

EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOL. 30 NO. 2

DESERT



exposure

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Love is in the air

BRANIGAN WILDLIFE SHOW **PAGE 10** | THE GREEN BOOK **PAGE 20** | BUFFALO SOLDIERS **PAGE 26**

Local stories | Global impact | Learn more on page 33

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Desert #104
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

"G CACNDDO KGHV N UCHZ EGXBX FL AFNMF YGFT. G DGZX FL
NVV YGHIA LH FTGHIA NHV FL FTGHIA - WCFFXMKDGXA, WGMVA,
MLBZXFA FTNF NMX AENBXO DLLZGHI." - NMFGAF VLH TNDDL BZ

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: "IT'S NOT A REBATE - WHERE YOU APPLY TO GET A CHECK BACK - WITH THIS PROGRAM, CUSTOMERS GET THEIR DISCOUNT WHEN THEY BUY THE EBIKE." - DAVE BAKER OF SILVER CITY
CYCLES Secret Words (*): "DOUBLE GRATIFY"

Congrats to #103 solvers :
Mike Arms*, Will Adams*, Skip Howard*, Shorty Vaiza*, Claudette Gallegos*, David Pino*, Sue Merrick*, Sabrina Morales, Brandy Malone!

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MARCH DEADLINE

All stories and notices for the editorial section,
space reservation and ad copy are
due Friday, February 14.



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In a very private setting, this passive solar design in southwest New Mexico will certainly delight. This homewas custom designed by the original owner for "single level living and enjoyment", with the expansive mastersuite, 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



A Grand Home with Stunning Views! This remarkable property offers luxury and functionality. The primary suite boasts a spa-like bathroom with a jetted tub, a large walk-in shower, and dual vanities, plus direct access to a south-facing patio—perfect for morning coffee. Each additional bedroom features sliding doors that open to the outdoors, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor living. The spacious kitchen is a chef's dream, ready for culinary creations, while the covered patio is ideal for entertaining or unwinding. A separate guest house above the garage provides privacy and comfort for visitors. With ample space for gardening, this home invites you to bring your green thumb and make it your own. MLS #40758 \$675,000



Beautiful hillside custom home! 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. The primary suite boasts an oversized bathroom with a double vanity plus a walk-in shower. Amenities include: Seamless Metal Roof, Tankless Water Heater, A/C and evaporative cooling, enclosed garages for 4 vehicles, workshop with restrooms, 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



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. Spzygy 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



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 run in shed and pasture. Fenced garden with raised beds. The yard is meticulously landscaped. MLS #40306 \$485,000



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 \$300,000



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. Two 3-acre foot wells. MLS #40591 \$280,000



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Three bedroom, 2 bath single-wide manufactured home with large covered front deck with great views. Close to downtown and on a dead end road. The home is in need of some TLC but it is ready for a new owner to move in as-is. Furnishings are included as well. Home has an active title and Seller will not deactivate title. Schedule a showing today! MLS #40755 \$90,000

EDITOR'S NOTE | DAVID SALCIDO

Love, history, and new beginnings

Ah, February. The month of poetry, chocolate and the whisper of new beginnings. Not quite spring, but the perfect opportunity to start shaking off those winter doldrums. It may be the shortest month of the year, but February is big on promise, bringing with it fresh hopes and dreams. I just want to start off by saying, I hope your February is filled with endless possibilities. Much like this month's issue.

Inside you'll find a plethora of delights to get your heart thrumming. In Las Cruces, February is For Love of Art Month, and that means a LOT of art activities taking place throughout the city. Our roving reporter Cheryl Fallstead provides a breakdown of what you can expect, and information on how to find out more. She's also got the details on an exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center dedicated to our very diverse wildlife. Because critters are cool!

In Silver City, Febru-

ary brings with it the much-anticipated Chocolate Fantasia, a two-day hedonistic exploration of all things cocoa. The theme this year is Mochaccino and, as reporter Marcia Tinker writes, "it's a great way to treat your sweetheart, and your sweet tooth!" It's also the month that Silver City celebrates its Territorial Charter Day, and Marcia has the lowdown on what that means for "the only real American town in New Mexico."

February is also Black History Month, and our writers Bud Russo and Jason Watkins have done deep dives into the history of our black brothers and sisters, as experienced right here in southern New Mexico. From Fort Selden's Buffalo Soldiers to the Hightower Hotel in Lordsburg, that history is rich and meaningful, adding texture to the tapestry that makes

up our wonderful land of enchantment.

And that's just for starters! We try to pack as much information into these 36 pages as possible, for no other reason than to provide you with opportunities to appreciate our very diverse landscape and all it has to offer. If you find it helpful and wish there was more, I've got some great news for you. We have a weekly newsletter that is sent directly to your inbox every Friday. There you'll find even more stuff to make you love the place in which we live. You can sign up by visiting our website at DesertExposure.com. (Hint: there's a lot to see there, too!)

Until next month, thanks for being part of the journey. The possibilities, as they say, are endless. I hope to see you out and about!

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?

On February 24, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Arizona Organic Act, which created the Arizona Territory by division of the New Mexico Territory into two territories along what is still the current boundary between New Mexico and Arizona?



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Sunset in Buckhorn, submitted by Paula Theele without comment

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



Love is in the air as February brings the arts into focus. (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 February 2025



Mamadou Diabate

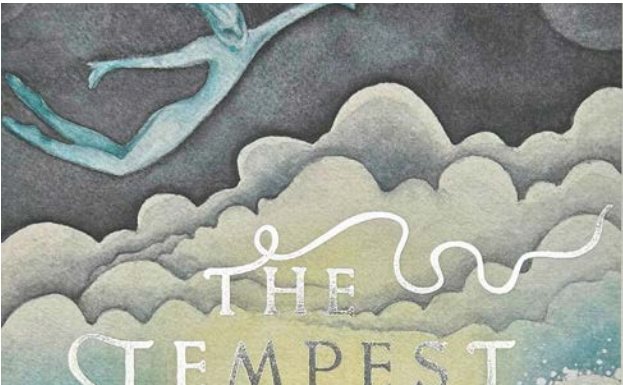
A native of Burkina Faso, with a long tradition of storytelling and musicianship, Diabate has won numerous international awards for his work as a balafon and kora player, and continues to gain fans the world over with his virtuoso performances.

Mamadou Diabate brings African beats to the desert at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202

Virus Theater presents The Tempest

Now in its third year producing teen workshops and performances, Virus Theater presents an all-teen production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, about magic, betrayal, love and forgiveness on a deserted island.

The Tempest gives a youthful face to Shakespeare at 7:30 p.m., February 6 – 16, at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: VirusTheater@gmail.com



Camerata del Sol: Ripples of Hope

The premiere chamber orchestra of the Southwest presents a showcase of virtuoso expression in celebration of Black History Month, featuring the music of Price, Coleridge-Taylor, and Ndodana-Breen.

Ripples of Hope celebrate the Black experience at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7, at the Woman's Club of El Paso, 1400 N. Mesa St., El Paso; then again at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N Horseshoe St., Las Cruces. Info: CamerateDelSol.org

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Brandi Gorzeman



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LCCT presents Clue

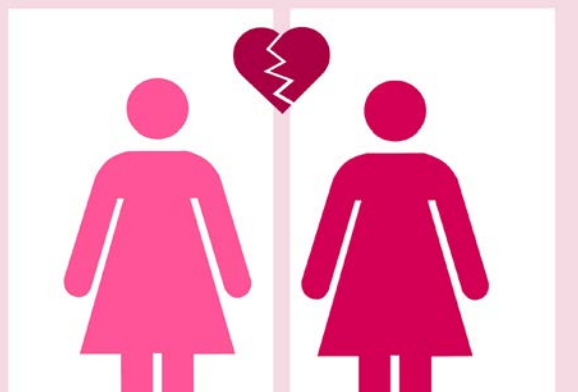
Director Chelsey Juenemann brings the farcical murder mystery, based on the iconic 1985 Paramount movie, which in turn was inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, to life, as six guests assemble to solve the classic question: Whodunnit?

Clue will confuse and amuse audiences at 7:30 & 2 p.m., Feb. 7-23, at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-1200



STOP KISS

by Diana Son

**Jewel Box Series presents Stop Kiss**

Star on the Mountain Theatrical Productions presents, as part of the Jewel Box Series, Diana Son's poignant and funny play about the ways lives can change irrevocably, when a female couple's first kiss provokes a violent attack.

Stop Kiss confronts dating issues at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Philanthropy Theatre, 125 Pioneer Plaza, El Paso. Info: Theater@sotmtp.org

Nacha Mendez Trio

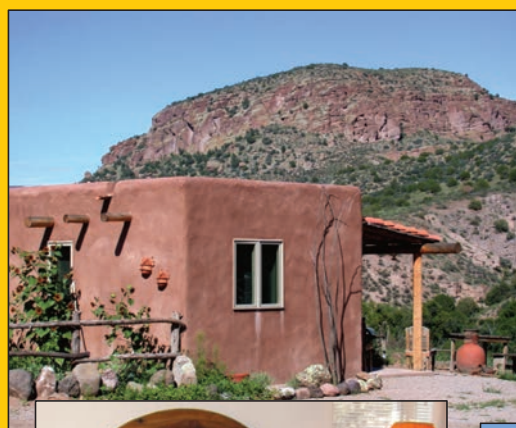
The award-winning Santa Fe painter, sculptor and vocalist from La Union makes a stop in Silver City on her latest regional tour with her band, playing her original, eclectic pan-Latin style songs and telling stories based on personal experiences.

The Nacha Mendez Trio will paint pictures with words at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13, at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300



— The Hotlist —→

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112

The flashy R&B group from Atlanta bring their chart-topping, Grammy-winning, pop sounds to the Inn of the Mountain Gods, with a playlist containing such favorites as “Only You,” “Anywhere,” and the Grammy-nominated single “Peaches & Cream.”

112 relive their glory days at 6 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd., Mescalero. Info: 800-545-9011

Jessica Fichot

The L.A. based chanteuse draws from her multi-ethnic upbringing to fuse styles and languages, taking the listener on a twisting journey into the lands of gypsy jazz, 1940s Chinese swing, international folk, and beyond.

Jessica Fichot plays with tradition at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-473-2202



Paranormal Cirque

The black and red big top tent returns to the Mesilla Valley with acrobats, illusionists, freaks, and mysterious creatures in a crazy, yet fun fusion between circus, theatre and cabaret that takes you back to childhood nightmares and fantasies.

Paranormal Cirque explores the acrobatics of fear at various times, Feb. 14-17, in the Mesilla Valley Mall parking lot, 700 S. Telshor Dr., Las Cruces. Info: 941-704-8572

Acoustic Eidolon

Spend an evening with the international touring duo, featuring Joe Scott on double neck guitar, and Hannah Alkire on cello, to create their signature “new acoustic” sound blending Celtic, Americana, World and Flamenco musical influences.

Acoustic Eidolon create beautiful music at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, at WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City. Info: 575-538-5862

Romeo & Juliet: Love for Your Valentine

El Paso Symphony Orchestra bring the sounds of love to the desert, performing such memorable tunes as the Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet Overture – Fantasy Tchaikovsky Serenade, op. 48, C major Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet.

Romeo & Juliet: Love for Your Valentine sets hearts aflutter at 7:30 p.m., February 21-22, at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

ASTC presents that drive through monterey

American Southwest Theatre Company brings Matthew Paul Olmos’ brand new play to the stage, with a story about a Mexican-American woman in 1971 Los Angeles who experiences her first “nerdy” love affair with a macho man.

That drive through monterey explores relationships at 7:30 and 2 p.m., February 21 – March 2, at ASNM-SU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-4515





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Hungrytown

The New York City duo of Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson perform an artistic hybrid of Celtic and Americana, ballads and psychedelia, sunshine and darkness, joy and despair, many times within the same song, for an unforgettable experience.

Hungrytown eschew sentimentality in favor of honesty at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4140

El Paso Horrorfest

Halloween comes early to El Paso as ghoulies and ghosties descend on the El Paso Convention Center to interact with entertainment, panels, vendors, artists, and celebrities like scream



queen Heather Langenkamp and Fallout's Michelle Santiago.

The El Paso Horrorfest trades fear for fun at 10 a.m., February 22-23, at The El Paso Convention Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: ElPasoHorrorfest.com

Harlem Globetrotters

One of America's most iconic and legendary sports teams dribble and dunk their way across the floor, featuring some of the best athletes on the planet performing amazing feats of basketball wizardry not to mention rim-rattling, side-splitting comedy.

The Harlem Globetrotters offer unmatched athleticism at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the Pan American Center, 1810 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-644-3662



Damn Tall Buildings

Bluegrass at heart but pulling from a wide range of influences including swing, ragtime, jazz and contemporary songwriting, the foot-stomping band from Brooklyn offers unmatched energy, underpinned by intelligent songs that don't skimp on heart.

Damn Tall Buildings will perform damn fine music at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300

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Branigan Show Explores Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley

By Cheryl Fallstead

Wildlife is all around us here in the Mesilla Valley, whether it's Desert Cottontails finding something delicious to nibble on in our gardens, Cooper's Hawks hunting the birds at our feeder, or a coyote crossing our path on a walk. An exhibit opening at the Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. in Las Cruces, focuses on the animals, large and small, that co-exist with us. "Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley" opens Friday, February 7, and runs through Saturday, May 24, and features sculptures and nature journaling that explore our fellow desert denizens.

Artist and art instructor Brian Fallstead conceived the show and invited his students to participate. He said, "After two decades, I'm retiring from teaching and will focus on creating art. This was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with some of my long-time students while we help people gain a greater appreciation for the animals that live all around us."

The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society's Nature Journal Club is also part of the exhibit, offering a deeper dive into some of the animals studied in the show. Nature journaling is the practice of using words, pictures, and numbers to record observations of plants, animals, and other

natural elements.

"This exhibition showcases the artistry of our region while inspiring a deeper connection to the wildlife that makes the Mesilla Valley such a remarkable place," said Analisa Torres, exhibits curator for the Las Cruces Museums. "By blending creative expression with ecological education, 'Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley' is a reminder of the delicate balance between nature and urban growth. Pieces in this exhibit will inspire you to take a closer look at the wildlife around you – if you do look closely, you'll find the desert is more full of life than expected."

Numerous activities related to the show are available for the public to experience. The goal is to allow visitors to experience sculpting and nature journaling while helping forge a deeper connection to the natural world.

On Friday, February 7, at 6 p.m. during the opening reception,



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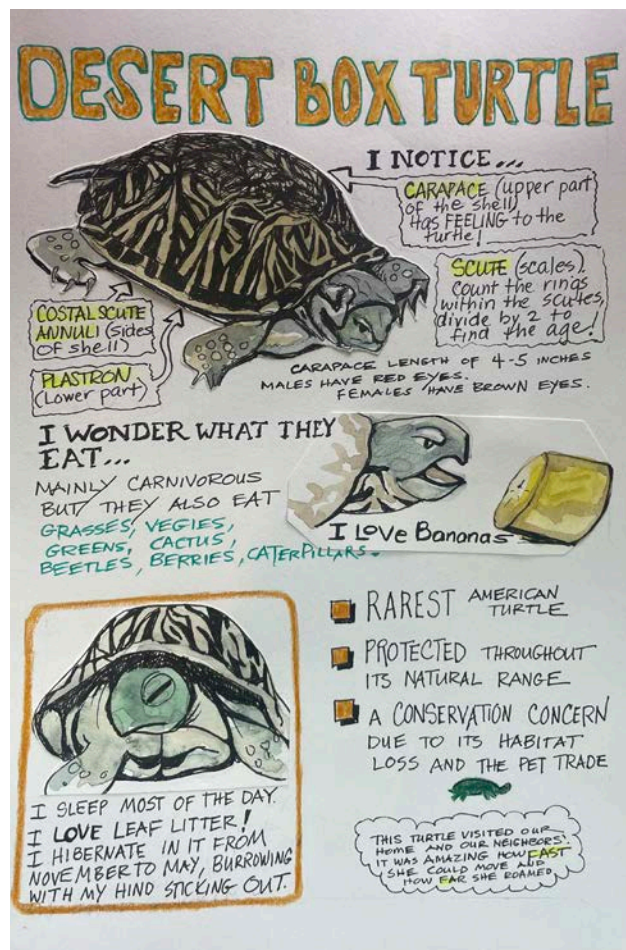
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Nature Journal – Desert Box Turtle, by Rusty Hendley

Brian Fallstead will give a short tour of the exhibit and a casual talk titled “The Value of Observation in Wildlife Sculpture.” Then, on Saturday, February 15, at 10 a.m., he will teach a hands-on sculpture activity during

which participants will sculpt a squirrel from the museum’s collection. Brian will give a Pull Up a Chair talk entitled “From 2-D Image to 3-D Sculpture: The Artist’s Craft” on Thursday, April 17, at noon. On Saturday, May



“Gambels Quail” by Rosario Jeremias

10, 10 a.m. – noon, he will do a wildlife sculpting demonstration in the museum’s courtyard.

The museum’s collections will be further explored on Thursday, February 27, from 5 – 7 p.m., with guided sketching led by Cheryl Fallstead and Kay Gross. Cheryl will give a Pull Up a Chair presentation entitled “Create a Deeper Connection to Nature Through Nature Journaling” at noon on Thursday, March 20. For those who would like a hands-on opportunity to try nature journaling, there

is a free introduction to nature journaling class at the Museum of Nature and Science on Saturday, April 5, from 11 – 1 p.m. Participants will be able to sketch live animals from the museum’s collections.

The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. and the Museum of Nature and Science is at 411 N. Main St. Both museums are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. There is no admission charge. The museums are acces-



“Black Headed Grosbeak” by Rejina Christopher

sible from RoadRUNNER Transit Route 1 Stop 1. For additional information, visit lascruces.gov/museums or call 575-541-2154.



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Set Taste Buds on Delicious at Chocolate Fantasia

By Marcia Tinker

Chocolate and coffee? Oh my! That's what people can expect from this year's Chocolate Fantasia, the annual event sponsored by Mimbres Region Arts Council (MRAC). This year's theme is Mochaccino, which means participating businesses will match up and host a chocolatier who will create yummy chocolate-coffee sweets for you to enjoy. Taking place one week before Valentine's Day, on February 7-8, it's a great way to treat your sweetheart and your sweet tooth.

For the second year Chocolate Fantasia will be a two-day event. The chocolate sampling event is, as usual, on Saturday, February 8th. In addition, there is a Friday night music and dinner special at Little Toad Creek Brewery. The 300 tickets will rapidly sell out, so do not hesitate. The Saturday chocolate sampling is \$25 per person. The Friday night dinner and music special is \$55 per person and includes Saturday Mochaccino.

Little Toad's Friday night dinner is,



Event organizer Simon Sotello. Photo courtesy of MRAC/Chocolate Fantasia.

of course, a chocolate inspired menu prepared just for ticket holders. Feast on Candied Bacon-wrapped Figs stuffed with chocolate cream cheese filling, Espresso Rubbed Steak and finished off

with homemade High-Stacked Chocolate-Coffee layered Tiramisu. MRAC/Chocolate Fantasia and Little Toad Creek are co-sponsoring the evening event, which will feature music by Baracutanga.

Simon Sotelo has been involved for several years, first as a chocolatier and now as the event organizer for MRAC. "The Chocolate Fantasia event is a super community-based event, promotes our downtown plus brings many visitors from out of town," he said. "Last year we saw an even broader audience than prior years with more people under 40."

As part of the chocolate event there will be awards for the Best Chocolate with first, second and third prizes. Hosting businesses can hire a chocolatier or create their own entries. The ticket holders will be the judges. All are encouraged to decorate their businesses and come out in costumes as well.

Chocolate Fantasia funds will go towards youth outreach programs such as the Youth Mural program and Arte Para Todos. The MRAC website states

"We provide these programs FREE of charge to children. Mimbres Region Arts Council believes everyone, including our youth, should have access and opportunity to participate in meaningful arts experiences. Your purchase at Chocolate Fantasia will help ensure we can continue to reach the children of the Mimbres region." MRAC also sponsors the Silver City Blues Festival every Memorial Day.

For further information visit chocolatefantasia.org and mimbresarts.org



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By The Dexter

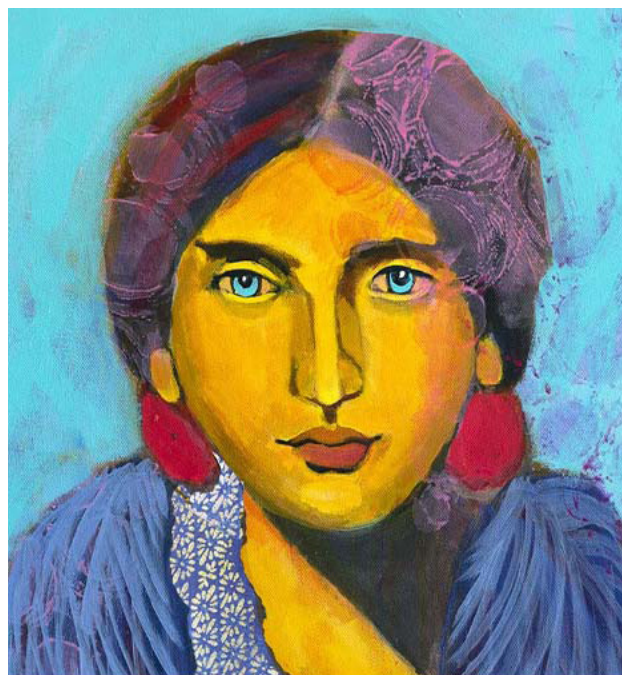
CALL FOR ARTISTS

Las Cruces Arts Fair call for vendors and artists

Applications are open for the Dona Ana Art Council's **14th Annual Las Cruces Arts Fair**, set to take place on Mar. 22-23 at the Las Cruces Convention Center. This highly anticipated event promises to bring together regional and international artists, artisans, and performers for a spectacular showcase of music, theater, and visual arts. Interested artist applicants can visit DAArts.org to complete the online application form. For more information or application assistance please email Natalia Martinez, Gallery Manager at gallery@daarts.org, or call 575-523-6403



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



The work of Maria Lopez will be part of the Artforms Members Show at Gallery 925 in February. (Courtesy photo)

ext. 103. Interested volunteers can also contact Natalia for more information. If you're interested in sponsoring the Las Cruces Arts Fair, please contact Dona Ana Art Council's Executive Director Karrie Porter at director@daarts.org or call 575-523-6403 ext.101.

SILVER CITY

• **The Grant County Art Guild Studio**, 211 N. Texas St., Silver City, presents the **Age of Aquarius Celebration and Art Bazaar**, featuring the work of 12 local artists, food and free-form fun with a reception and show opening, 5-7 p.m., Friday, February 7, followed by viewings 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, February 8, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, February 9.

Info: studio@gcag.org.

• **Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway, Silver City, presents **"On the Road: Photography by Grant County Photographers,"** featuring photographs by over twenty local photographers. In the Flash Gallery, will be Joel Armstrong's metaphorical installation, **"Online Phishing."** The exhibitions run Feb. 6 – Mar 1, 2025, with an opening reception 5-7 p.m.,

Friday, Feb. 7.

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 2025.

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

ALAMOGORDO

• **Otero Artspace**, 1118 Indiana Ave., Alamogordo, presents **"Shared Bonds, Distinct Voices,"**



"Art of my Soul," the work of Leo Neufeld will be on display at Rio Bravo Fine Art in Truth or Consequences through March. (Courtesy photo)

ART SCENE

continued on page 14

ART SCENE

continued from page 13

featuring photographic works by **Linda Cherepow** and **Kim Melton**, two friends with very different styles. The exhibition opens with a reception 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, and runs through Feb. 23.

The gallery is open 1-4 p.m. Thursday to Sun-



The print work of Sam Peters is on display at the Tombaugh Art Gallery through February 16. (Courtesy photo)

day every week. Info: oteroarts.org.

DEMING

• The Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St., Deming, presents the solo work of **Rebecca Bryant**, who has painted her way from the hardwood forests of the south to the east coast, the west coast, to a Pacific island and back to New Mexico. The show runs



Agave artist gallery, Mesilla.

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Feb. 2-27, with an opening reception from 1-2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2.

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

• **Rio Bravo Fine Art**, 110 N. Broadway,

Truth or Consequences, presents **"Art of My Soul,"** featuring the plein air seascapes of **Leo Neufeld** with images of crashing waves, Monterey pines in the mist, and moody seas. The exhibition runs through Mar. 30.

Gallery hours are 12-5 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, and by appointment. Info: www.riobravofineartgallery.com.



"Figband" by Carolyn Salas, is part of the "Night Vision" exhibition at the New Mexico State University Art Museum. (Photo by Lawrence Elizabeth Knox.)

LAS CRUCES

• **The Agave Artists Cooperative Gallery**, 2250 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla, invites the public to the grand opening of their new sculpture garden from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1. Demonstrations throughout the day include Margaret Berrier on Silver-smithing, Nancy Frost Begin on Printmaking,

Lisa Carlson on Pottery, and Robin Przybysz on Fiber Art.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday-Sunday. Info: 913-302-1111

• **The Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St., Las Cruces,

ART SCENE

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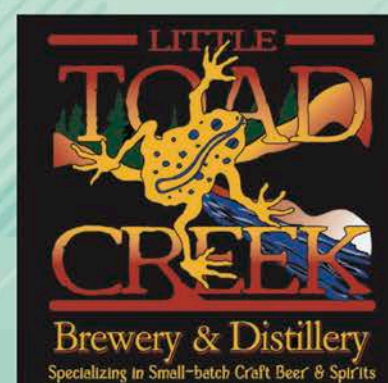
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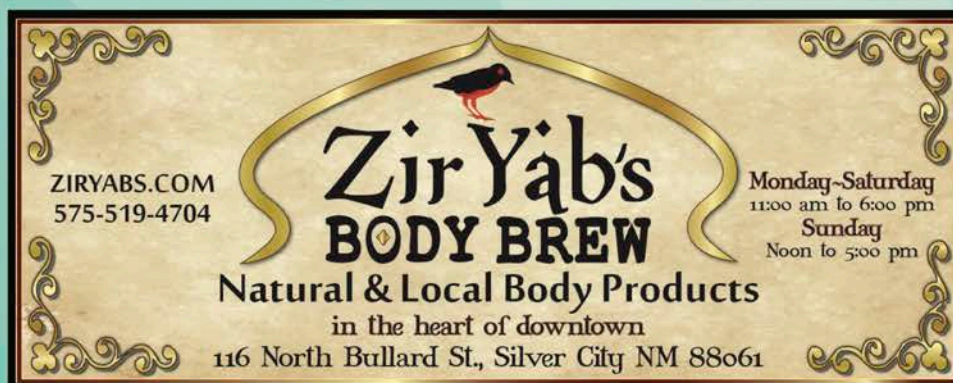



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ART SCENE

continued from page 15

presents **"The Ballard Photo Studio: A Portrait of Community,"** featuring more than 200 photographic works by Las Cruces photographer Jim Ballard. The exhibit will be on view through Feb 15, 2025. **"Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley,"** featuring the wildlife sculptures and the Nature Journals of fourteen artists opens Friday, Feb. 7 and runs through Saturday, May 24.

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 Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery**, 230 S. Water St., Las Cruces presents **"NMSU Alumni Contemporary Filipino/Mexican Art."** The exhibit runs Feb. 1 - Mar. 14.

The Doña Ana Arts Council is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues-



The landscape work of Rebecca Bryant will be on exhibition at the Deming Art Center for the month of February. (Courtesy photo)

day-Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. Info: 575-523-6403

- **Gallery 925**, 925 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, presents

The ArtForms Members Show **"Spirits of the Southwest,"** featuring work of 42 artists participating in For the Love of Art Month in a wide variety

of art mediums. The exhibit will be on display through the month of February, with a First Friday reception 4-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7.

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 **"Engaging Masters: Parody Art"** in which contemporary artists borrow from recognizable historical works to create pop culture pieces that are new and thought provoking while also being playful and nostalgic. The exhibit is on view Feb. 7 - May 30.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Info: 575-541-2137.

- **The Mad Hatter Gallery**, 221 N. Main St., Ste C, Las Cruces, presents **"Collusions,"** a unique collaboration featuring the work of painter **Craig Cully**, and graphic designer **Kelly Leslie**, both from Tucson. The exhibition will be on display Feb. 5-28, with an

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• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of February 2025: **Jane Peacock** and **Barbara Bush**. Peacock is a lifelong painter whose medium is oil paint and tools are palette knives and brushes. Bush takes pleasure in exploring the Texas and New Mexico landscapes through the plein air technique. The annual **"My Masterpiece"** game and open house takes place 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22

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

• **The Tombaugh Art Gallery**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, Las Cruces, presents **Sam Peters, Master of his Art** featuring nearly 75 monotype, cli-



The work of Tucson artist Leslie Cully will be on display at the Mad Hatter Gallery in Las Cruces throughout the month of February. (Courtesy photo)

ché 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 Museum**, 1308 E. Uni-

versity 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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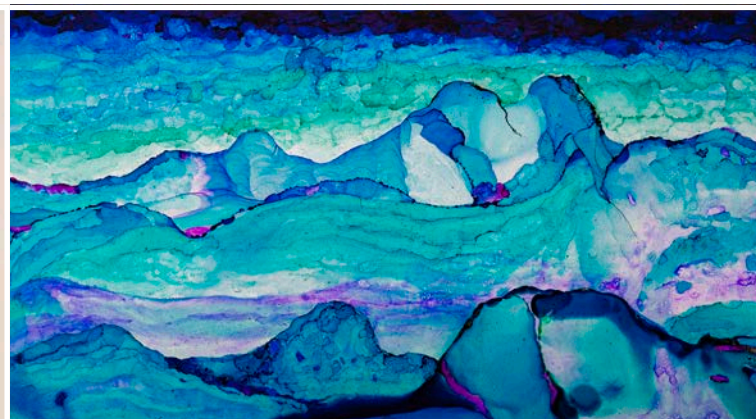


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For the Love of Art Month returns

By Cheryl Fallstead

Each February, ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico brings For the Love of Art Month (FLOA) to the Mesilla Valley. This monthlong celebration of art in all its forms includes several exhibitions, four weekends of studio tours with 37 participating locations, and the opportunity to pick up some art skills at workshops. This year, ArtForms will also honor two people who support the arts in the community. ArtForms has sponsored FLOA for more than a quarter century and encourages everyone to spend time in February creating and enjoying art of

all kinds. A guide to all the FLOA activities is available online on the ArtForms website, artformsnm.org. Activities kick off Saturday, February 1st with the ArtForms Member Show, Spirit of the Desert at Mesquite St., and Duende Gallery, 927 N. Mesquite St. More than 40 artists will be displayed all month long. The winning artists during the soft opening reception will be held 4 – 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 1st.



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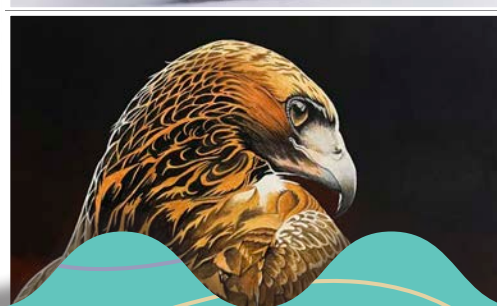
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at these side-by-side galleries. The
m., Friday, February 7.

During the member show reception on February 7, Artforms will honor
two people who actively support the local art community. Penny Peace
is the ArtForms Member of the Year and Carolyn Bunch is the ArtForms
Friend of the Arts.

There are many other exhibitions available to enjoy during For the Love
of Art Month. The Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society
exhibit, For the Love of Watercolor, will be shown at Frame and Art Center,
1100 S. Main St. # 108, Las Cruces. The ninth annual Erotica Show will

LOVE OF ART

continued on page 25



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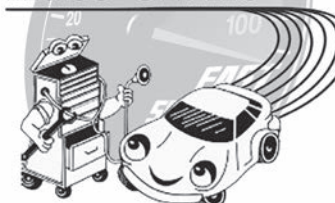


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‘Driving While Black’

Motorists in Southern New Mexico found respite in the Green Book during the height of Jim Crow

By Jason K. Watkins

Black motorists traveling across New Mexico’s highways during Jim Crow faced indignities most of us can’t imagine. Hotels and motels catered almost exclusively to white people, and even some gas stations refused to sell to anybody else.

But Victor Hugo Green, a postal worker from Harlem, made the journey a little easier for thousands of travelers when he published “The Negro Motorist Green-Book,” a

guide to motels, restaurants and service stations that were friendly toward black people.

The “Green Book,” as it was known, became an indispensable resource for travelers in search of rest, refreshments and gas. Along the historic Highway 80 through New Mexico, only two locations, one in Las Cruces and one in Lordsburg, would accommodate black motorists.

In Las Cruces, a “tourist home” operated by R. B. McCoy and family welcomed black tourists at



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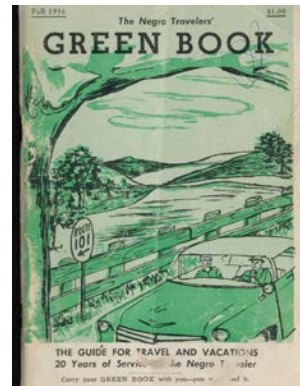
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545 N. Church Street in downtown. The location is now occupied by the American Linen & Uniform Supply Company.

In Lordsburg, the Hightower Motel was the only option.

Owned and operated by Rochester and Leona Hightower, “Hightower’s Motel,” as it was listed in the Green Book, provided modern amenities with private baths and a lunchroom. It was located a mile east of downtown on Motel Drive and provided a “direct route to and from the West Coast,” the guide said.

The Hightower became a welcome respite for travelers who had been turned away from



countless other establishments. Word spread, and the motel became an underground landmark, situated halfway between El Paso and Tucson.

The motel was also the last friendly stop in New Mexico before motorists entered Arizona, where no accommodations were available to black trav-



Leona Hightower. Courtesy photos.

elers, except for three Esso gas stations. It even became the subject of a short film “100 Miles to Lordsburg,” produced by Brad Littlefield for Open Range Pictures. It is available for viewing online at Vimeo.com. Search for “100 Miles to Lordsburg,” and type in the password “lordsburg.” Today, the Hightower Motel is long gone, but

around town, memories of their hospitality are still fresh.

Tommie Nard Trujillo, a lifelong resident of Lordsburg, says the Hightowers were the only black couple that he remembers.

"My mom was friends with Mrs. Hightower," Trujillo said. "We used to go out there to see her. She and Mr. Hightower were both very nice and friendly."

Hidalgo County Com-

missioner Art Mallott also remembers the Hightowers well.

"We lived there for several weeks until we got a house," Mallott said. "It was 1949."

Retired Lordsburg teacher and area rancher Ed Kerr met Leona Hightower around 1960. "I was about eight years old, and my mother wanted to go see the house they built," he said. "It was a prefab house that you could order and put

together. Mrs. Hightower was so friendly and sweet. She ran the motel and the restaurant. She was known for her great pies she made."

With the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and after groundbreaking

Supreme Court decisions like Brown v. the Board of Education, segregation in America gave way to more freedoms and less discrimination. Because of that, the Green Book became obsolete and eventually went out of

print.

People like Rochester and Leona Hightower may be gone, but their generosity and hospitality are still remembered and talked about around town, more than 70 years after the height of Jim

Crow.

Jason K. Watkins was raised in Lordsburg. He is a regular contributor to Desert Exposure, and he currently teaches at a Phoenix university. He can be reached at jasonk-watkins.com.

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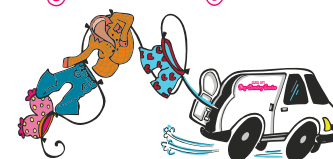
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Mayor & wife - Mayor Ken Ladner and wife Becky Smith in period costumes. Photo courtesy of Silver City Museum Society

Silver City Celebrates Its Unique Territorial Charter

By Marcia Tinker

Silver City remains the only municipality in New Mexico operating under its original 146-year-old charter. History of the Territorial Charter is celebrated annually on February 15th.

As stated by the Silver City Museum publications, this charter which precedes statehood by 34 years was due to conflict between early settlers and the New Mexico Territorial Legislature. Being denied equal representation by the corrupt “Santa Fe Gang,” a rebellion resulted, with settlers threatening to secede from the New Mexico Territory and join the Arizona Territory.

The early residents knew they needed a town charter to build their community the way they needed it. Santa Fe relented and granted Silver City its own charter on February 15, 1878. The self-governing charter provided

the ability to incorporate as a town, set taxes, establish free public schools and – as described in an Albuquerque newspaper – become “the only real American town in New Mexico.” The newspaper added that it was also “the liveliest and most enterprising.”

Over the years, the community has celebrated this rich heritage in a variety of ways. First with semi-Centennial celebrations in 1927 and 1928, Frontier Days in the 1960’s and a Centennial in 1978. Finally, on February 15, 2020, Mayor Ken Ladner declared February 15 as Territorial Charter Day. Since then the Town of Silver City has sponsored events celebrating this rich history, which includes a Territorial Charter Ball, historical re-enactments, and a burlesque baseball game.

The Silver City Museum Society heads up the committee bringing these events to life each year. Once again, the popular Territorial Charter Ball will be

held at the Murray Hotel Ballroom on February 15 from 7-10 p.m. This year's Charter signing re-enactment will also take place at the Ball. The mayor and dignitaries will perform the historical event in costume with pomp and circumstance.

All attendees are encouraged to dress in period or formal attire. Costumes range from dance hall girls, dignitaries, cowboys, to sequined gowns. Little Toad Creek

Brewery will provide a cash bar for this festive occasion. Flowers on 11th are decorating the tables with gorgeous center pieces which will be sold by donation. Music by Silver City's own Illusion Band starts at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 6 p.m.

Stay tuned for the Spring Burlesque Baseball game reviving a historical past time from the 1880's which involves hysterical costumes and

unusual rules! Organizer Raul Turrieta says that this year's lively game will be a challenge between the fire department and police departments and community players.

Tickets for the Territorial Charter Ball are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple and are available at Vintage Fantasy, 412 North Bullard Street or at the door. For further information visit www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org.



Eddie Pritchett and Todd Shelby dance at the Ball. Photo by Bryan Hyde

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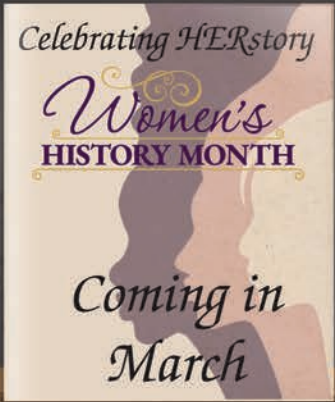
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LOVE OF ART

continued from page 19

happen at In Effect Gallery, 3390 Apple Cross Place in Mesilla Park, and The Border Artists will be exhibiting at Casa Otro, 2226 Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla. Even more exhibits are listed in the guide.

Studio tours are always a popular part of FLOA. This year, 37 studios will be available to tour. The four weekends of studio tours provide the opportunity to see where artists work, talk to them about their artistic process, and make purchases directly from them. A few of the participating artists

are Linda Gendall, Tauna Cole, Jean Wilkey, Candi Hogan, Rokoko, Noel Sandino, Nancy Frost Begin, and Dina D'argo.

Visitors can find studios using maps printed in the guide. In addition, a QR code in the guide links to an interactive map. Blue flags will help identify each studio location. Studio tour hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, and noon – 4 p.m., Sundays. Some studios have different hours, which are listed in the guide, as well as the dates each will be open.

For those who would like to explore creating art, ArtForms will host several workshops in February. A free, all-ages



mask-making class will be taught by Karen Conley at the Thomas Branigan Library 2 – 4 p.m. on February 2. A free charm-stamping workshop for adults will be held 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., February 7, at Metál Jewelry Studio. Register online

at metaljewelrystudio.com. A live figure drawing workshop for adults will be facilitated by Tauna Cole at the NMSU University Art Museum 2 – 4 p.m. on February 22. The fee is \$10 per person and registration is required by emailing artformsnm@gmail.com.

Because FLOA is about art in all its various forms, February events also include plays, like “Clue on Stage” at Las Cruces Community Theater, a poetry workshop, folk dancing, educational presentations, and much more. You can even play an art-focused game, My Masterpiece, at Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery where you

have the chance to win a \$250 prize.

“Collaborating with other art organizations and businesses is important to us,” said ArtForms President Karen Conley. “We all want to promote the region as an art and cultural destination. ArtForms has a 26-year history of organizing art events for the community, and we are proud to continue doing so.”

Plan your February art adventures with a copy of the FLOA guide, which is available at the Visit Las Cruces office, area art galleries, and art supply stores. You can also download a PDF version at artformsnm.org.

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Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers

By Bud Russo

The Civil War ended. Troops went home, among them nearly 145,000 African Americans. But Confederate white people did not want armed former slaves roaming the south. Something had to be done. Instead of trying to disarm these veterans, the Army organized new regiments and sent the men west to defend sparse, yet rapidly expanding, settlements. It was an “out of sight, out of mind” solution, and it worked well. Thus, the legacy of the Buffalo Soldier was born.

In 1866, Congress created five all-black regi-



Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Keogh, Montana, in 1890 wear their heavy coats against the chill of winter. Credit: Library of Congress

ments — the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th, 25th, and 38th Infantry. No one knows for certain where the name Buffalo Soldier came from. Some believed Plains Indians first used it. They saw the dark skin and curly hair and thought the men resembled their sacred buffalo. Others said it was because black troopers stood and fought long after white regiments retreated. The Indians thought them ferocious and brave, traits they respected. So, Buffalo Soldier was a name of high praise.

Nearly 4,000 Buffalo Soldiers served at 11 frontier forts, established

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The 9th Cavalry Band was invited by Santa Fe's Music Committee to perform at Fourth of July festivities in 1880. Credit: National Park Service

along the length of New Mexico like a string of pearls. The first black troops arrived at Fort Selden in 1866. There were no African American officers, and black troopers faced extreme racial prejudice from the Army establishment. To break the monotony of routine, the Army frequently rotated troops. But troopers scarcely had time to learn the land and who their enemies were before they were moved and had to start over.

Life at Fort Selden was never easy. When not standing guard or on patrol — always on horseback and year-around, often for a week or two at a time — they had to care for their animals and

keep their gear in good condition. Historic letters say food was, at best ... marginal.

They built roads and other infrastructure, guarded the mail, and protected settlers playing significant roles. They engaged Chief Victorio in Hembrillo Canyon near Victorio Peak on the west side of today's White Sands Missile Range. They fought the Apache in Dog Canyon, where the Indians not only fired on them but dropped large rocks from above. By the time the troopers reached the ridge line, like true guerrilla fighters, the Apache were gone.

Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American

Wars. They contributed to maintaining border security during the Mexican Revolution. Black regiments were excluded from WWI's American Expeditionary Force because of President Wilson's racist policies. Instead, they fought under French command, the first time ever American troops were controlled by a foreign power.

During World War II, the Army established the 92nd Infantry Division for African American troops. They fought in Europe. The original 25th Infantry served in the Pacific. When the Army ended segregation in 1951, those who had served as Buffalo Soldiers were allowed to retain that distinction. Two remain alive; both are centenarians. Roy Caldwell, born 1922, had

9th Cavalry Sergeant John Denny was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor November 27, 1894 for rescuing a wounded comrade under fire on September 18, 1879 from Victorio's Apache warriors in Hembrillo Canyon. Credit: Library of Congress.

been an assistant deputy warden at New York's Rikers Island. Marshall Allen, born 1924, an avant-garde jazz musician, released his latest album just last November.

National Museum of African American History & Culture reminds us, the remarkable courage demonstrated by the Buffalo Soldiers in the face of fierce combat, discrimination, and repressive laws continues to inspire us today.



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Talent of Tin: The Life and Art of Richard Gabriel Jr.

By Brian D'Ambrosio

Glossy and striking, with countless designs of ornamentation, tinwork is a distinct art. In New Mexico, it is especially cherished as a form of expression that is intimately connected to the confluences of its unique history.

As the U.S. Cavalry moved westward on the Santa Fe Trail in the 1840s, it hauled all of life's necessities for its members. Many of these supply items, such as lantern oil, were stored in tin cans. After the items were transferred or emptied, the giant square tin cans were discarded.

"To the local Hispanic population, it looked like silver," said Spanish artist and tin worker Richard Gabriel Jr. "It's not silver. But they realized that they could make beautiful stuff out of it."

The roots of New Mexico tin, he said, are traceable to Mexico and before that, to Spain, where the Moors introduced it through metalworking. The earliest tin workers of New



Mexico are mostly anonymous. They didn't sign their work because, more often than not, they were making it for the church, and it was considered gauche to invite (and deflect) such attention.

During the Works Progress Administration (WPA) years from 1935 to 1943 – called the "revival period of tin" by Gabriel – the U.S. government encouraged and paid tinsmiths and other artisans to help

beautify a host of old and new government buildings. The tin light fixtures still in use at Bandelier National Monument's visitor center are an example.

Still, the number of artists

who work primarily with tin of late is relatively low compared to those engaged in other mediums. Gabriel estimates there are about 20 to 30 tin workers. For those that do exist, he said, their primary audience is in New Mexico. "Here it is a traditional art, which makes it doubly interesting to people."

Chances are quite high that if someone owns an example of tinware made in New Mexico, that piece was made by Gabriel. At the peak of his production, he was creating more than 10,000 pieces annually – mostly "bread and butter" ornaments, but also more intricate pieces, such as three-dimensional birdhouses and handsomely embellished mirrors, candleholders, and light fixtures.

At one point, he said, his work could be found on sale in about 30 stores, but now he supplies only a few, all in Santa Fe. They include A Christmas Store, Sunwest on the Plaza, and Leslie Flynt. A resident of Tijeras since the late 1990s, Gabriel teaches tinwork class-

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es at Santa Fe Community College, where he is regarded as a living almanac and instruction manual of the art form. “I would like to pass it on to as many people as I can to keep it from dying,” he said. “I always tell people that I could teach tin in five minutes,” he said. “Everybody can take a mallet and cut. There are not a lot of steps to remember and very simple tasks. You have to have the right tools to punch. It is not like learning photography. There is no high technical ability.” Perhaps that’s just Gabriel’s soft-spoken, unassuming temperament on display. In truth, tinwork is deceptively challenging,

and even the simplest tasks of cutting, punching and scoring requires rapt attention. Working almost exclusively with galvanized steel (as opposed to the more expensive canning tin) and occasionally with a rusty old piece of scrap, Gabriel said that there are two ways of looking at what you can do with tin: You could let your imagination run wild or choose to keep it simple. “Both are good, and there is room for both,” he said. “It just depends on how involved you want to be. Refining your technique into something special takes time and practice.”



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EVENTS

What's Happening

Events you won't want to miss in February

Saturday, February 1

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

Card & Collectable Show, 9 a.m.-5

p.m., at Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Info: Jacob at 575-405-1073

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

Friends of the Branigan Library One-Day Book Sale featuring collector's books, children's/YA, paperback fiction and DVDs, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-528-4000

Mamadou Diabate and Percussion Mania, 7 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202

Radio Malilla, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Aransas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Sunday, February 2

Chapter 431 Vietnam Veterans Food Drive, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Save Mart, 495 N. Valley Dr., Las Cruces. Info: 575-449-1926

The Borderland A's Model A Ford Club meeting, 1:30 p.m., at Rudy's Barbeque, 1020 N. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 541-499-1356

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

A Talk on the Akashic Records by Laura Ramnarace and Akashic Records students, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Heartsong Center, 1302 32nd St., Ste A, Silver City. Info: 575-538-9405

Wednesday, February 5

Jeffrey Foucault, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Aransas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Thursday, February 6

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

Historic Fort Bayard Winter/Spring Film Series presents Oceans 11, 6:30 p.m., at Santa Clara National Guard Armory, 11990

US-180, Santa Clara. Info:
575-388-4862

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

February 6 - 16

**Virus Theater presents
William Shakespeare's
The Tempest**, 7:30 p.m.,
at El Sol Theater, 406 N.
Bullard St., Silver City. Info:
VirusTheater@gmail.com

Friday, February 7

**Camerata del Sol: Ripples
of Hope**, 7:30 p.m., at the
Woman's Club of El Paso,
1400 N. Mesa St., El Paso.
Info: CamerataDelSol.org

**Chocolate Fantasia Dinner
featuring Baracutanga**, 8
– 11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek,
200 N Bullard St, Silver City.
Info: 575-956-6144

February 7 - 23

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

Saturday, February 8

**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

Kayla Von Der Heide, 7 p.m.
at Whiskey Creek Zócalo,
11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas
Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or
WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Camerata del Sol: Ripples
of Hope**, 7:30 p.m., at
Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N.
Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info:
CamerataDelSol.org

Brendon Perrault Trio, 8 – 11
p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200

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

Sunday, February 9

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

**Dance Las Cruces with
Manny Rivera**, 2:30-4:30
p.m., at Mesilla Community
Center, 2251 Calle de
Santiago, Mesilla. Info: 575-
524-3262

EVENTS

continued on page 32

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EVENTS

continued from page 31

Little House of Funk Blues Edition, 1–4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Monday, February 10

Carsie Blanton, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo,

11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Wednesday, February 12

Carsie Blanton, 8 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo in the Lodge, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Thursday, February 13

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

Historic Fort Bayard Winter/Spring Film Series presents The Manchurian Candidate, 6:30 p.m., at Santa Clara National Guard Armory, 11990



Brenden Perrault
Feb. 8

Support Groups

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

MONDAY
Silver City/Grant County

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

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

TUESDAY
Silver City/Grant County

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

N. Texas St. Silver City. Info: CoDASilvercity@gmail.com

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

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

WEDNESDAY
Silver City/Grant County

Wed. Evening Arenas Valley Al-Anon Family Group – 6-7 p.m. at the Bayard Community Center, Bayard. 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 Al-Anon Family Group – 5:30-6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 314 College Ave. Silver City. Zoom ID: 411 858 127; password: 954941; info: nmal-anon.com

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Candace Laramore, NP (Primary, Family, Pediatrics)

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Oversouls
Feb. 2

US-180, Santa Clara. Info: 575-388-4862

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

Friday, February 14

Sweetheart Valentine's Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Silver Threads Company, 300 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-284-7022

Celebrate Valentine's Day with readings of "Selected

Shakespeare Sonnets," 3:30 p.m., at Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-3672

112, 6 p.m., at Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd., Mescalero. Info: 800-545-9011

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

Paranormal Cirque, 7:30

p.m., at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 941-704-8572

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

February 14-15

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

EVENTS

continued on page 34



Jeffrey Foucault
Feb. 5

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Thursday
Feb 13

Nacha Mendez Trio



Nacha Mendez combines storytelling, music and song on a journey through her personal experience that speaks to her Latin blood, Native American history and her experience as an artist.

7pm Light Hall Theater
\$20

Tuesday
Feb 18



Free | 7pm Light Hall Theater

Emile Nakhleh Ph.D.

Middle East Conflict & U.S. Policy: Reflections and Aspirations

Thursday
Feb 27

Damn Tall Buildings



Modern bluegrass served with a little punch, attitude, grit and gravy.

7pm
Light Hall Theater
\$20



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EVENTS

continued from page 33

Saturday, February 15

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

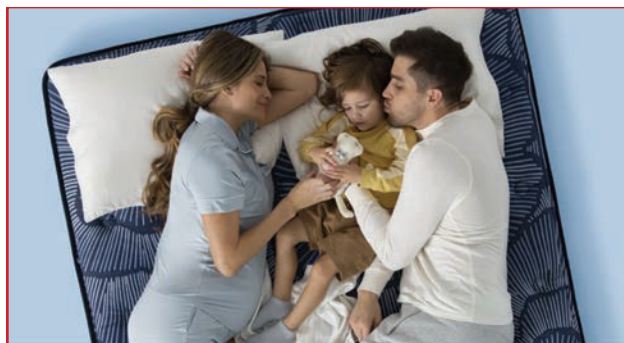
Farmers Market of Otero County, 9-11 a.m. at Tractor

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

New Horizons Concert Band free performance, 3 p.m. at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU.



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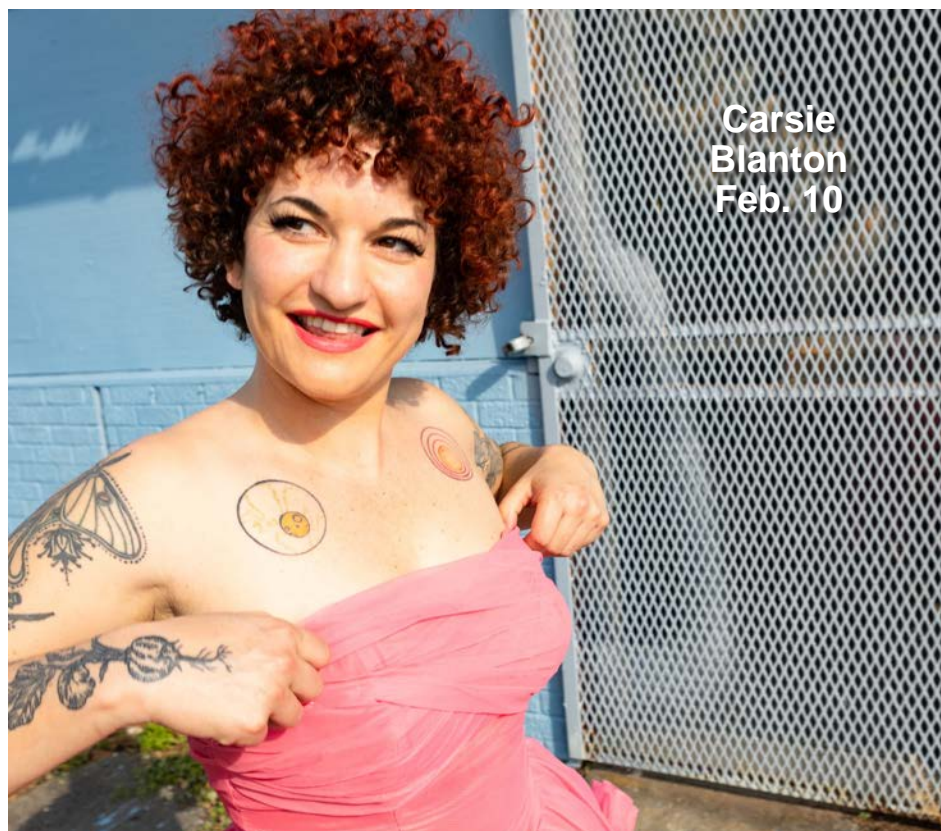
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**Carsie
Blanton
Feb. 10**

Info: NHBandLC.com

Paranormal Cirque, 6:30 & 9:30 p.m., at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 941-704-8572

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

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

Sunday, February 16

Chapter 431 Vietnam Veterans Food Drive, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Walmart Neighborhood Market, 150 Sonoma Ranch Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-449-1926

Paranormal Cirque, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m., at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 941-704-8572

Mark Yaxley and Peter Dahn Bredine, 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

Akashic Readings Open House by Akashic Records students, 3-6 p.m., at the Heartsong Center, 1302 32nd St., Ste A, Silver City. Info: 575-538-9405

Monday, February 17

Paranormal Cirque, 7:30 p.m., at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 941-704-8572

Tuesday, February 18

Author Talk with Lori Ann King: Reclaiming Peace – Boundaries, Wellbeing, and Embracing Change in 2025, 1:30 p.m. in the Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-649-8786

Distinguished Speaker Series: Emile Nakhleh, 7 p.m. at Light Hall Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-6300

Thursday, February 20

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

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

GCCCA presents Acoustic Eidolon, 7-9 p.m., at WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City. Info: 575-538-5862



**Kayla Von
Der Heide
Feb. 8**

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

Friday, February 21

Poetic Outlaws Open Mic, 5:30 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

Astronomy Friends of the Parks, 6 p.m. at Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Rd. SE., Deming. Info: 575-546-6182

Southern NM Music and Dance hosts a Mardi Gras-themed Contra Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Info: 575-636-5509

February 21-22

El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents Romeo & Juliet – Love for Your Valentine, 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

February 21 – March 2

American Southwest Theatre Company presents “that drive through monterey,” at ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., NMSU Campus, Las Cruces. Info:

575-646-4515

Saturday, February 22

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

Hungrytown, 2 p.m., at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4140

Astronomy Friends of the Parks, 6 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park, 327 NM-61, Faywood. Info: 575-536-2800

February 22-23

El Paso Horrorfest, 10 a.m.



Radio Malilla
Feb. 1

at the El Paso Convention Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: ElPasoHorrorfest.com

Sunday, February 23

Akashic Records Training, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Heartsong Center, 1302 32nd St., Ste A, Silver City. Info: 575-538-

9405

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

Mystic Maude, 1–4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N

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

Dance Las Cruces with Sax Attitude, Tony Montoya and Sonny, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Info: 575-524-3262

Tuesday, February 25

Harlem Globetrotters 2025 World Tour, 7 p.m., at the Pan American Center, 1810 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-644-3662

Thursday, February 27

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

Songwriter's Showcase, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

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

Friday, February 28

High Rollers Tattoo Expo, 12-10 p.m., at Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd., Mescalero. Info: 800-545-9011

Spank, 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



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