

EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

# DESERT exposure

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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### Desert #102 Dumbfounder by Dave Thomas

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

"G CDH'F XHDV SDV G CD GF. G'T BWZO FD POO FSO EMBEDMFGDHP  
BHC FSO WBZBHKO DY B EGOKO, WLF DHZR BP G IOF GHFD FSO  
VDDC, FSOH GF BZZ KDTOP FDIOFSOM." - VDDCKBMNOM UOPPO DKSDB

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: "WE JUST FELT LIKE A FILM FESTIVAL WAS NATURALLY SOMETHING SILVER CITY SHOULD HOST. IT'S SUCH AN ARTISTIC COMMUNITY." - KIM RYAN, THEATER CULTURAL COORDINATOR \*Secret Words: "SLY CINEMA GROWTH"

Congrats to #101 solvers :  
Mike Arms\*, Will Adams\*,  
David Pino\*, Shorty Vaiza\*, Skip Howard\*,  
Claudette Gallegos\*, Sue Merrick\*, & Connie Tull\*!

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## JANUARY DEADLINES

All stories and notices for the editorial section and space reservation and ad copy due Friday, December 20.

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In a very private setting, this passive solar design in southwest New Mexico will certainly delight. This home was custom designed by the original owner for "single level living and enjoyment", with the expansive master suite, formal living area, dining room, kitchen, den and private office/library, all gracing the main floor. Rather than build a detached guest house, the second floor boasts another 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and den/office/entertaining space, to act as "guest suites". Contracted by Craig Findley, one of the areas renowned builders, this luxurious home features a real open air concept, with top of the line windows, fixtures, counters, cabinetry and appliances, custom second floor walkway and landing, an outdoor deck with views all the way to Mexico. **MLS#40632 \$995,000**



This 5 bedroom, 3 bath home is an impeccably designed mid-century style gem, overlooking the town of Silver City, while offering an amazing amount of privacy. Light-filled rooms with Mountain Views, Built-in Bookcases, Custom Stone Fireplaces, Formal Dining Room and a sleek, Modernized Kitchen with Granite Countertops and Stainless Appliances. The primary suite boasts an oversized bathroom with jetted tub, double vanity and a walk-in shower. Amenities include: Seamless Metal Roof, Tankless Water Heater, A/C and evaporative cooling, enclosed garages for 4 vehicles, workshop with restroom, gas fireplace inserts, hot tub, remote front gate, video surveillance system, 220v in shop and more. The lower level features a full kitchen, family room, a large home office/bedroom, two more guest bedrooms and full bathroom. **MLS #40493 \$599,000**



Amazing and one of a kind contemporary style home located in Indian Hills has it all. It features 2567 s.f., three beds, two baths, two living areas, brick floors, attached garage on .82 acres. There are two trombe walls for passive solar as well as 4 mini-splits for heating and cooling and a pellet stove in the family room and two swamp coolers. The two guest beds have new wood ceilings and there is new LVT in all bedrooms. There is a working sauna in the primary bath and the guest bath has been remodeled. Two sliding doors were added to create an entire wall in order to bring the outside in. There is also a great outside patio area. **MLS#40592 \$398,000**



Discover new beginnings in this delightful 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, situated in a peaceful and friendly neighborhood walking distance from WNMU. Inside, you'll find elegant wood floors, generous storage options to keep your space organized, five new mini splits, new gas range and a stainless steel refrigerator. This inviting residence offers a serene retreat while still being conveniently located. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity—come see for yourself how this lovely home could be your new sanctuary! **MLS#40597 \$319,000**



Cowboy's dream with this remodeled farm house on 9+ acres with 250' X 160' roping arena and horse pens. Tons of privacy! Play hard all day and enjoy the views of the Cottonwoods along the Gila River from the back porch! Several outbuildings offer storage/tack room/shop/hay storage. Lots of large trees offer shade. Property has a boundary with State Land and close to the Gila River for your enjoyment. Turn this property into YOUR dream! **MLS#40420 \$299,000**



Large home with acreage in the Mimbres Valley. 4 bedrooms with 2 1/2 bathrooms. Living room features built in shelves and wood stove. Split floor plan with large master bedroom suite with extra room for office, nursery or exercise. 3 guest rooms, one is extra-large. Sitting area off the kitchen. Vintage 1-bedroom 1963 mobile home would be perfect to remodel for an Airbnb, casita or guest house. Sunroom with handicap ramp and sliding doors to the back porch. Detached oversized 2 car garage with additional room for workbench and storage. Well house is finished inside with separate tool closet. 4 tracts of land perfect for additional homes, barn or shop. Acreage is fenced, level and perfect for horses. **MLS#40591 \$280,000**



High traffic location across from Q's Restaurant and next to HMS Medical services, this building has a lot of security measures in place such as barred windows, security lights and alarm system that buyer can activate. Laminate floors in main areas. Inside is a large "reception" area with 4 separate offices, two bathroom and a little kitchenette. ADA compliant. Lots of off-street parking. **MLS#40582 \$250,000**



This distinctive cottage-style home, less than 10 minutes from Silver City, offers eco-conscious living with modern conveniences on 3.2 acres. The thoughtfully constructed residence includes a sunroom that serves as both a growing space and passive solar heating source, along with a new mini split unit, two window A/Cs, and a wood-burning stove for year-round comfort. Outdoors, enjoy a working vintage wood-burning cook stove perfect for BBQs. Recent upgrades feature a 100-amp electrical service, separate RV hookups, and a new septic system. The property boasts fenced fields, a root cellar, mature fruit and nut trees, a private well with 3-acre-foot water rights, a gravity-fed irrigation pond, and a small pond near the house that attracts local wildlife. Room for horses or mules, and a fenced area for small pets add to the charm. **MLS#40501 \$218,000**



Three bedroom, one bath home on a corner lot in Santa Clara. The home is a fixer upper or a tear down. It is also being sold with an additional 4 lots. Being sold "As-is". **MLS#40679 \$35,000**



Single family lot on a dead end. Perfect for a doublewide or even a tiny home! **MLS#40685 \$25,000**

## EDITOR'S NOTE | DAVID SALCIDO

# A Time for Celebration and Kindness

Ah, the holidays. For some, it's a time to gather with loved ones and strengthen family bonds. For others, it's a time of celebration to honor religious heritage. For still others, it's a time of personal reflection on the important things in life. No matter what your inclination, the holidays are a special time, filled with the magic of generosity and kindness in the midst of chaos and divisiveness. My hope is that you will make the most of it, by putting aside petty differences in favor of understanding and sharing. It worked for the Grinch, so I don't think that's too much to ask, do you?

In that spirit, I present to you an issue brimming with activities and events taking place across the southern portion of our beautiful state. Not everything you see here will be your cuppa nog, but I'm sure you'll find something to excite you. You'll also find my own special recipe for the kind of holiday cheer you don't often find

in this part of the world, along with some history surrounding the practice. Who knows, maybe you'll want to introduce WASailing into your own family traditions, as I have. It's always a hit at parties.

There's also a story about how the ancient and often misunderstood celebration of Yule is being kept alive in our area by enterprising and thoughtful neo-pagans. A fascinating and thoughtful read, by regular contributor Elaine Stachera Simon. In addition, our roving borderlands reporter Morgan Smith presents us with the inspiring true story of a young woman who overcame adversity to become a shining beacon of hope for those around her. That's classic holiday fare, right there, friends!

My goal with this issue, as always, is to inspire, amuse and inform. As I settle into this monthly routine, I find it easier to do those things, mainly because our audience – you, dear reader – has been so receptive to the

changes being made. It isn't always easy, because I don't create this thing in a vacuum. There are a lot of moving parts, and opinions on how to keep them doing so. I can, however, guarantee you that you'll be seeing more explorations of the world around us in the coming year, with the kind of loving appreciation that only comes through dedication and awareness. We love where we live, and we want you to appreciate it as much as we do.

So, please enjoy your holidays with all the gusto you can manage, stay safe and don't forget that not everybody is as blessed as you are. This is a time for breaking down barriers and renewing bonds. How you celebrate isn't nearly as important as how you interact with the world around you, with understanding, patience, and most of all respect. We're all one big happy family, and I for one, am thoroughly tickled to have you here. Even if the Grinch is your spirit animal.

David Salcido is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure readers of southern New Mexico. Please contact editor@desertexposure.com.



### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Pink Rain:** Nancy Adams captured the surreal spectacle of sunset rain looking SE from Arenas Valley.

### ABOUT THE COVER



The spirit of the season is celebrated in many New Mexican homes with a "wreathra" on the front door, bidding visitors welcome. Get your own at Ristramn Chili Co., 2531 NM 28, Mesilla. (Photo by David Salcido)

If you have a favorite recent photo capturing the nature of life and living in southern New Mexico, please share it with us, along with some words about the image and where it was taken. It will be considered for publication in a future issue of Desert Exposure. Submit photos to [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com).



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### Noche de Luminarias

The New Mexico State University campus will be alight with luminarias, from the Pan Am Center to the Horseshoe, illuminating walking paths, while family friendly activities will be offered at the Pan Am Center, Corbett Center Student Union, and NMSU Bookstore.

Noche de Luminarias lights up the night from 5-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1, on the NMSU Campus in Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-1722



### Christmas Tree Lighting Mesilla

As the season begins to unfold, the village of Mesilla erects its 20-foot-tall tree and decorates it with hundreds of ornaments, lights and garland, then sur-

rounds it with thousands of luminarias and school children singing Christmas carols.

Mesilla's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony kicks

# FESTIVITIES

Celebratory events happening somewhere near you during the month of December 2024.

BY THE DEXTER

off the holiday season 5:30-6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, on the Mesilla Plaza, Calle Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-524-3262

### Christmas Zoobilee & Christmas Tree Lighting

For the price of a dollar, or a canned food item, the Alameda Zoo stays open late with bright, twinkling lights decking the tree, hot chocolate, apple cider, campfire smores, live music, a luminaria walk and, of course, lots of confused animals.

The Christmas Zoobilee brings the holidays to the animal kingdom, 12-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, at the Alameda Park Zoo, 1221 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4279



### La Casa Holiday Bazaar

A holiday tradition for a good cause, featuring a wide variety of handmade gifts, including jewelry, woodwork, photography and more, with pecans, salsa, a cookie cupboard and other edibles, and a visit from Santa Claus.

La Casa Holiday Bazaar gives back to the community, 4:30 p.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 6-8, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: LaCasaInc.org



### Christmas in the Foothills

The tiny mountain town of Hillsboro is decked out for the holidays, providing the backdrop for artists, artisans, and crafters from the surrounding area to sell their wares, and the rest of the town to open their doors to visitors seeking rustic charms.



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Christmas in the Foothills brings charm to the holidays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore, Hillsboro. Info: 575-895-3300



### Silver City Holiday Artisan Market

The artists of Silver City ring in the holidays with a juried exhibition and sale, hosting 30 plus artists working in a variety of media, including photography, jewelry, fiber arts, glass, pottery and more, with convenient parking and plenty of cheer.

The Silver City Holiday Artisan Market creates an artful holiday atmosphere, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 HWY 180 E., Silver City. Info: 575-993-8193



### Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas

Best-selling musical performer Michael Martin Murphey brings his vibrant, multi-media holiday celebration back to Ruidoso, featuring Western art consisting of videos and photography, dramatic lighting, and cowboy poetry.

Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas captures the essence of the season, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Rd., Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

### Tularosa Winter Fest

The Kiwanis Club of Tularosa hosts their first ever winter festival, with a Christmas light parade and street



dance, a Christmas Bazaar featuring handmade gifts, art pieces, food and drink vendors, and plenty of family friendly activities.

The Tularosa Winter Festival celebrates the season from 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at 408 Granado St., Tularosa. Info: 575-430-1002



### Christmas on Main Street

The City of Alamogordo goes all out with this festive holiday shopping celebration featuring holiday decorations, synchronized light displays on historic buildings, live music, food trucks, and local vendors selling seasonal items.

Christmas on Mainstreet makes shopping fun 4-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, all along New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-446-3612



### Christmas Tree Lighting Las Cruces

The City of Las Cruces hosts this annual event, featuring thousands of colorful lights, live music, refreshments, food trucks, giveaways, visits with Santa Claus, activities for the entire family, and a movie at the Rio Grande Theatre.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony makes holiday magic, 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2550



### Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival

A sacred old-world tradition which starts with a candlelight procession to Santuario, a pilgrimage to Tortugas Mountain, a festival mass, Indian and Danzante Dancers in front of Santuario, and a traditional fiesta meal at La Casa de Comida.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival brings tradition to the season 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11 & 12, in the Village of Tortugas, 3620 Paroquia, Mesilla Park. Info: 575-526-8171

### FESTIVITIES

*continued on page 8*

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## FESTIVITIES

continued from page 7



## Luminarias Light Up the Desert

The Asombro Institute for Science Education invites you to stroll along the paved, ADA-accessible trail lit with over 400 luminarias, while darkness settles over the desert, then enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, a pop-up gift shop, and marshmallow roasting.

Luminarias Light Up the Desert from 5-7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-524-3334

## Truth or Consequences Old Fashioned Christmas

MainStreet Truth or Consequences sponsors this annual event, featuring a light parade, open shops serving holiday treats and the lighting of the community Christmas tree at Evelyn Renfro Park to



kick everything off in seasonal style.

Truth or Consequences Old Fashioned Christmas celebration creates splendor from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, in downtown T or C, 300 Daniels, Truth or Consequences. Info: TorCMainStreet.org



## Victorian Christmas and More

The Silver City Museum brings the past alive by converting their courtyard into a 19th century plaza, where festive foods, arts and crafts vendors, children's activities, and beautiful Victorian costumes set the scene for a beloved tradition.

The Victorian Christmas sends you back in time from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway St., Silver City. Info: 575-597-0230



## Elephant Butte's Luminaria Beachwalk

The Friends of Elephant Butte organize and host

this 28th annual event, featuring thousands of luminarias and beach bonfires under the stars, along with free hot cider, hot chocolate, chile, posole, green chile stew, sweet treats and more.

Elephant Butte's Luminaria Beachwalk illuminates the waters from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, 101 Hwy. 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 520-471-0134



## Illuminado las Montanas

Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project hosts its annual free, family friendly event at Dripping Springs Natural Area with trails lined by hundreds of luminarias, craft making exercises, loteria with prizes, and plenty of warm drinks and edibles.

Illuminado las Montanas lights up the Organ Mountains, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Dripping Springs Visitor Center, 15000 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-1219

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### Winter Solstice 2024

Glamp Camps third annual community gathering brings together massage therapists, healers, tarot and oracle readers, live performances, and a solstice fire ceremony with drumming, dancing and joyous celebration to welcome the winter.

Winter Solstice 2024 brings closure to the growing season 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday Dec. 21, at Hot Springs Glamp Camp, 675 S. Foch, Truth or Consequences. Info: HotSpringsGlampCamp.com/Events



### Noche de las Luminarias

New Mexico Historic Sites invites you to bundle up and celebrate the long Winter nights with more than 900 luminarias lining Fort Selden's adobe footprint, along with a crackling bonfire and family-friendly activities and holiday-themed crafts.

Noche de las Luminarias illuminates history from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, at Fort Selden Historic Site, 1280 Fort Selden Rd., Radium Springs. 575-526-8911



### Luminarias & Christmas Carols on the Plaza

Thousands of luminarias line the streets of Mesilla, while local musical groups lead the crowd in singing Christmas carols around the gaily lit tree, local choir groups perform, and the Mesilla Fire Department hold a candlelight vigil for fallen comrades.

Luminarias & Christmas Carols fill the night with music, 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24, at Mesilla Plaza, Calle Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-524-3262



### Las Cruces Chile Drop

Declared one of the best New Years Eve celebrations in the United States by USA Today, featuring a block party with food vendors, family-friendly activities, live music, a Kids Zone, and the lowering of a 19-foot, LED-lit chile pepper at midnight.

The Las Cruces Chile Drop rings in the new year from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31 on the Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: Facebook.com/ChileDropLasCruces.

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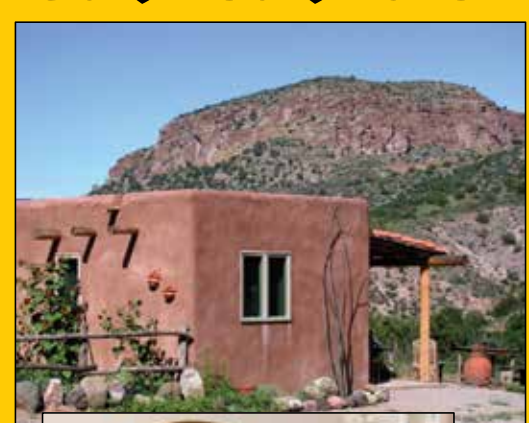



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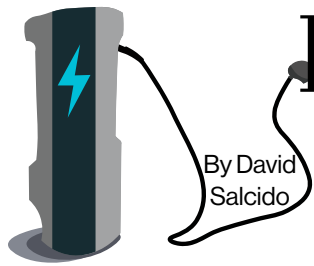





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By David Salcido

# Electrifying news for New Mexico residents

Dave Baker, the owner of Silver City Cycles / The BikeWorks, wants to let you in on a little secret. Right now, the

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has launched a Transportation Electrification Program (TEP) that could help you buy a new ebike at a fraction of its original cost.

Here's how it works. "The definition that PNM is following is 200% of the

federal poverty line," said Baker. "For a single individual it's \$30,500 a year. Somebody who makes below that gets \$1,000 off an ebike, which is considerable, considering I've got some bikes in my shop that are \$1,200. That means, essentially, that you can get an ebike for \$200. For higher income residents, it's \$250 off."

Baker points out that there is no income cut off, and every bike in his inventory qualifies, including mountain bikes and tricycles. All it needs to qualify is pedals and an electric motor that can be recharged. Each bike comes with a smart charger that plugs into a standard 110 Volt household outlet, along with a two-year warranty. Right now, Baker's shop in Silver City is the only shop in southern New Mexico that is participating in this program.

"It's not a rebate -

where you have to send in an application and apply to get a check back in the mail - with this program, customers actually get their discount when they buy the ebike,"



Silver City Cycles/The BikeWorks owner Dave Baker in his shop. (Photo by Mike Rogers)



Customer Gabe Lazzell and his new Aventon Sinch (Photo by Mike Rogers)

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Silver City Cycles/The BikeWorks advertises the Transportation Electrification Program. (Photo by Mike Rogers)

electricity comes through El Paso Electric, not PNM?

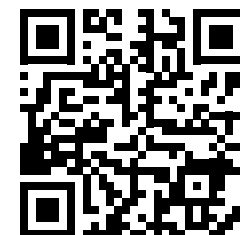
“El Paso Electric is offering a similar program,” Baker said. “Any customer from Las Cruces who buys an ebike from me, would have to submit a rebate application to EPE. It’s potentially a better deal, though, because EPE customers can get up to a 70% rebate. I haven’t done the math, but if they buy a \$1850 ebike, they can get \$1300 reimbursed. That’s about \$300 more than the PNM discount. The rebate from EPE has been live for a while, but I don’t think people know about it.”

All of which means, now is the time to make the switch. Just don’t wait too long to de-

side. The TEP is a three-year program, but funds are limited, and not everybody knows about it. Yet.

“I know that once I start advertising this program, it’s going to be very popular,” said Baker. “Part of PNM’s goal is to create affordable options for people who are lower income. I’m sure once people hear about that there will be a ton of interest.”

To find out more about this program and check out the ebikes being offered, visit Dave Baker at his shop Silver City Cycles / The BikeWorks, 914 N. Pope St., in Silver City, visit the website at BikeWorksNM.org, or give him a call at 575-388-1444.



Baker said. “The main criteria is that they have to be PNM customers to qualify, with a bill in their name that matches the address on their ID.”

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# The Hotlist

Notable, unique and unusual things to do in southern New Mexico



## Drag Queen Christmas

For the 10th consecutive year, Murray & Peter proudly present a spectacular holiday tradition, featuring contestants who appeared on the Emmy-Award winning television show, RuPaul's Drag Race on MTV, and Paramount+ All Stars 9.

A Drag Queen Christmas sashays across the stage at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, at the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-231-1100



## Mariachi Christmas 2024

The spirit of New Mexico springs to life with the joyous sound of festive holiday music, featuring Mariachi Mestizo Mexico and Ballet Folklórico University of Texas Rio Grande Valley ringing in the season with swirling dresses and bombastic brass.

Mariachi Christmas 2024 adds a little holiday spice, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202



## Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue: Holidayze Edition

New Mexico's premiere grown-up variety show, featuring drag, burlesque, and alt variety, brings campy fun to Las Cruces with a holiday theme and an all-star cast of showgirls, death-defying novelty acts, and side splitting comedians.

Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue: Holidayze Edition brings on the drag at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20 & 21, at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2290



## Las Cruces Chamber Ballet's 41st Annual Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, about a little girl who befriends a nutcracker waging battle against the Mouse King, is brought to life with guest artist Crystal Serrano from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen.

Las Cruces Chamber Ballet's 41st Annual Nutcracker toys with the holidays, 7 and 2 p.m., Dec. 20-22, at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: 575-527-1893



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## ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

## Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

By The Dexter



The stylized wood carvings of Jesse Ochoa can be seen in the continuing exhibition at the Silver City Museum. (Courtesy photo)

## SILVER CITY

• **The Besse Gallery** at the **Silver City Museum**, 312 W. Broadway St., Silver City, presents the work of **Jesse Ochoa**, who brings a distinctive style to his art known as stylized wood carving, while his photographic work reaches new heights with a rare and privileged glimpse into contemporary Apache culture. The exhibition will run through the end of Dec.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday. Info: 575-538-5921

• **The Grant County Art Guild Studio**, 211 N. Texas, Ste C, Silver City, presents **“In Your Dreams,”** an exhibition of works depicting, or inspired by, daydreams, night dreams, dream states, and nightmares, through Sunday, Dec. 8.

Studio hours for this show are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec 7; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec 8. Info: Studio@gcag.org

• **Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway, Silver City, presents **“Local Light,”** a selection of works by twelve local artists in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, woodwork, jewelry, fiber, photography, assemblage and ceramics. The exhibition runs Dec. 5 – February 1, 2025, with an opening reception 5-7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Info: LightArtSpace.com.

• **The Silver City Museum**, 312 W. Broadway St., Silver City, hosts **“Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care,”** the untold story of women’s impact on Grant County’s health and wellness, from founding hospitals to frontier medicine. The exhibition runs through Jan. 2025, with a reception 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14.

Museum hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Info: 575-597-0230

• **Silver City Holiday Artisan Market**, a juried show that hosts 30+ local artists in a variety of media, including pho-



More than 200 photographic works by Las Cruces photographer Jim Ballard are currently on display at the Branigan Cultural Center. (Courtesy photo)

tography, jewelry, fiber arts, glass, pottery, and more takes place 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E., Silver City. Info: 575-993-8193

## CARRIZOZO

• **The Malkerson Gallery 408**, 408 12th St., Carrizozo, presents its 20-year celebration ex-

hibition, **Looking Back**, featuring retablos by Polly Chavez, and sculptures and paintings by Nathan Chavez, through January 2025.

The gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 12-5 p.m. Sundays. Info: ccartsociety@gmail.com.

• **The Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography**, 401 12th St., Carrizozo, celebrates its 10th anniversary with work

by Lauren and Tim Baca, Emmitt Booher, Lynda Brugman, Pam Dorner, Theodore Greer, Carol Morgan-Eagle, Wayne Suggs and more.

The gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 12-5 p.m. Sundays. Info: 612-963-1499

## DEMING

• **The Deming Arts Center**, 100 S. Gold St., Deming, presents the annual **Holiday Gift Boutique**, featuring unique gifts for family and friends, created by local artisans. The show runs Dec. 3-30, with an opening reception from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663 and DemingArts.org.

## TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

• **RioBravoFineArt**, 110 N. Broadway, Truth or Consequences, presents **“Mergers and Acquisitions,”** a fiber exhibition by **Suzanne Pointon** mixing textures, fabrics and colors to explore themes with a certain familiarity that are given a fresh perspective with the dimensionality of fiber elements. The exhibition runs through Jan. 26, 2025.

Gallery hours are 12-5



The fiber art of Susan H. Porter is just one of many items in the “Local Light” exhibition at Light Art Space in Silver City. (Courtesy photo)

p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, and by appointment. Info: www.riobravofineartgallery.com.

## LAS CRUCES

• **The Agave Artists Cooperative Gallery**, 2250 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla, features the work of artisan **Chris Kemler**, a lifelong woodworker who has won numerous awards in Texas before relocating to Las Cruces. This exhibition will be on display throughout the month of December.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday-Monday. Info: 913-302-1111



The woodwork of artisan Chris Kemler will be on display throughout the month of December at Agave Artists Cooperative Gallery. (Courtesy photo)

## ARTS SCENE

continued on page 14

## ARTS SCENE

continued from page 13

• **The Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St., Las Cruces, presents “**The Dinner Party: Multicultural Crossroads in Clay**,” a new exhibit by the Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces, celebrating the 175th anniversary of Mesilla

and Las Cruces, by artistically interpreting the rich history and cultural significance of the area through the medium of clay. The exhibit will be on view through Jan. 18, 2025.

The Branigan Cultural Center is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free. Info: 575-541-2154.

• **The Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St., Las Cruces, presents “**The Ballard Photo Studio: A Portrait of Community**,” featuring more than 200 photographic works by Las Cruces photographer Jim Ballard offering a portrait of the Mesilla Valley community between 1930 and 1950. The exhibit will be on view through Feb 15, 2025.

The Branigan Cultural Center is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free. Info: 575-541-2154.

• **The Dona Ana Arts Council Gallery**, 230 S. Water St., Las Cruces presents “**Mare Nostrum: A Look into an Artist’s Inner Visions**,” featuring the work of Dominican artist Jo Mata,



The stylized wood carvings of Jesse Ochoa can be seen in the continuing exhibition at the Silver City Museum. (Courtesy photo)

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Decorative and functional ceramics will be on display at the Potters' Guild Holiday Market at Gallery 925. (Courtesy photo)

who explores the human experience and the feminine form from a sociopolitical, philosophical and identity point of view. The exhibit will be on view through Jan. 3, 2025.

The Dona Ana Arts Council is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-523-6403

• **Gallery 925**, 925 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, presents **The Potters' Guild Holiday Market** featuring the largest display in Las Cruces of local ceramic works – both decorative and func-

tional – by the potters who make Empty Bowls possible. The exhibit will be on display through Dec. 22, with an artists' reception, 4-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6.

Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Fridays; 11-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Info: Gallery925LCNM.com

• **The Las Cruces Museum of Art**, 491 N. Main St., Las Cruces, presents **"Clyde Butcher: Lifeworks in Photography,"** featuring 45 photographic



"Ghost Orchid" by Clyde Butcher is one of 45 large format photographic prints on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art. (Courtesy photo)

**ARTS SCENE**

*continued on page 16*

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## ARTS SCENE

continued from page 15

prints in large format black & white, spanning his 50-year career and encompassing a wide range of images, from intimate portraits of a rare ghost orchid to majestic American landscapes. The exhibit will be on view through Dec. 28.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free. Info: 575-541-2137.

• **The Mad Hatter Gallery**, 221 N. Main St., Ste C, Las Cruces, presents “**Art is Anarchy**,” featuring the protest art of Silver City artist Franky DeAngelis, who describes his process as intuitive, emotive, and cathartic, ac-



The “Healers and Heroines” exhibit, celebrating the pioneering women of Grant County, can be seen at the Silver City Museum. (Courtesy photo)

companied by loud music. The exhibition will be on display Dec. 4-27, with an opening reception 5-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-528-9297

• **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 November: **Rhoda Winters** and **Michael Nail**. Winters explores the wonder of the moment, the beauty of life and the structure

of the natural world as a young adult. Nail is a self-taught artist who works in pencil, ink, and charcoal with western, Native American and wildlife themes.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, mesillavalleyfinearts.com

• **The Tombaugh Art Gallery**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S Solano, Las Cruces, presents its holiday exhibition “**Wearable Arts**,” featuring local artists – Ann Angelo, Kathy Baker, Michelle Arterburn, Sally Dent and Nancy Anderson – who make jewelry, weaving, clothing, and hats for everyday wear. The exhibit runs through Friday, Dec. 27, with a First Friday wine reception, 5-7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,

Sunday, or by appointment. Info: 575-522-7281

• **The University Art Museum**, 1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, presents “**Border Destroyer**,” a monumental mural project by New York-based artist and educator, **Carlos Rosales-Silva**, installed in the Mullenix Bridge Gallery. **Border Destroyer** will be on display through March 8, 2025.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Info: UAM.NMSU.edu

• **The University Art Museum**, 1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, presents “**Night Vision**,” a solo exhibition showcasing the spellbinding sculptures of Carolyn Salas whose finished pieces are steel-cut aluminum, marble, wood, glass and a variety of new printing technolo-

gies. **Night Vision** will be on display through March 8, 2025.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Info: UAM.NMSU.edu

• **The University Art Museum**, 1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, presents a group exhibition showcasing artwork by **Andy Warhol** and his contemporaries, including **Jasper Johns**, **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Sol LeWitt**, and **Fritz Scholder**. The exhibition will include loaned artwork from the Tucson Museum of Art and works from the NMSU Permanent Art Collection. “**Warhol & Friends**” will be on display through July 19, 2025.

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# Base Run: Holloman AFB brings back the Ace of Races Marathon

“Running is the greatest metaphor for life, because you get out of it what you put into it.” ~ Oprah Winfrey

Oprah’s motivational wisdom aside, running may not be for everyone, but for those who take it seriously, the announcement of a marathon can be inspirational. To that end, Holloman Air Force Base is hosting its second annual Ace of Races Marathon, Saturday, December 7, 2024.

The marathon takes its name from Major Richard Bong, known as the “Ace of Aces,” who was assigned to the 49th Fighter Group in the 1940s. He was the country’s top flying ace during World War II having shot down 40 Japanese aircraft.

The fun part is, though it is a marathon, nobody expects you to be an Ace. This particular event is open to the public and includes a full marathon, half marathon, 5K and a Kids Dash. For serious contenders, however, the course is USATF certified, which means it’s a qualifier for the Boston marathon.

For many amateurs, running is about the scenery. Finding the right course can be as easy as deciding what it is that you want to see along the way. Participants for this marathon will have the unique opportunity to run on a flat course through different parts of the base including on the flightline past F-16s and MQ-9s.

The organizers want you to know that whether you are a seasoned athlete or just starting your fitness journey, there is an event for everyone. The only real rule is, have fun!

For event details, to sign up for a race, access training plans, find course time limits, and much more, visit [www.49fss.com/run](http://www.49fss.com/run). All proceeds from the registration will support the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation fund that benefits Holloman AFB Airmen and their families.



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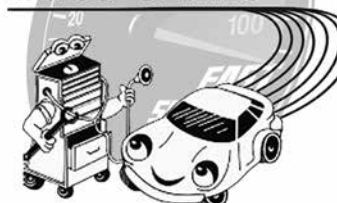


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**DRINK #4**

Traditions are funny things. We like to honor them, but tend to pick and choose the parts we like best, ignoring those we don't.

Holiday traditions tend to take the brunt of the conversion process, many times thanks to Wall Street and Madison Avenue whose main goal is to make it slick, make it sexy and make it sell. But for every soda guzzling Santa Claus with rosy cheeks and twinkling eyes, there's an older, less sanitized version waiting in the wings to snatch naughty children from their beds and spirit them away to a life devoid of iPhones, Instagram or T Swift. The horror.

In an attempt to keep at least one of those fading traditions alive, I've taken it upon myself to revive the celebratory

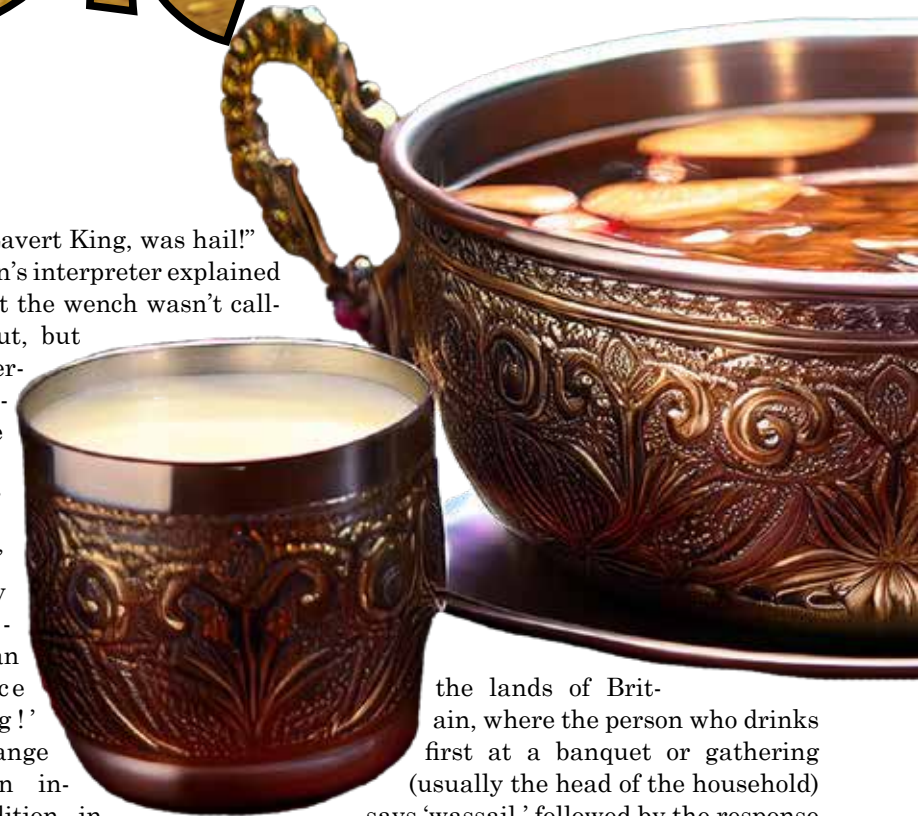
art of wassailing. What's wassailing, you ask? Gather 'round, lords and ladies, as I attempt to sum up a thousand years of legend, folklore and ritual in 800 words or less. For the stalwart, I've even included my favorite Wassail recipe at the end.

To begin with, the word 'wassail' comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase 'waes hael,' or 'good health.'

The story of its inception is best presented by Geoffrey of Monmouth in his riveting, but by no means complete, 1135 potboiler "History of the Kings of Britain." In it, he tells of a king named Vortigern who, while being entertained at a royal banquet, was presented with a large bowl of wine by a pretty little serving wench named Rowena, who

bleated, "Lavert King, was hail!"

Vortigern's interpreter explained to him that the wench wasn't calling him out, but rather offering a greeting, the proper response for which was 'drinc hail,' roughly translated to mean 'commence guzzling!' The exchange become an instant tradition in



the lands of Britain, where the person who drinks first at a banquet or gathering (usually the head of the household) says 'wassail,' followed by the response

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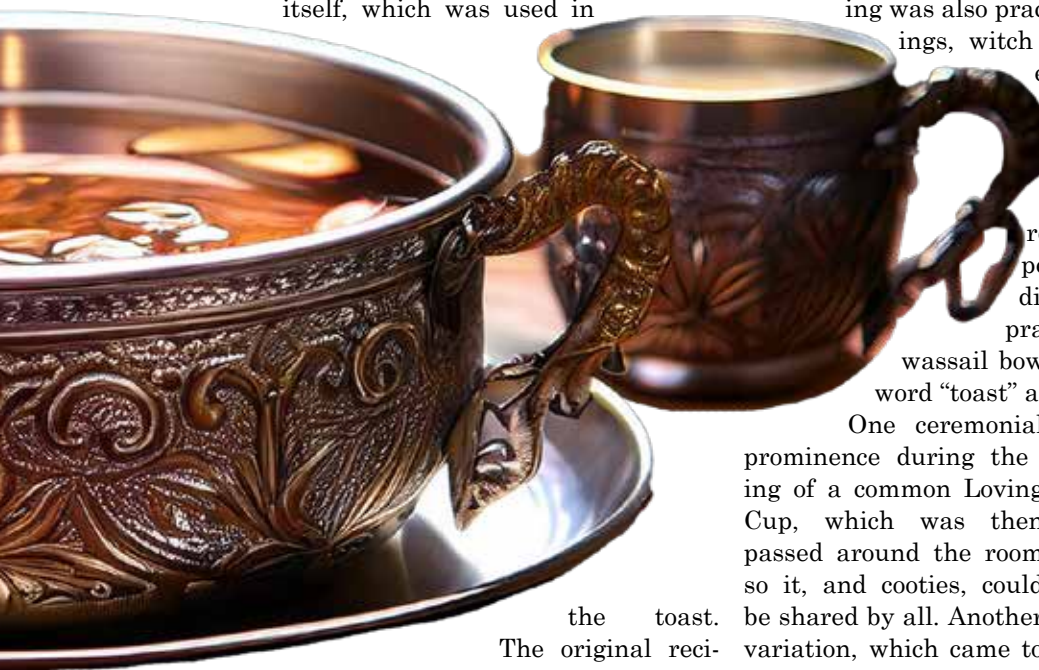
# WASSAIL!

## An abbreviated history of Wassailing

By David Salcido

from the crowd, 'drink hail!' signaling the beginning of the revels and debauchery.

The word wassail also came to denote the drink itself, which was used in



the toast. The original recipe, as passed down from that time, was said to be a heady combination of mulled ale, curdled cream, roasted apples, eggs, cloves, ginger, nutmeg and sugar. In time, the cream and egg were separated out (the genesis of the gastric terror known as egg nog?) and, though variations abound, the main ingredients of wassail always involved baked apples and spices.

Over time the tradition of wassailing, much like the recipe, began to acquire variations. Although classically observed during the Christmas holiday, wassailing was also practiced at weddings, christenings, witch burnings and other joyful events where community and family came together to celebrate. The first mention of a wassail bowl was in the thirteenth century, referring to a large wooden or pewter vessel in which were dipped cakes and breads. The practice of floating bread in the wassail bowl was the progenitor of the word "toast" as a salutation.


One ceremonial version, which came to prominence during the Renaissance, was the filling of a common Loving Cup, which was then passed around the room so it, and cooties, could be shared by all. Another variation, which came to prominence in the 17th century, was for a bowl of wassail to be taken house to house and shared with neighbors, until a little ailment called the Black Death put an end to communal quaffing.

The most popular tradition, however, continued to be the custom of toasting one's guests before the commencement of merry making, as kept alive by popular scribes Washington Irving and Charles Dickens, during the 19th century. In the 20th century, alas, there were none to carry the torch and the tradition declined, eventually falling victim to the same corporate white washing of the holiday season that created Santa Claus, artificial Christmas trees and increasingly vapid interpretations of A Christmas Carol.

Still, remnants of the tradition continue. There are many who claim that the custom of going from house to house singing Christmas carols had its origins in wassailing. In fact, the song "Here We Come A-Wassailing" was eventually changed to "Here We Come

### WASSAILING

*continued on page 20*



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**WASSAILING***continued from page 19*

A-Caroling,” mainly because the concept of wassailing became lost over time. That and the rigid expungement of all references to inebriated conviviality by enterprising Puritans, who hit upon the concept that singing hymns to unsuspecting neighbors, rather than bringing them booze, often resulted in a payoff to make them stop.



Eventually frowned upon in polite society, despite the original intent of offering blessings and good will to friends and family, the custom of wassailing went underground where it has assiduously been kept alive by artists, miscreants and rogues to this day. No matter what the ritual exercises or traditional observances, one fact remains: wassail continues to be a great way to warm the cockles on a cold winter's eve.

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There are so many different versions of the recipe that have been handed down over the centuries, but common elements tend to be booze, baked apples and spices. Beer is the preferred base, but other versions involve everything from wine to apple juice. Here's my tried and true version, always a favorite at holiday gatherings:

**Traditional Wassail****Ingredients:**

- 6 – 10 small apples, cored
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup water
- 8 to 12 12-ounce bottles hard apple ale
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cinnamon stick

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. Put apples into a glass baking dish. Sprinkle brown sugar onto each apple evenly. Pour water into bottom of the dish and bake approximately 45 minutes, or until tender.
3. In sachet or tea infuser combine cloves, allspice, ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon (you may have to cut the cinnamon stick to make it fit)
4. Pour ale and place spice sachet into a large pot and set over low heat, slowly raising temperature until steam is rising. Do not boil!
5. Remove sachet. Add apples and liquid from baking dish to hot cider and let mingle over heat for 15 minutes or so.
6. Ladle into cups and serve.
7. Don't forget the toast to the good fortunes of those around you.



Wassailer's note: Hard apple ale (Redds Apple Ale, Woodchuck Hard Cider or Unibroue Ephemere from Canada, if available) is the preferred choice at my castle, but traditionalists tend to like using real English ale. Other choices are porter, brown ale or Belgian dubbel. The secret is to favor malt over hops, as hoppy beers, such as IPAs, tend to be bitter when cooked.

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# Yule: Local Pagans Celebrate Winter Solstice and Community



By Elaine Stachera Simon

In the long list of December festivities, the Pagan celebration of Yule is often overlooked.

The last of eight Pagan sabbats (celebrations) in the calendar year, Yule celebrates the return of the sun, taking place at the winter solstice when the sun appears to stand still just before the days begin

to lengthen once again. Other sabbats are similarly timed throughout the year according to solar and lunar cycles and agricultural seasons.

In Las Cruces, the Yule celebration is conducted by the Desert Spirit Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPs), the local chapter of the national CUUPs ministry. According to Desert Spirit CUUPs council member Larissa Gibbs, Yule is “the promise

that the cold and darkness will leave, and the sun and life are back on their way.” Like the Christmas story, the myths behind the Yule celebration are heavy in birth imagery, and many myths describe a goddess

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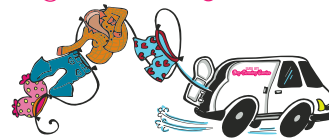


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Desert Spirit CUUPs council members Larissa and Victor Gibbs. Photo by Elaine Stachera Simon.

giving birth to the sun god.

Community is an important aspect of the Pagan Yule gathering, recognizing that we are “together on the spiritual path of being in touch with nature and the cycles of the Earth—and understanding how we fit into these greater life cycles,” Larissa notes. “Yule is a time to light a candle and think about those who



Victor Gibbs performs a ceremony at the Desert Spirit CUUPs Yule celebration. Photo by Ashley Smith.

have gone before you and be thankful for your family and the food on your table.”

She adds that Paganism remains misunderstood and emphasizes that it is neither devil worship nor anti-science. A research biologist by training, Larissa teaches high school science, and her husband and

fellow CUUPs council member, Victor, is an anthropologist/archaeologist. A basic definition of Paganism is the family of non-monotheistic spiritual belief systems heavily influenced by pre-Christian traditions. Many different forms of Paganism exist; however, all of them emphasize the divinity of nature and Earth-centered spirituality.

What can you expect at the Desert Spirit CUUPs Yule celebration? The service begins with the celebrant “casting a circle,” or creating the sacred space within which the rituals will be performed. The celebrant may salute the four directions and/or elements or invoke certain gods/goddesses or deities. A teaching about the holiday follows, along with music, poetry, and wassail (mulled cider) as



Members of the Desert Spirit CUUPs lead the congregation in song. Photo by Ashley Smith.

an offering to the spirits of nature. Victor likes to include everyone sharing a “Toast, Boast, and Oath” to recognize the passing of time—toast something positive from the past year, boast about something you were proud to have done, and solemnize an oath for something you want to do before the summer solstice arrives.

The Desert Spirit CUUPs Yule celebration takes place on December 21 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church (2000 South Solano Drive). Throughout the year, services consisting of a potluck and a ritual or teaching are on the third Saturday of each month from 6 – 8 p.m. The public is welcome both to the Yule celebration and services. Learn more about the Desert Spirit CUUPs on their Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/1308232272875707.

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## ON THE BORDER

# Making a Difference

## A Borderlands Cinderella story

By Morgan J. Smith

It was May 2010 and I had stumbled across the Mother's Day celebration in Palomas, Mexico organized by a non-profit called La Casa de Amor para Ninos, an orphanage that was caring for 32 children ranging in age from the newly born to 12 years old. A volunteer named Martina Ontiveros showed me around and I remember asking her if she was afraid because Palomas was very dangerous at that time.

"I'm a soldier of salvation," she answered in Spanish. "I walk with faith." In other words, she had a mission to accomplish and being afraid was simply not an issue.

This was a huge event. The whole Palomas community had been invited to enjoy a meal, listen to music, participate in games for the kids, and then receive a

"dispensa" or basket of food and household items.

To my complete surprise, I learned that this extraordinary program had been founded by Jim and Pat Noble, a couple from my hometown of Santa Fe where Jim was a partner in the law firm of Noble and Vrapí.

The key person, however, was a young woman named Eunice Herrera who not only was the Emcee but also sang with the band called Rocka Fuerte.

Herrera grew up in Ascención, Mexico (pop. 14,000) which is about an hour and a half south of Palomas. Her father was the pastor in a church there. When she was twelve, she met the Nobles who were in the process of preparing the paperwork to start this orphanage. The Nobles stayed at Eunice's parents' home, Eunice's father became a member of La Casa's board of



Eunice and her staff at the Vrapí Weeks Law Firm in August of 2024.

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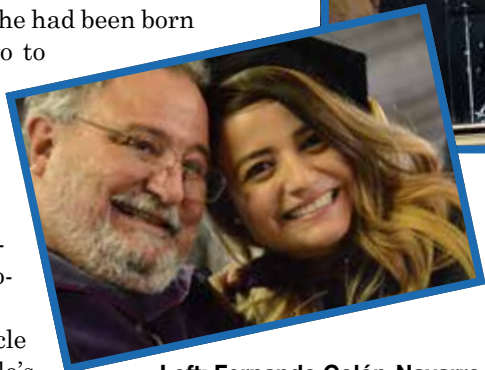
directors and the families became friends.

Subsequently Eunice's father suggested that she organize a vacation bible school for La Casa. At age fifteen she began doing this and when she was seventeen, she was asked to be on the board of directors of La Casa. She has been a leader in their activities in Palomas ever since.

It turned out that because she had been born in the US, she was able to go to UTEP for an undergraduate degree. Her mother was a powerful influence. "She never allowed us to take a day off from school," Eunice says. She then moved to Santa Fe and went to work in Noble's law firm as an intern.

I decided to write an article about her and we met at Noble's law offices in Santa Fe shortly after this Mother's Day visit. It was obvious that she should go to law school. (I'm a lawyer myself.) Soon, with encouragement from me and others, she enrolled at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, a school with a deep history in the civil rights movement.

Once there, Eunice not only had the difficult struggle of law school but also continued many trips to



Left: Fernando Colón-Navarro and Eunice at her graduation ceremony in 2015.

Center: Eunice emceeing a Mother's Day event in Palomas in 2010.

Right: Eunice Herrera and her mentor Jim Noble in 2016.

Palomas on weekends to help out. There were some light moments, however. During her first visit to the law school, she got lost looking for the financial aid office and asked a man for directions.

"I'm only the school's janitor," he told her. In fact, he was Fernando Colón-Navarro, a distinguished professor with several Harvard degrees and the Co-Di-

rector of the school's Institute for International and Immigration Law. Originally from Puerto Rico, he later went to Palomas in December 2015 to confer her degree.

This took place at La Casa's huge Christmas party with hundreds in attendance. "I wanted this to happen in Palomas so that young people there could see that a person like me could succeed," Eunice said.

Due to the difficult and ever-changing Mexican government bureaucracy, La Casa's mission has had to change several times, and the focus is now on scholarships for 130 local students and 12 who are in college.

Her law practice has advanced. Jim Noble has retired, and the firm has been renamed Vrap Weeks. Eunice is now a partner and the manager of the Santa Fe office.

She is also preparing for La Casa's December 14 Christmas party, another opportunity for her to show the young people of Palomas that through education they can achieve success.

Morgan Smith has been documenting conditions on the US-Mexico border since 2010 and can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

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## EVENTS

# What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in December

### Through December 7

**A Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. & 2 p.m.**, at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202

### Sunday, December 1

**Ethan Perry, 1-4 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Valley Sessions Live, 3-10 p.m.**, at The Hood, 3206 Harrelson St., Las Cruces. Info: ValleySessions.com

**Noche de Luminarias, 5-8 p.m.**, from the Pan American Center to the Horseshoe on the NMSU Campus. Info: 575-646-1722

### Tuesday, December 3

**Author Talk with Sue Minix, 1:30 p.m.** in the Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E.

Picacho Ave. Info: 575-649-8786

### Wednesday, December 4

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Iris DeMent, 7 p.m.** at the Fine Arts Center Theatre in Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300

### Thursday, December 5

**Western Institute for Lifelong Learning Pre-Registration Social, 5 p.m.**, at the WNMU Besse-Forward

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**Acoustic Jam, 5-7 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo in the Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Karaoke, 7-10 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Open Mic Night with Tyler Jones, 7-10 p.m.** at Downshift Brewing Company, 2408 B Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso. Info: 575-257-5300

**I Don't Konform, Cruces Cult, Mt. Metal, 7:30 p.m.**, at Jax Rooftop, 302 S. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-7417

### Friday, December 6

**Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** on Mesilla Plaza, Calle Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-524-3262

**Christmas Zoobilee and Christmas Tree Lighting, 12-8 p.m.**, at Alameda Park Zoo, 1221 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4279

### December 6-7

**A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley presents Season of Light, 7 p.m. & 2 p.m.**, at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. 575-571-1413

**El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents Christmas in Vienna, 7:30 p.m.** at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

### December 6-8

**La Casa Holiday Bazaar, 4:30 p.m.-4 p.m.**, at Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: LaCasaInc.org

### December 6 - 22

**No Strings Theatre Company presents A Christmas Carol, 8 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.**, at The Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1223

**Las Cruces Community Theatre presents Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, 7:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.** at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200

### Saturday, December 7

**Ace of Races Marathon, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.** at Domenici Fitness & Sports Center, 1051 W. Connecticut Ave., Holloman Air Force Base. Info: 49FSS.com/run/

**Living History Tour, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** at the Deming Luna Mimbres Museum, 301 S. Silver Ave., Deming. Info: 575-546-2382





**Trombone Christmas  
Dec. 7**

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Farmers Market of Otero County, 9-11 a.m.** at Tractor Supply, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081

**Silver City Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Trombone Christmas, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: 575-646-2421

**Tularosa Winter Festival, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.** at 408 Granado Street, Tularosa. Info: 575-430-1002

**Christmas in the Foothills, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** at the Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenore, Hillsboro. Info: 575-895-3300

**Silver City Holiday Artisan Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180 E., Silver City. Info: 575-993-8193

**Michael Martin Murphy's Cowboy Christmas, 2-4 p.m.** at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Rd., Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

**Messy Church, 2-4:30 p.m.** at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 518 Alameda Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-526-6333

**Christmas on MainStreet, 4-9 p.m.,** on New York Ave.,

Alamogordo. Info: 575-446-3612

**City of Las Cruces Tree Lighting, 6-8 p.m.,** at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2550

**Sangre Gitana, 7 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Rhythm Mystic, 8-11 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Sunday, December 8**

**Silver City Holiday Artisan Market, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.** at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180 E., Silver City. Info: 575-993-8193

**Black Cat Poetry Reading, 1-2:25 p.m.** at Ingo's Art Café, 422 Broadway, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-551-8186

**Oversouls, 1-4 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**El Paso Community Foundation Jewel Box Series presents Pianist Daniel Villasenor, 2:30 p.m.** at the Philanthropy Theatre, One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: 915-533-4020

**Mesilla Valley Concert Band free performance, 3 p.m.** at the Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: MesillaValleyConcertBand.org

**December 10-12**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** in the Village of Tortugas, 3620 Paroquia, Mesilla Park. Info: 575-526-8171

**Wednesday, December 11**

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Mariachi Christmas, 7 p.m.** at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202

**Thursday, December 12**

**Las Cruces Ukes Holiday Concert, 6-7 p.m.,** at Good Samaritan Las Cruces Village Social Center Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesUkes.com

**Performer's Showcase Open Mic, 6 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Friday, December 13**

**Luminarias Light Up the Desert, 5-7:30 p.m.** at Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-524-3334



**Hi Lo Silvers Christmas Concert  
Dec. 13 & 15**

**EVENTS**

continued on page 28

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**A Merry-Achi Christmas**  
Dec. 16



**El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents**  
**Christmas in Vienna**  
Dec. 6 - 7

## EVENTS

*continued from page 27*

**Holiday at the Depot, 5-8 p.m.** at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-528-3444

**T or C's Old Fashioned Christmas, 6-9 p.m.** in Downtown Truth or Consequences, 300 Daniels, Truth or Consequences. Info: TorCMainstreet.org

**The Casual Fridays Rockin' Holiday Extravaganza, 7 p.m.**, at Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-521-1099

**Hi Lo Silvers Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.** at the Presbyterian Church Hearsh Event Center, 1915 N. Swan St., Silver City. Info: 575-388-8771

**Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra December Chamber Concert, 7:30 p.m.**, at the NMSU Music Center, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesSymphony.com

**A Drag Queen Christmas, 8 p.m.** at the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-231-1100

**Flicker, 8-11 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Nutcracker Gala for Borderlands Ballet, 9 p.m.-midnight** at the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music, 1390 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-525-5670

**December 13-22**

**Borderlands Ballet presents The Nutcracker, 7 p.m. & 2 p.m.** at the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music, 1390 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 505-652-0204

**Saturday, December 14**

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Farmers Market of Otero County, 9-11 a.m.** at Tractor Supply, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081

**Silver City Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Posada Winter Celebration, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701

Missouri Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-7119

**Lincoln Christmas Opera Concert, 1-2 p.m.** at the Lincoln Historic Site, 988 Calle La Placita, Lincoln. Info: NMHistoricSites.org/Lincoln

**Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra December Chamber Concert, 3 p.m.**, at the NMSU Music Center, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesSymphony.com

**Astronomy League Public Star Party, 6-8 p.m.** at New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Rte. 2001,

Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2840

**Ghosts of Christmas Past... An Ebenezer Scrooge Evening, 6-8:30 p.m.** at the Old Doña Ana Courthouse, 251 W. Amador, Las Cruces. Info: 877-808-6877

**Elephant Butte's Luminaria Beachwalk, 5-9 p.m.**, at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, 101 Hwy 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 520-471-0134

**Second Saturday Art Hop, 6-9 p.m.** on MainStreet, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-1968

**WNMU Mariachi Christmas Spectacular, 7 p.m.** at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300

**Illusion Band, 8-11 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Sunday, December 15**

**Mesilla Valley Chorale Holiday Concert "Someday at Christmas," 3 p.m.** at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2290

**New Horizons Symphony free performance, 3 p.m.** at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: NHSOCruces.com

**Hi Lo Silvers Christmas Concert, 3 p.m.** at the Presbyterian Church Hearsh Event Center, 1915 N. Swan St., Silver City. Info: 575-388-8771

**December 15 - January 5**

**Taylor Family Collection of Nacimientos/Nativities, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**, Wednesday - Sunday, at the Reynolds Store Visitor Center, 2350 Calle Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-202-1638

**Monday, December 16**

**Share the Road Las Cruces, 7 a.m.** at Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., Las Cruces. Info: VeloCruces.org or 575-323-0883

**A Merry-Achi Christmas, 7:30 p.m.** at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-231-1100

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Farm La-La, 4-8 p.m.**, at New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-4100

**Illuminando Las Montañas, 4:30-7:30 p.m.**, at the Dripping Springs Visitor Center, 15000 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-1219

**Wednesday, December 18**

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Film Las Cruces presents The Wrap, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2290

## Open Mic Night with Tyler Jones

Dec. 5





**Michael Martin Murphy's  
Cowboy Christmas  
Dec. 7**

Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

City. Info: 575-956-6144

**December 19-20**

**Silver City Improv presents  
The Improv Holiday Show, 8  
p.m.,** at the Starlight Theatre,  
1915 N. Gold St., Silver City.  
Info: SilverCityImprov.com

**December 20-21**

**Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue:  
Holidaze Edition, 8 p.m.** at  
Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N.  
Main St., Las Cruces. Info:  
575-541-2290

**December 20-22**

**Las Cruces Chamber Ballet  
presents the 41st Annual  
Nutcracker, 7 & 2 p.m.** at  
Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N.  
Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info:  
575-527-1893

**EVENTS**

*continued on page 30*

**Friday, December 20**

**Astronomy Friends of  
the Parks, 5:10 p.m.** at  
Rockhound State Park, 9880  
Stirrup Rd. SE., Deming. Info:  
575-546-6182

**Silver City Poetic Outlaws  
Open Mic, 5:30 p.m.** at  
Whiskey Creek Zócalo, in the  
Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East,  
Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-  
1266

**DJ Mischievous Party, 9  
p.m.,** - 12 a.m. at Little Toad  
Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver

**Performer's Showcase  
Open Mic, 6 p.m.** at Whiskey  
Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy  
180 East, Arenas Valley.  
Info: 575-388-1266 or  
WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Karaoke, 7 - 10 p.m.** at Little  
Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St,



**Iris DeMent  
Dec. 4**

**December 18-19**

**Deadmau5, 8 p.m. at 11:11**  
EPTX, 9740 Dyer St., El Paso.  
Info: discopresents.com/  
deadmau5

**Thursday, December 19**

**Young at Heart Senior  
Chorus Concert, 2 p.m.,**  
at Good Samaritan Las  
Cruces Village Social Center  
Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida  
Circle, Las Cruces. Info: 262-  
490-7968

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**Luminarias/Farolitos Lighting, Caroling,  
Mulled Wine & Smores  
Dec. 21**

**EVENTS**

continued from page 29

**Saturday, December 21**

**Sierra County Farmers Market, 8:30-11:30 a.m.** at 300 Riverside Dr., Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-1968

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1**

**p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

**Farmers Market of Otero County, 9-11 a.m.** at Tractor Supply, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081

**Silver City Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Weaving for Justice Maya Textile Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** at First Christian Church atrium, 1809 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces. Info: Weaving-For-Justice.org

**Southern New Mexico N Scalers Model Railroad Club, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the SNM Fairgrounds (enter through West gate), 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-993-7078

**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

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: 781471031; password: 954941; info: nmal-anon.com

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Overeaters Anony-**

**mous**, 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: 411858127; 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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**New Mexico Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network Fall meeting, 11 a.m.** at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 860-324-7614

**Winter Solstice 2024, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.** at Hot Springs Glamp Camp, 675 S. Foch, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-740-6775

**Luminarias/Farolitos Lighting, Caroling, Mulled Wine & Smores, 5 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Noche de las Luminarias, 5-9 p.m.,** at Fort Selden Historic Site, 1280 Fort Selden Road, Radium Springs. Info: 575-526-8911

**Astronomy Friends of the Parks, 5:10 p.m.** at City of Rocks State Park, 327 NM-61, Faywood. Info: 575-536-2800

**Yule CUUPs Monthly Gathering, 6:30 p.m.** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S.

Solano Dr., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-7281

#### Tuesday, December 24

**The Aramaic Lord's Prayer Chants and Movement, 2-4 p.m.** at Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Silver City. Info: 575-534-1441

**Christmas Carols and Luminarias, 5-7 p.m.,** on Mesilla Plaza, Calle Principal, Mesilla. Info: 575-524-3262

**Christmas Holiday Party, 8 - 11 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### Thursday, December 26

**Songwriters Showcase, 6 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266

#### December 19-20

**Silver City Improv presents The Improv Holiday Show, 8 p.m.,** at the Starlight Theatre, 1915 N. Gold St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityImprov.com

#### Friday, December 27

**C.L. Smith Live, 6-9 p.m.** at Cloudcroft Brewing Co., 1301 Burro Ave. Cloudcroft. Info: 575-682-2337

#### Saturday, December 28

**Sierra County Farmers Market, 8:30-11:30 a.m.** at 300 Riverside Dr., Truth or

Consequences. Info: 575-894-1968

**Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces,

Downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-201-3853

#### EVENTS

*continued on page 32*



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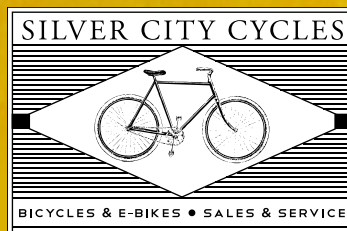
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## DECEMBER EVENTS

Wednesday  
Dec 4



Iris DeMent

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\$20 | 7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre

Friday  
Dec 6



**Holiday family fun!** Enjoy live entertainment, children's craft activities, seasonal treats, photo ops, and an ugly sweater contest!  
5:30 - 8:30 pm | outdoors at Regents Square | Free

Saturday  
Dec 14

## MARIACHI Christmas Spectacular



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Estrella de México  
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Mariachi Plata de WNMU  
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Mesilla Valley Concert Band  
Dec. 8

### EVENTS

continued from page 31

**Farmers Market of Otero County, 9-11 a.m.** at Tractor Supply, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081

**Silver City Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Silver City String Beans, 8 - 11 p.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

### Sunday, December 29

**Jazz Brunch with John Mitchell and Friends, 1 p.m.** at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266

**Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland, 7 p.m.** at Abraham Chavez Theatre, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: 915-231-1100

### Tuesday, December 31

**Fatman Events presents Fantasy Ball, 5 p.m.-1 a.m.** at Versailles Palace, 1715 Saul Kleinfeld Dr., El Paso. Info: troy@fatmanevents.com

**Las Cruces Chili Drop with Caliente and Keana Huerta, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.** at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces Info: Facebook.com/ChileDropLasCruces

**Black & White New Year's Eve Ball, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.** at Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. 1st. St., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4159

**New Year's Eve Party, 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.** at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144





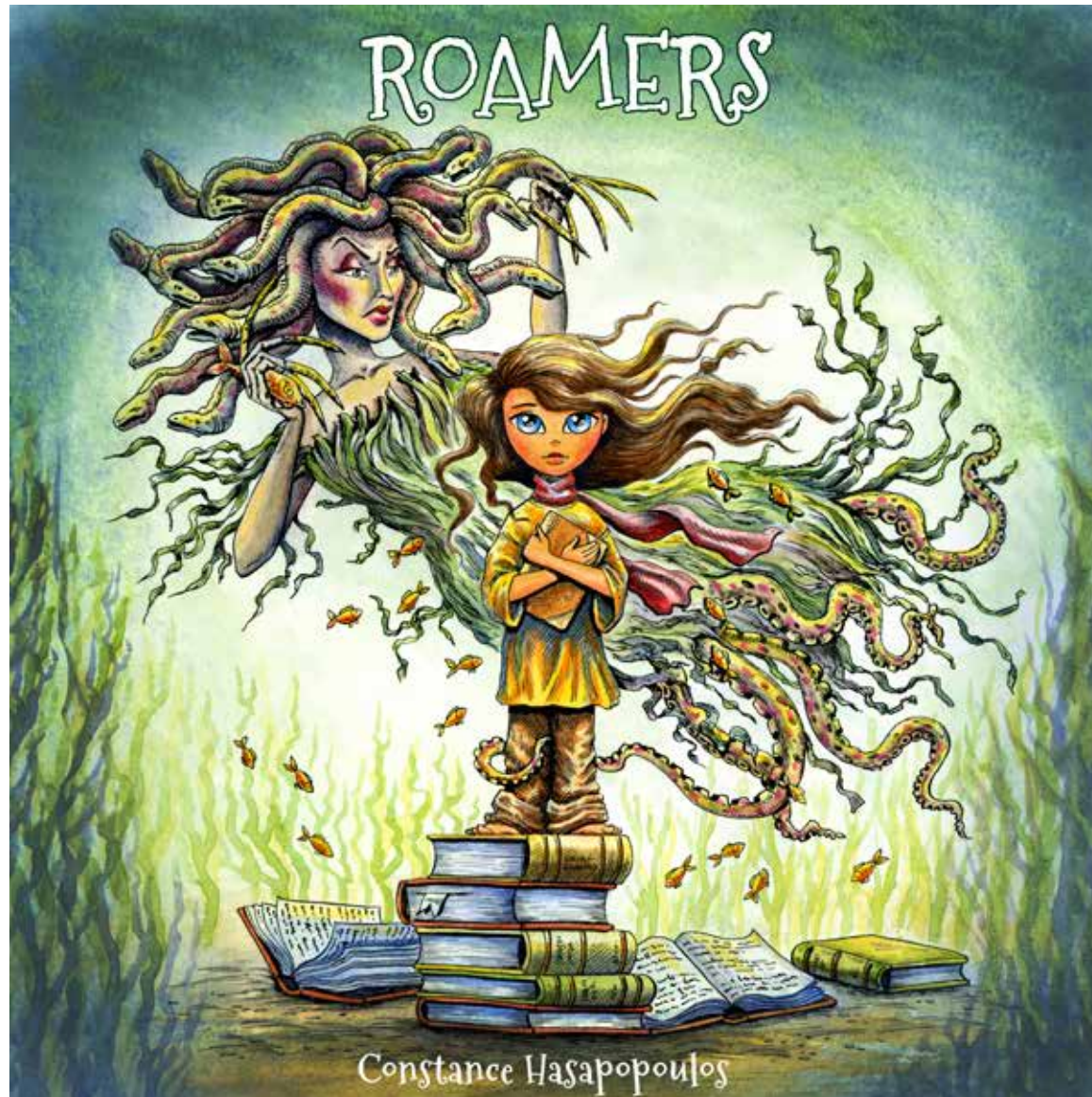
# Vocal Wonders

Bringing the world of Roamers to life

By David Salcido

Creating imaginative worlds is nothing new to Constance Hasapopoulos. An award-winning screenwriter and actress, who makes her home in Las Cruces, Hasapopoulos has made a career of bringing projects from a child's perspective to life. In addition to founding ACT Children's Theatre, she also wrote and starred in the Cannes Film Festival showcase film "Eyes of a Child." Now she's written and directed a children's audiobook, featuring a full cast of local luminaries and produced right here in Las Cruces.

The audiobook, titled "Roamers," follows the story of 12-year-old Beatrice, who in addition to being bullied by classmates and family members alike, is thrown into a strange "Tim Burton-esque" world where she must save her brother from a murderous sea witch. Running three hours and 16 minutes, the target audience is between the ages of 9 and 14, but Hasapopoulos is quick to add, "I've had several adults tell me they really enjoyed it."



It has so many life-affirming messages for young and old people alike."

Produced at Studio 603 by local sound guru Dave Wheeler, the recording also includes music by Albuquerque composer David Kelly, and final touches by CMI student Jeret Gladstone. For her part, Hasapopoulos is proud of the work that went into the project, adding that she believes it to be the first of its kind for the area, since it utilized only regional talent.

In fact, many of the voices will be recognizable to anybody who attends theater in Las Cruces. Among them are Norman Duttweiler, Teddy Aspen Sanchez, Janet Beatty-Cold, Melissa Munoz, Darin Robert Cabot, Gail Wheeler, Dave Edwards, Ed Montez and many more. All of the young actors called upon to play the kids in the production were culled from area schools.

"We have so much talent here, it's just amazing,"

## ROAMERS

*continued on page 34*

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## ROAMERS

continued from page 33



Author Constance  
Hasapopoulos

Hasapopoulos said. “It was a lot of work, with many challenges, but there were also times when I just couldn’t stop laughing. It was an absolute joy.”

Actor Norman Duttweiler, who plays the evil Thin Man, refers to the project as a very happy and creative experience. “The quality of the material we were

reading was really excellent - a great plot with great characters, so it was a lot of fun to work on.”

Janet Beatty-Cold, who voices the eccentric Dorothea, agrees. “Since I had never worked on voicing an audiobook before, this was a really interesting project. I’m glad I had the chance to be part of it!”

Finished in April of this year, the audiobook was uploaded to several platforms, including Spotify.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, Play.Google.com, Audiobooks.com, and ChirpBooks.com. It can also be found in the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library’s digital library. So far, the reception has been positive.

“I happened to check on Barnes & Noble a couple of weeks after we posted it, and they had featured it as

their Mother’s Day promotion,” Hasapopoulos added. “It was our cover art and everything! I almost fell out of my chair.”



Young actors record a passage from the audio book “Roamers,”  
by Constance Hasapopoulos.

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Located in the scenic Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos, New Mexico, well-known for its artists, writers, and musicians, is the perfect getaway destination. It provides the ideal blend of historical attractions, cultural experiences, and outdoor activities.

## GETTING THERE

From Southern New Mexico, head toward Santa Fe on I-25. From Santa Fe, two main routes lead to Taos: the “Low Road” and the “High Road.” The Low Road is the faster, more direct route, taking 70 miles along Highway 68, which hugs the cottonwood-lined Rio Grande River. This route allows you to stop at fruit stands, wineries, and various points where you can access the river. The High Road offers a longer, more scenic drive through mountain villages and picturesque landscapes, making the 105-mile route worth the extra time.

## SHOPPING, DINING, AND GALLERIES

Once you arrive in Taos, you'll find plenty of places to eat and shop. In addition to standard souvenir shops, you'll find boutiques, galleries, and artisan stores. Whether you're looking for handcrafted jewelry, Southwestern crafts, or contemporary art, you'll find something for everyone on your list. Gallery owners and staff are friendly and know many tourists are “just looking,” so feel free to browse. You might even get to talk with an artist about their work.



# Road Trip

## Visit Beautiful Taos

By Julia Osgood

Dining options are just as diverse, with a range of restaurants offering everything from casual bites to gourmet meals. Many of these eateries focus on local ingredients, allowing you to enjoy New Mexican cuisine alongside other fresh, farm-to-table dishes.

## MUSEUMS

History buffs will feel at home at any of the several museums that tell the area's storied history. Stop by the visitor center to find out which museums might interest you.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Get your outdoor fix any time of year in Taos. In the winter, the area's four Alpine ski resorts provide excellent skiing and snowboarding opportunities. These resorts offer mountain biking, hiking, and scenic lift rides during the warmer months.

Rafting on the Rio Grande is another popular ac-



tivity, with trips from gentle family floats to thrilling white-water experiences. The nearby Carson National Forest offers numerous hiking and mountain biking trails for all skill levels. If you love to fish, you'll find the local rivers, lakes, and streams teeming with trout.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

The San Francisco de Asis Church — still in operation — was completed in the early 1800s. This National Historic Landmark has inspired artists like Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keeffe.

Another famous stop is the Taos Pueblo, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in the United States.

Don't miss the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge. You can drive across or walk along the bridge and view the gorge 650 feet down!



## SUMMING IT UP

Whether you're seeking respite from the summer heat of Southern New Mexico, a winter adventure of skiing and snowboarding, or a bit of spring or fall color, Taos fits the bill. It has a range of accommodations, including hotels, bed and breakfasts, and RV parks.

<p>JOY LOVE PEACE BELIEVE CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>'Tis the Season to spread joy and goodwill...</p> <p><b>LOYALTY MEMBER SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Spend \$100, get a \$10 off coupon to redeem in 2025</p>
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