

April Roundup

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Chusma. Admission is free. Information: (575) 541-2177 or on Facebook at snmearthday.

The main event also features a "Circle of Solutions," interactive space divided into eight areas highlighting various issues.

Full schedule of activities for the month at available at VisitLasCruces.com or at the Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau, 336 S. Main.

POSTPONED: 'First Thanksgiving'

— The 29th annual reenactment of the First Thanksgiving of the Southwest of Juan de Oñate and his expedition of the first Spanish settlers in this area in April 1598 is presented by El Paso Mission Trail Association at the Socorro Mission, 328 S. Nevarez (at Socorro Road). The April 22 event has been postponed and is now planned to be rescheduled in May as part of History Preservation Month. Information: 851-9997, visitelpasomissiontrail.com. or on Facebook at Preservation Month EPTX.

POSTPONED: Rio Grande Festival

— San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society's 4th annual festival of art, culture, history and heritage, originally scheduled for April 24-26, in the San Elizario Historic District, has been rescheduled for **Sept. 4-6**. Information: 851-1682, theriograndefestival.com, or sanelizariohistoricdistrict.org.

Las Cruces Showcase of Homes

— The Las Cruces Homebuilders Association presents the Spring Showcase of Homes **April 24-26** and **May 1-3** for anyone in the market for a new home as well as looking at design and decorating ideas. This year's tour is presented by Metro Verde. Hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Friday (4 to 9 p.m. for May 3,) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. Information: (575) 526-6126 or on Facebook at Showcase of Homes Las Cruces.

'Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros'

— The 24th annual children's day/book day is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **April 25**, in San Jacinto Plaza, Downtown. Various activities, food trucks, free books, crafts and more. This year's event is sponsored by the Khalid Foundation. Admission is free. Information: 543-5468 or elpasolibrary.org.

POSTPONED: Sun City Craft Beer Festival

— The celebration of craft beer was scheduled for 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday **April 25-26**, at the El Paso Convention Center. At press time it was announced that the event was postponed; no new date yet available. Age 21 and older only; no pets permitted. Early bird tickets: \$25 general

admission per day (through March 20); \$35 for both days. Designated driver admission; \$10 per day. Limited amount of one-day VIP tickets available for \$80; available at suncitycraftbeerfest.com.

CANCELED: The Lights at EPCC

— El Paso Community College was scheduled to present the annual event highlighting light creations from EPCC and area students, **April 25**, on the Valle Verde Campus, 911 Hunter, with live performances, food, family activities and more. The event was canceled just as El Paso Scene was going to press. Information: 831-2402 epcc.edu.

History Preservation Month

— The National Trust for Historical Preservation has designated the month of May as Preservation Month. Full list of El Paso area events on Facebook at Preservation Month EPTX.

Events subject to change of cancellation:

- Guided Tour of the San Elizario Historic District 1 p.m. Sunday, **May 3**, starting at Los Portales Museum, 1521 San Elizario.
- Historic Texas Cemeteries: A Cultural Tour 10 a.m. Friday, **May 8**, at Magoffin Home State Historic Site Visitor Center.

Tacos and Rides Fundraiser Car Show

— Ysleta High School Alumni Association hosts the car show 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **May 2**, at Ysleta VFW Post 10354, 9170 Cananoa, benefiting its scholarship fund. Food and music available; food plates available for \$7. Registration at 9 a.m.; \$20 early bird; \$25 day of event. Information: 637-0318 or on Facebook.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

— The Town of Mesilla's annual celebration is noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, **May 2-3**, at the Mesilla Plaza. The event includes live music, and around 30 vendors of arts and crafts, games and food booths. No alcohol, smoking or pets allowed in the plaza. Admission is free. Information: (575) 524-3262, ext. 116, mesillanm.gov or on Facebook at Old Mesilla.

Fallen Officer Memorial Car Show

— El Paso Fallen Officers Memorial Foundation tentatively hosts its 4th annual fundraising car show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **May 9**, (postponed from April 4) at Southwest University Diesel Shop, 6500 Montana, with live music by Red Ruby. Proceeds help in the remodeling of the police memorial at Chuck Heinrich Park. Registration: \$20 outdoor spots, \$30 indoor in advance; \$25 outdoor, \$40 indoor day of show. Information: epfomf@yahoo.com or on Facebook.

May 9 is the Saturday before National Police Week, May 10-16.

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For El Paso Scene, the impact of the coronavirus crisis came slowly and then surged dramatically, paralleling the path it's taken everywhere else.

The first cancellations came March 12. We lost a full-page for an April UTEP event. Meanwhile, events scheduled for mid-March started cancelling. By March 16 we sent our usual Monday email newsletter, but most of the events listed were marked "Canceled" or "Postponed." By March 23, there were simply no events at all to report so we simply sent information on closings that we had also posted on our Facebook page.

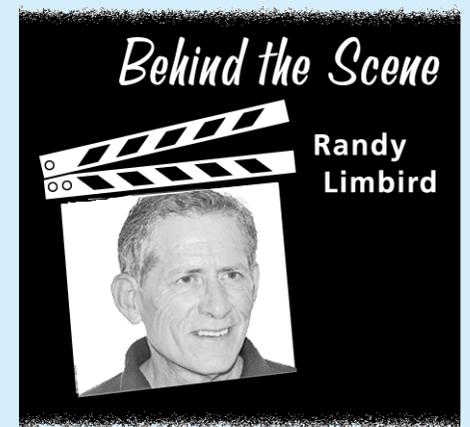
The tough decision was whether to publish the April edition of El Paso Scene. As a monthly newspaper dedicated to upcoming local events, what do you do when nearly all events that month have been cancelled or postponed?

In the end we decided to publish. After all, newspapers have been described as "the first draft of history," and there is a value to documenting the impact of this crisis on local entertainment and culture. Maybe you won't find much to do in this issue, but you will at least realize part of the scope of this crisis. Every event that's been cancelled, every concert that's postponed, every museum or gallery that's closed, represents a loss of time, energy and money that people invested to provide us with things to do and see.

Furthermore, we don't know at this time how long the crisis will continue. There are a number of events scheduled in later April that have not been canceled. We've also tried to provide you with as comprehensive list as possible on the new dates scheduled for various events and concerts. In addition, we've listed other events scheduled for May and beyond — just so you can look forward to the day when we can all leave our homes and start enjoying time together again.

We also had to cut down our press run. Many of our usual distribution points are closed or experiencing greatly reduced traffic.

We will update our website (epscene.com) and Facebook page as often as possible with news on the status



of upcoming events, re-openings and other changes.

Special thanks to our news editor, Lisa Tate, who had the duty of contacting so many of our sources to get what was almost always news of another cancellation or closing. We hope for much more positive content in the May issue!

Also on a positive note, Lisa chose a perfect time to write about El Paso's and Las Cruces' independent bookstores. Most of them remain open during this crisis. Now more than ever we need some good books to curl up with. Her feature story begins on Page 15.

At least no one canceled the annual crop of poppies on the Franklin Mountains this spring. In fact, thanks to our mild winter with plenty of rain, we've had one of our best crops ever of Mexican poppies along the slopes of the Franklins. Thankfully our hiking and mountain bike trails also remain accessible, so we can still enjoy them as long as we keep a proper "social distance" from fellow hikers and bikers.

Thanks go to Susan Ryde for this month's cover, which celebrates the annual outburst of the golden flowers. Susan has a fascinating background; she was born in Puerto Rico and raised in England. To find out more about her art, contact her at 915-781-9011 or email tan-gorider@hotmail.com. You can also find her art on display at the Magic Bistro and the Art & Framing Gallery.

April 2020

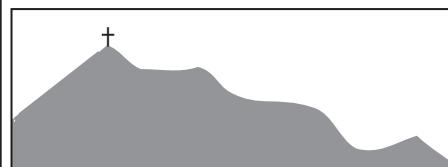
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