

DESERT EXPOSURE

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DESERT exposure

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Desert #89 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

Λ = Z ' Ö = I :əɪɪ

"AJKLYUW BCKBHC EJGE NKX DGU YMCUEYSN DJCVYDGH CHCVCUEA

SFKV G MYAEGUDC LYEJ HYWJE KS BGFYDXHGF DKHKFA YA

TXYEC FCLGFMYUW." - AXUABKE KRACFZGEKEN'A RYHH LFCU

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: "I DOWNED A FEW PINTS, SCRIBBLED SOME SHOCK-

INGLY LEGIBLE NOTES ABOUT EMBARKING UPON A QUEST TO HIKE EVERY DAY FOR A YEAR, AND BOUNCED THE IDEA OFF MY DOG." - JOHN FAYHEE

*Secret Words: "MAGIC JOURNEY"

Congrats to #88 solvers :

Mike Arms*, Kaustuv Sengupta*,

Skip Howard*, Shorty Vaiza*,

David Pino*, Connie Tull* and Sue Merrick*!

DECEMBER DEADLINES

All stories and notices for the editorial section due Thursday, Oct. 12.
Space Reservation and ad copy due Friday, Oct. 13.

EDITOR'S NOTE | ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Planning for Holidays

November opportunities to shop for Christmas

Southern New Mexico communities offer a plethora of opportunities when it comes to the holiday season. As the air turns crisp, coolness settling down upon us, some of us might consider Christmas shopping early. If you are me, it never works and I am always out there on the day before Christmas Eve desperately looking for something to make someone smile.

But here in southern New Mexico there really is no excuse for that. In November, whatever may be the pleasure of the family can be found. Some of those options can even be found in this issue of Desert Exposure. In Las Cruces, the Renaissance Arts Faire, Nov.

4 and 5, has plenty of vendors with everything from custom swords and chainmail to hand-knitted scarves and gloves. Then Nov. 18 and 19, at the Farm & Ranch Museum, the HomeGrown event has some 60 vendors offering everything grown in New Mexico, and you can taste it first.

But Las Cruces doesn't have exclusive holiday rights – there is Christmas in the Foothills in Hillsboro; Holiday Artisan Sale at Otero Arts in Alamogordo; Yuletide in Chloride; Holiday Art Market in Silver City; Deming Art fest in Deming; Christmas Market in Cloudcroft; Christmas Jubilee in Ruidoso; Holly Day House in Las Cruces; and

more that are listed in our What's Happening section starting on Page 22.

Other, non-shopping holiday celebrations are planned across the area as well. There is Jingle and Mingle in Silver City and lighted Christmas parades in virtually every community across southern New Mexico. Also in this issue, you can find a story about a very special holiday shop in Mesilla, 'Tis the Season.

So, let's try to shop in time this year. There are plenty of opportunities, after all. And if you don't want to shop at all but sit back and enjoy the ambiance of the state, you can visit "New Mexico's Best Drive" along the Sun-

spot Highway in Otero County and watch the autumn leaves change.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure readers of southern New Mexico. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408 if you have concerns, issues or even positive things to say.



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Charming Southwestern home within walking distance of hiking trails at Gomez Peak and the Gila National Forest. Split floor plan includes 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Open country kitchen with a breakfast bar and breakfast nook with access to the covered patio which is secluded and boasts wildlife of deer, birds, and rabbits etc...Updated appliances, metal roof, water softener and a central vacuum system. Woodwork throughout home. 1.48 private acres and much more! **MLS#39882. \$438,000.**



Charming home in the Mining District. Beautiful kitchen and large open living areas. bathed in natural light Tiled showers and floors in bathrooms are just a few of the upgraded features. Xeriscaped landscaped front yard add to the southwest vibe of this property. **MLS 39500. \$118,000**



Sunset Vista's care starts from the heart. This means professional senior care in a warm and comfortable home-like setting. The 10,642 square foot building features a courtyard in the middle and can accommodate up to 15 residents. The unique build offers a lounge/living area, dining area, great room and activity areas and amazing kitchen. This business and building are offered as a turn-key operation. **MLS#39921. \$1,600,000**



Adorable Hurley house features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry room, formal dining, spacious kitchen, detached 2 car garage as well as a shed/workshop. Property is completely fenced and private with large shade trees. Plenty of off-street parking in the back. Plus, solar panels from Solar Works Energy on the garage insure that your electric bill virtually goes away. Garage door openers are in the process of being replaced. **MLS# 39946. \$172,000**



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. **MLS#39787. \$648,500.**



Gorgeous custom home in the pines and a guest house! Home features Turkish limestone floors, Pella doors and windows, upscale appliances, butler's pantry with sink, freezer and dishwasher, cherry wood cabinets, copper tub in primary as well as walk-in shower. Heating is radiant floor which is a dual fuel Tarm boiler as well as Jotul woods stoves. Heated Badu swim system outside as well as wraparound decking. Guest house is an AIR Lok cabin equipped to function on or off the grid, it is 725 s.f. and features a kitchen, laundry and living/bed area. Additionally, there is a heated garage/workshop and all located on 5 acres with Forest boundary. New driveway area recently cut in to make access to the house easier to go in on ground level. **MLS# 39700. \$725,000**



Cozy home on 2.5 acres located on the boundary of the Gila National Forest! Pole barn for horses or toy storage. Abundant wildlife. Direct access into the forest for hiking and equestrian use plus located in the ROV (recreational off-road vehicle) zone for easy access to the nearby forest roads. On the border of GMU 24 /16B (Game Management Unit) for world class hunting opportunities. Close to Lake Roberts & Bear Canyon Lake. Find your serenity here! **MLS#39925 \$288,000**



Located in the heart of the Mimbres Valley! 2 bedrooms 1 1/2 bath 1512 sf. Large living room and dining room with built in oak cabinets & shelves. Bonus area near kitchen for an office. Bedroom with loft area and private entrance. Main BR features 1/2 bath and private entrance. Level 1 acre with highway frontage and lots of parking. **MLS 39841. \$255,000**



Located in the Silver City 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 a nice bar, brewery or distillery. Two outdoor patios. Originally the rooms on the upper floor were apartments rented to bachelor members. Top floor could be converted into a hotel, hostel, Airbnb rooms, penthouse apartment(s), offices or worker's quarters. Corner lot. **MLS #39773. \$589,000**



3,000 sq ft log home, built in Montana and re-assembled in southwest New Mexico on 217 +/- acres, with Forest and BLM boundaries. Extraordinary log craftsmanship and extensive native stonework is exhibited throughout in the hand hewn juniper railings and hand forged steel hardware throughout. Power is off grid and boasts a 14 Kw Solar array. Detached garage and use of the Association owned 6,000 sq/ft Headquarters, for guests and entertaining, and shared use of the almost 7,000 acre Greenwood Canyon Ranch. **MLS#39604. \$966,000.**

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



By S. Lynne Meeks who captured this on a beautiful August day on U.S. Highway 9 between Lordsburg and Silver City.

If you have a favorite recent photo capturing 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.



ABOUT THE COVER

The 2023 Renaissance ArtsFaire takes place in Young Park in Las Cruces from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5. For more information visit daarts.org/renaissance-artsfaire/



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NOVEMBER 2023

This project made possible by the New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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TAMALES,
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THROW!**



SCAN ME



PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

'Tis the Season

A shop with a celebrational heart

By Sylvia Quintanilla

There is a restored Victorian home that sits on a corner in Mesilla. Within this home holds the

type of magic you can begin feeling around the fall season leading into winter. However, this magic lives and thrives all year long.

'Tis the Season de Mesilla,

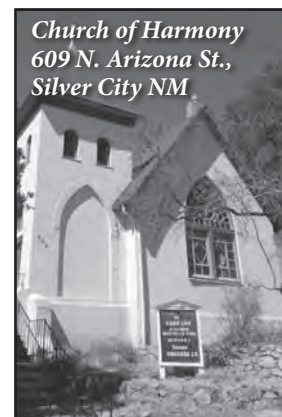
2402 Avenida de Mesilla, is a shop that specializes in unique holiday and Southwest décor and gifts. This winter will mark the 10th Christmas for 'Tis the Season de Mesilla, an achievement for a dream that owner Laura Romero didn't realize she had. Romero said with encouragement from a close friend and the feedback from others, when the oppor-

tunity came her way to open her own business, she knew she wanted a shop that would stand out.

"When I had kids, I would decorate my house like crazy for everything and people would tell me, 'Laura, you should charge to come in here.' I remembered that and thought I could do a Christmas store," she said.



Witch statue at 'Tis the Season. (Photos by Sylvia Quintanilla)



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Gila Friends Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends

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

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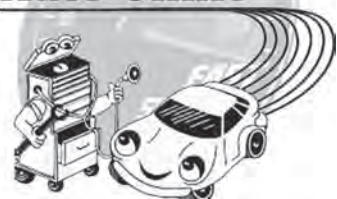
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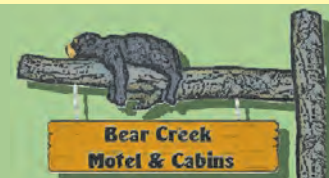
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Day of the Dead ornament.

Romero is originally from California, but moved to Roswell when she was three. Seven years later, her family moved to Las Cruces. Romero exclaimed she is a bona fide desert rat and doesn't want to live anywhere else. This connection to the region also holds inspiration when she purchases product for her boutique.

'Tis the Season has décor and gifts not only for Christmas, but for Halloween and Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving and always has a selection of Southwest related items. There is a Christmas tree which exclusively has Southwest ornaments.

Right away, Romero knew she wanted to carry Karen Didi-on Santa Clauses and pieces from Enesco like Department 56, Snowbabies and Jim Shore. She also tries to get local artists in her shop.

"Mostly people come in with one thing in mind, but when they start looking, they are 'Oh my gosh, I didn't know she would have this.'" she said. "They often end up doing a whole lot of Christmas shopping for friends and relatives."

When purchasing for her store, Romero said she searches

for unique objects that not only fit the slate, but also sparkle. She looks for quality items that are low cost in addition to higher end items.

"I think everybody deserves to have a beautiful Christmas," she said.

For Halloween and Day of the Dead, there is no shortage of bright sugar skulls or skeleton Mariachi players. Jack-o-lanterns, witches and black cats. For Thanksgiving, the shop has turkeys, foliage and centerpieces for the dining room table.

To Romero, part of what makes Christmas so special is gathering together. Whether you have family, friends or join in with other people's families, reaching out and making a connection matters. She believes the holidays bring out the best in people.

After a decade in business and surviving a pandemic, Romero is thankful for her customers in Las Cruces, Mesilla and El Paso.

"I get people actually thanking me for being here," she said. "Over all these years, especially during COVID, I had so many people come in saying, we are so glad you survived. We were worried about you. We love your shop, thank you for being here. And that's not anything I ever expected or anticipated."

Starting Nov. 1, 'Tis the Season will be open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on 'Tis the Season de Mesilla, follow on Facebook or Instagram; visit seasondemesilla.com or call at 575-524-3333.



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Gila: 2146

Honorable mention



By D.S. Rhodes

The Tribes are all here. Here on the banks of the Gila. Spread out up and downstream, colors flying. It's October. Sunny. Dry. Pleasant, cool nights.

Good swimming in the day.

We play host to this gathering, we who live along the river in this valley, where the towns of Gila and Cliff once stood. We play host every year, and all the Tribes come here.

There's Kalinda – she loves these gatherings. A chance to strut her stuff, turn some heads, gather attention to herself. One day she'll leave with one of the Tribes and our group here in the Valley will feel the loss.

And there: Marco and

Helen, already drunk on the mesquite wine our valley is famous for. Mid-afternoon and stumbling over each other, laughing.

Well, it is a festival time. And I'm getting old, but not old enough to turn curmudgeon. But ever since Willow died...

There's the Pinos Alto Tribe: mountain folk in skins, with feathers in their hair. Outlandish. But healthy, and very few mutants among them.

And the Silver Tribe – not

so lucky. It's said the old mines there did something to the water. Same with the Red Rock and Tyrone Tribes. Lot of still-births and defects. Still, they do know how to have fun, with their music and dancing and colorful clothes and fine cannabis.

And there's the Frisco Tribe from out by where Glenwood and Pleasanton used to be. And the Luna Tribe from up by the Lake. And the White Mountains Tribes. They probably travel the farthest to be here. But

they also seem to be the most prosperous. Those mountain meadows grow sturdy horses, cattle, and people.

The Mimbres Tribe is here too. They tend to be prickly and irascible, so we keep an eye on them. When the rare fight breaks out in camp, there is generally a Mimbreno involved. But for all that, they have strong healers and excellent herb farms in their valley.

Then there are the Wilderness Tribes. The Apaches that have gone up the can-

nyons of the three forks of the Gila, occupying the old Cliffdwellings and the Hot Springs. They grow good corn there on the Upper Gila, and bring it to share and barter.

Yes, all the Tribes are here.

Thus we gather every year. To remember... and to forget.

I remember forty years ago or so, when I was a child of ten. There were still people living then who had survived the Great Plague of the 2060's when nine-tenths of the world's population suc-

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Little John, 5 yr old DSH, male

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Zippy, 6 mos old DSH male

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Mooney, 9 wks, DSH, male

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CHARIS MOSELY

Lover Boy, 6 mos. DSH, male

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cumbed to the White Death, so-called because before dying a person would lose all of the pigment in her skin. Some called it the Albino Death. Whatever. It all ended in death one way or another.

Hard to imagine those olden days, with so many people living here in the valley. Thousands, those survivors said! Yes, hard to imagine.

I've seen the ruins of Old Silver. And the old mines there. Nobody goes near anymore, whether through superstition or good sense, I'm not sure. I went there and never got sick. But I'd brought my own water with me.

Well, everybody knows that water is life. And poison means death. Or worse. So we tend to be careful with our water. We – the Gila Tribe – monitor and police all the activity around the River. The River is our mother, and we don't mess around with her.

Ever since the mass die-off of the 2060's there've been no more epidemics of any kind. Sure, there are still the miscarriages and still-births and birth defects, but no disease to speak of. Besides cancer, of course, which is what took Willow seven years ago.

I suppose those people back then survived for a reason. Something genetic, probably. I heard about genetics from some of those old-time survivors. Some kind of program in our innermost being that determines all kinds of things about a person: eye color, hair color, height, etc. And susceptibility to deadly viruses. At least that's how it was explained to me.

It sounded a lot like magic. In fact, magic makes more sense to me than "genetics."

But there you go. I've always been a skeptic until I see something with my own eyes.

Magic, I've seen.

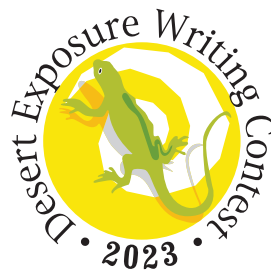
Once, a Red Rock shaman came to the Gathering with a big hunk of iron. He said it came from the Moon. He waved his hands over it and said some words and then took two steps away and let go this metal rod he was holding and – wham! – it slammed right into that hunk of iron and stuck to it. Then other people came up and held various things near the iron. Some flew and stuck and some didn't. But I felt the pull of that iron on a horse-shoe I had in my hand. There was no denying it.

Another time there was a Silver woman who was a little off in her head. She mumbled and muttered to herself all day, and never bathed, and people avoided her if they could.

But this one time she came right up to me and started saying the exact words I was thinking in that moment. She said, "I sure do miss Willow. Maybe I should follow her into the Dark." It was uncanny. Frightening.

Continued on
desertexposure.com

Honorable mention



By Efrem Carrasco

March 1949 Las Cruces, New Mexico

The girl walked barefooted on the granulated rock and sand, and among the thickness of the mesquite and creosote brush that grew vastly wild in the desert. In the cool night, the full moon shone brightly and made it possible for the girl to negotiate her way around spiny cacti, over uneven terrain, and across dry arroyos. She heard a rustle in a nearby bush, but it didn't frighten her. She wasn't concerned about small creeping creatures with their painful bites and poisonous

stings, or the deadly fangs of rattlesnakes. Nor did she worry about the much larger nocturnal predators—the

The Desert Girl

coyote, the bobcat, or the mountain lion—that stealthily stalk and attack their prey with relentless resolve and certain death. There was another type of predator, the worst kind, and at eighteen it was too late, the girl was already damaged.

She walked with the uncertainty of things once familiar and didn't know why she was there, or where she was going, but she kept walking. Her feet ached terribly and she had no idea how she had lost her new pair of dress shoes. The only protection left on her feet were the silk nylon stockings she wore, now tattered and retracted up on her ankles. During moments of darkness when the moon hid behind thick, gray scudding clouds, the girl could not see and she walked into thorny flora that tore at her dress and legs and she stubbed her bare toes on protruding rocks and mesquite roots.

Her body steadily weakened. She went down to her knees many times from exhaustion and thirst, feeling she couldn't go on, but she

managed to raise herself each time and continue her unknown journey, it was necessary. The desert wanted her, she felt it. The girl understood its nature and its insatiable appetite that swallows all things which remain unmoved, like a motionless body of a young girl. Maybe I'm already dead, maybe this is hell, she thought.

Her subconscious was her

only ally. It kept her senses alert and her body walking—numerous times—when her mind went dormant with dreams of crossing a desolate desert. Reality and dreams blended, and each time she awoke, the dreams were still there. She was still there, as if in a continuous sequence of

GIRL

continued on page 10



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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Tickets \$15

Lonnie Klein **Robert Michaels**

Silver City Festival Orchestra

Saturday, November 4 • 7p Fine Arts Center Theatre

Conductor Lonnie Klein and the Silver City Festival Orchestra, featuring musicians from the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra and the El Paso Symphony present, *Fire, Fury and Dance*, an evening of exciting symphonic and orchestral music, featuring flamenco guitarist Robert Michaels.

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SPEAKER SERIES

Former corporate spy
Robert Kerbeck
in conversation with
Valerie Plame

Tuesday, November 7 • 7p Light Hall Theater

Former corporate spy Robert Kerbeck's newest memoir, *RUSE: Lying from Hollywood to Wall Street*, is a thrilling look into the world of corporate espionage and his career as a secret spy. This free event can also be viewed on Zoom.

Ilya Yakushev
World renowned Pianist

Tickets \$15

Thursday, November 16 • 7p Fine Arts Center Theatre

Winner of the 2005 World Piano Competition, Ilya Yakushev, continues to astound and mesmerize audiences. Playing Rachmaninoff, Mussorgsky and Gershwin. In collaboration with the Grant County Community Concert Association.

Stephane Wrembel
Quartet

7P
Tuesday, November 28
Light Hall Theater

Tickets \$15

Stephane Wrembel is one of the most highly regarded guitarists in the world specializing in the style of legendary composer/guitarist Django Reinhardt; he learned his craft among the Gypsies at campsites in the French countryside.

GIRL

continued from page 9

threaded dreams from which she could not escape. Clarity and reason lacked, even in her state of consciousness. She pounded her right fist against her thigh. "I can't wake up, and this feels too real!" she said, confused and frustrated. Her pain was real.

A cool northern breeze felt soothing against the swelling around her left eye and cut lip. Her left hip ached with every step she took, sending a burning sensation down to her thigh, and the left side of her head pounded with a throbbing ache. She rested and pressed her palm against her left temple and felt a warm viscous wetness on her face and in her dangling hair. She looked up at the bright stars and at the full moon as if searching for divine answers. How did all this happen? The

girl noticed the silhouette of the Organ Mountains to her right, they looked familiar, and she continued.

Small flickering lights appeared before her in the distance, slightly above the horizon, and they danced about in the air – fireflies. She walked towards the lights, and she walked and walked, but couldn't reach them. They seemed to keep moving ahead, as if beckoning her to follow them. Then, her mind went dark and the subconscious took over once again. Time pressed on. She returned to her dream-like state of consciousness, and the fireflies had stopped dancing, frozen in space, brighter than before, still flickering. She felt nauseous and fell to her knees with a heaving attack. Her stomach tightened, her upper body stiffened painfully, and her throat burned, but nothing came out. After a

few wrenching moments, the heaving passed and she rolled down to one side, closed her eyes, and laid still on the cool sand. It felt good and she wanted to sleep, perhaps it was the only way to wake up.

The desert stood silent except for the chirping of crickets and her heavy breathing. Her mind spun with whirlwinds of confusing thoughts, but they slowly began to dissipate, and she soon started to envision exquisite women's clothing, stylish shoes, négligés, and elegant fashion shows. Memory slowly began to fade in. The boutique! I design clothes ... I'm going to be famous like Coco Chanel ... open my own boutique ... I remember! She smiled. That was her real dream in life. Her elation was only brief. In the reality of the moment, she understood her real dream...

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Otero County has something to boast about

Every fall, the country undergoes a vibrant transformation. This change in foliage is one of the country's most anticipated natural events, drawing both locals and tourists alike to spots across the country.

For those looking to experience this spectacle first-

hand, a road trip is often the best way to do it. Luckily for us in southern New Mexico, we don't have to go very far to find the best in the state, the Sacramento Mountains are crowned with some of the brightest displays.

A national Volkswagen

company ran a survey of 3,000 respondents, asking them to rate their favorite routes to witness fall foliage.

New Mexico had three scenic drives voted among the country's best for witnessing fall foliage this year.

New Mexico's top pick for fall foliage drives was the Sunspot Scenic Byway, voted in 62nd place nationally. Starting from the town of Cloudcroft and culminating at the Sunspot Solar Observatory, this 16-mile route offers a unique blend of astronomical intrigue and natural splendor.

But even before getting on the byway, driving up to Cloudcroft, the color and brilliance of the foliage can be startling.



The Mexican Canyon Trestle on U.S. Highway 85 to Cloudcroft is dressed in gold as fall colors take over the landscape. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Frank and Heidi Ogas visited City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho. "We love out New Mexico State Park, City of Rocks so thought it would be fun to visit City of Rocks Idaho," Heidi said. "Fascinating!"

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 with 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.

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ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

By Elva K. Österreich

OPPORTUNITIES

• **Deming Art Fest**, Dec. 9, includes original art and fine handcrafts designed and produced by artists of many mediums and will be held at the United Methodist Church Gymnasium, 1020 S. Granite, Deming. All artists who would like to participate should to contact the Deming Arts Council for an application to participate for free in this event by email to demingarts@hotmail.com or stop by the Deming Arts Center for and application. The set-up will be at 7 a.m. with the Art Fest opening at 9 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m., take down is 4-5 p.m. pm. Info: 575-546-3663.

SILVER CITY

• The Silver City Art Association (SCAA) is holding its **Second Annual Holiday Art Market** from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Nov 24 and 25 in the ballroom of the **Murray Hotel**, 200 W. Broadway in historic downtown Silver City. The market features art and creations made by the members of the SCAA. The Market features performances by local musicians and food and beverages will be available for purchase from baker Bev Bean. Info: silvercityart.com.

• The **Fiercely Independent Exhibit** is the hallmark event of the SCAA members who call themselves independent. A selection of work by 27 independent artists is on display at **Light Art Space**

Gallery, located at 209 W. Broadway, in Silver City. Beginning Thursday, Nov. 9, during regular gallery hours this exhibit is open to the public. An opening celebration is from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10 with refreshments and live music. The show runs through Nov. 26. Also, on view at Light, Art, Space 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. Info: Kathleen Koopman at artists-guesthouse@gmail.com

• **Francis McCray Gallery** is proud to present the **Bi-Annual Department of Expressive Arts Faculty Exhibition** through Nov. 16. The exhibition showcases a wide range of traditional and contemporary media and processes including drawing, digital art, ceramics, painting, photography and sculpture. Featured Artists: **Ed Brandt**, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design; **Matt Drissell**, assistant professor of drawing and painting; **Cynthia Gutierrez**, adjunct instructor; **Michael Metcalf**, professor of sculpture and department chair; **Courtney Michaud**, associate professor of ceramics; **Jim Pend-**



“Cathouse owl” by Greta Burger will be at the **Holly Day House Art Show in Las Cruces**. (Courtesy photo)

ergast, associate professor of photography; and **Erin Wheary**, assistant professor of sculpture. The Francis McCray Art Gallery can be found at 237 W. Rhoda Road on the WNMU campus in Silver City. Info: 575-538-6517.

DEMING

• November at the **Deming Art Center** is the annual **Recycle Show** which is sponsored by Luna County and “Keep Luna County Beautiful.” Featured will be pieces of art made from at least 90 percent recycled materials and crafted by artists of all ages. From 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov.5, is the official show opening and a time to meet the artists. The show runs through Nov. 29. The

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.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

• **Rio Bravo Fine Art**, 110 North Broadway in Truth or Consequences, presents “Mood Drawings - The Good Grief Series” by Delmas Howe. The artwork in Howe’s show are abstracts he calls “mood drawings.” Howe, while creating his usual representational pieces, would take a break to capture a sense of his mood on a nearby sketch pad or canvas. These reflections with a mixture of motion and color have a deep, contemplative aura. His show runs through November 26. Rio Bravo Fine Arts Gallery is

at 110 N. Broadway in Truth or Consequences. Info: rio-bravofa@gmail.com.

CLOUDCROFT

• The **Cloudcroft Art Society’s Gallery (CAS)** annual **Holiday Arts and Crafts** show and sale is on display in the back room of the Nivison Library in the old red brick schoolhouse, 90 Swallow Place, Cloudcroft. CAS serves Cloudcroft, the surrounding Sacramento Mountain communities, and the Alamogordo-Tularosa area. Info: sznana@totacc.com.

MAGDALENA

• “**DARK SKY LAND Exhibition Series**,” is a transdisciplinary time-based exhibition, featuring works by astronomers and artists in the context of a Night Sky environmental project. This exhibition takes place in one of the darkest regions of the Northern Hemisphere. The project offers an innovative situation where art, science, nature, culture, community, advocacy and the unknown converge. Co-curated by **Catherine DeMaria / Warehouse 1-10 and Marisela La Grave / Magnetic Laboratory** the exhibition is conceived as a three-part series: **One. DARK/The Astronomers, Two. SKY/Time and Three. LAND/Space**. It features a collection of astronomical artifacts, astrophotography, and works by 27 artists in a broad range of media. The exhibition runs through Nov. 18 at

1-10 Art Space, 110 N. Main St., Magdalena. Info: www.warehouse110.com; www.darkskylandfilm.com; www.magneticlaboratorium.com; 575-517-0669

LAS CRUCES

• The annual **Artists of Picacho Hills “Holly Day House Art Show”** is Nov. 17-18 at **St. Paul’s United Methodist Church**, at 225 W Griggs Avenue. Members of the Potter’s Guild participating as guest artists in this annual event. More than 25 artists display various fine art, including ceramics, paintings, jewelry, folk art, handmade books, decorative gourds and fabric and fiber art. This event is free and open to the public. Friday hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday. Parking is south of the church. Turn on May Avenue (one way) from Alameda Boulevard. Info: pmaxwell@bnsf.org or www.pottersguildlc.org.

• Art lovers in the region have an opportunity to experience 40 years of boundary-breaking artwork by conceptual multimedia artist **Celia Álvarez Muñoz**. More than 35 of her works are on display at the **University Art Museum at New Mexico State University**. “**Celia Álvarez Muñoz: Breaking the Binding**” The show, which includes large-scale immersive installations, photographic series and book projects, will run through March 2. The museum is hosting a series of in-person bookmak-

ing workshops Nov. 4, Nov. 18, and Dec. 2 in Devasthali Hall room 106. The workshops are open to anyone interested and participants can choose to exhibit their books in the Mullenix Bridge Gallery alongside artwork by Muñoz. Info: uam.nmsu.edu.

• **Camelot Studio** announces its fall exhibit: **“East Meets West: Chihuahuan Desert Artists from Southern NM and the Big Bend of Texas.”** The show runs through the Renaissance Arts Faire weekend and will be available for viewing by appointment through Nov. 12. Open hours for viewing at 2008 Camelot Drive in Las Cruces are 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3; noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4; and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. Info: Mary Diesel, 432-294-

0771.

• **Gallery 925** will be hosting the Border Artists group for the month of November. The members exhibiting in the show, **“Small Gems,”** represent a variety of disciplines in painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, photography and printmaking. Each artist will be giving the viewers a glimpse inside their studio practice, their use of materials and subject matter. The participating Border Artists are: **Diane Alire, Chris Bardey, Margaret Berrier, Emmitt Booher, Sherry Doil-Carter, Tauna Cole Dorn, Patricia Dunn, Amanda Jaffe, Suzanne Kane, Cassandra Lockwood, Rosemary McLoughlin, Andrew Nagem, Jeanne Rundell, Storm Sermay, Jo-an Smith, David Sorensen,**



“How the Story Ends” is one of many pieces at the **Fiercely Independent Artists** event at **Light Art Space** in Silver City.

Jean Wilkey, Nolan Winkler, Terry Wolfe and Naida Zucker. An opening reception is **First Friday,** 1-8 p.m. Nov. 3 and work will be on display from through Nov. 26. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Fridays and

11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Gallery 925 is at 925 Mesquite Ave. Info: gallery925nm.com.

• As a member of **Agave Artists Gallery**, **Kathy Baker** is featured in November as Artist of the Month. She's a fiber and ceramic artist. She is a long-time member of the **Potters Guild of Las Cruces, Cruces Creatives,** and **Agave Artists Gallery.** At 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. Baker will present **“The Making of Art Yarn.”** The presentation includes preparing materials, carding, solar dyeing, and spinning. Participants will have an opportunity to try their hand at spinning and weaving.

ARTS SCENE

continued on page 14

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ARTS SCENE

continued from page 13

This event is free and open to the public. Also at Agave, potter **George Holland** is a new member. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday to Monday and until 8 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at 2250 Calle de San Albino. Info: 575-339-9870.

• For **Elizabeth Abrams**, whose work is on display at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces, the art of photography offers an opportunity to connect deeply with the world, especially in the form of nature. Her exhibit, “**Antidotes: Seeing Beauty, Finding Connection**,” continues in the **Museum’s Arts Corridor** through Dec. 2. The show features 24 landscape and

wildlife images by Abrams, who lives in Las Cruces. The show also includes the “**Death and Life**” display, a memorial work dedicated to horses and other animals. Info: 575-522-4100.

• **The Las Cruces Museum of Art**, is featuring “**Artistas de las Fronterizas – Borderland Contemporary Artists.**” Sixteen contemporary artists from local borderland communities, including Las Cruces, El Paso, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, come together in this colorful and expressive exhibit to showcase their work as prominent Borderland artists, on view from Friday, Oct. 6 to Saturday, Dec. 16. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 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



Mary Zawacki's work is featured for November at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery in Mesilla. (Courtesy photo)

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two local artists for the month of November: **Kurt Van Wagner** and **Mary Zawacki**. Van Wagner, a photographer, is a native of California and has been a MVFA Gallery member for fourteen years. Kurt's photographs capture the local scenes of New Mexico as well as tasteful figurative nudes and his world travels. Zawacki paints primarily with oils and pastels. MVFA has a Holiday Market open house from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

These gallery artists will be demonstrating their techniques: **Patricia Black** (gourd art); **Mark Morden** (pastels); **Kerry O'Neill** (ceramics); and **Noel Sandino** (mono printing). Holiday Market gift items are available for

sale until Dec. 31. 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.

• **Tombaugh Gallery**, 2000 South Solano, Las Cruces, features the "Art of Navajo Textiles" Nov. 3-26 with two special openings 5-8 p.m., Nov. 3 and 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 5. Curating the show is **Bruce Begin**, collector/trader, of Navajo rugs. More than 25 rugs will be on display, selected specifically for the show from various Navajo regions/styles. Also available will be Navajo jewelry- ster-

ling silver and turquoise mostly. Handouts include "History of Navajo Weaving," "Navajo Rug Styles" and "How to Care for your Navajo Rug." Regular Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. The Gallery is located in the Unitarian Universalist Church.

• At **Branigan Cultural Center** the newest exhibition, "A Celebration of Souls: Day of the Dead in Southern Mexico," explores the history, heritage and traditions of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations in Oaxaca, Mexico. It features 26 photographs that capture a typical Oaxacan Day of the Dead celebration. The exhibit opens

Oct. 6 and runs through Dec. 30. Also, at the Branigan, on display through Jan. 13, "The Amadors: Family, Culture, and Identity in Early Las Cruces" exhibit, follows the Amadors' experience of Mexican families living along the U.S. side of the international boundary following the Mexican American War, as they adjusted to new social, economic, educational, and political systems of the U.S. while holding on to their Mexican identities and cultural values. 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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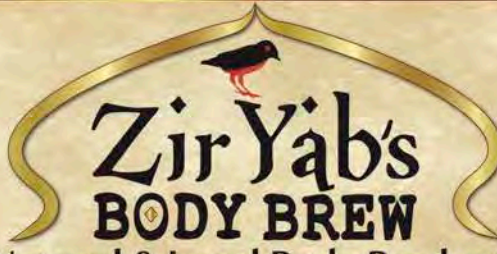
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It's Crunch Time

Who do you ignore? Calls driving you crazy?

By Elva K. Österreich

Some days it seems every time the phone goes off, it's another call trying to sell you insurance. The commercials encourage you to call and find out what you might be missing, the cardboard in the mail assures that you need help with your Medicaid/Medicare dual plan.

But do you?

Ariel Fragoso is one of many southern New Mexico brokers who knows the specifics as they relate to our state. She often hears frustration in the voices of those

who come to her. The calls have ramped up to more than 10 a day.

The reason those calls are coming is the battle to get customer attention since people have a choice of insurers. People with Medicare only can buy insurance to cover things Medicare does not. People with dual plans, Medicare and Medicaid, can get plans which cover things in addition. For example, some of those can cover things such as transportation, dental care, vitamins and even groceries.

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people ages 65 and over

and people under 65 with long-term disabilities. The program helps pay for many medical care services including hospitalization, physical visits and prescription drugs, along with post-acute care, skilled nursing facility care, home healthcare and preventive services.

More than 451,000 New Mexico residents are enrolled in Medicare, according to healthinsurance.org, which is about 21 percent of the state's population.

The period between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 is when people with Medicare have the opportunity to review bene-

fits and features of Medicare plans offered in their area and make changes to their Medicare coverage. Changes go into effect on Jan. 1 of the following year.

Changes include switching from traditional Medicare to Medicare Advantage plans (or vice versa), switching between two Medicare Advantage plans, or changing Medicare Part D prescription drug plan coverage

Each member of a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D plan receives an "Annual Notice of Change" document prior to Oct. 1 which includes all benefits that are

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THE CALLS

- List your phone number with the National Do Not Call registry at www.DoNotCall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 with the phone you want to register. It can take up to 30 days for the calls to stop.
- File a complaint with the FCC at consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

changing.

In the Medicare system, Part A is for hospital coverage. Individuals had to work 40 quarters to earn it at no cost, but there is a deductible

to meet first if they are only on Medicare, Fragoso said. Part B, is for medical care.

"That part we never earned through taxes, we pay for it when we are 65," she said.

Say "Hi" to Ivan, the blue-gold macaw!

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This year there are some key changes to the Medicare basics: Part A deductible is \$1,632 per benefit period (up from \$1,600 in 2023); The Part B monthly premium is \$174.70 (up from \$164.90 in 2023); and the Part B Deductible is \$240 per calendar year (up from \$226 in 2023).

This year also, Medicare Part D plans can have a deductible up to \$545 (up from \$505 in 2023). Each plan uses tiers to decide the copay levels for each medication.

Each plan can make changes to its list of covered drugs as well as which tier they are placed under.

Brokers – including local groups, phone solicitors and the numerous ads thrown at us every day – have the job of helping individuals sort out what kind of plans and choices are appropriate for individuals. This service doesn't cost the consumer anything. Technically brokers are there to help.

Choosing a local broker, like Fragoso, who works through the Distinguished Choice team, provides the

advantage of working with an individual who is knowledgeable about area providers and systems. For example, in Otero County the hospital which was Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center has a new name and new management, CHRISTUS Health, and, along with all the providers who use it, no longer takes Humana insurance which many area Medicaid and Medicaid users have been on. A local broker is going to know how best to help individuals in such a situation.

While there are many lo-

cal brokers in southern New Mexico, there are also those who come over from El Paso looking for business who might not understand the environment as well.

"Our team goal is to work with each other, help each other, teach each other, troubleshoot," Fragoso said. "Who knows Cruces better than Cruces people?"

Fragoso's team members will venture in person to Silver City, Deming, Las Cruces, Truth or Consequences, Alamogordo and Ruidoso to sit across the kitchen table and visit with customers

who need help navigating the whole system.

"We can look at what doctors do you need, then we find those plans that include those doctors," she said. "It's to get the big picture of providers. Every plan covers different medications so if you just assume that meds are covered, we are not doing due diligence. Maybe on Humana you were paying \$5 and maybe on another you will be paying \$20. You want to know that."

Fragoso suggests consumers take commercials, the junk mail, the 1-800-num-

bers with a grain of salt.

"Because at the end of the day, that person could care less about local communities," she said. "They know nothing about our community, they know nothing about what we have or don't have here, so they will pull up whatever plan pulls up first in the computer system."


But the best reason to use is local broker may be personal.

"I love it," Fragoso said. "I've been doing it 14 years and the people I meet are amazing. I just enjoy the people part of it."



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FEATURING DELICIOUSNESS

HomeGrown

Farm & Ranch event showcases New Mexico foods

By Craig Massey, NMFRHM

The ninth-annual HomeGrown event at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19. Admission is \$10 per vehicle, and the first 100 vehicles at the event each day will receive a free burlap shopping bag. Cash is encouraged for admission.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) partners with the museum each year to co-host the show. The NMDA food demonstration trailer will be at the event and NMDA's Taste the Tradition Chef Ambassadors, Jordan Isaacson and Jon Young, will conduct cooking demonstrations each day.

"This annual collaboration we have with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture has produced a fun event in Las Cruces that showcases products grown in our state," said New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs Cabinet Secretary Debra Garcia y Griego. "HomeGrown provides for the public to sample these New Mexico products and begin their holiday shopping."

Attendees can expect about 60 vendors, the majority representing food and beverage companies from around the state, many of which are NMDA's "Taste the Tradition" and "Grown with Tradition®" members. Each booth will offer locally produced products, such as award-winning salsas, nuts, sauces, and wine, for attendees to sample and purchase. The show also features crafts, art, and other hand-made products, including Native American pottery and jewelry from northern and central New Mexico.

"This event is a source of New Mexico products that has come to define the spirit of the holiday season across the state and region," said New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte. "It clearly reflects people's love for locally made prod-



Kinna's Chile Products is one of many vendors at the HomeGrown New Mexico foods showcase event. (Courtesy Photo)

ucts and successfully meets consumer demand year after year.

Vendors include Phil's Gourmet Sauces of Albuquerque, J.P.M.'s Salsa of Las Cruces, Old Barrel Tea Company of Mesilla, meats from Jinglebob Land & Cattle Company of Anthony, N.M., JAL Farms of Fort Sumner, Legacy Pecans of Las Cruces, Nichols Ranch and Orchard of La Luz, and Kinna's Chile Products and New Mexico Sabor from Albuquerque. There will also be a select group of New Mexico wineries offering samples, as well as glass and bottle sales.

Back by popular demand, Doña Ana County 4-H members will be selling their colorfully decorated mini-Christmas trees and wreaths.

"The Farm & Ranch staff is excited to invite everyone to our signature event, HomeGrown, featuring New Mexico-based products from our talented community," said Farm & Ranch Museum Executive Director Heather Reed. "In collaboration with our partners at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, we're able to showcase the hard work that makes our state unique."

Attendees are also invited to tour the Museum and enjoy the exhibits at no extra cost. The Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces and is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. The 47-acre facility tells the story of 4,000 years of growing food in New Mexico through a variety of exhibits and demonstrations.

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COLUMNS

Everyday Observations

A phone friend who knows everything you know

By Abe Villarreal

Last night I spoke to an old friend and former colleague. It was one of those conversations where I picked up the phone, she answered, and the very first statements went something like this:

“I just read that Joe passed away.” “That’s too bad.” “Do you know how he passed?” “No, he must have been sick recently.” “Did you hear about Jenny getting the award?” “I did.” “It was expected.”

And each time one of us spoke, it was one of those back and forth exchanges. I shared something, then she shared something. We never asked how each of us was doing or about our personal lives. You don’t feel you need to when you speak to someone that feels like a neighbor, even if she lives in a different state.

You talk about other people. About the local news. About that new store that opened, and that old restaurant that finally closed. You talk about the curmudgeon who finally retired and wonder what he will do when he’s out living on his own without co-workers to poke at all day long.

You talk about the people downtown that you remember when you both lived in the same town. The guy on the corner playing the electric guitar. The guys at the barbershop, father and son, who have been there since anyone can remember, and the old one-screen movie theater that is only open on the weekends.

You talk about things you feel only you and your friend can talk about because no one else knows these things like you do. Like the time the baker-owner lady won best chocolate at the annual chocolate festival. Everyone was happy for her even though they felt like someone else should win

because she had won several years in a row.

Or the time you went to the Christmas parade and it felt like the whole town was there. It was colder than you thought it would be, and there was only one vendor selling apple cider vinegar. We waited in line in what seemed a longer time than the parade lasted.

We talked about that time when there was a big debate on whether the town should ban plastic bags and only go with paper bags at the grocery store. People were really riled up about that one until the ban happened and everyone became used to using paper bags. Maybe it’s in our human DNA to use them. Our grandparents used them too.

We laughed and made little side comments about certain people we both know.

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

RaisingDad

Let sleeping dogs lie

By Jim and Henry Duchene

...one...

Back when my beloved mother was still alive, she told me something scary that happened to her and my father when they were home alone.

Not scary in an “Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein” kind of way, even though it could have been. You see, the house I grew up in is supposed to be haunted. I say “supposed” because nothing frightening ever happened to me there, unless you count experiencing mysterious gas fumes every night emanating from my laughing brother’s side of the bedroom we shared.

Anyway...

They were in the den watching TV. She was sitting on the couch and my father was in his favorite chair, when – all of a sudden – my father began to choke. “Honey!” my mother

screamed. Panicking, she got up

from the couch, picked up the remote, and turned off the TV.

That didn’t help.

I don’t know why she thought it would.

Next, she started slapping him hard on the back.

That didn’t help either.

He clawed at his throat. His eyes bulged. He fell to the floor.

Now THAT helped.

The obstruction dislodged and my father could breathe again.

“Are you okay?” my mother cried.

Taking in huge gulps of air, he used it to chastise her.

“Why did you turn off the TV?” he griped.

My mother let that slide.

When the hubbub was over and my father was back in his favorite chair, happily eating the very same snacks he almost choked to death on, my mother asked why he got mad at her for turning off the TV.

“Because,” he explained, “if it was my time to go, I wanted to go watching my favorite show.”

...two...

Years back I saw a very sexy 72-year-old Helen Mirren riding onto the Academy Awards stage on a jet ski and thinking about it now reminds me of how my father can be romantic in his own way.

Once, as my parents were watching one of Helen’s movies, my mother told him, “I can’t believe she’s MY age. She’s so beautiful.”

Tenderly, my father reached over and patted her hand.

“You’re almost as beautiful as she is,” he told her.

...three...

On a trip to visit family who live out of state, I sat with my father as the plane we were already on slowly filled. One of the pre-boarding perks of getting old.


I sat by the window, and my father sat in the middle seat.

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


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TABLE TALK

Downtown Blues Coffee

Sit back, chat, make music

By Sylvia Quintanilla

There's a buzz in downtown Las Cruces on the weekends. You can feel it walking down the street. You can see it passing the boutiques and restaurants. Downtown Blues Coffee, 130 S. Main St., oozes charisma from its storefront. The blend of music and coffee is front and center, but customers are in for a treat once they step inside.

Downtown Blues Coffee is a shop with a lot of heart and soul. Walking in, your senses hit a bit of an overload with live music, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and nostalgia all around. There are vinyl records on one side, VHS tapes and cassettes on the other. Adorned on the walls are the legendary faces of Janis Joplin, Selena Quintanilla, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters and Billie Holiday. The artist's eye may be drawn to the photo of Frida Kahlo or the stool with a record on the seat.

"Downtown Blues Coffee started with a pipe dream," owner Frankie Jaurequi said. "I have a massive love for blues music and I wanted to create a venue where everyone could come and listen to blues and music in general."

Fridays, are Acoustic Fridays,

where musicians can come together and play. Every other Saturday, the shop is host to salons where people can sign up to perform music, poetry, short stories and more. In the past, the salons even hosted jugglers and drag queens.

"We celebrate everybody and everything. We are that, come-as-you-are, type of shop," Jaurequi said. "We love people and want everyone to get along together and have a good time and celebrate life."

Downtown Blues Coffee is known for being a music venue. Musicians from around the country have booked gigs there. A special centerpiece in the shop is a white vintage door. Jaurequi said the door was donated to him from a friend. It was one of the original doors used in San Miguel, N.M. There are a couple others repurposed into tables as well. He said musicians who play Downtown Blues sign the door. A rite of passage he is proud of.

Jaurequi spoke about how music is on another level for him. A native of Silver City, he moved with his brothers, sister and parents to Las Cruces in 1982. After high school, he moved to Miami, Florida, for music production. He moved back to Las Cruces, began a family and

said it's been a good life.

In 2019, Jaurequi opened Downtown Blues Coffee. From the beginning, he wanted to sell vinyl records. He said he envisioned the records on a smaller scale with just 100 available. Through a mutual friend, he was introduced to Fred Nevarez to supply him with vinyl records.

"And, man, did he supply me," he said. "This guy had 80,000 records plus. He was just the biggest music fan and lover I ever met in my life."

Once Nevarez came in, the interest in records increased due to Nevarez having multiple genres at his disposal. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevarez passed away.

"I love exposing people to blues music," Jaurequi said. "It's one of my passions. If they have never heard it, it makes me feel good to say, 'Hey, you should check these guys out.' If they are young kids, even better. I can show them that the 12 Bars Blues really matters and its in all modern music. It can never be forgotten."



Frankie Jaurequi takes advantage of a busy Saturday night at Downtown Blues Coffee to create a social media post. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Jaurequi credits the Farmers and Craft Market of Las Cruces for bringing in a lot of exposure to his shop during the market.

For Downtown Blues Coffee, one of their goals is to be the shop people go into for their morning cup of coffee. They carry two brands of coffee, Milgro Coffee y Espresso created a special blend – Downtown Blues Blend – the other is Café Du Monde, directly from New Orleans.

"It's been a bumpy road," he said. "But we are so happy that the community loves the shop. Not only the community, but literally the country and all over the world,"

Close to the register, there is a large world map on the wall. Jaurequi said guests from all over the states and six continents have come in and pinned where they are visiting Las Cruces from.

"It's incredible. You get (people from) Europe, Australia. They might not necessarily be here for Downtown Blues Coffee, but they come to Las Cruces and it's great," he said.

For more information on Downtown Blues Coffee, visit www.downtownbluescoffee.com or follow them on social media on Facebook and Instagram.



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Ilya Yakushev,
Nov. 16



Jason Dea West,
Nov. 5

EVENTS

What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in November

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1

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

Live Music: Scott Yoder Grunge-Glam

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

www.whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Sierra County

Day of the Dead Community gathering

4:30-8 p.m., Healing Waters Plaza, 300 Daniels, Truth or Consequences
blackcatpoetsnm@gmail.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

THURSDAY, NOV. 2

Grant County

Build and program robots

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

Doña Ana County County Health Fair

12:30-2:30 p.m., Radium Springs Community Center,

12060 Lindbeck Road, Radium Springs
575-528-8057

FRIDAY, NOV. 3

Book Talk: "Deputy Death"

Mar Bartlett speaks on her memoir

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

Grant County First Fridays Art Gallery

Walk

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

Live Music: The Consequences

Rock n Roll from T or C

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

Otero County

Launch Pad Lecture: "ISS 25th Anniversary"

With Mike Shinabery, museum education director

9 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo
nmspacemuseum.org

"The Wizard of Oz" With Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo

7 p.m. at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 4**Grant County****Silver City Farmers Market**

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

www.silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Anything Art Sale

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W. Broadway St. Silver City

mimbresarts.org

Movie; "Wall-E"

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

575-538-3672

Live Music: Silver City Festival Orchestra

Lonnie Klein conducting

Featuring flamenco guitarist

Robert Michaels

7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Theatre on the WNMU campus

wnmu.edu/culture

Luna County**Dia de Muertos Art Festival**

3-8 p.m. at the Luna County Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver Ave., Deming

575-567-3928

Sierra County**Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Dance**

7 p.m. at the Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences

575-744-9137

Otero County**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market**

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

farmersmarketsnm.org.

Cars & Coffee

9 a.m. at Casa Toyota, 3333 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo

575-921-5580

**"The Wizard of Oz"
With Children's Music**

Theater of Alamogordo

7 p.m. at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 110 New York Ave., Alamogordo

flickingercenter.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

BBQ Cookoff and Cornhole Tournament**Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**

BBQ cookoff registration begins at 7 a.m.; Cornhole registration 9-10:30 a.m.

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10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 Nevada Ave. in Las Cruces

daaarts.org

OutsmArt Accordion**Book Workshop**

drop in 10 a.m.-2 p.m., University Art Museum in the Mullenix Gallery, NMSU, Las Cruces

lambert1@nmsu.edu

EVENTS

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 Candace Laramore, NP (Primary, Family, Pediatric)
 Amber Rose King, NP
 (Primary Care Pediatrics)

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EVENTS

continued from page 23

Holly Day House Artists event

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church Las Cruces
 artistsofpicacho
 hills2017@gmail.com

SUNDAY, NOV. 5
All of New Mexico Daylight Savings Time ends

Grant County Live Music: Jason Dea West American troubadour
 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200

N. Bullard St., Silver City
 littletoadcreek.com

Sierra County Black Cat Poetry Reading
 1-2:15 p.m. at Ingo's Art Cafe, 422 Broadway, T or C
 blackcatpoetsnm@gmail.com



Air Force Band, Nov. 16



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- Dec. 9Bingo @ the American Legion - doors open @ 11:00, games begin @ 1:00

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 or Heidi at (720) 245-1211
 Or email us at 1wnvet@gmail.com



Support Groups

MONDAY
Silver City/Grant County New Hope Al-Anon Family Group — noon at First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College Ave. Silver City. Zoom ID: 389 907 739, Password 658776. Info: nmal-anon.com.

WEDNESDAY
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. Zoom ID: 781 471 031; password: 954941; info: nmal-anon.com

Las Cruces/Mesilla
 Overeaters Anonymous — hybrid on Zoom at noon each Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Church, 102 St. James St., Info: 610-762-3779.

Meditation and Healing Service — 6 p.m. each Wednesday at Unity of Las Cruces, 575 N. Main St. Through meditation, experience the presence of God. A new ser-

THURSDAY
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.

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.

FRIDAY
Silver City/Grant County
 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

SATURDAY
Las Cruces/Mesilla
 Overeaters Anonymous —

vice with Rev. Jennifer Kleitz. Info: 575-523-4847.

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. meetings — 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. second 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.



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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.

“The Wizard of Oz”**With Children’s Music Theater of Alamogordo**

2 p.m. at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Doña Ana County**Renaissance ArtsFaire**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 Nevada Ave. in Las Cruces
daaarts.org

MONDAY, NOV. 6**Grant County****Square Dancing**

3-5:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 314 W. College St. Silver City, use the side entrance
575-956-7186

Live Music: Karan

Casey Trio**Legendary Irish folk singer**

7-8:45 p.m. at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., Silver City
thesilcotheater.com

TUESDAY, NOV. 7**Grant County****Future Engineers,****LEGO play for ages 6-12**

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

575-538-3672

Distinguished Speaker Series**Former corporate spy Robert Kerbeck in conversation with Valerie Plame**

7 p.m. at the Light Hall Theater on the WNMU campus
wnmu.edu/culture

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8**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

Bestial Mouths**Industrial post-punk**

7:30 p.m. at Whiskey Creek

EVENTS

continued on page 26

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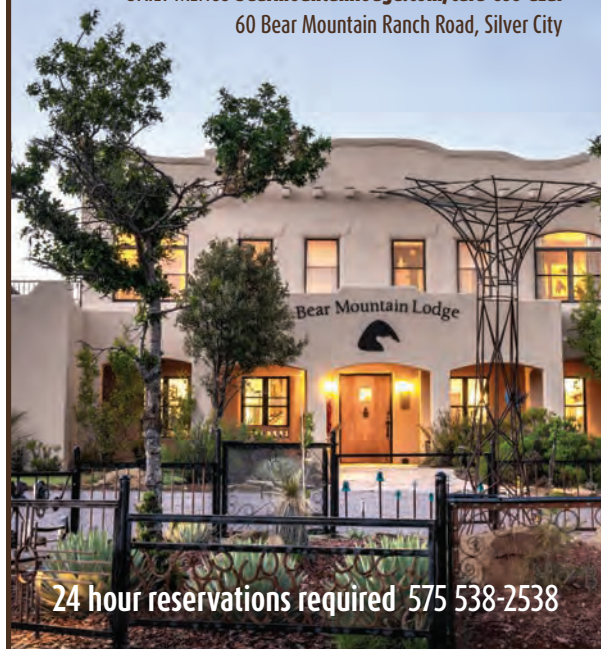
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Bayard Clinic & Billing Office | 308 Winifred St.

Deming Clinic | 1511 S. Lime St.

SilverHealthCARE.org

575-538-2981

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AGAINST ILLNESS THIS WINTER.**

EVENTS

continued from page 25

Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway
180 E. Arenas Valley
whiskeycreekzocalo.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

**Native Plant Society
presentation
Non-invasive NM native
plant that has become
invasive in Israel**

7 p.m. by Zoom and in

person at the Biology
Annex, Herbarium Building,
3080 Williams Ave., Room
101 at NMSU.
lc@npsnm.org

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

**Grant County
Live Music: Peter Fletcher
Classical Guitar**
4 p.m. at the Silco Theater,
311 N. Bullard St.,
Silver City
thesilcotheater.com

**Taylor Glasheen/Stone
& She Country roots/
ragtime**

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

www.whiskeycreekzocalo.
com

**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

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

**Luna County
State Park Astronomy
Program**
5:10 p.m. at Rockhound
State Park
575-546-6182

Lincoln County



Home Grown,
Nov. 18

**Ruidoso Christmas
Jubilee**

Noon-5 p.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111
Sierra Blanca Drive,
Ruidoso
ruidosochristmasjubilee.
com

**Doña Ana County
Healing Internal Wounds
Women's Conference**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the
American Legion in Las
Cruces
575-639-1265 or
720-245-1211

**Student Showcase
Concert
International Mariachi
Conference**

7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces
Convention Center, 680 E.
University Ave. Las Cruces
lascrucesmariachi.org

**SATURDAY, NOV. 11
Grant County
Silver City Farmers
Market**

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

**State Park Astronomy
Program**

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

**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
Veterans Day Car Show**

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Albert Lyon
Event Center, 3953 S.
Broadway St., Truth or
Consequences
hswc.carshow.torc
@gmail.com

Second Saturday Art Hop

6-9 p.m. downtown Truth or
Consequences
director@tocmainstreet.
org

**Old Time Fiddlers
Saturday Dance**

7 p.m. at the Old Time
Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm
St., Truth or Consequences
575-744-9137

**Otero County
Alamogordo Otero
County Farmers Market**

8-10 a.m. in Alameda Park,

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National Park**

7 a.m.-9 p.m. 19955 U.S.
Highway 70 West
575-479-6124

**Star Party
With the Museum
Astronomy League**

7 p.m. at the New Mexico
Museum of Space History,
3198 State Route 2001 in
Alamogordo
nmspacemuseum.org

**Live Music: Footprints
A Night of Jazz**

7 p.m. at Otero Arts, 1118
Indiana Ave., Alamogordo
www.oteroarts.org

**"The Wizard of Oz"
With Children's Music
Theater of Alamogordo**

7 p.m. at The Flickinger
Center for Performing
Arts, 110 New York Ave.,
Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

**Lincoln County
Ruidoso Christmas
Jubilee**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111
Sierra Blanca Drive,
Ruidoso
ruidosochristmasjubilee.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

**Las Cruces Veterans Day
Parade**

11 a.m. staging at corner of
Main Street and Lohman
Avenue, traveling through
Downtown Las Cruces
www.lascrucesvetday.org

**The Making of Art Yarn
With Kathy Baker**

1 p.m. at the Agave Gallery,
2250 Calle de San Albino,
Mesilla
575-339-9870

**Spectacular Concert
International Mariachi
Conference**

7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces

Convention Center, 680 E.
University Ave., Las Cruces
lascrucesmariachi.org

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

**Grant County
Live Music: Mama's
Kitchen Sink**

Soulful tunes and 3-part
harmonies

1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery and Distillery, 200

N. Bullard St., Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

Sierra County

T or C Story Lab

noon-1 p.m., El Cortez
Theater, 415 Main St, T or C
TorCStoryLab@gmail.com

Lincoln County

Ruidoso Christmas

Jubilee

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the
Ruidoso Convention
Center, 111 Sierra Blanca
Drive, Ruidoso

www.ruidosochristmasjubilee.com

**Doña Ana County
Pancake Breakfast
Honoring Female
Veterans**

11 a.m.-1 p.m., 980 N. 17th St.,
Las Cruces
575-541-2550

MONDAY, NOV. 13

**Grant County
Square Dancing**

3-5:30 p.m. at United Meth-
odist Church, 314 W. College
St. Silver City, use the side
entrance
575-956-7186

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

**Grant County
Teen Hangout**

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

**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

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

EVENTS

continued on page 28

Give Thanks Friday
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EVENTS

continued from page 27

**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

Author talk: Dr. Shelley Armitage reading from "A Habit of Landscape" and "Walking the Llano"

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

Live Music "Airmen of Note"

U.S. Air Force Band (free event)

7 p.m. Organ Mountain High School, 5700 Mesa Grande Drive, Las Cruces

513-256-9805

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

**Grant County
Minecraft Club**

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

Author reading

John Fayhee

6 p.m. in the Lodge at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway 180 E. Arenas Valley
www.whiskeycreekzocalo.com

**President's chamber
Music Series**

Ilya Yakushev on piano

7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Theatre on the WNMU campus
wnmu.edu/culture

**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

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

Otero County

"Yesterday: A Beatles Tribute"

7 p.m. at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Doña Ana County

**Holly Day House
Artists event**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church Las Cruces
artistsofpicacho hills2017@gmail.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

Grant County

Silver City Farmers



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Market

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

Live Music: Gila River Band

Country and classic rock

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

Sierra County

Sierra County Farmers Market

8:30-noon a.m., Ralph Edwards Park, 300 N. Riverside Drive, T or C
sierracountyfarmers-market5@gmail.com

Hometown History Day

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Historic Dam Site Recreation Area, 77B Engle Star Route, Elephant Butte
575-894-2073

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**Old Time Fiddlers
Saturday Dance**
7 p.m. at the Old Time
Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm
St., Truth or Consequences
575-744-9137

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

**Lincoln County
Clara's tea at Cree
Meadows
Lunch with the
Nutcracker Cast**
noon-2 p.m. Cree Meadows,
301 Country Club Drive,
Ruidoso
575-808-8410

**Doña Ana County
Home Grown
Showcase of New Mexico
Foods**
9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New
Mexico Farm & Ranch
Heritage Museum, 4100
Dripping Springs Road, Las
Cruces
575-522-4100

**Holly Day House
Artists event**
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
Las Cruces
artistsofpicacho
hills2017@gmail.com

**SUNDAY, NOV. 19
Grant County
Live Music: Pint and a Half
Americana**
1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery and Distillery, 200
N. Bullard St., Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

**Doña Ana County
Home Grown
Showcase of New Mexico
Foods**
9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New

Mexico Farm & Ranch
Heritage Museum, 4100
Dripping Springs Road, Las
Cruces
575-522-4100

**MONDAY, NOV. 21
Grant County
Square Dancing**
3-5:30 p.m. at United
Methodist Church, 314 W.
College St. Silver City, Use
the side entrance
575-956-7186

**TUESDAY, NOV. 21
Grant County
Game Day - play board
games**
4 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,
Silver City
575-538-3672

**THURSDAY, NOV. 23
Grant County
*Fall Film Series – As Fate
Would Have It: Survival
Stories in Film
“Alive”**
6:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara
Armory, 19990 U.S.
Highway 180.
575-388-4862

**Lincoln County
Ruidoso Winter Park
Tubing
Opening Day**
10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1200 Ski
Run Road, Alto
575-336-7079

**FRIDAY, NOV. 24
Otero County
Christmas, Market**
10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the
Cloudcroft Chamber of
Commerce
cloudcroft.com

**SATURDAY, NOV. 25
Grant County
Silver City Art Association
Holiday Market**
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Murray
Hotel, 200 W. Broadway St.
Silver City

silvercityart.com
Lighted Christmas Parade
7 p.m. Downtown Silver City
silvercitymainstreet.com

**Live Music: Znora
Original rock**
1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery and Distillery, 200
N. Bullard St., Silver City
littletoadcreek.com

**Sierra County
Elephant Butte Fine Arts**

& Crafts Show
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Elephant
Butte RV Resort & Bigfoot
Wine Patio, 402 Butte Blvd.,
Elephant Butte
575-740-3971

**Old Time Fiddlers
Saturday Dance**
7 p.m. at the Old Time
Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm
St., Truth or Consequences
575-744-9137

Otero County

Christmas, Market
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the
Cloudcroft Chamber of
Commerce
cloudcroft.com

**Lincoln County
Party on the Mountain at
Ski Apache
Opening Day**
10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1200 Ski
Run Road, Alto
www.skiapache.com

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

**Lincoln County
Christmas Tree Lighting,
Inn of the Mountain Gods**
1-7 p.m. at the Inn of the
Mountain Gods Resort and
Casino, 287 Carrizo Canyon
Road, Mescalero
innofthemountain gods.com

**MONDAY, NOV. 27
Grant County**

EVENTS

continued on page 30

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EVENTS

continued from page 29

Square Dancing

3-5:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 314 W. College St. Silver City, use the side entrance
575-956-7186

Otero County**Full Moon Night**

White Sands National Park
7 a.m.-9 p.m. 19955 U.S. Highway 70 W.
575-479-6124

Doña Ana County**TUESDAY, NOV. 28****Grant County****Family Movie: "Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse"**

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

Live Music: Stephane Wrembel Quartet

7 p.m. at the Light Hall Theater

on the WNMU campus
wnmu.edu/culture

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29**Otero County****Live Music: Stephane Wrembel Quartet**

7 p.m. at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 110 New York Ave., Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Lincoln County**THURSDAY, NOV. 30****Grant County****Live music: Songwriter's Showcase**

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 1**Grant County****Jingle and Mingle**

5-8 p.m. at Regents Square on the WNMU campus
wnmu.edu/culture

Otero County**Holiday Artisan Sale**

6 p.m. at Otero Arts, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo
www.oteroarts.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 2**Sierra County****Christmas in the Foothills**

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Downtown Hillsboro and Kingston
nanafarm@earthlink.net

Yuletide in Chloride

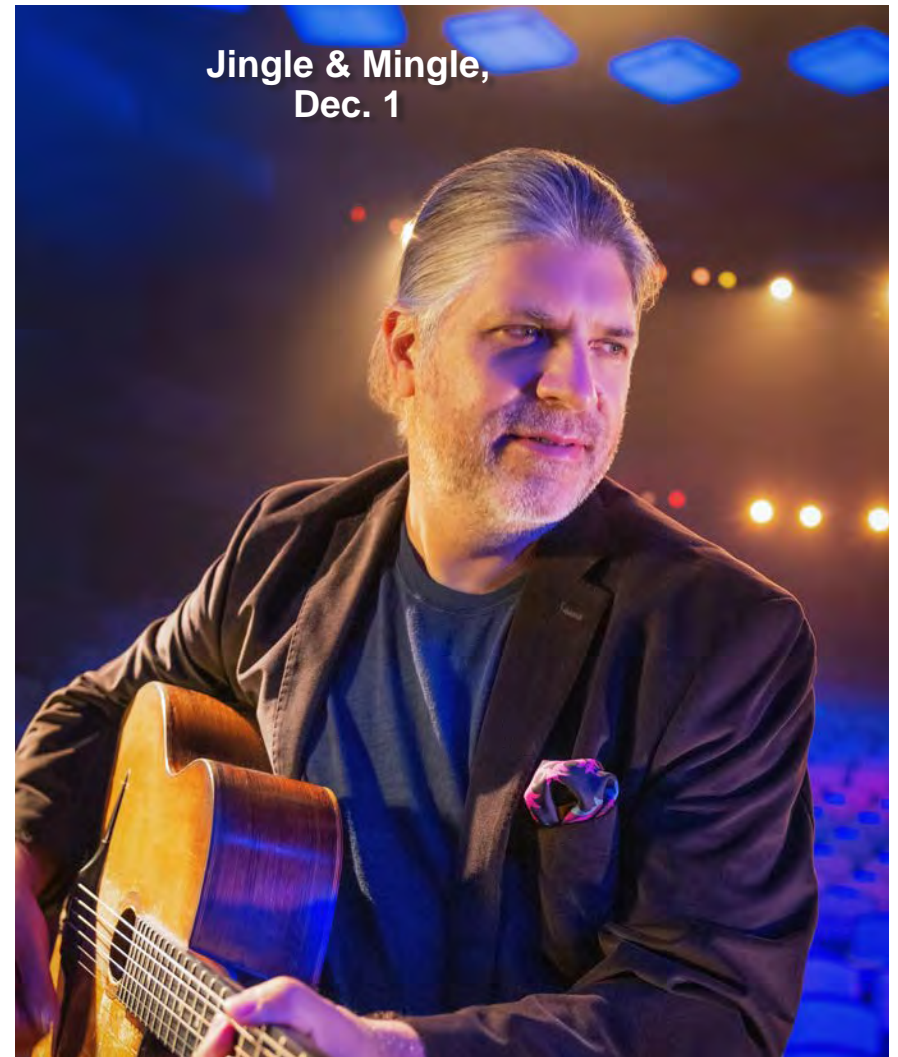
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop and Gallery, Chloride, NM
575-743-0493

Old Time Fiddlers**Saturday Dance**

7 p.m. at the Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences
575-744-9137

Luna County**Lighted Christmas Parade**

6 p.m., Downtown Deming

**Jingle & Mingle,
Dec. 1**

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Otero County**Holiday Artisan Sale**

10 a.m. at Otero Arts, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo
www.oteroarts.org

Lincoln County**Ruidoso Festival of Lights Parade**

5:30-7 p.m., Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso
575-257-7395

SUNDAY, DEC. 3**Sierra County****Yuletide in Chloride**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop and Gallery, Chloride, NM
575-743-0493

PERFORMANCE

A Touch of Naughty

Author, scholar, performer shares the fun, transformative power of burlesque

By Mike Cook

Lynn Sally is an author, scholar and burlesque performer who has made her home in Las Cruces since 2019.

A California native, Sally lived in New York City for two decades and continues to teach there seasonally. She was traveling across the United States in an RV in 2018, writing her second book, “Neo-Burlesque: Striptease as Transformation,” when she made a stop in Albuquerque, hosting a burlesque show at the Kimo Theatre. In Truth or Consequences, she hosted several shows at the civic center and the Mr. Fiesta drag show fundraiser.

Sally settled in Las Cruces where she is renovating an old adobe home in the downtown area. Despite some online attacks – “drag queens dancing half naked in front of our children” is a paraphrase of one comment – her New Mexico shows have been “surprisingly well received–,” Sally said.

With a Ph.D. in performance studies and a masters in gender studies and feminist theory, she taught an online class, “Performing Gender: Camp, Drag & Burlesque,” last semester at NMSU (and she would like to teach it again), and continues teaching The History of American Burlesque at NYU.

“I was impressed with the students at NMSU,” Sally said. “They were really engaged and had a love for drag. It was the most exciting class I’ve ever taught – exciting for



The always changing Lynn Sally, lower right, and one of her alter egos, Dr. Lucky. (Courtesy Photos)

me, for the (17) students and for NMSU to have this course offered,” she said.

“Imagine something and become it; I think that’s what is so compelling about drag,” Sally said. Drag “offers a gender-fluid version of self. It’s what kids are exploring today.”



Her classes allow students “to express themselves,” she said.

“Gender is a social construct,” she said.

Many people don’t understand what identifying as transgender or queer really means, she said.

For example, an NYU student of hers chose to identify as queer because, for her, to identify as a woman was to identify with powerlessness and an inability to break the patriarchal system.

Sally’s first burlesque class at NYU was filled with “young, beautiful people,” she said. They decided to not only study burlesque but do their own show.

Each student in New York and Las Cruces creates the concept for the performance, designs the choreography, creates the character, makes the costume and chooses the music.

“That’s what’s exciting about burlesque and drag; the individual literally creates everything,” Sally said. “That’s exciting for young people.”

It can also create “an experience for the audience that allows them to have fun, get outside their mundane lives and get away from the TV and see something they’ve never seen before.”

Sally has hosted shows around New Mexico, including Dr. Lucky’s Blue Revue in Albuquerque and PEEKSHOW, which toured the state with nine events and workshops in eight days earlier this year. She and PEEKSHOW artist Peekaboo Pointe were featured at the NMSU Art Museum, and in August, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library hosted her book talk.

“People here are really hungry for it,” she said.

Visit www.lynnsally.com.

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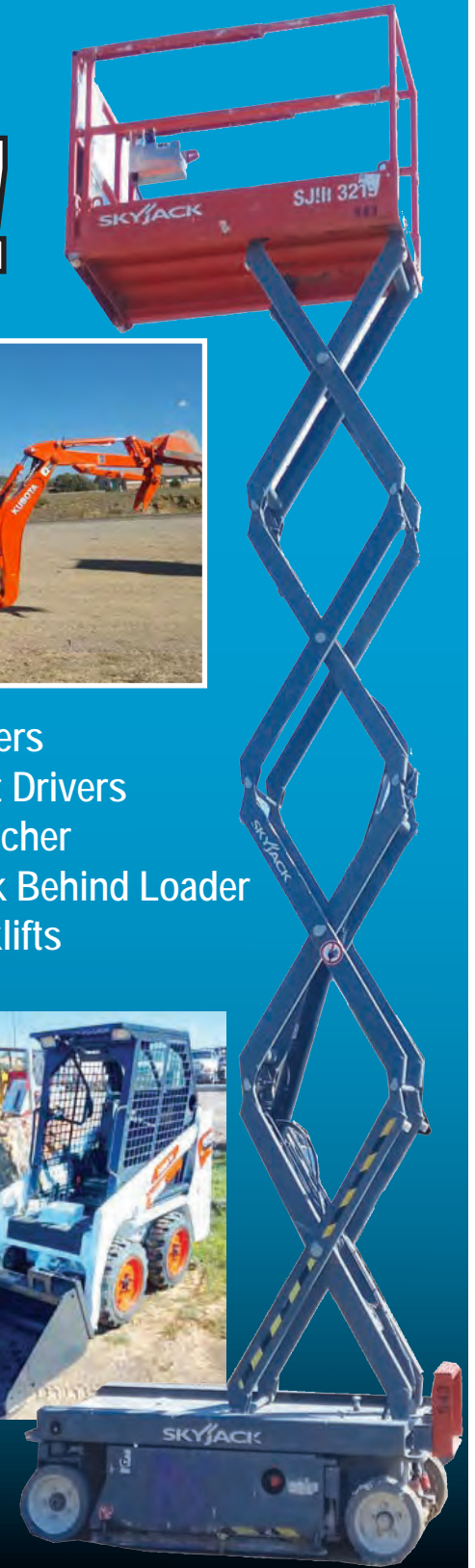
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