

DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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ABOUT THE COVER:

Miriam Hill, artist and owner of Sterling Fine Art, 306 N. Bullard, Silver City, lovingly shared Grandma Judy's oatmeal chocolate chip cookies in her painting. She also happened to share the recipe on paper:

- Cream: 1 cup butter, ¾ cups sugar and 4/4 cups brown sugar.
- Add 2 eggs; 1 tsp baking soda dissolved in 1 table-spoon hot water; 1 tsp salt; 1 tsp vanilla; ¼ tsp cream of tartar and 1 ¾ cups flour.
- Mix in 2 cups oatmeal and 1 pkg chocolate chips.
- Drop on cookie sheet and shape slightly. Bake at 365 degrees F.
- Sometimes it may need a little more flour.



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POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE

Sally McKenzie is holding October 2021 edition of Desert Exposure outside The Gage Hotel in Marathon, Texas. A beautiful, historic hotel on a sunny day. (Photo by Jay McKenzie)



POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE

Steve Hamlin and Suzanne Kelly, owners of the Hipstitch quilt shop in Albuquerque, learn about Desert Exposure. (Photo by Mia Kalish)

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 picture 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.

Desert #66 Dumbfounder by Dave Thomas

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

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

"HIU PDJIHYJTJD OIPIXODL XY ULJYI PXHWP HXYJNHXB AXOE

OIZIXBP IZJWIHDI NT LCVXH NDDCAXYJNH JH YLI YCBXONPX MXPJH

MIKJHHJHK XY BIXPY 23,000 FIXOP XKN." - EIBBF DXOONBB

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: "THE 2021 REMOVAL OF THE ONAQUI WILD HORSES FROM THEIR DESIGNATED HABITAT HAS EXPOSED ALMOST EVERY FLAW THAT HAS HISTORICALLY EXISTED WITHIN THE BLM." - LAURIE FORD *Secret Words: "UNFAIR METHODS"

Congrats to #65 solvers : Will Adams*, George Eger*, Mike Arms*, Claudette Gallegos*, Skip Howard*, Shorty Vaiza*, Connie Tull* and Gina Nelson!

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

Christmas Fair

‘Where does the time go?’

My wife lied to me. “No, I didn’t,” she insisted. But she did. By omission, that is. You see, every year we go to a Christmas Fair with my buddy Maloney and his wife, Gail. Local businesses set up booths there to sell their wares. This year, however, my beautiful wife “conveniently” forgot to tell me Maloney wasn’t coming. He played it smart and scheduled an appointment with an exterminator to fumigate his house. I’m not saying shopping with your wife is boring, but when a man would rather breathe poison, well, you tell me. It cost \$5 to park in the underground garage, but a sign said no cash. Credit or debit only. “What if you don’t have a credit

or debit card?” I asked my wife. “By the time you see the sign, you’re stuck.” “Who doesn’t have a credit or debit card?” my wife wanted to know. She had a point. All I had was a weak argument. “Well, somebody,” I said. We parked and got out of the car. By the time, we got to the elevator, I had to see a man about a horse, if you get my drift. Everybody piled inside. The doors closed, but we didn’t move. It looked like I would soon be having to apologize to an elevator full of unhappy people. Turns out, no one had pressed the button. Finally, when somebody did, we began to move. Walking into the holiday extravaganza, I looked around. Apparently, masks were option-

al. There was a 60s Volkswagen Beetle decorated like a Christmas present. The bathrooms were right behind it. “You guys go ahead,” I told my family. “I’m going to take a look at that Beetle.” “Why do you want to look at that old car?” my wife wanted to know. “I just do,” I answered. Nobody needs to know my business. When I came back, Maloney’s wife was there and she was already in the middle of giving everyone a hug. “You won’t believe my mother-in-law?” she told us. “What now?” I thought to myself. “She has BEDBUGS!” Without thinking, we all took a step back, away from her.

They had just returned from vacation. Before they left, she made arrangements for her mother to stay at their house and watch their dog. Maloney complains that his mother-in-law loves that dog more than she loves her grandchildren. Personally, I think his wife loves that dog more than she loves him, but that’s another story. “Can you believe she didn’t tell me?” Yeah, I could believe it. “I could SEE them on her, but what could I do? We were leaving when she got there.” “Is it a problem with the apartment complex she’s living in?” I asked. “It’s a problem with HER,” Gail said. “She never cleans or washes her sheets. Her place is filthy.” “Poor you,” my wife offered.

“Poor Maloney,” I thought. The first booth we came upon sold peanut brittle. I love peanut brittle, but not for 10 bucks a pop. As you know, \$5 is my price point. I heard music. Going off with my youngest daughter, I headed toward it. A Native American gentleman was playing a flute. He had a variety of them for sale. As I walked over to look at some, he immediately put down his instrument and walked over. “Can I help you?” he asked, but I think he was just making sure I wouldn’t steal anything. I was thinking of buying one for my 6-year-old granddaughter. She’s very musical. Recently, she’s begun taking piano lessons, and, to the consternation of

CHRISTMAS
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EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

Freedom

Appreciating cultural variations

Every time I go to Mexico I feel a sense of freedom. It's hard for me to put my finger on precisely what it is that gives me that feeling. Maybe it's the smell of food being cooked in front of you in almost every street corner. From tacos to roasted corns, someone is making something. When I go "across the line" to do some shopping or just to walk around, I almost always end up eating from a stand at the plaza or at a busy street intersection. Restaurants are just not my thing. I like to get to know the man or woman whose daily life is very routine. He shops for what they need, he gets up early in the morning, he loads up his

pushcart, and he sells until he just can't sell anymore. Knowing all this also makes the food taste better. Maybe that sense of freedom comes from the people who are spending their leisure time not on phones or digital gadgets but just by sitting outside on a ledge with their feet dangling in the air. I see this all the time. People young and old like to hang out like we used to do, by just hanging out. They often play music and sing along not caring how far their voices are heard. They say buenos dias or que tal to everyone that passes by. No one is a stranger. There is freedom in knowing that.

I feel freedom when I pass by barbershops feet away from the street. All can see who is getting their hair cut and how long or short they like it. No one is worried about who will see them or stop by to chat as they get their ears lowered. I feel freedom when I walk around the town plaza and almost everyone seems to know each other, even though they are all strangers. Something unites all people in this country. Maybe it's the similar struggle they are all experiencing or the desires, the passions, and dreams they all share. I feel freedom being in a place where no one asks me about things that aren't that important

at the end of the day. People aren't rushing to find out how many degrees I've earned or what car I drive. The conversation isn't a competition or an investigation to find out if I'm different. Maybe I get that feeling that feels so American because I'm still in the Americas. I'm in a continent where people share a lot. We share cultures and traditions. We share language and food. We share people and families. We share many of the same values we often think are unique to one side of the border. In the United States, we have freedoms that are written down on paper and passed down through law and order. There is a lot of power in that. In Mexi-

co, they have freedoms because the people pass them along from person to person. They share it through meals and smiles. They share it through being who they think they should be, no matter what others think. Not all freedom is the same. I appreciate the freedom I am given here. I love the freedom I feel there.

Abe Villarreal writes about life and culture in southern New Mexico. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.



CHRISTMAS

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her teacher, she prefers playing without looking at the sheet music. I understand the consternation. You first have to learn to do things the right way before you can do them YOUR way. I've told my granddaughter that the piano is her secret friend. Whenever she's happy or angry or sad, she can always confide to the piano through writing her own songs. "And a piano will always

keep your secrets," I promised her. I decided on a small traditional flute and a pan flute. I recall a late-night commercial where some musician was selling CDs of his pan flute music. "He's sold more albums than the Beatles!" the announcer announced. That sounded suspicious to me, considering I had never heard of the guy before. Both flutes were past my price point, but I asked myself: Will I regret not buying them? Yeah, I would. So I did.

"Da-aad!" my youngest daughter groused. "She doesn't need ANOTHER thing to annoy us with," but she said it with a smile. She loves her niece, too. A local jeweler had a booth. "Designer for the stars!" a large sign read, and under the words were pictures of pretty young women wearing her jewelry. None of them were stars. A guy with a vibrating muscle massager tried to cut me off. "I'm looking for my wife," I

told him, using the truth as an excuse not to stop. "Give me two minutes," he pushed. "You'd only be wasting your time," I told him. Next to him was a foot guy. Now THAT I considered. When you get older you'll discover your feet will hurt for no reason. Still, I kept walking. He was past my price point, too. My father tells me I'd rather suffer than spend my money, and, yeah, he's probably right.

My daughter and I stopped at a booth that sold knitted hats of cartoon characters. Star Wars. Marvel. Even Disney. I quickly got on my phone to give ol' Walt a heads up. Unfortunately, he died in 1966. Where does the time go? I love Christmas office parties, but I hate having to look for a job the next day. Visit theduchenebrothers@gmail.com or @JimDuchene.



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GUEST COLUMN • WENDY HAMILTON

Consider Gift of Solar

Going green this holiday season?

Is a solar installation on your home's wish list? Have you thought lately about how much you might save monthly by going to a photovoltaic (PV) solar system for your home's energy? Since 2009, the cost of solar systems in New Mexico have declined 65 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Sage website. Now might be the perfect time to give your pocketbook the gift of solar. The average homeowner can recoup the upfront expenses (estimated to be between \$12,000 to \$30,000) in about 7.5 yrs. excluding federal and state tax credits. See the DOE's DSIRE website for a list of NM incentives. If needed, do a quick Internet search to find local credit union energy efficiency loans or ask your solar contractor if they provide financing. Immediately upon your system's full operation, changes will be reflected in your electric bill. A properly designed system can produce energy for an estimated 25-30 years.

With everything going green on the horizon, there are now a plethora of online and community resources to help decode decision making. Going solar isn't for every homeowner but for many, a little homework done ahead of time will make the process a competitive home run.

A solar system turns the sun's energy into electricity. When the sun shines on a solar panel, photons from sunlight are absorbed by photovoltaic (PV) cells, creating an electrical field across the panel's layers causing electricity to flow. Solar panels, invented in the 1800s, were initially less than 1 percent efficient. In 1954, Bell Laboratory invented the silicon solar panel, which was about 6 percent efficient. To date, researchers have achieved a range of 22 percent efficiency, a surprising fact to many. Maximum energy efficiency and savings is heavily reliant on having top-tier solar panel efficiency.

The first step to understanding your potential purchase is to visit the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resources (EERE). Type in the query: 'Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar' to review resources and locate the terminology glossary. Doing this self-study has a side benefit – it will help prepare you for your neighbors' questions. Surveys show a significant pathway to increasing neighborhood solar is seeing the house next door go green. It could also lead to securing a group installation discount from

SOLAR

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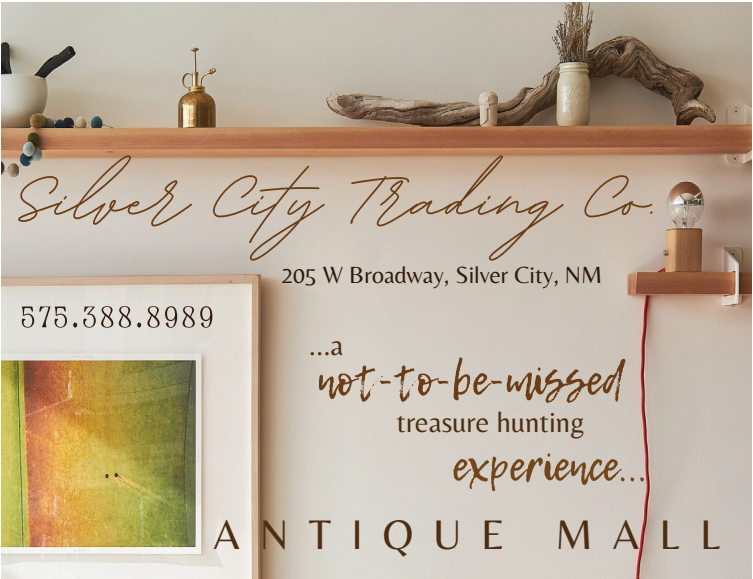


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your installer.

Next, make a pro and con list of reasons you might consider going solar. Reasons might include reduced or no electric bills, protection from utility rate increases, the option of selling excess electricity back to your provider, the knowledge that you are reducing your carbon footprint, increasing your home's value, and receipt of tax credits. The Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) was passed by Congress (December 2020) which provides a 26 percent tax credit for systems installed between 2020-2022 and 22 percent in 2023. DOE's DSIRE website is the most comprehensive source of U.S. incentive, rebate, and policy information along with a list of local experienced installers in your area. Reasons against installing solar could include the unsuitability of your roof or property for panels, the upfront expense, or your home already meeting green standards.

"Buying a solar energy system will likely increase your home's value," Las Cruces realtor Renee Frank said. "Solar panels are viewed as upgrades, just like a renovated kitchen, and buyers have been willing to pay an additional \$4,000-\$15,000 for a home with solar, depending on the size and age of the solar array."

Your next step is to determine your home's health by doing a DIY energy audit (search YouTube for 'home energy audit basics') or hiring a home energy professional. Installing solar is not the first step to saving energy, money, and the environment.

If your home wastes energy, improving its energy-efficiency should be your priority. An energy-efficient home reduces the amount of power you use from any source, so efficiency trumps renewable energy.

An energy audit tells you your roof's condition, your insulation needs, structural issues, air leaks, and appliance efficiency. Making needed repairs can determine if solar will benefit your pocketbook and/or reduce the size and cost of the solar system needed. The added advantage of an audit is to make sure your home provides greater comfort, quality, durability and indoor air quality. Find energy appliance rebates when making improvements at the Energy Star website.

The size, shape, and slope of your roof are important considerations. Solar panels perform best on south-facing roofs with up to a 40 degree slope. If you are considering ground mounted panels examine your property easements, trenching space, zoning laws, neighbors' views, permanent structures, and cost comparisons (typically ground mount is more expensive). There are online mapping services at the Energy.gov website that can help you determine if your roof or ground are suited to panels and the approximate number needed.

Now you're ready to find and compare installers. Check out customer reviews and products sold (foreign and/or domestically made). Invite three companies to provide free home estimates. Ask them for a customized plan that includes warranties, services, permitting, their guaranteed length of back-up support,

monitoring tools, finance details, approximate installation dates, and the project manager's contact information. After the visit, read and compare data, and call them if more questions arise.

If you are a DIYer and want to install your own system, YouTube is one source of information. For data geeks, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has some monitoring tools designed to estimate energy production using maps and user supplied data. Also look at the solar calculators available on the Solar Reviews website.

It is predicted that beginning in 2022, non-renewable home energy rates will begin to rise as the U.S. and global markets work to untangle themselves from global warming. Perhaps right now is the perfect time to consider turning your home green. A green home might be the perfect answer for the gift that keeps on giving.

Wendy Hamilton, Ed.D, NMSU Emeritus Professor can be reached at whamilton@nmsu.edu. Hamilton's science background has led to her interests in anthropogenic factors causing global warming. Having traveled extensively she has seen many examples of positive community climate stewardship.



"You become responsible forever for what you've tamed."

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Letters to the Editor

John Stermer as inspiration

I was immediately impressed with John Stermer the first time I met him. With his beard and beret, I thought he resembled the French Impressionist painter Claude Monet.

You see, John Stermer was a "real artist." Labeling someone a "real artist" was the ultimate compliment my mother could give someone.; it was a sincere compliment reserved only a few.

Margaret ("Margot") Hoylen and John were good friends who shared much in common. Both were successful artists who lived and studied in Paris for a time, though not simultaneously. Both shared a love of all things French, and a passionate joy of life.

Though significantly older than John, my mother looked up to him; he was a source of information and inspiration for her. Soon after Stermer established the Mimbres Regional Arts Council, Margot Hoylen was instrumental in the creation of the Deming Arts Council and the Deming Arts Center, a lasting legacy of art and culture in southwest New Mexico.

I inherited from my mom an oil painting of a lighthouse John did in his trademark figurative abstractionist style. This painting of a lighthouse is a treasure which shines bright both figuratively and literally decades after he painted it.

Paul Hoylen
Deming

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QUILT TALES • MIA KALISH

Alamo Longarm Adventure

Just the right mix of art and technique

In a world filled with flavorless, cookie-cutter chain stores, it's nice to talk with local shop owners. There is a zest for life and an urge to create that fuels their day-to-day living. Lisa Blevins of Desert Threads and Susan Bolinger of Pins & Needles in Alamogordo are engaged in mastering their longarm quilting machines. When I asked Lisa why she would buy a longarm that she didn't know how to use, she said, "Well, hon-

estly, I was tired of pinning and basting." She thought a moment then laughed and said, "But it turned out to be a lot more complicated than that." Lisa teaches classes in one half of the store occupied by Pins & Needles. The fabric fills the front half, enticing shoppers with the most current collections as well as the stock selections that will provide the background for the more dramatic fabrics. Susan

manages this part of the enterprise and is a wealth of information on how fabrics are selected from the sales representatives, the issues of having the fabrics manufactured and shipped, and the vagaries of when they will be delivered. Due to Covid, she says, manufacturers can be one to several months behind.

Susan has had her longarm for about three months, half a year less than Lisa has had her 10-foot version, which resides in her Desert Threads section in the back half of the store. Both say they watch lots and lots of YouTube videos, learning not only free-motion quilting patterns and techniques, but also how to maintain their machines. Lisa said since there is no local repair technician, they have had to learn to do their own maintenance and repair. Both Lisa and Susan were lucky enough to find used longarms and for them, this sweetened the adventure.

I commented on a lovely heart and vine pattern on one of the counter display items. Lisa described how she had doodled that pattern for months in every notebook she had. She doodled in meetings, she doodled while she was on the phone, she doodled whenever she got the chance.

"People laughed at me," she said. "But it worked." There are several books on developing free-motion design skills by doodling. The one I have is by Cheryl Malkowski and it's called Doodle Quilting: Over 120 Continuous-line Machine-quilting Designs. I have tried this and I noticed that once I was comfortable doing one design, it often morphed into a different one. Susan said, in contrast to the more organized and often structured designs beginning free-motion quilters can often find themselves exploring other options without really thinking about it. The goal in developing



Susan Bolinger and Lisa Blevins of Pins & Needles and Desert Threads in Alamogordo. (Photo by Mia Kalish)

free-motion skills is to be able to do patterns automatically, sometimes also called muscle-memory. And while developing this muscle memory, those muscles, like the quilts they are adorning, just let the wild side shine and take the newbie on a free ride.

Lisa said at first, she was skeptical of the muscle-memory concept, but with the success of hearts-and-vines, she is a believer. She quilts every day on her sit-down longarm at home. You must practice, she said. The wild side of muscle memory quilting is we end up with quilts with lots of different patterns and designs. While this won't get you high marks at quilt shows, or even often during quilt guild critiques, the quilts we beginners make often end up with friends and loved ones, non-quilters who fall rapidly into the thrall of the gifted quilt. There is little so rewarding as the look of total joy on the face of a quilt

recipient. It's the quilt that matters, not whether the quilting is perfect or sophisticated. The heart of what Lisa and Susan had to share was that if you don't try, you will never succeed. As for many of us, the first attempt at longarm quilting is very scary. Susan shared a vignette about setting up a quilt on her longarm so that it was ready to go and then spending several days working up the courage to turn on the machine and set those first stitches. Being able to work together in this great adventure with their longarms lets them help each other over the humps. But more delightfully, they can share new approaches and methods. Exploring how each approaches a new technique and comparing differences and similarities is another facet of the adventure. This aspect, being able to work together on what can often turn out to be a research project, adds a depth and richness that those working in isolation don't have.

"If you don't try," Lisa said. "You won't get it done. You just have to get out there and do it." Visit Pins & Needles and Desert Threads at 915 New York Avenue in Alamogordo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday or call 575-437-8121.

Mia Kalish lives in tiny San Miguel. She began sewing couture clothing at 16, got away from it as life took over, and then became fascinated with the hugeness of quilting about 5 years ago. Her favorite projects are lap and pet quilts. She sews on her Bernina 475QE.



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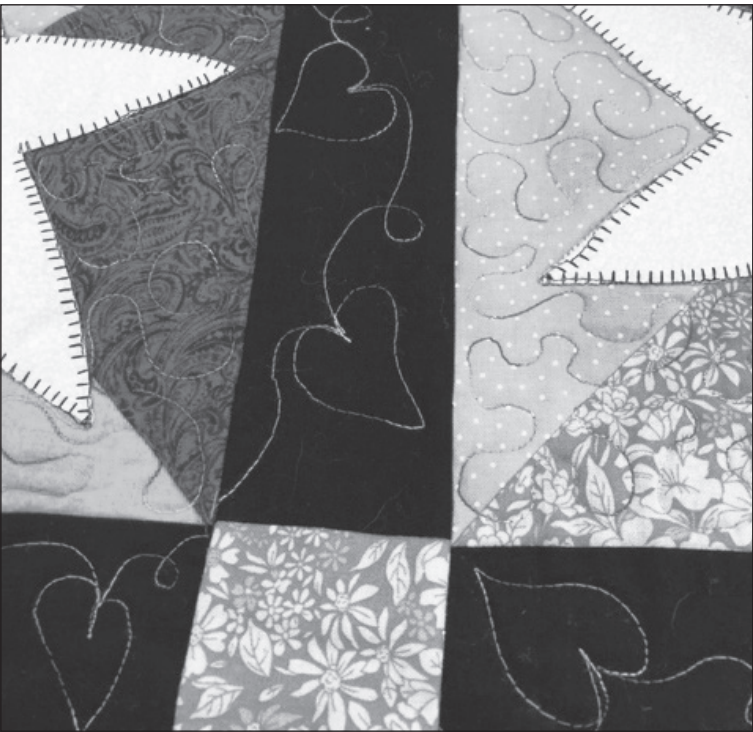
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Longarm heart pattern quilt by Lisa Blevins.

SCOTTISH DISPATCH • VIVIAN SAVITT

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A treasure in the Scottish Highlands

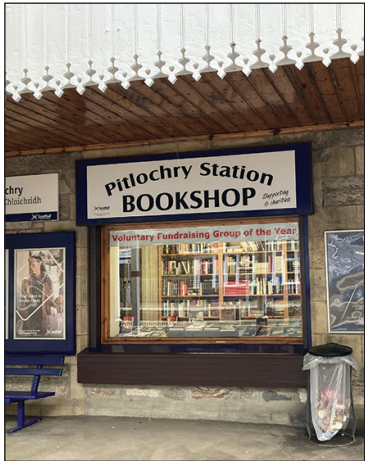
Pitlochry is set in Scotland's geographic center along a main route through the Highlands towards the Cairngorms.

My first glimpse, as I approached Pitlochry by train, registered the town's idyllic Perthshire scenery. Soon I learned that the area features more than 40 miles of walking paths, and the railway has been there since 1863.

Another revelation occurred as my train reached the station. There, set right on a platform adjacent to the ticket office, was the Pitlochry Station Bookshop. Well of course, I thought to myself, how sensible to be able to purchase a book while changing trains.

Trains are conducive to reading and when your eyes tire, just glance out the window at the scenery. Although this sounds like just the ticket, I had never seen a bookshop set on a railway platform. Further, I think a book purchased en route to a travel destination certainly has more panache than one ordered online.

It wasn't until my second train trip through the Highlands that I decided to spend a few days in Pitlochry. This time I learned



Pitlochry Station Bookshop. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)

that besides its charming allure, the railway bookshop serves as a case study in how good ideas can override conventional thinking.

Beginning in 2006 after a call to rejuvenate the railway station's empty buildings, a few women — including a council member and the shop's current manager — suggested utilizing one space to house donated books. Proceeds from their sales would go to charitable organizations. Fifteen-years later — selling most of the donated books for one pound each (\$1.39) — the bookshop with its volunteer-only staff has contributed about \$476,000 (352,534 British

Pounds Sterling) to charities.

During my visit I noted similarities between Pitlochry's social landscape and Silver City's. Although the Scottish town is smaller in population, it also has a hefty number of folks age 65 and older who have time to volunteer. Both places are tourism-reliant and many residents pursue outdoor recreation with gusto.

Where Silver City holds a Southwest Word Fiesta, Pitlochry has, since 2004, convened a Winter Words Festival where the bookshop maintains a stall at the 10-days-long event. Volunteer efforts from seniors as well as community support have made the Pitlochry Station Bookshop possible. ScotRail provided the old station master's office where the books are housed rent-free; shelving was contributed and a local hotel printed bookmarks to also serve as a customer memento. The only items paid from book sales are insurance and electricity. Although there are a few other bookshops in town, including both used ones and a chain store, the station bookshop offers a special appeal. Residents can buy a book, read it and donate it back — essentially creat-

ing a lending library that is open six days a week.

Tourists who visit Pitlochry primarily for its setting, also patronize the bookshop — com-

bining nature's beauty with a bookish treat. Many learned

BOOKSHOP

continued on page 10



Hydrangeas growing behind the bookshop.

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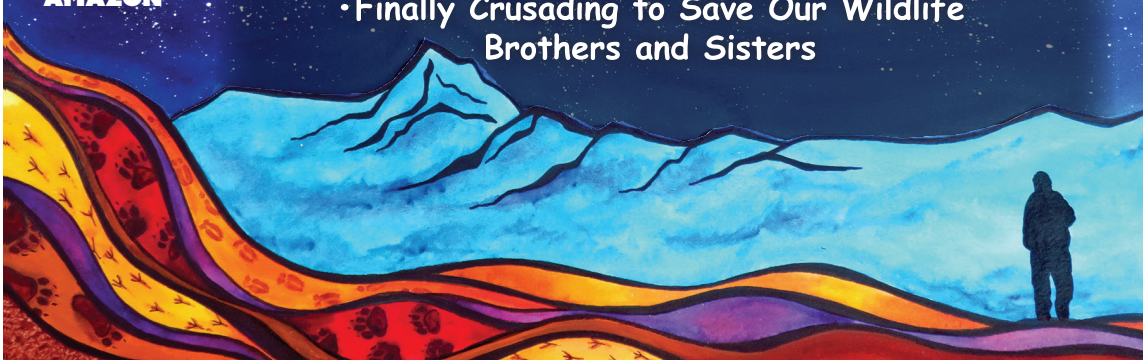
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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

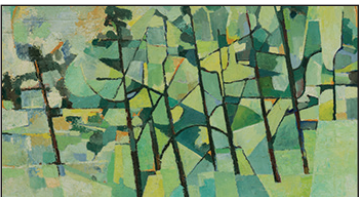
SILVER CITY



Sculpture by Jose Valasco

• **Light Art Space**, 209 West Broadway in Silver City, features “Visions of Stages: An Art Making life, 1986 – 2021” with work by **Mimi Calise Peterson**. The Silver City artist takes a look back at her years after art school and assesses what she has learned and what she might yet learn about creating art. The Flash Gallery features

“A Revolution in Wood” by **Juan Velasco**. Velasco, a Silver City artist originally from Bolivia, exhibits recent wood sculptures. He works with a variety of found wood and stones blending material to produce one of-a-kind unique art pieces. Light Art Space hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and by appointment. Info: lightartspace.com or 520-240-7075.



“Leaning Pines” by John Stermer

• **At the Western New Mexico University McCray Gallery**

the John Stermer Retrospective will run through Dec. 16. Info: 575-538-6273.

DEMING

• December at the **Deming Art Center** is time for the annual Holiday Gift Boutique. Guests are invited to browse, shop and find wonderful, unique gifts for family and friends this holiday season. The center is located at 100 S. Gold St., in Deming, and is open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Info: 575-546-3663.

ALAMOGORDO

• **New York Art & Music Studio** at 1120 New York Ave. in Alamogordo, represents around



New York Art & Music Studio

40 artists ranging from traditional to contemporary styles in many mediums. The gallery has musical instruments for sale and offerings for art and music classes and event hosting. From 4-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 the gallery is participating in the Alamogordo Main Street Christ-

mas celebration with art, music and painting action. On Saturday, Dec. 11 silversmith **Dottie Moon**; potters **Nancy Apprill**, **Connie Hare** and **Ann Hooser**; as well as other gallery artists will be on hand to chat with customers. Info: 575-430-1306.

• **Otero ArtSpace**, 118 Indiana Ave. in Alamogordo, is hosting the **Otero Arts Inc. Winter Art Show** 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 12-19 and 27-31. The deadline for submissions to the show is Dec. 5 for this winter themed show which can include memories, deep starry nights, the holidays, etc. A reception will be held on Dec. 12. Info: oteroartsinc@gmail.com or oteroarts.org.



The waiting room at the Pitlochry train station.

BOOKSHOP

continued from page 9

of its existence from televised programs— the BBC’s series “Great Railway Journeys,” and “The World’s Most Scenic Railway Journeys” narrated by British actor Bill Nighy. During the pandemic and its subsequent lockdown period, volunteers continued to accept book donations — “no more than two bags at a time” — that donors could leave on the railway platform to avoid personal contact. Just like everywhere else during this difficult interval, people reflected on life’s essentials, undertook house cleaning projects and unloaded items no longer wanted.

In Pitlochry, cookery and garden books were donated en masse to the bookshop. In years past, some valuable books have come in, including a first edition Charles Darwin and a collector’s



View of Pitlochry. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)

copy of Ian Fleming’s “Goldfinger.” All in all, the whistle-stop bookshop has helped locomote Pitlochry toward surprising destinations.

Silver City writer Vivian Savitt has been part of the Desert Exposure team for many years. She has had regular pieces appearing in

the paper including the Southwest Gardner and then Maneuvering Elderdom columns. Now Savitt has hit the European road and is sharing her view as a New Mexican abroad.



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CLOUDCROFT

• **The Cloudfcroft Art Society's annual Holiday Art and Crafts Show and Sale** features art by the society's local artists as framed and matted paintings in many art mediums, photography and digital photo art, greeting cards, jewelry, pottery, glass art, fiber dolls, wood and gourd carvings and more. The artists will be on hand for a meet and greet opportunity. Times and dates are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. every Saturday in December weather permitting. 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.

MAGDALENA

• **"Tea With Santa"** with **Larry Bob Phillips's** art work on the wall at **Kind of a Small Array**, 106 N. Main, Magdalena. "A holiday detour, a legend suggestive; A high desert ramble sure to be festive. We'll have a warm fire in a can on the side-



"Tea With Santa"
by **Larry Bob Phillips**

walk; To gather us round for love laden talk; Alluded to once, tradition's tamale." Reception 3-5 p.m., Dec. 18. Info: www.facebook.com/kindofasmallarray or 210-473-9062.

CARRIZOZO

• The **"Dialogue with Norma"** installation by **Joan Malkerson** continues through Feb. 6, 2022 at the **Red Door Gallery** in the **Lutz Building**, 401 Twelfth St. in Carrizozo. The exhibit follows the artist's responses to the natural world of the druids in the opera, "Norma," and the main character's unveiling of deceit and remorse for her human love. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and noon-5 p.m. Sundays. Info: 612-963-1499.

LAS CRUCES



Gallery 925 Holiday Art Sale

• **Gallery 925** presents its **Holiday Art Sale** featuring original cards, prints, paintings and more.

Artists represented at the gallery include **Kat Ahlefeld, Diane Alire, Diana Ayres, Katherine Deasy, Jean Graham, Vickie Morrow, Rokoko, Noel Sandino, Gabriele Teich** and **Leslie Toombs**. Meet and artists as they talk about their work 5-7 p.m. First Friday, Dec. 3. Work will be on display through Jan. 9. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Fridays, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Info: artserf@fastmail.com.



MasArt sisters Malu Bender and Sandra Bender

• At **MasArt Gallery**, 144 Wyatt Drive in Las Cruces, a special **Christmas show** greets guests through Dec. 23. The show is highlighted by Christmas globe ornaments created by the 22 artists represented at the gallery and they will have plenty of extra stock on hand including cards and small affordable works. Info: 575-526-9113.

• **The Branigan Cultural Center** features **"Place and Re-Place: Las Cruces Urban Renewal, 1960-1975,"** a new exhibition that provides a multi-faceted examination of the urban renewal efforts in Las Cruces that dramatically changed the nature of its downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. The exhibition runs through Jan.

15, 2022. The museum is located at 501 N. Main St. and is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday 9am to 4:30pm. Info: 575-541-2154.



"Babbel Basket 4"
by **John Garrett**

• **The Tombaugh Gallery** presents the fiber and mixed media work of **John Garrett**. **"Now and Then"** includes representative pieces from his five decades of art making. Trained as a traditional weaver, Garrett has also investigated various industrial and recycled materials to use in his constructions.

ART SCENE

continued on page 12

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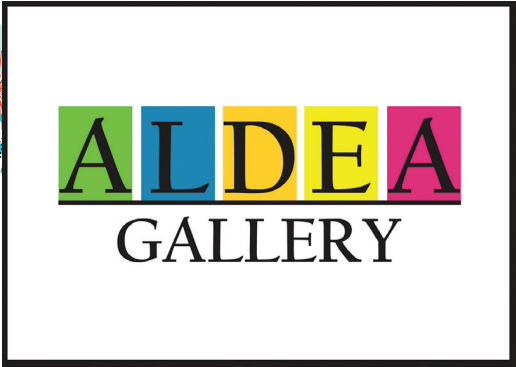
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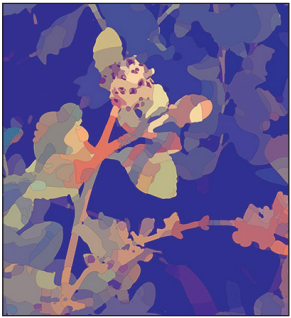


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ART SCENE

continued on page 12

These include scrap metal, aluminum flashing, old tools, telephone wire, videotapes, envelopes, poker chips, plastic picnic ware, beads, buttons, and rags. Rooted in craft, his work reflects his life in both urban and natural environments, focusing on transformation, possibility, changing perspectives, and the joy of life. The exhibit runs from Dec. 3, through January 16, 2022. The opening reception is 5-7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3. The gallery is having a second opening 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, and hold two “Conversation with the Artist” sessions from 1-2 p.m. on Dec. 18 and Jan. 8. The Tombaugh Gallery is at 2000 S. Solano and is part of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Masks are required. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: www.uu-churchlcl.org.



“End of Season”
by Carol Eastman

• Agave Artist Gallery, 2250 Calle De San Albino in Mesilla, welcomes a new member, **Carol Eastman**. She has an advanced

degree in Art Education with an emphasis on photography, and printmaking. Eastman's new workflow designs merge numerous photographs and artwork into one image with a focus on nature. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Info: agaveartists@gmail.com.



“Into the Light”
by Rosario Jeremias

• The **Las Cruces Art Association's Member Show** is at **The Big Picture Gallery** in Las Cruces. The association is happy to be displaying its work after a long hiatus. Members engage in a wide variety of mediums. The exhibit remains up through December. Awards will be given and visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite piece. The Big Picture is located at 2001 E. Lohman Ave. Suite 109. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

• 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 December: **Bonnie MacQuarrie** and **Marty Alberson**.

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ON THE SHELF

Holiday Booknanza

Las Cruces writers group holds signing, sale

Ten local authors from The Las Cruces Writers Group are holding a book signing and sale 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Mesilla Valley Mall, Las Cruces.

“We have books in so many genres that there would surely be something for everyone,” said Charmayne Samuelson, a member of the group. “We are being hosted by the Mesilla Valley Mall as part of their community outreach.

She said although the group has been around a number of years, just recently, with new leadership, they have a new vision for the group: writers helping writers. With that motto in



Charmayne Samuelson and George Pintar will be on hand during Booknanza at Mesilla Valley Mall Dec. 11

mind, the group has expanded from a handful just a few months ago to over 30 active members today and includes those who are just thinking about writing to

those who are published.

“We are welcoming new members to come on board,” Samuelson said. “We meet monthly and have a business meeting and

then educational breakout sessions on publishing, marketing, book signings, writing, editing, and support of each other to get ideas from mind to pen to publi-

cation.”

The 10 authors are all local.

For more information about the group, email info@lascruces-writersgroup.org.

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"Bulldogger" Oil by John Stermer, 1920-1991. Photo by Keith Bauer.



“Summer Fantasy 2” by Bonnie McQuarrie



La Calvera Catrina Dia de los Muertos Exhibition



Fused Glass by Marty Alberson

MacQuarrie specializes in art tile. Her work is influenced by Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse. Alberson is a New Mexico native who grew up here in the Mesilla Valley. He creates his art with fused glass, that is, glass that is ‘melted’ or fused at approximately 1400 degrees F. **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. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• **La Calvera Catrina Dia de los Muertos Exhibition**, is a colorful and joyful show of large-scale skeleton sculptures at the **Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St. Discover seven 8-foot-tall sculptures created by Los Angeles-based artist Ricardo Soltero and installed in the museum’s Shannon Gallery. Organized by Denver Botanic Gardens, the exhibition will be on view from through Jan. 8, 2022. The Branigan Cultural Center is open from 10 a.m. to

4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: www.las-cruces.org/Museums or at 575-541-2154.



“Allure of the Near East: Treasures of the Huntington Museum of Art”

• **The Las Cruces Museum of Art**, 491 N. Main St., features “Allure of the Near East: Treasures of the Huntington Museum of Art,” through Jan. 22, 2022. This exhibition explores the arts and crafts traditions of the Near East and the West’s historic fascination with its decorative items. The works, some of which are centuries old, include objects meant for palaces as well as ordinary homes, evoking a rich and comprehensive vision of daily life in the Near East, both recent and long ago. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: www.las-cruces.org/museums.

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ARTS EXPOSURE • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Nativity Around the World

Estate sale to benefit St. Andrew’s Hospitality House

Over 125 unique Nativity sets from all over the world, most handcrafted and hand painted are going up for sale on Dec. 4. No two sets are alike, and they are made from ceramics, wood, paper, cloth and other materials including traditional and non-traditional arrangements. Sizes range from less than one inch to over two feet tall, with single and multi-piece sets. The sale is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St Andrew’s Episcopal Church 518 N. Alameda in Las Cruces. All proceeds benefit St Andrew’s Hospitality House — providing temporary lodging for medical patients and family members from outside the Las Cruces area.

Executive director of the Hospitality House Nancy Haynes said the collection donor, Ebie Henry, was a member of St. Andrews and traveled the world with her friends, collecting Nativity sets everywhere she went. When she downsized her home, she donated the pieces to the Hospitality House. Henry has since passed away.

“Oh my,” Haynes said, talking about when she went to collect

the pieces in 2019. “They were in two large cabinets right inside the door, and glass shelves, filled with all of these Nativity sets. It took my son and daughter and I three and a half hours to pack them up.”

St. Andrews Hospitality House welcomes people visiting town with medical needs and procedures. Folks can stay for up to two weeks and have their own room including bathroom and television with shared kitchen and living room facilities.

Haynes has been organizing since the beginning of the facility five years ago. She said they thought they would have people from nearby communities like Alamogordo, Deming and Silver City but many hail from farther afield.

“Patients of those towns have moved to all kinds of states,” she said. “We have had people from 35 states, 53 cities and towns in New Mexico and three foreign countries. We don’t charge them anything, but we can take donations,” Haynes said. “I tell them it’s OK because if you have medical problems, you have money problems as well.”

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Saturday Dec. 25th, 1- 7 pm

STARTER: Baby Potatoes stuffed with Beehive Cheese and roasted red bell and basil, Marinated Shrimp, homemade pimento cheese, and Irish Soda Bread.

SOUP COURSE: Smoked Butternut Squash soup served with homemade cracker.

ENTREE:

Argentine Beef Stew: Seasoned Beef simmered in Malbec, spices, carrots, corn, and red bell peppers served in a half of a baked acorn squash. Topped with mascarpone cheese, roasted red bell pepper, and toasted pumpkin seeds.

-Or-

Roasted Duck Confit served with a Port Black Cherry sauce served with creamy polenta, and marinated asparagus.

Or

Vegetarian Option: Wild Rice Butternut Squash pilaf topped with toasted pumpkin, pistachios, sunflower seeds, and mascarpone cheese served with a coconut milk fresh sage custard and marinated asparagus.

Or

Chicken Scallopini topped white wine lemon capers sauce served with creamy polenta, and marinated asparagus.
Served with homemade bread and butter

DESSERT:

Chocolate Mousse served with berries and whipped cream
-Or- Triple Ginger Cake served with Guinness ice cream
-Or- Pineapple Upside Down Cake served with homemade vanilla ice cream

\$70 Per person. Limited seating. Reservations a must!
575-538-2538 Please choose an entree and a dessert on making the reservation.

MOVING MOUNTAINS • JOEL CHINKES

Blasting, Dust, Traffic Chaos

Mining the Floridas might not be such a good idea

I.

In the early 1900s
Deming was a railroad village
Next big railroad stop from Lordsburg
Big steam engines, Army bases

After railroad went to diesel
Farm and ranch supported Deming
Harvey House Hotel was leveled
Less excitement, war was over

Cows and chiles grew abundant
Thanks to Mimbres River water
Irrigating verdant croplands
In a place that seldom sees rain

Quiet life appealed to old folks
Peace and quiet, sun and Duck Race
Not much happens, which is good news
Just a dust storm, or a cold day

Deming benefited greatly
From attractive local scen'ry
Craggy mountains, endless vistas
Made it pleasant place to live here

Craggy mountain brought in rockhounds
Rockhounds who would pick up samples
Geolapidary treasures
From a sea that's just a mem'ry

II.

On the west flank of Flo-Ree-Dahs
Near the very edge of wildness
Came a miner Dave Tognoni
Not an ordinary rockhound

Staked a claim on BLM land
Free for all, this land call'd Public
Scenic views, abundant wildlife
Easy access, no down payment

Nineteenth Century Mining Law
Expected only men with mules,
With pickaxe, not with high explosive,
With shovel, not with front end loader

Thinking big was miner David
Not content to have just one claim
David spun out over 20
Twenty mine claims on Flo-Ree-Dahs

Dream he did of jobs for Deming
Fifteen thousand jobs for Deming

Deming, yes, and Luna County
Jobs for all of Luna County

Dreams of big new City building
Dreams of airport and refin'ry
Always planning for our future
Was our savior Dave Tognoni

“Right away” said Deming Chamber
“Right Away” the MainStreet echoed
“We don't need all of the details”
“Jobs are promised, let's get started”

Other agencies and people
Are more patient with Dave's big plan
Wait until he clarifies things
Not so hasty with their judgement

For example Fish and Wildlife,
Big New Mexico Department,
Said a better place can be found
Further from the edge of wildness

III.

Mining calls for major planning
Planning done by engineer teams
Taking in the situation
Here's what the planners said to do:

Standing near to Park-Ma-Ho-Ney
Is a hillock made of metal
Not exactly shiny metal
First you have to melt big rocks

Dolomite is name of big rocks
Not quite sure how much is in there
Dave the Dreamer only took chips
Just a few chips off the surface

Need to drill and blast the hillock
Count up all the dolomite there
But Tognoni skipped this big step
Later maybe, need some cash first

Money flow is the suspicion
As the target of the mine claim
Dolomite is just a proxy
For the payoff to Tognoni

Hot propane fire will melt rock piles
Propane from a giant pipeline
Pipeline passes north of Deming
Not too far from PNM Plant



The Florida Mountains southeast of Deming are the home of Rockhound State Park and numerous rock formations and wildlife for adventurers to experience. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Sticky problem is location:
Park-Ma-Ho-Ney 20 miles south,
Power Plant is north of Deming
Eye-Ten highway lies between them

Interstate is just one problem
Railroad tracks stand in the way too
Not so easy moving mountain
With interstate and rails to cross

Gold Street runs through downtown Deming
Only way from Park to Plant site
Trucks and traffic will be chaos
Big mine trucks at Pine and Gold Streets

Mine truck traffic won't be minor
Twenty years of steady traffic
Loads of rock 10 times each hour
Empty trucks on their return trip

Burning propane makes a lot of C-O-Two, another problem
Global warming killing planet
Caused by too much C-O-Two gas

If the mine jobs really happen
Luna County might not see them
Workforce skills and residences
Favor Doña Ana County

High wage workers work in Deming
Have good jobs but do not live here
They prefer Las Cruces lifestyle
For the shopping and the high schools

IV.

Dave Tognoni had some practice
Mining lands without permission
Maybe Deming would be easy
Maybe dreams would work out this time

BLM is the landowner
Fed'ral land has complex rules
Mining permit will be needed
Faceless BLM might stop him

Challenges were blasting, traffic,
Dust and water, loss of quiet,
Scar on scen'ry, Indian gravesites,
Ibex hunters, night sky lighting

Planning rules are known as Nee-Pah

Nee-Pah is the path to get there
If you want to blast the mountain
You must jump the hoops of Nee-Pah

Years it takes to get a permit
BLM, then state permissions
But some disappointed locals
Interfered with all the planning

Nee-Pah mandates public hearing
Rude uneducated public
Horning in on dreams of David
Interfering with his mining

Gaps were found in all his planning
Such as people living nearby
Such as overhead conveyor
Plans were changed to pass inspection

Plans included only two claims
Of the rest no hint was given
Suspicion grew this was a fake-out
Rest of twenty claims must follow

Tognoni died, dream unfulfilled
Many thought the mine was finished
But his mine claims carried forward
Thanks to newfound heir named Carol

Dave Tognoni had advantage
He was college educated
Carol Brewka was less ready
Mining projects not her background

Four times plans faced big revision
“Til at last the Feds okayed it
“Yes, you can deface the mountain
Blast and haul off our Flo-Ree-Dahs”

Plan approval is called Fon-Zee
“FONSI” how it's really spelled
Fon-Zee says there is no impact
Or at least no major harm

Hasty was the BLM “Finding of No Impact” to this plan
Like the rock chips of Tognoni
BLM did not dig too deep

Local citizens erupted
With an email conversation
Hundreds loudly joined their voices
Formed the “Friends of the Floridas”

Strategy was very simple
Sue the BLM directly
For their sloppy plan reviewing
Ask a Judge to throw it all out

Stench of mine plan reached all over
Many statewide action groups
Didn't like the great disturbance
Joined with locals in their suit

When a lawsuit up and hit them
BLM was in a tight spot
Had to call in Justice lawyers
To rectify the mess they'd made

Justice said to BLM they
Better ask for trial delay
Citizens make lots of good points
Do not want to lose abjectly

Months went by without a word
While BLM tried to recoup
They issued second “Final” rule
With reasoning yet more absurd

V.

And that is now where matters stand
BLM is on the defense
Friends of Floridas pressing hard
With four strong allies by their side

Might take years for Fed'ral Court
To hear all Motions, read all Briefs
Decision will be up to Judge then
Always possible to appeal

BLM is mine's first hurdle
They may have to start from scratch
But if not, the fight proceeds to State mine permit, traffic, dust

Conquistadors from Old España
Yellow flowers caught their eye
Floreado, Montaña de Flores
“Flo-Ree-Dahs” in the Anglo tongue

Joel Chinkes is retired and has been off the grid since 1986 and has been keeping a close eye on the Floridas since 1995. For links to documents regarding the Florida mining issue visit this story at the desertexposure.com website.



Renovated in 1930, the Deming Train Depot, long part of the landscape of the town was removed in the 1980s, leaving a platform and shelter only standing today. (Photo by Clay Gilliland, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Peace on Earth?

Walking in a wrath-filled wonderland

Every year around this time, we start seeing the messages everywhere, in many forms: Peace on Earth, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays.

I'm beginning to wonder, though, do we really want Peace on Earth? So much of human endeavor these days is bent on criticizing, complaining and vehement vitri-

ol. Yes, social media fuels these flames, and the relentless pandemic has put everyone on edge. But this getting-high-on-getting-angry, new American Way has been going on for some time.

From online restaurant reviews, radio talk shows, TV political programs and sports magazines to the ever-present, ever-over-simplified, ever-misinformationed memes that populate all corners of the Internet and social media, negative blathering is the true soundtrack of American life.

Increasingly, there's no peace to be found, even at Christmas.

In fact, just the opposite of peace, there's even a media-manufactured "War on Christmas." In this scenario, among some Americans, the phrase "Happy Holidays" translates to "Them's fightin' words!" Saying "Merry Christmas" makes many Americans feel better, but is irrelevant or even inappropriate to many Americans who practice different faiths, many of which celebrate their own holy days during December.

The lack of peace on Earth, of course, is nothing new in this world. This world can be a nasty, ugly place full of hate and violence. The reason Christians celebrate Christmas is to recognize the birth of a man, Jesus Christ, who came to bring peace on Earth, goodwill to man. Christ also clearly recognized the evil in the world, and on a few occasions as an adult Jesus is quoted in the Bible referencing Satan as "the ruler of the world." Christians recognize Christ as the deliverer from this sinful world. A savior, a messenger of love and a better way. He also demonstrated the power of compassion and helping those in need. Most all of us feel better when we practice compassion and when we help others.

So why are we so angry? Why are we so defensive about people who act and think differently than us? Why are we so passionate about so many things that

breed the opposite of compassion.

The pandemic has added to everyone's edge, everyone's tension. It has shortened everyone's patience, everyone's temper.

When we hear of airline passengers attacking flight attendants, we know something is wrong. Something is off.

If we really do want peace on Earth, aren't there better ways to act than the ways we're acting? It seems what we really want is to be right, and to be right more loudly and more angrily than the person we disagree with.

I would love to say (and probably WILL say many times over the next few weeks) "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hannukah" and "Happy Holidays."

However, I think the phrase more people would like to hear is "Good job telling off that guy on Facebook! You sure put him in his place."

"Damn, right I did!" And then the person is walking on air all day.

The original moonwalker, Neil Armstrong, famously said, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" during the lunar landing back in 1969.

If we really want Peace on Earth, which would be a giant leap for humankind, it seems maybe – even if only for a day – we should try being kind humans.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of Desert Exposure. He recommends we all go and listen to the Elvis Presley version of "If Every Day Was Like Christmas" to get into the holiday spirit, and then try to keep it.



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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

What's Going on in December?

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.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1
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, DEC. 2
Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
Sierra County Twirlers — 3-6 p.m. 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/Dña Ana County
“Daddy Long Legs” play — 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces. A musical story about a girl in an orphanage exchanging letters with a mysterious benefactor. Info: 575-523-1223.
Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3
Silver City/Grant County
Jingle & Mingle Down Candy Cane Lane — 7-9 p.m. at Regents Square, Western New Mexico University. A festive winter celebration with live music, children’s activities, seasonal treats and a reading of “The Night Before Christmas” by the university president. Info: 575-538-6273.

Las Cruces/Dña Ana County
Fine Arts Flea Market — 4-10 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2444.
La Casa, Inc. 30th Holiday Bazaar — 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Find art and handmade gifts, Santa, gift wrapping, cookie cupboard. All proceeds benefit La Casa Inc. domestic violence shelter. Cost: \$6. Info: www.lacasainc.org.
First Friday Art Ramble — 5-8 p.m. in the Arts and Cultural District between Main and Mesquite streets. Info: 575-541-2444.
Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.
“A Christmas Carol” a solo performance — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/



A musical play version of “Daddy Long Legs” will be at the Las Cruces Black Box Theatre from Dec. 2-5. (Courtesy Photo)

christmas-carol.
“Daddy Long Legs” play — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces. A musical story about a girl in an orphanage exchanging letters with a mysterious benefactor. Info: 575-523-1223.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Holiday Artisan Market — 8 a.m.-5p.m. at the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Conference Center, 3031 US Highway 180, Silver City. Info: 800-48-9378.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
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.
Holiday in Hillsboro — A town-wide outdoor event in Hillsboro, N.M. Hillsboro Community Center, 316 Elenora St., Hillsboro. Info: 575-895-3300.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmers-marketsnm.org.
Christmas on Mainstreet — 4-9 p.m. at Patron’s Hall and more, 1106 N. New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Local businesses staying open to spread holiday cheer and local vendors set up. Activities for all ages.

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.
Candyland Christmas by Kids Can — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Local Youth 6-17 are invited to create a business plan, develop a product or service and open their business at the downtown market. Info: 575-527-8799 Ext. 117.
La Casa, Inc. 30th Holiday Bazaar — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Find art and handmade gifts, Santa, gift wrapping,

cookie cupboard. All proceeds benefit La Casa Inc. domestic violence shelter. Cost: \$6. Info: www.lacasainc.org.
Live Animal Feedings — 11 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Las Cruces. Watch and learn how different species of animals eat and what they eat. Info: las-cruces.org/1523/Museums.
Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.
“A Christmas Carol” a solo performance — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.
“Daddy Long Legs” play — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces. A musical story about a girl in an orphanage exchanging letters with a mysterious benefactor. Info: 575-523-1223.
“The Polar Express” movie — 8 p.m.

at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Info: 575-541-2444.

40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 18

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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued from page 17

SUNDAY, DEC. 5
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Holiday Artisan Market — 8 a.m.-5p.m. at the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Conference Center, 3031 US Highway 180, Silver City. Info: 800-48-9378.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
La Casa, Inc. 30th Holiday Bazaar — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Find art and handmade gifts, Santa, gift wrapping, cookie cupboard. All proceeds benefit La Casa Inc. domestic violence shelter. Cost: \$6. Info: www.lacasainc.org.
“A Christmas Carol” a solo performance — 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that

has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.
“Daddy Long Legs” play — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces. A musical story about a girl in an orphanage exchanging letters with a mysterious benefactor. Info: 575-523-1223.
“Sounds of the Season” — 3 p.m. at Atkinson Recital Hall, New Mexico State University Music Center, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. Concert with the Mesilla Valley Concert Band featuring a special guest. Info: www.mesillavalleyconcertband.org.
Noche de Luminarias — 5-8 p.m. at New Mexico State University’s Corbett Center Student Union. Info: 575-541-2444.
Mesilla Valley Jazz and Blues Society monthly concert series — 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo, Las Cruces. Info: 575-640-8752.



The 1st Armored Division Band plays Western New Mexico University on Dec. 12. (Courtesy Photo)

Tree lighting downtown at Evelyn Renfro Park followed by bonfires, carolers and other performers. Info: sierracountynewmexico.info.

Steel Soldiers’ campsite. Info: 575-744-5923.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County
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.

Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.

“A Christmas Carol” a solo performance — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

Las Cruces Symphony Classics 2 concert — 7:30 p.m., Atkinson Recital Hall, NMSU Music Building, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. Includes Bach’s Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Mozart’s Symphony in D Major “Paris,” Schubert’s Symphony in B Minor “Unfinished and Mahler’s “Adagio from Symphony No. 10. Info: 877-466-3404.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12
Silver City/Grant County
1st Armored Division Band — 3-5 p.m. at Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Theatre, 1100W. College Ave. Silver City. Info: 575-538-5362.





40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 19



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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8
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, DEC. 9
Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
Sierra County Twirlers — 3-6 p.m. 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/Doña Ana County
Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.


FRIDAY, DEC. 10
Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
T or C's Old-Fashioned Christmas — 5-9 p.m. 301 S. Foch St. in Truth or Consequences. The evening begins with the annual Christmas

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County
Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.
“A Christmas Carol” a solo performance — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11
Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmers-marketsnm.org.

Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County
Elephant Butte Luminaria Beachwalk — 5-8 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Features 3,000 luminarias lining paths on the beach leading to campsites offering posole, chile, cocoa, cookies, s’mores and more. Visit Santa or stop by the


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40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

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Las Cruces/Mesilla

"A Christmas Carol" a solo performance — 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

Mesilla Valley Chorale Christmas Concert — 3 p.m. at Rio Grande Theatre. Info: mesillavalleychorale.org.

Las Cruces Symphony Classics 2 concert — 3 p.m., Atkinson Recital Hall, NMSU Music Building, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. Includes Bach's Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Mozart's Symphony in D Major "Paris," Schubert's Symphony in B Minor "Unfinished and Mahler's "Adagio from Symphony No. 10. Info: 877-466-3404.

MONDAY, DEC. 13

Silver City/Grant County Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m. at Cross Point Church, 11600 Highway 180 E. The speaker is Randy Salars with a special holiday video. Cost for lunch: \$12. All singles are welcome. Info: Jimccord@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

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, DEC. 16

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County Sierra County Twirlers — 3-6 p.m. 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/Doña Ana County Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com. **"The Nutcracker"** — 7 p.m. at the NMSU Center of the Arts, 1000

E. University Ave. Las Cruces. A Borderlands Ballet production with the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music. Info: borderlandsballet.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

Silver City/Grant County Mariachi Christmas — 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Theatre, 1100W. College Ave. Silver City. Virant music performed by Mariachi Aztlan. Dancing with Ballet Folklorico University Texas Rio Grande Valley. Info: 575-538-5362.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County The Nutcracker — 7 p.m. at New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. in Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance and Michele's Dance Academy. Info: darkcirclescontemporarydance.com.

Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.

"The Nutcracker" — 7 p.m. at the NMSU Center of the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. A Borderlands Ballet production with the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music. Info: borderlandsballet.com. **"A Christmas Carol" a solo performance** — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

Alamogordo/Otero County Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m., Tractor Supply parking lot, 2920 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: farmers-marketsnm.org.

Magdalena/Socorro County Tea with Santa — 3-5 p.m. at Kind of a Small Array gallery, 106 N. Main, Magdalena. Holiday traditions, tamales and tea. Info: 210-473-9062.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County "The Nutcracker" — at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts in Alto.

The Ruidoso Academy of Ballet and Dance Company's adaptation of the Tchaikovsky Christmas Classic. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County 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.

Live Animal Feedings — 11 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Las Cruces. Watch and learn how different species of animals eat and what they eat. Info: las-cruces.org/1523/Museums.

Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.

"A Christmas Carol" a solo performance — 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

"The Nutcracker" — 7 p.m. at the NMSU Center of the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. A Borderlands Ballet production with the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music. Info: borderlandsballet.com.

The Nutcracker — 10 p.m. at New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. in Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance and Michele's Dance Academy. Info: darkcirclescontemporarydance.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

Las Cruces/Mesilla "A Christmas Carol" a solo performance — 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Charles Dickens play that has been adapted to a one actor retelling with Norman Lewis playing all the roles. Info: www.lcctnm.org/christmas-carol.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County "The Nutcracker" — 2 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts in Alto. The Ruidoso Academy of Ballet and Dance Company's adaptation of the Tchaikovsky Christmas Classic. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

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, DEC. 23

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County Sierra County Twirlers — 3-6 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St. in T or C. Live music, toe-tapping main-

stream dancing and refreshments. Info: 575-313-9971 or 505-804-3842.

Las Cruces/Doña Ana County Vado Speedway Park Christmas Village — 7-10 p.m. at Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. A Christmas wonderland with holiday light displays, holiday inflatable displays, holiday music, campfires, Christmas shoppes and special appearances by Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Elsa. Info: info@vadospeedwaypark.com.




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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Pegasus, the Winged Horse

Following the bright nose star for adventure

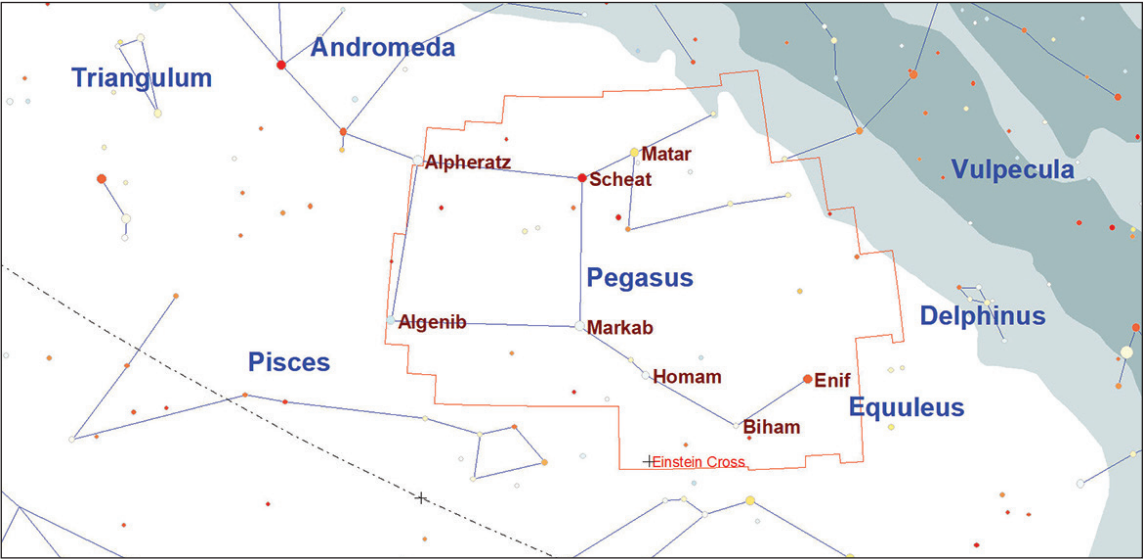
Have you ever seen a flying horse? If not, there is one overhead in our evening sky. Pegasus, the Winged Horse, is flying westward, upright if you first face south and then look overhead. This constellation is marked by four bright stars that form a large square. Often called “The Great Square of Pegasus,” these four stars are easy to pick out, but only three of them are actually in Pegasus. The northeast star, Alpheratz, belongs to the neighboring constellation of Andromeda.

In Greek mythology, Pegasus was sired by Poseidon, the god of the sea. He roamed wild for many years. The hero Bellerophon was advised by a seer to sleep in the temple of Athena. During the night, the goddess told him where to find Pegasus and presented him with a gold-

en bridle. The next morning, Bellerophon found Pegasus at a nearby spring as Athena had predicted and used the golden bridle to tame him.

The monstrous Chimera, a fire-breathing creature with lion’s head and body which also had a goat’s head in the middle and a snake as a tail, had been attacking cattle in Lycia. The king ordered Bellerophon to kill the Chimera, hoping that the Chimera would kill Bellerophon instead. The hero mounted Pegasus and flew high above the Chimera. He fired an arrow from far outside of Chimera’s lethal range, killing it.

Bellerophon had other adventures until he tried to ride Pegasus to Olympus, home of the gods. Zeus was angered by his hubris and sent a gadfly to sting Pegasus. Pegasus bucked



Pegasus, the Winged Horse, is overhead on December evenings. Four stars make up a large square that makes it easy to spot in the sky. It is the seventh largest constellation, covering 1,121 square degrees. It is a classical constellation, one of the 48 constellations listed in “The Almagest” written by the second century Greek astronomer Ptolemy.

Bellerophon off his back and Bellerophon fell to his death. Pegasus spent the rest of his time serving Zeus, for which he was placed in the sky. Later mythology replaced Bellerophon with Perseus and his rescue of Andromeda.

Pegasus has 177 stars brighter than magnitude +6.5. The brightest of these is called Enif (Epsilon Pegasi) at magnitude +2.4. Enif is “nose” in Arabic, marking Pegasus’s muzzle. Located 690 light-years away from us, this star is a red giant going through the final phase of its life, fusing helium into heavier elements in its core. The outpouring of energy pushes its surface out to 185 times that of our sun. One day this over seven-solar-mass star will probably die in a supernova explosion.

In our experience, light travels in straight lines. An object is where it appears to be because the light from the object travels straight from the object to our eye. But light can be bent by many substances. Glass is used to bend light passing through a lens in a process called refraction. When the sun appears on the horizon as it sets, it has actually already set, but our atmosphere bends the light from the sun so we can still see it.

STARRY DOME
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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

Mistaken Identity

Making assumptions could be a problem

We often make assumptions about people based on their superficial appearance, like how they are dressed, the color of their skin, their age, or even how articulate they are in speaking. We do the same with animals and plants.

We tend to like cute, furry and cuddly animals. Animals, like snakes and insects, are often stepped on, squashed, or killed because we don't like their appearance. Even though many of these animals are useful and important for our ecosystem. Most often, our discrimination to-

wards people, animals and plants is based on our unfamiliarity with what is different from our experience. In other words, we make assumptions about what is different and unfamiliar. Assumptions may be true or false, but most often, assumptions about anything tend to be false.

Here is an example of how making an assumption about an identity caused some painful grief.

When I was around 12 years old, I was in the Boy Scouts. Our troop was not like other troops. We were all from East San Diego, an "across the tracks" neighborhood. The only boy who had a

complete uniform was the scoutmaster's son. The rest of us had various parts of a uniform. Some of us just had a neckerchief, others had a shirt, some only had a hat. We still went on hikes and other adventures and even went to a scout jamboree where we ripped off the Coke machine.

One time on a hike I caught a California Mountain Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*). Its coloration mimics the coral snake, which is deadly poisonous. However, there are distinct differences in body shape and color patterns. I was totally aware of these differences and

had no doubt it was a mountain kingsnake. My scoutmaster went into panic mode and insisted that it was a coral snake. No matter how much I explained about the difference between the two snakes, he would not listen. Because the snake had bitten me when I picked it up, the scoutmaster felt the need to demonstrate the use of a snake bite kit on me.

He preceded to cut "X" s on my thumb, where it bit me, and other parts of my hand. I still have the scars sixty-some years later. Then he put suction cups on the cuts to suck out the ven-

om. It was quite painful. Meanwhile, I was still holding the live kingsnake. After the scoutmaster had put suction cups on my hand, he cut the head off the kingsnake against my protests. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons mountain kingsnakes are critically endangered.

This event took place back around 1955. Since then, most people have learned that snake bite kits are totally useless. They don't remove the venom, and the kits may cause serious damage to the victim of a poisonous

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STARRY DOME

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The General Theory of Relativity, published by Albert Einstein in 1916, predicted that gravity can also bend light, but it takes a really large mass to show any bending. Starlight passing near the sun will be bent by the sun's gravity. To prove relativity was correct English astronomer Arthur Eddington traveled to the West African island of Principe to observe the total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919. Even though he was photographing the eclipsed sun through clouds, Eddington managed to get an image that showed a star near the sun's edge had been shifted by its gravity exactly the amount relativity predicted.

But the sun is not the only source of gravity. A galaxy has a tremendous gravitational field. Light passing a galaxy is bent just like light passing the sun. When a normal galaxy lines up with a more distant quasi-stellar object (QSO, also called a quasar), the light from the QSO is bent as it passes the normal galaxy. A QSO is also a galaxy where the black hole at its nucleus is pulling in large amounts of surrounding matter which releases vast amounts of light. This brilliant light allows the QSO to be seen from a great distance.

In Pegasus, QSO 2237+0305, at a distance of 23 billion light-years, is almost directly behind the much closer normal barred-spiral galaxy (UZC J224030.2+032131) which is at

a distance of 540 million light-years. The light from the brilliant QSO is bent by the normal galaxy, focusing it into five copies of the original image of the QSO. Called the Einstein Cross, four of the images form the arms of the cross. The fifth image is very dim at its center.

The Einstein Cross is tiny, just 1.8 seconds-of-arc across. It was discovered by American astronomer John Huchra and his co-workers in 1985 and it is sometimes called Huchra's Lens. This gravitationally lensed quasar is a rare object, but not unique and it is an excellent example of the Theory of Relativity in action.

The Planets for December 2021

Mercury makes an appearance in the evening sky during the last half of this month. By the end of the month, it will be eight degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark, setting by 6:30 p.m. The Messenger of the Gods' disc will be 78 percent illuminated and 5.9 seconds-of-arc across. The magnitude -0.7 planet will travel from southwestern Ophiuchus to eastern Sagittarius during the month.

Venus starts to wrap up its visit to the evening sky this month. Shining at magnitude -4.6, it starts the month moving eastward in eastern Sagittarius, stopping on the 18th and then turning back westward to end the month a little north of where it started. On Dec. 29, it passes four degrees north of Mercury.

At midmonth, Venus's disc is 49.5 seconds-of-arc across and it is 16 percent illuminated. The Goddess of Love is 17 degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets dark, setting by 7:30 p.m.

Saturn is moving slowly eastward in western Capricornus, shining at magnitude +0.7. It is 30 degrees above the southwestern horizon as darkness falls, setting around 8:30 p.m. The Rings are 35.5 seconds-of-arc across and they are tilted down 18.1 degrees with the northern face showing. The Ringed Planet's disc is 15.6 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

The King of the Planets is 41 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. It is moving slowly eastward from eastern Capricornus into western Aquarius. Jupiter's disc is 36.7 seconds-of-arc across as it shines at magnitude -2.3. It sets just before 10 p.m.

Mars rises around 5:15 a.m., reaching 13 degrees above the southeastern horizon as dawn breaks. This month, it moves from central Libra, through the northern panhandle of Scorpius and into western Ophiuchus. The God of War's disc is just 3.9 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude +1.6.

On Dec. 21, the Earth reaches the point in its orbit where its northern polar axis reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun. This places the sun as far south in our sky as it will be all year and marks the beginning of astronomical winter. Meteorological winter began on Dec. 1 and runs to the end of February. Bundle up to take advantage of the long winter nights to stargaze and "keep watching the sky."

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



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Calendar of Events – December 2021 (MST)		
03	Midnight	Venus greatest brightness this apparition
04	12:43 a.m.	New Moon (Total solar eclipse in Antarctica)
10	6:35 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
14	Midnight	Geminid meteor shower peaks
18	4 a.m.	Venus stands still
18	9:35 p.m.	Full Moon
21	8:59 a.m.	December Solstice – Winter begins
26	7:23 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
29	3 a.m.	Venus 4.3 degrees north of Mercury

TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Holiday Wishes

Things To Do Better for All Horses and Riders

Another holiday season is upon us. Maybe, a happier one with fewer masks than last year, but I'd say most of us feel 2021 was just as challenging as 2020. It does feel like we can at least see a corner out there, even if we haven't been able to turn it quite yet to head into a better future.

I feel fortunate about my life with horses over the past year. I've had a chance to work with some great new students in other parts of New Mexico, eager to learn better ways to be with horses. I've handled some neat horses, including a few breeds that were new to me, even an Australian brumby, rescued and moved to the U.S. from The Outback. I ventured to the northern part of N.M. to do a private clinic with some very interesting and committed horse people.

Even my own horses have made giant strides in maturity and all-around skills, despite sometimes inconsistent teaching based on my time constraints.

What I've seen throughout the year has motivated me to offer some holiday wishes that hopefully carry over well into the future for all horse lovers.

- For the people that breed to sell horses, or for anyone trying to sell a horse, I wish you would step back from the desire to make a sale and pocket some cash, and think hard about your responsibility for the future of that horse and the rider standing in front of you with the checkbook open. Ask yourself is this the right marriage of horse and human, because if it isn't, you're setting the stage for an unhappy life for the horse as well as disappointment, frustration or even

injury for the human.

- During 2021 in almost every case I was trying to help someone who simply had the wrong horse – not necessarily a bad horse, just the wrong one. Maybe the horse was too young and green for the owner's level of experience or the wrong breed or temperament for the owner's riding interest. In some cases, the horse was simply too big, too small, too fast or too slow for a particular rider. To me, it would really help everyone in the world of horses if breeders and sellers, who know what they have for a horse, would take the time to evaluate their potential buyers and the likelihood of success for pairing this horse with that buyer. I wish for a little less greed and a little more thought about the part you play in the future of that horse you're selling and the

person buying the horse.

- When I bought my beautiful Morgan mare 3 years ago, the breeder and I sat for several hours discussing my training methods and philosophy, where I was in my riding life, my goals for this horse, my age, my business, etc. before we even went to the barn to meet the horse. The breeder watched carefully as I handled and rode the horse. She paid a lot of attention to all the little things I did. I was going to be the mare's first owner and it was very important to the breeder that it was the right fit for me and this young, green horse that she obviously loved. She clearly had turned away lots of potential buyers for her horses over the years, as she should. I wish it was like this for every sale.
- For all the trainers, the real

professionals, the under-the-radar talents, even the ones who are at best questionable, I wish we would all take a bit more time to really get to know our students and their horses, and to set more realistic objectives with timelines to match. Let's be less concerned about how we can make their horses look and how best to enhance our reputations and line our pockets, and instead focus on building better horsemen and women who are working within their actual skill levels. Devote more time to teaching the basics of how a horse actually learns, a true independent seat and defensive riding skills for this often-dangerous sport.

- I've felt sorry for many of

HORSES
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IDENTITY

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snake bite. Do you think you could remove the Covid vaccine after getting a shot by applying suction to the site? Trying to remove injected venom is the same thing. The venom has immedi-

ately spread through the body's tissues and capillaries. There is no glob of poison waiting to be extracted. Get to a doctor!

Even back then, the mountain kingsnake was somewhat rare. I was going to give the snake to the San Diego Zoo. The San Diego Zoo was like a collective

mentor for me while growing up. I went to the Zoo often. I would use the Zoo library and spend time with the various curators. Dr. Chuck Shaw was the curator of herpetology, the study of reptiles, and we often discussed reptiles together. The kingsnake would have been a great addi-

tion to the reptile house. Especially if the two snakes, the mountain king snake and the coral snake were displayed side by side. Sadly, partly because of mistaken identity, the mountain kingsnake has become an endangered species.

Our assumptions about things come from our personal experiences. Many, if not most, of our assumptions about people, places, and things that we are not familiar with, are based on hearsay, gossip, or secondhand knowledge. Few Americans have lived in other countries, so most Americans have assumptions about other countries based on hearsay or indirect knowledge. For example, very few Mexican citizens want to come to the United States. Most Mexicans love their country and would not want to live anywhere else even if they had the opportunity.

dangerous. We often assume people with black or brown skin are dangerous, but only a very few are dangerous. On the other hand, we assume people with white skin are safe when many white-skinned people can be dangerous.

In other words, we fear that which is different. Instead of taking time to learn about what is different and make it familiar, we shun it and perpetuate false assumptions which lead to mistaken identities. We judge the world through our own tiny experiences. If we don't understand something, why can't we at least give the benefit of the doubt?

When we act on assumptions, truth gets squashed like a bug. I don't know of any wars that have started when people have taken the time to question their assumptions and to learn to know and love their neighbors.

I have spent some time in several different countries – Guatemala, Mexico, Israel, France, Spain, and Romania, where I have found that the citizens of these countries love their country. Yes, many of these countries have their problems. And, like in the US, their citizens are trying their best to fix them.

Mistaken identities are based on false assumptions. We often assume insects and spiders are dangerous when only a very few are dangerous. We often assume snakes are dangerous, but, again, only a very few are

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



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HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

Bill's Excellent Adventure

Local hiking group makes up names for every trail

Oh, the Ocotillo hikers and their made-up names! There's Cupcake's Conondrum, Two and Three Dog Canyon (but no One Dog Canyon!), and so many more funny trail names that only the insider will recognize. Which might be one of the reasons they do this. Also, because they are a really fun bunch of people. And there is always a great story connected to those names.

They also come up with names for some of their people in the group. At some point, they had way too many Bobs hiking, so they proceeded to choose nicknames for them to keep them apart: Bad Toe Bob and Rob Bob, and some more I cannot recall. I am eternally grateful to be the only Gabriele in the group.

Finally, they have some weird



Hikers on the descent into Achenbach Canyon. (Photo by Gabriele Teich)

tricks up their sleeves. To treat a knee, sore from hiking, they place a banana peel on the spot for a while. The potassium supposedly gives superhuman strength. Whoa! Who knew?

I started hiking with them again now that it got cooler. One of the first outings I joined was "Bill's Excellent Adventure" – and a fun one it was.

Since the group is located in

and around Las Cruces, most of their hikes are in that area. This one is no exception. We started out at the Soledad Canyon parking lot at the end of Soledad Canyon Road, which runs parallel to Dripping Springs Road towards the Organ Mountains. Very soon (a few hundred yards) into the hike, take the first trail that veers off to the right (south) away from the main trail towards the waterfall. Follow that way until you come to a gate which you climb and continue on the other side. As the trail/dirt road leads downhill, keep your eyes out for a narrow trail in the grass on the right. If you come to an old homestead, you've gone too far. But that might be an interesting hiking destination in its own right.

The narrow trail in the grass will lead gently up a wide-open

valley, over some hills and finally drop into Achenbach Canyon

ADVENTURE
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HORSES

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the people I've met who were working with trainers and trying to do things way beyond their abilities or even their knowledge of what they were trying to do and why. In every case, I saw horses that were frustrated, confused or uncomfortable from owners who were asking for things under the direction of a trainer where many if not all of the basic prerequisites for horse and rider had been skipped. I wish we'd accept it's not about us, it's about our students and their horses and creating better horse people for the good of the horse community in general. We should be more willing to say no to a student who wants to run before they can walk, even if it hits us hard in the pocketbook.

At the end of the day most of what happens with horses rests

on the shoulders of the owners and riders. For the health and wellbeing of their horses, their own safety as well as the safety of other riders, boarders, their vets and farriers and the public in general who share the land and trails with us, I wish more owners would take the time to become better all-around horse people. The instant self-centered world we live in these days is the exact opposite of the attitude you should bring to the barn.

Horses need more from you than just being an animal you ride when you have the time. They're curious high-level athletes that need mental and physical stimulation beyond just carrying you around. They need to be taught in ways that make sense to them so they learn how to exist in our world. They need owners that are constantly looking around for hazards or dangerous situations the way an

alpha mare protects a herd. They need owners who can do more than just ride them.

What I really wish for during this holiday season and beyond is for owners to be more honest with themselves about their real level of skill, their actual knowledge of the nature and needs of the horse and what it takes to be good with horses. If we had more owners that looked at themselves through more critical lenses, there would be far fewer with the wrong horses, there would be fewer but better trainers who would put the riders and the horses first and there would be fewer riders in the ER.

More importantly, there would be more happy and healthy horses out there, fewer unwanted horses filling up every rescue in the country and fewer ex-riders who gave up way too quickly because the dream didn't match the reality.

Those are things any horse person could wish for.

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



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ACROSS THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

A Border Tour

Checking up on our neighbors to the south

Our border tour actually begins in Hatch as we work our way to Pepe's Cantina on the west edge of town where we meet Pedro, a migrant from Guatemala. When I first met him in March, he was in the Tesoro de Oro shelter in

Palomas with broken bones in his feet from having fallen off the border wall and it looked like he would be sent back to Guatemala as soon as he could walk. A very grim situation. Thanks, however, to volunteers from Palomas and Deming, espe-

cially Sandra Magallanes, he has been able to return to the US, is getting good medical treatment and is staying in Hatch under the care of Corina Barrera, her son, Thomas, and their family. This is truly a miracle for Pedro and an extraordinary testament to humanitarians like Magallanes and the Barrera family.

We then drive past Sunland Park, New Mexico to the border wall that separates it from Anapra and visit briefly with the Mexicans who live in this very impoverished area. I give them money for the right to take their photos; One boy, Victor says he'll show me how to climb the wall for an extra dollar and up he goes.

Crossing the border at Santa Teresa in mid-afternoon, we see none of the Mixteca Indians who are usually there, trying to sell snacks and trinkets to make a living. For years, I have been giving them cash for photos as well as bags of used clothing that



Francisco and Fernando with their photos, Fernando's nephew in the middle. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

they can use or sell; they know my car and always come rushing over but now there is no one.

Then a detour to Anapra for a photo op at a "desponchadora" or tire repair shop along the main roadway. Fernando, the owner, has had this shop for 40 years and Francisco has always been his assistant. This is "drive-by photography," meaning that

I see someone unusual, stop, strike up a conversation and ask for permission to take photos. In this case, I've been returning to bring them prints which, for Fernando or Fernie, is lots of laughs. Francisco just looks puzzled. However, driving along

BORDER
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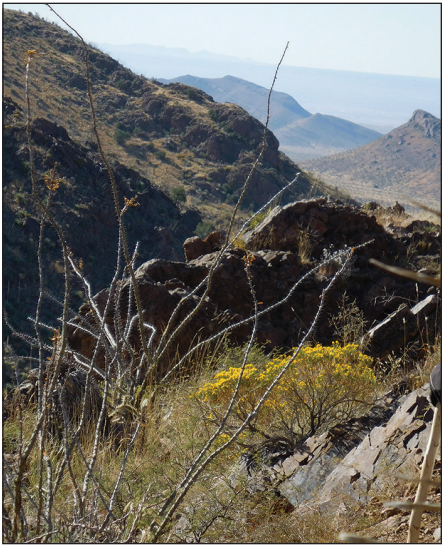
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Trantula crossing. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)



View towards town from Achenbach Canyon.



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ADVENTURE
continued from page 23

(off Ladera Canyon Road), one valley over to the south from where the cars are parked. Smart people would stage a shuttle car there before the hike. So glad to hike with a smart bunch. Thank you, Jerry! It's a quick drive back to Soledad Canyon from there and the whole hike took less than three hours. Home in time for lunch.

I have yet to find out who Bill is, but an excellent adventure it was. I will keep you posted when I find out more.

Hike on!

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



BORDER

continued from page 24

this main roadway that leads into Juárez is also a good way to measure business activity and see how the economy is doing.

To the south on the highway from Juárez westward to Casas Grandes, we stop for a Guardia Nacional checkpoint where about 20 soldiers await us. This is part of the plan of Mexico's President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, (better known as AMLO), to send 1,500 members of the Guardia Nacional to the Juárez area to bring down the horrendous murder rate. There were 650 murders in Juárez in the first five months of 2021 compared to only 213 in the much larger New York City in its first 6 months.

A few weeks earlier, I went through a similar checkpoint near Fernando's desponchadora. Is this an effective strategy? Aren't the murders taking place within the city rather than out here on the edges? Isn't the issue the need for better police work, not soldiers who have no police training?

After a great deal of negotiating, one of the officers allows me to take pictures, then escorts me across the highway and back to my car.



Victor climbing the wall between Anapra and Sunland Park for an extra dollar.



Viridiana "Viri" Torres

We then leave oranges and apples at a school for Tarahumara Indians. The first time we did this, these kids acted like they had never seen an orange before.

Nearby Vision in Action is a mental asylum started some 26 years ago by a former addict named José Antonio Galván. Although, with about 120 patients, it's the largest facility for the mentally ill in Juárez, it receives almost no government support. For the last decade, I've been visiting at least once a month (until Covid), bringing food and clothing, documenting Galván's work and raising money. We recently completed a housing unit for eight women patients who have dementia and deserved to be housed apart from the male patients and it has worked out beautifully. One patient, a slender woman named Socorro, looks 10 years younger and is much more animated and cheerful than she had been before.

Viridiana "Viri" Torres, who is in charge of the facility in the absence of Pastor Galván, is technically a patient and has struggled with mental issues her whole life but, as Galván discovered soon after she was brought to Vision in Action six years ago, she is not only skilled with numbers and adept at keeping the financial records but she had innate leadership qualities and a sense of the needs of the program, in particular the needs of the women. We have raised money for another women's unit – 20 patients this time – and Viri

gives us a tour and a progress report. I never imagined that I would be involved in managing a construction project in Juárez, Mexico but that's life.

From Juárez, it's a long drive down the narrow highway to El Entronque and then north to Palomas where we cross the border and then Deming where we spend the night.

The next morning, we walk across the border at Palomas for the highlight of our tour which is a visit with Border Partners, a non-profit that was organized in November 2008 and that plays a dominant role in Palomas and the surrounding area with a huge array of programs including:

- Training "promotoras," who can provide basic medical care, particularly for pregnant women.
- Health fairs and exercise classes.
- Providing masks and school supplies for students.
- A home garden program.
- The installation of computers in the schools and the provision of computer classes.
- Delivering hot meals to isolated seniors and the disabled.

We meet Juan Rascón, their Palomas representative, and

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Melissa Reyes, the general manager, as they and their staff are loading three trucks for a delivery of food to three tiny towns to the south, El Modelo, El Entronque and Victoria. Twice a month, they make this trip, bringing 100 containers loaded with basics like potatoes, beans, noodles, eggs, flour, instant milk, toilet paper, cans of barley for soup, hand wipes. This time they also have school supplies and T-shirts for the kids.

Our truck goes to El Entronque where a line of recipients has formed, all wearing masks. It's an emotional moment as Border Partners fills in for a government that is absent. By early

afternoon, we're headed back to Santa Fe, deeply moved, as always, by the opportunity to visit with the volunteers who are helping Pedro in Hatch recover from his fall, the Tarahumara school, Pastor Galván and Viri at Vision in Action, plus Melissa and Juan and their leadership at Border Partners. They may not make the headlines but they do make an enormous difference in the lives of those who live along the border.

Morgan Smith has been writing about border issues for many years. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

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

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

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



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.
BIRDWELL'S VINTAGE VIBES, 808 N. Bullard St. 956-6467.
CACTUS JACK'S, 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.
CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only.
CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D.
CORNER KITCHEN, 300 S Bullard St., 590-2603.
COURTYARD CAFÉ, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.
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.
EINSTEIN BROS BAGELS, 1000 W. College Ave., 538-6555.
DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.

FORREST'S PIZZA, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m.
FRY HOUSE, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D.
GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.
GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D
GRINDER MILL, 403 W. Colege Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.
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.
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.
LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
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.
MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D.
MINT CHIP CREAMERY, 2340 601

N. Bullard St. in the Hub 575-597-8272.
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.
REVEL, 304 N. Bullard St., 388-4920. Elevated comfort food. Weekdays LD, weekends BD, closed Wednesdays.
SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: Daily L D.
SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson St., 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D.
TASTE OF VEGAS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.
TRANQUILBUZZ COFFEE HOUSE 300 N. Arizona St. 575-654-2057.
WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.
W&Z ASIAN BISTRO AND SUSHI BAR 1740 US HWY 180 575-956-6219

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EL BURRITO CALIENTE 106 Hurley Ave., 575-537-3967
FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP 1108 Tom Foy Blvd.
M & A BAYARD CAFÉ 1101 N. Central Ave., 575-537-2251

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106 Central Ave., 575-537-2640

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DOÑA ANA COUNTY
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ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.
ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.
ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
AQUA REEF, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD.
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.
BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D.
BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.
BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding green-chile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.
BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.
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.
CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.
DAY'S HAMBURGERS, 245 N. Main St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D.
PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.
DELICIAS DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.
DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D
DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3434. 1060 El Paseo Rd · 623-2321. Pizza: L D.
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.
EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.
ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.
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.
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.
MEZCLA, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.
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GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
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TABLE TALK • MIKE COOK

Boutique Bistro at Beck's Coffee

Willow + Blaine offers garden to table service

Beck's Roasting House and Creamery has an exciting new neighbor in Las Cruces' Mesquite Historic District.

Beck's owners Tyrell Thacker and Arianna Parsons have opened Willow + Blaine Boutique Garden to Table Wine Bar & Bistro in the 91-year-old brick building right next door to Beck's at 118 N. Mesquite St.

The name comes from Thacker's and Parsons' middle names.

The city's first "boutique bistro" is accepting reservations for lunch and dinner (it also has a happy hour) opened Sept. 4 after extensive renovations inside and out since Thacker and Parsons bought it in January 2020.

"It was a lot of work," said Parsons, who is the former executive director of the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership.

The couple had planned to open the bistro last fall, but waited a year because of Covid, she



Left to right are Willow + Blaine owners Tyrell Thacker and Arianna Parsons, chef Sam Parsons, events and catering coordinator Ayana Jordan and bar manager Michael Young.

said.

The enlarged kitchen will serve both Willow + Blaine and Beck's Natural Foods Café that is part of the coffee house next door, Parsons said. Catering will also be available.

Many of the bistro's vegetables and herbs are grown in its outdoor garden. A signature dish, the Caprese salad, for example, includes the garden's atomic grape tomatoes and heirloom basil, Parsons said, along with mozzarella cheese and a blueberry vinaigrette reduction.

The garden's 16 raised beds will also grow cucumbers, beans, potatoes, carrots and other culinary herbs and colorful flowers. The outdoor area also has olive and fig trees and will soon be home to a glass conservatory. The outdoor patio has four tables.

The bistro bar features Old World wines, Parsons said, and has nearly 900 bottles in stock.

The bar menu will also a variety of Prohibition-era cocktails, she said, including a house Moscow Mule and a French 77, along with other "really unique and beautiful cocktails."

Willow + Blaine offers "a really versatile space," Parsons said. The 2,500 square-foot building seats up to 70 and will be available for bridal parties, showers, corporate events, holiday gatherings and other special events, in addition to lunch, dinner and happy hour.

Parsons said the house was famous in its day for lavish holiday decorations, a tradition she and Thacker intend to revive. They are also looking forward to the bistro being a big part of the growing Mesquite neighborhood experience that includes galleries, shops, dining and coffee.

Much of the interior design work for Willow + Blaine was done by Jamie Langan of Studio Langan in Las Cruces, Parsons

said. Daniel Aguilera was the carpenter. His company is 101 Design and Fabrication.

Bistro staff includes chef Sam Parsons, bar manager Michael Young and events coordinator Ayana Jordan. Saedies Apodaca is the head baker and Alessandra Cogdill is the pastry chef.

Willow + Blaine and hours of service: brunch: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; happy hour (bar and patio only): 3-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; dinner: 5-10

p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Reservations are recommended for brunch and required for dinner.

For reservations, call 575-405-9444. For events and catering inquiries, email ayana@willowandblaine.com. For more information, email office@willowandblaine.com and willowandblaine@gmail.com.

Visit willowandblaineelc.com and www.facebook.com/willowandblaine.



The interior of Willow + Blaine Boutique Garden to Table Wine Bar & Bistro. (Photo courtesy of Arianna Parsons)

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.
HACIENDA DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. **HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D. **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.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L.
LET THEM EAT CAKE, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday.
LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.

can: B L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.
LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
LOS MARIACHIS, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D. * **LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.
MATTEO'S, 1001 E. University Ave. C-1, 888-4310. Authentic Mexican: Monday through Saturday: B L D. Wonderfully simple menu, pleasant dining room and delicious aguas frescas.
MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday B L.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. D3, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D.
MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9345 Bataan Memorial W., 382-5744. Coffee shop, Mexican, American: B L.
NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tuesday to Friday B L.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican:

Sunday to Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday. L D.
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho Ave., 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.
PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PHO A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.
PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO., 3900 W. Picacho Ave., 575-680-6394. www.picachopeakbrewery.com

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Buddy

Chihuahua/corgi mix, male,
tri color 5 1/2 months

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Buster

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gray & white

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Crippie

Chihuahua/Jack Russell Mix, female,
spayed 2-3 years old, white

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Laurie and Paul



Dixie

Chihuahua/jack russell mix, female,
spayed, tri color, 4 years old

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Monika and John



Duke

Chihuahua/dachshund mix,
male 4 months old black/brown/white

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Echo

Domestic short hair, male, 8 weeks,
orange tabby

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Emery

Domestic long hair, 8 weeks old, gray

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Hazel

Husky/aussie mix,
1 year plus female brown and white

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Moose

Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix, male,
neutered, 4 years old, brown

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Candace and Robert





Robinhood

Dobie/hound mix,
2 year old male, neutered, black

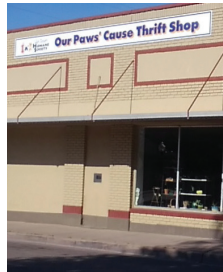
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Tornado

Chi/beagle/whippet/catahoula mix, male,
2 to 3 years, brown with black spots



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