

# DESERT exposure



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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

FEBRUARY 2021

Volume 26 • Number 2



# Listening

## A more perfect Union

*"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."*

— Abraham Lincoln,  
Presidential Inauguration, 1865

If I could just reprint the words of Amanda Gorman here and have everybody read them, I would do it every issue. The 22-year-old Youth Poet Laureate took the cake at the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration in the midst of an event full of people speaking noble words. Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb," weaves images and ideas to create a painting that almost everyone can connect to.

When I posted on Facebook a letter from two Otero County commissioners calling for the resignation of the third one, Couy Griffin, using strong words to encourage the Cowboys for Trump organizer to leave his county seat, I got pushback from a reader.

The letter from his fellow commissioners uses strong language: "[Griffin] has devoted himself to promoting his Cowboys for Trump organization rather than being a county commissioner who serves the citizens of Otero County who elected him," the letter reads.

It also states that he has made racist statements, insulted officials, refused to comply with campaign finance laws, stormed the capitol, called for violence, and said, "the only good Democrat is a dead Democrat."

The woman who replied to the post

made the point that Griffin was not violent when he took part in entering the capitol, stood up for the constitution and led some of those who stormed the capitol in prayer using a bullhorn.

She writes, "He was elected, leave it be ... why doesn't everyone just sit down, shut up and check their conscience?"

People on both sides of the fence will hear only parts of these allegations and statements. In essence, we hear what we want. On Facebook (I know again) you see folks posting that they have deleted all the naysayers on their feeds, essentially turning off the voices negative to a certain point of view. I understand. I have seen vile words and thoughts spewed across all platforms. But if we delete those who speak different views, how can we know what they are thinking?

So, I am putting out a call for listening past the words. In those words is an anguish of spirit. Each point deserves consideration, even if it seems ridiculous. Why would they say that? Remember people are not intrinsically evil. They speak out because they care strongly and believe in what they say.

*Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure readers in Silver City or any of our coverage areas. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408 to set a place and time to meet.*

# Letters to the Editor

## Look to the prisons

Editor,

If you or a neighbor has a relative in a New Mexico prison, the odds are three in five that he or she is in a correctional facility that is run for profit. That means the bottom line comes first. That relative – and you the taxpayer who is paying for the contracts – will get the short end of the stick! We lead the nation in this arrangement – the national average is less than one in 10 in private prisons.

This has been happening for years and it will go on unless the New Mexico legislature passes HB 40 – "The Private Detention Facility Moratorium Act." This bill was filed in the House by Rep. Angelica Rubio and is sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino.

Every dollar saved on a meal fed to a prisoner helps the bottom line of a corporation.

Cutting corners on inmates' clothing boosts the profit margin. Paying the staff as little as they can helps the income picture. Cut back on heating and cooling – and the bottom line gets fatter.

Making a profit from penning up people is inherently immoral. The potential

for corruption is immense and it goes beyond the daily corner-cutting described above. The companies are paid for each day one of their beds is occupied. Longer sentences imposed by colluding judges equals more billings; so do delays in releasing prisoners beyond their scheduled sentences. Why spend money on rehabilitation programs when a released prisoner who gets sentenced again is more ka-chings on the cash register?

I hope your readers will encourage their state representative and state senator to pass HB 40.

The bill has language about implementation when passed. The voluminous POPP data shows how, time and again, incarceration in private prisons is bad for prisoners, bad for taxpayers and bad for our communities.

The goal is this: Passing HB 40 will make private incarceration illegal in New Mexico, and that's good for all concerned.

Tom Vaughan  
Silver City

## Again

(September 11, 2001 and January 6, 2021)

Twenty years apart  
two events, targeting democracy.

We watched the unthinkable:

a plane armed with hate  
launched by a distant foe  
to demolish a symbol of American pride,  
a tower of American commerce  
reduced to a tower of ash.

Two decades later

we watch the unthinkable:  
a symbol of freedom

attacked by a misguided mob  
(a pre-programmed weapon launched from within),

reducing our symbol of power  
to an impotent symbol of shame.

\*Rioters, urged on by President Trump, stormed the US Capitol building on January 6, 2021 in an effort to prevent the counting of the electoral votes.

Prinnie McCourt  
Deming

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**Beautiful, peaceful 11.1 acres on Bear Creek Road.** There is public electric near the property for easy improvements. Bear Creek runs through the north part of the property, and seller will provide a 1/8 acre-foot water right (split from owner's adjacent property).  
MLS # 36985 \$39,900



**A great price on this 20+/- acre parcel located close to Silver City.** Some mature oak and great grassland give this property that western range feel. There are limited restrictions that allow for double wide manufactured home or site built. The power line traverses through the property in a north south direction. There is enough elevation change to pick a building spot in the oaks or lower without trees.  
MLS # 37852 \$65,000



**Corner lot home.** Ceramic tile throughout. Walking distance to downtown and San Vicente Creek. Come see this home to appreciate it's charm.  
MLS # 37567 \$89,500



**Newly remodeled home on a corner lot.** Metal roof, new plumbing, electrical, flooring, and stucco. Stainless appliances make the new kitchen shine. The remodel left some of the adobe walls to accent the structure of the original build. Covered porch and back patio area. Corner lots allows access to driveway from two streets.  
MLS # 37651 \$144,000



**Wonderful opportunity for a Live/Work situation close to Downtown Silver City!** Live in one half, and work out of the other. Off street parking for 2 vehicles. Sweet, fenced side yard with storage/work-shed and established garden beds. New forced air gas furnace and new windows in the living area. On demand hot water heater. 3/4 bath and laundry area. Gas range, Refrigerator and washer/dryer convey.  
MLS # 37519 \$160,000



**MOUNTAIN HOME IN THE MIMBRES VALLEY!** Nestled in the trees on 4 acres with views of the Black Range. Upgrades include metal roof, ceramic tile, kitchen upgrades and new septic. Master bedroom downstairs with two bedrooms upstairs. Nice shop garage plus 2 stall carport and two storage buildings. Dog run and plenty of parking for all your toys. Unrestricted with horses allowed. County maintained road. Minutes from Bear Canyon Lake and short drive to the Gila National Forest.  
MLS # 37301 \$174,000



**3 bedroom 2 bath home just a few blocks from the hospital and schools.** Gorgeous home with an open floor plan and clean lines and spacious bedrooms. Covered patio and good elevation to enjoy the sunset over the mountain ridge line to the west. The two car garage is just the right size to keep vehicles protected and still have storage space. Due to high demand in this area and price range, call today!  
MLS # 37801 \$229,000



**Country living in rural New Mexico, this 4 bedroom 2 bath home has plenty of room for the kids, FHA animals and borders the fair grounds and Cliff School.** This property has Duck Creek, a semi-annual creek flowing through the east end of the 7.9 acres. You'll be delighted with the amount of covered storage this property boasts. Close to the Gila River, Bill Evans Lake and the Gila National Forest, this property is a great escape from the fast paced city life.  
MLS # 37424 \$245,000



**This mountain getaway offers spectacular views on five acres of land. Just minutes from Lake Roberts, Sapillo Creek and Gila Hot Springs.** This newer maintained home offers peaceful mountain living with a covered deck to enjoy all the wildlife and native landscape on the property. Home is all electric (no propane to maintain), pellet stove heating as well. Large garage with drive thru doors on each side. Stunning wood cabinetry in the kitchen. Laminate floors and tiles throughout.  
MLS # 37856 \$310,000



**Very charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath country cabin on 15+ acres, solid construction and open concept floor plan.** Passive solar with strategic windows placement to take full advantage of the Southwest New Mexico sunshine. Wood stove and in floor radiant heat make this a cozy home throughout the winter. The attached Trex deck is perched above Tularosa River and allows for some spectacular canyon views. Master suite has an attached sunroom to allowing for some massive solar gain. Detached garage and shop allow for plenty of storage and shop space. Detached 1 car carport.  
MLS # 37486 \$319,000



**Lake Roberts Motel owners have continuously remodeled since purchase, which had a major overhaul in 2012 on almost every inch of the original structures.** There are 6 "cabin style suites" that are more than adorable, the rooms are spotless, decorated with love in a southwestern theme. A "Woodhenge" fire pit area is equipped with roasting forks, a cooking grate, and a generous supply of firewood, topped off with Tiki torches surrounding the pit to create a special ambiance.  
MLS # 37199 \$499,900



**You are about to encounter a 21st Century, Southwestern Ranch Style Home in the small corner of New Mexico that was home to many famous gunslingers, including Billy the Kid.** This custom built home borders National Forest, on 40 acres with mature landscaping, fruit trees and a commanding wisteria canopy on the front porch, lending a special ambiance for outdoor entertaining. Main Home boasts almost 3,000 sq ft of flowing floor plan.  
MLS # 37485 \$689,000

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Desert Exposure is published monthly and distributed free of charge at choice establishments throughout southern New Mexico. Mail subscriptions are \$54 plus tax for 12 issues. Single copies by mail \$5. All contents © 2021 OPC News, LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission.

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**ABOUT THE COVER:**

This is a segment from "Ode to Ancient Wings and Precious Water" is a mixed media installation by Zoe Wolfe and Carlene Roters. It is up from Feb. 12-March 13 at Light Art Space Gallery, 209 W. Broadway in Silver City.

Inspired by the natural environment and the peace that it offers; this collaboration is in homage to habitat. The media of glazed ceramic, and of paintings batiked on rice paper are unique in their juxtaposition.

While complementary in color and concept, one is ephemeral and the other constructed to last forever. Together we experience the illustrated moment as both fleeting, and in its continuum.

Roters and Wolfe met as colleagues teaching art at Western New Mexico University. Carlene is known for her paintings and Zoe for her ceramic sculpture, although both love to work in other



mediums. They began collaborating in the spring. With Covid it was necessary to work separately in their expertise, constantly communicating for cohesiveness.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday - Saturday and by appointment. A reception for the exhibit will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 13.

LETTERS

We would like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

We welcome letters to the editor including your opinions and feedback regarding news, events and issues published here. Traditional letters to the editor offer an opportunity to start a new discussion, share your opinions or provide information you believe is of interest to other readers.

Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse letters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print, but we need to be able to verify the author.

The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor published by Desert Exposure do not necessarily reflect those of Desert Exposure or its advertisers. It is the responsibility of the reader to research facts/opinions expressed in the letters to the editor to form their own opinions from an informed position.

**Desert #56 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)

⊕ = λ 'M = Z :∞Π⊙

" LFO BJZBGQ CDKOPBAAPOEMBLOK YCPPIQ LPCJG KMK  
 QOLLJO LFO ZOQL. LFOMP JOXBEG DOOKQ LI YO  
 BAAPOEMBLOK." - NMEFOJO EIDOJYG, XMJB FIL QAPMDXQ

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: "BUT NOW, IN THE MIDDLING DAYS OF AUTUMN, THERE IS ENOUGH WATER TO REQUIRE A RUNNING LEAP OF FAITH TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE." - AUTHOR M. JOHN FAYHEE  
 \*Secret Words: "SWIFT JUMPER GOAL"

Congrats to #55 solvers:  
 Will Adams\*, Skip Howard\*, Mike Arms\*, David Kinder\*, Claudette Gallegos\* and Shorty Vaiza\*!



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—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry  
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RAISING DAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# A Long Life

Heading into the future, with ice cream



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As always happy planting.

**M**y wife is sick. Fortunately, it’s just the flu.

Sad to live in a time where having the flu is GOOD news.

Every year I inoculate myself against the various bugs and viruses that will save the Earth when space aliens come to conquer it. My wife, who I like to tease when she’s sick, makes sure I do.

“I’ve never had the flu in my life,” I once tried to weasel out of it.

“What does that have to do with anything?” she said, ending the conversation.

True, I’ve never caught the flu, so maybe my wife was right to insist.

Maybe.

I’ve never had polio, either. Or whooping cough, or any number of childhood diseases. For that, I can thank my lucky stars or my parents who made sure I got my childhood vaccinations. I’ll thank my parents. The generations before mine weren’t so fortunate. Just ask FDR.

My first wife used to drive me nuts when I was sick. I’d be sleeping in bed and she’d come in.

“Are you awake?” she would ask.

“Let me sleep,” I’d beg. “Pleeease.”

She’d pester me relentlessly. I’m not saying that was the reason we divorced, but it might have been one of the reasons. Hmm ... maybe I should rethink this whole teasing my wife thing.

My father doesn’t know what to do with himself when my wife is incapacitated. He’s quite capable of fending for himself but chooses not to. My wife has him extremely spoiled, you see. When he sits in his favorite chair in the den, she’ll rush to turn the TV on for him.

“What channel, Dad?” she’ll ask, but I don’t know why she bothers. He always wants it on the baseball channel. Once my father is comfortable, she’ll ask him if he wants a snack. “Some ice cream?”

“Ice cream?” he’ll say. “I don’t know. What flavors do you have?”

“We have chocolate and vanilla.”

“Any strawberry?”

“Strawberry, too.”

“Hmm...” he’ll contemplate.

It’s the same three flavors we always have, but it takes him a

few minutes to decide. My wife is a saint. She’ll wait patiently for him to answer.

“Strawberry,” he’ll finally say, “but not too much. You always serve me too much.”

I don’t say anything. What I’m thinking is, “Instead of complaining, how about expressing some gratitude?”

But, like I said, I don’t say anything.

My wife will bring him a bowl of strawberry ice cream. She’ll even add a few cookies on the side. My father likes cookies, as long as they’re soft.

When it’s time to eat, I have no problem serving myself. My wife’s a busy lady. She works hard cooking great meals, so serving myself is the least I can do. My father, on the other hand, just plops himself down and waits to be catered to. He won’t eat unless he’s served. He’s 93 years old. I guess I shouldn’t complain.

With my wife sick, it’s another story. I don’t baby him. I’ll cook, but it’s up to him to serve himself. Yesterday, when he got up, I was just about done making breakfast. There was left over steak from the night before. I cut it up into little pieces and heated them in the frying pan, scrambling some eggs to go with it.

“You hungry, Pop?”

“What are you making?”

“Steak and eggs.”

“Steak and eggs?” he said, slowly considering it. “Well, I am hungry.”

By that time, I had served myself and was already sitting at the table.

**LONG LIFE**

continued on page 5

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# Speaking Through Dichos

## A way of preserving our history

In the book “Chasing Dichos through Chimayo,” author Don J. Usner presents a marvelous collection of stories told by the elders of this northern New Mexican town. The stories recall times of yesteryear, often represented bilingually through dichos, or sayings, that tell the history of the area’s people and traditions.

I love dichos because they are more than just sayings that you hear growing up. In their simplicity, and often rhythmic nature, they tell us people’s feelings and sometimes their principles.

Dichos teach us lessons, and they help fill empty moments when you are looking for something to say that has just the right amount of meaning.

Every culture has its clichés. We’ve all been told all that glitters isn’t gold. We’ve seen the embarrassed fellow walking with his tail between his legs. Don’t know what to say? Maybe cat got your tongue.

As a Mexican-American, for me dichos have an extra layer of meaning. Like a cebolla, you hear one of these poetic sayings and you can go on and on peeling back the connotations.

In the first chapter of “Chasing Dichos Through Chimayo,” Us-

ner tells the story of two older cousins, now in their 80s, living in the small town known for its heirloom chile and El Santuario, a Catholic Chapel.

The cousins go back and forth remembering people of the past, their upbringing and participation in traditional rituals. Seamlessly, they interject dichos such as “no hay bolsa mas quieta que una bolsa sin dinero.” It means that there is no purse more still than a purse without money. So the cousins were hard workers. There was no other way.

What a beautiful way to share memories and deeply embedded philosophies. People don’t speak this way anymore.

I love this book because it achieves the important accomplishment of preserving the history of a community. For people from poor, or underprivileged as it is said today, backgrounds, documentation of genealogies and historic moments is often lacking.

We tell our stories orally, from grandparents to children. The achievements and groundbreaking moments that made a difference to our families and neighbors are told through the beautiful tradition of storytelling. Cuentos and dichos are

what have helped us know today about our past.

Little moments, not just the big ones, are significant enough to pass along to the next generation. The times our uncles were in bar fights. Stories of kids riding bikes along dusty arroyos and overseeing a horizon that seemed endless.

Now more than ever, culture is becoming, like everything else, homogenized. This is why the arts are such an important part of capturing and memorializing the important differences we bring to each other as peoples.

So, tell your stories and tell them again and again. Like the saying goes, “la memoria es como el mal amigo, cuando mas falta te hace, te falla” (memory is like a bad friend, when you need it the most, it fails you).

*Abe Villarreal is the assistant dean of student activities at Western New Mexico University. When not on campus, he enjoys writing about his observations on life, people and American traditions.*



### LONG LIFE

continued from page 4

“Well, help yourself,” I told him.

And he did.

Later that night, my lovely daughter brought him dinner.

“What is it?” he asked her.

“Gumbo,” she said.

“Oh, boy,” he said, happily. “I like gumbo.” And, again, he just plopped himself down at the table and waited expectantly. No thank you for the gumbo. No thank you for the personalized service. No thank you at all. For dessert, she also served him strawberry ice cream.

“That’s too much,” he told her.

“Sorry, Grandpa,” she said.

It may have been too much, but that didn’t keep him from finishing it.

This morning, my wife was still in bed. Before my father went on his walk, I told him, “I don’t think she’s coming downstairs, Pop.”

He mumbled something and left.

While he was gone, I fed the dogs and cleaned up. I worked fast because I wanted to get in an early workout. I was supposed to pick up my grandson later. He spent the night with his auntie. She picks him up several times

a month, wining and dining him. I usually pick him up later in the day. Last night was the first time he spent the night at her house.

I went upstairs to see how my beautiful wife was doing.

“Feeling better?” I asked her.

“Yes.”

“Really?”

“No.”

“Can I get you something?”

“Water.”

“Are you thirsty?”

“No, I just want to water my plants.”

My wife. The new Don Rickles.

I went downstairs and found my father sitting in front of a TV he hadn’t bothered to turn on. Was he waiting for me to do it for him?

Sadly, today he’s on his own.

Still, my conscience tugged at me. It was sad seeing him sitting alone in a dark room. There was a time when my father was young and strong and had the world by the... well, you know. Now, he’s just an old man sitting by himself. We’re all heading there, I guess.

If we live long enough.

*You can avoid growing up, but you can’t help growing old. theduchenebrothers@gmail.com@JimDuchene*

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

# Muskrats, Music, Love and Harmony

Can our society learn anything from big February rodents?



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It's February, and everyone's thoughts turn to, of course, love.

At least that's where Hallmark, Ghirardelli, Victoria's Secret and your local florists want your thoughts to turn.

Another notable aspect of February is Groundhog Day which, of course, is a natural companion to love.

And if you really need me to explain how love relates to a big rodent – even though it's painfully obvious – I'll go ahead and do it.

On Nov. 20, 1976, as Americans were starting to think about their upcoming Thanksgiving dinners, Casey Kasem was perusing the latest Billboard Hot 100 list in preparation for his weekly American Top 40 radio show. There it was, in the No. 4 position, sticking out like a romance-starved water marmot: "Muskrat Love" by Captain and Tennille. If you're old enough, you'll remember the Captain and Tennille, the bubbly pop duo that sprinkled the mid-1970s with hits such as "Love Will Keep Us Together." They were a husband-and-wife team, and the husband wore a cheesy boat captain's hat, similar to that of the Skipper from "Gilligan's Island."

Often dismissed as schmaltzy pop, "Muskrat Love" was voted one of the 10 worst songs of the 1970s, according to a Rolling Stone magazine poll. While that was probably deserved (along with songs such as "Billy Don't Be a Hero," "Feelings" and "Seasons of the Sun"), Muskrat was previously recorded by the group America, and originally written and recorded as "Muskrat Candlelight" by the cult Texas music legend Willis Alan Ramsey on his self-titled 1972 album on Leon Russell's Shelter Records.

My friend, Jeff Barnet, who teaches English at Doña Ana Community College, got married in 2018. The first dance for he and his bride, Mayra, was – quite unexpectedly – "Muskrat Love." At first I was stunned. Then I was amused. Then I was amazed. Then I went looking for someone to dance with, so I could say I danced along with the coolest first-dance wedding reception song ever played.

I've been to a lot of weddings, but aside from Jeff and Mayra's dance, I can only remember one other first-dance wedding reception song, and that was from my oldest daughter's wedding (Rev. Al Green's "Let's Stay Together").

The year "Muskrat Love" hit it big, 1976, was in the waning time of popularity of AM radio as America's primary music source. By the end of that decade, disco had risen and fallen, punk was in the air and most music stations had moved to the clearer sound of FM. MTV was just around the corner.

I think our society lost some things when we lost the variety that was Top 40 AM radio in the 1960s and '70s. Perusing that Nov. 20, 1976, Hot 100 list, I see lots of pop (Hall & Oates, John Travolta, Chicago, Abba, Rod Stewart, the Jacksons), some country (Freddie Fender and Dickey Lee), jazz (George Benson), easy listening (Barry Manilow, Mary McGregor, Engelbert Humperdinck), disco (Rick Dees, the Ritchie Family, Salsoul Orchestra), vestiges of the Beatles (Ringo Starr, George Harrison), R&B (Al Green, the Commodores, Gladys Knight and the Pips), rock (ZZ Top, Aerosmith, KISS, Heart, Alice Cooper), funk (Bar-Kays, Brick) and, most unlikely, a hit song about a sinking

ship (Gordon Lightfoot's "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," which was No. 2 that week).

If a song or a music style you hated came on the radio, you could be comforted knowing there would be one you loved coming up in another song or two.

In an odd way it taught us patience, and exposed us to music outside of our lanes.

That changed with the advent of specialized FM stations focusing on specific genres. We put ourselves in silos of our own musical tastes. The arrival of the Internet and social media advanced that silo creation exponentially to fields beyond music, including sports, hobbies and, most notably, politics.

As people continue to narrow the views they explore, factions and subcultures increase. Tolerance and broader understanding decrease. Am I saying the demise of AM radio initiated our current polarized, fractured and increasingly dangerous political climate?

In a way, yes. I certainly wish we could go back to a day when our biggest arguments were about whether the Jacksons were better with or without Michael, or about how bad disco sucked.

What I'm really saying though, is we could all use a little Muskrat Love this February.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. His all-time favorite band is Earth, Wind & Fire, whose song "Saturday Nite" made its Hot 100 debut on the aforementioned November 1976 list in the No. 78 position.




# DESERT exposure

## March Deadlines

Friday, Feb. 12 at 11AM: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

<p><b>EDITOR</b> Elva K. Österreich 575-680-1978 Cell: 575-443-4408 <a href="mailto:editor@desertexposure.com">editor@desertexposure.com</a></p>	<p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b> Teresa Tolonen 575-680-1841 <a href="mailto:teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com">teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com</a></p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING COORDINATOR</b> Pam Rossi 575-635-6614 <a href="mailto:pam@lascrucesbulletin.com">pam@lascrucesbulletin.com</a></p>	<p><b>SILVER CITY SALES MANAGER</b> Mariah Walker 575-993-8193 <a href="mailto:mariah@desertexposure.com">mariah@desertexposure.com</a></p>
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Actress Ali McGraw talks about the "Food for Love" foodbank benefit during a visit to Santa Fe. (Screenshot foodforlove.org)

MUSIC SCENE •  
ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Star-Studded

Benefit concert to help  
New Mexicans facing hunger

Dozens of the country's top musicians, singers and songwriters are coming together to help New Mexicans facing hunger.

They are taking part in "Food for Love" a virtual concert on Feb. 13, benefiting New Mexico's food banks. Jackson Browne, Lyle Lovett, David Byrne, The Chicks, Nathaniel Rateliff, Steve Earle and Elle King are among the more than 50 artists set to perform in the star-studded event.

Other special guests include: Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, former Gov. Bill Richardson, Sen. Tom Udall, George RR Martin, Ali MacGraw and Hampton Sides.

The "Food for Love" virtual concert takes place 5-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13 and will be streamed on the organization's website, foodforlove.org, Facebook and YouTube pages. The concert is free, but viewers will be encouraged to donate to the New Mexico Association of Food Banks. Donations can be made live during the event or anytime on the "Food for Love" website.

One hundred percent of every dollar raised will go directly to providing nutritious meals to New Mexicans in every part of the state who are struggling with food security. Each dollar raised can provide up to four meals for a New Mexico family in need.

The COVID pandemic and associated record unemployment have exacerbated New Mexico's hunger issue. "Food for Love" will benefit all five of New Mexico's food banks – Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque and

Las Cruces, the Food Depot in Santa Fe, the Community Pantry in Gallup, the Echo Food Bank in Farmington and the Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico in Clovis. Together these food banks provide emergency food assistance to families in every county, Native American nation and pueblo in the state.

**Bands of Enchantment start playing this spring**

The television show "Bands of Enchantment" (BOE) has found a home in Tucumcari. This weekly music performance television show features music acts from all different genres. Championing up-and-coming artists while rejoicing in our rich musical history, this half hour televised event is planned to be a pillar to the Southwest music scene.

Created by New Mexico State University Alumni Ken C. Peterson, the idea was presented to Tucumcari City Council by his stepfather and long-time New Mexican entrepreneur Vincent Chavez of La Tewa Media.

"This is a family endeavor and as a family we wanted to create a show that celebrates the rich diversity of Americana music and brings it home to beautiful New Mexico," Peterson said.

From the New Mexico State University Theatre Arts Department, Jim Billings has recently joined the BOE team to help production design. BOE will air on Amazon Prime and PBS New Mexico. Expect it to hit the airways in spring 2021. For more information and the official trailer visit [www.bandsofenchantment.com](http://www.bandsofenchantment.com).

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ON SCREEN • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Film Festival 2021

Event goes virtual, expects higher attendance than ever

With everything going virtual starting off 2021, the Las Cruces International Film Festival can brag that going virtual will be good for it this year. “Doing it virtual this year, we feel like we can reach a bigger audience,” said festival Executive Director Ross Marks. “We

are going with the Film Festival Flix and they are estimating we may get 50,000-60,000 viewers.”

While the festival has been growing yearly, it can't match the attendance this screening platform provides, he said. The festival is in its sixth year and historically has been a regional event. The 2020 festival was attended by just under 20,000 people.

“Now, because of this virtual platform, we have 38 countries participating and the friends and families associated with all those films can watch,” Marks said.

One of the biggest complaints from past festivals is people can't watch all the films they want to, he said. They have to make choices. The films get grouped in blocks and the audience members must choose what they want to see. This year those blocks will be broken separately and be “a lot more user friendly.”

While audiences will indeed be losing the communal experience and in-person theater experience, there will be no viewing conflicts.

“Last year we had half the films with cast and director Q and A,” Marks said. “This year filmmakers will be active on social media and checking for communication. You don't get direct interaction, but every filmmaker is going to be doing a Q and A this year.”

Awards, workshops and panels are still a part of the event. This year, the Outstanding Entertainment Award will go to Peter Bogdonovich, who Marks said is one of the pioneers of independent filmmaking in America. Marks will be hosting a Q and A session with Bogdonovich.

Actor Judge Rehinold is receiving the Mark Medoff Legacy Award. He will be asked about his



Judge Rehinold



Ross Marks

career, his films and much more.

In addition to the film screenings, there will be a virtual screenwriting panel, a film promotion and marketing workshop, and a panel focusing on raising funds for films with leading experts in IndieGoGo and Kickstarter.

Also, as usual, local restaurant sponsors are participating, Marks said. Every evening, a local restaurant will host a screening and highlight a special dish which will be available at a special discount for those in town for the events.

“We are lining up more (restaurants) every day,” Marks said. “This is a great way to showcase our local restaurants and showcase Las Cruces. The restaurants will have signature cocktails, including Salud, Amador, Andele's, the Game and Lorenzo's and La Posta. It's a great way to make it interactive.”

As usual, the folks at New Mexico State University Creative Media Institute are organizing the festival.

“We had a class in the fall,” said Marks, who is a CMI assistant professor. “In film festival prep, students reviewed and selected and curated the films. In the spring, students and staff

will put it all together.”

Jen Garcia serves as artistic director for the fourth year, Alfonso Moya is technical director and Matteo Isquierdo is operations manager.

“So, we have a small staff,” Marks said. “And to my knowledge, this is the biggest film festival put out by a university.”

While there is no specifically designed poster for the festival this year, Marks said they are setting up an online film festival store. Partnering with the Sports Festival Store, the 2021 logo design will be available on several different things from shirts to mugs.

“The nice thing about being online is people can watch the movies and browse a film festival store,” he said.

As usual, there will be an opening feature for the event. This year it is “The Devil Has a Name” with Edward James Olmos, who will also do a Q and A with Marks following the movie.

The festival takes place March 3-7. Ticket prices are similar to what the past few years have been with \$8 for one film, \$25 for the whole day and \$75 for all the days. So far, Marks said, there are 102 films on the list. Info: las-crucesfilmfest.com.

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**Thursday, Feb 25 @ 1PM**

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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

**SILVER CITY**



Light Art Space Gallery

• At **Light Art Space** the “**Earth and Sky: Photography from Grant County**” exhibition features the work of 25 photographers from Grant County. Color, black and white and alternative photographic processes are on exhibit which is Curated by Karen Hymer, Director of Light Art Space. “**Ode to Ancient Wings and Precious Water**,” Feb. 13 to April 17, is a mixed media installation by **Zoe Wolfe** and **Carlene Roters** inspired by the natural environment and the peace that it offers, this collaboration is in homage to habitat. Also on view is the work of Light Art Space gallery artists **Joel Armstrong, Valerie Galloway, Karen Hymer, Carmen Ruiz, Eugene Starobinskiy, Art Peterson** and **Mimi Calise Peterson**. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and by appointment. Social distancing is observed and masks required. Info: [www.lightartspace.com](http://www.lightartspace.com).



“**Yellowstone**” by **Bruce Bloy**

• The **Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, located at 316 N. Bullard St., Silver City, is featuring the work of three artists in February: photographer **Bruce**



“**Spring**” by **Carolyn Paez**



“**Houses on Cooper**” by **Julia Miller**

**Bloy**, painter and jewelry artist **Julia Miller** and painter **Carolyn Paez**. Each of the artists have a display in one of the gallery’s large windows in addition to their displays inside the gallery. **Bloy** is the GCGAG Gallery’s newest artist. A locally well-known photographer, **Bloy** has traveled worldwide. **Miller** has lived in Silver City since 1974, when she received a degree from WNMU to teach art. **Paez** also enjoyed a career in education. After years of studying and thinking about art, she found that challenge is the initial factor for her paintings. She seeks to emulate the design, light, hues and emotion found in the art of the “**Creator**.” The Grant County Art Guild Gallery is located at 316 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. It is normally open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Info: [www.gcgag.org](http://www.gcgag.org).

**DEMING**



**Dick Costa** and some of his woodworks

• The February 2021 exhibit at the **Deming Art Center** is a one-man show featuring the

woodworking talents of local artist **Dick Costa**. His love of woodworking began when he was a young man watching his father carve 3D fish and whales. Soon he was learning to carve and a lifelong respect of woods and woodworking was born. After retiring from a career as a construction engineer, **Dick** and his wife, **Nancy**, began traveling and ended up moving to **Deming** from **Massachusetts**. **Costa** uses techniques in his work that he has learned from people all over the world, as well as unique woods that are only found outside the U.S. The Gallery is located at 100 S. Gold in **Deming**, and open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Info: 575-546-3663 or [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org).

**TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES**



“**New Mexican Pick Up**” by **Don Hallock**



“**Green Aqua Bot**” by **Don Hallock**

• **ZIA Gallery**, in the center of the **Historic Hot Springs District** in **Truth or Consequences**, will be featuring the creative found-object works of **Don Hallock** through February. Opening day is **Thursday, Feb. 4**, and **Hallock** will be available during **ART HOP** on **Feb. 11** to discuss his works with visitors. **Hallock** is the owner of **Don’s Den** on

**Cedar Street** in **Truth or Consequences**, and his works have been on display in several local shops and galleries. This is the largest single collective exhibit of **Hallocks’s** art. His works of dragons, airplanes, robots and various critters range from whimsy and fantasy to mechanical and futuristic. **ZIA Gallery**, at 415 **Broadway** in **Truth or Consequences**, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Thursday, Friday** and **Saturday**. The gallery will also be open later, from 6 to 9 p.m., on **Saturday Feb. 13** for **Art Hop**.



**Doña Ana Arts Council**

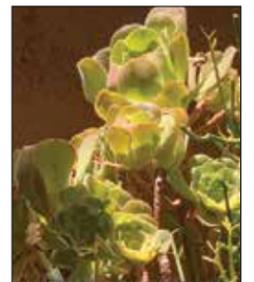
**LAS CRUCES**

• The **Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC)** features the **ArtForms Annual Member Show** at the **DAAC Arts & Cultural Center** gallery in **February** 2021 as part of **For the Love of Art (FLOA)** month. For 2021, **ArtForms** organizers have built activities around the safety of their artist members and the viewing public. The art show at **DAAC** will be the only in-person event this year, but virtual events like artists’ studio tours livestreams and digital galleries will take place on the **ArtForms** website throughout the month. **ArtForms** is a collective of artists who represent a variety of visual art methods or “forms.” Their mission is to ensure that the creative community is regarded as a revenue-generating industry and to work toward the recognition of the greater **Las Cruces** area as an art and

culture destination. Artists in the show include **Lisa Carlson, Linda Choate, Karen Conley, Linda Conley, Vicki Conley, Rebecca Courtney, Thomas Gallagher, Carrie Greer, Will Keener, Tomi LaPierre, Mary Lou LaCasse, Dennis Lujan, Kathy Marques, Paul Maxwell, Rosemary McKeown, Noël Sandino, Storm Sermay, Roy van der Aa, Teri Van Huss, Alice V. Ward** and **Rhoda Winters**. The **ArtForms** exhibit is available for viewing **Feb. 1-25** at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center** located at 250 W. **Amador** during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from noon to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, Feb. 13**. Info: [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org) or 575-523-6403.



“**New Mexico Mandala**” by **Gabriele Teich**



“**Sun-Kissed**” by **Reed Dalby**

• The next **Tombaugh Gallery** virtual exhibit “**Anything Goes**” is from the **Las Cruces Art Association**. The organization began in 1960 and is the oldest art association in the **Las Cruces** area. Members create art in a wide variety of media, including oils, acrylics, watercolor, encaustics, fiber arts, sculpture, gourds, jewelry, woodworking, photography and more. The association has a history of spon-

**ART SCENE**

continued on page 10

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We strongly recommend gallery patrons call locations before visiting as gallery hours are subject to change and do so often. Contact Elva Österreich at Desert Exposure at 575-680-1978 or editor@desertexposure.com to update listings. All area codes are 575 unless indicated otherwise.

**Silver City**  
**Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery**, 371 Camino de Viento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Wolfe, potter, 907-783-2780.  
**Anthony Howell Studio**, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.  
**[a]SP: "A" "O" "E"**, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.  
**Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio**, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.  
**The Barking Dog Studio**, 512 Bremen St. (off Cooper Street) Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. 534-9620  
**Blue Dome Gallery**, 307 N. Texas St., second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.  
**Borderlands Gallery**, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.  
**The Cliffs Studio & Gallery**, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622-0251. By appointment.  
**Common Ground**, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. Open by chance or by prior arrangement. 575-534-2087.  
**Cow Trail Art Studio**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.  
**Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery**, 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-

5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.  
**Elemental Artisans**, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.  
**Francis McCray Gallery**, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
**Gila Gallery Photographs of the American Southwest**, 206 N. Bullard St., 342-1914.  
**The Glasserie Studio and Store**, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.  
**Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, 316 N. Bullard St. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.  
**Guadalupe's**, 505 N. Bullard St., 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Leyba & Ingalls Arts**, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.  
**Light Art Space**, 209 W. Broadway St., 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.  
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**Lois Duffy Art Studio**, 211C N. Texas St., 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

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**Lumiere Editions**, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.  
**The Makery**, 106 E. Market Place. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.  
**Manzanita Ridge**, 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.  
**Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery**, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.  
**Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing**, 203 N. Bullard St., 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.  
**Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile**, 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.  
**The Place at the Palace**, at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.  
**Soul River Gallery**, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.  
**Sterling Fine Art**, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.  
**Studio Behind the Mountain**, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.  
**Studio Upstairs**, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.  
**Szygy Tile Gallery**, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.  
**Tatiana Maria Gallery**, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.  
**Tree Spirit Gallery**, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.  
**21 Latigo Trail**, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.  
**Wild West Weaving**, 211-D N. Texas St., 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.  
**Wind Canyon Studio**, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574-2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.  
**Wynnegate Gallery**, 1105 W. Market St., 534-9717, noon - 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.  
**Zoe's Studio/Gallery**, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilinet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

**Bayard**  
**Kathryn Allen Clay Studio**, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.

**Northern Grant County**  
**Casitas de Gila**, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. By appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.

**Deming**  
**Deming Arts Center**, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Gold Street Gallery**, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

**Orona Art Studio**, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.

**Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery**, 200 S. Copper St., 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.

**Studio LeMarbe**, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708. By appointment.

**Columbus**  
**Village of Columbus Library**, 112 Broadway St., 531-2612, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

**Rodeo**  
**Chiricahua Gallery**, 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Hillsboro**  
**Barbara Massengill Gallery**, 895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.

**Mesilla**  
**Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center**, 250 W. Amador Ave., 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza**, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.

**Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Ouida Touchón Studio**, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@oidatouchon.com, www.oidatouchon.com.

**The Potteries**, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Las Cruces**  
**Big Picture Gallery**, 2001 Lohman Ave, Suite 109, 647-0508. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

**Blue Gate Gallery**, 4901 Chagar St. (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road), open by appointment, 523-2950.

**Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery**, 314 S. Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Justus Wright Galeria**, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprinting.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Las Cruces Arts Association**, located in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.

**Las Cruces Museum of Art**, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.

**Mesquite Art Gallery**, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.

**M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery**, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.

**New Dimension Art Works**, 615 E. Piñon St., 373-0043. By Appointment.

**NMSU University Art Gallery**, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

**Nopalito's Galeria**, 326 S. Mesquite St., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

**Quillin Stephens Gallery**, behind downtown COAS Books, 312-1064. By appointment only.

**Tombaugh Gallery**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

**Unsettled Gallery & Studio**, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment.

**Virginia Maria Romero Studio**, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment, agzromero@zianet.com, virginiamariaromero.com.

**Magdalena**  
**Atelier Studio 605**, 605 W. First St. A collective space containing Village Press Print Studio; DORkyART.us; Glennoznap.com; Es•Press•O. 838-6452. Letterpress Cards and Journals, Fine Art Printing & Photography. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Bear Mountain Gallery**, 902 First St. 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Paintings by Eddie Tsosie, jewelry and navajo rugs.

**Blue Canyon Gallery**, U.S. Highway 60 (1 mile east of Magdalena), 575-854-2953, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Paintings, pottery and jewelry.

**C&S Morning Star**, 805 First St., 505-288-6361. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Navajo jewelry and rugs.

**Evet's Café and Gallery**, 501 First St., 854-2449. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Photographs, plein air landscape paintings and illustrated children's books.

**Judy's Studio**, 104 N. Main St. 375-743-9110. 1-4 p.m. Saturday

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ART SCENE continued from page 9

soring exhibits for young people and last year made a substantial donation to Cruces Creatives to help with activity kits for youth. Beginning in February the exhibit will be on the Tombaugh Gallery Facebook page and Instagram with the following link: intagram.com/tombaughgallery.



Pottery plate by Kerry O'Neill

• 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: Bob Zolto and Kerry O'Neill. Zolto is a self-taught photographer whose work is influenced by Ansel Adams, Joe McNally, and several photojournalists. He moved to Las Cruces in 2009 after a 40-year career as an editor for the New York Times. O'Neill's passion for art has been since early childhood. She attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque as a flute major and eventually earned a B.S. in Fashion/Costume Design from Incarnate Word University in San Antonio. First American Bank in Mesilla, is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists' work monthly. COVID-19 adjusted gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

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<p> <b>Blue Dome Gallery</b> 575-538-2538 Downtown: Thurs - Sat, 10-5 at 307 N. Texas St. The Lodge: Daily 9-5 at 60 Bear Mt. Ranch Rd.</p>	<p> <b>SILVER CITY MUSEUM</b></p>	<p> <b>WILD WEST WEAVING</b></p> <p>SCHOOL, STUDIO, GALLERY 211 D N. Texas St, Silver City, NM wildwestweaving.com Open Wed - Sat, 10 to 5</p> <p></p>

TUMBLEWEEDS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# A Monumental Experience

## Organ Mountains Desert Peaks covered in 300-mile trail loop

**O**rgan Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument became a reality in 2014 after a lot of people came together to make it happen. Created to protect significant pre-historic, historic, geologic and biologic resources of scientific interest, it includes four areas: The Organ Mountains, Desert Peaks, Potrillo Mountains and Doña Ana Mountains.

The Organ Mountains are a steep, angular mountain range with rocky spires that jut majestically above the Chihuahuan Desert floor to an elevation of 9,000 feet. This area of rocky peaks, narrow canyons and open woodlands ranges from Chihuahuan Desert habitat to ponderosa pine in the highest elevations. This area provides opportunities for photography, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping and wildlife viewing.

The Desert Peaks include the Robledo Mountains, Sierra de las Uvas and Doña Ana Mountains, characterized by desert mountains rising steeply from flat plains.

The Potrillo Mountains are the most remote section of the monument, located southwest of Las Cruces, and comprised of a volcanic landscape of cinder cones, lava flows and craters.

Separate but also in Desert Peaks, the Doña Ana Mountains have extensive pedestrian trails, equestrian trails, mountain bike trails, rock-climbing routes and some limited routes available for motorized use.

Patrick Nolan, executive director of the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, said, following the creation of the monument, attendance at Dripping Springs Natural Area alone went from 23,143 in 2014 to 115,360 in 2019.

He said a local Las Cruces man has spearheaded a loop



The Organ Mountains come to life covered in Mexican poppies every spring around March. (Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument)

trail covering more than 300 miles that connects the parts of the monument.

“The cool part is, it connects all four parts of the monument,” Nolan said. “Doña Ana has become a hotspot for mountain biking.”

But the loop is not only for biking; people have walked and run the trails as well. Nolan said the highest point is 5,816 feet, and 94 percent of the roads are unpaved. For walkers, the average days spent on the full trail is seven. But there is certainly no need to cover all the area; breaking down the trail to suit the individual is easy too.

Matt Mason, the originator of the Monumental Loop, said back in the beginning, when monument publicity said it was going to be a big economic driver, “it seemed like bikepacking would be a great fit for the area.”

“The roads and trails are out there, and the weather is great

### On the Monumental Trail

- The best time to hit the trail is October through April. Expect to wear a tee-shirt and shorts in the daytime, but pack a 30-degree sleeping bag to stay cozy at night. Spring can be extremely windy at times.
- The route uses sections of public roads and trails that cross private land and working ranches. Be sure to close gates whenever you open them.
- Scorpions, snakes and other critters aren't a major issue in the winter, although they do exist. A fully enclosed tent isn't required but may be good for peace of mind.
- Do not attempt this route in summer! Temps hit well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Water is scarce; the longest section of the route goes 110 miles without reliable access to water. A capacity of six liters is recommended.

- If on a bike, tubeless tires and repair kits are critical. Sharp rocks and vegetation are common. Take care when riding through Cone Country.
- Given the stretches of deep sand found in each of the four sections, 3.0i-inch tires are ideal. Anything less will increase the time spent pushing through washes. The longest arroyo is two miles; most others are considerably shorter.
- Terrain is extremely mixed; expect well-behaved gravel roads, faint desert single-track, some sandy arroyos and extremely chunky doubletrack. Although most of the route is rideable, expect to push/carry your bike at times, depending on your mountain-biking skills, riding confidence and tire choice.
- Land ownership and permitted uses vary along the Monumental Loop. Be aware of this while you are riding the loop and follow any necessary rules and regulations.



Bikepackers on the Monumental Loop camp for the night in the desert.

in the winter,” he said. “The idea is to showcase everything that makes Doña Ana County a great place to be and visit. The trail starts on Las Cruces Plaza. It goes past the highlights in the county, including Hatch, the Pat Garret gravesite. If you do the whole thing, you come away with a good idea of the history, culture and landscape of the area.”

As locals see the response from across North America, with mountain-bikers coming into the area from all over, they are joining in to travel the monument, Mason said.

“It's super rewarding for me,”

he said. “There are people that have been here their whole lives and I have shown them things that they didn't know existed.”

A map of the loop is available on [bikepacking.com/routes/monumental-loop/](http://bikepacking.com/routes/monumental-loop/), and Mason has his own map at [ridewithgps.com/routes/18185826](http://ridewithgps.com/routes/18185826).

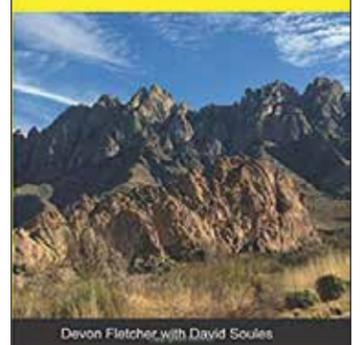
“It's a great place to have a mountain bike,” Mason said. “With a bike you can see almost any corner of the monument. It's a fun way to do it and cost effective.”

Looking for other trail information? Devon Fletcher and David Soules wrote and pub-



Getting an early start. (Photos courtesy Monumental Loop)

### Exploring Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument



lished “Exploring Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument” in late 2018 to guide visitors to the ancient sites, historic places and silent corners of the monument. The 213-page book details 56 hikes into the monument's mountain ranges and includes a map of each hike, its length, duration, difficulty and elevation change, as well as the driving time and vehicle terrain to reach it.

Contact Fletcher at [dev-fletcher@msn.com](mailto:dev-fletcher@msn.com) or visit [www.organmountains.org](http://www.organmountains.org) for more.

COMMUNITY WARRIOR • MICHAEL SHINABERY

# A Well-Earned Retirement

## Optometrist, legislator Terry Marquardt legacy of caring

As a young man, Terry Marquardt began preparing for his future. He studied pre-med at the University of New Mexico, then earned his doctorate at the Southern College of Optometry. Post-doctoral and specialization training followed, and Marquardt completed board certification as a Diplomate, America Board of Optometry, specializing in glaucoma and contact lenses.

Then, on election day in 1994, Marquardt took the District 53 New Mexico state representative seat, besting the popular incumbent by 1,213 votes. He went on to serve for 12 years of reelections as he stood up for his community and southern New Mexico.

When Marquardt retired in late 2020 from his medical office in Alamogordo, he had a lot of memories to take off the walls. A signed photograph of him with President George W. and First Lady Laura Bush, framed images alongside notable persons from around the state and around the country, certificates and plaques denoting his many individual honors and recognitions as a legislator, signed artwork from Alamogordo native Jeff Griggs, the original which was presented to President Bush after 9-11, and thank you certificates from those who appreciated what Marquardt had done for them, their families, and their organizations both politically and medically.

It was from his father, Dr. Oscar Marquardt (an optometrist as well), that Terry Marquardt learned the important thing about life: Get involved in your community and give back.

"My dad was a civic leader," Marquardt said. "He helped to start the Boys and Girls Club in Alamogordo, and served as pres-

ident of the local Parent Teacher Association. He was a founder of the first Lutheran Church here. He coached Little League and American Legion baseball, and his teams won state championships."

For many sons, that would be a tough act to follow. For Marquardt, however, Dad was an example to live up to.

When he retired in late 2020, Marquardt left his own decades-long legacy of compassion and altruism, all the way from the streets of Alamogordo to the halls of Santa Fe's Roundhouse.

The list of organizations Marquardt felt worthwhile to lend his time, talents and energy to is a long one. In addition to sitting on the boards of many organizations, he coached youth in basketball, baseball and swimming. He was congregational president and elder at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and taught Sunday school and confirmation classes.

Marquardt was active in professional organizations as well earning Optometrist of the Year and People First awards.

Marquardt's accomplishments didn't go unnoticed. Before long, he was named as an Outstanding Young Man in America, and to Who's Who in the West.

Alamogordo High School graduated Marquardt in 1967. While there, he was active in baseball, worked as a lifeguard and played in the Tiger band.

He never has set down his instrument. Marquardt's musical ability has seen him wailing on his sax on stages around Alamogordo, at UNM and with New Mexico State University-Alamogordo's Jazz Band. It even took him to New York City to belt out rock-'n'-roll with EyeRock, at the Hard Rock Cafe.



Terry Marquardt at his Alamogordo optometry practice. (Courtesy photo)

### Off to Santa Fe

In late 1993, Marquardt set his sights on becoming a state representative. A conservative, he had several goals in wanting to serve District 53. They included addressing excessive taxation.

He felt New Mexico could better use the state's abundant natural resources, improve public education and healthcare and be more financially accountable.

"That's the platform I ran on," he said.

Over the next 12 years in Santa Fe he set about accomplishing what he'd promised.

Marquardt sponsored bills that addressed crime. He tackled education, healthcare, water, energy, teen pregnancies, juvenile justice reform and Spaceport America. His educational appropriations ran the spectrum of need.

He succeeded in acquiring funds to upgrade U.S. 54 and 70 from two to four lanes (both were notorious for vehicle accidents), and for the U.S. 54/70/82 Relief Route around Alamogordo.

For energy, in 2001 Marquardt learned of massive deposits of natural gas underneath southern Otero County, near El Paso, in a wilderness area known as Otero Mesa. He proposed the state build a gas-fired, electric-generating plant.

ping his fellow House lawmakers, no matter their side of the aisle, onto a basketball court for an annual game that raised thousands of dollars for charitable causes.

### End of an era

During his dozen years in Santa Fe, Marquardt paid attention to every community, no matter the size, in his District 53. Even rural newspaper columnist Oza Holcomb lauded him in her syndicated column, "Piñon News," for getting \$100,000 to repair the Piñon Water Users Association lines, and \$150,000 to overhaul roads in Timberon.

"It has been reported that Mr. Marquardt worked very hard for the Piñon and Timberon people in these troubles," she wrote.

For many years there was a standing, oft-recited mantra in southern New Mexico that politicians in Santa Fe only cared about the territory north of I-40 in Albuquerque.

"We made them very aware that we are here in southern New Mexico," Marquardt said.

Eventually, the funding he allocated or passed in conjunction with his peers to bring home, reached into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Marquardt walked the marbled halls where so many famous names and faces had gone before him. He'd gotten there because those to whom he'd generously given his time and talents in Alamogordo and Otero County appreciated him for treating them just as importantly as those he'd rubbed shoulders with in the state's and nation's capitols.

It wasn't that hard, actually. Marquardt's philosophy was really nothing more than what he'd learned from watching his dad walk the walk.

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# Arts and Culture

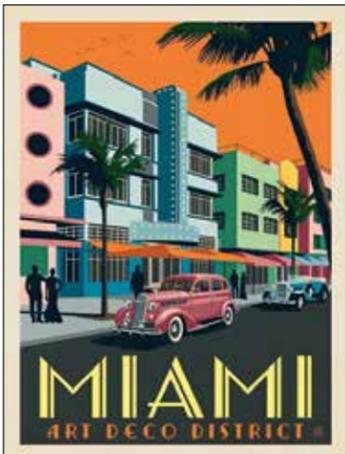
## Doña Ana Arts Council hosts online classes

The Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC) is hosting new art and culture online courses for 2021 focusing on world art, Mesoamerican Art, great Mexican artists, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, the art of Japan and Henry Trost's architectural legacy in Las Cruces and El Paso.

Register online at [www.daarts.org/classes-workshops](http://www.daarts.org/classes-workshops) or by calling DAAC at 575-523-6403.

The cost is \$5 per class or free of charge for DAAC members who have joined at the Heart for Art level (\$101 annually) or higher.

All classes will be recorded



Art Deco Miami (Photos courtesy of Kathleen Albers, Doña Ana Arts Council)

Here are the courses to be offered:

- **World Art Parts II and III**, Kathleen Key, 5:30-7 p.m., Mondays through June 21. No classes will be held May 3 or May 10. Part II of World Art starts with the Far East, then the Renaissance in Europe and goes through the 19th century. Part III covers Mesoamerican and Native American art and 20th-century art to the present.



World Art: Indian dancer

The courses will cover art in Europe, North America, China, Japan, Islam, Africa, Oceania and Native America.

- **Mesoamerican Art**, Nicholas Dahle, 5:30-7 p.m., Thursdays, through Feb. 25. Before the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century, the Americas were home to rich cultures that produced great works of art in clay, gold, stone, shell and feathers. These works of art reveal fascinating facts about the lives and beliefs of people

in ancient Mesoamerica.

- **Art Nouveau**, Kathleen Key, six weeks, 1:30-3 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 26-March 2. Art Nouveau as a movement was brief in years, from 1890-1910, and encompassed architecture, painting, sculpture, decorative arts, furniture, jewelry, fashion, textiles, graphic arts, advertising, photography and more. It was also an international movement that reached all the continents.

- **The Art of Japan**, Nicholas Dahle, 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesdays, March 3-April 7. Explore the artwork of the Land of the Rising Sun. Learn about Japan's rich cultural traditions and its various art forms: painting, theater, fashion, ceramics, gardens, architecture, sculpture and more.

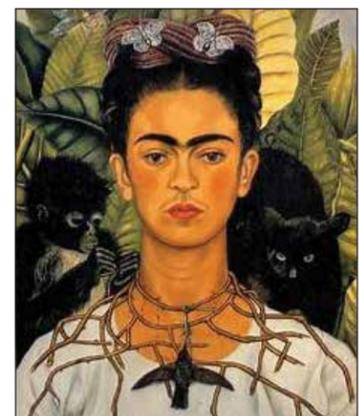
- **Great Mexican Artists of the 20th and 21st Centuries**, Kathleen Key, 5:30-7 p.m., Thursdays, March 4-April 8. Some of the world's greatest artists were and are from Mexico: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Jose Clement Orozco and Remedios Varo, to name a few. The last lecture in the series will cover contemporary artists like Carlos Amorales, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Minerva Cuevas, Teresa Margolles and Julian Gallan.

- **Art Deco**, Kathleen Key, 1:30-3 p.m., Tuesdays, March

9-April 13. The years for Art Deco were approximately 1900-40, and similar to the Art Nouveau movement, it was a total art period encompassing architecture, painting, sculpture, fashion, jewelry, graphic arts, advertising, decorative arts and furniture, including utilitarian objects such as ocean liners, cars, radios and vacuum cleaners, all in the Art Deco style.

- **Trost's Architectural Legacy in Las Cruces and El Paso**, Nicholas Dahle, 5:30-7 p.m., Wednesdays, April 14-May 5. Henry C. Trost was chief designer to the architectural firm Trost & Trost. From 1903-33, he designed hundreds of buildings in El Paso, Las Cruces and many other southwestern cities. His eclectic mix of styles and architectural skills has left a lasting legacy in both cities that can still be felt today. There will be a "field trip" or drive-by tour of Trost buildings in Las Cruces April 28 and in El Paso May 5.

For course registration or information about DAAC membership, visit [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org). DAAC is located at 250 W. Amador Ave. Call 575-523-6403.



Artists of Mexico: Frida Kahlo

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

# Christmas Eve at the Border

## Every 'drop in the bucket' counts

We left Santa Fe at 8 a.m., my wife, Sherry, and I, with our two tiny dogs huddled in blankets in the back seat, and a bag of sandwiches, apples, nut, brownies plus a cooler with drinks. The temperature was a bitter 11 degrees.

It's about 325 miles to the border wall west of El Paso and Juárez and between Sunland Park, New Mexico and Anapra, Mexico where we hoped to interview and photograph the Mexican soldiers who have been stationed there to keep migrants from crossing.

For a decade, I crossed the border at least once a month to document conditions in the Juárez area as well as tiny Palomas to the west, but I have only crossed once since the pandemic began; this border wall idea was to be a substitute.

It was 46 degrees when we reached the wall area at mid-afternoon and we waited while a lengthy train passed. A Border Patrol officer was parked near the tracks and told us he had been working in this area for 10 years and loved his work. He said migrants are still crossing over the wall with ladders or to the west where the wall ends at the beginning of the rugged slopes of Monte Cristo Rey.

I told him that we were going to follow the narrow dirt road eastward along the wall and look for Mexican soldiers on the other side. Often the Border Patrol will tell us not to do this because it is private property, but he simply said that he would keep an eye on us if there should be trouble.

Several kids from the Anapra side had gathered by the wall and we parked, gave them cash



A Mexican girl peers through the border wall. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

and took photos. The oldest boy was named Victor. Soon, there were eight or nine kids, all reaching out through the bars. Normally we carry a wad of one-dollar bills, but this time we ran out quickly.

At the end of the wall we found eight Mexican soldiers. The lieutenant was from the state of Tabasco, the others from Puebla, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and other states to the south. They appreciated the packets of cookies we brought and enjoyed having someone to talk to and break the monotony, especially when I told them that I too had once been a soldier.

Contradicting the Border Patrol officer, they said that no migrants were crossing the wall. They did add, however, that much of their work was rescuing migrants who were attempting to cross via the very rugged Monte Cristo Rey. For women with chil-

dren or older people, this would be a highly dangerous crossing, only for the truly desperate.

When the lieutenant finally agreed to letting me take photos, he told the others to get their weapons and helmets. Then, as we were leaving, he reached out with his fist for a fist bump.

As we drove back along the wall toward where the boy, Victor, had been, we saw another Border Patrol vehicle and pulled up next to it. The officer was a woman and it was hard to understand her because of her mask and a heavy accent. We assumed she was originally from Mexico, as many of the agents are.

We finally understood, however, that she was not there to patrol. Her area was closer to El Paso. She was actually there to give cash to the kids on the Anapra side and their families.

I have been to Anapra many times, helped build a home there with a group from St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, participated in an Operation Christmas Child event with Carlos and Hector Garcia (also from Santa Fe), and cruised through the dirt streets dozens of times looking for photo ops. It is an area of miserable poverty, so Sherry and I found more cash and pooled our efforts with the officer. When my cash was gone, I stood behind her and took photos, careful not to show her face and perhaps get her in trouble, although that seemed unlikely since the officer we first talked to was still parked by the railroad tracks only a hundred yards away and must have known what she was doing.

When her cash was gone, the officer said she would be back on Christmas Day with more.

The crowd at the wall calmed. They believed her and so did we. She gave me her phone number and we'll try to team up with her again on another visit.

This encounter was the highlight of our near-700-mile roundtrip. Yes, you can argue that handing a few dollars through the border wall is just a drop in the bucket, you can say that we need "structural reform"

but I believe that we all ought to do the best we can, even if the amount is small. We ought to be like this woman officer, out there alone on Christmas Eve, showing that she cares.

*Morgan Smith has been documenting border conditions for the last decade and can be reached at [Morgan-smith@comcast.net](mailto:Morgan-smith@comcast.net).*

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A woman Border Patrol officer giving cash to Mexican children on Christmas Eve.

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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings. We are asking restaurants to pay a small fee for listing their information. Restaurant advertisers already on contract with Desert Exposure receive a free listing. For other establishments, listings with essential information will be \$36 a year and expanded listings, up to 10 lines, will be \$48 a year. To buy a listing in Red or Green?,

contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614.

We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except

as specified.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up to date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email editor@desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!

## GRANT COUNTY

### Silver City

\* **ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 619 N. Bullard St., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D; **P I O T I O**  
\* **CACTUS JACKS**, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L. **T I O DEL**

\* **CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only. **P T I O**

\* **CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D. **T I O**

**COURTYARD CAFÉ**, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.

**DIANE'S RESTAURANT**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D,

Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

**DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI**, The Hub, Suite A, 601 N. Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, pastries, sandwiches, deli: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday L.

**DON JUAN'S BURRITOS**, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

\* **DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout. **T I O**

\* **FORREST'S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m. **T I O D I T**

\* **FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D. **T I O DEL**

\* **GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. **P T I O**

\* **GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D. **D I T T I O**

**GRINDER MILL**, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.

**HONEEBEEGOODS "A Smudge of Fudge,"** 714-515-0832. Dessert Catering. Specialty Bakery and more! Honeebegoods.com. 7 Days a Week.

**JALISCO CAFÉ**, 103 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

\* **JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse. **T I O**

**JUMPING CACTUS**, 503 N. Bullard St., 654-7367. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.

**KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.

\* **LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D. **T I O D I T C I S**

\* **LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **C I S**

**LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT**, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.

\* **LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Monday to Sunday L D. **P T I O**

**MI MEXICO VIEJO**, 202 E Broadway St. Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.

\* **MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D. **T I O**

**NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ**, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

**PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.

\* **Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D. **P T I O**

\* **REVEL**, 304 N. Bullard St., 388-4920. Elevated comfort food. Weekdays LD, weekends BD, closed Wednesdays. **T I O**

\* **SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: Daily L D. **T I O**.

\* **SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson St., 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D. **D I T**

\* **SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1212 E. 32nd St., 388-2927. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only. **D I T**

**TAPAS TREE**, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 597-8272. Monday to Thursday L, Friday and Saturday L D (closes at 4 p.m.).



Update of open restaurants and services being offered.

\* = Open; C/S = Curb Side; DEL = Delivery; D/T = Drive Through; P = Patio; T/O = Take Out

\* **TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L **P T I O**.

\* **WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D. **P T I O**  
**Cliff**

**Duck Creek Café**, U.S. Highway 180, Cliff, 535-4500. Visit Duck Creek Café on Facebook. RVs/Big Rigs welcome, Wednesday to Saturday LD, Sunday LD. "Bring home cooking to your table"

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY

### Las Cruces & Mesilla

**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.

\* **ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D. **P T I O**

\* **ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **DEL P T I O**

\* **AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD. **DEL P T I O**

**THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.

\* **A BITE OF BELGIUM**, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgian and American food: Daily B L. **P C I S**

\* **BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D. **C I S DEL T I O**

**BRAVO'S CAFÉ**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

\* **BURGER NOOK**, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding greenchile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D. **T I O**

\* **BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer. **T I O**

**CAFÉ DON FELIX**, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**CHACHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Locust St.-A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.

\* **CHILITOS**, 2405 S. Valley Drive, 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D. **C I S DEL D I T**

\* **CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D. **C I S DEL D I T**

\* **DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, 245 N. Main St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D. **C I S**

\* **PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D. **P T I O**

\* **DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D. **P T I O**

\* **DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D. **C I S P**

\* **DION'S PIZZA**, 3950 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3434. Pizza: L D. **DEL D I T**

\* **DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. **P T I O**

\* **EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D. **P T I O**

\* **ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D. **T I O**

**FARLEY'S**, 3499 Foothills Road, 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.

**FIDENCIO'S**, 800 S. Telshor Blvd., 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.

\* **THE GAME BAR & GRILL**, 2605 S. Espina St., 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D. **P T I O**

\* **THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL**, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263. Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D. **P T I O**

\* **GARDUÑO'S**, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D. **P T I O**

**GO BURGER DRIVE-IN**, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005, 524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Specializing in relleno burritos and other mexican food.

**GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.

\* **GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D. **D I T T I O**

\* **HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D. **P T I O**

\* **HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. **C I S P**

\* **HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D. **P T I O**

**JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.

\* **KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D. **P T I O**

\* **LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L. **T I O**

\* **LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B. **P T I O**

\* **LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B. **P T I O**

\* **LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L. **T I O**

\* **LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday. **C I S DEL T I O**

\* **LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D. **C I S DEL T I O**

\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D. **C I S T I O**

\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D. **C I S T I O**

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TABLE TALK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Sipping Tea at the Old Barrel

## Ruidoso company expands across three states

You can travel the world for some exotic tastes, or you can visit the Old Barrel Tea & Spice Company in Mesilla. With teas and international spices carrying the flavors of South Africa, South America, Japan and Serbia to a little store in southern New Mexico, every visit becomes an adventure.

But the true flavor of this little company, founded in Ruidoso, is all about the southwest. An all-woman owned franchise with seven locations, the Mesilla store was opened in July 2017 by Morgan Switzer. It was the fourth one after Ruidoso, Cloudcroft and Albuquerque. Now, there are Old Barrels in Colorado and Arizona as well.

"I've always wanted to own a tea shop," Switzer said. "I've always gone to tea shops with girlfriends. Growing up we would have tea parties. When we graduated from high school, we had a high tea."

So, when she was contemplating a new business venture, thinking about opening her own tea shop, Switzer turned to her friends in Ruidoso and found everything she needed in their company.

"I love tea, I love wellness, I love honey," she said. "Talking with them, it made sense to work with their company. They had years of figuring out what worked and what didn't. They make sure their sources are fair trade. And they were becoming a recognizable brand."

Employee Crystal Franklin started as a customer at the Mesilla store when it was still on Calle del Santiago. Now the store has moved to 2290 Calle De Parian, and Franklin has had a job there for two years.

"I came here as a customer for spices and still use them till this day," she said.

Franklin said each Old Barrel location showcases something in the area from other local businesses. For example, the Golden, Colorado, store brings into the group a caramel company using honey as their caramel base. New Mexico companies are featured as well.

Switzer said the store has a focus on wellness and having fun.

"It's about just enjoying wonderful flavors, new creations and all the good effects of teas, tea things, raw unfiltered honeys and, of course, spices," she said. "We all like to cook and play around with different things. So, it's just taking a fun approach to a healthy lifestyle that is approachable."

Loose leaf tea has been around for thousands of years, she said. The store sees a lot of people who have never tried loose-leaf tea before, so Switzer and her employees walk them through it and make it approachable so it's not overwhelming.

"We want to make everyone



In Mesilla, Old Barrel Tea & Spice Company's owner Morgan Switzer enjoys the aromatic ambiance of her business. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

who comes in feel welcome and warm," she said. "Obviously we have a website, but we want people to call us or visit us so we can talk to them. We go through brewing tips and tell them if they go home and have questions please call us."

In an Albuquerque warehouse Paola Huffmon serves as master mixologist. Also a blendologist, she creates essential oil blends.

"She comes up with fantastic things and we get to try them, play around with them," Switzer said.

One of Switzer's contributions to the creation of tea mixes was the inspiration of pecans.

"I wanted to do something with pecans because we are in pecan country and so we came up with a Pecan Pie Puerh, which we debuted at the very first pecan festival," she said. "It was fantastic, everybody loved it. It has actual pieces of pecan, so it's just a really delicious and decadent tea."

Switzer said because it's a puerh, the tea is great for reducing inflammation and excellent following a big meal to help with digestion.

In 2020 the most popular tea overall in the stores turned out to be Lavender Crème Brûlée. She said it has a rooibos base and no caffeine, "so if you have a sweet tooth right before you go to bed at night, this is something that you can enjoy and feel guilt free, it has no calories and it's not going to keep you up."

"Another popular is our prickly pear inspired by our desert vibes," she said. "It's just a really nice fresh bright tea we really enjoy. None of our teas come sweetened in any form or fashion, they are truly just the raw ingredients."

Switzer said the company tries to work with as many New Mexico providers as possible. Because most teas aren't really grown in the United States, much of it is imported. But the teas also sport lavender from Lincoln County lavender farms as well as green and red chile powder from Hatch.

Local honey is available too, sourced from Doña Ana honey farms. Mesilla mesquite is "harvested just right down the road," she said. It's great for building

immunities against allergies and delicious too. People don't realize that honey isn't just something you can put in coffee or tea, Switzer added. It can be used as a face scrub and gets rid of fine lines wrinkles age spots. Full of antioxidants, honey can be a glaze for a pork roast and a topping drizzle for a cake.

"We also sell local products like mugs, mug rugs and greeting cards, offering local craftspeople a venue that they might not be able to have otherwise," she said.

At the back of the store, unique spice blends can be found stacked in pyramids.

We have spice blends you won't find anywhere else," Switzer said. "For example, the Serbian blend is blended by Nena-

da, one of the other owners who is from Serbia. You will not be able to go to the grocery store and find anything like this."

Switzer likes the Serbian blend

on cottage cheese with Himalayan salt, but said it works well on vegetables, pork and chicken too. Vietnamese cinnamon is also found on the spice shelf it is the highest grade of cinnamon on the market, she said.

"The nice thing about our spices is we don't put any anti-caking powder in them so there is

nothing that is a harmful preservative in any of our salts or seasonings," she said.

Of course, the store has all kinds of kettles and teapots, tea sets and individual tea brewing systems. It also offers blended oils and prickly pear syrup, "perfect for a margarita, pancakes, everything."

# IMPORTANT

# PLAN CHANGES

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# The Pendulum Clock

## Commemorating invention

Straddling our southern horizon, the constellation Horologium, the Pendulum Clock, occupies an area of 249-square degrees, making it 58th in size among the 88 official constellations. About a quarter of this constellation is perma-

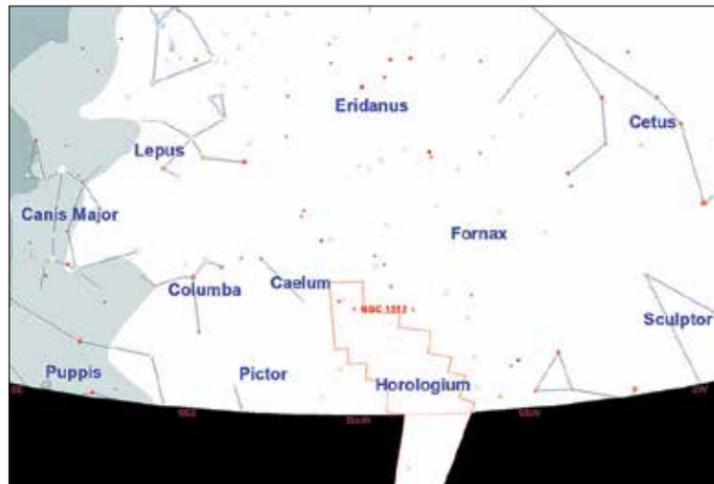
nently below our southern horizon.

As a modern constellation, there is no ancient Greek mythology around it. Pendulum clocks were invented in 1656 by Christiaan Huygens. These clocks could keep time to within fifteen seconds a day, making them the most precise timepieces available at the time. Unfortunately, they must remain stationary or the pendulum will not maintain its accurate swing. This limitation made these clocks useless for maritime usage where accurate time was needed to determine the ship's location with star sightings.

A hundred years later, French astronomer Nicolas Louis de Lacaille travelled to South Africa and spent two years cataloging almost 10,000 stars in the southern sky, stars that were not visible from France. Out of these stars he created 14 constellations that mostly represented scientific instruments. One of these was l'Horloge à pendule & à secondes (Clock with pendulum and seconds hand) announced in 1756, commemorating the pendulum clock's invention. Six years later the name was Latinized to Horologium.

The 11 stars that Lacaille cataloged in this constellation are all fainter than fourth magnitude except the brightest star, Alpha Horologii. At magnitude +3.9, this star is spectral class K2, indicating an orange hued surface. An aged star, Alpha is 11 times the diameter of our Sun and 1.55 times its mass. It has evolved off the main sequence where it was burning hydrogen in its core and it is now burning hydrogen in a sphere around the inert, but very hot, core. This caused the star to expand, allowing the surface to cool to the orange color. This star does not have a formal name.

In the northern end of Horologium is the barred spiral galaxy NGC 1512. This galaxy is thirty million light-years away from us, with a face-on orientation that allows us to easily see its internal structure. NGC 1512 is magnitude +11.1, too faint to be seen with the naked eye, but visible with a medium-sized telescope. The New General Catalog (NGC)



Horologium is a modern constellation representing the pendulum clock. The southernmost quarter of this constellation never rises above the horizon so it is not visible from the desert southwest. There are a number of galaxies here, including the double-ringed, barred spiral galaxy NGC 1512.

which contained the entry for this object was first released in 1888.

Like most galaxies, the nucleus of this galaxy most likely has a black hole at its center. Surrounding the nucleus is a ring of young blue star clusters marking a region where stars are being born at a rapid rate. Blue stars are the most massive stars and they burn through their hydrogen fuel very quickly, so they must have been recently formed. This close-in star formation ring is called a nuclear ring, which in NGC 1512 is 2,400 light-years wide.

The bar in this barred spiral galaxy connects the nuclear ring to the confusingly named inner ring. Some galaxies have three rings, with an outer ring that NGC 1512 does not possess. The inner ring is also a region of rapid star formation with many blue star clusters visible. Dark bands of dust are being pulled out of the inner ring. They flow along the bar and curve inward, passing over the nuclear ring heading for the black hole in the nucleus.

This galaxy is not circular, but is stretched into an ellipse by the gravity of the nearby dwarf galaxy NGC 1510. The long axis of the ellipse points toward the dwarf galaxy. The bar in NGC 1512 is also aligned with this dwarf galaxy.

The dwarf galaxy's gravity probably caused both rings to form, possibly when it passed through the larger galaxy. These two galaxies have been interacting for at least 400 million years. While the two galaxies are 45,000 light-years apart now, the dwarf galaxy will eventually pass through its neighbor a few more times before it is com-

pletely shredded and incorporated into NGC 1512, making this barred-spiral galaxy even larger and leaving it alone in space.

### The Planets for February 2021

Mars is the only planet left in our evening sky. Seventy-two degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets dark, this planet shines at magnitude +0.7 as it slowly moves away from us. The increasing distance has shrunk the disc to 7.0 seconds-of-arc across. The God of War moves from central Aries to western Taurus this month. It sets around 12:30 a.m.

Venus has left the morning sky, moving downward into the Sun's glare. Meanwhile, Jupiter and Saturn are moving upward away from the Sun and they will become visible on the east-southeastern horizon in the last half of the month. By the end of the month, Jupiter's disc will be 33.0 seconds-of-arc across as it shines at magnitude -2.0. Saturn's Rings are 34.7 seconds-of-arc across and they will be tilted down 18.6 degrees with the northern face showing. Saturn's disc will be 15.3 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude +0.7.

Both planets are moving eastward in central Capricornus, with Jupiter moving more quickly, increasing its separation from Saturn. Saturn rises around 5 a.m. and Jupiter follows 30 minutes later. As it starts to get light, Saturn will be 11 degrees above the horizon while Jupiter is just six degrees above the horizon.

After last month's appearance in the evening sky, Mercury ap-

STARRY DOME

continued on page 20

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# Grant County Weekly Events

**SUNDAYS**  
**Archaeology Society** — 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.  
**Cocaine Anonymous** — allwaterman@yahoo.com.

**MONDAYS**  
**AARP Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County** Contact Sally, 537-3643.  
**AI-Anon family group, New Hope** Contact: 313-7891.  
**Grant County Federated Republican Women** — 313-7997.  
**Meditation for Beginners** — Jeff, 956-6647. www.lotuscentersc.org.  
**Silver City Squares** — Kay, 956-7186 or Linda 590-1499.  
**Silver Chorale** — Contact Anne, 288-6939.  
**Southwest New Mexico ACLU** Bob Garrett, 575-590-4809.

**TUESDAYS**  
**Alzheimer's/Dementia Support** Margaret, 388-4539.  
**Bayard Historic Mine Tour** — Call 537-3327 for reservation.  
**Figure/Model Drawing** — Dan Larson, 654-4884.  
**Gilawriters** — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.  
**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group** email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.  
**PFLAG Silver City** — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. 575-590-8797.  
**Republican Party of Grant County** — 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).  
**Slow Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
**Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild** — Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.  
**Westerners Corral** — Jody Bailey-Hall at: Jody\_bailey88045@

yahoo.com or call 575 342-2621 and leave a message.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**AI-Anon family group** — Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: 313-7891.  
**Archaeology Society** — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.  
**Babytime Sing & Play** — 538-3672 or ref @silvercitymail.com.  
**Back Country Horsemen** — WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.  
**Brain Injury and Stroke Support Group** — GRMC Billy Sasper Rehab & Wellness Center, 300 E. 16th St., Silver City.  
**A Course in Miracles** — Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**Future Engineers** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Gin Rummy** — corner of Yankee and Texas Streets in Silver City.  
**Grant County Democratic Party** — Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.  
**Ladies Golf Association** — Silver City Golf Course.  
**Prostate Cancer Support Group** — 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**Storytime** — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
**Yoga for happiness** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 574-5451.

**THURSDAYS**  
**Blooming Lotus Meditation** — Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.  
**De-stressing Meditations** — New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.  
**Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society** — Memory Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.  
**Historic Mining District & Tourism**

**Meeting** — Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

**Little Artist Club** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**TOPS** — First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

**WildWorks Youth Space** — Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

**FRIDAYS**  
**Overeaters Anonymous** — First United Methodist Church. 654-2067.

**Silver City Woman's Club** — 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Lucinda, 313-4591.

**Women's AI-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery** — La Clinica Health and Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop, Silver City. Contact:313-7891.

**SATURDAYS**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip"** —First United Methodist Church.

**Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition** — Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839.

**Kids Bike Ride** — Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.

**Narcotics Anonymous** — New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

**Vinyasa Flow Yoga** — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to [events@desertexposure.com](mailto:events@desertexposure.com).

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

'A Horse's Prayer'

'A Horse's Prayer'

Finding treasure in the boxes in the closet

Like so many people over the past year of living life mostly at home, we've been staring at a closet full of boxes that seem to have been there forever. In our case, these boxes date back to 2006, the day the moving van delivered our household from the Northwest. With no obvious place to put the boxes based on what the contents were labeled to be, they were hidden away for future examination after we were settled. Who knew that would take 14 years?

I didn't think I'd find any horse gems in the pile. As is the case with most horse owners, I unpacked all of that as soon as we arrived. I wanted to make sure all the knowledge and sources I'd accumulated during my horse journey over the past 25 years were handy as I planned to re-start my training business here

in Silver City as soon as my horses arrived and adjusted to their new environment, one that was so different from their previous home with views of the ocean, lush surroundings and barely a few feet above sea level.

A single sheet of paper fell out of an old photo album that had pictures from my first exposure to natural horsemanship, way back in the late 1980s at a ranch in Colorado. This ranch eventually became the Colorado Center for Equestrian Learning, and we would visit it eight more times to study and develop our skills after we decided to make horses our primary interest and eventually our life's work.

The owner of the ranch was a master horseman who admitted that even though he'd been riding as long as he'd been walking, he was just beginning to understand the true nature of

horses and how to teach them in better ways. I knew less than nothing at that point, and was really only there because my wife loved horses and it seemed like a beautiful place to spend a week of vacation time. Nevertheless, I spent a lot of time talking to him about horses and what made them so special for so many people.

Maybe he sensed that horses would become more important in my life down the road. For whatever reason, he handed me this sheet of paper and said it had always been a guiding light in his pursuit of better horsemanship, and that it made even more sense as he went deeper into the philosophies of natural horsemanship. He didn't know where it came from or who wrote it. He felt at the time, and I agree years later after finding this again, that virtually every important aspect

of good horsemanship applied in natural ways and responsible horse ownership are contained in these words.

I missed the January edition of this paper, and I'm sorry I didn't stumble on this piece in time as it would have been a good way to start the New Year. I'm a month late, but horses don't know that, so for all horse owners and lovers here is "A Horse's Prayer," a wonderful way to start '21 with your equine partner.

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship and foundation training. You can contact him at [hsthomson@msn.com](mailto:hsthomson@msn.com) or 575-388-1830.



Give me time to know what you want of me. I don't understand your words.

Don't be angry with me when I do not understand. I have only you to explain things to me.

Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice.

Be aware that however you treat me, I will not forget it.

Keep me safe from harm, because I am no longer wild and able to know my enemies.

Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could crush the bones in your hand and hooves that could kill you. But I choose not to use them, unless I feel my life depends on it.

Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if I am well or if something may be bothering me.

My life is likely to last 20 to 30 years. Please make sure that I am taken care of because I cannot take care of myself.

Go with me on difficult journeys. Don't say "I can't stand to watch it" or "let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there.

Place your trust in me, and I will trust you.

STARRY DOME

continued from page 18

appears on the east-southeastern horizon around mid-month, not far from Jupiter and Saturn. This speedy little planet passes four degrees north of Jupiter on February 15. It never reaches Saturn, since it stops on Feb. 20 before turning around and beginning to head

back toward the Sun. On that day the Messenger of the Gods' disc is 9.2 seconds-of-arc across and it is a crescent that is 26 percent illuminated. It rises around 5:30 a.m. and it is almost eight degrees above the east-southeastern horizon as it gets light. This month Mercury travels from northeastern Capricornus into southwest Aquarius. It then drifts south back into Capricornus and then turns back eastward to-

ward the Sun. Enjoy the dance between Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn and "keep watching the sky!"

An amateur astronomer for more than 45 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



Calendar of Events – February 2021 (MST)

04	10:37 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
08	7 a.m.	Mercury passes between the Earth and Sun
11	12:05 p.m.	New Moon
15	Morning	Mercury four degrees above and to the left of Jupiter.
19	11:47 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
20	6 a.m.	Mercury stands still
27	1:17 a.m.	Full Moon

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Sterilizing and Cleaning

Our office has always followed infection control recommendations made by the ADA, the CDC, and OSHA and will continue with our already vigilant disinfection/sterilization procedures. All surfaces, instruments, and equipment are sterilized between every patient and as needed throughout your appointment.

Safe Distancing

You will only come into contact with team members who are crucial to your care during your appointment. Patient appointment times have been spaced out to allow for proper distancing and minimal traffic in the office. You will be taken directly into your operator upon arrival and will bypass the front desk and reception area entering and leaving our office.

Air Filtering

We have purchased 5 medical grade air filtration systems to be used throughout our office to keep the air as clean as possible. You might notice other small changes that we've made in our facility and during your care that we deem necessary to keep you safe. Please ask us if you have questions!!

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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

# Tithing

You may find yourself blessed in unexpected ways

Because of our pandemic, not only are many of our families struggling, but also many of the community's nonprofit organizations are struggling to stay open. Thus, the reason for this month's article.

Tithing, as a form of giving, has been practiced for thousands of years. At first, it was an offering freely given for the benefit and welfare of the community. Later, tithes became expected and became the law both in the secular world and in the religious community. A tithe that is not freely given becomes a tax. Many churches today still require members to tithe to their church. Church leaders often point to passages in the Old Testament of the Bible that require people to tithe. However, there is very little in the New Testament that talks about tithing. Basically, Jesus said one should give what they can from their heart.

Tithing and taxes are not the same. We are required to pay taxes by law. Generally, I feel that taxes are a good thing. Without taxes, it would be hard to maintain our country's infrastructure and pay civil servants who run and maintain our towns, states, and country.

The problem I have is that much of the tax money is spent in ways I do not approve of. For instance, more than 50 percent of our taxes support the military. Another big part of our taxes supports often unneeded and bloated bureaucracies. Very little of

our taxes go toward community needs such as low-income housing, universally free medicine and hospital care, free education at all levels, and a basic income for all people. If our taxes went for these things, we would pretty much eliminate homelessness and hunger. Actually, cutting the spending on our military by half would pay for these programs.

Given that I don't expect Congress and most voters to become enlightened anytime soon, I am going to talk about tithing, why I tithe and why I think tithing is important. Tithing generally means giving 10 percent of your income (usually your net income). However, many people literally don't have enough money after all expenses are paid to actually give 10 percent of their income. Consequently, I think of 10 percent as a goal, not a requirement. Any amount one can give constitutes a start towards tithing.

Since many people don't go to church, or they feel inspired to support nonreligious nonprofits, I feel, personally, that as long as we are donating to causes that benefit our community, both locally and globally, that constitutes giving and a step toward tithing.

When I gave my graduate response speech at WNMU, I realized I had a captive audience of approximately 1,000 people for about 10 minutes. So, instead of giving the tried-and-true speech about how hard we worked for the last three years and how we

are going out in the world to make a difference with our newly earned education, I talked about supporting The Volunteer Center now called The Commons. I talked about how if we all gave just \$10 a month, that would give The Commons \$10,000 a month.

Most of the people in the audience had enough income that if they set up an automatic withdrawal of \$10 a month from their bank, they would never miss it. However, The Commons would increase the work they do by almost tenfold. For those who are not aware of the programs at The Commons, they work to alleviate hunger, food insecurity, and work toward community sustainability. They have provided food for hundreds of children with their weekend backpack program. I have been supporting The Commons for more than 10 years. My donation is set up with an automatic withdrawal, so I never see it. It just is automatically paid to The Commons every month.

I understand not everyone can afford to do that. That is why I encourage people to donate

what they can to their favorite charity or cause. If all you can give is a "widow's mite" then give it cheerfully. If you can't afford to give monetarily, then give by volunteering. One of the things that make Silver City such a wonderful community is the many nonprofit organizations in town. All these organizations and events make Silver City a better place to live, and they all need donations.

I have to come to believe that when we give out of the goodness of our hearts, we receive back in various ways more than we give. When we give, it connects us to our community, not just locally, but worldwide. Nationally, I have given or currently give to The Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Imagination Library, PFLAG, and Smile Train, plus others. These are organizations that are making our world a better place. I give five dollars a month to Wikipedia, they are nonprofit, and I use Wikipedia almost every day. Locally, I support half a dozen nonprofit organizations. When I walk by the Virus Theater or the Gila/Mimbres Radio Station, I like the feeling that I am helping to make

Silver City a better community.

The number of nonprofits that work to make our lives better are numerous. Most, if not all, of these organizations, do not get money through our taxes. They depend completely on grants and donations. If donating to these and other organizations is not something you thought about then please consider the concept of tithing. It will not only make our community a better place, but it will add joy to your life.

This is our community and our world. We need to decide, are we a part of it or just end-users?

*Susan Golightly, 76, stays active riding her bicycles. She earned both a BA and an MA from Western New Mexico University. Both times she was valedictorian, the first time as a man and the second time as a woman. She has lived all over the country and has had more than her share of life changing experiences.*



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#### Introducing



**Marissa Simpson, MSN, FNP**  
Specialty: Family Health  
Location: Silver City Clinic  
Marissa is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She completed her Master of Science in Nursing at Grand Canyon University and is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council. She is passionate about providing quality, compassionate, and conscientious care to patients of all ages. Now accepting new patients.

#### Introducing



**Sarah Haan, PMHNP-BC**  
Specialty: Behavioral Health  
Location: Silver City Clinic  
Sarah graduated from Simmons College with a BA in Political Science. She spent two years in Central America doing volunteer work in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico and Antigua, Guatemala. It was there that she knew she wanted to become a nurse practitioner (NP) to do more to help people. Now as a psychiatric mental health NP, she serves adult and geriatric populations seeking mental health services. Now accepting new patients.

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# Falconry

## Ancient Sport of kings and commoners

“My falcon now is sharp and passing empty; and till she stoops she must not be fully gorged, for then she never looks upon her lure, another way I have to man my haggard to make her come and know her keeper’s call.”

The above words from Shakespeare’s “Taming of the Shrew” doesn’t prove that Shakespeare was a falconer, but it certainly indicates he was familiar with the sport. Macbeth describes a sign of disaster as “A falcon, tow’ring in her pride of place, was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed.” And Juliet compared herself to an untamed hawk when professing her love to Romeo. Shakespeare also used words and phrases from falconry that are still common in the English language today, such as “under your thumb,” “wrapped around my little finger,” “eyes like a hawk,” “hoodwinked,” “in one fell swoop” and “fed up.”

Falconry is described by the North American Falconers Association as “the taking of wild quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of a trained raptor.” And a raptor, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is “a medium-to-large-sized bird (such as a hawk, eagle, owl or vulture) that has a hooked beak and large, sharp talons and feeds wholly or chiefly on meat taken by hunting or on carrion.” In other words, a bird of prey.

Falconry has been around for anywhere from 4,000 to 8,000 years in almost every part of the world. A practice that originated from the need to provide meat for the table, it developed into a sport for both royalty and

peasants. In China, Mongolian soldiers used falconry during military campaigns to supply food and recreation. In Medieval Europe, “gentlemen” learned the skill as youths, and there was even a chart that assigned specific birds by social rank. Golden eagles were reserved for emperors, gyrfalcons for kings, female merlin (pigeon hawks) for the ladies, and old-world kestrels for the lowly knaves, servants and children.

It is possible at this point that you, the reader, are trying to figure out where my sudden interest in falconry has come from. And of course, the answer is from Rose Valley RV Ranch, where one of our newest residents is Christopher Lynn, current anesthesiologist at Gila Regional Medical Center here in Silver City, and master falconer. Originally from South Carolina, Chris was just out of the military about twenty years ago when he became interested in falconry. Now a master falconer and an eagle falconer, he is licensed by the federal government to propagate the birds and has a large breeding chamber at his home in Roswell.

Chris told me raptors are quite common in the United States, with the largest population here in the Southwest. In New Mexico, they tend to nest in the cliffs and hunt on the prairies. They are not endangered and are highly protected by federal and state governments. Unfortunately, at least 80 percent of these birds in the wild die in their first year – electric lines and cars are the major causes of death. Even windmills, so beneficial to human society,

are a danger to raptors.

Falconry has enjoyed a renaissance in recent years. The North American Falconers Association, whose goal is to “encourage the proper practice of the sport of falconry and the wise use and conservation of birds of prey,” records around 2,000 members. The highest density of falconers is in California, but New Mexico has at least 20-30 active falconers. It also has some of the most rigid regulations of any state.

Falconry is one of the most heavily regulated sports in the U.S., and the rules are there to protect the birds. Chris said that New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has been incredible in promoting falconry and has one of the best and most strict regulatory systems in the country. Becoming a licensed falconer takes more than seven years of continual commitment and includes a federal bird biology test and an apprenticeship with a master falconer that lasts at least two years. In New Mexico, apprentices can only legally own one bird at a time and only that of a specific species.

Housing for the birds is tightly controlled and subject to inspection. Among other requirements, the housing space must be as large as a bedroom or a tool shed and contain a bath and a window. So, don’t ever assume these birds live in hovels – I’ve been in apartments in New York City that couldn’t pass the regulations. By law, the birds must be taken from their natural environment during their first year, and many are then released back into the wild after several years, better able to survive because of their falconry training. Chris explained that it is quite easy to tell if a bird has been trained by an expert, and that in the possession of amateurs they can be extremely dangerous. Master falconers won’t sign off on incompetent apprentices, and that signature is required for a license.

Falconers have been instrumental in helping to get certain raptors, such as the peregrine falcon, off the endangered species list. They have also established the Peregrine Fund to help increase population.

A recent campaign for the country’s falconers has been helping to solve the problem that sheep ranchers have long had with raptors, especially golden eagles, attacking their lambs. Through a campaign of information and education for the ranchers, falconers devised a method of humane capture and release, which has been implemented for the past two years. For what he calls the opportunity of a lifetime, Chris has just been chosen by a state lottery of eagle falconers to take part in a capture and release effort in Wyoming. Once the golden eagles have been

captured, Chris’s team will take them at least 200 miles away from the area and release them unharmed, thus mitigating the loss to the ranchers and saving the lives of these most noble creatures that Chris calls the “holy grail of falconry.”

Becoming a falconer is a lifestyle decision requiring time and commitment. Chris believes that falconry is an abstract art and unique sport, and the only way it will continue is through education and the practice of sound conservation principles.

Anyone interested in learning

more about falconry can go online to [nafex.net](http://nafex.net) (North American Falconers Exchange) or contact the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game.

Sheila and husband, Jimmy, have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City since 2012, following five years of wandering from Maine to California. She can be contacted at [skowder@aol.com](mailto:skowder@aol.com).



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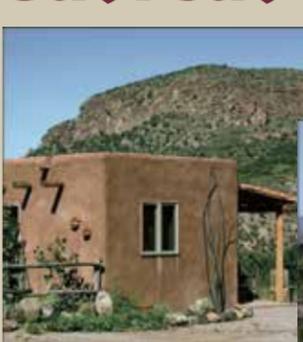
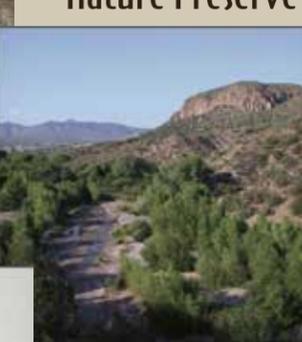




Chris Lynn and his raptor are ready for a good hunt. (Courtesy photo)

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Buck Burn's folkloric mixed-media creations contrast with Chris Alvarez's glowing landscapes, still lives and automobile portraits. (Courtesy photo)



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**SILVER CITY**  
Museum hosts panel discussion with Arte Chicano exhibit creators

The public can now view the Silver City Museum's recently released virtual exhibit, Arte Chicano 2020, and will host a panel discussion about it on Feb. 21. Arte Chicano is viewable at [SilverCity-Museum.Org](http://SilverCity-Museum.Org) under On Exhibit Now, Arte Chicano 2020, or directly at [www.artechicano.online](http://www.artechicano.online).

This is a virtual iteration of the annual Arte Chicano exhibit celebrating local Chicano artists, which participants found has not limited the creative possibilities, but expanded them. It was released at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, making sure that "2020 ended on a positive note."

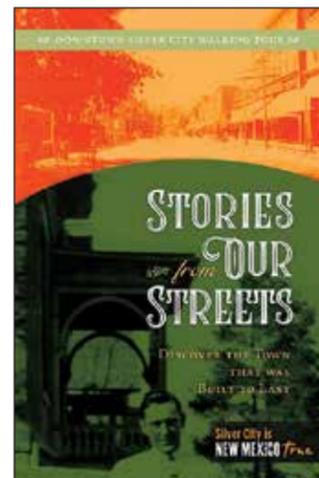
"This is one of the most important exhibits the museum presents," said Museum Director Bart Roselli.

The interactive Arte Chicano website includes photos and videos of the works and the gallery, and interviews with featured artists Chris Alvarez (oil painting) and Buck Burns (mixed media) explaining their work, as well as guest curator Diana Ingalls Leyba talking about conceiving and putting together the exhibit.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, at 1:30 p.m., audiences can join Examining Arte Chicano, a panel discussion with Alvarez, Burns, Ingalls Leyba and contributing staff members Erin Griffith, Jo Lutz and Bart Roselli, to discuss the art, artists, and exhibit.

Info: 575-538-5921, [education@silvercitymuseum.org](mailto:education@silvercitymuseum.org) or [www.silvercitymuseum.org](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org).

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**Stories from Our Streets – The walking tour you can do from home**

Silver City MainStreet offers an opportunity to view and listen to "Stories from Our Streets – Discover the Town Built to Last." This project includes a booklet of 18 different buildings and plaques in front of the buildings. There is also a website with the tour in both print and audio format: [www.DiscoverSilver-CityStories.org](http://www.DiscoverSilver-CityStories.org).

The idea started with Tom Hester and his class of Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) students. The volunteers researched the stories about the people and the buildings.

"The buildings were chosen randomly to cover both sides of Bullard Street and guided by trying to tell the story of a street and the people that occupied the buildings," said idea originator Tom Hester.

"All buildings in a place tell stories. We have seen Bullard Street contain the essential parts of the mining industry, be a major commercial center for offices of professionals, give shelter to automobile agencies and groceries and movie theaters. That larger story, the overall narrative, can often be the one that "makes sense" of the present buildings."

**Silver City Museum in February**

**Feb. 13 – Virtual Territorial Charter Day.** Stay tuned to the Territorial Charter Day Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/STerritorialCharter>, for more details about a city-wide scavenger hunt that will take participants to historic sites around Silver City in their search for clues. There will also be videos, photos, music and historic info.

**Feb. 14, 7 p.m. – Bilingual Storytime:** "The Princess and the Warrior," with Independent Editor Kendra Milligan and artist and community organizer Simon Sotello.

**Feb. 28, 7 p.m. – Bilingual Storytime:** Coyote Tales from the Pueblos: The World Catches Fire, with Larry Smith from the U.S. Forest Service.



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