

EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

APRIL 2025 | VOL. 30 NO. 4

# DESERT exposure

**Spring is here!**

**TOUR OF THE GILA PAGE 12 | LAKE VALLEY'S SECOND LIFE PAGE 18 | CARLIS CHEE PAGE 29**

**Local stories | Global impact | Learn more on page 22**

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**Desert #106**  
**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](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), and be recognized!  
TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"SPG TECFL DGIDBC ED PGHG. SB JG PBCGDS, ES IHHEWGF DBVGSEVG  
EC UICNIHL. E FBC'S SPECY SPGHG'D I ABHCGH BX BNH FND  
KESSKG ZISAP SPIS FBGDC'S XGGK ESD DSECO." - FIWEF DIKAEFB

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: "CHOCOLATE FANTASIA IS A SUPER COMMUNITY-BASED EVENT, PROMOTES OUR DOWNTOWN, PLUS BRINGS VISITORS FROM OUT OF TOWN." - MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL'S SIMON SOTELO  
Secret Words (\*): "SUGARY MOTIVE"

Congrats to #105 solvers :  
Mike Arms\*, David Pino\*,  
Brandy Malone\*, Will Adams\*, Sue Merrick\*,  
Claudette Gallegos\*, Skip Howard\* and Shorty Vaiza\*!

# DESERT exposure

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## MAY DEADLINE

All stories and notices for the editorial section,  
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due Friday, April 18.





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**Solar dream home offers seclusion** and amazing craftsmanship on this open floor plan layout. 400 amp service, 27 solar panel installation, Generac whole home back-up generator, all on almost 7 acres bordering BLM. Nestled in the ponderosa, oak, and pines, this home boasts 10-14 ft vaulted ceilings, a chef's dream kitchen with large granite prep island and custom cabinetry. The primary bedroom is as big as some homes, including an office and craft/art space. The main level can serve as single level living with two bedrooms, one currently used as a home theater. Downstairs is a fully equipped 1200 sq/ft apartment with separate entrance. Only four owners use this dead end road. The 2000 sq/ft shop with 10' ceilings and solid 12' reinforced concrete walls has been drywalled and is ready to suit your needs, including already being ducted for A/C and Heat. **MLS #40843 \$680,000**



**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**



**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**



**Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home** that sits on two adjacent lots measuring at 2 acres total. The house features a split floor plan, country kitchen with a breakfast bar that looks into the large family/dining room with a woodburning F/P and a large living room on the other side. There is also a cozy sunroom/den off the family room with a pellet stove which could also be used as an office. The primary bedroom is spacious with two large closets and a full bath with a walk-in shower and a separate tub. There is plenty of room for an RV and your toys with a large storage shed attached to the 2 car garage. Apricot, peach and apple trees in the front yard and the private courtyard. Enjoy the end of the road privacy with spectacular long range views and minutes from the golf course. **MLS #40769 \$350,000**



**Don't miss this home!** Absolutely beautiful setting and ready for a new owner. 3 bedroom 1 bath home with enclosed garage. A New Roof in 2022 and blow-in insulation, plus the addition of a new grid tied solar giving you practically free electricity / bring your electric vehicles. There's also room for RV parking and a large backyard with a private setting, sharing a boundary with a wildlife filled 550+/- acres. **MLS #40834 \$227,500**



**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 \$665,000**



**Gorgeous custom home in a park-like setting** features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office, two living areas, diningroom 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**



**A very well maintained 4 bedroom, 1825 sqft home** on 1.4 acres private acres. Minutes from downtown and/or Gomez Peak recreation area. All city utilities include city gas, water and sewer on a very low traffic street with amazing south and east views. Beautifully landscaped with walkways among native succulent plants and trees. There are two patios and porch areas for leisure enjoyment and natural wind block by being below the western ridge line. The home has an open and spacious feel with a vaulted ceiling and wood burning fireplace. Primary bedroom has bath with walk-in shower and other bedrooms have oversized closets. The kitchen boasts lower pull-out shelving, adequate cupboard space, and a large pantry **MLS #40816 \$425,000**



**The former Blue Dome Gallery** located in one of Silver City's most iconic buildings is ready for its new owner! Amazing location on the corner of Yankee and Texas, this gets tons of foot traffic. Was leased until recently and could potentially be split into living/work space or two buildings as there are two entrances. With 1300 s.f. of wide open space and a bathroom, it has the potential to be whatever an artisan wants. New electric and survey in 2023, it is updated and very chic. **MLS #40840 \$320,000**



**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 \$85,000**

## EDITOR'S NOTE | DAVID SALCIDO

# The abundance of Spring

“Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever.”

That's right, April is here and as the quote by 18th century English essayist, poet, and anti-quarian Charles Lamb would imply, it's a time not only for the explosion of life we know as Spring, but for tomfoolery, as well.

You may notice, upon turning the pages of this month's issue of Desert Exposure, that the Hot List section has blossomed with a virtual cornucopia of events, happenings, and other goings on. Because as the weather becomes more inviting, New Mexico finds reasons to celebrate.

There are so many reasons to get out and enjoy what nature has in store for us that, yes, we become fools for adventure. But that's not all we have in store for you this month. We have a wonderful three-part series on the renovations going on in Lake Valley, turning it into a ghost town worth visiting, by our friends at the Bureau of Land Management. We also welcome citizen sci-

entist and avid naturalist Sharman Apt Russell to the fold, lending her expertise in spotting and studying the wildlife of the Gila Wilderness.

As if that weren't reason enough to celebrate, we've got an article by DIY birder Julia Osgood, on how you, too, can enjoy a wide variety of winged friends in your own space, and a little ditty about how the Aldo Leopold High School Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Trails Crew students have been spending their time making Silver City's nature trails even more accessible.

We've also got the head's up on the Red Dot Artist's Guide, which makes its appearance this month, by docent reporter Marcia Tinker. If you're interested in the Arts, this is the guide to pick up, and she'll tell you why. Further in you'll find a profile on another New Mexican artist worth knowing about, Carliss Chee, as interviewed by our own Brian D'Ambrosio.

Morgan Smith is also back, with yet another look at what life is like in the Borderlands for the people awaiting news on their immigration status,

and the volunteers who endeavor to make life a little less distressing for them. I've had a couple readers ask me why I would run something so depressing and controversial in these pages. My answer is always the same, “No problem is ever solved by ignoring it.” After all, we live here, and it is part of our reality, whether we like it or not.

That's a lot of information to parse, but you've got time. It's my hope that when you pick up this issue of Desert Exposure, you find so much worth knowing about that you take it with you and keep it for further reference, not to mention reading pleasure. The world as we know it today may be plagued by fools we are forced to suffer, but that doesn't mean we can't find reasons to rejoice. Hope springs eternal, and never more so than when Spring is unfolding around us.

Take it easy, friends, and never forget that life is filled with abundance, if only we are brave enough to see it. Be kind, be compassionate, and be well.



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



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



“Looking towards Lordsburg January 25, 2025,” submitted by Marti Stimson.  
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 Mesilla Valley is once again dusted with fields of Mexican Golden poppies and Las Cruces photographer Caitlin Miller has captured the moment at the base of the Organ Mountains.

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# The Hotlist

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



### The Unbreakable Harvey Milk

The New Mexico Gay Men’s Chorus presents two powerful stories about the LGBTQ+ communities by Andrew Lipka: “I Am Harvey Milk,” chronicling the life of the civil rights leader, and “Unbreakable,” about real-life experiences over 12 decades.

The chorus will give two shows, the first at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 3, at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1000 W. College Ave., Silver City; the second at 7 p.m., Friday, April 4, at the Las Cruces Convention center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 505-569-0139

**Jarabe Mexicano**

A family fiesta including music and personal stories that highlight what it’s like to grow up on the US-Mexico border, from romantic ballads fit for a serenade to exuberant dance songs that run the gamut between folk and contemporary.

Explore life on the border musically at 7 p.m., Friday, April 4, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202



### George Mendoza Book Signing

The gifted author, artist and blindness advocate will sign copies of his picture book autobiography “Colors of the Wind,” while discussing his artwork and the challenges that being blind has brought into his life.

Meet George from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 5, at COAS Bookstore, 317 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-1074

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## Tapestry of Talent Fiber Art Fashion Show

The Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective presents their annual fundraiser, featuring wearable fiber art and accessories created by members and showcasing one-of-a-kind designs constructed for the event.

Wearable art will be showcased at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at the historic Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: FiberArtsCollective.org



## 19th Annual Whitewater Mesa Kite Flying Picnic

Colorful kites will fill the sky as kite enthusiasts from across the country show off a variety of styles, from delicate butterflies to 30-foot long beasts, and everyone from toddlers to octogenarians test their kite-flying skills.

Fly a kite from noon-5 p.m., Sunday, April 6, at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, 355 Bursum Rd., off Hwy 180, between Glenwood and Alma. Info: WMLabyrinths.com

## Little River Band & Three Dog Night

Enjoy an iconic blast from the past as two hitmaking groups from the 70s, boasting 17 Top 10 hits and an impressive 34 Top 40 hits between them, storm into El Paso to rock the night away as only they can.

Revisit the charts at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Plaza Theater Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776



## The Prom

American Southwest Theatre Company presents the Drama Desk Award-winner for Best Musical, about four eccentric Broadway stars who join forces with a courageous girl who wants to bring her girlfriend to the prom, despite the PTA's wishes.

Cheer the underdogs at 7:30 p.m., April 11-27, at ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-4515

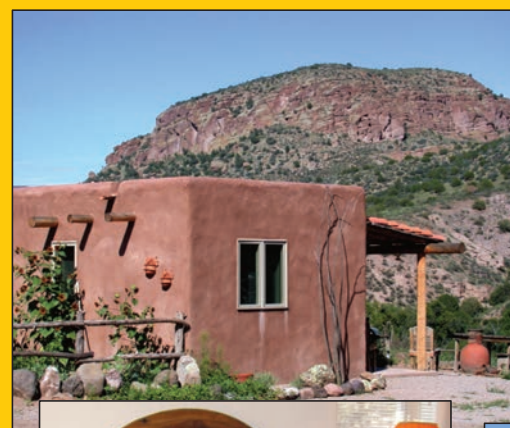


## Eli Young Band

Known as a smart, relevant antidote to overdone cliches in Country music, the chart-topping band from Texas continues its tour of the United States, with opening act singer/songwriter Ashley McBryde.

Kick up some sawdust at 8 p.m., Friday, April 11, at Cowtown Event Center, 11451 Gateway Blvd. W., El Paso. Info: 915-900-3978

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### Persona Poems: Stepping Out of Yourself

The Write Stuff Writing Series presents Grant County Poet Laureate Heather Frankland giving a workshop that challenges attendees to look at objects, famous characters, and places from a different perspective.

Get in touch with your inner persona from 9-11 a.m., Saturday, April 12, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St., Silver City. Info: Kris at KrisNeri.news@gmail.com

### Glenwood Dutch Oven Cookoff

Teams from across New Mexico and adjoining states prepare full meals the old-fashioned way, in large cast iron kettles over charcoal, then serve them up to attendees who purchase tickets for a one-of-a-kind experience.

Eat your fill from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 12, at Glenwood Community Park, Catwalk Rd. (Route 174) off Hwy 180. Info: DutchOvenGlenwood@gmail.com

### Word Art Day Carrizozo

Celebrate the international holiday a few days early with visual art exhibits, open art galleries, a performance by Hanuman Puppet Theatre, a concert by the Nosotros Quartet, a fashion show by Biban & Company, and more.

Expose yourself to Art from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 12, throughout the town of Carrizozo. Info: WorldArtDayCarrizozo



### Las Cruces Pecan Festival

This is your opportunity to discover all the wonderful things pecans do for our community, via food, art, live entertainment, vendor competitions, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, a beer and wine garden, and much more.

Go nuts at 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, April 12 & 13, at Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesPecanFestival.com

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## Las Cruces International Film Festival

Whether it's narrative features, documentaries, short films, animation, or foreign films you crave, LCIFF has got you covered, whether you're a filmmaker, a student of cinema, or just an avid movie-goer wanting to meet a celebrity.

Catch a movie or two, 10 a.m.- 9 p.m., April 12-16, at the Allen Theaters Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesFilmFest.com



## Taste of Ireland

One of the world's top Irish dance shows, combining Irish charm with sensational talents for an unforgettable evening of entertainment, featuring melodic folk music mashups, live acapella tap battles and craic galore.

Go Irish at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, April 13, at the Plaza Theater, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

## Hadestown

The winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, follows two intertwining love stories – Orpheus and Eurydice, and King Hades and Persephone – that take audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.

Spend some time in the underworld, at 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 2 p.m., April 17-19, at the Plaza Theater Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776



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### A Good Friday Evening with John Waters

The legendary filmmaker, comedian, artist, and so-called “pope of trash” brings his Naked Truth comedy tour to Las Cruces with all its explicit and potentially controversial content intact. Definitely NOT for the faint of heart.

Get your boundaries pushed at 8 p.m., Friday, April 18, at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: EPHardins.org



### 10th Annual Continental Divide Trail Days

With a focus on the cultural significance and natural beauty of the 3,100-mile-long trail, as well as sustainability and preservation efforts, the event features three days of fun, education, and activities showcasing the Continental Divide Trail.

The outdoors beckon Friday through Sunday, April 18-20, throughout Silver City. Info: CDTCoalition.org/Trail-Days/



### Bravo Mic's 30th Annual Springfest

A day of free family fun is in store for any who attend this magical afternoon of colorful fun, with games, food trucks, vendor shopping, a visit and photos with the Easter Bunny, and the largest Easter Egg hunt in the Southwest.

Meet the Bunny at 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at Young Park, 843 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-527-1111

### Glass in the Garden

A fundraiser to support the Mesquite Art Fund, by touring a working garden composed of native plants and upcycled art forms, including ceramic totems, stained glass, rusty metal, glass flowers, and ceramic surprises.

Become one with nature from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at 706 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces. Info: LC-Garden64@gmail.com

### Ronstadt Revue

Relive the magic of the 11-time Grammy Award-winner through the stunning talents of Gesenia, performed in painstaking detail in both English and Spanish, covering every musical genre of Linda Ronstadt's 40+ year career.

Return to the Blue Bayou at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 24, at the Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202



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### Fabulous Finale – Classical Trio

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra's 94th season comes to an end under the baton of Bohsulav Rattay, with special guest, the winner of the 2024 Borderland Chopin International Piano Competition Kiron Atom Tellian.

Take a classical break at 7:30 p.m., April 25-26, at the Plaza Theater Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776



### 157th Annual St. Francis de Paula Fiesta

Celebrate over a century and a half of history and culture with a rosary at Round Mountain, a horseshoe tournament, a dance and Queen coronation, parades and processions, and ending with a full day of food, games and vendors.

Celebrate small town culture 12-5 p.m., April 26-28, at St. Francis de Paula Church and Fiesta Grounds, 303 Encino St., Tularosa. Info: 575-585-2720

### ¡Mira! Las Cruces Festival

The spring festival returns to showcase and celebrate the city and surrounding area's culture, cuisine, art, outdoor recreation and music, this year featuring a drone show, Lucha Libre performances, dance groups and more.

Get in touch with culture from 2-9:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Plaza de Las Cruces and surrounding streets in downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2444

### Jon Pardi

The country music staple brings his high-energy, high-volume live Honkeytonk Hollywood Tour to Las Cruces, packed with fiddle, twang, steel guitar and contagious charisma, along with opening acts Corey Kent and Kassi Ashton.

Get your twang on at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Pan American Center, 1810 E. University Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-1420

### Give Grandly

The Gila Community Foundation presents its annual community-wide fundraising campaign for local non-profits, which will be set up throughout the park, handing out information and answering questions.

Dig deep and give from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at Gough Park, 1201 N. Pope St., Silver City. Info: GilaCF.org



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# Tour of the Gila: Get ready to ride!



DEX Report

For the 38th year, Tour of the Gila invites visitors to southwest New Mexico for the opportunity to watch top bicycling talent compete on the roads in and around Silver City. Set for Wednesday, April 23, through Sunday, April 27, Tour of the Gila provides both competitive pro bicyclists and amateur athletes with an iconic challenge.

As cyclists pedal scenic racecourses over five days, fans can watch and even get involved through volunteering. Recreational cyclists of all ages can join in on their own bikes during the citizen fun races.

The most spectator-friendly stage is the Downtown Silver City Criterium on Saturday, April 26. Adding to the competitive atmosphere, centered around support for the athletes, is a beer garden for adults and kid-friendly activities for the youngest fans.

"My favorite part of the entire week is when the tiny little ones line up to race 100 yards during the Downtown Silver



City Criterium," race director Jack Brennan said. "It's even more fun when the whole state shows up to cheer them on."

One of the longest continually running bike races in the country, Tour of the Gila will again be sanctioned by the



Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). Professional and elite cycling teams from across the globe received invitations to compete in Silver City for points that count toward events like the 2028 LA Summer Olympics. Tour of the Gila

is the country's only UCI stage race for men and one of just two UCI stage races for women in all of North America.

For more information on how to register, watch the races or volunteer visit [TourOfTheGila.com](http://TourOfTheGila.com).

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## ARTS + OPPORTUNITIES

## Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

By The Dexter

## SILVER CITY

• **Francis McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art**, 101-237 W. Rhoda Rd., Silver City, hosts “**Ephemeral Threads**,” the BFA & BA Graduates Exhibition, featuring the works of **Charlee Alexander, Zandra Darrow, Sophia Egge-Ogas, Jasper Eyrich-Bingham,** and **Victoria Prejean**, and exploring themes of transience, connection, and transformation through ceramics, painting, photography, and sculpture. The exhibition runs April 24 – May 8, with an artist talk at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 24, at Light Hall.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Info: 575-538-6517

• **The Grant County Art Guild Studio**, 211 N Texas, Silver City will be holding a member exhibition in a wide variety of mediums and styles, April 4-13. The opening reception will be held from 5-7 p.m., Friday, April 4 during the First Friday Art Walk. The downtown **GCAG Gallery**, 316 N Bullard, shows the work of 35 local artists.

Studio exhibition dates are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., April 5 & 6, and 11-13. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,



Brian Fallstead's “Little Red” is part of the “Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley” exhibition running through May at The Branigan Cultural Center. (Photo by Cheryl Fallstead)

Sunday-Saturday with extended hours for special events. Info: gcag.org.

• **Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway, Silver City, presents “**Celebration of Clay: Of Mind & Matter**,” the annual member show for The New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists representing an uncommon breadth of vision in ceramic art, both functional and sculptural. The Flash Gallery features “**Channeling The Wild**,” work by Silver City artist Carlene Roters. The exhibitions run April 4-27, with an opening reception at 5-7 p.m., on Friday, April 4.

Gallery hours are 11

a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 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 its third annual “**Student Exhibition**,” featuring the work of students from kindergarten to high school, with emphasis on drawings and painting. The exhibition opens with a reception from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, April 4, and runs through April 27.

The gallery is open 1-4 p.m. Thursday thru Sunday. Info: oteroarts.org.

## CARRIZOZO

• **The Malkerson Gallery 408**, 408 12th St., Carrizozo, presents “**Through the Veil... Through This Life and Into the Next**,” a Celtic exploration of time featuring the works of Judy Pekelsma. The exhibition runs through April 13.

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

## COLUMBUS

• **Bud's Thrifty Arts and Crafts**, 327 Higday, Columbus, announces its grand opening Saturday, March 1, featuring paintings by Teras, Jerry Portrey, Jeane Canfield, and Carolyn Lamuniere, pottery by Colleen Weaks,



Andy Warhol's “Truck” is part of the exhibition “Warhol & Friends” now on display at the University Art Museum on the NMSU campus. (Courtesy photo)

## ARTS SCENE

continued on page 14



## ART SCENE

continued from page 14

crafts by Ruth Hodia and Ravelle Flores, crafts by Palomas Artisans, and fabulous thrift store finds, from furniture and clothing, to craft supplies.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday thru Saturday, or by appointment. Info: 575-494-1972 or 773-612-4165

## DEMING

• **The Deming Arts Center**, 100 S. Gold St., Deming, presents the wonderful designs and innovative



"Pacha Mama" is part of the exhibition "Inner Visions" at the studio of Paulo Rivera, running throughout the month of April. (Courtesy photo)

creations of **Deming High School Art Students**. It is always exciting to see what they have created, and we invite the community to support these young artists by stopping by to see for yourselves. The show runs April 2-29, with an opening reception 1-2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 13.

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 a dual artist show in the Installation Room, featuring current works by Greg-

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ory Montreuil and Roy van der Aa. The exhibition runs through May 25. In the Waldrum Gallery, the works of Nolan Winkler and David D. Sorensen will be on display from April 12-May 25.

Gallery hours are 12-5 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, and by appointment. Info: [www.riobravofineartgallery.com](http://www.riobravofineartgallery.com).

## LAS CRUCES

• **The Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St., Las Cruces, presents “Wildlife of the Mesilla Valley,” featuring the wildlife sculptures and the Nature Journals of fourteen artists runs through Saturday, May 24.



“Santa Fe Reflections” by Paul Maxwell will be on display at the 925 Gallery in Las Cruces, throughout the month of April. (Courtesy photo)

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.

• **Duende Arte Gallery**, 921 Mesquite St., Las Cruces presents the Ten O’Clock Artists “InTEN-tion” exhibit, showcasing prints to paints to collage to sculpture, each illustrating the artist’s intent. The

## ARTS SCENE

*continued on page 16*

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## ART SCENE

continued from page 16

exhibition runs through the month of May with an opening reception from 4-8 p.m., Friday, April 4.

Gallery hours are 12-5 p.m., Friday-Sunday. Info: GabrielTeich.com

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery**, 230 S. Water St., Las Cruces presents “**Stitched With Soul**,” an extraordinary exhibition in collaboration with the **Las Colcheras Quilt Guild**. The exhibit runs through mid-May.

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

• **Gallery 925**, 925 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, presents Las Cruces painter **Paul Maxwell** and Socorro photographer **Colleen Gino**. The 925 Back Room features the photography of **David Stevenson** and **Fred Bennett**. The main exhibit will be on display April 4-27, with a First Friday reception 4-8 p.m., Friday, April 4.

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 through May 30.



Mark Cantrell's wood carvings will be part of the member exhibition at the Grant County Art Guild in April. (Courtesy photo)

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 “**Perseverance, Redemption, and Hope**,” by atmospheric landscape and abstract artist **Richard Irwin**. The exhibition will be on display April 3-26, with an opening reception from 5-8 p.m., Friday, April 4.

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

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of April 2025: Watercolorist **Sue Ann Glenn** and pastel painter **Mark Morden**.

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

• **The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces presents “**AgrAbility**,” which sheds light on how people with disabilities in rural areas gain access to technology to maintain their livelihood.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Info: 575-522-4100.

**The Studio of Paulo Rivera**, 221 N. Main St., Ste E, Las Cruces, presents the exhibition “**Inner Visions**,” featuring vibrant works influenced by nature, divine symmetry, numerology, literature, medicinal plants, music, the cosmos, and the inborn human potential to transcend the human condition. The exhibition runs March 21 to May 3, with an opening reception 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 21.

Studio hours are 12-5 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. Info: 575-993-7376.

• **The Tombaugh Art Gallery**, Unitarian Univer-

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“Painting of Man Holding Painting of Banana” is just one of many faux masterpieces on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art as part of “Engaging Masters: Parody Art.” (Courtesy photo)

salist Church, 2000 S Solano, Las Cruces, presents **The New Mexico Watercolor Society Southern Chapter Member Show** featuring still lifes, land-

scapes, portraits, flowers, animals, and abstracts in a range of sizes to accommodate all budgets and tastes. The exhibit runs March 7 through April 13, with opening receptions from 5-7 p.m., Friday, March 7 and Friday, April 4.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sunday, or by appointment. Info: 575-522-7281

• **The University Art Museum**, 1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, presents the “**2025 Juried Student Show**,” which showcases an extraordinary array of artworks created by undergraduate and graduate students, demonstrating a diverse range of materials, techniques, and concepts. The exhibition will be on display through April 12.

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 “**Stone, Glass, Light, Silk: 2025 MFA Thesis Exhibition**,” featuring work by MFA candidates: Alfred Gyasi, Elham Sabri, Johanna Typaldos, and William Morée. The exhibition will be on display April 25-May 10.

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 Collec-



“Tea Set” by Amy Maule is part of the exhibition “**Celebration of Clay**,” running throughout the month of April at Light Art Space. (Courtesy photo)

tion. “**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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# A former boomtown's second life as storyteller in New Mexico

Story and photos by  
Derrick Henry, Public Affairs Specialist

This is the first in a three-part series about the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management to restore the historic mining town of Lake Valley.

The BLM's Lake Valley Historic Townsite in New Mexico, which was a former boomtown that prospered on silver mines in the 1800s.

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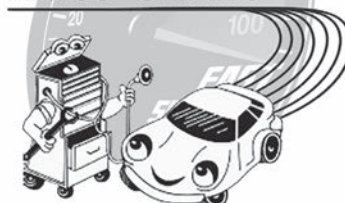


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**LakeValleyHistoricTownsiteBlog-2: An automobile from the 1930s at the Lake Valley Historic Townsite in New Mexico.**



**mer residence of Blanche Nowlin, who lived house on Railroad Avenue until her death in the BLM's Lake Valley Historic Townsite.**

**I**t took half an hour to force the Old West mining town of Lake Valley toward its last days in New Mexico territory. Sparked by a drunken customer just before daybreak in June 1895 at a saloon, an aggressive fire rushed down Main Street and beyond. By sunrise, residents knew it was the end of their town, whose prosperity through silver mines was much like the fire – brief and intense.

More than 125 years later, Lake Valley, located in the volcanic foothills of the Black Range in southwest New Mexico, is as quiet as a bricked smartphone. The ghost town snaps into view along Highway 27 on the Lake Valley Back Country Byway. The 48-mile drive through ranching and mining country reveals views of several mountain ranges, including the Black Range, the Caballo Mountains, Cooke's Range, and the Uvas Mountains.

"This area is way off the beaten path," said Martin Goetz, a Bureau of Land Management archaeologist based in Las Cruces, N.M., during a walk-through of Lake Valley's restored schoolhouse. "When you come out here, you're away from the highway. You could be out here for two hours and not a single car will drive by. And you can see for miles out here."

BLM manages Lake Valley, formally known as the Lake Valley Historic Townsite, about an hour northwest of Las Cruces. On-site hosts maintain the ghost town, which is free and open to the public. You can tour the restored schoolhouse and enter a chapel. Remaining

buildings on the townsite have been stabilized to slow further deterioration, which gives visitors a chance to see life as it was before the town's decline. For those craving a closer look at history, a self-guided tour offers visitors a 45-minute walk to see the structures and encounter the familiar silt of everyday life: scatters of glass, metal, ceramic and wood.

Two peaks—Apache Hill to the north and Monument Peak in the east—overlook the townsite. Volcanic features punctuate hills of grassland and scrub that protect the soil against Chihuahuan Desert winds. Below, more volcanic rock, gravel, shale, dolomites, limestone, granite, and gneiss support the surface on which Lake Valley was built. From high above, clouds print shadows on the rolling hills and then slip away like the silver rush of the 1870s.

Lake Valley is one of several other BLM-managed ghost towns around the country, many of which were established for mining in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In many of these places, prosperity didn't last forever, turning boomtowns into ghost towns.

In Montana, people can tour the Garnet Ghost Town, which at one point had a population of 1,000 people in the 1890s looking for gold. And in Arizona, a rough trek leads visitors to BLM's Swansea Historic Ghost Town, where mining for copper began around 1862 and ended in 1912, with a brief revival two years later, closing due to the Great Depression. Miner's Delight, located in Wyoming, is a silent witness

to the heyday of that state's gold mining era. Gold was discovered in the Miner's Delight area in 1868, and, like other ghost towns, the site offers important clues about the history of the West and mining culture.

In New Mexico, there are many stories of when and how silver was found in the Lake Valley area, but one of the first broad public accounts of the Lake Valley discovery appeared in the Engineering and Mining Journal in July 1879. Back then, Lake Valley was a mining camp near a ranch owned by a man named McEvers. Mr. McEvers's ranch was near Hillsboro, a mining town to the north that was a regular stop along the road through the Black Range.

"Great enthusiasm prevails here regarding the silver deposits at McEver's [sic] ranch, 10 miles from town," reported a Mining Journal correspondent based in Hillsboro. "New arrivals from Texas and the north are numerous; a steady stream of teams and men, attracted by our rich mines, is entering our camp daily."

Those new arrivals encroached on territory already claimed by the Apache, who, as they had with the Spanish, resisted a surge of people. Fresh ambitions for buried wealth persisted as Apache leaders like Victorio and Nana led warriors against the newcomers spreading across the land. It would be a follow-up to previous conflict, when 16th Century Spanish explorers searched for the Seven Cities of Gold.

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# Backyard Birding in Southern New Mexico

By Julia Osgood

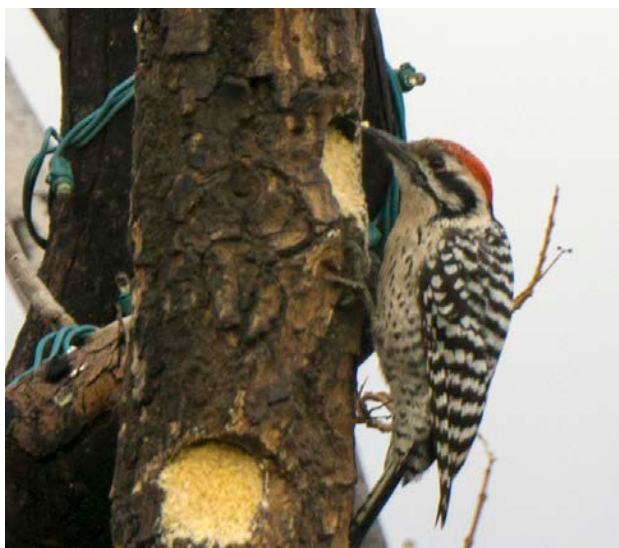
**B**ackyard birding is a simple way to connect with nature while providing essential resources for local and migratory birds. All it takes is a little know-how and a few supplies to get started birdwatching from the comfort of home.

## Attracting Birds – Just Add Food and Water

If you start with a birdbath and a feeder filled with an easy-to-find seed blend, you'll begin to see birds in a few days. They'll keep coming once they realize there's a steady food source and a place to drink and bathe. Bathing helps birds maintain healthy feathers, plus it's fun to watch them splash in the birdbath.

## Food types

Many common birds in our area will eat an inexpensive seed blend, but if you offer different types of food, you can attract a greater variety of birds. For example, Lesser Goldfinches with their bright yellow bellies and black wings prefer fresh nyger, or thistle, seeds. Those seeds are too small for a regular bird feeder, so if you want them to visit, you'll need to purchase a finch feeder or get the more affordable "sock" feeders packed with thistle seeds. House Finches and Pine Siskens will also visit a finch feeder.



Suet cakes or peanut butter mixtures can attract woodpeckers like Ladder-backed Woodpeckers or Northern Flickers. Curve-billed Thrashers and Northern Mockingbirds also like the fat and protein in these cakes, which help keep them nourished when insects are scarce in winter.

## Water

Most birds in our area will frequent a pedestal birdbath, but ground-feeding birds prefer shallow water dishes placed at ground level. Since birds are drawn to the sound of moving water, a small fountain or drip system can make a birdbath more appealing. Place water sources in shaded areas whenever possible to help birds stay cool during the summer. Just remember, regularly cleaning feeders and birdbaths is essential.



## Money-saving Options

It's easy to make a platform seed feeder from some wood scraps. Hang your creation from a tree or a shepherd's hook. An online search for suet recipes will yield many options, and peanut butter doesn't need to be in a cake — hang a small branch from any tree and slather it with peanut butter. The finches, mockingbirds, and thrashers will make short work of it in a few days.

If you're just beginning your backyard birding adventure, start small and add more offerings as your time and budget allow. Once you've provided for the birds, equip yourself with binoculars, a field guide, or a free bird identification app like Merlin.

What's stopping you? Create a bird-friendly yard and start birdwatching today!

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Tuesday  
April 1

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

**Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch NM & Archbishop of Santa Fe John C. Wester**  
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Thursday  
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Tuesday  
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## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

**Betsy Gaines Quammen**  
**How Western Myths Have Shaped America**  
Free | 7pm Light Hall Theater

Tuesday  
April 29

Camerata del Sol is a non-profit chamber orchestra bringing chamber music to the border region. This program will include Gershwin's Lullaby, Haydn's String Quartet in G Major and Mendelssohn's Octet in E-flat major.

\$20 | 7pm Fine Arts Center Theatre

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## Gray Foxes

By Sharman Apt Russell

Gray foxes range throughout New Mexico and most of the United States. Unlike red foxes—who are in a different genus—gray foxes diverged early in North America from the Order Carnivora. More than other canines, they can digest grains, nuts, and fruit. Along with semi-retractable claws, kept sharp for climbing trees, they have the cat-like ability to rotate their forearms, which allows them to hug a tree trunk as they push upward with their hind legs. Weighing between six to fifteen pounds, with relatively short legs and a low center of gravity, gray foxes can scramble sixty feet up a cottonwood and then jump from branch to branch.

I've waited all my life to see this.

Gray foxes usually mate with the same partner every spring and raise their pups together before the juveniles disperse at about seven months. They can live four or five years in the wild but often die before that, being susceptible to diseases like distemper and rabies. As well as being trapped for their fur, gray foxes are also killed by coyotes and bobcats, who dislike them as competitors and threats to their young.

Partly as a way to avoid these predators, gray fox-



Photo by Elroy Limmer

es sometimes rear their pups close to human houses. Over the years, I have watched these families from the window of the room where I write in the Gila Valley of southwestern New Mexico. These are glimpses only. Two foxes sunning on the slope that leads to the irrigation ditch, one lifting a leg to lick its belly. A fox racing by the bird feeder, rat tail dangling from the mouth like a film noir cigarette. A fox being schooled by a skunk, who stomped once with its front feet and also emitted a slight odor. The fox catapulted. Just the right verb. Now the fox was a dozen feet away, looking surprised.

These vignettes are from years of reaching for my binoculars. Some years, I never see gray foxes at all. Naturally, I have many memories from these last decades. Presidential elections, holidays with adult children, dancing parties.

The gray foxes rank similarly in importance, helping create the story I tell myself about myself. I am a person who gets to see gray foxes. I live in a world of gray foxes unaware of my interest in them. Our relationship is not personal or transactional, not about me at all.

In a typical gray fox track, about 1½ to 2 inches, four toes point up with that compact quality of a wild canine. Often you see the impression of fur in the track. Fur accounts for the relatively large negative space in the center. You can draw an X or H in that negative space between toes and palm pad. Because the sharp nails of a gray fox are semi-retractable, often the claw marks do not show.

**Sharman Apt Russell is a longtime nature writer. For more information, go to [www.sharmanaptrussell.com](http://www.sharmanaptrussell.com).**



# Building a new trail

DEX Report

**A**ldo Leopold High School Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Trails Crew students – Sixteen 10th to 12th graders – have been working since December to complete the Silva Creek Nature Trail from the historic Waterworks Building on Little Walnut Road to Penny Park.

The trail is part of the Town of Silver City's Trails and Open Space plan, and the restoration of the Waterworks property is a public-private partnership between the town and Southwest New Mexico ACT (swnmACT), a Grant County nonprofit organization, dedicated to cultural tourism and economic development in southwest New Mexico.

Bridgette Johns, swnmACT project coordinator, could barely contain the pride that she feels when talking about the youth and the great work they've completed to date.

"This crew has just blown me away," said Johns, who's known several of the crew members since they were children. "I'm just so proud of them, their work ethic and the sense of pride that they feel from participating in a project that benefits the entire community. They're really doing an incredible job, and coming up with creative, workable solutions."

The YCC Trails Crew is responsible for building the entire Silva Creek Nature Trail, including the trail from the creek up to the Silva Creek Botanical



**Aldo Leopold High School Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Trails Crew students recently built a switchback along the Silva Creek Nature Trail, immediately west of Western Bank's parking lot along Highway 180.**

Gardens. The crew began building the trail in the summer of 2022 with the Waterworks portion of the trail, then completed the trailhead at Jose Barrios Elementary School and the trail behind it last year. The crew is also responsible for designing and hand-building benches and a water fountain along the trail.

Much of the work entails clearing invasive trees and replanting native species, building or shoring up retaining walls, and creating egresses out from

the creek bed in case of rising water – all by hand. Traditionally pedestrians have used the culvert under Highway 180, which is not the official trail and is potentially dangerous during the rainy season. Johns added that the state Department of Transportation has granted the town permission to place what is known as a "Z-block crossing" on Highway 180 at the trail crossing by Western Bank. The Town of Silver City has received \$175,000 in state funds to im-

prove the sidewalks at the Little Walnut Road intersection with Highway 180 to increase safety and accessibility, especially for people with disabilities.

Junior Casaus, 17, is a senior at Aldo, and has been a YCC member since 8th grade. He's now crew leader on the trails project.

"I've learned so much about team building, working together and collaborating on a project for the community," he said. "Learning together is what really makes it special for me."

His co-leader, Addi Pearson, also a senior at Aldo, agreed that the sense of community and working are what makes the work enjoyable. "It's great being part of what's going on in Silver City, giving back to the community and finding beauty in the little things. The manual labor is pretty awesome too."

YCC senior Thomas Pendleton enjoys teaching. "It's fun to watch others learn," he said. "It's really satisfying to know that you've accomplished something."

Other YCC crew members are: Julian Chaney, Ben Halbison, Jackson Hould, Jiro Iwassa, Violet Leadbetter, Sol Markham, Elijah McDonald, Johnny Murillo, Martin Perrault, Dominic Rasmussen, Alexander Ratliff, Nico Sherwood and Jacob Vega. The crew mentor is Dickey "Toxtli" Sanchez.

For more information about the historic Waterworks project or the Silva Creek Nature Trail, contact swnmACT at [info@swnmact.org](mailto:info@swnmact.org).

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# April is Red Dot Guide month

By Marcia Tinker

April marks the month that the ART community looks forward to! Why? Every April the newest Red Dot Guide comes out. This amazing guide to the art scene is published to showcase members of the Silver City Art Association (SCAA). From January through March current members submit art and bios for the guide which is painstakingly created. Silver City is known as an Art Destination. The RDG is not only for the immediate Silver City area but is delivered throughout the southwest, Texas to Arizona, and up into Colorado. Locals and tourists alike depend on the RDG as an art directory.

The cover hosts a winning piece of art by a SCAA member. Each December members may submit their



Diana Ingalls Leyba demonstrates her painting technique during the Labor Day Studio Tour. Photo by Franky DeAngelis

art for this juried cover. This year the winning art is Kathryn Schmid’s painting “Presence.” Kathryn is a relatively new SCAA member whose inspiration is nature. Her Impressionistic Realism is an ongoing collection of changing style and focus that spans many years.

The Red Dot Guide features the four categories of members; Gallery, Studio, Independent, and Friend. The Gallery group represents galleries that are physical art spaces primarily devoted to the display and sale of original visual art. Also in the Gallery group are Museums which are dedicated to displaying and/



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## RED DOT 2025 2026 ART GUIDE FOR SILVER CITY & GRANT COUNTY, NM



SILVER CITY ART ASSOCIATION

or preserving culturally significant objects including the visual arts. A new Gallery category is Artful Business, for those that display and/or sell artwork as a non-primary component of the business.

First Friday Art Walks are year-round in Silver City's historic downtown featuring openings, receptions, artist talks and demonstrations. Additional Art Walks are held during the Blues Festival and other downtown events. Weekend at the Galleries "WAG" is held every October during Indigenous People's Week-end.

Studio members create art in private dedicated studio spaces throughout Grant County, where they are immersed in the beauty and history of southwest New Mexico. Their studios offer solitude, inspiration, a retreat and a place to focus. Studio artists often exhibit and sell at local and national galleries, art markets, and events. Their eclectic studios become showplaces during the Labor Day Weekend Red Dot Studio Tour when you can see how and where artists create. This weekend includes an art exhibit of participating studios at Light Art Space.

Independent "Indie" artists bring adventure and variety to the art community of Silver City. They exemplify the diverse creative spirit of the region, working in fiber arts, jewelry, painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, leatherwork, photography, print-

making, and more! Their work can be found at galleries, shops and markets all around town. True to their spirit, the annual Fearlessly Independent Showcase features the diverse range of their collective talent.

Friends of the Silver City Art Association is for those who love art and want to support the vibrant art scene to help ensure that our community continues to be a thriving art destination into the future. Friends receive monthly newsletters and are invited to SCAA meetings, events and activities.

Watch in April for the release of the 2025-26 Red Dot Guide. It is always available at local galleries, shops, restaurants and at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center. For more info visit [silvercityart.com](http://silvercityart.com), Facebook and Instagram: Silver City Art.



Myron Weckwerth and Richard Harper examine Myron's southwest gourd art at First Friday. Photo courtesy of SCAA.

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# A Glimmer of Hope

By Morgan Smith

A man races his bicycle along the narrow highway from Ciudad Juárez to tiny Palomas, among the huge trucks. I give him water, a ginger ale which he gulps down, a bag of almonds but don't tell him he still has fifty miles to go.

His name is Carlos, he's from Venezuela and he thinks it will be easier to cross at Palomas.

At the Tierra del Oro shelter in El Modelo, a man from Michoacán, Mexico and his family of eight have been waiting a year for an asylum appointment.

Leonel and his family are from Guanajuato, Mexico and have been in the Punto Beta shelter in Palomas for two months waiting for their asylum interview. They fled Guanajuato because of the violence there. Now they may have to return to it.

Two young men, one from Guatemala and the other Mexico go to the nearby Gonzalez grocery store and help us load our car with chicken, eggs, beans and rice for the Respettrans shelter in Juárez where sixty people, mostly women with children had been applying for an asylum interview through the now-discontin-



A girl from Guanajuato, Mexico awaiting asylum in Palomas.

ued CBP 1 phone app.

Is there any hope that the ban on asylum seekers will be lifted?

The larger issue is those who have been crossing the border illegally. As Thomas Friedman, the noted journalist has said, "We need a high wall with a big gate on the southern border." He is right. We Americans are the ones who have to decide who enters our country and under what circumstances.

Believe it or not, we now have that "high wall." It started with the Biden administration's negotiations with Mexico's former president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and Amlo's agreement to tighten Mexico's southern border and restrict the number of migrants headed north to the US. Then there was Biden's executive order further restricting asylum. Then the continuing Border Patrol security improvements like the construction of autonomous surveillance towers and repairs to the wall in places like the area between Anapra, Mexico and the Santa Teresa port of entry.

In addition, there were more deportations in Biden's last year than any of the four years of Trump's first

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Carlos from Venezuela headed from Juarez to Palomas.

term.

At a meeting with Border Patrol (BP) agents on February 5, they described further security improvements, the termination of the catch and release policy, for example. Here's how that worked.

On February 23, 2024, BP agent Hector Covarrubias detained two women from Torreón, Mexico. Suddenly he said in Spanish, "I know you two. I detained you yesterday." Under the catch and release policy that was in effect then, he just released them to Mexico after that first encounter.

In other words, they got one "free shot" at entering the US illegally. That policy has been discontinued and the word is out that the first detention will now result in severe penalties. That has caused a further decrease in the numbers attempting to cross.

Now we have Mexican soldiers arriving at the border. They were not effective when they were last posted in places like the wall between Anapra, Mexico and Sunland Park, New Mexico, but this might be different. We have American sol-

diers going there. And, most important, surely legislation will be reintroduced to provide funds for much-needed additional BP agents. There was a huge hiring effort almost twenty years ago and many agents will soon be reaching retirement age.

More BP agents are the key, much more so than either Mexican or American soldiers.

Given these dramatic improvements in border security, can't we argue that we now have the "high wall?" Couldn't we say that now is the time to refocus on those who are coming to our border

legally to claim asylum? Why doesn't the Congress get moving and provide funds for more judges to adjudicate asylum claims quickly? One of the BP agents said to us that it was inhumane that they

should have to wait so long for a hearing.

On January 31, when I crossed the border at Santa Teresa, two US agents stopped me and asked if I had weapons in my car. I've crossed there

hundreds of times and this has never come up before. If it's a new policy, it's a good one because it's weapons illegally transported from the US that have made Mexico's cartels so powerful.

With our low birth rate, our need for workers in areas like agriculture and construction, and the positive aspects of migration like tax payments and low rates of criminal behavior, it's time to claim that we have Friedman's "high wall" and refocus on those who want to come to our country legally. I have a glimmer of hope that this will happen.

Morgan Smith has been traveling to the border at least monthly for the last fourteen years and can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

Kids with their workbooks in Respetrans, Juarez.





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# The Hurt and Hope of Painter Carlis Chee

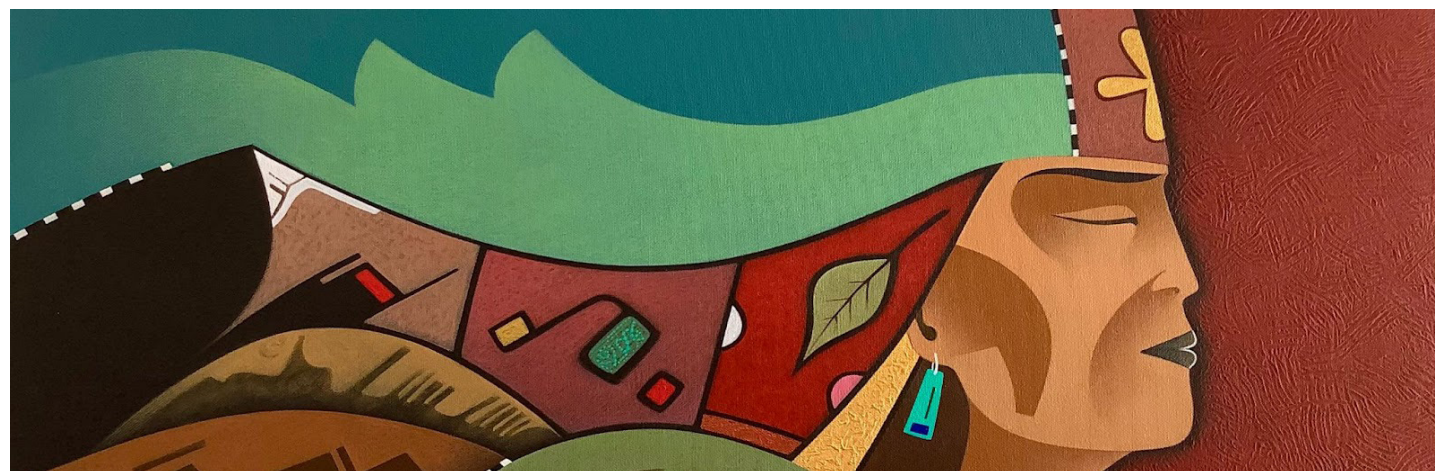
By Brian D'Ambrosio

Carlis Chee was born on the Navajo Nation in Arizona, where his parents abandoned him, and he was shuttled between unstable living situations and austere boarding schools. He describes his upbringing as broken, full of strife, and marked by food stamps, welfare checks, and low-grade commodity food. His early childhood defined by pain, Chee has for decades worked to transmute his traumas by painting art that is at once bright and colorful as well as deeply soulful.

"Darkness is where my art comes from," said Chee, a painter increasingly noted for his detailed Navajo faces, symbols, and imagery.

"My whole life I've been living in that darkness, cloudiness, and grayness, deep down in my soul and my core, and I've been trying to pull out these beautiful things, colors, and messages," he said. "The older I get, the more I realize that I'm this person who grew up this bad way and who (through art) is trying to heal himself, and to accept himself, and to accept the world."

For years, Chee said, he felt as if he had had a cold in his soul but for one



positive influence: his grandmother Anna Jean and her farm. Through her, he found affection topped off with an agricultural bounty that included apples, apricots, pears, and grapes; wild asparagus abundant in the ditches of the canals; and bleating flocks of sheep.

"Anna Jean would drag me to peyote meetings and traditional dances and even some churches," Chee said. "She was trying all of these beliefs to heal herself. She taught me my Navajo language. She didn't speak English. ... Without her, I wouldn't be here."

Chee was born in 1969 to parents who gave him up when he was a pre-teen for

adoption by his grandmother. She died of diabetes complications in 1980. Chee then lived in boarding houses at times, as a nomad at others, always emotionally insecure.

There did come a guiding light, however, when a junior high school teacher introduced him to esteemed Navajo painter R.C. Gorman. The two became friends and Gorman's work has influenced Chee ever since. Gorman died in 2005.

Handling a paint brush for the first time Chee said, he liked the feel of it, the magical fluidity of scraping coats, and the freedom of touch and expression that it represented. He was determined never to be spiritually homeless again.

"Painting heals me in the right way," Chee said. "There can be self-abuse and reminiscing about the past too much.



But the most beautiful canvas can come out, too. ... I'm content as an artist and still learning as a man."

Chee's portraits blaze yellow, red, and orange like a sunset, their mastery reflecting about 35 years of both study and experimentation with painting in places as diverse as Santa Fe; Lincoln,

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Neb.; Honolulu; and Tokyo. Chee now works out of his home in Monticello, N.M., ensconced in cottonwood canyons, about 20 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences.

Depicting Navajo people with dignified faces, eyes closed, he said he pays homage to Anna Jean, who meditated and prayed habitually. Chee also explained that painting the eyes closed implies searching, struggling to find light or the right passageway out of sightlessness and gloom.

When he closes his own eyes, Chee is frequently entangled in the thorny memories of childhood. Since then, Chee has used his art as a comfort, a session of spiritual guidance, a boost of confidence that gives hope to both himself and others.

However, Chee isn't "in it" solely for pleasure or for its mood-elevating effects. Art is vital for his existence, he said.

"All of my life is dedicated to my art," Chee said. "In Monticello, I am in a quiet, beautiful place with mountains all around and I can be away out here and think about painting."

At 55, Chee, who has grappled with substance abuse and legal troubles, is still trying to find calm and strength, as well as more healthful channels for his lingering trauma.

"Art has been my teacher, and art has been the parents that I never had," Chee said. "It's the backbone of my entire life. It's a beautiful thing to be able to look at art that way. It makes me grow every day."

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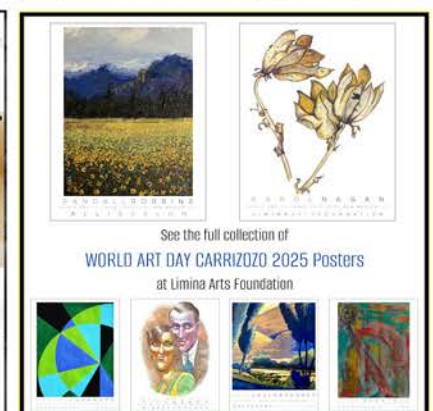
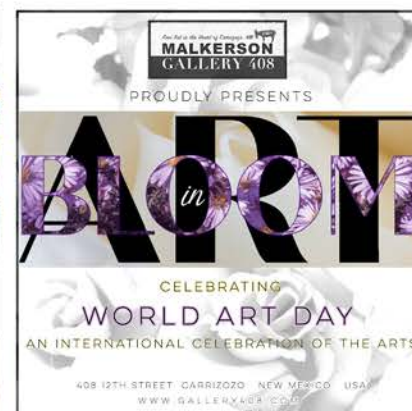


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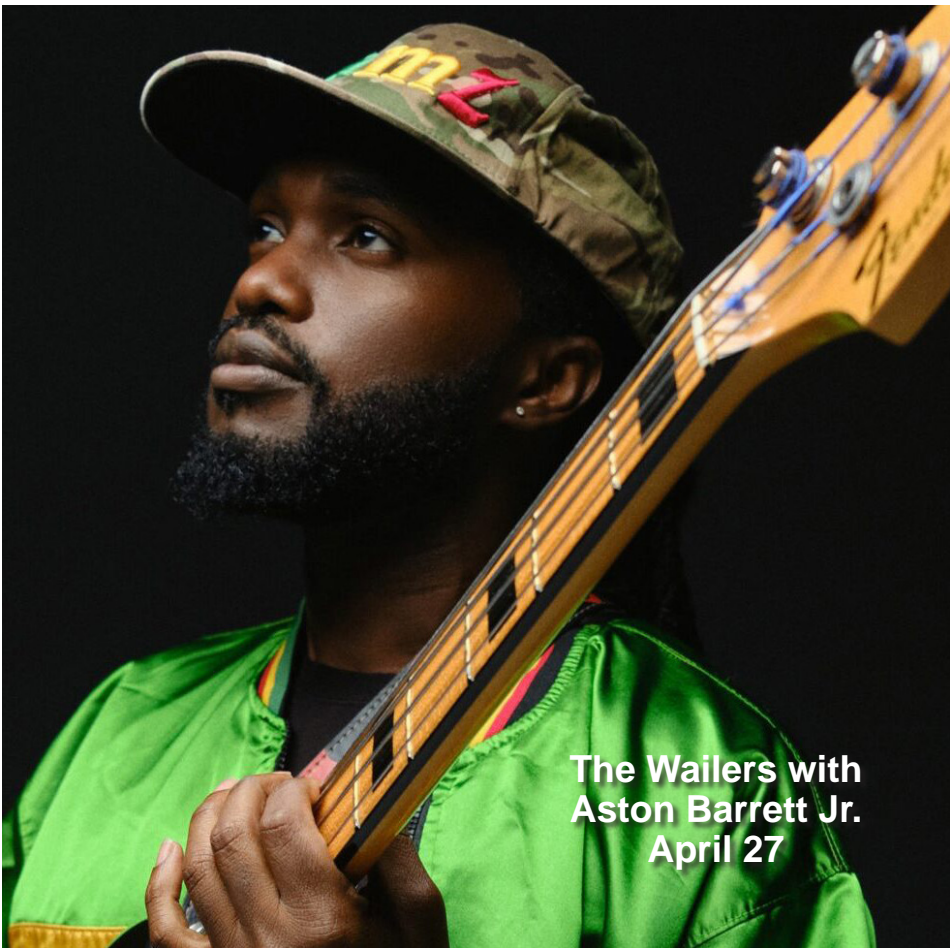


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EVENTS

# What’s Happening

Events you won’t want to miss in April

**Through April 3**  
**Mesilla Valley Film Society**  
**presents “A Long Road**  
**to Tao,”** 7:30 & 2 p.m. at the  
Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle  
de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info:  
MesillaValleyFilm.org

**Through April 14**  
**LCCT presents Rossum’s**  
**Universal Robots,** 7:30 p.m.  
at Las Cruces Community  
Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info:  
575-523-1200

**Tuesday, April 1**  
**Distinguished Speaker**  
**Series: Jay Coghlan**  
**of Nuclear Watch and**  
**Archbishop John C. Wester,**  
7 p.m. at Light Hall Theater,  
1000 W. College Ave., Silver  
City. Info: 575-538-6300

**Wednesday, April 2**  
**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

**Western Institute for**  
**Lifelong Learning presents**  
**“Identity and Healing:**  
**Who Am I, What Do I Value**  
**and How Do I Take Care of**  
**My Emotional Health and**  
**Well Being?”** 12-1 p.m., at  
the WNMU Besse-Forward  
Global Resource Center ABC  
Room, Info: 575-538-6835  
**Banjo Joe and Danielle,**  
**Bluegrass Duo,** 6 p.m. at  
Whiskey Creek Zócalo,  
11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas  
Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or  
WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com



Betsy Gaines  
April 15

**Thursday, April 3**  
**Acoustic Jam,** 5-7 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**  
**Bonnie and Clyde,** 6:30 p.m.,  
at Santa Clara National Guard  
Armory, 11990 US-180, Santa  
Clara. Info: 575-388-4862  
**Mesilla Valley Stamp Club**  
**meeting,** 6:30 p.m., at Belton  
Bridge Center, 1214 E. Madrid



Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-202-1937

**New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus,**  
7-9 p.m., at the Fine Arts Center  
Theatre in Light Hall Theater, 1000  
W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-  
538-6300

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

**Grease: The Musical,** 6:30 p.m., at  
The UTEP Dinner Theatre, 500 W.  
University Ave., Union Building West  
Room 209, El Paso. Info: 915-747-  
6060

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

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

**April 4-5**

**Open Space Brewing Pop-up  
Beer Garden in Fort Bayard,** 11990  
US-180, Santa Clara Armory, Santa  
Clara. Info: OpenSpaceBrewery.com

**April 4-10**

**Mesilla Valley Film Society  
presents "Universal Language,"**  
7:30 & 2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre,  
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.  
Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

**Saturday, April 5**

**Wellness Expo,** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at  
Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705  
S. Telshor Dr., Las Cruces. Info: 915-



David Lynch  
April 6

401-4104

**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,**  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1120 N. Main

## EVENTS

*continued on page 32*

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## EVENTS

continued from page 31

St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**College of ACES Open House**, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Gerald Thomas Hall, 940 College Drive, on the NMSU Campus. Info: 575-646-1123

**George Mendoza Book Signing**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at COAS Bookstore, 317 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-1074

**Tapestry of Talent Fiber Art Fashion Show**, 1 p.m., at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: FiberArtsCollective.org

**iLuminate**, 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer

Dr., Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

**Camerata del Sol: Windows Thrown Open**, 7:30 p.m., at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: CamerataDelSol.org

**Banjo Joe – Singer/Songwriter**, 8 – 11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

## Sunday, April 6

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

**Izaak Opatz – Country Americana**, 1 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**John Mitchel and Friends – Jazz, Blues, Folk, Rock**, 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**19th Annual Whitewater Mesa Kite Flying Picnic**, noon to 5 p.m., at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, 355 Bursum Rd., off Hwy 180, between Glenwood and Alma. Info: WMLabyrinths.com or Cordelia Rose at 575-313-1002

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

**Mesilla Valley Film Society presents “David Lynch: The Art of Life,”** 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

## Wednesday, April 9

**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

**Holy Locust and Yes Ma'am – Punk Folk Roots**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

## April 9-13

**Las Cruces International Film Festival**, 10 a.m., at Allen Theaters Cineport, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-6149



Robert Leines  
April 16



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## Support Groups

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MONDAY  
Silver City/Grant County

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

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

TUESDAY  
Silver City/Grant County

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

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

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

## Deming/Luna County

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

WEDNESDAY  
Silver City/Grant County

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

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Overeaters Anonymous**

**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.

## Thursday, April 10

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

**Little River Band and Three Dog Night**, 7 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

**The Glass Hours and Heavy the Mountain – Americana/Country Folk**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Champions of Magic**, 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Dr., Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

**Singo – Party Game**, 7-9

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

## April 10-12

**Patrick Warburton Live**, 7:30 p.m., at the Comic Strip, 1201 Airway Blvd., El Paso. Info: 915-779-5233

## Friday, April 11

**Local Vocals & Silver Ringtones Concert**, 7 p.m., at The Starlight Theater, 1915

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Gold St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-5200

**Eli Young Band, Ashley McBryde,** 7 p.m., at Cowtown Event Center, 11451 Gateway Blvd. W., El Paso. Info: 915-900-3978

**Derral Gleason – Rock & Roll,** 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### April 11-17

**Mesilla Valley Film Society** presents “September 5,” 7:30 & 2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

#### April 11 - 27

**American Southwest Theatre Company** presents **The Prom**, at ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., NMSU Campus, Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-4515

#### Saturday, April 12

**World Art Day Carrizozo.** Info: WorldArtDayCarrizozo.com

**Fabulous Finds Yard Sale** benefitting the **24 Club Scholarship Fund**, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at 3415 US Hwy 180, Silver City. Info: 575-993-8193

**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:



**Camerata del Sol**  
**April 29**

575-430-2081

**Silver City Farmers Market,** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Persona Poems: Stepping Out of Yourself with Heather Frankland,** 9-11 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St., Silver City. Info: Kris at KrisNeri.news@gmail.com

**WCZ Two-year Anniversary Celebration,** 1 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Aransas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

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

**Lunar Vacation,** 7 p.m., at The Range, 3217 El Camino Real Rd., Las Cruces. Info: TheRangeLC.com

**Rudy Boy Experiment –**

**Southwest Rock & Blues,** 9-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### April 12 – 13

**Las Cruces Pecan Festival,** 10 a.m., at Young Park, 850 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesPecanFestival.com

#### April 12 – 16

**Las Cruces International Film Festival,** 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at Allen Theaters Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces. Info: LasCrucesFilmFest.com

#### Sunday, April 13

**Ethan Perry – Americana Indie Technicolor Jazz,** 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

**“Requiem for Rosa Elena’s Dream,”** 2:30 p.m. at the Philanthropy Theatre, One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso. Info: 915-533-4020

**Local Vocals & Silver Ringtones Concert,** 3 p.m., at The Starlight Theater, 1915 Gold St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-5200

**A Taste of Ireland,** 3:30 p.m., at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

**Mesilla Valley Film Society** presents **“Mulholland Drive,”** 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

#### Monday, April 14

**Film Las Cruces** presents **The Wrap,** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-805-3456

#### Tuesday, April 15

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

#### Wednesday, April 16

**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

**Rob Leines – Outlaw Country,** 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Aransas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

#### Thursday, April 17

**CDT Trail Days Kick-off Party,** 4-8 p.m., Open Space Brewing Company, 11990 US-180, Santa Clara Armory, Santa Clara. Info: OpenSpaceBrewery.com

**Performer’s Showcase,** 6 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Aransas 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

#### April 17 – 29

**DitchSpeare,** 6 p.m., Big Ditch Park, south of Main Street Plaza, Silver City. Info: TheActrix.studio/DitchSpeare

#### Friday, April 18

**Continental Divide Trail Days Cultural Connection Speaker**

## EVENTS

*continued on page 34*

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Candace Laramore, NP (Primary, Family, Pediatrics)

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## EVENTS

continued from page 33

**Series**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: CDTCoalition.org/trail-days/

**Mesilla Valley Spring Fling Contra Dance with Carol Ann Fugagli and live music by Mesilla Valley String Band**, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Info: 575-636-5509

**Jason Dea West and**

**Juniper Djinn – Americana/ Gypsy Jazz**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Astronomy Friends of the Parks**, 7:40 p.m. at Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Rd. SE., Deming. Info: 575-546-6182

**An Evening with John Waters**, 8 p.m., at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: EPHardins.org

**Stoney Blue Fish – Heavy**



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

**April 18-24**

**Mesilla Valley Film Society presents "The Penguin Lessons,"** 7:30 & 2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

**Saturday, April 19**

**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**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**City of Las Cruces presents Earth Day**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-528-4506

**Southern New Mexico Music & Dance hosts a Free Contra Dance callers workshop**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 3080 McDowell Rd., Las Cruces. Info: 575-636-5509

**Continental Divide Trail Days Festival**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Gough Park, 1201 N. Pope St., Silver City. Info: CDTCoalition.org/trail-days/

**Bravo Mic's 30th Annual Springfest**, 10 a.m., at Young Park, 843 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-527-1111

**CDT Trail Days**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Gough Park, 1201 N. Pope St., Silver City. Info: OpenSpaceBrewery.com

**Glass in the Garden**, 1-5 p.m., at 706 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces. Info: LCGarden64@gmail.com

**Eric Elison in Concert**, 7 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Dr., Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

**Astronomy Friends of the**

**Parks**, 7:40 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park, 327 NM-61, Faywood. Info: 575-536-2800

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

**Sunday, April 20**

**Keith Burnstein – Singer/ Songwriter, Pianist, Film Composer**, 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**Mesilla Valley Film Society presents "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me,"** 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

**Monday, April 21**

**Las Colcheras Quilt Guild**, 6 p.m., at American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave., Las Cruces. Info: Linnea at 575-521-0521

**Wednesday, April 23**

**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:

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**Marc Yaxley – Instrumental Guitar**, 4 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

#### Thursday, April 24

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

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

**Singo – Party Game**, 7-9 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### Friday, April 25

**The Delk Band**, 7 p.m., at the Blue

Moon Bar & Grill, 13060 N. Valley Dr., Radium Springs. Info: 575-649-3747

**New Horizons Symphony free performance**, 7:30 p.m. at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St., NMSU. Info: NHSOCruces.com

**Brandon Perrault – Tex-Mex, Country, Soft Rock, Jazz**, 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### April 25-26

**El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents Fabulous Finale – Classical Trio**, 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, 125 W. Mills Ave., El Paso. Info: 915-532-3776

#### April 25-27

**157th Annual St. Francis de Paula Fiesta**, 10 a.m., at St. Francis de Paula Church, 303 Encino St., Tularosa. Info: 575-585-2730

**Dark Sky Gathering**, 5 p.m., at the Jackson Park Campground, State Hwy 260, Pie Town. Info: CDTCoalition.org/dark-skies

#### April 25-May 1

**Mesilla Valley Film Society presents “The Seed of the Sacred Fig,”** 7:30 & 2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: MesillaValleyFilm.org

#### Saturday, April 26

**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**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1120 N. Main St., Silver City. Info: SilverCityFarmersMarket.info

**Mira! Las Cruces Festival**, 2-9:30 p.m., Plaza de Las Cruces and surrounding streets in downtown Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2444

**John Pardi Honkytonk Hollywood Tour**, 7 p.m., at the Pan American Center, 1810 E. University Ave, New Mexico State University Campus. Info: 575-646-1420

**Elnuh – Indie Rock/Ethereal Pop**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas

Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Rhythm Mystic – R&B, Swing, Motown, Latin**, 8-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

#### Sunday, April 27

**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

**Tom Andres – Country, Blues, Americana**, 1-4 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**The Wailers with Aston Barrett Jr.**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**Mesilla Valley Film Society presents “Blue Velvet,”** 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info:

MesillaValleyFilm.org

#### Tuesday, April 29

**Author Talk with Jane Little Botkin on “The Pink Dress: Memoir of a Reluctant Beauty Queen,”** 1:30 p.m. in the Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-649-8786

**Los Mirlos – World Music**, 7 p.m. at Whiskey Creek Zócalo, 11786 Hwy 180 East, Arenas Valley. Info: 575-388-1266 or WhiskeyCreekZocalo.com

**GCCCA presents Camerata del Sol**, 7-9 p.m., WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 1101 N. Kentucky St., Silver City. Info: 575-538-5862

**Monthly Blues Jam**, 7-9 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St, Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144

**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





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# From Pain to Possibility: How Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health is Redefining Life with Fibromyalgia

*Living with fibromyalgia can feel like a never ending battle, but at Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health, personalized treatments like O3 ReBoot Therapy® are helping patients break free from the cycle of pain, brain fog, and fatigue, reclaiming their energy, clarity, and lives.*

Living with fibromyalgia is far more than a daily struggle. It's a constant battle that affects nearly every aspect of life. A chronic condition that causes wide spread pain that never truly subsides, extreme fatigue that doesn't go away regardless of rest, and a range of other debilitating symptoms - fibromyalgia often leaves sufferers feeling like their body is at war with itself.

For Angela of Las Cruces, it meant every task had a trade-off. "Everything I do feels like a trade-off," she explains. "If I do a load of laundry, then putting together lunch that day becomes much harder. By the end of the day, the pain makes it hard to concentrate and the pain killers I was relying on to fall asleep weren't helping matters."

Her story is not unique.

At Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health, a growing number of patients seek care for fibromyalgia, many of whom have gone undiagnosed for far too long. According to Angela, "There's definitely not enough awareness of fibromyalgia. The average person hasn't even heard of it, and even those in healthcare often don't fully understand the day-to-day impact it has on my life." Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health is dedicated to changing this narrative by offering personalized care that addresses the invisible and complex nature of fibromyalgia, providing treatments designed to help patients like Angela reclaim their lives.

This commitment to compassionate care has made all the difference for Angela. At Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health, individuals managing fibromyalgia and chronic pain receive the understanding and attention they need and deserve.

"I would just like people to understand that fibromyalgia is not something that just goes away," shared Director of Patient Care, Maira Gaytan, "And that everyone's experience is different. We take the time to understand their particular experience. We think about how we can accommodate them, and sometimes the smallest things can make a world of difference."

For Angela, the most challenging symptoms was "brain fog," which often made remembering if she took her pain medications a struggle. "I would pay for it when I forgot," she said.

She also faced the frustration of others not fully understanding her condition. Some friends and family suggest she take aspirin, while others jokingly refer to fibromyalgia as "fibro-my-lazy," assuming that her pain is just an excuse. "On the worst days, even the clothes you wear bother you," she shared. "It's an invisible disability."

"O3 ReBoot Therapy® treats brain fog at the source by improving oxygen utilization and enhancing cellular function," shared Maira.

"Furthermore, our treatments address pain at the cellular level, focusing on actual healing rather than masking symptoms with medications. This isn't about 'bandaids' - it's about helping people heal."

Thanks to her treatments at Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health, Angela has seen a dramatic improvement in her quality of life.

"The difference it's made in my day-to-day life is simply amazing," she said with gratitude. "I can bowl again. I joined my first league in years. I had the energy to spend Christmas with my family, something I thought I had lost forever." She also shared how her mind feels clearer now. "I can think so much more clearly, and I don't have to use this 'seeing clearly' just to remember if I've taken my pain meds," Angela said. "It's like a weight has been lifted, allowing me to focus on the things I love again."

Angela credits the team at Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health for helping her regain her life. "The team at Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health truly cares about my well-being," she explained. "I don't know where I'd be without their help"

If you or someone you know is struggling with the invisible, but very real pain and suffering of fibromyalgia, Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health is here to help. With personalized care and a commitment to understanding each patient's unique needs, Sonoma Acupuncture Integrative Health is making a real difference for those with fibromyalgia.