

DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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DECEMBER 2018

Volume 23 • Number 12



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NEW LISTING! – 3 BR 2 BA country home on one acre with private well. Backs up to beautiful creek with frequent live water. Separate workshop, patio with southern exposure, lots of outdoor living area. Reasonably priced at \$164,000. MLS #35928



PRICE REDUCED! APARTMENTS, BED & BREAKFAST, or MANSION! – This charming and roomy 3 story red brick home is currently set up for apartments. One large unit on the ground floor, several upstairs. Lots of possibilities – Now only \$265,000 – less than \$100/sq. ft. See it soon! MLS# 34272



TYRONE Cul-de-sac – 3 BR 2 BA home with back yard that abuts the edge of town. Elevated with nice views. Carport, storage and fenced yard. Priced to sell at \$129,000. MLS #35925



RETIREMENT CONDO – Quiet and safe – Gate condo community near hospital and medical offices. 3 BR 2 1/2 bath unit is nicely updated with fresh paint, new master bath, wooden blinds, genuine hardwood floors, all appliances included + covered patio & attached garage. Turnkey Ready at only \$179,000. MLS # 35401



COUNTRY LIVING RIGHT IN TOWN! – One acre with 2 BR 2 BA brick home + extra house for guests or studio-space. Backs up to streambed with big trees. Garden space, city water + well, and room to expand. All for only \$149,000. MLS #35588

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1998 3bd/2ba Single-wide on 3.1 unrestricted acres a few short blocks from Ft. Bayard Game Refuge. NEW PAINT, NEW CARPET. Property is fenced for horses, and includes a small barn. Arenas Valley Water, plus a well. Large covered porch with a view of the Kneeling Nun. Come take a look! MLS# 35471. **\$92,500**



FIXER 2BD/1BA HOME IN BAYARD. LOTS OF POTENTIAL HERE! Fenced yard, views of the Bayard Cliffs from the front covered porch, 1 car carport at the rear of the home. Utilities have been off for years, so inspections will be needed & systems brought up to code in order to turn back on. MLS# 35865. **\$19,000**



20 PRIVATE ACRES MINUTES TO TOWN WITH CITY WATER TAP/ METER INCLUDED. SOUTHERN EXPOSURE. GENTLE ROLLING HILLS DIVIDED IN THE MIDDLE BY AN ATTRACTIVE ARROYO. Numerous building sites. oak and juniper trees. Plenty of space for your own mini-ranch or multi-family set-up. Owners have development plans available for a multi-unit concept. MLS# 35790 **\$75,000**



Close to downtown and mature trees. Very nice usable lots with a secluded feel. Come take a look. MLS# 35843. **\$17,500**



GREAT 1 ACRE OF LAND IN GILA WITH WELL, VIEWS, STORAGE SHED, UNRESTRICTED. MLS# 35853. **\$22,800**



2BD/0.75BA HISTORIC DISTRICT ADOBE HOME IN THE DOWNTOWN/ UNIVERSITY AREA. One of the original homes in Silver City, this home sits on a private corner lot with large backyard. Attached workshop/storage/studio could be converted to a garage. High ceilings, plenty of character, and room for upgrades. MLS# 35705 **\$109,000**



This well constructed 3 bedroom home with metal roof, on 5 wooded acres is sure to charm just about anyone. The cabin style home is very close to town, yet lends that out of town feeling less than a mile from Walmart as the crow flies. The convenient location, great price, and generous size bedrooms are going to be what make this sell. Hurry, you won't find 5 acres with this kind of privacy this close to city limits. Pinon pine, Juniper and Oak trees help shield your privacy. Remove paneling and there is sheet rocked walls behind which will give this home a newer appeal. Forced air furnace was added this year and is just about brand new. Don't miss this opportunity. Recent appraisal suggests that, with a kitchen & bath remodel, there is room for a lot of equity. MLS# 35807. **\$127,500**



LARGE, RUSTIC, OPEN FLOOR PLAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WITH POTENTIAL FOR UPSTAIRS LIVING AREA. Formerly Schadel's Bakery, the property includes some parking in the rear & borders the Big Ditch city park. Great opportunity for a retail or restaurant space, live/work, art studio, gallery. 3-phase electric, lift between floors, no current natural gas service. MLS#35717. **\$109,000**



Get away after the workday in this well taken care of 3 bedroom 2 bath manufactured home on almost 8 acres. Rear covered porch runs the entire length of the home and you can unload groceries under cover, right at the back door. Spacious feel with the open concept, great for entertaining. The detached metal garage/shop has 220 power. MLS# 35626 **\$135,000**



Million Dollar Views of the Black Range and Mimbres River Valley! Large custom home features great room with pellet stove, recessed lighting, custom tile and intercom. Kitchen has stainless appliances which convey, wet bar, butcher block island and garden window. Huge Master bedroom has kiva fireplace, ceiling fan and french door to outside. Master bathroom has jet tub, large tiled walk in shower with bench and vanity with double sinks. All bedrooms have walk in closets and ceiling fans. Bedroom near master bedroom makes a perfect office. Laundry room features front load washer/dryer, utility sink and cabinets. Half bath off kitchen and garage areas. Endless entertaining on the large covered front porch with ceiling fans, archways and wrought iron accents. 3 lots totaling 2.25 acres with circular driveway. New survey and septic inspection complete for a fast closing MLS# 35683. **\$260,000**



ONE OF A KIND SILVER CITY HOME BUILT IN 1870! This walled-in compound consists of a 3,191 sq.ft. adobe home with front covered porch plus a 1,621 sq.ft. studio/workshop abutting Boston Hill on 5.7 acres. Character and charm throughout, with wood floors, plaster walls, tasteful updates, & guest quarters. Private patio with pond, seating area, & off-street parking. Walking distance to downtown and the University. Additional acreage is available. MLS# 35833. **\$597,000**

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Nancy Frost Begin is a painter, woodworker, furniture maker, entrepreneur and teacher who creates unique art in her Las Cruces studio. Begin has been painting and drawing since she "was a little, tiny girl," the artist said. Here, in a "Winter" piece from her "Seasonal Poems" series she uses a technique she recently developed. She creates a collage of what she plans to paint from old magazines, then with the collage as reference, she uses watercolor to create the painting.



"Seasonal Poems" is based on haikus about the four seasons.

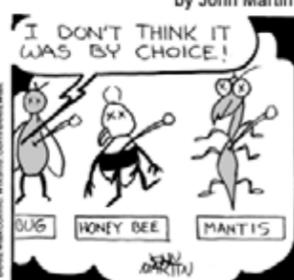
Postcards From the Edge Desert Exposure Travels



Desert Exposure reader Judy Ward recently visited Kiev, Ukraine and can be seen here with her paper in front of the World War II museum there. She said it was a "fascinating trip."

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

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RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE
Nobody Likes a Poopy Diaper
 Changing attitudes, then and now



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Nobody, that is, except me.

I've always considered it a privilege to change my children's diapers.

Other kids? Not so much. In fact, not at all.

Change is inevitable, and this is especially true when it comes to dirty diapers, but since nature has effectively kept men in general, and me in particular, out of the equation when it comes to baby-raising duties that bond the parent with the child – such as childbirth and breastfeeding – I had to take my bonding moments where I could find them, and I'm not talking about in the pages of an Ian Fleming novel.

Thinking about it, maybe that's why children are closer to their mothers than their fathers. That reminds me of something I heard happens in prison. In prison, prisoners are invited every Mother's Day to send their beloved mothers cards that the penal institutions supply to them for free, and every year the prisons run out of cards and stamps. On Father's Day, however, the prisoners have the same opportunity, but those very same penitentiaries end up with more Father's Day cards leftover than they know what to do with. I don't know if this is true, but it sounds true, and that's good enough for me.

Now, briefly, this isn't a dissertation on male/female abilities, it's a discussion about poopy diapers, so let's leave social politics out of it. Although, now that I think about it, politics and the contents of a poopy diaper seem to go hand in hand, as you no doubt noticed in last month's election. When you think about it, politicians are like diapers. They should also be changed quite frequently, and for the same reason.

I always got deep satisfac-

tion changing my youngest daughter's diapers because it was one thing my baby couldn't do for herself. When she was hungry as an infant, if my wife put a breast to her mouth, instinct would take over and she would suckle. What could I do? Take her on a walk? Maybe, but that would take some actual physical effort on my part, such as walking.

"Come on," I would playfully tell her. "Let's pick 'em up and put 'em down."

But she was happy just to lay there.

Needless to say, I was in love.

Maybe she couldn't walk, but, really, where does an infant need to go?

Poopy diapers, besides being unsanitary, must be uncomfortable. Sadly, babies have to sit in their own waste until someone notices, and I always considered it MY job to notice. Sometimes I noticed too well, and changed diapers that were perfectly clean.

"Do you KNOW how expensive diapers are?" my lovely wife would chastise.

I gladly took the chastisement. Better that a hundred clean diapers be thrown away, than one dirty diaper remain attached to my daughter's bottom one second longer than is necessary, to paraphrase Benjamin Franklin in a way he probably never expected. (Voltaire and Sir William Blackstone are also credited with saying a version of this, but I don't trust a man with only one name. As for Blackstone, isn't he a magician? What does a magician know about changing diapers?)

My father, on the other hand, never changed a diaper in his life. It was a different time, so I've been told.

I suppose that's true.

But, remembering how my little girl would smile and talk

to me as I was changing her diaper, I can't help but feel that my father missed out on one of life's greatest joys.

Greater than chocolate, even.

"Does baby need her widdle diaper changed?" I would baby-talk.

"Goo-goo, ga-ga," she would answer, which was her way of saying, "Don't talk to me like I'm an idiot." Sometimes, she would lift her tiny hands and try to snatch the eyeglasses off my face.

In time, I became a diaper-changing expert, offering unsolicited advice to anyone polite enough to listen.

"When it comes to girls, be sure to wipe AWAY from the main event."

"Make sure that diaper's not too tight."

"These are not the droids you're looking for. Move along."

I also advised new parents to wash their hands BEFORE they changed their baby's diapers, not just after. "You don't know WHAT you've touched," I would tell them like an employee of the CDC, "and you don't WANT to know." Another bit of advice was to be sure to wipe down the baby changing stations in public restrooms. I'm not saying that the people who use it before you are filthy animals, but they probably are.

I remember my father once watching me change an especially messy diaper.

"You know," he sniffed, "I never changed ANY of my children's diapers."

He was proud of that personal achievement.

"I know, pop," I said. "I know."

Another thing I change frequently? My content at RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com, JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com, or @JimDuchene.

Desert #30 Dumbfounder
 by Dave Thomas

The following 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

α = X 'X = M :αητθ ρ = X 'X = M :αητθ

"BC TCJNC SRZQNZ KT C TEZBZNCB HKLRQZ RTRCBBW YZCQKJL
 C BGJL QGAZ CJP MGBPKJL C TDWNMZ. KN KT CTTGDKCNZP
 YKNM MZCBKJL CJP XQGNZDNKGJ." - SGQLCJ TSKNM

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: "DIA DE LOS MUERTOS DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE FEATURE FESTIVITIES AND THE COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE THOSE LOVED ONES GONE BEFORE." - DIANA INGALLS LEYBA *Secret Words: "BONE FAMILY HUGS"

Congrats to #29 solvers: George Egert*, Will Adams*, Skip Howard*, Ann Boulden* and Mike Arms*!

EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

Close to Home

Community gives us all we need

At the end of the movie classic "The Wizard of Oz," little Dorothy Gale has an "a-ha" moment. She realizes that what she longs for the most was not found in a far away, Emerald City, but right in her own backyard.

Her journey took her through a winding yellow brick road and a frightening forest filled with flying monkeys. She met some interesting characters that felt a lot like the people back on the farm.

She couldn't see what she was looking for because her eyes were focused on a magical world where life was filled with artificial happiness and perfection.

It's hard to see something that's right in front of you.

When was the last time you thought of the majesty of the hills and mountains that surround our humble home? Just a short drive away, they wrap around us, bringing us amazing sunsets and cool breezes.

How about the many colorful mosaics of clay that tell the stories of our people and events? They form our bridges and walls. The infrastructure that keeps us con-

nected.

Even better are the strangers that sit next to you at our downtown benches. They don't just say hello, they tell you about their day and wonder how yours was spent.

You don't need to go far to find nature's paradise. Millions of acres of wilderness, seemingly untouched, quietly provide the serenity and peace that we all need during weekend getaways.

No boat or plane is needed to whisk us away to taste exotic meals that give moments of delicious memories lasting for a lifetime. Outsiders come to us because they hear about what our mothers and grandmothers have passed down and served up through generations.

There are times that we do go away. We tell ourselves that we need a vacation, that we need to get away from it all. A few days in and we long for the comfort of our own bed and pillow. There's no place like home.

When we hear that help is just around the corner, it's true. Neighbors are more than just the people living next door. They open doors

for us and live to the old adage "mi casa es su casa."

When we open the newspaper, we still read about our favorite childhood teacher and her recognition by the local civic group. We don't mind showing that we value each other because that's what makes a community.

Most of what we need is within arm's reach. If we focus on each other, we won't be in a constant search for something we think we can't find.

What Dorothy sang about, that place over the rainbow where happy little bluebirds fly, was a place of imagination. What we have in real life, right here at home, is so much better.

Abe Villarreal is the assistant dean of student activities at Western New Mexico University.



When not on campus, he enjoys writing about his observations on life, people and American traditions.

DESERT DIARY

GeeRichard is back

Not for the politically correct

Is that rooster in the hen house?

Sarah was in the fertilized egg business. She had several hundred young pullets and ten roosters to fertilize the eggs.

She kept records and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced. This took a lot of time, so she bought some tiny bells and attached them to her roosters. Each bell had a different tone, so she could tell from a distance which rooster was performing. Now, she could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report just by listening to the bells.

Sarah's favorite rooster, old Butch, was a fine specimen but, this morning, she noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all! When she went to investigate, she saw the other roosters were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To Sarah's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job, and walk on to the next one.

Sarah was so proud of old Butch, she entered him in a show and he became an overnight sensation among the judges. The result was the judges not only awarded old Butch the "No Bell Piece Prize," they also awarded him the "Pullet-surprise" as well.

Be careful what you ask for

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at any-

one who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of 20 years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only 10 years and I'll give you back the other 10?"

And God saw that it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a 20-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for 20 years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back 10 like the dog did?"

And God, again saw that it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of 60 years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for 60y years. How about 20 and I'll give back the other 40?"

And God agreed that it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you 20 years."

But the human said, "Only 20 years? Could you possibly give me my 20, the 40 the cow gave back, the 10 the monkey gave back and the 10 the dog gave back; that makes 80, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first 20

DESERT DIARY
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Is Time Changing?

In these harried days the world may be changing

When I asked my friend and coworker, Teresa, what to write about, her response was immediate. "Time."

It seems the world rushes past us; events in our lives flit down the highway like so many light poles flashing by.

"Resolutions are not even very realistic anymore," Teresa said. "Before, in years past, people made more resolutions and were able to keep them. How realistic is it in today's world to make resolutions and keep to them?"

But I look at childhood and wonder if that sensation is just part of the cycle, the cycle that has always driven human lives. Time stretches out in front of a child like an unsurmountable mountain. When we read George Orwell's book "1984" in middle school (in the 1970s), it seemed like forever before we would actually get to 1984. And in high school I was constantly calculating in my mind how old I would be in the year 2000.

When we are children, it is forever until we are old. When we are old, it was just yesterday that we were children. For theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli, author of "The Order of Time," time is just a function of our "blurred" human perception.

"Not only do days, months, years go past," Teresa said, "We are rushed at school, rushed at

work, everything is so fast-paced. Things don't matter like they used to."

But is the world really changing? Is the electronic age expecting us to keep up at inhuman rates, causing what? Loss of quality of life, loss of living time, loss of contemplation time?

It is true that the human capacity to adapt is astonishing, but it is sometimes a cumbersome process. According to Marcus Meurer, writer and contributor to HuffPost.com, the world really is changing, and we have to adapt in order to make sense of time.

"By now, most people are aware that our world – and especially technology – is changing and developing lightning fast. But while we keep updating our operating systems and smartphones all the time, we completely forget to update our human systems, our beliefs and habits," Meurer writes. "Isn't it strange that the majority of the world still lives by the same rules that have been passed on from generation to generation over hundreds of years?"

But is new technology really to blame for the seeming shift in time, how we spend our time, the need to rush rush through life and pack as much into our moments as we can?

I think that may be an illusion. An image society has pressed upon us, building up the importance of "productivity" in leu of

quality. But its hard to fight the perception, partly because technology adds the feeling that we must squeeze additional things on our plate rather than letting something fall off.

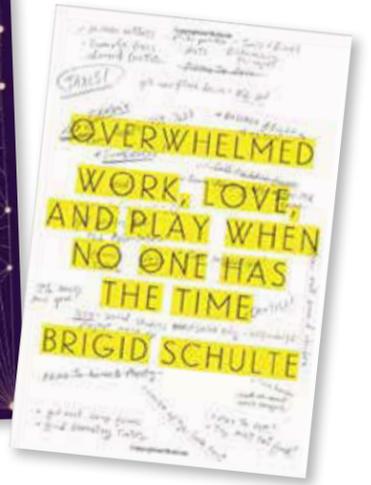
So, it probably all goes back to human nature – human greed, if you will. We are greedy for experience, for material things, for "getting things done," for making our mark in the world. We are greedy for a "meaningful life." All that adds up to – time.

Teresa is a busy mother of two and not an existentialist. I can't just say to her, "you are in control of this, just let something else go." I can't tell her to calm down, stop doing what she's doing and relax more. I can't even tell myself that, because I can't "Keep Calm, and" anything. I too am greedy – for experience, for life, for truth.

Irrelevant side note: The original "Keep Calm and Carry On" poster was designed in 1939 in England as a motivational message in preparation for World War II. It was intended to raise the morale of the British public threatened with predictions of mass air attacks on major cities.

But is it real? Are people working harder, doing more just to be where they once were?

Statistically for Teresa, and myself, we are in the one demographic who work more hours and report the most severe time shortages in the developed world,



that of single parents.

However, overall, the truth is, as a country we're working less than we did in the 1960s and 1980s and considerably less than we did in the agrarian-industrial economy. In fact, every advanced economy in the world is working considerably fewer hours on average than it used to according to statistics compiled by Derek Thompson and reported in "The Atlantic."

So while there isn't much evidence in the data to suggest that we spend considerably more time on work and chores than we used to, Thompson has some ideas as to why we may feel busier:

- The irony of abundance – maybe knowing that there are 10 great TV shows you should watch, nine important books to read, eight bourgeois skills your child hasn't mastered, seven ways you're exercising wrong, six ways you haven't sufficiently taken advantage of the city, etc., fosters a kind of metastasized paradox of choice. Knowing exactly what we're missing out on makes us feel guilty or anxious about the limits of our time and our capacity to use it effectively.

- The fluidness of work and leisure – The idea that work begins and ends at the office is intuitively wrong. We laugh at animal pictures on our work computers, and we answer emails on our couches in front of the TV. On the one

hand, flexibility is nice. On the other, blending work and leisure creates an always-on expectation that makes it hard for white-collar workers to escape the shadow of work responsibilities.

- The "joy" of work – In a winner-take-all economy, we're motivated to put in extra-long hours to, well, win. Maybe people who don't like leisure are richer in the first place because many of them just like working more, and a permanent sense of busy-ness is the psychological price they agree to pay.

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." — Albert Einstein

Elva K. Österreich is editor of *Desert Exposure* and would love to meet *Desert Exposure*



readers during her office hours in Silver City on Thursday, Dec. 27 at the Tranquilbuzz Café, located at the corner of Yankie and Texas streets. If that is not a good time, Elva will be glad to arrange another day to meet and you can always reach her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408.

DESERT DIARY

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years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next 40 years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next 10 years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last 10 years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Catholic horses

A gambler was at the horse races playing the ponies and all but losing his shirt.

He noticed a priest step out onto the track and bless the forehead of one of the horses lining up for the fourth race

Lo and behold, that horse, a very long shot, won the race.

Next race, as the horses lined up, the priest stepped onto the track. Sure enough, he blessed one of the horses.

The punter made a beeline for a betting window and placed a small bet on the horse. Again, even though it was another long shot, the horse won the race.

He collected his winnings, and anxiously waited to see which horse the priest would bless next.

He bet big on it, and it won. As the races continued the priest kept

blessing long shots, and each one ended up winning.

The punter was elated. He made a quick dash to the ATM, withdrew all his savings, and waited for the Priest's blessing that would tell him which horse to bet on. True to his pattern, the priest stepped onto the track for the last race and blessed the forehead of an old nag that was the longest shot of the day.

This time the priest blessed the eyes, ears, and hooves of the old nag. The punter knew he had a winner and bet every cent he owned on the old nag. He watched dumbfounded as the old nag came in last. In a state of shock, he went to the track area where the priest was.

Confronting him, he demanded, "Father! What happened? All day long you blessed horses and they all won. Then in the last race, the horse you blessed lost by a mile. Now, thanks to you I've lost every cent of my savings!"

The Priest nodded wisely and with sympathy.

"Son," he said, "that's the problem with you Protestants, you can't tell the difference between a simple blessing and last rites."

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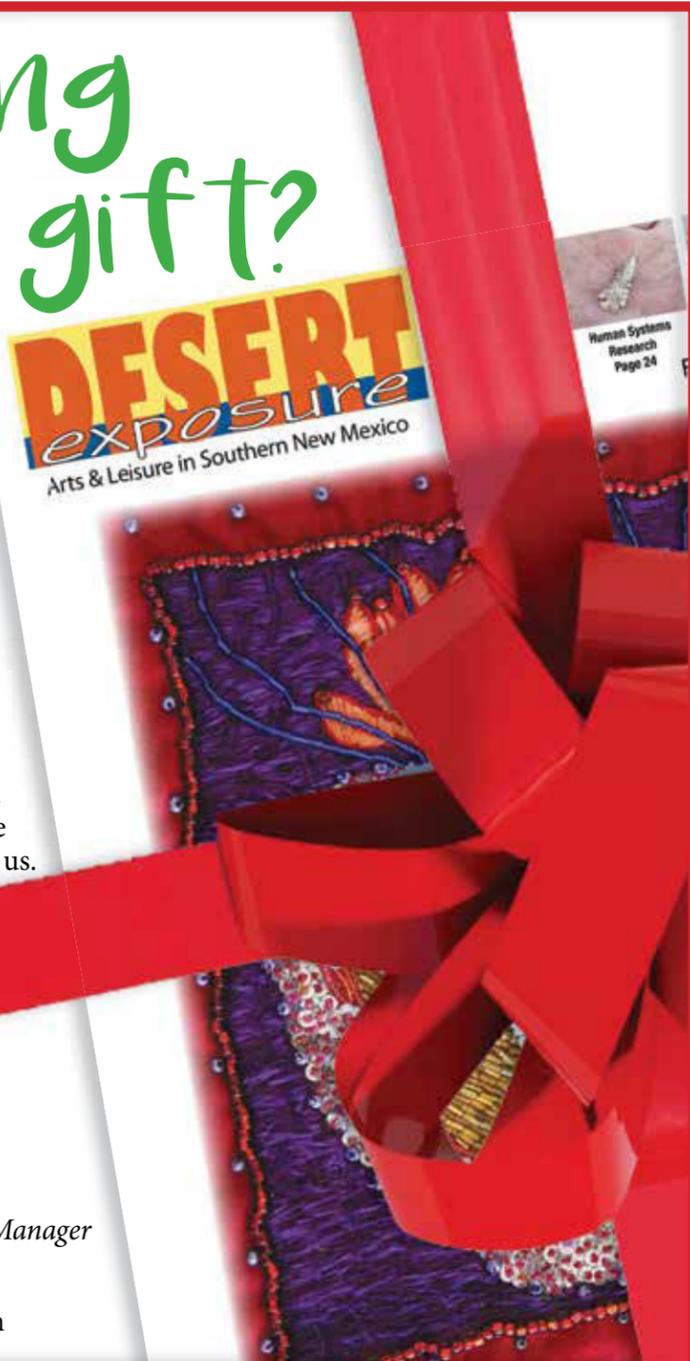
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Army Biologist Patrick Morrow (center) holds the head of a desert bighorn sheep while medical treatment is given. The sheep was captured in the San Andres Wildlife Refuge on White Sands Missile Range and was moved to the Sacramento Mountains in the Lincoln National Forest as part of an effort to rebuild populations of the sheep in New Mexico. (Photo by John Hamilton, WSMR Public Affairs)

ROAMING AROUND • JENNIFER GRUGER

Desert Bighorn Sheep

Relocation efforts transport animals across Tularosa Basin

Over the course of two days in October 2018, a tremendous feat requiring coordination with state, federal and private entities saw the capture and relocation (also known as translocation) of 33 desert bighorn sheep. Eighteen ewes and 15 rams were outfitted with tags and GPS and radio tracking collars and are currently being monitored in their new home just east of Alamogordo in the Sacramento Mountains to see if the population there establishes and thrives as expected.

The public affairs department of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) reported that by using a contracted specialized helicopter capture team, the desert bighorn sheep, once endangered in the state of New Mexico, were captured, evaluated, documented and transported across the Tularosa Basin from the southern tip of the San Andres Mountains to the neighboring Sacramento Mountains. The sheep were released right behind the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo Oct. 27 and 28.

Dr. Eric Rominger, bighorn sheep biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), explained that maintaining healthy populations of bighorn sheep is an important effort for New Mexico, as the sheep are not only an umbrella species in the desert ecosystem (so called because protecting the environment for this species also protects the environment for smaller species that live in the same habitat) but are also an important game animal. Hunting licenses for desert bighorn sheep often sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars which the state can then use to fund conservation efforts like this.

This project was a cooperative effort between NMDGF, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

the San Andres National Animal Refuge (SAWAR), White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and the Army.

Why the need to move the bighorn?

As described by Wikipedia, translocation in wildlife conservation is defined as the capture, transport and release or introduction of species from one location to another. It is not the same as reintroduction, a term which is used to denote the introduction into the wild of species from captive stock.

Translocation can be an effective management strategy and important part of conservation biology. It decreases the risk of extinction by increasing the range of a species, augmenting the numbers in a critical population, or establishing new populations, thus reducing the risk of extinction.

This method has been integral to rebuilding the population of desert bighorn sheep. Down to 166 in 2000, the population is estimated to be more than 1,300 in all seven of the populated areas now, according to Rominger.

Aside from following mandates to restore the bighorn to all available ranges, a primary goal explained by Rominger is "not to have all the eggs in one basket." The sheep that have established in the San Andres area have a specific genetic makeup that is important to maintain. If all the sheep with this genetic makeup are in one place, the risk of losing that herd is too great. One hundred and seventy-five die-off incidents occurred from the 1970s through 2014, resulting in the loss of more than 14,000 adult bighorns. Source: US Geological Survey www.usgs.gov.

The refuge website describes in great detail the history of desert bighorn sheep in that area.

In summary, this herd is a direct result of several years of effort to replenish the herd that, in 1997, had dwindled down to one solitary ewe in the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, by introducing sheep from the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (Kofa)

SHEEP

continued on page 8

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A large desert bighorn ram is airlifted in for processing after capture. The sheep had to be carefully handled so as to not put too much stress on them, which is why the sheep is blindfolded. (Photo by John Hamilton, WSMR Public Affairs)

SHEEP continued from page 7

near Yuma, Arizona and Red Rock Wildlife Area (Red Rock) near Lordsburg.

"Now we can have sheep in a separate location that have Kofa and Red Rock genetics and continue to monitor and study those genetics." Rominger said.

Why this location?

The move to the Sacramento Mountains has been described by some as controversial. While the terrain, food sources and geographical makeup are similar to those that the bighorn sheep favor, there is little chance of exposure to the respiratory diseases of domestic sheep and goats, there is a lack of significant scientific evidence that they have thrived in this area before.

There are also a fair number of Barbary sheep in the Sacramento Mountains although Rominger said that relatively few have been spotted by aerial survey in the area of the release.

Rominger said the New Mexico Museum of Space History "back yard" was chosen as the release site because it gave good access to the habitat the sheep prefer. Another option could have been to bring them in from access points near the top of the mountain but they would have had to traverse more terrain to

get to the ideal habitat.

The capture and release process

The capture and relocation effort represents months of planning between state and federal agencies, as well as coordination with the Army so as not to disrupt military testing. The sheep were released in the Sacramento Mountains on the same day they were captured with 21 moved the first day and 12 on the second day.

Doug Burkett, senior ecologist contracted through WSMR, was involved in the process. He said the capture crew consists of three men. There is a pilot, a gunner (who shoots a net over the targeted animal) and a mugger (who hobbles, blindfolds and prepares the animal for airlift). The skill level and the danger level for all three team members is high. While NMDGF does have its own capture crew, in this case they contracted with wildlife capture specialists Quicksilver Air Inc., with bases in Alaska and Colorado.

Once safely prepared, the animal is flown, approximately two to six miles, depending on where captured, to the processing area. Sometimes two or three at most will arrive together at the processing area.

The waiting ground crew immediately weighs the animal, estimates age, takes blood sam-

ples and nasal swabs for genetics and potential diseases, administers antibiotics and de-wormers, applies an ear-tag (keeping the extracted tissue for sampling) and collars the mature animals. All the while, the animals' body temperature is monitored to ensure they aren't too stressed or exhibiting illness that needs to be treated.

"If it gets to 108 degrees, we go into sheep-saving mode with ice water baths if needed," Burkett said.

The sheep are never drugged during the process and the goal is to get everything done in four to five minutes.

"The whole goal is to keep the animal as calm as possible," Burkett said.

The last step is to take the blindfold and hobbles off at the door of the trailer and let the sheep go with hope that they go straight inside. There is a tarp hanging over the door so the ones already inside can't see out. Lambs and ewes go in one trailer and the rams in another.

"The number one goal is to not harm any animals," he said.

In this group, they didn't collar any yearlings or lambs but collared all adults using a mix of VHF and satellite telemetry collars. The collars will beam

SHEEP
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Fact Sheet

- Desert bighorn sheep (*ovis canadensis nelsoni*) once thrived in New Mexico, but were nearly wiped out by disease and hunting into the early 1900's. White Sands Missile Range, as a secured military test range and host to a wildlife refuge, made for the perfect location to rebuild the population, as poaching would be nearly nonexistent and the range's 2.2 million acres include miles of habitat area for the sheep.
- The last indigenous desert bighorn in southern New Mexico died Dec. 17, 2003. The loss of this ewe marked the end of the original San Andres Mountains desert bighorn sheep herd. Fortunately, she had a ram lamb in 2002 and an ewe lamb in 2003 to pass on some of her wisdom and genes.
- The bighorn sheep is a species native to North America. Bighorn sheep generally inhabit alpine meadows, grassy mountain slopes, and foothill country near rugged,

rocky cliffs and bluffs.

- Bighorn sheep are gregarious animals. While some herds have over 100 individuals, small groups of eight to 10 are more common. Mature males usually live apart from females and young during most of the year.
- Bighorn lambs weigh 8 - 10 pounds at birth, born in the spring and are up to about 40 pounds by the end of the summer. Rams are not born with horns and by the end of the summer they are just beginning to push through the skin.
- The horns of a mature ram can weigh up to 30 pounds and horn size is a symbol of rank. Bighorns are known for head-to-head combat between males.
- Bighorn have excellent eyesight, which helps them in jumping and gaining narrow mountain footholds.

Sources: Dr. Eric Rominger, bighorn sheep biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, naturemappingfoundation.org and justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-bighorn-sheep/.



Desert bighorn sheep were placed in a large trailer before being driven to Alamogordo for release at the Space History Museum. The Sacramento Mountains, which the space museum backs up to, have been without a reported sighting of desert bighorn sheep for more than 80 years.

SHEEP

continued from page 8

information up to satellites and then back down to the reading equipment. The VHF collars require going to the field to collect data. Depending on the terrain, the reader needs to be within a few miles. Data captured from these collars are monitored by NMDGF. After two weeks, they began tracking about five locations a day within 10 to 15 meters of accuracy. They will continue to receive data every couple of days.

What happens with the data?

Rominger said tissue samples are saved and stored for future genetics work. This is important because the source herd is a combination of genes that only existed in the San Andres. The blood is used for disease samples. There are also several diseases that are troublesome to the bighorn, including blue tongue, epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and bacterial diseases most notably pneumonia from *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*. The Kofa sheep had a strain of the *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* and while not virulent they are carriers of this bug. When transplanted in 2001, the sheep community had not been aware of that. The role of the *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* has become a hot research topic. Rominger said “Washington State University in Pullman, Washington has an endowed professorship to research bighorn sheep pulmonary disease exclusively. It is contracted primarily from domestic sheep and goats and the goal would be to find a way to mitigate it.”

Hunting prospects

Desert Bighorn were on the endangered list until 2012, and for 25 to 30 years were not allowed to be hunted at all. While there will be no hunting of this herd in the Sacramento Mountains for some time (Rominger predicts it will be years, most likely), the species remains one of the most coveted for big game hunters. He explained that according to harvest standards, 2.5 rams out of 100 can be hunted, and the number of rams present will be just one factor when it comes to deciding when this herd will be allowed to be harvested.

According to Title 19, Chapter 30, Part II of the New Mexico Administrative Code, fines for poaching can go up to \$10,000. Rominger said there is a limited-entry ram hunt allowed in designated areas and the hunt is limited to mature rams eight to 10 years old.

“Right now, this is one of the most expensive animals to hunt and the highest demand species in the world,” Rominger said. “There were 8,000 applications for just the North Dakota license.”

According to Rominger, the current record for an auctioned tag is \$485,000 at the Wild Sheep Foundation annual convention also known as “The Sheep Show”. In comparison, the highest record for a black rhino was \$300,000 and the highest in New Mexico for a bighorn has been \$270,00.

“It’s really the hunter-conservationist that has ponied up the money that allows these (conservation) programs to exist,” Rominger said.

The future of the desert bighorn sheep

As of mid-November, Rominger reported that half of the sheep looked to have stayed in the area where they were released, and the other half had gone further abroad. This is not uncommon. As Rominger explained, “It’s an olfactory thing, if they don’t smell other sheep, they move out to look for them.”

But he also said in other initial release projects, it has been recorded the sheep return to the initial area of release eventually.

As mentioned, there are Barbary sheep in the Sacramento mountains, although admittedly less at the north end than other parts of the range. They present dietary competition and in other areas where they do co-exist, such as some ranges in Texas, the Barbary sheep don’t tolerate the desert bighorn well and tend to kick them out.

Rominger said there is not much concern for hybridization as Barbary sheep are a different genus, *ammotragus lervia*, however their presence can cause displacement and disruption during the rut of the bighorn. Over time, this can shift the biological clock of the ewes in the bighorn herd and affect the growth of the herd in that way.

There is also a healthy population of predatory mountain lions in this same region, so it is too soon to know if this herd will thrive or even survive in their new home, but the NMDGF will continue to monitor these sheep and learn from this translocation project.

Sources: Doug Burkett, WSMR Senior Ecologist; the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge website; Dr. Eric Rominger, sheep biologist for the New Mexico Game and Fish Department; Wikipedia on species translocation; and the USGS.gov website.



A desert bighorn sheep is airlifted in for processing before being taken to Alamogordo for release. A special team of helicopter game managers had to be brought into captures the sheep in WSMR’s rugged mountains. (Photos by John Hamilton, WSMR Public Affairs)

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ARTS EXPOSURE

New Location

Grant County Art Guild gallery moves to Downtown

The Grant County Art Guild (GCAG) is shaking things up. In the 50th year since its founding, the guild is making big changes. After showing its artwork for decades at the historic Hearst Church up Highway 15 in Pinos Altos, the guild is opening a new showplace, aptly named the GCAG Gallery, on the main drag in downtown Silver City.

The new space is at the corner of Bullard and Market streets in the former Hester House building. The lovely purple building formerly held a classy and popular gift and candy store, closed after being in business for 50 years.

The guild isn't trying to replace Hester House but its members hope to add a vibrant and exciting venue to the downtown area as it celebrates and represents the fine art and crafts of more than 20 local artists. At its new location, the gallery will be open seven days a week, year-round except typical holidays.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

"The guild would like to express its deep appreciation to Dink Tatsch who has been our generous benefactor for many, many years at the Hearst Church building," said guild member Karen Stephenson. "While the guild is looking forward to new opportunities in a new location, it will also be missing the nostalgia of the historic church building, the pine-scented mountains and village of Pinos Altos, and the kindness of Mr. Tatsch."

For more information, email Stephenson at karenphotoarts@gmail.com



The Grant County Art Guild gallery has moved into the Silver City Hester House building and is welcoming visitors. (Courtesy Photos)

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Western New Mexico University alum, Lt. Bill "Cody" Ayon (second from the left), plays the drum he recently donated to the Smithsonian at a WNMU Native American Club event while he was a student.

REMEMBERED

Drumming to Washington

Former WNMU student shared intertribal songs with soldiers

Western New Mexico University alum, Lt. Bill "Cody" Ayon, recently donated to the Smithsonian a drum he played during a Native American appreciation celebration at Al Faw Palace in Iraq and for events held by WNMU Native American Club on campus.

"That drum was the one I took to combat then brought home and used at school while I finished my degree," he said.

Now, it belongs to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Born in Deming and raised in Silver City, Ayon's mom is Mexican and his dad is Cheyenne. The family drum he played while deployed and in school is a large

pow wow drum that he learned to play as a child when his parents taught him the language and customs of his relatives. Lt. Ayon joined a Shiprock-based pow wow drumming group called Talking Spirit, and his passion for singing and playing grew during his deployment and his time in the Native American Club at WNMU.

While doing a tour in Iraq with the Army National Guard, Ayon played and sang intertribal songs with his fellow Native American soldiers. He was invited to play his drum and speak about the significance of being a Native American in the military as part of the Native American Appreciation event at Saddam Hussain's

palace in 2007.

"The drum was also used in a Cheyenne Soldier Dance for Lt. Ayon when he returned from his deployment in 2010," said the museum's registrar, Rachel Shabica.

After returning home to complete a bachelor's in criminal justice, Ayon taught the songs he learned as a child and shared with his military comrades in Iraq to WNMU students from tribes around the country.

"I hope the significance of the Native American Club at WNMU is part of the story of that drum," Ayon said.

His story is chronicled in "America's First Warriors: Native Americans and Iraq" by Osage photographer Steven Clevenger.

SILVER CITY

• **Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery**, 106 W. Yankie St., Silver City, is participating in the **Yankie/Texas Christmas Walk** on Saturday, Dec. 15. During the afternoon they are serving Grandma Annie's Famous Hot Chocolate and will have a gingerbread cookie decorating station. From 4 to 7 p.m. **Bill Blakemore** and his pottery will be featured with a reception and light refreshments will be served. Gallery hours are 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The gallery will be open Dec. 26 to 30. Info: 303-916-5045.

• **Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery**, 211 N. Texas St. welcomes resident artist, **Linda Fout**.



Linda Fout is the featured December artist at Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery.

Fout is currently displaying alcohol ink pours on tile in the gallery, called "Movin' Colors." A reception will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., Dec. 8. The following Saturday, Dec. 15 the gallery joins other Yankie/Texas streets establishments in bringing back the **Luminaria Gallery Walk**. There will be activities going on throughout the day and Luminarias will be lit at sundown up and down Yankie and Texas. The Copper Quail will stay open until 7 p.m. Info: facebook.com/mariahscqg.



The jewelry of Ann Shea-Smith can be seen at the Blue Dome Gallery in Silver City.

• **The Blue Dome Gallery**, 307 N. Texas Street, in historic downtown Silver City, is now open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays. Artistically woven and colorful scarves are for sale by **Susan Hill** who lived in Taos and then Silver City. Polymer clay jewelry by Silver City artist **Ann Shea-Smith** is on display in her signature floral designs as well as hummingbird charm necklaces and SW Cuff Bracelets. Other jewelers, painters, potters, photographers, fiber and mosaic artists are on display.

• **Soul River Gallery**, 400 N. Bullard St., in Silver City is featuring original oil paintings and water colors by **Steve McClus-**

key, a regional artist. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Info: 707-490-4367.



Light Art Space has a Small Works Sale on Saturday, Dec. 15.

• **Light Art Space**, located in Silver City's historic art district at 209 W. Broadway St., is holding a **Holiday Small Works Sale** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15. Low priced, unique photographs, prints and cards make the perfect gift. Refreshments will be served 5 to 7 p.m. during the Luminaria Gallery Walk. The gallery currently features the work of the Arizona Print Group. Also on exhibit is "Age & Seduction," photopolymer gravures by Karen Hymmer. Both exhibits run through Dec. 22. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: lightartspace.com, info@lightartspace.com or 520-240-4075.

• The exhibition **Arte Chicano De San Vicente 2018**, will be on display through Dec. 9 at the **Silver City Museum**, 312 W. Broadway Ave. Artwork in a variety of media and styles highlight the range and talent of Chicano artists working in Silver City. This year's selection features one well-established artist and three fresh out of Western New Mexico University's BFA program. A reception for the artists will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 1. Info: 575-538-5921, info@silvercitymuseum.org or www.silvercitymuseum.org.



Volcano Bombs by Ann Lowe is one of the featured pieces at a) Sp... "A" @e Contemporary Studio • Art • Gallery for December.

• **a) Sp... "A" @e Contemporary Studio • Art • Gallery**, 110 West 7th St. features Earth & Skin, paintings and sculptures by **Ann Lowe** including **Volcano Bombs**. A reception will be held 4 to 6 p.m. Dec. 8. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fri-

ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Also available by appointment. Info: 575-538-3333.

ALAMOGORDO/
CLOUDCROFT

• **Creative Designs Custom Framing and Gallery**, 917 New York Ave. in Alamogordo hosts the exhibit "Local Artists Make the Season Bright" by members of the **Cloudcroft Art Society (CAS)** during December. The exhibit features two- and three-dimensional original art work by CAS members offering paintings in several media, photography, photo-artistic art, pottery, basketry and more. CAS is a local non-profit organization serving Cloudcroft, the surrounding Sacramento Mountain communities and the Alamogordo-Tularosa area. A reception will be held 4 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Info: 575-434-4420.

• **The Cloudcroft Art Society Holiday Art and Crafts Show** is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays (weather permitting). This year's holiday exhibits feature original art works by CAS members to include paintings, greeting cards crafts and more. The gallery is in the old red brick schoolhouse which houses the Nivison Library at the east end of Burro Street where it intersects Swallow Place in Cloudcroft. Info: ccartartsociety@gmail.com.

DEMING/COLUMBUS

• **A Holiday Gift Boutique** is the theme for December 2018 at the **Deming Art Center**. The boutique will run from Dec. 1-30, with a reception for the artists and crafters from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2. The gallery is located at 100 S. Gold St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays. Info: 575-546-3663, www.demingarts.org.

• **The Columbus Village Library** hosts a community show of self-portraits through Jan. 15. The library is at 112 W. Broadway in Columbus. Info: 575-531-2612.



The Doña Ana County Blue Gate Gallery is having a private collection sale event through December.

LAS CRUCES

• **The Blue Gate Gallery**, 4901 Chagar Court in Doña Ana County a few feet from the intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, is hosting a private collection art sale through

November and December. Work includes artists like **Robert Bateman**, **Bill Rakocy**, **Nona Church** and more, plus paintings by **Flo Hosa Dougherty**. Info: 575-523-2950, call to let her



Rami Scully's work is one of the December Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery featured works.



7 MVFAG Roxanne Quinnell Also at the MVFAG Gallery, Roxanne Quinnell's work can be found.

know you are on your way.

• **The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre, features

ARTS SCENE

continued on page 12

AUNTIE A'GUSTA & THE DINGLING BROTHERS LIFE IS A VARIETY SHOW, INC. PRESENTS

Feb 15 & 16 7:30 p.m.

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By the Book

From the worldwide bestselling author of "Eat Pray Love," Elizabeth Gilbert, "Big Magic, Creative Living Beyond Fear" discusses the attitudes, approaches and habits we need in order to live our most creative lives.



ARTS SCENE

continued from page 11

two local artists for the month of December, **Roxana Quinnell** and **Rami Scully**. Quinnell works in pencil, pen and ink, mixed media and acrylic on canvas. Scully is a graduate of the University of Washington, the state where she was born and raised. She has taught drawing and design classes, batik and tie-dye workshops and ceramics. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

central subjects through a series of techniques that incorporate technology and craft. Lee's work speaks to the U.S./Mexico borderlands by eliciting conversation about cross-cultural and transnational exchanges occurring every day. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: 575-541-2154.

• Also at the **Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 N. Main St. in Las Cruces, Lightning Field, featuring artist Ken Morgan, continues through Feb. 16, 2019. Lightning Field is an interplay of light and dark that challenges the boundaries of painting mediums and brings the digital age to the forefront. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Info: 575-541-2154.

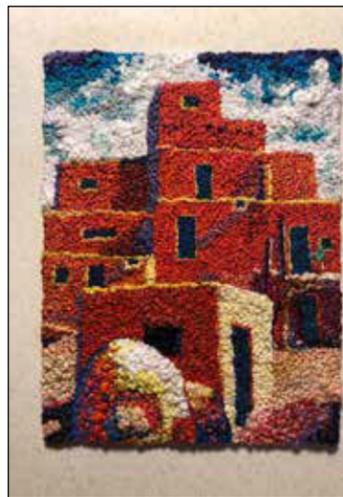
• "Birds in Art" is the exhibit at the **Las Cruces Museum of Art** in conjunction with the Nature Center in Las Cruces on Main Street. From 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, **Destry Kissick**, interim Curator of Living Collections at the **Museum of Nature & Science**, to explore the origins of scientific names and the taxonomic classification of select birds featured in the exhibition "Birds in Art." Participants then are invited to tour the gallery and identify the birds that were highlighted during the presentation. Birds in Art is a traveling exhibition organized by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, and showcases international artists interpreting birds and related subject matter. The exhibition will be on display until Jan. 12, 2019. The museum is located at 491 North Main St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays. Info: las-cruces.org/museums or 575-541-2137.

• "Dressed for the Occasion," an exhibit at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, runs through March 3, 2019 in the museum's Legacy Gallery. Learn about women's clothing from the pioneer days of the 1870s to the Depression Era of the 1930s. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info: 575-522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

• Also at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, "Drawn to the Land: Peter Hurd's new Mexico" features 24 paintings and some of the artist's belongings, including one of his palettes with brushes. This exhibition will be on display through Dept. 13 2019.

• New at the **Farm & Ranch "Watercolors by Penny Thomas Simpson"** opens with a reception from 2:30 to 4:40 p.m., Dec. 16. This exhibit will be in the Arts Corridor and features 33 paintings of life around the farm and ranch, from fruits and vegetables to old cooking utensils. The show will be on display through March 31, 2019.

• New York City-based artist **Eric LoPresti** has a solo exhibition at **New Mexico State University Art Gallery**. This exhibition examines the complicated effects the Cold War and nuclear testing have had on the Southwest American landscape and the global psyche. Comprised of oil paintings, large-format watercolors, digital works and a multi-channel video (a new medium for the artist), "Superbloom" will be accompanied by a series of performances. The UAG will host a live Aikido performances from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. A panel discussion, focusing on the complex history of nuclear development in the West and the potential role art can play as a catalyst of change, will also be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. All events are free and open to the public. Info: 575-646-2545.



Dennis Lujan brings a woman fiber artworks show to the Café de Mesilla.

• **Dennis Lujan** presents a one man show, "Traditional," during December and January at **Café de Mesilla**, 2190 Avenida de Mesilla. Lujan's new works are inspired by the southwest and of his relation to his close heritage of Taos Pueblo Indian Reservation. One of a kind fiber artworks can contain 1,000's of French knots to create a picture of a sunlit image of the pueblo's east side. A southwestern theme is throughout the show. The café is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Info: dennis_lujan@yahoo.com.

• **Passing Through** exhibit, work by artist **Jimin Lee**, is open at the **Branigan Cultural Center**, 501 Main St., through Feb. 2, 2019. Lee transforms photo-based images of industrial landscapes, miniature sets, and other loci otherwise ignored, into

Yankie-Texas ART DISTRICT

at the crossroads of Yankie & Texas Streets in Historic Downtown Silver City



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211A N. Texas
388-2646
Tues-Thurs & Sunday 11-4, Friday 11-5, Sat. 10-5, Closed Mondays



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wildwestweaving.com
wildwestweaving@gmail.com



Gallery & Studio
106 W. Yankie
303-916-5045



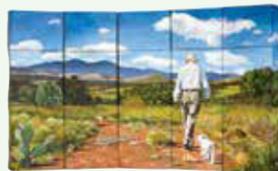
Tranquil Buzz Coffee House
112 W. Yankie
tranquilbuzz63@gmail.com



Blue Dome Gallery
575-538-2538
Downtown:
Thurs - Sat & Mon, 11-5 at 307 N. Texas St.
The Lodge: Daily 9-5 at 60 Bear Mt. Ranch Rd.



Finn's Gallery
Corner of Yankie & Arizona
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January 19, 2019



February 9, 2019

Chocolate Fantasia

Children's Storybook Fantasia



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mimbresarts.org
(575) 538-2505

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

Silver City

Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery, 371 Camino de Viento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Woolf, potter, 907-783-2780.

Anthony Howell Studio, 200 W. Market St. 574-2827. By appointment only.

[a]SP: "A" @E, 110 W. Seventh St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.

Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbarananceart.com.

Blue Dome Gallery, 307 N. Texas, second location at 60 Bear Mountain Road, 534-8671. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. www.bluedomegallery.com.

The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, 205 N. Lyon St., corner of Yankie and Lyon streets, 520-622-0251. By appointment.

Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087. During the months of September and October open by prior arrangement or chance. If the sign is out, the gallery is open. 575-534-2087.

Cow Trail Art Studio, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley, 12-3 p.m. Monday, or by appointment, 706-533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

Creative Hands Roadside Attraction Art Gallery, 106 W Yankie, Silver City, 303-916-5045 Hours are 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. By appointment at other times.

Elemental Artisans, by appointment only, 215-593-6738.

Finn's Gallery, 300 N. Arizona St., 406-790-0573

Francis McCray Gallery, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College Ave., 590-0044. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Guadalupe's, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.

Light Art Space, 209 W. Broadway. 520-240-7075, lightartspace.com.

Lloyd Studios, 306 W. Broadway St. 590-1110. Sculpture, custom knives and swords. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Lois Duffy Art Studio, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

Lumiere Editions, 104 N. Texas St., 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.

The Makery, 206 N. Bullard St. 590-1263. Freestyle weaving studio and school of fiber, book and paper arts, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday to Monday, www.makersvc.com.

Manzanita Ridge, 107 N. Bullard St.

388-1158.

Mariah's Copper Quail Gallery, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas streets, 388-2646. Fine arts and crafts.

Mimbres Regional Arts Council Gallery, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. 538-2505, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday www.mimbresarts.org.

Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing, 203 N. Bullard, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595, 8:30-10 a.m. Monday to Friday.

The Place at the Palace, at 201 N. Bullard St. 575-388-1368.

Seedboat Gallery, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

Soul River Gallery, 400 N. Bullard St. 303-888-1358; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.

Sterling Fine Art, 306 N. Bullard St. Silver City, 505-699-5005, sterlingnm.com.

Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

Syzygy Tile Gallery, 106 N. Bullard St., 388-5472.

Tatiana Maria Gallery, 305 N. Bullard St. 388-4426.

Tree Spirit Gallery, on-line only at www.cogan-cogan.com. 303-888-1358.

21 Latigo Trail, 941-387-8589. Sculpture by Barbara Harrison. By appointment only.

Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, www.wildwestweaving.com.

Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run Road off Hwy. 180, mile marker 107, 574-2308, 619-933-8034. Louise Sackett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment.

Wynnegate Gallery, 1105 W. Market Street, 575-534-9717, noon - 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, also open for Red Dot Tour, artist showings and by appointment.

Yada Yada Yarn, 621 N. Bullard St. 388-3350.

Zoe's Studio/Gallery, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910. By chance or appointment.

Pinos Altos

Pinos Altos Art Gallery-Hearst Church Gallery, 14 Golden Ave. Pinos Altos, 574-2831. Open late-April to early October. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays..

Mimbres

Chamomile Connection, 3918 U.S. Highway 35, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

Kate Brown Pottery and Tile, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Bayard

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

Northern Grant County

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

Deming

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

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

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

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

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

Columbus

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

Rodeo

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

Hillsboro

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

Mesilla

Doña Ana Arts Council Arts and Cultural Center, 1740 Calle de Mercado, Suites B and D, 523-6403, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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

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

Ouida Touchon Studio, 2615 Calle de Guadalupe, 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

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

Rokoko, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

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

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

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

Cottonwood Gallery, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday,

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

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

Las Cruces Arts Association, Community Enterprise Center Building, 125 N. Main St. www.lacrucesarts.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ruidoso

Art Ruidoso Gallery, 808-1133, artruidoso.com, 615 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, 11a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday-Sunday.

The Adobe, 2905 Sudderth Drive, 257-5795, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

DJ's Jewelry, 618 Carrizo Canyon Road, 630-1514, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Specializing in turquoise, Native American traditional, New Mexican contemporary and estate jewelry.

Earth-N-Stone, 2117 Sudderth Drive, Suite 14, 257-2768, 808-1157.

Gazebo Potters, 2117 Sudderth Drive No. 7, 808-1157. Pottery classes, workshops, wheel time, kiln firing and works by local potters.

Josie's Framery, 2917 Sudderth Drive, 257-4156. Framing, gallery representing regional artists and photographers.

LongCoat Fine Art, 2801 Sudderth Drive, Suite D., 257-9102, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday Contemporary Masters and historical works of art.

Mountain Arts, 2530 Sudderth Drive,

257-9748, www.mountainartsgallery.com, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

Tanner Tradition, 624 Sudderth Drive., 257-8675. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Quality Native American art and jewelry.

Thunder Horse Gallery, 200 Mechem Drive, Suite 1, 257-3989. info@thunderhorsegallery.com, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Bronze sculpture by Rory Combs, Sarinova glass and fine art.

The White Dove, 2825 Sudderth Drive, No. A, 575-257-6609, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, Authentic Native American jewelry and artifacts.

Kenneth Wyatt Galleries of Ruidoso, 2205 Sudderth Drive, 257-1529, www.kennethwyatt.com. Fine art by the Wyatt family.

Ruidoso Downs

Pinon Pottery, MM. 26465 U.S. Hwy. 70, 937-0873, 937-1822, www.pinonpottery.com. Pottery by Vicki Conley and other area artists, fine art by Anita Keegan and Virgil Stephens.

Alamogordo

Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery, 575-434-4420, 917 New York Ave.

Patron's Hall/Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 575-434-2202, 1110 New York Ave.

Tularosa

Horse Feathers, 318 Granado St. 575-585-4407. Art, southwest furniture and decor.

The Merc, 316 Granado St. 505-238-6469. Art gifts by regional artists, books.

Capitan

Heart of the Raven, 415 12th St., 937-7459, Functional and decorative pottery, classes.

Carrizozo

Malkerson Gallery 408, 408 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-648-2598.

Tularosa Basin Gallery of Photography, 401 12th St. in Carrizozo, 575-937-1489, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Monday; noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Exclusive exhibit venue for the winners of New Mexico Magazine's photography contest and the largest photo gallery in the state.

Lincoln

Old Lincoln Gallery, 1068 Calle la Placita, across from the visitor's center in Lincoln, 653-4045. Coffee bar featuring 45 New Mexico artists, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

San Patricio

Hurd La Rinconada, NM 281 U.S. Hwy. 70, 653-4331, www.wyethartists.com. Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Works by Peter Hurd, Henriette Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, N.C. Wyeth and resident artist, Michael Hurd.

White Oaks

White Oaks Pottery, 445 Jicarilla Drive (three miles past White Oaks), 648-2985. Daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Porcelain pottery by Ivy Heymann.

Calling Artists

• **Book space available:** Moon-bow Alterations and Gift Shop, 225 E. Idaho No. 32, has space available to display and sell local books that have been published any time. Info: 575-527-1411 or alicebdavenport@gmail.com.

• **Exhibit space:** One or two private rooms, approximately 12-by-15-feet with common greeting area, available in the Gallery on Mesquite Street in the Arts & Cultural District and on the Art Ramble route. Hours are determined by exhibiting artists. Cost: \$175 a month per room for LCAA members, \$200 a month

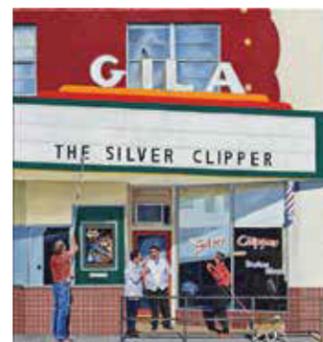
for non-members. No commission charged on sales. Info: Jack LeSage 575-532-1046 or jacklsg1@gmail.com.

• **Seeking submissions:** Artists of all media are invited to submit up to two works for a judged show at the Tombaugh Gallery, opening Jan. 12 and continuing through Jan. 27. Submissions should reflect the concept of or be inspired by, the song "What's That I Hear" by Phil Ochs. First, second, third and people's choice cash awards, \$100-\$300, will be given. There is no submission fee. Email your intent to partici-

pate to gallery@uuchurchlc.org before Dec. 15. Artists will receive the lyrics to the song and information about bringing work to the gallery.

• **Watercolor opportunity:** 2019 New Mexico Watercolor Society Southern Chapter Spring Show is "Color and Light: The Joy of Watercolor" and will be held May 2019 at the Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery, 1740 Calle De Mercado, Las Cruces. The exhibit open to NMWS members only. For information on the exhibit and how to become a member of NMWS at nmwatercolorssociety.org.

HomeTown Memories



Paintings, Prints & Cards



211-C N. Texas St., Silver City
loisduffystudio.com 575-313-9631

Yankie/Texas Luminaria Gallery Walk,
Dec. 15, 5 to 7pm



Nichole Trushell, steel sculptor, plans a window display for Kingston Antiques & Art, a new business in Sierra County. (Courtesy Photo)

ARTS EXPOSURE

Black Range Business

Kingston Antiques & Art opens its doors

Kingston's newest business, Kingston Antiques & Art, is celebrating its opening and the holidays with an open house from noon to 4 p.m. on Dec. 8. The store offers a wide variety of unique gift items including antiques and books, jewelry, metal sculpture, handcrafted weavings and other art pieces.

Special events are planned and refreshments will be served.

A portion of proceeds from the day's sales will benefit the Kingston Schoolhouse Museum. The shop is located on Highway 152 (exit 63 from I-25 and go west) on the east side of Kingston. Call 575-895-5501 or 575-895-5011 for information.

The store represents six area artists. This event is sponsored in part by the Lions Club of Truth or Consequences.

Take a yuletide drive

The town of Chloride celebrates its 13th annual Yuletide in Chloride daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 1-9 with the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall Street, Chloride, (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). The gallery features work from approximately 30 local artists and offers sale prices and a free gift with qualifying purchase. Email montecristogallery@windstream.net for information.



ON THE MOUNTAIN Plant Poetry

Writers, poets invited to join monument project

Poets and prose writers are invited to participate in a Literary Inventory of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Each poet or writer who participates will write a piece that takes as its title a species that lives in Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDP). How each poet/writer responds to that species aesthetically is completely up to the poet/writer; anticipate the resulting work taking many diverse forms, mirroring the rich and intricate relationships in the ecology of the Chihuahuan Desert and OMDP.

The project is modeled after the Poetic Inventory of Saguaro National Park in Arizona, which took place in conjunction with the National Park Service and National Geographic Society BioBlitz in 2011. That project led to a special issue of Spiral Orb and to the book *The Sonoran*

For Writers

By Jan. 31, 2019: If you are interested in participating, please contact Eric Magrane to be assigned a species. The earlier the better.
By Feb. 28, 2019: Once you receive your species, plan to have your work completed and submitted. Poems should be 80 lines or less. Prose should be short prose, 900 words or less.

Desert: A Literary Field Guide (University of Arizona Press, 2016). It is also currently being replicated in other bioregions.

Work written for this project will be presented to the public in one or more of the following ways: OMDP will hold their second annual Bioblitz on May 4, 2019. A number of participants will be invited to read their work at public events at the Bioblitz.

In addition, contributions will be considered for a special issue of *Spiral Orb* to be published in Spring 2019. Additional reading events may be scheduled at other locations in Las Cruces. Once the special issue of *Spiral Orb* is published, there is the possibility of developing a book project.

Those interested in participating in the project should contact Eric Magrane at magrane@nmsu.edu, with the email subject heading: Literary Inventory of OMDP. In the email, include a brief (~100 words) bio and a brief (~100 words) statement about why you are interested in contributing.

You will be given two species from which you can choose. If you have a specific species in mind that you would like to work with – a species that is found in OMDP – you may request that species, but only one poet/writer will be assigned per species.

COLORFUL TRAILS

Second Saturday Open Studios Las Cruces artists make themselves available

Opening their studios once a month, some Las Cruces artists will be available from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 8.

Sonoma Ranch Area

John Schooley and Ali (Keyes) Schooley: John is a watercolorist and Ali works in acrylics, photography and sculpts.

2287 Evening Star Ave
Contact at 214-906-6086

Marj Leininger is a gypsy sage artist who works in watercolors and mixed medias.
4116 Calle Belleza
Contact at 575-520-9245

Central Las Cruces

Penny Dunclee is a watercolorist who works plein

aire and in her studio from photos and sketches.

1201 Second Street: Take Picacho to Second



"Roadrunner Aguamedia" collage by Marj Leininger



"Christmas in Old Mesilla" by Debra Vance

Street. Go north two blocks and her studio sits back from the street.

Contact at 575-523-1889

Kathleen Deasy is an artist who works in oils and with different materials to create sculpted figures on canvas. Serving Christmas cookies and apple cider for december.

625 Van Patten Ave
828-467-9060

Southwest Las Cruces

Debra Vance will be showing her watercolor paintings and her original Christmas cards that can be ordered or purchased at her studio.

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THE CHROMATIC SCALE • MARTY RACINE

Booming Business

Las Cruces has finally become a music town

After the nourishing, cleansing rainfall had soaked in, the skies parted and the marketeers over at the Las Cruces Country Music Festival smiled.

Since moving this year's event from spring to fall, and from Downtown to the Hadley ballfields – and roping a bona fide star still in his prime in Dwight Yoakam – the last thing everybody needed was rough weather for what promised to be a brand-new festival now in its sixth year.

Friday night, after a curious cover-filled set by King Leg, we got down to some serious honky-tonkin' that was as much rock 'n' roll as country. Frankie Ballard and his road-tough band from Michigan (but based out of Nashville) turned in a sizzling, eye-popping performance that defied genres (from Hank Williams to Bob Seger) and established Ballard as a slick, genial, acrobatic front-man with all the moves.

As for Dwight, I've seen him plenty of times going back to the 1980s when he emerged with his postmodern Bakersfield sound that was more authentically down-home than anything Nashville was dishing out – twangier even than the alt-country singer-songwriters in Texas. He led off with a smoldering Chuck Berry tune, of all things, "Little Queenie," and never took his boot off the pedal. Great flow, great show.

The Hadley site, despite the maze of chain-link separating the ballfields, was an improvement over Downtown. Here, the stage and not a surrounding cityscape was the focus. It *looked* more like a festival, out on the grass, surrounded by trees, with the crowd, seated and standing, spread in all directions. As of press time, sponsor Visit Las Cruces did not have official attendance figures, but this audience would not have fit Downtown.

Even so, the festival is just an exclamation point on this fact: Las Cruces is becoming a music town.

Sure, some of the venues don't do an adequate job of promoting



Blues guitarist Derrick Harris and bass player Anthony Movsian played in the patio at High Desert Brewing Company's 20th anniversary party in 2017. High Desert presents free live music indoors every Thursday and Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. (Photo by Steve MacIntyre)

(our calendar is free, guys), and for the most part musicians don't make a lot of money in this town (neither do they in Austin, which is a buyers' market), but everywhere you go, almost any night of the week, somebody in the corner of the room or out in the patio is making melody.

At the risk of omission, I'll say that over the past few months I've seen live music at Hacienda de Mesilla, Amaro Winery, High Desert Brewing, the Spotted Dog, Salud! de Mesilla, the Game sports bar, NM Vintage Wines, Dragonfly, Chala's, El Patio, La Posta, St. Claire Winery & Bistro, Picacho Peak Brewery, Luna Rossa Pizzeria, Pastaggio's, the Pecan Grill, Four Points Perspective gallery, FARMesilla, Rio Grande Theatre, Plaza de Las Cruces, Plaza de Mesilla, the Bean coffeehouse and no doubt others I don't recall or didn't attend. Few if any of these venues are "nightclubs" or prominent music scenes in the traditional sense; just bars and restaurants, galleries and wineries adding live music, as if it simply goes with another afternoon or night on the town.

Also, there are house concerts, open mics, all the great worship music in our churches and open jam sessions. A couple Sundays ago I had the pleasure

of jamming on guitar with musician-about-town Buddy Aiken, songwriter and retired teacher Larry Stocker and a fellow whose name I didn't get at Dragonfly (noon-3 p.m.). Reportedly the sessions will take place through "football season," however that's defined. I've also played with Alister M, who's a regular booking at Luna Rossa.

Another shameless promo: On our Cosmic Troubadours show 7-9 p.m. Thursdays (rebroadcast 8-10 a.m. Saturdays) on KTAL Community Radio, 101.5 FM, my co-host Rob McCorkle reads "The List" of upcoming shows at the end of the first hour. It used to take a couple minutes; now it takes at least five.

So, it could be argued that artistic Las Cruces, a hub of authors and painters, is becoming a city of musicians, too. No, we're not "Keep Austin Weird" and don't plan to be. We're just a normal college town and retirement community that likes to listen.

Marty Racine spent 22 years as a music critic for the Houston Chronicle. Now he has fallen back in love with the guitar and also serves as the managing editor of the Las Cruces Bulletin. Racine can be contacted at marty@lascrucesbulletin.com.

Celebrating Spring



Area artist, and recent Desert Exposure cover artist, Kay Susin took the first place ribbon at the 2018 Sun Bowl Art Exhibit at the International Museum of Art in El Paso. Her painting "Whispers of Spring," was one of more than 100 entries into the competition. Susin's work has been shown at galleries in Las Cruces and El Paso. She is a member of the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery. The show will stay at the museum through Jan. 1.

Mary Poppins



It's that Poppins woman!" Rehearsals are underway at Las Cruces Community Theatre for the musical "Mary Poppins," which opens Friday, Nov. 30 and continues for a 12-show, three-week run through Sunday, Dec. 16 at LCCT, 313 N. Main St. downtown. Francesca Perez-Wright stars as the irreplaceable nanny, Mary Poppins. The show is directed by Janet Beatty-Payne and has an all-star cast that includes Brandon Brown. For tickets and more information, call 575-523-1200 and visit www.lcctnm.org. (Photo by Brandon Brown)

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Ende's Trail Never Ends

Lady long rider won't be parted from her horses

It was never a dream of Bernice Ende to get on her horse and ride for 2,000 miles.

"It wasn't something I chose," she said. "I never thought, 'I wish I could do that.'"

But then Ende, who taught classical ballet for 25 years, found her life and relationship weren't what she wanted, found a window of opportunity, got on her horse, Pride, and rode from her home in northwestern Montana to Albuquerque. It took her three years.

"It was a complete nightmare," she said. "All the preparations I did were not what I needed. I hurt physically, hurt so bad that I thought it was my kidneys, but it was my back."

At 50, she was sleeping on a tarp on the ground with her dog, Claire, to keep her warm.

In the first year she had some savings, but then she ran out.

"I had no money," she said. "I didn't eat much. I would ride into town and say, 'Can I play piano for a meal?' People fed me. I don't know how I did this."

That journey, the first of many, and more can now be found chronicled in her book, "Lady Long Rider: Alone Across America on Horseback." She never stopped long-riding and now has traversed North America to the tune of almost 30,000 miles on horseback.

Today she is doing a book tour, not on actual horseback, but still with two horses. Ende is crossing the country, having started in Montana, gone through Washington State, down the coast for Oregon and California and headed across the Southwest including New Mexico. In the spring of 2019 the tour finishes in Fort Edward, New York. She is doing it in sleeping quarters transformed from the tack area in the horse trailer.

"I insulated it and



Crossing the southern U.S. with a 1969 Ford pick-up, horse trailer and two horses for a book tour, Bernice Ende has converted the tack area of the trailer into a comfortable bed room. (Courtesy Photo)



Lady long rider Bernice Ende is driving rather than riding horseback for an eight-month book tour but still keeping company with her trusty Norwegian fjords. (Courtesy Photo)

wall-papered and carpeted it," she said. "I have electricity, heater, light. I've been living in a tent all these years; it's so comfortable here."

While Ende does have a little log cabin and 20 acres in the northwest corner of Montana, she really doesn't consider it home.

"This is my home," she

said, sitting on the edge of her sleeping quarters somewhere in Texas. "Wherever I'm going, wherever I'm traveling. I love my life as a lady long rider."

There are so many people who are in support of Ende's journey, who she meets and who are drawn to the image of it.

"People are turned on in an



Bernice Ende on the trail somewhere during her 29,000 miles of riding across North America. (Courtesy Photo by Jon Crandell)

interested and interesting way," she said. "I came here (to a gas station) fairly early and the gas station wasn't open yet. A woman in her 40s and little daughter were touring the western part of the U.S. because the little girl loves museums. Curiosity bubbled out of her. That's what we need to do with our children."

Pulling her horses with her 1969 Ford truck, the world is very different than on horseback, she said. Someone told her she would find there are lots of people who don't like her so much. Indeed, she encountered a couple of angry and belligerent men who had parked close to her.

"I know it is different; I am encountering the world in a much different way," she said. "Even

still, I've met all these good men and women, boys and children."

Now in her mid-60s, Ende does not plan on stopping any time soon.

"I love this, just today I do not have any desire to sweep a floor or wash a stove," she said. "I don't have much time on this planet, just let me be in it. I just want to be here, I don't need the rest of the stuff."

Ende's speaking tour will be in Silver City with presentations from Dec. 9 to Dec. 12. She is available to schedule tours as well. Ende can be contacted by endehomebase@yahoo.com, or via Farcountry Press at 800-821-3874, zachary@farcountry-press.com. Visit her website at endeofthetrail.com to follow along on her adventures.



Lady Long Rider Tour Silver City:

Gila Valley Library: 4-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9

The Silver City Senior Center: 10 a.m.-noon, Monday, Dec. 10

The Silver City Library: 2-3:15 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10

Javalina's Coffee Shop: 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11

Bernice Ende will be a guest on "Local Flavor" with Paula Geiser KURU 89.1 Silver City Gila-Mimbres Community Radio from 9:15-10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12

DESERT exposure

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Thursday, Dec. 13, noon:
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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

'Tis the Season

Some Mexicans mired in poverty

The most important “non-news” in Palomas is that the Compass Manufacturing plant that was on the verge of opening in November 2017 has still not opened.

This leaves lots of Palomas residents mired in the same state of poverty as a year ago.

Compass is a maquiladora that makes automotive harnesses. The word is that the town needs a bank to handle all the paychecks they'll be processing. It's anybody's guess when the factory will open its doors.

In early November, Maria Lopez offered to bring me to visit several people who are struggling with poverty. Maria was the social worker for Mayor Tanis Garcia, assassinated in October 2009. She took over his post for one year with the definite possibility she could be killed, too.

After that job, she worked for the orphanage in Palomas – Casa de Amor Para Niños. She's still informally involved in helping poor



Francisca Riva Payan in front of her house in Palomas, Mexico where she lives with her husband, who makes \$6 a day, her four children and a granddaughter. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

people because her heart has been burning for the cause of the hungry most of her life. She and

her husband Gabriel give away food to hungry people from his small grocery store, Las Palmas.

The people she brought me to see make less in one day than minimum wage earners in the U.S. earn in one hour.

I needed this reminder, too. It's impressive how many people in Palomas have been helped by the governmental Prospera program, which is now a cash-assistance program for families with school-age children. Border Partners is also doing a knock-up job feeding people. But there are still masses of people who need help in this perpetually dismal economy. Maria says she can't even estimate how many there are.

One type of business that is thriving, according to Maria, is the houses of prostitution. She says this year there are two more such houses than last year, making eight in all. Women and girls are usually pushed into this profession by poverty.

Poverty tour

Maria began our tour by talking to a woman named Marisela Nevarez standing in front of her house. Marisela sometimes makes \$5 a day collecting tin cans from the garbage dump far southeast of town and selling them to people. She had four grandchildren to take care of, including the 2-year-old boy standing next to her.

“Other women make money picking up cans, too – like the widow living there, Leonor Ponce,” she said, pointing next door. Marisela also irons for other people sometimes.

A government agency called Seguro Popular helps people pay for operations at a hospital, she said. But that assistance depends on how much money the office has at the time it's needed. Marisela also tells about raffles people hold to help the “many women in Palomas who have cancer.”

Next, we briefly visited a 65-year-old woman named Elma Mireles. She was bedridden, extremely sick with diabetes, with a blanket pulled up to her chin. She ate almost nothing except baby food from time to time. She wasn't receiving government help, but was being cared for by a niece who's in high school.

As we almost literally navigated the muddy unpaved streets, Maria said the monstrous puddles were an issue in the up-coming mayoral elections, too, or should be. There are perilous ridges and depths that extend over whole blocks.

Maria showed me to the house of Francisca Riva Payan. In her house live her husband, her four children and a granddaughter. Her husband builds houses for a living, despite one hand missing from an accident years ago. He earns \$6 a day.

“They pay him for five days, but he works seven days a week,” Francisca said. “There's no inspector.”

Francisca was getting ready to make some empanadas to sell, with a couple of very large squash set on the floor, on green, one white. She sometimes sells home-made burritos. She makes packages of a combination of

things she makes and then sells them to people with more money than her, including those that work in the U.S.

Women in Palomas often make things to sell in their spare time. It makes you think there ought to be a micro-credit project in town. The women could use some capital.

Francisca has a tiny trailer that she'd like to fix up so she can sell prepared food from the roadside in front of her house. She's tried to sell things on the main street of Palomas, but the police ask her for \$50 a month.

How much hunger?

This illustration might give you an idea of how to measure poverty in Palomas:

In some years I've made an average of only \$400 per month, working as a freelance writer for Desert Exposure and on part-time jobs to support myself. Sheila down in Columbus told me that for a while a guy there lived on \$300 a month, total. She herself has found a way to get by on \$250. These are idealistic people who do this for ecological reasons, to see what it's like to be poor, or to save money for travel.

I've thought often of the Palomas women I've found who made a living by cleaning house for \$10 twice a week.

That means \$20 a week and \$80 a month. I remember especially one woman named Azucena who had three boys to care for, one of whom was mentally and physically handicapped, in a wheel-chair.

That woman was earning a fifth of what I have earned in a month, I thought to myself, astonished. But no, I forgot to include in the equation the food stamps I got to support me. That means she was making something like one-eighth of what I made, with three children to support.

That's one way of measuring the deep hunger on the other side of the border.

Casa de Amor is giving us the opportunity again to request donations in their name. They will send you a receipt.

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Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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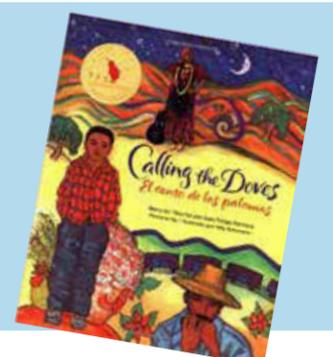
Watch for info on our Art of the Old West Exhibit, Circle S Fashion Show and Artist Presentations in January.
We will be closed December 25 and January 1 for the Holidays

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This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

By the Book

“Calling the Doves,” by United States Poet Laureate Felipe Herrera, draws on the writer's childhood experience to describe the life of Juanito, a son of migrant workers. His rich, evocative prose re-creates the joy of eating under the open sky, celebrating at a fiesta with other farm families, and listening to his mother singing Mexican songs and his father calling the doves.



TUMBLEWEEDS • INGRID LUCHINI

From Germany, With Love

Exchange students describe their impressions of Las Cruces

In 2018, Las Cruces and Nienburg/Germany are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their sister cities relationship, which originated from the student exchange between Albert-Schweitzer-Schule/Nienburg and high schools in Las Cruces. This exchange, now in its 31st year, is taking place within the framework of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) and the Las Cruces-Nienburg Sister Cities Affiliation.

In Las Cruces, it is currently at Arrowhead Park Early College High School (APECHS) and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy (APMA). In September and October, 18 German students and two teachers spent three weeks in Las Cruces, were hosted by Arrowhead families, attended school and went on field trips in the area, then experienced New York for five days before flying home to Germany. Seventeen Arrowhead students are now looking forward to visiting their new friends in Nienburg after the school year ends in May.

Before leaving the sunny Southwest, the Germans reflected on their stay; excerpts of some of their writings follow:

• **Mirko Prasse (teacher):** "Once again a great program was organized for us. Giving young people from our respective cities the opportunity to experience each other's everyday life and culture is wonderful. During our stay in Las Cruces, I could observe how our students were so warmly welcomed and how Americans and Germans learned from each other. The student exchange between Las Cruces and Nienburg does not only affect the individual development of the participating students; it also helps strengthen the ties between our two cities."

• **Denise C.:** "After months of contact with our host families via e-mail, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, maybe even FaceTime or Skype, my classmates and I were still anxious at the start of our journey: What might await us in Las Cruces? What about having to speak English all day long? What about the food? But then, at the El Paso airport, after a 26-hour trip, we were welcomed with heartwarming smiles and open arms The next morning, I already felt adopted by those 'kinda perfect human beings'. Time was literally flying from this point on. How could I have thought that three weeks was going to be too long in a 'foreign' family? There was so much to see, so much to do and learn. A few days ago, my host mom told me: 'My dear, you can spend a lifetime exploring New Mexico!' So TRUE! - It's incredible how much planning had gone into hosting every one of us. Getting closer took some time, but in the end, my host family and



German exchange students discovered the desert on their Las Cruces journey. They don't have rattlesnakes back home. (Courtesy photo)

I had pretty deep conversations ... I loved it. It wasn't just 'an amazing experience.' This is and will always be a most important part of my life. I'm so grateful to my American-New Mexican family. Thank you so much, dear Veronika and Charlie!"

• **Anakin R. (translated):** "I was surprised that Arrowhead has so many different buildings and that the students go to each teacher's room. In Germany, students have their own classroom, and the teachers 'travel.' Students here don't have to raise their hand when answering questions or expressing an opinion. I really like that system. The Arrowhead Cafeteria, where many students buy their lunch, is so large. We usually bring our own sack lunch from home. After following our host students to their classes for the first two days, we were free to choose our own schedule. The subjects offered in the Medical Academy are fascinating, for example 'Medical Intervention' or 'Certified Nursing Assistant,' but I also found Computer Science and Media Design very interesting. Somehow these experiences make me believe that school may be more fun in America."

• **Jonas H. (translated):** "It struck me that New Mexicans seem to eat bigger and more frequent meals than we do. I'm used to just having toast in the morning, for lunch a warm dish, and an open-faced sandwich or two in the evening. I have been amazed by the size of American beverages; what Americans call 'small,' we consider 'large.' We use far less sugar and are skeptical of genetically engineered foods. We usually place smaller quantities on our plates and don't like to throw food away. It takes time to adopt new habits. All in all, I like the New Mexican cuisine."

• **Sophie G. and Erik H.:** "It was really nice meeting members of the Las Cruces Youth Board while enjoying pizza, cookies, fruit, drinks and a variety of vegetables. (We have been surprised to learn that Americans like raw broccoli!) We had lots of fun discussing hobbies, sports (the German sport 'Handball' had to be explained), differences between the school systems, the legal driving age, eating habits and, of course, we also compared the Nienburg and the Las Cruces Youth Boards. We exchanged

cell phone numbers so we can stay in contact. Thank you, Mr. Robert Nuñez, Administrator of Las Cruces Youth Services, for organizing this memorable meeting."

• **Nina L. (translated):** "The view in New Mexico is striking: here you can see the far horizon. In Germany, we have lots of forests - small and large - or high buildings in large cities that tend to block the view. The houses also look different. Ours are built with brick and have several stories. We like the desert but are a little afraid of rattlesnakes and tarantulas because they are unknown in our country except in zoos. Since distances are so enormous in the Southwest, people depend on their cars. For us it's easier to go by bike to the next little village or just walk to wherever we want to go."

• **Manuel R., Jakob G., David Sch.:** "The Southwest, especially compared to the area around Nienburg, was for us like seeing the first Walmart - huge! (The city of Nienburg itself has only 31,000 inhabitants; however, the county of Nienburg has lots of small villages nearby with a

GERMANY

continued on page 22

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Immo Hansen, associate professor in New Mexico State University's Department of Biology, inspects mosquitoes in his lab at Foster Hall. (NMSU photo by Andres Leighton)

USEFUL RESEARCH • BILLY HUNTSMAN

Mosquito Results

Repellent research finds alternatives

What do burning coffee, eating bananas and drinking gin and tonic have in common?

They are among the unconventional mosquito repellents people say they use.

Last summer, New Mexico State University professors in the College of Arts and Sciences: Immo Hansen, associate professor in biology and principle investigator of NMSU's Hansen Lab, and Mary Alice Scott, associate professor of anthropology, released a survey seeking homemade mosquito repellent methods and strategies.

The goal was to discover cheaper and more easily available repellents beyond commercial products to test them in a future study against traditional repellents such as DEET.

They received responses from more than 5,000 participants and recently released a paper detailing their findings. <https://peerj.com/articles/5151/>. The survey was available in English, Spanish and Portuguese and was distributed in countries in which residents were likely to speak one these languages. In addition to open-ended questions about repellents, there was a multiple-choice question listing 13 repellent control methods.

As a precursor to this research, Scott previously observed residents of Veracruz, Mexico, using three different methods to repel mosquitoes.

"These were burning mosquito coils that were commercially produced, though I did not learn what the ingredients of these coils were, sprinkling small amounts of gasoline around the perimeter of an area to be protected from mosquitoes, although this was probably the least common method, and burning bundles of dried herbs, which I believe was to produce smoke to keep mosquitoes away since different herbs were used



NMSU anthropology associate professor Mary Alice Scott created a survey with associate professor of biology Immo Hansen to find alternative mosquito repellent methods. (Courtesy photo)

at different times," she said. "I did not test the effectiveness of any of these techniques, so I can't say how effective they are."

"From the responses, we compiled a table of more than 200 techniques people use, from stuff they eat or drink – such as garlic or gin and tonics – to burning various herbs, plants, and even animal dung, to stuff they rub on their skin – again, like garlic – to spatial repellents," said Hansen.

For me the most surprising answer was the use of dryer sheets," said Scott. "I had not heard of dryer sheets being used before, although some other members of our research team were familiar with that method."

As an anthropologist, Scott's expertise is in qualitative research.

"My role on this project was to develop the qualitative components of the survey used to collect the data that were analyzed for this project," Scott said.

The majority of respondents to the survey resided in the United States, 67 percent of whom

were female, 81 percent of whom had a university degree, and 50 percent of whom were 18 to 37 years old.

"The most commonly used repellent was DEET spray, which made up 48 percent of the responses," Hansen said. "This also corresponds with our research that says DEET spray is the most effective repellent."

The DEET spray particles adhere to mosquitoes' odor receptors, which prevent them from locating a human with DEET particles around him. From Hansen's research, mosquitoes have not developed any kind of resistance to DEET, as they have to large-scale insecticides used by public-health agencies to control populations.

Interestingly, the second most-used method of repelling mosquitoes involved citronella candles, which made up 43 percent of the survey's responses. Citronella is an essential oil obtained from lemongrass.

Based on their previous research, Hansen says citronella has no effect as a repellent.

"We tested citronella-based repellents in two different assays," Hansen said, referring to a clear enclosure used to observe behavior and actions within. "We used a Y-tube assay, where we inserted the mosquitoes at the bottom, then put a hand with citronella repellent on it at one end and a hand with no repellent at the other. If citronella were an effective repellent, the mosquito would fly to the hand with no repellent but that's not what happened."

The second assay experiment his lab conducted involved a wind tunnel in which a fan blew around someone with citronella-based repellent on, blowing his scent in the direction of the mosquitoes, and this also failed

MOSQUITO

continued on page 21

BODY • MIND • SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

Archaeology Society — First Sunday of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

MONDAYS

AARP Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m., second Monday, Cross Point Assembly of God Church. All singles welcome. Contact Sally, 537-3643.

Al-Anon family group, New Hope — 12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, corner of 20th and Swan Streets, Silver City. Open meeting. Contact: 313-7891.

Meditation for Beginners — 5:30 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. Jeff, 956-6647. www.lotuscentersc.org.

Silver City Squares — Dancing 7-9 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

Southwest New Mexico ACLU — noon, first Monday (except September when it's the second Monday), Little Toad Creek, 200 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Bob Garrett, 575-590-4809.

TUESDAYS

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support — 1:30 p.m., First Tuesday, Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.

Bayard Historic Mine Tour — 9:30 a.m., Second Tuesday, meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map. Call 537-3327 for reservation.

Figure/Model Drawing — 4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583. First Tuesday, 6 p.m. at the headquarters, next to the Chevron/Snappy Mart in Arenas Valley. Dan Larson, 654-4884.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group — 11:30 a.m., first Tuesday at a local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

PFLAG Silver City — First Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan. Confidential support for LGBTQ persons and their families. 575-590-8797.

Republican Party of Grant County — 6 p.m., second Monday, 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).

Slow Flow Yoga — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild — 9:30 a.m., first Tuesday, Grant County Extension Office, 2610 N. Silver Street, North entrance. Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.

WEDNESDAYS

ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families) — 7-8:15 p.m. meets every Wednesday at the New Church of the Southwest Desert, 714 N. Bullard St. (new location). Athena, 575-590-8300.

Al-Anon family group — 6 p.m., Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race Track Road, Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact:

313-7891.

Archaeology Society — 6 p.m., third Wednesday every month, October-April at 2045 Memory Lane, Silver City; May-September meetings begin with a pot-luck dinner at 6 p.m. at Roundup Lodge in San Lorenzo-Mimbres, convening for business at 7 p.m. Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.

Babytime Sing & Play — 1 p.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Stories, songs, rhymes and movement for infants 0-12 months and their caregivers. Free, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Back Country Horsemen — 6 p.m., second Wednesday, WNMU Watts Hall, opposite CVS Pharmacy, Hwy. 180. Subject to change. 574-2888.

A Course in Miracles — 7:15 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

Future Engineers — 4-5 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Free creative construction fun with Lego, K'NEX, and Strawbees! For children ages 6-12, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Gilawriters — 1:00-3 p.m., Silver City Food Co-op's Market Café Community Room, 615 N. Bullard St. Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.

Gin Rummy — 1 p.m. at Tranquilbuzz, corner of Yankee and Texas Streets in Silver City.

Grant County Democratic Party — 5:30 p.m., potluck; 6:20 p.m., meeting, second Wednesday, Sen. Howie Morales building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180. 654-6060.

Grant County Federated Republican Women — 11:30 a.m., Third Wednesday, WNMU Cafeteria, Sunset Room. 313-7997.

Ladies Golf Association — 8 a.m. tee time, Silver City Golf Course.

Prostate Cancer Support Group — 6:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

Storytime — 10:30 a.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. For children ages 0-5, no registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

THURSDAYS

ARTS Anonymous — 5:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. Artists recovering through the 12 Steps. 534-1329.

Blooming Lotus Meditation — 5:30 p.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.

De-stressing Meditations — Noon-12:45 p.m., New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society — 6 p.m., second Thursday, 2045 Memory

Lane, Silver City. Anita, 907-830-0631.

Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting — 10 a.m., second Thursday, Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

Little Artist Club — 10:30-11:30 a.m., Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue. Free creative fun for children ages 0-5. No registration necessary. 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

TOPS — 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

WildWorks Youth Space — 4 p.m. For children ages 10+ Space for youth to hang out, experiment, create and more. Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Yoga class — Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, Seventh and Texas. 574-5451.

FRIDAYS

Overeaters Anonymous — 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church. 654-2067.

Silver City Woman's Club — 10:30 a.m., second Friday, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Monthly meeting, lunch is at noon. Lucinda, 313-4591.

Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery — 5:30 p.m., La Clinica Health and Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop, Silver City. Contact:313-7891.

SATURDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip" — 11 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church.

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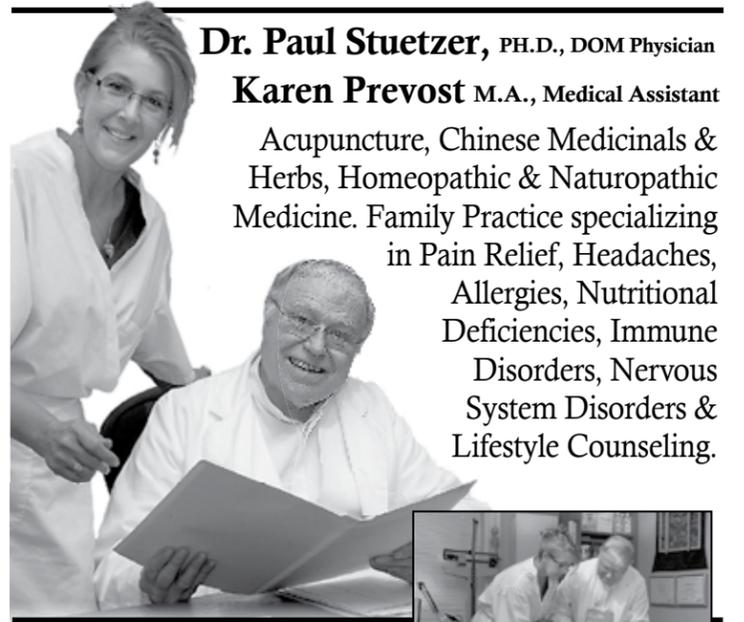
Narcotics Anonymous — 6 p.m., New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

Spinning Group — 1-3 p.m., First Saturday, Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga — 10-11:30 a.m., Lotus Center, 211 W. Broadway. All levels. Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.

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MOSQUITO

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to prevent the mosquitoes from going near the human.

"To be clear, we only ran these experiments on Yellow Fever mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti*, which are the ones we're most concerned with here in southern New Mexico," Hansen said. "They're the carriers of viral diseases like Chikungunya, Dengue fever and Zika. There's nothing to say that citronella isn't an effective repellent for other types of mosquitoes, such as *albopictus*, *rusticus*, or any of the other species."

Hansen described citronella as having a placebo effect, which,

coupled with the oil's pleasant aroma, could explain why it's used so much as a mosquito repellent even when it doesn't work.

"With these responses, we want to start testing some of the methods, like various types of smoke that some people used as a repellent, as well as some of the topically applied methods," Hansen said.

Hansen and Scott's study lays the foundation for future research in alternative methods to repel mosquitoes that may be culturally acceptable and more affordable for people.

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The holidays are upon us again. Where did this year go? I’ve heard it said the older you get the faster the clock moves, and I’m starting to believe it.

With half the world literally burning up and the other half drowning – I mean, when was the last time Venice, Italy, was actually shut down due to flooding (yes, that actually happened this year) – and the whole world trying to decide between cooperating to solve global issues or building walls to go it alone, it’s been hard to find things to feel good about in 2018.

Sometimes I think the real reason horses appeared on this planet 60 million years ago was to get us through times like this.

Comparatively, I’ve been really lucky over the last few months. I’ve had some great new students who are anxious to learn how to be better with horses. Some former students come back, realizing there’s always more to learn and it never hurts to freshen up your skills. Nobody worth their salt in the horse world believes they know it all, although many would have you believe they do. The best horse people are still the ones wanting to learn for the sheer joy of learning and improving.

I’ve also had the chance to travel

and meet some great horse people, see some interesting facilities and breeding/boarding operations, and to see and evaluate some new horses. I’ve been inspired by much of what I’ve seen. It’s energizing when a world-class horse person asks you for advice and help on one of their toughest cases. Makes you realize all your years of work and study have real value in the horse world.

Seen a few things that weren’t so pretty, too.

All this has given me a short wish list for all horse owners and lovers for this holiday season and the coming year.

It seems whatever I pick up to read I find some story about the plight of the wild horses in this country. But there’s a horse problem that may be just as big that gets very little attention. I can’t substantiate this with hard numbers, but I believe there are just as many horses at risk, abandoned, unwanted or living in poor to horrible conditions as there are horses running wild that deserve our help. These aren’t the romanticized, iconic horses running free that are part of the culture of our country, but the horses nobody talks about. These stories are far more personal because these are the stories of horses already owned, or maybe more about the people who own them.

So, this season I wish more people would write about this issue, would open up their wallets to support the legitimate rescues and sanctuaries trying to help, and would blow the whistle when they see situations where someone needs to intervene on behalf of the horses.

There was one comment I heard time and time again in my travels, whether I was in a major city or a rural town. Every horse person I met was nervous and concerned about the shrinking number of large-animal veterinarians. What some people have to go through to get even basic care is astounding and if this trend continues it will certainly impact the future of the horse. I wish more students in vet school, or thinking of this career path, would go into the world of large animals, especially horses. We really need you!

When someone gets a new horse, I wish they’d spend more time getting to know the horse before just hopping on and riding. I wish I didn’t get so many calls from people

who bought a new, trained, ready to go horse and got bucked off and hurt on their first ride. If you really love and respect horses, then get to know your horse in every way possible before asking him to do what you want to do. Every horse needs time to adjust to a new owner and a new situation. Be patient and enjoy the process of getting to know your new partner.

I wish more people would get at least a little professional help and advice before they jump into the world of horses. There would be fewer broken bones or horses at auction if more people would take this little step.

I’ve recently seen some really bad “marriages” between horses and humans and it makes me think many people still don’t understand that horses have different skills and personalities just like we do. I wish more owners would choose horses best suited for their age, skill and primary riding interest, and not think any horse can be made to fit what they want and be happy doing it. Eventually the horse will show his frustration with being asked to do things that don’t fit his personality, his physical skills, his prior training or his temperament. Don’t think your former race horse is happy never going above a walk on the trail.

Finally, I wish more people loved these animals as much as those of us who have them in our lives every day. In my travels I’ve seen empty boarding facilities and small ranches being turned into housing developments and office parks.

I’ve seen riding trails closed off with private property signs or paved over for bicycle paths. I’ve seen more and more horses living in tiny spaces with no room to move, no herd-mates and no attention to their most basic needs. This country was founded and built from the back of a horse and I hope we always remember that, no matter how urban and dependent on technology we become. They certainly deserve it, and my greatest wish would be that we never forget that.

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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MOSQUITO

continued from page 19

total population of over 122,000.) Our river, called Weser, is always full of water. We’ve been told that’s not the case with the Rio Grande. Since northern Germany gets quite a bit of rain, vegetation is varied and very green [except in the extremely hot summer of 2018]. During our stay in Las Cruces, we noticed the big influence Mexico has had on the American side of the border, its culture and food, which makes this area even more interesting. We believe traveling and getting to know different

types of people with their different languages and cultures makes a positive impact upon one’s life and personal view of the world. So, learn foreign languages, enjoy travelling and stay open-minded! Thanks for all your kindness. It’s been a pleasure to get to know you. We love you.”

Ingrid Luchini is youth exchange organizer of the Las Cruces-Nienburg Sister Cities Affiliation. She may be reached at 575-522-3615 or iluchini@zianet.com

HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

A Quiet Place

Finding peace in the Santa Fe National Forest

When a tree falls in the forest and nobody hears it, does it make a sound?

Whether you are camping or not, Santa Fe is always worth a trip. And with campground options only 20 minutes away from the plaza this mode of vacationing offers you the best of two worlds: cool city and wilderness.

We stayed on the Bear Canyon Campground, one of several on the road up to the ski area. (I recommend to make a reservation before you go at www.recreation.gov)

From there it was only a few miles further up the hill to the trailhead of the hike. Tesuque Creek can be found on your left after leaving Hyde Memorial State Park, which also has a campground.

The trail is marked and maintained very well as seems to be the case with most trails in the Santa Fe National Forest. The four miles took us little over two hours, because there are no steep hills and the temperatures were balmy at this altitude, but not too hot with pines offering lots of shade on the way.

The creek, when we came upon it, was flowing but not roaring as mentioned in our guide book. The monsoon season was still ahead of us in late May.

On our return we found a large pine had fallen partially onto the trail and wondered if that had been there on our way in. We were certain we would have noticed it. Talking to some other hikers – the only ones we met on the trail – we determined in fact that, no, the tree had freshly fallen over. Did it make a sound? The world may never know.

We cherished the peace and quiet of the forest particularly after a morning spent at Meow Wolf. The so-called House of Eternal Return with its mind-boggling colors and designs can give you a sensory overload after a few hours. If you have been there I am sure you can relate. If



you haven't, you should go! Only one fact put a damper on this beautiful day out in the woods: upon our return to the campsite we learned we would have to leave a day early because the authorities had decided to put Santa Fe National Forest on a higher level of fire restrictions. The forest was closed starting on the first of June. No more hiking or camping. The sad truth is that despite a Level 2 fire restriction in place, rangers had found more than 100 fresh campfire sites after the Memorial Day weekend. It's maddening and I could start to rant here, but I will spare you that. If this makes you mad too, just share these facts and hope people will learn. Enjoy the trails, see you there!

Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for almost 20 years — and loved every minute of

it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding area and all over this beautiful state.



Trails in the Santa Fe National Forest around the Bear Canyon Campground provide a pleasant, peaceful hike after a hectic day exploring Santa Fe, the city. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)

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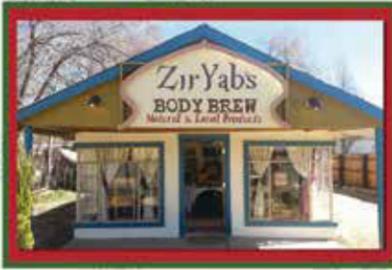
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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIEL ROCHELLE
Why Bicycle to Work?
Meet people, get exercise, see more

Last month I dealt with the mechanics of commuting, with the sort of bicycle you might wish to buy and some of the extras and necessities that you need for such a bike. This month I want to tell you about some of the wonderful things that will happen once you make a commitment to commuting for work and school and church. There are many good advantages to commuting, some of which you may not have considered.

I began commuting in the late 1960s when I was serving a church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It was a new experience; prior to that I rode mostly for exercise. I quickly learned that there was more to commuting than simply cycling a few extra miles during the week. Here are some observations.

First, you will see new people and have novel conversations as you ride. When I commuted earlier in life, I was taking children to day care or school, and I would invariably meet others doing the same thing. This was immediately interesting because those of us who commuted by bike in those days (the 1970s) were involved in graduate school or advanced learning, and the conversations were always interesting, broadening, and deep. I learned about things I would never have had the opportunity to learn, had I not been cycling alongside,

say, a graduate student from Israel studying the connection between memory and smell. This may not be the case for all of you, but please do not lose the main point: when you commute on a bicycle, you meet a lot of people who otherwise would not be available to you, and they will enrich and broaden your life in ways you had not anticipated.

Secondly, you get exercise while you are going to work. No matter how far it is, you will arrive in better shape. Distance is of less importance than the experience: when I ride, for example, to church on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, I arrive rejuvenated – because that is what cycling does for you: it rejuvenates you in ways you may not anticipate. In the Autumn, the weather itself will brace you for the tasks at hand.

Third, you avoid the hassle of traffic and the anxiety and frustration that goes with it. This in itself brings you to work refreshed and ready to go for the day at hand.

Fourth, street riding makes you more aware of the options for shopping. Storekeepers should recognize this as an asset, not a liability. Frequently they do not; that's why the city of Las Cruces is working toward a plan for "complete streets, which highlights the many opportunities for people to see shops and register places they

want to visit when they are not commuting to work. This is true not only here; Albuquerque and Santa Fe and Silver City are also moving in this direction, and it will be a boon for shops. Shopkeepers may think negatively toward such urban changes, but the national statistics demonstrate that merchants gain from slowed traffic and cycle activity because you see more than you do whizzing by in a car or truck.

Fifth, you will experience your city, town or area in a different way. This connects to my previous comment. When I ride, I see things and experience the streets – both negatively and positively – more than if I were driving them on my way to work. The slowness of this experience allows you time to contemplate the wonderful riches of where you live.

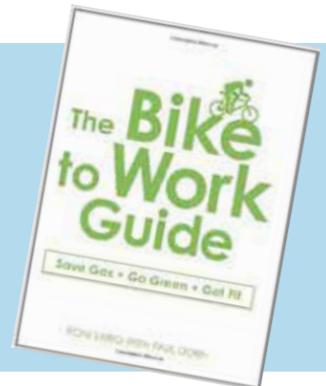
I hope that more and more people will begin to commute to work; the experience cannot be appreciated unless you get into it. Please do!

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and chair of the Hub steering committee. Please email at gabrielcroch@aol.com.



By the Book

"The Bike to Work Guide" – Biking to work can save someone loads of money and lots of calories, all the while, the earth, too. Expert bikers Roni Sarig and Paul Dorn teach potential bikers the tips and tricks to traveling to and from work and other bicycle basics.



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Holiday Traditions



(Photos courtesy Clif McDonald)

STEPPING BACK • CLIF MCDONALD

1932

A miraculous Otero County Christmas

My family moved to the Sacramento Mountains in southern New Mexico during the Great Depression. We left our grandparents, aunts, uncles and numerous cousins in Junction, Texas – a town where the North Llano and the South Llano rivers join up to become the just plain old Llano River. Daddy rented a farm in Avis, New Mexico, which was far away from our home on the river's south fork. We loaded up our truck and we four boys, Mama and Daddy lined up to say our goodbyes. It was like a funeral when we left; everybody was crying and hugging and telling us to be safe in "Mexico." We set out on the Texas Pecos Trail, a couple of ruts set in dust, that would shake and rattle our teeth for the next 450 miles of our westward journey.

We stopped each night before dark to set up camp; unrolled our bedrolls, found kindling, made a fire, and cooked out in the West Texas desert. We'd have our supper and the next morning we'd eat the cold leftovers. Mama and Daddy would drink some cowboy coffee boiled in the coffee pot and we'd set off down the rutty road until our car broke down or until dusk, then start all over again the next day. We made the trip in nine days, but it felt like a year of waiting and stopping and fixing. When we finally got to our place at Avis, it was beautiful! We had a house and a school nearby and we could farm and raise animals. It was pretty close to Heaven.

In 1932 there was a persistent drought in the Sacramento mountains; our potatoes only grew to the size of shooter marbles which Mama would boil, then clap into patties and fry up into "bread" because we couldn't afford flour for real hot cakes or rolls. Beans and corn were also our staples, and chickens provided eggs and sometimes a Sunday dinner. Our farm was best at raising children; the number of kids in our family eventually doubled, despite losing two sweet boys who left to become angels in Heaven.

In 1932 there wasn't any money for Christmas. Daddy decided to cut a wagon load of nice juniper



specially sized for cook stoves. His plan was to peddle the handy, time-saving fuel to housewives in the treeless, flatland towns nearby. My dad worked for days sawing, chopping and splitting hardwood down to the perfect size to fit in the firebox of 500-pound cast iron, heat producing, water boiling, bacon frying, chicken and biscuit cooking contraptions. We helped load the wagon with the perfectly sized kindling and split logs. Daddy told us all goodbye then hauled his freight down the trail through the settlements of Pinon, Duncan, Hope, and on to the barren plains of Artesia – stopping at every house to try to sell his cookstove wood.

After several days we began to expect him to return and we would look down the road to try to see his horses and wagon coming. At night we would sit outside to listen for him. We were about to give up one evening when we heard the rumble of wagon wheels and the clinking of trace chains. We all ran down the road to meet him. He stopped, and we all climbed on the wagon asking, "Did you sell the wood, Daddy?" "Nobody has any money," he

said. "But I traded the wood for a load of apples."

We looked under the tarp and saw the most beautiful red apples we could imagine, and we all got one and started eating. They were sweet and crispy and juicy, and we were so excited and so proud of our dad for making such a good trade.

On Christmas Eve we hung our stockings by the fireplace and finally went to sleep. We woke in the morning to the sound of a crackling fire in the fireplace. We excitedly ran in and found some candy and peanuts in our stockings. I also got a pair of shiny new shoes. I put them on, laced them up and waited for daylight to see how fast I could run in those new shoes. I thought to myself, "It just doesn't get any better than this!"

Every Christmas now I think of how hard Daddy worked to make a Christmas for us, how good a new pair of shoes feels and how much faster they can make a young boy run. And, when I eat an apple during the holidays, I recall how the perfume of a thousand cold, sweet apples smells when a tarp is lifted from where once a load of chopped wood lay.

GLOWING • AMY RIVERS

One Little Light

Luminarias brighten
New Mexican hearts

In southern New Mexico, we call them "luminarias." In northern New Mexico, "farolitos." It's an age-old debate that may never be settled. I just call them "Christmas."

Growing up in the desert of southern New Mexico, we didn't expect a white Christmas. Snow was an uncommon occurrence. Half an inch might delay school or cancel it altogether. Christmas day was usually sunny and brisk, if not warm. Some may look for those falling white flakes as a sign of the holiday season. Not us. But that's all right, because we had other traditions to celebrate the holiday. After Thanksgiving, we decorated our tree and hung stockings. We sang carols and opened the doors on Advent calendars. But the real symbol of Christmas in my house was the making of luminarias.

After lunch on Christmas Eve, my mother would pull out a large stack of paper bags and the folding began. I remember being young and watching my mother fold neat edges along the tops of bags, tossing them in a pile that was soon as tall as a mountain. When I got older and joined in the folding, I realized how much work went into that one task, critical in keeping the bags standing tall and upright for the next step. The sand.

My father would grab fistfuls of bags and line them up in rows outside the back door, next to a tower of boxes of votive candles. Days earlier, he'd had a load of sand delivered to our backyard. Now, using toy cups and measuring scoops and our hands, we filled the bags just enough to weigh them down against the desert winds and to hold the candles steady. Cousins, uncles, aunts – the young and the old – worked their way down the lines of bags, while a second crew of family and friends followed behind tossing a candle in each

bag. Our backs began to ache, our hands gritty with sand and dirt, but as the sun moved lower in the sky, a deadline loomed. Getting the bags out late meant lighting candles in the dark.

While we continued to assemble our luminarias, the adults loaded bags into wheelbarrows to distribute down the dirt drive leading away from our house. My father pulled out the tall ladder and lined our rooftop and the fence running the length of the backyard. In later years, the gazebo and planters would receive a supply as well. Walkways and window sills. Tree wells and benches. Soon, the whole property was dotted with the fruits of our labor. Dusk settled in, and the bags were all placed and ready for lighting. As kids, we were not allowed to do lighting duty, so our next job was to run ahead of those doing the lighting and make sure the candles were standing up, the wicks facing toward heaven.

I would carefully stretch the bag opening, ensuring easy access to the candle inside. I pulled out each candle, separated the wick from the wax, and nestled each votive into the center of the sand. As I glanced back over my shoulder, I could see the beginning glow of the luminarias, waiting for the darkness that would let them shine the brightest. When the last candle was lit, we headed inside, discarding our coats and hats and taking in the delicious smells of posole and tamales waiting to be tasted. My father would make a few trips to light any candles that had gone out. Throughout the night, the rest of took walks down the road to enjoy the magic we had created.

I grew up in a small town whose name means "the light." How fitting that my favorite Christmas memories are full of family, love, and paper lanterns blazing in glorious flame.



The luminarias of Tularosa brighten the streets every year on Christmas Eve. (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

Holiday Traditions

Tracy Roy's Christmas To Do List



Aunt Cuckoo's holiday Slap-Yo-Mouth cranberry apple salad

Submitted by Trish Drum and reprinted from Aunt CucKoo's Gazette, Wassail Moon, Vol. VI-36

Serves: A whole bunch!

Prepare this part the night before:

- 2 packages fresh cranberries, wash and sort
- 1 navel orange, wash and cut into chunks (remember to remove seeds if using another type)
- ½ to 1 cup sugar, to taste but leave on the tart side

Use a food processor to random chop cranberries (if you don't have a food processor, delegate this job to someone who likes to chop stuff and isn't afraid of sharp knives). Mince the orange, peel and all (that's what gives it the "slap-yo-mouth" tang)

Mix together with above mixture:

- 1-2 cups walnuts, chopped (depending on how nutty you want it to be). Note that the nuts soften in the mix.
- 1 cup celery, diced (if you like celery, go ahead, add more).
- 2-4 apples, peeled and diced. MacIntosh, Braeburn or Gala work the best.

The Dressing:

- 2 parts Crème Fraiche (if you can't find crème fraiche, a mixture of sour cream and heavy sweet cream may be substituted)
- 1 part mayonnaise, do not substitute. Use real mayonnaise or don't bother.

Add dressing to combined ingredients, toss lightly to coat. Tastes best the next day.

Optional: Serve in individual clear glass bowls atop a dark green lettuce leaf, topped with a dollop of real whipped cream and garnished with three whole cranberries and a mint leaf.

- Drink eggnog out of wine glasses, especially the kids. Makes it fancy and special.

- Open one gift on Christmas Eve.

• One gift gets put out at the same time as stockings, unwrapped, in front of the tree. That's the present from Santa, and the others are from various people. This allows you to put gifts out before Christmas, maintain Santa's reputation, resulting in great torture of the children's curiosity as they must wait until Christmas to open them all.

• My brother and I had a longstanding tradition of guessing gifts as kids. And over the years, we became frighteningly talented.

• Oranges in stockings. I've heard two reasons for this. One, more practically, oranges were a luxury during the Great Depression. Similarly, it was a rare treat for people who live in cold-weather climates. The other story is that it ties back to the lore of St. Nicholas, who dropped bags of gold down the chimney of a poor man, one for each of his three daughters, so they could marry.

- Advent calendars!
- Put up the Christmas tree the day after

Thanksgiving.

• Since my kids have been born, my father-in-law has come to the house at 6 a.m. Christmas Day, dressed as Santa, waking up the household to pass out a single gift from Santa to each person. My oldest is now onto him (that sounds like pépère!), so he retired his Santa suit in 2017.

• Tourtière pie (a meat pie of ground meat, onion, savory seasonings in a pie crust) is another tradition we observe in our household, due to half the bloodline being French Canadian. It's custom to serve it on special occasions, like Christmas Eve or Christmas. It is excellent as a Christmas-morning breakfast with an over-easy egg on top. And to add my own spicy twist, I like it with Tapatio.

• My kids get a single new ornament in their Christmas stockings each year, so by the time they are 18, we should have 36 unique ornaments representing their lives – and a full tree! I will start it anew if I am one day blessed with grandchildren.

French Canadian tortière meat pie

- 1 lb lean ground pork

- 1/2 lb lean ground beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 1/2 tsp salt, or to taste
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme, crushed
- 1/4 tsp ground sage
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/8 tsp ground cloves

1 pie dough, for a 9-inch double crust pie
In a saucepan, combine pork, beef, onion, garlic, water, salt, thyme, sage, black pepper, and cloves. Cook over medium heat until the mixture boils, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low and simmer until the meat is cooked, about 5 minutes. Allow to cool to room temperature.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.
Spoon the meat mixture into the bottom pie crust. Place the top crust over the filling and pinch the edges to seal. Cut slits in the top crust so steam can escape. Cover the edges of the pie with strips of aluminum foil.

Bake for 20 minutes. Remove the foil and return to oven. Bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 10 minutes before slicing.

Source: www.kitchme.com

DISTANCE • JENNIFER GRUGER

Making Being Apart Into a Little Bit of Home

Every year since my girls (now 30 and 24) moved away, I have sent them an Advent Box. (They've lived together for two Christmases now, which makes the job a little easier!) In the box is a small wrapped gift for each day of December from the first to whatever day they plan to arrive home for the holiday. Then, when they arrive, there are an appropriate number of gifts up through the 24th.

Last year I included a riddle sheet for each day and incorporated their roommate as well. It sounds like a lot of work, but I've learned to gather up little things year 'round and then it's just the wrapping and packaging



and getting it into the mail in a timely manner that remains in November. After-Christmas sale items like gift tags and cheesy mugs and leopard print Santa hats that you just can't pass up

but don't really need are great for this project.

This year, the theme will be a bit different – It will be a Random Acts of Kindness Advent Box and each day, with or without a trinket, I will provide an idea or a task resulting in an act of kindness. I am really looking forward to putting this one together, but it will be bittersweet. I'm pretty sure they won't be able to be home for Christmas this year because they will be here for another family gathering earlier in the month. At any rate, it has proven to be a lovely way to stretch out the love and the fun and the mystery of the season and close the miles between us at the same time.



Gabriele Teich and her family join two other families and drive to Cloudcroft From the Las Cruces area their Lincoln National Forest Christmas Tree cutting adventure. They find a nice country road on the map provided by the Forest Service and head out, saws in hand, to pick and choose the very best tree. After the cut and hike back to the vehicles, out come the goodies for a little picnic, hot cocoa for everyone, some play in the snow if there is any and then return home in the late afternoon. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)

Tree Adventuring

Christmas tree permits for National Forest areas are available for personal use and generally limited to one tree per household. Tree cutting is limited to specific areas and

may be limited to specific tree species. Generally, trees may not exceed 10 feet in height.

Fourth graders with an Every Kid in a Park pass may receive one free Christmas tree permit,

while supplies last when they present their valid Fourth Grade Pass.

Visit www.everykidinapark.gov for information and instructions on obtain-

ing a Fourth Grade Pass. Christmas tree permits are available over the counter at many Forest Service offices. Call ahead for more details and to be sure the local office respon-

sible for the area in which you are interested offers permits, and still has them available. For the Gila National Forest call 575-388-8201 and for the Lincoln call 575-434-7200.

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 get an updated listing in Red or Green?, contact Anita Goins at anita@lascrucesbulletin.com or at 575-680-1980.

The listings here are a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at www.desertexposure.com. We emphasize non-nation-

al-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

RED or GREEN?

Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

Exposure,
1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces,
NM 88005, or email editor@desertexpo-

sure.com.

Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find

the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at www.desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.

CACTUS JACKS, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L.

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.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L.

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

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

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

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

EL GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. Mexican: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday B L Thursday to Saturday B L D.

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, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D.

GRANDMA'S CAFÉ, 900 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2627. American, Mexican: B L.

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

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffee-house.

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N. Bull-

ard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.

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

LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 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.

MEXICO VIEJO, Hwy. 90 and Broadway Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D.

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 602 N. Bullard St., 597-2253. Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tuesday to Saturday B, L.

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

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

REVEL, 304 N. Bullard, 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, 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only.

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

TASTE OF VEGAS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L.

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. www.vickiseatery.com. Saturday-Sunday breakfast;

Monday-Saturday lunch; and Friday-Saturday dinner.

WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.

TRANQUILBUZZ CAFÉ, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffee shop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

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

ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.

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, 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 greenchile 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.

CARILLO'S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday L D.

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

CHILITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water and Las Cruces streets, 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, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D.

DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De

Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: Saturday D.

EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.

ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.

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

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

THE GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina, 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

GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005, 575-524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Specializing in Relleno Burritos and Other Mexican Food

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

GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.

HABANERO'S 600 E. Amador



NEW HOLIDAY HOURS

OPEN WEDNESDAYS THRU SATURDAYS 10-4

DAILY FROM WEDNESDAY 12/12 THRU THE 24th.

CLOSED THE 25th AND 26th (AND AT 2PM ON THE 24th)

RE-OPENING DAILY THE 27th THRU THE 31st.

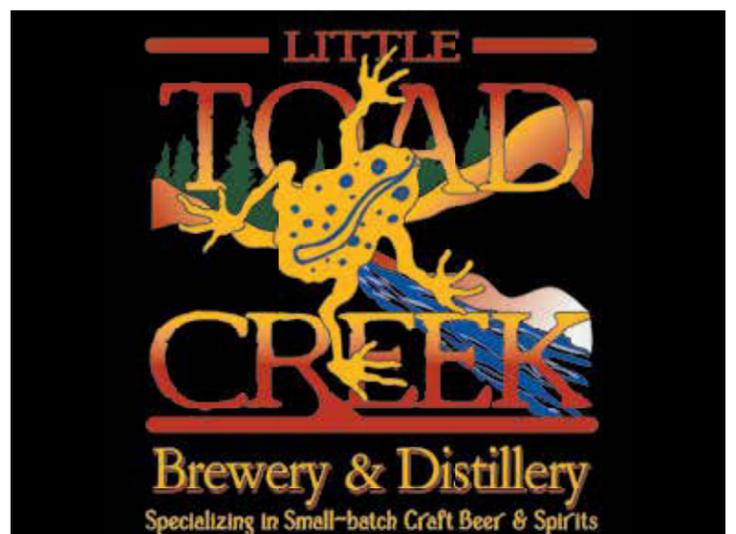
Wishing a Blessed Solstice, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holiday Season to all!

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HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D.

INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B 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, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.

LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 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 Dr., 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., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.

LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.

LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.

LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

LOS MARIACHIS, 5600 Bataan Memorial East, 373-0553. Mexican, L D.

MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.
METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354, www.metropolitandeli.com. Sandwiches and catering: L D.

LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.

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 and Sunday 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, 382-5744. Coffee shop, Mexican, American: B L.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 1300 El Paseo Road, 523-0436. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Monday to Saturday: B L early D.

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, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.

PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.

PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.

PHO A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.

PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.

PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO., 3900 W. Picacho, 575-680-6394. www.picachopeakbrewery.com

PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Herb Wimberly Drive. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.

RANCHWAY BARBECUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D.

RASCO'S BBQ, 125 S. Campo St., 526-7926. Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.

ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.

ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 300 N. Main St., 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Saturday to Thursday B L, Friday B L D.

SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Excellent, gorditas, of course, but also amazing chicken tacos. Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. Greek, Mediterranean: Monday to Saturday L D.

SALUD DE MESILLA, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla B, 323-3548. American, Continental: B L D.

THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wednesday to Sunday B L.

SI SEÑOR, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR,

2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222.

Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-2408. Wine tasting, bistro: L D.

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D.

TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.

TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek, deli: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757.

"Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.

Anthony

ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.

LA COCINITA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

Bayard

FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP, 1108 Tom Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.

LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wednesday to Sunday B L D.

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portas, menu-do: L D.

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. Mexican and American: Monday to Friday B L D.

SPANISH CAFÉ, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.

SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: Sunday to Friday B L.

Chapparal

EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 300 Paloma Blanca Drive, 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

Cliff

D'S CAFÉ, 8409 Hwy 180. Breakfast dishes, burritos, burgers, weekend smoked meats and ribs: Thursday to Sunday B L.
PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday.

Doña Ana

BIG MIKE'S CAFÉ, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

Mimbres

ELK X-ING CAFÉ, (352) 212-0448. Home-style meals, sandwiches and desserts: B L.

RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Monday to Saturday D.

Santa Teresa

BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

LUNA COUNTY

Deming

ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. Bar, deli, steaks: L D.

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Monday to Friday L D, Sunday B.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

EL CAMINO REAL, 900 W. Pine St., 546-7421. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELISA'S HOUSE OF PIES AND RESTAURANT, 208 1/2 S. Silver Alley, 494-4639. Southern soul food: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

"FORGHEDABOUDIT" pizza & wings, 115 N. Silver Ave., 275-3881. Italian, pizza, wings: Monday to Sunday L D.

GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.

IRMA'S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. Mexican: B L D.

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

MANGO MADDIE'S, 722 E. Florida St., 546-3345. Salads, sandwiches, juice bar, coffee drinks.

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Monday to Saturday L D.

PRIME RIB GRILL (inside Quality Inn), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

RANCHER'S GRILL, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse, burgers: L D.

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795 American, Mexican, breakfasts: Monday to Thursday B L, Friday B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday B L D, Tuesday B L.

TOCAYO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

Akela

APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, etc.: B L D.

Columbus

IRMA'S KITCHEN, B L D, Highway 11, 575-694-4026, Mexican food.
LA CASITA, 309 Taft, 575-531-2371. B L D, Mexican food.



SUNRISE ESPRESSO
 1513 N. Hudson
 Sunrise Espresso II
 1212 East 32nd St.
 Now offering Smoothies

Now with two convenient locations to serve you!
 Our premier drive-thru location at 1530 N. Hudson, between Billy Casper Medical Center and Harvest Fellowship Church, and our second location at 1212 E. 32nd, at the corner of Lesley and 32nd which features a comfortable walk-in and an express drive-thru window. In addition to our great espresso drinks, we are now offering real fruit smoothies, savory pastries, homemade biscotti, fresh baked muffins and scones to our menu.

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New Second Location: 1212 E. 32nd St. • Silver City, NM
 Mon.-Fri. 6:30 am to 2pm • FREE WiFi



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**Saturday, Sunday, and Monday we will feature Chef Guerra's cooking.
We are very excited.**

CHRISTMAS EVE MENU

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
SERVED 5PM TO 8PM

**A NEW MEXICO
CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**
COME SEE THE LUMINARIOS

ENTRÉE CHOICE:

NEW MEXICAN POSOLE EITHER
WITH ROASTED PORK OR
VEGGIE STYLE

SERVED WITH ALL THE FIXINGS
(AVOCADO, RED CHILI FLAKES,
SUNFLOWER SEEDS, MONTEREY
JACK CHEESE, CILANTRO AND
LIME)

SERVED WITH A HARDY ROMAINE
SALAD WITH DRIED CRANBERRIES
AND LOCAL PISTACHIOS AND
ARTISANAL BREAD

HOT APPLE CRISP
AND WHIPPED CREAM

\$34

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH 12-6PM

STARTER:

POTTED SHRIMP OR PIMENTO CHEESE
SERVED WITH CRUDITÉS, OLIVES, AND
HOMEMADE CRACKERS

SOUP COURSE:

FRESH CORN CHOWDER- FRESH CORN
STEEPED IN MILK WITH VEGGIES, WINE,
AND HERBS TOPPED WITH ROASTED
RED BELL PEPPER AND CREME FRAICHE
SERVED WITH
HOMEMADE ROSEMARY BREAD

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

DUCK CONFIT TOPPED WITH A CHERRY
SAUCE SERVED WITH SCALLOPED
POTATOES AND GLAZED CARROTS
OR

ROAST PORK TENDERLOIN TOPPED WITH
A PORT CRANBERRY SAUCE SERVED WITH
SCALLOPED POTATOES AND
GLAZED CARROTS
OR

STUFFED ROASTED EGGPLANT- BRIE AND
BASIL BETWEEN TWO ROUNDS OF
ROASTED EGGPLANT ENCRUSTED IN
LOCAL PISTACHIOS
SAUTÉED TO A GOLDEN BROWN TOPPED
WITH A FRESH CORN SALSA AND SERVED
WITH GLAZED CARROTS AND
SCALLOPED POTATOES.

ALL ENTRÉES ARE SERVED WITH
HOMEMADE BREAD AND BUTTER

DESSERTS:

APRICOT CAKE TOPPED WITH REAL WHIP
CREAM AND MEMBRILLO LACED APRICOTS
OR
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

\$48 PER PERSON

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST 5-8PM

STARTER:

POTTED CRAB OR PIMENTO CHEESE
AND CRUDITÉS SERVED WITH
HOMEMADE CRACKERS

SOUP COURSE:

SMOKED BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP
SERVED WITH HOMEMADE BREAD

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

ROAST BEEF WITH YORKSHIRE
PUDDING SERVED WITH MASHED
POTATOES AND
FIG GLAZED CARROTS
OR

CRAB CAKES SERVED ON A BED OF
GREENS AND TOPPED WITH TOMATO
BASIL REMOULADE AND
FIG GLAZED CARROTS
OR

ZUCCHINI FRITTERS TOPPED WITH
SOUR CREAM, BASIL,
AND A FRESH CORN SALSA
SERVED WITH FIG GLAZED CARROTS

DESSERT:

BOURBON CAKE TOPPED WITH
BOURBON MEMBRILLO LACED
APRICOTS AND REAL WHIPPED CREAM
OR
ENGLISH PUDDING WITH BERRIES
OR
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

\$52.00 PER PERSON

Reservations are a must: 575-538-2538

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ON SKIS • DENISE OTTOVIANO

Cleaning up the Slopes

Forest partners with tribe on restoration project

Ski Apache is a popular destination for skiers in Southern New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. The ski area is located on the Lincoln National Forest and operated by the Mescalero Apache Tribe under a special use permit.

Much of the green forest strips that separate ski runs were burned in the Little Bear Fire in 2012. Some work was done with Burned Area Emergency Response funds, but due to the steep slopes, the project proved to be very difficult to implement and posed significant risk to workers. The machinery and resources available at that time were not what was needed to accomplish the work.

Many things came together to create a proposal in early 2017 to remove approximately 150 additional acres of hazard trees. With assistance from Regional Forest Engineer Bob Rich who went to Ruidoso and visited the ski area, a proposal was outlined to use steep



Ponsse equipment is used at Ski Apache by the U.S. Forest Service to take care of dead wood hazards left over from Little Bear Fire. (Courtesy Photo)

slope logging technology.

The Lincoln National Forest completed an environmental analysis and decision notice to analyze the effects of the proposal, which also required a site-specific amendment to the Lincoln Forest Plan, which prohibits the use of heavy equipment on slopes greater than 40 percent. The Tribe and the Lincoln National Forest entered into an agreement to spend

Reserved Treaty Rights lands-funds that are available to tribes for forest restoration activities that can be used within or adjacent to reserved treaty right land.

The grant proved to be a perfect fit for the work at the ski area. The tribe put out a request for bid package in August after the forest went through the required objection period. One contractor made a site visit and that bid was

awarded by the tribe to Miller Timber Services of Oregon that uses Ponsse tree harvesting equipment, made in Finland. It can safely operate on slopes up to 80 percent, far above what any traditional logging equipment can do. Miller has 13 teams of this type of equipment and has been doing this kind of work for more than 20 years.

Due to the ski area operations as well as concerns with vari-

ous plant and animal species on this island mountain, there was a limited window to operate. The equipment showed up in October and worked 12 hours shifts, seven days a week.

This partnership project with the use of the Ponsse equipment is the first of its kind in New Mexico. Its success will hopefully open the door for other project opportunities in the southwest where steep slopes limit the options available for traditional forest restoration efforts.

The Tribe and the Lincoln National Forest will continue to work collaboratively to restore the ski area landscape including tree planting, addressing a spruce beetle outbreak, and aspen restoration work.

For information about this project, contact the Smokey Bear Ranger District at 575-257-4095. For more information about the Lincoln National Forest like visit www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln.

Gila Friends Meeting
The Religious Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting for Worship
 Sundays 10-11a.m.

Temporarily meeting at 1507 Combs Circle, Silver City, NM

For more info: 575 590-1588
 fevafotos@gmail.com



Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City. (Courtesy Photos)

The Lighting of the Tree

Tree Lighting
Christmas Carols
Biblical Story of Christmas
Hot Chocolate and Cookies

A Special Way to Begin the Holy-Day Season

Sunday, December 2nd
at 6pm

Valley Community Church
19A Racetrack Road,
Arenas Valley
Phone: 575-538-9311
for more info

Dress Warmly - this is an outdoor event

FEAST TIME

Church Invites Community

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd invites everyone to join them in commemorating The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 16 at 615 N. Texas St. in Silver City.

This Eucharistic service, open to people of all faiths will be joyous and family friendly. The Deming High School Mari-

achi Band, of 20 or more musicians, will provide celebrational and spiritual music during the service and again for entertainment afterward.

LULAC will provide tacos along and posole, bizcochos and other holiday favorite refreshments. Contact George Smith or Fr. Paul Moore for more information at 575-538-2015 or office@goodshepsilver.org.



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church service with the Deming High School Mariachi Band Directed by Gerard Flores.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Moon Shadows

Judy in disguise, Jack in da skies

The October moon shone bright and high over Las Cruces, over Dwight Yoakam, as he sang for fans at the sixth annual Las Cruces Country Music Festival.

The old Cruces pizza parlor Casa Luna is no mas, having expired about a decade ago.

There is good wood-fired pizza, though, at Luna Rossa restaurant, at the edge of Mesilla, and the pies are \$5.99 on Monday nights, maybe less if the moon is full. And there is good pizza, I am told, to be found in the Luna itself, County, that is.

I'm not sure I've ever loved the moon as much as I have since moving to Las Cruces. I loved seeing it rise over the Sacramentos in Alamogordo, particularly from Tiger Stadium under the Friday night football lights, but the jaggedness of the Organs makes the moon even more intriguing. The moon can change drastically even if you just move a mile or so north or south, even appearing to set and rise again.

Of course, the best place for the moon is White Sands National Monument, where I once read a book by the moonlight. And on another, moonless, night, I saw my own shadow. Not cast by the sun, nor the moon, but by the planet Venus, goddess of love.

In the old cafe Andrea's, which occupied the space of the old cafe Margo's, in Alamogordo, I met a man on a motorcycle, who had been traveling the country and spent the previous night at White Sands under the luz de la luna. He described Judy Garland in the full moon. I had never seen her before, but after he told me, I looked and, eventually, found Judy in disguise in the moon. Her head tilted back, eyes closed, mouth open, dark hair and eyebrows ... could she be singing "Somewhere over the Rainbow?" Maybe "Misty?" Probably not "Clang, clang, clang went the trolley ..." Suite: Judy Blue Eyes with Old Blue Eyes accompanying with "Fly Me to the Moon."

I remember orange harvest

moons on the horizon during Oklahoma autumns of my youth, but never has the moon resonated as much as it does in New Mexico.

Mysterious Chaco Canyon in northwest New Mexico is an amazing place, where an advanced culture of people once lived a thousand years ago. As many people as live in the Four Corners region today. And then they up and disappeared. I had the fortune one night to sit in one of the structures there, and watch the full moon's light come in, demonstrating how these not-so-primitive primitive peoples had built the rooms to hold the light of the moon, perhaps, perchance, to "dance by the light of the moon," with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed singing harmony. It's indeed a wonderful life.

At La Nueva Casita Cafe, on Mesquite Street since 1957, right across from Klein Park near Downtown Las Cruces, one of the featured menu items is Tacos Estrellas. These are quite possibly the best tacos I've ever had, out of

this world with an exquisitely seasoned blend of beef and pork.

And yet there is a frighteningly high percentage, 24 percent, of Americans who believe the moon landing was staged. Fake. It never happened. Probably many of these people reside in New Mexico, where the next-to-last man to ever walk on the moon, on a December night in 1972, also resides.

Harrison "Jack" Schmitt, a Silver Citian, was a scientist aboard Apollo 17, and later served a term as United States Senator, perhaps following in the political small footsteps, manwise, of John Glenn, who was no Neil Armstrong, who was giant leaps forward, mankind-wise, but nevertheless was an orbital trailblazer without whom neither Schmitt, nor Armstrong nor Alan Shepherd's golf club may have made it to the luna en el cielo.

Clyde Tombaugh, who later taught at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, looked well beyond the moon to discover Pluto, whose on-again, off-again

status as a planet is annoying to many moon watchers in the Land of Enchantment.

But, of course, when the moon hits your eye, like a big Casa Luna or Luna Rossa pizza pie, well, mon ami, that's amore.

And when in the ocean you lie, and an eel strikes your thigh, that's a moray.

Buenos noches, Feliz Navidad y buen camino, mi amigos, even to the moon and back, like Jack.

Richard Coltharp, publisher of Desert Exposure, has never been to the moon,

but he has eaten a couple thousand pizza pies in his day. For Christmas pizza, he recommends pepperoni and green chile. He can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com, and can recite stretches of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" on demand.



Drawing Out the Dream of a Quilt

A silk, hand-quilted and hand-painted quilt by Elli Sorensen goes to Flagstaff Arboretum. (Courtesy Photo)



Many residents and visitors to Silver City may remember seeing the quilt depicting a landscape with 50 native plants of the Southwest displayed this year at the Seedboat Gallery, the Gila Symposium, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico Annual Conference and other venues. The quilt, painted on silk and hand-quilted by local artist Elli Sorensen, was donated to the Gila Native Plant Society for fundraising.

The raffle drawing was held at the Oct. 19 meeting of the Gila Na-

tive Plant Society. The winner of the quilt was Kristin Haskins, plant ecologist and director of research at The Arboretum at Flagstaff.

Haskins intends to hang the quilt, along with the key to the plants, in the hall of the Walter Reichardt House and Visitor Center at the Arboretum, where visitors on guided tours will be able to see it. The Arboretum at Flagstaff is closed to the public for the winter from Nov. 1, but the quilt will be on display when the Arboretum opens again on April 15, 2019.

The drawing included second

and third prizes as well. Janine Risser of Rio Rancho won second prize, a photograph of Rothrock's Basketflower (*Plectocephalus rothrockii*) taken by Elroy Limmer and float-mounted on metal. Third prize, a signed original poster by Jim Brandenburg, framed and matted, was won by Beth Leuck of Silver City.

The Gila Native Plant Society is planning to use the funds for grants for worthwhile native plant projects and scholarships to promising students in the natural sciences.



Rothrock's Basketflower (Photo by Elroy Limmer)

LAS POSADAS

Traveling With the Holy Family

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will celebrate the Las Posadas advent tradition at 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 22 beginning at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 615 North Texas Street.

Las Posadas is a tradition that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. A procession will travel with

the holy family to various local businesses, stopping at the one place which, at last, will receive them. At that location, there will be food and drink for all participants.

The procession involves readings and singing the traditional "Posadas" song and other Christmas carols as the holy family's journey progresses. Just

as Joseph and Mary were forced to leave their home in Nazareth to go to Bethlehem, posadas gives us an opportunity to recall and respond to the plight of displaced peoples around the world today.

Contact George Smith for more information at 575-538-2015 or office@goodshepsilver.org.

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in December

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Silver City/Grant County

Artisan Holiday Market — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Grant County Conference Center, on U.S. Highway 180 East. Area artists with their hand-made items from jewelry, gourd art, fiber arts, painting and much more. Food will be available by the Duck Stop. Info: scholidaymarket@gmail.com.

Tamal Fiesta Y Más — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in downtown Santa Clara. Celebrate the Hispanic Heritage of Southwest New Mexico with hand-made arts and crafts, musicians and dancers. Info: 575-537-2443.

"Deathtrap" — 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Silver High Little Theater. A comedic thriller performed by the Silver City Community Theatre. Info: 575-388-4856.

Doug Snyder music — 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos. Info: 575-538-9911.

Deming/Luna County

StarsNParks Program — 6:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m. at Rockhound State Park. Presenter Mike Nuss. Info: 575-635-0982.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Happy Holidays Craft Day — 2-4 p.m. at the UU Fellowship of Otero County, 1010 E. 16th St., Alamogordo. Make crafts, enjoy cocoa and cider while listening to some Yule stories and holiday carols. There will be a henna artist on hand and tarot card readings. Info: 575-491-8889.

Olde Fashioned Christmas — 4-9 p.m. Downtown block of New York



The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra brings "Classics Two" to the Adkinson Recital Hall Dec. 1 and 2. (Courtesy Photo)

Avenue in Alamogordo. Santa's village, horse-drawn trolley, ugly sweater contest and much more. Info: cloya@alamogordomainstreet.org.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Christmas in the Foothills: A Hillsboro Tradition — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center in Hillsboro, on U.S. Highway 152. Info: 575-895-5117.

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the

west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 388 Calle del Norte Road in Monticello. Sale of many handmade products including winning knives from "Forged in Fire" and America's only true traditional balsamic vinegar. Info: 575-743-0200.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fid-

dlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Holiday Bazaar — 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Capitan Public Library, 101 E. Second St. Capitan. Info: 575-354-3035.

Ruidoso Festival of Lights Parade — 5:30-7 p.m. in Ruidoso beginning from the corner of Sudderth/Mechem, through Midtown and down to the Chamber of Commerce. Info: 575-805-7395.

Festival of Lights After Party —

7-10 p.m. at the MCM Elegante Lodge and Suites. Santa Claus will be there to join in the fun and taking pictures with everyone. Info: 575-805-7395.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Las Cruces Downtown Main Street Plaza. Info: 575-805-6055.

La Casa Holiday Bazaar — 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Cost: \$6. Info: 575-526-2819.

Turning Back the Sun: Winter Solstice — All day at Leasburg Dam State Park. Live demonstrations, pueblo Indian dances, at sunset gather around the fire for traditional coyote/winter stories of native peoples. Info: 575-524-4068.

Crafts for kids — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In honor of the museum's new Peter Hurd exhibit, try your hand at depicting the New Mexican landscape using handmade egg tempera paint. Info: 575-522-4100.

Selfies with Santa — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony — 6-8:30 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Festivities include food trucks, music, free activities and give aways for children and Santa will make an

There are multiple ways you can give back this holiday season!

Give to support our newest, community focused fund: **The Give Where You Live Fund.**

This fund has been established to be a resource to nonprofit partners and meet our community's greatest needs!



Or help build the endowments

of our 38 Nonprofit Partners

Amador Health Center -
(St. Luke's Health Care Clinic, Inc.)
Asombro Institute for Science Education
AppleTree Educational Center
Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region
Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces
The Bridge of Southern New Mexico
Casa de Peregrinos
Colonias Development Council
Community Action Agency of Southern NM
Doña Ana Arts Council
Doña Ana County Humane Society
El Caldito Soup Kitchen
El Refugio, Inc.

Flickinger Center for Performing Arts
Foundation for Las Cruces Museums
Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village
The Healing House, Inc.
Hearts for Autism
Human Systems Research Inc.
Imagination Library of Grant County
Jardin de Los Niños
Junior League of Las Cruces, Inc.
La Casa, Inc.
La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services
Las Cruces Aquatic Club
Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission

Mesilla Valley CASA
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity
Mesilla Valley Hospice
Mesilla Valley Youth Foundation, Inc.
(Court Youth Center)
New Mexico School for the Blind
& Visually Impaired
New Mexico State University--Alamogordo
Foundation
Salvation Army of Las Cruces
Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP)
United Way of Southwest New Mexico
Women's Intercultural Center
Zia Therapy Center

appearance. Info: 575-541-2290.
"Classics Two" with the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra — 7:30 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall, New Mexico State University Music Building, 1075 N. Horseshoe. Alex Richardson is guest soloist with the orchestra. Tickets: \$40-\$50. Info: 575-646-3709.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
Silver City/Grant County

Artisan Holiday Market — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Grant County Conference Center, on U.S. Highway 180 East. Area artists with their handmade items from jewelry, gourd art, fiber arts, painting and much more. Food will be available by the Duck Stop. Info: scholidaymarket@gmail.com.
"Deathtrap" — 2 p.m. at the Silver High Little Theater. A comedic thriller performed by the Silver City Community Theatre. Info: 575-388-4856.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

Monticello Holiday Store — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 388 Calle del Norte Road in Monticello. Sale of many handmade products including winning knives from "Forged in Fire" and America's only true traditional balsamic vinegar. Info: 575-743-0200.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Holiday Market — 10 a.m. at Ardivino's Desert Crossing at Sunland Park. Over 200 vendors and cooking demos. Info: 575-589-0653.
La Casa Holiday Bazaar — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Cost: \$6. Info: 575-526-2819.
Selfies with Santa — noon to 3 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.
"Classics Two" with the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra — 2 p.m. at the Atkinson Recital Hall, New Mexico State University Music Building, 1075 N. Horseshoe. Alex Richardson is guest soloist with the orchestra. Tickets: \$40-\$50. Info: 575-646-3709.



The Las Cruces Ukuleles provide a free holiday concert in Las Cruces Dec. 13. (Courtesy Photo)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3
Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Silver City/Grant County

Concert Band of the Southwest — 7 p.m. at the Cobre High School Auditorium, Bayard. Provides a musical journey across the globe including "Crooner's Serenade." Info: 575-388-7874.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Silver City/Grant County

Brown Bag Lunch: Board Structure and Governance — noon-1 p.m. College Street Plaza, 301 W. College St. in Silver City. Info: 575-597-0035.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Urban Ag Working Group — 10-11:30 a.m. at Las Cruces City Hall, Nienburg Room, 700 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: krysten@lasemillafoodcenter.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6
Silver City/Grant County

Friends of Power & Light Press Holiday Market — 5-9 p.m. at the

Hub, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite F. Info: 575-388-3343.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

Alamogordo/Otero County
"Mariachi Christmas" — 7-9:30 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-2202.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Festival of Trees — 4 p.m. at Centennial High School, 1950 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd. in Las Cruces. Dozens of decorated trees for raffle, live music, kid crafts, a gingerbread village and Santa himself.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Silver City/Grant County

Hi Lo Silvers Holiday Concert and Sing-A-Long — 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Directed by Nada Dates. Info: 575-388-8771.

Gila Wildlife Rescue, Your Local Rehabilitators — 7 p.m. at Western New Mexico University, Harlan Hall, 12th and Alabama streets. SWNM Audubon monthly meeting features Dennis and Denise Miller who specialize in rehabilitating raptors and mammals. Info: swnmaudubon@gmail.com.

"Deathtrap" — 7:30 p.m. at the Silver High Little Theater. A comedic thriller performed by the Silver City Community Theatre. Info: 575-388-4856.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Houston, there is a Santa Claus: The Christmas Mission of Apollo 8 — 9-10 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001 in Alamogordo. A launch pad lectured presented by museum Executive Director Christopher Orwoll. Info: 575-437-2840.

Annual Parade of Lights 2018 — 5-8 p.m. along 10th Street in Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-6120.

Christmas Tree Lighting — 6-8 p.m. at the Washington Park in Alamogordo. Food, games, contest, music and fun. Info: 575-439-4279.

Santa's Workshop — 6 p.m. at White Sands Mall, 3199 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Children get to take home five crafts, play games and sing songs. Fundraiser for Alamogordo High School FFA. Children must be supervised. Cost: \$8. Info: 575-434-3990.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Festival of Trees — 4 p.m. at Centennial High School, 1950 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd. in Las Cruces. Dozens of decorated trees for raffle, live music, kid crafts, a gingerbread village and Santa himself.

Christmas Tree Lighting in Old Mesilla — 6-8 p.m. in the Old Mesilla Plaza. Info: 575-524-3262.

Mexican Cultural Series: Horacio Franco — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces. Professional recorder player with more than 25 recordings. Free. Info: 575-541-2290.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Silver City/Grant County

"Deathtrap" — 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Silver High Little Theater. A comedic thriller performed by the Silver City Community Theatre. Info: 575-388-4856.

StarsNParks Program — 6:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m. at City of Rocks State Park. Presenter Bill Nigg. Info: 575-635-0982.

Deming/Luna County

Luminiarias at Pancho Villa State Park — 5-6:30 p.m. at Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus. Info: 575-531-2711.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Tracy Lawrence Live in Concert — 7-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, Carrizo Road, Mesalero.



On Dec. 15 the Artisan Fair at Cruces Creatives features artists and craftspeople including Donna Schwendinger founder of Blue Gecko Southwest. (Courtesy Photo)

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Barkley

DSH Orange Tabby, male about 2 years old



Alexander

DSH Male about 5 months old



Bentey

Pug/Pekinese, Neutered male about 4-5 years old



Caramel

Heeler X, Male about 1 year old

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Dala

Heeler X, female about 4 months old

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Georgia

Calico, female 10 months old

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Gila Animal Clinic



Harvest

Calico, female about 1 year old

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High Desert Humane Society



Hatfield

Heeler X, male about 1 year old

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Joni

Heeler X, female about 4 months old

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Peppercorn

Heeler, female about 1 year old

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Sammie

Shep X, neutered male about 1 years old



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Info: innofthemountainangods.com.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

Luminaria Walk — 5-8 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. More than 3,000 luminarias line beach paths to community sponsored campsites with posole, chile, cocoa, cookies s'mores and more. Carolers, Santa and Steel Soldiers are around to cheer you on. Info: 575-744-5923.

Second Saturday Art Hop — 6-9 p.m. in Downtown Truth or Consequences. Info: promotions@torcmainstreet.org.

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

**Alamogordo/Otero County
Parade of Lights 2018** — 5 p.m. on 10th Street in Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-6120.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla/
Doña Ana County**

From Jornada to Hot Springs — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Leasburg Dam State Park. Ranger led hike looking at hydrology and geothermal activity along the Rio Grande. Info: 575-524-4068.

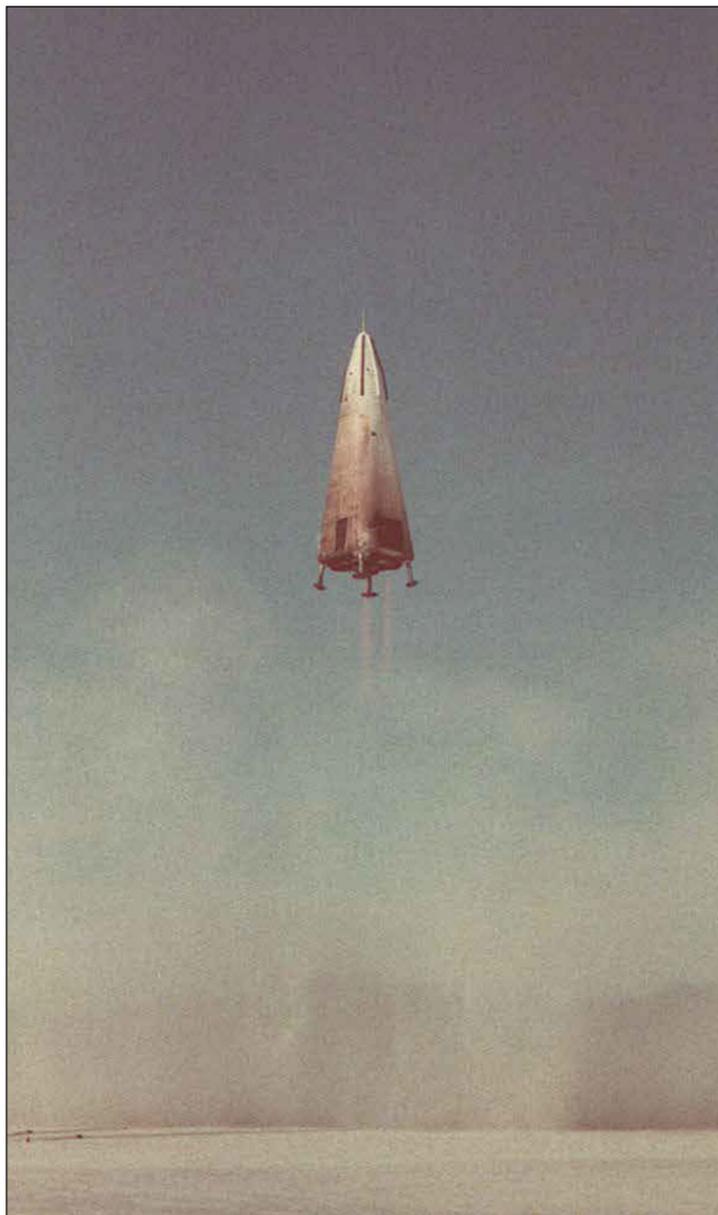
Crafts for kids — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Make and decorate graham cracker pueblos. Info: 575-522-4100.

Selfies with Santa — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

Teddy Bear Tea at the Las Cruces Festival of Trees — 11 a.m. at Centennial High School, 1950 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd. in Las Cruces. Enjoy a selection of tea, hot cocoa or lemonade and assorted tea cakes. Children treated to activities, story time and photo-ops with Santa. Each child receives a teddy bear as a memento.

Las Cruces Festival of Trees — 11 a.m. at Centennial High School, 1950 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd. in Las Cruces. Dozens of decorated trees for raffle, live music, kid crafts, a gingerbread village and Santa himself.

OutsmART: Today's Kids/Tomor-



The DC-X, short for Delta Clipper or Delta Clipper Experimental, is an unmanned prototype of a reusable single-stage-to-orbit launch vehicle tested at White Sands Missile Range in the 1990s. The Museum of Space History in Alamogordo visits the project during its Dec. 22 warehouse tour. (Photo courtesy Wikicommons)

row's Artists, Shadow and Contrast — 1-3 p.m. at the University Art Gallery, 1390 E. University Ave. Las Cruces. Interactive children's art workshop. Info: 575-646-2545.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
Silver City/Grant County**

"Deathtrap" — 2 p.m. at the Silver High Little Theater. A comedic thriller performed by the Silver City Community Theatre. Info: 575-388-4856.

Hi Lo Silvers Holiday Concert and Sing-A-Long — 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. in Silver City. Directed by Nada Dates. Info: 575-388-8771.

"Lady Long Rider" Bernice Ende book tour — 4-5 p.m. at the Gila Valley Library, Ende will show slides and talk about the almost 30,000 miles she has done on horseback across America and Canada. She will also be available to sign her books. Info: 575-538-5555.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

13th Annual Yuletide in Chloride — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery, located at the west end of Wall St., Chloride (40 miles Northwest of Truth or Consequences). Features works from about 30 local artists. Continues through Dec. 9. Info: montecristogallery@windstream.net.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla/
Doña Ana County**

Show and Shine 2 Car Show and Cruise Toy Drive — 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. beginning at the old K-Mart parking lot, Bataan Memorial West. Bring at least one boy and one girl gift valued over \$10. Info: 575-524-1590.

Selfies with Santa — noon to 3 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

Mesilla Valley Chorale — 3 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre in downtown Las Cruces. Cost: \$10. Info: 575-647-2560.

The Roadshow Christmas Tour — 6 p.m. at the NMSU Pan America Center. Gospel music with Matthew West and more. Info: 575-646-7420.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 10
Silver City/Grant County**

"Lady Long Rider" Bernice Ende book tour — 10 a.m.-noon at the Silver City Senior Center and 2-3:15 p.m. at the Silver City Library, Ende will show slides and talk about the almost 30,000 miles she has done on horseback across America and Canada. She will also be available to sign her books. Info: 575-538-

5555.

Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m. at Cross Point Assembly of God Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. Info: 575-537-3643.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla/
Doña Ana County**

Lorca U.S. Tour (Trio) — 8-11 p.m. at Beck's Roasting House & Creamery, 130 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-556-9850.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Silver City/Grant County

"Lady Long Rider" Bernice Ende book tour — 6-4 p.m. at Javalina Coffee Shop, Ende will show slides and talk about the almost 30,000 miles she has done on horseback across America and Canada. She will also be available to sign her books. Info: 575-538-5555.

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 12**

Silver City/Grant County

Gin Rummy — 1 p.m., Tranquilbuzz Coffeehouse, 112 W. Yankee St., Silver City. Beginners welcome. Experts challenged. Info: 575-535-9355.

"Navajo Weavers of the Southwest" presentation and book signing — 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the J. Cloyd Miller Library on the WNMU campus. Meet the authors. Info: 575-538-5555.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Alamogordo/Otero County

Santa's Workshop — 6 p.m. at White Sands Mall, 3199 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo. Children get to take home five crafts, play games and sing songs. Fundraiser for Alamogordo High School Varsity Cheer. Children must be supervised. Cost: \$8. Info: 575-434-3990.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Ukulele Holiday Concert — 6:30 p.m. at the auditorium in the social center at Good Samaritan Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Alamogordo/Otero County

Christmas Bazaar & Posada — 4 p.m. at Father James B. Hay Catholic School, 1000 Eighth St. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-7821.
Ballet: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — 7-9 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Presented by the Academy of Ballet. Info: 575-437-3810.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

"The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays" — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces. Presented by

the Doña Ana Repertory Theatre, a theatre mystery set in December 1936. Cost: \$10 Info: 575-541-2290.
Nutcracker and Holiday Spectacular — 7 p.m. at the New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet and Michele's Dance Academy, also featuring the Oñate High School Choral Department. Info: 575-527-1893.
Holiday Contra Dance — 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago in Mesilla. The Little Table Contraband will be playing and Lonnie Ludeman will be calling. Info: 575-522-1691.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Silver City/Grant County

Wreaths Across America — 10 a.m. at Fort Bayard National Cemetery. Ceremony begins, wreaths put out to "Remember the fallen, honor those who serve ... and teach our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day." Info: 575-538-2626.

Just Words at the Tranquilbuzz — 2 p.m. at the Tranquilbuzz Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St. Award winning mystery writer Kris Neri reads and discusses writing, followed by open mic for poetry and prose. Info: sigriddaughter@gmail.com.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Fort Stanton Garrison Program Holiday Edition — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Stanton Historic Site, 104 Kit Carson Road in Fort Stanton. Create historic holiday crafts and interact with living historians. Info: nmhistoricsites.org/fort-stanton.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Ballet: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — 7-9 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing arts, 1110 New York Ave., Alamogordo. Presented by the Academy of Ballet. Info: 575-437-3810.

**Truth or Consequences/
Sierra County**

Old Time Fiddlers Dance — 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Artisan Fair — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman, Las Cruces. Artisans and crafters with live music, children's activities and a silent auction. Info: 575-541-5744.

Crafts for kids — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Craft paper poinsettias and learn about the history of the plant. Info: 575-522-4100.
Selfies with Santa — 10 a.m. to



The large brightly lit chile drops over the Plaza de Las Cruces to ring in the new year of 2018 as friends Vivian He, Gary Kanner, Chelsea Shaw and Lisa Terrat during the 4th Annual Chile Drop on the Plaza de Las Cruces. The chile will again drop as 2018 closes in Las Cruces. (Photo By Steve McIntyre)

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2 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

"The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays" — 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces. Presented by the Doña Ana Repertory Theatre, a theatre mystery set in December 1936. Cost: \$10 Info: 575-541-2290.

Nutcracker and Holiday Spectacular — 7 p.m. at the New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet and Michele's Dance Academy, also featuring the Onate High School Choral Department. Info: 575-527-1893.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Selfies with Santa — noon to 3 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

Nutcracker and Holiday Spectacular — 2 p.m. at the New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet and Michele's



Towns and cities across New Mexico light the way for the Christ child with simple luminaria bags Dec. 24 such as this display at St. Frances de Paula Catholic Church in Tularosa. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

ular — 2 p.m. at the New Mexico State University Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet and Michele's

Dance Academy, also featuring the Onate High School Choral Department. Info: 575-527-1893.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Ballet: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — 7-9 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Performing Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. in Las Cruces. Presented by the Las

Cruces School of Dance and Music. Info: 575-437-3810.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Food Truck Winterfest — 5-9 p.m. at Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Festivities include food trucks, music, entertainment, carolers and pictures with Santa. Info: 575-541-2290.

Ballet: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — 7-9 p.m. at the ASNMSU Center for the Performing Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. in Las Cruces. Presented by the Las Cruces School of Dance and Music. Info: 575-437-3810.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Silver City/Grant County

Christmas Bird Count — All-day in Silver City. Count birds on a defined route or at your bird feeder. All levels of birding expertise are welcome. Info: 575-534-9400.

Holiday Pottery Sale — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Forest's Pizza Portal Downtown Silver City. The work of Romaine Begay will be on display and available. Info: 575-950-1565.

La Posada — 6 p.m. begins at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 615



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All Things Bicycle

Cruces students take the trip of their dreams – and nightmares

It was a trip that two Las Cruces high school students and their mentor will never forget – an uneventful plane ride to the Pacific Northwest, exciting and educational tours of a world-class bicycle design and maintenance school, and a trip home fraught with frustration and delay.

Alma d'arte Charter High School sophomore Jade Narvaez, 16; Mayfield High School freshman Jasmine Marquez, 14; and their mentor, Las Cruces artist and creative consultant Naoma Staley, flew out of El Paso in July to visit two United Bicycle Institute (UBI) schools in Portland and Ashland, Oregon.

Both girls had developed a strong interest in all things bicycle – riding, designing, building and repairing them – since their days as members of Picacho Middle School's Scorpion Bicycle Club that Staley volunteered for and that her husband, seventh-grade math teacher Blake Stogner, started.

Staley, 34, was determined to get the girls to the UBI campuses to learn first-hand the art and science of building frames from



Left to right are Jasmine Marquez, Naoma Staley and Jade Narvaez on their road trip. (Photos courtesy Naoma Staley)

different materials for different types of bikes and the basics of bicycle maintenance and repair. She had learned about a Quality Bicycle Products women's bike mechanic scholarship, but when she discovered that Jasmine didn't qualify for the money because she was too young, Staley knew there had to be a way to keep the girls' bicycling industry aspirations alive until they were old enough to attend UBI.

The cost of such a trip didn't stop Staley, who set up a Go-

FundMe account and led a bake sale and other fundraisers to earn enough money to make the trip happen.

The opportunity was important for Jasmine, Jade and others like them, because the bicycle industry nationally and internationally is not as diverse as it should be, Staley said. It's become "very elitist and expensive," she said, with increasingly costly bicycles designed mostly to fit male riders.

"That's not the way it should be, when there are more genders out

there who use bikes too," Jasmine said.

But bikes are also "functional and fun," Staley said, and "are the perfect vehicles for equality."

And Las Cruces is the perfect place to promote bike diversity, she said, and push the interest and entrepreneurial spirit of young people like Jade and Jasmine.

"Bike usership looks different in Las Cruces," Staley said, because of the community's unique blend of cultures and the leadership of bicycle enthusiasts in Velo Cruces bike club and other interested groups and organizations.

At UBI, the three learned about everything to do with bicycles, from sketching out a design and choosing the right housing to fixing a flat tire and rewiring cables.

Armed with more knowledge and enthusiasm than ever after their visit, Jasmine and Jade said they hope bike clubs can be started at Las Cruces high schools like the ones at Picacho and other Las Cruces middle schools, and that more information can be shared with children and adults of all ages in Las Cruces about the op-

portunities, the value and the fun of biking.

What the three learned at UBI will also help with the volunteer work they do repairing bikes for the homeless and economically disadvantaged clients of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.

"It's fun to repair bikes," said Jasmine, who likes the mechanics of building and fixing bikes.

Jade, who has four bikes, is more interested in the artistic side, she said, and especially liked learning more "about designing and welding" different bike models at UBI.

The three were supposed to have an easy drive back to Las Cruces in the 4Runner Staley was picking up in Washington. But the older SUV spent more time with its hood up on the side of the road than it did on the highway. Staley rented a luxury Lincoln – the only car rental available in the fire-ravaged area – to get the girls to the UBI in Ashland and then called her parents, who live in Southern California. They drove all night to pick the three up and get them back to Las Cruces just in time for the start of the new school year.

N. Texas St. La Posada is a tradition that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Info: 575-538-2015.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Old Time Fiddlers Dance – 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Delta Clipper: A Successful Failure – 9 a.m. at the Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001 in Alamogordo. A Warehouse 1402 Behind the Scenes Tour. Info: 575-437-2840.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

"The Nutcracker" Presented by the Dali Ballet Company – 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Drive in Alto. Info: 575-336-4800

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Campfire Christmas Cookies – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum,

4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Visitors participate in the art of making cookies using a vintage Pizzelle iron from the 1800s. Info: 575-522-4100.

Crafts for kids – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Making a reindeer bookmark. Info: 575-522-4100.

Selfies with Santa – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

Movie: "White Christmas" – 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces. Classic movie about a successful song-and-dance team working with a sister act to save a failing Vermont inn. Cost: \$8. Info: 575-541-2290.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
The Nutcracker Presented by the Dali Ballet Company – 2-4 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the

Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Drive in Alto. Info: 575-336-4800.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Selfies with Santa – Noon to 3 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. In front of the Museum's main building includes Christmas tree and hay bales. Info: 575-522-4100.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Luminarias – All across New Mexico!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Old Time Fiddlers Dance – 7-9 p.m., New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm St., Truth or Consequences. \$4 Info: 575-744-9137.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Bird ID Walking Tour – 8 a.m.-10 a.m. at Leasburg Dam State Park. Easy to moderate hike to see and learn how to identify various bird species with volunteer guide C.J.

Go. Info: 575-524-4068.

Crafts for kids – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Making a paper plate snow globe. Info: 575-522-4100.

Las Cruces Jazz Collective – 8 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces. Contemporary jazz featuring Abby Nayra on vocals, Orlando Madrid on Saxophone and more. Cost: \$10 Info: 575-541-2290.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

Alamogordo/Otero County

New Year's Eve Builders Ball – 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E. First St. in Alamogordo. Annual

White Sands Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. Info: 575-437-6562.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Decades of Celebration: New Year's Eve at the Inn of the Mountain Gods – 7-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, Carrizo Road, Mescalero. Rock into the New Year with live music from Aquarius and Boombbox Heroes playing hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. Info: innothemountaingods.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Chile Drop 2018 – 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at the Plaza de Mesilla on Main Street, Las Cruces. Entertainment, food, beer, dancing and the drop at midnight. Free party favors at 11 p.m. while they last. Info: 575-541-2290.



A holiday contra dance steps up the action in Mesilla on Dec. 14. (Photo by Arnold Reinhold, Wikicommons)

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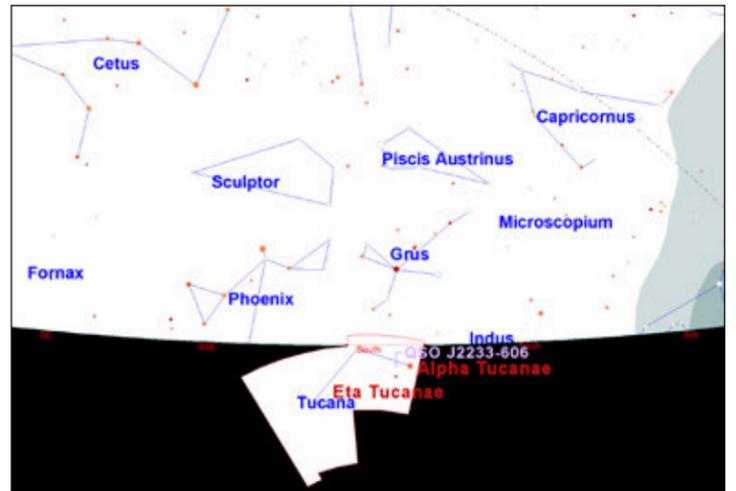
As darkness falls on these December evenings, a thin slice of sky along the southern horizon belongs to a tropical bird with a large beak. Tucana, the Toucan, resides mostly below our southern horizon, but that small slice of it appears for just a few hours a night. The stars of Tucana are all rather faint, and the slice that we can see has no visible stars in it at all to mark its transit.

Being a far southern constellation, it did not exist before European observers sailed south late in the sixteenth century and cataloged the southern sky. Two Dutchmen, navigator Pieter Dirkszoon Keyser and explorer Frederick de Houtman travelled around the Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa) to Madagascar and then on to Java in Indonesia. This gave them ample opportunity to observe the stars in the southern sky and note their positions.

Neither man made it back to Europe, but their journals did. Fellow Dutchman Petrus Plancius, who had sent Keyser and de Houtman out in the first place, took the journals and created a 14-inch celestial globe published in Amsterdam during 1598. Tucana was one of the 12 new southern constellations he created for this globe. It represents one of the new animals the explorers described, the Toucan.

Tucana is a middle-sized constellation, number 48 out of the 88 constellations. Its brightest star, Alpha Tucanae, is the only one brighter than fourth magnitude at magnitude +2.9. This is an orange star about 200 light-years away from us. Spectral class K3 indicates this is an old star that has run out of hydrogen in its core and is now burning it in a shell around the inactive core. This causes the star to expand, cooling its surface to that orange hue. Alpha is three times the mass of our sun and it has a companion that takes 11.5 years to orbit it.

In trying to learn more about our universe, astronomers pointed the Hubble Space Telescope



Only a tiny sliver of the northern part of Tucana ever rises above our horizon. Tucana contains the quasar QSO J2233-606, which served as the center of the Hubble Deep Field-South. This long series of lengthy images of an almost-empty part of the southern sky allowed astronomers to see faint objects, mostly galaxies, that are far away from our own Milky Way galaxy. The results of this observation showed that the southern deep field was quite similar to the northern deep field.

Calendar of Events – December 2016 (MST)

06	1 p.m.	Mercury stationary
07	12:20 a.m.	New Moon
15	4:49 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
15	5 a.m.	Mercury greatest distance west of Sun (21 degrees)
21	8 a.m.	Mercury 0.9 degrees north of Jupiter
21	3:23 p.m.	December Solstice
22	10:49 a.m.	Full Moon
29	2:34 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon

at an area just east of Alpha Tucanae. The telescope took images of this area for 10 days in September and October 1998 to create the Hubble Deep Field South (HDF-S). This location was selected to be far from the obscuring dust of the Milky Way. The center of the HDF-S was the quasar QSO J2233-606.

QSO stands for quasi-stellar object. This was the term given to a unique class of objects that were first detected in radio observations of the sky. Radio telescopes surveying the sky observed a small number of objects that emitted a vast amount of energy. When optical telescopes were pointed at the location of these objects, nothing was immediately visible.

A few of these objects had a faint, star-like point source where the radio signals were coming from. Astronomers dubbed them quasi-stellar radio sources or objects. The name was later shortened to quasar. To verify that these faint star-like objects were indeed the source of the radio signals, Australian astronomers John Bolton and Cyril Hazard observed one of these objects (3C 273) disappear behind Moon in 1962 using the Parkes Radio Telescope. This gave them a precise position for the radio source and allowed Maarten Schmidt to observe its spectrum using the 200-inch Hale Telescope on Mount Palomar.

The spectrum was extremely odd, with many unknown spectral lines. Schmidt was able to determine that these lines were the normal lines of hydrogen shifted 15.8 percent toward the red, indicating the object was moving away from us at the fantastic speed of 29,000 miles per second. In the 1970s, deep images of quasars showed that almost all of them were surrounded by a faint

fuzziness. The fuzziness, which while much fainter than the quasar itself, had the same redshift as the quasar, implying it was connected to the quasar. Astronomers realized the fuzziness is a galaxy that is hosting the quasar.

Evidence piled up quickly that the redshift was due to the expansion of the universe, which makes more distant object appear redder. This put quasars very distant from us. For us to be able to see them, they must be extremely energetic. The tremendous radio energy from these objects is due to the intense gravitational field around a super-massive black hole at the heart of a very distant galaxy. The black hole is pulling matter from the surrounding galaxy inward, creating a vast accretion disc. This is the definition of an active galactic nucleus (AGN), of which quasars are only one member of the AGN zoo.

The Planets for December 2018.

You may be able to find Saturn just above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark during the first two weeks of the month. On Dec. 1, it will be 14 degrees above the horizon, setting by 7 p.m. On that day, the rings will be 34.4 seconds-of-arc across, tilted down 26.0 degrees with the northern face showing, while the disc is 15.2 seconds-of-arc across. Shining at magnitude +0.6, it is moving slowly eastward in central Sagittarius

The only planet in the evening sky after Saturn retreats toward the sun is Mars. It is moving eastward from central Aquarius to southwestern Pisces during the month. With the Earth moving

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Welcome to Scotland

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Single-malt whisky, sticky toffee pudding, haggis, castles, lochs, mountains, waterfalls, islands, 1,000-year-old buildings. Another trip, another country, another opportunity to learn about the history, the people, and of course, to find out if there's an RV connection.

Scotland is the northernmost country in the UK. It's a wealthy country by worldwide standards, and one of the best educated in Europe. A beautiful country where the weather can change at least four times in an hour, Scotland is one of the world's leaders for renewable energy usage; more than 67 percent of their energy is generated by wind and hydro, with a goal of 100 percent by 2020. Compare that to the U.S., which is currently at 15.6 percent renewable.

We'd never visited Scotland before and wanted to experience the entire country, so after several days soaking up Edinburgh, we rented a car and headed to the west coast town of Oban. While Jimmy refreshed his memory of how to drive on the left side of the road, I enjoyed the road signs. How could you not admire a country that has "Calming Circles" on its highways? Or who has designated "Passing Places" and "Quiet Lanes," and flashes "Sorry for any delay" apologies before road repair areas? I was a little alarmed, though, by their "Weak Bridges" signs.

(And now a moment for my usual rant entitled "if they can do this, why can't we?") If Scotland's cars with manual transmissions have a mechanism to keep them from rolling forward or backward when parked on a hill, why don't ours? Why can't our cars automatically turn off at traffic stops to save fuel, and then start back up when you step on the gas? Or have windshield wipers that turn on automatically when needed? And if Scotland's ATMs can give me a combination of 20s, 10s, and 5s, why can't ours?)

"Aha," I said as we began



The ruins of 500-year-old Urquhart Castle is typical of the ancient buildings scattered across the country of Scotland. (Photos by Sheila Sowder)

passing signs for caravan campgrounds.

They seemed to be tucked away everywhere — on the corner of fields, in valleys by streams, nestled among tree groves, at the base of mountains. Caravanning must be as popular in Scotland as it is in the U.S.

When we reached Oban, we took a ferry over to the island of Mull where a minibus took us to Duarte Castle. After we'd admired the dramatic view of shoreline cliffs and wooded hills outlined against angry black clouds, an indoor tour sounded ideal for escaping the blustery weather. Once inside, however, we both noticed that some of the castle guides seemed lacking in enthusiasm, something we hadn't encountered on any other tours.

Later, at the little gift shop on the castle grounds, we got acquainted with the clerk, Anne Clothier, whose accent was not Scottish. She told us she was from New Zealand and was what we call a "workamper," someone that lives fulltime in an RV while working seasonal jobs in locations where available local workers are scarce. I was excited to hear her story since I'd been wondering if workamping existed beyond our borders. She had found the Duarte Castle job through the website indeed.com, and re-

ceived a salary in addition to a nearby caravan campsite. She also cleared up the mystery of the laconic castle guides — the long, busy season was ending in a few days, and the staff of workampers were more interested in their winter plans than in explaining one more time that the Clan Maclean has owned the castle since the 13th century and the current Clan Chief still lives there. Yeah, I've been there; I understand.

Anne also gave me some interesting information on another international website, wwoofinternational.org (Willing Workers on Organic Farms), which connects organic farms all over the world with people who are willing to work a few hours a day in exchange for room and board. Before coming to Scotland, Anne and her daughter had participated in this program, and had used it to travel and sightsee economically while at the same time meeting both locals and other international travelers.

The next day we drove along the shores of Loch Ness to Inverness where we had a day trip booked to the magnificent Isle of Skye. That evening, sitting in the hotel bar sampling yet another brand of single-malt, Jimmy mentioned his favorite Maker's Mark bourbon to the friendly bartender. A couple at a nearby table perked up and piped up, "That's made in Kentucky close to where we retired." Within a few minutes, we had discovered they were from the small town of Hartford City, Indiana, just miles from my home town, and were in Inverness for their daughter's wedding. The RV connection? After their retirement, they had delivered RVs all over the eastern U.S. for a manufacturer in Elkhart, Indiana.

Our final RV connection happened in the Edinburgh train station while we waited for the train to London. I came back from a cappuccino-and-pastry run to find Jimmy in conversation with another London-bound



This pleasant little caravan campground is on the grounds of the ancient and impressive Blair Atholl Castle in Pitlochry.

couple, Jan and Brian Bradshaw from Vancouver. A few years previously, they had traveled around Scotland for two weeks with their children and another family — four adults and five children altogether — in a rented 24-foot RV with an attached tent.

It's everywhere, folks, that RV connection. It's just one more thing that makes the unfamiliar feel comfortable and strangers feel like friends no matter where we go in the world. And it often seems to find us when we're least

expecting it, which makes it that much more fun.

Sheila and husband, Jimmy Sowder, have lived at Rose Valley

RV Ranch in Silver City for four years following five years of wandering the US from Maine to California. She can be contacted at skowder@aol.com.



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STARRY DOME

continued from page 38

away from the Red Planet, it has faded to magnitude +0.2 and its disc has shrunk to 8.3 seconds-of-arc across. Mars is 57 degrees above the southern horizon, around 11:30 p.m.

After Mars sets, you must wait until 3:30 a.m. for Venus to come over the east-southeastern horizon. The Goddess of Love shines at magnitude -4.6 with a disc that is 32.2 seconds-of-arc across which is 37.7 percent illuminated. During the month, Venus moves from eastern Virgo into central Libra. As it starts to get light, Venus will be 33 degrees above the southeastern horizon.

Mercury makes an appearance in the morning sky beginning early in the month. On Dec. 12, it will reach its greatest distance from the sun when it will be shining magnitude -0.3. Its disc will have

a disc that is 7.1 seconds-of-arc across and 54 percent illuminated. The Messenger of the Gods travels slightly westward from far eastern Libra to eastern Libra where it comes to a stop and then turns back eastward, crossing the northwestern panhandle of Scorpius to southeast Ophiuchus. It passes Jupiter on Dec. 21, just seven hours before the December Solstice.

Shortly before the sun comes up, Jupiter rises around 5:45 a.m. reaching six degrees above the east-southeastern horizon as it starts to get light. Shining at magnitude -1.8, the King of the Gods has a disc that is 29.2 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. During December, it travels eastward from the center of the northwestern panhandle of Scorpius into eastern Ophiuchus. It gets higher

in the morning sky each day.

The December Solstice occurs on Dec. 21, marking the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. That day will have the shortest number of daylight hours and the most nighttime hours. This is due to the northern end of the Earth's axis being pointed away from the Sun, keeping the Sun low in the sky. After that date, the Sun will start moving northward. So, enjoy all the night available at this time of year 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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