

Experience Southern New Mexico

DECEMBER 2023 | VOL. 28 NO. 12

# DESERT EXPOSURE

ESTABLISHED IN 1996

## HOLIDAY CHEER ACROSS SOUTHERN NM

PAGE 5 & 21

SCI FI/SCI FACT **PAGE 8** | TABLE TALK ON THE SHELF **PAGE 16** | DANCE + LIVE MUSIC **PAGE 30**

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# HOPE to DREAM



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Children's beds flooded the parking lot of Ashley Home store Sunday, Oct. 22, as part of the Hope to Dream project, which provided 211 beds for children ages 12 and under in need.

Wanda Bowman and her team worked with Las Cruces Public Schools to identify children in need. Funding for the beds came mostly from Bowman and Ashley Home store, along with some friends who wanted to pitch in for the project.

*"What we need to do for our community is to take care of each other,"*

Bowman said. "That's what Las Cruces does. Churches, and other merchants and organizations do a good job for our community, and this is something we could do. Every child should have a nice bed and a good meal at night. In a country as wealthy as this is, no one should go to sleep at night cold, hungry, or without a bed."

Children's beds flooded the parking lot of Ashley Homestore Sunday, Oct. 22, as part of the Hope to Dream project, which provided 211 beds for children aged 12 and under in need. Ashley worked with the Las Cruces Public Schools to identify children in need. "That's what we do in Las Cruces," said Ashley owner Wanda Bowman. "We take care of each other."



**Free delivery on all purchases made during the thanksgiving holiday.**



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## DESERT exposure

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**Desert #90**  
**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](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), and be recognized!  
TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"YANV D AFE ZDEP, D YBKCE ENIBJFON LG ABKPN CDZN IJFWG, FVE  
MNBMCN YBKCE ONCC LN, 'CFKJF, GBK PABKCE IAFJXN OB IBLN DV  
ANJN.' " - CFKJF JBLNJB, "'ODP OAN PNFBBV EN LNPDCCF" BYVNJ

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: "SHOWING PEOPLE THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY  
CHEMICAL ELEMENTS FROM A DISTANCE WITH LIGHT OF PARTICULAR  
COLORS IS QUITE REWARDING." - SUNSPOT OBSERVATORY'S BILL WREN  
\*Secret Words: "SPECTRAL HOWDY"

Congrats to #89 solvers:  
Kaustuv Sengupta\*, Mike Arms\*,  
Shorty Vaiza\*, David Pino\*,  
Caroline Riegert, Skip Howard\*, Connie Tull\* and Sue Merrick\*!

## JANUARY DEADLINES

All stories and notices for the editorial  
section due Friday, Dec. 15  
Space Reservation and ad copy  
due Friday, Dec. 15.



## EDITOR'S NOTE | ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

## Beam Me Up

Connecting ideas, history, future

I grew up in space. My head was in space and my heart followed.

I got off the bus and ran home to catch the Star Trek re-runs; I knew every one of all three seasons of episodes by name. I scoured the school library for every Andre Norton and Robert E. Heinlein book on the shelves.

Yes, I was that girl who walked the halls with my head in a book, sometimes bumping into people.

Then, yes, "Star Wars," and beyond.

So, when presented with the opportunity to meet with New Mexico

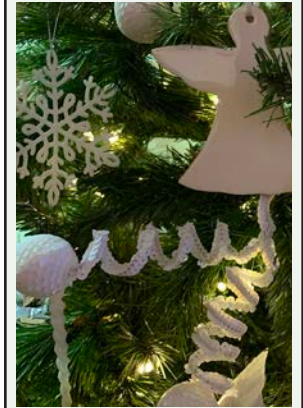
Museum of Space History director Chris Orwoll to hear about the new exhibit, Sci Fi/Sci Fact, I jumped at it. They have had a Star Trek related exhibit there since 2016 when the International Space Hall of Fame inducted Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry. His story as a dreamer graced the walls of a gallery at the space center but now that same gallery will become a repository for ideas of the past as they become the reality of today and move into the future. You can find that story, "Sci Fi/

Sci Fact," on Page 8 in this edition.

The history of New Mexico also ties the past to the future as the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe follows the rails across the state and wraps stories from yesterday into today's world. Sometimes we see as the state divided politically and spiritually into North and South regions but Las Cruces born museum director Billy Garrett sees the whole of New Mexico and knows that imaginary line is flimsy at best and history proves it. See that story, "The Past in the Present," on Page 31.

Also in this edition you will find a green chile cookbook, the "Nut-cracker" with a live orchestra, strong women on the border, Christmas Tree cutting and a unique artist opening in Mesilla.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet DesertExposure readers of southern New Mexico. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408.



## ABOUT THE COVER

Check our events section, starting on Page 22 and holiday plans starting on Page 5 for holiday happenings across the area. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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**Very convenient home** in the center of town, walking distance to just about anywhere without any hills to Historic downtown Silver City. 5 blocks from the grocery store and 5 blocks to Western New Mexico University. Great starter home for a family or an investment property if you are just looking to earn some passive income. 3 bedroom 2 bath with a nice detached shop out back. Priced to move. **MLS 39872. \$139,600.**



**Great business opportunity** near historic Ft Bayard Veteran Hospital and National Cemetery. Currently operated as an assisted living facility, offering a serene setting and views of the Kneeling Nun. 12 private rooms. Outdoor space for entertaining. Turn-key business with equipment and industry furnishings. Trail Heads to the Gila National Forest are within walking or biking distance from the property. **MLS 39922. \$799,000.**



**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**



**End of Mineral Creek Rd** lies 120 acres bordering Gila National Forest. This property has irrigated pastures, an old orchard, recently engineered and updated irrigating system ready to open up the flood gates. 11 acre feet of water rights that include surface, ditch and irrigation rights. Wild New Mexico game frequent the pastures and orchard, making this a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a property with this much water in the great southwest. **MLS 39968. \$950,000.**



**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. \$559,000**



**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. \$916,000.**



## TRADITION + BEAUTY

# December is full of Luminarias

## Southern New Mexico lights up with bags and candles

Photos and story  
by Elva K. Österreich

Luminarias (small bonfires) were first recorded in the 16th century, when Spanish people lit bonfires along the roads to guide people to Midnight Mass on the final night of Las Posadas. This was done to reenact the story of Mary and Joseph's quest for lodging in Bethlehem. It is a tradition proudly continued by the people of southern New Mexico.

Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m. in Columbus, in the south of Luna County, the Pancho Villa State Park hosts its 13th annual Luminarias event. Hot chocolate and live music provide the background for this walk around the site of historic events. Fees are waived for this event.

Dec. 3, 4-9 p.m. Noche de Luminarias at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces provides trails and walks around Corbett Center



Luminarias light up Tularosa streets.

with more than 8,000 luminarias lining the International Mall, the Alumni Duck Pond, and Corbett Center Student Union Horse-driven carriage rides, hot cocoa and caroling provide highlights for anyone who chooses to stroll through the area.

Dec. 9, 5-8 p.m. the Elephant Butte Luminaria Beachwalk includes tree lighting and a Floating Light parade on the lake. Thousands of luminarias line the paths leading to community sponsored bonfire campsites with posole, chile, cocoa, cookies

and more. Visit Santa or stop by the Steel Soldier's campsite to make a donation to Make-A-Wish.

Dec. 9, 5-7 p.m. at Rockhound State Park near Deming

### LUMINARIAS

*continued on page 6*



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**Event Location is the gymnasium at the  
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**This Event Sponsored by the Deming Arts Council  
100 S. Gold Ave., Deming, NM. Phone: 575-546-3663.  
Email: demingarts@hotmail.com.**

**Also at www.demingarts.com and on Facebook.  
Deadline for artist applications: November 28, 2023**

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



**LUMINARIAS***continued from page 5*

ing, hot cider and biscochitos are available for your walk around the luminaria lighted trails.

Dec. 15, 5-9 p.m., on the rio, Fort Selden Historic Site invites visitors to celebrate the long winter nights during Noche de las Luminarias, where visitors can expect more than 900 luminarias lining the Fort's footprint, a

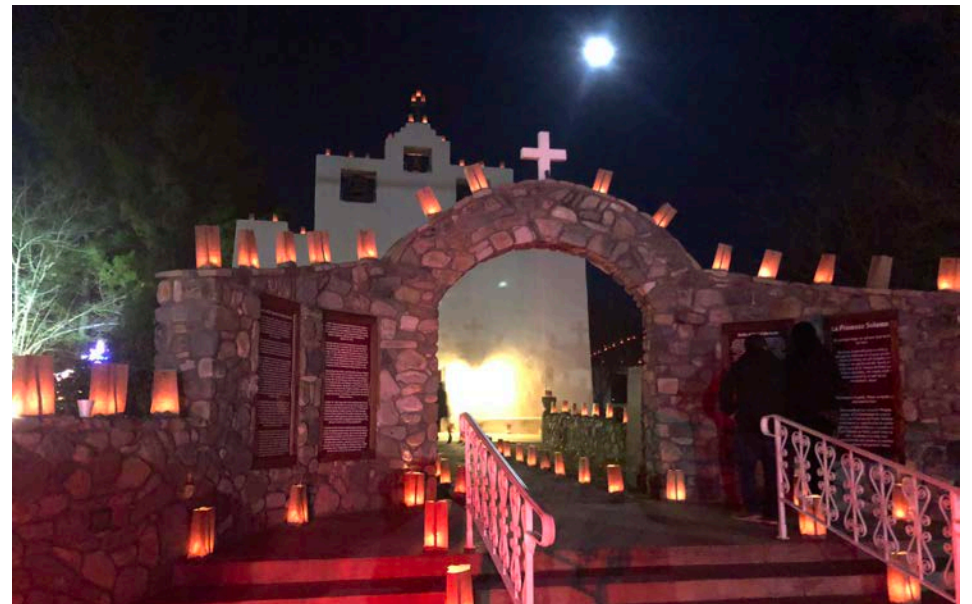
campfire, and family-friendly activities, including holiday-themed crafts. Fort Selden Historic Site, 1280 Fort Selden Road, Radium Springs, New Mexico (I-25 to exit 19, 13 miles North of Las Cruces, N.M) follow the signs. Tickets for the event can be purchased now by visiting [my.nmculture.org/20947/27727](http://my.nmculture.org/20947/27727).

Dec. 23, beginning just before dark, a labyrinth of luminarias winds around

at Whiskey Creek Zocalo where caroling, mulled wine and s'mores highlight the evening.

Dec. 24, on Christmas Eve a visit to Tularosa reveals a town lit up with luminarias, turn the lights to parking and enjoy the streets highlighted as St. Francis de Paula Catholic Church wears its best candles arching over, on and around its walls.

Dec. 24, also on Christmas Eve, at dusk the White Sands KOA in Alamogordo decorates its roads and spaces with the luminaria trail for the Christ Child. Located at 412 24th St., the KOA welcomes visitors from all over.



St. Francis de Paula Catholic Church in Tularosa.



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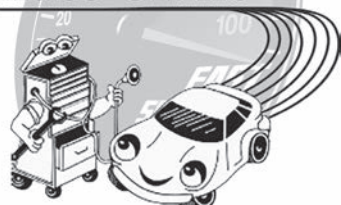
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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This photo was taken by Cheryl Wiggins at White Sands National Park on Jan. 24, 2023. A timeless scene and beautiful place to visit any time of year.

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](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com).



## FACES OF DEMING

Zareema Price, Genesis Porras, Zydney Price and Ximena Porras are 4th and 5th graders, all active in the student council at the Bataan Elementary School in Deming. Fourteen members of the student council worked together on a project and entered "Amazonia" in the recycle art show, the November show at the Deming Art Center. Amazonia was selected as "Best in Show." Congratulations to Bataan Elementary and the entire student council. (Photo by Stanley Sabre)



**WESTERN**  
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY  
Cultural Affairs

## DECEMBER EVENTS



**5 - 8pm**  
**Friday, December 1**  
**Regents Square,**  
**WNMU Campus**

FREE Family Fun EVENT

Bring the family to Jingle & Mingle at Regents Square for a festive seasonal celebration. Enjoy live music and entertainment, children's crafting activities, seasonal treats, photo ops, ugly sweater contest, tamales, special guests Santa and Elves, and a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by President Shepard. Jingle and Mingle is outdoors and free to the public.

## Mariachi Christmas Spectacular

**7pm**  
**Saturday**  
**December 16**

Mariachi Plata de WNMU, Ballet Folklórico Paso del Norte with Antonio Reyna



The sights and sounds of Mexico at Christmas fill WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater as Mariachi Christmas Spectacular returns to ring in the season. Mariachi Plata de WNMU joins Ballet Folklórico Paso del Norte with Antonio Reyna to celebrate the holiday in our favorite annual tradition. Tickets \$15.



WESTAF

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## INTO THE BLUE

# Sci Fi/Sci Fact

## Space history museum looks at the science in science fiction

By Elva K. Österreich

Opening with a buzz and a whoosh on Dec. 15, The New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo offers a look at science fiction through the years matched with the science facts inherent to the genre.

“We are going to have props and costumes from TV shows and movies, first edition books, displays and sounds,” said Christopher Orwoll, museum director. “We are going to have science fiction and science fact things together. You might have a (Star

Trek) communicator next to a flip phone and the image of Dick Tracy talking into his watch next to an Apple watch.”

Orwoll said the connections between science fiction and science fact have been going on “forever.”

All the way back to the original book stories, you can see the two always affecting each other, he said. Story concepts are developed from real science ideas and science develops using the imagination of authors through the years.

“Essentially the genesis of the Sci Fi and Sci Fact exhibit looks at how does science fiction ef-

fect science fact? How does science fact affect science fiction?” Orwoll said.

In 2016 the museum inducted Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry into the International Space Hall of Fame.

“Mr. Roddenberry was chosen because of his vision of what space exploration could be, his commitment to promoting the future of space exploration and his work that inspired people worldwide to believe in the reality of the ‘final frontier,’” Orwoll said at the time. “Roddenberry’s leadership brought to the forefront social, political and cul-



A Star Trek tribble on loan from the Smithsonian (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

### The High Desert Humane Society

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Maizey, DSH female,  
3 yrs

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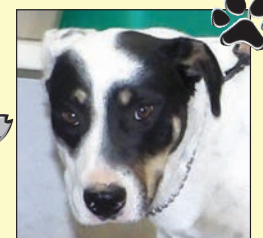
Tommy, DSH brown Tabby,  
3yr old male

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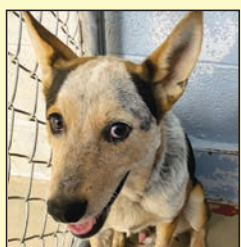
Elvira & Buffy, DSH Tabbys,  
9 wk old females

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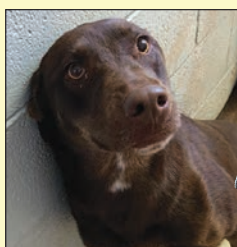
Bruno, Heeler mix,  
1yr old male

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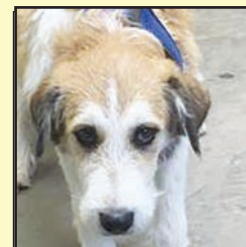
Buzz, tri-color Heeler,  
1yr old male

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Jaime Lee, chocolate lab mix,  
adult female

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Madelyn, Great Pyrenees/border  
collie/airedale, female 7 mos

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Valentino, shepherd mix,  
tri-color male

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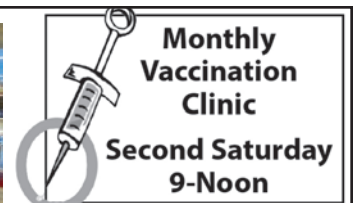


Ranger, male Husky

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**Christopher Orwoll New Mexico Museum of Space History Director shows off the cases soon to hold displays for the upcoming Sci fi/Sci Fact exhibit at the museum. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)**

tural issues that impacted the world then and continue to do so now.”

So the museum put an exhibit together about Roddenberry that has stood in the gallery since. Now, continuing in the spirit of that event, the Sci Fi/Sci Fact exhibit will expand on the idea.

“We will look at radio, comic books and pulp magazines, television, movies, Webtoons and Space Boy. There is sci fi on your smart phone today.”

Much of that original exhibit was composed of Star Trek stuff. Some of those items will remain in one area of the gallery, while other works – books, movies, television shows and more – will be on hand for comparison to the science that exists side-by-side with them.

In the Star Trek corner remains the mock transporter, original props borrowed from the Smithsonian like a tribble and the Star Ship Enterprise stuck in a crystal necklace and more.

“Essentially, we’ll still have a mini version of the Star Trek story and then we’ll have panels that tell about the mediums of science fic-

tion, from storytelling around the campfire to the original books written by Mary Shelley, H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, Robert Heinlen. Mary Shelley’s book (‘Frankenstein’) is really looked back on as the original.

“Were we driving submarines around in 1870 when he (Verne) was writing ‘20,000 Leagues Under the Sea?’ No,” Orwoll said. “Did we have nuclear reactors? No. But he envisioned that stuff. In ‘From the Earth to the Moon,’ [Verne] projected we would have to fly out of Florida, there would be a 13-foot in diameter capsule, and it would have three people inside of it.”

The theatre display projector in the gallery has been replaced by a giant screen showing the opening sequences of about 25 television shows.

“It’s a memory thing for a lot of people,” Orwoll said.

In standing case displays suits from Firefly, Serenity, Galaxy Quest, and more are there to see. These will be periodically changed for other pieces to keep the gallery fresh, he said.

Some of the items for the

exhibit have taken years to collect. Some are from auctions, straight up purchases, some first-edition books are from eBay. There are items too that are on permanent lease from a Hollywood prop-making company.

“One of the areas where [science fiction] does what it does, is because it fuels the imagination of what’s possible,” Orwoll said. “It fuels the imagination of the technology that hasn’t even been developed yet.”

He said he has seen a documentary on the Apollo program, and to a person. The astronauts said Flash Gordon influenced them to apply for the program.

“Science fiction always stirs the imagination,” Orwoll said. “It can influence people

**New Mexico Museum of Space History Director Christopher Orwoll talks about the original Star Trek episode “The Trouble with Tribbles,” as he explains the display in the Star Trek corner at the museum. Behind him the mock-up of the starship Enterprise transporter has stood since 2016 as the site of many visitor photos. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)**

to be a pilot or a technician or an engineer.”

Not only does science fiction inspire careers and innovation in science, he said, it works the other way as well. Movies, like the “Martian,” can take what science is doing currently and incorporate it into science fiction stories.



**Fans of Mal in the 2002 TV series “Firefly” and the 2005 movie “Serenity” will recognize this suit worn by actor Nathan Fillian in both programs. Here the suit is seen in a Museum of Space History display at a recent El Paso Comicon. (Photo courtesy Museum of Space History)**



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## BORDERLAND TALES

# Women on the Border

## Strength and compassion personified

Photos and story  
by Morgan Smith

June 2, 2024, will be a historic day in Mexico with the almost-certain election of the country's first woman president. The two leading candidates are former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum from the Morena party of the current president Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and Senator Xóchitl Gálvez, representing an alliance of parties.

Whoever wins will hopefully bring much needed additional focus on women's issues. Having said that, I

want to briefly profile four women who have already changed the lives of many in the Juárez area quietly and with little recognition.

The first is Viridiana "Viri" Torres who arrived at the mental asylum, Vision in Action, about seven years ago. Although she had been in and out of several mental institutions earlier, Pastor José Antonio Galván, the founder and director of Vision in Action quickly recognized her talents and put her to work organizing their finances. She soon recognized that a key employee was stealing and he was dismissed.

She became an advocate for the women patients – about 40 of the roughly 120 total patients. Her first step was to propose separating the men and women with dementia who had been living in the same dormitory area. With the financial help of many of our friends, we were able to con-



L-R: Grecia Herrera, the Director of Respettrans, migrant shelter in Juárez; Viri Torres on her wedding day; Lorena Solares, the teacher at the Tarahumara school in Juárez.

struct a separate living area for these women followed by a project to build a dormito-

ry for 20-24 other women so they could live without being harassed by the men. Now

Torres is focused on improving medical care there.

Grecia Herrera founded a shelter for transgender migrants in November 2018. Located in a rickety looking five-story building, it is near the international bridge in the center of Juárez. The transgender-based non-profit Respettrans is dedicated to migrants who are awaiting asylum hearings, most of whom are women with children. The organization is mostly run by the migrants themselves since Herrera has a day job as a nurse and cannot be here physically much of the time.

The migrants are an ever-changing population because they will eventually get their asylum hearings and then leave for various locations in the U.S. Nonetheless, the interior of Respettrans is spotless, there are no disciplinary problems, everyone is well fed, medical care can be arranged, and there are of-



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From top: Tarahumara girls with Yoplait; Tarahumara school with Dia de los Muertos shrine and oranges; Respetrans, a shelter for transgender migrants in Juárez.

ten classes for the children so they can continue their schooling and learn some English. She has helped many of the men get day jobs so they can accumulate funds for a future life in the U.S.

Respetrans depends heavily on external support and one of the key supporters is a non-profit named Dignity Mission located in Placitas, just west of Albuquerque.

Because of the impossibility of getting these vans across the border, all the items are stored in the garage of Professor Eva Moya in El Paso. She is the crucial link between the needs of

Respetrans and the generosity of the Dignity Mission because she then arranges for volunteers to take these items across the border to Respetrans, carload by carload. An associate professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her role is essential to the survival of Respetrans.

“Do you miss your family?” I ask Lorena Solares, the teacher for a small school for Tarahumara kids on the westside of Juárez near Vision in Action. Her family lives in the city of Chihuahua, many miles to the south.

“My family? This is my family,” she said, putting her

arms around two of the Tarahumara boy students. “You know that I have been here 10 years.”

For 8 years I have been visiting this school, bringing fruit and yogurt to help vary their bland diets as well as needed school supplies. It’s a one room classroom with a casita next to it where Solares lives, all enclosed by a white wall for security. The surrounding area is grim – dirt streets, houses made of patched together plywood and cardboard. Education is the only way out for these kids but it isn’t easy since many of them only speak their Tarahumara dialect. So

they have to learn not only the basics like math but Spanish as well. Without Lorena’s quiet dedication this would never be possible.

No matter what happens in next year’s Presidential elections, these five women will continue their essential work. As of now, however, their various programs receive little or no support from the Mexican government. Maybe that will change with a woman president.

**Morgan Smith writes frequently about border issues and can be reached at [Morgan-smith@comcast.net](mailto:Morgan-smith@comcast.net)**

## CELEBRATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART November 17 - January 7, 2024

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Marie Sheppard



John Suazo



Aaron Freeland



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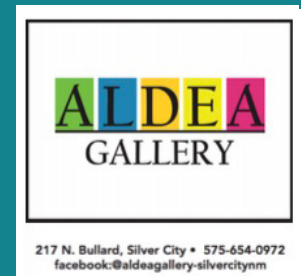
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## ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

## Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

By Elva K. Österreich

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Call for Artists: thetheatre-gallery** in the **Black Box Theatre**, 430 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, invites artists to participate in “Perfect Love,” a studio tour exhibit as part of 2024’s Love of Art Month, to accompany the February run of “I Love you, You’re Perfect, Now Change,” in the Black Box Theatre, Feb. 9-25. No fees are required. The art can include love of pets, concepts, and objects, and should reflect the play’s motif and themes of love and relationships, including “secret” thoughts about romance and relationships that “you were afraid to admit.” Send jpegs for consideration to [ceil@zianet.com](mailto:ceil@zianet.com), by Dec. 30. For information: [margaretpaints@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretpaints@yahoo.com). Check out [no-strings.org](http://no-strings.org) for play summary.

**Call for Artists: The Tombaugh Gallery**, 2000 S. Solano, is inviting artists to submit up to two works of art for an exhibit based on folk singer Phil Ochs’ song, “**I’m Gonna Say it Now.**” The exhibit will run Jan. 7-20, 2024. Artists may use any medium they prefer, as long as the work relates to the Phil Ochs song. There is no submission fee, and first (\$300), second (\$200), and third (\$100) prizes will be awarded at a reception held on Friday, Jan. 19, between 6-8 p.m. In addition, \$100 will be given for People’s Choice and a \$100

award for the artist whose work is the best interpretation of the Phil Ochs song. Artists need to indicate their intent to participate by emailing details of their art piece(s) to [clay\\_ink@yahoo.com](mailto:clay_ink@yahoo.com) no later than Dec. 20. Lyrics of the song can be found at the Unitarian-Universalist Church website: [www.uuchurch.org](http://www.uuchurch.org). Artists will be responsible for delivering their artwork to the Tombaugh Gallery on Jan. 5, between noon and 3 p.m., and will be responsible for picking up their art after the exhibit ends.

The exhibit is being sponsored by A Still Small Voice (ASSV) nonprofit, the UU Church and the Tombaugh Gallery.

## SILVER CITY

• **Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway in Silver City, presents **LAS TEN**, featuring recent artwork by the 10 local artists represented by Light Art Space. A variety of media are on display including painting, drawing, photography, jewelry, fiber, assemblage, sculpture, and wood furniture. Work is by **Joel Armstrong, Kathleen Koopman, Joe Huebner, Karen Hymmer, Rhonda Munzinger, Art Peterson, Susan H. Porter, Eric Renner, Nancy Spencer** and **Juan Velasco**. The show will be up through Dec. 31 with an opening reception 5-7 p.m. Dec. 1. 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 appoint-



One of many pieces by Vickie Morrow will be on display at Gallery 925 in Las Cruces. (Courtesy photo)

ment. Info: [lightartspace.com](http://lightartspace.com).

• Dec 1-3 will be the last weekend of the **Grant County Art Guild’s** art show, “**The BODY,**” at the **GCAG Studio**, 200 W. Market in Silver City. Each piece in the show depicts, or is inspired by, the human form. Mediums include painting, photography, clay, metal, wood and more. Show hours are noon-7 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The show will have a reception during the Silver City Art Association’s First Fridays at the Galleries walk Dec 1, from 5-7 p.m. The Grant County Art Guild Gallery newest artist is **Franky DeAngelis**. DeAngelis’ paintings spring from anarchy and experimentation. His photographs range from wildlife to the wild-life of storm chasing and lightning bolt skies. His work is

featured in a December gallery window. The GCAG Gallery is open seven days a week from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with extended hours for special events. Friday, Dec 1, hours are extended to 7 p.m. for the last First Friday gallery walk of the year. The GCAG Gallery is located at 316 N. Bullard in Silver City. For more information see [gcag.org](http://gcag.org). For a map of the First Friday walk route, see [silvercityart.com](http://silvercityart.com).

• **The Silver City Public Library** hosts works by mixed media and textile artist **Suzanne Ens** Dec. 1 through Jan. 31. Ens makes her creations with cast-off clothing and other foraged items, often implementing monotype print designs into both her mediums. See more about the artist and her current body of work at [fringe-artists.com](http://fringe-artists.com) and at 515 W. College Ave. in Silver

City. Library hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays.

• The Ninth Annual **Holiday Artisan Market** in Silver City is on the weekend of Dec. 2 and 3 at the **Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center** next to Ace Hardware on U.S. Highway 180 E. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday it represents a wide range of mediums within the 30 quality juried artists. Types of fine arts and crafts include painters, jewelers, weavers, gourd artists, soap makers, crocheted items, leatherworkers, photography, pottery, wood workers and garment makers. Some are award winners in their categories. For more information, visit the Facebook page [@silvercity-holidaymarket](https://www.facebook.com/silvercity-holidaymarket).

## ALAMOGORDO

• **Otero Arts** is hosting its first **Holiday Artisan Sale** on the first two Fridays and Saturdays of December at the **Artspace** located at 1118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo. The sale features a variety of artwork by a talented group of artisans: tinwork, weaving, jewelry and other collectibles. The sale begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and 8 and concludes at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9, the Artspace is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Artspace Gallery will be closed the rest of December. It reopens Jan. 1, 2024, with a reception for oil painter, Anne Aleshire. Info: [oteroarts.org](http://oteroarts.org).

## DEMING

• December is the time for the annual **Holiday Gift Boutique** at the **Deming Art Center**. Also, on Dec. 9, there will be a one-day **Art Fest** at the Methodist Church beginning at 9 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m. Local artists will be there with their many creations across multiple mediums. The boutique at the gallery will run through Dec. 29, with a time to meet the artists 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4. 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](http://www.demingarts.org).

## TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

• **Rio Bravo Fine Art**, 110 North Broadway in Truth or Consequences, presents **Rebecca Speakes** who is one of New Mexico’s most talented and creative fiber artists. Speakes represents 30 years of experience as a graphic designer combined with tangential interests in math and architectural concepts are the foundation for her work. Speakes will present an **Art Talks** lecture on Jan. 21, 2024, titled “**My Pathway as an Artist.**” Rio Bravo Fine Arts Gallery is at 110 N. Broadway in Truth or Consequences. Info: [riobravo@gmail.com](mailto:riobravo@gmail.com).

## MAGDALENA

• “**Portraits of Magdalena’s Art Tradition: Native**



**Daughters and Sons**” opens with a reception 2-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 at the **CWB Gallery**, 104 Main St., Magdalena. This exhibit features painters, santera and retablo artists and Alamo Reservation Navajo weavers who were prominent in the development of the artistic tradition in Magdalena. The artists represented include painters **David Hixon Money Penny** and **Eddie Tsosie**; santera and retablo painters **Maryrose Pino** and **Grace Maria Garcia Dobson**; and Navajo Alamo weavers **Isabella Pino-Thomas**, **Sarah Secatero**, **Annie Apachito Vicente**, **Louise Abeyta**, **Shirley Baca** and **Violet Lucero**. The show will be up through the first week of January 2024. Info: 910-297-9904 or [lapsedademiariamagdalena.com/](http://lapsedademiariamagdalena.com/)

art-gallery.

## LAS CRUCES

• **The New Mexico Watercolor Society** fall member exhibit is at the **Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery**, 230 W. Water St. Las Cruces. There will be a soft opening, 4-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 and an artist reception noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. Info: [nmwatercolorssociety.org](http://nmwatercolorssociety.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**



**Furniture by Art Peterson on display at Light Art Space in Silver City. (Courtesy photo)**

**Binding**” The show, which includes large-scale immersive installations, photographic series and book projects, will run through March 2. The museum hosts its last in-

per-son bookmaking workshop Dec. 2 in Devasthali Hall room 106. The workshop is 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](http://uam.nmsu.edu).

• **Gallery 925** is hosting the Potters’ Guild for the month of December. Participating potters include **Albert Alvidrez**; **Jan Archey**; **David Beattie**; **Pam Bornhouser**; **George Holland**; **Mary Lou LaCasse**; **Bonnie MacQuarrie**; **Vickie Morrow**; **Linda Sanchez**; and **Glenn Schwaiger**. The opening reception is 4-8 p.m. First Friday, Dec. 1 with artists in attendance. Work will be on display through Dec. 31. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Fridays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Gallery 925 is at

## ARTS SCENE

*continued on page 14*

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## ARTS SCENE

continued from page 13

925 Mesquite Ave. Info: gallery925nm.com.

• **Agave Artists Gallery** hosts an open house 4 p.m.-7 p.m. on Dec. 9 Meet the artists and browse the four rooms of art. Partake in the festive atmosphere with cookies, wine, hot cider, and music. 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.

• **The Las Cruces Museum of Art**, is featuring “Artistas de las Fronterizas – Bor-

derland 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 through 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 two local artists for the month of December: **Barbara**



Fiber artist Rebecca Speakes will present a lecture at Rio Bravo Fine Arts Gallery in T or C. (Courtesy photo)

**Bush and Jane Peacock.** Bush has had a long and circuitous journey to becoming a fulltime artist. Peacock has been a painter of portraits of people of the Borderland, and landscapes of New Mexico. Peacock's passion has always been issues affecting women, infants, and children; while serving migrants for many years in public health, she created paintings portraying the lives of the people working in the fields around Las Cruces. 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

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• **The Tombaugh Gallery**, 2000 South Solano, Las Cruces, features the work of Kathy Baker and Vickie Morrow in December for their exhibit "A Feast for Your Senses: Texture, Color, and Spirit". The exhibit opens with a reception 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Baker features textiles and baskets on pedestals in the gallery. Most of Morrow's work focuses on assemblage wall hung art. Morrow's inspiration often comes during the hunting and gathering of items for her mass collection. Baker will show textiles, baskets, fiber weaving, and art yarn. The exhibit continues through Friday, Dec. 29. 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,



Otero Arts will feature artwork by D. Moon at their Holiday Artisan Sale in Alamogordo. (Courtesy photo)

"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 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](http://www.lascruces.gov/Museums) or 575-541-2154.


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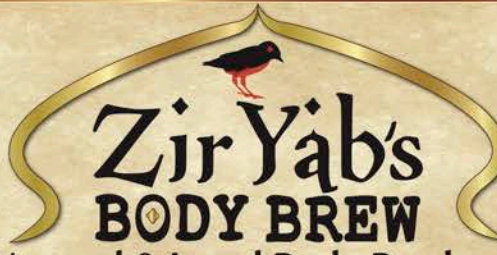
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## TABLE TALK

## Go 'Christmas' for Christmas time

New local Hatch chile cookbook is an Amazon top seller

By Tatiana Favela  
New Mexico State University

Hatch chile is a staple ingredient in the Southwest, and New Mexico State University faculty member Kelley Cleary Coffeen has made it the spicy focus of her latest cookbook offering, "The Big Book of Hatch Chile."

Coffeen, an assistant professor in NMSU's Family and Consumer Sciences Department, is a food enthusiast, cookbook author and culinary expert. She's published five cookbooks featuring Mexican cuisine and is currently celebrating her newly published

cookbook being the number one new release and a top seller on Amazon. The book was released in late October ahead of its official publication date of Nov. 1.

Coffeen has lived in Las Cruces for 32 years, and within that time, she's explored her passion and love for cooking with New Mexico chile – more specifically, Hatch chile.



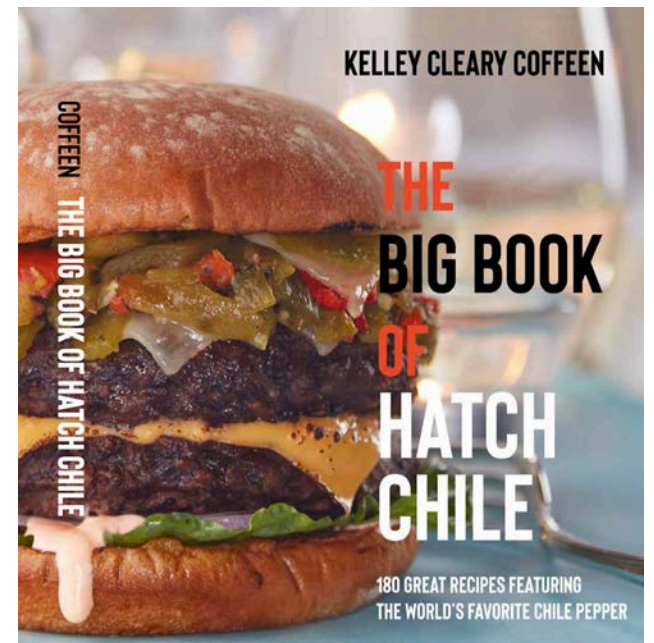
Hatch chile is a staple ingredient in the Southwest, and New Mexico State University faculty member Kelley Cleary Coffeen has made it the spicy focus of her latest cookbook offering, "The Big Book of Hatch Chile." (Courtesy photos)

"I just fell in love not only with the process of getting fresh chile and having it roasted in early August, but then having chile all winter

long," she said. "Whether it was red or green, I love them both and it was just something I've done for a long time for my family. I started writing cookbooks and wrote a lot of different types of cookbooks, but it always Southwest cooking."

Over the last couple of years, Coffeen said she has spent a lot of time in Hatch, speaking with locals and learning more about the process of growing Hatch chile.

"I spent a lot more time at the chile festival over the years, so I was able to get some interesting background on the farmer families and people who just really sup-



Coffeen said writing and self-publishing cookbooks was a natural progression for her. She's published an entertainment book, five-ingredient cookbook, family-historic cookbook, and a diabetic cookbook – all with Southwest and Mexican flavors.

port the chile industry in Hatch," she said. "There are just great little sidebar stories about them, so I think that's what makes it an interesting book." Coffeen said writing and self-publishing cookbooks



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was a natural progression for her. She's published an entertainment book, five-ingredient cookbook, family-historic cookbook, and a diabetic cookbook – all with Southwest and Mexican flavors.

Her newest cookbook features 180 detailed and user-friendly recipes specifically with the use of Hatch chile, but with a mix of different genres of food. These unique recipes range from a red chile-crusted salmon and red chile Italian pasta with meatballs to cocktail recipes with fresh green chile syrup.

"I think a lot of people think Hatch chile is only for Mexican food, but it's really not," she

shared. "I use it in a lot of recipes like a green chile chicken alfredo, or a really great relish with fresh red and green chile that I put on burgers, steak, or just a chip. So, there's a lot of different ways to use it, and I wanted to show that in this cookbook."

One useful feature for readers who aren't able to pick up fresh chile at the grocery store is the "Hatch Marketplace" section of the cookbook.

"That section features key resources that sell Hatch chile products from New Mexico shipped to you – fresh, frozen, spices, freeze-dried, year-round," Coffeen explained. "There's no point

in selling a Hatch cookbook if you can only get it here in New Mexico. We want people from all around the world to be able to enjoy the world's favorite chile pepper."

Coffeen added she believes this cookbook is an important representation for the state of New Mexico and an important book for agriculture.

I went up and spent a lot of time out in the fields and took some really great pictures of the actual harvest, so I just feel it's a really special book for the ag community," she said. "To see that it's already gone to number one and top seller in Amazon is

really gratifying.

"I didn't do this by myself – the team at UNM Press is amazing," Coffeen continued. "Their designers, editors, publisher, marketing – and then I have an amazing agent who walked me through the process. I'm super grateful for the ag community and the support of friends and family, who have been with me on this cooking journey all these years."

You can find "The Big Book of Hatch Chile" already on the shelves of Barnes & Noble, and online at Amazon.com. La Posta Chile Shop and Ol' Gringo Chile Company in Las Cruces also have the cookbook.



Coffeen's newest cookbook features 180 detailed and user-friendly recipes specifically with the use of Hatch chile, but with a mix of different genres of food.

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315 N Bullard St  
575-388-5725



## ART + NASTIES

# Coleman Open in Mesilla

## Critters come out to play at new gallery space

Photo and story  
by Elva K. Österreich

Page Coleman came to Mesilla from Albuquerque in 2018, buying a historic building in Mesilla and completely renovating it. As an artist, as her place was being renovated, she had no space to work on her painting so she channeled her energy into creations of wire and found bits and pieces.

“I just cranked out critters,” she said.

As she walks around her gallery showroom space at 2424 Calle de Parian, her

energy is palpable. She talks about her critters like they are alive and this brings them to life in the eyes of the viewer.

“I swear they get around,” she said. “And these are a little different. I started doing little nasties – if you walk by, they will grab you. And the other ones are these shrubs and bushes.”

She imagined her critters moving through the shrubs and bushes, then moving right up into the drawings hung above them.

In direct contrast to her active, busy critter creations, her artwork is stacked against some of the walls ready to

show and these paintings are minimal and striking. There are glowing orb landscapes and stark, naked trees. Her paintings are glowy and calm – “landscapy,” she said.

Gallery Page Coleman, is open by appointment by calling 505-238-5071. The work on display features Colman’s artwork spanning 40-plus years including new charcoal drawings and lots of wire critters.

Born and raised in Greenville, Tennessee, Coleman earned her art degrees in Virginia and Wisconsin, eventually ending up in Albuquerque in 1982. She worked in

the arts there until moving to Mesilla.

“I had never heard of Mesilla and a friend of mine was living here so I drove down,” she said. “I thought it was great.”

Having gone from managing small to bigger and bigger gallery spaces with many artists in Albuquerque, Coleman finally said enough was enough, and downsized, moving to Mesilla. She just wasn’t enjoying the business anymore.

“I really just wanted to quit from that and move down to this little town,” she said. “I thought it was just charm-



Page Coleman air-kisses one of her critters.

ing.”

So now she has her space, with adobe shapes, a rock wall and art creatures hanging around corners to be discovered next to fences and hanging in windows. Her little stu-

dio is full of found items with which she builds her critter structures and thinks about her next paint series.

Her work can be found on her website at pagecolemanart.com.



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## HOLIDAY READINESS

# A Day in the Woods

## Christmas Tree permits now available on Lincoln National Forest

Looking to chop down your own Christmas tree this year? Here's how it starts.

Christmas tree permits for the Lincoln National Forest will be available both online, and in our offices, beginning Nov. 14.

Each year, the Lincoln National Forest sells Christmas tree permits, allowing participants to select and harvest their own tree. This is part of a national program hosted by U.S. National Forests.

Permits are available on a first come, first served basis. The permits cost \$10, with a processing fee applied for any online transactions. There is a limit of one permit per household.

Permits will be available in-person at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office, the Smokey Bear Ranger District Office, and Sacramento Ranger District Office, from through Dec. 22. Online sales will remain open through Dec. 31.

When purchasing a permit, it is important to carefully read all information and review area maps in your packet and on the Recreation.gov website. Information on permitted harvest location, tree requirements, and special safety considerations

are all available.

Free permits are available for fourth-grade students through the Every Kid Outdoors Program. For additional information,

please visit [www.everykidoutdoors.gov](http://www.everykidoutdoors.gov).

For more information, please visit [www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln).



Christmas tree cutting season has begun in the national forests. (Courtesy photo)

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## RAISINGDAD

## A Frisky Four

## What was he thinking?

By Jim and Henry  
Duchene

## ...one...

Back when I was a kid, my parents bought me a very expensive gift for Christmas.

It must have cost them a pretty penny and, trust me, a pretty penny was a lot of money in those days. Ugly pennies, not so much. Being in the lower single digits age-wise, I played more with the box than the gift that came inside.

The following Christmas, not knowing they were talking about me, I

overheard my father tell my mother, "Why not give him another box and buy something for ourselves instead?"

## ...two...

Somehow, my brother remembers those holidays like this: "Remember when Santa brought me a bike? It was an expensive, top of the line Schwinn and must have cost mom and dad a month's salary. All he left you was an air pump, two tire tubes, and a dollar. When you asked dad why, he told you, 'If your brother gets a flat,

Santa wants you to fix it. The dollar is for you to buy him a soda while he waits.' It was the best Christmas ever!"

## ...three...

My wife and I ran into an old buddy of mine at Costco. He was with his wife. Sadly, he's in the early stages of Alzheimer's.

He and I sat down in the snack area to catch up with one another. I even bought him a slice of pizza because 1) I was hungry, and 2) if I waited for him to buy me a pizza I'd be waiting a very long time.

I'm not saying he's cheap, I'm just saying copper wire was invented when he and his brother fought over a penny. Meanwhile, his wife and mine wandered off to see who could empty their bank account first.

On the drive home, my wife confided that she asked how it was having a husband with Alzheimer's.

"Great," my buddy's wife answered. "Whenever he's feeling frisky, I tell him, 'Honey, we were just in the bedroom. Don't you remember?' He's too proud to say he forgot, so

he'll say 'Oh, yeah,' and wander off for a nap. I haven't had to fuss with him for months."

All I can say is.... I hope I never get Alzheimer's.

## ...four...

Speaking of Alzheimer's, even before my father was diagnosed with it he never had an internal editor to filter out the things he shouldn't say. If you had a question, but didn't want an honest answer, my father was not the one to ask. He was more than blunt, he was brutal.

Another thing he was, especially before he was married, was a hound dog. If you've ever heard the old blues song Nosy Joe by Bull Moose Jackson, it pretty much tells the story of my father's bachelor years.

I remember once going with him to look at a truck he saw advertised in the classified section of the

newspaper. He was planning on going alone, but my mother made him take me along. She didn't want him getting into any shenanigans afterward.

He pulled up to the house and we both got off. When he knocked on the door a very attractive lady greeted us and then went inside to call her husband. When he stepped outside my father was already checking out the truck which was parked in the driveway with a For Sale sign taped to the inside of the rear window.

"So," the man said, "are you thinking about buying my truck?"

"No," my father told him, "I'm just looking at your truck. What I'm thinking about is your wife."

I'm not getting old, I'm becoming a classic.  
theduchenebrothers@gmail.com; @JimDuchene

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## SHOPPING + LUXURY

## Sensitive skin?

## ZirYab's Body Brew has you covered

Everyone needs deodorant. Not everyone wants a synthetic, metallic-based aerosol sprayed on their skin every day.

People with sensitive skin or noses can find alternatives to "Big Soap" at ZirYab's in Silver City, an old brand with a new storefront on the corner of Bullard and Broadway.

Started in San Diego by Brenda McFarlane as a way to avoid the mysterious chemicals in commercial products, her handmade deodorants and soaps have turned into a multi-state brand with a large following.

"Too many people who suffer from excessive sweating love my product," McFarlane said. "I almost feel responsible. I always wanted to change the world for the better, I just didn't know it would be a silly thing like underarm deodorant."

ZirYab's Body Brew Natural & Local Products offers products like soaps, lotions, essential oils, perfumes, handmade deodorants and toothpastes, cleaners, hair

care products, lip balms, pet products, even insect repellents. Everything is made by hand using natural, environmentally friendly plant-based ingredients that don't contain harmful substances or chemicals that can irritate the skin.

The CEO was the first customer: McFarlane says she made some deodorant for herself that fit her body chemistry and diet. She has taken what she has learned to make products that don't irritate the eyes, nose, lips or skin and don't contain mystery metals.

"My husband tells me I'm a bit obsessive about it and that my nose is just extra sensitive," McFarlane said. "Over the years I've become an expert at what fabrics, colors and patterns show perspiration."

ZirYab's Body Brew Natural & Local Products offers products like soaps, lotions, essential oils, perfumes, handmade deodorants and toothpastes, cleaners, hair care products, lip balms, pet products, even insect repellents. Everything is made

by hand using natural, environmentally friendly plant-based ingredients that don't contain harmful substances or chemicals that can irritate the skin.

According to McFarlane, commercial hygiene products could contain unnatural-sounding ingredients like

aluminum zirconium tetrachlorohydrate, aluminum chlorohydrate, aluminum sesquichlorohydrate, aluminum silicate, steareth-2, steareth-20, PPG-11 stearyl ether, glyceryl stearate, PEG 40 stearate, cetyl esters, dimethicone, disodium EDTA, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulos.

The store's namesake, ZirYab, was an Arabic musician and gentleman active during the 10th century who is credited with inventing an

early form of toothpaste and for popularizing deodorant and perfumes.

McFarlane and her husband relocated from San Diego in 2012 and slowly started growing their product line. Online retail is a big part of ZirYab's business. Since opening a decade ago on platforms like Etsy and through their own website, they've filled more than 40,000 orders. Their products have been available to customers at Silver City Co-Op since 2012, and they

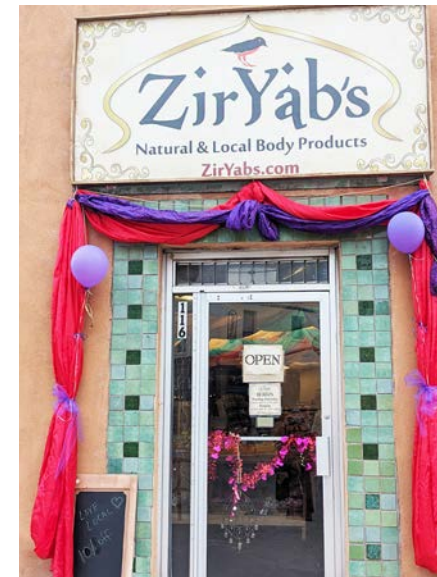
also sell retail locations in Truth or Consequences, San Diego, Florida and Sedona, Arizona.

The new retail shop on Bullard Street is also their studio – where they plan to stay for a while.

"The money I make from selling products goes directly into the community, to employees and not to corporate shareholders," McFarlane said.



A look inside ZirYab's Body Brew. (Photos courtesy of ZirYab's)



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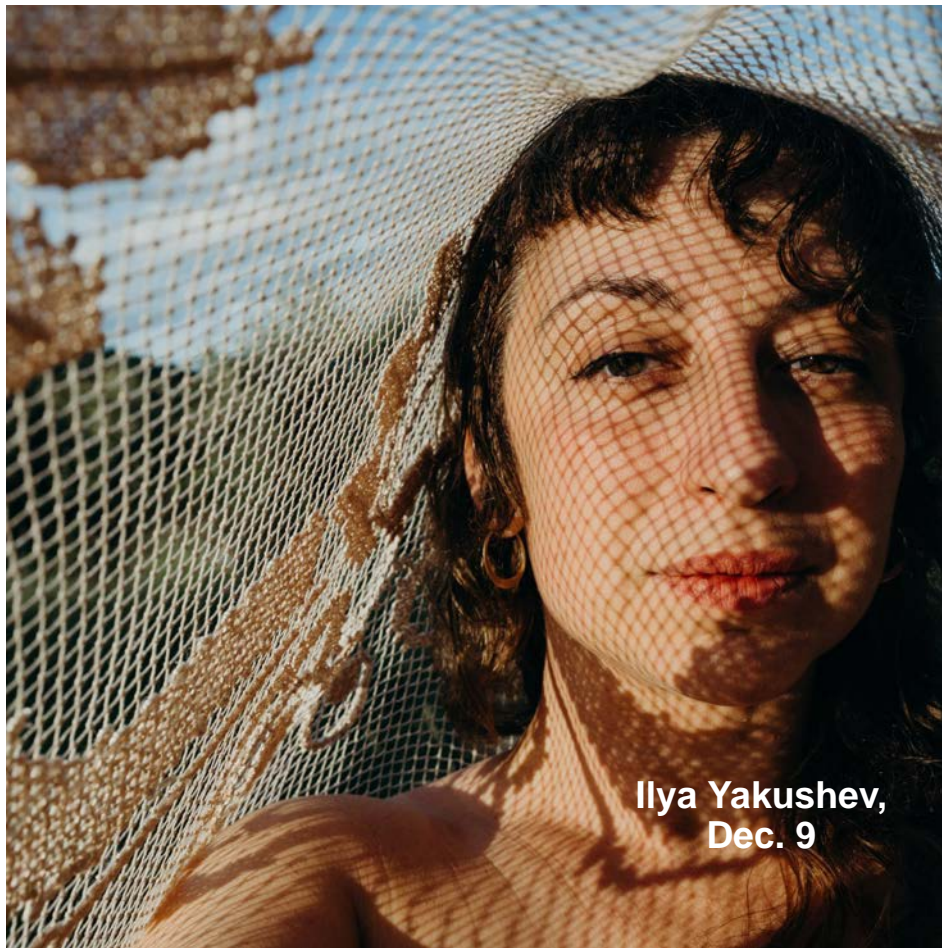
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Nutcracker  
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## EVENTS

# What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in December

### FRIDAY, DEC. 1

#### Grant County

#### Jingle and Mingle - Flannel and Fireside

5-8 p.m. at Regents Square on the WNMU campus  
[wnmu.edu/culture](http://wnmu.edu/culture)

#### Otero County

#### Launch Pad Lecture: Spaceships and Ray Guns With museum director Chris Orwoll

9 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001 in

Alamogordo

[nmspacemuseum.org](http://nmspacemuseum.org)

#### Holiday Artisan Sale

6 p.m. at Otero Arts, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo  
[oteroarts.org](http://oteroarts.org)

#### Doña Ana County

#### "Christmas on the El Camino Real" (formerly Mesquite Street Winterfest)

4-8 p.m. along Mesquite Street in Las Cruces  
575-332-1219.

#### La Casa, Inc. Holiday Bazaar

4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces  
575-526-0100.

#### Christmas Tree Lighting

6 p.m. Old Mesilla Plaza in Mesilla  
575-524-3262, ext. 116.

#### "The Sound of Music"

Live performance  
7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Com-

munity Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces

[www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music](http://www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music)

#### "Ben Hur"

#### Live performance

8 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
[no-strings.org](http://no-strings.org)

### SATURDAY, DEC. 2

#### Grant County

#### Holiday Artisan Market

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial

Business and Conference Center next to Ace

Hardware on U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City  
575-993-8193

#### Family Movie

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

#### Live Music: Tremours - With the Veldt

Synth pop/alt-rock  
7:30 p.m. at Whiskey Creek

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

[whiskeycreekzocalo.com](http://whiskeycreekzocalo.com)

#### Live Music: Lottie and the Ohm Wreckers and more Dance with Motown,

blues, country and swing  
8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City  
[littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com)

#### Sierra County

#### Christmas in the Foothills

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Downtown



Hillsboro and Kingston towns  
nanafarm@earthlink.net

**Yuletide in Chloride**  
**Continues through Dec. 10**  
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  
575-546-2674

**Otero County**  
**Alamogordo Gun & Knife Show**  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Alamogordo  
575-430-8681

**Holiday Artisan Sale**  
10 a.m. at Otero Arts, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo  
oteroarts.org

**Christmas on Mainstreet**  
4-9 p.m. on the 900 block of New York Avenue, Alamogordo  
575-434-6039

**Community Tree lighting**  
5 p.m. at the Otero Electric Courtyard in Cloudcroft on Burro Avenue.  
coolcloudcroft.com

**Ulr Fest and Christmas Park Lights Up**  
7 p.m. in Cloudcroft in the Zenith Park area  
coolcloudcroft.com

**Lincoln County**  
**Country Christmas Bazaar**  
at Capitan Municipal

**Schools**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Capitan Municipal Schools, 150 Forest Ave. Capitan  
**Visit Capitan Country Christmas Bazaar on Facebook**

**Ruidoso Festival of Lights Parade**  
5:30-7 p.m., Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso  
575-257-7395

**Festival of Lights after party**  
7-8:30 p.m., Wingfield Park, Ruidoso  
575-257-7395

**Doña Ana County**  
**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces Downtown, Las Cruces  
**farmersandcraftsmarket**  
oflascruces.com

**La Casa, Inc. Holiday Bazaars**  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces  
575-526-0100.

**"The Sound of Music" Live performance**  
2 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
[www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music](http://www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music)

**Christmas Tree Lighting**

**Celebration**  
6-8 p.m., Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
575-541-2550

**"Journey Down the Gila"**  
7 p.m. at the Fountain Theater, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla  
575-524-8287

**"The Sound of Music" Live performance**  
7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
[www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music](http://www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music)

**"Ben Hur" Live performance**  
8 p.m., Black Box Theatre,

430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
**no-strings.org**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**  
**Grant County**  
**Holiday Artisan Market**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center next to Ace Hardware on U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City  
575-993-8193

**Baile Encanto Holiday**

**Extravaganza**  
**Traditional Mexican dance and music**  
4-6 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Theatre on the WNMU campus  
[gconcerts.org](http://gconcerts.org)

**Hieronymus Bogs**  
**Evades traditional classification**

## EVENTS

*continued on page 24*

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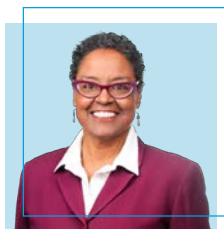
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**(575)388-1889**

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Michelle Diaz, MD (OB/GYN)  
Anne Jones, CNM (OB/GYN)  
Randi Murphy, NP  
(Primary Care, Family, Pediatrics)

**EAST 32ND STREET LOCATION**

Anna Rogers, MD (Primary, Family, OB)  
Denise Galaz, NP (Primary, Family, Ped)  
Candace Laramore, NP (Primary, Family, Pediatric)  
Amber Rose King, NP  
(Primary Care Pediatrics)

[www.cassiehealthcenter.com](http://www.cassiehealthcenter.com)



**EVENTS**

*continued from page 23*

1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City [littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com)

**Sierra County Yuletide in Chloride**

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

**Otero County Alamogordo Gun & Knife Show**

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Alamogordo  
575-430-8681

**Cantata featuring "Loved"**

3 p.m. at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church, 50

Chipmunk Ave. Cloudcroft  
[coolcloudcroft.com](http://coolcloudcroft.com)

**Doña Ana County La Casa, Inc. Holiday Bazaar**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680E. University Ave., Las Cruces  
575-526-0100.

**"Journey Down the Gila"**

7 p.m. at the Fountain Theater, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla  
575-524-8287

**Classics 2: "The Messiah" Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra**

3-5 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. Las Cruces  
575-526-0100.

**"Swinging Through the**

**Holidays"**

**Mesilla Valley Chorale**

3 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, Downtown, Las Cruces,  
[www.riograndetheatre.org](http://www.riograndetheatre.org).

**"Noche de Luminarias" Walk along campus with luminarias lighting the way.**

4-9 p.m. New Mexico State University campus, Corbett Center, Las Cruces.

**MONDAY, DEC. 4**

**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**

**Doña Ana County Library one-day book and DVD sale**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Thomas

**Support Groups**

**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 service with Rev. Jennifer Kleitz. Info: 575-523-4847.

**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**, 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](http://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](mailto:crisfern@me.com).



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Branigan Memorial Library  
Roadrunner Room, 200 E.  
Picacho Ave. Las Cruces  
575-528-4000

**TUESDAY, DEC. 5**

**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

**Doña Ana County**

**“Economic Development  
in the Borderplex Region”**  
**Speaker: Commissioner  
of Public Lands Stephanie  
Garcia Richard.**  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hotel En-  
canto, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.  
\$30.  
mveda.com.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6**

**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 & Crafts Market  
of Las Cruces**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de  
Las Cruces Downtown, Las  
Cruces  
farmersandcraftsmarket  
oflascruces.com

**THURSDAY, DEC. 7**

**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, DEC. 8**

**Grant County**  
**Christmas Concerts**



**The Veldt,  
Dec. 2**

**sing-along  
With the Hi Lo Silvers**

7 p.m. at First Presbyterian  
Church, 1915 N. Swan St. in  
Silver City  
575-388-8771

**Live Music: Illusion Band  
Tehano, country and  
oldies**

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

littletoadcreek.com

**Luna County**  
**State Park Astronomy  
Program**

5:10 p.m. at Rockhound  
State Park  
575-546-6182

**Sierra County**  
**T or C's Old-Fashioned  
Christmas  
Includes tree lighting and**

**light parade**

6-9 p.m., Downtown in Truth  
or Consequences  
director@torcmainstreet.  
org

**Otero County**

**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
6-8 p.m. at Washington  
Park in Alamogordo  
575-439-4100

**Doña Ana County**

**“The Nutcracker”**  
**With Borderlands Ballet  
and Paso del Norte  
Chamber Orchestra**  
7 p.m. at the ASNMSU  
Center for the Arts, 1000 E.  
University Ave. Las Cruces  
borderlands-ballet.com

**“The Sound of Music”**

**Live performance**  
7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Com-  
munity Theatre, 313 N. Main  
St. Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-  
music

**“Ben Hur”**

8 p.m., Black Box Theatre,  
430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
no-strings.org

**SATURDAY, DEC. 9**

**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

**Mariachi Christmas  
Spectacular**

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

**EVENTS**

*continued on page 26*

**CHRISTMAS EVE Dinner** 5-7pm

Lumimarias viewing 5-10pm

**CHRISTMAS Dinner** 1-5:30pm

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**575-654-6431**





## EVENTS

*continued from page 25*

**Live Music: Ora Cogan  
Psychedelic Folk – full  
band**

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

**Live Music: Alex Wilkerson  
and Them  
Indi rock with surf  
tendencies**

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

**Luna County  
Deming Art Fest**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the  
United Methodist Church  
Gymnasium, 1020 S.  
Granite, Deming  
575-546-3663

**Sierra County  
Second Saturday Art Hop  
Floating light parade, site  
bonfires, Santa Claus**

6-9 p.m. downtown Truth or

Consequences  
director@tocmainstreet.  
org

**Elephant Butte Lumanaria  
Beachwalk**

**Includes tree lighting and  
light parade**  
5-8 p.m., U.S. Highway 195,  
Elephant Butte  
575-744-5923

**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

**Nativity, Santa Reads and  
Christmas parade**

1-5 p.m. at the Nivison  
Library and on Burro Avenue  
in Cloudcroft  
coolcloudcroft.com

**Alamogordo Christmas  
Parade of Lights**

5:30-7 p.m. at the Otero  
County Fairgrounds,  
401 Fairgrounds Road,  
Alamogordo  
alamogordo.com

**Lincoln County  
Meet Santa and Mrs.  
Claus**

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Luna  
House of Historic Lincoln  
575-653-4025

**Christmas Drone Show  
and Drive-In Movie**

6-9:30 p.m. at the White  
Mountain Recreation  
Complex, 687 Hull Road,  
Ruidoso  
575-257-5030

**Doña Ana County  
Farmers & Crafts Market  
of Las Cruces**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de  
Las Cruces Downtown, Las  
Cruces  
fandcraftsmarketoflas  
cruces.com



**Book Signing Event  
Eleven local authors**

noon-4 p.m. at Mesilla Valley  
Mall in Las Cruces  
gpintar1932@gmail.com

**Open house – meet the  
artist**

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

**“The Nutcracker”  
With Borderlands Ballet  
and Paso del Norte  
Chamber Orchestra**

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the  
ASNMSU Center for the  
Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.  
Las Cruces  
borderlands-ballet.com

**Agave Artist Gallery open  
house**

4-7 p.m., 2250 Calle de San  
Albino in Las Cruces  
575-339-9870

**“The Sound of Music”  
Live performance**

7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Com-  
munity Theatre, 313 N. Main  
St. Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-  
music

**“Ben Hur”  
Live performance**

8 p.m., Black Box Theatre,  
430 N. Main St. Las Cruces

**no-strings.org  
SUNDAY, DEC. 10**

**Grant County  
Live Music: Paul Barsom  
Eclectic music from local  
musician**

1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek  
Brewery and Distillery, 200  
N. Bullard St., Silver City  
littletoadcreek.com

**Christmas Concert and  
sing-along  
With the Hi Lo Silvers**

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

**Sierra County  
Yuletide in Chloride  
Last day**

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

**Doña Ana County  
“The Sound of Music”  
Live performance**

2 p.m., Las Cruces Commu-  
nity Theatre, 313 N. Main St.  
Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-  
music

**“Ben Hur”  
Live performance**

2:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre,  
430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
no-strings.org

**MONDAY, DEC. 11**

**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, DEC. 12**

**Grant County  
Minecraft Club  
4 p.m. Silver City Public  
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,  
Silver City  
575-538-3672**

**Otero County  
Mariachi Christmas**

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

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13**

**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



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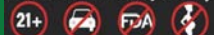
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**Doña Ana County**  
**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**  
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces Downtown, Las Cruces  
farmersandcraftsmarket  
oflascruces.com

**THURSDAY, DEC. 14**

**Grant County**  
**Robot building**  
4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City  
575-538-3672

**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**  
**"The Nutcracker"**  
**With Borderlands Ballet and Paso del Norte Chamber Orchestra**  
7 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces

**borderlands-ballet.com**  
**"The Sound of Music"**  
**Live performance**  
7 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music

**"Ben Hur"**  
**Live performance**  
8 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
no-strings.org

**FRIDAY, DEC. 15**  
**Grant County**  
**Live Music: Rythem Mystic R&B, Motown, swing, Latin and world**  
8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City  
littletoadcreek.com

**Otero County**  
**Down Home Country Christmas**  
4-6 p.m. at the Cloudcroft Senior Center, 212 Glorieta Ave., Cloudcroft  
coolcloudcroft.com

**Doña Ana County**  
**"The Nutcracker"**  
**With Borderlands Ballet and Paso del Norte Chamber Orchestra**

7 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces  
borderlands-ballet.com

**"The Sound of Music"**  
**Live performance**  
7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music

**"Ben Hur"**  
**Live performance**  
8 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
no-strings.org

**SATURDAY, DEC. 16**  
**Grant County**  
**Silver City Farmers Market**  
9 a.m.-noon. 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City  
silvercityfarmersmarket.  
info

**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

**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

**Christmas Zoobilee**  
noon-8 p.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo, Alamogordo  
575-439-4100

**Christmas in Cloudcroft Nativity Scenes, Vintage Christmas Village, Well Wishing Fence, Christmas Park and Santaland**  
All day at various locations in Cloudcroft.  
coolcloudcroft.com

**Lincoln County**  
**Opera in the Chapel Singer Karla Ramos**  
1-2 p.m. at the Fort Stanton Historic Site Chapel, 104 Kit Carson Road, Fort Stanton  
575-354-0341

**"The Nutcracker" With the Ruidoso Academy of Ballet and Dance Company**  
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto.  
spencertheater.com

**Doña Ana County**  
**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**  
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces Downtown, Las Cruces  
farmersandcraftsmarket  
oflascruces.com

**"The Nutcracker" With Borderlands Ballet and Paso del Norte Chamber Orchestra**  
7 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces  
borderlands-ballet.com

**"The Sound of Music"**  
7:30 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music

## EVENTS

*continued on page 28*

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**EVENTS**

*continued from page 27*

**“Ben Hur”**

8 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Las Cruces [no-strings.org](http://no-strings.org)

**SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

**Grant County**  
**Live Music: Burt Ferguson**  
1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City [littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com)

**Lincoln County**  
**“The Nutcracker”**

**With the Ruidoso Academy of Ballet and Dance Company**  
2 p.m. at Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. [spencertheater.com](http://spencertheater.com)

**Doña Ana County**  
**“The Nutcracker”**

**With Borderlands Ballet and Paso del Norte Chamber Orchestra**  
2 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces [borderlands-ballet.com](http://borderlands-ballet.com)

**“The Sound of Music”**  
**Live performance**  
2 p.m., Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces  
[www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music](http://www.lcctnm.org/sound-of-music)

**“Ben Hur”**  
**Live performance**  
2:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Las Cruces [no-strings.org](http://no-strings.org)

**MONDAY, DEC. 18**  
**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, DEC. 19**  
**Grant County**  
**Family Movie: “Polar Express”**

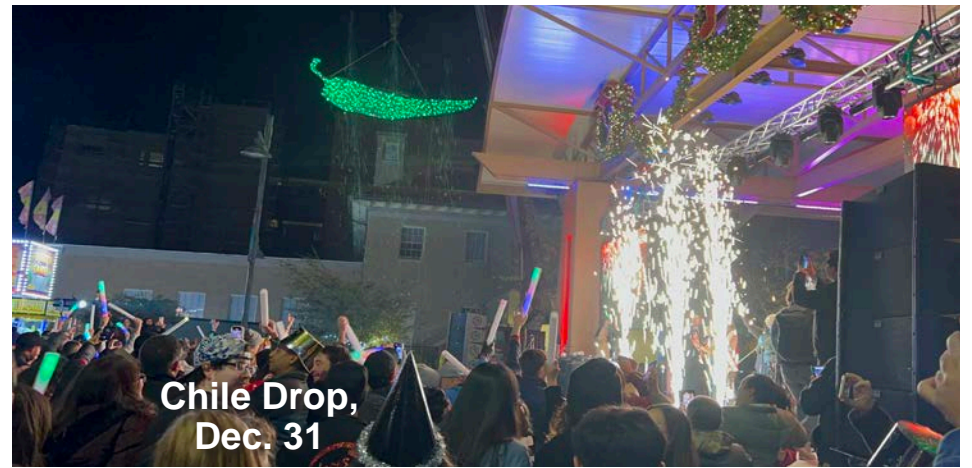
4-6 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City  
575-538-3672

**Doña Ana County**  
**Farm La La**  
**Lights, trolley rides, crafts, cookie-decorating and more**

4-8 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces [nmfarmandranchmuseum.org](http://nmfarmandranchmuseum.org)

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20**  
**Doña Ana County**  
**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces Downtown, Las



Cruces [farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com](http://farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com)

**THURSDAY, DEC. 21**  
**Grant County**  
**Paper craft basket ornament with the Southwest Women’s Fiber Arts Collective**

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

575-538-3672

**Lincoln County**  
**“A Sherlock Carol,”**  
**A theatrical fusion of mystery and holiday magic**

7 p.m. at Eastern New Mexico University, Ruidoso [osoproductionsruidoso.com/tickets](http://osoproductionsruidoso.com/tickets)

**FRIDAY, DEC. 22**  
**Grant County**

**Live Music: Blues Dawg**  
**High energy eclectic blues**  
8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200

N. Bullard St., Silver City [littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com)

**Lincoln County**  
**“A Sherlock Carol,”**  
**A theatrical fusion of mystery and holiday magic**

7 p.m. at Eastern New Mexico University, Ruidoso [osoproductionsruidoso.com/tickets](http://osoproductionsruidoso.com/tickets)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 23**

**Grant County**  
**Luminarias/Farolitos lighting**  
**Walk through a labyrinth**



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## DANCE + LIVE MUSIC

# Of Magic and Pagentry

## Chamber orchestra joins in 'The Nutcracker' ballet

**B**orderlands Ballet Company (BBC) presents its 2023 performance of "The Nutcracker" in December, including the Paso del Norte Chamber Orchestra (PDNCO), housed under the umbrella of Borderland Arts Foundation (BAF) and conducted by violist and New Mexico State University music professor Jorge Martiniz-Rios, BBA said in a news release.

Performances are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, 15-16, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 17, at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

The show's running time is one hour and 45 minutes, with a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are \$25. Reserve seats at [our.show/borderlands-ballet-company/nutcracker2023](http://our.show/borderlands-ballet-company/nutcracker2023).

"Our shows have been basically selling out the last few years and we felt it was time to expand our performances – particularly adding a second matinee for those who prefer the earlier showing," BBC board member Marc Moffett said.

BAF's collaboration with Martinez-Rios is part of the foundation's mission "to collaborate with professional arts organizations from the region," Moffett said. "When the possibility for this collaboration arose, I didn't think twice. I've seen the work and dedication of Borderlands Ballet and I knew that working together would bring a first-rate performance to our community."

"Tchaikovsky's score is such an amazing piece of music, and at the same time it is so

accessible," said BBC Artist Director Monique Foster. "Unfortunately, it's rarely performed as a stand-alone piece and so few people get to hear it live. Once we started talking with Jorge about this collaboration, I knew we had found someone who would immerse themselves in the project and deliver a phenomenal performance for our audiences."

PDNCO includes musicians from the El Paso and Las Cruces symphonies, NMSU faculty and selected NMSU students, the news release said.

The part of Clara will be performed by 12-year-old Isabella Jacquez, "the young girl who leads us from a stodgy Victorian Christmas party to a magical Land of Sweets," Moffett said.

Performing her first featured role, Isabella said she "is excited, but also scared. It's kind of scary going from being one of the dancers in a group to be the person everyone is watching!"

Olivia Leon, who played Clara four years ago, is now reprising her performance as the Sugar Plum Fairy, one of the biggest parts in "The Nutcracker."

"It's really exciting and rewarding, especially getting the opportunity to dance this role with a live orchestra," said Olivia, an NMSU freshman. "But it's still frightening. I have this sense of pressure to make sure everything is better than last time!"

Other BBC dancers performing in "The Nutcracker" include Brooke Gonzales (Dew

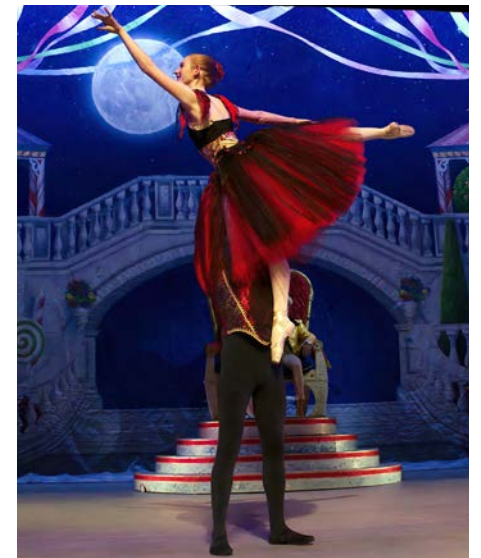
Drop Fairy), Daniel Lindsay and Juliana Garcia (Snow King and Queen), John Pohl and Avery Hinckley (Candy Canes), Janelle Hernandez and BBC apprentices Tara Gandy and Isabella Olivares (Coffee), Rachel Breck and Avery Hinckley (Chocolate), and Megan Krier (Ballerina Doll). Guest artists include Julian Cavett (Godfather Drosselmeyer) and Kinnon Fields (Fritz).

BBC is a nonprofit dance company currently housed in the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music and serves the entire borderland region with performances and educational outreach, Moffett said.

"The company looks forward to its regional tour of 'Coppelia' this spring in Las Cruces, Ruidoso and Roswell," he said.

For more information, visit [www.borderlands-ballet.com](http://www.borderlands-ballet.com).

**Above: Ryleigh Wellborn (Ballerina Doll). Right: Daniel Lindsay (Cavalier) and Janelle Hernandez (Sugar Plum) 2022. (Photos by Marc Moffett)**



*"You become responsible forever for what you've tamed." – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*



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## HISTORY + ADVENTURE

# The Past in the Present

## A look across New Mexico with Billy Garrett

By Elva K. Österreich

Former Las Cruces resident and Doña Ana County commissioner Billy Garrett took on the job of New Mexico History Museum director in Santa Fe several years ago.

“I was raised in Las Cruces and I think from the early days I was intrigued by the idea that this place had a past that was deeper than I could imagine,” Garrett said. “Later my career took me to the National Park Service. I came back to Las Cruces and was very involved with community activities including the county commission.

“I think that gave me a bet-



**New Mexico History Museum Director Billy Garrett**

ter sense of the fact we can't really understand where we are today without looking at the past and I think the past is a good source for inspiration about things that can be

done.”

Garrett said history helps us understand how people work, think and what they care about.

“That is where history is for me today,” he said. “It's a reference for understanding today to make better decisions for the future.”

The New Mexico History Museum is part of eight museums and eight historic sites that make up a system managed by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA). The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum and the Taylor Historic Site in Las Cruces fall under NMDCA as well as the New Mexico Museum of Space History.

“One of the things we are trying to do is make sure everyone around the state is aware of the whole system and takes advantage of it whenever they are in the particular area,” Garrett said.

Garrett said the whole system learned a lot during the pandemic in terms of the ability to reach out to people around the state.

“We have a very robust website,” he said. “You can find virtual tours, past exhibits, educational tools for teachers, links to digital historic documents and additional links to take you to our two Facebook pages and our YouTube postings. YouTube includes talks that have been held monthly for years.”

The website can be found at [nmhistorymuseum.org](http://nmhistorymuseum.org).

The museum itself has several permanent exhibits



**Railroad station, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Circa, 1904. (Photo courtesy New Mexico History Museum)**

which cover the chronology of the state's history, Garrett said. There are shorter exhibitions that can be on display from two years to three months long. He suggests a visit to the website to see what's up for those thinking of heading to Santa Fe.

One of the short-term exhibits is an overview of the first 100 years of New Mexico Magazine. Garrett said as someone who grew up in Las Cruces and read the magazine as a kid, it was a way to find out more about New Mexico.

“It was an interesting way to find out about other experiences around the state,” he said.

Other exhibits include a traveling display from the Smithsonian Institute about the 1968 Poor People's Cam-

paign; an exhibition recognizing the struggle for Native American voting rights; and an exhibition that explains how archeological research and historic documents work together.

To Garrett, one of the most touching exhibits on display is a little one called “Working on the Railroad: A Photographic Essay.”

“It includes people who worked on New Mexico railroads,” he said. “There were women, African American women, cleaning out cars people used for mining. There were gangs of native Americans who worked repairing track all over the state. Certainly there were Hispanic people repairing locomotives. It was the full range of all the people in New Mexico. It is

an inspiration to see their faces and the record of the fact that they helped to make the railroad work.”

Railroads and land management are but two of the things that tie New Mexico together from North to South, Garrett believes. Others include subjects like the military, education and what happened with the great depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration touched every community in New Mexico.

“There are important differences across the state,” he said. “Parts have their own cultures and histories. But there are more things that bring us together in a common way than there are that separate us.”



**New Mexico History Museum's Lincoln Avenue entrance in Santa Fe. (Photo courtesy New Mexico History Museum)**



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE – RICHARD COLTHARP

# Mountain Memories

Cutting your own tree isn't about the cutting

**Y**ou know how some things sound great, but when you actually do them, they turn out to be a royal pain, with all sorts of unexpected hassles? Maybe a lot of things fall into that category.

I always thought owning a boat would be like that.

But my sister and brother-in-law in Oklahoma own a boat, and they love it.

I also thought chopping down my own Christmas tree would be like that.

But I've done it a few times now, and I love it.

It's a lot easier than you might think. Unless you actually try to chop it down. I find a bow saw works better than an axe for this exercise. The trees you're going to be going after have trunks that are 3 to 4 inches in diameter. Any bigger than that and the tree may be too tall to fit in your living room.

That's about as much technical information as you'll need. Finding the tree is pretty easy, you park near the designated area, hike in a couple hundred feet until you find the shape and style of tree you want.

But when you get your tree permit from the Lincoln National Forest, or the Gila National Forest, the technical is not what you're going for.

You're going for the emotional, the adventurous, the fun, the memories.

And don't forget the good meal afterwards.

In the early 2000s, while we were living in Alamogor-



a green chile cheeseburger at the always enjoyable Western Café.

Flash forward about a dozen years, and I re-created the adventure with my youngest daughter, Avalon, probably with the same soundtrack. That was the year we decorated the tree with jalapeños. The cool part is, after a week or two, the green jalapeños turn red, which looks great on the tree. Just remember to get peppers with the curliest stems, so they hook easily on the branches.

All these years later, I don't remember the cuts I got on my leg, the pine needles all over the vehicle and in the house, the cold temperatures or how long we left the tree up after Christmas.

But I remember getting to spend precious time with those two wonderful girls, and I'm proud of the wonderful young women they've become. And those are the memories that make Christmas Christmas.

**Since 1995, Richard Coltharp has been traipsing around different corners of Otero County, Doña Ana County and many other spots in the Land of Enchantment, in search of incredible vistas, great chile and fascinating people.**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN ORGANIZING OUR EVENT!

The Southwest Word Fiesta of Silver City has recently finished its 10th Anniversary celebration of the written and spoken word during the weekend of October 27th, 2023 on an in-person and virtual format. The event featured 36 panels and over 70 presenters from many genres. The Fiesta main event will again be offered during October 2025 with prologue features during 2024 and early 2025.

We want to acknowledge and thank the numerous people who assisted in making this event successful in addition to the many presenters.

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