deep. Once you peel it, there isn't much there.

These guys got to know each other over the next hour. That's how long I sat there, watching and listening. Enjoying the music and the conversation. Learning about people and what makes us people. They chatted about traveling.

That's what we chat about. Us people with a sense of security. We talk about our plans for where we want to end up.

To read the full columns you've grown to love, visit us online at desertexposure.com.

**RaisingDad
Four More Stories**

Not one to be chastised

By Jim and Henry Duchene

I had an 8 o'clock appointment.

It was on the other side of town, so I left early to avoid rush hour traffic. Too early, as it turned out, because I got there with a lot of time to kill. A LOT of time. Stopping at a local cof-

fee shop, I asked for their Wi-Fi password.

"Buy something first," the owner told me.

I thought that was kind of blunt, but fair enough. After paying for my order, I laughed when I read the password on the receipt.

It said: "BuySomething1st!"

You see, my friends, technology is for the young.

I might have a smartphone, but I don't really know how to use it. If I do ten percent of what my phone is capable of, I'd be surprised.

The other day, I forgot my phone as I left the house. No problem. It made for a day of less distractions. When I got back home someone had thoughtfully placed it on my nightstand. I figured it was my wife. Not only is she beautiful, but she's very thoughtful that way.

Turns out I was wrong.

Checking my messages, I found one from my father, who NEVER texts me. He wrote: "Found your phone. I left it on your nightstand."

You can file this under Kids Are Spoiled These Days:

When my daughter and her eight-year-old went to the store to buy me a birthday card, it took a while. My granddaughter was in no rush. She looked at one card and then another. Opening them up and quickly putting them back. My daughter thought she was just enjoying the funny pictures.

"Haven't you found a card for grandpa yet?" my daughter finally asked, trying to hurry her along.

"I'm looking for one with mon-

ey in it," my granddaughter explained.

The recent rash of celebrity deaths reminds me of how my father has become rather fond of attending funerals. It gives him something to do. He socializes with friends and family he hasn't seen in awhile, and the food is usually good.

In my opinion, free food is ALWAYS good.

At one recent funeral, the family went all out. Instead of a potluck where everybody brought something, the family of the deceased had it catered. I noticed that my father went back time after time for seconds, thirds, and even fourths.

"You're going back AGAIN?" I asked him when he got up for the fifth time.

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**Talking Horses
Let older mean wiser**

By Scott Thomson

On a recent trip to California, I had the chance to spend time with a couple that had been riding buddies in the early days of my horse journey who later became students as my skills and knowledge accelerated way beyond what anyone predicted. Sadly, they had lost both of their horses to severe colics within the past few months. One had already been retired but was still an important part of their family.

The other, much younger with many good years left, but taken way too soon.

In their mid-70's, the couple asked me to look at and ride some horses they were thinking of buying. Horses had always been part of their lives despite their ultra busy professional lives, and they wanted to keep at it for as long as possible. They also asked for my honest opinion on doing that given their current ages.

This is a conversation I'm having more and more these days as boomer riders hit their 60's, 70's or even 80's. The horses that got them through riding late in life are now retired or even gone, and they are now faced with the difficult questions of should they continue in an activity with such high risk for injury that is also so time consuming and expensive. It's not quite like the conversation about taking the keys away from an elderly driver, but it's pretty close.

Unlike other physical activities you'd like to keep going as long as possible – playing golf, hiking, tennis, etc. – riding horses involves a living partner rather than a piece of equipment, and that partner is a reactive flight animal that is sensitive to every gesture and movement you make, and to everything that's going on in the world around them. In other words, it's not just about you and what you want to do, but also what life will be like for your equine partner.

To read the full columns you've grown to love, visit us online at desertexposure.com.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE | RICHARD COLTHARP

Hospital Sees Change Again

Citizens should champion fair laws for New Mexico doctors

As with many hospitals, Alamogordo's Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center is immersed in important memories for so many families.

Personal memories for me include the birth of my youngest daughter, getting staples in my head after suffering a gash during a basketball game, and my oldest daughter getting her eyebrow glued back together after bashing into a door.

For many people, it was the place they said goodbye to a loved one for the last time.

Recently there has been a fair amount of consternation about what services may or may not be available once the sale of Gerald Champion is fully realized. It was announced in May the large group Christus Health had purchased the hospital.

Another possibility, however, could have been Alamogordo lost its hospital altogether.

All over America, small towns are losing many amenities to nearby larger cities. Healthcare is a prime target for that.

But in the Land of Enchantment, hospitals are facing another, more specific, threat.

Because of state laws allowing exorbitant malpractice limits, New Mexico is becoming increasingly less attractive to doctors. As

much as I love the beauty and people of the Land of Enchantment, recruiting doctors to come here has long been difficult. The malpractice laws are making it almost impossible. In 2021, the New Mexico House passed a law that raised the limits about tenfold, from around \$600,000 to around \$6 million.

In 2023, the state legislature worked to amend that. Senate Bill 296, which had bipartisan support, was languishing in the session and slow to get out of committees, when Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham got involved. Some things were tweaked, and the re-branded Senate Bill 523 sailed through 40-2, with the only no votes coming from attorneys.

However, by reducing the caps for independent doctors with small practices, the new law still leaves vulnerable doctors who practice under the umbrella of larger hospitals.

That's almost exactly half the doctors in New Mexico, 51 percent at last check.

Hopefully, by the time the next session rolls around, our legislators will listen to our doctors and citizens, and work to protect the other half of our doctors.

No one is asking amnesty for doctors who make terrible errors. They should be punished and families should be compensated.

But why should they be punished in New Mexico way out of proportion with the rest of the country?

Having lived in Alamogordo for 13 wonderful years, I can attest to its many attractions: the full moon rising over the Sacramento Mountains; seeing the sun set over the White Sands from the Space Museum (as well as from many vistas at GCRMC); strolling through the Alameda Park Zoo; playing disc golf at Alameda Park; hanging out at the 575 Brewing Company; cooling off in Cloudcroft; watching high school basketball at the Tiger Pit; diving into a Tiger Burger with green chiles at the Hi-D-Ho.

However, while those things are dear to many in Otero County, they may not be enough to entice a doctor in Ohio or Florida to relocate. Not surprisingly, those doctors are concerned about good educations for their children, and New Mexico struggles in that area too.

I hope the new folks at Gerald Champion are working strategies to get doctors to Alamogordo.

Yes, there may be things people don't like about the new ownership, just as people may dislike about new ownership of any business.

But a town of Alamogordo's size needs what a hospital can provide. As our population ages, and as New Mexico has made concerted efforts to attract retirees, quality healthcare is increasingly important.

That hospital has an important history in New Mexico. When plans were being made in the late 1990s to replace the aging Gerald Champion building on 10th Street, a unique public-private partnership was struck, the first of its kind in the nation, between the hospital and the United States Air Force, allowing joint use between Alamogordo citizens and residents of Holloman Air Force Base.

I'm grateful Alamogordo still has a hospital where those important life-changing experiences still take place in your hometown.

Richard Coltharp worked at the Alamogordo Daily News from 1995 to 2007, first as editor, then publisher. He laments the demise of many Alamogordo institutions, such as the Yucca Newsstand, the El Camino restaurant and the Plaza Bar.



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Aug. 26**



**First Friday
Gallery Walk,
Aug. 4**

EVENTS

What's Happening

Upcoming events you won't want to miss in August

TUESDAY, AUG. 1

Grant County

Movie "Beethoven"

3:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library,
515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2

Grant County

Wednesday Farmers Market

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley Market,
412 Highway 211 at the corner of
Clark Road, Gila
silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Doña Ana County

Desert Nights Market

5:30-9 p.m. at Ardivino's Desert
Crossing, 1 Ardivinos Drive,
Sunland Park
ardovinos.com

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

Grant County

Future Engineers, for ages 6-12

3:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library,
515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

First Friday Gallery Walk

5-7 p.m. downtown Silver City.
silvercityart.com

Sierra County

Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta

7:30 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake
State Park
505-908-0909

Otero County

Downtown Nites -

End of Summer

6-10 p.m. on the 800 and 900
blocks of New York Avenue.
575-446-3612

The Little Mermaid

Presented by Alamogordo
Music Theatre

7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for
Performing Arts, 1110 New York
Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Lincoln County

Billy the Kid Pageant and Old Lincoln Days

9 a.m.-9 p.m. in Historic Lincoln,
U.S. Hwy 380 Mile marker 97.5
facebook.com/billythekid
pageant

Alto Artists Studio Tour

10 a.m.-5 p.m. all across Alto, NM
AltoArtists.com

Doña Ana County

Fountain Theatre Atomic Fest "White Light, Black Rain"

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

Grant County

Silver City Farmers Market

9 a.m.-noon. 901 N. Pope St.,
Silver City.
www.silvercityfarmersmarket.
info

**Simply Good Deserts:
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1 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,
Silver City
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**Live Music; The Rudy Boy
Experiment**

8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery and Distillery, 200
N. Bullard St., Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

Sierra County

**Elephant Butte Baloon
Regatta**

7:30 a.m. at Elephant Butte
Lake State Park
505-908-0909

Luna County

+Main Street Market

8-11 a.m. at the Luna
County Courthouse Park,
700 S. Silver Ave., Deming

Otero County

**Alamogordo Otero
County Farmers Market**

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park,
1987 White Sands Blvd.,
Alamogordo
farmersmarketsnm.org.

**Coffee Chat at Oliver Lee
Memorial State Park**

9-10:30 a.m., 409 Dog
Canyon Road, Alamogordo
575-437-8284

**Alamogordo Evening
Lions Gun & Knife Show**



**The Rudy Boy
Experiment,
Aug. 5**

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Otero
County Fairgrounds, 401
Fairgrounds Road
Alamogordo
575-415-2141

**The Little Mermaid
Presented by
Alamogordo Music**

Theatre

7 p.m. at the Flickinger
Center for Performing
Arts, 1110 New York Ave.,
Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Lincoln County

Billy the Kid Pageant and

Old Lincoln Days

9 a.m.-9 p.m. in Historic
Lincoln, U.S. Hiway 380
Milemarker 97.5
facebook.com/billythekidpageant

**Awakened to Arise: A
Sacred Gathering Around
the Drumbeat of Heaven**

9 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Inn of the
Mountain Gods Resort, 287
Carrizo Canyon Road in
Mescalero
575-464-7059

Alto Artists Studio Tour

10 a.m.-5 p.m. all across
Alto, NM
AltoArtists.com

**Top of the World: A
Carpenters Tribute**

8 p.m. at the Spencer
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Arts, 108 Spencer Road,
Airport Highway 220, Alto
www.spencertheater.com

**Doña Ana County
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8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza
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Back 2 School Bash

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the War
Eagles Air Museum, 8012
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**Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest
"Trinity Site,"**

EVENTS

continued on page 24



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EVENTS

continued from page 23

Oppenheimer and the first Atomic Bomb

2 p.m., 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

Car Show

4 p.m., Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St. Las Cruces
575-323-3752

Big Game Banquet With the Las Cruces Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. in Las Cruces
575-644-0080

“Ruddigore; also known as The Witch’s Curse” presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso

7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces
575-523-1223

Fountain Theatre Atomic Fest

“Grave of the Fireflies”
7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

Grant County Commemoration of the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
12:30-2 p.m. at Gough Park, corner of 12th and N. Pope streets, Silver City
sandyfetz@gmail.com

Live Music Early Show: “Blasphemin Boys Tabernacle Choir”

A three-part queer folk freak experience
5:30 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway

180 E. Arenas Valley.
www.whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Sierra County

Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta

7:30 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park
505-908-0909

Hillsboro Summer Concert Series

Peter McLaughlin and Chris Brashear – Music from the Desert Southwest
4-6 p.m. at 316 Elenora St. Hillsboro
www.petmclaughlin.info

Otero County

Alamogordo Evening Lions Gun & Knife Show
10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Alamogordo
575-415-2141

The Little Mermaid Presented by Alamogordo Music

Theatre
7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Support Groups

experience the presence of God. A new service with Rev. Jennifer Kleitz. Info: 575-523-4847.

THURSDAY

Silver City/Grant County Adult Children of Alcoholics 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.
Women Embracing Recovery Al-Anon Family Group — 5:30-6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 314 College Ave. Silver City. Zoom ID: 411 858 127; password: 954941; info: nmal-anon.com

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Grief Share Program — 2 p.m. Thursdays at Sierra Vista Community Church, 514 N. Telshor Blvd. Info: Robin Rice, 575-536-9535.

SATURDAY

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Overeaters Anonymous — hybrid on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. each Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., Info: 575-405-9128.

Epilepsy Support & Education Services, Inc. — 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. third Saturday of every month at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Info: 575-636-4500 or EpilepsySupportNM.org.

Breast Cancer Support Group — 9:15 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month, at Memorial Medical Center Annex meeting room (entrance on the west side of the hospital). Info: Maricela at 505-453-1789.

SUNDAY

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Grief Share Program — 3 p.m. Sundays at Morning Star Church, 2941 Morning Star. Program lasts for 13 weeks. Contact: Cris Fernandez, crisfern@me.com.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, August 12th
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Gough Park parking lot at 12th and Pope in Silver City
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- Spadefoot Nursery, Cochise County
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Lincoln County Billy the Kid Pageant and Old Lincoln Days

9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Historic Lincoln, U.S. Hwy. 380 Milemarker 97.5
facebook.com/billythe kidpageant

Alto Artists Studio Tour
noon-4 p.m. all across Alto, NM
AltoArtists.com

Doña Ana County

“Ruddigore; also known as The Witch’s Curse” presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso
2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces
575-523-1223

Fountain Theatre Atomic Fest “Seven Days in May”



Aug. 6
Commemoration of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki

2 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

Music in the Park
Siempre and Cautivo
Nortenos

7 p.m., Young Park, 850 S.
Walnut St. Las Cruces
575-541-2550

Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest
"I Live in Fear"

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

TUESDAY, AUG. 8

Grant County
Robot building for ages 6
and older

4-6 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,
Silver City
575-538-3672

Doña Ana County
Beer and Bards

7 p.m. on the side patio of
the Spotted Dog Brewery,
corner of Avenida de
Mesilla and University
Avenue in Mesilla. Public

readings of folk tales from the Six
Celtic Nations.
575-520-1916

Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest
"On the Beach"

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

Grant County
Wednesday Farmers
Market

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley Market,
412 Highway 211 at the corner of
Clark Road, in the town of Gila
silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Sierra County
Square Dancing

1-3 p.m. at the New Mexico Old
Time Fiddler

Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C.
Square dancing and refreshments
575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842

Doña Ana County
Farmers and Crafts Market

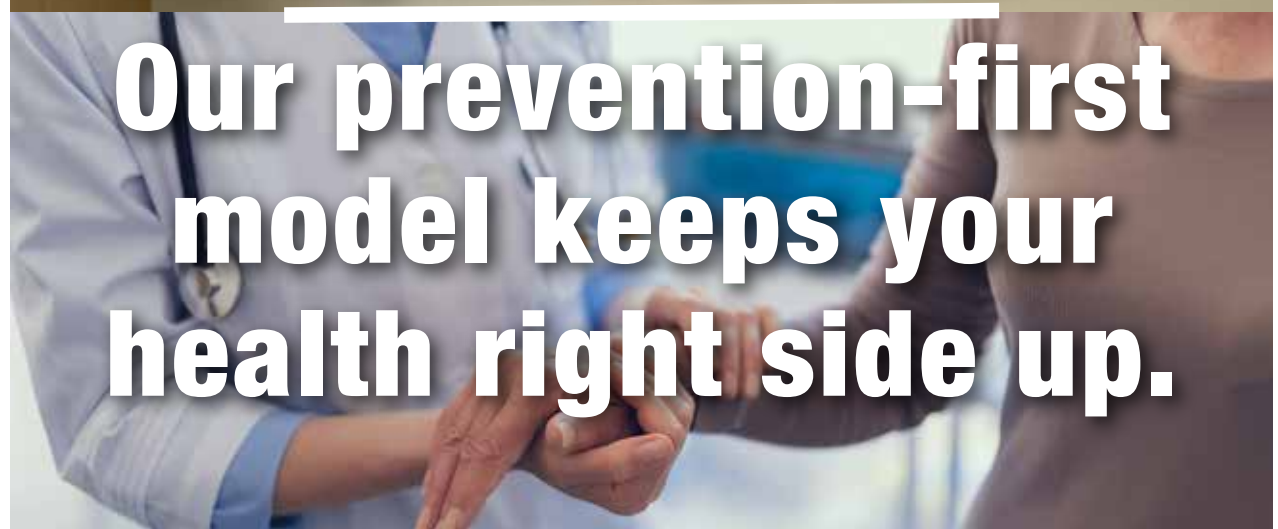
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las
Cruces and along Downtown
Main Street.

EVENTS

continued on page 26



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Silver City | 1380 Hwy. 180 E.
Bayard | 308 Winifred St.
Deming | 1511 S. Lime St.

575-538-2981

EVENTS

continued from page 25

575-805-6055

**Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest
"Them!"**

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla

www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

**Sierra County
Square Dancing**

1-3:30 p.m. at the New
Mexico Old Time Fiddlers
Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C

575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842

Doña Ana County

**Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest**

**"Dr. Strangelove or: How I
Learned to Stop Worrying and
Love the Bomb"**

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla

www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

Grant County

Fiber Arts Workshop

3 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver
City

575-538-3672

Record Release Concert:

**Peter's Album with
Compás & Rhythm Mystic**

7:30 p.m. at Whiskey Creek
Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway 180 E.
Arenas Valley.

www.whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Otero County

**The Little Mermaid
Presented by
Alamogordo Music
Theatre**

7 p.m. at the Flickinger
Center for Performing Arts, 1110
New York Ave.,
Alamogordo

flickingercenter.com



**Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta,
Aug. 6**

Doña Ana County

**Fountain Theatre
Atomic Fest**

"Oppenheimer" (two weeks)

7:30 p.m., 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla

www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

SATURDAY, AUG. 12

Grant County

**Silver City Farmers
Market**

9 a.m.-noon. 901 N. Pope St. in
Silver City

www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Sierra County

Second Saturday Art Hop

6 p.m. downtown Truth or
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Otero County**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market**

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo
farmersmarketsnm.org

Science Saturday

10 a.m. at Pizza 9, White Sands Mall, 3199 N. White Sands Blvd. Alamogordo
 575-415-2141

The Little Mermaid Presented by Alamogordo Music Theatre

7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Lincoln County**Annual Butterfly Release With the Ruidoso Hospice Foundation**

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the White

Mountain Subdivision Pavilion, White Mountain Meadows Drive
ruidosohospicefoundation.org

Live Music: Little Texas

6 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Airport Highway 220, Alto
www.spencertheater.com

Doña Ana County**Farmers and Crafts Market**

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

Monster Truck Wars

1 p.m. at the Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo grounds, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces
 575-524-8602

Summer Beer Fest

6 p.m.-midnight at Plaza de Las Cruces, Las Cruces
www.lcbeerfest.com



Lottie & the Olm Wreckers, Aug. 19

Movies in the Park

"Minions The Rise of Gru" at dusk, Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces
 575-541-2550

SUNDAY, AUG. 13**Doña Ana County****Music in the Park**

Joshua Lucero and Papayas Con Chile

7 p.m., Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St. Las Cruces
 575-541-2550

MONDAY, AUG. 14**Grant County****Widows Community**

Speaker: Richard Bauch, mayor of Santa Clara

10:30 sign in at Cross Point Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180.

ileen@signalpeak.net

Doña Ana County**Frinds Author Talk:**

Speaker Retired Army Intelligence Officer David Osterhout

1:30-3 p.m. in the Roadrunner Room at Branigan Memorial Library, Las Cruces
 575-649-8786

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16**Grant County****Wednesday Farmers Market**

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley Market, 412 Highway 211 at the corner of Clark Road,
Gila.silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Movie; "Princess Diaries"

3:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
 575-538-3672

EVENTS

continued on page 28

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EVENTS

continued from page 27

Sierra County

Square Dancing

1-3 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Square dancing and refreshments
575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842

FRIDAY, AUG. 18

Grant County

Game Day: play board games

1 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

DJ Mischievous

10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

Grant County

Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) demonstrations

1 p.m. at the Francis McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art, WNMU
fujitaalice@yahoo.com

"This Ain't my First Go Round: Rodeo Roots in Grant County"

Javier Marrufo will interview Grant County locals Leroy Chappell and Joanne Miller

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Silco Theater in Silver City and on Zoom
575-538-5921

WNMU Welcome

Back Bash

Featuring DJ Gia Fu, Luis Figueroa and DJ Mischievous
5:30 p.m. at Regents

Square, Western New Mexico University Campus
575-538-6273

Live Music: Lottie and the Ohm Wreckers

8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

Sierra County

Starlight Concert Series: Double Duos

7 p.m., Black Range Lodge, 50 Main Street, Kingston
575-895-5652

Otero County

Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo
farmersmarketsnm.org

Otero County Heritage



Bryan Bielanski,
Aug. 19

Festival and Street Dance

4-10 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

NEON meet/class

4-6 p.m. at Pizza 9 inside White Sands Mall
575-415-5314

Lincoln County

White Oaks Miner's Day

10 a.m.-3 p.m. in White Oaks, NM
noscumsaloon.com

Time in a Bottle:

Father & Son

Croce plays Croce

6 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road,

Airport Highway 220, Alto
www.spencertheater.com

Doña Ana County

Las Cruces Comic Con

10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. in Las Cruces
www.lascrucescomiccon.com



Add a subheading

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Saturday Aug 5, 7:30 *Grave of the Fireflies* (1988)

Sunday Aug 6, 2:00 *Seven Days in May* (1964)

Sunday Aug 6, 7:30 *I Live in Fear* (1955)

Monday Aug 7, TBA

Tuesday Aug 8, 7:30 *On the Beach* (1959)

Wednesday, Aug 9, 7:30 *THEM!* (1954)

Thursday, Aug 10, 7:30 *Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964)

August 11-24 *Oppenheimer A Special Engagement!*

August 25-31 *Asteroid City*

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oteroarts.org

Motorcycle Swap Meet

7a.m.-1p.m., 2600 Lakeside Drive, Las Cruces

915-592-5804 (text only)

SUNDAY, AUG. 20**Grant County****Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) demonstrations**

1p.m. at the Francis McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art, WNMU
fujitaalice@yahoo.com

Socorro County**Live Music: Bryan Bielanski**

4 p.m. at the Capitol Bar, 110 Plaza St. in Socorro
ryanssuperhappyfuntime.com

Doña Ana County**Las Cruces Comic Con**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. in Las Cruces
www.lascrucescomiccon.com

Music in the Park**Yarbrough Band and Nathaniel Krantz**

7 p.m., Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St. Las Cruces

575-541-2550

TUESDAY, AUG. 22**Doña Ana County****Beer and Bards**

7 p.m. on the side patio of the Spotted Dog Brewery, corner of Avenida de Mesilla and University Avenue in Mesilla. Public readings of folk tales from the Six Celtic Nations, Las Cruces

575-520-1916

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23**Grant County****Wednesday Farmers Market**

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley Market, 412 Highway 211 at the corner of Clark Road, in Gila

silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Doña Ana County**Farmers and Crafts Market**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces and along Downtown Main Street.

575-805-6055

THURSDAY, AUG. 24**Luna County****Great American Duck Races****Duck Royalty Pageant**

Las Cruces
Comic Con,
Aug. 19

6:30 in Deming

demingduckrace.com

Lincoln County**Crowd-pleasing Classics/Pickin' to Beat the Devil****Pure Prairie League**

8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Airport Highway 220, Alto

www.spencertheater.com

FRIDAY, AUG. 25**Grant County****Cover Creation: Design a book cover**

3:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

Luna County**Great American Duck Races**

events start at 4 p.m. in Deming
demingduckrace.com

Otero County**Fourth Friday****EVENTS**

continued on page 30

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EVENTS

continued from page 29

Family-friendly night of live music

6 p.m. at the Griggs Sports Complex, 3000 N. Florida Ave., in Alamogordo
jsides@ci.alamogordo.nm.us

Lincoln County Crowd-pleasing Classics/Pickin' to Beat the Devil Pure Prairie League

8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Airport Highway 220, Alto
www.spencertheater.com

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

Grant County Silver City Farmers Market

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City.
www.silvercityfarmers

market.info

Future Engineers: Play with LEGOs

1 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

Luna County Great American Duck Races

All day, parade at 10 a.m. in Deming
demingduckrace.com

Otero County Farmers Market

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo
farmersmarketsnm.org

Cornhole Tournament and Car Show Fundraiser for the Counseling Center

noon at the Counseling Center, 1900 E. 10th St. in

Alamogordo
575-488-2500

Kirko Bangz in concert

7 p.m.-midnight, Sgt. Willi Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. First St. in Alamogordo
575-439-4159

Lincoln County The World's Ultimate Elvis Justin Shandor

6-8:30 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road in Mescalero
575-464-7059

Doña Ana County Dog Day at the Market

8-11 a.m. at Ardovino's Desert Crossing, 1 Ardovinos Drive, Sunland Park
ardovinos.com

Cruces Car Show Fiesta

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisbarro



Pure Prairie League, Aug. 24

Buick-GMC, 425 W. Boutz Road, Las Cruces
575cars.com

Las Cruces Gun Show

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces
650-520-6002

Flights & Sights

9-11:30 a.m. at the War Eagles Air Museum, 8012 Airport Road, Santa Teresa
575-589-2000

Community Appreciation Day

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces
nmfarmdranchmuseum.org

Body Modification Expo

4-10 p.m., ST Canapa, 250 W. Amador Ave., Las Cruces
stcanapa.com

SUNDAY, AUG. 27

Luna County Great American Duck Races

All day in Deming
demingduckrace.com

Doña Ana County Las Cruces Gun Show

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces
650-520-6002

Music in the Park Metalachi and Flat Blak

7 p.m., Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces
575-541-2550

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

Grant County Squishy Circuits and Little Bits

4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30

Grant County Wednesday Farmers Market

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley Market, 412 Highway 211 at the corner of Clark Road, in Gila
silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Otero County Full Moon Night

Dusk at White Sands National Park, 19955 US-70, Alamogordo
nps.gov/whsa

Doña Ana County Farmers and Crafts Market

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

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FRIDAY, Sept. 1**Grant County****Gem & Mineral Show**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180.
rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com

First Friday Gallery Walk

5-7 p.m. downtown in Silver City.
silvercityart.com

Doña Ana County**Hatch Chile Festival**

Starts at 5 across town in the village of Hatch
hatchchilefestival.org

SATURDAY, Sept. 2**Grant County****Silver City Farmers Market**

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City.
silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Gem & Mineral Show

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180.
rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com

Otero County**Farmers Market**

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park, 1987 White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo
farmersmarketsnm.org

Lincoln County**All American Labor Day Weekend**

1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track
raceruidoso.com

Doña Ana County**Hatch Chile Festival**

All day across town in the village of Hatch
hatchchilefestival.org

SUNDAY, Sept. 3**Grant County****Gem & Mineral Show**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Conference Center, 3031 U.S. Highway 180.
rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com

Lincoln County**All American Labor Day Weekend**

1 p.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track
raceruidoso.com

End of Summer Bash

3 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road in Mescalero
 575-464-7059

Doña Ana County**Hatch Chile Festival**

All day across Hatch
hatchchilefestival.org

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH**

There is beauty in detail as revealed in this image created by Danielle Masters of native globemallow flowers near the banks of the Mimbres River.

If you have a favorite recent photo depicting the nature of life and living in southern New Mexico please share it with us and we will consider it for publication. Submit photos to editor@desertexposure.com.

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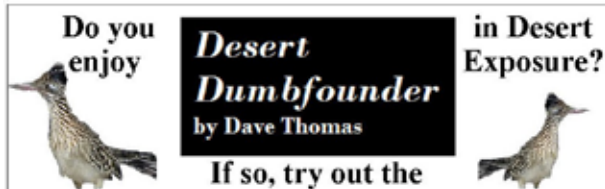


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