

FEBRUARY 2024 | VOL. 29 NO. 2

ESTABLISHED IN 1996

DESERT

EXPOSURE

Experience Southern
New Mexico

Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis

new species revealed, found in southern NM

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DESERT exposure

PUBLISHER

Belinda Mills
575-524-8061
editor@desertexposure.com

EDITOR

Elva K. Österreich
575-443-4408
editor@desertexposure.com

ADVERTISING

Barry Heifner
575-519-8582
barry@desertexposure.com

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Christy Anchondo, Elva K. Österreich

COLUMNISTS

Scott Thomson, Betty Lambright,
Jim Duchene and Abe Villarreal

WEB DESIGNER

Elva K. Österreich
1740-A Calle de Mercado
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-524-8061
www.desertexposure.com



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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, and be recognized!
TIPS: www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm and 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 PNF PBV 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*!

MARCH DEADLINES

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

EDITOR'S NOTE | ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Counting Trees

It's not rocket science. It's harder

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

— Martin Luther King Jr.
I Have a Dream speech (1963)

There are so many lists of red flags, don't-dos and watch-outs, when with a simple rephrasing we can smile instead of fear. I recently saw a list of green flags on Facebook and enjoyed the concept so much, I wanted to share it.

Green flags in people: They celebrate your wins; remember small

things about you; respect your boundaries; you feel energized after seeing them; they listen without being defensive; they allow you to be fully yourself; they make you feel safe; you don't have to watch what you say; they support your goals (attributed to @herpsychology on Instagram).

The world may be full of darkness – overwhelming and overarching – but life is lived in the details and celebrated in the positives. February is a sweet month to look at those delicious details and hold them close.

For example, Las Cruces celebrates the "For the Love of Art" all month; Silver City offers chocolate and exploration for the "Chocolate Fantasia" day; Gila forest lands have been a Wilderness for 100 years; the Las Cruces International Film Festival is gearing up; and area dinosaur bones are found to be a newly identified species.

In addition to all those things, this issue of Desert Exposure celebrates a Filipino woman who supported and smuggled food and goods into prison camps during the War in the

Pacific; including men who marched the deadly Bataan journey which is recognized every March during the Bataan Death March marathon held yearly at White Sands Missile Range.

Because childhood trauma occurs more than we might think, one organization in Otero County is bringing together those who can make a difference in a summit on Feb. 8 to address changes in the world at the beginning level. More than two thirds of children reported at least one traumatic event by age 16, and or-

ganizations throughout the state are committed to changing that number. See the story of one of those groups, 100% Otero, in this issue of Desert Exposure.

So, who are those who can make a difference? Of course, that is all of us. We can ensure a world that is more than death and taxes using imagination and intention. Let's play a little and use thoughtfulness a lot. If big learning events, like summits, aren't your thing, maybe the quiet of the forest is. It all makes a difference, it all counts.

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



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Beautiful wooded lot in the exclusive Dos Griegos Subdivision. This .92 acre lot has city water and electric to the property line and all on a paved road with mountain views. Lot #151, which is adjacent to this lot, is also available. Site built only. Seller would prefer to sell the lots together as a package. **BRING ALL OFFERS! MLS#38656. \$15,000**



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Monument designation should be welcomed

Dear editor,

Regarding Desert Exposure's letter to the editor by NM Cattlegrowers President Bronson Corn, he states "What we haven't seen yet is evidence of the costs and benefits from a national monument designation (of the Floridas)."

Since his job is to protect the business profits of the cattle industry in the state, I have to question his concern about costs to the general public. Designating the public lands of mountain regions of Luna County as national monuments recognizes the special and sacred nature of these lands and the need to protect them for our children's children and all future generations. He claims

the county will lose "any measure of control or influence over these 'resources.'" I'd like to think these areas have more value than just forage for livestock. The mountain regions are mostly federal land and the county has no control over them currently.

Anyone in the ranching industry using these public lands pays a very small fraction of what the current rate is to graze cattle private lands. According to USDA statistics, the industry pays only \$1.35 to graze a cow/calf pair per month on our public federal lands. The current rate for leasing private ranch land is \$20.50 per cow/calf pair per month. We taxpayers are actually paying the ranching industry to graze their cattle

on our lands. It costs us many times more to manage than what we get back in the paltry fees we charge.

Bronson further states, "We know the federal government does a poor job of following its own rules." Tragically, that is a true statement. The federal agencies are supposed to manage our public lands for the benefit of us all, but trying to oversee hundreds of thousands of acres of arid land with cattle on it is next to impossible because of the vast amount of land needed to fatten them up. There are currently 54 million acres of Bureau of Land Management public taxpayer land not meeting the agencies' own land health standards.

I recall going to the Rockhound State Park around 30

years ago to enjoy my time and have a pleasant picnic. Surrounding the picnic table were numerous cows, cowpies and flies. If these were trespassing cows it just exemplifies the lack of management. If they were supposed to be grazing there, it a sad statement that the public is not seriously considered in management decisions. Instead of leaving a payment in the self-pay station, I left them a sour note.

I strongly welcome the monument designation. It would be an investment for taxpayers and future generations.

Respectfully,

Michael Sauber
Silver City

ABOUT THE COVER



A rendering by artist Sergey Krasovkiy, Tyrannosaurus mcraensis makes it entrance to history as revealed this month. See Pages 16 and 17 for more on the find.

LETTERS

We would like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts. We welcome letters to the editor including your opinions and feedback regarding news, events and issues published here. Traditional letters to the editor offer an opportunity to start a new discussion, share your opinions or provide information you believe is of interest to other readers. Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse letters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print, but we need to be able to verify the author. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor published by Desert Exposure do not necessarily reflect those of Desert Exposure or its advertisers. It is the responsibility of the reader to research facts/opinions expressed in the letters to the editor to form their own opinions from an informed position.

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Polar Bear Plungers take to the lake in February 2023 during Elephant Butte Damsite Day. (Courtesy photos)



CELEBRATE NEW MEXICO

Elephant Butte Damsite Doings

Warming up after cold days at the lake

The second annual Damsite Day in Elephant Butte, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 17, begins with the Polar Bear Plunge at noon. Last year saw a record number of jumpers and more are expected this year. Plungers will receive a snack and warm beverage after surfacing. The marina has been moved to the actual dam site location and you no longer have to go through Elephant Butte Lake State Park to get to it. Go past the welcome center and follow the signs.

If you'd rather bypass a cold, wet dip in the lake, there's plenty to see and do at the main area of the historic dam site. Begin by checking out all 40 art and craft vendors set up in the lodge rooms and sidewalk as well as the first eight casitas. Vendors offer, for example, fine art, dot art, photography, baskets, jewelry, fabrics, quilts, soaps, dot art, one-of-a-kind items and more. In the lodge breakroom Truth or Consequences' Ingo will sell coffees that go beautifully with Serif's pastries, also in the breakroom. But the food doesn't stop there. A food court near the welcome center will serve Korean BBQ from Linh's Noodles, Lou's Kettle Korn and hot dogs, Outer Edge pizza and desserts and soup from the Geronimo Springs Museum.

The Sierra County Animal Rescue Society and Companion Animal Action Team will sell cookies and offer a drawing. You can win a spay or neuter procedure, baskets of dog and cat goodies and more. Both groups support

and promote animal adoptions and spay/neuter clinics. Also on hand will be the Sierra County Rock and Gem Society. Stop by and learn more about their group and its upcoming March show and maybe enroll as a member.

For entertainment, buskers Mario Portillo and Jonathan T. Samos will sing and play guitar; RGe Duo will provide music at the welcome center; and, weather permitting, you can sway along to the grace of the Jewells of the Desert belly dancers from Las Cruces, tap your toes to the Boot Boogie Babes line dancers or watch the square dancing Sierra Twirlers, called by Joey Solis.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day, so be sure to drop your name in the kettle in the welcome center.

From T or C, take 3rd street east and follow signs to Dam Site Historic District, Route 177. For more info: 575-894-2073.

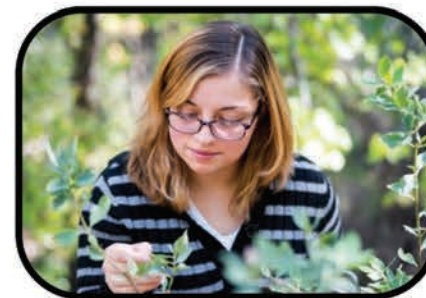


Artist Don Hallock shows his wares at one of the Damsite casitas during the 2023 Damsite Day in Sierra County.

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HISTORY + MYSTERY

‘Wonder of the Century’

Hermit who traveled world by foot honored at festival

When Giovanni Maria de Agostini was found murdered near his cave at La Cueva at the foot of the Organ Mountains on May 2, 1869, a compelling story abruptly ended.

Found with his meager possessions, including two journal-type books with religious writings, crosses, and other small accoutrements, it seemed clear he was not killed by robbers. The mystery remains –perhaps angry

Indians, perhaps a political move, or something entirely different. In the end, what mattered was that this Italian adventurer and Christian leader was no more.

Agostini, born in 1801, traveled the world by foot as a Maronite Christian, according to historian and author David G. Thomas.

He was kicked out of Mexico, where he lived in a cave on the mountain with about 100,000 followers, because the government, afraid he was political, declared him insane and deported to Cuba, Thomas said. Agostini faced the Inquisition in Chile for being a “priest in posture” because he was a Maronite and there weren’t any in South America.

From Chile, Agostini traveled to New York and then to Canada, where they shunned him. He traveled down the Mississippi river by canoe in the Civil War years. Moving down through the continental U.S., he crossed through

both Union and Confederate territories, having papers from both sides.

Arriving in Las Vegas, N.M. in 1863, he founded a religious community there (following communities he had founded in Brazil and Argentina) called the Society of the Hermit. Hermit’s Peak is named after him, and the community would climb to the top yearly for many years after he was gone.

Thomas and a group of historians, known as the Friends of Pat Garrett, have chosen to feature Agostini during their annual festival, held Feb. 24 and 25 this year at the Ro Grande Theatre. The Hermit of La Cueva Festival includes a musical presentation by Crow and Karla, featuring Karla Steen and Sweet Mary Hattersley, which begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

At 6 p.m. “The Wonder of the Century (A Maravilha Do Seculo),” a documentary about the hermit, will be



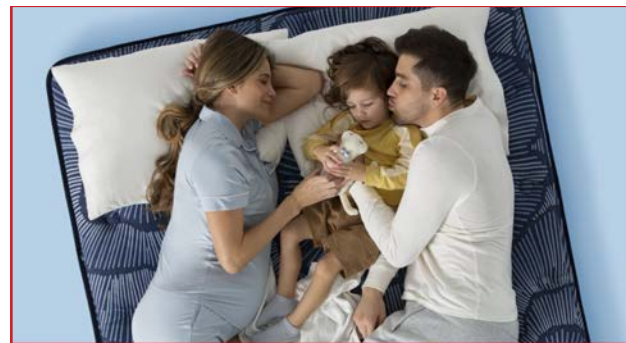
shown.

Following the movie, Agostini (portrayed by an actor) will appear in person to answer questions from the audience.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. the film will be repeated and “Agostini” will give an inter-

view and answer questions again.

The ticket price is \$14, which is good for entry into all events, both days. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at the Rio Grande Theatre web site: riograndetheatre.org.



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POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE

Jan and Don Wofford, front, of Silver City spend some adventure time with their son Ron in Hawaii. Their journey took them to Kilauea, the state’s second largest volcano.

“We had a great visit,” Jan said. “We just drove around and looked. Spent time at the beach and a small island called Coconut Island and enjoyed a place called the Hilo Burger Joint.”

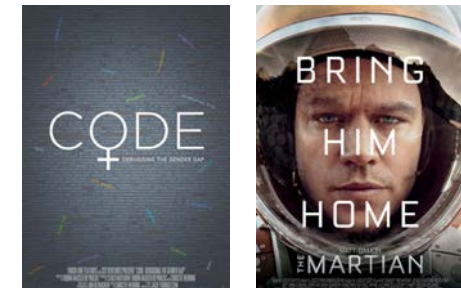
If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don’t forget to share, do the selfie thing with yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to editor@desertexposure.com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



ON SCREEN

The Perfect Pairing

Science lectures featured with films



By Elva K. Österreich

The idea of science embedded in movies is not new, and when the board of the Mesilla Valley Film Society (MVFS) noticed an available grant pairing science-related movies with real scientists, the board members were intrigued.

Board member Joel Segal took on the writing of the grant and, falling in love with the concept of pairing film and reason, was able to get the funds to bring a series to the Fountain Theatre working with some of the top scientists in the area.

“The concept of the ‘Science on Screen’ grant pairs movies that have scientific subject with a very knowledgeable speaker to speak to some theme with the movie,” Segal said. “The speaker can take it a lot of places. This year we have a Ph.D. astronomer and a woman who is an advocate for science education for women.”

In addition to the films and the speakers MVFS, with help from the grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Coolidge Corner Theatre, can also offer free attendance for up to 20 students. Segal said students who wish to get in free can ask for their tickets at the door.

The “Science on Screen” film series takes place one Sunday night per month for each of three months, pairing a film with an expert-led discussions of a scientific topic.

“We mostly looked for speakers with a strength and then looked for the movies,” Segal said.

When astronauts blast off from the planet Mars in “The Martian,” they leave behind Mark Watney, presumed dead after a fierce storm. With meager supplies, the stranded visitor must use his wits, spirit and scientific knowhow to find a way to survive on the hostile planet.

Astronomer William Stein will identify what the conditions are for a planet to support life as we know it and discuss under what conditions planets in our galaxy meet these conditions.

Stein served in the Department of Defense for 34 years working on the design of imaging satellites. After retirement he was a senior research scientist at the Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico State University.

The film and lecture will take place on Feb. 11.

On March 10, “CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap” exposes the dearth of female and minority software engineers and explores the reasons for this gender gap and digital divide. Melody Hagaman, senior professional development facilitator for BootUp PD (a 501c3 non-profit) and 2019 recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, will speak on practical strategies for increasing diversity and equity in STEM.

The Mesilla Valley Film Society is one of The Coolidge/Sloan Foundation’s 12 first-time 2023–24 Science on Screen grantees.

“These events, which pair expert speakers in 40+ states, demonstrate that science can illuminate films, just as films can illuminate science,” Segal said.

Segal joined the MVFS board responding to a call for volunteers at a time the society was struggling to keep the doors open. Since then, he has been helping with the financial end of the non-profit. “I think the Fountain Theatre is a treasure and I wouldn’t want to see it go away,” he said.

IF YOU GO:

What: Science on Film series pairing films with science lectures
Where: Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle De Guadalupe, Mesilla, NM 88046

When: 7:30 p.m.

- **Sunday Feb. 11** – “The Martian” with astronomer Dr. William Stein

- **Sunday March 10** – “CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap” with computer science teacher Melody Hagaman

Tickets: \$9 Regular; \$8 Senior/Student/Military/Matinee; \$7 Members/Wednesdays; \$5 Student Fridays. Tickets are available online or at the door. (First 20 students get in free for the Science on Screen events)

Info: mesillavalleyfilm.org, or email info@mesillavalleyfilm.org.

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BODY + SPIRIT

Eliminating Childhood Trauma

Moving forward with family support in Otero County

By Peg Crim and Lisa Yehle

100% Otero is a grassroots nonprofit eliminating childhood trauma in Otero County by supporting families with 10 vital services: food, housing, medical/dental care, behavioral health care, transportation, parent supports, early childhood learning, commu-

nity schools, youth mentoring and job training.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, 100% Otero Summit invites community members from educators to parents to administrators and health professionals to join with like-minded individuals, find partners who also are supporting Otero County families and learn about trauma and brain sci-

ence from expert Jessica Sinarski.

The summit is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center in Alamogordo. Register and learn more at 100nm.org/otero.

The organization works to help every family access the services they need to successfully raise their children, in-

cluding the following:

- The local hospital now has Community Health Workers who assist residents with all of their healthcare needs like connecting residents with community programs, resources and services
- The early childhood learning team has sponsored several trainings to help parents understand the impor-



A Days of Hope, second chance fair in Alamogordo in November offered everything from job services, a hearty meal and clothing bank to haircuts. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

tance of early learning.

• The food team keeps the list of local food pantries and community meals updated and available to all who need it.

• The housing team has organized two Days of Hope, with more on the calendar. Services provided may include: drop-in counseling, job searches, resume writing, free cell phones, signups for food pantries, SNAP benefits and Medicaid, vision and hearing screenings, vaccinations, veterinary care for pets, clothing and one young man received a haircut.

• The behavioral health team has created a safe space for therapists and counselors to come together to relieve stress, support each other and share some laughs, making them better able to continue their work.

• The housing team has assisted or sponsored the annual PIT (Point-In-Time) count of unhoused individuals for the last four years.

Parents, grandparents

and guardians of children in the county are invited to take the 100% Community Survey for Otero County at www.100nm.org/otero/survey. It is available in English and Spanish and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The survey is available through Feb. 29.

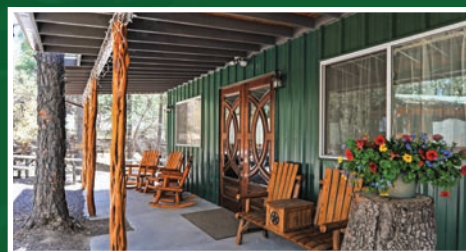
A community conversation about housing and homelessness takes place Thursday, March 21, when housing specialists from around the state will join local residents to share experiences and create opportunities. The symposium will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Christus Health Conference Center in Alamogordo and is open to the public.

For more information about 100% Otero or any of the events listed above, email peg.crim@100otero.org or call Peg at 575 551-1726.

Peg Crim and Lisa Yehle are long time community advocates and co-founders of 100% Otero.



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ARTS EXPOSURE

All For the Love of Art

Exploring Las Cruces' art world

By Elva K. Österreich

Once a year, Las Cruces artists come together and flow apart to show their love of their craft by celebrating for a whole month, For the Love of Art Month. February became a month of activity and studio tours about 25 years ago, ArtForms president Karen Conley said.

"The original ArtForms people started by picking a month and celebrating art all across the city with open studio tours and more," she said. "At the beginning there were events like flamenco dancers. Covid squeezed the life out of a lot of groups and now we are back in full. I think we have 39 studio tours and it's pretty spread out across the city."

Today there are new artists and those who have done it before, she said. The ArtForms Member's show kicks off the event every year. This year it begins in two galleries in the Mesquite Historic District, Gallery 925 and Duende Gallery, with the exhibition opening reception 4 - 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2. There will be live music by Blues 101 and refreshments.

There is a comprehensive guide of month-long events and studio tour guide available which can be picked up at locations across the county.

"We highlight a lot of other art events," Conley said. "We will be adding all the events we can to webpage. This is a celebration – an organized



From left: "Purple and Blue Flowers in a Vase" by Maria Lopez; "Imagine a Moment" by Mary Begin; "Floating Passing Time" by Lisa Glendall.

month-long event highlighting our local artists that live and work here."

Conley, an artist herself, said art brings a lot to each person's life.

"Art is enrichment," she said. "I believe art is another language that can help people in their life. It helps us understand things that are going on in the world."

Having been a special education teacher with autistic students Conley knows firsthand art can be a key to communication.

When she was a child, her aunt was a regional artist and her grandmother always had pencils and paper. She said she learned to appreciate nature and beauty and the fine things and those rubbed off on her. After retiring from Army, Conley felt compelled

LOVE OF ART

continued on page 14

Foothills Arabians

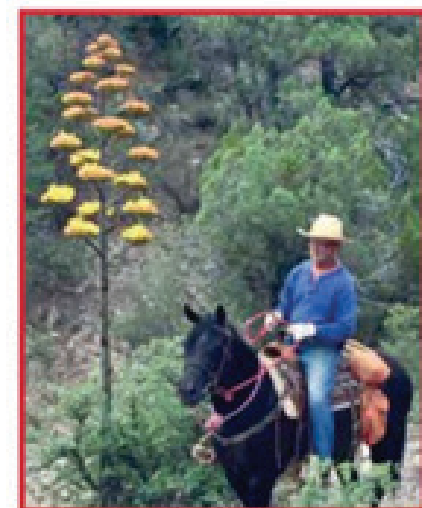
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ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

By Elva K. Österreich

OPPORTUNITY

Call for Veterans & Military Connected Artists: In Alamogordo, Otero Arts will hold its “Second Annual Otero Veteran Arts Showcase” (OVAS) in June at the Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. OVAS will feature a month-long art exhibition, performances and writing workshops all featuring Veterans and Military connected artists. Deadline for entering is May 1. To apply: contact Lori Arella, drloria@gmail.com or call 845-797-3642. Info: Oteroarts.org.

SILVER CITY

• For those visiting Silver City Feb. 10 for **Chocolate Fantasia** and Silver City’s **Love Local Day**, the **Grant County Art Guild Gallery** has a **Chocolatier** and multiple drawings for free art. The art prizes will be on display in the gallery the week leading up to Feb. 10. Winners will be notified on Sunday, Feb. 11. The first one to claim their prize gets first choice, and so on. No purchase needed, and you need not be present to win, but signup is on Feb. 10 only. The gallery carries the work of 35 local artists working in a wide range of mediums and styles, with an equally wide range of prices. The Grant County Art Guild Gallery is located at 316 N Bullard, Silver City. The hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week, with additional hours for special events. Info: gcag.org.

org.

• Through Feb. 15 **Francis McCray Gallery** and the Edwina and Charles Milner Women in the Arts Series presents the exhibition “**Allison Hudson—Safe Passage**,” an exploration of metamorphosis. Debuting her first solo exhibition at Francis McCray Gallery, Allison Hudson combines unfired clay, twine, fabric, resin, dye and wax into something new and unrecognizable. Francis McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art Western New Mexico University is at 1000 W. College Avenue Silver City. Info: 575-538-6517.

• **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 Hymer, Rhonda Munzinger, Art Peterson, Susan H. Porter, Eric Renner, Nancy Spencer** and **Juan Velasco**. The show will be up through Feb. 24. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com.

ALAMOGORDO

• Otero Arts features **Rochelle Williams** work with “**A Poet’s Eye: Accidental Beauties**,” photographs at the **Artspace** located at 1118



Tombaugh Gallery drawing by Karl Kohl.
(Courtesy photo)



Agave Gallery bowl by Heather Rae Morton
(Courtesy photo)

Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo. Photographer, poet and fiction writer Williams shares a retrospective of her work in film and digital photography, with

text and poems accompanying many of the images. The exhibition opens with a reception from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, the Otero Artspace.

The exhibit is open 1-4 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Info: oteroarts.org.

DEMING

• “**Calling All Dogs**” is the title of the February 2024, exhibit at the **Deming Art Center**. Images in many different mediums of our furry, man’s best friend, pets will be on display. Also during the month of February, the center is collecting donations to **Deming Animal Guardians**. There will be a time to meet the artists 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4. The exhibit is on display through Feb. 28. 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 demingarts.org.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

• **RioBravoFineArt**, 110 North Broadway in Truth or Consequences, presents a combined artists show by two New Mexican artists, **Nolan Winkler** and **Raul Dorn**, opening 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. The show runs through April 21. Winkler, whose studio is in the former mining town of Hillsboro, has a distinctive style with an energetic use of color, graphic elements in abstract patterns, and, sometimes, a hint of a representational element. For this joint show, Winkler has chosen the title of **The Dance Begins** for her pieces. Dorn’s experiences in the art world include

performance art, song writing, musical performance, media programming and the visual arts, both teaching and creating. He has recently worked with the Seattle band Thorne and is currently the vocalist of the electronica duo Sister Black Lagoon. This February show for combined artists is an opportunity to compare the styles of two different artists while gaining an enhanced understanding of the distinctive characteristics of each one. Rio Bravo Fine Arts Gallery is at 110 N. Broadway in Truth or Consequences. Info: riobravofineartgallery.com.

MAGDALENA

• Houston artist **Jack Massing**, known worldwide as one of **The Art Guys**, is featured this at **kind of a small array**, 106 N. Main in Magdalena. This is his first solo project in New Mexico. The show continues through Feb. 24. Massing employs found materials, humor, linguistic puns and a tendency to follow through on fugitive ideas that occur to him serendipitously while making his way through his days. “**Compression**” features video, assemblage, artist books and a capillary beverage cup patented in 2016 to aid astronauts drinking liquids in zero gravity environments. Two recently published books, Massing’s “**Thanks A Million**” and a collaboration with William Wegman, “**Two Clever by Half**,” are available for purchase and signing by the artist at the opening. Info: kindofasmallarray.com.

LAS CRUCES

• **“TRIBUTE: A Master Study,”** is a pop-up art exhibit at the **Lucky Needle Tattoo and Merch Shop** at 128 S. Main St., in Las Cruces. The exhibit is featured during the **Fine Arts Flea Market** downtown at Plaza de Las Cruces starting at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2. “Tribute” is a collection of oil paintings, some being over 35 years old. Featured Artist, Manuel Venegas is a Las Cruces artist whose admiration for Frank Frazetta is evident in his paintings and whose cultural perspective as a proud Hispanic artist adds an extra layer of richness to the fantasy genre. Info: luckyneedletattoo.com.

• **New Mexico Watercolor Society** artists’ **For the Love of Art** exhibit is featured at the **Frame & Art Center**, 1100 S. Main St. In Las Cruces. There is an artists’ reception from 4-6 p.m. with light refreshments. Regular gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Info: nmwatercolorociety.org.

• **The Tombaugh Gallery** presents **“Between Heaven and Earth,”** an exhibit of pencil and mixed media drawings by **Karl Kohl** and mixed media painted collages by **Roy van der Aa**. Kohl creates pencil drawings of imaginary mythological figures which are cropped tightly to the faces containing no clues as to where they are from or what environment they inhabit. Van der Aa’s painted collages are imaginary landscapes which are saturated in color. They contain no figures but create a dreamlike atmospheric location. The artists hope in showing their individual approaches together, a more complete story is created through the eyes of the viewer that speaks to our common humanity. The exhibit opens with a reception 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4 and runs through Feb. 25. The gallery, located in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Las Cruces, is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 11:30a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday. Info: 575-522-7281

• **The Las Cruces Museums** opens two new exhibitions that investigate how artists relate to the natural environment. **“Connection : : Conjunto”** opens at the **Branigan Cultural Center** and features artwork from The Border Artists in which they consider the connection between artists, the natural environment and the community in which they live. At the **Museum of Art**, **“The Desert Was Red and Red the Dust Was Raised”** uses abstraction to consider the relationship between the desert landscape and how it influences an artist’s im-



Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery art by Mark Morden. (Courtesy photo)

agery. The exhibitions open on through March 23. The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. and the Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St. They are open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. There is no admission charge. For additional information, visit the website at lascruces.gov/museums or call 575-541-2154.

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

• **Agave Artists Gallery** artists are celebrating **For the Love of Art** during the entire month of February. Ceramist Heather Rae Morton is new to Agave Artist Gallery. Her interest in ceramics helped earn her a BFA and a three-year apprenticeship with a master potter



Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery art by Bobbie Winner. (Courtesy photo)



Otero ArtSpace, Me and My Shadow by Rochelle Williams. (Courtesy photo)

in San Diego, California. Morton’s work consists of wheel-thrown stoneware pieces, primarily functional items - mugs, tumblers, and bowls. She keeps the shapes and silhouettes simple, presenting natural colors and delicate hues reminiscent of the Chihuahuan Desert of Las Cruces. 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 Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of February: **Mark Morden** and **Bobbie Widner**. Morden is a retired architect from the Pacific Northwest who moved to Las Cruces in 2018. He paints still lifes and portraits. Widner is a native New Mexican who has traveled through Tarahumara/Mayan regions, Portugal/Spain/France as well as attended plein-air workshops in Italy, Big Sur and San Miguel Allende and said these have been fascinating sources to draw from. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• At the **Branigan Cultural Center “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: lascruces.gov/Museums or 575-541-2154.

For the Love of Art - Feb 2024

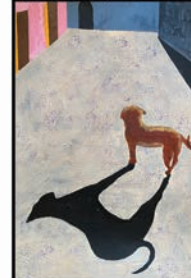
39 Studio Tours - Every Weekend

Q-Code for Interactive map
Locations, Dates, & Directions

Linda Gendall



Laurie Churchill



Glenn Schwaiger



Chris Kemler



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Feb 2 - Feb 25

34 artists Two Locations

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Entertainment & Food

For more information please visit <https://www.artformsnm.org> or email artformsnm@gmail.com

LOVE OF ART

continued from page 11

to go to art school. She went to New Mexico State University and started painting.

"The education did open up my world," she said. "It really helped me a lot. I felt drawn to create after 28 years in a left brained environment.

This year, instead of choosing an artist of the year ArtForms determined to remember some of the beloved area

artists who have passed away in the past year. These include Ruth Drayer, Les Fairchild, Linda Lundeen, John Northcutt and Jan Thune.

"We just thought it would be better to recognize the people that we lost," Conley said. "There is a page in the brochure and plaque for the show."

The mission of ArtForms is to support the Las Cruces creative community and partner with other organizations

to promote the region as an arts and cultural destination, the organization said in a press release.

"For the Love of Art Month is a vital community celebration of the arts," said Rebecca Courtney, a long-time member and participating artist. "Artists, galleries, local businesses, schools and citizens of all ages come together in February to embrace the power of creativity. Art provides income to

families, attracts tourists, builds community pride and establishes our identity as a community. This annual endeavor is truly for the love of art and for the pride we have in the Mesilla Valley."

There are 39 studio tours scheduled this year. The tour lets patrons talk to the artists and see their creative spaces. Some of the artists will be working or doing demos. The studio listing, QR code, and specific dates for each



Left: "Amber Waves" by Rosmary McKeown. Right: Porcelain vessel by Glen Schwaiger.

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are listed in the Artforms' guide and on the web page: artformsnm.org. The QR code links to an interactive Google map with all 39 locations and directions. Each studio location will have a blue flag placed out front to make it easier to find.

"This year, the studio tour is spread out across the valley. The organization is healthy, with 90 members and much support from the community," Conley said. "We know how important these events are and our members are passionate about making it happen."

Also opening on Feb. 2 and running through Feb. 29 is an exhibit by the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society at the Frame and Art Center at 1100 S. Main Street. Dennis Lujan will be kicking off his eighth annual EROTICA Show from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9 at 3390 Apple Cross Place. The show will also run 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11. The New Mexico State University Art Museum offers a tour of the current exhibits and a behind-the-scenes peak into



the museum's collection at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Email egflynn@nmsu.edu to register for the tour. Other events are listed in the event guide and on the organization's web page.

For more information, visit artformsnm.org, email artformsnm@gmail.com or call Karen Conley at 314-704-9445.

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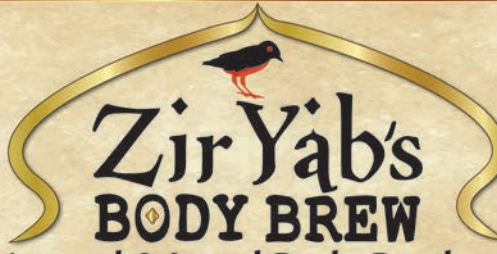


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NEW DINOSAURS

T. mcraeensis found 40 years ago near Elephant Butte

By Elva K. Österreich

In front of a gaggle of school children and various officials, paleontologists gathered Thursday, Jan. 11, to unveil a dinosaur jawbone discovered almost 30 years ago.

“They found a big toothy thing,” Dr. Anthony Fiorillo, executive director of The New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science (NMMNHS) said during the event, held in Santa Fe and shared remotely.

When the fossils (several pieces of a skull) were found on the east side of Elephant Butte Reservoir in 1983 by members of the Rio Grande Sailing Club out of Las Cruces, it was thought to be part of a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

In 2013, when then-student Sebastian Dalman began a restudy of a found horned dinosaur, it forced a broader rethink of the dinosaurs from western New Mexico.

“I started working on this project with co-author Steve Jasinski and soon we started to suspect we were on to something new,” Dalman said.

Dalman said as he was looking at the bones back in 2013, he noticed some significant differences between the find and *T. rex*. He confirmed it was a new species and invited the others to join in the work.

A team of scientists from New Mexico; Pennsylvania; Washington DC; Utah; Ontario, Canada; and Bath, United Kingdom was assembled to study the animal, going through the skeleton bone by bone. In each case, they found subtle differences between the specimen and the dozens of *T. rex* skeletons that had been found before. Because *T. rex* is so well-known, it became possible to show the New Mexico tyrannosaur was something new.

Now that team has published their study (in the journal “Scientific Reports”) recognizing a new subspecies, *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis*. The predator is older and more primitive than its better-known cousin, but just as large, up to 40 feet long and 12 feet high.

Fiorillo said the research is indebted to the first wave of people who excavated the bones.

“This is a discovery decades in the making,” he said. “At that time, the fossil record of



Locality of *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis* found 40 years ago. (Map from Scientific Reports)

tyrannosaurus was not s

He said science is a p
people to go back and t

“To me this discovery
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Joining the press co
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Dr. Anthony Fiorillo, Executive Director of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science and co-author of the study, shows the fossilized jaw of *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis* to students in attendance during a news conference at the museum on Jan. 11. (Photo by Mark Kotanchik, Courtesy of NMMNHS)

Right: Kettle Top Butte in southeastern New Mexico. This fossilized jaw from *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis* was uncovered near the base of the butte. (Courtesy of NM Department of Cultural Affairs, by Dr. Spencer Lucas.)



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Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis 72-73 million years old
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...so robust as it is today."
 ...process that continuously forces
 ...test and challenge what is known.
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...er the spirit of curiosity that
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 ...ference on Zoom from the
 ...Nick Longrich, a co-author from
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 ...e differences between the new
 ...n T. rex.

...re subtle, but that's typically
 ...lated species. Evolution slowly



causes mutations to build up over millions of years, causing species to look subtly different over time," he said.

Longrich said the discovery suggests instead of the species coming gradually from Mongolia across the Bearing Straight, it actually evolved in the southwest, right down here in New Mexico and Mexico.

Dr. Spencer Lucas, paleontology curator at NMMNHS, said at first it was assumed the fossils came from the same geological time interval as T. rex, who lived in a 66–68-million-year interval where all T. rex fossils come from.

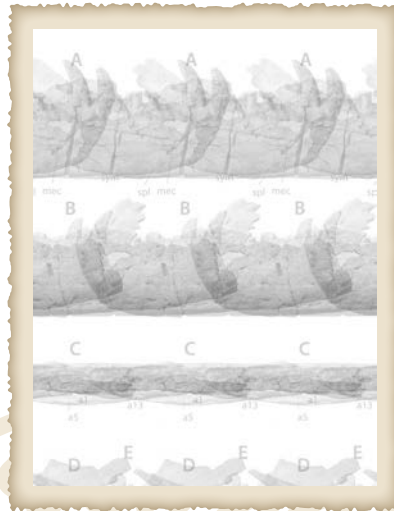
"But it turns out in the years since we found volcanic ash beds in the rocks that had this fossil and we were able to get numerical ages," Lucas said. "We can be sure this fossil is 72-73 million years old."

To put the discovered dinosaur in perspective, Fiorillo asked the students how many have seen "Jurassic Park," and plenty of hands went up.

"Tyrannosaurus rex is a big bone chewing, Jeep crunching dinosaur," he said. "The more slender jaw here means Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis might have been a bone chewing, Fiat crunching dinosaur."

Someone in the audience asked where the name had come from. Fiorillo said the name comes from the rock unit where these bones were located, called the McRae Group.

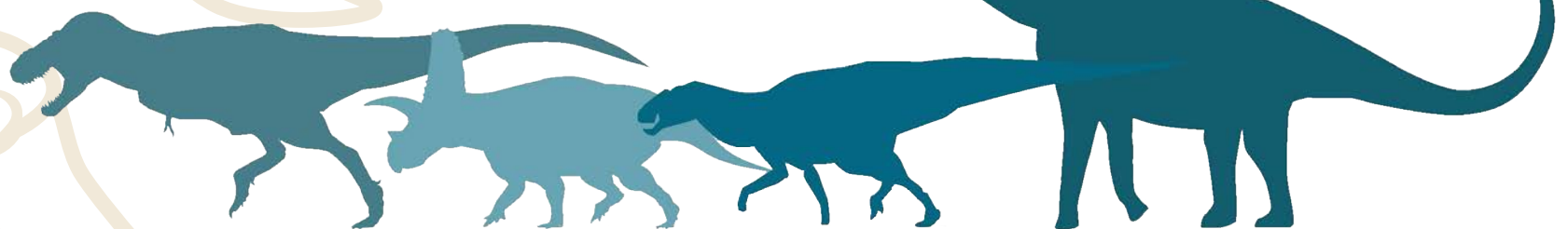
Captain Alexander McRae was a union soldier and artillery officer who died in the battle of Valverde Crossing, Lucas said. The battle was a Civil War alter-



Left: A diagram illustrating the size of the newly discovered Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis. The tyrannosaurus is roughly the same size as its famous relative T. rex. (Courtesy of New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science)

cation and took place in February 1862.

These fossils were collected on lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The partial skull of the Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis is on view at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. To learn more, visit NMMNaturalHistory.org.



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ON THE SHELF + IN THE FIELD

‘Every Ounce of Courage’

History, food memoir, remembers Filipina heroine

By Elva K. Österreich

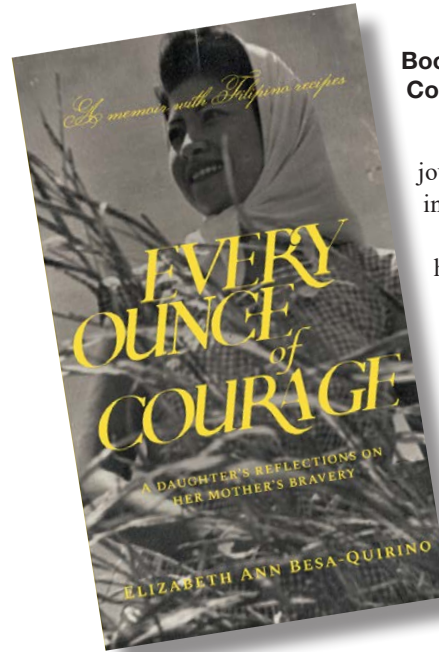
Lourdes “Lulu” Reyes’ brother, Willie, found himself pushed to walk as a prisoner of war as part of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in World War II’s “War in the Pacific.” But it was another survivor of that march, Corporal Robert Dow of the American Army Air Forces, who was also forced to march with 70,000 others on a 65-mile trek which many did not survive and who reached out many years later to Elizabeth Ann Besa-Quirino to tell her about her mother.

“The phone rang here at home in New Jersey at midnight,” Besa-Quirino said. “I let the machine

take the message. It was the voice of a stranger who said, “You don’t know me, but your mother saved my life.”

Besa-Quirino picked up the phone. Dow explained he was a war veteran of World War II and had been looking for Besa-Quirino’s mother for more than 15 years to thank her for his life. He told her stories of her mother’s kindness in a POW camp and how her mother smuggled malaria medications and other things to the prisoners.

That was 20 years ago. The friendship grew between Dow and Besa-Quirino and he shared first hand stories she never knew, and a list of books by authors who had written about Lulu. Thus began a



Book cover - Every Ounce of Courage.

journey of research and delving into family history.

Gathering things together from her mother’s writings, found letters and publications already written, Besa-Quirino built a picture of what her mother’s life was like.

“I started to piece things together,” she said. “Three years ago, during the pandemic, I looked at everything and decided it was time to write my mother’s stories.”

The stories came to-

gether as a book, “Every Ounce of Courage, A Daughter’s Reflections on Her Mother’s Bravery.”

With her own memories of her mother tied closely to the scents of the kitchen and Lulu’s cooking, it was natural to frame the chapters in the book with those food senses. At the back of the book, 24 recipes allow for the reader to recreate the smells and tastes from the kitchen Besa-Quirino grew up in.

“It took a long time to decide to write this book,” she said. “I was encouraged by family and friends. I wasn’t sure if I could measure up or capture the essence of her bravery.”

After 20 years here in the U.S., Besa-Quirino is 66 and her mother still very much alive in her memo-



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ries. letters and money into the
 “My mother was one of the first Filipina heroines cited for bravery,” Besa-Quirino said. “She was able to bring food, medicines, smuggled

POW camp (Camp O’Donnell). She was awarded the US Medal of Freedom (now renamed as the Presidential Medal of Freedom) twice by

President Harry Truman in 1947.”

Besa-Quirino said there are very few stories written about Filipina heroines during the War in the Pacific.

“There are not enough stories about Filipina heroines that have been told,” she said. “I wrote this not just to immortalize her beautiful stories, but because we need more stories about female empowerment.”

“Every Ounce of Courage” is available through Amazon, other web-based book sources and at local bookstores.



Lourdes “Lulu” Reyes Besa - humanitarian aid worker, Filipina civilian recipient of the US Medal of Freedom from President Harry Truman (twice in 1947).



Elizabeth Ann Besa-Quirino, author.

WSMR Bataan March registration still available at reduced rates

The Bataan Memorial Death March, hosted by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), is held in remembrance of a group of World War II veterans, many from New Mexico, who were surrendered to the Japanese and forced to march dozens of miles through Philippine jungles at the onset of the war. Today marchers also honor family members and friends as they take part in the challenging off-road race.

The memorial event is still accepting registration for new marchers at the reduced rate of \$175 for individuals and \$800 for teams. 3,915 Marchers have already signed up to make the 26.2-mile trek through WSMR’s high desert terrain. The proceeds from the race registrations go toward funding the race itself, as well as providing recreation opportunities for soldiers and other service members on WSMR. Visit bataanmarch.com for more information and to register to march in this year’s event to be held Saturday, March 16.

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Lulu Reyes Besa - post-war with daughter Elizabeth Ann, the author. (Courtesy photos)

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When 'Real' Becomes a Bit

Waiting for the binge years to come to an end

A popular genre of “viral” video is that of the recording artist surprising a fan.

It's an irresistible setup: Someone with a mobile phone just happens to be filming, say, Lenny Kravitz, who just happens to be strolling unnoticed in some public place when he spies some young people who just happen to be singing “Fly Away,” Kravitz's 1998 single. This scene offers nostalgia for Generation X viewers.

After grooving to the music for a moment or two, with a mischievous look at his anonymous cameraman and us, Kravitz slips in at the drum kit. People scream with delight and everything falls together perfectly. The spontaneous moment feels like

it was also meant to be. Perhaps this is what happens when Kravitz can fly above the trees, over the seas in all degrees, anywhere he pleases.

Ellen DeGeneres made such encounters a staple of her television show, but these videos that burst from ordinary streets into our social media feeds are less obviously staged, more plausibly real. Many artists, even the occasional pop group, have paid these magical visits to regular people playing their songs in public. Here's Ed Sheeran singing at a subway station with fans. Oh look, there's Kelly Clarkson. And here is Rod Stewart, out for a walk and stopping to sing.

They sound flawless and no one misses a beat or has a panic attack.

Robsan, the New Jersey hip-hop artist who has mastered the promotional value of TikTok, was not to be outdone: He filmed the moment a young man who had recently moved next door was listening to one of his songs on a phone. Upon learning that his new neighbor is the one and only Robsan, the fellow leaps like a puppy and shouts, “My real estate property just went up so much! Let's go!”

Was it real? Sure, maybe. Plausibly real yet presenting a hint of artifice, enough to instill some doubt. It seems more real than real. I'm not convinced any of these videos are fake. What unsettles me is that I'm rarely sure, either way, anymore. “Real” has become a bit.

This subtle undermining of trust in what we see, while we give online media so much of our attention every day, is likely to get worse with the spread of software-generated mimicry. Already, politicians in several countries – including our own Donald Trump – are blaming “AI” in order to deny the veracity of embarrassing or scandalous videos, and election experts are chewing their nails over increasingly convincing simulations of candidates.

Yet I don't think it will always be like this. Social networking sites are here to stay, but it seems increasingly likely that our relationship to them will change, even if it's just out of fatigue or for the sake of our health. The present time may come

to be known as the “binge years,” before the effects of so many hours of scrolling, measured in lost time, hollower relationships and depression, election distortion and contagious paranoia, makes internet addiction too costly. More people may be led to struggle openly to free themselves, as from cigarettes.

We might even sing in the street someday without bothering to make a video of it.

Algernon D'Amassa married into Deming and has been raising a family in Luna County since 2008.





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Feb 9-15 **American Fiction** Feb 23-29 **The Zone of Interest**

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Sunday, February 25 at 6:30pm
The Martian (2015)
(NOT Feb. 11, as previously published)
Guest lecturer Dr. William Stein, PhD astronomy, Indiana University.





Sunday March 10 at 6:30pm
CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap (2015)
Guest lecturer Melody Hagaman, Senior Professional Development Facilitator, BootUp PD

FILM NOIR

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 7:30pm
Lone Star (1996)
Directed by John Sayles and starring Chris Cooper & Kris Kristofferson

Sunday, Mar. 17 at 7:30
Hell or High Water (1996)
Starring Jeff Bridges, Chris Pine & Ben Foster

www.mesillavalleyfilm.org
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EDITORIAL

Featured Columns

RaisingDad

Three's A Crowd
I wish I hadn't heard that

By Jim and Henry Duchene

...one...

When kids ride in the backseat of a car with friends, they forget a parent is usually sitting behind the wheel listening to everything they say.

Years ago, I was driving my youngest daughter and her best friend to school when I overheard the friend say she had walked in on her parents in the middle of... um... well, you know. The thing that shocked her the most was that her father was wearing his CPAP mask.

"Ew, gross!" my daughter exclaimed.

In the rearview mirror I could see her friend make a face.

"It was like watching Darth Vader attacking my mom," she said.

...two...

My buddy Maloney recently asked if my father still offers me words of wisdom.

I had to think about it.

I came to the conclusion that any words of wisdom my father offers are usually in the form of hindsight.

In other words, if I were to bump

my head on a low-hanging bar, my father would then tell me, "Watch out for that bar."

If I stepped barefoot on something sharp and painful, he'd caution, "I forgot to tell you, I put that there."

Over the holidays I complained my stomach was upset. He told me, "It's because you eat like a pig."

For the record, I do not eat like a pig.

My father's not much of a talker, but one thing I've noticed as he's gotten older is he's more concerned over what his legacy is going to be, how he's going to be remembered.

"Remember when I..." he'll tell me.

"You were a good dad," I'll tell him back.

And he still is.

...three...

My brother and I were pretty rambunctious kids.

How rambunctious?

Well, in the Bible it says, "Spare the rod, spoil the child."

Let's just say the two of us gave our parents plenty of reasons not to spoil us.

Let me give you an example. When I was around 10, I saw a movie about time travel and decided to build a time machine of my

own. This consisted of my getting an oven rack that for some reason was discarded in our backyard. I took it, then went into the kitchen to get a roll of Reynolds Wrap. I covered each metal rod with aluminum foil, including the frame. I found an extension cord, also discarded in the backyard, and cut off the female end, exposing the thin copper wires that were intertwined with each other. I twisted them onto one corner of the rack.

I placed my invention on the ground, plugged the extension cord in the outside electrical socket, and talked a friend's younger brother into becoming the first time-naut.

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

Everyday Observations

I like the old McDonald's and other places of the past

By Abe Villarreal

In a coffee shop where I like to do my writing, a small group of people broke into a Spanish worship song. I didn't expect it but it was nice to hear. The group didn't look like a religious group. They didn't have big Bibles with them,

and they weren't wearing crosses. They were just people.

This coffee shop is in Mexico, and as I peeked up from above my laptop screen, I noticed that the folks looked like a mixture of Americans and Mexicans. Maybe there were others too. In between their singing, they shared short messages. I couldn't hear them too well and I wasn't sure what they were saying.

They weren't always singing in tune, and some didn't know the words to each hymn but they managed and, more importantly, knew that their flaws were what brought them together. These days, we let our flaws keep us apart.

I like coffee shops and places that let you be yourself. Places where you can walk in and say big hellos to the ladies behind the counter. Places where the regulars are happy to see the newcomers. Places where a small table of folks can bring into quiet worship and no one will be bothered.

It seems like these places aren't too common anymore. People come and go quickly. The doors are revolving now making it easier to get out as fast as you came in. The ladies behind the counter are nameless. The purchases are done on an app or computer screen hang-

ing on a wall. The only reason you walk into places anymore is because it is required. Soon enough, it won't be.

Maybe that's not true everywhere. Maybe it's not that way outside of the sterilized and characterless future of American society. Maybe you can walk into a coffee shop in Mexico or somewhere even farther away to find people you have to talk to when ordering and hear people singing because that's how they start their mornings.

In the 1990s, when I wasn't of legal age to do anything yet, Tata Abram loved to let us hang out with him at the McDonald's. The old McDonald's, not the new one. The old one where you had to go up to the counter to order. The old McDonald's with an outdoor playground. The old McDonald's where old people like Tata Abram would gather to get their day started.

I don't know if Tata knew everyone there, but it seemed like it. People that looked like him and that dressed like him sat around him. He liked to wear the old World War II veteran hat, the black one with the multicolored stripes. I knew the colors meant something special.

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

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EVENTS

What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in February

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

Grant County

Performance: "Lost, Found and Snowbound"
A melodrama with Virus Theater

7 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 496 N. Bullard St., Silver City
virus theater@gmail.com

Live Music: Sunny War and Chris Pierce

7 p.m. at WNMU's Light Hall Theater, Silver City
scanedoperez@wnmu.edu

Jason Dea West Poet, songwriter, troubadour

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

Tipsy Playdate: Yoga Bends & Brews

8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

Doña Ana County

Poetry Workshop with Professor Rodrigo Figueroa

5-6:30 p.m. at the New Mexico State University Art Museum, 1308 E. University Ave. Las Cruces
575-646-2545.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

Grant County

Performance: "Lost, Found and Snowbound"
A melodrama with Virus Theater

7 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 496

N. Bullard St., Silver City
virus theater@gmail.com

Otero County

Launch Pad Lecture: Tuskegee Airmen

9 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001, Alamogordo
nm spacemuseum.org

Doña Ana County

Fine Arts Flea Market with live music and art

4-9 p.m. Plaza de Las Cru-

ces, 100 Main St. Downtown, Las Cruces
505-737-3278

Film: "The Promised Land"

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces

575-523-1200

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

Grant County

Family Movie: "Inside Out"

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

Bill Gallen Evening at the Gallery

4-7 p.m. at Sterling Fine Art, 307 N. Texas St. Silver City
575-538-5555

Performance: "Lost, Found and Snowbound"
A melodrama with Virus Theater

7 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 496 N. Bullard St., Silver City
virus theater@gmail.com

Golden Groove
Jazz and rock collective

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

DJ Mischievous

9 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

Luna County
Calling All Dogs: Art opening

1-3 p.m. at the Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold Ave., Deming
575-546-3663

Otero County
Coffee and Chat at Oliver Lee State Park

9-10:30 a.m. at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park visitor center, 409 Dog Canyon Road
575-437-8284

Golden Gears Car Show

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at White Sands Mall, 3199, N. White Sands

Blvd. Alamogordo
575-491-9804

Mardi Gras 2024 in Tim-beron

5-11 p.m. at the Timberon Lodge, 1 Bob White Circle, Timberon
575-987-2600

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 of las cruces.com

Discovery Site Guided**Hike at Prehistoric Trackways National Monument**

9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Ridgeline Trailhead
575-525-4300

Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces
575-526-0100

Storytellers of Las Cruces

10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-524-8471

Film: "The Promised Land"

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

SUNDAY, FEB. 4**Grant County**

Performance: "Lost, Found and Snowbound"
A melodrama with Virus Theater

2 p.m. at El Sol Theater, 496 N. Bullard St., Silver City
virus theater@gmail.com

Doña Ana County
Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces
575-526-0100

Artist reception: Karl Kohl and Roy van der Aa

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tombugh Gallery of the

EVENTS


continued on page 24



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EVENTS

continued from page 23

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Drive, Las Cruces
clay_ink@yahoo.com

**Film: "The Promised
Land"**

2 p.m. at the Fountain The-
atre, 2469 Calle de
Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

**Play: "The Lifespan
of a Fact"**

2 p.m. at Las Cruces
Community Theatre, 313 N.
Main St. Las Cruces

575-523-1200

MONDAY, FEB. 5

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

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

Doña Ana County

**"A Case for Climate
Optimism" with speaker
Alaina Wood**
**Cambios Climate Change
Speaker Series**
7 p.m. at the Rio Grande
Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las
Cruces
cambios.nmsu.edu

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

**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.
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Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

**Silver City/Grant County
Co-Dependents Anony-
mous** — 5:30-6:30 p.m. at
the Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, 615 N. Texas
St. Silver City. Info: CoDAsil-
vercity@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY

**Silver City/Grant County
Arenas Valley Al-Anon
Family Group** — 6-7 p.m.
at the Arenas Valley Church
of Christ, 5 Racetrack Road,
Arenas. Zoom ID: 781 471 031;
password: 954941; info: nmal-
anon.com

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

**Meditation and Healing Ser-
vice** 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 United Methodist Church,
300 W. College Ave, Silver
City. 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 Lu-
theran Church, 1701 Missouri
Ave., Info: 575-405-9128.

**Epilepsy Support & Educa-
tion 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 EpilepsyS-
upportNM.org.

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

SUNDAY

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



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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

Community meeting on agrivoltaics

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the USDA-ARS Southwestern Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory, 300 College Ave., Las Cruces
icalsoya@nmsu.edu

Otero County**Preschool Story Time**

10:30 a.m. at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave. Alamogordo
 575-439-4140

THURSDAY, FEB. 8**Virtual Southern New Mexico****Overdose Prevention Education & Naloxone Training**

10-11:30 a.m. on Zoom
 575-525-5870

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

Otero County**100% Otero Summit**

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Conference Center,
 575-437-8284

FRIDAY, FEB. 9**Grant County****Live Music: Illusion Band**

Tejano, country and oldies
 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
 575-956-6144

Luna County**State Park Astronomy Program**

Sunset, 6 p.m. at Rockhound State Park
 575-546-6182

Doña Ana County**“A Knight for a Princess” Father and Daughter Dance**

6-8 p.m. with Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department, Las Cruces
 575-541-2454

Play: “The Lifespan of a Fact”

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
 575-523-1200

Play: “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”

With the No strings Theatre Company
 8 p.m. at The Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces
no-strings.org

Frank Ray, A Partytenders Concert

9-11 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 10**Grant County****Chocolate Fantasia, XOCOLATL: Mayan Chocolate**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Across downtown Silver City
chocolatefantasia.org

Territorial Charter Day**Celebration****Regional music and historical presentations**

1 p.m. at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St. Silver City
silvercitymuseumsociety.org

Future Engineers**LEGO play for ages 6-12**

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

State Park Astronomy Program

Sunset, 6 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park
 575-546-6182

Territorial Charter Day Ball

7 p.m. at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St. Silver City
silvercitymuseumsociety.org

Live Music: Lottie and the Ohm Wreckers**A night of dance**

8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
 575-956-6144

Sierra County**Old Time Fiddlers****Saturday Dance**

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

Second Saturday Art Hop 6 p.m. Downtown Truth or Consequences

director@torcmainstreet.org

Otero County**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market**

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

Heroes and Guardians

Valentine's Dinner

Feb 11, 12, 13 & 14, 5-7pm

Chinese New Year Dinner Feb 10, 5-7pm

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 575-439-4142

Live music: Caro Pierotto

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

Storytellers of Las Cruces

10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Las Cruces
 575-524-8471

EVENTS

continued on page 26

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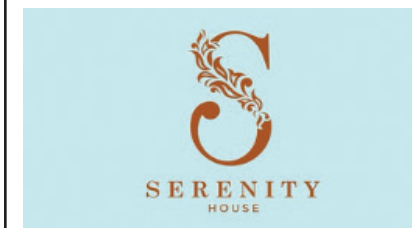
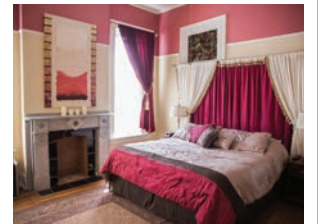
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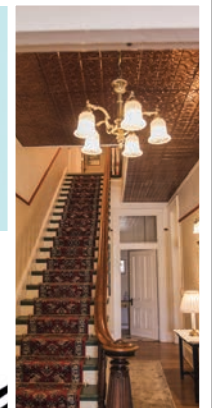
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EVENTS

continued from page 25

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" with the No Strings Theatre Company

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

Grant County

Live Music: Mama's Kitchen Sink

Blues originals and classics
1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

Sierra County

***Black Cat Poetry Reading**

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

Doña Ana County

Metallic and Iridescent Watercolor and Embellishing Your Artwork

Pamela Strohbar
2-4 p.m. at the Creative Arts Room, good Samaritan Society, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces
nmwatercolorssociety.org

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

2 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

MONDAY, FEB. 12

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, FEB. 13

Grant County

February Craft: Snowmen

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

Mardi Gras Celebration with Bayou Seco

6-10 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway 180 E. Arenas Valley
whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Live Music for Mardi Gras: Thrown Out Bones Band

8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

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

Valentine's Vampire Ball

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

Sierra County
Square Dancing

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

Doña Ana County

Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces

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

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" with the No Strings Theatre Company

7 p.m. at The Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces

no-strings.org

Shoriz Kidz Steely Dan Experience

7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Grant County

Minecraft Club

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

Paranormal Cirque

Theatre, circus, cabaret for mature audiences

7:30 p.m. at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700



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FRIDAY, FEB. 16**Grant County****Live Music:****Masters of Soul**

7 p.m. at WNMU's Fine Arts Center Theatre, Silver City
scanedoperez@wnmu.edu

Doña Ana County**Mardi Gras Contra Dance****With the Big Ditch****Crickets from Silver City**

7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Old Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla

575-932-8222

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - live action

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Paranormal Cirque Theatre, circus, cabaret for mature audiences

7:30 p.m. at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Las Cruces
paranormalcirque.com

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" With the No Strings

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

Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue

8 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org



Caro Pierotto
Feb. 10

SATURDAY, FEB. 17**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
sierracountyfarmersmarket5@gmail.com

Damsite Day and Polar Bear Plunge

11 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Historic Damsite, 5 miles east of T or C, take Highway 51 east to Highway 177.

575-894-2073

Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Dance

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

Luna County**Saturday morning breakfast**

8-10 a.m. at the Deming American Legion Bataan Post 4, 619 W. Spruce St., Deming
575-546-8385

Otero County**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market**

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

XOXO Car Show with special guest NM RIDAZ

1-5 p.m. at the Sgt. Willie

Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. First St., Alamogordo
575-491-2750

Lincoln County**Vines in the Pines Art and Wine Festival**

Noon-6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, 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
farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com

The Museum Rocks! Gem and mineral show

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch

EVENTS

continued on page 28

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FEBRUARY / MARCH EVENTS



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Allison Hudson
Exhibit at McCray Gallery
January 18 to February 15

Multi-media artist Allison Hudson's artwork is a combination of un-fired clay, wool, fabric, resin, dry pigment and wax. This current work focuses on the exploration of metamorphosis. McCray Gallery hours: art.wnmu.edu.



Sunny War & Chris Pierce
Soulful Musicians,
Storytellers, and
Visionaries

Thursday, February 1 • 7p Light Hall Theater • \$15

Sunny War and Chris Pierce offer raw, honest lyrics and soulful performances that reflect their resilience and passion for creating positive change through music. Their unique blend combines genres from R&B, Soul and Folk music.



**MASTERS
OF
SOUL**

Thursday, February 16
7p Fine Arts Center Theatre • \$15

In the early 1960s, some of the most iconic names in the history of popular music were discovered in the Motor City of Detroit, MI. *Masters of Soul* is a celebration of these artists, their music, and their style. This show features stylishly-costumed and fully-choreographed Motown tributes with a live band.



**THE
MOANIN'
FROGS**

7pm Tuesday, March 5
Light Hall Theater • \$15

The *Moanin' Frogs* offer an electrifying approach to chamber music featuring all six saxophones from soprano to bass. Conservatory trained and entertainment minded, their dynamic and technically precise performances of classical, ragtime, jazz, and pop delight fans across the world. Please note, this show replaces *Alias Brass*.

EVENTS

continued from page 27

Heritage Museum, Las Cruces
575-522-1232

Maya Textile Sale Weaving for Justice

10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Atrium of First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road in Las Cruces
weaving-for-justice.org

Storytellers of Las Cruces

10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-524-8471

Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - documentary

2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Paranormal Cirque Theatre, circus, cabaret for mature audiences

6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Las Cruces
paranormalcirque.com

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - Animation

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" With the No Strings Theatre Company

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

Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue

8 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

Grant County

John Mitchell and Friends Jazz Brunch

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

Otero County

Live music: Masters of Soul

5 p.m. at the Flickenger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave. Alamogordo
flickengercenter.com

Lincoln County

Vines in the Pines Art and Wine Festival

Noon-6 p.m. at the Ruidoso

Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso
575-257-7395

Doña Ana County

The Museum Rocks! Gem and mineral show

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces
575-522-1232

Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - animation

2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

Growing and hybridizing tall, bearded iris for beauty, performance and pleasure Lecture with Bob Van Liere

2 p.m. Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2880 Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces
575-662-7550

Play: "The Lifespan of a Fact"

2 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces
575-523-1200

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" With the No Strings Theatre Company

2:30 p.m. at The Black Box

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Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces
no-strings.org

Paranormal Cirque Theatre, circus, cabaret for mature audiences
5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Las Cruces
paranormalcirque.com

Film noir: "Lone Star"
7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

MONDAY, FEB. 19
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 Paranormal Cirque Theatre, circus, cabaret for mature audiences
7:30 p.m. at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Las Cruces
paranormalcirque.com

TUESDAY, FEB. 20
Grant County
Family Movie: "Little Mermaid"
4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
575-538-3672

Jâca, guitar and clarinet duo
Grant County Community Concert
7 p.m. at the WNMU Fine Art



Damsite Day Belly Dancers
Feb. 17

Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City
gconcerts.org

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21
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

Author Talk: Joseph M. Ortiz
"Beyond Stonewall: Gordon Merrick and the Hidden History of Gay Fiction"

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

Glenn Miller Orchestra
7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - live action
7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

THURSDAY, FEB. 22
Grant County
Dani-Rae Clark & The Let Downs with Red McAdam and Rena Vee
Country/Americana

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

Doña Ana County
Films: 2024 Oscar Shorts - documentary
7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.
mesillavalleyfilm.org

FRIDAY, FEB. 23
Grant County
Live Music: Rhythm Music
Dance music to variety of styles
8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

EVENTS

continued on page 30

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EVENTS

continued from page 29

Otero County**Live Music: Ginuwine**

6 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero
innofthemountaingods.com

Sierra County**Gathering of Quilts**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St. T or C
winterquilters@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, FEB. 24**Grant County****Silver High Band**

11 a.m. Gough Park, Silver City
 575-538-3672

Hidalgo County**Veterans Benefits Seminar**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Elks Lodge #1813, Old Highway 70, Lordsburg
bobbi.gruner@via.gov

Grant County**Live Music: Gila River Band**

Tejano, country and oldies
 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
 575-956-6144

Sierra County**Gathering of Quilts**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the T or C Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St., T or C
winterquilters@yahoo.com

Old Time Fiddlers Satur-**day Dance**

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

Luna County**Saturday morning breakfast**

8-10 a.m. at the Deming American Legion Bataan Post 4, 619 W. Spruce St., Deming
 575-546-8385

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

Storytellers of Las Cruces

10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Las Cruces
 575-524-8471

Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"**With the No strings Theatre Company**

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 25**Doña Ana County****Play: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"****With the No strings Theatre Company**

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

MONDAY, FEB. 26**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

Squishy Circuits: Play with connective dough

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28**Grant County****10th Natural History of the Gila Symposium**

All Day at the WNMU Global Resource Center
wnmu.edu/gilasymposium

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 29**Grant County****10th Natural History of the Gila Symposium**

All Day at the WNMU Global Resource Center
wnmu.edu/gilasymposium

Make Slime!

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

Songwriter's Showcase

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

Leaper Party: Leap year Frogger games, party favors and more

8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
 575-956-6144

FRIDAY, March 1**Grant County****10th Natural History of the Gila Symposium**

All Day at the WNMU Global Resource Center
wnmu.edu/gilasymposium

Otero County**Live Music: Gunhild Carling****Swedish musical sensation**

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

Doña Ana County**"Alice in Wonderland" With a Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley**

6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

SATURDAY, March 2**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

Luna County***Saturday morning breakfast**

8-10 a.m. at the Deming American Legion Bataan Post 4, 619 W. Spruce St., Deming
 575-546-8385

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

Storytellers of Las Cruces

10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Las Cruces
 575-524-8471

"Alice in Wonderland" With a Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

MONDAY, March 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

TUESDAY, March 5**Grant County*****Manga Day**

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

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INTO THE GILA

Why Wilderness?

Celebrating 100 years of wild refuge in New Mexico

By Donna Stevens

Wilderness areas take us back to how the world looked before the advent of cars, roads and the many conveniences of civilization that we enjoy today. They are essential places where we can leave behind the stresses of modern life, unplug and renew our bodies and spirits.

But wilderness is much more than that, too. In addition to its value as a peaceful place for restoring balance in our lives, wilderness areas function as important refuges for plants and animals that have been displaced by human infrastructure. This loss of biodiversity – the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem – is problematic because our knowledge of complex ecosystems is so limited. We don't understand which species are crucial to the functioning of an area such as a forest or desert. Aldo Leopold, the father of wilderness areas, famously summarized our shortcomings when he said, "If the



West Fork of the Gila River, Gila Wilderness Area. (Photo by Dennis Nendza)

land mechanism as a whole is good then every part is good, whether we understand it or not... To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

Species are going extinct due to habitat loss, among other reasons. Conservation biologists agree that we're in the midst of the sixth mass extinction event in earth's history. Unlike the previous five events, which were due to natural causes, the current

one is entirely attributable to humanity's success in populating all corners of the globe as well as the pollution that accompanies our societies. Because "extinction is forever," as the bumper sticker says, preservation of wilderness areas as sanctuaries for imperiled plants and wildlife is more crucial than ever.

In addition to habitat loss, there is another overwhelming factor contributing to species extinctions. No dis-

cussion of wilderness, biodiversity loss and species extinction is complete without addressing the changing climate. As the American southwest gets hotter and drier, plants and animals alike are on the move, shifting higher in elevation or farther north (in the northern hemisphere) to find cooler, more suitable

WILDERNESS

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Celebrating 100 years of Gila Wilderness

Natural History of the Gila Symposium February 28-March 1

This event is free and open to the public. It provides a venue for researchers, land managers, conservationists and educators to meet and share information and ideas gathered from the Gila Region, including watersheds in southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona and Mexico. Check sites.google.com/view/gilasymposium/home for updates and registration info.

2024 Aldo Leopold Week March 1-10

The Aldo Leopold Foundation was founded in 1982 with a mission to foster the land ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold, awakening an ecological conscience in people throughout the world.

Visit aldoleopold.org/news-events/leopold-week/ for info.

Speaker Series

May 30-31

Featuring diverse and thoughtful perspectives from historians and local voices, the Speaker Series will explore the Gila Wilderness by examining its history and virtues, successes and shortcomings and its path forward. Events will be held the evening of May 30 and during the day on May 31.

Wilderness Centennial at Gough Park

June 1

Celebrate 100 years of the Gila Wilderness with those who hold it dear. Join us the morning and afternoon of June 1 for a family-friendly event featuring live music, art, interactive games and a crosscut competition.

Film Festival

June 1-2

Thirteen talented NMSU students from diverse backgrounds (primarily Latino) were selected to take part in an immersive 2-semester program. In July 2022, the group spent eleven days in a field school in the Gila, making short documentaries about people living and working in the Gila area. Their films will tell stories that reflect the unique natural, cultural, and conservation history of the Gila, including Indigenous and Latino history. The final films will be premiered on June 1 with a second matinee screening on June 2.

For more information on the Gila Wilderness Centennial, see FS.usda.gov/gila.



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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

By Cheryl Wiggins, who caught a sun halo at the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024, north of Tularosa

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.



WILDERNESS

continued from page 31

habitat. For some sensitive species to survive, they require available places of refuge, which are often found in wilderness areas free from human presence, infrastructure and interference.

Ultimately, the question we need to ask ourselves is: What kind of world do we wish to bequeath to our children and grandchildren? Are we satisfied to leave them a world mediated by electronic screens and populated with machines and artificial intelligence? Or do we want them

to experience the earth we've known and loved, a world of beauty, majesty and mystery, complete with wild places, native plants and wildlife large and small?

If the answer to the second question is "yes," we have plenty to celebrate in 2024, the centennial of the world's first designated wilderness area, the Gila Wilderness.

Donna Stevens recently retired after 14 years as the executive director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. She will never retire from her love of the Gila.



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Betty, DSH Calico
6 mos. female

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Liliith, DLH Torti, 4 yr.,
female

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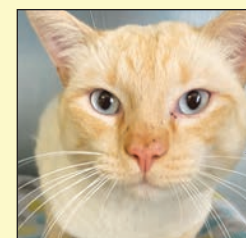
Mel, DSH gray Tabby,
11 mos. female

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Frankie, DSH, 2 yr. old
male

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Reese, DSH Siamese Flame Pt.
2 yr. old male

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Honey, DSH Torti,
2 yr. old female.



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Clinic

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9-Noon

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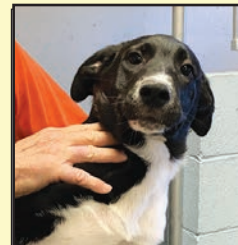
Buster, Hound/Catahoula
male, 7 mos.

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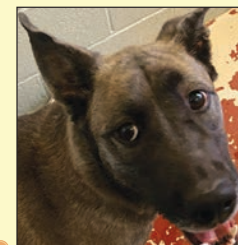
Calla, Aussie X,
1 yr. old female

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Chili, Lab mix,
8 mos male

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Chloe, Lab/Husky mix,
4 yr old female

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Thelma, Black Mouth Cur
2 yr. old female

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Boogie, Shepherd mix,
3 yr. old neutered male

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