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EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

DESERT
ESTABLISHED IN 1996



exposure

**Dip into an oasis of
imagination with
Swedish artist
William Reed**

PAGE 6



GREEN CHILE APPLE PIE PAGE 5 | RUBBER DUCK RACE PAGE 10 | RUIDOSO REN FAIRE PAGE 19



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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

" K XLLB BKEL DKSLHP PSU PBB OWL OWKSZN KO AQIJKULN
KN YPF OII KHAIQOPSO OI OCQS KSOI P TCNKSLNN OWPO
BIEN BKEL NLBBKSZ TBCL VLPSN." - QIS ALQBHPS

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: "TO BE ON STAGE IN FRONT OF ALL THE PEOPLE AND YOU FEEL THE ENERGY AND YOU JUST FEED OFF OF THEM. IT'S AN INDESCRIBABLE EMOTION." - MONICA GARCIA, ON THE ILLUSION BAND. *Secret Words: "BY COUPLED SHARING"
Congrats to #94 solvers: Will Adams*, Sue Merrick*, David Pino*, Mike Arms*, Kaustuv Sengupta*, Shorty Vaiza*, Claudette Gallegos*, Skip Howard*, George P. Burdell*, Joe Slothman*!

JUNE DEADLINES

All stories and notices for the editorial section due Friday, May 17
Space reservation and ad copy due Friday, May 17.

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Your Private Paradise! This 61+ acre parcel is end of road and Bordering the GILA NATIONAL FOREST on two sides! If you have longed for peace and quiet in one of the country's best year-round climates, book your viewing today. Single floor living and accessibility are the main highlights, with guest room privacy upstairs. The very custom 4 bedroom, 4 bath home offers finishing touches/features that are simply over the top: African Mahogany cabinetry, oversized primary bedroom / En Suite, Covered Viewing Decks, Private Office / w Loft, Arched Doorways, Vaulted Beamed Ceilings, 3 Guest Rooms upstairs, privacy balcony upstairs, plus a detached 1780 sq/ft workspace/in-law/out-law quarters. Enjoy the efficiency, hardly needing a/c in the summers and easy to heat with pellet stoves in the winters. Deer will frequent often and plenty of other southwest wildlife and birds call this refuge home. **MLS: 40265 \$759,000**



Welcome home to where country living meets modern day amenities. This wooded 4.3 acres is your sought after 1600 sq/ft 3 Bedroom 2 Bath RANCH HOME!! This property truly has EVERYTHING to offer, less than 5 minutes from town! This amazing build doesn't disappoint, with beautiful floors through-out, simply gorgeous kitchen to enjoy from all angles with a highly desired open floor plan, complete with top of line appliances and woodburning stove. Attention to craftsmanship and detail done to the 9's! Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, outside you have a beautiful lawn, garden area, gazebo, pond with waterfall (a real sanctuary), and plenty of covered seating to enjoy the privacy among the canopy of trees. A Barn/workshop and a full RV site and a historic Santa Rita home and additional storage shed round out the many extras this property offers. **MLS: 40298 \$500,000**



Location, Privacy & Forest Boundary, 120 Acres at the End of Mineral Creek Road. This unique property has all the water boasts 11 acres of water rights, surface and ditch irrigation rights. Create green pastures, restore an old orchard, all with a recently engineered and updated irrigating system ready to open up the flood gates. Wild New Mexico game frequent the Mineral Creek Valley, making this a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a gem in the great southwest. **MLS: 40279 \$900,000**



Views, views and more views! This custom built Clayton Modular home is a split level, 2 story home with 6 bedrooms, 3 baths. Upstairs is the primary bedroom with 2 walk-in closets, large bath and a sliding glass door that leads out onto the wrap-around deck. Enjoy the large living room w/fireplace that flows into the open kitchen with an island, walk-in pantry, breakfast bar, breakfast nook and a formal dining room. The downstairs has 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, another full kitchen, dining room, living room, hobby/office, laundry room and a storage room with a built-in safe. The top of the home is a triple wide modular with the bottom being an exact replica of the top floor. This home has 2x6 exterior walls and the bottom is built of ICF blocks. The home also has Solar panels that leaves you with a \$7.85 electrical bill every month! Make an appointment today! **MLS: 40002 \$700,000**



Multi-use building centrally located in the heart of Bayard. Historic bank building built in 1955 that still has the original vault. Good rental history for building and storage facility. Great live work situation, office building, gallery, restaurant, dispensary or brewery etc. Retail space currently housing the Future Glory re-sale shop with 1/2 bath. Three 1 bedroom/1 bathroom apartments plus 1 efficiency apartment. Self-storage facility located behind the building with a side street entrance gate. 5 containers set up for 3 unit sizes. Building size is 5012 square feet. 1 apartment downstairs and 3 upstairs. **MLS: 40222 \$329,000**



Located in the historic Mimbres Valley off Highway 61. Stunning views. 2015 Solitaire manufactured home. Energy star rated with tape and textured 4x6 walls. Living room features cove ceilings and new woodstove. Large addition for office, gym, hobby room etc. Master bedroom features huge walk-in closet with built in dressers. Nice composite deck off the dining room. Electric bills under \$10/month with a new high output solar system with long-life lithium batteries hooked to the grid. System conveys with no loan or lease. Small carport, raised garden beds with drip system, greenhouse and storage shed. Well house has a RV plug. Additional area on the SE side of property for a 2nd dwelling, shop or barn on 12.84 acres. Horses allowed. Short drive to the Gila National Forest, La Esperanza Winery, Faywood Hotsprings and City of the Rocks. **MLS: 40273 \$320,000**



Cabin nestled in the tall pines! Overlooking Sapillo creek with fantastic views of the Admiral Cliffs and Gila Wilderness. Located on the Gila National Forest boundary. 2 bedrooms on main floor, additional bedroom in the walk out basement. Workshop and hobby room downstairs. Nice deck for entertaining. Bonus room off the bedroom is perfect for office, gym or TV room. One car detached garage perfect for storing UTV and ATVs. Attached carport. Short drive to Lake Roberts, Spirit Canyon pictographs and hiking trailheads. Abundant wildlife. Homesite includes two additional to build a shop, additional dwelling etc. Game Management Unit 24. Call your favorite broker for a showing. **MLS: 40148 \$275,000**



Secluded Off-Grid living at its best . . . with unsurpassed views. All have complete privacy from other structures. All parcel owners have the benefit of a 6,000 square foot Headquarters building, with caretaker/horse wrangler. This parcel is part of almost 3,000 deeded acres and ready for you to design and build you dream hide-a-way. You'll enjoy the cooler climate at 6,000 foot elevation and seclusion of the wide open West. With Public State land bordering this 240 acre parcel, you'll enjoy the peacefulness and natural beauty the southwest has to offer. **MLS: 40077 \$216,000**



A very well-maintained 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Tyrone, New Mexico. Features include newer shingle roof, gas forced air heating and covered carport with storage room. Great elevation and location, providing spectacular mountain views in the distance. Approximately 5 miles from downtown Silver City, New Mexico. Make an appointment today, this won't last long! **MLS: 40207 \$160,000**



Gorgeous acreage close to town with all city amenities available. Land features amazing views, large trees and bulk utilities in the street so subdivision is possible. Possible owner finance with decent downpayment. **MLS: 40020 \$165,000**

EDITOR'S NOTE | ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Road Trips

Trying not to miss a thing

Ever since I was a child, growing up in Albuquerque, we have been making trips to southern California. My grandfather lived in La Jolla, north of San Diego and we made that drive many times. My niece got a job as an aquarist at the Legoland Aquarium in Carlsbad, California, even more north of San Diego more driving back and forth. Today, my son is a Marine and he has spent a good part of that time stationed at Camp Pendleton, again, in-between San Diego and Los Angeles.

Every time, on that road, whatever path one might choose from New Mexico to California, multiple billboards line the highway splashing the words “The Thing” across the desert shoulders. In fact, “The Thing” aka “The mystery of the desert,” must be the most highly promoted roadside at-

traction in the United States if not in the world.

“The Thing” is housed in Arizona, at a Bowlin Travel Center, between Benson and Willcox, Arizona just off of I-10. In all those years, close to 60, of traveling that road, I have always wanted to see it and know what it was. Finally, in April, I did it. Coming home from visiting my son and his family we stopped.

It turned out that in 2018 the whole display (originally in a small museum) was renovated, made into a larger, more modern museum space and gained a story about history as written “What if . . .” starting with dinosaurs and aliens and continuing through ancient human times into world wars and the present. The whole experience is well worth the five bucks spent on it.

Road trips are what you make them, filled with possibilities and sunsets. Or, if you

are me, it is the sunrise that makes you happy: cruising in a vehicle resounding with the light snores of companions as a new day appears. But try, as much as you can, to stop and smell the roses if they are right in front of your car, or at least stop and peer at “The Thing,” and wonder “What if . . .”

New Mexico is certainly a magnificent road trip state and Desert Exposure can help you figure out where you might want to swoop over to. Why just in May you could drive to Silver City and find dancing at the Blues Festival or Shakespearean sonnets in a big ditch. Or head to Alamogordo to see a weird and magical building filled by a Swedish artist with creation; Tularosa for a rubber duck race tied to a historical acequia system; and visit Ruidoso to meet pirates at a renaissance faire.

Maybe it's time to hit the road.

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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TABLE TALK

New Mexico's Green Chile Apple Pie

Survey finds pie lovers would travel 1 Hour 38 Minutes for a slice

A photobook company, Mixbook, ran a survey of 3,000 devoted pie aficionados to discover how far they would be prepared to travel for that perfect pie experience – that is – savoring a state's signature pie right where it belongs. New Mexico green chile apple pie clocked in at 1 hour 38 minutes.

New Mexico's green chile apple pie fuses the state's iconic green chiles with the classic American apple pie, embodying New Mexico's unique culinary landscape. This inventive dessert layers tart apples with the subtle heat and earthy flavor of roasted green chiles, creating a filling that surprises and delights with every bite.

Encased in a flaky, golden crust, the pie perfectly balances sweetness with spice, topped with a sugar or streusel topping that complements the complex flavors within. Pie lovers willing to travel one hour and thirty-eight minutes for a slice are in search of this distinctive blend of traditional and contemporary flavors that captures the spirit of New Mexico.

Originally printed in Pie Town's Pie Lady Kathy Knapp's cookbook, "Pie Town Pies: Making Pies with the Pie Lady of Pie Town," this recipe has been reprinted in "Centennial Cookbook A Century of Flavors," put out by New Mexico Magazine in 2023.

New Mexico Apple Pie with Green Chile and Pine Nuts

Makes one pie

- 6 to 7 medium apples (any kind except Red Delicious), peeled, cored and sliced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch or tapioca starch
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon (less is fine, too)
- ½ cup pine nuts, toasted
- ½ cup green chiles, roasted, chopped and drained (use more if they're mild, less if they're hot)
- Pastry for a double-crust pie
- 1 tablespoon butter, cubed
- 1 egg white, beaten with 1 teaspoon water, for glaze



Kathy Knapp and a fresh pie.

Preheat oven to 425°. Splash lemon juice over apple slices in a medium bowl. Mix sugar, starch, and cinnamon in another medium bowl, then toss in the apples to coat. Mix in pine nuts and chiles.

Fit one layer of pastry in the bottom of a pie pan, pushing it gently but snugly along the sides. Using kitchen shears or a paring knife, trim overhanging edges of crust to about an inch beyond the edge of the pie pan.

Fill crust in pie pan with apple mixture, letting it mound in the center. Dot with butter. Using a pastry brush, glaze the outer rim of the bottom crust with the egg wash mixture. Then place the top pastry crust over the apples. Trim the outer edge of top crust to about an inch beyond the overhang. Gently press edges of the two layers together with your fingers, to make a seal all

around the pie. Slightly lift the overhanging rim of the crust and tuck it under itself, so that it rides on the lip of the pie pan. Decoratively crimp the crust rim, using your fingers or a fork. Cut several ventilation slits in the top crust and glaze with egg wash.

Place a cookie sheet or piece of aluminum foil on the bottom of the oven to catch any juices that may drip. Put the pie in the center of the oven and bake for 20 minutes. Turn temperature down to 350° and continue baking for approximately 40 to 45 more minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbling through the slits. (If using a glass pie pan, visually check the bottom of the crust for doneness; it should be brown.) Cover the edge of the crust with a crust shield or strips of aluminum foil if it begins to burn before pie is done. Cool pie on a wire rack for one hour.

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ABOUT THE COVER

'Oasis Odyssey'

Swedish artist has first U.S. show in Alamogordo

By Lydia Aspen Renteria

Lydia Emmanuel Productions is hosting an art exhibition by Stockholm-based artist William Reed at the historic dome-shaped building, at 1901 Tenth St., Alamogordo. The artist has spent the month of April in Alamogordo creating the installation.

"Oasis Odyssey" marks William Reed's inaugural exhibition in the United States. At the heart of the exhibition lies the concept of the oasis as a temporary sanctuary where disparate

elements converge to find nourishment. In this context, it serves as a cultural oasis for its viewers, quenching their thirst for meaningful and irreverent artistic encounters and a contribution to the local art scene.

Reed, born in Lund, Sweden, recently graduated from the master's program of fine art at Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm.

His artistic practice includes paintings, sculpture and installation, offering a multifaceted exploration of the synthetic nature of



Swedish artist William Reed works at an art space in Alamogordo installing his May art show. (Photo by Emmanuel Renteria)



modern existence. Central to Reed's work are the intersections of realms, from rampant consumption to

the ecological crisis of climate change, impact of social media with cinematic and pop cultural narra-

tives and art history. Reed confronts these challenges head-on, embodying both disorder and chaos, offer-

ing a glimpse into the chaos of our times while envisioning the potential for renewal and regeneration.

Through his diverse approach, environments are carefully constructed where elements of humor and occasionally horror, with the vibrancy of ancient and contemporary mythology, invite us to find beauty in destruction and seek harmony in the dissonance of our modern existence.

The opening reception is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. May 17. Exhibit hours are on weekends, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 18; noon-4 p.m. Sunday May 19; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 23; and noon-4 p.m. Sunday May 26. At 6 p.m., Friday, May 31 Reed will give a presentation about his work at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo. For more information call 575-430-1306.

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www.trytularosa.org

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

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POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE

A Mexican woman's team, Aztecas Cycling Team, in Silver City for the Tour of the Gila on May 27, check out the Desert Exposure during their visit. (Photo by Christy Anchondo)

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 to editor@desertexposure.com.



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Free entry.
Some events
are ticketed.

FiestaLatina.org



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Twana Sparks caught this surprise visitor to make her adventure more exciting – a rattlesnake north of City of Rocks, Grant County.

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.



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ON THE BORDER

Border Partners

Fifteen years and still filling needs

Story and photos
by Morgan Smith

In November 2008, Border Partners was organized as an effort to alleviate poverty in the border town of Palomas, Mexico. The initial founders were Peter and Polly Edmunds who had moved to Deming from Minnesota and Helena Myers, also from Minnesota.

The three founders' first efforts were to listen to the Palomas residents and identify local needs that fell into two categories: jobs and health.

Congratulations to them now for 15 years of dedication to the people of Palomas area. And congratulations to the fine staff of 10 they have put together in Palomas, especially their general manager, Juan Rascón, Vicki Ibarra, the health co-

ordinator and Joel Carreón, the botanist and garden specialist.

Tiny Palomas (pop.4,800 approx.) has no industrial base, just a scattering of main street retail offering low-cost dental care, prescriptions and eyeglasses. Jobs are available in maquilas in Juárez, but that's about two hours away.

Health was an obvious issue. For example, diabetes is a huge problem all over Mexico; 17 percent of Mexican adults aged 20-79 have it and it is the second leading cause of death after heart disease.

Diet is a major factor. Mexicans consume more Coca-Cola per capita than any other country in the world. Thirty-two percent are obese, second only to the United States, where the figure is 42 percent.

Border Partners has put together a multi-phase program that not only helps

to meet immediate needs but is also changing the culture. Here is what they accomplished in 2023:

Providing food

In 2023, they distributed 938 food baskets, prepared and delivered 6,775 meals for isolated seniors and distributed 70 fruit trees to the community. I've witnessed their programs of delivering food to the small communities to the south like El Entronque and El Modelo and the needs there are enormous.

Free health services

In 2023, they provided 991 blood pressure and glucose checks, 89 Covid-19 tests and presented two community health fairs for 1,210 participants. They have an alliance with the Lions Club which enables them to provide free eyeglasses to those who are having vision



Greenhouse in Palomas.



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



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and the internet at the Education Center. Fifty-six children attended summer school.

Exercise

Offered Zumba classes for 317 participants.

Nutrition

209 nutrition classes and workshops.

Feeding School Children

They supported five schools twice monthly with financial assistance to add to school food programs.

Isolated Seniors

They hosted 10 social gatherings for 254 isolated seniors.

Biochar

The work of Peter Edmunds and others with what is called biochar is what makes Border Partners an agent of cultural change and not just a supporter of immediate needs like food. Biochar is made by burning pecan shells in special stoves designed by Bill Knauss and Jamie Thomson in Silver City. The stoves can be manufactured in Palomas by a man named Adrian Acuna.



Left: Girl at food distribution in Modelo. Right: Woman being tested for free eyeglasses at health fair in Palomas.



Originally, the stoves were intended for home heating. Many of the homes in Palomas are poorly insulated and have inadequate heating units. These stoves burn no-cost and very abundant pecan shells, thus saving residents the cost of gas. Thirteen have now been installed in homes in Palomas and Border Partners is raising funds for twenty-five more.

In addition, the burnt remains are excellent at improving soil. They hold nitrogen in the soil, can be mixed with local soil plus manure from the local feed-

lot, and they help release nitrogen to plants.

This has led to the creation of community green-

houses – there are three – as well as four greenhouses in four schools. The goal is to show students how to produce vegetables and how important they are in terms of health. Peter Edmunds believes that the students are much more open to these dietary changes than their parents.

This is a huge cultural change, one that can lead to dramatic improvement in health. That's what makes Border Partners unique, focusing not only on the very real daily needs but also advocating for a cultural change that will have long term health ben-

efits. At some point, I hope Border Partners will be able to introduce this biochar technology to other border areas – south of the Santa Teresa crossing, for example – where fruits and vegetables are basically non-existent.

Thanks again to Peter, Polly and Helena and their dedicated staff and best wishes to them for the next 15 years.

Morgan Smith has been writing about border issues for many years and can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

problems.

Mental Health

1,653 residents attended therapy and educational sessions.

Growing Food

They operate three year-round greenhouses to produce and distribute fresh, healthy food. This is what I would call “culture changing,” because Palomas, like most border towns, has historically been a “fresh vegetable desert.”

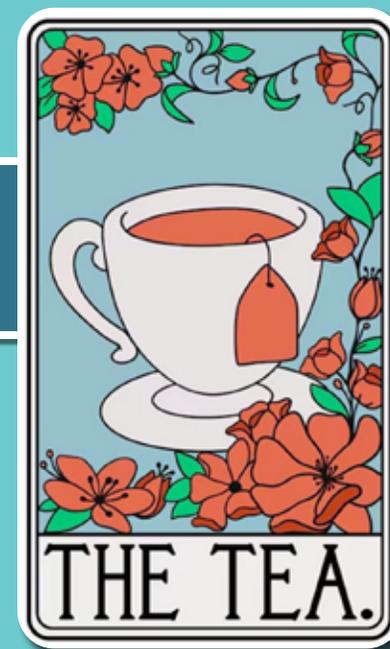
They also offered 95 gardening workshops and produced biochar for compost and enrichment of the soil. In addition, they maintain greenhouses at the local elementary schools so that there is food for school lunches.

Education

3,105 residents attended programs about computers



Helena Meyers, Peter and Polly Edmunds.



Sunday afternoon, May 19th 2-5

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SPLASHING AROUND

Release the Quackens!

Rubber ducks to race on the Tularosa acequia

By Jen Gruger

The Tularosa Arts and History Council (TAHC) is hosting the second annual Rubber Duck Race on Saturday, June 8. Races and festivities will all be centered around the heart of Tularosa's historic district at the corner of Encino and 2nd

Streets, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes music, food trucks, games for kids and adults, giveaways, demonstrations and art and craft vendors. There will also be educational information on water preservation and how the acequia system works in Tularosa.

The rubber duck races



Rubber ducks race for the win in a Tularosa acequia in 2023. (Photo by Patrick McAvoyn)

take place on the acequia the banks of the Rio Tularosa. The Rio Tularosa, between First and Third streets.

The races will start with several heats, each with cash prizes.

The final race, "The Big Quack," will include up to 700 rubber ducks. Anyone can adopt a numbered duck for \$5 or \$25 for a "six quack." The first heat race starts at 11:30 p.m. and they will run approximately every half hour from there.

Proceeds from the event benefit the mission of the Tularosa Arts and History Council and help to further educate the local community on the history and preservation of the treasured acequia system throughout the village of Tularosa and surrounding agricultural farmers who are actively working their lands.

Tularosa gets its name from the Spanish description for the red or rose-colored reeds growing along

the banks of the Rio Tularosa. The Rio Tularosa, which still exists along the north side of the village, attracted the original settlers as a water source in the desert. In 1863, the village of Tularosa was formally established and was mapped with 49 blocks and water rights distributed and recorded.

The original acequia (open ditch irrigation system) remains virtually unchanged and provides the water for the trees lining the streets, private gardens and landscaping within the original 49 blocks that give Tularosa its unique character.

In addition to the properties located in the historic 49 blocks, the original township of Tularosa, farmers and ranchers who have water rights use the water from the acequia as well.

For more information visit trytularosa.org or call Michael Gruger at 505-350-4531.



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SPLASHING AROUND

Raising Voices

Bringing classical style to the borderlands

By Elva K. Österreich

When Jorge Martinez-Rios started with music as a child, he had no use for opera. But then, as a musician, he started hearing it.

“As soon as I started listening – one aria and another one – then seeing a full opera and then I thought, how can you not like it?” he said.

Now, as a sought-after musician himself and maestro, conducting for a number of area orchestras, he has a dream of introducing the people of the borderlands to some professional opera experiences.

Martinez-Rios and Erik Maese, CEO of Borderland Arts Foundation, have created an organization to expand the music experience in Las Cruces and surroundings. And on May 3 and 5 they will present

a full-blown concert version of Puccini’s tragic opera, *La Bohème*.

Among the guest performers are Santa Fe Opera apprentice artist, soprano Adia Evans; tenor Jehú Otero, a 2022-23 resident artist at Utah Opera; soprano Emily Michiko Jensen of the Boston Lyric Opera; and baritone Brandon Bell, resident artist at Pittsburgh Opera.

“This is a great collaboration with professional musicians from the region, the NMSU Philharmonic Orchestra, NMSU Opera Workshop, Centennial High School Choir and singers from the Santa Fe Opera,” Martinez-Rios said. “It’s going to be a really amazing production.”

The idea, he said, is to bring opera to Las Cruces, a taste of what happens in Santa Fe with an educational component for the children in our community.

On Thursday, May 2, Borderland Arts, La Frontera Opera is also hosting “Student Night at the Opera,” bringing in 500 area students to experience a sample of opera. They will hear arias from different voices and stories of opera and plot.

“I think what we are doing is key,” Martinez-Rios said. “Just a little taste and maybe one student will hear the soprano or the tenor or the bass and be like, that’s amazing, I want to do that, I think I can sing, and they will start singing and maybe they will have the concentration to hear a full opera.”

“So, I think the most important thing for us leaders is to blend the seed of arts. Give them the right tools so they grow, doing productive things in life.”

Maese said the goal of La Frontera Opera includes trying to provide more arts



Couterclockwise from top left: Adia Evans, Jehú Otero, Emily Michiko Jensen, Brandon Bell (Courtesy photos)

opportunities in southern New Mexico.

La Bohème takes place 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 3 and 3-5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 5 at the Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. on the New Mexico State University campus. Information is available at borderlandartsfoundation.org.



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ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

By Elva K. Österreich

OPPORTUNITY

Branigan Cultural Center is accepting proposals for community exhibits with themes of cultural and historical significance relating to the Borderlands and the southwestern U.S. to be presented in 2025. Submission topics can be wide-ranging and address historic or contemporary issues. Submissions are encouraged from formal and informal scholars, cultural heritage organizations, and individual and group artists. Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, May 17. All proposals must be submitted via SurveyMonkey. A link to the SurveyMonkey form can be found at the Las Cruces Museums website. Applications must include a short narrative of the exhibit theme; a statement by the scholar, artist, or group; six to 10 .jpg or .png images of proposed objects or artwork that will be displayed; and an estimate of the linear or square footage required. Exhibitions typically run for an eight- to 12-week period. Incomplete or late proposals will not be accepted. For information, visit the Museum System website at lascruces.gov/museums, or call 575-541-2154. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission charge.

Each year **Friends of Bosque del Apache** hosts an art contest as part of **Festival of the Cranes**. The winning piece is featured as one of the faces of our event and will be released on apparel, notecards and much more. Original artwork can be any medium, including: painting, digital, printmaking, mixed media, two or three-dimensional art, pho-

tography, as well as any other. Photographs can be unaltered originals or edited. The winning artist receives a free expo booth or table during Festival of the Cranes, where they can sell their work, from postcards to originals. They will also have the exclusive privilege of being the only artist present in the Expo Room.

Submissions are due June 30. Click on the festival link at friendsofbosquedelapache.org to register.

SILVER CITY

• **RA@W Gallery** in Silver City opened on March 23. Four local artists opened the gallery: **Tasha Marsh**, **Amy McBroom** and **Kathryn Schmid** from Silver City; and **Ismelda Garza** from Deming. All pieces are in their original states of paper or canvas and hung salon style on wires. All four were at Western New Mexico University enrolled at the same time in similar painting and drawing classes within the fine arts. RA@w Gallery is for artists seeking exposure within Silver City in a quaint venue at 104 Yankee Street. Interested artists can email Amy at rawgalleryandartspace@gmail.com or visit the gallery 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.

• **The Silver City Art Association** hosts a **First Friday gallery walk** on May 4 in the Historic District of downtown Silver City. Galleries and their business friends will be open from 5-7 p.m. for receptions, art talks and other art events, with several galleries featuring artists on site to discuss their work. First Fridays are held from 5-7 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. For a map of participating galleries, or for more information about the Silver City Art Association, see silvercityart.com.



Left: Agave portrait variation. Right: Tombaugh Roditti 3 (Courtesy photos)



• **Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway in Silver City, features a special sale of Mata Ortiz pottery as a fund raiser for The Border Justice Project. Mata Ortiz pottery is a derivation of the Mogollon pottery found in and around the archeological site of Casas Grandes (Paquimé) in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. It is named after the modern town of Mata Ortiz, which is near the archeological site. This is an opportunity to purchase beautiful pieces at excellent prices while supporting an important local non-profit. The sales will go through June 2. Commemorating the Gila Wilderness 100 anniversary, Light art Space features **“Four Artists Celebrating Wilderness,”** an exhibition of paintings and drawings by **Jane Seavers**, **Fred Barraza**, **Gay Scheibl** and **Paul Hotvedt**. These four Silver City artists interpret the wilderness in their work. Curated by

Paul Hotvedt. **“Inspirations From the Wild”** is an exhibition of photography and clay works by Karen Hymer and Zoe Wolfe. The reception for both exhibitions is scheduled for 5-7 p.m., Friday, April 5. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com.

ALAMOGORDO

• **Otero Arts** celebrates the 87th anniversary of the opening of the Alamogordo Women’s Club in May at Otero Artspace. In 2019, Otero Arts leased the historic building, constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) at 1118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo, and has been holding monthly art exhibitions as well as concerts, workshops, literary events, and community meetings at the venue, now known as Otero

Artspace. This celebration sees the return of **J.R. Willis’ landscapes**, on loan from Otero County, which were part of the opening exhibition and reception for the Women’s Club in May 1937. The exhibit features the Willis paintings and reproductions of WPA art from the collection of the New Mexico National New Deal Preservation Association. The exhibition opens with a reception 5-7 p.m. on May 3. The gallery is open 1-4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday every week. Info: oteroarts.org.

CLOUDCROFT

• **The Cloudcroft Art Society** kicks off the 2024 season with a show in the back room of the **Nivison Library** in Cloudcroft on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27. The show features original art works by members including paintings in several media, photography and photographic art, pottery, basketry, greeting cards and more. CAS holds meetings from March through November the first Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. in the historic “Red Brick Schoolhouse” in the heart of the Village of Cloudcroft. CAS also has a Gallery in this building and hosts shows there from June through December. Info: ccartsociety@gmail.com.

DEMING

• The annual Luna County **Fine Arts & Crafts Show** is the May 2024 exhibit at the Deming Art Center. Featured are local artists and crafters from Luna County. The exhibit is up from May 2-30 (closed Memorial Day). There will be a time to meet the artists on Sunday, May 5 from 1-3 p.m. The Deming Art Center is at 100 S. Gold St., Deming. The gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4

p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 and at www.demingarts.org.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

• **RioBravoFineArt**, 110 N. Broadway in Truth or Consequences, presents “The Quest, The Struggle, The Journey,” a retrospective of work by Dave Barnett opening on Saturday, May 11. Barnett is one of New Mexico’s most talented and original painters, and this much-anticipated show will fill all three of the main-level gallery spaces. Barnett creates bold images of southwestern flora and fauna, bosque and mountain landscapes, small town street scenes, and geologic formations, both large and small. His images always give a fresh perspective and unique view of both the natural and man-made worlds. The Barnett show runs through July 21. Rio Bravo Fine Arts Gallery is at 110 N. Broadway in Truth or Consequences. Info: riobravofineartgallery.com.

CAPITAN

• In honor of **Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday**, the **Smokey Bear Historical Park** in Capitan will be hosting a two-week exhibit of paintings by **Rudy Wendelin**, April 30-May 10. Wendelin began working for the Forest Service in 1933 as a draftsman and illustrator. After a stint as a Navy artist during World War II, Wendelin returned to the Forest Service and was given responsibility for the Smokey Bear project. He created hundreds of Smokey representations that highlighted natural resources conservation and forest fire prevention. Under Wendelin’s direction, Smokey

assumed the human-like characteristics for which he is best known: wearing a solemn expression, dressed in a forest ranger’s hat and jeans and carrying a shovel. Wendelin died on Aug. 31, 2000, at the age of 90. Thanks to Wendelin’s art, Smokey’s message, “Only YOU can prevent wildfires” has prevailed through generations. On loan from the USDA National Agricultural Library, this traveling exhibition of 19 replica paintings were completed by Wendelin from 1977-1995 and remain the most famous depictions of Smokey Bear. Smokey Bear Historical Park admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for kids ages 7-12, children 6 and under are free. Park hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday (last entry 4:15 p.m.).

MAGDALENA

• At **kind of a small array**, 106 N. Main in Magdalena, **Michael Beitz’s** prolific dedication to daily drawing will manifest at **kind of a small array** as a fundraiser for **MEOWrefuge**, the cat sanctuary Beitz operates next to his Roswell studio, where he fosters 30 homeless cats.

Dozens of cat portraits, by turns hilarious, touching, mystifying and disturbing (just like cats!) will be on offer at a pay-what-you-can sliding scale: \$50, \$75, and \$100 for your choice. 100 percent of sales go to MEOWrefuge. This is an **Art Magdalena** event. The gallery will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 5, along with numerous other Magdalena galleries and artist’s studios. On Saturday, May 4, south to north along Main Street be sure to visit the three miniature outdoor



Camelot Heather Murphy #1. (Courtesy photo)

galleries of **Cruising Main**, **La Posada @ CWB Gallery**, and **Warehouse 1-10**, in addition to **kind of a small array**, where a reception for Michael Beitz will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. that evening. Af-

terwards, we’ll head down the street to Warehouse 1-10 for music provided by **The Dawn Hotel** at 8 p.m.

Day two of Art Magdalena, Sunday May 5, will feature poetry readings by Bruce

Holsapple, Jules Nyquist, and John Roche, 2 to 3:30 p.m. @ **kind of a small array**. Info: MEOWrefuge, meowrefuge.com; **kind of a small array**, kindofasmallarray.com; Warehouse 1-10, warehouse110.com; Art Magdalena, artmagdalenanm.com.

LAS CRUCES

• Six New Mexico State University undergraduate students present their work in the 2024 BFA exhibition. “**Truly, Lovingly, Viciously**” runs through May 11 in the Mullenix Bridge Art Gallery in Devasthali Hall and features work from undergraduate art students **Reyes**

Chavez, **Ace Gabrentina**, **Pamela Herrera-De Los Santos**, **Eleazar Maslian**, **Thaddeus McRae** and **Trisha Quintero**. The BFA Exhibition will wrap up with a closing reception at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Both events are free and open to the public. A diverse range of concepts frame the exhibition’s six students’ work. Personal stories and explored identities are integral to the works presented in this show, but the students hope the artworks have a larger impact on those who see their own experienc-

ARTS SCENE

continued on page 14

Memorial Day Weekend

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www.silvercitybluesfestival.org

ARTS SCENE

continued from page 13

es reflected back to them. Visit uam.nmsu.edu for more information on the artists and the exhibition. The UAM is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday at 1308 E. University Ave.

• **Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St., features a new exhibit titled **“Tlazoh Amoxochitl: Florecimiento del Conocimiento Precioso: Flowering of Precious**

Knowledge.” The exhibit features artwork that investigates pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican cultural traditions painted by kindergarten to fifth grade students at the **Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School** in Las Cruces. The exhibit opens Friday, May 3, and runs through Saturday, June 22. There is an opening reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 3. Students and teachers from the Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School will be in attendance. An Aztec dancing group will perform during the reception. Draw-

ing from oral traditions, the students were exposed to stories in school. Also at the Branigan is **“Somos hijos de Motecuhzoma Xocoyotzin; Los Manteles de mi Abuela”** (“We Are Children of Motecuhzoma Xocoyotzin; My Grandmother’s Tablecloths”) featuring Borderland artist Roberto Salas’ artwork that considers his mestizo heritage through depictions of sahumeros (incense burners) on decorative oilcloth tablecloths. Branigan Cultural Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission charge.

Info: lascruces.gov/museums or 575-541-2154.

• **“Soft and Hard”** is the show at the **Camelot Studio** in May. This is an art exhibit with a focus on texture and form with **Heather Murphy’s** leather masks; **Molly Dumas’s** mixed media pieces; **Laurie Churchill’s** mixed media collage; and **Dori McKay’s** clay sculpture. Open hours at Camelot are 5-9 p.m. May 3 and 10; 6-10 p.m. May 4 and 11; 1-6 p.m. May 5 and 12; and by appoint-

ment. Camelot Studio is located at 2008 Camelot Drive, Las Cruces. Info: dieselart@marydiesel.com.

• **Agave Artist Gallery** features Souheir Rawlings as a new member and Artist of the Month of May. She studied in Florence, Italy and learned the psychology of the portrait. She focuses on colors and lines to show emotions and character of her figures and portraits. 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:

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• **Martha Roditti**, Las Cruces clay artist, is featured at the **Tombaugh Gallery** in May. She has created hundreds of charming, whimsical and decorative pieces including a variety of dragons, crows, falcons, pigs with wings, endangered Hawaiian birds, Hawaiian bats and snails, an anatomically correct T. Rex (sort of), pandas, roadrunners, and goddesses. With a Friday opening from 5:30 to 7:30 on May 3, complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

The show continues through May 26. The Tombaugh Gallery is at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces**, 2000 S. Solano in Las Cruces. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Info: 575-522-7281.

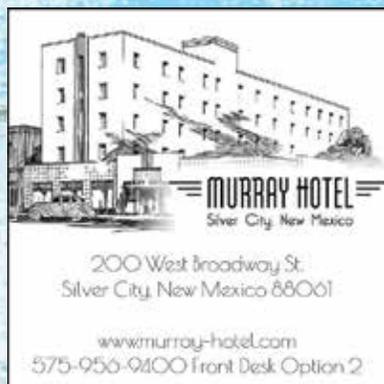
• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of May: "**Woody Hoffman** and **Jane Madrid**. Most of the wood Hoffman uses is from re-

cycled sources where it was destined for firewood, but special woods and burls are purchased for special pieces. All utilitarian pieces have a food safe finish. Madrid's main media of painting is oil and some acrylic. Her major artistic themes center around nature, with a particular emphasis on animals, flowers, birds and landscape. In addition, the 30 artists of the gallery offer art in various media. The gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• The 2024 **Art in the Garden Tour**, a Picacho Hills-based art event, returns on Saturday, May 11. This year's tour, which includes five locations and 18 artists, runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons can expect to see paintings, ceramics, weaving, jewelry, folk art, mixed media and mosaic art. Some members will include cards, pillows and other gift items. The Artists of Picacho Hills group contacts residents in the Picacho Hills area to select five to six gardens representing southern New Mexico landscaping at its

best. Each residence hosts three to four artists in their garden. A garden host and a master gardener will be on-site to answer questions about the plants and landscaping. **Rosemary McKeown** and **Lisa Carlson** are this year's co-chairs. This is the first show for four artists new to the group. The event is free and open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Behind the Santa Fe Grill on Picacho Hills Road there will be a welcome booth where patrons can pick up maps to guide them through the event. Info: artistsofpicachohills.com.

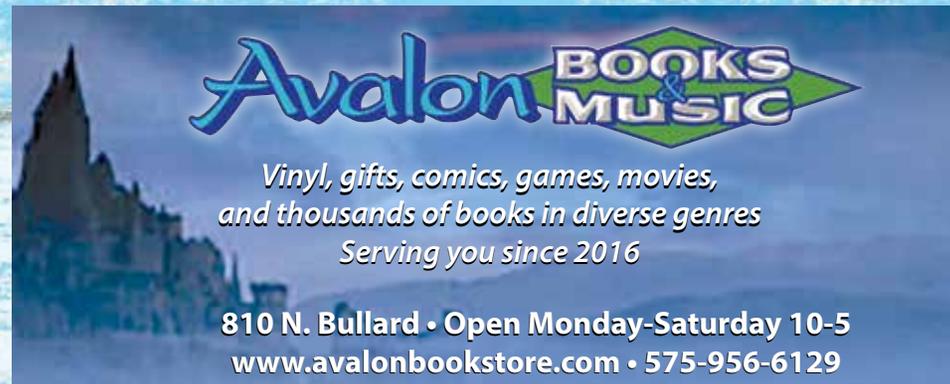
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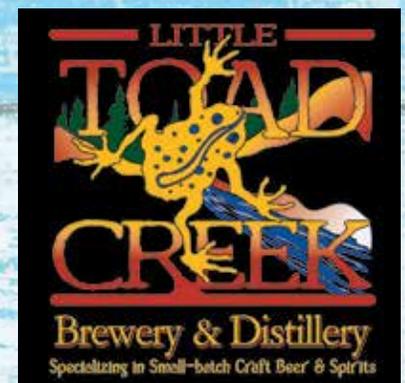


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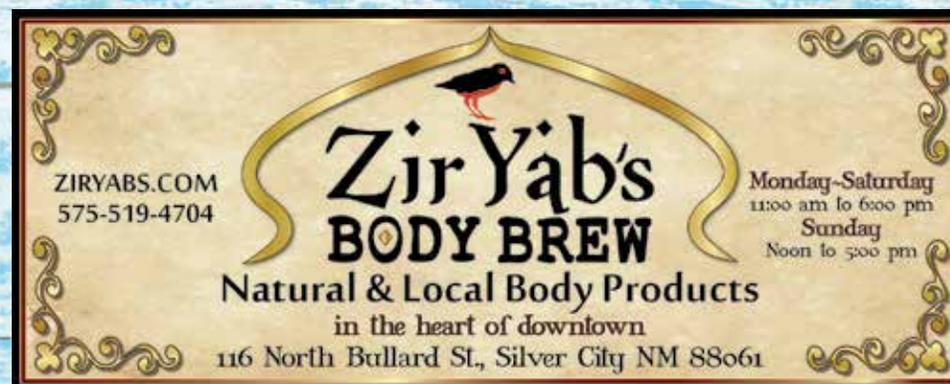
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ENCOURAGING

Pitchfork

Healing the land th

Off the grid at Pitchfork Ranch, A. Thomas Cole and his wife, Lucinda, have been putting their lives into the land. Upon retirement, they bought an 11,393-acre cattle ranch in 2003 with plans to return the land to pre-European settlement conditions. The ranch is located about an hour south of Silver City.

Off-grid at the Pitchfork means there is no electricity from outside. Windmills and solar provide power. Only recently did the ranch even get good access to phone service.

"We just don't have any connection with the grid system," Cole said. "I used to boast to myself, the water is free and the energy free but all six of the wells have gone

dry, so we had to drill a well which cost thousands of dollars."

The work A.T. and Lucinda have been doing on the land over the past two decades "has been a process of restoring the hydrological and ecological function of the land, providing habitat for wildlife and at-risk species and sequestering carbon," according to a passage in Cole's book, "Restoring the Pitchfork Ranch: How healing a southwest oasis holds promise for our endangered land."

Beginning restoration in 2005, the couple has been able to leverage close to 20-30 different government grants since then. They have

only had to subsidize 3 percent of the restoration costs so far.

"They want us to do this," Cole said. "We have also been turned down (for some grants) too because there are projects more necessary than ours. It turns out there is recent science that up to

37 percent of what we need to get carbon out of the atmosphere can be accomplished through natural climate solutions."

The restoration project is about returning the land to its original wetland system, a *ciénega*, defined as an alluvial water, spongy, wet meadow with shallow-gradient, saturated soils in other landscapes that occupy nearly the entire wetland bottoms.

"There were many species if not thousands in the area (states) but as the Spanish arrived and they took their sheep the desert began," Cole said. "Up to 90 percent of the habitat is gone. Many species that evolved here so they require that habitat to survive."

There are four other projects that desertify the southwest, Cole said. There is research on the issue and similar environments more atmospheric than oceans, so the

One section of the Pitchfork Ranch *ciénega* project from 2006 to 2018. (Courtesy photos)

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MEANDERING Pitchfork Ranch through restoration

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At the Pitchfork they have marked out 21 places on the river to put grade control structures. Three rows of posts make the water meander instead of moving straight, creating a trench. The water spreads out across the land, more like it did in times before man altered the landscape with cattle and sheep.

Cole describes what happened to the southwest as “flipping the historical botanical template from grassland to shrubland.”

“A tree has two-thirds of its body in the ground, grasses are opposite,” he said. “When we (non-indigenous peoples) got here we eliminated fire, fires would kill trees. Grass was adapted to fire, strengthened with fire. When we eliminated fire, that flipped. We’ve got these woody shrubland and trees, changing the whole environment.”

The land restoration being done at the ranch can be done by anyone, anywhere, on any size

property, Cole said.

Other grant applicants include restoration projects of one kind or another, water courses and riparian areas that need treatment.

Restoration projects don’t have to be on 11,000 acres though. For

example, Cole said, there is a fellow who has one lot in Silver City and another one who has eight city lots. Also, there are restoration groups people can volunteer to help.

“There is all kind of restoration groups all over the southwest,” he said. “You will see a lot of things (options). Obviously, most people don’t have the capital to buy land this size and retire at 56, to create a retirement career. There

Lucinda and A.T. Cole at a book signing at Sedona public library in Sedona, Arizona on April 5. (Courtesy photos)

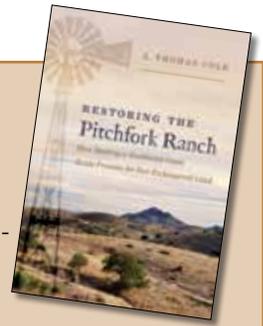


About the book

“Restoring the Pitchfork Ranch” tells the story of a decades-long habitat restoration project in southwestern New Mexico. Rancher-owner A. Thomas Cole explains what inspired him and his wife, Lucinda, to turn their retirement into years dedicated to hard work and renewal. The book shares the past and present history of a very special ranch south of Silver City, which is home to a rare type of regional wetland, a fragile desert grassland ecosystem, archaeological sites, and a critical wildlife corridor in a drought-stricken landscape.

Today the 11,300 acres that make up the Pitchfork Ranch provide an important setting for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitats and space for the reintroduction of endangered or threatened species. “Restoring the Pitchfork Ranch” weaves together stories of mine strikers, cattle ranching, and the climate crisis into an important and inspiring call to action.

The Coles will be at COAS Bookstore in Las Cruces, Saturday, May 11, for a book signing event.



are many numbers of options so everybody can do it.”

Cole said, there are some planet scientists who think we have passed the tipping point where the world can no longer go back, but some say we can.

“One of the things we found out is there is too much gloom and doom,” he said. “The climate crisis has civilization in the cross-

hairs. It’s naive to assume the climate crisis is going to take care of itself but naive to think its hopeless.”

According to Cole, climate change solutions are centered on five core elements: that the contentions of global warming, species extinction and soil loss are planetary emergencies; that we humans have failed to take these emergencies seriously; that a key solution is to change our inherited, convenient way of living; that an important

response is natural climate solutions and to restore habitat; and we must take part in what he terms “the voice of the streets” to foment “political agitation to transform our destructive way of living.”

“Each one of us needs to recognize we have got some responsibility in this crisis,” he said. “There is not one person who can be absolved from their responsibility. We need to live our lives in a more thrifty, benign, non-carbon producing way.”



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Back and Bigger

Silver City Blues Festival promises fabulousness

The 29th Annual Silver City Blues Festival will take place over Memorial Day weekend May 24-26, at Gough Park in Silver City. This year's festival returns to being a three-day event starting with a Friday kick-off at local venues around Silver City and followed by two days of free blues at the park.

The festival features nine

performing groups including:

- **Kelli Baker Band:** A powerful voice dripping with a haunting sensuality that slips easily into growling old school blues-tones. Kelli and her band's music is an amalgamation of authentic blues/rock and heart-on-her-sleeve singer/songwriter pop with folk/gospel roots.

- **Felix Y Los Gatos** is

back again to get people dancing with that mix of zydeco, tex-mex, blues, gypsy/jazz, and swing with a dash of outlaw country. Come hear the mesmerizing and mystical sound of Santana-style latino soul blues.

- Silver City's Own, **Illusion Band.** A versatile and well-loved local group, playing a variety of music including tejano, country,

oldies, and for this event, blues.

The 2024 Blues Festival includes variety from out-of-state sensations to homegrown talent; vendors from Silver City's vibrant Makers Market; and refreshing brews from Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery and Q's Southern Bistro. Neighboring businesses around Gough Park have teamed up the festival to make this event happen.

For more information on the 2024 Silver City Blues Festival visit silvercitybluesfestival.org, call 575-538-2505 or email frontdesk@mimbresarts.com. Per The Town of Silver City, there are no



Gough Park fills up with revelry during Blues Fest days. (Courtesy photo)

animals (except service food or drinks are allowed animals) allowed inside except manufacturer Gough Park. No outside sealed items.

Camerata del Sol

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IN THE PINES

A New Ren Faire

Ruidoso theater group brings pageantry to the forest

By Sylvia Quintanilla

This May, Oso Productions, a Ruidoso theatre group, will host the first annual Lincoln Forest Renaissance Faire on May 17-18 at Wingfield Park, 300 Center St. in Ruidoso. Guests will get the opportunity to turn back the clock and learn about medieval times where knights, jesters and maidens roamed the land while also taking in the picturesque views of the forest.

Sydnee Mowery, Oso Productions president, said the idea for the renaissance faire came from a board meeting in which they were thinking of creative ways to fund their theatrical season. As

word started to spread around the village, the Roberts family from Bonito Valley Brewery Company expressed their interest in partnering on the project. The proceeds of the faire will go towards the theater scene in Ruidoso and Lincoln County.

“We have tried to create a great experience,” Mowery said. “We are a team of six nerds who want cool things in our community.”

There will be more than 120 vendors including hand-crafts, food, a maypole and more. The Society of Creative Anachronisms (Kingdom of the Outlands) will have a living historical village and hold a highland games demonstration. Throughout the

grounds, guests will be delighted by axe throwing, mermaids, a petting zoo, live music, face painting and more.

“I am excited for the maypole, the art vendors and the Brethren of the Sunken Skull Pirates,” Mowery said. “I really hope people get into it and dance together around the maypole. There is also a traveling pickle cart named the Scurvy Pickle and that makes my heart so happy.”

In addition to Bonito Valley Brewing Company, the Travelers Traven will have mead provided by Mystic Ambrosia Mead. Noisy Water Winery will also have wine and cider available.

On Friday night, May 17, Boni-

to Valley Brewery and the Lost Hiker Brewery host a medieval trivia event.

Guests are encouraged to put on their best period attire to fully immerse themselves in the event.

“This is a very unique experience for our little village and we hope you can come to enjoy the mountains, dress up and escape reality with a turkey leg and a good time,” she said. “I think it is a great way to escape the day-to-day stress and play into the fantasy worlds of the past. We will be having historical elements and education as well so that adds additional elements.”

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults

Pirates of the Brethren of the Sunken Skull will be lurking in the woods around Ruidoso for the first renaissance faire in the area, May 17 and 18. (Courtesy photo)



for general admission for either Friday or Saturday or \$35 for the adults for general admission for both days. Children 17 years old and under get in free with a purchasing adult. Doors open at 4 p.m. each day. For more information on the Lincoln Forest Renaissance Faire and to purchase tickets visit lincolnforestrenfaire.com.

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HOW TO PREVENT FRAUD

1. Stop and analyze the situation

Is the seller, company, charity, organization or person credible? Contact the local or state consumer agencies to verify the legitimacy of the company. Verify the phone number on the company's website or the person's identity before giving out any of your personal information or clicking any links.

2. Never give out your personal information

Scammers can email or call asking you to verify your personal information. Do NOT give them any information, including one-time passcodes. Most reputable companies will not initiate contact to ask for your information.

3. Contact your financial institution immediately

If you've given out your personal information or a one-time passcode, time is of the essence. The sooner you contact your financial institution, the better.

Visit the GECU Fraud Resource Center at [gecu.com](https://www.gecu.com) to learn more.



EDITORIAL

Featured Columns

RaisingDad

Under the Influence
Thinking 'bout this and that

By Jim and Henry Duchene

Enjoy your youth.

Because when you get older it's gonna hurt.

Case in point, I've just had a full knee replacement. When I first started having knee issues my doctor suggested I should drop a few pounds. I tried to excuse the excess poundage by explaining it runs in my family. He said it was obvious that NOBODY runs in my family.

When I got home from the hospital my granddaughter was so happy to see me that, along with a tender hug, she gave me a pack of gummy bears that she got for Christmas. She missed my tucking her in. It was only for one night, but I missed tucking her in, too.

My father... well, he had his own way of expressing his happiness.

"Since one of your legs is shorter than the other now," he told me, "you should change your name to Eileen."

I've never written my column while under the influence of a drug of any kind, but the pain meds I'm on as I write these words have me blissfully pondering this and that, odds and ends, Simon and Garfunkle.

For example, when we were kids my friends and I never had babysitters. Our parents just told us to lock the door and not open it for strangers. That developed a sense of good judgment in us. "Does that man look suspicious?" we would ask ourselves. "And, if so, does he have any candy?"

Today's generation doesn't bother itself with such critical thinking. That's why I worry about them. While they may not have lost all their marbles, there's obviously a hole in the bag. I'm not saying kids today are stupid. I'm just saying they're not as smart as they think they are. Back in my day a car's owner's manual would tell you how to change the battery. These days it warns you not to drink the contents.

For example, my buddy Maloney has a son. When I asked him how to spell "orange," he replied: "The fruit or the color?"

"That's nothing," Maloney told me. "Once, when we were on a road trip, we passed a sign that said DEER DRIVE SLOWLY, and he was surprised that deer could drive at all."

Still, there's hope.

Maybe if we start telling kids their brain is an app, they'll start using it.

For me, all this just proves MY generation was the best. That's why, in some ways, I've never left it. In my mind I'm still 17. My body, however, tells me otherwise.

Looking back, when I was a kid there were two ways to die: natural causes and being rude to your mom in front of your dad. How time flies. One minute you're young and the next your new knee is telling you when it's going to rain. Why is it I can remember my childhood phone number, but I can't remember the password I created two minutes ago?

But enough about me.

Let's talk about you for a second.

You may not be aging. You

may, in fact, be ripening to perfection. Even so, when it comes to health issues let me offer some friendly advice: Don't google your symptoms. Google will only tell you that you're dying. Take it from me, if you don't feel well you might just be dehydrated. Have one or two glasses of wine and then see how you feel.

Recently, I was at a restaurant when a server asked if anyone knew CPR. I said, "Heck, lady, I know the whole alphabet!"

Everybody laughed.

Well, except for the guy on the floor.

From that, I've learned laughing at your mistakes can lengthen your life.

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Talking Horses

My Aching Back

Of horse and human spines

By Scott Thomson

Back pain. If you've ever experienced it, you know how debilitating it can be. It can affect everything you do, even the smallest movements, and can appear without warning or with no obvious cause. At any point in your life, whether old or young, the wrong movement at the wrong time can set things off. Sometimes, it is nearly impossible to find any position, even sitting or lying down, that eases the discomfort.

The human spine is an amaz-

ing system, allowing us to twist, bend, turn and move our bodies in all the ways we need to work, play and get through life. Our bodies have a natural girdle made up of muscle, tendons and ligaments that form a protective cylinder around the spine to protect it and to keep everything in alignment, and this is what allows us to move as we do. If all of these protective tissues are kept strong, balanced and supple, then the chances are good that you will live a life relatively free of back pain.

Barring a major injury to your back or a severe disc problem, your back issue recovery and long-term maintenance plan will be about strengthening and balancing the natural protective girdle that supports your spine, probably some lifestyle changes and building muscle memory to help you move in more back-friendly ways.

This has always made me wonder about my horse's back. Whereas the human spine is vertical with the vertebrae stacked on top of each other, perfect for our two-legged movement, the horse has a horizontal spine for its four-legged movement. The best image I can give for this structure is a fence where you have fence posts with the fencing material strung between the posts. The forequarters and hindquarters are like fence posts, the spine like the fencing material connected to the posts. Strong ligament material connects the skeletal structures and the whole system is covered with muscle and other connective tissues, and this is what allows the horse's spine to carry his weight and move as he does.

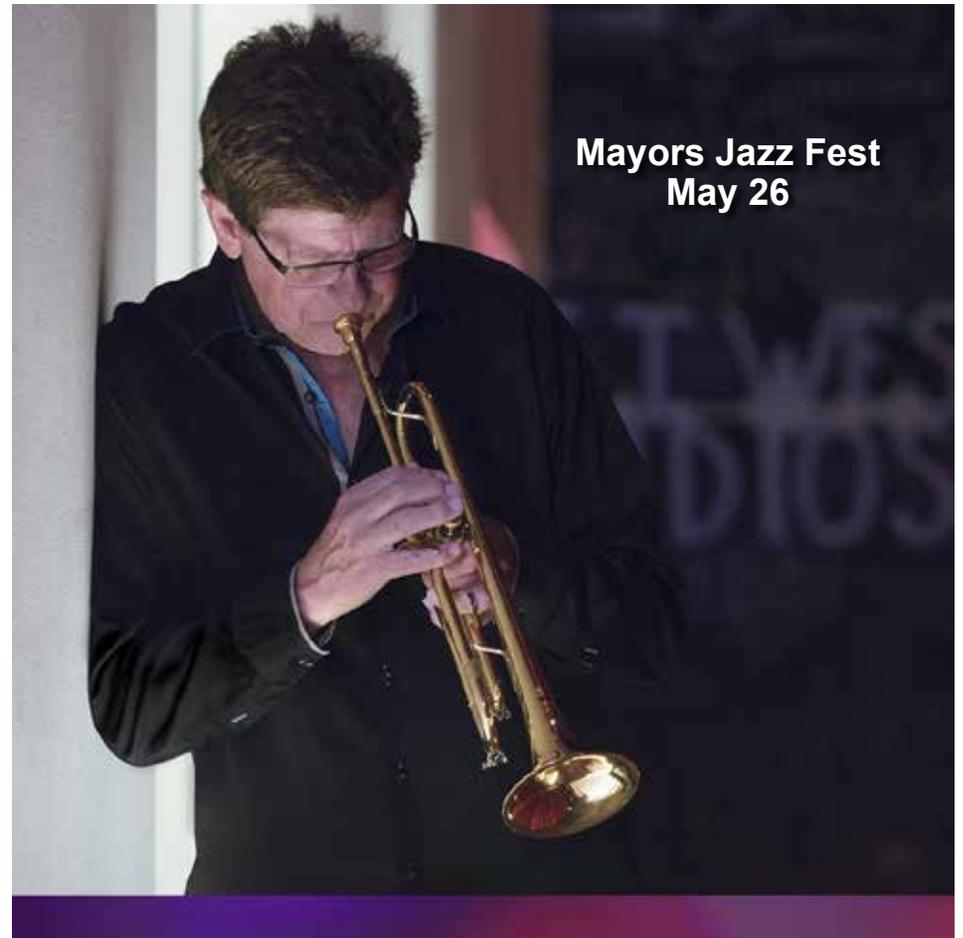
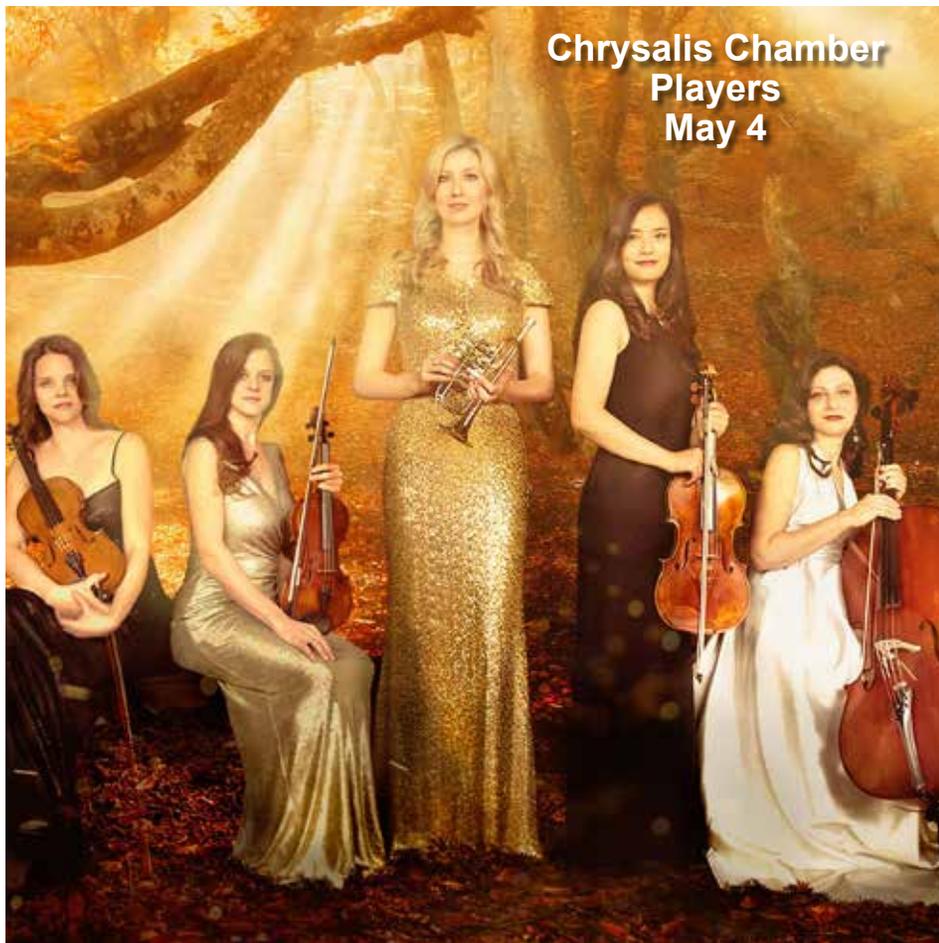
The challenge of the health of a horse's back is that much his weight essentially hangs off of his spine. Gravity can be unkind to this sort of arrangement. If you look at any fence you will probably see the material between the fence post is probably sagging a bit. Maybe the fence posts start to weaken a bit in the soil or it's just the weight of the rails or the wire, but eventually things start to drop without constant tightening of the materials.

Every horse is naturally fighting a horizontal spine and the forces that will cause it to drop, increasing the potential for back pain as the vertebrae start to impinge on one another and sensitive tissue and nerves are pinched. We then add to this by dropping our weight and the weight of our saddles and tack right in the middle of the horse's back. To get an idea what the horses must adjust to, get down on your hands and knees and have a friend put a 40 lb. feed bag on the small of your back. It won't take long before you're working hard to keep you back up and straight as you fight the weight causing your back to drop and sag.

I'm seeing more articles and studies in medical journals and various horse magazines about the back and what can go wrong. Often back problems are slow progression issues that are easy to miss or write off as a short-term behavioral problem.

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





EVENTS

What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in May

WEDNESDAY, May 1

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

Arte and Aguas Class

6 p.m.-7 Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave., Las Cruces
 575-541-2454

THURSDAY, May 2

Grant County
Family Movie: "Aladdin"
 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City
 575-538-3672

Lincoln County

SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training

5:30-8 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso
weather.gov/abq/skywarn_sked

Doña Ana County

Day of Dance

6 p.m. at the Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., Las Cruces
 575-541-2154

"In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play"

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

FRIDAY, May 3

Grant County

Wheel of the Year Celebration: Beltane
 5:45-7:15 p.m. at the Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway St., Silver City
laimansmith@gmail.com

DJ Mischievous

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

Luna County

State Park Astronomy

Program

Sunset, 8 p.m. at Rockhound State Park
 575-546-6182

Otero County

Beauty and the Beast Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo

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

Sierra County

Truth or Consequences Fiesta

Events start at 4 p.m. at locations throughout T or C
torcfiesta.com

Lincoln County

Smokey Bear Days

10 a.m.-11 p.m. at Smokey Bear Historical Park, 118 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitán
 575-354-2748

Socorro County

Spring Migration

Celebration

Workshops begin at 6:30 a.m. at Bosque del Apache, 1001 NM Highway 1, San Antonio
friendsofbosquedelapache.org

Doña Ana County**La Bohème, full concert opera**

7:30 p.m. at NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., Las Cruces
borderlandartsfoundation.org

"In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play"

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

SATURDAY, May 4**Grant County****Give Grandly Local giving event**

9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Main Street Plaza off Bullard Street.
givegrandly.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

Poetic Outlaws Open Mic

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

Chrysalis Chamber Players

With Mary Bowden on trumpet
 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts

Theater, Western New Mexico University
gconcerts.org

State Park Astronomy Program

Sunset, 8 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park
 575-546-6182

Lincoln County**Smokey Bear Days**

10 a.m.-11 p.m. at Smokey Bear Historical Park, 118 Smokey Bear Blvd. Capitan
 575-354-2748

Lincoln Lecture Series**"Ndé (Mescalero Apache) History: Our Story, Our Experiences"**

1 p.m. at the Lincoln Historic Site, 988 Calle la Placita, Lincoln
nmhistoricsites.org/lincoln

Sierra County**Truth or Consequences Fiesta**

Events start at 8 a.m. at locations throughout T or C
torcfiesta.com

Kingston Ghost Town Museum Grand Opening

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the museum, 28 Main St., Kingston
 575-895-5501

Otero County**Live, Ride Repeat Veteran fundraiser to combat suicide**

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Liberty Cycles, 649 U.S. Highway 70 W., Alamogordo
usvmcnm@gmail.com

Firefighter Games at Alameda Park

11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Alameda

Park, Alamogordo
 575-439-4298

Cinco de Mayo Lowrider Carshow and Concert

3-11 p.m. 401 Fairgrounds Road, Alamogordo
www.nmspacemuseum.org

Beauty and the Beast Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo

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

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

Socorro County Spring Migration Celebration

Workshops begin at 6:30 a.m. at Bosque del Apache, 1001 NM Highway 1, San Antonio
friendsofbosquedelapache.org

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

Walking Tour in the Historic Mesquite District**EVENTS***continued on page 24*

First Friday May 3 • 5-7pm
Blues Sunday May 26 • 10-2pm
Centennial Friday May 31 • 5-7pm

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EVENTS

continued from page 23

8:30 a.m. meet at Klein Park in Las Cruces
575-213-3910

Transportation Day at the Railroad Museum

10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St.
575-528-3426

New Horizons Band concert

3 p.m. at NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., Las Cruces
la-tierra.net/nhband

"In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play"

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

SUNDAY, May 5 Grant County

Kayla Von der Heida
2-4 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway 180 E. Arenas Valley
whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Silver Chorale Community mixed choir

3-4:30 p.m. at the Silver City Church of Christ, 1920 Little Walnut Road, Silver City

575-528-5555

Gila Lobsters Band Cinco de Mayo Patio Party

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

Otero County Beauty and the Beast Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo

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

Sierra County Truth or Consequences

Fiesta

Events start at 9 a.m. at locations throughout T or C

torcfiesta.com

Kingston Ghost Town

Museum Grand Opening

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the museum, 28 Main St.,

Support Groups

Can't stop drinking?
Have questions? Need help? Take the first step ... Call the AA Hotline: 575-388-1802
Check out our meetings & info at nm-aa.org

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.

Bereavement Group — The second Monday of the month, 1-2 p.m. at the Silver City Women's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd., Silver City. Info: 575-313-1082.

TUESDAY Silver City/Grant County

Co-Dependents Anonymous — 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 615

N. Texas St. Silver City. Info: CoDAsilvercity@gmail.com
Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families meeting — 6-7 p.m. at Brewer Hill Church, 600 N. Corbin St. Silver City. Info: 575-654-8435.

Deming/Luna County Bereavement Group — The first Tuesday of the month, 1-2 p.m. at the Deming Luna County Senior Center Day Room, 800 Granite St. Deming. Info: 575-546-8823.

WEDNESDAY Silver City/Grant County

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

Las Cruces/Mesilla Overeaters Anonymous, hybrid on Zoom

at noon each Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Church, 102 St. James St., Info: 610-762-3779.

Meditation and Healing Service 6 p.m. each Wednesday at Unity of Las Cruces, 575 N. Main St. Through meditation, experience the presence of God. A new service with Rev. Jennifer Kleitz. Info: 575-523-4847.

FRIDAY Silver City/Grant County

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

**SATURDAY
Las Cruces/Mesilla Overeaters Anonymous**, hybrid on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. each

Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., Info: 575-405-9128.

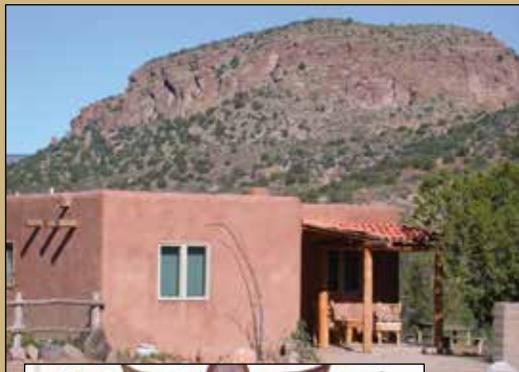
Epilepsy Support & Education Services, Inc. meetings. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. second Saturday of every month at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Info: 575-636-4500 or EpilepsySupportNM.org.

Desert SW Cancer Support Group, 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of the month, at Memorial Medical Center Annex meeting room (entrance on the west side of the hospital). Info: Maricela at 505-453-1789.

SUNDAY

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

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Kingston
575-895-5501

Black Cat Poetry Reading
1-2:15 p.m. at Ingo's Art Cafe,
422 Broadway Ave. T or C
575-551-8186

Doña Ana County
**"In the Next Room or The
Vibrator Play"**
2:30 p.m. at the Black Box
Theatre, 430 N. Main St, Las
Cruces
575-523-1223

**Voices of Peace &
Freedom**
Mesilla Valley Chorale
3 p.m. at the Rio Grande
Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las
Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

**La Bohème, full concert
opera**
3 p.m. at NMSU Atkinson
Recital Hall, 1075 N.
Horseshoe St., Las Cruces
borderlandartsfoundation.
org

**New Mexico Tamale Fest
Cinco de Mayo**
4-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las
Cruces, 100 S. Main St. Las
Cruces

MONDAY, May 6
Grant County
Square Dancing
3-5:30 p.m. at United
Methodist Church, 314 W.
College St. Silver City, Use
the side entrance
575-956-7186

TUESDAY, May 7
Grant County
Robot building
4 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,
Silver City
575-538-3672

Doña Ana County
Fentanyl Awareness Day

Event
306 p.m. at Young Park, 850
S. Walnut St. Las Cruces
575-541-2200

WEDNESDAY, May 8

Grant County
Mariee Siou
Folk/Storyteller
7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek
Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway
180 E. Arenas Valley
whiskeycreek.com

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

Wednesday Storytime
10 a.m. at Barns & Noble,
Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S.
Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces
575-522-4499

**Agave Restoration Pro-
gram talk**
**Supporting the Mexican
long-nosed bat**
7 p.m. with the Native Plant
Society of New Mexico,
in-person and Zoom at
the NMSU Biology Annex,
3080 Williams Ave. Room
101, Las Cruces
lc@npsnm.org.

THURSDAY, May 9
Grant County
Future Engineers
LEGO play for ages 6-12
1 p.m. Silver City Public Li-
brary, 515 W. College Ave.,
Silver City
575-538-3672

FRIDAY, May 10
Grant County
Sound Immersion
11 a.m. at the Lotus Center,
211 W. Broadway St. Silver
City

laimansmith@gmail.com

**Hi Lo Silvers Spring
Concert**
7 p.m. at the First
Presbyterian Church, 1915
N. Swan St. in Silver City
575-388-9771

**Lottie & the Ohm Wreck-
ers**
8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery & Distillery, 200 N.
Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

Otero County
**Mother's Day Tea and
Dance**
2-5 p.m., 2201 Puerto Rico
Ave., Alamogordo
575-439-4150

Beauty and the Beast
**Children's Music Theater
of Alamogordo**
7 p.m. at the Flickinger
Center of Performing Arts,
1110 N. New York Ave.,
Alamogordo
flickingercenter.com

Doña Ana County
Brews with the Bard
**Tanked Taming of the
Shrew**
7 p.m. at the Rio Grande
Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las
Cruces
riograndetheatre.org

SATURDAY, May 11
Grant County
Family Movie
1 p.m. Silver City Public
Library, 515 W. College Ave.,

Silver City
575-538-3672

Luna County
Deming Luna County
MainStreet Block Party
7 p.m. at Luna County
Courthouse and Park, 798
S. Silver Ave. Deming
575-546-2674

EVENTS

continued on page 26

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or 1-800-234-0307

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brunch**

Mother's Day
Saturday and Sunday
11-3pm

MENUS: bearmountainlodge.com/café-ozo-azul
Reservations Required
575-538-2538

Bear Mountain Lodge
60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, Silver City



EVENTS

*continued from page 25***Otero County****Mother's Day Crafts Show**

10 a.m. at White Sands Mall,
3199 N. White Sands Blvd.
Alamogordo
575-434-3990

**Beauty and the Beast
Children's Music Theater
of Alamogordo**

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

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

Sierra County**Second Saturday Art Hop**

6 p.m. Downtown Truth or
Consequences
director@torcmainstreet.
org

Lincoln County**Tapestry: Tribute to Carole
King**

7 p.m. at the Spencer
Theater for the Performing
Arts, 108 Spencer Road,
Alto
spencertheater.com

Doña Ana County**Walking Tour in the
Historic Mesquite District**

8:30 a.m. meet at Klein Park
in Las Cruces
575-213-3910

Rev up Your Mother's Day

Gates 5 p.m.; racing 7:30
p.m. at Vado Speedway
Park, 15900 Stern Drive,
Vado
vadospeedwaypark.com

**Brews with the Bard
Tank'd Taming of the
Shrew**

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

SUNDAY, May 12**Grant County****Live Music: Golden &
Groove**

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

**Hi Lo Silvers Spring
Concert**

3 p.m. at the First
Presbyterian Church, 1915
N. Swan St. in Silver City
575-388-9771

Doña Ana County**Collage with gel plate**

printing
**New Mexico Watercolor
Society**
2-4 p.m. in the Creative Arts
Room, Good Samaritan
Society, 3011 Buena Vida
Circle, Las Cruces
nmwatercolorssociety.org

Mother's Day Concert**Al Hurricane Jr.**

5 p.m. at Plaza de Las
Cruces, 100 N. Main St. Las
Cruces
575-541-2550

MONDAY, May 13**Grant County****Square Dancing**

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

TUESDAY, May 14**Grant County****Squishy Circuits: Play with
connective dough**

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

Doña Ana County**"Trends in Food Science"**

**with Dr. Efren Delgado
with the Academy for
Learning in Retirement**

10:30 a.m.-noon, at the East
Mesa DACC auditorium, 28
Sonoma Ranch Blvd. and on
Zoom
575-635-8725

WEDNESDAY, May 15**Doña Ana County****Arte and Aguas Class**

6 p.m.-7 Frank O'Brien
Papen Community Center,
304 W. Bell Ave., Las Cruces
575-541-2454

THURSDAY, May 16**Grant County****Silver Triplets of the Rio
Hondo**

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

Otero County**Huu Bac Quintet**

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

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**Lincoln County
AspenCash Motorcycle
Rally**

9 a.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111
Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso
motorcycleraly.com

**Doña Ana County
"Enhancing Wellbeing
through the Gut Mi-
crobiome: The Role of
Nutrition" with Dr. Raquel
Garzon**

10:30 a.m.-noon, at the East
Mesa DACC auditorium, 28
Sonoma Ranch Blvd. and on
Zoom
575-635-8725

FRIDAY, May 17

**Grant County
DitchSpeare
Hot takes on Shakespeare
with joyful abandon**

7 p.m. at Big Ditch Park,
south of Main Street Plaza,

between 6th and 7th streets
theatrix.studio/
ditchspeare

**Live music: The Rudy Boy
Experiment**

Southwest rock and blues
8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek
Brewery & Distillery, 200 N.
Bullard St. Silver City
575-956-6144

**Otero County
Camerata de Sol concert**
7 p.m. at Otero Arts, 1118
Indiana Ave. Alamogordo
oteroarts.org

**Lincoln County
AspenCash Motorcycle
Rally**

9 a.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111
Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso
motorcycleraly.com

**Lincoln Forest Renais-
sance Faire**

4 p.m. at Wingfield Park, 300

Center St., Ruidoso
motorcycleraly.com

**Doña Ana County
Blessing of the Fields**

10 a.m. at the New Mexico
Farm & Ranch Heritage
Museum, 4100 Dripping
Springs Road, Las Cruces
nmfarmandranchmuseum.
org

**Desert Heroines
Showing and panel
discussion**

5:30-7 p.m. the University
Art Museum, 1308 E.
University Ave. in Las
Cruces
desertheroines.com

Contra Dance

7:30-10:30 p.m. at the
Mesilla Community center,
2251 Calle de Santiago in
Mesilla
575-636-5509

SATURDAY, May 18

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

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

**DitchSpeare
Hot takes on Shakespeare
with joyful abandon**

7 p.m. at Big Ditch Park,
south of Main Street Plaza,
between 6th and 7th streets
theatrix.studio/ditch-
speare

**Sierra County
Camerata del Sol: Brahms
Sextet**

7 p.m. at Grapes Gallery, 407
Main St., T or C
sierracountyarts.org

**Lincoln County
AspenCash Motorcycle
Rally**

9 a.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111

Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso
motorcycleraly.com

**Lincoln Forest
Renaissance Faire**

4 p.m. at Wingfield Park, 300
Center St., Ruidoso
motorcycleraly.com

**70th Annual Hondo Fiesta
Fiesta del Valle and E
nchilada Dinner**

4-9 p.m., Hondo Valley
Schools, 11 Don Pablo Lane,
Hondo
hondoeagles.org

**Otero County
Coffee Cups & Flying
Saucers**

11 a.m.-noon at Otero
Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave.
Alamogordo
New Mexico MUFON
Group on Facebook

**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
farmersandcraftsmarket
oflascruces.com

**Wildlife Wonder: Radical
Reptiles**

9 a.m.-noon at the Asombro
Chihuahuan Desert Nature
Park, Las Cruces
asombro.org

**Maya Textile Sale
Weaving for Justice**

10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Atrium

EVENTS

continued on page 28



**St. Augustine's
Anglican Church**

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EVENTS

continued from page 27

of First Christian Church,
1809 El Paseo Road in Las
Cruces

weaving-for-justice.org

Downtown Las Cruces Lit Fest

3 p.m. at the Rio Grande
Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las
Cruces

riograndetheatre.org

Art Talk

Souheir Rawlings

3:30-4:30 p.m. at Agave
Artists Gallery, 250 Calle de
Albino

575-339-9870

SUNDAY, May 19

Grant County

DitchSpeare

Hot takes on Shakespeare with joyful abandon

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Big Ditch
Park, south of Main Street
Plaza, between 6th and 7th
streets

[theatrix.studio/
ditchspeare](http://theatrix.studio/ditchspeare)

Tea and Tarot

2-5 p.m. at Three Wise
Women, 304 N. Bullard,
Silver City

575-596-6828

Grant County

Live music: Jerry & the Cat

Daddies

Blues roots

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

Lincoln County

AspenCash Motorcycle Rally

9 a.m. at the Ruidoso
Convention Center, 111
Sierra Blanca Drive, Rui-
doso

motorcyclerrally.com

Doña Ana County

Con Spirito with the New

Horizons Symphony

3 p.m. at the Atkinson

Recital Hall, 1075 N.

Horseshoe St., Las Cruces

575-649-3844

Pizza Bones Trio

Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues Society

6:30 p.m. at Alma d'Arte
Charter School, Las Cruces

MONDAY, May 20

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

DitchSpeare

Hot takes on Shakespeare

with joyful abandon

6 p.m. at Big Ditch Park,
south of Main Street Plaza,
between 6th and 7th streets
[theatrix.studio/
ditchspeare](http://theatrix.studio/ditchspeare)

TUESDAY, May 21

Doña Ana County

“Everyday Cooking: Spice it Up” with Dr. Kelley

Coffeen

with the Academy for Learning in Retirement

10:30 a.m.-noon, at the East
Mesa DACC auditorium, 28
Sonoma Ranch Blvd. and on
Zoom
575-635-8725

WEDNESDAY, May 22

Grant County

Wednesday Farmers

Market

9 a.m.-noon at Old Valley
Market, 412 Highway 211 at
the corner of Clark Road, in
Gila
[silvercityfarmersmarket.
info](http://silvercityfarmersmarket.info)

Otero County

Preschool Story Time

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

THURSDAY, May 23

Grant County

Game Day

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

Sierra County

Enterprise Creations by Women

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Desert HEROINES 2024

Gallery Opening & Panel Discussion

Friday, May 17th 5:30-7pm
Mullennix Bridge Gallery at NMSU
1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, NM
Special Q&A Session at 6pm!

Meet local champions for diversity, equity, and inclusion!
desertheroines.com

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**"Harmonious Food and Beverage Pairing" with Dr. Jean Hertzman**

10:30 a.m.-noon, at the East Mesa DACC auditorium, 28 Sonoma Ranch Blvd. and on Zoom

575-635-8725

Baila Las Cruces**Dancing on the Plaza**

Lesson at 7 p.m., dance at 8:30 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. Las Cruces

riograndetheatre.org

FRIDAY, May 24**Grant County****Sangre Gitana****Rumba Flamenco**

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

Doña Ana County**Coppélia with Borderland Ballet Company**

7 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

borderlands-ballet.com

SATURDAY, May 25**Grant County****Silver City Blues Festival**

11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Gough Park, Silver City
silvercitybluesfestival.org

Live music: CW Ayon Band Blues roots

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

575-956-6144

Lincoln County**Tequila and Margarita Festival Plus Stone Larue in Concert**

5-10 at Ruidoso Downs Race Track

raceruidoso.com

Sierra County**Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Dance**

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

575-744-9137

Otero County**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market**

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

farmersmarketsnm.org

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**New Mexico Wine Festival in Las Cruces**

noon-6 p.m. at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd. Las Cruces

nmwine.com

Coppélia with Borderland Ballet Company

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

Community mental health celebration

5 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces

riograndetheatre.org

SUNDAY, May 26**Grant County****Silver City Blues Festival**

noon-6:30 p.m. Gough Park, Silver City
silvercitybluesfestival.org

Roselit Bone

1-4 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 U.S. Highway 180 E. Arenas Valley
whiskeycreekzocalo.com

Doña Ana County**New Mexico Wine Festival in Las Cruces**

noon-6 p.m. at the Southern New Mexico State

Fairgrounds, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd. Las Cruces
nmwine.com

Mayor's Jazz Fest**Featuring Wayne Bergeron**

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

MONDAY, May 27**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**New Mexico Wine Festival in Las Cruces**

noon-6 p.m. at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd. Las Cruces
nmwine.com

TUESDAY, May 28**Grant County****Fortnite Club**

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

575-538-3672

WEDNESDAY, May 29**Grant County****Wednesday Farmers Market****EVENTS**

continued on page 30

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EVENTS

continued from page 29

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

Petunia & The Vipers/The Barn Swallows

7 p.m. 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
farmersandcraftsmarketoflascruces.com

Arte and Aguas Class

6 p.m.-7 Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304

W. Bell Ave., Las Cruces
 575-541-2454

THURSDAY, May 30 Grant County Songwriter's Showcase

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

Sierra County Square Dancing

1-3:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C
 575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842

FRIDAY, May 31

Grant County Live music: Tiffany Christopher pop/alternative/hip-hop/rhythm/blues

8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St. Silver City
 575-956-6144

SATURDAY, June 1

Grant County Silver City Farmers Market
 9 a.m.-noon. 901 N. Pope St. in Silver City
silvercityfarmersmarket.info

Otero County

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

Sierra County

Sierra County Farmers Market
 8:30-noon a.m., Ralph Edwards Park, 300 N. Riverside Drive, T or C
sierracountyfarmersmarket5@gmail.com
Black Range Poetry & Pickin' Festival
 4 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Black Range Lodge, 50 Main St.

Kingston
 575-895-5652

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

Lincoln County

Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cookoff
 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sudderth Drive and Wingfield Park
highmountainyouth.org

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 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de
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SUNDAY, June 2
Sierra County
Black Range Poetry &
Pickin' Festival
 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Black
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DESERT SAGE | ALGERNON D'AMMASSA

The Man in the Straw Hat

On the distorting effect of suffering violence

The release of Salman Rushdie's new memoir, "Knife: Meditations after an attempted murder," is a message in itself: The assassination attempt that sought to silence him has instead become grist for his writing. Rushdie has consumed his assassin, of whom he speaks disdainfully in interviews yet wrestles, in his book, to understand. What prompted a complete stranger to stab him several times during a public event last year?

Salman Rushdie, to recap, published "The Satanic Verses" more than 30 years ago, prompting the leader of Iran's theocratic revolutionary government to call for his death. The novelist lived in hiding for years, gradually returning to public life and putting the matter behind him until Hadi Matar, who was not yet born when the novel debuted, leaped onto a stage in Chautauqua, New York and gravely wounded Rushdie in front of some 1,500 people. Rushdie barely survived, losing an eye and movement in one hand.

While I have not suffered anything like Rushdie's injuries, several elements of his storytelling on this incident touch rarely disturbed, traumatized nerves within me, as I have been the target of violence on several occasions myself. The worst of these, being attacked on a crowded New York City subway, lingers like a weird dream decades later.

The attacker can loom like a giant despite being a rather dull person. Hannah Arendt's often misunderstood idea of "the banality of evil" arose from her observations of Adolf Eichmann's trial in Jerusalem over his participation in organizing the Holocaust. She found Eichmann unsettlingly ordinary and dull, a bland middle-management sort.

Likewise, what we know of Matar suggests he is simply a thoughtless person, "radicalized" (as we say when describing someone who has adopted someone else's wicked ideas in the absence of their own), who did something monstrous for little apparent reason. The lack of sense seems to

augment the trauma. It reminds me of my smallness.

So why did this guy smash my face? He was tall, wearing a stylish shirt and cargo shorts, in a straw hat and little round sunglasses. I was writing in a journal, barely aware of him until he knocked my leg with his own. Assuming it was accidental, I ignored him. Then he shoved my leg again and spoke: "I'm watching you, too."

"I'm not watching you, man," I replied, trying to sound friendly. He stood with unsettling speed, a slight smile on his face, and demanded my pen. It occurred to me that handing him a pointy object might not be in my best interest, so I said no.

The next thing I remember are blows, as if not fists but shovels struck my body; hitting my head on a pole; falling on a seated woman in her Sunday dress; a lot of pulsing blood. The doors opened and people silently left the car. No one intervened and I barely moved to defend myself, trapped in slow motion.

Rushdie, writing of his own inaction when his at-

tacker appeared, offers this: "The targets of violence experience a crisis in their understanding of the real." Violence erupts in the midst of a familiar routine and most of us, untrained for this, freeze at the incongruity.

For weeks, a diligent police detective called me, imploring me to go to the station and look through mug shots on the off chance of spotting my assailant. I never went. I doubted I would recognize the man in the straw hat and little round sunglasses; and what's more, I didn't care.

The injury that lingered longest was the lack of meaning.

Even so: While the man in the straw hat and little round sunglasses may come around the corner any time, we must live.

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



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ON STAGE

DitchSpeare Returns

A Silver City tribute to Shakespeare

DitchSpeare is coming back to Silver City, May 17-20, serving up more hot takes on favorite classical works of Shakespeare and contemporaries with joyful abandon. DitchSpeare received so much support from the community when it premiered last year that the director chose to draw the experiment out into an annual event. “Watch out,” joked director Hallie Harris, “if you feed the actors, they’ll keep showing up for more.”

DitchSpeare performances will be at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday May 17-18; at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, May 19; and at 6 p.m. Monday, May 20 in the Big Ditch Park, south of Main Street Plaza, accessed between 6th and 7th streets in downtown Silver City.

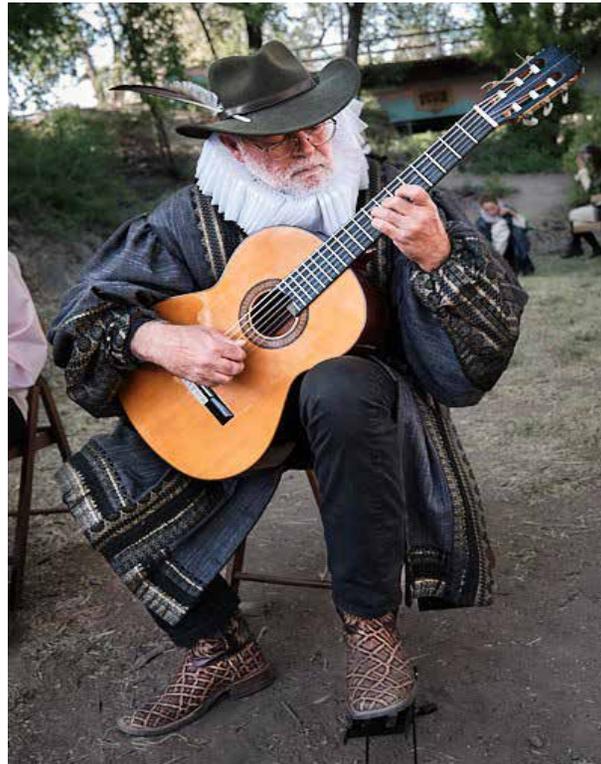
The show is a pastiche of speeches, poetry, music, improv and dance from Shakespeare and his contemporaries – such as Lope de Vega and Sor Juana de la Cruz of Spain and Mexico, respectively. The tone is lighthearted and fun with some deeper emotions and some mature themes thrown in.

There is some naughty Shakespearean language and some very mild violence (no blood, no guns) and is suitable for most audiences. Be prepared to enjoy time outside. Bring

your own lawn chairs, sunscreen and bug spray, as if you were intending to hang out in the great outdoors. The playing space can be reached most directly via the stairs near the South corner of Main Street Plaza or via the ramp off of Kelley Street.

“I love classical drama and poetry,” said returning cast member Ana Trinidad. “There is a reason this language has stood the test of time and it is a privilege to share it, to pass the torch to new generations to appreciate and transform.”

This year’s production owes a debt to the “Shakespeare Sonnets,” produced in Gough Park in 2019 directed by Frost McGahey, Shakespeare instructor and author of the play “Who Invited Falstaff?” as well as the New Mexico Shakespeare festival in Albuquerque.



Farhad Arasteh performs (Courtesy photo)

“I love street theater and outdoor performance,” Harris said. “I love the sense of community and I love spending time out-

doors and letting my imagination fly while I listen to beautiful words and immerse myself in story and character. We’re sharing



Sarah Thrasher performs (Courtesy photo)

some of our favorite literature here but playing with it and creating something that’s hopefully fun and timely and relatable.”

DitchSpeare is being produced by the newly-formed TheActrix Studio, LLC. It runs May 17-20 in the Big Ditch Park and is free to the public, although donations or “pay-what-you-will” tickets are encouraged and the actors will pass a hat. Information, tickets and opportunities to support the production can be found at TheActrix.studio/DitchSpeare.



First Wednesday Evening Market of the year is May 15th. Mike G will be spinning some fantastic tunes throughout the evening. Grab your dinner from one of our delicious made fresh for you food trucks. And do a little shopping at our vendor booths. 5 to 9pm at the Plaza de Las Cruces in Downtown Mainstreet.



May 15th
5 to 9 pm



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