

# DESERT exposure



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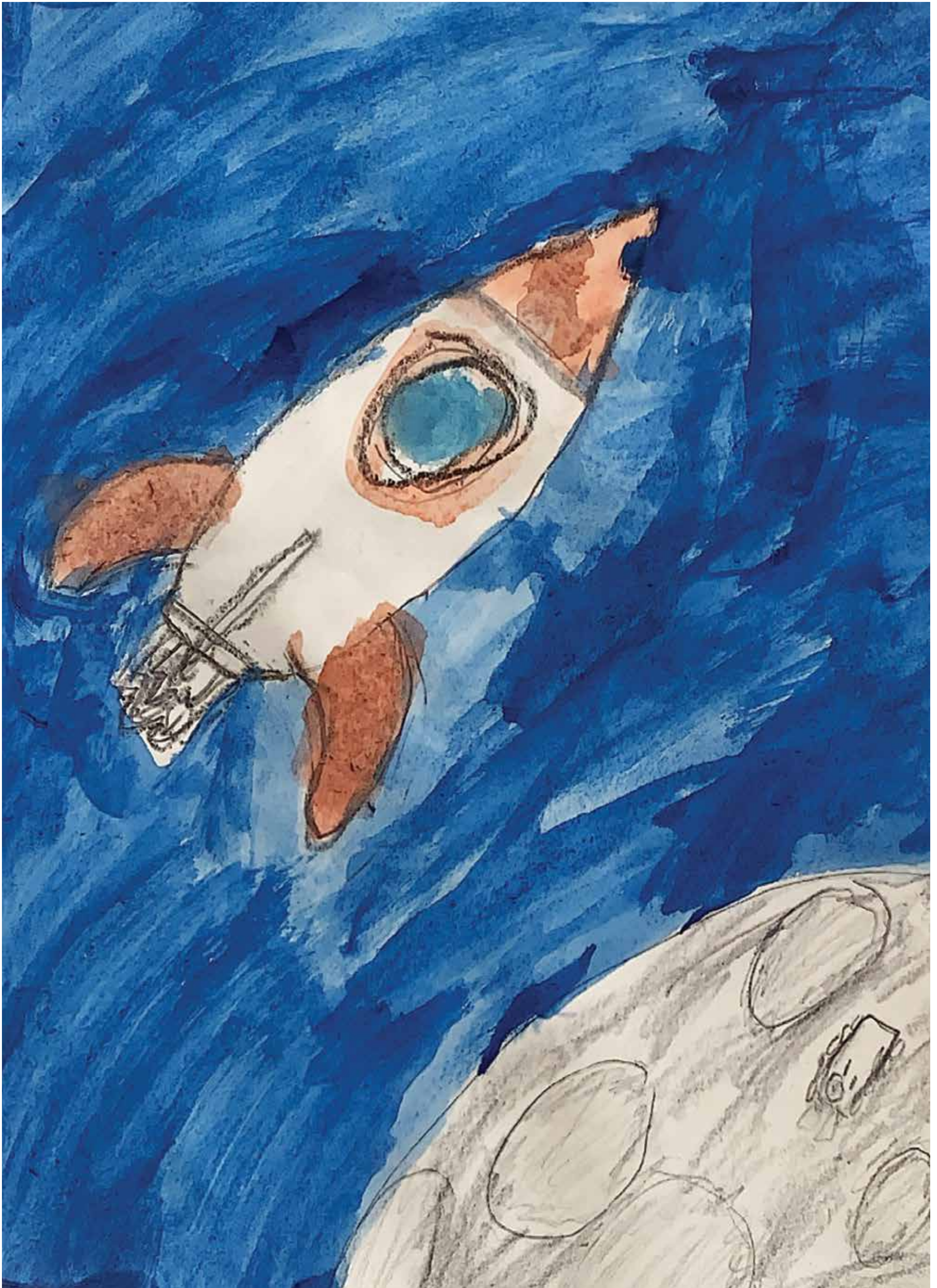


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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

APRIL 2021

Volume 26 • Number 4









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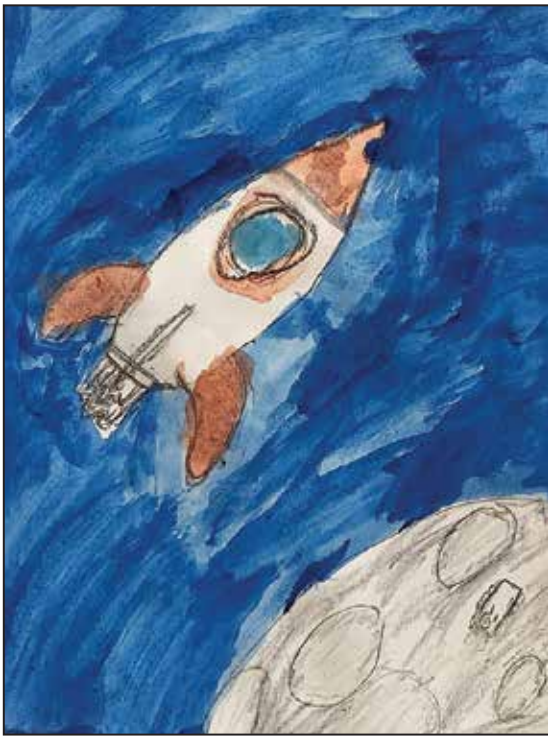
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## ABOUT THE COVER:

Artist Oscar Aguirre, 7, submitted this watercolor piece called "Space Art 2," as part of the "Dawn of Discovery" art show. Aguirre participated in a Doña Ana Arts Council summer Zoom project centered around the show which can be seen online at [lcspacefestival.com/gallery](https://lcspacefestival.com/gallery). The April Las Cruces Space Festival has gone virtual this year, and anyone interested can check out the events happening April 9-11 at [lcspacefestival.com](https://lcspacefestival.com). Some of the artwork can also be seen in person at the Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery, 750 W. Amador Ave., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

## POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com) or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Visit Desert Exposure online at  
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Desert #58  
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)

"DZDH EWODQ OCD LENO XDEQ OCEO CEN WPQVDU KN OP NCDFODQ GH  
LFEVD, CPLD GN OCDQD, NFPYFX QGNNGHI OP OCD NKQWEVD FGTD  
OCD NLQGGHI WFPYDQN YD THPY YGFF VPRD." - NCDGFE NPYUDQ

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

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

Previous Solution: "WE WANTED TO CREATE A SHOW THAT CELEBRATES AMERICAN MUSIC AND BRINGS IT HOME TO BEAUTIFUL NEW MEXICO." - NMSU'S KEN C. PETERSON, ON HIS TV SHOW "BANDS OF ENCHANTMENT" \*Secret Words: "PLUCKING HARVEST"

Congrats to #57 solvers : David Kinder\*, Mike Arms\*, Skip Howard\*, Shorty Vaiza\* and Will Adams\*!



RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# Feeding the Dog

‘We love being bad, ’cause it sure feels good’

Every morning my father goes for a walk, rain or shine.

Even when he doesn't want to go, he'll go. He's so stubborn, he irritates himself.

Sometimes our conversations will sound like this:

"Man, I really don't feel like going on my walk this morning."

"Why don't you take a break?"

"A break from what?"

"From your walk."

"Why would I want to do that?"

"I mean, if you're not feeling good."

"Who said I'm not feeling good?"

"You did."

"I said I didn't feel like going on my walk. I didn't say I didn't feel good. They're not the same thing."

He has a point, I guess. I just wish he wouldn't make it with an Are-you-nuts? look on his face.

If he's feeling spry, he'll even go on an afternoon walk.

Today, just before dinner, that's what he did.

"I want to build up an appetite," he explained on his way out.

It was a little warm, 79 degrees, and sunny. He went out wearing an old t-shirt, a very old gray sweater, and downright ancient sweatpants. He also wore some very new state-of-the-art

walking shoes that he says make his feet hurt and have shoelaces that he insists don't work. On days when it's cold, he'll go out wearing a t-shirt and Speedos. Just kidding. He puts on flip-flops, too. The point is, he always wears the opposite of what the weather calls for. We no longer tell him when it's hot outside or cold or if there's an earthquake in progress. He's old enough to make his own bad decisions.

When he returned, my beautiful wife had something cold for him to drink.

"But not too cold," he's warned her before, and she makes sure it's a non-heart-attack-inducing temperature. She's thoughtful that way.

Taking the glass, he didn't bother offering a thank you. Instead, he helped himself to a nice, long drink.

"Oh, yeah" he said, "that hit the spot."

I'm sure it did.

"Where did you buy the orange juice?" he asked my wife.

"Costco," she told him. "Did you like it?"

She was expecting a positive response, especially with the enthusiasm he showed drinking it.

"It's not as good as the one you used to buy," he griped.

The one we used to buy is the exact same brand. We've bought this particular orange juice since there've been orange trees. Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but we've bought it for at least as long as when my father moved in with us.

To make a long story short, my father sat himself down at the table and waited for his dinner. My wife's a good cook – in fact, she's a great cook – but she's not our maid.

"I don't mind serving him," my wife has told me.

"Yeah, but I mind," I want to tell her back, but why open that

particular can of worms?

After serving my father, she turned her attention to our grandson who was spending the day with us. He's a toddler and requires less attention than my father does. What he mainly does is toddle around with a big smile on his face. He's a happy kid. I could see my wife had her hands full, so I served myself.

For an old guy, my father was shoveling down his food like the guy in charge of feeding coal into a steam locomotive's firebox. He didn't even bother to look up when he told my wife, "Don't worry about feeding my dog, I'll do it," which was code for: "Aren't you going to feed my dog?"

I looked at my wife. She was looking at me. We both looked at my father. He was looking at his empty plate, waiting for seconds and making no move toward getting up to feed his new best friend. She gives me a smile before answering him.

"I'll feed him as soon as I'm done feeding the baby," she told him.

"If you insist," my father said.

"I'll get it," I told her, getting up. I leaned closer and whispered in her ear, "But it's gonna cost you."

I gave her a lascivious wink and walked off to fill the dog's bowl.

"What'd he say?" my father asked my wife when he thought I couldn't hear.

"He said he's going to feed your dog," she answered.

"No," he said, "the other thing."

"What other thing?"

My father was going to say something else but stopped when I walked back into view.

"Oh... nothing," he said.

He wanted to know what I whispered in my wife's ear, but

FEED DOG

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# DESERT exposure

## May Deadlines

Friday, April 16 at 11AM: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS  
• ABE VILLARREAL

# The Tamale Maker Next Door

Some traditions might be uncomfortable

A couple of times of week, a man shows up at my place of work. He's a modest looking person, and the only thing he has on him is a lunch pail. He walks from building to building on our campus, and doesn't bother anyone but most people know why he's there – he's selling amazing lunch items.

Sometimes he has delicious homemade tamales made by his wife. Other times he has hot soups, or caldos, with crackers. He's been visiting us for years and still not everyone knows his name, but most do love his food.

On Saturdays, outside the town's central park and on the main boulevard, if you're taking a morning stroll, you might bump into a woman with a luggage cart. She's up to the same thing as that man at work. She doesn't have a sign. Literally no bells or whistles, but we know what she's all about. She's selling some homemade burritos.

Once in a while, outside the gas station, another person appears. This time a man with baked goods – empanadas and galletas. Anyone that passes by knows his stuff must be good because the aroma is heavenly. Yet, on most days, most people that come across these folks are too busy to stop and say hello or to even take notice that someone is there.

I find myself guilty of this regularly. These days, it's hard to focus on what makes us uncomfortable. It's easier to look the other way, to be dismissive. We don't want to do it, but we live in a society that has created walls around the very way of life that existed for generations. Those humble vendors, for some reason, make some of us feel uncomfortable.

The lady that was raised to spend hours making those most perfect tamales should reap the rewards of her labor, so she sells them. It's the kind of stuff people have done in villages, towns and even cities, forever.

Now, it's hard to do because of the unintended consequences of rules, laws and regulations meant to protect us. Did she prepare it in a commercial kitchen? What are the ingredients? Are the items refrigerated? Does she have a permit to sell them? Who is she?

I'm lucky to live in a small community, where we accept that people of economically disadvantaged backgrounds have the human right to provide for themselves. I would love to see these hard-working business people all over town, on every corner. From tamales to homemade scarfs, what a beauty it would be to see community members showcasing their talents while being accepted by the rest of us.

They can make a buck or two and go home knowing that the community they walk each day is really their community.

City economic development offices are always looking for vendors to call their place home. They help facilitate farmers markets. They wave fees as incentive for money makers to relocate and open up shop. I think they should hire one of these tamale makers extraordinaire as their marketing directors. A person of the streets that knows the people of the streets.

The walls we put up to protect ourselves have sadly pushed others out. We set up rules to make money in a process that restricts the participation of people who are trying to make money themselves. We don't mean to, but we divide our community, leaving out the have nots to appeal to those that have.

So, the next time, I see that guy whose name I don't know but whose product I do love, I'm going to make sure I buy a little extra to share with a co-worker or family member. This way he goes home with a little extra to provide for his family members.

During the process, a purchase of a tamale or caldo will be enjoyed by a neighbor that I didn't realized lived next door, and a community will be made a little more united. We will know each other a little better.

That's what delicious home-made food made by regular people has done for generations.

Abe Villarreal writes about the traditions, people, and culture of America. He can be reached at [abevillarreal@hotmail.com](mailto:abevillarreal@hotmail.com).



## FEED DOG

continued from page 4

didn't know how to ask. So, to tease him, I leaned over and whispered in my wife's ear again.

"Pretend I just said something funny," I told her.

"You're evil," she laughed, giving me a playful elbow to the ribs.

"What about the dog?" he asked, which was code for: "Are

you talking about me?"

There's a great rock and roll song in the John Waters movie Cry-Baby that goes, "We love being bad, 'cause it sure feels good."\*

I know exactly what they mean.

\*James Intveld & The Honey Sisters "High School Hellcats," [@theduchenebrothers@gmail.com](mailto:theduchenebrothers@gmail.com) @JimDuchene

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# 'From Our Place to Yours'

Popular nature column  
reflected in book

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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# What’s going on in APRIL?

*Desert Exposure would like to include your special events, from any southern New Mexico community, in our listing. Please submit your event title, time, location and contact information to editor@desertexposure.com; Desert Exposure 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call Elva at 575-680-1978.*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Afro Pick** — 7-9 p.m. at the Amador Patio Bar Grill, 302 S. Maine St., Las Cruces. It's all about the soul for Good Friday. Info: 575-541-7417, by reservation only.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Double S Easter Egg Hunt** — 9 a.m. at 126 Derbyshire Road, Tularosa. Donations go to rescue horse and livestock support. Info: 469-955-6195.  
**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.  
**Cloudcroft Easter Egg Hunt** — 10 a.m. at Zenith Park in Cloudcroft. Prizes for each age category. Visit the Easter Bunny. Social distancing and masks are required. Info: 575-682-2733.

**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.  
**Free Easter Egg Giveaway** — 10 a.m.-noon at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave. in Las Cruces. Enter from Alameda Street and drive through to receive a bag of filled eggs for each child. Masks required. Bring a canned good to donate to Casa de Peregrinos Food Pantry. Info: 575-526-6689.  
**The MIXX** — 6-10 p.m. at the Game II-Sports Grill, 4131 Northrise Drive,

Las Cruces. Grooves that make you move – funk, blues and variety. Info: 575-373-4263.  
**Sage Gentle-Wing** — 6:30-9:30 p.m. La Hacienda de Mesilla, 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces. Info: sagegentlewing.com.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Easter Sunday Celebration** — 10 a.m.-noon at Triumphantlife Church, 2020 N. Valley Drive, Las Cruces. Info: 575-528-5683.  
**Meet the Easter Bunny at Zia Comics** — 1 p.m. 125 N. Main St., in Las Cruces.  
**Sage Gentle-Wing** — 1-4 p.m. at Zin Valle Winery, 7315 Canutillo-La Union Road, Canutillo, Texas. Info: sagegentlewing.com.  
**Travis James Manning plays favorite hits** — 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery, 430 La Vina Road in Anthony. Live music at the winery. Info: 915-241-4349.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Sage Gentle-Wing** — 6-9 p.m. at La Posta Cantina, 2410 Calle de San Albino, Las Cruces. Info: sagegentlewing.com.  
**Ventura Highway** — 6:30-7:45 p.m. at Picacho Peak Brewing Co., 3900 W. Picacho Ave. in Las Cruces. This group plays radio hits of the 70s including Eagles, America, Jackson Browne, Neil Diamond and more. Info: 575-680-6394.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10**  
**Virtual Southern New Mexico Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Opt outdoors! Public lands volunteering** — noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning. Renew your alliance with nature with Kathy Whiteman who will be discussing the Leave No Trace philosophy, wilderness first aid training options and ways the Western New Mexico University Outdoor Program has



LeAnne Roberts will talk about her experiences developing her Alamogordo native plant garden on April 10. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

connected participants with the outdoors and engage in public lands volunteering. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

**Glenwood/Catron County**  
**Dutch Oven Gathering** — All day, serving begins around 2 p.m. at Glenwood Community Park. Cooks compete, cooking outdoors with Dutch ovens. A \$10 ticket lets visitors browse for a meal. Info: 575-574-7704 of 3mollymules60@gmail.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.  
**Using Native Plants in Home Landscaping** — 10 a.m. with LeAnne Roberts who will take participants on a tour of her Alamogordo garden and talk about her experiences and challenges of developing a desert plant garden. Space is limited due to Covid-19 social distancing restrictions. RSVP for a reservation: 918-284-3517.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Art Hop** — 5 p.m. in downtown T or C. Visit downtown galleries, opening receptions and get a chance to socialize with the artists. Info: 575-744-4708.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.  
**Julio Ortiz** — 2-5 p.m. at Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery, 430 La Vina Road in Anthony. Live music at the winery. Info: 915-241-4349.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 11**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Scott Jasmin and the Gracenotes at NM Vintage Wines** — 3:30-5:30 p.m., 2461 Calle Principal in Mesilla. Scott Jasmin, solo acoustic show, 70s radio classics plus original Americana. Info: 575-523-4963.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 16**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Ventura Highway** — 6:30-7:45 p.m. at Picacho Peak Brewing Co., 3900 W. Picacho Ave. in Las Cruces. This group plays radio hits of the 70s including Eagles, America, Jackson Browne, Neil Diamond and more. Info: 575-680-6394.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**  
**Virtual Southern New Mexico Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn - Millennial Dictionary: Learning the Lingo of the Young** — noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning. Cristen Penn and Jameson DeSantis guide participants through the maze and the lingo

and acronyms for the Millennial Age. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**RWVA Appleseed Rifle Marksmanship & Heritage Clinic** — 8 a.m. at the Sidney Paul Gordon Shooting Range, 19 Rock Cliff Road La Luz, N.M. 88337. Info: 575-443-9006.  
**Native Plant Sale** — 8 a.m. fundraiser for the Otero County Chapter of the Native Plant Society This annual sale will be held by appointment to ensure Covid-safe guidelines are met. Schedule your appointment

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
continued on page 8



Easter egg hunts will be taking place in Otero and Doña Ana counties. (Photo by Kgbo, courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS  
continued from page 7

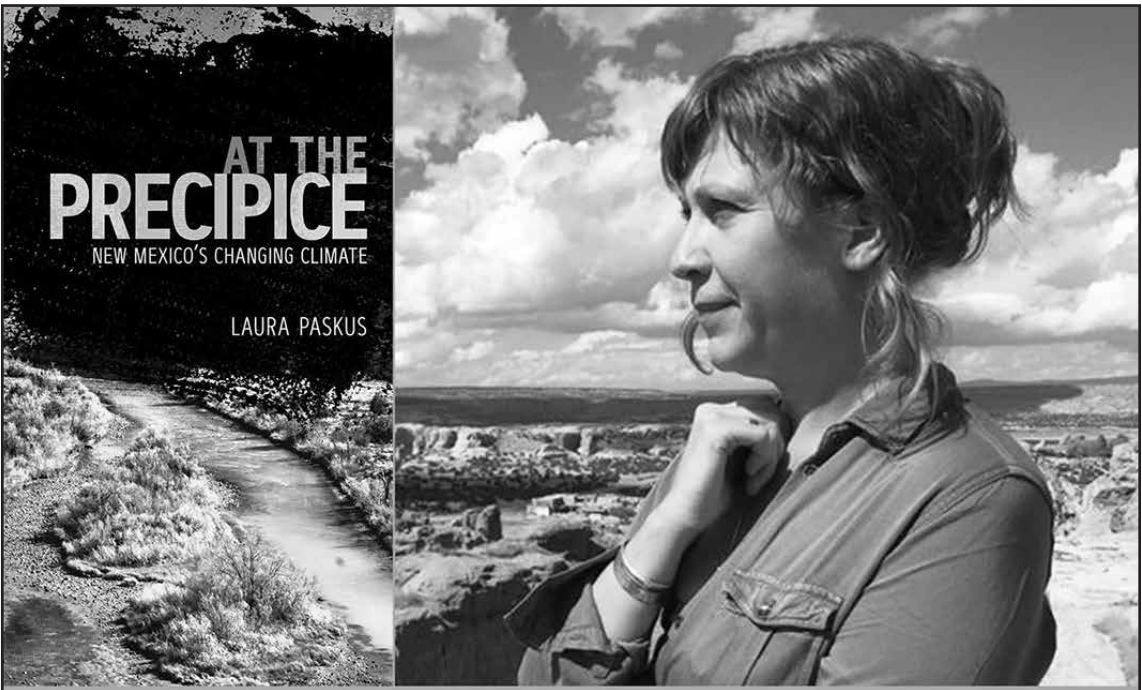
to browse the selection and make purchases with LeAnne Roberts: 918-284-3517.  
**Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

**Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmer's Market** — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers Arts and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22 Virtual Southern New Mexico Gila Earth Day: Book Tour with Laura Paskus** — 6 p.m. environmental journalist and radio-producer Laura



Laura Paskus will be talking about her book “At the Precipice: New Mexico’s Changing Climate,” as an Earth Day event April 22. (Courtesy Photo)

Paskus livestreams, talking about her new book, “At the Precipice: New Mexico’s Changing Climate” on the Gila Earth Day Facebook page. Alternate access via Zoom is also available. The presentation is followed by a Q and A. Info: Doyne Wrealli, earthendoyne@gmail.com.  
**Virtual Continental Divide Trail Days: The CDT as a Sacred Landscape** — various times. This will be a series of virtual events including panels and a concert. Info: continentaldivide-trail.org,

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24 Virtual Southern New Mexico Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Border Justice** — noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and Silver City Museum. Moderated by Molly Molloy, Neil Garvey and Barbara Gabioud. Border researchers and local champions who provide humanitarian support to immigrants help participants understand the history and dynamics at our southern border and identify opportunities to get involved in positive ways. The presentation provides a historical perspective on how immigration and U.S. policies have impacted Grant County and southwest New Mexico. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

**Silver City/Grant County Gila Earth Day: Community Action** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. COVID-safe community actions including trash clean up in the Cliff-Gila Valley led by the Nature Conservancy, a riparian restoration project in San Vicente Creek with the Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps and the Southwest New Mexico



Farmers and Crafts markets happen every weekend in Las Cruces, Alamogordo and Silver City. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Audubon Society’s cliff swallow education program. Ideas are welcome and volunteers are needed. Info: Doyne Wrealli, earthendoyne@gmail.com.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla NgageNM Virtual Quesadilla Run** — Any time from April 24-May 2. Proceeds used to support education in Doña Ana County. Info: runsignup.com/Race/NM/HostedbyNgageN-MLasCruces/QuesadillaRun.

**Farmers Arts and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market** — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza de Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 29 Virtual Southern New Mexico Virtual Continental Divide Trail Days: The CDT as a Sacred Landscape** — various times. This will be a series of virtual events including panels and a concert. Info: continentaldivide-trail.org.

**SATURDAY, MAY 1 Virtual Southern New Mexico Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Inside Silver City Recycles** — noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and Silver City Museum. Moderator Chris Lemme talks about how the organization operates, strives to benefit county residents, businesses and the town and how the community can volunteer in the effort. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market** — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.



Barbara Gabioud (right) gathers supplies for people in need across the border. She will be co-moderator for the Border Justice Lunch and Learn event on April 24. (Courtesy Photo)

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ON SCREEN • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# A Movie for Inspiration

## ‘Walking With Herb’ hits the big screen

Joe Amable-Amo is a bank executive and former amateur golfer struggling with his faith after an unexpected tragedy. Faced with doubts about himself, his purpose and his belief in God, Joe is stunned when God tells him that he’s been chosen to inspire the world and play in a world championship golf tournament. Guided by God’s eccentric personal messenger, Herb, Joe learns that the seemingly impossible is possible through faith, family and second chances.

The movie was completed in December 2019 with a first major screening planned in Los Angeles in March 2020.

Las Cruces-based director Ross Marks and other cast and crew members were on their way, flying in from across the country. The studio said no at the very last moment; the pandemic had begun; “Walking With Herb,” is stopped in its tracks.

“We were really scrambling to figure out how to release during a pandemic,” Marks said. “I believe movies are made to be watched on a big screen experience.”

Now, more than a year later, the distributors have a plan and the movie will hit the big screen first in April. In a time when only about half of the 40,000 movie screens in the United States are open, “Walking with Herb” will



George Lopez and Edward James Olmos star in “Walking With Herb” as Herb and Joe Amable-Amo. (Photos provided by Fathom Events)

open in 1,000 to 2,000 theaters across the nation.

In Las Cruces, the Allen family will again open the Telshor drive-in for two weeks to open the film on its release date, April 30, in New Mexico. A special Las Cruces premiere will take place April 29 with a dine-in fundraiser for a local charity.

It will also be available in El Paso theaters.

Marks said he always wanted to make a faith-based movie. Marks’ friend, Las Cruces banker Joe Bullock, wrote the book, “Walking With Herb” and Marks was inspired.

“This one all starts with the material,” he said. “I wrote a screenplay. Then, like everything I’ve done in past 33 years, I

showed, it to Mark Medoff.”

Tony-Award winning playwright and agnostic Medoff read the screenplay and thought the idea was great, Marks said. Medoff then took over the writing and, after several drafts, the two felt they had something to show.

“We really wanted to make the movie a celebration of Las Cruces,” Marks said.

They changed the lead character to a Latino male, and thought, “Who is the best Latin actor in their 70s?” and the name, Edward James Olmos came up. Marks knew Olmos and sent him the script. He loved it and said yes.

Then they thought, “How would God’s messenger appear to a Latino and who is the perfect comedic Latino actor?” and they sent the script to George Lopez, and he said yes.

“This never happens,” Marks said. “The first one never says ‘yes.’ Both our first choices said ‘yes.’”

So, with Bullock’s help, Medoff and Marks found local investors and created this movie as a “real Las Cruces project,” he said. Actress Kathleen Quinlan rounds out the cast.

“This is exactly the type of movie that people need,” Marks said. “We had 250,000 views on

the trailer with comments like, ‘I need something uplifting in my life right now.’ It’s a feel good, upbeat, inspirational story.”

The film is dedicated to Medoff who died April 23, 2019, without seeing the final product.

Marks said when they started making the film, he had recently come out of a dark place in his life. Having made a dark film about three guys in jail, he wanted to go in the opposite direction.

“I wanted something good and positive,” he said. “This one earned a PG rating. It’s really a

tremendous family film. I wanted to make a movie parallel to my experience from darkness to the light. This was very cathartic and therapeutic.”

Tickets can be found at FathomEvents.com or WalkingWithHerbMovie.com. The Las Cruces April 29 premier fundraiser event will be held at 5 p.m. at AmadorLive Eatery & Entertainment District. Tickets, tables and sponsorships are available for purchase online at give.jardinc.org/walkingwithherb or by calling 575-522-2111.



Billy Boyd (Archie Borthwick) and Christopher McDonald (Wiley) watch as Joe Amable-Amo takes his shot on the green in the film “Walking With Herb”

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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

### SILVER CITY

• **The Silver City Blues Festival** is moving online for 2021. In consideration of the health and wellbeing of the community and visitors, the **Mimbres Region Arts Council** is canceling the live 2021 Silver City Blues Festival. In its place, a series of performances will be released online during Memorial Day weekend, May 29-30. More information and an event schedule will be available at [www.silvercitybluesfestival.org](http://www.silvercitybluesfestival.org). Info: [info@mimbresarts.org](mailto:info@mimbresarts.org) or 575-538-2505.

• **At Light Art Space** the “**Earth and Sky: Photography from Grant County**” exhibition continues, featuring the work of 25 photographers from Grant county. Color, black and white alternative photographic processes are on exhibit. “**Ode to Ancient Wings and Precious Water,**” continuing through April 17, is a mixed-media installation by Zoe Wolfe and Carlene Roters, inspired by the natural environment and the peace that it offers. Starting April 23 is “**Layered Light: Contemporary Pinhole and Zone Plate Photography.**” This international juried exhibition celebrates images made in the spirit of experimentation and play and is dedicated to the late Eric Renner. Also beginning April 23 is “**Renner, Spencer and McMahon: A Three Decade Convergence**” with pinhole and zone-plate photography by these three renown photographers, on display in the Flash

Gallery. 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).



“Spring Breeze” by Jo Thomas



“The Chorus” by Rebecca Rousseau

• **The Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, at 316 N. Bullard St., Silver City, is holding its Spring 6 x 6 Art Mini-Show, April 1-30. Mini paintings, mosaics, textiles, jewelry and other var-

ied mediums, all touting spring, will be shown at the gallery during regular hours. Additional six-inch works will be available in individual artist's display spaces. The gallery also is featuring the work of three artists for the month of April: painter and illustrator **Jackie Blurton**, rug hooker **Anita McDaniel** and clay and porcelain artist **Stacy Schwarz.** Each of the artists will have a display in one of the gallery's large windows in addition to their displays inside the gallery. The guild normally is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Info: [www.gcag.org](http://www.gcag.org).

### DEMING



“Breastplate” by Libby Beck



Mann Joe Eugene by Camille Painter Davis

• The April 2021 Exhibit at the **Deming Art Center**, entitled “**Two Friends,**” features two artists – **Libby Beck** from Silver City and **Camille Painter Davis** from Benson, Arizona. Beck fell in love with bead work and beaded outfits when, in 1970, she saw her first Appaloosa Costume Class and she taught herself how to bead. Davis' art is colorful and usually western. This show continues through April 29. 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).

### LAS CRUCES

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC)** will feature artwork from the Las Cruces Space Festival online art show, “**Dawn of Discovery**” through May



“Dancing with Spirits” by Linda Heath



“Something New” by Sheryl Nelson

on the Staszewski Library and Gallery wall. The third-annual Las Cruces Space Festival was postponed last March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Alice Carruth, Public Relations Coordinator at Spaceport America and Festival Director, and Karen Conley, DAAC Program Manager and the Dawn of Discovery curator, felt the work was too good not to share. The exhibit is available for viewing at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center**, 250 W. Amador Ave. in Las Cruces, during regular business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. Info: [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org) or 575-523-6403.



“Firey Foliage” by Paul Maxwell

• **Agave Artist Gallery** welcomes two new artists, **Patricia Grey** and **Kathy Baker.** Also artist **Paul Maxwell** has been recognized for his pandemic art – essential workers – the bracers. None of us could survive without these laborers in the fields getting the food to market. Paul's triptych paintings **Mesilla Braceros** were awarded second prize at the **El Paso Art Association's Mighty Frontline**

**Workers** art show. Maxwell's latest watercolor, **Fiery Foliage** is now on display at Agave Artist Gallery in Mesilla - 2250 Calle de San Albino. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday through Sunday. Info: 575-339-9870.



### UAM

• **The New Mexico State University Art Museum (UAM)** presents **Syn- 2021 MFA Thesis Exhibition**, featuring the work of MFA candidates **Ger Xiong** and **Cierra Redding.** This exhibit looks at how each artist navigates their identities differently through the use of materiality, form, and objects. Within the exhibition space, viewers are confronted with histories of loss and absence. A virtual opening reception of the exhibition takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 23. In conjunction with this event, the BFA and JSS exhibition opening will be happening simultaneously. All receptions are free and open to the public. Programming for this exhibition includes a joint artist talk at 6 p.m.-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6. For more information about this and other free, community-wide events, visit the UAM's website for more information. <https://uam.nmsu.edu>. Visit our timed-ticket website to register for free tickets to this exhibition [uam.nmsu.edu/timed-tickets/](https://uam.nmsu.edu/timed-tickets/). Info: Jasmine Herrera, 575-646-2545; [artmuseum@nmsu.edu](mailto:artmuseum@nmsu.edu).

• The next virtual exhibit at **Tombaugh Gallery** features two artists, **John and Souheir Rawlings**, from the Truth or Consequences area. The exhibit continues through May. As a young man, John Rawlings was the artist-in-residence at Red Cloud Indian School. This shield series that he began in 2015 draws upon his experiences and a body of sketches/drawings that he made at that time. Souheir Rawlings's work is part of “**Covid Portraits: Isolation,**” and reflects her desire to see the inner expressive nature of people, using color and line in a way that shows emotion and character. The exhibit can be seen on the Tombaugh Gallery page on Facebook and on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/tombaughgallery>.

### ART SCENE

continued on page 8

**2021 - The Year of the Artist**

The Doña Ana Arts Council proudly celebrates 50 years of serving Las Cruces and Dona Ana County with art events, festivals, education, support and advocacy.

We feature a new artist every month in our Gallery.  
Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every Second Saturday, we're open from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Please visit our website for the latest information on upcoming DAAC events at:  
**DAARTS.ORG**

**DOÑA ANA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER**  
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ART SCENE

continued from page 9



“Portrait 1” by Souheir Rawlings



“Shield 2” by John Rawlings

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features two local artists for the month of April, Ray Baird and Michael Nail. Baird, an oil painter, describes his work as impression-



Drawing by Michael Nail



Painting by Ray Baird

istic expressionism with translucent complementary colors that represent his feelings, rather than a true representational image. Nail works primarily in pencil, charcoal and ink, finding Western, Native American and wildlife themes the subjects he is most “drawn” to. **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.mesilla-valleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesilla-valleyfinearts.com).

GALLUP

• **Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District** has launched a new project to beautify the downtown corridor where construction for Coal Avenue Commons is taking place. Situated between 2nd and 3rd Streets on Coal Avenue, four local artists have been selected to install temporary artworks on the construction fencing. The works will remain on view through mid-May, or until the construction project wraps up this spring. Artists were asked to come up with projects that reflect the art and culture of our region and that are inspired by themes of resilience and revitalization. The projects include “**Weaving a Community of Colors**” by **Jerry Brown**; a painting of Navajo elders speaking to children by **Jason John**; “**The People’s Garden**” by **Brandy Lee**; and “**Seeds of Strength**” by **Orin Nez**. Viewers may view the works by taking a stroll downtown, following @gallupmainstreet on Facebook and Instagram or visiting [gallup-mainstreet.org](http://gallup-mainstreet.org).

Participate

• **Gila Earth Day** will celebrate Earth Month with virtual programming from participant organizations, classrooms and individuals throughout the month of April. Among the local films to be shown on the Gila Earth Day Facebook page are the Gila Native Plant Society’s Pollinators and Native Plants, the Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corp’s history of beautification projects in the area and Green Energy Now’s Landscaping with Water Harvesting. We invite anyone with up to a 15-minute film, slideshow or presentation to participate. Contact GRIP Membership and Program Coordinator Doyné Wrealli at [earthendoyne@gmail.com](mailto:earthendoyne@gmail.com) for more information.

• “**From the Ground Up XXX**,” regional juried ceramics exhibition submissions are open until May 15. This longstanding exhibition is open to artists living and working in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. To enter, visit [pottersguildlc.org](http://pottersguildlc.org) or check [www.las-cruces.org/2434.from-the-ground-up-XXX](http://www.las-cruces.org/2434.from-the-ground-up-XXX) for the complete prospectus. The exhibition is juried by Joshua R. Clark and hosted by the Museum of Art and the Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces.

• **The El Paso Community Foundation Plaza Classic Film Festival** is accepting submissions for **Local Flavor**, El Paso’s largest annual showcase of locally made and connected films. There is no cost to submit a film. The film series, sponsored by the Texas Film Commission, is open to short- and feature-length films of various types, including fiction, documentary, animation, experimental, virtual reality and music video. Any type of film may be submitted. The showcase will culminate with the fourth annual Local Flavor Awards, which will award \$2,500 to filmmakers — \$1,000 for first prize, \$750 for second prize, \$500 for third prize and the \$250 audience favorite. Entry deadline is 11:59 p.m. Monday, June 14. Go to [plazaclassic.com/localflavor](http://plazaclassic.com/localflavor) to submit. Projects must have been completed Jan. 1, 2020 or after, and must be made locally, locally set or have a connection of some kind to the El Paso-Juarez-Las Cruces area (such as a director originally from El Paso). Local ties should be noted in the entry. Entries selected for the Local Flavor series will be announced in July and screened during the festival. Local Flavor is a popular component of the **El Paso Community Foundation Plaza Classic Film Festival**, which returns for its 14th year July 29-Aug. 8. Info: 915-533-4020 or [local@plazaclassic.com](mailto:local@plazaclassic.com).

Visit Desert Exposure’s Virtual Gallery  
to connect to area artists’ websites.  
[www.desertexposure.com/virtual-gallery](http://www.desertexposure.com/virtual-gallery)



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ARTS EXPOSURE • MIKE COOK

# Desert Sunrise Studio offers Zoom

## Discover your wisdom, change your world

Desert Sunrise Studio, 537 N. Alameda Blvd., in Las Cruces, has a virtual open studio via Zoom at 1 p.m. every Friday, and SoulCollage at 1 p.m. every other Wednesday until April 21.

In the open studio, “we start with a short check-in, then spend 45 minutes to an hour working individually on whatever each person wishes,” said studio owner and Las Cruces artist Jan Hampton. “We end with about 30 minutes of discussion and sharing of our creations. This sharing has been inspiring to many of us, expanding our repertoire of creative activities,” Hampton said. She said five-10 people from three time zones in the United States attend the meeting each week.

In SoulCollage, “we adapt to the attendees, sometimes beginning with questions from newcomers and answers from those with experience with the SoulCollage process,” Hampton said. “The meeting is set up similarly to



Artist Jan Hampton at her home studio in Las Cruces. (Photo courtesy of Jan Hampton)

Zoom Open Studio with each participant working quietly on whatever part of the SoulCollage process he/she wishes during most of the hour-and-a-half session. This meeting also includes people living outside of Las Cruces.”

Hampton is a certified SoulCollage facilitator. Visit [www.soulcollage.com](http://www.soulcollage.com) for more information. SoulCollage is a copyrighted “expressive arts practice” for groups or individuals.

For links to each workshop and for more information, contact Hampton at 281-450-4422 and [janhamp@gmail.com](mailto:janhamp@gmail.com). Visit [www.desertsunrise537.blogspot.com](http://www.desertsunrise537.blogspot.com).

ARTS EXPOSURE •  
ALETHEA EASON

# Canvas of Hope

## Arts event supports indigenous neighbors

The Rio Grande Borderland Ministries (RGBM) is sponsoring an online event called Canvas of Hope to raise awareness and monetary support for shelters in Juárez and Ojinaga, Mexico that are becoming models for refugee centers worldwide. The event will be held 1-2:30 p.m., May 1.

The events will feature artists passionate about issues surrounding migration, including musical performances, poetry readings, artist talks and more. Artists from around the country are donating work to be auctioned during the event. Proceeds go toward supporting the work of RGBM to help feed, shelter and care for our migrant and indigenous neighbors. The virtual event will include an online auction.

RGBM is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, serving in the borderlands of New Mexico and far west Texas.

“Our compassionate response to this crisis is simple — to feed, shelter and care for our neighbors who are coming to the frontiers of our diocese seeking safety and the promise of a better life for their families,” said Border Chaplain Ana Reza.

Better World will be used as an online platform for the event. Attending the event is free. Register at [riograndeborderland.org/canvas-of-hope](http://riograndeborderland.org/canvas-of-hope).

To learn more about the impact of Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, visit [riograndeborderland.org](http://riograndeborderland.org).



“De Quetzales a Urracas” by Jade Leyva.

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CAMERA EXPOSURE • KAREN CONLEY

# Regional Photographers Excel at Their Craft

## Capturing New Mexico proves beneficial

Local photographers continue to capture the Southwest's grace and beauty, proving that photography is much more than technical ability alone.

Every year, New Mexico Magazine holds a contest to select the finest images from amateur photographers that represent what is so wonderful about our state. This year, five area photographers and 15 other artists were chosen from 151 entrants who submitted 1,600 photos to the 20th annual event, to be viewed in the February edition.

David Turning led the group with his first-place win, "Marina Lights on Elephant Butte," in the Enchanted Adventure category. He also placed third in New Mexico Experiences with "Blue Hour at White Sands" and received an honorable mention for "Amillos Rojos" in Landscape.

Gerald Guss took second in both the New Mexico Experience and Animal categories with "The Heart of New Mexico" and "Smooth Stepper." He also received an honorable mention in the Enchanted Category with



"Blue Hour at White Sands" by David Turning, New Mexico Magazine's 2020 third place winner in the New Mexico Experiences category.

"Fuzzy Wuzzy."

Aaron Martinez won third place in the Landscape category with his image "Moonrise at the Wedge" and an honorable mention for "Eruption" in Nightscapes, a new category this year.

In the Cell Phone category, Richard Larsson placed second with his image of "White Sands National Park."

Steven Bunt won third place in Enchanted Adventures with "A Picture-Perfect Night."

All the winning New Mexico Magazine images are featured at the Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography in Carrizozo and on its web page at [www.photozozo.org](http://www.photozozo.org).

An image of sandhill cranes winging away from the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge taken by Will Keener was picked as a winner in the Cowboys & Indians Magazine annual photo competition.

David D. Sorensen's work is featured as part of "The Art of Quarantine" exhibition at the Gallery with A Cause, part of the New Mexico Cancer Center

(NMCC) in Albuquerque, through May 21. The exhibition will feature over 20 of his images that reflect the Southwest as well as other locations. 40 percent of the sales will be donated to NMCC.

The show will be available for viewing at [nmcancercenter.org/gallery/](http://nmcancercenter.org/gallery/).

Wayne Suggs has published his latest and most meaningful images in a new book titled "The Color of Dreams." This tabletop book, a collection of his photos, values and stories, brings the reader to the realization that photography is more than just taking a photograph. There are 100 high-definition color images accompanied with a narrative of how and why Suggs captured the specific location and time. Visit [www.waynesuggsphotography.com/shop/p/the-color-of-dreams](http://www.waynesuggsphotography.com/shop/p/the-color-of-dreams) to find out more about the book and the artist.

Karen Conley is program manager at the Doña Ana Arts Council and can be reached at [manager@daarts.org](mailto:manager@daarts.org).



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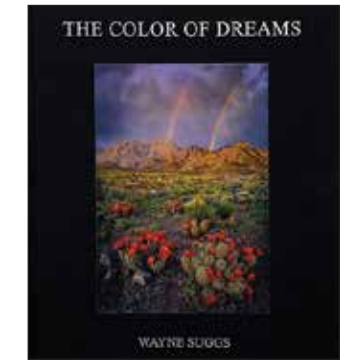
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Wayne Suggs' book "The Color of Dreams," is now available.

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STEPPING BACK IN TIME • STEPHEN FOX

# The Spread of a Disease – Part 2

## The Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918-20 moves to Grant County

*Editor's note: This is Part Two of a two-part series. See the March edition of Desert Exposure for Part One*

### The flu finally descends on Silver City

The merciful women returned home to Grant County from the mining town of Mogollon, and the risks they had run soon became apparent.

Silver City recorded its first cases of the flu. By Nov. 5 there were 31 cases, but still no deaths – few days later, the first three deaths. It was the coldest fall and winter in anybody's memory, forcing people indoors and incubating the virus. A county mandate to wear masks, not previously enforced, became common. The Hurley Red Cross sent 300 masks to Fort Bayard. The Fort Bayard Red Cross, not to be outdone, produced 1,800 masks in a few days. The wards at the Fort Bayard hospital now required masks. Nurses even wore them to bed at night. In Silver City, store clerks and others working in public places put on masks.

Silver City enforced a quarantine. Hurley banned all gatherings and closed its schools; five women teachers who had been working as nurses came down with the flu. In Santa Rita, the fancy new segregated clubhouse for Anglos, almost completed, became a hospital ward. The Silver City newspapers now routinely carried reports of flu deaths, almost entirely of Anglos and of young people.

- Katie Tillman, 20 years old, leaving her husband and a baby three months old.
- Ernest E. Smith, 34, a chemist for the Empire Zinc company at the Cleveland mine.
- Lydia Donohue, 31, the wife of a pig farmer on the outskirts of town, leaving seven children,



A patient at Fort Bayard Hospital during the 1910s. (Photos courtesy Silver City Museum Collections)

the youngest six months old.

- Daniel Rodriguez, 16, a grocery clerk.

• Lula A. Woods, age not given, a matron at the Ladies Hospital, leaving her husband and son. She had been nursing her neighbors and so had no medicine left for herself when she became ill.

In late November, local optimists thought they saw some encouraging signs. The virus seemed to be “practically eradicated” at Fort Bayard. Hurley citizens looked forward to attending dances and moving picture shows. The Santa Rita clubhouse was no longer needed as a hospital ward. Silver City lifted its ban on public gatherings.

But then mid-December brought a large and surprising turn for the worse in Santa Rita. Why this late reversal of recent trends?

### Schoolgirls and the Spanish flu

This is just a guess; I have no proof. But this is what I think happened. John M. Sully, the man who had brought complete segregation to Grant County, was the general manager of the

town and open-pit mine in Santa Rita and of the town and converter mill in Hurley.

As the absolute boss of those workplaces and company towns, he was the most powerful man in Grant County. Sully's wife and children were prominent citizens of Santa Rita. His daughter, Ruth Sully, was attending the Marlborough School in Los Angeles, a posh secondary school for girls, along with her friend, Helen Carrier, the daughter of a doctor at the Santa Rita hospital. In November their school closed because of a flu outbreak.

The girls, apparently carrying the virus, left their infected school and took the long train ride to Deming, then by automobile to Santa Rita. They arrived home on Nov. 21. Helen developed a mild case of the flu. It was soon the Christmas season; with many parties and hometown friends the girls had not seen for three months. One may imagine that, like many young people who are now flouting the rules of our current pandemic, they were heedless of health dangers and thought they were invulnerable.

Ruth and Helen returned to Los Angeles after about two weeks at home. Within a few days, 30 new cases of flu had descended on Santa Rita. They were caused, according to the Enterprise's local correspondent, by too much careless visiting among households.

“The worst months are still ahead of us,” the correspondent predicted, and people needed to obey health officials.

The Santa Rita hospital was now crowded with flu patients. When a pregnant woman, Margaret Sheridan Fay, about to give birth, was admitted on the morning of Dec. 6, she was told that if she had come five minutes later, they would have had no place for her. Margaret was put in an unheated room. Most of the nurses were volunteer schoolteachers, willing but untrained in basic nursing procedures.

With all the rooms taken, flu victims were dying in the hallways. Margaret delivered a healthy baby girl. Two weeks later, her husband, Charles Fay, died of pneumonia and the flu. He was 29, the assistant superintendent of the Empire Zinc mine in Hanover. They had been married for almost two years.

### The deathwatch in Grant County continues

- James Clancy, 29, employed in the office of the Cottage Sanatorium, and known for “a ready wit and sunny disposition.”
- L. A. Fitzpatrick, 35, owner of the Ritz Jewel Shop in Silver City, after apparently recovering from the flu; left his widow.
- Lillian Parsons, 11, of Santa Rita, after being sick for a week; attended at the hospital by Dr. F. N. Carrier, the father of Helen Carrier, who perhaps helped bring the flu to Santa Rita.
- Mrs. Henry Stewart, her first name and age not given, wife of a letter carrier; she had been nursing her three sick children at home and caught the flu from them.
- Harry Bridges, 27, a deputy in the county assessor's office, married for about a year to Syl-

via Johnson, a schoolteacher.

The late outbreak in Santa Rita abated by mid-January. On Jan. 19 its two churches – Catholic church in “Mexican Town” and the Protestant Union church in white Santa Rita – held their first services in over three and a half months. A week later, both sections of town could attend the first picture show since the flu had arrived. Still the Spanish flu would not fully subside. In February it broke out again in Fierro, Hanover and the Upper Gila River, with numerous cases and several deaths. In March a final spasm in Silver City kept many kids home from the recently re-opened schools.

### How many died?

And then at last it ended, later that spring. The final reckoning of cases and deaths in Grant County is unknowable because New Mexico had no state department of health, no central agency to track and respond to the deadly epidemic's course across the state. Making a reasonable guess about the final toll in Grant County is not simple. The two Silver City newspapers recorded about 31 flu deaths in Grant County in the six months from November through April. That statement must be vague because the papers would sometimes refer to “several” deaths, with no number given. I was conservative on this point and took “several” to mean two, though it perhaps meant more. Of those approximately 31 deaths, only five were identified as Hispanic – surely an absurd undercount of the actual toll on Chihuahua Hill and in the mines and camps of the county.

The Silver City Public Library has a card index file of local deaths in 1918 and 1919. The library is currently closed to the public, but Javier Marrufo of the library staff looked through the file for me. He transcribed the details of 64 deaths from the flu and from pneumonia during those six months. (Javier also sent me electronic files of the Enterprise; without his assistance I could not have written this article.)

Ten of the 64 deaths were soldiers who died at Fort Bayard in October; thereafter the county kept no record of deaths at the fort. Of 19 others identified as flu victims, nine were Hispanic: nine of 19, a much higher and likelier percentage than the five of 31 from the newspapers, and further evidence that the papers ignored many Hispanic deaths.

Of the 35 identified as pneumonia deaths, four were also listed in the newspapers as flu deaths. Probably many other supposed pneumonia victims actually died of the flu, but it's impossible to say how many. So,



Lincoln Elementary School first segregated in 1915; photo from 1920s.



HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

# An Easy Difficult Challenge

## Hiking the road to the top of Tonuco Mountain

Canyons, waterfalls, petroglyphs and a mine. This hike has it all.

What to do if your No.1 hiking buddy doesn't have time and your other hiking buddy would much rather hunt for interesting rocks than clamber up steep mountains?

Compromise. We chose Tonuco Mountain because neither one of us had been to the top before. And on the way up you pass an interesting mine.

In fact, we met another rock hunter at the entrance to the beautiful canyon which forms the start of this hike. To get there, you will need a 4WD vehicle. Do not try to get there with a regular car. Take the east frontage road by the Border Patrol station on I-25 between Radium Springs and Rincon, then turn to go under the freeway after a mile. There might be water in the underpass – don't drive through it. It can be very deep. You might have to come back another day. I do not recommend crossing the freeway on foot. Once on the other side, drive toward the first mesa until you reach a wide ar-



The view from the top. (Photos byGabriele Teich)

royo. Turn right and follow that for less than a mile and park your vehicle right after curving around the mesa.

This is one of the rare hikes where the most beautiful part is right at the beginning. The canyon meanders uphill – or does it go down? Either way, YOU will go up, passing a variety of interest-

ing petroglyphs on the way. Stay to the right when you come to a fork (Yeah, or pick it up. Thanks, Yogi Berra). You will reach a 15-foot dry waterfall which you can either climb or circumvent on either side. Further up you reach the mine entrance with several openings to the sky and well stabilized. If you remembered to



Tonuco Mountain is a bit of a climb.

bring a flashlight, it's fun to explore. So to humor my rock-hunter friend we took a break there and he had some time to play. His rule is not to take any rock under 20 pounds, though, so he came back empty handed.

We ventured on to the top of Tonuco Mountain, which is a wider trail (more like a jeep

road) from there on. You can see the road actually all the way from I-25. It's steep and rocky, not very pleasant to come down. But you earned your bragging rights to say any time you pass the mountain on the freeway:

"I have been all the way up there!"

Total time to the top was only 90 minutes, shorter than anticipated.

Tonuco Mountain can have some serious winds, especially now in spring. I guess I am not telling you anything new there.

As always, take water, wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy boots. See you on the trails!

*Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for more than 20 years — and loved every minute of it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding area and all over this beautiful state.*



DISEASE

continued from page 12

my very rough guess is at least 50 deaths – but perhaps 60 or 70 or more – from the flu among Grant County residents. In addition, 83 people died of the flu at the Fort Bayard hospital during 1918. Thus, the total flu deaths at Fort Bayard and elsewhere in Grant County came to about 133: a fearsome toll for a small, isolated community.

Comparing the Spanish flu with our COVID-19, I am most impressed by the general respect

for science and medical authorities in Grant County in 1918 and 1919. A well-disciplined response did not become a noisy political controversy. Without protests, citizens took responsibility and wore masks. It helped that the crisis here lasted only six months. The town and county imposed necessary measures and generally enforced them.

In the wake of the Spanish flu, the New Mexico legislature finally created a state health department. And yet 133 deaths, at least, plus all those probable Hispanic casualties that went

unlisted and unmourned by the local newspapers, amounted to what is still the worst public health disaster in Grant County history.

*A retired historian from Boston, Stephen Fox has lived in Silver City since 2008. For their help with the research for this article, he thanks Javier Marrufo of the Silver City Public Library, Ashley Smith of the Silver City Museum, Susan Berry and the Grant County Clerk's office.*



Grant County Hospital in the 1920s. (Photo courtesy Silver City Museum Collections)

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT • AMANDA ADAME

# The Woman Who Kept Track

NMSU’s 30-year-old collection about Juarez murders brings researchers from around the world

In the early 1990s, growing numbers of women were reported missing or found dead across the city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Decades later advocates have documented more than 2,000 women were murdered yet none of their killers have been identified or convicted, according to the Center for Strategic

and International Studies. One woman dedicated her life to telling the stories of those women, turning over her collection of documents to the Rio Grande Historical Collections at New Mexico State University’s Library Archives and Special Collections Department. Esther Chavez Cano gathered

newspaper clippings, magazines and photographs documenting the murders of women and girls, referred to as “Femicides” in Juarez. Over the years, she had loaned out materials from her collection that were never returned. Cano thought the collection would be safer and more accessible in a library.



Esther Chavez Cano in front of the women's shelter she founded. (Courtesy Photo)



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Born in Chihuahua in 1933, Cano was the oldest of eight children. In 1951, Cano studied accounting in Guadalajara and served several executive positions with different Mexican and international businesses for more than 40 years before dedicating her time to the issue of women’s rights in Juarez. Cano founded the women’s advocacy group “Ocho de Marzo” along with Casa Amiga, the first Juarez women’s shelter for victims of physical or sexual abuse. Cynthia Bejarano, NMSU regents professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, contacted Molly Molloy, who at the time was the Border and Latin American Studies Librarian. Molloy helped to start the process of physically transporting the collection to NMSU. “I visited Esther at her home in Juárez several times to learn more about her materials,” said Molloy, who retired from NMSU in 2019. “I worked with archivist Dennis Daily who traveled with me to Juárez to bring the boxes back to the library.” In late 2006, seven large plastic file boxes from Cano’s home made the trip to Las Cruces to join other special collections at the NMSU Library. However, it was not until archivist Charles

Stanford joined the faculty in the Fall of 2007 that the collection was processed and made available to the public. Since then, dozens of researchers have accessed the collection. “Because we are a public state institution, her materials will be preserved for many years into the future and they will also be accessible to scholars from anywhere in the world,” Molloy said. “We hope that the preservation of these materials at NMSU will make it possible for this history to be accessible to all researchers now and in the future. Recently, Monica Ortiz, a freelance reporter for the El Paso and Juarez region, co-hosted a 10-part podcast series produced by iHeart Radio with producer Oz Woloshyn utilizing Cano’s collection and expanding on gender-based violence. The series has had more than three million downloads. “Esther Chavez Cano’s archive at NMSU was critical to our work,” Ortiz said. “The articles offered painful but important insights into the violence that’s become so pervasive in Ciudad Juárez.” Cano continued to add to her collection until her death on Christmas Day in 2009 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Cano’s collection and her enduring legacy lives on in the university archives.

“Esther’s collection reminds us of the historical impact that gender-based violence has in urban and rural settings, and especially as it relates to our borderlands region,” Bejarano said. “Thanks to Cano’s dedication and commitment to justice for the murdered women and girls of Juarez, their stories will not be forgotten. “Words cannot express how fortunate and privileged we are to be the stewards of that collection.” To learn more about the Esther Chavez Cano collection, visit [lib.nmsu.edu/exhibits/chavezcano](http://lib.nmsu.edu/exhibits/chavezcano).



Newspaper clippings from the Esther Chavez Cano Collection housed inside the Rio Grande Historical Collections at New Mexico State University’s Library Archives and Special Collections Department. (NMSU photo by Dennis Daily)



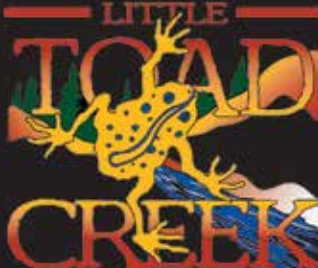
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contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; 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!

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\* **GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D. *D/T T/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! Honeebee-goods.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/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/O D/T C/S*  
\* **LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D. *C/S*  
**LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT**, 1105 Tom Fov 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/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/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/O*

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

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

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


\* **SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1212 E. 32nd St., 388-2927. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only. *D/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.).  
\* **TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L *P T/O*.  
\* **WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D. *P T/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/O*  
\* **ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.



Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

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*

*DEL P T/O*  
\* **AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.  
*DEL P T/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. Belgium and American food: Daily B L. *P C/S*  
\* **BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D. *C/S DEL T/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/O*  
\* **BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer. *T/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/S DEL D/T*  
\* **CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D. *C/S DEL D/T*  
\* **DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, 245 N. Main St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D. *C/S*  
\* **PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D. *P T/O*  
\* **DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D. *P T/O*  
\* **DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D *C/S P*  
\* **DION'S PIZZA**, 3950 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3434. Pizza: L D. *DEL D/T*  
\* **DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *P T/O*  
\* **EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D. *P T/O*  
\* **ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D. *T/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/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/O*  
\* **GARDUÑO'S**, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D. *P T/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/T T/O*  
\* **HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D. *P T/O*  
\* **HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. *C/S P*

\* **HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D. *P T/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/O*  
\* **LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L. *T/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/O*  
\* **LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B. *P T/O*  
\* **LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L. *T/O*  
\* **LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday. *C/S DEL T/O*  
\* **LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D. *C/S DEL T/O*  
\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D. *C/S T/O*  
\* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D. *C/S T/O*  
\* **LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. *C/S P T/O*  
\* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.  
\* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D. *D/T T/O*  
\* **LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D. *T/O*  
\* **MATTEO'S**, 1001 E. University Ave. C-1, 888-4310, Authentic Mexican: Monday through Saturday: B L D. Wonderfully simple menu, pleasant dining room and delicious aguas frescas. *C/S T/O*  
**MIGUEL'S**, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.  
\* **MI PUEBLITO**, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday B L. *T/O*  
\* **MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO**, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D. *D/T*  
\* **MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS**, 1001 E. University Ave. D3, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D. *C/S*  
**MOONGATE CAFÉ**, 9345 Bataan Memorial W., 382-5744. Coffee shop, Mexican, American: B L.



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TABLE TALK • CHERYL THORNBURG

# Dutch Treat

## Glenwood’s Dutch Oven Gathering is on for 2021

If you’re looking for something to do in the great outdoors, check out the Annual Glenwood Dutch Oven Gathering Saturday, April 10, at Glenwood Community Park.

The event features teams cooking up delicious meals in Dutch ovens around the site. Watch the teams as they prepare traditional and updated dishes over campfires and charcoal fires.

Each team will prepare a full meal – a meat dish, a side dish, a bread and a dessert. Water, lemonade or coffee will be supplied with the meal. Each camp will have a menu on display. The cooks enjoy visits and telling people about their ways of cooking.

Browse around and find the meal you would like most and then purchase a ticket for \$10 per meal. Serving begins about 2 p.m. at each camp where the meals are being prepared. Enjoy your Dutch oven dinner at the park or take it home.

There will be a small contest for the cooking teams who want to participate.

Activities this year include games to pass the time and vendor shopping.

Glenwood Library will have

### French Toast Casserole

- 2 teaspoons butter, softened
- 8 slices white bread, cut in 1" cubes
- 7 large eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 1/2 cup toasted pecans, chopped
- Maple syrup for serving

Grease a 12-inch Dutch oven with butter and fill the pot with bread cubes, distributing evenly. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, cream, syrup, 2 tablespoons of sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom. Pour this mixture over the bread cubes and press down over the surface of the casserole with a spatula to help the bread soak up the liquid. Sprinkle the top with the remaining sugar. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight. Remove from the fridge and allow it to come to room temperature before baking. Bake at 350 degrees (16 coals on top and 10 coals on bottom) for 1 hour or until the casserole is puffy and brown. Let cool for at least 10 minutes before slicing into squares and topping with the chopped pecans and warmed maple syrup. Serve with fresh fruit. Refrigerate all leftovers.

lots of books, CDs and DVDs available by donation for readers and fot viewers to add to their collections.

COVID guidelines will be encouraged. The organizers feel the event should be safe since it is outside in the fresh air and many folks have been vaccinated now.

Activities will run from 10 a.m. until about 3 p.m.at the community park on Catwalk Road, Route 174.

Organizer Molly Bryan said they are still looking for cooking teams and vendors to participate.

Contact Molly at 575-539-2714 or cell: 575-574-7704 or 3mollymules60@gmail.com for more information. Glenwood is located on Highway 180 northwest of Silver City in the Gila National Forest.

The nearby Catwalk trail, as well as many other trails, are open for those who want to explore more of the area.



There’s something special about getting together outdoors for a Dutch Oven meal like those on tap at the Dutch Oven Gathering in Glenwood April 10. (Photos by David and Cheryl Thornburg)



There’s something to please just about everyone’s taste at the Dutch Oven Gathering.



Some teams even have a traditional chuckwagon.

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- taking home a house plant
- recycling those old plastic pots

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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.  
Al-Anon family group, New Hope  
Contact: 313-7891.  
Grant County Federated Republican Women — 313-7997.  
Meditation for Beginners — Jeff, 956-6647. [www.lotuscentersc.org](http://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.  
Gilwriters — 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 — 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

Al-Anon family group — Contact: 313-7891.  
Archaeology Society — Visit [www.gcasnm.org](http://www.gcasnm.org), or email [webmaster@gcasnm.org](mailto:webmaster@gcasnm.org), or call 536-3092 for details.  
Babytime Sing & Play —

538-3672 or ref @silvercitymail.com.

Back Country Horsemen — Subject to change. 574-2888.  
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 — 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 — 574-5451.

THURSDAYS

Blooming Lotus Meditation — 313-7417, [geofarm@pobox.com](mailto:geofarm@pobox.com).  
De-stressing Meditations — 313-4087.  
Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society — Anita, 907-830-0631.  
Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting — 537-3327.  
Little Artist Club — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.  
TOPS — 538-9447.  
Vinyasa Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
WildWorks Youth Space — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

FRIDAYS

Overeaters Anonymous — 654-2067.  
Silver City Woman's Club — 313-4591.  
Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery — Contact:313-7891.

SATURDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip" — First United Methodist Church.  
Evening Prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition — 537-4839.  
Kids Bike Ride — 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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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

# Monoceros, The Unicorn

## More mysteries to discover

If you have never seen a unicorn, all you need to do is look halfway up in our southern sky. Just above Canis Major and its brilliant star, Sirius, you will find the constellation of Monoceros, the Unicorn. The name derives from mono- for one and -ceros for horn. This one-horned animal is composed of only faint stars, but it is encircled by three constellations with brilliant stars. Orion is to the west, Canis Minor to the northeast and Canis Major to the south.

Monoceros itself is composed of fourth magnitude and fainter stars. A modern constellation, it was introduced to the world in 1613 by Dutch-Flemish astronomer Peter Plancius. He had become interested in celestial mapmaking and helped create a celestial globe in 1592. In the process, he realized information on the stars in the southern hemisphere was sadly lacking.

Plancius trained Peter Keyser, the chief pilot on the ship *Hollandia*, to make measurements of the positions of stars in the southern sky. Between Keyser and his colleague, Frederick de Houtman, they cataloged 135 southern stars during their southern voyage. Even though Keyser died in Java, the catalogue made it back to Plancius. From this catalogue, he created 12 new constellations in 1598, all of which are part of the 88 modern constellations. Fifteen years later he revealed a 10-and-a-half-inch celestial globe, along with eight more constellations, including Monoceros. Only two of this later group survived to modern times, Monoceros and Camelopardalis.

The brightest star in Monoceros is Alpha Monocerotis which glows at a paltry magnitude of +3.9. Located 148 light-years from Earth, this star is twice the mass of our Sun, but 10 times its diameter. With a spectral class of G9, it is just a little yellower than the Sun. These characteristics point to a massive star that has finished burning hydrogen in its core and it is now burning helium. The extra energy has expanded the diameter of the star, allowing the surface to cool to its current color.

A +15.6-magnitude blue star near the center of this constellation was unremarkable among the other stars, that is until Jan. 6, 2002, when amateur astronomer N. J. Brown (Quinns Rocks, W. Australia) saw it brightening on the photographs he took every clear night and compared night-to-night. It was designated V838 Monocerotis, the 838th variable star discovered in the constellation. The rate at which

### Calendar of Events – April 2021 (MST/MDT)

04	4:02 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
11	8:30 p.m.	New Moon
18	8 p.m.	Mercury passes around the other side of the Sun
20	12:59 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
26	9:31 p.m.	Full Moon

the star brightened made it appear to be a routine nova.

Astronomers took spectroscopic observations of V838 and were surprised to find that there was not much hydrogen in its spectrum. A normal nova is the result of hydrogen building up on the surface of a white dwarf star. When enough hydrogen has accumulated on the surface, the increasing temperature and pressure finally initiates explosive fusion burning. This blows the hydrogen that was not fused into space and it appears in the nova's spectrum. V838 was missing this hydrogen signature in the spectrum, so it was not a normal nova.

This star continued to brighten slowly until Feb. 6 when it brightened from magnitude +11 to a maximum magnitude of +6.75 in less than a day. After that, it started to fade, but then brightened again in early March from magnitude +9 to +7.5 in only a few days. After this spike, it continued to fade back toward its original magnitude. On March 17 a telescope near Flagstaff, Arizona, detected a light echo surrounding this star.

Light echoes appear as a sphere or ring around the star. Those emerge as the light from the rapidly brightening star illuminates surrounding gas. Since the flash travels outward at the speed of light, the distance to V838 can be calculated by measuring the time since the brightening began and the diameter of the light echo surrounding the star. This puts V838 at around 20,000 light-years away from us.

This outburst is unique, being dubbed a luminous red nova. While the exact mechanism of the outburst is uncertain, it is most likely a mergeburst. V838 would have been a pair of young stars, one an eight solar mass main sequence (normal) star and the other a one-third solar mass star that was still forming. The smaller star still had its extended atmosphere and friction between it and the larger star eventually caused the smaller star to collide with the larger star, setting off the outburst.

The smaller star's extended atmosphere provided the gas for the outburst to illuminate, forming the light echo. Young multiple-star systems can be unstable, which led to V838's merger. The Hubble Space Telescope has

provided some beautiful images of the light echoes from this star. Astronomers continue to monitor this star and amateur astronomers continue to search the sky for similar outbursts. There are more mysteries still to be discovered.

### The Planets for April 2021

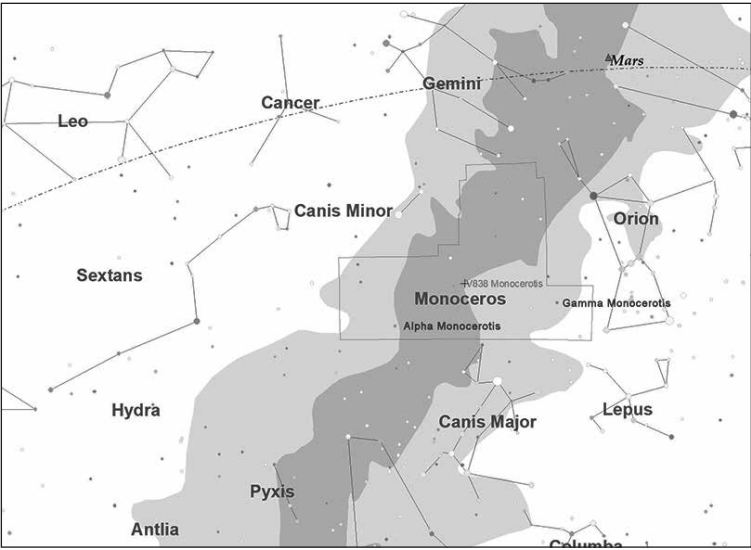
Still too near the Sun this month to be observed, Venus will be in our evening sky first thing next month. Meanwhile, Mars still graces the evening sky, moving eastward from central Taurus to western Gemini during the month. As it gets dark, Mars is 44 degrees above the western horizon, setting around midnight. The God of War has a disc that is 4.6 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude +1.6.

It's a long wait for the next planet to rise, with Saturn appearing around 3:15 a.m. Shining at magnitude +0.7, it is moving slowly eastward in central Capricornus. The Rings are 36.8 seconds-of-arc across and they will be tilted down 17.1 degrees with the northern face showing, while its disc will be 16.2 seconds-of-arc across. The Ringed Planet can be found 30 degrees above the southeastern horizon as dawn breaks.

Jupiter crosses from eastern Capricornus into western Aquarius this month. It rises around 4 a.m. and it is 24 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it starts to get light. The King of the Gods has a disc that is 35.9 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. It shines at magnitude -2.2.

Mercury moves from far eastern Aquarius into Pisces, clipping a corner of Cetus and then passing through the rest of Pisces and almost all of Aries, where it finishes the month at Aries' far east end. Unfortunately, the Sun is also in Aries, so Mercury is lost in the Sun's glare all month. The Messenger of the Gods will join Venus in the evening sky next month, so get ready for to more planets in the evening 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.*



Monoceros, the Unicorn, is composed of faint stars, but you can easily find it as it is surrounded by brilliant first magnitude stars. To its west are the bright stars of Orion. Below it is the brightest star in the sky, Sirius, in Canis Major. The final beacon is Procyon in Canis Minor to the northeast of Monoceros. The Milky Way runs right through the center of this constellation, providing many deep-sky objects like the Rosette Nebula, a complex hydrogen cloud surrounding an open star cluster.



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# It Has Yet to Pass

## Wondering when equal rights will be equal

*“February 2020, The Emmett Till Anti-lynching Act was considered by the Senate. It has yet to pass.”*

Recently, I watched the new Billie Holiday movie, “The United States Vs.

Billie Holiday.” It was, at least for me, a very upsetting movie. At the end of the movie, they showed the above quote. I just burst into tears. I haven’t cried like that for a long time. I think the insanity and bankrupt mentality of most people who represent our government was just too much for me. I just can’t understand what there is to consider. Are they considering whether lynching is murder? Or are they considering whether lynching an African American is murder?

As a white person, I can forget how racist our country can be. It is easy for me to not even be aware of my white privilege and just go about my life taking for granted the ease in which I can move through society. I can hail a cab on a dark night. I don’t get followed around in a store. I don’t have to worry that anytime I’m stopped by the police I may lose my life. And, I don’t have to worry that my activity represents my race.

If you would like to look more deeply into white privilege, please research Peggy MacIntosh, who wrote an essay called, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.” I keep a copy of it at home and I read it every now and then. As I said earlier, it is very easy for us to forget about how much easier our white privilege makes our lives than those without that privilege.

I grew up in east San Diego in an area called Encanto, near Imperial Avenue and Logan Heights. It was an area where whites were a small minority. So, you would think I would have

learned to be aware of my privilege. Unfortunately, it is easy to forget about privilege. Privilege is like having the wind at your back. You don’t notice it, but it is always there. It gives you that edge that allows you to succeed. However, if you happened to be born a discriminated-against minority, it’s like always having the wind against you. You must work much harder in everything you do to succeed. It’s not that white people don’t work hard, it’s just that discriminated-against people have to work much harder to have the same outcome.

People of color are not the only people who have the wind in their faces. Ask any woman how much harder it is to get the same recognition for doing the same work a man does. Even though women are 51 percent of the population, only 8 percent of the Fortune 500 are women. Only three percent are women of color. Also, only around 24 percent of the House and the Senate are women. Things are getting better, but it has been painfully slow. The Equal Rights Amendment has still to be passed. I suppose congress is still considering it. Again, what is there to consider?

There are many other groups of people that face discrimination in our country, such as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA) community; people who have some type of disability; people who are too short, too tall, too heavy, too skinny, too old, too young, wrong hair color, etc. Human beings have always come in many different varieties.

By 2050, whites will be a minority in this country. On a world scale, whites are, at best, 15 percent of the world’s population of 7.9 billion.

I can’t help thinking about the arrogance of General Custer.

So, why is there so much racism in the world? I believe it can be blamed directly on patriarchy. Patriarchy is about males having power and dominance over society. Patriarchy gives all males, especially white males, inherent privilege. Boys are raised to expect to have power

and dominance and the privilege that goes along with it. However, very few men have the power they were raised to expect to have. In a modern world, women often make as much money as men. And many women do not accept the idea that men should have privilege and dominance. Many men often feel alienated and frustrated because they are not able to live in the manner in which they were raised to expect.

Not understanding why this is so, they strike at those who are vulnerable – women and minorities. They look for ways to be dominant, to express their need to have power over something or someone. This is the main reason there is so much bullying. Men, both boys and adults, look for ways to show they have power. This need to demonstrate power is often shown by men who bully women, minorities and anyone else who is more vulnerable than themselves. It is amazing how much our society tolerates bullying in all its forms. Lynching is just bullying taken to the extreme.


Bullying is done by those who are unhappy, frustrated and feel inadequate because life did not give them the power they felt they were supposed to have. The easiest people to blame are those who are different, those who can’t fight back, those who are vulnerable and not protected by the law and our society.

As we saw in the Billie Holiday movie, these same types of men showed a small woman of color just how tough they were.

*Susan Golightly 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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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Is My Horse Lamé?

He may be telling you he is

In a recent episode of the delightful re-boot of the much-loved series “All Creatures Great and Small,” the central character, veterinarian James Herriot, was presented with a challenging case, a magnificent bull that was failing at his primary job on the farm, keeping a number of cows pregnant. There was nothing obviously wrong with the enormous beast, so Herriot suggested he was simply fatigued from his job and just needed a pick-me-up. A shot of vitamins should do it.

This didn’t seem to help, so another concoction was tried and the bull was sent back out to see the girls.

Alas, this didn’t seem to do the trick either. One of the other vets in the practice suggested maybe the bull was lame. That seemed an odd idea to me at first, given how I think of lameness in animals, but it turned out the bull had a serious back problem that only bothered him when the bull attempted to mount a cow. For him, it was just too painful to have sex, so he didn’t bother. Poor guy, his next stop was probably the dinner table.

This story made me think about one of the most difficult issues to detect and treat in horses.

When you talk to any horse owner about lameness, you almost always will get a pretty narrow definition having to do with the way a horse moves at various gaits, and it usually involves what’s going on with the hooves or lower leg. If a horse limps or has the old “hitch in his giddy-up,” then he’s lame. Otherwise, good to go.

But that bull from the story above showed no limp or discomfort when moving, yet he was still considered lame.

It has always been my belief that because a horse is poorly designed for riding, it stands to reason it will often experience pain and discomfort based on the physical accommodations it has to make to carry a rider and perform under saddle. This is especially true with horses that have not been properly conditioned for riding. Maybe it would help the horse if we thought of lameness in much broader terms, more about musculoskeletal pain anywhere in a horse’s body that could affect performance or attitude, rather than just a horse that limps a bit.

Possibly the best tool I’ve seen for evaluating pain in horses is a diagnostic scale developed at the Animal Health Trust in New-

market, England. Known as the “Ridden Horse Pain Ethogram,” or RHpE, this approach describes 24 different horse behaviors that have all been proven to be indicators of musculoskeletal pain in horses. If a horse exhibits eight or more of these indicators, you can be pretty sure the horse is in pain somewhere in his body, and probably enough so that performance is impacted. Many of these indicators are often accepted as “normal” horse behavior, which is why so much lameness can be missed.

Sue Dyson, DVM and PhD, one of the vets behind the development of the RHpE, described her drive to develop the system like this:

“I had become so dispirited by seeing so many horses who clearly had pain-related problems that had been ignored for far too long. The horse, the rider, the training techniques were being blamed over and over again. Coercive training techniques were being used. Longer whips, spurs, tighter nosebands, stronger bits were being employed. Moreover, many vets didn’t understand what they were looking at either, in many cases telling an

**HORSES**

continued on page 24



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communication and outreach for BeWellnm.

Manring said the insurance is more affordable than many are aware of. And there is free local help which assists people explore their options.

“This is a huge opportunity for our state,” she said. “This window is unique.”

Jeffery Bustamante, BeWellnm CEO, said the opportunity is really to help support individuals going through transitions and to help people work through this difficult time.

“For the remaining uninsured who don’t have coverage we are

spending a lot of energy to get them connected,” he said. “Even if you don’t qualify for BeWellnm, we will help you qualify for insurance. If somebody comes to us with questions we will help them period.”

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“BeWellnm is the only place where you can get financial assistance to provide low-cost or no-cost insurance, and free local help to explore your options. more,” Manring said.

**HORSES**  
continued from page 23

owner where there was no obvious sign of lameness that their horse had behavioral problems.”

This system has been tested in some interesting studies involving vets, farriers, master saddle fitters, equine chiropractors and advanced riders where the horses have been observed doing basic work under saddle and then graded against each of the 24 indicators. The studies have all shown a strong correlation between the observed behaviors of the horses relative to the indicators and a lameness diagnosis.

to cover musculoskeletal pain anywhere in the body is beyond the diagnostic expertise of many vets in general practices, as it has become a true specialty within equine medicine.

I don’t have the space here to list the 24 indicators on the RHPe or the details of the studies, but I urge any horse owner to find the most recent study in the publication “Animals” from June 2020.

After all these years of training, I now believe it’s borderline abusive to neglect conditioning a horse for riding before actually riding, especially young horses or horses that have been inactive for a period of time. These are athletes that need to be conditioned to do their jobs, even the good old guy who just goes out on the trail. If he’s been sitting around for a few months because you’ve been busy, you owe it to him to get back to some level of conditioning before you hit the trails. It will make it less painful for him.

As with most things that effect the health of horses, a lot of this comes back to the human learning to be a better rider or developing techniques to help the horse physically and mentally but that don’t involve riding. It

means constantly evaluating the fit of your tack, your approach to nutrition, the quality of your hoof care and your horse’s overall quality of life – from his perspective. It means being willing to change you plans on any given day because the signs point to some discomfort.

Horses are amazing creatures, but they are stoics. They put up with crazy demands from humans to do things they would never do on their own, and in most cases they do it with few objections. But, when I see a study that found almost three-quarters of the horses that were considered sound, pain-free and comfortable with being ridden, but actually turned out to be lame, in some cases seriously so, it makes me wonder just how many of us are overlooking what our horses are trying to tell us every time we want to go for a ride.

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



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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

# Reconsider Travel

## Rights activists lose lives in Mexico

I used to jump in my car some Saturday mornings, drive to Ascension to have lunch and then move on to Casas Grandes. Or I might spend my day in Juarez, which had lots of marketplaces, both inside and outside buildings, for tourists.

But things have changed a lot, at least for the cultural tourist type.

I've kept my eye on the U.S. State Department travel warnings for years, and since the narco-violence exploded in about 2007, I have rarely been comfortable on the roads beyond Ascension. The danger level for Americans went up substantially last year partly because of the massacre of nine people of the LeBaron family in La Mora, Sonora in January 2020.

Right after that the danger estimates were raised from "Reconsider Travel" to "Do Not Travel" for a while in Janos and in Creel, right near the Copper Canyon. That is equivalent to "Don't even think about it." But those estimates have gone down somewhat.

You figure there must be lots of people born 15 or even 20 years ago who don't know what the Paquime ruins are in Casas Grandes, or the Mennonite colonies that are scattered in the area, or the town of Mata Ortiz where hundreds of master potters make their elegant indigenous-style pots to sell. They've never seen the Old Town of Casas Grandes where there was an important battle during the first weeks of the Mexican Revolution, led by Francisco I. Madero, who became the first Mexican president of the revolutionary period.

I can remember years ago being in Ascension late at night and hearing someone near the street playing the guitar. I pulled my car over where about six men sat listening. When I realized everybody was profoundly drunk, I left. But I wasn't scared.

I remember laughing at the building in Casas Grandes with turrets around the top that was said to be owned by drug dealers. It doesn't seem funny now.

One of the problems is that the violence used to be secret. Narcos used to have a code of honor that prohibited them from killing anyone but people in their own ranks. When the drug war grew, the killers came out of their lairs and lost all pretense of principals.

For a couple of months, there's been an emphasis on women's rights in regional newspapers. Probably International Women's Day on March 8 had something to do with it. In Mexico, women activists are saying that 10 women per day are killed nationwide. Related stories are filling newspapers. On March 11, El Diario de Juarez in Nuevo Casas Grandes



Isabel Cabanillas  
(Courtesy Photo)



Miroslava Breach Velducea  
(Courtesy Photo)



Antonio Montes  
(Courtesy Photo)



Leslie Rocha aka Leslie Alejandra Ferreti  
(Courtesy Photo)

published an article about how some people there are urging the development of a specialized attorney general's office for women to support women's rights. There are other offices with the same purpose, but they're too far away to be effective in cases of rape and murder.

On Jan. 15 El Diario de Juarez had a front page photo and a full-page article on the third page commemorating the shooting death of Isabel Cabanillas, a 26-year-old women's rights activist and dress designer who was killed the year before while riding her bike at night. Many Juarenses are still calling for justice in her case.

The state of Chihuahua is in second place in Mexico right now for the highest rates of killings of all kinds of activists.

Besides Isabel, these include two men, Juan Zamarripa of San Juanito, and the indigenous leader Antonio Montes of Creel, who both protested the cutting down of trees in the Copper Canyon area. This illegal harvest has been going on for decades. About 90 percent of the trees in the region have been cut down, robbing the Tarahumara people of their livelihood. On Sept. 5 last year, Leslie Rocha, LGBT+ activist, was found dead in her house in Juarez.

Journalist Miroslava Breach Velducea, who had been writing about the power of the narcos in local elections in southern

Chihuahua when she was assassinated, has been in the news recently. The governor of Chihuahua, Javier Corral, has been drawn into the case for supposedly protecting some of the suspects.

A group of relatives of disappeared people was shown in the March 11 issue of El Diario de Juarez. They were visiting on their own an abandoned patch of land in Juarez after authorities denied them the right to do so. On the opposite page there was an article about relatives and friends who went with picks and shovels to another field to try to find the remains of people they knew, including an American soldier from Fort Bliss.

The unmarked graveyards are slowly coming back to life all over Mexico.

I wish all the violence could be blown away as if by a windstorm, blowing it out like a candle. Maybe the situation would improve if wages were raised in Mexico, or if human rights principles began to sink in, or because of the sheer exhaustion of the perpetrators.

But I don't have any estimates to make. I don't have any sense about when it might be over: either from research or from intuition.

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.*





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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

# A Tribute to a Lady Who Loved the Blues

She gave Blues musicians, fans a place to call home

Last week I got a call from my sister-in-law who still lives in my little hometown in northern Indiana.

“I have sad news. Albertina died last night,” she said.

Now, I’m almost used to such calls, what with the pandemic and, well, getting old. But this one hit me hard. Somehow, I never expected Albertina Wassenhove to die. At 93, she’d beaten cancer twice and had some heart issues, but she always bounced back and could be found every evening sitting on her tall stool at the entrance to the dance hall at the Midway Tavern in Mishawaka, Indiana, collecting cover charges for the night’s music.

Most people have not heard of Mishawaka. Its twin city, South Bend, the home of Notre Dame University and of the city’s former Mayor Pete Buttigieg, is better known. At just under 50,000 population, Mishawaka is almost half as big as her sister city. It was founded in the 1830s and was named after Shawnee Chief Elkhart’s daughter, Princess Mishawaka, who is remembered for some scandalous goings-on with a white trapper named Deadshot. Its manufacturing industries attracted the same European immigrant population as South Bend – Polish, Hungarian, Irish, German, Italian and Swedish. Each group had its own neighborhood.

I grew up in a farm town half an hour away, and South Bend was “the big city” where once a year Mom would take us shopping for school clothes. Neighboring Mishawaka was just the place where my maternal grandmother lived. That was many years before I was



Albertina was beloved by the City of Mishawaka and on her death, tributes poured in from Blues musicians around the world. (Courtesy photo)

introduced to The Midway Tavern, a blues bar located in one of the ethnic neighborhoods. Often called Martha’s Midway, or just Martha’s, by the locals, the bar was bought in 1924 by Albertina’s parents Martha and Cyriel, recent immigrants from Holland. It had a dirt floor and a potbelly stove, and because prohibition was in force, they had to be sneaky when serving their booze, some of which Martha made herself and some of which she bought from nearby farmers. According to my family’s lore, my grandfather Melvin was probably one of her suppliers.

In the ’20s, one of Martha’s admiring customers was Al Capone, who stopped in with a dozen roses whenever he was down from Chicago.

“He was nice, friendly, good-looking, considerate, his

friends were nice,” Martha said years later after she finally realized who he was. “They treated us nice,” and never tried to talk her into buying his bootleg hooch.

When prohibition was revoked, Martha and Cyriel put in a wooden floor, a stage, and some booths in the back dance hall, and to this day, no more changes have been made. When you enter the Midway, you’re instantly back in the ’30s. Long, narrow, dark, low ceiling, old booths. If you squint your eyes, you might see couples jitterbugging on the dance floor, dressed in the full skirts and baggy pants of that era.

After her husband died in the mid-40s until her death in 1990 at the age of 92, Martha ran the bar with the help of her daughters, Albertina and Toni, never missing a night working behind

the bar, where she treated her customers like family and occasionally performed her “chicken dance” for their entertainment. In the 1980s she was featured in stories by People Magazine, CNN and the Chicago Tribune.

After Martha’s death, Albertina carried on with the Blues format, and the club, which had hosted such blues legends as Sister Rosetta Tharpe back in the ’30s and ’40s became a regular stop on the tours of many of the world’s major Blues performers, such as Pinetop Perkins, Barrelhouse Chuck, Rod Piazza and Yank Rachell.

Harvey Stauffer, leader of the house band, Elwood Splinter Blues Band, and host of a local blues radio show, said, “She was just a lady who loved the Blues – and loved the people.”

Albertina’s daytime career was at Notre Dame where she worked for 30 years. But her love was the Midway, and every evening she was there, going from table to table greeting her customers and occasionally dancing up a storm, even into her 90s.

She loved the musicians and they reciprocated. Booking agent Page Stallings said after her death that “I had a bunch of clients that would play for next to nothing because they truly loved her and loved the venue.”

During the ’90s and early 2000s, every time my husband, Jimmy, and I drove up from Indianapolis to visit relatives, we stopped in at the Midway for an evening. Jimmy fell in love with Albertina and called her his “other woman;” they spent hours just chatting. Wherever we traveled in the world, he would email her a photo of himself wearing a Midway Tavern

t-shirt, which she would post on the club’s website. After we took off for our RVing life, our visits were less frequent, but we knew we would hear “The Nomads are back!” announced from the stage as soon as we entered the dance hall.

In 2018 Albertina traveled to Nashville to receive the Blues Foundation “Keeping the Blues Alive” award, which honors the people who work behind the scenes to make sure the Blues will continue to thrive.

Blues musician “Jumpin’ Gene” Halton said Albertina was “absolutely essential to the growth ... of the Blues in the area. She was one of those people who could make things happen; but there’s something broader than that. Her presence on the Blues scene was such a positive energy.”

Albertina’s son, Dan, and her daughter, Susie, will continue to run the Midway. The club will continue, the musicians will still play the Blues and the fans will still come. But that tall stool at the doorway will be empty. Or maybe Albertina’s spirit will still be there, hopping from table to table with her smile of welcome, happy to be exactly where she wants to be, bringing the music she loves and the people she loves together once again.

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 [skslowder@aol.com](mailto:skslowder@aol.com).



# Life is Good

in Otero County

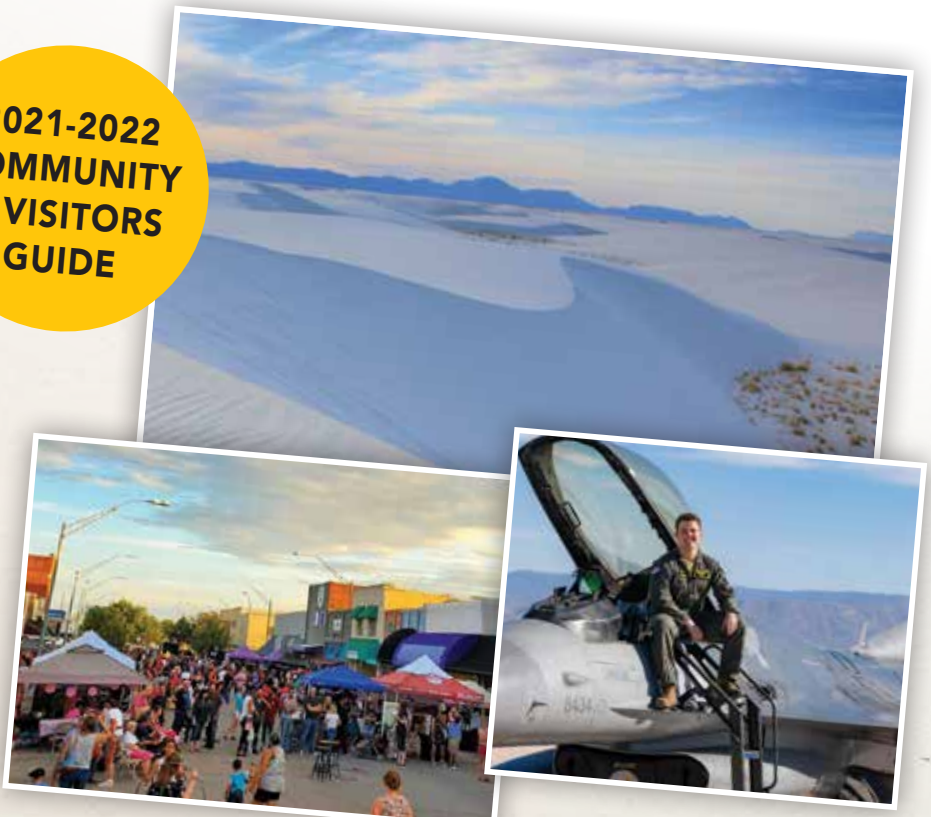
“Life is Good in Otero County,” a full-color, community and visitors guide, valuable for residents, helpful for newcomers and a vital guide for visitors, is coming in late May.

If you would like to promote your business or organization in this magazine, call Richard Coltharp at 575-439-7548.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK \* RICHARD COLTHARP

# Weather Words to the Wise

## An ode to the grinding gusts of springtime

**A**lmost every region of America has a weather feature that is just miserable. Often, it's bad enough to ruin your whole day.

In Arizona, the midsummer triple-digit temperatures keep you indoors. It's no fun when it's 111 degrees at 10 p.m. Over in Austin, Texas, when it's 96 degrees and 96 percent humidity, and you're stuck in interminable traffic, you just want to scream. I've never set foot in Minnesota, in part because I'm no fan of snow that lasts more than 24 hours and leaves more than 24 inches. In Seattle, people sometimes take medical treatment for the depressive effects of the endless rainy weather. Other parts of the country face tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms or

earthquakes.

We here in southern New Mexico have almost none of those troubles. However, whoever first compared March to a lion may very well have experienced our relentless, roaring winds. And since it does no good to complain, I thought I might try a few refrains.

The wind, my friend, has been unleashed.

Each year, at this time, its speed's increased.

For a dozen days, skies are calm and at peace,

But on that 13th day, Look out! Here comes the beast.

The flags are strong, much more than a breeze.

They're flying up, angling 30

degrees.

If you're standing on your feet, and feeling unease,

Be careful, you could soon be on your knees.

Driving the roads, your vehicle's whipped.

Your teeth it seems, in dust, have been dipped.

Every bush, from roots easily ripped.

And every trash can you see, violently flipped.

Tumbleweeds, they roll and dash,

Lurking and hiding, they leap in a flash.

From left and right, they await your smash.

And a great once in a while, from the sky they'll crash.

Sometimes winds blow for three days straight,

Your weekend plans succumb to the fate.

The fourth day brings quiet, the winds abate.

Day five, they're back, laughing right in your face.

I wouldn't mind a slight breeze, the occasional gust.

But don't like my eyes being coated with dust.

Each spring I've complained and sometimes I've cursed,

About wind-blown skin that now feels like crust.

The garden is scattered, the trash on the lawn.

The hat on your head has now long since gone.

The birds fly in place, and only try to move on.

The car door it slams, the wind beats my brawn.

The next day again, the wind won't blow a feather.

The sky is silent; your skin's not like leather.

Something we've learned, to do almost never,

Is try to predict the New Mexico weather.

*Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He can be reached at richard@ascrucesbulletin.com*



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Mid-March winds in Southern New Mexico take their toll on roofs and walls as well as travel and flags. This home in Alamogordo had part of its 6-foot concrete wall knocked over by the wind on March 12. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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