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JULY 2021
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CAPTURED IN CLAY



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

I Have a Question

Pondering the unfathomable issues

Before I ask questions, I want to thank our columnist Sheila Sowder, who has been taking us on her “Living on Wheels” journey for several years now. This RVing column has been one of Desert Exposure’s most popular features ever. Sheila and her husband are now heading for their next RV travel adventures and she has stepped back from writing. Hopefully, they will send us a postcard once in a while to let us know how they are doing and where they are. We wish you a joyous journey and clear trails with minimal potholes.

Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa will be flying to the International Space Station in December with a Russian crew, hitching a ride on the Soyuz spacecraft 'MS-20' from Kazakhstan.

The duration of his spaceflight will be 12 days and will be commanded by Cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin. Maezawa and his crew began three months of training for the trip in June at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia.

After purchasing one of the first spots on a commercial flight to the International Space Station, Mewzawa announced he will be doing some experiments while he's up there. He's trying

to answer questions that people have always wondered. For example, he will see if he can find out if farting in space propels you through the air. His questions include is velocity related to how loud it is? Is it related to how bad it smells?

It turns out some of us have questions that are not quite so “out there.”

When I go to Sonic Drive-In for my happy hour slush, there is always a long line of cars waiting for the drive-up window. Why don't they drive into a stall and make their orders? I drive in, look at the line, order my drink and when I leave, the same cars are always still lined up in the drive-up line. Seems inefficient somehow.

Here are some from the Milk Street Radio podcast:

Why do packaging labels on peanuts say, “this may contain nuts;” on a shoebox, “average contents two;” on a superman outfit, “does not enable wearer to fly;” In a car manual, “in order to get out of car, open door, get out and then close door?”

Here are some more, pitched in by friends:

Why do vegetarians have food that is made to resemble meat?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

Why is it pronounced keRnel
when there is no R in colonel?

Why is a can of evaporated milk not empty?

Why does it say on the instructions for a blow dryer "for external use only"?

Why are they called apartments when they're all stuck together?

If our body temperature is 98 degrees, why do we feel hot when it is 80 degrees outside? Shouldn't we feel cold?

Why do they have braille instructions on drive thru ATM's?

Why doesn't pound cake weigh a pound?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why do fans start at the highest setting and go down?

Other questions may address the strange but true, like this one from the more scientific source, "Life's Little Mysteries:"

Which animal has the stretchiest mouth? At least this one has an answer – sort of.

A golden retriever named Finley Molloy enjoys picking up tennis balls so much, he can stretch his jaws and cheeks to fit six in his mouth at once, according to Guinness World Records.

But actually, it turns out there isn't a scientific consensus on this cheeky characteristic. How-

ever, there are certainly a few standout contenders. Some animals, including many rodents and certain monkeys, including the mandrill, have expandable pouches in their cheeks to store food. Hamster cheeks are perhaps the best example, with pouches capable of holding up to 20 percent of the animal's entire body weight, according to Business Insider.

And a few more for good measure:

Are children who act in R-rated movies allowed to watch the film when it's done?

Do you consider eyebrows facial hair?

What hair color do they put in bald people's driver's licenses?

Do prison buses have emergency exits?

How do you grow a seedless fruit?

If you had a dream that none of your dreams would come true, and you woke up and had none of your real-life dreams come true, would that be a dream come true?

If you have more questions about life please share them, or if you have any answers, we would love to hear them. Just let me know at editor@desertexposure.com.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of *Desert Exposure* and would love to meet *Desert Exposure* readers in Silver. Please contact her at desertexposure@gmail.com or by phone at 575-436-1111, any time.



LETTERS

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

We welcome letters to the editor including your opinions and feedback regarding news, events and issues published here. Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse letters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print.

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Dan Cook, Broker

Country living just over 15 miles from Silver City is waiting for you to build your dream home in the great southwest. Weather is about as delightful as you'll find, with Gila National Forest land nearby, to hike, mountain bike, four-wheel and explore to your heart's content. This nearly 6 acre corner lot, has many building areas and will be a peaceful retreat from the fast paced city life. Call soon, as there is not as much land inventory anymore.

MLS # 37943 \$39,900

Adorable 2 bd 1 ba fixer-upper in Hurley. This home has all of the charm when it was built including original hardwood floor, claw-foot tub, and built-ins. Large lot with fully enclosed back yard.
MLS # 38301 \$65,000

Gorgeous acreage close to town with all city amenities available. Land features amazing views, large trees and bulk utilities in the street so subdivision is possible. Possible owner finance with decent downpayment.
MLS # 38272 \$219,000

Practically move in ready commercial building with plenty of off street parking. Three interior offices and large open reception area. Walking distance to downtown. Would make a great professional office with very high visibility and Highway 90 traffic. Ask today, this location at this price is opportunity waiting to happen. Ask about the building availability next door, to the north.
MLS # 38020 \$215,000

Cute home in the heart of Lordsburg. New HVAC and newer metal roof. The home is in good shape with plenty of room for upgrades.
MLS # 38298 \$78,000

This mountain getaway offers spectacular views on five acres of land. Just minutes from Lake Roberts, Sapillo Creek and Gila Hot Springs. This newer maintained home offers peaceful mountain living with a covered deck to enjoy all the wildlife and native landscape on the property. Home is all electric (no propane to maintain), pellet stove heating as well. Large garage with drive thru doors on each side. Stunning wood cabinetry in the kitchen. Laminate floors and tiles throughout.
MLS # 37856 \$299,000

Stunning views of the Mimbres River Valley, Black Range and Hendricks Peak. Very private. 1 bedroom/1 bathroom cabin with downstairs 1 car garage. Needs some finish work. Potential for additional bedroom or office downstairs. Large deck with spiral staircase. Fixer upper 3 bedroom/2 bathroom 1984 doublewide. Storage building and well house on 8.233 acres.
 Cash only.
MLS # 38189 \$149,000

Invest in Historic Downtown Silver City! Long-term tenants are established in this property. Great location within walking distance to downtown and Western NM University.
MLS # 38258 \$299,000

Opportunity for Live/Work within walking distance to Downtown Silver City! This 2 bedroom home could be a great set up a home business as the 2nd bedroom has a separate outside entrance from the main house. Lots of possibilities! Or just move in and enjoy being close to town. Home has new windows! Ceramic tile floors for easy maintenance.
 Take a look!
MLS # 38303 \$150,000

Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own one of the last remaining substantial spreads, this close to Silver City. The 92+/- acres lends itself to several building sites with views all the way to Mexico. If you want privacy, you'll find it here. Wildlife abounds, as it has had limited access for years. This is just south of Dos Griegos subdivision and is just under 5 miles from downtown Silver City. Don't hesitate for a moment to call.
MLS # 37794 \$399,000

High visibility on Hudson and Highway 90 for your commercial needs. Three private offices with reception area. Metal exterior and flexibility to customize the interior in many ways. Call today to request an onsite tour. Ask about the commercial property adjoining to the south for an even larger commercial footprint.
MLS # 38021 \$175,000

Lake Roberts Motel owners have continuously remodeled since purchase, which had a major overhaul in 2012 on almost every inch of the original structures. There are 6 "cabin style suites" that are more than adorable, the rooms are spotless, decorated with love in a southwestern theme. There is also a cabin rental in addition to owners retreat and store. A "Woodhenge" fire pit area is equipped with roasting forks, a cooking grate, and a generous supply of firewood, topped off with Tiki torches surrounding the pit to create a special ambiance.
MLS # 37199 \$489,900

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ABOUT THE COVER:

“Cocoon of Dreams” was created by Silver City potter Zoe Wolfe about the time of the pandemic. “This year our emotions scattered like falling leaves. We have held onto our dreams waiting for them to metamorphosize like butterflies from their cocoons,” she said of the piece. “In a time of unprecedented global events, contemplation and consideration are needed. Artists observe the world around them and create artwork that communicates individual perspectives and experiences.”

Wolfe is a full-time potter and said poetic spirit describes the stories behind her sculpture. Working primarily in clay, her forms are sensual and tactile, ranging in scale from handheld to exterior public works. She is represented in Silver City by Leyba & Ingalls Art, and Zoe’s Gallery.

The Silver City Clay Festival, July 12-18, celebrates all things clay and welcomes participants both in-person and virtual with this year’s event. Visit clayfestival.com for information.



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

When Desert Exposure publisher Richard Coltharp headed to Alaska for a brief escape from the heat in June, he took his June issue with him and did some exploring of the cooler climes. 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 send a photo of yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, N.M. 88005.

Desert #61 Dumbfounder

by Dave Thomas

“Desert Dumbfounder” by Dave Thomas is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month’s *Desert Exposure*. Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to nmsrdave@swcp.com, and be recognized!

TIPS: www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm and www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg

"J VNR RNZ VLQC, PJXQ RLNCQ, MLQ LQIF AIFY MLQ VQRMQIC YFUJQ

FA MLQ RNYQ CNYQ, WQAA IFZQ FAA MF NCFMLQI MFVC MLNM CQZQZ

LJR RQIUJEQR." - GBNP LFHPQC, FC RNCMN AQ VIJMQI WQAA OQIK.

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 WERE STUPID WITH AWE. BY THE TIME HE CAME HERE FROM TAOS, HE HAD A REPERTOIRE OF PAINTING. HE WAS AND STILL IS OUR ART GURU." - POTTER IVY HEYMANN OF WHITE OAKS, ON JIM MACK

*Secret Words: "DEPLOYING CRAFTS HUB"

Congrats to #60 solvers : David Kinder*, Will Adams*, Skip Howard*, Mike Arms*, Connie Tull* and Shorty Vaiza*!

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

A Tale of Two Kitties...

...Two dogs, two cats, red enchiladas and Andes candies

Every Saturday I go to Las Fuentes restaurant and buy my father the family pack of red cheese enchiladas, with sides of rice and beans. My father is one enchilada-eating kind of guy. If I'm lucky, my granddaughter will join me.

Early last month, however, they had a sign on their window. It said: "Closed today." That today has lasted over a month. They tried to hang in there, but I'm guessing the virus that no one is allowed to speculate where it came from has claimed another casualty.

Fortunately, there's no shortage of Mexican restaurants where I live — God bless the Southwest — so I went to a different restaurant, Gabriel's. We threw my youngest daughter her first birthday party there. That was 18 years ago, so I'm guessing your invitation should show up any day now.

"It doesn't taste the same," my father was quick to point out. "Are you getting them from the same place?"

"Would I go someplace else?" I said, not really lying.

"Well, tell them I'm not happy."

For the record, Gabriel's makes excellent enchiladas. My father is just a creature of habit.

"Why don't you try The Lunch

Box?" my wife said, suggesting the restaurant we go to when we're in the mood for Mexican food. So I did and my father immediately quit complaining. My wife is not just beautiful, she's smart.

He confided to her that they tasted just like the ones his mother used to make, and he's been reminiscing about her ever since. Something as simple as that has made my father happy, and a happy dad is a dad we don't have to medicate. Some of you will understand what I'm talking about.

The Lunch Box is close to where my sister lives, which happens to be the house we all grew up in. My granddaughter had a bag of Andes mint chocolates for her, so we dropped by for a visit. As we got out of the car, my granddaughter told me, "I really like these candies," dropping a hint so big a boulder could have rolled after Indiana Jones in it. I promised to buy her some later, then thought about it and — what the heck — I tore open the bag and gave her three pieces. She ate one, then gobbled up the last two at the same time. She eats like my father, taking no prisoners.

My sister has three very loud dogs. If their job is to keep in-

truders away, then they do their job very well. Despite that, two cats have adopted my sister and made the front porch their home. One's a male she calls Meatball, and the other's a female she calls Sasha, because she's sassy. Sasha was lounging on the porch by the front door. Whenever the male came close, she chased him away. Kind of like my first wife when I was feeling frisky.

Turns out, Sasha had two kittens hidden away in the brick flowerbed that goes along the front of the house. Until they stuck out their curious little heads, we had no idea they were there.

"Sasha," my sister gushed, "you're a mommy!"

They looked only a few weeks old. Reaching down, I picked one up. It hissed, so I quickly put it back down. Multiple punctures is not my idea of a good time. The other one ran off, around the corner of the house. My sister picked up the one who stayed, and, after making its disgruntlement known, the kitten settled down and let itself be held.

"Can your granddaughter hold it?" my sister asked me.

At first I said no, because, well.... that kitten's claws and teeth were SHARP! Like an unholy combination of scalpels

and needles. Edward Scissorhands only dreams about having appendages like those. After a few minutes, however, I gave in. The longing look in my granddaughter's eyes was more than I could resist. She took the kitten gently in her arms. The kitten enjoyed being cuddled by her, and the feeling was mutual.

"What should we name the kitten?" my sister asked her.

"Flower," my granddaughter said, "because she's a girl."

"She is?"

"They both are."

"How do you know?"

"I just do."

Thinking of how Sasha chased Meatball away, it surprised me how comfortable she was letting us hold her baby. My sister, meanwhile, went to get her a can of tuna.

"Mommies need their energy," she told us.

After a time, the kitten was put back in its hiding place, and the three of us went in search of the missing one. If it made its way to the backyard, things might not turn out so well for it when my sister's dogs came out to do their business.

The kitten was hiding along the side of the house. My sister picked it up, took it back, and just like that it was time for us

to go. My granddaughter was having a good time. She could have stayed there all day holding those kittens and visiting with my sister.

"Can we take them home?" she asked as we were leaving.

Her yearning tugged at my heart.

"No, sweetie," I reluctantly told her.

"Aw," she said.

My sister was also disappointed. She's too young to become a cat lady.

On our drive home, true to my word, I bought my granddaughter a bag of Andes. That perked her up a bit. It wasn't the same, but it had to do.

Once home, my wife asked her if she was going to share the candy with her auntie, my youngest, who was studying in her bedroom. My granddaughter reached into the candy bag, which was completely full, and pulled out a miserly two pieces.

"Is that all you're going to give her?" my wife asked.

"I don't want to run out," she explained.

The worst thing about bathing a cat is how its fur sticks to your tongue.
theduchenebrothers@gmail.com @JimDuchene.

Letters to the Editor

Fighting the Good Fight

My name is Zach, I am living with Type 1 diabetes that was thrust upon me in my 20s without any warning signs. This has affected my long-term career plans, and will most likely mean I am dead within a decade, especially coupled with the fact I live in poverty and the ACA is the only thing keeping me alive. And yet my focus while I am alive is the long-term success of

New Mexico and those living in the Chihuahuan Desert.

According to Carolyn Donnelly of the Bureau of Reclamation the Elephant Butte reservoir will be at or lower than 1 percent by the end of the farming season. Also, according Ms. Donnelly, the only solution to this problem is to hope for rain. I don't know about others, but to me, hope isn't a strategy, especially when

it comes to handling a water source in a desert.

Colonizers have lived in this area for hundreds of years, and indigenous people for thousands. The area isn't the problem, it's how we handle our water, and what is happening to the water sources. Decrease in snowpack leading to decrease in snow melt caused by global climate crisis caused by humans

burning fossil fuels is the biggest culprit of water shortages.

The solution for people who ignore the effects of the global climate crisis seems to be: everyone just moves out of the desert. I wonder why people who ignore climate change also ignore that it will be a lot more expensive on taxpayers to move large population centers out of desert locales than it would be

just to stop burning fossil fuels so we can start to fix the global climate. The naysayers seem more focused on a line that goes up and down on Wall Street than they are about real human lives and the cost of relocating millions of people instead of just having a handful of companies stop polluting our planet.

LETTER
continued on page 5

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Look Beyond the Front Porch

Another America awaits

With all the heaviness, the struggles, and the endless political battles that seemingly engulf all corners of the world, I'm always amazed at how we continue to get up and get going each day.

From viruses to violence, stock market dips, gas price ups, school sessions out and high paying jobs hard to find, we manage to get up and get going each day.

What a wonderful statement on the resilience of regular people who find something in themselves to continue on no matter what comes at them. I hear often how hard life was during the Depression and other darker periods of history. Come to think of it, life seems pretty good today, at least from where I'm sitting.

Sometimes, I look beyond my front porch and I see people really suffering. Neighbors, nearby, just south of our border, and neighbors far, far away.

It's something that we don't do much of, think of people, regular people like you and me, living a life of extreme struggle.

We don't think of it because we don't have to think of it. Instead we focus on our struggles, like not being able to go on vacation or not having the luxury of buying a new TV this year. A friend complained to me recently that he was going to have to work overtime for a while so that he could afford to fly to Hawaii this year, and I thought to myself, "life can be so tough."

We all have real struggles in each of our own lives. They can be big and overwhelming. The difference is that we have the privilege of having access to a society that helps us overcome those struggles – communities of people that care, education, advanced medicine, government assistance. We are blessed.

Others not so much. When I think of my hermanos and her-

manas who are trying to make it to our wonderful country, crossing rivers of danger, suffering hunger and thirst, taking risks of life and death, I think of how I have everything I need in life, even if it's not everything I want.

We do live in a place that the good Lord has blessed. A place where there is still a dream that we can achieve, almost anyone can achieve with a little elbow grease and a whole lot of grit. A dream that people all around the world want to achieve.

Those other people are really just like you and me. They are putting in the hard work and courageous effort to accept living a life, in our own communities, that we feel is undesirable. You see, one part of America is all the wonderful things we read about and see on postcards, the other part of America is the one that we feel uncomfortable seeing, or believing.

It's the part that is filled with

the trials and tribulations we only imagine outside our borders. People working day and night, doing back breaking labor for little pay and no recognition. They don't want recognition. That's the American value only we desire.

If you look really hard, you'll see them. They wait on park corners for a bus to pick them up in the dark hours of the morning. An hour later they arrive at fields filled with endless rows of delicious items we like to think are the beauty of American agriculture – tomatoes, chilies, lettuce, onion. You know, all the stuff we pay very little for because the cost to produce it remains low.

After a 12-hour day, they get home. Often, no one is there to pat them on the back. They have no ties to take off or comfy recliners to lean on. What they have is a few bucks in their pocket that will be split up to help fill the holes of a few other

pockets. And that, repeated in cities and towns throughout our grand country, are the wheels of our economy at work. Not the extravagant machinery of stocks and corporations, but still, the movements of an economy for which we benefit from in real ways.

Today, after I leave my air-conditioned office, I'll drive home in my new car and kick my feet up. In my comfort, I'll try to remember that most of what I'm not seeing I don't see because it's not an easy thing to look beyond my front porch.

Not unless I try.

Abe Villarreal writes about the traditions, people, and culture of America. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.



LETTER

continued from page 4

While I think it would be a good idea to stop sending all of our water to golf courses and cattle farms, we would never have to conserve water on that type of scale if we just took on solving the climate crisis back when it was

first discovered in the 1970s. The burning of fossil fuels for energy not only contributes to a lowered water table because greenhouse gases in the atmosphere warm parts of the planet, it also uses large amounts of water to generate power. (a single power plant can use up to a billion gallons of

water a day.) If we want to keep living where we are living the solutions are obvious, and those solutions have nothing to do with closing your eyes and ears and hoping as hard as you can.

*Zach Miller
Las Cruces*

Visit Desert Exposure online at www.desertexposure.com



Silver Smiles

Dr. Caytlyn Foy Bonura

Your Health and Safety is Our Top Priority

Here is what we're doing in our office to ensure the health and safety of our patients and team.

Using Proper PPE

You'll notice that our team members are wearing personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, face shields, and gowns. This gear is being used according to ADA and CDC guidelines and is cleaned/changed properly between every patient and during your appointment if needed.

Safe Distancing

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

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Throughout your appointment, you will be instructed by our team to use hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands. Please comply with these instructions. If you are asked to wash your hands, please wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

Air Filtering

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

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

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GUEST COLUMN • MAX YEH

Can the Farmer and the Miner Be Friends?

Brewing water war needs solutions soon

A water war is brewing in Southern New Mexico along the Rio Grande, and we don't mean the Texas vs. NM lawsuit. A Canadian mining company, owned by an Australian family and operating locally as the New Mexico Copper Corporation (NMCC), is trying to gather enough water rights to reopen Copper Flat Mine, near Hillsboro. At the end of 2019, the Australian entity that owns NMCC

leased rights to 2,400 acre feet per year (afy) from wells in Santa Teresa near El Paso and applied to transfer these rights for use in its production wells located near Caballo about 4 miles from Caballo Reservoir on the Rio Grande. This transfer is being protested by over 70 water rights owners in both the Caballo and the Santa Teresa areas, by individuals and by public and private organizations with inter-

ests in groundwater and surface water in Southern New Mexico.

Prominent among these protesters are agricultural water users: two ranches – the Pitchfork and the Ladder – whose properties are adjacent to the mine itself where a 1,000-foot pit will permanently deplete the neighboring groundwater; small farmers along Animas Creek whose wells may be directly impaired by pumping from the nearby production wells, including the prominent Animas Creek Nursery; farmers south of the mine's production wells who fear similar impacts on their water resources which are now, because drought conditions reduce their surface allotments, more dependent than ever on groundwater; and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District which speak for its members' water concerns and its water sharing agreements with other organizations.

Texas irrigators are represented by the Rio Grande Commissioners of the state of Texas who fear that river flows will be reduced by the withdrawal of water from

wells close to the Rio Grande as well as by a reduction of surface flows into the river as a result of the mining operation. New Mexico's Interstate Stream Commission is protesting because New Mexico's obligation under the Rio Grande Compact is threatened. Santa Teresa Land and the Rio Grande Turfgrass – which presently uses the leased water rights for irrigation – want the rights to remain in Santa Teresa.

In addition, numerous domestic water users and four public water authorities from Hillsboro to Animas Creek and Caballo south to Sunland Park think their water might be impaired by NMCC's projected water use. Environmental groups Sierra Club and Gila Resource Information Project have joined the protest to protect the flora and fauna along Animas Creek and the Rio Grande.

NMCC has said in its Mining Operation and Reclamation Plan submitted to the state and to the Bureau of Land Management as part of its applications for mining, that it needs some 6,100

afy of fresh water to mine. The leased water rights whose transfer is being protested would seem insufficient to reopen the mine. However, the present conflict will determine whether this large amount of water can be permanently removed from the local aquifer without damaging downstream water users. Unlike irrigation and domestic water uses, mining so pollutes the water that no return flow can be allowed. All of the mine's use of water for the life of the mine – projected to be 12 operating years – will be evaporated into the air.

The Office of the State Engineer has begun its yearlong process toward a public hearing on the transfer application. The hearing itself has not yet been scheduled as of this writing. At the hearing, NMCC and the protesters will present evidence and arguments on whether the State Engineer should allow the transfer. The decision will ultimately depend on the extent of damage

FRIENDS

continued on page 7




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August Deadlines

Friday, July 15 at 11AM: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.

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THE VIEW FROM HERE • WALT RUBEL

Leakers are Essential

Keeping the government honest is hard enough

Rise today in support of leakers.

Here's to Daniel Ellsberg, a former Marine who was working as a private-sector military analyst in 1971 when he leaked the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret study on U.S. activities in Vietnam dating back to the Truman administration. It revealed a decades-long history of lies to the American public by both military and civilian leaders, including their denials at the time of bombing raids beyond Vietnam's borders.

The 7,000-page document could not be smuggled out on a thumb drive in 1971. It took Ellsberg several weeks to sneak the pages out and duplicate them on a Xerox machine. He faced up to 115 years in prison for doing so, and the Nixon administration went to court seeking to block publication. But in the end, the

truth came out.

Here's to Edward Snowden, a computer intelligence consultant who was working as a sub-contractor for the CIA in 2013 when he disclosed that the government was, in fact, collecting data on Americans, contrary to a denial under oath to Congress by National Intelligence Director James Clapper. Snowden was charged with violations of the Espionage Clause in 2013. In 2020 the mass surveillance system he exposed was ruled to be illegal by the federal court.

Here's to Mark Felt, the former associate director of the FBI who advised reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein to "follow the money" in the days after the break-in at the Watergate Hotel.

Here's to Katherine Mitchell, who exposed VA incompetence and coverups while veterans

died waiting for care; Linda Tripp, who advised Monica Lewinski to save that blue dress; Frank Serpico, who exposed corruption in the New York City Police Department and was later portrayed by Al Pacino; and Karen Silkwood, who exposed dangers at the plutonium plant where she worked and was later portrayed by Meryl Streep.

Here's to everyone who has risked their career, and sometimes their freedom, to shed light on government lies and corruption.

Last week, it was reported that the FBI had seized the records of Congressmen Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell in an effort to learn who was providing accurate information to the media regarding the Trump administration's dealing with Russia.

Former Attorneys General Jeff Sessions and Bob Barr both

denied knowledge of the operation, as did Assistant AG Rod Resenstein. We're to believe a mid-level functionary had final approval on the decision to spy on Congress.

These revelations came days after we learned that the FBI had also collected data from reporters at CNN, the Washington Post and the New York Times, for the same purpose. The reporting that prompted these surveillance abuses may have been embarrassing and politically damaging to the Trump administration, but it did not compromise national security.

And, this isn't just a Trump problem.

The Obama administration prosecuted three times as many cases targeting whistle-blowers and leakers than all other presidents combined. It also abused surveillance powers, spending

months going through the records of Associated Press reporters and editors in an effort to plug leaks. And, it set a new record for denial of documents requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

One of the few things Trump and Obama would seem to agree on is their love of secrecy and disdain for those in government who shed light on areas they wish to be kept dark.

This can't be fixed by simply electing new leaders. Congress needs to rein in the ability of any administration to use the FBI as a weapon against them and the free press.

Walter Rubel can be reached at waltrubel@gmail.com



FRIENDS

continued from page 6

the transfer might cause other water users as well as on issues of public welfare and conservation of water.

A side issue, which may or may not be allowed as an argument in the hearing, is the mining operation's potential to pollute groundwater as well as surface water. NMCC will hold its polluted wastewater in a 500 acre pond behind an earthen dam. A dam failure risks sending that pollution directly into the Rio Grande and then into the irrigated fields.

While the miners and the farmers compete over the scarce but necessary resource in this arid climate, the state is investing in an experiment in dealing with water shortage. The Interstate Stream Commission initiated a project this year to pay farmers in southern New Mexico to forego using groundwater by leaving their fields fallow so that the effect of irrigation on the aquifer

can be calculated. The bottom line is that whatever the NMCC's hydrologists say about the subsurface geology and water, no one really knows whether there is enough water for both mining and farming in this area until someone runs out.

The debate at the hearing focuses narrowly on groundwater rights, but water being water – moving and flowing back and forth between the Rio Grande and adjacent aquifers – enlarges the issues that all arise from our normally inherent scarcity of supply. That scarcity is exacerbated by the present drought. And the drought's probable continuance in the short term coupled with the accruing effects of a hotter and drier climate in the long term makes the hearing's outcome triply important for the area's future.

That future is the subject of Laura Paskus's interview with EBID Manager Gary Esslinger: view the YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEr-

Py5T-H-Q. If you have time, you might read Laura's new book, "At the Precipice: New Mexico's Changing Climate" (UNM Press, 2020).

Max Yeh is a member of the Percha/Animas Watershed Association.



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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

What’s going on in July?

What’s going on in JULY?
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.

THURSDAY, JULY 1
Lincoln County
Smokey Bear Stampede — 2 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, children’s events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Read kickoff — 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the main branch of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library and also via Zoom. The book is “An American Sunrise” by Joy Harjo, the first Native American poet laureate. Info: sagelibrary@las-cruces.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 2
Silver City/Grant County
Movie “A Rendezvous with Destiny” — 7-8:30 p.m. at the Western New Mexico Fine Arts Theater, 1100 N. Kentucky St. in Silver City. A documentary on three of the last Screaming Eagles. WWII Beyond the Call and Silver City’s American Legion are presenting director Traci Hunter’s newest documentary. Info: 623-293-1639.



“An American Sunrise,” by the United States first Native American poet laureate Joy Harjo, is the subject of The Big Read, kicking off July 1 at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. (Courtesy photo by Matika Wilbur)

Deming/Luna County
Music Night on the Lawn — 6-9 p.m. at Lescombes Winery, 7075 Highway 549 SE in Deming. Wine, food, craft beer and live music. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
“The Mad Ones” a musical celebrating the reopening of the Rio Grande Theatre — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversation Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

Josh Grider live with the Salty Dogs opening — 7 p.m. at Lyles Farms, 3855 W. Picacho Ave. Grider is a

country music singer and songwriter. Food truck, craft vendors and the Spotted Dog Brewery will also be on site. Info: 575-201-9318.

Lincoln County
25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.
Smokey Bear Stampede — 7 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St., Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, kids events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 3
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmer’s Market — 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.
Love Local Saturday — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@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.
41st Annual Mescalero Apache Ceremonial Parade — 10 a.m. in Mescalero. Everyone invited. Info: dstern@mescalerodmp.org.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer’s Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.
Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.
Elephant Butte Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza — 9-10 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 575-744-5923.

Lincoln County
25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.
Smokey Bear Stampede — 7 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St. Capitan. Eight rodeos in four days. Cook-off, kids events and nightly dances. www.somkeybearstampede.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Bag of Books: Drive-by giveaway — 8-11 a.m. at Casa Camino Real Bookstore, 314 S. Tornilla St. in Las Cruces. Cars should line up facing Amador Street to the south. Bags of books that have been gathered and rested at the bookstore during the pandemic will be released to readers, adult or teen. There will

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The Zia Natural Gas float was a standout with its bright patriotic colors going down Hadley Avenue off Solano Drive during the 2019 Las Cruces Electric Light Parade. The parade is back this year, July 3. (Desert Exposure file photo)

be specialty bags available for Spanish readers, veteran writers, committed poets and science fiction fans. Dictionaries are available on request. Info: 575-649-9173.

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.

“The Mad Ones” a musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

Electric Light Parade — 9 p.m. starting at Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave. Travels south on Solano Drive, east on Hadley Avenue and ends at Maag Softball Complex. Info: 575-541-2550.

SUNDAY, JULY 4
Alamogordo/Otero County
Reverse 4th of July Parade — 6-8 p.m. at the Otero County Fairgrounds, 401 Fairgrounds Road in Alamogordo. Info: 575-439-4279.

Fireworks Extravaganza and Festival — 9:15 at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Info: www.spacehalloffame.org.

Lincoln County
25th Annual Lincoln County Art Loop — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. various locations in Lincoln County. Art Loop is a creative venture among the artists in the area, one of the most successful studio tours in New Mexico. Info: www.artloop.org.

Smokey Bear Stampede — 4 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 101 Fifth St., Capitan. Independence celebration with a campfire Dutch oven competition, mutton bustin’, steer riding, evening rodeo, fireworks and a dance. Info: somkeybearstampede.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Fireworks Display in Las Cruces — 9:15 p.m. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2550.

Fireworks Display in Mesilla — 9 p.m. in Mesilla. Launched from the corner of Tierra de Mesilla. Info: 575-624-3262.

TUESDAY, JULY 6
Silver City/Grant County
Rotary speaker: Twana Sparks on “Responses to Homelessness” — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are

welcome, lunch is \$10. Sparks will speak about the newly opened seasonal overnight shelter in Silver City and supporting people in need. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
Sierra County Twirlers — 1:30-3:30 p.m. (beginners come at 1) at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping mainstream dancing and refreshments. Info: 575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842.

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.

“Complete History of America” — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Condensing 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds, a 90-minute hilarious roller coaster ride presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY, JULY 8
Alamogordo/Otero County
Flowering Desert Garden Club meeting — 6 p.m. meeting location varies. Info: floweringdesertgardenclub@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 9
Deming/Luna County
Music Night on the Lawn — 6-9 p.m. at Lescombes Winery, 7075 Highway 549 SE in Deming. Wine, food, craft beer and live music. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 10
Virtual Southern New Mexico
Unpacking Silver: “Booms and Busts, 1870-1952” — 11 a.m. presented by Dr. Scott Fritz, Professor of History at Western New Mexico University. Examining what sustains and changes a community’s wealth. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.

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.

Deming/Luna County
Mainstreet Market — 8-11 a.m. in the Luna County Courthouse Park. Crafts and baked goods, free vendor space. Info: 575-546-2674.

Spectacular Charro Y Rodeo — 7-11 p.m. at the Luna County Fair Grounds. With La Conquistadora, Los Hermanos Escamilla and Poloruais. Info: 915-543-0881.

Music with Caliente — 8-11 p.m. at Boogies Brewery and Distillery, 2000 Friar Santa Maria Ave. in Deming. Info: 575-694-2753.

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.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer’s Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.

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.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

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.

SUNDAY, JULY 11
Las Cruces/Mesilla
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 2 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversation Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

MONDAY, JULY 12
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes workshops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

TUESDAY, JULY 13
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes workshops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

Rotary speaker: Eloy Medina speaks on “Emergency Response in Grant County” — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are welcome, lunch is \$10. Medina is the director of emergency medical services at Gila Regional medical Center. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes workshops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

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.

“Complete History of America” — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Condensing 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds, a 90-minute hilarious roller coaster ride presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY, JULY 15
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes workshops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 11



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Quilts Are Wild Things

Sometimes humans help them find the way home

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ference table, doing homework and soaking up the conversations. Kim was in high school, struggling with teenage growing pains.

Skip ahead 20 years. Olivia has graduated with her master’s degree, and Kim also has her master’s degree, but importantly for this story, she gave birth to a very tiny preemie, Liliana, 10 months ago in September, nearly four months early and in the depths of the pandemic. Lily is smart as a whip but physically challenged, and at 10 months old, she is still small and is just now starting to crawl. When the call came for teachers to return to work, Kim quit her job to stay home and help Lily develop her muscles and motor skills.

When all this was happening, I decided that a tiny quilt, with flowers and bright colors, was just what she needed. I had ordered a yard of Jane Sassaman’s Spring Fever Tulips-Rainbow and that seemed perfect. Three Kona cotton reds, watermelon, chili and red were shipped on March 12 from the Fat Quarter Shop. Chili turned out to be the perfect backing.

I couldn’t bring myself to cut up the Spring Tulips, so I assembled it and the backing as whole cloth, and quilted curvy lines between the flowers. It sat for a while waiting for other quilts that were supposed to go with it, especially one for Olivia’s graduation, to be finished. Then, on the spur of the moment and quite out of the blue, I decided to mail just Liliana’s quilt. I got the priority mail envelope at the post office, folded it up, sealed it and raced to the post office, so



Created for tiny Liliana, a preemie born last September, this tiny quilt was made using Jane Sassaman’s “Spring Fever Tulips – Rainbow” fabric. (Photo by Mia Kalish)

happy with my accomplishment. As I was filling out the address card, I felt a little niggling, telling me something was not right with the address I had for Yolanda. But so full of exuberance was I that I told myself that everything was OK, that I had gotten the correct address from Yolanda, everything was cool. Off it went.

By the following Wednesday, when I had not heard anything about its arrival, I called: No, no package yet. But the tracking said the package had been delivered on Saturday, overnight – to the wrong address. I had failed to update the address in my contacts and it still had the wrong one.

Time for web magic. I looked up who lived at the wrong address, looked further and found his phone number and called. Yes, he remembered the package and strangely enough, his wife’s maiden name was the same as Yolanda’s. He said she was working to get the package to my friend.

But I couldn’t leave it alone. So, I looked up his wife, again using web magic, and called. No answer. Mailbox was full. Stumped. Then, out of the blue, a text arrives. It’s from the lady who lives at the wrong address saying she can’t answer but how can she help. We chat and it turns out that she had had a deep need to help this little lost quilt get home. She had put the information on Facebook earlier in the week and one of her former colleagues at the local university recognized the name. They had already made arrangements to meet and get the little quilt one step closer to its intended home. By now, we might say that this little quilt had a very clear idea of where “home” was.

Without considering the inherent magic of quilts, their trickster, shape-shifting nature, this story might be just another entry in the annals of web magic. But, there is a similar story of a quilt finding its way home through the kindness of strangers.

When I lived in Tularosa, my across-the-street neighbor was a quilter. Helgi and I became friends and I soon knew her whole family, becoming close with her daughter Elva, when I moved to Las Cruces. She told me of a quilt Helgi had made for Elva’s dad, Norbert. Elva hadn’t

even known that Helgi had gifted Norbert with one of these amazing wild things.

Norbert loved his quilt with the Star of David in the center. Norbert took that quilt everywhere: To the supermarket where it rode in the top basket of his cart, to visit friends and with him to the dialysis center. But here Norbert’s constant companion went left while Norbert went right. It seemed the quilt might be lost forever. But Helgi had sewn a label into the quilt and this would prove providential.

Last year “out of the blue,” Elva received a Facebook message from a man in Connecticut asking if she might be related to the “Helgi” on the quilt’s label.

Norbert lived in Connecticut, and he was deeply upset because he had lost the quilt and didn’t know where. He was so pleased to know that the quilt would be coming back to him.

Another curious thing was that the man had contacted Elva, although Helgi was also on Facebook. Then, strangely, two months ago, the message the man had sent to Helgi a year ago, showed up in her messages.

Mary Foss calls quilts wild things in her chapter in Thomas Knauer’s “Why We Quilt: Contemporary Makers Speak Out About the Power of Art, Activism, Community, and Creativity.” She says they “cannot be contained,” that they are tricksters that occupy spaces “outside of time.” Personally, I think it’s possible that sometimes quilts just need to get out into the world a bit, see what’s out there, enrich their horizons, before coming home to whisper their secrets to those in their care.

But sometimes they might need a little bit of a helping hand to get home. In the same book, Victoria Findlay Wolfe reminds us that yes, quilters are artists, and just like other artists, we should always sign our work. But those labels are also like bus tickets for the more adventurous wild things so now I make sure to label my quilts, especially because one of my wild things has already been exploring. My labels have my Instagram handle @Joe’sRoomQuilts, and the town where they are made, tiny San Miguel deep in the southern New Mexico pecan country.

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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued from page 9

FRIDAY, JULY 16
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes work-shops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

Deming/Luna County
Music Night on the Lawn — 6-9 p.m. at Lescombes Winery, 7075 Highway 549 SE in Deming. Wine, food, craft beer and live music. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Cruces Dock Diving Summer Splash — 4:30 at the K9 Event Centre, 335 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces. Online registration closes July 13. Info: 575-323-1250.
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 17
Virtual Southern New Mexico Unpacking Silver: The West in Pop Culture — 11 a.m. presented by Jim Smith, history teacher, author and lecturer. Presentation focus is on Billy the Kid with a focus on tourism, community pride, historical confusion and understanding. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.

Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes work-shops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@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.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.



Every Friday at Lescombes Winery in Deming offers music on the grass for the community to sit and enjoy the evening. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Hard Road Trio live in Kingston — 6 p.m. at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston. The group will be rocking the outdoor stage at the lodge. Cost: \$15. Info: www.hardroadtrio.com.
Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

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.
Las Cruces Dock Diving Summer Splash — 9 a.m. at the K9 Event Centre, 335 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces. Online registration closes July 13. Info: 575-323-1250.
Movies in the Park — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is “Raya and the Last Dragon.” Info: 575-541-2550.
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 18
Silver City/Grant County
CLAY Festival — Various times across Silver City includes work-shops, lectures, market, gallery walk, exhibitions, tours and more. Info: clayfestival.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Cruces Dock Diving Summer Splash — 9 a.m. at the K9 Event Centre, 335 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces. Online registration closes July 13. Info: 575-323-1250.
“The Mad Ones” a musical — 2 p.m.

at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

TUESDAY, JULY 20
Silver City/Grant County
Rotary speaker: Dr. Brian Robinson on “Arthritis: Questions and Answers” — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are welcome, lunch is \$10. Robinson is the founder of Southwest Bone & Joint Institute of Silver City. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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.
“Complete History of America” — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Condensing 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds, a 90-minute hilarious roller coaster ride presented by Blank Conversation Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY, JULY 22
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Zoom Presentation by author Lynn C. Miller — 12:30-1:30 p.m. A Sage Library presentation. The book is “The Unmasking” a murder mystery set in Silver City. Info: sagelibrary@las-cruces.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 23
Deming/Luna County
Music Night on the Lawn — 6-9 p.m. at Lescombes Winery, 7075 Highway 549 SE in Deming. Wine, food, craft beer and live music. Info: 575-546-1179.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Fourth Friday at the Zoo — 6-10 p.m. at the Alameda Park Zoo, 1021 N. White Sands Blvd. Live music, food and craft vendors, family activities and more. Info: jsides@ci.alamogordo.nm.us.

SATURDAY, JULY 24
Virtual Southern New Mexico Unpacking Silver: “When the World Stopped Coming: Sustaining and Changing Cultural Identities” — 11 a.m. presented by historian, researcher and lifelong Silver citizen Tom Hester. Visit www.silvercity-museum.org to register.

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.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.
Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

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.
Tequila, Taco & Cerveza Summer Festival — 5-11 p.m. in the Downtown Plaza in Las Cruces. Info: ttcfest.com.
Movies in the Park — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is “Tom and Jerry.” Info: 575-541-2550.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28
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.
“Complete History of America” — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces. Condensing 600 years of history in 6,000 seconds, a 90-minute hilarious roller coaster ride presented by Blank Conversations Theatre Company. Info: riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY, JULY 29
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Summer Reading Discussion — 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the main branch of Branigan Memorial Library and on Zoom. Library staff discussion with readers about their favorite books from the Summer Reading Program. Pick up prizes. Info: sagelibrary@las-cruces.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 30
Deming/Luna County
Music Night on the Lawn — 6-9 p.m. at Lescombes Winery, 7075 Highway 549 SE in Deming. Wine, food, craft beer and live music. Info: 575-546-1179.

SATURDAY, JULY 31
Virtual Southern New Mexico Unpacking Silver: Community Building — 11 a.m. presented by Susan Berry author and retired director of the Silver City Museum on the convergence of influences that destined the town’s evolution as a colorful, distinctive and resilient entity. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.

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.

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.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra County Farmer's Market — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org.
Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping and refreshments. Info: 575-744-9137.

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.
Movies in the Park — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is “The Croods 2 – A New Age.” Info: 575-541-2550.

TUESDAY, AUG. 3
Deming/Luna County
National Night Out 2021 — 6-8 p.m. at the Luna County Courthouse Park, corner of Ash and Gold streets in Deming. A national community building campaign promoting police-community partnerships. Info: natw.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4
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.



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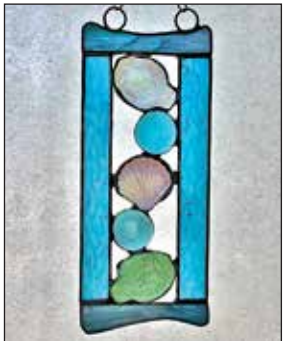
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SILVER CITY



“Heron” by Diane Cornelius



“Sea Dreams” by Susan Rice



Woven bag
by Cookie Murraye

• The Grant County Art Guild, located at 316 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, will have several events during the month of July. Expansion is underway with the opening of the GCAG Annex at 106 E. Market St., directly behind the GCAG gallery, and across the foot bridge from the Visitor Center parking lot. The Annex will host art shows, meetings, and popups. Watch for up-coming news about renting the Annex for your event or meeting.

The GCAG gallery in-house show, “Dog Days of Summer,” featuring summer themed art, continues through July 31, with

new art being added as pieces are sold. The guild is also participating in the July 3 Love Local event. Sixteen drawings will be held throughout the day for free goodies from our artists, ranging from jewelry, hand-bound books, mosaic and stained glass, and paintings. Sign-up for the drawings is on July 3 only. You need not be present to win.

Three artists are featured in the GCAG Gallery for July: painter Diane Cornelius, multimedia artist Karen Lauseng and stained-glass artist Susan Rice. Each of the artists will have a display in one of the windows in addition to their displays inside the gallery.

Also the gallery celebrates the addition of weaver Marcia “Cookie” Murraye to the gallery mix. Murraye has called the Rocky Mountain West her home for over 50 years. Her weavings echo its colors, shapes and textures. GCAG gallery July hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Monday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Info: www.gcag.org.



103 Kelly West etched glass
by Paula Geisler

• 103 Kelly West, at the heart of downtown Silver City, is a transformational arts space where guests can expect the unexpected: custom etched-glass memorials, drawings, paintings, prints, local-history documentaries, drawing boot-camps, art-critiques and so much more.

103 Kelly West is open 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and any time by prior arrangement. Info: 575-956-6940.

CLOUDCROFT

• The Cloudcroft Art Society Gallery is holding a special July Art Show and Sale July 2-4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The gallery has many works of art and juried crafts ranging from paintings in all media, fine art photography, framed and matted prints, cards, pottery, fine jewelry, baskets, glass, fiber art, gourds, carved wood and intarsia. All the art on display is for sale is by local artists. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. It’s at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects with Swallow Place in the old Red Brick School House that also houses the Nivison Library. Info: sznana@totacc.com.

DEMING



Burden Basket



“Indian Girl with Many Hats” by Maxwell

• July at the Deming Art Center features the Agave Artists of Las Cruces. The Agave Artists group is a collective of 16 artists exhibiting a full spectrum

WRITING CONTEST

Desert Exposure continues its longstanding writing contest.

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Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 15. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit entries to a maximum of two. Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words.

Include name, postal address and email if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

of painting from watercolors, pastels, collage, abstract, landscape and many more as well as the photography of **Emmitt Booher**. Also included in the wide list of talent with this group is fine textile art, weavings, basketry, along with assemblage art, hand painted silk scarves and ceramics. 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.

LAS CRUCES



“My Merri Mermaid Muse”
by Carrie Greer



Junkyard Ward Reach for the Stars



“Awkward”
by Heather Murphy

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council** July show is an explosion of mixed media created by seven artists and Beloved Community, a non-profit organization that builds community by engaging the gifts of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The artists include Greta Burger, Jan French, Lisa Riley, Karen Zibert, Carrie Greer, Heather Murphy and Jan Thune. Beloved Community is sharing its final project titled ‘Whimsical Way,’ based on the children’s book “The Big Orange Spot” by Daniel Manis Pinkwater. Viewers will be enchanted and tickled by whimsical sculpture, fiber art, cloth maché, encaustic paintings, and small works fashioned from kitchen items and

various household hardware at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center**, 250 W. Amador, during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 8. Info: www.daarts.org or 575-523-6403.

• An art show inspired by the **Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument** and the nearby ranches and farmland is open at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**. “**Monumental Territory**” is in the Museum’s Arts Corridor through the end of July. The show features 22 creative works by Las Cruces artist **Kayla Blundell**. Her artist-in-residence selection for the Friends of the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument program in 2016 inspired the art in this show. The exhibit displays abstract paintings, including acrylic spray paint, and photographs. The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday at 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-4100.



Artist Sonya Fe

• “**Are You with Me?**” an exhibition by contemporary Chicana artist **Sonya Fe** runs through July 24 at the **Las Cruces Museum of Art**. Fe’s exhibit is both a biographical depiction of her own life and of those who are often overlooked. Her work reflects social and cultural issues with themes centering around women and children. The museum is located at 491 N. Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: museums.las-cruces.org or 575-541-2137. Visitation is currently permitted by reservation only. Email education@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120 to reserve a time to visit.

• **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 July: **Nanci Bissell** and **Steven Martin**. Bissell has been an educator, teacher, assistant principal and principal in elementary schools, retiring after 26 years in the school business. Her paintings have been exhibited in numerous art shows. Bissell’s artistic interests include seascapes, street scenes and landscapes.

Martin was educated as a geographer, historian and criminologist, and spent 29 years



Painting by Nanci Bissell



Photography by Steven Martin

preserving natural, historic and cultural resources on public lands throughout the Western United States. The self-taught photographer strives to increase public awareness for protecting and preserving our nation’s public lands and resources through the medium of digital photography. **First American Bank in Mesilla**, is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists’ work monthly. COVID -19 adjusted gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.



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- Share stories and photos with Editor Elva Osterreich editor@desertexposure.com, 575-443-4408
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We strongly recommend gallery patrons call locations before visiting as gallery hours are subject to change and do so often. Contact Elva Österreich at Desert Exposure at 575-680-1978 or editor@desertexposure.com to update listings. All area codes are 575 unless indicated otherwise.

Silver City
103 Kelly West, 103 W Kelly St., Open 11-3, Wednesday-Saturday. 575-956-6940.
Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery, 371 Camino de Viento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Wolfe, potter, 907-783-2780.
Anthony Howell Studio, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.
[a]SP.“A”©E, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.
Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.
The Barking Dog Studio, 512 Bremen St. (off Cooper Street) Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. 534-9620
Blue Dome Gallery, 307 N. Texas St., second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.
Borderlands Gallery, Stephan Hoglund Studios, 211 W. Yankie St., Silver City. 218-370-1314. www.stephanhoglund.com.
The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622-0251. By appointment.
Cow Trail Art Studio, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533- 1897, www.victoriachick.com.
Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery, 106 W Yankie, Silver City. 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.
Elemental Artisans, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.
Francis McCray Gallery, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Gila Gallery Photographs of the American Southwest, 206 N. Bullard St., 342-1914.

The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
Grant County Art Guild Gallery, 316 N. Bullard St. 10 a.m-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. GCAG.org.
Guadalupe's, 505 N. Bullard St., 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.
Light Art Space, 209 W. Broadway St. 520-240-7075. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. Contemporary photography and other media. Workshops, exhibitions and events. info@lightartspace.com www.lightartspace.com.
Lloyd Studios, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.
Lois Duffy Art Studio, 211C N. Texas St., 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.
Lumiere Editions, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.
The Makery, 106 E. Market Place. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.
Manzanita Ridge, 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.
Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.
Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing, 203 N. Bullard St., 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.
Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595,

8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.
The Place at the Palace, at 201 N. Bullard St. 388-1368.
Silver City Art Space, 103 W. Kelly St., 956-6940. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday.
Soul River Gallery, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.
Sterling Fine Art, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. Abstract to realism, workshops and lessons available. sterlingnm.com.
Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388- 3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.
Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
Szyggy Tile Gallery, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.
Tatiana Maria Gallery, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.
21 Latigo Trail, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.
Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas St., 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.
Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574- 2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.
Wynnegan Gallery, 1105 W. Market St., 534-9717, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.
Zoe's Studio/Gallery, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

Mimbres
Chamomile Connection, 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.
Kate Brown Pottery and Tile, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-

9935, katebrown@gilanel.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.
Bayard
Kathryn Allen Clay Studio, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.
Northern Grant County
Casitas de Gila, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. By appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.
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Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Gold Street Gallery, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open noon-4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
Orona Art Studio, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.
Reader's Cove Used Books & Gallery, 200 S. Copper St., 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.
Studio LeMarbe, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708. By appointment.
Rodeo
Chiricahua Gallery, 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Barbara Massengill Gallery, 895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.
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Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center, 250 W. Amador Ave., 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Galeri Azul, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Galeria on the Plaza, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.
Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ouida Touchon Studio, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.
The Potteries, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.
Las Cruces
Big Picture Gallery, 2001 Lohman Ave, Suite 109, 647-0508. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.
Blue Gate Gallery, 4901 Chagar St. (intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road), open by appointment, 523-2950.
Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery, 314 S. Tornillo St. 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Justus Wright Galeria, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Las Cruces Arts Association, located in Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave. lascrucesarts.wixsite.com/arts.
Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.
Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday to Friday; 2-5 p.m. Saturday.
M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.
New Dimension Art Works, 615 E. Piñon St., 373-0043. By Appointment.
NMSU University Art Gallery, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.
Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite St., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday.
Quillin Stephens Gallery, behind downtown COAS Books, 312-1064. By appointment only.
Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.
Unsettled Gallery & Studio, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment.
Virginia Maria Romero Studio, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment, agzromero@zianet.com, virginiamariaromero.com.



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WRITTEN WORD • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Waterman New Laureate

Silver City and Grant County poet on the job

Poet Allison Waterman writes to what speaks to her.

Sometimes, she picks a prompt from a list provided by her writer's group and sometimes it's just a line running through her brain.

"The final outcome of the piece isn't necessarily really related to the prompt," she said. "It takes on a life of its own and I don't really know where it's going to go and I'm like 'Well, I didn't expect that.'"

She loves it when that happens because, she said, because all her best poetry comes when there are no expectations tied to it when she sits down to write something.

"Free flowing is what I have the most luck with because my poet brain likes to be unbridled," she said in an exclusive interview with Desert Exposure.

"I do editing, but not much. I like things to be as close to their original form as possible."

Her positive attitude is no doubt part of the reason the Poet Laureate Selection Committee was delighted to introduce her as the poet laureate of Silver City and Grant County starting May 1.

This honorary role is awarded to a person who has established a presence in the world of poetry, demonstrated a commitment to the literary art form and em-



Allison Waterman was officially named Silver City and Grant County Poet Laureate beginning May 1. (Courtesy photo)

braces the opportunity to engage in civil discourse, according to a press release from the committee.

"That means I am honorary representative of Silver City and Grant County when it comes to all things poetry," Waterman said. "I will write a poem tailored for events in town."

In her role, she can organize workshops and poetry readings as well as other activities.

"I have a lot of creative license," she said. "I can do whatever I want and they will support me in any way they can."

One of the things close to her heart Waterman would like to do is create poetry workshops in

the detention center.

"I feel like inmates are often forgotten in things like this," she said. "People think of the library, schools, etc. I would like to take a different angle and include people not usually included."

Waterman is a graduate student at Western New Mexico

University and runs the writing center at the college. She said one of her mentors, Heather Frankland, also helps to facilitate the program and suggested she apply.

After facing five people asking her questions and reading some of her poetry for them, Waterman said she never expected to be offered the position. But, a couple of days later they offered her the post.

"It is an honor and sort of the culmination of a lot of dreams," she said. "I have been a writer of poetry as far back as age 7 or 8. And I have been a part of poetry groups in Silver City going back for a couple of decades."

Moving to Grant County in 1995, Waterman was born in Ohio and grew up in New York. She said she loves the people here.

"I was pretty surprised at how friendly people are," she said. "They wave as you drive by and it's beautiful. I love being outdoors and camping near water. I

love the Gila National Forest; it's one of the reasons we came."

She said Silver City is a special place.

"It feels different than the rest of the world," Waterman said. "There are lots of artists, lots of other poets, a lot of creative energy and I love that the university is here."

Because the Southwest Word Fiesta is the entity that supports the poet laureate position, she is on the committee for the event, coming up Oct. 22-24.

She will also be performing during one of the sessions, all of which are planned currently to be virtual.

"I will be doing a poetry reading Oct. 24, so I am slotted with a couple other poets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m."

Waterman said she loves writing and needs to do more of it.

"I feel motivated to write more because of the position," she said. "It's cool that it sparked some interest."

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ARTS EXPOSURE

MRAC Reorganizes

Arts Council to focus on next year’s blues festival

The Mimbres Region Arts Council (MRAC) announced that it is furloughing its staff and focusing on producing its 2022 Silver City Blues Festival as a way to survive the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

MRAC will also explore holding a Chocolate Fantasia fund-raising event in February 2022 to raise money for the blues festival, which is the arts council’s signature event.

The arts council is also “pausing” its other events and activities “until resources become available to restore them safely and sustainably,” according to a news release announcing the council’s reorganization efforts.

MRAC is also forming a community-based advisory “team” to explore ways to restore and

sustain the council’s activities and events. It will also form an action team to focus on putting on its Blues Festival next year.

Executive Director Kevin Lenkner recommended the changes and they were approved by the board unanimously.

Linda Gray will continue to serve as office administrator but as a volunteer. Lenkner announced plans to step down as executive director June 30 but will serve on the arts council’s board of directors beginning in July.

“My changing role at MRAC,

while difficult, will free critical resources for the organization,” Lenkner said. “There have been significant challenges and hard-earned successes during my almost six-year tenure as executive director. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a team.”

The board of directors continues to meet regularly and will announce the next steps for the organization in the near future. Plans for next year’s Silver City blues festival will begin in July.

Information: info@mimbresarts.org.

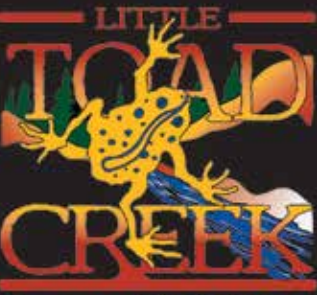
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A variety of pottery and potters will be manning tents at the Makers Market Saturday, July 17, as part of the Silver City Clay Festival. (2019 photo by Jay Hemphill)

ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

A passion for CLAY

Festival enters 10th year

Clay Festival leader Lee Gruber is still at it. She sees connections everywhere and earth/clay as the flow the brings everything together.

“I always like to link anything having to do with this Earth, or food or growing food,” she said. “When I think of clay, it’s so connected that I think of it as the perfect subject matter to expand on.”

Together with her team, they are bringing the July event back to southern New Mexico. This year the event is planned as a hybrid in person/virtual happening which allows for some exciting presenters and workshops that otherwise would not be able to be part of the slate.

“I’m really excited because it’s just time to let people gather again in safe ways and I’m really happy about it,” Gruber said.

Most of the events will be both live and available virtually, she said.

This year’s festival is July 12-17, beginning on Monday, July 12, with a virtual demonstration by nationally known and celebrated ceramic artist Sanam Emami and culminating on Saturday, July 17, with local artisans selling their ceramic wares at an outdoor Makers Market in the rejuvenated Main Street Plaza in the Historic District of Silver City from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local participants and virtual viewers will celebrate the week’s events with a series of workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, lectures and tours that feature the historic, cultural, artistic and “Down to Earth” nature of



Southwest New Mexico ACT Director Lee Gruber is leading the Clay Festival charge as she has been doing for 10 years. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

the medium of clay and the land and earth we inhabit.

“A special juried exhibit is called ‘Ruminations’ and artists were asked to express themselves in clay in some way that illustrated what they had been through this past year,” Gruber said. “I’m really pleased, we have a beautiful exhibition. It will be going up July 2, it will be up the entire month.”

That ceramics exhibit will be on display at the Light Art Space Gallery, 209 W Broadway. Also, self-guided walking tour of galleries in the Downtown Historic District will showcase the work of local clay artisans with live demonstrations at several sites.

A map of gallery and demonstration sites will be available on-

line, at the Murray Ryan Visitors Center, local businesses and at the Makers Market. Demonstrations are on-site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Clay festival will have 10 tents with all local clay artists,” Gruber said. “It is not a pay-for workshop – just visit the artists and see what they do.”

During the week of Clay Festival, two major lectures will take place at Pierotti Hall on the Western New Mexico University campus. Dr. Bruce Bernstein, internationally known anthropologist, is delivering the keynote address, His talk is based on his ongoing research regarding Pueblo Tewa pottery, centuries of continuity and change driven by internal factors and intellect of Pueblo people will be Monday, July 12 at 6 p.m., Pierotti Hall. In person viewing and virtual viewing options are available.

Some other Clay Festival happenings include: Dr. Eric Blinman, director of the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies with a live lecture on the “Creativity and History of Indigenous Southwestern Pottery;” Bruce Gardner, artist and author of “Dorodango, the Japanese Art of Making Mud Balls,” will discuss the origin and elements of Hikaru Dorodango and demonstrate his process and technique; and Catherine Russo, ceramic artist and

owner of Roots Cellar Arts, will describe and demonstrate clay slab techniques.

A director-led tour of Western New Mexico Museum welcomes guests to explore the prehistory and history of southwest New Mexico and learn why people throughout the ages have selected this rich and enchanting region as their home. The guide for the tour is Mimbres archaeologist

and director of the university museum, Dr. Cynthia Ann Bettison. Pre-registration is required and there will be a fee for this tour.

“Pottery for the Table” is a live virtual workshop with Sanam Emami which includes wheel throwing, trimming and surface decoration techniques. “Inspirations of the Past” is an in person two-day workshop with Lorraine Gala Lewis and Michael Kantee-na, where they share the history and pottery of the ancient cultures of Chaco, Mesa Verde and Mimbres. “The Tree of Life/Arboles de la Vida” is a four-day workshop taught by Jorge Castillo Balbuena and his brother Ulises Balbuena, with Arte CasBal, Oaxaca, Mexico. Participants will create a Tree of Life candlestick.

“I just very much want to support the local people trying to stay alive this year,” Gruber said.

Visit clayfestival.com for up to date information, schedule of events, maps, workshop and tour registration. Space is limited, please enroll early. Contact Gruber, for additional information at 575-590-0314. Silver City Clay Festival is following Covid protocols as determined by the State of New Mexico



Potter Zoe Wolfe and the newest angel in her garden stand ready for Clay Festival activities. Wolfe will be leading children’s activities during the week. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



Silver City art teacher and potter Romaine Begay throws a pot on his studio wheel. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



Monte Vista third-graders and their teachers, Mari Cadena and Brenda Sorensen, learned about Spaceport America and Virgin Galactic’s mission during a June 4 field trip.

SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Third Graders Go to Space(port)

Connecting science, space and art

After spending a school quarter learning about science and space and participating in an art project with the Doña Ana Arts Council, two classes of third-grade students got to spend a day at Spaceport America in early June.

While at the spaceport, the students got to work with scientists, do experiments with marshmallows in a vacuum and launch miniature rockets. During their tour, they also got to see the emergency services center and hear from Virgin Galactic’s Emelie Woog.

“This is a culminating activity to the art and science project that we did,” said Monte Vista Elementary School third-grade teacher

Brenda Sorensen. “The kids are having a blast at the science and arts. They have been so excited and so engaged. This is awesome.”

The students visited Spaceport America’s activity gallery and got to try out the centrifugal trainer, spinning around and upside down in a simulation of the training that pilots must undergo. Of course, the students were not subjected to nine times the force of gravity like pilots are.

“It was fast, and it made me dizzy,” said student Ashaya Potter. “But it was fun.”

Ashaya said she has learned a lot from the program “about planets and space and astronauts and what they do.”

Since 1996, the Doña Ana Arts



Trying the centrifugal trainer at Spaceport America, Ashaya Potter is spun around in a gravity simulator. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

Council (DAAC) and Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) have been members of the Kennedy Center Partners in Education (KCPE). The Las Cruces KCPE team focuses on arts integration, an approach to teaching that leads students to demonstrate understanding through an art form.

This year, the team put together educational activities based on the Las Cruces Space Festival’s virtual art show, “Dawn of Discovery.” The exhibition, which includes 90 pieces of artwork from 46 international and local artists reflecting the excitement

of space exploration, was the jumping-off point for the 2021 Dawn of Discovery Arts Integration Project. The artists’ work reflects a working knowledge of the solar system, space exploration, art history and New Mexico iconography, making it and the artists incredible resources.

The Arts Integration Project with LCPS was implemented during April and May 2021 to support Monte Vista Elementary School’s third-grade, fourth-quarter solar system unit and culminated with the students’ visit to the spaceport.

The team developed a series of enrichment and art activities that supplemented what the teachers were doing as well as demonstrating arts integration. The students created New Mexico symbol-inspired retablos on cardboard and spent time analyzing the “Dawn of Discovery” virtual art show, and the KCPE team threw in a game of Space Trivia at the end of the project.

“Encouraging students to develop an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through art is exciting,” said DAAC Program Manager and KCPE team leader Karen Conley. “Both art and science require inquiry, creativity and exploration to understand the world around us. The ‘Dawn of Discovery’ art show is a conduit for science and an incredible resource at the local level. These are the kind of opportunities educators and artists are looking to tap into because they demonstrate the connection between art and science.”

To see the “Dawn of Discovery” art gallery, including some of the student artwork, visit lcspacefestival.com/gallery/.

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MUSIC EXPOSURE

Wander the Fairy Garden

Chamber players ready for another season of music in the pines

For the Shady Pines Chamber Players (SPCP) 2021 season, concerts will be posted on their YouTube channel but in person garden strolls will still be happening. SPCP is a project of the Cox family at Shady Pines. The family shares its Cloudcroft fair garden while providing fine musicians a place to gather for a conversation in music with each other.

“We’ve made plans understanding that current events may change things,” said event founder Suzannah Cox. “2021

Performances will be custom made for Season Nine.”

The garden strolls at the cabin, 200 Fox in Cloudcroft (facing Wren and just down from The Lodge) offer the opportunity to explore the gardens and trails while eavesdropping on chamber music jams, usually in session 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.

The garden will be open during the weeks of July 3-7 and Sept. 1-8. The “Mostly Cello Collage” concert is on Saturday, July 3 and will be posted on the YouTube channel.

“It will be another sprinkling of virtual performances from far and wide along with a live taping of some of the musical going right here in Cloudcroft—custom made for local Cloudcroft patrons and friends across the world,” Cox said. “A ‘love gift’ of \$20 (or \$1 or \$1,000) is encouraged. Proceeds benefit the Cloudcroft Schools music programs and help defray production costs.”

There will be a free livestream event with the “Tiger Alley Trio” Saturday, Aug. 7, from the Shady Pines Bertha stage on the SPCP YouTube channel. Austin, Texas, based “Tiger Alley” features bluegrass, country, and swing (fiddle, guitar, bass, vocals) with Katy Rose Cox, Sophie Johnson and Huck Johnson. Tips for the musicians are encouraged and can be made (designate “Tiger Alley” on checks) to: Shady Pines Chamber Players, P.O. Box 1115, Cloudcroft, NM or direct to Tiger Alley via PayPal (katyrosefiddle) or Venmo (@katyrosemusic).

“We look forward to going live and in person for our 2022 season,” Cox said. “Plans include



Shady Pines “Bertha” Stage waiting for her favorite musicians.



2019 SPCP Performers in Shady Pines’ Fairy Garden “Tea Room” Joel Beckett, John Cox, Erin Espinoza, Jorge Espinoza and Lisa Donald. (Courtesy photos)

the debut of Bonnie’s Piano featuring a world-renowned pianist along with our usual array of concerts featuring deep string musicians and other fine performers. And, of course, we plan to again open the Fairy Garden at Shady Pines several times

during the 2022 summer and to facilitate continuing chamber music conversations among friends from across the country.”

Info: 361-557-1960; shadypinestwigs@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/shadypineschamberplayers.

GIVE GRANDLY

Event Breaks Record

Donations benefit 59 nonprofits

The annual Give Grandly! fund-raiser broke its own record and raised more than \$260,000 on May 8 for nonprofits serving southwestern New Mexico.

With that record-setting haul, the fundraiser has now raised more than \$1 million during the

past eight years.

Fifty-nine nonprofit organizations will use those donations to fund a wide range of community services and events throughout southwestern New Mexico.

“Food pantries and shelters are better equipped to help, and the needs are still heavy,” the or-

ganizers said in a news release. “Scholarship funds have been replenished to serve students who will soon be going on to study in person. Libraries and museums can plan to open their doors.”

The nonprofits which are benefiting provide services dealing with food security, education,

youth engagement, animal welfare, border programs, domestic violence, environmental conservation and arts and culture.

The following companies, organizations and individuals provided matching funds: Freeport-McMoran; United Way of Southwest New Mexico; James Edd Hughs, Kevin Johnson and Niel McDonald of Edward Jones Investments; Janey Katz and Suzi Calhoun; Robert Rydeski of Rydeski & Co.; Pauli Galin of Sherman Community Foundation in Deming; Dan Otero of Hidalgo Medical Services; Dan Cook of Better Homes and Gardens; and Grant County Crime Stoppers.

A grant from the McCune Charitable Foundation helped provide the Give Grandly Coalition with a new web site.

Organizers wanted to thank the Silver City Farmers’ Market and the Makers Market at Main Street Plaza for hosting Give Grandly tables, companies and organizers who donated raffle prizes and the many volunteers who worked the event.

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CONNECTIONS • JOAN E. PRICE

Among the Hueco Tanks

Historic site receives prestigious national historic landmark designation

A “House of Rain” emerged, a child of volcanic power, west of El Paso, thousands of years ago. A deep-earth event pushed molten magma some 200 feet up which then cooled and hardened to granite under a thick limestone cap. The relentless climate processes of drought, fire, driving torrential downpours and scouring dust storms created a cluster of granite domes laced with hundreds of horizontal and vertical channels and shafts; a maze of water pools now rest at the base and deep inside the stone domes.

The deep internal shade and water pools became a vital oasis, drawing migrating humans, hunter gathers who crossed and recrossed the everchanging Trans Pecos lands since paleoindian times. They began to leave their painted testaments (pictographs) of appreciation on its internal cave ceilings and walls of refuge from the natural elements of atmospheric erosion. The

floors of many shelters are slick from the eons of human bodily movement, oftentimes crawling and sliding, searching for water and refuge.

Today, the environmental and cultural history of centuries have been recognized at the national level. In January 2021, Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The application and nomination process took years, officials said in a news release.

“It’s estimated that there are between 3,000 and 6,000 pictographs at Hueco Tanks, including the largest concentration of painted masks or face-like figures in North America,” said Tim Roberts, a cultural resources coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “There are also extensive archeological deposits across the 860-acre property. It is the combination of these resources, as well as the



Perched on the granite floor, a young woman looks intently into ancient face masks illuminated by light bouncing from openings under the dome overhead. (Photos by Joan E. Price)

oral histories and traditions of modern tribal communities, that help tell the story of those that have lived and traveled through the area for more than 10,000 years.”

Water from eons created cool resting stops and shaded pristine water pools supporting wildlife and plant communities, many of which are unique to the park. A tiny fairy shrimp emerges in newly filled pools from long periods of waiting through drought cycles; jaguar habitation painted on the walls record their dignity before they were exterminated; plants and ferns that can survive in small ecosystems like natural seed banks replenish the surrounding areas in climate cycles of years of rain.

In a slow modern advance,

very different migrating humans began to notice this ancient natural temple with its painted images. Spanish military campaigns against the indigenous inhabitants and Catholic church missions came early, adventurers, artists, geologists, developers, tourists and archaeologists began to circle and enter to document their findings as well. Today, this stone record of natural history and human memory is called Hueco Tanks, drawing from the Spanish word meaning pools of water.

From the Pony Express to the Butterfield Stagecoach events to the occupation and stewardship of the Encontrias family, modern history generated numerous stories of the new wave of people and their migration from east to west.

After the state of Texas bought the property from a private recreational development venture in 1969, Hueco Tanks was opened to the public in 1970 and then placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. The site was designated an official State Antiquities Landmark in 1983.

The fledgling staff began to guide local visitors, tourists, recreationists and scientists. Thus began the arduous walks through the hallways of county commissioners, Texas State

Park offices, universities departments and encounters and negotiations with the indigenous Native Americans whose ancestors had filled its crannies with their painted imagery to protect the landmark and educate the public to its fascinating call.

In particular, Hueco Tanks sheds light on the Jornada Mogollon people, who were early farmers in the area 550 to 1,800 years ago. They considered Hueco Tanks a sacred place within their ancestral landscape and the images that they painted on the rocks are thought to represent the beginnings of the Southwestern Katsina belief system that still guides Puebloan societies today, officials said in the news release. The Kiowa, Mescalero Apache, Comanche, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the people of the Pueblo of Isleta also consider the site to be an important part of their heritage, officials said.

“Hueco Tanks is one of the most unique and special places in Texas,” Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks, said in a news release. “It is an honor for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to care for a place with deep connections to so many people. I appreciate the hard work and persistence of the truly dedicated team of professionals that made this important designation possible.”

“As a National Historic Landmark, Hueco Tanks will be afforded access to resources, opportunities and additional protections that will further enhance our ability to steward this cultural icon for many years to come.”

If you would like to spend some time at this ancient landmark, you will need to make reservations for either day passes or camping facilities. Start your search at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/hueco-tanks>.

Joan E. Price is a writer and photographer based in Tularosa, with a focus on the cultural landscape of the Tularosa Basin.



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A guardian eagle in rock identified by a Toltec-Michica elder overlooks the drive into Hueco Tanks Texas State Park, 20 miles east of El Paso.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Dog Days of Summer

Contemplating the cariño of our canine companions

What is it about a dog? No offense to cats, birds, fish or other animals people keep as pets, but there is nothing like a dog.

Anthropomorphization is a big, long, fancy word to describe what people do to dogs all the time. We see a certain look on a dog's face, or a certain movement or behavior, and we confidently proclaim to our friend the dog's thought process: "My dog thinks you're crazy!"

Now, our friend might indeed be crazy. After all, he picked us for a friend.

But I bet you five bucks the dog's not thinking our friend's crazy.

I don't profess to know what the dog is actually thinking, but it's probably more along the lines of: "Does he have food for me?"

A big reason we love dogs is precisely because they DON'T think.

They feel. They react. They love.

They poop in front of the whole world without an ounce of shame.

Perhaps the greatest trait about dogs is their distinct and unique personalities.

One of my favorite movie conversations takes place in the 1994 Quentin Tarantino film "Pulp Fiction."

In a breakfast discussion between two hit men in a diner, Samuel L. Jackson's character (Jules) explains to John Travolta's character (Vincent Vega) why he doesn't eat pork. (I've cleaned up the dialogue to make it PG. It is Samuel L. Jackson, after all, so you can probably guess what the real words are.)

"Pigs are filthy animals. I don't eat filthy animals," Jules says.

"Yeah, but bacon tastes good," Vincent says. "Pork chops taste good."

"Sewer rat may taste like pumpkin pie, but I'll never know, cause I'll never eat the nasty (thing)," Jules says. "Pigs sleep and root in (poop). That's a filthy animal. I ain't eating nothing that ain't got sense enough to disregard its own feces."

"How about a dog?" Vince asks. "A dog eats its own feces."

"I don't eat dog, either," Jules says.

"Yeah, but do you consider a dog a filthy animal?" Vincent asks.

"Well, I wouldn't go so far as to call a dog filthy, but they're definitely dirty," Jules says. "But, dogs got personality. Personality goes a long way."

Indeed.

Anyone who's been around dogs to any degree during their lives has almost surely known a dog who is mean. We've also known a dog who is a complete softie. We've known dogs who yap at everything that breathes, and half the things that don't. We've known dogs who are ultra-chill. We've known dogs who are hyper-skit-tish. And – these may be my favorite – we've known dogs who are just plain goofy.

Of course, we humans can get pretty goofy about our dogs, too.

I love some of the goofy names people give their dogs. Here are some of the more interesting names of dogs I've met over the years.

Charles Brown – Some people I met in Memphis years ago named their dog not after the

Peanuts character, but the 1950s piano blues man.

Al Franken – When the Reids named their big dog Al Franken in 1983, Franken was a writer and bit character on Saturday Night Live. They could not have predicted Franken's years-later rise and fall as a U.S. senator from Minnesota.

Hayduke – Named for a character in an Edward Abbey book, this National Park Service dog at Denali National Park in Alaska could sniff out bears from a long ways and move them safely away from areas with people.

Neckbone and Home Fry – These were two dogs, presumably brothers, a friend and I knew back in Oklahoma.

Pancho and Lefty – Last fall, I stopped in at the Buckhorn in San Antonio for one of their famed – deservedly so – green chile cheeseburgers. Exiting the building, I saw two beautiful dogs in the back of a pickup. It was love at first sight. The family in the pickup came for some

burgers to go and, seeing me admire their pups, explained they were Catahoula dogs, a breed I wasn't familiar with. They are similar in size and pattern to Blue Heelers, but where the heelers' dark spots tend to be black, the Catahoulas have brown. I was still fawning over the dogs when the owner headed toward the restaurant, and I yelled, "Hey! What are their names?"

"Pancho and Lefty," came the reply.

"Perfect," I said, familiar with the song of the dogs' names, written and first recorded by Texas troubadour Townes Van Zandt, and later covered by everyone and their dog, most famously Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard.

Whatever you name your dog, please take care of it with the responsibility they deserve and the love they give you. Even if you give them only a tenth of the love they give you, you're giving them a lot.

And if you're looking for a dog to call your own, look no further

than the pages of this newspaper, where each month we have a full-page ad promoting adoptable pets from the High Desert Humane Society in Silver City.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of *Desert Exposure* and the *Las Cruces Bulletin*. He grew up with beagles, but lately can be seen hanging around a couple of blondes: one, a sincerely goofy golden lab and, the other, a goofily sincere chihuahua-dachshund mix. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.



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Border Adventure

Chance encounter in Juarez changes Silver City man’s life

Silver City resident Doug Winter says a chance encounter on the sidewalks of Juarez changed his life.

Winter had just moved out West after what he called a “terrible motorcycle accident” in 2018 led him to sell his New York City agency that provided deposition and arbitration services.

Winter told the Silver City Rotary Club on June 1 he made his way to the western part of the United States because “I associate the West with freedom and I wanted freedom from pouring all my energy into making money.”

“I wanted to find someplace I could dedicate my remaining energy to helping other people,” he said.

As part of his westward journey, he was on his way to a campground outside of Pinos Altos, when he saw the archway leading into Silver City and decided to stop. Winter said he

arrived just as the Food Co-op was closing but was immediately struck by the quality of food there and the friendliness of the people. He decided to end his travels and make Silver City home, but it was far from his last important chance encounter.

Soon afterward, as part of a teach-in he was attending in El Paso, he and some classmates walked across the border. There, they found more than 300 people sleeping on the sidewalks in Juarez, waiting for their immigration and asylum hearings in the United States.

So, Winter said, he quickly got to work and formed the non-profit Dormir Es Poder (Sleep is Power) to provide camping pads to people living on Juarez streets.

“One thing led to another and I ended up also buying a film projector and speakers so I could show cartoons to the children on the Juarez sidewalks,” Winter

said. “Then, I met a man who totally changed my life.”

That man was Father Hector Trejo Cano, an Anglican priest, who runs two shelters in Juarez and who asked Winter to come show cartoons at his shelters.

“Father Hector’s shelters are not ordinary shelters,” Winter said. “They not only feed and shelter around 150 people a day, they also provide arts and crafts classes, English language classes and structured playtime for the children.”

Father Hector also provides spiritual guidance and tells the people staying at the shelters why it is important to endure the wait involved in gaining entry into the U.S. the legal way and not be lured by smugglers known as “coyotes” who often abandon immigrants in the middle of the desert or force women into a life of prostitution, Winter said.

“As I talked to people at the



Doug Winter and Father Hector Trejo Cano join together to provide humanitarian aid. (Courtesy Photo).

shelters, I realized these were not just people who wanted the better life they felt America could provide for them, but people who were trying to escape real persecution in their home countries,” Winter said. “That’s

when I knew I had found my calling.”

Winter expanded the purpose of his nonprofit organization to include supporting the two Juarez shelters.

Information: dormirespoder.org.



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NEW MEXICO ROCKS

Courts Doing Something Right

State No. 1 for language access in the justice system

New Mexico's court system has received the top ranking in the nation for providing language access services, including interpreters, to assist people with limited English proficiency, low literacy and the deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

In the latest Justice Index rankings by the National Center for Access to Justice (NCAJ), New Mexico scored 89.31 out of 100 for its language access services and practices. Connecticut ranked second with a score of 80.5.

"Without language access services, many individuals would be unable to tell their story in courtrooms or file court documents across the state," said New Mexico Chief Justice Michael Vigil.

The Language Access Services (LAS) program in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) coordinates and funds interpreter and translation services, including on-demand video remote interpreting. The program also recruits, trains and qualifies interpreters. It offers a wide range of other services, including online American Sign Language classes for court employees, translations of web content and training court staff to serve as Language Access Specialists who provide out-



Clara Kiosk, available during the pandemic, provides telepresence and touchless access. (Photo courtesy languageaccess.nmcourts.gov/ from Language Access Services Annual Report)

of-courtroom help to people in their native language.

NCAJ noted in its findings that "New Mexico pioneered the Language Access Specialist qualification, and has since helped spread the concept to other states."

LAS recently developed a web-based video conferencing and simultaneous interpreting application known as Clara Connect, which improves the Judiciary's capability for video remote interpreting and has been used to live stream Supreme Court hearings.

"New Mexico is leading the way in language access services, and I commend AOC's Language Access Services program on reaching the #1 ranking awarded by the National Center for Access to Justice," Vigil said.

About 15,000 court proceedings needed interpreters in calendar year 2020 and interpreting was provided in 58 languages,

with the most frequently used being Spanish, Navajo, American Sign Language, Vietnamese and Mandarin Chinese. In out-of-courtroom settings, language access specialists provided an average of 2,500 minutes of help to the public in about 20 languages so far during fiscal year 2021.

"If there's something we learned during this pandemic it is that there is no 'them' but 'us.' Language Access Services strives to provide equal access to justice for the most vulnerable members of 'us.' With this in mind and in order to expand the services we offer, we recently created the Diversity and Inclusion Department," said Paula Couselo-Findikoglu, who became deputy director of the AOC's Court Services Division late last year after leading the Language Access Services program for over six years.

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

contact Pam Rossi at pam@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-635-6614. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except

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



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

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

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

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

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

DIANE’S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D, Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

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

DON JUAN’S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.
* **DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout. **T/O**
* **FORREST’S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m. **T/O D/T**
* **FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D. **T/O DEL**
* **GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. **P T/O**
* **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.

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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 RESTAU-**

RANT, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **C/S**
LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.

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

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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. **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., 505 Joe Gutierrez St. Doña Ana
* **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. 1060 El Paseo Rd · 623-2321. 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**
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* **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**
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TABLE TALK • MIKE COOK

The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Cooking demonstration explores mushrooms

In partnership with chef John Hartley and the New Mexico State University School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM), NMSU professor of fungal plant pathology Soum Sanogo, Ph.D., and students in his fungal biology course held the 2021 NMSU Mushroom Cooking Demonstration event.

The course's theme is "Fungi: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly," Sanogo said. A corollary theme is "Fungi: They Feed Us, They Heal Us and They Harm Us."

"The uniqueness of this event was the fact it involved not only the students taking the course but a diverse audience of mushroom enthusiasts, including mushroom growers," he said. "In addition, the program included a brief segment on research at the University of New Mexico being conducted on porcini mushrooms."

Mushroom recipes provided by Hartley, who is also an HRTM college assistant professor, were



John Hartley (NMSU photo)



Different varieties of mushrooms can make delicious additions to meal time. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

also on the program's menu.

The demonstration had 40 to 45 attendees, Sanogo said, including 13 students from his class, along with the owner of Full Circle Mushrooms based in La Mesa, New Mexico.

"I didn't expect this much interest in the event," he said. "I greatly appreciate this level of participation because it provides a challenging environment to myself and the students in assessing the adequacy of our knowledge in responding to questions."

"I would say that the mushroom cooking demonstration event went amazingly well," said Suman Sharma, a student in Sanogo's class. "We got to know delicious mushroom recipes from chef Hartley using different mushroom species such as oyster, black pearl, lion's mane and shiitake. As a part of a fungal biology course assignment, we

searched for nutritional and medicinal properties of these mushrooms. It provided us as well as attendees with a tremendous knowledge about benefits of eating mushrooms. It was a great fun also via Zoom to participate in this event. I really enjoyed it and I hope all the attendees liked the event too."

"I knew that mushrooms taste fantastic. What I learned from the student presentations is that mushrooms are practically health food (if they are not toxic)," said Joan Crowley, who participated in the cooking demonstration. "They can also be anti-inflammatory. Who knew? I enjoyed the cooking demonstrations, especially watching chef showing off his sauté technique. Those mushrooms really jumped. (Sauté means jump in French.) The one dish I may try to make on my own is the mushroom and corn chowder."

"I was privileged to participate in this class," Crowley said. "I commend professor Sanogo for opening the class to other participants. It's part of NMSU service to the community."

Contact Sanogo at ssanogo@nmsu.edu.

Mushroom recipes

Black Pearl mushroom croutons recipe

From NMSU School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Chef John Hartley

What you need: sliced black pearl mushrooms, olive oil or butter or both, salt and pepper to taste

What to do: Heat the oil or butter in a sauté pan until shimmering, add a single layer of mushroom slices to the bottom of the pan. Brown and crisp one side of the mushrooms, flip and brown and crisp the other side. Remove mushrooms from pan and blot excess oil with paper towels. Season with salt and pepper.

Chef's notes: "I served these with baby mixed greens, grape tomatoes and bell peppers in a white wine vinaigrette. They would go equally well with any green salad, Caesar salad or similar tossed salad."

Lion's Mane and Corn Chowder

What you need: 2 cups cubed lion's mane mushrooms, 2 cups cubed potatoes, ½ cup diced onion, 2 tablespoons chopped garlic, 1 cup cut corn, 3 tablespoons cooking oil (corn, canola or vegetable), 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour, ¼ cup clam juice, 2 cup milk (half & half or heavy cream can be used for a richer soup, but use half the amount of flour), salt and pepper, creole seasoning to taste.

What to do: Heat oil in a saucepan or pot and sweat (do not brown) mushrooms, onions and garlic until onions are translucent. Deglaze pan with sherry and allow sherry to cook away, almost dry. Add flour and mix well. Then immediately add clam juice, milk and remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, then turn down and simmer (stirring frequently) until potatoes are soft. Taste and adjust seasoning and serve.

Sauteed oyster mushrooms

What you need: 2 cups oyster mushrooms, sliced lengthwise, 1 cup sliced leeks (scallions will also work), 2 tablespoons whole butter (or oil), 2 tablespoons chopped garlic, salt and pepper to taste; herbs such as fresh thyme, rosemary, etc. can be added to make this pair with various foods.

What to do: Melt butter in a sauté pan and add leeks. Sweat leeks on a moderate heat until tender and add mushrooms, garlic and seasoning. Continue to cook until mushrooms are tender.

Chef's notes: "This can be used independently as a side dish or as the base for other dishes. For example, addition of heavy cream and parmesan cheese to the sauté pan will result in a mushroom alfredo sauce; addition of broth with result in a mushroom soup (with whatever additional vegetables/seasonings you like, such as ginger and soy sauce)."

Shiitake risotto





What you need: 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 cup arborio rice, 1 tablespoon chopped garlic, ¼ cup diced onion, 1 and ½ cups chopped shiitake mushrooms, 2 cups (approximately) chicken or vegetable broth, 1 cup baby spinach leaves (or kale), ½ cup heavy cream, ½ cup shredded or grated parmesan cheese.

What to do: Heat oil in saucepan and add rice. Saute rice until it just begins to brown and add onions, garlic and mushrooms. Continue to cook until mushrooms are soft and onions are translucent. Start adding chicken broth (1 cup to start with) and simmer until broth is almost completely absorbed by the rice but there is still a small amount of liquid in the mixture. Check the consistency of the rice and add more broth, simmering continuously, and allow the additional broth to be absorbed. Keep checking the rice's texture and adding broth until the rice is al dente (not hard in the middle, but still firm). Stir in spinach until just wilted and add cream and cheese. Stir until cheese has completely melted and serve immediately.



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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Serpens, the Serpent

A single snake split by a god

We in the desert south-west are used to snakes, but our July sky has an actual serpent. Serpens, The Serpent is divided into two unconnected parts, separated by the constellation Ophiuchus. Serpens Cauda, the Serpent's Tail is high in our southern sky, while the Serpens Caput, the Serpent's Head, is a third of the way up in our south-eastern sky.

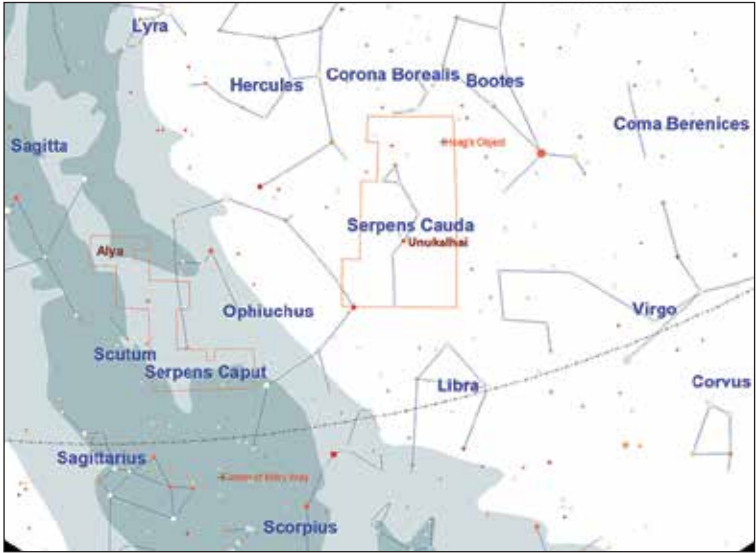
The Greek mythology, Asclepius was the son of the god Apollo and a mortal woman, who died around the time Asclepius was born. Apollo raised his son, teaching him about medicine. Asclepius became a famous healer but was imprisoned in a secret prison and ordered to bring the sea-god-to-be Glaucus back to life. While contemplating a way to save Glaucus, he absent-mindedly pounded his staff on the ground.

A snake unseen by Asclepius crept up toward the moving staff and was struck by it, killing the snake. Later, another snake brought an herb and put it on the dead snake's head. Asclepius saw the second snake's actions and was surprised to see the dead snake revive. He gathered some of the herb and used it to bring Glaucus back to life. By eating the herb, Glaucus became immortal.

Asclepius is represented in the sky by Ophiuchus, with the snake passing behind him or between his legs. When the Belgian astronomer Eugène Delporte drew the constellation boundaries, he faced the problem of disentangling the two constellations. He decided that Ophiuchus would be a single constellation, with Serpens split in two parts, the head and the tail, with the rest of the body hidden behind Ophiuchus. The two ends of the snake became Serpens Caput and Serpens Cauda.

The brightest star in Serpens is Alpha Serpentis, which is formally named Unukalhai or "the serpent's neck." It is near the center of Serpens Caput, a spectral class K2 orange star shining at magnitude +2.6. This giant star some 12 times the diameter of the Sun is located 74 light-years away from us. Unukalhai is reaching the end of its life, having already run out of hydrogen to fuse in its core like younger stars are still able to do. Unukalhai now fuses hydrogen in a shell around the inert core.

In northwestern Serpens Cauda is a circular object invisible to the naked eye at magnitude +16.2. The object showed up in the Palomar Sky Survey, a comprehensive series of images taken at Mount Palomar with the 48-inch telescope covering most of the northern sky. The object was not really investigated until American astronomer Arthur Hoag looked at it more carefully.



Serpens, the Serpent, is associated with the constellation Ophiuchus. The serpent goes from east to west of Ophiuchus, with the body hidden behind Ophiuchus. The two parts are called Serpens Caput, the Head of the Serpent, to the east of Ophiuchus and Serpens Cauda, the Tail of the Snake to the west. One of the best deep sky objects in Serpens is the great globular cluster M5. Hoag's Object is a ring galaxy with the ring completely separated from the body of the galaxy.

Later dubbed Hoag's Object, it appeared as a central sphere surrounded by a ring. The object is just 45-seconds-of-arc across. Hoag at first thought that it might be a planetary nebula. An aging star expels its outer atmosphere as it goes through the final stages of its life. This can create a small nebula that comes in many shapes, including rings. One popular example is the Ring Nebula (M57) in the constellation Lyra.

There was not enough detail to be sure it was a planetary nebula, but there was no star visible at the center of the object. Hoag also suggested that it might be an Einstein Ring. One of the predictions of Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity is that a mass bends light. If a spherical galaxy had a quasar exactly behind it from our point of view, the galaxy's gravity would bend the light from the much more distant quasar, providing a ring of quasar light around the galaxy. This theory was later rejected when it was discovered that both the ring and sphere were the same distance away from us, around 600 million light-years.

Hoag's Object became better understood when the Hubble Space Telescope imaged it in great detail. The ring had blue clumps in it marking young star clusters. In fact, the entire ring has a bluish tint from many hot, young, blue stars. The central sphere has a much yellower tint, from smaller, older stars. This makes quite a contrast with the yellow sphere of stars surrounded by a ring of blue stars, dust and gas. Between the two there is almost nothing, allowing more distant galaxies to be seen through the gap, including another ring galaxy.

The central sphere is just 17,000 light-years across, similar to the core of our Milky Way galaxy. The gap is 58,000 light-years wide, while the blue ring is 46 light-years wide. Radio


wavelength observations have shown a vast cloud of hydrogen gas forming a ring surrounding both the blue ring and the yellow sphere. The hydrogen starts

Calendar of Events – July 2021 (MDT)

- 01 3:10 p.m. Last Quarter Moon
- 04 2 p.m. Mercury greatest distance from the Sun (22 degrees)
- 09 7:16 p.m. New Moon
- 13 4 a.m. Mars 0.5 degrees south of Venus
- 17 4:10 a.m. First Quarter Moon
- 23 8:37 p.m. Full Moon
- 29 10 a.m. Mars near the star Regulus
- 31 7:16 a.m. Last Quarter Moon

at the outer edge of the blue ring and extends outward. How Hoag's Object formed is a mystery. Ring galaxies often form after a collision with another galaxy, but there is no other galaxy nearby and there is no evidence of a collision. Perhaps it was a barred-spiral galaxy with

STARRY DOME
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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

Choosing Healthy Alternatives

Coping in a dysfunctional world

We live in a very dysfunctional society where the average person thinks the Amazon is an online retail store; people think science is just an opinion; money and material possessions have replaced God; and where being like the neighbors is the most important goal people can have.

Many people, especially many young people from the millennials to Generation Z and Alpha are feeling estranged, alienated

and disenfranchised from society. One way many have chosen to cope is to join an alternative community – a community where they can experience life outside of mainstream society with its meaningless and bankrupt values.

Many of these alternative communities encourage or are even based on pretending to be in an alternative world. When children are young, they do a lot of pretending. Pretending is a way to try out different roles to help find a way to fit in the complex world they are growing up in.

When I was a kid, I loved to play “pretend.” Since I grew up

in the aftermath of World War II (pre-baby boomer), we often pretended to be soldiers fighting the war, though our favorite pretend game was playing house. We would pretend to be parents with our dolls and pets being our children. Back in those days, children and even teenagers were not so alienated from the society our parents created.

Now many of our young people feel estranged from their parents and mainstream society. They have grown up with the fear of global warming, terrorism, destruction of the environment, the failure of the nuclear family, broken homes, corruption, rampant racism, constant wars, child abuse, etc. How can they respect and want to be like the adults who have created this world, this society? So, if our young people, and even those not so young are looking to find an alternative world – a world of make believe or a counterculture community, how can we blame them? Why would we put them down or make fun of them? Pretending is a healthy way to process and cope with the more unpleasant aspects of our modern world.

Not only children but many adults play pretend games, though adults don't refer to them as that. For instance, model rail-


roaders. Usually, they are older men who like to dress up as train engineers and build amazing and often beautiful scenes of railroad towns and factories. Then they drive their trains through these beautiful scenes. Seems like good healthy pretending to me.

Or take for instance, motorcycle riders or bikers, as they refer to themselves. They like to wear leather clothing and build their bikes so that they look like fearsome warriors. I think some of them do a good job, and they can look pretty fearsome to me. But, when it comes right down to it, these are the guys who sponsor Toys for Tots and other community benefits. In other words, many are family men who enjoy helping their community, not the fearsome warriors they like to pretend to be. Of course, there are groups like the Hell's Angels where the men get caught up in their pretending and can be quite dangerous.

Some alternate communities are played on computers, like Second Life and Avakin Life. Some people spend more time on Second Life than they do in real life. One interesting thing I can't help mentioning is the

ALTERNATIVES
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STARRY DOME

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arms that were moving so fast that they completely detached from the galaxy. How Hoag's Object formed and how long it will last are one of the mysteries of the cosmos.

The Planets for July 2021

As the Sun's glow fades from the evening sky, only two planets are visible, Venus and Mars. Magnitude -3.9 Venus is moving upward this month while magnitude +1.8 Mars is moving more slower downward. The two will be closest for us on the evening of July 12, when they will be less than a degree apart and getting closer. Venus will be 11.6 seconds-of-arc across and 87 percent illuminated, while Mars will be 3.8 seconds-of-arc across. The two will start out 13 degrees above the western horizon and they will set just before 10 p.m. Venus travels from central Cancer to east-central Leo while Mars moves from eastern Cancer to west-central Leo during the month

The Ringed Planet rises around 9 p.m. in the east-southeast and it is visible for the rest of the night, reaching 13 degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets light. At midmonth, its disc is 18.4 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are 41.8 seconds-of-arc across, tilted downward 17.7 degrees with the northern face showing.

The magnitude +0.3 Saturn is moving slowly westward in central Capricornus.

Jupiter rises a little after 10 p.m., arcing across the sky to 30 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon as dawn breaks. It shines at magnitude -2.8 with a disc that is 47.0 seconds-of-arc across. The King of the Gods is moving slowly westward in western Aquarius.

Mercury is still in the morning sky for the first two-thirds of the month. It reaches its greatest distance from the Sun on July 4, when it turns back toward the Sun. Mercury's disc will be 36 percent illuminated crescent and 8.0 seconds-of-arc across on that day as it shines at magnitude +0.5. It rises around 4:45 a.m. and it is almost nine degrees above the east-northeastern horizon as it gets light. During the month, the Messenger of the Gods moves from central Taurus, across the very northern tip of Orion, across all of Gemini into central Cancer. While watching Mercury in the morning, don't forget about Venus zipping past Mars 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.

TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Ready, Set, Ride

A primer for good horsemanship

We’ve had a lot of new arrivals to the area during the pandemic-driven exodus from more populated areas across the country. Many have come with horses or are planning to add horses to their lives now that they live in an area of wide-open spaces.

Some have contacted me with questions about what I do with horses and riders, and wanting to know exactly what the study of good, more natural horsemanship is all about. I thought it might be helpful to write a basic primer for readers. Hang this up in your tack room and follow these general philosophies, and you’ll do pretty well by your horse.

Frederich Schiller, the German philosopher from the late 1700s, once said this about leaning to do anything well: “Only those who have the patience to do simple things perfectly will acquire the skill to do difficult things easily.” I always tell my students good horsemanship starts with this simple statement. As with any serious endeavor, you must practice and master the basics, and you have to enjoy practice for the sake of practice, not for the outcome, to develop good horsemanship skills.

Always start with safety for you and your horse. Personally, I always assume the worst when I’m with a horse, even my own. What I mean by that is that I

never assume for a second that a horse, no matter how well trained, can’t become a flight or prey animal in the blink of an eye. I don’t let this view make me nervous, scared or tentative but use it to stay focused on good habits and preparation. Most accidents with horses are not riding accidents but happen on the ground or when mounting/dismounting, so practicing good habits all the time will keep you safer and make you a better leader for your horse.

You need to accept the farther you take a horse away from his natural life, the more problems will develop. Many of the issues that annoy us or seem like training/behavioral issues are just the horse reacting to his situation in the only ways he knows as a horse. This means accepting the horse is never wrong because he only knows how to be a horse. It also means if you’re seeing lots of resistance or “dust” with your horse the responsibility falls to you to change your approach based on what the horse is saying. Think of this – the more dust, the worse the horsemanship.

- Take a horse-centric view of the world every time you interact with your horse.
- Understand and accept the nature of the horse. This means to the best of your ability and given your situation, giving the horse what he needs as a horse,

what his species needs, not what you think he needs based on your view of the world.

- Don’t make your horse do something, don’t force him to do something, just set things up to allow success to happen.
- Understand that logic drives the thought process of the human, but the horse’s thought process is driven by the search for comfort, safety and no pressure.
- Understand that you have to earn the horse’s respect before he can trust you, and that this is a continuous process.
- Take whatever time is necessary to practice so you become proficient with the basic equipment used to teach a horse. Poor use of tools equals bad communication.
- Move the horse before he moves you – the essence of the herd hierarchy.
- Learn how to send and drive the horse.
- Learn how to lead a horse from the most dominant positions.
- Understand the horse only learns on the release of pressure and develop the skills to use precise, focused pressure and release to teach.
- Learn to speak with body language and communicate with the horse in a sequence that he understands. Every gesture means something to a horse and their language is very precise.

• Accept that pain, punishment and force do not work when trying to build a relationship with a

HORSES
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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.
Silver City Squares — Kay, 956-7186 or Linda 590-1499.
Silver Choral — Contact Anne, 288-6939.
Southwest New Mexico ACLU Bob Garrett, 590-4809.

TUESDAYS
Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Margaret, 388-4539.
Bayard Historic Mine Tour — Call 537-3327 for reservation.
Figure/Model Drawing — Dan Larson, 654-4884.
Gilawriters — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.
Multiple Sclerosis Support Group email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.
PFLAG Silver City — 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 342-2621 and leave a message.

WEDNESDAYS
Al-Anon family group — Contact: 313-7891.
Archaeology Society — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.
Babytime Sing & Play — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.
Back Country Horsemen — 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.
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
Silver City Woman's Club — 313-4591.
Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery — Contact:313-7891.

SATURDAYS
Alcoholics Anonymous "New Beginnings" —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.

HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

Chloride Day Trip

Ghosting around New Mexico

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, ghost towns are fun. We headed out to Chloride, a two-hour-plus drive from Las Cruces on a fine spring day without any wind in the forecast. To Silver City, it's closer to three

hours. As soon as we turned off the freeway in Truth or Consequences and onto U.S. Highway 52 the sights got exciting. I discovered a great old-time truck in a dirt lot in Cuchillo and have subsequently turned the photo into a cool linoleum cut card for

my ever-growing print collection. Outside Winston, we stopped for a strong cup of latte at the food truck on the right (open Thursdays through Sundays). Their tacos are supposedly great, too, but we weren't hungry for lunch yet.

Finally, we arrived in Chloride. People who have been in Las Cruces long enough (since before 2006) will recognize the Grafton Cabin that stood Downtown for over 25 years before making room for the roundabout. The cabin was then moved to Chloride and is part of the museum today.

Ah, yes, the museum: What a treasure trove this is! Quite literally a time capsule of the early days of the 20th century, boarded up in the 1920s and reopened in 1979. It stayed in pristine condition – except for dust and critters. The new owners, the Edmunds, took it upon themselves to turn it into a museum. Three



The little ghost town of Chloride can be found off the beaten path along U.S. Highway 52 outside of Truth or Consequences. (Photo by Gabriele Teich)

and a half years later, they were done with cleaning and stabilizing the wooden structure and opened the doors to the public. And the curious visitor gets to step into a pioneer store like 100 years ago. This is not only for history buffs; everyone will find something here to pique their interest. As a textile engineer, I

was intrigued by the little handheld tool that measures how much fabric is left on a dock without unrolling it. Ingenious! My husband and I spent a long time exploring while our host, the daughter of the Edmunds, patiently answered all our ques-

DAY TRIP
continued on page 29

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ALTERNATIVES
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high number of males on Second Life who choose female avatars. Maybe not all boys want to be warriors. And maybe that is okay.

There are a couple of relatively new communities that focus on pretending that I find fun and interesting – the Furies and the Cosplay communities. Furies are people (humans) who identify as animals. Some dress up as various animals and some actually feel they are an animal trapped in a human body. How they relate to it is a way for them to express their feelings in a safe way with each other. I have a friend who likes to pretend he is a cat. He has an owner and spends a lot of time lounging around. Sometimes his owner takes him to meet other cats, and a few times a year his owner takes him to a Furry convention where the “animals” get to share their experiences with each other. No harm is done, and everyone has a good time.

I also know a woman who likes to be a pony. She likes to dress up in a pony costume with a harness that allows her to pull a cart around with her owner riding in it. She really enjoys it, and is able to exude pony essence remarkably well. She walks with a high step, trots and shakes her head around. I find it quite beautiful to watch. Of course, her owner takes very good care of her.

I don't understand why some people have a problem with this. Often, they can work out some underlying problems and end up having a better, more adjusted and healthier life. Sometimes I think it would be fun to be a Furry, but I'm afraid I'm a little too inhibited to let myself go and experience the freedom of not having the responsibility of the world on my shoulders.

Cosplay (costume play) is a little different. People into this like to dress up as superheroes and other cool characters like Wonder Woman, Captain America, Zena Warrior Princess, as

well as other comic book, anime and fantasy figures. Cosplayers like to attend conventions. In Seattle the Cosplay convention can have as many as 60,000 attendees. Renaissance fairs and groups like the Society for Creative Anachronism are examples of cosplay that have been around for many years. I met a number of people at the Seattle Cosplay Convention. I thought their costumes were amazing and I could see that they were having a lot of fun.

Joining various communities, whether they be service communities, counterculture communities or pretend communities, is a healthy way to cope with our dysfunctional society. Most people don't want to be seen as different from mainstream society. They feel the acceptance by others is the most important thing in life. Therefore, they distance themselves from anything or anyone that is different than what they perceive as acceptable behavior. Unfortunately for them, and fortunately for the world, this is a losing proposition. It is diversity that makes a strong society and a strong community. Why is it that we all have different personalities? Why is nature so diverse? It is diversity that makes the community strong and makes nature strong.

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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CHAMPION

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The tiny New Mexico town of Chloride offers exploration of many old buildings, including several businesses. (Photo by Gabriele Teich)

DAY TRIP

continued from page 28

tions. What a treat! We both agreed this should be a state park. It is so unique.

Next door to it is the Monte Cristo Gift Shop and Gallery where local (Sierra County) artists exhibit and sell their works. It's another house with a colorful past, from schoolhouse to saloon and dance hall. Both are open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What I found most fascinating were all the bits and pieces of historic facts that you won't find in any history book. For example: The town of Chloride offered any single woman who was willing to live there a piece of land for free. They must have been desperate out there. But it was – and still is – off the beaten path. And yet, in its heyday the town counted more than 3,000 inhabitants.

Going with the times, Chloride can now offer cabins for vacationers, five full hook-up RV spots, and as soon as the pan-

demic is over the Chloride Bank Café will hopefully open again as well. For hikes, just step out the backyard, or drive the dirt road through town and go as far as your vehicle can handle. There are rolling hills all around, a hiker's paradise. And with an altitude of over 6,000 feet, it's noticeably cooler than in Las Cruces here. We know we will be back soon.

For information you can go the pioneerstoremuseum.com and start discovering the past. For a fun day all you need is a tank full of gas and some time.

Enjoy your day!

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.



HORSES

continued from page 27

prey animal.

- Look at groundwork as riding the horse from the ground, and strive to bring the same concepts to your riding.

- Understand your goal is to have the horse respond to the lightest level of pressure possible, but to accomplish that you may have to do “more now to do less later.”

- Accept that horses have different personalities, differing abilities to learn and different levels of sensitivity, and that you may have to vary your approach to match the characteristics of different horses.

- Accept that conformation and physical abilities are different in every horse and can limit how a horse can perform, even in a recreational horse.

- Understand the horse is an athlete that needs to be conditioned, and kept in condition, to carry our weight and perform under saddle, and that we have a responsibility for developing our riding abilities and conditioning as well. He was not “designed” to be ridden. You must make it easy and comfortable for him to

carry you.

- Always be in the moment and focused for the horse (ride every stride, even on the ground), while always using soft eyes to evaluate the surroundings for things that may frighten, injure or spook the horse (herd leadership).

No matter how difficult your journey is with your horse, keep these powerful words from the Spanish Riding School in the back of your mind – “good horsemanship is the ability to understand the difference between a horse that doesn't want to do something (rarely the case with a herd animal), a horse that is confused and doesn't understand what is being asked, and a horse that is not physically or mentally capable of doing what is being asked.”

Hope this helps. Have a great 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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MUSEUM MUSINGS • CATHY HARPER

Saving Space One Small Step at a Time

Space museum earns grant to digitize 1960s era space films

The New Mexico Museum of Space History is pleased to announce that it was recently awarded a “One Small Step” grant from the SPACE 3.0 Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The grant, which was applied for by Museum Curator Sue Taylor, will allow the museum’s curatorial department to digitize more than a dozen space related 16mm films from the 1960s that reside in the museum’s collection. The films to be digitized include several associated with the Gemini and Apollo programs.

“After more than 30-plus years in the space industry, I’ve noticed that small sums can make a real difference,” said Scott Sacknoff, the foundation’s chair. “SPACE 3.0 has launched the ‘One Small Step’ grant program to identify projects that can fill



This small group of films will be among those digitized with the SPACE 3.0 “One Small Step” grant and include a silent Apollo 14 briefing film, Gemini Category film, and one about Apollo 16. (Courtesy NMMSH)

in the gaps to space history preservation. Ideas such as digitizing historical documents, collecting an oral history, or expanding the resources found in our archive. Digitizing and color correcting these films from the golden age

of human spaceflight will not only help preserve them, but will also make them available to researchers and the public.

“This proposal from the New Mexico Museum of Space History is an example of what we’ve been seeking—making the history of spaceflight more accessible and preserving materials for future generations.”

Upon completion of this project, the videos will be available through both organizations. Established in 2019, SPACE 3.0 is a 501(c)(3) charitable institution that is building an endowment in order to fund projects related to the preservation of space history and empowering entrepreneurs and visionaries. Its “One Small Step” grants provide \$250-\$1,000 for worthy activities that help the Foundation target its mission and goals.

Taylor said the project is expected to begin in the next few months and should be finished by spring 2022.

The New Mexico Museum of Space History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is a division of the New

Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information, call 575-437-2840 or toll free 1-877-333-6589 or visit the website at www.nmspacemuseum.org. Visit the museum at 3198 State Route 2001, Alamogordo.

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