

# DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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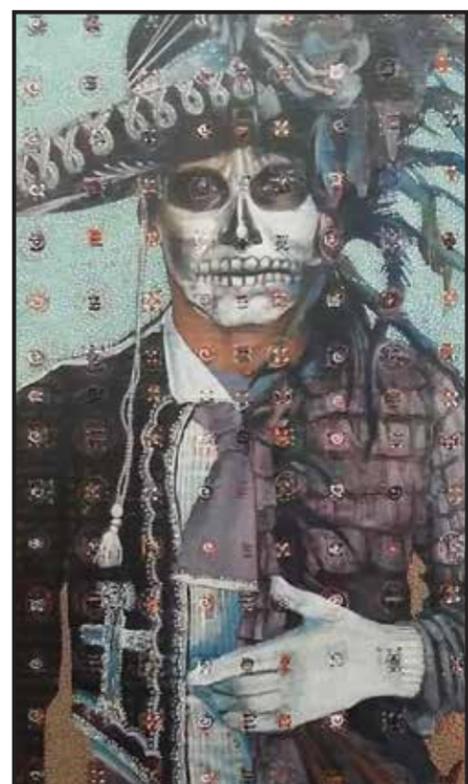
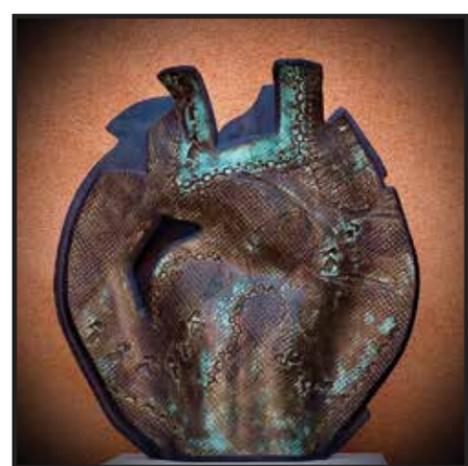
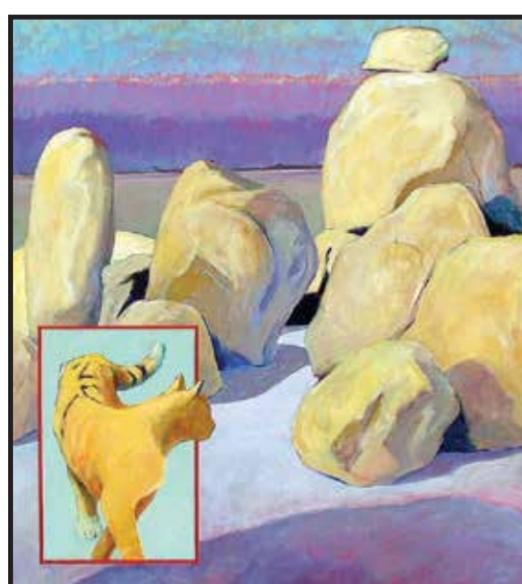
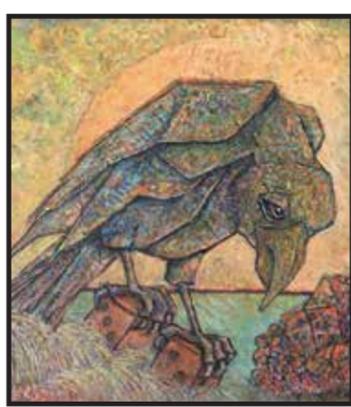
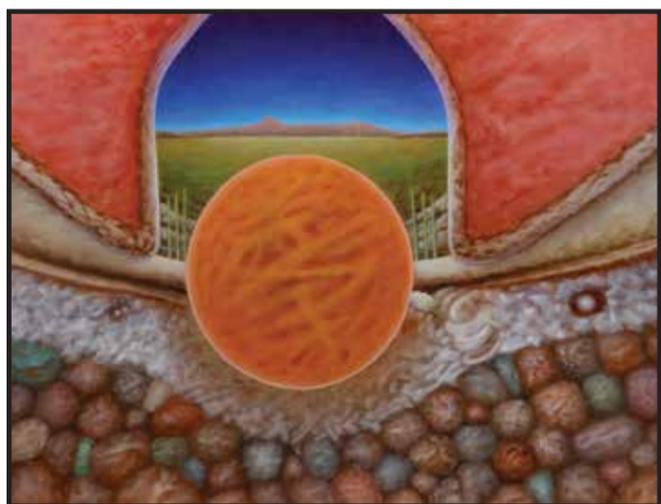
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AUGUST 2021

Volume 26 • Number 8



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# From a Long Day to Forever

Space exploration moves the world forward

Sunday, July 11, was definitely a long day. We were at the buses in Las Cruces at 2:30 a.m. and didn't leave for Spaceport America until close to 4. We got there a little after 5 and the Unity 22 launch had been delayed until 8:30 a.m.

It felt a bit isolated at first. Many, many press members from all around the world were around us, my son Lanze (who was there as my photographer) and I. I talked to media members from New Zealand, Italy, England and more. But we were kept on one end of the area and things were really happening on the other end. We saw later on the video screen and not in person, Branson arriving on his bike. When all the astronauts arrived, we weren't able to see them.

Some people came over to talk with us, like Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham; Rick Homans, who was economic development secretary when it all started with a handshake between Branson and Bill Richardson; Scott McLaughlin, the current CEO of Spaceport America; and Pat Hynes who works at New Mexico State University and curates the International Symposium for Personal and Commercial Spaceflight in Las Cruces every year. She is also a future astronaut and deeply interested in the research that can be done in space.

Then, on July 20, another wealthy man headed for space. Jeff Bezos is the founder of Amazon, the man who started an online bookstore in his garage in 1994. Bezos took with him his brother Mark, female aviation pioneer Wally Funk and

a paying customer, 18-year-old Oliver Daemen. I watched his Blue Origin ship, New Shepard, climb into space via YouTube since the press was not invited there to the Van Horn, Texas launch site. But I would have been there too if they let me.

But why? What is this thing inside us that drives us up, into the darkness beyond the solid ground of this blue marble?

For me, it is hope. I hope the people of the world can find a new frontier, a place of imagination and a place to grow. As long as our children can stretch to imagine something better, they will reach to achieve the things they see in their minds. Like Jeff Bezos, who, in his high school valedictory speech, told the audience he dreamed of the day mankind would colonize space to get all people off the Earth and see it turned into a huge national park.

There are many naysayers, people who insist the money spent by these billionaires would be better spent feeding hungry children, addressing gun violence, and focusing on the economy or the environment.

But what is hope but the growing of minds? These minds, as they learn and grow will work toward a better world. Both Branson and Bezos talked about looking at the world from space and noting how small and frail it is. They know the world needs help. Both offer hope in the form of funds as well, pouring money into foundations, education and human endeavors that cause endless trickles into the world addressing sustainability and knowledge.

Is it really a waste of time growing jobs for engineers, rocket builders, environmental specialists and hospitality managers? Is it really an obscene waste of money to spend "\$250,000 for a 20-minute amusement park ride?" Or is it a way to channel hope into something of substance?

"The vast amount of money that is spent in ways that we might not think productive is beyond our control," writes a Facebook friend of mine, Geoff Dennis. "Consider the vast amounts of money spent on movies and sports. At the very least, this kind of project employs a lot of scientific and technical people. Hundreds, if not thousands, are taking home a paycheck for doing this. It is hard for me to think of that as a total waste."

And then there are the innovations that always will come out of space exploration. The list of things we would not have but for space exploration is long and includes cell phones, scratch-resistant lenses, ear thermometers, shoe insoles, cordless tools, tap water filters, satellite navigation, memory foam and smoke detectors.

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



## High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence.  
Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high un-trespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

— John Gillespie Magee Jr.

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**Come check out this unrestricted lot on Vista Grande off of Tabor Drive.** So much potential, will accept both mobiles and site built homes.  
MLS # 38023 \$50,000

**Take a look at this gorgeous hidden gem of a property.** Located just off Hwy 90, this 3.69 acres has it all including large trees, amazing views (including "W" mountain), proximity to town and city water/sewer availability.  
MLS # 37691 \$65,000

**Adorable 2 bd 1 ba fixer-upper in Hurley.** This home has all of the charm from 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

**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 \$139,000

**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

**In the heart of Silver City!** Home features a cozy den with fireplace and bay window. Large Living room with ceramic tile. Recent upgrades include new electrical service, new sewer lateral, new carpeting in the bedrooms and den. Private backyard patio. Large backyard with alley access with room for recreational vehicle parking or construction of a garage. Large laundry room. Attached 1 stall carport.  
MLS # 38359 \$210,000

**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. Call 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

**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. Rents shown are the tenants portions. HUD contributes \$910 Monthly on top of Tenant rents. Also, there is a tenant living in the travel trailer on the side of the property who acts as a Handyman and pays \$100/month. The coin operated laundry also produces \$50+ per month.  
MLS # 38258 \$279,000

**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 # 38368 \$299,000

**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

**Rare opportunity to own property on the Mimbres River in the historic Highway 61 corridor.** Located in San Juan on 45+ acres. Custom designed home features a wrap around porch, vigas, built in book cases, nichos, kiva fireplace with wood stove insert. Amazing kitchen for the person who loves to cook with plenty of counter space and storage for canning and preserving food. Garden has it's own well, raised beds, raspberry patch, rhubarb, asparagus and fruit trees.  
MLS # 38370 \$425,000

**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:

Fifteen artists are participating in this year's Silver City Art Association Studio Tour weekend, Sept. 3-5, and samples of their work are on this month's cover. The artists whose work is represented are, left to right and top to bottom, Joseph Kennedy, Eric and Karen Tippet, Chery Fenley, Michael P. Berman, Kenneth Hadlock, Kathryn Allen, Richard Harper, Letha Cress Wolf, Diane Kleiss, Victoria Chick, Catherine Russo, Zoe Wolfe, Donna Foley, Claude W. Smith III, Michael Metcalf and Diana Ingalls Leyba. See page 13 for more on the Red Dot Studio Tour.



### Desert #62 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](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"YCDURMRE UCR CKXENONHFBUB BDK, GN NGR ERDOOK WGNBY

YCRUCRE UCRER FB RGNPHC YDURE ZNE JNUC QFGFGH DGX

ZDEQFGH FG UCFB DERD PGUFO BNQRNGR EPGB NPU." - QDV KRC

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: "I WAS SAD WHEN, LIKE SHANE, THE HERO FROM THE WESTERN MOVIE OF THE SAME NAME, JEFF RODE OFF TO ANOTHER TOWN THAT NEEDED HIS SERVICES." - PAUL HOYLEN, ON SANTA FE WRITER JEFF BERG. \*Secret Words: "FUN COPYRIGHTABLES" Congrats to #61 solvers: Ian Tafoya\*, David Kinder\*, Claudette Gallegos\*, Shorty Vaiza\*, Mike Arms\*, Skip Howard\*, George Egert\* and Will Adams\*!

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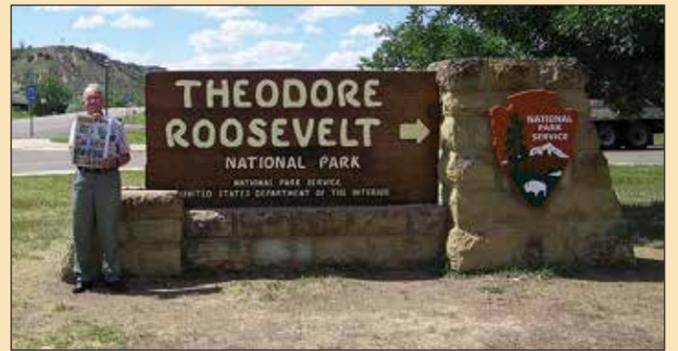
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## POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE



Cliff Appel of Alamogordo visited the South Unit entrance to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and had this to say about the experience: "I think most Desert Exposure readers know about Badlands National Park located about 50 miles east of Rapid City, SD. But I'd bet most do not know that North Dakota has its Badlands too. They are located around and in Theodore Roosevelt National Park at the town of Medora, ND (South Unit) about 40 miles west of Dickinson, ND and 52 miles north on U.S. 85 (North Unit). The big difference in the two badlands is that South Dakota's Badlands are spartan and barren. In contrast, North Dakota's Badlands are in the prairie, so there are prairie grasses and a variety of other vegetation which provide food for bison, wild horses, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and even prairie dogs. Nonetheless, the North Dakota Badlands is not a place to be lost in steamy hot summers nor brutally cold and snowy winters."



Three friends decided to meet in Silver City. One of the places all were interested in was the Western New Mexico University Museum. They are Robert DeNyke from Florida, Grace Herbert from Illinois and Michael Whitworth from Alabama.

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

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

# Bad Math, Bad Day

## Running around here and there

Last year, my then five-year-old granddaughter came up with a math theorem that was elegant in its simplicity:  $10 = 10$ .

I was playfully showing her math equations on my phone's calculator, mainly adding ridiculously long numbers together, when she snatched it from my hand and taught me this important lesson: Everything equals itself.

It's an obvious concept, but not one that I've ever seen or heard expressed before. It was an original idea, and I'm a sucker for original ideas. The brilliance of her smile showed just how proud she was of her theorem. So proud she repeated it for me again and again.

On the other hand, my elderly

father is losing his relationship with numbers and their value. When I take him to the doctor, the receptionist will say, "Your co-pay is..."

"Pay it," he'll tell me.

I often wonder what kind of math they teach in schools these days. A bad math, I reckon. Two plus two equals four if you're a racing enthusiast, five if you're not.

I'm being unfair, I know. Teaching is a two-way street. There's the teaching part, then there's the learning part. Einstein could be your teacher, but if you refuse to learn, then you might as well let him choose your hairstyle.

I was at a restaurant the other day. The total was \$9.73. I gave the cashier, who had been my waitress, a 10 dollar bill. As she

put it in the cash drawer, I handed her 73 cents. She looked unsure for a second, put the coins in the drawer, and then tried to hand me back 27 cents. I didn't take it.

"It's a dollar," I told her.

"I should get a dollar back."

"The total was \$9.73," she told me.

"Yes, but I gave you a 10-dollar bill and then 73 cents in change."

She tried to remember. Looked at the register for help. It didn't give her any, so I stepped in.

"I gave you a 10-dollar bill and then 73 cents in change," I repeated, "so I should get a dollar back."

She wasn't convinced.

"I first gave you a ten," I repeated, "and then I gave you 73 cents, so my change is a dollar."

The problem was she let the cash register do the math for her. The total was \$9.73. When I handed over the ten, THAT'S what she entered into the machine. Even though I handed over an additional 73 cents, the magic box told her she only owed me 27 cents.

She finally broke down and handed me a dollar, but I think she was just tired of arguing. Did I think she was trying to cheat me? Not really. She had just been depending on the cash register for way too long.

She was surprised when I gave her a 5-dollar tip. The waitresses here are sweet, the food is good, and times have been hard. It was the least I could do.

From there, I drove to a fast-food joint. I lost the sleeve to a

gift card I bought and needed to get another. There was no dine-in eating, so I waited behind several cars before making it to the drive-through speaker.

"Rack-dack-ork?" the speaker said.

"Excuse me?" I answered.

"May I help you?" the speaker said again, this time in English.

"Yes," I said. "Your dine-in is closed and I need to get a sleeve for a gift card I have."

"Sorry, but our dine-in is closed. May I help you?"

"I lost the sleeve to a gift card and wanted to get another."

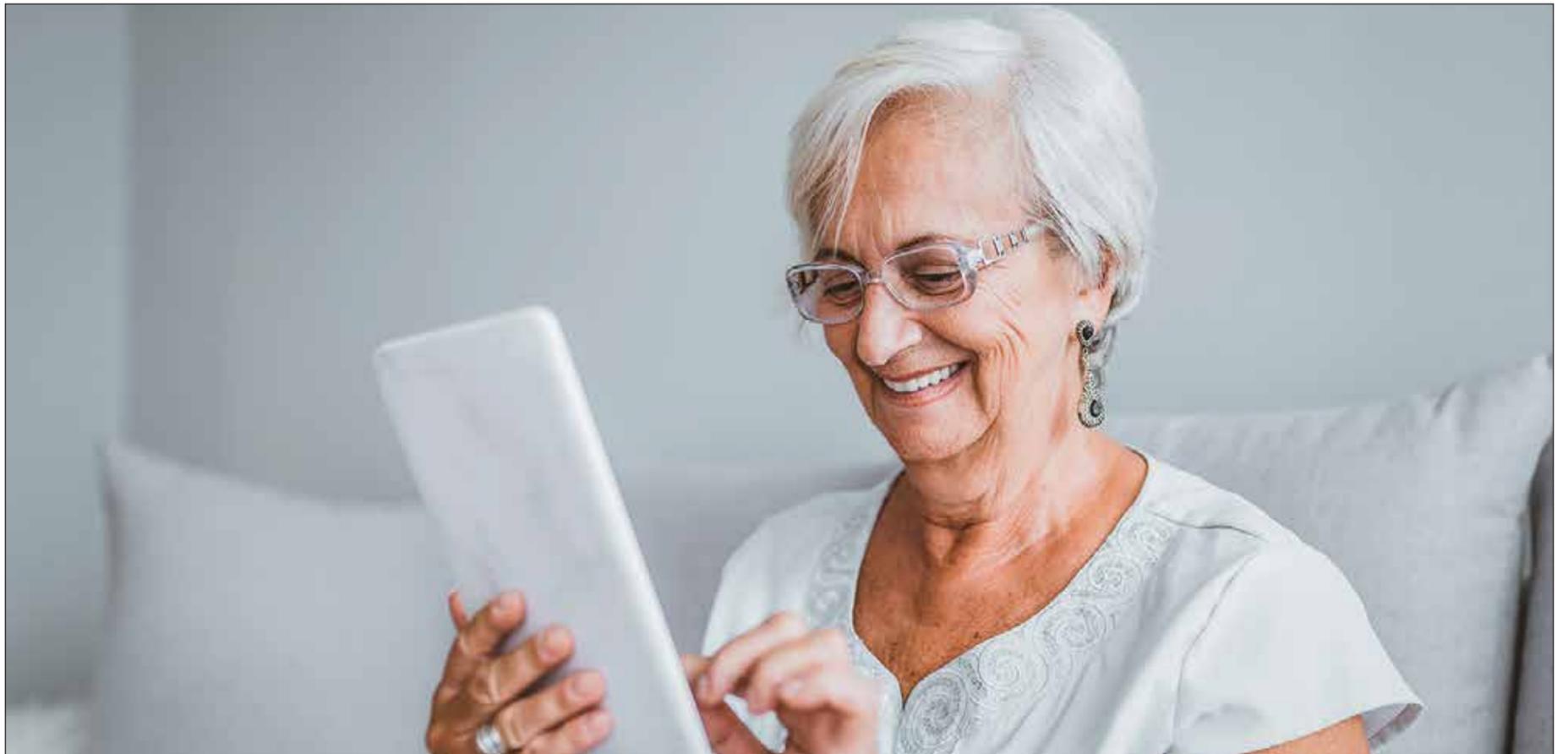
"A sleeve?"

"Yes."

"What's a sleeve?"

**BAD DAY**

continued on page 6



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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

# Friend Finds Value in Little Things

## Avoiding high-tech can help avoid high stress

I have a friend named Jean. She doesn't have a smart phone. She's never purchased anything online for herself. If she needs something, she drives down to the grocery store. If she misses a call, she calls back when she's ready.

When she pays for something, she uses cash.

She lives on her time and does things her way. When the world is moving too fast, Jean sits and waits. She knows things will eventually make their way around to her corner of the

world. She doesn't mind waiting.

I like Jean's way of life even though I don't see myself living like she does. When I get a text or call, I answer right away. I don't want to keep people waiting. I know they don't like it. If I need new shoes or a home gadget that

I can't find at the local store, I get online using my smartphone and purchase it in seconds.

It's nice to have everything you need in the palm of your hand. Jean doesn't see it that way even though she believes she has everything she needs. Jean is from

a time and place that doesn't exist anymore and the more I learn about it, the more I see the value in that time gone by.

There have been many occasions when I encouraged Jean

**SIMPLE LIFE**

continued on page 7

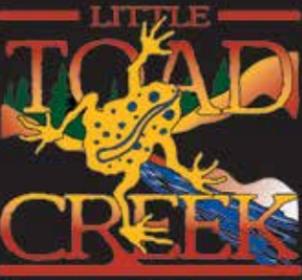
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GUEST COLUMN • WENDY HAMILTON

# Determining Climate Goals

## Working toward a healthy planet

A healthy planet with a stable climate shouldn't be a political argument – it's a global humanitarian and environmental issue. And while it is clear that a global transition to clean energy must be a worldwide effort driven by governments and corporations, there

are many things individuals in local communities can do that benefits everyone. Or as was stated in 2019 delay and pay or act and prosper. All it takes are people with a willingness to participate, a few sound ideas, an understanding of purpose, and some incremental goal setting.

When working locally on sustainable issues, individuals and families can tailor their efforts to meet their personal, social, and/or economic resources and needs. Below is a list of climate smart activities. Each one can blossom into many additional efforts. Some activities can even

save you money, reduce personal stress, improve your health and/or increase your quality of life.

The suggestions are casually organized from awareness to robust community actions and are by no means comprehensive. One credible online resource is provided for each activity to help the reader build a foundation of understanding and a platform for further exploration. Select one or two activities and incorporate them into your routine. Set your course based on your expertise and training or explore learning a new skill within the activity. Take as long as you need to make your climate stewardship activity a part of your evolving sustainable lifestyle or complete it and move on to another activity. Involve your family and see where it leads. Eventually, like a personal merit badge, you may find yourself making decisions based on your expanding knowledge of the climate crisis, while reducing your carbon footprint.

Some ways to begin your journey or build upon what you are already doing include:

- Taking a free talking-climate course (edX.org) and begin sharing climate conversations;
- Becoming an En-ROADS Ambassador ([www.climateinteractive.org/](http://www.climateinteractive.org/)) to engage others around climate change solutions;
- Shopping for Sustainable Clothing Brands ([www.goodonyou.eco](http://www.goodonyou.eco)) but be sure to read their Frequently Asked Qts section;
- Getting Involved in Citizen Science (scistarter.org) as a fam-

ily activity;

- Planting Rover a Garden (Reduce Your Dog's Carbon Footprint) in pots or the ground;
- Becoming a Recycling Virtuoso ([www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com)) helping neighbors take the mystery out of trash
- Doing a home energy audit ([energy.gov/homeenergyaudit](http://energy.gov/homeenergyaudit)) to start saving money;
- Exploring state energy incentives ([www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)) following your energy audit;
- Planting three trees ([www.nature.org/Climate-Ready-Trees](http://www.nature.org/Climate-Ready-Trees)), one for you and two for neighbors;
- Being active in your kids' school or youth group ([cleanet.org/index.html](http://cleanet.org/index.html)) teaching climate science;
- Exploring 100 ways to reduce plastic use ([myplasticfreelife.com](http://myplasticfreelife.com)) and helping others to do the same;
- And/or putting your feet up and Watching Free EarthX TV ([video.earthxtv.com](http://video.earthxtv.com)) to find more climate action ideas.

The climate crisis is real and urgent solutions are needed – everyone has a role to play. Hopefully you will be one of the protagonists.

Wendy Hamilton, Ed.D, NMSU emeritus professor, can be reached at [whamilto@nmsu.edu](mailto:whamilto@nmsu.edu). Hamilton's science background has led to her interests in anthropogenic factors causing global warming.





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### BAD DAY

continued from page 4

"It's the envelope gift cards come in."

"Oh, you don't need an envelope," the speaker informed me. "All you need is the gift card. It has a little magnetic strip on the back that we scan."

Oh. Now I'M the stupid one.

"I bought this card as a gift," I explained to her, "and lost the sleeve it came in. I'd like to get another one."

"Sorry, but we don't have envelopes for gift cards."

"That's funny, because, when I bought this one, they gave me one with it."

"I don't know what to tell you, sir," the speaker said, caught in a lie and doubling down. "We don't have envelopes for our gift cards."

"Thanks for your trouble," I told the speaker.

I've learned in life it's better to be polite. There's a better chance you'll make the other

person feel bad.

So, I drove away. Kind of irritated, but what could I do?

I needed gas.

There's a convenience store I go to that has the best prices. I can understand why the price of gasoline fluctuates on a daily basis, but I don't know why it fluctuates from gas station to gas station.

I pulled up to the pumps. Got out of my car. Pulled the debit card out of my wallet the way a magician pulls a rabbit out of his hat. Inserted it into the slot. It didn't work. "See cashier," the screen told me.

I got into my car and drove away,

If I wanted to see the cashier I wouldn't have used my debit card.

Thanks to everyone who sent me their "butterfly dreams" (May 2021). [theduchenebrothers@gmail.com](mailto:theduchenebrothers@gmail.com), @JimDuchene

# Letter to the Editor

## August marks awful anniversary

**Dear Editor:** August brings with it two awful anniversaries. The first is on the 6th, the 76th anniversary of the atomic bomb detonated over Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States. Three days later, on the 9th of August, the U.S. detonated another nuclear device over the city of Nagasaki, Japan.

Together, the two bombs instantly killed at least 105,000 people and injured 94,000 more, mostly civilians. As the months stretched on, we learned of the lingering effects of atomic radiation, even unto the unborn. The total death toll from the two bombs is much, much larger, but can never be known exactly.

Our two bombs, the only nuclear weapons ever used in warfare, were game-changers in the history of warfare. The one used on Hiroshima, dubbed "Little Boy," had an explosive power equal to 15,000 tons of TNT. "Fat Man," the bomb used on Nagasaki, was equivalent to 21,000 tons of TNT. That measure of explosive power neglects the pernicious effects of radiation, which the world learned is the deadly lingering after-effect of atomic weapons and their radioactive components.

The nuclear arms race was on. By 1986, the nuclear nations had 70,300 atomic weapons in their arsenals. However, the experiences of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, nuclear tests and atomic acci-

dents had begun to show how dangerous the genie was that had been freed in 1945.

With first the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 and then the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968, world leaders began to acknowledge the horrendous nature of the nuclear genie.

In fact, Article VI of the NPT states: "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

The United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union committed to nuclear disarmament 53 years ago. Unfortunately, Israel, India and Pakistan never signed the NPT and North Korea withdrew from it. While various treaties and agreements have reduced the global nuclear arsenal to an estimated 13,100 weapons in 2021, the world is still not safe from a nuclear holocaust. For one thing, the term "weapons" includes both Little Boy (15 kilotons of explosive energy) and our B63 bomb (1,200 kilotons). The B63 is 80 times more powerful than Little Boy! While Little Boy killed the equivalent of three-quarters of the population of Santa Fe today (83,922), just one of our 600 B63s could more than obliterate the Denver metropolitan area

(2,862,000 population)!

Sadly, we are moving away from the nuclear-free goal of Section VI of the NPT. This administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 includes increased funding for a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). This new missile would replace the 450 ICBMs in silos across the upper Midwest and would be fitted with the W87 warhead, which packs a punch of 300,000 tons of TNT (20 Little Boys!). The multi-year, multi-billion-dollar project is in the hands of Northrup Grumman, with an estimated delivery date of 2029. New Mexico, with its

Los Alamos and Sandia laboratories, will rake in a good share of the proposed budget outlays for enhanced nuclear warfare potential. The anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki provide us with an opportunity to step back and contemplate the real world consequences should we decide again to use nuclear weapons. Most military and political leaders say launching a nuclear attack is unthinkable. We now know of instances when U.S. and Soviet military personnel could have ignited a nuclear holocaust but had the wisdom to question false or misleading data they were re-

ceiving. Yet we plunge on! For more than 30 years, Gila Friends Meeting (Quaker) has been hosting just such an opportunity for shared public contemplation of our nuclear fates at their annual Hiroshima Peace Day Observance. This year's observance will take place at the Gough Park Pavilion in Silver City at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 8. There will be a period of silent meditation, followed by a time of sharing of views by participants. All are welcome; please bring your own chair.

**Tom Vaughan**  
Silver City

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## SIMPLE LIFE

continued from page 5

to get a new phone. I told her she didn't know what she was missing. After all, how can someone live in the past? On other days, when I really needed something done, something crafty and creative that I know takes time and effort, I relied on Jean.

I could have done it but I didn't have the patience or the talent. I could have ordered it online but I knew it wasn't going to look as nice or authentic as if Jean had made it for me. So, I asked Jean to do it and she did.

Jean is the kind of lady who saves things. She saves things because she sees value in them that the rest of us don't. She knows that throwaway items can be used to fix something else. She treasures the little things in life because she knows that someone else spent their time and effort making it for someone else.

We live in a world that is becoming more like a cartoon version of reality. Neighborhoods pop up outside cities and all the houses seem identical. Cars are made to look and feel like they were pushed out of a mass production factory. Things don't have authenticity anymore.

We purchase things because they are easy to purchase. We hold on to them for a moment's

time and then we move on to the next distraction. We don't keep things because we don't see value in them.

When what you need is only a click away, it becomes too hard to find worth because there was no effort needed in acquiring it. Jean knows that. The rest of us don't.

In a tiny town, located in the mountains of the Gila Wilderness, Jean spends her time creating things. She doesn't need an ATM or a computer. She has everything she needs because she has kept what is precious to her for many years. She doesn't mind if she misses the latest fad. Jean knows that most things are temporary.

I love Jean and I wish I was more like her. We may think this way of life is harder but really, it's much easier for people like Jean. She has less worries. She knows what she wants in life and she makes her way about getting it.

Jean does things on her time, in her own way. When you think about it, Jean's life is one worth living.

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



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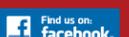


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QUILT TALES • MIA KALISH

# Enchanted Southern Longarms

## The machinery that quilts to satisfaction

A longarm quilting machine can be a lot of fun if you can find one to work with. These machines load the top, batting and back of a quilt into a metal frame so the quilter can sew the three layers at once. The machine head rolls vertically and horizontally, allowing it to quilt while the fabric stays in place.

Here in the southern part of the Land of Enchantment, we

have a number of local quilt stores, LQS for short. Some have in-store longarms, some have longarm quilters whose cards are available in the store and one store, Be Sew Creative in Las Cruces, is unique in that it has a longarm rental program and a brochure to tell you about it.

I had a special lap-size quilt that I had made for my BFF and I

wanted to make sure the quilting was fine, so I decided to explore the longarm adventure. I came in for the introductory course with Stephanie, who herself is an amazing quilter. With the class you not only get lots information about the program, the costs, scheduling and so on, but also a cool bag of goodies, in an equally cool goodie bag. There are longarm bobbins; tiny scissors for cutting threads and a notion necklace to hold them; and the long straight pins that you will use when you reach the bottom of your quilt to pin it down for the final part of the design.

What you will need to bring, depending on your pattern, is an appropriate ruler. I was going to do straight lines, so I brought my small, 5-inch square. You can purchase a 1-inch-wide ruler at the store and these are very nice to have for a variety of tasks.

You also get experience with the longarm. My first experience was exhilarating and addictive. I wanted to keep quilting and quilting, trying different free-motion patterns. Free-motion is easier on the longarm because



The author's quilt set up and ready to be quilted in the longarm.



Quilting straight lines on the longarm quilting machine. (Photos by Mia Kalish)

you don't have to move the quilt. You are only moving the head, which is very light. The magic happened when I found myself quilting chile peppers. So, a week later, I came back, with my quilt, my goodie bag and my ruler.

The store provides the thread as part of the service and the next step after choosing the thread color is to load the bobbins. There is a special bobbin loader that is very fast. Stephanie threads the longarm needle and bobbin and checks the tensions. She gives you the go.

Now you are ready to quilt. And the terror sets in. You are face to face with your quilt prepped and ready on this machine that you are now going to use "for real." You struggle to remember the sequence of option switches: Turn it on (Never leave it on when you are done quilting because the machine is very light and will quilt where you don't want it to, so turn the switch to off). Place the needle near one of the dot markers created for the pattern. Lock the stitches, being careful to move the needle a little. Otherwise if

the stitches are in the same hole, it won't lock and the machine will unthread (yes, I did this!).

Now move the needle into the first spacer dot. Needle down. Set the straight-line direction switch; I was quilting horizontal lines; the quilt had been loaded sideways to make this easier. Hands on the handles, shaped somewhat like bicycle handles. Stare in terror. Stephanie says something like, "OK, go. Start moving." Continue staring in terror... but then, you do - at least, I did. You move the head gently over the quilt, being careful not to overrun the stitch regulator. And the magic happens. Again.

Each row got a little easier. Switch to off, needle up, cut threads, slide the needle head back to the left after the finished row. All these got more automatic. I was developing a rhythm that was comfortable and at the same time, I was doing some fine straight-line quilting. In less than 45 minutes, I was done. The only mistake happened when I forgot to set the horizontal line switch and the first three inches of that row were a little wiggly. But overall, the quilt is gorgeous.

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**Desert Exposure continues its longstanding writing contest.**

**Winners will be featured in the October and November issues of Desert Exposure.**

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.

# Arts Scene

## Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY



• **Light Art Space** has two exhibitions starting in August. **“Visions of Nature: Contemporary Views in Alternative Photographic Techniques”** reflects the isolation and uncertainty of the times. This exhibition welcomes work utilizing alternative photographic techniques referencing nature. The work of 46 artists from across the world will be on display. Running through Oct. 2, there will be a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6. **“Two Artists: Two Views,”** offers the photographic works by **Diana Bloomfield** and **Karen Hymer**. North Carolina artist, Bloomfield, and Silver City Artist, Hymer presents recent work utilizing various photographic processes including gum dichromate, platinum, lumen and phytograms. Hymer is offering a photopolymer gravure workshop from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28. The gallery, at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City, is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and by appointment. Info: [www.lightartspace.com](http://www.lightartspace.com).



From the “Synergy” series by Tony Bonanno

• At **Sterling Fine Art**, **Tony Bonanno’s “Synergy”** series is featured in August. “Synergy” is a series of the female nude shot in Galisteo Basin, near Santa Fe. Bonanno transposes the graceful contours of his model with New Mexico geologic outcroppings and skies. These photographs focus on the contrasts and similarities of human and natural forms. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment 505-699-5005. Sterling is located at 306 N Bullard St, Silver City.



“Cactus Pot” by Wendy Shaul



“Monsoon Angel” by Rebecca Rousseau



Aventurine Art necklace by Stephanie Demme

• **The Grant County Art Guild**, located at 316 N Bullard Street, Silver City, celebrates the addition of clay artist, **Wendy**

ART SCENE

continued on page 10

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**Happy Planting!**




**ART SCENE**

continued from page 9

**Shaul.** Shaul, is a native of Silver City, who has worked as a natural science illustrator; writing, designing and fabricating interpretive panels for museums, parks and visitor's centers. Shaul said the wealth of support and creative folk in our community brings her priceless inspiration and GCAG has opened a ground-level annex for meetings, events and shows. The annex is located at 106 E Market St, Silver City, directly behind the GCAG Gallery on Bullard, and just across the footbridge from the Visitor Center parking lot on Hudson. For more information, or to ask about renting the Annex, email [annex@gcag.org](mailto:annex@gcag.org) or see website at [gcag.org/annex](http://gcag.org/annex). In August the gallery is celebrating the life-giving return of rain with a **Monsoon mini show**. In addition to the mini-show, the Gallery will be featuring the work of three artists, painter and birdhouse crafter **Gay Scheibl**, painter **Donna Schmidt** and glass artist **Stephanie Demme**. GCAG gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Monday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Info: [www.gcag.org](http://www.gcag.org).

- **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 anytime by prior arrangement. Info: 575-956-6940.

**CLOUDCROFT**

- **The Cloudcroft Art Society's** annual patio sale fundraiser is Aug. 14, starting at 8 a.m. at the old Red Brick School House. This year along with the usual items for sale there will be donated art from the society's members. All the art on display is for sale 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](mailto:sznana@totacc.com).

**DEMING**

- August at the **Deming Art Center** features "**Air, Earth, Wind & Fire**" at the Deming Art Center will feature pieces using the four elements theme. This will be a display of the many genres that this theme can conjure in the mind of an artist. The exhibit runs through Aug. 30. The gallery is located at 100 S. Gold in Deming, and open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Info: 575-546-3663 or [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org).



"Scott's Oriole" by Sue Ann Glenn

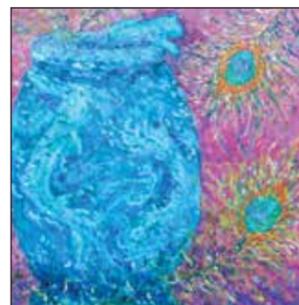
**LAS CRUCES**



"Revival Survival" by Rebecca Courtney



"Dr. M" by Kathleen Deasy



"Cat and Koi" by Rosemary McLoughlin

- **The Doña Ana Arts Council** August exhibition features the **Ten o'Clock Club's** perspective on the pandemic in "**Disrupted**." The show features work reflecting emotion, observations and change as these artists navigated the course of the pandemic over the last 16 months. The founding members, **Penny Dunclee, June Decker, Alice Dressler, Jean Smith, and Margaret Bernstein**, started this group in 2005. They met at cafés on the 10th day of each



"Talavera" by Jane Peacock

month at 10 a.m. to share ideas and artwork. The overall intention of the group was and still is to encourage members to stop each day at 10 a.m. and devote time to art. Today, the group often referred to as "The Tennesers" continues its contagious enthusiasm for all art endeavors in the community. The **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center** is at 250 W. Amador St. in Las Cruces and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Saturdays. Info: [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org) or 575-523-6403.

- **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 August: **Sue Ann Glenn** and **Jane Peacock**. After 32 years of teaching, Glenn retired has focused on watercolors. She's a signature member of the New Mexico Watercolor Society. Her chile field paintings focus on the farming activities of Southern New Mexico. Peacock's plein air paintings relate directly to the landscape. It is her goal to create works that capture the Southwest landscape. She loves painting outside. She is a member of "Plein Air Painters of New Mexico" and "Let's Paint New Mexico." **First American Bank in Mesilla** is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists' work monthly. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).

Visit Desert Exposure's Virtual Gallery to connect to area artist's websites.  
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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.

ARTS EXPOSURE

# Gallery Guide

**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.  
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**Lumiere Editions**, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.  
**The Makery**, 106 E. Market Place. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makerysvc.com.  
**Manzanita Ridge**, 107 N. Bullard St. 388-1158.  
**Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery**, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.  
**Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing**, 203 N. Bullard St., 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.  
**Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile**, 104 W. Broadway St., 388-1811/313-2595,

8:30 -10 a.m. Monday to Friday.  
**The Place at the Palace**, at 201 N. Bullard St. 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.  
**Wynnegate Gallery**, 1105 W. Market St., 534-9717, noon - 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.  
**Zoe's Studio/Gallery**, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

9935, katebrown@gilinet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ouida 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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ON STAGE: ALAMOGORDO • CAROLYN DITTMER

# 'The Orphan Train'

Children tackle difficult subject in first post-Covid show

Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo (CMT) will present "The Orphan Train" at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave., at 7 p.m. on Aug. 20, 21, 27 and 28 and at 2 p.m. on Aug. 22.

"The Orphan Train," a historically inspired play, is directed by Heather Bash, who is also co-founder of CMT.

"In the early 1900s, New York City had more orphans than space in its orphanages, so many children were living on

the street, fighting for survival," Bash said. "They were rounded up by authorities and sent westward on 'orphan trains.' At each stop, people would come look over the children and adopt or hire on the children they wanted. The rest were put back on the train to ride to the next stop, still hoping to find a family, or some kind of decent home."

With a show set in the early 1900s and based on historical events, Bash said it has been challenging for the children.

"Their modern mannerisms and ways of speaking have had to be stifled, and their focus placed on learning what would have been culturally and grammatically acceptable in 1910," Bash said.

For example, one of the characters in the play, Pegeen, speaks with an Irish brogue, so the actress, Brooke Casarez, had to work with Bash on the accent.

"It was such a fun time of learning a new acting skill and Brooke took to it very quickly! All the characters in this production are so special, and the audience will have a tough time picking a favorite," Bash said.

"The orphans will tug at your heart strings, and the people and situations that they encounter along the journey will make you laugh, cry, angry, hopeful. All of your emotions will be engaged at some point in the performance."

This non-musical play, which is smaller than previous CMT productions, was chosen for the first post-shutdown show because of the uncertainty of what restrictions or limitations might still be in place.

"Happily, restrictions are lift-



Ellyanna Edwards, Brooke Casarez, Brylee Middleton, RaeLynn Marshall take part in the Children's Music Theater production of "The Orphan Train." (Photo by Heather Bash)

ed, and we are hoping that the theater will be packed for all performances!" Bash said.

Unfortunately, like many organizations, CMT suffered a huge loss during the pandemic.

"Earlier this year, Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo

was dealt a devastating blow in the unexpected death of visionary, angel and co-founder, Teresa Ham. Her absence has been felt in our hearts and at every rehearsal, but her memory will live on in CMT and in the Alamogordo community," Bash said.

She added that CMT will soon be offering a Teresa Ham Memorial Scholarship for a graduating senior who has been active in Children's Music Theater of Alamogordo.

"Although the subject matter of this play is a bit difficult, it is appropriate for, and will be enjoyable for all ages," Bash said.

"We can't wait to see everyone at the performances!"

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (12 & under) and will be available at The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. For more information, call 575-437-2202.

## Bear Mountain Lodge



**We are proud to welcome special guest Linda Nader**

**August 26th 6:00pm:**  
Dinner with Restorer Linda Nader at Bear Mountain Lodge. Reservations a must! Linda will give a brief talk on her restoration of "Portrait of Bonnie." Menu is online

**August 27th:**  
Linda Nader will reevaluate restoration needs of your artwork from 10-2pm  
The unveiling of the "Portrait of Bonnie" at the Miller Library on Western New Mexico University 4:30pm  
Come and welcome Bonnie to her new home



**August 28th 10-2pm**  
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Michael P. Berman is one of the 15 artists participating in this year's Silver City Art Association Studio Tour weekend. As a published photographer Berman focuses on images of area wild places. (Courtesy photo)

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ARTS EXPOSURE

# Red Dot is Back

## Discover Silver City art studios

Visitors and residents of Silver City have a chance to see the quaint mountain town in a different way during the annual Red Dot Tour that will be held Sept. 3-5.

The Silver City Art Association is hosting its annual studio tour.

Bright red dots will mark open studios. You can obtain a brochure and map at any participating studio or gallery or they can be picked up at the new Aldea Gallery, 107 Yankee St., in downtown Silver City. Aldea Gallery will serve as the Red Dot Tour headquarters and will also host the kickoff reception. 5 - 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3.

Barry Naam will play jazz and refreshments will be served during the reception.

"Visiting artists in their creative space gives insight into different media, processes and the methods each artist has in applying their techniques," a news release announcing the tour said. "It is also a chance to discover some areas around Grant County that artists discovered before you. Follow the map down country roads, along scenic byways, as well as historic downtown Silver City, finding studios where you love the art."

This year's tour includes artists who are new to Grant County as well as longtime residents who have made New Mexico their home and inspiration.

Artwork will include clay, paintings in different media, photography, montage, sculpture, digital and fiber works.

Artists who are participating include: Kathryn Allen, Michael P. Berman, Victoria Chick, Chery Fenley, Donna Foley, Kenneth Hadlock, Richard Harper, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Joseph F. Kennedy, Diane Kleiss, Michael Metcalf, Catherine Russo, Claude W. Smith III, Eric and Karen Tippet, Zoe Wolfe and Letha Cress Woolf.

Hours for the tour: 5 - 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, opening reception at Aldea Gallery, 107 Yankee St.; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4; and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5.

Participants are urged to have a mask handy.

For more information and to learn more about the artists and the Silver City Art Association visit [silvercityart.com](http://silvercityart.com).

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DESERT exposure

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VSS Unity lands safely following its flight to space July 11. The astronauts are awaiting clearance to disembark. (Photo by Lanze Hibler)

SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Boondoggle to Reality

## Virgin Galactic founder realizes dream of going to space

From the beginning, 17 years ago when then New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and Virgin Galactic's Sir Richard Branson shook hands over a piece of desert in southern New Mexico, everything has led to the historic day of Sunday, July 11, 2021.

The Unity 22 flight, from Spaceport America, kicked off the future of space travel.

"It's a beautiful day for New Mexico," said former economic development secretary and one of the original conceptualists of the spaceport, Rick Homans, who served in the Richardson administration. "This is the day we have all been working for since 2005 when Gov. Richardson announced this great partnership."

Homans said the Unity 22 flight is a milestone for the commercial spaceflight industry and space tourism but it is just the beginning.

"The goal is to live, work and play in space," he said. "We have seen the industrial revolution and what we are experiencing now is really the beginning of the space revolution. It's a pretty hot market right now, and New Mexico is in the right time at the right place."

The facility, Homans said, cost \$250 million with a lot of ex-

pense going into the 12,000-foot-long runway and the iconic Gateway to Space building and it couldn't have been done without the taxpayers of New Mexico, specifically Doña Ana and Sierra counties.

"The thing I would say to the taxpayers is thank you," he said. "Thank you for the confidence. Passing the tax was the key to moving it forward. They benefitted with money going into education programs through the years, but the big thing now is the money going into the jobs and the spaceflight industry. That's really when the payoff will come."

The 700 to 800 people gathered at Spaceport America included not only press from across the world but also many of the "future astronauts," holders of the \$250,000 tickets to space purchased from Virgin Galactic. And on the VIP side of the event, Branson's family awaited his return from space along with family members of the other flying on the spaceship Unity.

Elon Musk, who is Branson's friend and owner of another commercial space flight company, SpaceX, was also present at the historic event.

A group of Las Cruces Public Schools students from Monte Vista Elementary School also



Sir Richard Branson enjoys his moments of weightlessness aboard the VSS Unity on July 11. (Photo courtesy Virgin Galactic)

attended the event, adding a youthful example of those childhood dreams of going to space.

Russian born Lina Boroczina was one of the first to sign up for a ticket to space. An example of Branson's dream of making space accessible to everyone. Almost 17 years ago, she mortgaged her house to buy her ticket and has no regrets.

"I am a future astronaut, one of the founders," she said. "In 17 years of waiting, I am actually here to witness Sir Richard go up. It's a dream of a lifetime."

"When I was 5 years old my dad used to tuck me in bed and tell me stories about being stowed away in a spaceship with my cousin," Boroczina said. "Stories that we used to go in space and come out in zero gravity and have space adventures with all kinds of space aliens and then we would land and Grandma would be standing on the landing with he rolling pin and we would get grounded for like sneaking out on the space adventure. Every night, it was a different story."

Boroczina identified herself as a huge sci-fi nerd and a scientist.

"You cannot imagine how happy I am to be here," she said. "I cannot find words for it. The future is now. It is worth every penny – every single penny."

Spaceport America Director

Scott McLaughlin said the event is important for the region, a milestone for New Mexico.

He called himself "boomerang," a third-generation New Mexican who left because there was little work in his industry of engineering and aerospace and returned 25 years later.

"New Mexico invests in college grads and then they leave," he said. "Space involves virtually every technology we work on. I would like to grow the economy where people don't just decide to leave after they graduate."

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham was there, too, of course. She was touting the value of the event, and space tourism in general, to the state's economy.

"Ten million people are going to see this incredible site," she said. "They are going to get to know New Mexico. They are going to know the history of our technology footprint and of our space footprint."

Another future astronaut, New Mexico State University's Pat Hynes, also talked of New Mexico's long association space.

"Our world has evolved in the space industry over time," she said. "This is a continuation of work we have been doing for many years."

Hynes is the curator of the International Symposium for Per-

sonal and Commercial Spaceflight held every year in Las Cruces. She is a strong proponent of the research component of taking humanity to space and has been the developer of many experiments that have already taken place out of Spaceport America.

"There are many things we are learning by studying things in zero gravity," she said.

Now, because government changes in administration and funding is not an issue in private space industry, she has hope that experimentation in space will have a continuity it has never seen before.

"Now you see it; we have research capacity," she said. "Commercial is so important because it is not dependent on government. Private industry has to do this."

At the press conference as the event was wrapping up, Branson told school children, "If we can do this, just imagine what you can do."

"It's impossible to describe," he said, clearly still high from the experience. "The views as you go into space – we are so lucky to have this planet that we all live on. At Virgin Galactic, we must all be doing everything we can to help this incredible planet we live on. I will devote the rest of my life to doing that."



Monte Vista Elementary School third-graders and their teachers, Mari Cadena and Brenda Sorensen, had the opportunity to be present at Spaceport America as Virgin Galactic flight Unity 22 took the company's founder Sir Richard Branson to space. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# New Shepard Lifts Off

## Four more go into space

In 11 minutes the world changed again as Jeff Bezos, his brother Mark Bezos, female aviation pioneer Wally Funk and 18-year-old Oliver Daemen blasted off into space, 62 miles above the Earth, on Tuesday, July 20. The flight took off across the border from southern New Mexico near Van Horn, Texas.

Two New Mexicans were along for the ride. Jeff Bezos himself was born in Albuquerque and Funk is from San Miguel County. Funk, at 82, now holds the record as the oldest person to go to space, something she set her mind to when she was 17.

The vertical launching New Shepard space vehicle is designed to carry people and payloads on brief trips to sub-orbital space. The 59-foot-tall (18 meters) craft is named after NASA astronaut Alan Shepard, whose suborbital jaunt on May 5, 1961, was the United States' first crewed spaceflight. Shepard's daughters were on site to witness the flight.

During a press conference following the flight, Bezos thanked every Amazon customer and employee "because you guys paid for all this."

He said his expectations for the flight were high, but they



Jeff Bezos exits the New Shepard capsule after going to space on a mission the set several records including that of the first commercial vehicle to fly paying customers, including payloads and astronauts, to space and back. (Screenshot from live video)

were "dramatically exceeded." "It felt so normal," he said. "It was serene and peaceful and floating was a pleasurable experience. It is a most profound peace."

"It was way more fun than it looked," Daemen said after watching a recap video of the experience.

But Bezos also talked about seeing the Earth above him.

"As we move about the planet, we are damaging it," he said. "It is amazing to see how fragile it

really is."

Mark Bezos said on the flight with the team, on loan from the Explorer's Club, was a piece of canvas from the Wright Flyer, the plane that the Wright brothers flew; and a bronze medallion made from the first hot air balloon in 1783, the first-time man ever left the earth in controlled flight.

They also had with them the goggles Amelia Earhart wore on her flight across the Atlantic.

"I like to think if Amelia were

### New Shepard records set:

- Wally Funk, 82, became the oldest person to fly in space.
- Oliver Daemen, 18, was the first ever commercial astronaut to purchase a ticket and fly to space on a privately funded and licensed space vehicle from a private launch site. He also became the youngest person to fly in space.
- New Shepard became the first commercial vehicle under a suborbital reusable launch vehicle license to fly paying customers, both payloads and astronauts, to space and back.
- Jeff and Mark Bezos became the first siblings to ever fly in space together.

here, she would be very proud of what we are doing," Jeff Bezos said as he put on the glasses.

Funk and the others agreed the event was more emotional than anticipated both in the capsule and when they landed, and family members were there to meet them. Daemen had tears in his eyes as he talked about the experience.

There are two additional fully manned flights planned this year.

At the end of the press conference, Jeff Bezos announced the

creation of the Courage and Civility Award, recognizing leaders who aim high, pursue solutions with courage and always do so with civility. The award went to Dream Corps founder Van Jones and José Andrés, the restaurant owner and chef from Spain who arranged to feed thousands during the pandemic and in disaster areas around the world. Each of them received \$100 million to distribute to the charities of their choice.

MUSTANG HAPPENINGS • ALEXANDRA TAGER

## WNMU Celebrates New School Year

### Two-night celebration marks return of in-person classes

Western New Mexico University will be putting a little kick into the phrase "back to school" this year, with a two-night concert event celebrating the return to in-person learning.

The Back Together Bash takes place Aug. 20- 21 at the brand-new outdoor venue on campus, the Fountain Stage at Regents Square, adjacent to Old James Stadium.

The celebration starts Friday with an evening of country music. The Yarbrough Band will open and the evening will headlined by rising star Bri Bagwell from Las Cruces.

"Even though I am flying in



Lucky Joe (Courtesy Photo)

from Montana the day before, and out to Colorado early the next morning, I wouldn't miss this gig for anything," Bagwell said. "My parents got engaged in Silver City, and it's their actual anniversary on Aug. 20. I took that as a big sign to make this happen. My dad played basketball at Western, and my mom was a cheerleader there. The school and city have a lot of history for my family. I can't wait to celebrate their anniversary at this super fun show."

On Saturday, Elida Reyna y Avante and Lucky Joe will both headline. They were originally scheduled to headline the university's Fiesta Latina in 2020 and again this year, but both had to be canceled because of the pandemic.

So, they will now play at the Back to Together Bash.

"The Bash is all about our continued efforts to bring our community together," Shepard said. "This year is extra special because our message is clearly about celebrating the beginning of the post-Covid era and thanking our community for persevering through a rough time of isolation and hardship."



Bri Bagwell (Courtesy Photo)

There will be a beer garden

on site hosted by Anthony Quintana, proprietor of Q's Bistro and Mick's 33 Lounge in Silver City,

and an assortment of local food booths and trucks, offering tacos, barbecue, ice cream, drinks and more.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with both evenings' music beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance for Friday's show and \$30 in advance for Saturday's performance (\$5 more at the door). Tickets are available online at [wnmu.edu](http://wnmu.edu) or at Hunter Hall on the WNMU campus.

Face masks are not required.

For more information, visit [wnmu.edu](http://wnmu.edu).



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# What's going on in August?

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.

## SUNDAY, AUG. 1

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**Sunday Night Music in the Park** — 7 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Latin Funktion Project and the Monochrome Jazz Quartet and Friends. Info: 575-541-2550.

## TUESDAY, AUG. 3

### Silver City/Grant County

**Rotary speaker: Mario Sanchez WNMU marketing director** — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are welcome, lunch is \$10. Sanchez will speak on the WNMU 4K Initiative. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

### Virtual Southern New Mexico

#### "Culture of Empowerment: Child Detention and Separation"

— 5:30 p.m. Hear from local experts on child detention and separation about the history, policies, migrant experiences, impact on community and the future of the issue in our borderlands region. Presented by the Branigan Cultural Center. Tune in: <https://rebrand.ly/ChildDetention>. Info: 575-541-2215.

### 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.

### Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

**Sierra Twirlers dancing** — 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Beginners at 1 p.m., mainstream dancing, no partner needed. Info: 505-804-3842.

## FRIDAY, AUG. 6

### 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](mailto:silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

**Alamogordo/Otero County Giant Tag Sale fundraiser for the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts** — 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 1110 N. New York Ave. Tour the theater and pick out antiques, collectables, gifts and more. Coffee, ice cream and special treats will be served. Info: 575-437-2202.

**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.

**Art & Wine in the Cool Pines** — 4-8 p.m. at the Sacramento Mountain Historical Museum in Cloudcroft. Included are the Cloudcroft Art Society show and New Mexico wine tasting. Live music includes Mark "the Saxman" Garcia and the Three Rivers Band. Cost: \$35 for three days includes glass, \$25 for two days; and \$15 for one day. Non-drinkers are \$5 and children under 12 are free. Info/tickets: 575-682-2733.

### Lincoln County

**Billy the Kid Pageant and Old Lincoln Days** — 8:30 p.m. in Historic Lincoln. Annual folk pageant with re-enactory portraying Billy the

Kid's last escape and the Lincoln County War. Food vendors, live music, arts & crafts and a parade.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

#### Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"

— 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

## SATURDAY, AUG. 7

### Virtual Southern New Mexico

#### Unpacking Silver: Health and Medicine

— 11 a.m. presented by Heather Moorland, historian and local history researcher. Visit [www.silvercitymuseum.org](http://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](mailto:silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

**Silver City Maker's Market** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Plaza, downtown Silver City. Info: [www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market](http://www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market).

**Kings of Columbus Car Show** — noon to 4 p.m. at Gough Park, Silver City. Cars, beer garden, live music and vendors. Info: 575-590-5467.

### 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.  
**Desert Dragon Farmer's Market** — 10 a.m., 6475 Columbus Road SE, Deming. Select local artisans, regional produce, niche meat, music and food in celebration with National Farmer's Market Week.

### 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.

**Art & Wine in the Cool Pines** — noon-8 p.m. at the Sacramento Mountain Historical Museum in Cloudcroft. Included are the Cloudcroft Art Society show and New Mexico wine tasting. Live music includes Mark "the Saxman" Garcia and the Three Rivers Band. Cost: \$35 for three days includes glass, \$25 for two days; and \$15 for one day. Non-drinkers are \$5 and children under 12 are free. Info/tickets: 575-682-2733.

### Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

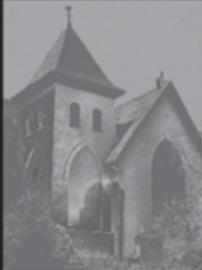
**Sierra County Farmer's Market** — 8:30 a.m.-noon at Ralph Edwards Park, corner of Riverside and Cedar in T or C. Info: [colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org](mailto:colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org).

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

**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.  
**Movies in the Park** — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is "Wonder Woman 1984." Info: 575-541-2550.



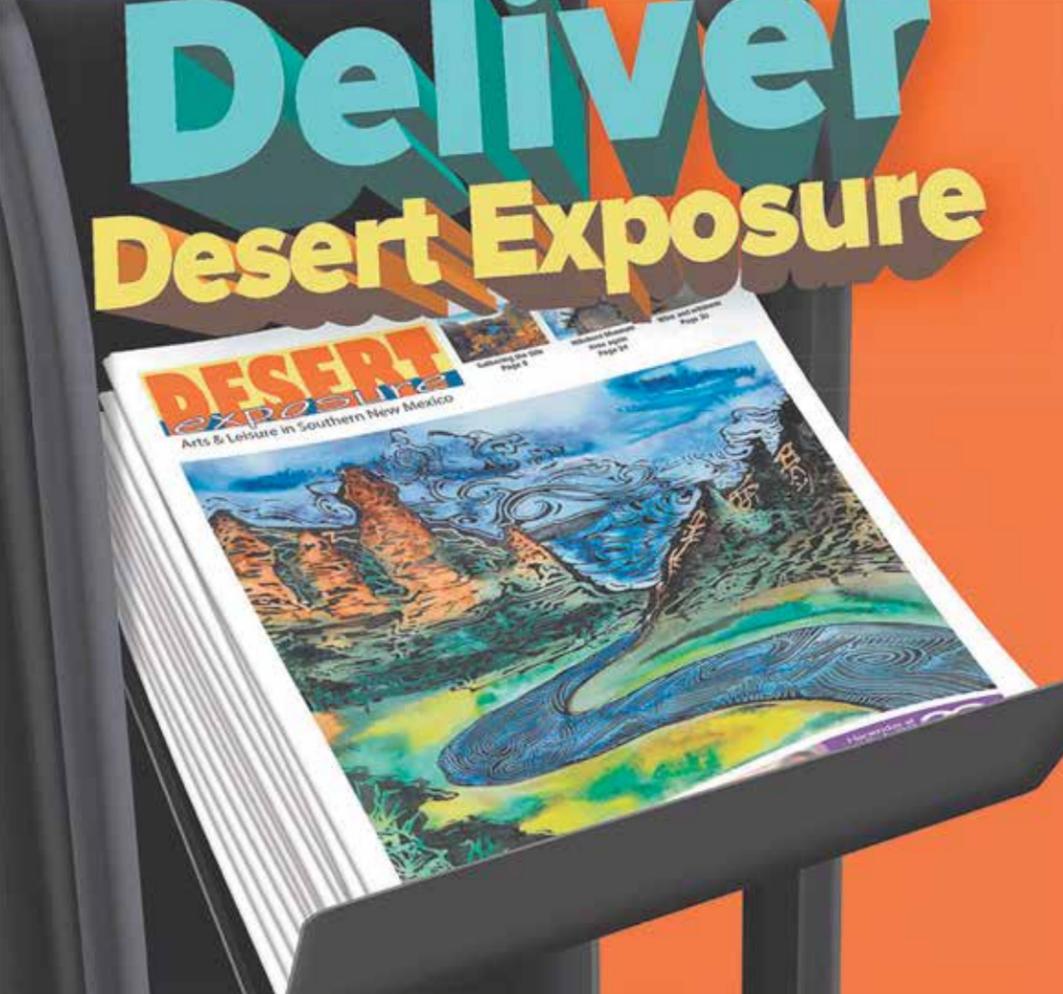
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**SUNDAY, AUG. 8**

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**Play: "HMS Pinafore"** — 2:30 and 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. Presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso. Info: 575-523-1223.  
**Sunday Night Music in the Park** — 7 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. David and Company and Joshua Lucero. Info: 575-541-2550.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**

**Art & Wine in the Cool Pines** — noon-4 p.m. at the Sacramento Mountain Historical Museum in Cloudcroft. Included are the Cloudcroft Art Society show and New Mexico wine tasting. Live music includes Mark "the Saxman" Garcia and the Three Rivers Band. Cost: \$35 for three days includes glass, \$25 for two days; and \$15 for one day. Non-drinkers are \$5 and children under 12 are free. Info/tickets: 575-682-2733.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 10**

**Silver City/Grant County**

**Rotary speaker: Robin Thomas on "Real estate trends in the wake of a pandemic"** — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are welcome, lunch is \$10. Thomas is president of the Silver City Regional Association of Realtors. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11**

**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.

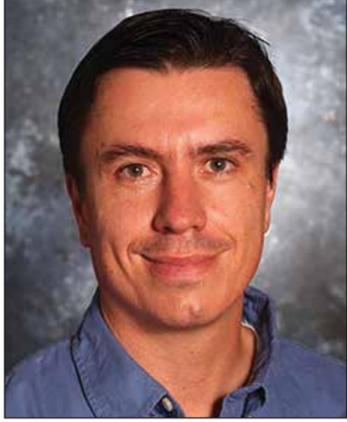
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**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.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 12**

**Virtual Southern New Mexico**

**History notes: "Citizens in la calle: Protest and Politics in Contemporary Latin America"** — 1-2 p.m. Join Dr. Iñigo



**Join Dr. Iñigo Garcia-Bryce to learn about revolutions in Latin America. (Courtesy photo)**

Garcia-Bryce to learn about revolutions in Latin America. "La Calle" (the street) has become a powerful place of protest. Presented by the Branigan Cultural Center. Tune in: <https://rebrand.ly/LatinAmericanRevolts>. Info: 575-541-2215.

**"What's the Word: Arabic – A trip to Lebanon"** — 5:30-6:30 p.m. Learn language through culture. Presented by the Branigan Cultural Center. Register to attend by emailing [education@las-cruces.org](mailto:education@las-cruces.org). Info: 575-541-2215.

**Alamogordo/Otero County Flowering Desert Garden Club meeting** — 6 p.m. meeting location varies. Info: [floweringdesertgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:floweringdesertgardenclub@gmail.com).

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**Thursday Night Music on the Plaza** — 8 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Cadillac Kings & Fast Lanes and the Starliners. Info: 575-541-2550.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 13**

**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.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**

**2021 Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta** — 6:45-1 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 505-908-0909.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting**

**Around Talking"** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 14**

**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](mailto:silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

**Silver City Maker's Market** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Plaza, downtown Silver City. Info: [www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market](http://www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market).

**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.

**Lincoln County**

**Youth Fishing Day** — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grindstone Lake near Ruidoso. The event is open to children 12 and younger. The cost is free and parking fees have been waived. Staff from the sponsoring agencies will teach kids how to set a hook and cast their line. Prizes will be given for the most fish, the largest fish and the smallest fish. Info: 505-681-2837.

**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.

**Flickinger Center Summer Street Concert Series** — 8-10 p.m., gates open at 7 p.m., 1110 N. New York Ave. Rosewater Blues plays. Food, drinks and ice cream available and Spirit's Club is open. Cost: \$7. Info: 575-437-2202.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**

**2021 Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta**

— 6:45-1 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 505-908-0909.

**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](mailto: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.

**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**Movies in the Park** — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is "Minari." Info: 575-541-2550.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 15**

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**

**2021 Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta** — 6:45-1 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Highway 195, Elephant Butte. Info: 505-908-0909.



**Youth Fishing Day at Grindstone Lake near Ruidoso. (Courtesy photo)**

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**Sunday Night Music in the Park** — 7 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Darren Cordova y Calor. Info: 575-541-2550.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 17**

**Silver City/Grant County**

**Rotary speaker: Kyle Marshall speaks on "History of Why Fire Codes are Enforced"** — noon-1 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Western New

**40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS**  
continued on page 18

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**40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS**  
continued from page 17

Mexico University Student Cafeteria. Guests are welcome, lunch is \$10. Marshall is Silver City Fire Department Deputy chief of Fire Prevention. Info: 915-480-4347 or 575-388-2004.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 18**  
*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.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 19**

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 20**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Back Together Bash** — 7:30 p.m. concert event at Western New Mexico University, the Fountain Stage at Regents Square. The Yarbrough Band opens for Bri Bagwell. There will be food trucks and a beer garden. Cost: \$20 in advance/\$25 day of show. Info: 575-538-6273

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Children's Music Theater presents "Orphan Train"** — 7 p.m., at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 575-437-2202.

**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**  
**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 21**  
**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.  
**Silver City Maker's Market** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Plaza, downtown Silver City. Info: www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market.  
**Back Together Bash** — 7:30 p.m.

concert event at Western New Mexico University, the Fountain Stage at Regents Square. Lucky Joe opening (and performing with) Elida Reyna y Avante. There will be food trucks and a beer garden. Cost: \$30 in advance/\$35 day of show. Info: 575-538-6273

**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.  
Children's Music Theater presents **"Orphan Train"** — 7 p.m., at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 575-437-2202.

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

**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.  
**Movies in the Park** — Begin at dusk at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces. This week is "Onward." Info: 575-541-2550.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 22**  
**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Children's Music Theater presents "Orphan Train"** — 2 p.m., at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 575-437-2202.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Play: "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking"** — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main St. in Las Cruces. A two-character comedy takes place in suburban Westchester County, New York, kitchen of Maude Mix. Info: 575-523-1223.

**Sunday Night Music in the Park** — 7 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Fungi Mungle and the Joseph General Band. Info: 575-541-2550.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25**  
**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.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 26**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Thursday Night Music on the Plaza** — 8

p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Derrick Harris Band and Caliente. Info: 575-541-2550.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 27**  
**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 with Bandoer Live. 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, AUG. 28**  
**Virtual Southern New Mexico**  
**Unpacking Silver: "The Land and The Environment"** — 11 a.m. presented by author and historian, Dr. Stephen Fox. 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.  
**Silver City Maker's Market** — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Plaza, downtown Silver City. Info: www.thefutureforge.org/makers-market.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Children's Music Theater presents "Orphan Train"** — 7 p.m., at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 N. New York Ave. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 575-437-2202.

**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.  
**Bug Fest at the Museum of Nature & Science** — 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 411 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Learn about bugs and the important roles they play in the environment and as a food source. Info www.las-cruces.org/museums.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 29**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Sunday Night Music in the Park** — 7 p.m. at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Sam's Town and Calista. Info: 575-541-2550.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1**  
**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.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

# Summer Sojourns

Another great stop is just around the corner

By now you've heard the phrase more than once: "It's not new, and it's not Mexico."

Cliché or no, it's true.

New Mexico True, you might even say.

The Adobe Deli sits in an old schoolhouse a dozen or so miles east of Deming off of New Mexico Hwy. 549, which always puts me in mind of the old "Hee Haw" TV show, and the bit where Junior Samples plays a used car salesman, encouraging viewers to call "BR-549." The building was erected in 1955, according to the school board plaque mounted there. Parts of the building feel a lot older than that. The restaurant itself began in 1981, making this its 40th year.

That's an impressive run for a restaurant, by any standard you measure it against.

Unless, that is, you measure it against Los Arcos in Truth or Consequences.

When I recently dined at Los Arcos, I had the pleasure of being greeted by the owner during my meal, when Bobby Middleton came to ask how everything was going. It's an old-school thing for the owner to visit the diners, and it's appreciated. Middleton is nothing if not old school, and I congratulated him on 51 years of the restaurant, which opened in 1970.

That's an impressive run for a restaurant, by any standard you measure it against.

Unless, that is, you measure it against the Buckhorn Saloon in Pinos Altos.

A sign inside the Buckhorn Saloon and Pinos Altos Opera House says the place was established in 1860. That would make it 110 years older than Los Arcos, 120 years older than the Adobe Deli, and 60 years older than the two of them combined.

Any way you carve the years, though, or carve the steaks, these three restaurants – which I had the good fortune to patronize over a two-day stretch last month – are classics. Each is a unique, destination unto itself.

At the Adobe Deli, which is way more than just a deli, a server was decked in full pirate gear. I mean, he looked like he strolled off a movie set, and this is not one of those restaurants where servers dress in costume. I asked him, "Matey, from which part of the Caribbean do you hail?"

"Puget Sound," was the re-

ply. His girlfriend, also a server at the Deli, inherited some land near Deming from her grandfather. The two left the Seattle-Tacoma area, headed down to southern New Mexico and gave it a go. I love that spirit of adventure, and they were the ideal age (20s) to do that. They were still learning the ropes at Adobe Deli, but enthusiastically took care of customers, me included. If you've never been to the Adobe Deli, you need to get there. The French onion soup may be the best I've ever had, and the big skewers for the ribs and the kabobs make you feel a little like Fred Flintstone. I won't attempt to describe the atmosphere. You'll have to absorb that and try for your own description.

At Los Arcos, I learned from Middleton he owns other restaurants. Their photos are on the wall in the restaurant lobby: the Monte Vista Fire Station Restaurant in Albuquerque; the Owl Café, also in Albuquerque; and The Rex, in Billings, Montana. I've been to the Owl (not to be confused with the Owl Bar in San Antonio, New Mexico) and really like it. My bucket list now includes trips to the other two. My Los Arcos recommendation: Get the blackened prime rib with green chiles on it, and a side of mushrooms. After dinner, you could do the Mexican Coffee (with tequila and Kahlua) and some Mud Pie.

The Buckhorn Saloon (not to be confused with the Buckhorn Tavern in San Antonio, New Mexico) features a great menu where beef, once again, is the star. I've loved their green chile cheeseburgers in the past, and on this recent visit had the rib-eye "Buckhorn style," meaning smothered in a Hatch green chile sauce. The easiest way to say it is, "one damn fine steak." The beef is expected, but the Buckhorn can also surprise, as with that night's special appetizer, a bowl of poke, with fresh fish. Nice. The Buckhorn is about 10 miles or so northeast of Silver City on NM Hwy 15, far enough to be "out of town," but close enough to be an easy drive.

The bad thing about a quick trip is you can only sample a couple of restaurants on your stay. I stayed this trip at the Murray Hotel in Silver City, the wonderfully restored art deco building downtown that opened in the 1930s, and sat empty and

decaying for decades before its 2000s resurrection.

It made for convenient walks both in the evening when the logical night spots are open, and the next day, when all the shops are hopping. After visiting the Silver City Farmer's Market and the Maker's Market Saturday morning, I was ready for brunch at the Grinder Mill, a longtime local favorite between downtown and Western New Mexico Uni-

PUBLISHER

continued on page 22

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

contact Mariah Walker at mariah@desertexposure.com or 575-993-8193.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT**, 1105 Tom 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**

*Cliff*

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

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
*Las Cruces & Mesilla*

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

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

\* **ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **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., 2420 W. Picacho, 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D. **C/S**

\* **PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks,

**RED OR GREEN**  
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**Tuesday, August 17 at 11AM: Space reservation, ad copy, all stories and notices for the editorial section due.**

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TABLE TALK

# Red or Green

## Hatch Chile Festival is back

The Hatch Chile Festival returns on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 and 5, in Hatch. This year's festival is being organized by the Hatch Valley Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with community members, businesses and various organizations from the Hatch Valley.

The all-new, in-town festival experience will make it easy to shop the streets of Hatch and satisfy everyone's chile fix at local shops and restaurants while

experiencing the traditional vendors and events that have always made the Hatch Chile Festival known throughout the U.S. and the world.

"We're excited to be hosting this year's chile festival in town so that visitors can enjoy the same authentic Hatch Valley Chile experience that we enjoy all year-round," said Melva Aguirre, owner of the Pepper Pot Restaurant in Hatch.

This year's festival will include a parade, carnival and entertain-

ment provided by local businesses along with volleyball, soccer and softball tournaments.

"Having the entire community come together to put on this year's festival in a big, new way like this is an important step to getting ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hatch Chile Festival next year on the grand scale it deserves," said Lisa Neal, president of the Hatch Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The Hatch Chile Festival was founded in the early 1970s



Hatch brings back the Hatch Chile Festival for 2021. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

to celebrate the annual chile harvest from the Hatch Valley fields. The annual festival promotes world-famous Hatch chile on Labor Day weekend, attracting over 30,000 visitors from around the U.S. and the world. Hatch chile is considered among the highest quality found in the world. Festival goers sample chile and world famous chile recipes.

In the past, the festival had been held at the Hatch Municipal Airport.

For updates and additional information as it becomes available, visit online at: [hatchchile-festival.org](http://hatchchile-festival.org). For more information about vendor opportunities at this year's Hatch Chile Festival, contact Lisa Neal at 575-267-5132 or email her at [hatchvalley-chamber@gmail.com](mailto:hatchvalley-chamber@gmail.com).

RED OR GREEN

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- 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**
- \* **MEZCLA** 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

- (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D. **P T/O**
- \* **GO BURGER DRIVE-IN**, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005, 524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Specializing in relleno burritos and other mexican food.
- \* **GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
- \* **GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D. **D/T T/O**
- \* **HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D. **P T/O**
- \* **HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. **C/S/P**
- \* **HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D. **P T/O**
- \* **JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.
- \* **KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D. **P T/O**
- \* **LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican

- and American: B L. **T/O**
- \* **LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B. **P T/O**
- \* **LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B. **P T/O**
- \* **LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L. **T/O**
- \* **LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday. **C/S DEL T/O**
- \* **LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D. **C/S DEL T/O**
- \* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**
- \* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**
- \* **LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. **C/S P T/O**
- \* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
- \* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D. **D/T T/O**
- \* **LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617.



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# Ejidos are Common Land

Shared areas have become part of the culture

A half-hour south of Palomas, three ejidos (ay-hee'dos), or large plots of common land, have existed for a little over seven decades. Their names are Colonia Guadalupe Victoria, Ejido 9 de enero and Colonia Modelo.

To the people who live there, the ejidos are still as necessary as they were 70 years ago. People say the projects help people eat more than they would have if they had no assistance.

"You can eat two meals a day instead of one," is how some people put it.

Ejidos are the creation of the Mexican Revolution (1919-20), when "Tierra y Libertad" (Land and Liberty) was a common battle cry created by General Emiliano Zapata, of Morelos in southern Mexico.

They serve as governmental agriculture and livestock programs for the poor. Some ejida-

tarios (workers on the ejidos) are given free seeds to plant or calves to raise from the government, while others need to pay for themselves. The people who live in the ejidos do much of the labor in the fields, but other people are also brought up from southern Mexico to do field work. There are many variations.

The projects were started in 1951 in their present locations by then Mexican President Miguel Aleman. He visited the area two presidential terms after the very left-leaning Lazaro Cardenas gave the greatest political impulse to the vast network of ejidos in Mexico in 1929, when he took office.

There have always been similar development projects in Mexico to help both Hispanic and indigenous people. But the vast ejido projects following the Mexican Revolution established

economic stability for small farmers that was rare in Latin America at the time.

For about 25 years I've been exploring the border area, and while passing through Guadalupe Victoria, I always assumed that the large flat fields belonged to the richest people. But they really belonged to poor people.

The same necessities of the poor people and the same way they were supplied is like a bloodstream that has flowed through their veins for years.

The ejidatarios with their different plots of land collectively buy large, rusty monsters of second-hand machinery. Their poverty governs everything they do.

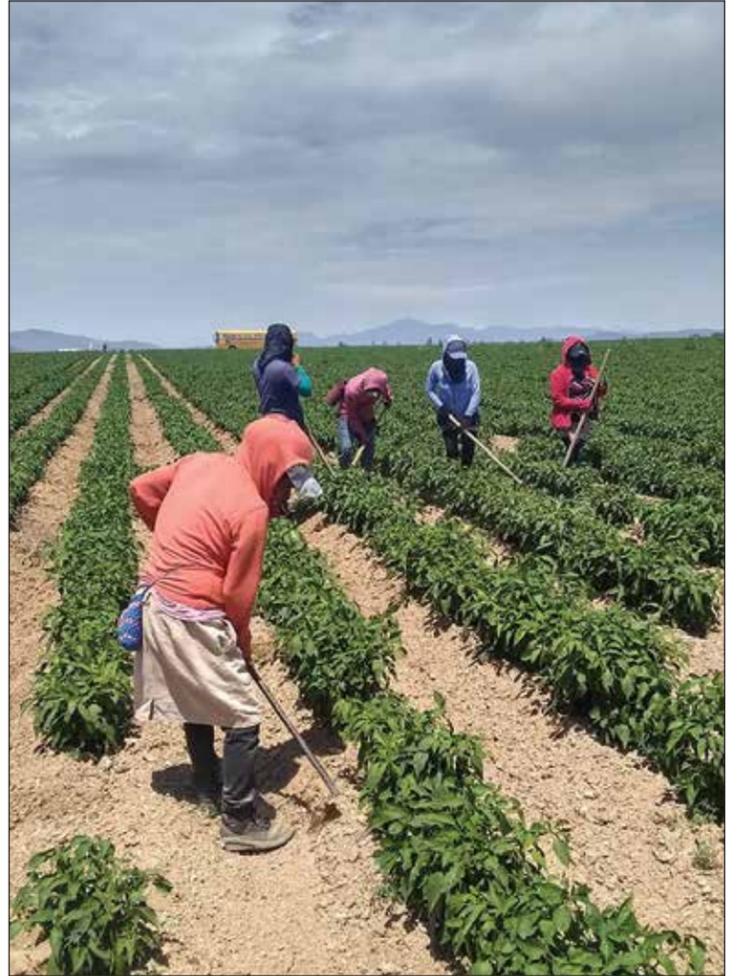
But surprisingly the small, neat houses in Colonia Victoria are well-maintained, the yards are picked up and the paint is touched up. You don't hear teens roaring down the street in their trucks. There are shade trees and flowers around most homes.

It's common for individuals in families to go to work, with or without papers, in "el otro lado" (the other side of the border) to supplement what they earn from the ejidos. This has become harder because of the pandemic, the new 30-foot wall, and because of wealthy Mennonites in northern Chihuahua, who are accused of building too many wells for their fields.

A couple of wealthy families have dominated the planting and harvest for years. They are the Leanos and the Alvidres, and they currently overshadow the other growers economically by 25 percent, according to a less wealthy relative of the families, Ramon Leanos. He's an engineer and claims he's not in the same class of wealth. The wealthy families own large houses in the middle of town with lots of delicate grillwork.

Opinions of these families vary among ejido owners. Some are quick to say, "It's their right!" to take a lot of money. These families know from experience that the Leanos and Alvidres work ridiculously long hours during the growing seasons.

But the extremely poor field-workers who came up from the



Community land sharers working on an ejido. (Photo by Marjory Lilly)

south to work – just barely arriving when this was written – speak from a radically different perspective. I spoke to people living in the same house that I've visited for years. They mostly come from Guanajuato, where there's a lot of violence now.

When I asked Tere Mendoza Vasquez about the wealthy families, she said, "They never help." One of her sons has a deformity below his waist after he went through a few operations at a hospital and he needs assistance.

But these people from other Mexican states will continue to come work in the ejidos as long as it makes sense for them economically.

If any reader knows about the ejidos, it may be in relation to the policy of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who became president in 1988. He changed Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution, which has governed land issues since the revolution. This article gave peasants much more con-

trol over their land and allowed them to sell the land or use it for other purposes than agriculture, like tourism or some other business from foreigners.

But to the surprise of many, Salinas' act was not nearly as revolutionary as some people thought it would be. It has left most ejidos basically untouched.

I wonder what the reaction of Pancho Villa would be now, a little more than 100 years after the revolution that made way for ejidos for people all over Mexico. I think he'd love to talk to the people in the ejidos near the same road that brought Villa to the attack on Columbus during the revolution.

I think he'd behave as if he were one of them.

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.*



**PUBLISHER**  
continued from page 19

versity. The red chile con carne is quite tasty. I had it this day in the form of huevos rancheros. On a previous visit years ago, I did the green chile cheeseburger for takeout. How good was it? Here I am remembering it almost 20 years later.

Almost every time I drive back to Las Cruces from Silver, I pass the City of Rocks State Park sign and mumble in regret, "Well, I can't go today, but I need to get

back there soon." So, this latest trip, I decided eight years had been long enough, and returned to the park. I've only been there a few times, but every time I'm still awestruck. And the park's amenities are nicely appointed. I look forward to my first camping trip there, maybe on the night of a full moon, or on the night with no moon, the better to watch the stars. But even if you only take a half hour or so to hike or chill on a boulder, you can enjoy it.

No matter where you live in southern New Mexico, one or

more of these spots are just a pleasant drive away.

Get out there and find your weekend.

*Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He never gets tired of the desert mountain scenery of New Mexico highways, nor of the good green chile that awaits at the end of most every drive.*



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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

# Hercules, Son of Zeus

## 'The Kneeler' becomes the healer

A little east of overhead is a star of television and movies. He has been in the sky since ancient times, with this constellation appearing in Claudius Ptolemy's astronomical treatise, the *Almagest*. Ptolemy lived in the Egyptian city of Alexandria in the second century when it was under Roman control. He was either a Greek or an Egyptian strongly influenced by Greek culture. This Greek influence would have had this constellation named Heracles, but the Roman dominance gave it the name Hercules.

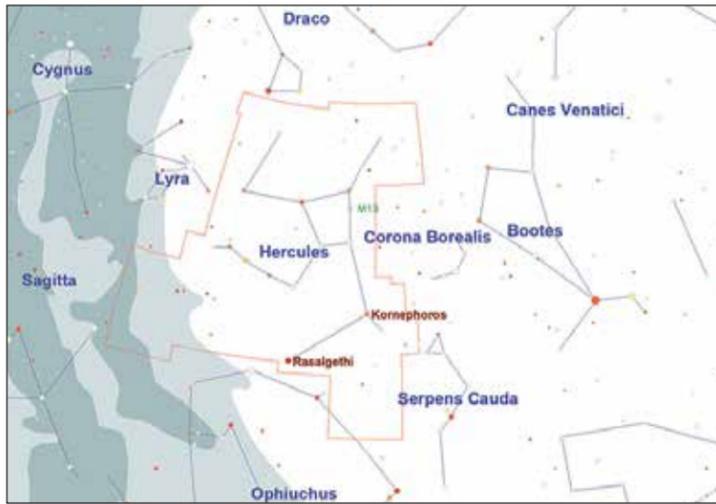
This constellation was originally named "The Kneeler," a ghostly figure on bended knee with both hands stretched to heaven. The myth has Hercules fighting the two giants, Albion and Bergion, in northwestern Italy. They were powerful opponents that he eventually defeated. He then knelt down to thank his father Zeus for the victory, which invoked the image of the Kneeler.

The myth of Hercules is rather long. While Zeus was his father, his mother was Alcmena, the granddaughter of the hero Perseus. When Zeus's wife found out Zeus was not faithful, she did everything she could to punish Hercules. At one point, she rendered him insane and he killed his beloved wife and children. After he regained his senses, he begged the god Apollo, another of Zeus' sons, to punish him for his deed.

While Apollo knew it was not Hercules' fault, he still had Hercules complete Twelve Labours. They were all very difficult and each a story in its own right. He completed them, sometimes alone and sometimes with help. Apollo had promised to absolve him of guilt and make him immortal when he was done. Hercules had many other adventures and when he finally died, the goddess Athena carried him up to Mount Olympus in her chariot where he remained for eternity. This constellation symbolizes his immortality, almost overhead in the August sky.

Hercules is the fifth largest constellation and the largest with no star brighter than magnitude +2.5. Its brightest star is Rasalgethi (Alpha Herculis), a +3.1-magnitude star about 360 light-years away. Rasalgethi means "Head of the Kneeler," harkening back to the older constellation name. While it appears as a single star to the naked eye, it is actually composed of three stars. The brightest is magnitude +3.4 with a spectral class of M5. This red star is reaching the end of its life, a red giant that pulses on a regular basis, changing its brightness slightly.

Rasalgethi's secondary star is actually composed of two stars, orbiting so closely that they cannot be separated in a telescope. The combined brightness is mag-



**Passing nearly overhead, the constellation Hercules is the fifth largest constellation in the sky. The trapezoid in the center of Hercules is called the Keystone. Just a little north of the center of the west side of the Keystone is the great globular cluster M13. This cluster is visible to the naked eye in a dark site and it is readily visible in binoculars. It appears as a large fuzzy circle about two-thirds the diameter of the Moon.**

nitude +5.3, with the two stars have spectral classes of G8 (yellow) and A9 (white). These two stars take around 3,000 years to orbit the primary star. In addition, there are two fainter stars that are much further away that combine with the Rasalgethi's primary and secondary to form an optical multiple star system, one where the four stars, two of which are not gravitationally bound to the system. They just happen to appear close together in our line of sight.

There are many deep sky objects in Hercules, but the most famous and the brightest is the Great Hercules Globular Cluster, more commonly known as Messier 13 (M13). This globular cluster is two-thirds the size of the Moon and it is bright enough to

be seen with the naked eye in a dark location away from the city.

M13 was discovered in 1714 by English astronomer Edmond Halley, for whom Halley's Comet is named. Charles Messier added M13 to his catalog on June 1, 1764 as object number 13. By 1779, what looked like a fuzzy circle started to be resolved into individual stars as telescopes got bigger. A four-inch diameter telescope will bring the outer stars into focus. Larger telescopes will allow the stars nearer the core to be resolved. This object is a favorite of amateur astronomers.

M13 is orbiting our galaxy, but it is not in the disc of our galaxy. M13 orbits above and below the disc, passing through it twice each orbit. It is currently around

25,000 light-years away, south of the disc.

A globular cluster is a sphere of stars that becomes very tightly packed at its center. Globular clusters are old, having formed during the early formation of our galaxy. M13 is around 11 billion years old. This is a beautiful object that is worth a look if you ever have the opportunity to see it through a telescope.

### The Planets for August 2021

Mercury passes the far side of the sun on Aug. 1, swinging into the evening sky. It will be visible in the last half of the month, passing Mars on the 18th. This will be a poor apparition for

northern hemisphere observers since Mercury will slide along only slightly above the horizon. It travels from eastern Cancer, through Leo and into western Virgo. On the last day of the month, Mercury will shine at magnitude +0.0 with disc that is 5.9 seconds-of-arc across and 74 percent illuminated. It is almost 6 degrees above the western horizon as it gets dark and sets by 8:30 p.m.

This is the last month Mars will be visible in the evening sky this year. At midmonth, it is just 4 degrees above the western

### STARRY DOME

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### Calendar of Events – AUGUST 2021 (MDT)

- 01 8 a.m. Mercury passes around the far side of the sun
- 02 Midnight Saturn on opposite side of the Earth from the sun
- 08 7:50 a.m. New Moon
- 12 1 p.m. Perseid meteor shower peaks
- 15 9:19 a.m. First Quarter Moon
- 18 10 p.m. Mars 0.1 degrees north of Mercury
- 19 6 p.m. Jupiter on opposite side of the Earth from the sun
- 22 6:02 a.m. Full Moon
- 30 1:13 a.m. Last Quarter Moon

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# Dealing with Envy

## Choosing the alternative of joy

“It’s not easy bein’ green,” says Kermit the Frog.

I have had to deal with envy my whole life. While many of us have had to struggle with envy from time to time, there are some of us who have had to struggle with it continuously. My envy began with me being born into the wrong body. I knew ear-

ly on that something was wrong, but I couldn’t quite grasp what it was. When I was young, I just assumed I was a girl. I noticed I was dressed differently than the other girls, but that didn’t keep me from playing with them. I had my dolls to play with and enjoyed playing house, jacks, jump rope and hopscotch.

I have very little memory of my life before the age of 5 or 6. It’s as though my life began when I found myself living on my grandparents’ farm. My grandparents owned a chicken and rabbit farm. There were all sorts of animals besides chickens and rabbits. There were ducks and geese, goats, horses, occasionally turkeys, dogs and cats. Life for me on the farm was rather idyllic. My mother did not care that I only played with girls. I think she secretly wanted to have a girl. I would have liked to have been the girl she wanted, but unfortunately, that girl was hidden in a boy’s body. This was the time envy began to grow in my life. I wanted to be able to dress like the other girls. I often tried, but I was never allowed to.

Then, my mother married, and her husband came to live with us on the farm. That was the end of my idyllic days. I have written before how my stepfather, Tobie, tried to make a boy out of me. This is when I had to quit playing

with girls. Soon, I only played with boys. I would often watch the girls play and wish I could be playing with them. I remember my first day in kindergarten the teacher told the boys to line up on one side of the room and the girls to line up on the other side. I wanted to go to the girls’ side. They were doing all kinds of cool things like playing patty-cake and giggling and laughing. The boys were punching each other and roughhousing.

To me, they did not seem like they were having any fun. I remember the teacher telling me to get over to the boys’ side. This is when my lifelong struggle with envy began to be a major part of my life. I could not look at girls and later women without being envious.

I was envious of everything about girls and later women. I don’t think there was a time where I wasn’t aware of the gender composition of any gathering of people, whether it be school classrooms or any group-

ing of people. I am still aware of the ratio of boys and girls in any gathering. I was always aware of what the girls wore. I still remember being at a friend’s birthday party. I was around 10 years old, and I still remember how envious I was of how the girls got to dress. Even now, I am consciously aware of what women are wearing, how their clothes look on them and how comfortable they seem in what they are wearing. I rarely notice what men are wearing. Really, who cares?

So, I have always lived with this envy all my life. It’s not a consuming envy, but just sort of an ongoing ache. It’s kind of like when one gives up smoking. The desire to smoke never goes away. It just gets easier to say no and not succumb to it. My envy of women is not debilitating nor is it a constant angst. It is just that I am always aware that I am 6 feet, 2 inches tall with big

**ENVY**

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**STARRY DOME**

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horizon as it gets dark, setting around 8:45 p.m. Its disc is a tiny 3.6 seconds-of-arc across and it continues to fade at magnitude +1.8. The God of War moves from central to southeastern Leo this month.

The Goddess of Love shines brightly at magnitude -4.0, 15 degrees above the western horizon as it gets dark. It sets around 9:30 p.m. Venus’ 78 percent illuminated disc is 13.7 seconds-of-arc across. This month it travels from central Leo to central Virgo.

Saturn reaches its closest point to Earth this year on Aug. 2. It is moving slowly westward

in central Capricornus, shining at magnitude +0.2. It is already 14 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it gets dark, setting around 5:30 a.m. The Rings are 41.9 seconds-of-arc across, tilted downward 18.6 degrees with the northern face showing while its disc is 18.5 seconds-of-arc across.

Jupiter also reaches its closest point to Earth this month on Aug. 19. It rises around 8:00 p.m. and it is visible the rest of the night. At midmonth, The King of the Gods’ disc is 49.0 seconds-of-arc across. At magnitude -2.9, it moves from western Aquarius to eastern Aquarius.

Aug. 12 brings the Perseid meteor shower, where glowing

dust particles from the comet Swift-Tuttle streak through our sky as they vaporize in the upper atmosphere. The resulting streaks appear to come from the constellation Perseus in our northeastern sky. The moon is just before first quarter, so it will not interfere with viewing these meteors. So, enjoy these celestial fireworks - “keep watching the sky”!

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




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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Back to the Future

## Some horse nuggets from the Victorian age

I've always been interested in digging through the archives of horsemanship to look for the roots of what is being taught in today's equine world, especially in the approaches labeled natural horsemanship. I've been surprised at how often I've stumbled on words or methods from hundreds of years ago that sound pretty familiar to the philosophies and techniques that many trainers try to pass off as new and revolutionary today. Maybe the saying "everything old is new again" has more than an element of truth to it when it comes to horses.

One interesting trainer I've studied is Francois Baucher (1796-1873). This name won't mean much to most riders outside the world of dressage, although some may at least be aware of the Baucher bit, a bit design still popular and in use today.

It sounds like Baucher was a bit of a character with an approach that was seen as radically different at the time and one that put him in constant conflict with the elite trainers and riders of the time. Like many trainers during that era of horsemanship, his only avenues for displaying his work were the circus and the military. The military felt

his approach to training horses did not lead to well disciplined mounts, and although his performances in the circuses of the day brought rave reviews from the public, the riding establishment saw him as a bit of an odd sideshow. He was given credit for getting amazing results with horses considered troubled and even dangerous, in many cases taking former bad apples to high level performance in 30 days or less, without the use of force or harsh techniques.

So, why did this particular trainer catch my eye and what do I see in his work that seems completely relevant today, even to the point of being repeated constantly, albeit with different words, by every good trainer and serious student of horsemanship, regardless of riding discipline?

Without ever knowing the origins of these thoughts, but having heard them time and time again from English instructors as well as the best in natural horsemanship, these are two quotes from Baucher that have been at the core of everything I've been taught about how to develop a good horse.

"Whatever you intend to ask, always prepare your horse to perform by first getting him into

a position from which the desired response is not only easy but inevitable."

"Proper education of the horse should start at the halt and from the ground with a set of flexions of the jaw, poll and neck, then adding suppling exercises of the shoulder, haunches and hind-quarters. Then the same flexions should be made on horseback at the halt, then in motion at slow paces."

If you ask any good trainer about the most important steps you can take to be competent with horses, you will probably hear two things near the top of the list.

First is a phrase that goes something like this: "Always make sure that your horse, and yourself, are prepared to the proper position for a transition." A good horse person understands this in the broadest sense, meaning that everything you do with a horse is basically a transition, and that your responsibility is to make sure you have taught your horse what is expected and how to handle each and every transition.

This means things like you don't tie a horse until you've taught him to yield softly to pressure, or you don't ask him to walk through a stream or jump

a log until you have taken smaller steps over a tarp or a ground pole in the arena. It means you don't ask a horse to leg yield until you've taught him the individual components of the movement so he understands how to put the pieces together. Before you ask your horse for the "whole" you make sure you have first mas-

tered the parts that make up the "whole," whatever that is.

This also means that you have to prepare yourself to make sure you have the skills, timing and proper tools for communication to ask the horse in a way that

HORSES

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BEYOND THE PRESS BOX • BY DAVE BURGE

# 'Strong Men' in Silver City

WNMU football coach has more on his mind than just wins and losses

The Western New Mexico University football team has won just five games in the past four seasons but the

Mustangs' new head coach isn't backing away from the challenge that lies ahead – both on and off the field.

Denver native Philip Vigil, age 36, was hired as the Mustangs' new head coach in May. He knows he has a big rebuild-

ing job but he also knows that good college football coaches do more than just win games or even championships. They help position their players for success in life too.

the men who have impacted my life have been coaches," he said. "I understand the power that comes with that title. We want to make sure we are not wasting it by just teaching a game. We will teach more than football."

"Football is an unbelievable tool," Vigil said. "It brings out so much about life in the game. I love football. I love the X's and O's. I love to compete. I am passionate about using the game of football to build young men.

But that certainly doesn't mean that Vigil and his staff aren't going to be doing everything they can to improve the on-field product at Western New Mexico, which plays in the Lone Star Conference, which is arguably one of the toughest leagues in Division II football.

"I know right now our country needs strong men who will fight for their wives, strong men who will fight for their families and strong men who will fight for what is right," Vigil added.

"Every single thing we do, we are going to focus on being the best we can possibly be at that given task, at that given moment," Vigil said. "And the

Vigil says the "wins and championships will come" but he envisions building something even more important than that.

**STRONG MEN**  
continued on page 27

"Other than my dad, most of

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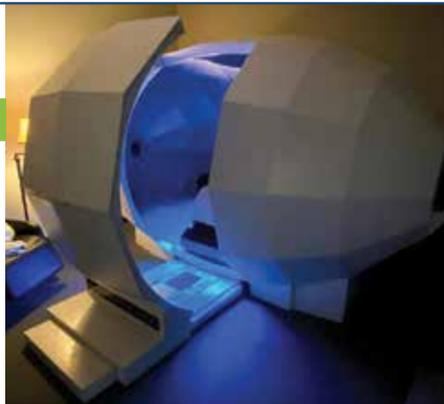
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## ENVY

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hands and big feet and I am often mistaken for a man. I would love to be petite, around 5 and a half feet tall. Alas, it is not to be.

Over the years I've adjusted to the fact that what I would like is just never to be. It is possible now for young transgender girls and boys to never have to experience having the wrong hormones that will shape their bodies in the opposite way they desire. Puberty blockers and the right sex hormones can allow young transgender persons to be indistinguishable from cis (non-trans) boys and girls. They can grow up and live healthy, normal lives without experiencing the pain and shame of being betrayed by their bodies. After all, being born where the brain and genitals don't match is simply a medical condition that can be easily solved. Unfortunately, most parents of transgender kids and the doctors that treat them are essentialists. Meaning, how you were born is the way you are supposed to be. Of course, we don't apply that standard to other natal anomalies like cleft palates and other birth defects.

So, back to envy. Like I've said, I have dealt with envy all my life. Is there a cure for envy? I think so, and I have been working on it for quite a few years now. I still at times get envious, but not so much with being green with envy. Now it's more like an awareness. It doesn't get in the way of my happiness or my enjoyment of life. Most of those things that have caused me to feel envy in the past have turned into a simple appreciation of the other person and their image.

We experience envy when we are not happy with our lives. We have all heard of the seven deadly sins and the seven virtues. The fourth deadly sin is envy. Gratitude is the fourth virtue that counteracts the deadly sin of envy. Envy

is called a deadly sin because it can destroy one's life. People have become obsessed over the things they are envious of.

We have all been dealt a hand in life, a poker hand if you will. Some hands seem better than others, but are they really better? I believe each hand is an opportunity for growth and fulfillment. What we do with the hand, and how grateful we are for the hand we have been dealt will determine our ability to overcome a life of envy.

People can be envious of almost everything imaginable. Envy is a national pastime. Look at all the game shows, lotteries and casinos. People ruin their lives wishing they had more instead of being grateful for what they have. Our society encourages people to want more. It's good for the economy, but it is bad for us, and it is bad for our planet.

I have been practicing gratitude for some time now. I have so many things to be grateful for. I live in a wonderful small town. I have friends that I love. And, I have discovered that the vast majority of people I meet could care less if I am transgender or not. I have discovered I am liked for who I am. I don't believe God makes mistakes. I believe I was given a challenge. It has been the overcoming of this challenge that has made me the person I am.

Yes, I still get envious at times, but I am grateful more. And gratefulness is another word for joy.

*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.*

## STRONG MEN

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results, the wins, the championships, will all take care of themselves.”

Vigil said he will take a look at the team's players and play to their strengths.

Vigil declined to get into specifics about what they will do on the field, but he did promise they will “attack in every facet” whether on offense, defense or special teams.

“Teams that come to Silver City to play better bring their oxygen tank,” he said. “We are going to be performing at a high level here at high altitude.”

Vigil was an all-conference quarterback at Colorado Mesa University and has been coaching at the collegiate level for the past 12 years.

Most recently, he served as the



**Philip Vigil, the new Western New Mexico University football coach, is excited to be in Silver City and promises an aggressive, fun brand of football. (Photo Courtesy of SFA Athletics).**

running backs coach and recruiting coordinator from 2019-21 at Division I Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Prior to that, he served as the pass game and recruiting coordinator

at Division II Fort Hays State in Kansas for four seasons. During his time at Fort Hays, the team went 36-12, went to the postseason all four years and won back-to-back conference titles.

Vigil has also been an assistant coach at his alma mater, at Northwest Missouri State and at the Colorado School of the Mines.

“We are not going to focus on wins or championships,” Vigil said. “We will be process driven in everything we do. We are going to focus on whatever it is at hand and work on it. If it is a drill we have run a hundred times before, we will be process driven enough to do our best on this drill, even though we have done it a hundred times before.”

Vigil said he and his staff plan to recruit locally – recruiting “from inside out,” as he puts it.

“We will recruit the best New Mexico players we can possibly find,” he said. “I said this in my press conference, jokingly, if you have a cactus in your front yard, you will see our staff.”

Vigil said that Silver City and Western New Mexico are special places to live and work.

“That is why my wife and I are buying a home here,” he said. “We are putting down roots and we are going to be here as long as God calls us here. I am really excited to raise my children here and put down roots.”

After playing just one game in the spring this past year because of the pandemic, the Mustangs are ready to get after it and play some football, Vigil said. They are also looking forward to having fans back in the stands, watching and cheering them on.

“God didn't create humans

to be alone,” Vigil said. “I think everyone is craving that companionship, being out with your friends and family and enjoying each other.

“It's going to be a welcome sight to see our stadium packed for our home opener – our guys flying around, having some fun and making some plays,” he said.

The Mustangs will open their season with a road game at 5 p.m. Sept. 4 against Adams State in Alamosa, Colorado. Their home opener will be the following week at noon on Sept. 11 vs. Western Colorado at Ben Altamirano Field.

To find out more about Western New Mexico football, visit [wnmumustangs.com/sports/football](http://wnmumustangs.com/sports/football).

For ticket information, visit <https://wnmumustangs.com/sports/2021/3/4/tickets.aspx>.

## HORSES

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is clear to him. Without a clear understanding of the component parts of any task you ask of your horse, and how to teach those pieces, then it will be very hard if not impossible for the horse to succeed.

Ray Hunt said you have to make the right thing easy for the horse and the wrong thing hard, so put the horse in a position to do the right thing. Go back to the quote for Baucher almost 200 years ago. Pretty much the same thing. It seems the basics for good horsemanship are universal and timeless.

A second step you will hear from any good trainer is about the importance of quality groundwork to develop and teach the horse. As we've gained more understanding of visual learning for the horse, it has become much clearer that building a relationship and teaching a horse works better if you start where the horse can see and read your body movement, and this means doing most of your initial training from the ground. By starting from the ground, and focusing on suppling and relaxation, you're building a more willing and athletic partner that will be better prepared to do what you ask as you progress. And, as a nice side benefit, you will have a horse that will be much healthier and more engaged because he has the confidence, understanding and physical ability to do what you

eventually ask under saddle.

Along with this, goes the idea that you don't move ahead to faster gaits or more complex movements, on the ground or under saddle, until everything is smooth and easy at the slowest gait, the walk. If you can't ride your horse perfectly at the walk, and execute any movement you might want in your riding routine in the arena or on the trail, then it will only get worse and be more uncomfortable for the horse when you want to go faster.

Hats off to Baucher on this point, too. He believed, rightly so, I think, the horse's performance was based on what was happening in the jaw, the poll and the neck, and that was where you needed to focus first, softly and slowly, to build a better performing horse.

Baucher was often ridiculed in his day for riding on a relatively loose rein (by the standards of the day) and for not using severe bits, spurs, whips or force. It seems he was exploring the path of self-carriage for the horse, of allowing the horse to use his body more correctly, of riding with more relaxation. It seems he was looking for the rider to essentially get out of the way of the horse by preparing the horse for what was being asked, thereby making it possible to apply aids that were lighter and better understood by the horse.

The riding establishment may have not taken Baucher seriously in his day, and in fact many who study his work today think

his methods were wrong or a bit foolhardy at best. Even he admitted that his methods might appear to take a lot longer than what was traditional at the time, but that actually things went faster because the horse became a more willing partner in the journey. But, if I look at some of the riders and trainers I admire most from the last 50 years or so, where the focus has been

on riding in relaxation and lightness, suppling the horse, cross training for healthy longevity, self-carriage, work in hand, even bridle-less collected riding, well, I think he provided some important pieces for what many see as the best and most natural ways to teach and develop a good horse today.

Baucher had his fans but probably more detractors, both then

and now, but for me, he was a trainer ahead of his time.

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



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