

JANUARY 2025 | VOL. 30 NO. 1

EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

DESERT exposure

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The Heat!** PAGE 16

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Desert #103 Dumbfounder by Dave Thomas

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

∧ = x : enT∩

"LK'U ZBK J IFDJKF - SWFIF NBC JYYEN KB HFK J VWFVT DJVT
- SLKW KWL U YIBHIJR, VCUKBRFIU HFK KWFLI ALUVBCZK SWFZ
KWFN DCN KWF FDLTF." - AJXF DJTFI BM ULEXFI VLKN VNVEFU

Use the answer key below to track your clues, and reveal Secret Words!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "I DON'T KNOW HOW I DO IT. I'M ABLE TO SEE THE PROPORTIONS AND THE BALANCE OF A PIECE, BUT ONLY AS I GET INTO THE WOOD, THEN IT ALL COMES TOGETHER." - WOODCARVER JESSE
OCHOA *Secret Words: "ADOPTING CURVES"

Congrats to #102 solvers:
David Pino*, Will Adams*,
Mike Arms*, Connie Tull*, Sue Merrick*,
Shorty Vaiza*, Skip Howard*, & Claudette Gallegos*!

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FEBRUARY DEADLINE

All stories and notices for the editorial section,
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due Wednesday, January 15.

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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 is a fantastic opportunity to own an established Restaurant and a Historical building with a prime location in Downtown Silver City, NM. Designated parking area in the back and a large street-facing corner patio. Adobe Springs has been a turnkey restaurant established for over 30 years showcasing a history of success and community engagement. It is close to the Main Street Plaza, Big Ditch Park with walking tours and the Visitor Center close by. The restaurant has had steady revenue growth over the last 14 years, and beloved menu "staples" that have a history of over 30 years of popularity, seating for 60+ with expansion potential. There is an unfinished room which is used for storage but can be easily turned into a banquet room or extra seating. This prime location serves as a gateway to success with a mix of consistent "regulars." MLS #40595 \$950,000



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/replace 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. MLS #40002 \$699,000



Gorgeous custom home in a park-like setting features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office, two living areas, dining room and big open kitchen with an island and breakfast bar. Laundry room services both primary bedroom and kitchen. Szyggy tile featured plus laminate flooring in all bedrooms. Great split floorplan with french doors leading to patio from guest bedroom and primary bedroom. Also features a two car garage, paved driveway and parking area on 3.6 acres as well as 2 heating/air conditioning units. Don't miss the amazing views and private location. This is a relocation listing. MLS #40489 \$545,000



Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own one of the last remaining substantial spreads, this close to Silver City. The 92+/- acres lends itself to several building sites with views all the way to Mexico. If you want privacy, you'll find it here. Wildlife abounds, as it has had limited access for years. This is just south of Dos Griegos subdivision and is just under 5 miles from downtown Silver City. Don't hesitate for a moment to call.
MLS #40709 \$499,000



Country meets modern amenities in this BEAUTIFUL custom home on almost 12 acres in the Lower Mimbres Valley. The 1096 sq/ft home features 9 ft ceilings, a newly remodeled kitchen/granite counters, custom cabinets and newer appliances. The primary bedroom/bath features a jetted garden tub. Both showers are custom, designer tiled. Murphy bed highlights the guest bedroom. Ceiling fans and window coverings throughout plus 4 security cameras. This gated and fenced horse property features a breezeway attached drive-through garage, a separate 875 sq/ft heated/cooled garage/potential casita with half bath, and a metal carport. Horse facilities consist of a 36x12 ft stable with tack room, corral and hay barn plus a un in shed and pasture. Fenced garden with raised beds. The yard is meticulously landscaped. MLS #40306 \$485,000



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



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



This property provides a unique opportunity with two homes adjoined near downtown Silver City. Set on a spacious 0.689-acre lot, this property has one house in good condition and another in fixer-upper status, perfect for investment or multi-family living. Enjoy the convenience of a detached two-car garage, large backyard and a versatile workshop, providing endless possibilities for your projects or hobbies. Whether you're looking to renovate, expand, or simply enjoy our vibrant community, this property offers the best of both worlds. MLS #40646 \$200,000



Nestled in the heart of the Burro Mountains is 89 Rustlers Trail with its stunning views of the surrounding mountains, valleys, desert and near access to public land and access points to the Continental Divide Trail. There is ample space to build a home where you can enjoy hiking, horseback riding or enjoying the breathtaking views of vibrant sunsets and night skies that let you gaze at the galaxy while you experience the tranquility of rural Southwestern New Mexico. 89 Rustlers Trail is just a short drive from Silver City, New Mexico with its rich history, art galleries and eclectic community of restaurants, galleries and conveniences. The region's climate is semi-arid, with warm summers and very mild winters. The nearby Burro Mountains are home to an incredible variety of wildlife and bird species. MLS #40721 \$35,000

EDITOR'S NOTE | DAVID SALCIDO

Learning from the Past

It's January and a whole new year is ahead of us. What exactly that entails will be different for every person reading this, but one thing we do know: It won't be like any year that has come before. As ominous as that may sound to some, believe me when I say, it comes with a large dollop of hope. Those of us who live in southern New Mexico know what it means to hope for a better tomorrow, especially when it seems that all of the big decisions about how we live, work, and enjoy our downtime are made hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles away from here. Still, we persevere.

I've been thinking a lot about the history of our region, and how it impacts those of us who call southern New Mexico home. It's not unusual to

find descendants of some of the original families who settled here, a hundred and fifty or more years ago, still living in the area. Many have stories they have passed down about what life was like during the wild and wooly frontier days. Some are simple survival stories, while others shed light on historical moments that never made it into the history books.

Everybody has a story to tell. A story that has been passed down through the generations. A story that involves your family and connects you to the history of this wonderful state we find ourselves living in. These are the stories we want to hear. It doesn't have to involve Billy the Kid, or Pancho Villa, or even Geronimo, it just has to be something that nobody knows about. That family

secret, or a story existing only because somebody you know passed it on to you. It has to be plausible and not mean spirited. A recitation of generational memory. A story for the ages.

Do you have one of those? Are you willing to share it? Let us know and we'll work with you to give it the life it deserves. After all, what good is a story if it isn't shared? Consider it a New Year's resolution to remind us all that even when the times get tough, New Mexicans always find a way to survive. Whether it's through hope, perseverance, or just making sure tomorrow is a better day for those around us. Because tomorrow is coming and the decisions we make will impact those who follow us, sometimes for generations to come.

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



DID YOU KNOW?

Of course, we all know that on January 20, 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state to join the United States, following years of territorial status. But did you know that on January 21, 1890, Las Cruces College was renamed the New Mexico College of

Agriculture and Mechanic Arts? It didn't become New Mexico State University until 1960, when the name was changed by state constitutional amendment. Or that, on January 17, 1933, the White Sands National Monument was established? Well, now you do.



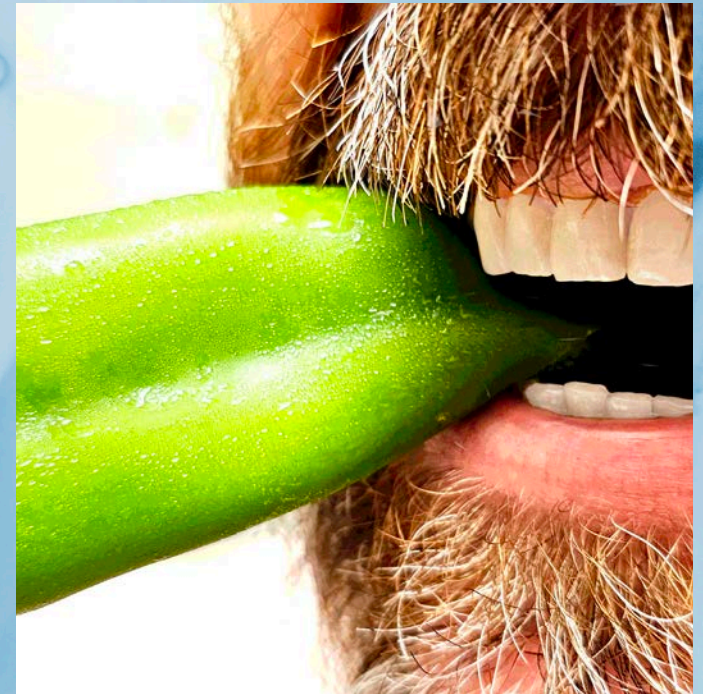
PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Brandi McCauley snapped this photo of sun dogs with a sun halo in Pinos Altos on November 25.

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.

ABOUT THE COVER



The perfect balance of flavor and heat is a hallmark of the Chile Pepper Institute's mission. (Photo by David Salcido)

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The Hotlist

Notable, unique and unusual things to do in southern New Mexico during the month of January 2025



State 47 Las Cruces Marathon

Gather your sporty friends together and hit the pavement for this USATF-certified event including a full marathon, half marathon, a 4.7-mile celebration run and a .47-mile kid's dash celebrating New Mexico's admission as the 47th state in the union.

The State 47 Marathon tracks through the Valley, 8 a.m., Saturday, January 4, at The Field of Dreams Stadium Trak, 2501 Tashiro Rd., Las Cruces. Info: raceroster.com/events/2025/84545/state-47-las-cruces-marathon



Dia de los Reyes Nativity Open House

Nativities, or Nacimientos, from the collection of faith Hutson and John Verploegh will be on display in their historic home on the original El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, with emphasis placed on the Magi for the Epiphany.

The Nativity Open House will spread the good news 12-4 p.m., Saturday, January 4, at 706 B. South Mesquite St., Las Cruces. Info: LCGarden64@gmail.com



Breaking Up Christmas and Bringing in the New Year Community Dance

Two-steps, waltzes, schottisches, polkas, and group dances will make up the bulk of this family-friendly hoedown featuring live music by Baba Quien and the Nuisances, featuring Ken Keppeler, Susan and Burt Mittelstadt, Thomas Wentz and their students.

The New Year Community Dance will bring attendees to their feet at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, January 11, at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W. Broadway St., Silver City. Info: 575-590-1059





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Chilly Willy Marathon

Embrace the chill and hit the trails of Las Cruces for a 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon, with nine races, chip timing, and awards given across various categories, including exclusive Finisher Medals for the first 200 to sign up.

The Chilly Willy Marathon gets the blood pumping at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, January 12, at La Llorona Park, 3440 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces. Info: Meredith@FiveStarNTP.com



Piano Ma'am Sing-Along

The El Paso Community Foundation Jewel Box Series presents internationally touring and former Miss America finalist Alissa Musto, who will be taking requests and encouraging her audience to sing along to piano classics, like Piano Man.

Piano Ma'am Sing-Along will be tinkling the ivories at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, January 12, at the Philanthropy Theatre, One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: 915-533-4020



Bachelors of Broadway

Three dashing New York City talents belt out the hits from stage and screen, with contemporary three-part harmony and lush symphonic arrangements of songs from modern and classic musicals, like Wicked, Jersey Boys, and more.

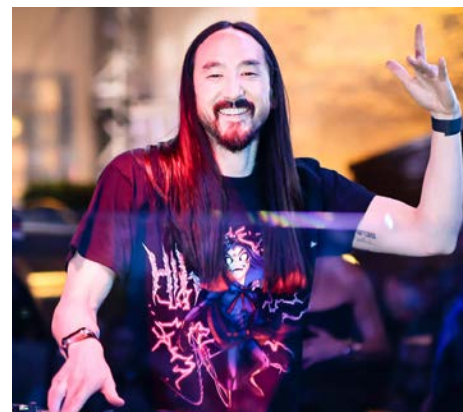
Bachelors of Broadway make hearts flutter 7 p.m., Thursday, January 16, at WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City. Info: 575-538-5862



Twin Flames

The Canadian husband and wife folk music duo, comprised of Inuk and Mohawk artist Jaaji, and Algonquin, Metis, and Cree artist Chelsey June, blend their heritages to create captivating music with lyrics in English, French, and Inuttitut.

Twin Flames will bring traditional music to the forefront at 7 p.m., Friday, January 17, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202



Steve Aoki

The multiple award-winning, and Pollstar's highest-grossing electronic dance DJ and record producer brings his revolutionary sounds to El Paso as part of his latest 250+ city tour in support of his 2024 album Paragon.

Steve Aoki will spin the hits at 9 p.m., Friday, January 17, at Club 11:11, 9740 Dyer St., El Paso. Info: DiscoPresents.com



Exit The King

No Strings Theatre Company presents Eugene Ionesco's absurdist drama about a materialistic, cruel and uncaring monarch who has ruled for more than four centuries and is given notice of termination, whether he likes it or not.

Exit The King will make its bow at 8 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., January 17 – February 2, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1223

— The Hotlist —

See event details at:
www.CARRIZOZOMUSIC.org
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 6 p.m.
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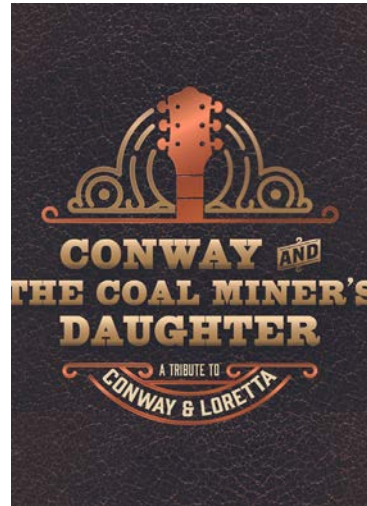
Extreme Dwarf Wrestling will square off at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 18, at Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo, 121235 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces; and 6 p.m., Saturday, January 25, at Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. 1st St., Alamogordo. Info: Dwarfanators.com



Beethoven – Love in the Age of War

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Bohuslav Rattay, accompanied by Awadagin Pratt on piano, team up with El Paso Pro-Musica to present two of Beethoven's most romantic scores, and more.

Beethoven – Love in the Age of War will romanticize war at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, January 24-25, at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776



Conway and the Coal Miner's Daughter

Saddle up for a night of incredible country music celebrating two of the genre's biggest stars – Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn – with some of the iconic duo's biggest hits, including "After the Fire's Gone," and "You're the Reason Our Kids are Ugly."

Conway and the Coal Miner's Daughter will bring Western twang at 6 p.m., Saturday, January 25, at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd., Mescalero. Info: 800-545-9011



Mamadou Diabate

A member of the Malian tradition of the griot, the kora virtuoso is a link in the chain of oral historians that date back to the 13th century, using music and oratory skills to preserve the history of their people through regional music.

Mamadou Diabate will perform at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 30, at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300



Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay on Strings

Experience the music of Coldplay like never before, as a gifted string quartet takes on the musical group's biggest hits in a spectacular tribute concert featuring the band's most popular hits as well as some lesser-known fan favorites.

Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay brings back the hits at 5:45 and 8 p.m., Friday, January 31, at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2290

The Hotlist

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For the PEEPs

Dex Report

Four Southern New Mexico photographers are part of a group now exhibiting their work in a newly established gallery dedicated to photography in El Paso. David Turning, Nirmal Khandan, and Will Keener, all from Las Cruces, and Leland DeFord, of Ruidoso, are now exhibiting at the Photography Enthusiasts of El Paso (PEEP) Collaborative Gallery, 801 N. Piedras, in the historic Five Points district of El Paso.

Turning, who grew up in Alamogordo, frames classic New Mexico and Colorado landscapes in rich colors with his large metal prints at the gallery. Now retired, David spends his time pursuing his love for nature, capturing images, sometimes serene and other times dynamic, based on his efforts in storm photography during the summer season.

Khandan is a self-taught nature and wildlife photographer who came to New Mexico from his native Sri Lanka. His passion for birds, especially hummingbirds, is evident in his work at the gallery. His national award-winning work has led to several major exhibitions in Las Cruces. As a recognized expert in his field of photography, he offers workshops in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and New Mexico State Parks on the art and science of bird photography for area residents.

Keener's work at the gallery reflects his interests in architecture and nature, often reflecting his education and interest in geology. He has exhibited in several Southern New Mexico venues and enjoys presenting images from his travels to interested groups.

DeFord is exhibiting richly colored abstracts and outdoor images made yet more vibrant with the use of metallic printing papers. A veteran film and digital photographer, DeFord's career includes



"Claret Cup Spring" by David Turning



"Hummer" by Nirmal Khandan



Abstract by Leland DeFord

teaching at all educational levels and working as a forensic photographer. He continues to mentor the next generation of visual storytellers.

The PEEP Collaborative features 18 photographers in all, offering a unique collection of styles, perspectives and subject matter. "Opening a gallery solely dedicated to photography has been a dream for us," said Tim Holt, president of the PEEP photo club. The club is a non-profit dedicated to advancing the art of photography with members in West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

Galleries dedicated to photography are rare in the region, Holt noted. The gallery gives photographers a chance to express their art in larger printed form, not just on computer or cell phone screens, he said. "It's a more memorable form of art," he said.

The exhibition runs through the end of



"Utah Desert Storm" by Will Keener

March 2025. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday noon - 4 p.m. For more information,

contact Tim Holt at TimHolt@me.com, or visit the website at Sites.Google.com/view/PEEPEIP/Home

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Into the Wild



“What Walks This Way: Discovering the Wildlife Around us Through Their Tracks and Signs” by Sharman Apt Russell

Review by JJ Amaworo Wilson

Some urban raccoons can untie knots and open doors. Fisher cats aren't felines and don't eat fish. A bobcat's teeth have evolved to fit precisely into the spaces of its prey's spinal cord. Spotted skunks warn away predators by doing a handstand on their front feet and spreading their back legs in the air. As Sharman Apt Russell's excellent new book shows us, the animal kingdom is a riot and a hoot.

Like so many of the creatures that the author references, *What Walks This Way* is a hybrid: part memoir, part field guide, part natural history. The tone is that of a generous mentor talking you through a topic—wildlife tracking—that she clearly adores. Potted histories of coyotes, bears, raccoons, etc., are intermingled with anecdotes about the author's time wandering the wilderness in southern New Mexico with a beloved friend, or stories of legendary trackers, her rugged great-uncle among them, or evenings spent



on the porch listening for mysterious rustlings that might lead

to discoveries.

While Russell possesses the

curiosity of a serious scientist, endearingly there remains

something of the enthusiastic amateur about her. She writes, “You . . . have to care, really care, about what animal was here a day ago . . . The truth is that sometimes I care, and sometimes I don't” (p. 85). Elsewhere she states that professional trackers carry rulers to measure pawmarks; she usually forgets hers and measures everything with her fingers. (She assures us that the distance from fingertip to first crease is about an inch.)

The book is full of enjoyable digressions. Besides brief introductions to biologists and ecologists doing vital conservation work, Russell offers copious examples of nature's whims and absurdities. The gray fox can scramble sixty feet up a cottonwood tree and leap from branch to branch; the red fox can't climb trees at all. Coyotes and badgers often hunt together, sometimes with the same partner throughout the season. Researchers in Chicago have seen coyotes wait at stoplights until a road is clear, wander into the middle, then pause to check for traffic

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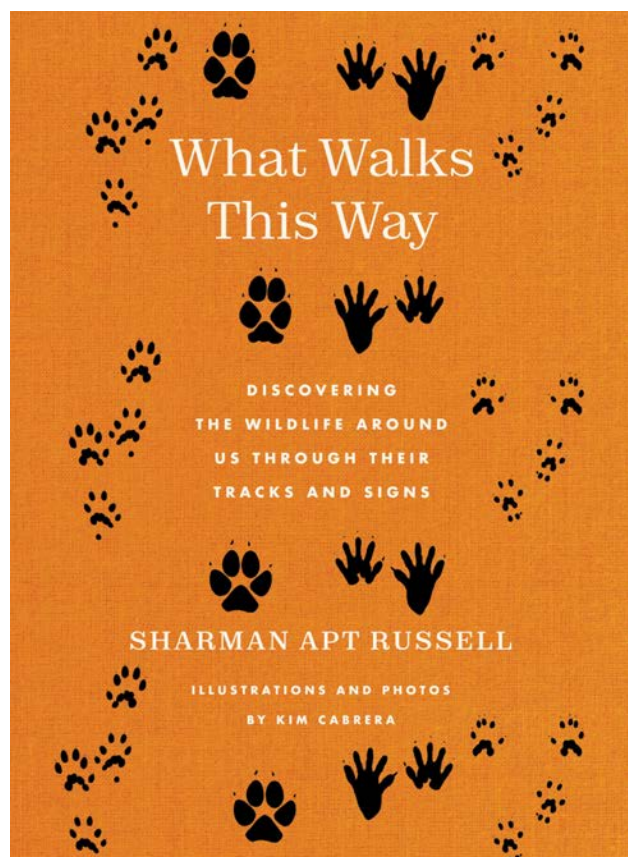
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going the other way. Javelinas mourn their dead.

In some ways, the digressions are the point. The author quotes the ecologist Mark Elbroch: "The competent tracker is both scientist and storyteller." Russell, a novelist as well as a nature writer, concurs. She mentions that imagination is key to tracking because imagination allows us to interpret the signs discovered. Why was this mountain lion bounding so quickly up this particular slope? Why did this herd of deer change direction and veer towards the trees? Track-

ers use everything they know about an animal and weave it, along with the signs that the animal has left behind, into a story.

Stories can be wonderful, but of course the budding tracker needs a few basics. In *What Walks This Way*, practical information comes in panels with a shaded background. These panels consist of brief explanations of how to identify a particular animal's tracks, as well as handy (paws-y?) diagrams of these tracks. Kim Cabrera's illustrations are a model of clar-

ity and elegance. Cabrera also offers possibly the best advice imaginable for trackers: "You teach yourself by spending time in the dirt" (p. 121).

While the book is joyful, it does touch upon serious ecological issues. Each chapter details the degree to which the animals described are endangered. More often than not, human intervention, a.k.a. greed, is the cause. Climate change looms large. There is also a section that describes how and why we hunt. (Hint: it's not always for food or self-preservation.)

What Walks This Way will send you back to the wild places. If you live in a rural area or go hiking, you'll find yourself eyeing the ground as you walk, hoping for the telltale sign—a triangular palm pad, the X shape of a dog's hind track, a dewclaw toe—of some gorgeous critter who passed this way. And all the while, you'll have Russell's friendly voice in your head imploring you to pay attention, to notice the things worth noticing: in this case, the creatures with whom we share this sacred planet.

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Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

By The Dexter

SILVER CITY

• **The Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, 316 N Bullard in Silver City, will hold a New Year's Day Open House featuring Marsha Banas demonstrating her imaginative beaded mosaic technique, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 1. Then, 5-7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 3, the gallery will hold a Meet the Artist event with Les Brandt talking about his layered art technique.

The GCAG Gallery, 316 N Bullard, is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week, with additional hours for special events. Info: 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., Thurs-



The assemblage art of Vickie Morrow will be on display at Agave Artists Gallery, throughout the month of January. (Courtesy photo)

day; 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

CARRIZOZO

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



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DEMING

• **The Deming Arts Center**, 100 S. Gold St., Deming, presents “**Cats on Parade**,” featuring our furry, four-legged feline friends. Donations of cat food, toys, and other cat items will be collected and donated to Deming Animal Guardians. The show runs Jan. 3-30, with an opening reception from 1-2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 5.

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 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 an exhibition by **Vickie Morrow**, whose work is primarily assemblage, turning found objects into unique creations, and has been seen on HGTV and



“The Silent Opera: A Cautionary Tale,” an exhibit by Las Cruces artist Barbara Houghton, will be on display at the Mad Hatter Gallery, throughout January. (Courtesy photo)



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



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)

in numerous publications. This exhibition will be on display throughout the month of January, with an assemblage demonstration at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25.

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

• **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-Fri-

ART SCENE

continued on page 14

ART SCENE

continued from page 13

day, 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, 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

• **The Mad Hatter Gallery**, 221 N. Main St., Ste C, Las Cruces, presents "The Silent Opera: A Cautionary Tale," featuring photographic montages and animated videos by



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

Barbara Houghton, as a warning against the abuse of power, vengeance, and provincial choices. The exhibition will be on display Jan. 3-29, with an opening reception Jan 3, 5-8 p.m.

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, fea-

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tures two local artists for the month of January 2025: **Mary Zawacki** and **Frank Peacock**. Zawacki is a former advertising art director who works primarily in oils and pastels. Peacock is a finalist for the National Landscape Painting Competition known for his dramatic use of color and texture.

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 **Sam Peters, Master of his Art** featuring nearly 75 monotype, cliché verre, and mixed-medium prints produced between 1990 and 2020, the height of his experimentation. The exhibit runs January 3 through February 16.

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 Mu-**

seum, 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 technologies. 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.

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

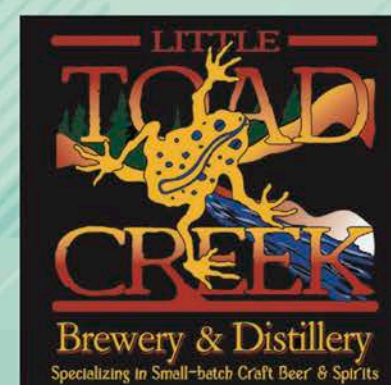
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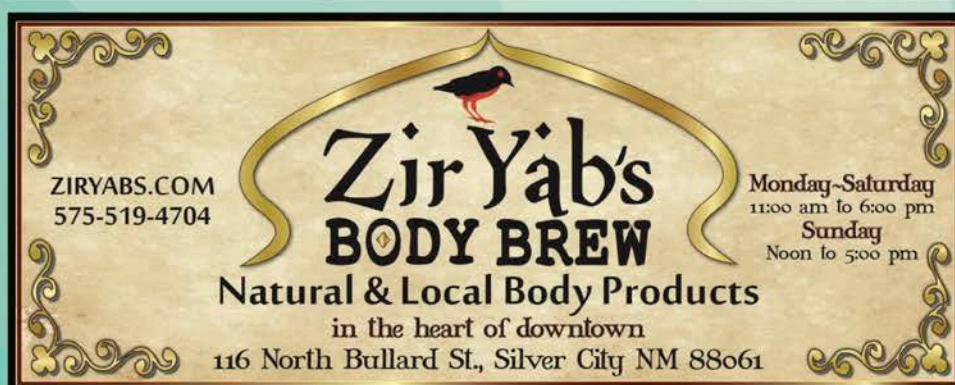
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Turning Up

By David Salcido

We've all heard the propaganda that Hatch is the chile pepper capital of the world, and for the most part we embrace that rhetoric. But when it comes to mastering the power of the pepper, you've got to go a little further south, to the hallowed halls of the Chile Pepper Institute, the Willy Wonka factory of the industry. Located on the western end of the New Mexico State University campus, the CPI is where the magic actually happens, and now true chile lovers have the option of discovering it for themselves.

Only open for a few months, the CPI's Information Center and Gift Shop is located at 113 W. Univer-

sity Avenue on the Fabien Garcia Research Center grounds, where Program Specialist April Beauchemin has tenure. A veritable fount of information, she can give you an astounding rundown of the history, science and application of the institute's 32-year reign as the focal point of chile pepper awareness. She can also introduce you to some of the hottest gift items in New Mexico.

"We only moved here the last week of September," she said, explaining the sudden appearance of the shop. "We were previously located in Gerald Thomas Hall on campus, on the second floor in the middle of the building. Parking was a huge hassle and people couldn't get to us, so when we had the opportunity to move off campus, we jumped on it. We're very happy

here, We're right on University Avenue,

so anybody driving by can see our sign, which is great. We get a lot of drop ins, which we love."

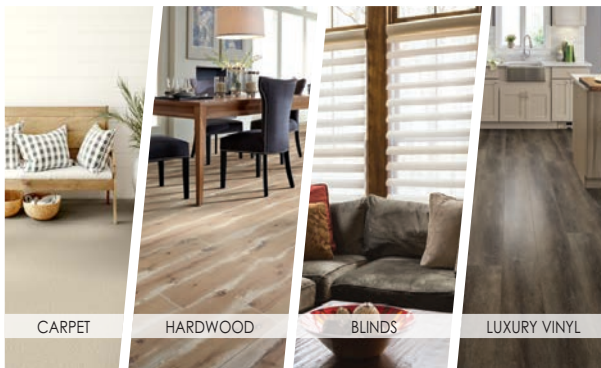
Here, April is working on making the connections between the internationally renowned institute and the community that surrounds it. Probably best known locally for their annual plant sale in April, the CPI also hosts the annual New Mexico Chile



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The Heat

Conference, as well as taking part in the Hatch Chile Festival, the Fiery Foods Show in Albuquerque and events at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. The Information Center is the next step in the recognition process.

“We get calls from the Washington Post, the New York Times, BBC, PBS, all wanting information,” she said. “We have a more of a national and worldwide

platform, than we are known locally. It’s been my mission to encourage local interaction, introduce people to the tours of the learning garden (which holds over 150 different varieties!) and to learn the true history of the chile pepper. There’s so much more to it than people know.”

She’s not kidding. In less than an hour she can tell you how the CPI came to exist, going back as far as 1894 when Fabian Garcia graduated from NMSU and began his standardization of the pepper

HEAT

continued on page 30

Program Specialist April Beauchemin can answer all your burning questions at CPI’s Information Center and Gift Shop.



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The Fantasy Realm of Sculptor Don Hallock

By Brian D'Ambrosio

When artist Don Hallock begins a project, he seeks raw materials that have been shunned, then re-uses and re-imagines them in the construction of a new structure, with new function. In this way, he proves that art can be invented and borrowed simultaneously.

Usually it starts like this: He finds a toy or some scrapped possession that looks to him as if it could be re-purposed, say, as a head or a wing or some other aesthetic. Then he integrates it into a larger vision. Jar lids transform into wheels; a dragon emerges out of what was once the base of a candle holder; a three-tiered candelabra is converted into a fantasy flying machine; air-conditioner vents are re-fashioned as components of an automaton; antique spark plugs discover new life as bird necks.

The end result of Hallock's conjoining is a recognizable object – a robot, a spaceship, a guitar, an animal, a wall-hanging mask, or an airplane, steeped in recycled fantasy and second-hand fancy.

The genre of imaginative sculpture incorporates no-



tions of magic, adventure, and used supplies, like a jar of buttons tugged from the bins at the Goodwill or a cracked vase, chipped saucer, or old lamp scooped up at a garage sale and in need of love. Some of the cast-off material on the airplane installations looks as if it was yanked straight from an abandoned granary or rusted silo. Sun-bleached ornaments and curios on UFO, skateboard, and guitar installations appear similarly weather-beaten.

"I like abstract, quirky, thoughtful, and unique," said Hallock, 74. "I usually find a junk piece to start with. I'll add to it and embellish it and then get an idea. I like to add wings on things and to things – butterflies, birds, rockets that are spacey looking."

An interesting fact is that Hallock was raised around airplanes. His father, Bruce Hallock, was a military and professional pilot and aeronautical designer.

"He taught me to fly on vintage airplanes," Hallock said. "My first airplane ride was when my mother was pregnant with me (and Dad was a Navy pilot). It's ingrained in me."

A native of Austin, Texas, Hallock owned and op-

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TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES NEW MEXICO



erated antique and collectible stores for about four decades. About 18 years ago, he moved to Truth or Consequences, attracted to the healing arts scene and general creative vibe of the town.

Today, Hallock's madcap skill is on display at several local galleries. As might be expected, a good number of the pieces are aviation-related. Most started with a scrap of wood, like a sliver of an old bed post. Adornments include a piece of a clarinet used as the fuselage, some parts of a speedboat motor attached as

wings, and even a pair of skateboard wheels. These airplanes are then embellished with a host of metal trinkets and miscellaneous merchandise, from Kodak camera lids to the innards of a double harmonica.

"There is lots of trial and error," he said. "Here, I found the clock first, then the box to put it in, and then the little parts, adding and subtracting. ... If I'm lucky, I find the right piece."

Hallock is especially fond of incorporating mid-1950's kitchen items, such as strainers, salad tongs,

and silverware.

With Hallock's art, there is no welding or soldering. It is all completed with just a few screws and nails and some applications of glue.

"They are made to last and to display," he said, pointing to a turquoise roadrunner composed of industrial, kitchen and automotive parts in his garage/studio. "They are not toys. They are not going to fall apart."

It's a good thing, too, as even his van is a rolling work of art, replete with aviation toys and Elvis Presley and Barbie figurines

"It's a little bit of everything," he said. "I call it the 'whatever-mobile.' Everything is screwed on. I hit 85 on the highway and nothing falls off. I don't just throw anything anywhere. It's well-placed, and then it's a composition, a thought. Art is about changing minds and directions."

Perhaps not surprisingly, it seems that people are always giving him ornaments and bric-a-brac that they think that he could somehow use for his van or for his art.

"I might not be able to," he said, "but I'll take it. People know that the fantasy objects are all part of my life, and all are interconnected."

For story and artist suggestions, Brian D'Ambrosio may be reached at dambrosiobrian@hotmail.com

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New Rebels on the Block

DEX Report

What do you get when a group of passionate and

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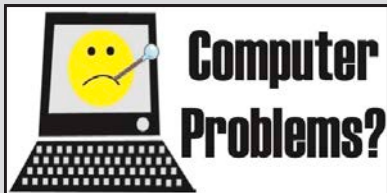
Rebel Music Theatre, a new force which promises “to enrich Alamogordo’s cultural tapestry, presenting an array of revue shows, captivating plays, original performance pieces, workshops, and so much more.” Rebel Music Theatre makes its

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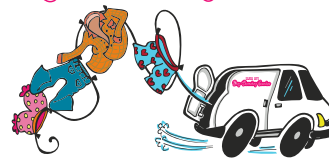


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Sheema Taylor, Clarissa Barreras, Azalia Garcia, Sarah McGavran, and Mackette Kark practice for a musical number from the Disney musical Hercules. (Photo by Rosemary Daffern.)

debut January 10 & 11, at the Otero Artspace in Alamogordo.

This inaugural showcase isn't just about Rebel Music Theatre introducing itself to the Alamogordo community via a captivating blend of musical performances from popular Broadway musicals; it's about their commitment to a thriving arts scene in the growing town. The chosen venue, Otero Artspace, holds a special place in the hearts of the Rebel Music Theatre team. All proceeds from the event will directly support the arts organization.

“We are incredibly excited to share our passion for music with the Alamogordo community,” said Rosemary Daffern, a driving force behind Rebel Music Theatre. “This showcase isn't just about us; it's about celebrating the power of the arts and giving back to the incredible organization that is Otero Arts. We invite everyone to join us for this momentous occasion.”

While details about the specific musical selections remain shrouded in delightful anticipation, Rebel Music Theatre promises a diverse and engaging lineup that will cater to a wide range of musical tastes. Whether you're a seasoned theatre patron or simply seeking an evening of delightful entertainment, Rebel Music Theatre guarantees an unforgettable experience.

Get ready to be swept away by the power of music at 7 p.m., Friday, January 10 and Saturday, January 11, with a matinee performance at 2 p.m., Sunday, January 12, at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door, or via OteroArtsInc@gmail.com. For more information about Rebel Music Theatre, or to inquire about the specific musical program for the showcase, reach out via email at RebelMusicTheatre2024@gmail.com.



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Local History

Restoring the Wanzer Film Collection

By Minerva Baumann

A Southwest Border Cultures Institute (SBCI) grant last year gave a much-needed boost to support Julia Smith's efforts to restore and digitize the films of the late Orville Wanzer, a pioneering yet under-recognized filmmaker from the 60s, 70s and 80s whose influence helped shape the evolution of "the modern western" and independent avant-garde cinema in the United States, particularly in the borderland region.

Wanzer was hired as a New Mexico State University English professor in 1959. He also taught photography, film history and created the first filmmaking program at NMSU. Wanzer died in 2019 at age 88.

"This will provide a huge insight into



Left: Cans of film from the Wanzer Collection in NMSU's Rio Grande Historical Collections. Right: Julia Smith wears gloves while reviewing a film strip of "The Devils Mistress." (Courtesy photo)

approximately 70 films, ensuring Wanzer's artistic legacy endures for future generations.

"These discoveries underscore Wanzer's importance as a pioneering yet overlooked figure in U.S. film history," Smith said. "And the fact that his story begins here in Las Cruces, at NMSU, makes it all the more meaningful."

Smith credits her success to a collaboration with Michael Walsh, a renowned film archivist and filmmaker.

"Michael's mentorship was instrumental in navigating the complexities of this massive undertaking," Smith said. "With no film archivist on staff at RGHC, and the collection sitting untouched for decades, this work was as urgent as it was rewarding."

Smith's research unearthed extraordinary discoveries in addition to Wan-

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Designed by Diane Hudgens

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Julia Smith (right), NMSU visiting assistant professor in the Department of English and Gender and Sexuality Studies, talks to Dennis Daily, department head of the NMSU Library's Archives and Special Collections, which is home to the Wanzer Collection. (Courtesy photo)

zer's full-length feature film "The Devil's Mistress."

- A collection of Wanzer's experimental and avant-garde films, many of which were shot in the Southwest, including the Gila Wilderness.

- A diverse array of student films spanning documentary, experimental and narrative formats, revealing Wanzer's groundbreaking approach to teaching filmmaking during an era when such training was rare.

- The earliest KRWG student films directed by Wanzer, featuring topics such as Stahman Farms, the Loretto Shopping Center and a tour of NMSU.

- Two movie trailers for "The Devil's Mistress," New Mexico's first feature film, offering rare insights into mid-century filmmaking and marketing practices.

- Details about Wanzer's Hollywood-based production and distribution company, shedding light on how his films traveled from Las Cruces to national audiences.

While there is much more work to be done, Smith's efforts have provided critical groundwork for her upcoming documentary, "Birth of the Acid Western." Smith's film will be completed next year. She plans to screen a trailer for the documentary in late February.

"The grant was about so much more than preserving films – it was about unlocking a broader story that connects New Mexico's rich cultural heritage to both

national and global narratives," she said. Smith sees it as preserving Wanzer's legacy and the "countercultural ethos of the acid western genre while spotlighting Las Cruces' significant but underappreciated role in American film history."

Those who wish to support progress on this project may visit <https://linktr.ee/acidwesterndoc> to make a tax deductible donation.



Orville Wanzer, late NMSU professor and pioneering filmmaker from the 60s, 70s and 80s, whose influence helped shape the evolution of "the modern western" and independent avant-garde cinema in the United States. (Courtesy photo)

An advertisement for Estevan's Landscaping. It features a logo with a mountain range and a tree, and a photograph of a well-maintained lawn. The text includes "Estevan's", "DONE RIGHT LANDSCAPING", "LAWN CARE | MAINTENANCE | TREE SERVICE & MORE", and the phone number "(575) 635-3319". A QR code is also present.

An advertisement for Edward Jones. It features the Edward Jones logo and a photograph of a man and a woman looking at a laptop. The text includes "Edward Jones", "Can I withdraw funds? Can I convert my account? How can I generate income?", "To find out options to keep your money working for you, call or email me today.", a portrait of Bruce A Ball, CRPC™, "Bruce A Ball, CRPC™ Financial Advisor", "3880 Foothills Rd Ste 2 Las Cruces, NM 88011-4631 575-522-5583", and the website "edwardjones.com | Member SIPC".

An advertisement for Merlins Magical Market. It features a large image of a wizard with a long white beard and a blue robe, holding a staff. The text includes "Merlins Magical Market", "FEATURING: DIVINATION BY RON The most amazing tarot, palm & crystal ball psychic in the southwest!", "ALSO, SHOP OUR WIDE ARRAY OF METAPHYSICAL SUPPLIES", "merlinsmagicalmarket.com Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm", and "901 S. MAIN ST., LAS CRUCES, NM • 575-222-0468". A red starburst graphic says "WE NOW HAVE GIFT CARDS!".

The Mighty River

Story and photos by Morgan Smith

For years now, I have failed to appreciate the Rio Grande river. My principal experience has been from its banks in the Chihuahuita area of El Paso. That includes being on the El Paso side and watching migrants wade across to turn themselves in to the Border Patrol with asylum claims. Also, being on the Juárez side interviewing migrants, mostly Venezuelans, who were living in a tent city while hoping for the lifting of Title 42,

The river then seemed like a minor obstacle – shallow enough to wade through without any danger. I frankly didn't connect Border Patrol reports of increasing drowning deaths with the El Paso area of the river.

Then Alvaro Enciso called from Tucson. He is the Colombia-born artist and Vietnam veteran who has placed over 1,400 crosses in the Arizona desert at sites where migrants have died. My wife Sherry and I accompanied him and his team in December when they placed crosses at six sites in the Columbus and Deming area. It was a deeply emotional experience in stark desert terrain.

This time his goal was the Sunland Park area. He arrived with two members of his team – Peter Lucero and Bryce Peterson. Peterson is a genius with his GPS and can direct us to the exact sites. Also with us were two women associated with Arizona State University, Alyssa Quintanilla and Gabriella Soto plus a unique leader from the Deming-Palomas area, Sandra Magallanes.

Sandra, a Mexican national, first entered the US illegally on January 4, 1990. She crossed the border at tiny Las Chepas, some fifteen miles west of Palomas, then spent years struggling to obtain US citizenship and finally succeeded on June 25, 2021. "I am an immigrant like many are," she says, "but the United States is truly my home. I still love my country of birth and I visit it regularly, but I cannot deny that



Clockwise from top: Peter, Bryce and Alvaro at the first cross; Peter Lucero at the fourth cross; Sandra Magallanes plants a cross; Alvaro Enciso at his home in Tucson.



there are opportunities that the United States provides that were just not available where I grew up."

Sandra is a key person in the Deming-Palomas area working with shelters like Colores United in Deming and Punto Beta in Palomas. I wondered, however, why she had come to El Paso to be with Alvaro and his team.



To my surprise, we drove past the Sunland Park area that morning to the edge of El Paso and next to the river.

“A fifteen-year-old Russian girl and her father died here,” Alvaro said. “The Border Patrol tried to warn them not to attempt crossing this canal but being Russian, they didn’t understand the warnings.”

The canal I then saw was raging. Crossing would be suicidal. The girl’s body was recovered but the father was swept further down the river.

We then placed two more crosses under the overpass near the train line – one for a 55-year-old man from San Luis Potosí and the other for Manu-



Sandra Magallanes with migrants from Cuba in Deming.

el Anaya, age 21. The next was for a 22-year-old man named Sergio from Guanajuato who made it across the river but then died.

Then we returned to Sunland Park and, following directions from Bryce, drove to its southeast edge. “This is where Rigoberto Soto died,” Sandra

said. It turned out that this 33-year-old man had been living and working in New Mexico but was without papers. Because of a family illness he returned to his hometown of Rosales, Mexico, a small town (pop. roughly 16,000) 50 miles south of the city of Chihuahua. When he returned to New Mexico, however, he had to cross illegally at Sunland Park and then died from exposure.

“Rosales is also my hometown,” Sandra said. “I am going to see my family there but I have to see his also. I have to tell them what happened in Sunland Park.”

Even if you travel to the border as frequently as I do, even

if this always involves assisting various migrant shelters like La Casa del Migrante and Respettrans in Juárez or Punto Beta in Palomas and Colores United in Deming, it is hard to keep in mind the enormity of the risks that those coming north to our country are taking, and not just because of the ugly and deafening rhetoric about migrant life. It takes leaders like Alvaro Enciso and Sandra Magallanes to bring home this harsh reality.

Morgan Smith has been traveling to the border for the last thirteen years and writes about conditions there. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

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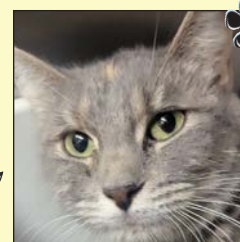
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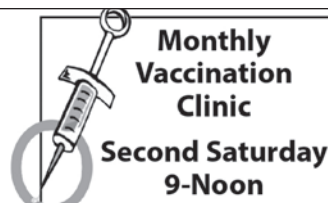


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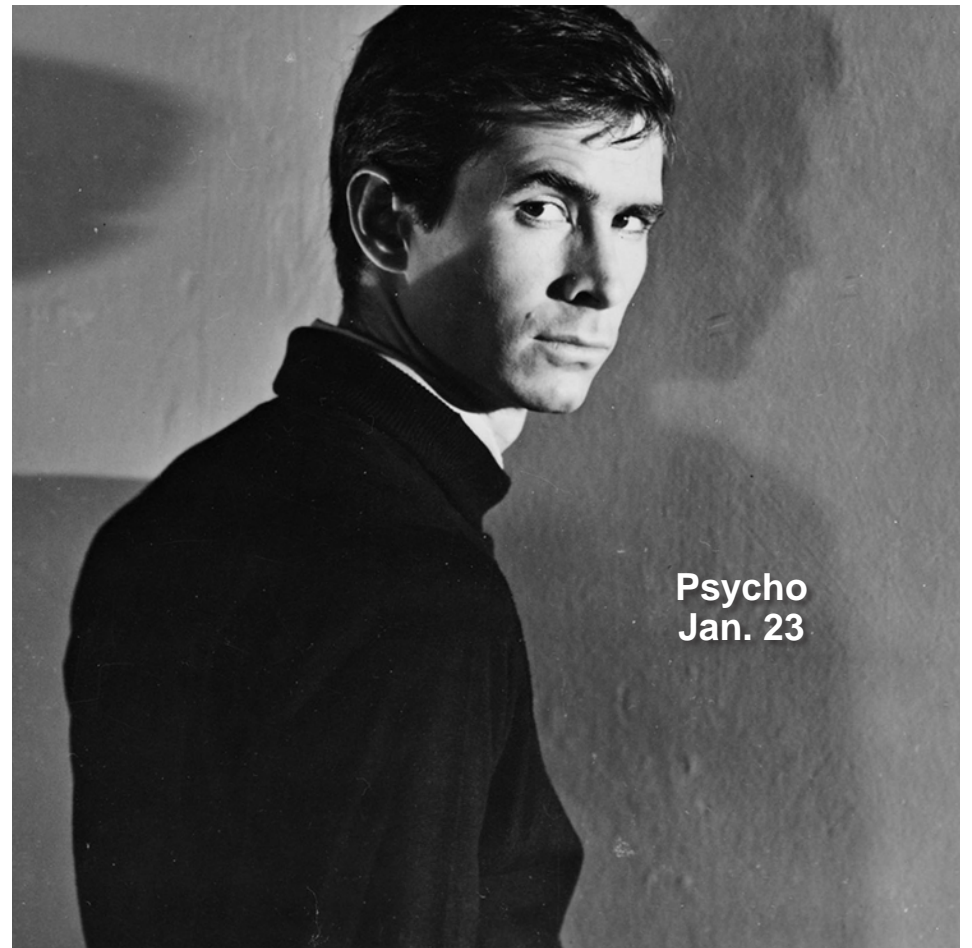
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Pear Blossoms
Jan. 4



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EVENTS

What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in January

Wednesday, January 1

First Day Hike at Elephant Butte Dam, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, 101 HWY 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-5923

Hangover Brunch with Bobcat, 1 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Thursday, January 2

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

Friday, January 3

C.M. Adams & The 3W Band, 6 p.m., at Cloudcroft Brewing Company, 1301 Burro Ave. Cloudcroft. Info: 575-682-2337

January 3-5

Deep Winter Yoga &

Wellness Retreat, all weekend at Hot Springs Glamp Camp, 675 S. Foch St., Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-740-6775

Saturday, January 4

State 47 Las Cruces Marathon, 8 a.m., at The Field of Dreams Stadium Track, 2501 Tashiro Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 512-400-8485

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, 100 N. Main St., 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

Dia de los Reyes Nativity Open House, 12-4 p.m., at 706 B. South Mesquite St., Las Cruces. Info: LCGarden64@gmail.com

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

Lottie and the Ohm Wreckers, 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Sunday, January 5

The Pear Blossoms, 1 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Thursday, January 9

The Lesters, 1:30 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, 1800 S. Locust St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-649-3526

Friday, January 10

The Consequences, 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info:

575-956-6144

January 10-12

Rebel Music Theatre Debut, 7 & 2 p.m., at Otero Artspace, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo. Info: OteroArtsInc@gmail.com

Saturday, January 11

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, 100 N. Main St., 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

The Write Stuff Writing Series presents Moving From Premise to Plot: Novel Structure with Kris Neri, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St., Silver City. Info: KrisNeri.new@gmail.com

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

Breaking Up Christmas & Bringing in the New Year Community Dance, 6:30-9 p.m., at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W. Broadway St., Silver City. Info: 575-590-1059

DJ Mischievous, 9 p.m. - Midnight at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard



Brandon Perrault
Jan. 17

St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Sunday, January 12

Chilly Willy 5k, 10k, or Half Marathon, 8:30 a.m., La Llorona Park, 3440 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces. Info: Meredith@

FiveStarNTP.com

The 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 Piano Ma'am Sing-along with Alissa Musto, 2:30 p.m. at the Philanthropy Theatre, One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: 915-533-4020

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

Monday, January 13

Kalos, 7:30 p.m. at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6198

Tuesday, January 14

Kalos, 7 p.m., at Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces. Info: CrucesCreatives.org

Wednesday, January 15

Lunch & Learn: Fire History and Management on the Gila, with Aaron Jones, Wilderness District Fire Management Officer, 12-1 p.m., in the ABC Room of the WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, W. 12th St., Silver City. Info: Will.Community/LunchLearn

Thursday, January 16

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EVENTS

continued on page 28

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EVENTS

continued from page 27

Broadway, 7-9 p.m., WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City. Info: 575-538-5862

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

Friday, January 17

Fair Farmers Friday Evening Market, 4-9 p.m., at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: Cassie@LasCrucesFairFarmers.com

Astronomy Friends of the Parks, 5:30 p.m. at Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Rd. SE., Deming. Info: 575-546-6182

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

Mesilla Valley Contra Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at

Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Info: 575-932-8222

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

Steve Aoki, 9 p.m., at 11:11, 9740 Dyer St., El Paso. Info: DiscoPresents.com

January 17 – February 2

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

January 17 – 26

Blank Conversations Theatre Company presents Jesus Christ Superstar, 7 & 2 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: BlankConversations.org

Saturday, January 18

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, 100 N. Main St., 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

Extreme Dwarf Wrestling Lucha Live, 1 p.m., at Southern New Mexico State Fair &

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MONDAY
Silver City/Grant County

New Hope AI-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

Support Groups

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 AI-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 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 AI-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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Nuisances Jan. 11

Rodeo, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: Dwarfanators.com

Astronomy Friends of the Parks, 5:30 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park, 327 NM-61, Faywood. Info: 575-536-2800

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest presents Cookies and Cocktails, 6-10 p.m., at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-526-0100

Carrizozo Music presents Linda Rosenthal and Maxim Pakhomov, 6 p.m., at Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography, 401 12th St., Carrizozo. Info: CarrizozoMusic.org

Tuesday, January 21

Author Talk with Rosemary Matos, 1:30 p.m. in the Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-649-8786

Wednesday, January 22

Lunch & Learn: The Role of Nature Photography in Conservation, with Jeff Parker, owner of Explore in Focus, 12-1 p.m., in the ABC Room of the WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, W. 12th St., Silver City. Info: Will.Community/LunchLearn

Thursday, January 23

Performer's Showcase, 6 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo in the Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or

WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Historic Fort Bayard Winter/Spring Film Series presents Psycho, 6:30 p.m., at Santa Clara National Guard Armory, 11990 US-180, Santa Clara. Info: 575-388-4862

Friday, January 24

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

January 24-25

El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven – Love in the Age of War, 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

Saturday, January 25

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, 100 N. Main St., 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

Conway and the Coal Miner's Daughter, 6-8:30 p.m., at Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon

Rd., Mescalero. Info: 800-545-9011

Extreme Dwarf Wrestling Lucha Live, 6-9 p.m., Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. 1st St., Alamogordo. Info: Dwarfanators.com

Silver City String Beans, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo in the Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Monday, January 27

What Once Was... A Holocaust Remembrance Play, 7 p.m., at the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

Wednesday, January 29

Lunch & Learn: Nectar-feeding Bats and Citizen Science, with Rachel Burke, Agave Restoration Coordinator at Bat Conservation International, 12-1 p.m., in the ABC Room of the WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, W. 12th St., Silver City. Info: Will.Community/LunchLearn

Thursday, January 30

Songwriter's Showcase, 6 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo in the Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Historic Fort Bayard Winter/Spring Film Series presents The Apartment, 6:30 p.m., at Santa Clara National Guard Armory, 11990 US-180, Santa Clara. Info: 575-388-4862

Mamadou Diabate, 7 p.m. at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300

Friday, January 31

Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay on Strings, 5:45 p.m. & 8 p.m., at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2290

2025 Spring Season

1.30 Mamadou Diabaté Malian balafon
7pm Light Hall Theater

2.13 Nacha Mendez Trio New Mexican Pan Latin
7pm Light Hall Theater

2.18 Distinguished Speaker Series
Emile Nakhleh *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and US Policy: Reflections and Aspirations*
7pm Light Hall Theater

2.27 Damn Tall Buildings modern bluegrass
7pm Light Hall Theater

3.06 DRUMLine Live
7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre

3.27 Yagódy Ukrainian folk
7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre

4.01 Distinguished Speaker Series
Jay Coghlan Executive Director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico and Archbishop of Santa Fe **John Wester**
7pm Light Hall Theater

4.03 New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus
7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre

4.15 Distinguished Speaker Series
Betsy Gaines Quammen Author of *True West: Myth and Mending on the Far Side of America*
7pm Light Hall Theater

4.29 President's Chamber Music Series
Camerata del Sol
7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre



Mamadou Diabaté



Nacha Mendez Trio



Betsy Gaines Quammen



Yagódy



DRUMLine Live



New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus



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HEAT

continued from page 17

industry. She can tell you how different varieties are genetically bred, properties of the different colors, the purpose of the Scoville Heat Unit measurements, the value of the learning gardens, the art of chile tasting, and how flavor is a huge factor in the pursuit of pepper perfection.

Summing it up in one

sentence, April explains, “The research that we do here is to make chile peppers that are more palatable, more resistant to diseases, and higher yield.”

That’s right, contrary to popular belief, the purpose of the institute is NOT to create chile peppers so hot they’ll melt your face off. “As far as we know, there is no lethal dosage of capsaicin, though people sure do seem to want to reach



that,” she said with a laugh. “Being New Mexican, we like flavor just as much as we like the heat, and that’s where the research comes in.” But don’t just take our word for it.

The gift shop portion of the center features everything from several varieties of frozen roasted green chile, locally produced salsas, dried pepper powders, olive oils and salts, chile swag, and, of course, the hot sauces. Prominently featured are the award-winning, CPI-produced Holy Jolokia line, and the nationally recognized Karma sauces, which

are regularly featured on the hit YouTube show Hot Ones. Just as April pointed out, these sauces may be hot, but flavor is key.

So far, according to April, the CPI’s primary sales are all made online, but that may soon change. “We ship all over the United States. The online store has the majority of what we have here, but not everything. Our frozen roasted chile, and our fresh ristras, we don’t ship. There are some specialty items, like one-of-a-kind jewelry, that are not listed. We also have limited issue items that artists



donate to us so we can make money for the institute. Those can only be found here at the gift shop.”

To begin your exploration of the Chile Pepper Institute, you can go to the website at CPI.nmsu.edu, where you’ll find all the basic information, as well as a prominent link to the online store, and directions to the gift shop. The Information Center itself is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, but these are not the only way you can become involved in the hotter than hot world of chile peppers.

“We do have memberships for the public to make donations to help support our mission of educating the public about chile pepper,” April said. “It includes a newsletter that comes out twice a year. The spring newsletter comes with free seeds – usually rare or unusual seeds – and a corresponding recipe using that pepper once it’s grown. It also talks about new developments, and events that we’re hosting or taking part in. With the New Mexican membership, you also get 15% off everything in our store. There’s all kinds of fun information there.”

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Cascabel Caramel Turtles

Our friends at the Chile Pepper Institute have a special treat for you as the new year dawns. Taken from **The Official Cookbook of the Chile Pepper Institute**, by Paul Bosland and Wendy Hamilton, it will put a smile on your face and a smoky sting on your tongue, New Mexico style!

First a few words about Cascabel chile peppers. Thought to have originated in Central Mexico, these smoky little peppers tend not to be as well known outside of the regions in

which they are grown. Belonging to the Capsicum annum family, their pods grow to be about 1 ½ inches in diameter and are a deep garnet red when fresh, drying to a dark reddish brown. Cascabels have a slightly nutty flavor and undertones of earth and

smoke, with a mild heat that adds depth and warm spiciness to a dish. Though hard to come by, samples can be acquired through the Chile Pepper Institute.



Ingredients

- 24 soft caramels
- 2 TBSPs whipped topping
- Butter-flavored vegetable cooking spray
- 75 pecan halves
- 4 oz semisweet chocolate chips
- 8 Cascabel chile peppers, dried, destemmed, deveined, deseeded, and finely chopped

Instructions

1. In a microwave mixing bowl, combine the caramels and whipped topping. Cook on 50 percent power for 45 seconds. Remove the bowl, stir, and place back in the microwave. Continue this process in 10-second increments until the mixture has completely melted and is smooth and well-blended. Let the mixture cool slightly.

2. Spray a cookie sheet lightly with the cooking spray. Place the pecan halves on the sheet in groups of five, arranged so that each group forms a shape like a turtle's body with four legs. Carefully spoon the caramel mixture over each, leaving the ends of the pecans showing. Set aside until the caramel has hardened.

3. Place the chocolate chips in a microwave bowl. Cook in the microwave on 50 percent power for 45 seconds, remove, stir, and repeat the process in 10-second intervals until the chocolate is melted and smooth. Stir in the cascabels and let the chocolate mixture cool slightly. Spoon the melted chocolate mixture over the caramel, being careful not to cover the exposed ends of the pecans. Set aside until hard, then store in a covered container in a cool place. Yield 15.

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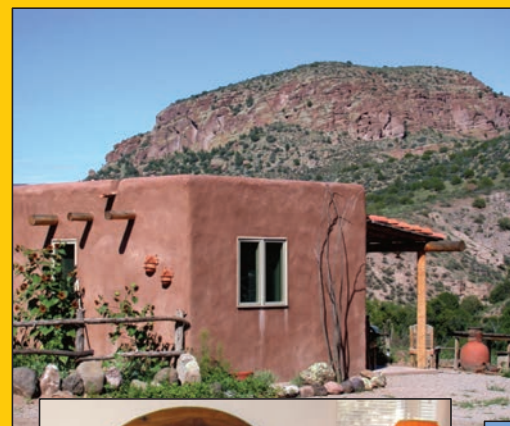
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