

The Historic

Mesilla Valley

THREADS OF TIME:

Anonymous duo brings vintage
fashion to Mesilla Valley

From the
Publisher's Desk

Las Cruces welcomes five new
veterinarians to area clinics

Calendar
of Events

Why, yes — I do
shoot like a girl

Recipe:
Dolmas

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Threads of Time

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FROM THE
publisher's
desk



We are elated to have you join us for The Historic's August issue. This month, we reflect on the hard work of community member, Donna Stryker, and how she gives back to residents by teaching non-lethal self-protection and gun safety. Follow us to Mesilla as we explore a new international shopping outlet where American fashion meets old Europe. Two friends — one stateside, the other based in Paris — are turning up what it means to dress here in the Mesilla Valley. Remember to join us for some of our upcoming networking events hosted by Streater Law Firm and Gentry Partners Wealth Management. You can find information on these events at the bottom of page two. As the weather begins to wane between hot and cool, get out and engage with our community partners.

LAS CRUCES WELCOMES five new veterinarians to area clinics

By Leah Romero

Members of Animal Companions of Las Cruces, volunteers, donors and representatives of local veterinary practices gathered on Saturday, July 19 to welcome five recently graduated veterinarians who joined local practices.

Animal Companions of Las Cruces is a nonprofit organization committed to recruiting veterinarians to Southern New Mexico in an effort to expand accessible veterinary care. The organization actively recruits veterinary students to fill extern openings at local veterinary practices. The nonprofit provides per diem awards to selected externs to cover travel, housing, and meals through their externship.

This summer, three externs received per diem awards to serve at local practices: Maria Carr and Chloe Santos with Calista Animal Hospital and Annalise Guy with Schumacher Veterinary Clinic. These students will hopefully return to work as

veterinarians at local practices.

The five new veterinarians who received employment bonus awards from Animal Companions are:

- Nate Weaver – Animal Hospital of Las Cruces
- Siena Buser – Zia Vet Clinic
- Hailey Peck – Calista Animal Hospital
- Toni Bates – Jornada Veterinary Clinic
- Jacob Fillman – Jornada Veterinary Clinic



“This wouldn't have happened without all of you donors, without all of you veterinary clinics and people who work in them,” said Jean Berlowitz, Animal Companions of Las Cruces board member. “We thank everybody and we are so excited to welcome all these wonderful new vets to Las Cruces.”

The Animal Companions board welcomes anyone interested in learning more about recruitment work and supporting the organization's efforts to visit <https://animalcompanionsoflascruces.org/>.



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Calendar OF EVENTS

AUG. 15

- Music: Downtown Blues Coffee hosts Acoustic Fridays for musicians to come jam, practice or learn. Bring your instrument and join the session. Free. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 130 S. Main St., Las Cruces.

AUG. 16

- Craft Day: To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Las Cruces Public Library, enjoy a craft day of making your own pocket-sized library. Attendees will use Altoids tins as the base and make miniature books, papers, plants, and bookshelves to fill their tiny library. All supplies will be provided. Event is open to adults and teens, as it involves sharp objects. Please arrive on time to account for drying time. Registration is required and available on the Las Cruces Public Library website. Free. 2-5 p.m. Roadrunner Room, 200 E. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces.

- Stargazing: Monthly, the Leasburg Dam Observatory is open to the public for stargazing night. Members from the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces operate the 16' Meade SCT telescope for guests to view the Milky Way Galaxy. \$5 per vehicle for NM residents and \$10 per vehicle for non-NM residents. Star show begins at sundown. Leasburg State Park, 12712 State Park Rd., Radium Springs, New Mexico.

AUG. 21

- Concert: Candlelight concerts return to El Paso with a tribute to Metallica at St. Rogers Depot. String Quartet and Four Bridges Quartet will bring the magic with a multi-sensory musical show under the glow of candlelight. Must be eight years or older to attend. Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-9:45 p.m. 420 N. Campbell St., El Paso, Texas.

AUG. 23

- Yoga: Start off your weekend with a yoga class led by a rotation of instructors at the Farmers Market at Ardivino's Desert Crossing. The class is designed for all levels. Bring your mat and stroll around the market after class. \$10 (cash preferred). 9:30-10:30 a.m. 1 Ardivino Dr., Sunland Park, New Mexico.

AUG. 24

- Hike: Come out for a hike and a tour of copper prospecting mines. Meet at the West Cottonwood

Springs trail head in the Tom Mays unit. Reservations are required; please call 915-444-9121. \$8 per adult (13 years of age or older). \$1 for children between the ages of 5-12. 10-11:30 a.m. Franklin Mountains State Park, 2900 Tom Mays Access Rd., El Paso, Texas.

AUG. 30

- Food demo: Fort Selden Historic Site is hosting their annual Garden Harvest and Salsa demo. Ranger Mike will be using chile and vegetables from the Fort Selden foodways garden. Learn how to roast chile, make your own salsa, and the process of canning. Chile varieties will include: New Mexico No. 9, Heritage Big Jim, Heritage 62, and more that were planted in the spring. \$5 for adults. Children 16 and under are free. 10-11 a.m. 1280 Fort Selden Rd., Radium Springs, New Mexico.

- Painting Class: Join Wine Down for a wine glass painting class. Choose from four designs (best friend matching glasses, Sacred Heart, bright floral, or El Paso Star Starry Night) or create your own. All levels of painters are welcome. Wine Down is offering a 15% discount on your food and drink when you register for one of their classes. \$28. 12-2 p.m. 10245 Socorro Rd., Socorro, Texas.

SEPT. 5

- Trolley rides: Enjoy horse trolley rides through the Historic Mesquite Street during First Friday Art Ramble. Rides are free, but feel free to bring cash to tip. Boarding is along Mesquite Street at Trails End Gallery. Free. 4-8 p.m. 1732 N. Mesquite St., Las Cruces.

- Music: Amaro Winery presents Fermented Fury Fest, featuring three local metal bands. Drink special: \$5 Ambrosia. Get there early, as the music starts right at 7:30 p.m. Free. 21+. 7:30-10:30 p.m. 402 S. Melendres St., Las Cruces.

UPCOMING:

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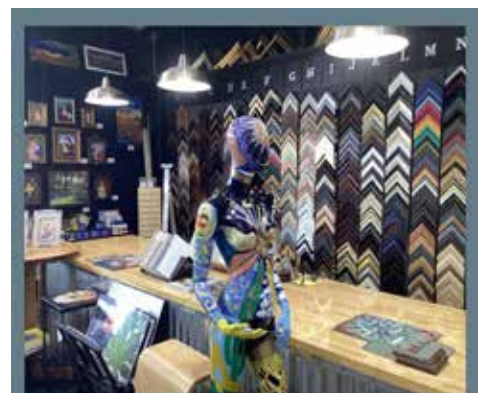
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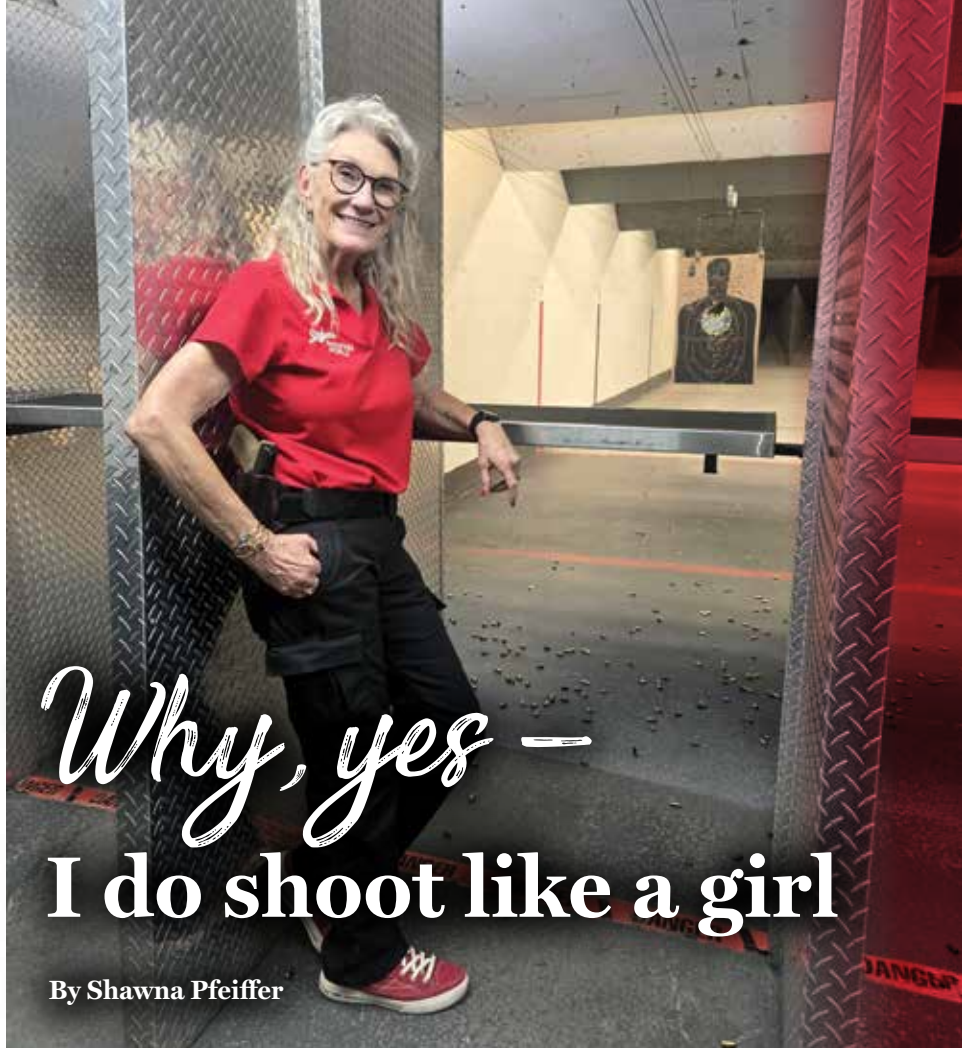


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Why, yes — I do shoot like a girl

By Shawna Pfeiffer

whatever current activity, you can see a threat and avoid it. The best fight you're ever in is the one you're not in."

As a founding member of Businesses for a Safer Las Cruces, Stryker walked along Valley Drive - to bring together large and small business owners. She aimed to educate and empower them to get involved in local and state politics in response to attacks by repeat criminal offenders and — by cause of inaction — elected officials.

"I kept hearing politicians say what they're going to do for us — and it proved to be just smiles, promises and handshakes," she said. "They aren't out having the conversations with homeless people like my husband and I have. They aren't struggling with graffiti, feces, needles, drugs, and threats of violence at their businesses or homes. And I realized that the sentiment of 'we need to do something' meant 'I need to do something' ... especially after Officer Hernandez was murdered last year."

Stryker has always been an advocate. After her youngest son was born blind, she fought for equality in how special education children are taught in New Mexico.

"I've always been advocating for underserved populations who didn't have their own voice — just like our businesses were and just like our police officers are still," she said. "I was a single parent, and it takes a village. It isn't a gun problem — it is just easier to blame the gun than our society who refuses to keep kids safe by teaching them ethics, morals and responsibility."

Overall, Stryker hopes that community members can take care of one another to progress towards a safer society.

"I want my grandchildren to be able to go to the park; I want my older friends to feel safe at the grocery store; I want people to respect our police officers when they leave their families to go keep us safe," Stryker remarked. "I want people to stop talking and start listening to others who don't agree with them, because you just might learn something."

Donna Stryker knows no strangers. Her laugh echoes across a room and she calls most people "Sweetie" at least once during a conversation. She listens and considers, making her a generous conversationalist. This serves her well in her current profession as a trained and certified concealed carry instructor.

"People of all beliefs can be more situationally aware of what is going on around them, especially from a trained professional, if they understand that guns and gun safety transcends politics, but also that guns should not be in

everyone's hands," Stryker said.

She describes profound joy in teaching people how to be diligent and safe in an ever-dangerous society. She devotes her time to teaching situational awareness and non-lethal safety classes to company groups, providing valuable knowledge about personal safety and observance to all.

"It is a matter of paying attention to the world around you, in every setting," Stryker mentioned. "A police officer can't be there with you in every situation — you need to be able to save yourself. And in being fully present in

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THREADS OF TIME:

Anonymous duo brings vintage fashion to Mesilla Valley

By Sarah Boothe

Tucked away in the quiet, charming town of historic Mesilla, New Mexico, is a store that invites the curious, the creative, and the consciously chic. Oficina 1854 is nestled in an upstairs space between Double Eagle and other local boutiques. No glowing sign hangs above the door. There is no slick branding. For those who venture in, it becomes instantly clear that this is no ordinary boutique — it is a curation space.

Behind the racks of exquisitely assembled garments and time-worn accessories is a duo of anonymous fashion curators committed to a mission far bigger than selling clothes. Their store is a quiet revolution. It's a resistance against fast fashion, a love letter to the past, and a focus on conscious consumerism.

The owners bonded in high school over their shared love of fashion. Over the years, they collected rare and unique vintage items, and eventually, both had enough inventory to open their own space. Now, they share their passion with locals and tourists from around the world. Oficina 1854 is a celebration of fashion as a language. The owners believe each piece of clothing is a form of artistic expression that tells the world who you are before you say a word.

Their methods are as unconventional as their

philosophy. While traditional vintage sourcing like thrift stores and estate sales are part of their approach, it's the more adventurous, often surprising finds that set their inventory apart. They often rummage abandoned homes and junkyards — a unique way of finding threaded treasures.

One owner explored a salvage yard and found a stash of vintage clothing in the trunk of an old car. The clothes were in pristine condition, guarded from the sun and elements. Once, he found a Vietnam War era jacket for 50 cents, and after doing some research, realized it was worth \$2,000. He is still deciding whether he wants to sell it or keep it for his own private collection. The duo said that small towns are gold mines for vintage clothing.

Once found, each garment is cleaned and restored, eventually gaining new life on the shop's rack until it finds a home. The shop focuses on finding good quality items suitable for all genders and style preferences. Each curated piece is selected not just for its historical or aesthetic value, but for its expressive potential. Unlike the polyester-rich, mass-produced garments that line department store racks, the clothing in this Mesilla shop speaks to another era — one in which clothing

was built to endure.

"Vintage clothing was made to last; it doesn't fall apart like something you buy on Shein," an owner emphasized.

As the fashion world grapples with the implications of sweatshop labor, environmental devastation, and rampant consumerism, the Mesilla boutique stands as one ethical outpost. Fast fashion is one of the most polluting industries on the planet and thrives on the exploitation of garment workers. The owners want to write a different narrative — one that honors both the human and the planet.

Their model is rooted in reuse, upcycling, and waste reduction. Customers are encouraged to repair rather than replace, to consider the history behind their clothes, and to wear each piece with pride, purpose, and personality. The owners' ambitions aren't fueled by profit, but by passion. Every sale is a shared moment — a thread in a larger tapestry of connection, community, and creativity.

While the boutique champions sustainability and ethical fashion, its owners also acknowledge the growing challenges posed by large-scale thrift chains, such as Savers. As vintage fashion surges in popularity, many of these big-box resale stores have begun dramatically marking up prices, capitalizing on the trend rather than the values behind it.

"It makes pricing more difficult, and we have to be wise about what our price points have to be," one owner said.

He said he feels like the trend undermines the accessibility that vintage and thrifting were meant to offer. However, using their creative sourcing methods, the two have been successful in juggling these challenges, still offering affordable pricing to consumers.

Though they only have one location for now, the duo is dreaming big. Their long-term vision includes multiple stores across the country and even some international branches. They would like to do local and nationwide pop-ups, as well as in fashion meccas like Paris and Tokyo.

The shop is open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is by appointment only throughout the week. Appointments can be made online at their website or by emailing contact@oficina1854.com. They are developing a digital presence, as well. Their website can be visited at www.oficina1854.com. Within the next few weeks, there will be an e-commerce store online to browse and purchase their vintage inventory. Additionally, the duo can be booked for private acquisition of items, personal shopping, and fashion curation.

Fashion is identity. It's armor. It's poetry. It's a memory. And when sustainable, fashion is powerful. If you ever find yourself wandering through the adobe-lined streets of Mesilla, step inside Oficina 1854 and find your vintage identity.

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Ingredients

- 2 10 to 12 inch flour tortillas
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup refried beans
- 1/2 lb. lean ground beef
- 2 tsp La Posta Taco and Chile Seasoning
- 1/3 cup La Posta Red Chile Sauce, warmed
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 Roma tomato, diced
- 1/4 cup black olives
- 1 green onion, minced
- 1 fresh jalapeno, seeded and sliced

Directions

- (1) Preheat oven to 350.
- (2) Poke each tortilla several times with a toothpick or fork so tortillas don't puff up when baked. Brush both sides of each tortilla with oil and place on a roasting rack on a baking sheet. This helps the tortillas crisp up in the oven.
- (3) Place in the oven and bake until lightly brown and crispy, about 5 to 7 minutes. Set tortillas aside.
- (4) In a large skillet cook ground beef over medium heat until cooked through and crumbly. Drain and add La Posta Taco and Chile Seasoning and mix well. Set it aside.
- (5) To build pizza place one tortilla on a baking sheet. Spread refried beans evenly to the edges of the tortilla. Top with ground beef. Place second tortilla on top of ground beef. Spread evenly to the edges with La Posta Red Chile Sauce. Top evenly with cheese, tomato, black olive, green onion, and jalapeno.
- (6) Place in the oven for 5-7 minutes or until cheese is melted and heated through.

Notes

Serve with your favorite salad with this creative take on a typical "pie"! (Serves 4-6 Slices)

Recipe

Dolmas

By G. Buck

INGREDIENTS:

1 16 oz jar of grape leaves in brine (about 60 to 70 leaves) OR 30-40 fresh grape leaves picked during late May-June. Blanched in water, then placed in an ice bath to halt the cooking. Lay the fresh ones out to dry while you assemble the filling.

1 1/2 cup short grain rice, soaked in plenty of water for 15 minutes, then drained. Basmati rice works great!

Extra virgin olive oil

1 large yellow onion, finely chopped

12 oz lean ground beef or ground meat blend (liver/heart ground works very well)

Kosher salt

Black pepper

1 tsp allspice

1/2 tsp cumin

1/2 cup EACH: chopped fresh parsley, fresh dill, and fresh mint

About 4 cups chicken broth

Juice of 2 lemons



DIRECTIONS:

Prepare the Grape Leaves

If using jarred grape leaves as I am here, remove them from the jar and discard the brine. Rinse the grape leaves well and place them in a colander to drain. Later in the process, you'll remove the stems before stuffing.

Prepare the Stuffing

Soak the rice in plenty of water for about 15 to 20 minutes or until you are able to break one grain of rice easily. Drain well.

While the rice is soaking, cook the meat. Heat 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil in a large skillet. Add onions and cook briefly, about 2 minutes or so, tossing until translucent. Add the meat and cook until fully browned, tossing occasionally. Drain any excess fat, then season the meat with kosher salt, pepper, and spices. Toss to combine. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

In a mixing bowl, combine the meat, drained rice, and fresh herbs. Season lightly with kosher salt. Add a generous drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and mix so everything is well-incorporated.

Stuff Grape Leaves, Assemble, and Cook

Prepare a heavy cooking pot and lightly brush the bottom with extra virgin olive oil. Arrange a few grape leaves in the bottom (I used the leaves that didn't look too great here and made three layers to protect the stuffed leaves from scorching later).

To stuff the grape leaves, you will work one leaf at a

time. Place one grape leaf on a cutting board with the textured/rough side facing you. Take 1 heaping teaspoon of the filling and place in the center of the leaf, then fold the sides over the filling and roll (think about this like rolling spring rolls or cigars). Repeat with the remaining grape leaves or until you're out of stuffing.

Neatly arrange the grape leaves in a row in your prepared pot, seam side down, covering the circumference of the pot. Then place a small plate inverted on top. Boil the broth and pour over the grape leaves, arriving at the top layer and somewhat covering (about 4 cups liquid, maybe a little more).

Now, cover the pot with the lid and cook over medium heat for 30 minutes until the liquid has been absorbed. Uncover and remove the plate, then pour juice of 2 lemons. Cover again with the lid (no need for the plate at this point), cook on low and heat for 30 to 45 more minutes, or until fully cooked.

TO SERVE:

Remove grape leaves from heat. Allow to rest uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes before serving.

Add a generous drizzle of quality extra virgin olive oil (I use Private Reserve EVOO), and transfer to a serving platter.

Serve with a side of Greek tzatziki or plain yogurt and lemon wedges. Make it a Mediterranean feast with feta cheese, olives, and crudité. Your guests will be coming back for more.

Cocktail

Vodka Soda

By G. Buck

INGREDIENTS:

1.5 oz. vodka or gin

3 orange slices of any variety

2 lime wedges

Lots of ice

San Pellegrino or another crisp club soda

A big-stemmed glass creates the perfect balance



Make this a fun bar at a party with some cut up fresh fruit, mint, lavender sprigs, etc. and let everyone customize their cup. If you allow the alcohol to meld with the fruit before adding ice and soda, the flavors will be more prevalent. Don't forget the muddler.



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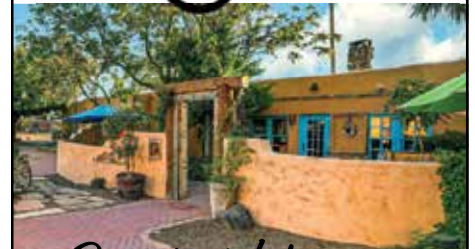
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