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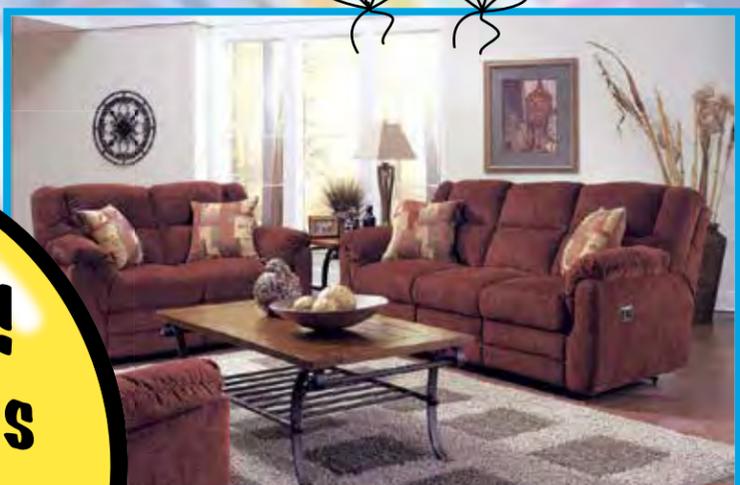
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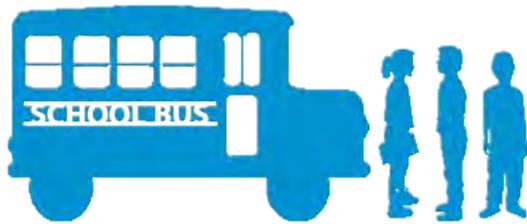
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www.desertexposure.com



Desert Exposure is published monthly and distributed free of charge at establishments throughout Southwestern New Mexico. Vol. XVII, number 5, May 2013. Mail subscriptions are \$19 for 6 issues, \$37 for 12 issues. Single copies by mail \$4. All contents copyright © 2013 Continental Divide Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission. All rights to material by outside contributors revert to the author. Views expressed in articles, advertisements, graphics and/or photos appearing in *Desert Exposure* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or advertisers.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

The Debt Dud

Who's afraid of the big, bad deficit?

Last month, former New Mexico governor and 2012 Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson launched a "Live Free" college-speaking tour at UNM in which he warned students "a national debt approaching \$17 trillion is a greater threat to their futures than Iran or North Korea will ever be."

In late March, Rep. Steve Pearce voted for the House budget resolution sponsored by Rep. Paul Ryan, saying it would eliminate the federal budget deficit within 10 years. In fact, of course, the latest Ryan plan—like the shell games that preceded it—does no such thing, relying on smoke and mirrors and dubious accounting (including repealing Obamacare but continuing to count its revenue). But let's focus on what the Second District congressman said about the deficit the Ryan plan purports to tackle: "America's growing debt threatens our economy, our jobs and our national security. Across New Mexico and across America, people are tired of Washington's reckless overspending, and they have demanded a solution. This proposal does what every American family has had to do: It cuts spending, achieves balance, and provides a plan for our future."

(Apparently deaf to irony, Pearce went on to note, "The federal budget has seen balance in the recent past. In the 1990s, Republicans and Democrats worked together to balance the budget and usher in a time of economic prosperity." He declined to mention, however, that those Clinton-era balanced budgets were driven into the red under the George W. Bush administration by tax cuts mostly for the wealthy, the disastrous Iraq war, and a recession enabled by loosened federal regulations—all of which Pearce supported.)

Meanwhile, over in neighboring Arizona, the legislature continues to advance a bill that would make gold and silver coins legal tender—just in case "hyperinflation" triggered by federal budget deficits makes paper dollars worthless. Our own Larry Lightner, in his series last year on "doomsday preppers," interviewed Grant County residents who fear a similar economic collapse under the ever-growing load of government debt.

Are we indeed mortgaging our children's futures? Is the budget deficit cramping the economic recovery? When Uncle Sam looks in the mirror, is he seeing Germany's Weimar Republic, when wheelbarrows full of money were worth less than the wheelbarrows?

There's no question the US faces long-term fiscal problems, particularly in the sustainability of Medicare and Social Security as the population ages. (Strangely, none of the deficit scolds so alarmed about these problems suggests the simple fix of raising the Social Security income cap, which currently exempts wages over \$113,700. According to testimony by John Irons of the Economic Policy Institute, raising the cap to cover 90% of all earnings and eliminating it on the employer side of the tax would close about three-quarters of Social Security's projected 75-year shortfall, while affecting just 6% of employees.) But in the rest of the federal budget, deficits are declining and 10-year budget projections basically show a stable outlook rather than exploding debt.

Hyperinflation, predicted by conservative doomsayers with dates that conveniently keep sliding ever further into the future, hasn't happened. Instead, interest rates and inflation remain low, and overseas investors see the dollar as a haven. The US stock market keeps setting all-time highs.

It's not just Republicans who have been persistently wrong about the deficit's supposedly devastating effects. In early 2011, former Clinton official Erskine Bowles predicted a fiscal crisis within two years unless the plan he cooked up with ex-Sen. Alan Simpson was adopted.

Maintaining that the debt is a crippling burden on the next generation—much less that it's hindering the recovery—shows a fundamental lack of understanding about basic economics. Think about the debt the US rung up fighting World War II, which has never truly been repaid. At the end of the war, US debt as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) exceeded 100%. By 1950, it was still about 80%—about what is projected for 2019. Did that red ink swamp the nation in the 1950s and early 1960s? Hardly—the US economy boomed.

For the contrary case, look at today's Europe, where advocates of austerity (not unlike the Ryan budget) have actually had their way. In England, the conservative Cameron government derailed the economic recovery. The EU has lagged behind the US in recovering from the recession, and the Eurozone unemployment rate recently hit a record 12%.

Moreover, a 2010 paper by two Harvard economists that many cited as justification for austerity policies to control debt has recently been discredited. The influential paper, "Growth in a Time of Debt," claimed to show a "threshold" or tipping point for government indebtedness, after which economic growth sharply declines. Last month, researchers attempting to duplicate the findings finally got their hands on the Harvard economists' original spreadsheet—and discovered a crucial Excel coding error.

In the *New York Times*, Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman has argued, "Debt doesn't directly make our nation poorer; it's essentially money we owe to ourselves. Deficits would indirectly be making us poorer if they were either leading to big trade deficits, increasing our overseas borrowing, or crowding out investment, reducing future productive capacity. But they aren't: Trade deficits are down, not up, while business investment has actually recovered fairly strongly from the slump. And the main reason businesses aren't investing more is inadequate demand."

True, foreigners hold a growing share of US debt—but US investors' share of foreign debt has increased almost in parallel. Says Krugman, "So the big rise in US debt hasn't been accompanied by an equally big rise in our net obligations to foreigners. And in the past few years, as the budget deficit has exploded, the trade deficit has actually been lower than pre-crisis—which says that the big recent rise in debt is very much a rise in the amount Americans owe other Americans, not a matter of selling IOUs to foreigners."

A case can be made, in fact, that since the federal government can borrow more cheaply than at almost any point in history, prudent fiscal policy should call for *increasing* the deficit in the near-term. Borrowing to invest in America, such as improving infrastructure and schools, is like a family taking out a mortgage for a house or a business borrowing to expand. (Our current deficit, unfortunately, grew from far more wasteful origins—more akin to taking a home-equity loan to blow on Powerball tickets or to give to your rich uncle.)

If we are indeed "stealing" from future generations, it's not by saddling them with debt. Rather, it's by failing to invest now in ways that will build a better and more prosperous America for them to inherit. The Ryan plan that Pearce voted for would exacerbate that failure, slashing taxes for the wealthiest and corporations while cannibalizing domestic spending.

And while we've applauded Gary Johnson in the past on civil liberties, his economic notions are to fiscal policy what "bloodletting" was to medicine. Maybe while he's on his college tour, the former governor could enroll in Econ 101. ❄

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.



LETTERS

Our Readers Write

Water Wars

Tom Barry's article, "The Coming Water Wars" (April), was as disturbing as it was extraordinary. After reading it, I was left wondering if all our efforts to conserve our region's precious water and improve our agricultural practices will be undermined by ideologues such as the farmer Barry quoted as saying, "We don't know about the water... we are only here to use these natural resources the best we can to be productive." This is the kind of short-term thinking that led to human-influenced climate change in the first place. We ignore long-term management of water at our peril.

Richard Mahler
Silver City

Teddy, Bare

Many consumptive exploiters of wilderness and wildlife admire Theodore Roosevelt (Ramblin' Outdoors, April) as an ardent hunter who was a notorious trophy hunter. His study was lined with stuffed "dead heads" of many species of animals he had killed on his foreign and domestic big-game escapades. He pressed the federal government to purchase wilderness for forest and parks, largely to manipulate their use for hunting and trapping. Sadly, he lived in an age of wildlife management ignorance, with practices that persist. Showman and showoff Ted Nugent [also mentioned in the column] no doubt places himself on the same level as Roosevelt, suggesting non compos mentis.

Bob Young
Las Cruces

Bravo for Boston Hill

I've been thoroughly enjoying Hiram Lewis' essays on Boston Hill ("Jesus Grass," April Tumbleweeds). His descriptions of the land, the light and the living things take me right there! His keen sense of humor, especially regarding tarantulas and dogs, keeps me laughing. Thanks for sharing your view of the world, Hiram!

Karen Ray
Las Cruces

Early and Often?

The March Editor's Notebook mentioned that our Rep. Diane Hamilton is pushing for a voter ID bill "to address the largely non-existent problem of voter fraud in New Mexico." I have heard Rep Hamilton speak several times at the Newcomers Club. She is a good speaker and there is always a good turnout. One time she related how after one talk a woman in the audience came up to her and told her she was very impressed and would vote for her. Hamilton said she replied that

she thought the woman was a "snowbird" with a permanent residence somewhere else and wasn't suppose to vote here. The woman replied that she didn't see why not because she paid taxes here.

It is generally accepted that our federal census regularly undercounts the poor in urban areas. I have also read the assertion that the census overcounts wealthy people. Being counted more than once can happen when people own more than one home.

I can understand how census workers, when coming on a massive home for which the construction costs might have been higher than for the high school they went to, might very well enter on their forms the whole family that owns the place even if no one is home. I bet there is overlap in the "permanent" residents enumerated in Palm Beach, Fla.; Palm Springs, Calif.; Aspen, Colo.; Greenwich, Conn.; Beverly Hills—and as a result these cities end up with bloated population figures.

I began to wonder if there are some (or many?) people who live at different places during the year who end up voting everywhere they live. It is easy to see why some might think the issues in an election are so important and will affect them, so it is unfair to be excluded from voting just because they also vote somewhere else. Although I can understand the motive to want to vote where they live, it is essential to know that in this country, as Hamilton tried to convey, people have the right to vote only at their primary residence.

In addition to Hamilton's proposal for Voter ID we should think about fighting fraudulent voting by instituting checks to determine if people are voting in more than one place. The potential exists for more than just the super rich, because they are not the only people able to be snowbirds.

I know that there will be practical problems. It would be insufficient to just check voter registration lists because states can be very slow to remove names. As a consequence such lists often include many dead people and people who have moved away. Maybe we could institute the practice of cross-referencing a list of snowbirds who vote here with a list of the voters at their other residences.

I don't think it would be fair to insist on Voter ID to protect against voter fraud without also making an effort to determine if there is voter fraud from multiple voting.

Elaine Carlson
Silver City

Credit Where Due

I noticed that in the article "Ground Zero" about the Trinity site (April), although much was written about the role of the US Army in the Manhattan Project, not a single reference was made to Gen. Leslie Groves, the Civil Engineering Corps

officer. He was responsible for the infrastructure and was as crucial to the accomplishment of the job as any of the scientists involved.

Glenn Theron
Silver City

Bittersweet at the Border

Although I am from out-of-state, I am regularly in Las Cruces, visiting family. I "discovered" your paper two years ago, and now it has become a monthly ritual to enjoy each issue. I congratulate all concerned on an excellent publication! Silver City can justifiably be proud of the "biggest little paper in the Southwest." Your April edition, in which you celebrate a decade, was no exception. In fact, you really outdid yourselves!

Among all the fabulous articles, however, pride of first place must go to Henry Lightcap's Journal. His essay, "Missing Mexico," nearly brought tears to my eyes. This brief but poignant piece perfectly expressed the way so many of us who went adventuring in Mexico independently and for so long now feel about travel to that great republic. It is a bittersweet requiem, really, and I kept thinking as I read: "I have felt this way exactly about my inability to go south the way I used to."

Alas, like the author, it is with deep regret that I must now keep my ice chest safely north of the border. Thank you for reminding me what we have lost. I look forward to your paper's next decade.

Bruce Ostyn
Green Valley, Ariz

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email letters@desertexposure.com. Letters are subject to editing for style and length (maximum 500 words, please), and must be in response to content that has appeared in our pages. Deadline for the next issue is the 18th of the month.

DESERT DIARY

Gender Wars & Senior Extravaganza!

Who will win the battle of the sexes? Sorry, we forgot...

Love is in the air... We begin an edition in which the often-bumpy relationship between men and women seems to be a recurring theme with this yarn from **The Santa Claran**:

"A man and woman were having a quiet, romantic dinner in a fine restaurant. They were gazing lovingly at each other and holding hands.

"Their waitress, taking another order at a table a few steps away, suddenly noticed they quit holding hands. The man began slowly sliding down his chair and under the table, but the woman acted unconcerned. The waitress watched as the man slid all the way down his chair and out of sight under the table.

"Still, the woman appeared calm and unruffled, apparently unaware her dining companion had disappeared. The waitress went over to the table and said to the woman, 'Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table.'

"The woman calmly looked up at her and said, 'No, he didn't. He just walked in the door.'"

You're only as old as you feel, round one...

Similarly, this month's Diary seems to have an excess of riches revolving around the theme of aging. Start with this submission from **CharlesC**:

"Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:

"I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

"My wild oats have turned into prunes and All-Bran.

"I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.

"Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

"Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

"If all is not lost, where is it?

"It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

"Some days, you're the dog; some days, you're the hydrant.

"I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.

"Kids in the back seat cause accidents.

"Accidents in the back seat cause kids.

"It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

"The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.

"If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.

"When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play chess?

"It's not hard to meet expenses—they're everywhere.

"The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

"These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter.... I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after.

"Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded."

Then there's this from **GeraldH**:

"No one believes seniors; everyone thinks they are senile. An elderly couple was celebrating their 60th anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and moved back to their old neighborhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Andy had carved, 'I love you, Sally.'

"On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money—\$50,000!

"Andy said, 'We've got to give it back.'

"Sally said, 'Finders keepers.' She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

"The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighborhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door: 'Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday?'

"Sally said, 'No'.

"Andy said, 'She's lying. She hid it up in the attic.'

"Sally said, 'Don't believe him—he's getting senile.'

"The agents turned to Andy and began to question him. One said, 'Tell us the story from the beginning.'

"Andy said, 'Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday...'

"The first police officer turned to his partner and said, 'We're outta here!'"

Whether about getting older, falling in or out of love, or some other topic that tickles your funny bone, share the laughter with Desert Diary by emailing diary@desertexposure.com.

Kids say the darnedest things... Youth must be served, too, so here's a yarn from **Shanty Shaker**:

"The children were gathered on the front pew one Sunday morning for the Children's Sermon. The minister asked, 'Does anyone know what the resurrection is?'

"One little boy blurted out, 'I'm not quite sure but I do know that if you have a resurrection that lasts longer than four hours, you have to see a doctor.'

"It took about 10 minutes for the congregation to settle down enough to continue with the worship service."

Losing the battle of the sexes... Here's another dispatch from the gender wars, as promised, from **Jess Hossinaround in Arenas Valley**:

"After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in her seat and closed her eyes on the train. As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice:

"Hi, sweetheart. It's Eric. I'm on the train. Yes, I know it's the 6:30 and not the 4:30, but I had a long meeting. No, honey, not with that blonde from the accounts office. With the boss. No, sweetheart, you're the only one in my life. Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart!"

"Fifteen minutes later, he was still talking loudly, when the young woman sitting next to him had had enough, leaned over and said into the phone, 'Eric, turn that phone off and come back to bed.'

"Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer."

And another, courtesy of **Aletteration**:

"In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news: 'There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year.'

"Visibly shaken, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know.



Postcards from the edge... We continue catching up with the (wonderful) pile of photos submitted by readers on the road, near and far, showing themselves holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*. First up is **Elaine J. Struthers**, director of the occupational therapy graduate program at WNMU, who writes: "I was just in Vilnius, Lithuania, for the European Occupational Therapy in Higher Education Conference (ENOTHE). I took *Desert Exposure* with me and had my colleague from Amsterdam photograph me at the Lithuanian LITEXPO Center with the characteristically Eastern European giant TV tower in the background—only it was so foggy by the Neris River that the tower actually disappeared into the fog!"

WRITE FROM THE HEART (AND WIN \$\$\$!)

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Include name and postal address, plus email if available.

Entries cannot be returned!





Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo comes from **Margie Nitterauer**, who writes, "Here I am introducing 'the biggest little paper in the Southwest' to a Mountie in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island."

Whether you're going to Lithuania or Lea County, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

"She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked, 'Will I be acquitted?'"

And still another (we warned you!), from **Farmor, the Swedish Grandma:**

"A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband is not in bed. She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee.

"What's the matter, dear?" she whispers as she steps into the room. "Why are you down here at this time of night?"

"The husband looks up from his coffee. 'Do you remember 20 years ago when we were dating, and you were only 16?' he asks solemnly.

"Yes, I do," she replies.

"The husband pauses. The words are not coming easily. 'Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car fooling around?'"

"Yes, I remember," says the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

"The husband continues, 'Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, 'Either you marry my daughter, or I'll send you to jail for 20 years!'"

"I remember that, too," she replies softly.

"The husband wipes another tear from his cheek and says, 'I would have gotten out today.'"

And finally, from **Kelmac:**

"A man and a woman who had never met before found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a transcontinental train. Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing a room, they were both very tired and fell asleep quickly, he in the upper berth and she in the lower.

"At one in the morning, the man leaned down and gently woke the woman, saying, 'Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but would you be willing to reach into the closet to get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold.'

"I have a better idea," she replied. 'Just for tonight, let's pretend that we're married.'

"Wow! That's a great idea," he exclaimed.

"Good," she replied. 'Get your own damn blanket.'

"After a moment of silence, he farted."

Holy heck... After all that fighting and sinning, time for a little religion. This one from **Ramblin' Man** should do nicely:

"A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (i.e., "Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.").

"The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

"As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell scripture at you.'

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. 'She said she had an ax and two .38s!'"

You're only as old as you feel, round two... Back to those senior moments, as promised. First here's the **Packrat Out Back**, with the "grandparents' answering machine":

"Hello. At present we are not at home, but please leave your message after you hear the beep. *Beeep!*

"If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then select the option from 1 to 5 in order of 'birth arrival' so we know who it is.

"If you need us to stay with the children, press 2.

"If you want to borrow the car, press 3.

"If you want us to wash your clothes and do ironing, press 4.

"If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5.

"If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6.

"If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or to have it delivered to your home, press 7.

"If you want to come to eat here, press 8.

"If you need money, press 9.

"If you are going to invite us to dinner or take us to the theatre, start talking—we are listening!"

Last but not least, one final report from the graying frontier, sent our way by the **Silver City Greek:**

"Four old retired men are walking down a street in Yuma, Ariz. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, 'Old Timers' Bar—ALL drinks 10 cents.' They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

"The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, 'Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?' There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis shaken, not stirred, and says, 'That'll be 10 cents each, please.'

"The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round. Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, 'That's 40 cents, please.'

"They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar yet. Finally one of them says, 'How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?'"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix," the bartender says, 'and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the lottery jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same.'

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

"As the four of them sip their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there. Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, 'What's with them?'"

"The bartender says, 'They're retirees from Wisconsin. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price, plus they all have coupons.'"

Send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales to *Desert Diary*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email diary@desertexposure.com. The best submission each month gets a brand-new *Desert Exposure* mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to *Desert Diary*.



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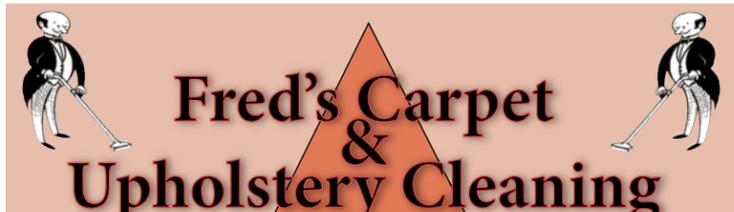
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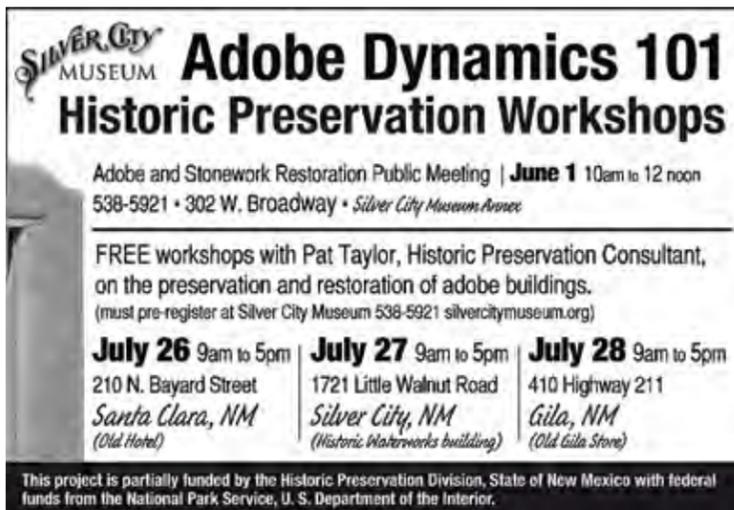
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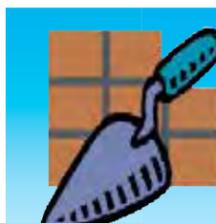
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Playing for Keeps

If it's got strings, Deming's Howard Schwartzman will play it—and fix it.

Howard Schwartzman is a Deming Renaissance man. He's a musician, teacher, sculptor, cabinet maker, woodworker and more.

The first things that catch your eye as you enter Schwartzman String Shop are the 30 or so violins, violas, guitars and mandolins that hang from the walls like wooden sculpture.

The next thing I noticed was one of Schwartzman's minimalist sculptures. It resembled a torso with two arms set at an angle. The torso and the arms are in the shape of a "Y," and a wooden sphere sits atop representing the head. The sculpture has the same pose as Edward Munch's famous painting, "The Scream"—a screaming figure covering his ears. However, Schwartzman's sculpture is faceless. Even without the gaping mouth, this piece screamed "The Scream" to me. I found it ironic that this "Scream"-like sculpture stands by the hanging instruments ready to greet visitors and customers.

I came to hear what Schwartzman had to say about his life; however, I had the added pleasure of listening to his violin speak to me with the sweet, soulful sound of "Ashokan Farewell," part of the music in Ken Burns' PBS "Civil War" series soundtrack. I smiled at the sculpture covering its ears. I found out Schwartzman plays "Cielito Lindo" and "El Rancho Grande"; he also plays country.



Deming musician and string-instrument expert Howard Schwartzman.

Howard Schwartzman is originally from Scarsdale, NY, where he learned to play the violin at age 9 and the viola at 11 in the public school system. The young musician also took private lessons from a cousin, Maurice Shaw, who had earlier played for vaudeville at the Roxy Theater in Manhattan's theater district. Shaw's illustrious career included touring with Frank Sinatra and playing in the orchestra for "The Honeymooners" and other Jackie Gleason shows all through the 1950s and 1960s. Schwartzman, in addition, studied under Elliot Magaziner, concert master for the CBS Symphony.

Schwartzman hung up his violin for several years to build a successful career as a cabinet maker and woodworker in New York City and upstate New York. In 1993, he moved to Luna County, where this musician, trained in classical music, began playing mariachi for weddings and quinceañeras. Schwartzman served as an assistant for Deming High School's mariachi maestro, Albert Valverde, for seven years (see "Making Mariachi," February). He picked up guitar by watching Valverde. Schwartzman still performs with Marissa Guillen's mariachi group, "Angeles de Mi Tierra," and plays cello for the combined Hofacket/Deming High School orchestra under the direction of Thomas Garcia.



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"I know how the instruments should sound," Schwartzman says of the items at his shop. "If it doesn't sound right, I won't sell it; it has to get through the sound test."

Not only is Schwartzman a fiddler, but he's also a fixer, putting his woodworking skills to good use in repairing string instruments. The man is passionate about his repair work, and sees it as a challenge.

"Instruments speak to me when I play them. The really busted-up ones teach me to be a better repairman. I can fix any instrument as long as it hasn't been run over by a truck," he says confidently.

Chinese-made mandolins, made to look Mexican, are notorious for having their strings set too low. The Chinese must have tiny fingers, because Deming's mariachi students complain that the mandolins' low-lying strings make it impossible to manipulate the mandolin properly. Schwartzman fixes the problem by simply boring new holes for

the strings higher up on the instrument's bridge. Much of his repair work comes from the word of mouth of satisfied customers who've brought in instruments that seem irreparable. He's a sort of surgeon, fixing broken wooden backs. Schwartzman is also the exclusive repairman for Deming High School.

Besides making repairs, Schwartzman also sells string instruments. He takes just as much pride in selling instruments as he does in repairing them. "I don't sell junk," he says. "I know how the instruments should sound. If it doesn't sound right, I won't sell it; it has to get through the sound test." All the instruments displayed on his walls have passed the test and are for sale at affordable prices.

Like Tevye, the main character in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Howard Schwartzman is not a rich man, but does possess integrity. He treats his instruments and customers with respect, and in turn, is respected by those who deal with him.

If you visit Schwartzman String Shop for a private music lesson, repair work, or to purchase an instrument, you might be lucky enough to hear him play a tune for you. Just don't expect Schwartzman to play on the roof. He can fix guitar and violin necks, but not his own. ❁

Schwartzman String Shop is located at 111 N. Iron St. in Deming, (575) 694-3202. Paul Hoylen is a Deming artist.

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com). Trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list. Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. Being named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people helps keep Gov. Susana Martinez atop our top 10 (a much more important honor, we're sure).

1. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—2,910 hits (▼)
2. (2) **New Mexico budget**—412 hits (▼)
3. (6) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—392 hits (▲)
4. (3) **New Mexico drought**—239 hits (▲)
5. (5) **Virgin Galactic**—186 hits (▲)
6. (7) **New Mexico wolves**—137 hits (▼)
7. (10) **New Mexico wildfires**—116 hits (▲)
8. (8) **Sen. Tom Udall**—85 hits (▼)
9. (-) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—67 hits (▲)
10. (4) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—63 hits (▼)



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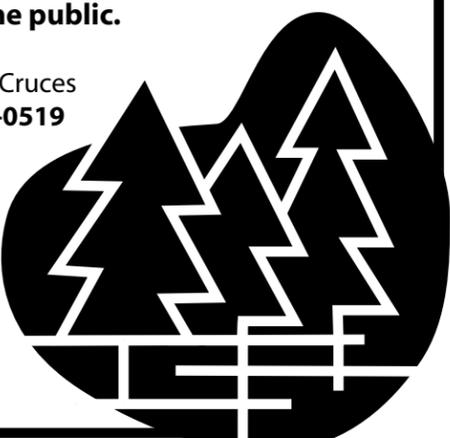
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Keeping Up the Grounds

WNMU's new grounds supervisor springs forward.

My favorite walk to the WNMU campus is not the pretty route up 10th Street. The steep hill tires me before I reach the Alumni Garden with its pavilion dotted by cottonwoods. Beyond those trees is another incline skirting two chunky medievalish benches that look bereft of king and queen. There, on a pathway shaded by courtly mature conifers, I catch my breath and consider a few buildings of architectural interest: quaint Fleming Hall (housing the WNMU Museum); the best view of the campanile, where it is embellished by an undergrowth of evergreens; and the facade of Miller Library—a site nestled among purple plums and the uplifting “Peace Warrior” sculpture.

Although the campus' hilly terrain and red-roofed, cream-colored buildings provide some visual continuity, I don't walk by them for architectural appreciation. The newest construction—a hilltop dormitory—is a dead ringer for a Best Western mo-



Above: Purple plums outside WNMU's Miller Library. Left: A banner promotes WNMU's new slogan. Below left: In the Alumni Garden, cottonwood trees encircle the pavilion, while ash trees brighten the street edge. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)



tel. (You'll get a sense of its behemoth scale looking west from Brewster Hill at College and Gold.)

The dormitory's visual assault results in a casualty for the university's icon. The orange tile-roofed campanile—used prominently in campus graphics—is reduced to a paltry celery stick topped by pimento cheese. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's site-placement dictum—of the hill, not on the hill—has gone abysmally unheeded.

So the reason that I walk at WNMU is the grounds. I enjoy watching seasonal transformation—how the trees and shrubs spread, bloom and change. In this way, I can gauge how my own blue spruce may look in a few years, or the attributes of a Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) hedge.

Being the sole keeper of my garden, it is interesting to see how a six-man staff maintains the university's 80 acres. I marvel at the fastidious pruning, weedless beds and dense lawns. I also observe a slew of new plantings using native species and the sensible turn toward xeriscape.

Leith Young, 37, was promoted to WNMU grounds supervisor last October, having been

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Top left: WNMU school colors—purple and gold—make an exuberant spring appearance in the form of honey locust “sunburst” and a Mexican purple plum. Middle: A cozy, dry creek bed between the Chacon and Nursing Buildings displays an entry of Afghan pines and Douglas fir. Bottom left: After multiple years of drought, native species no longer go underused. Case in point: the parking lot across from the School of Nursing. In a few years the shade canopy will be sought after.



dent, supports xeriscape. He also endorses using the school’s colors—gold and purple—in the planting palette. Under Shepard’s regime, banners and campus directories have appeared. With a growing enrollment, Shepard envisions an area called “Mustang Village” encompassing the new (currently unnamed) dormitory and Muir Heights, the married-student housing.



Recently, Young picked tree species for the new dormitory grounds, which will include vitex, ash and the aforementioned purple plum. He also reviews plant choices submitted by landscape contractors, and recently rejected Texas Mountain Laurel due to its lack of hardiness in our growing zone—choosing Mexican Red-bud instead.

Pending the availability of funds, Young hopes to see more benches and planters added to “people areas” as campus hardscape. Certain hardscape features like fountains can be easily destroyed and are rarely used. The fountain at the Alumni Garden, for

example, is turned on only for alumni events.

Other pending projects include the landscaping of Castorena Hall (the administration building) and Centennial Park on West Avenue.

Silver City residents stand to be affected by WNMU banners that proclaim “Transforming the Future Together.” Let’s hope it’s a pretty route.

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Silver City residents stand to be affected by WNMU banners that proclaim “Transforming the Future Together.” Let’s hope it’s a pretty route.

Southwest Gardener columnist Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.

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They All Lie

Fact and fiction about the failed gun-control bill.

Recently the US Senate defeated the controversial gun-control bill. The liberal media, government and the president were quite ticked off and frustrated, and all kinds of accusations were thrown about.

I followed the entire affair on the TV including CNN, MSNBC and Fox. I quickly dismissed MSNBC as too biased in their reporting. The other two leaned somewhat left or right, but that's what I wanted so I could get a balanced view.

In the president's speech, he accused the NRA of being the main villain and of having blatantly lied about the supposition that if we had gun show background checks, it would lead to gun registration and eventually confiscation.

That is true, the NRA did say that, because I received literature to that effect. But did they lie?

The president argued that under the defeated gun bill, it would be illegal for anyone to require gun registration and if they did, they would go to jail for 15 years in federal prison.

Now, I'm a 40-year-plus member of the NRA, so when my president accuses my representatives of lying, I wanna know the truth! So I decided to research the gun bill for myself and see just what was the straight skinny.

Republican Senator Pat Toomey from Pennsylvania was a main sponsor of the bill and he has (had?) an A-rating of approval from the NRA; he said anyone could have examined the bill via the web because it has been on it for weeks.

He was correct, but I had a very difficult time finding said bill; it didn't have a senate number to look up nor a gun-bill title. After much, much time I found it obscurely buried under public works! Evidently Sen. Toomey and his supporters of the bill didn't want too many folks to examine it! So much for transparency!

As with all legislation, the bill is long and complicated and in reality, it has buried parts that would be a liability to both the left and the right-leaning gun owners. So that was the first real deception; in my considered opinion that deception is the same as a lie. The bill isn't just about gun shows, which is what the gun control side was telling us.

Concerning the NRA, they indeed did lie about the fear of eventual gun registration; the president was correct in his accusations. The bill states that no one can require anyone to register a gun; it prevents that from happening.

Then the president told a lie; he stated that if someone required registration, they would go to prison for 15 years. But the bill doesn't say that; it says that a convicted person would be subject "up to 15 years." That nebulous statement could mean one day or one week. There was no minimum time stated.

The next day after the bill's defeat, I received a statement from the NRA. They conveniently didn't address the president's accusation, but delivered another statement: that they had prevented a bill which would have violated the rights of individuals to sell or give their guns to relatives or friends or to sell privately to other individuals.

Hmmm? I looked up that, too, in the bill; the NRA lied again. There was no provision for that at all. But now we enter a slippery slope. Toomey and his supporters do not mention a portion that is buried, which would prevent a private citizen from selling to another private citizen if they openly market the sale, via Internet, poster or ad in the local paper! That goes far more than just gun shows as was being represented!

Then the wording gets cloudy. It could well be construed that both seller and buyer must do a background check by the FBI!

The lie here is that anti-gun people have said that the bill only deals with gun shows and the Internet, not individuals.

Let me address still another lie by the anti-gunners. I worked in a gun store for nearly three years. Quite a few people bought guns on the Internet. In EVERY INSTANCE the sellers had to ship the gun to an Federal Firearms License (FFL) dealer like us; then the buyer had to do an instant background

check by the FBI. If he/she failed, they would not be given the gun, even though they had paid for it!

So this thing about indiscriminate sales via the web is not true; it is already strongly federally regulated.

But before you think I'm picking only on the so-called left, here is another lie from the gun supporters. There is a group known as the National Shooting Sports Federation (NSSF). I don't belong to them, but they recently sent me literature saying that they intercepted a Justice Department letter that purportedly said the government's real agenda was total gun confiscation. I looked up the Justice memo, and it stated that they believed that the current bill and any type of background check would not have stopped the gun violence in the last couple of years, nor would it in the future. It was useless legislation. They gave no remedies and they never mention gun confiscation!

But the NSSF incorporated an Australian editorial saying that gun confiscation, via checks and registration first, was the only way to stop gun violence. They lied! Remember, whether you are a leader on the right or left or middle, fear controls!

Still another deception by the bill's sponsors and the supporters was again buried deep inside; it concerns interstate travel with firearms. In the proposal, all firearms in a vehicle must be locked in a container unloaded, and the ammo locked in another container, if you go over a state line. Consoles and glove boxes do not qualify as locked containers!

Let me say here that I know both liberals and conservatives who own handguns for protection, and they carry them in their vehicles when they go away. Not a few even have concealed handgun permits.

Now let's say that you travel from New Mexico to Arizona or Texas; both recognize our permits. But even though you are "state legal," you would be violating federal law if you carry a loaded firearm on your person or in your vehicle. It gets worse. If you are in any state other than your own and in a motel it would be illegal to have a loaded gun there! It is also nebulous whether if you have a condo in Arizona and you could have kept a loaded gun there for protection, since you are interstate with that gun. And if you live in New Mexico, you couldn't buy a handgun out-of-state, period!

One last misconception by the gun opponents: While the NRA has told blatant lies, they are not the main villain, even though their opponents would tell us so. They are not the main organization that defeated the bill.

There is a little-known, well-moneyed and powerful lobby known as the Gun Owners of America; it was they who actually intimidated senators and said that if they voted "yes," they would be voted out of office. The NRA was the fall guy.

As for me, to be truthful I'm glad that this nebulous gun lobby did defeat the bill. While I was in full support of gun show instant background checks, I definitely was not for those hidden agendas! Had the bill been solely about gun shows, I believe that it would have passed and maybe even endorsed by the lobbies.

What riles me is that none of the gun lobbies brought up these hidden agendas either.

In the end, the bill was a lie; it wasn't all about what everyone said it was.

It appears to me that everyone in power lies to further their own agendas, the public be danged. Remember that fear controls and the best way to accomplish that is through lies.

As for me, if you lie to me once, then I will never trust you again, period! And that applies to the right, left or moderate.

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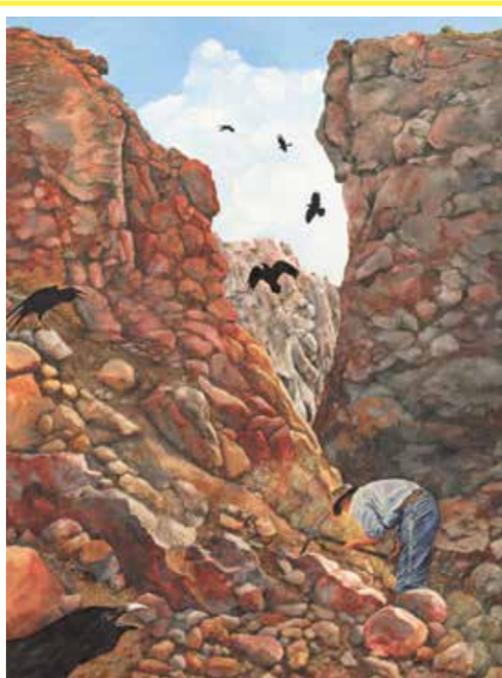
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ARTS EXPOSURE • PEGGY PLATONOS

Transparent Beauty

Mimbres artist and gallery owner Shirley Mize's passion is stained glass.

Stained glass is, quite simply, Shirley Mize's passion. For nearly a quarter of a century, she has been piecing together fragments of glass to form beautiful, often intricate, designs. Many of the designs feature soft or vibrant colors that glow with life when displayed with light behind them. Other designs are created with sections of clear glass, usually beveled to catch the light in unexpected ways. Always, the individual pieces of glass are held together by a graceful web of delicate-looking but very strong strands of metallic solder.

"It sounds silly, but my attraction to stained glass dates back to a movie called *Pollyanna* that I saw when I was quite young," says Mize, this issue's cover artist. "At one point in it, *Pollyanna* hangs prisms in a window to catch the sunlight and reflect rainbows on the walls to cheer a sick old lady up. Ever since I saw that in the movie, I've been fascinated by light coming through glass—the colors it makes and the designs on the wall. That's why nearly every piece I make includes bevels, because they refract the light like a prism would."

Working with stained glass is time-consuming and labor-intensive, and it demands a great deal of patience. But Mize loves it.

She has set up her work area in the corner of a spacious, glass-enclosed building that houses the family's indoor pool. Here—with the light, airy feel of the space perfectly matching the qualities inherent in the stained glass itself—she creates her designs on paper and then, step by step, converts the designs into a finished piece of stained glass.

From work table to the cozy art gallery she has created on the family property in the upper Mimbres Valley is, literally, a matter of steps—and that was one of the main incentives in creating the gallery, she says.

"Having a gallery of my own where local artists could show their work is a dream I had for a long time. Those of us who love both our artwork and country living are faced with the problem of hauling our work quite a distance to market it. And personally, I never went to a show without breaking something along the way."

Her dream came true last fall when she retired from her job as director of the Cardio-Pulmonary and Neuro-Diagnostic Department at Gila Regional Medical Center in Silver City and opened the doors of her own gallery. Getting her artwork to the market is no longer necessary, thus eliminating the problem of breakage. The market comes to her.

She calls the gallery The Cot-



Top: Mimbres artist and gallery owner Shirley Mize (photo by Peggy Platonos). Above: One of Mize's creations hangs in her The Cottage gallery.

tage—Stained Glass & More, and it's located off Hwy. 35 less than a mile north of Camp Thunderbird.

The gallery itself is as bright and cheery as Mize's work space. She and her husband, Marty, designed and—with the help of sons Dave and Bill—constructed the building specifically for use as a gallery. She has set



interesting pieces of antique furniture here and there, all available for purchase and all combining to create an indefinable air of refinement that provides a perfect setting for the high quality art exhibited and sold at the gallery.

In addition to Mize's own stained glass work, her gallery offers oil paintings and prints by Narrie Toole, the metal work and antler art of Jimmy Head, the pottery and jewelry of Judy Menefee, the gemstone jewelry of Dr. Karen Blissard, the turquoise jewelry of Kathy Field, stained glass crosses by Wilma Young, and Mimbres-style pots made from gourds by Andy Anderson. Mize has also recently added the jewelry of Lynn Smith to the gallery's inventory, along with Ruth Camp's hand-painted walking sticks made from sturdy yucca stalks.

The Cottage—Stained Glass & More is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., or by special appointment. Adding to the atmosphere of gentility in the gallery is the availability of refreshments in the form of gourmet coffee, hot tea and dif-





Above: Using a protective shield to keep glass dust from getting into her eyes, Mize grinds all the edges of the piece of glass until they are smooth. The protective shield was made for her by her son Dave. (Photo by Peggy Platonos) Right: A fleur-de-lis stained glass.



For more information about the gallery, call Shirley Mize at (575) 536-3234, or check out her listing on the Artisans of the Mimbres website at mimbresartists.com.

ferent home-made goodies every week—goodies that may include, at any given time, one or more of the following: double fudge brownies, coconut cream pie, various fruit pies and even angel food cake with strawberries.

Mimbres writer Peggy Platonos reviews Shevek & Co. Restaurant in this month's Red or Green? section.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City/Grant County

The Grant County Art Guild has opened a new Western art exhibit at the Sun Valley Do It Best Center, 1401 Silver Heights Blvd. Local artists featured at this continuing show are Barbara Kjer, Jeanne Dickerson, Nancy Wachholz, Karen Muench, Carolyn Paez, Setta Roberts, Jean Hatfield, Marilyn Burbrink, Linda Reynolds, Roz Springer and Priscilla Baldwin. Local photographers John Wachholz, Vicki Pelham, Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan are also showing a variety of photography as part of the exhibit. The guild's annual Members Only Show, featuring 42 local artists and fine crafters, opens at the Pinos Altos Art Gallery in the historic Hearst Church on Friday, May 10, with a reception from 5:30-7 p.m.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts will host a free acrylic painting lecture by Nancy Reyner on May 2, 2-4 p.m. Reyner is the author of two painting-technique books and represents Golden Artist Colors. Then, May 17-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Leyba & Ingalls will feature a "Pocket Sketching" class with Kath



"Virginia Maria Romero: Past, Present & Future" continues at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

Macauley (\$200). Ideal for beginners, the class will show how to "journal" anywhere using only a small art pad, pen, small paint set, a brush and a film canister of water. Register for either or both at www.leybaingallsarts.com/classes.html. 15 N. Bullard St., 388-5725,

The Bayard Public Library will host an art exhibit of six Grant County artists, May 4-31, with a reception for the artists on Saturday, May 18, 2-4 p.m. The watercolors, acrylics, oils, colored pencils, ink drawings, textiles, photography and digital image transfers of mother, Karen Muench, and daughter, B.J. Allen, aunt, Nancy Wachholz, and niece, Mariah Walker, and painting friends, Carolyn Paez and Donna Schmidt, will be on display. 537-6244.

Kate Brown Pottery & Tile studio and showroom in the Mimbres will hold its annual Mother's Day sale on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Follow the signs from Royal John Mine Road.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page



The Artisans of the Mimbres Spring Festival returns this year on May 18. (Photo: Mitchell Clinton)

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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

536-9935, katebrown@gilnet.com.

The Artisans of the Mimbres Spring Festival on Saturday, May 18, will celebrate creativity at two separate venues—the Roundup Lodge, the valley’s rustic community center, and La Esperanza Winery, located on a scenic hillside overlooking the valley. During the festival, a number of Artisans members will be giving demonstrations. At the Roundup Lodge, Margaret Streams will be demonstrating wood carving during festival hours and will have pieces on display that show the different stages of the process. At the winery throughout the day, Asher Gelbart will be demonstrating solar ovens and decorative solar-powered water fountains. Both locations will offer food, along with wine tastings at La Esperanza. There will be live music at both venues: at the Roundup Lodge, keyboardist Jesi Tallman, and at the winery, guitarist Joe Krzyzanowski from noon-1:30 p.m. and singer/songwriter Andrew Dahl-Bredine, 2:30-4 p.m.

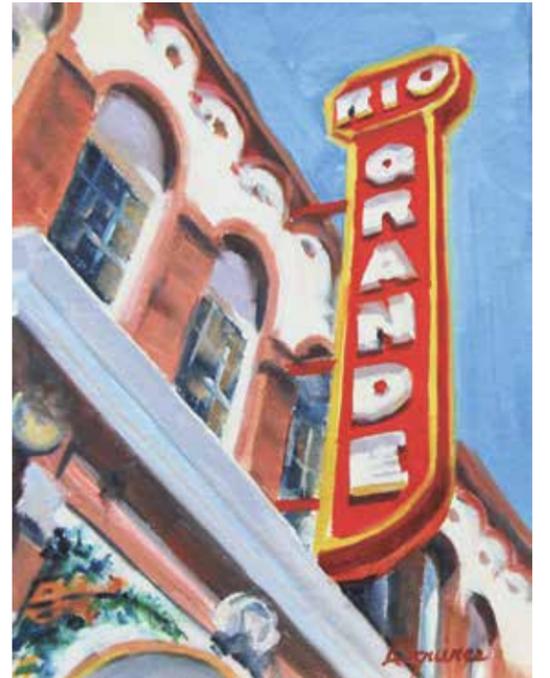
The Roundup Lodge will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The winery will be open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., with the “festival finale” taking place at the winery and scheduled to include prose and poetry readings of original work by Artisans of the Mimbres members from 4-5 p.m., followed by a performance by folksinger and songwriter Barbie Williamson. 574-7119, 536-2997, www.mimbresartists.com.

The Yankee-Texas art galleries and studios will be holding studio sales during Blues Fest Weekend, May 24-27. Participating locations will include Ann Simonsen Studio, Wynnegate Studio, Lois Duffy Studio, Molly Ramolla Studio and Discount Framing Studio.



The 2013 Pro-Artists Series will continue May 1-31 with “Out of the Box,” three-dimensional assemblage pieces by Sam Peters in a special exhibition at the Adobe Patio Gallery.

Right: “Raging Bulls,” stained glass by Patricia Lawrence, will be featured in the Las Cruces Arts Association’s new exhibit opening May 3 at the Mountain Gallery.



Work by Kathleen Squires is included in “Slices of Life on Main Street,” opening May 3 at Main Street Gallery in Las Cruces.

Discount Framing Studio.

The Copper Quail Gallery will feature Mark Bowen’s new collection of “Art for Your Yard,” with an opening reception Saturday, May 25, 3-6 p.m. 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankee and Texas, 388-2646.

New hours at Victoria Chick’s Cow Trail Art Studio in Arenas Valley are Mondays, 12-3 p.m., and by appointment. 119 Cow Trail, (760) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

Blue Dome Gallery at Bear Mountain Lodge is featuring new works by Michael Berman, a new lion creation by Linda Brewer, pottery by John McNulty and nativities from Mata Ortiz. 2251 Cottage San Road, www.bluedomegallery.com.

The Silver City Arts and Cultural District has received a pilot grant from New Mexico Arts to develop the Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail. The trail is designed to promote the economic vitality of clay artists in Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Catron counties through a collective web and print marketing and advertising effort. The trail will feature clay artist studios, galleries, retail businesses, collectives, museums, learning centers, non-profit organizations and other clay-based sites.

“The vision of the Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail is to market the southwest region of New Mexico as a distinguished clay destination,” says George Julian Dworin, director of the Silver City Arts and Cultural District. “With the help of New Mexico Arts, we now have the opportunity to move one step closer towards establishing our region’s identity as a vibrant clay community.”

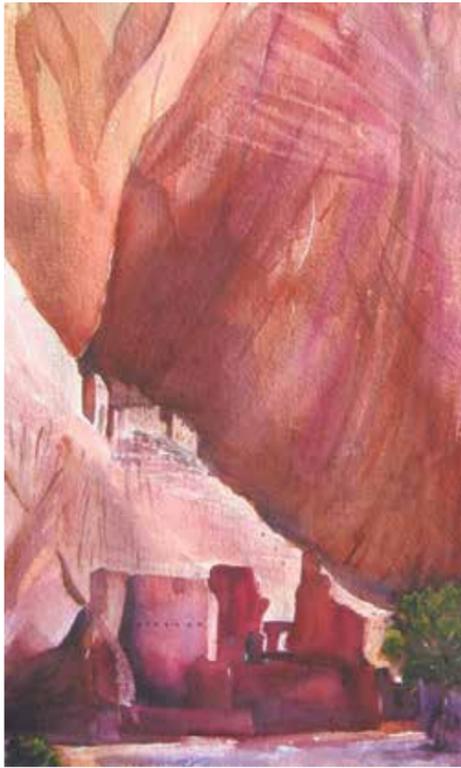
New Mexico Arts Trails have been an effective economic development initiative in the state for over a decade. Beginning in 1992 with the statewide New Mexico Fiber Arts Trail, this program has grown to include four additional community developed trails: the Ancient Way Arts Trail, Artistic Vistas and Treasures Trail, Trails & Rails Arts Trail and the Crossroads Arts Trail.

The Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail is



a collaborative, strategic online marketing initiative designed to leverage the region's unique educational, historical and commercial community assets related to clay. The research and development portion of this project allows Silver City Arts and Cultural District to conduct community outreach, review applications, and invite trail participants. The Clay Trail hopes to increase visibility for clay artists so they may retain more from sales of their work and continue to be productive as cultural entrepreneurs.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our region," says Kelsy Waggaman, project manager of the Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail. "I am eager to promote the gifts of our artists and the organizations and businesses that professionally support them. There is such a vibrant spirit here that makes our clay community



Works by Barbara Kejr (above) and Phil Yost (below) are included in "A Round Dozen: 12 Years of Service to Artists in Southern New Mexico," at the Branigan Cultural Center.

unique and extraordinary."

Artists' studios, galleries, cooperatives, museums and other sites physically located in Grant, Catron, Hidalgo and Luna Counties where clay-related activity is a significant component of the enterprise are encouraged to apply for inclusion in the Southwest New Mexico Clay Arts Trail. Application forms are available online at: claytrail.org. The application deadline is May 31.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Continuing through August 4 in the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum's Arts Corridor** is the show "Virginia Maria Romero: Past, Present & Future." The Las Cruces artist showcases some of her well-known pigmented wood panels, paintings,

and sculpture, but has also pushed her art in a new direction with a new series of predominantly black-and-white prints. There are 34 pieces in the exhibit. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100.

The NMSU Department of Art, the University Art Gallery and the NMSU Library are co-hosting a walking tour of murals on NMSU's main campus, including works by Ken Barrack, Olive Rush and Tom Lea. The free tour will begin in the lobby



ARTS EXPOSURE
continued on next page

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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

of Hadley Hall on Thursday, May 2, at 10 a.m. The discussion and tour will be led by art experts Adair Margo, Silvia Marinas-Feliner and Stephanie Taylor. For more information or to RSVP, contact the NMSU Library at 646-1508.

The New Mexico Watercolor Society—Southern Chapter is presenting "A Round Dozen: 12 Years of Service to Artists in Southern New Mexico" at the **Branigan Cultural Center**. The exhibit of watercolor paintings, in celebration of the Watercolor Society's establishment in Las Cruces in 2001, opens during the Downtown Ramble, May 3, 5-7 p.m., and continues through May 25.

Also opening May 3 at the Branigan Cultural Center is "The Art of Community: Visual Sonnets by Bruce Barton," which continues through June 1. Barton, a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute, also has advanced degrees from San Diego State and Pacific Western Universities. The majority of his near-photographic digital drawings are bizarre juxtapositions of animals in human places and situations. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

The Las Cruces Arts Association's new exhibit opens May 3 from 4-7 p.m. at the **Mountain Gallery**. 138 W. Mountain, 652-3485.

In "Slices of Life on Main Street," the Artists Guild of Southern New Mexico celebrates its eighth annual exhibition, featuring small-format paintings of everyday scenes and excitement at **Main Street Gallery**. The exhibit opens May 3, 5-7 p.m., and continues through May. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

MVS Studios will host a silent auction for the May Ramble, May 3, 5-7 p.m., to benefit the J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School. All proceeds of the auction will go to support the purchase of new technology, a science lab and a new building for the school. 535 N Main, 524-3636.



Janice Cook's pottery will be featured at the Potteries of Mesilla beginning May 4.

The **Potteries of Mesilla** will hold its annual Spring Exhibit and Sale beginning with a kiln opening at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, and continuing until 4 p.m. Featured will be Andy Iventosch's celadon and shino glazed pottery from his Tucson studio as well as new paintings and ceramic works by Jeanne Rundell and Janice and Bill Cook. 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538, thepotteriesmesilla@gmail.com.

The **Potters' Guild of Las Cruces** is having a Mothers' Day pottery sale on May 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event will be outdoors at the studio of one of the members, John Northcutt. 615 E. Piñon, a half-block south of the corner of Spruce and Tornillo (where the fountain is), 524-1146.

The 2013 Pro-Artists Series will continue May 1-31 with "Out of the Box," three-dimensional assemblage pieces by Sam Peters in a special exhibition at the **Adobe Patio Gallery**. A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, May 10, 6-8 p.m. Peters explains the work in the show: "My initial concept for this exhibit was to use everyday materials to create a series of homages to very special people, songs and poetry in my life. The challenge was to utilize the contents of our recycling bin by transforming such commonplace materials as plastic containers, string, torn and cut paper, drinking straws, paint, polycarbonate, acrylic skins, fabric, ink-jet prints and drawings. They evolved into provocative, whimsical, colorful, and highly gestural three-dimensional assemblages."

A native of West Virginia, Peters spent most of his adult life in Maryland before moving to New Mexico. He taught printmaking at the Maryland Institute, College of Art, in Baltimore for 13 years before retiring from teaching. He is a co-founder of Maryland Printmakers and served as its first president. Over the years he acquired additional interests in painting, photography, mixed-media collage



Opening May 3 at the Branigan Cultural Center is "The Art of Community: Visual Sonnets by Bruce Barton," which continues through June 1.

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 <p>Vicki's Eatery 315 N. Texas 388-5430 Breakfast M-Sat 7-10:30 Sun 8-2 • Lunch M-Sat 11-3</p>	 <p>Yankie Creek Coffee House 112 W. Yankie 534-9025 M-Sat 7a to 6p • Sun 7a to 4p</p>	 <p>Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing 303 & 307 N. Texas 538-5538 or 654-0334 www.ramollaart.com</p>	 <p>Yankie Street Artists 103 W. Yankie 519-0615 ©DE</p>



NMSU will host a walking tour of campus murals on May 2.

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and computer graphics. These varied skills have coalesced into his latest series of works, three-dimensional assemblages. 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 532-9310.

Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts will feature an evening with artist J. Carlos West on May 17, 5-8 p.m. Born in Los Angeles, raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, West spent 10 years as a graphic artist for Rockwell International, and also worked on the Space Shuttle program. Today, he paints Southwest and Mexican landscapes in watercolor. 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** will host local potters Kate and Russell Mott in an exhibit that runs from May 24 to June 21. The exhibit, featuring stoneware as well as raku pieces, opens to the public with a gala celebration complete with mariachis on Friday, May 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Kate Mott has taught art and been a practicing artist for many years. Russell Mott apprenticed with potters in New Mexico and many other parts of the country, concentrating especially but not exclusively on raku and pit-fired pieces. More information about the Motts' work can be found at www.mottsraku.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.



Learn "pocket sketching" with Kath Macauley at Leyba & Ingalls Arts, May 17-19.

Hidalgo County

The **Chiricahua Gallery's** spring show, "Celebrating Art" will feature the gallery's many fiber artists as well as new works by over 20 member artists. The public is invited to the opening reception, Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.. There will be a members-only preview showing from 10-11 a.m. With an emphasis on southwestern and nature themes, the Chiricahua Gallery is located in an historic Rodeo building that has evolved from frontier saloon to church to its present incarnation. Income from artist sales goes to further the cultural and educational experiences through scholarships, art for kids, exhibits and workshops. Pine Street and Highway 80, Rodeo, 557-2225, www.chiricahuagallery.org.

Area codes are 575 except as noted. Send gallery news to events@desertexposure.com.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

SILVER CITY

ANN SIMONSEN STUDIO-GALLERY, 104 W. Yankie St., 654-5727.

ART + CONVERSATION, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery and gathering space. www.artandconversation.com.

ARTESANOS, 211-B N. Texas St., 519-0804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.

[A]SP."A"@E, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.

AZURITE GALLERY, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048. Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.

BLUE DOME GALLERY, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.

CLAYFUL HANDS, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.

CLAYMOON STUDIO, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.

COMMON THREAD, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs. Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.

COPPER QUAIL GALLERY, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.

COW TRAIL ART STUDIO, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon. 12-3 p.m. or by appointment, (706) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.

DRAGONFLY STUDIO, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.

FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.

GALLERY 400, Gila House, 400 N. Arizona, 313-7015. Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m. www.gilahouse.com.

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthonhowell.com.

JEFF KUHN'S POTTERY, 3029 Pinos Altos Road, 534-9389. By appointment.

LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christiana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordeee Headlee, Diana Ingalls

Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsey Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.

LOIS DELONG STUDIO, 2309 Paul Place, 388-

4759. By appointment.

LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

LLOYD STUDIOS, 306 W. Broadway, (303) 378-0926. Weds-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. lloydstudios.com.

MARY'S FINE ART, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.

MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.

MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

OFF BEAD GALLERY, 701 N. Bullard, 388-8973. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

RED EARTH GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., (505) 850-3182, www.pudfranzblau.com.

SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tues.-Weds. by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.

STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Barbara Jorgen Nance.

STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

THE STUDIO SPACE, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.

STUDIO UPSTAIRS, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197. By appointment.

TATIANA MARIA GALLERY, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426.

TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.

TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.

21 LATIGO TRAIL, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.

TWO SPIRIT GALLERY, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

WILD WEST WEAVING, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.hosanaeilert.com. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

WYNNEGATE STUDIO, 110 W. Yankie St.

YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.

ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910.

TYRONE MOON-STRUCK ART STUDIO, 501 Covellite Dr., 956-5346, 654-5316. By appointment.

SUN DAWG STUDIO, 501 Malachite Ave., 388-3551. By appointment.

PINOS ALTOS HEARST CHURCH GALLERY, Gold St., 574-2831. Open late-April to early-October. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MIMBRES

CHAMOMILE CONNECTION, 3918 Highway 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

COTTAGE STAINED GLASS & MORE, Cedar Lane off Hwy. 35, 536-3234. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2-5 p.m.

KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanel.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

NARRIE TOOLE, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietool.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.

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NORTHERN GRANT COUNTY & CATRON COUNTY ANNIE'S ON THE CORNER, Hwy. 180 and Adair, Luna, 547-2502.

CASITAS DE GILA, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.

WILLOW GALLERY, Hwy. 15, Gila Hot Springs, 536-3021. By appointment.

MESILLA

ADOBE PATIO GALLERY, 1765 Avenida de Mercado (in the Mesilla Mercado), 532-9310. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

GALERI AZUL, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

GALERIA ON THE PLAZA, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.

GALERIA TEPIN, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thurs.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun. 12-5:30 p.m.

THE POTTERIES, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538.

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LAS CRUCES

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BLUE GATE GALLERY, 311 Old Downtown Mall, 523-2950. Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon.

CHARLES INC., 1885 W Boutz Rd, 523-1888, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

COTTONWOOD GALLERY, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

CREATIVE HARMONY, 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040. Weds.-Sun. 12-5 p.m.

CRUZ NOPAL, 1175 W. Picacho, 635-7899. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

CUTTER GALLERY, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

GALERIE ACCENTS, 344 S. San Pedro #3, 522-3567. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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LUNDEEN INN OF THE ARTS, 618 S. Alameda Blvd., 526-3326. Daily 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

MAIN STREET GALLERY, 311 N. Downtown Mall, 647-0508. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

MESQUITE ART GALLERY, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. Thur.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 2-5 p.m.

MOUNTAIN GALLERY AND STUDIOS, 138 W. Mountain St. Thurs.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

M. PHILLIP'S FINE ART GALLERY, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.

MVS STUDIOS, 535 N. Main, Stull Bldg., 635-5015, www.mvsstudios.com.

NEW DIMENSION ART WORKS, 615 E. Piñon, 373-0043.

NEW MEXICO ART, 121 Wyatt Dr., Suite 1, 525-8292/649-4876. Weds. 1-6 p.m., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

NMSU ART GALLERY, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545. Tues.-Sun.

NOPALITO'S GALERIA, 326 S. Mesquite. Fri.-Sun., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY, behind Downtown COAS Books, 312-1064. Mon.-Thurs., Sat. Studio 309, 309 E. Organ Ave., 649-3781. By appointment.

STUDIO 909, 909 Raleigh Road, 541-8648. By appointment.

TERRA MONTANA GALLERY, 535 N. Main St., 635-2891. Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

TOMBAUGH GALLERY, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281. Weds.-Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

UNSETTLED GALLERY & STUDIO, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285.

VIRGINIA MARIA ROMERO STUDIO, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment. agzromero@zianet.com, www.virginiamariaromero.com.

LA MESA

LA MESA STATION GALLERY, 16205 S. Hwy. 28, 233-3037. Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m.

COLUMBUS

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Both Sides Now

The view from atop the saddle—and under it.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to contact me about my last two columns on trailers and safety (March, April), obviously topics that are important to many riders out there. I had emails from as far away as Idaho—pretty cool for my operation here in little old Silver City.

As a short addition to my last column, “Safety First,” I just read an interesting study of stress levels in horses being used for police work in the Netherlands. The study monitored heart rates, respiration and certain blood characteristics as horses were put through a series of exercises designed to simulate the kinds of challenges police horses would face in their jobs out on the street—smoke, noise, crowds, equipment, etc. I found the results pretty fascinating given my interest in building strong working partnerships with horses that stand up to real-world challenges.

The study found that the horses all adapted pretty well to the exercises regardless of their age, experience or breeding, which the researchers took as a sign that the police force was doing an excellent job of selecting and handling horses well suited for this job. They found that smoke and truly unfamiliar objects, like big red balls, led to the highest stress levels. But overall no horses showed physical or behavioral responses that correlated to significant levels of stress.

The second part of the study is what yielded some results worth noting. A group of experienced horses was monitored as the horses were transported, put through riot training and sent out on night patrols on busy streets. These tests were done in pairs and singly. The researchers found that the level of stress for the horses correlated with the level of skill of the rider, even for the most experienced horses that had done all this work before. The rider’s ability to anticipate and manage the fear response in the horse—that is, to quickly give the kind of support, direction and meaningful cues a horse needs when nervous or under stress—is what kept them calm under pressure. A rider’s inability to do this, by doing things like pulling too hard on the reins, using too much leg or becoming unbalanced, actually stimulated the fear response in some cases, making a dangerous situation worse for horse, rider and the public.

This for me is more proof that you and your horse need to make defensive riding under real pressure part of your normal riding/training routine. Most of us don’t ride horses that would be selected as good candidates for police work. That means your horse is more likely to have much bigger responses to real-life stimuli, so you have the responsibility for helping your horse manage his fear response and his behavior. I suggest what you might extrapolate from this study is that the most stressful thing for a horse is having a rider on his back. So it is up to you to convince him that you know what you’re doing, you understand what he needs and you know how to help him.

As the spring winds arrive, the dust starts to swirl and we pray for rain—making this one of the most challenging times of the year for horse owners—I thought a little humor would be

good for the soul as you chase that fly mask blowing down the road. During a recent paper purge at our house, I came across a funny email I received years ago—from the last century actually, which still sounds weird to me.

The idea was a comparison of how a horse’s “dictionary” defines various words vs. a human’s definitions of the same words—a fun way to point out how differently we each see the world. It is a wonder we get along at all! I’m sure there are a million versions of this out there—I hope you enjoy this one:

The Human’s Dictionary

Arena—A confined area where you perform competitive exercises to improve riding skills. See also: “money pit” and “constant maintenance.”

Bit—A piece of equipment used to control or discipline a horse. You can never have too many.

Bucking—Unacceptable behavior that needs to be punished.

Cross-ties—Equipment to control horses and make them stand in one place.

Dressage—The highest form of horse/human partnership, from French meaning to *train*. See also: “large cash expenditures for equipment and clothes.”

Farrier—Member of your personal equine support team responsible for keeping hooves in good working order. Shares your bank account with your trainer (see).

Fence—Necessary to keep horses confined and on your property. See “constant maintenance.”

Grain—Part of daily feed ration that helps with nutrition and energy. See also: “over-grained bolting horse.”

Hitching rail—Another piece of equipment used to keep horse in one place.

Horse trailer—Transport for horses so human can indulge various riding interests.

Jump—A riding obstacle that gives you brief sensation of flight, especially if the horse decides at the last second not to jump.

Latch—Another way to confine horse in stall or pen, and something that you can never open with one hand.

Longeing—Training technique used to develop fitness and make you dizzy.

Owner—Loving person responsible for care of horse. See also: “cash machine,” “ATM.”

Rider—Usually same as “owner.” Human who feels this is the return he gets for all the money he spends.

Trainer—Person who does the hard work with your horse. Also, has direct access to your bank account.

Veterinarian—Your horse’s healthcare professional. Someone who knows how to do all the real disgusting things that have to be done in the name of good health.

And the human’s bumper sticker: Tells people that driver carries no cash because he spent it all on horses.

The Horse’s Dictionary

Arena—Place where humans take all the fun

out of forward motion.

Bit—Means by which a rider’s every motion is transmitted to the extremely sensitive tissues of the mouth. See also: “medieval tools of torture.”

Bucking—Counterirritant.

Cross-ties—Gymnastic apparatus.

Dressage—Process by which some riders can eventually be taught to respect the bit. See also: “lighter saddles,” “interesting patterns,” “nice music.”

Farrier—Pedicurist with an attitude. “Hey, who’s paying whom here!?”

Fence—Barrier that protects good grazing.

Grain—Sole virtue of domestication.

Hitching rail—Piece of equipment for testing one’s strength. See also: “isometric exercise.”

Horse trailer—Mobile porta-potty. The only time I actually get to ride. See also: “improving one’s rhythm by pawing wall then floor in 4/4 beat.”

Jump—An opportunity for self-expression, whether or not your rider stays on.

Latch—A cool puzzle designed just for horses.

Longeing—Procedure for keeping a prospective rider away from you. See also: “alternative method for testing one’s strength.”

Owner—Human assigned responsibility for one’s every need and desire. Always complaining about something called *money*.

Rider—An owner overstepping his/her bounds. If it’s called *riding*, how come I’m always carrying something?

Trainer—Human with mob connections.

Veterinarian—A flightless albino vulture, but at least he’s willing to clean my sheath.

The horse’s bumper sticker? “Call the ASPCA! I’m trapped in this tin can and producing large amounts of methane.”

Enjoy your horses, listen to their point of view, have fun and be careful out there! 🐾

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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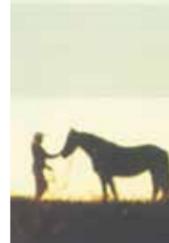
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS • KAREN RAY

Health Hero

NMSU researcher Rebecca Palacios seeks answers to improve the health of border communities.

Rebecca Palacios is passionate about community involvement. Her road to the merger of academic excellence and community service began when she participated in a National Institutes of Health-funded program called MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers), which introduces minority students to medical research.

A first-generation Mexican-American, second to youngest in a family of eight children, Palacios has been interested in science from a young age. Her family has a history of cardiovascular disease, and during her subsequent PhD work she began focusing her own research on Hispanics, using her insight into the Hispanic population.

"I am happy that academics can go out into the community," Palacios says. "My goal is to serve my border community where I grew up and to involve students."

Palacios earned a doctorate in health psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso. She initially developed a strong lab orientation while working for eight years with the privately owned Border Research Company, before coming to New Mexico State University nearly five years ago. It was her work with Border, where she served as director of research, that led to her interest in the health-education research community. There she was involved in health program evaluations and focused on HIV and AIDS education and teen pregnancy prevention in addition to other projects.

In 2012, the Con Alma Health Foundation named Palacios one of the year's health heroes. "Every year we receive nominations about amazing individuals who make extraordinary contributions to the health of their communities," says Dolores E. Roybal, Con Alma's executive director. "Rebecca embodies the goals of Con Alma—creating sustainable solutions to improve the health of underserved populations."

Palacios has been invited to participate in a variety of research projects and has a drive for working out in the community. She says, "To really get out there and understand the problems, to see them as they are occurring, as the population is experiencing them, is fascinating. If you don't understand the target population you're not going to be effective."

She adds, "My passion has been the US-Mexico border population. I have worked in El Paso and Southern New Mexico for several years now and those communities are very dear to me because they are also my hometown."

Palacios says she really felt like she made a difference with two particular projects that "really helped me to grow as a researcher. I learned that I could do many things even if I wasn't fully acquainted with those fields. The basic research skills that I had applied to a wide variety of issues. That was really exciting."

One was a diabetes surveillance research project conducted by the Pan American Health Organization. Palacios says this was an exciting study involving a huge team tasked with interviewing people at home and doing health assessments. If the people

were at risk, researchers would let them know and refer them for further help. "We found that a significant portion of the population did not know they were diabetic and so they were referred for health-care. That was a very exciting study."

The second study involved examining groundwater contamination issues related to the fertilizer industry near Vado and Mesquite, two colonias in Doña Ana County. "That was another very immense project. We had to look at several sources of information to see what the level of contamination in these areas was."

This study was initiated by the Office of Border Health because of residents' complaints and fears that they were getting sick from fertilizer contamination. The research team looked into two major companies as well as examining the extensive contamination issues resulting from nitrates coming from the dairies.

Palacios explains, "The Environmental Department does not have the resources to monitor regularly. At the time of this study (2005), there were only two people available, who would have had to come from Albuquerque to investigate the situation down here." The different environmental departments would get information and investigate, she says, but the information was not shared between departments. So her research group worked on getting them to communicate and share information.

"Eventually there was a big fine to pay and action to correct the violations," Palacios says. "I felt like these two projects really made a huge difference."

Her current research project involves looking at the colonias' populations and residents who don't have access to public water. She says, "I am excited to get involved in community-level research again here at NMSU."

The three-year collaborative venture between UTEP and NMSU is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. Researchers are looking at households in both Doña Ana County and El Paso. In Doña Ana County alone there are 35 colonias, according to government documents.

"There are two types of populations," explains Palacios, "One relies on hauled water; they haul water to their house and store it in large black tanks. That's how things are in El Paso."

When people in those colonias store their water in tanks, Palacios notes that they might haul water every six months, depending on the size of the family. "These are huge black tanks and the inside begins to rust and deteriorate, so you have all kinds of particles in the water and bacteria and algae forming. They use this for bathing. Everybody knows it's not safe to drink the water. Very few people drink the water from these or the shallow wells; they purchase water for drinking and cooking."

The particulates in the foul-smelling stored water also destroy household appliances such as air conditioners and refrigerators. Although the researchers have yet to assess the degree of contamination within the water, the reports from community members lead them to suspect it is significant.

"In New Mexico," Palacios goes on, "the folks who don't have public water rely on water wells, in some cases self-dug. The importance in terms of the wells is that they should be sufficiently deep to properly filter the water. With shallow wells, sometimes they are dug just to six feet; there is no natural filtration." She says that here in New Mexico the issue is how to treat the well water. "These are very poor people and they're spending a fortune on



Palacio's current project will try to improve water quality in colonias that rely on often-contaminated storage tanks.

water to drink and cook on a daily basis."

In a recent NMSU publication, *Research and Resources*, Christopher Brown of the Department of Geography points out, "Our region is a sole-source aquifer region. All of our drinking water comes from groundwater and considerable areas of our urbanized region are off centralized systems. The potential risk that we are able to document from this has long-term negative impacts on the drinking water viability, quality of life and human health."

Phase one of the project, which is entitled "Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment in the Paso del Norte Region," involves conducting focus groups "that assess what people's health issues are and what their concerns are for the water," says Palacios. "Do they treat the water and even know how to treat it? In El Paso they throw these chlorine pills, like you'd use in your swimming pool, into the storage tanks. Perhaps they don't know how much to use, perhaps over-treating the water. That water is also toxic; it tastes bad; it's very irritating to the skin. Then when it comes into the house they treat it further with Clorox."

Working with the public water utilities and using records from the state engineer on well locations and depth, the researchers identified households that were likely not part of a public water system or who were using wells. They were also able to use the technology of Google Earth to map locations of shallow-depth wells.

One of the keys to success in conducting this research is the help of *promotores*, community health workers. These are local community members who are interested in helping out and educating their peers, thereby helping to transform their neighborhoods. Palacios says some of the *promotores* are volunteers but that the researchers like to pay them. "The Alma award that I got came with a \$1,000 stipend to donate to your favorite charity or nonprofit organization. So I was able to use that and donate it to the project to be used to compensate our *promotores*. They have been a valuable asset. They have been so wonderful and have

been very effective at recruiting the very specific people that we need for this project."

The six to eight focus groups being developed in phase one will typically involve from 12-15 participants in each group. "In these focus groups we are presenting the population with these different filtration systems that we might incorporate into their households during phase two," explains Palacios. She and her team members will use the information gathered to inform the second phase of the project about unique problems and community preferences. Although the researchers are just completing phase one right now, Palacios says the colonia residents are very interested in participating in the study.

Phase two of the project will involve civil engineers, who will collect water samples from the homes involved in the study to assess exactly what the contaminants are. Then, the differ-



Rebecca Palacios: "Those communities are very dear to me because they are also my hometown."



Focus groups have been assessing residents' health issues and water concerns.

ent types of filtration systems will be shown to the participants—informing them about their options, determining their preferences and which systems are practical for them to use.

The three different systems presented, all of which will eliminate contaminants, will be a pitcher system, a bucket system, and a filtration device that would be installed under the sink. The filters would all be provided at no cost during phase two for the 100-150 community residents participating in the study, who will be able to use the equipment for one year, while receiving technical guidance and support from the research team during that time. After completion of the study participants can keep the filter equipment.

Phase three will involve follow-up. The researchers will go back after a year and conduct a more in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of the filtration systems in improving the usability of the primary sources of water available to the study participants in the colonias.

Palacios is also working on another three-stage collaborative research project with marketing professors Collin Payne (the principal investigator on the project) and Mihai Niculescu at NMSU and David Just at Cornell University. According to *Research and Resources*, the project “is aimed at changing how Hispanics shop for groceries by altering how stores cater to Hispanics.... creating social messages to be placed on grocery carts that suggest... how many fruits and vegetables should be purchased.” The researchers believe this intervention will be helpful in design-



Above: An old water storage tank behind a house. Below: Water-storage barrels on a back porch. (Photos: Justice Prude, www.facebook.com/LadyJPhotography)



ing a grocery store that works to encourage healthier diets in the region.

Other interesting work in Palacios’ full lineup involves an outreach project to address research disparities in early cancer screening, particularly in Hispanic and Native American populations. The project will explore links between obesity and cancer risk, diet and physical activity, as well as problems with health education and screening opportunities. She has discovered that women in the colonias are very concerned and interested in breast cancer screening. Just as with the clean water research, “the *promotora* network would be instrumental in helping us conduct that type of outreach.”

Palacios’ work has covered a wide range of health topics over the years, including geriatric health, Alzheimer’s, stress, motivation and risk behavior in students. She has authored over 34 publications and continues to promote health-related research among the Hispanic population along the border. She finds it satisfying that her work can really make a difference in people’s lives and is committed to mentoring NMSU students, actively seeking to immerse them in research opportunities.

“It’s my turn to give back,” she says. “I hope to encourage students to grow their own passion for doing this type of research.”

Karen Ray is a Las Cruces-based writer and personal historian. She can be reached at karen@rememberingthetime.net.



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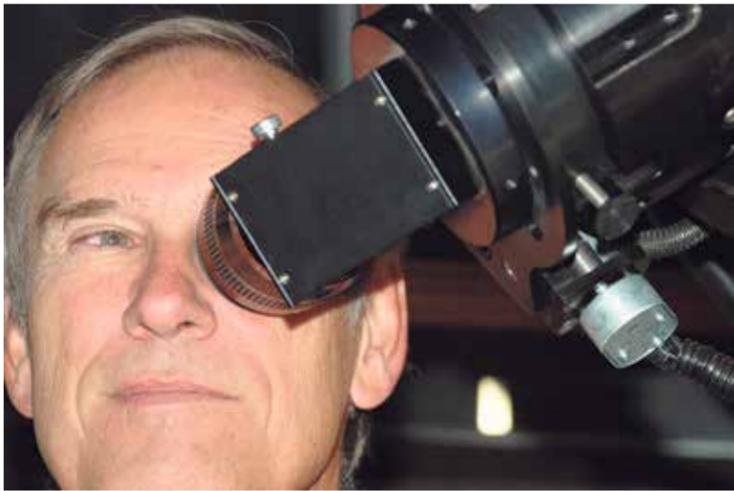
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SCIENCE JOURNAL • DAWN NEWMAN-AERTS

Seeing in the Dark

From a high-tech observatory in Portal, Ariz., Rick Beno snaps candid portraits of the universe.



Deep-sky astro-photographer Rick Beno. (All photos courtesy Rick Beno/Conferring with the Sky observatory)

When most communities are getting ready for a good night's sleep, Rick Beno quietly unlocks his observatory door, rolls up his sleeves, checks his telescope, and peers deep into the dark skies above the desert Southwest. Beno's cosmic subject is the billions of light-years of space that surround our Earth. At the end of his telescope near Rodeo, New Mexico, snapshots of galaxies, nebulae and double clusters linger at the end of his fingertips.

Deep sky astro-photography is not a new space-age science. It has long been the vast field of scientists who have an innate interest in astronomy, and who like to tinker with the complex nature of high-tech equipment and digitized software. In today's discipline, even an amateur photographer can purposely (or accidentally) snap an encounter with the obscure or a big-sky moment while seated behind a simple telescope. Sky-watchers are no longer confined to elaborate, mountain-top observatories in remote parts of the world.

Beno is not alone on the desert floor near Rodeo. In fact, his "Conferring With the Sky" observatory fits in well with a handful of others who have settled in this remote area. It's here that he and a community of avid scientists, engineers, astro wizards and space photographers share common ground in their quest to work in the ultimate "dark-sky village."

Beno and his wife, Vicki, discovered this remote slice of sky back in 2003.

"It really doesn't get much better than this," says Beno of the surrounding desert landscape. "There

but I was really inspired." It wasn't long before his parents found him a better telescope—a more sophisticated model that Beno says he didn't quite know how to use, and, unfortunately, didn't have any instructions for.

He credits a high school physics teacher, who made science "pure magic," with leading him to a career in aerospace. "I wish more kids would have the opportunity to get into an astronomy class in high school," Beno says. "It's one of those classes that opens the door to so many paths in science."

Beno earned degrees in aerospace engineering at Cal-Poly University and at the University of California-San Diego. After graduating, he began a career with Northrop-Grumman. He spent much of his career as a software engineer in defense navigation and simulation equipment

Over the years, Beno says, there were jumps in the size and sophistication of his telescopes. "In the 1970s I could afford a much better telescope, so I spent lots of nights in my backyard in Cerritos, Calif., just observing the night skies, and working with astro-photography."



Messier 83 Southern Pinwheel Galaxy.

Today, in the desert at the Arizona Sky Village in Portal, just across the border from New Mexico's Bootheel, Beno's silo-like observatory juts straight up against the flat desert. It sits just steps outside his back door. He climbs the steep, winding staircase that leads to a mostly circular "portal" of darkness.

"I have to say, there's something special about working in a natural setting like this," says Beno, as he peers out through the 24-inch PlaneWave telescope that dominates his observation platform. "I guess for me, it's just a really peaceful spot."

His "spot" is an intricate playground of high-tech equipment, in a roomy space-like nodule. "So, it's about fully taking in the night sky as it is," he says. "You can hear the coyotes in the distance, but you can mostly focus on the stars." And what you are able to capture at any given moment, he explains, is both unpredictable and amazing.

Standing high above the cacti that surround him, he carefully captures a universe at play.

Rick's website features extreme shots of galaxies, clusters, nebulae and solar system objects. He keeps meticulous records of technical data for every image. He has taken thousands of photographs, with more than a few personal "keepers." He is particularly fond of snapping an astro-photo in 2008 he dubbed the "Drunken Dragon nebula." It shows a nebula first identified in the 1950s and originally named Lynd's Bright Nebula (LBN) 762.

In the Sky Village, Beno's astro-photography process is a mostly turnkey operation. "I



Beno's 24-inch PlaneView telescope setup.

basically have to cool down cameras, equipment, lenses and instruments every night and there are exact adjustments with equipment and computer software." When looking for moving objects, he uses a process called "blinking" or the overlaying of photographs.

"Basically, these images are aligned between two or more photographs over a span of seconds and minutes," explains Beno. He uses filters, shutter speeds and exposure times

similar to traditional photography, but with the specialized PlaneWave 24-inch reflector telescope. It is a high-tech setup with the ability to capture high-resolution digital images.

But interests in astro-photography and deep sky observation vary, says Beno, even at this astronomy outpost at the remote edge of Arizona. "We have one neighbor who spends much of his time involved with finding elusive supernovas or capturing images of multiple galaxies. A 'wide field' astronomer might focus on the entire Milky Way, while another looks for locations to determine the best points around the planet to observe solar eclipses."

That would be Fred Espenak, a retired NASA astrophysicist from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center known as "Mr. Eclipse," who operates the Bifrost Astronomical Observatory in Portal. Espenak, who continues to maintain NASA's official



Above: Messier 27 Dumbbell Nebula. Below: Beno gazes into deep space.



One of Beno's favorites: The "Drunken Dragon nebula" (LBN 762)

are similar places in the US, but they are getting much harder to find."

Rick Beno has been actively observing the night sky for roughly 55 years—first as a youngster, growing up in Southern California, and, a few years later, as a Cal-Poly University student who juggled his time between weekend study and pursuing the interstellar medium.

His early interest in astronomy began at the age of nine with the profits from a paper route. "I don't know why, but the first thing I decided to buy with my pay was a two-inch Tasco telescope," says Beno with a half-smile. "I suppose just about every kid (back then) started with a model like that,





The Conferring with the Sky observatory near Portal, Ariz.

Beno has set his sights on sharing his knack for astro-photography by offering workshops and learning opportunities for local students who have an interest in exploring dark skies, galaxies, clusters and nebulae.

He says, "It really doesn't get much better than this."

For information about class visits to Beno's observatory, as well as images from his astro-photography, see his website at ConferringWiththeSky.org.

Dawn Newman-Aerts is a former Minnesota newspaper journalist who lives in Rodeo.

eclipse website at eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov and who has witnessed 24 total solar eclipses, spoke at a special presentation of WILL and the Silver City Astronomical Society (see box) in March.

Today's deep-sky astronomers use robotic telescopes, remote-controlled equipment and complex computer programs. Beno's techniques capture images you can't see with the naked eye, or even through a telescope. He points out that today's robotic telescopes can be controlled from anywhere in the world using an Internet connection.

"Deep-sky images no longer require a mountain-top observatory to capture interstellar vistas or rogue asteroids," says Beno with a smile. "And what we have here is a 'dark sky oasis' with ideal conditions—that's low light pollution, higher elevations, low humidity, and laminar (non-turbulent) air flow." According to fellow astronomers, there's nothing more seductive in the field than a night sky filled with stars and glowing clouds of colorful interstellar gas.



From his desert-based portal, The NGC 2237 "Rosette Nebula."

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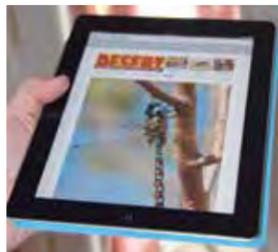
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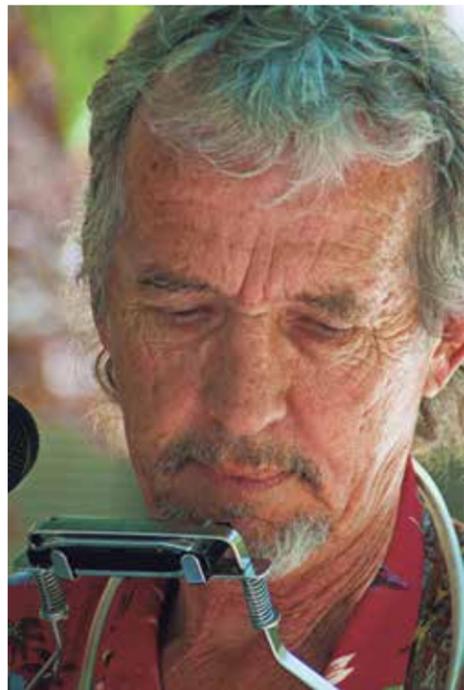
THE LIVELY ARTS • DONNA CLAYTON WALTER

Old Man River

From years on the mighty Missouri River to today's life on the banks of New Mexico's Gila River, Silver City musician Greg Renfro just keeps rollin' along.

For a rich quality of life and a reservoir to keep his musical dreams afloat, Greg Renfro has always counted on the bank—the bank of a river, that is.

"All the places I lived for the first 40 years of my life are along the Missouri River," says the Silver City singer-songwriter. "I was born in Sioux City, Iowa, lived my childhood in Bismarck, North Dakota;



Above: Renfro in a pensive moment, performing at an outdoor concert. (Photo: Bruce Bloy)

Omaha, Nebraska; and St. Louis, Missouri. I spent my early adulthood in Columbia and Lupus, Missouri—right on the river, which actually flooded my home!" he adds with a laugh.

"I also built my home and started my farm outside Lupus in the hills a mile from the river in a place called Happy Hollow, where I lived for eight years and began raising my children. That river and its surroundings ran through my whole life in a way," he says. "For sure, it was a source of a lot of inspiration."

For the past 14 years, Renfro has made his home in Silver City, where the Gila River famously still runs free.

Sitting down to a conversation with the singer-songwriter is kind of like living out the title of one of his CDs—*Settle On In*. As he makes a pot of tea, thoughtfully and with great care, the kind-faced gent doesn't seem to know what stress is. Or if he does, it doesn't seem to matter to him.

With a storyteller's ease, he weaves together the new and the old—when he picked up his first instrument, whom he's making music with these days, how he got his start in performing, the success of his latest band and the exciting new path his music has taken after an homage to the late, great Woody Guthrie.

Through it all, winding the curves in the river of his life, he's taken things as they came—holding fast to dreams and finding ways to make them come true.

Renfro recounts a particularly colorful chapter of his life, telling how he found a creative way to keep his finances afloat by opening the River Garden Café—right in his living room!

"That was back in Lupus. In those days, you could 'make up' your life," Renfro says with a wistful smile. Needing a bit of cash influx, and without the burdens of today's food-handling protocols and regulations, Renfro simply tied on an apron and got busy in the kitchen, starting up his own vegetarian restaurant.

"I started calling up my friends, saying, 'I'm serving dinner from 4 to 7, reservations only!' One after another, they said, 'Okay! We'll be there!' We could

probably only fit 13 people at a time, but that's what we did and we were busy night after night!

"It was a huge hit! And we had a lot of fun doing it," he recalls with a broad smile.

Taking a long sip from his mug of tea, Renfro reflects on life in Lupus back in the day. With a good-natured laugh, he describes the local population as "newly wed or nearly dead. And those established older folks didn't take to us young people at first!"

His next dream was a charming piece of property with an old farmhouse... and the next round of "creative financing" that got the deal done did little to endear him to those village elders.

"I fell in love with this property about a mile out of town," Renfro begins. "I wanted so bad to build a house on it, but this guy used the land to pasture his cows. I kept contacting him about it, some years passed and finally he said 'yes!'"

The 25 acres already had an old two-story house and a barn on it. Price tag: \$13,500. Terms: half down and the owner would carry it for six years.

"Now it was decision time," Renfro continues. "Do I buy the property? I've got a good life, no mortgage, the café is thriving. I can do what I want—play my music! But I really wanted to do this next thing..." He trails off.

Friends to the rescue, once again. This time, though, it was more than showing up and paying for dinner at Chez Renfro.

"A bunch of us moved in and split it," he says, an arrangement that raised a few eyebrows, for sure.

"So I started building my stone house, and my friends lived in the old house that was already built. I wanted it to be solar and a friend of mine in construction taught me a lot."

So much so that he did solar-energy consultations and evaluations for a couple of years, helping to earn his living and get that mortgage paid.

All the while, Renfro was enjoying life, starting to raise a family and, of course, singing. His preferences had grown up from his high-school days of playing Simon and Garfunkel to classic Americana. As an adult he began writing his own, his first attempt being to set a poem called "Indian Dream" to music that he wrote.

In love with the Missouri River, he drew inspiration from it. His one and only protest song, he says, also is connected to the river.

"In '76, the power company out of St. Louis said it was going to build a nuclear power plant," he says. Renfro pauses and his eyes take on a different intensity, his easy-going expression suddenly transformed into something much more serious. "'Nuclear power plant' in Missouri was fightin' words," he says. He took part in demonstrations and public education about the issue, playing an active role in the group Missourians for Safe Energy.

Some of the singer Jackson Browne's people took notice, Renfro says, and sold anti-nuke T-shirts at the then-rising star's concerts, giving the proceeds to the activist group.

Renfro also wrote that protest song around the same time, a song he has performed but that never

has been recorded. With a small smile and singular, committed nod of his head, he adds, "Someday it will be."

Fast forward some years down the road—or paddle a few more miles down the river, if you will—and Renfro found himself happily in Silver City. Again, he says, a river and the beautiful landscape around it were what drew him. The mountains, the Gila, the friendly honest people he met found their way into his songs. In addition to performing covers that praised the Land of Enchantment—songs like Michael Hearne's "New Mexico Rain"—he wrote a few new ones of his own. "Best Kept Secret" talks of the special beauty of southwest New Mexico.



Greg Renfro shares a laugh on stage with his partner, Jean Eisenhower, with whom he sometimes performs. (Photo: Bruce Bloy)

"That one brought me a lot of satisfaction," Renfro says. "I love to write about the places that I've lived."

Moving to Silver City also brought him a new stream of musical friends and collaborators.

"I started out having music at my house on Tuesday evenings," he says. That's how he met Wally Lawder, a long-time Silver City musician who now lives in Tucson (and who is this writer's ex-husband). Renfro played for a few years in one of Lawder's

bands, The Flying Coyotes. Renfro also befriended Daniel Pacheco, then-owner of Old World Bakery, which stood in those days at the corner of Broadway and Bullard. The two honed a nice sound and developed a loyal following. Their rendition of "Pancho and Lefty" (written by country singer and songwriter Townes Van Zandt) was a favorite when the duo played on the patio at Vicki's Eatery, then just a small breakfast and lunch place on the corner of Yankee and Texas Streets. It often was the case that every table on the charming patio was packed with Renfro-Pacheco fans, with an admiring "audience" hanging around outside the open gateway, applauding from the sidewalk.

"Those were great days. We played for tips and a meal!" Renfro says with a smile.

"Then this guy named Charlie (Alfero) would show up with his mandolin and he was absolutely amazing!"

It wasn't long before Renfro and Alfero were playing together regularly, Alfero joining Renfro's band, The Gypsy Feet. Local musicians Ed Teja (now living in Cambodia), Mitchell Barsch, Shems Nickle and Keith Fisher also were in that band, which changed over the years as bands are wont to do. Renfro and Alfero currently have a regular gig at Silver City's Diane's Parlor, their easy, folksy sound a pleasant accompaniment to a casual dinner-and-drinks crowd, and the two have recorded an album, *Settle On In*, together. Recorded in the local Barefoot Studios, the CD features songs written primarily by the duo and exclusively featuring their vocals and instrumentation.

The Silver City playing scene also included gigs at the Watering Hole. Performances there with Teja, Renfro says, took on a more rock-and-roll feel. The more folksy face of Gypsy Feet played well in other places, like the Buckhorn Saloon in Pinos Altos. But the changing face of the band—particularly when it grew in size—brought a new problem.

"One night at the Buckhorn, there were eight of us up there!" Renfro says with a laugh. "Karen (the manager) just said, 'Okay, that's too many—you guys are only getting four meals!'"

Renfro also has played the range of local festivals. Between 2005 to 2007, he performed at the popular and humorously



Renfro accompanies his singing and guitar playing with harmonica. (Photo: Tyler Bingham)

Below: Greg Renfro saddles up a horse on his homestead/farm in Happy Hollow, outside of Lupus, Missouri, circa 1984, during what the singer-songwriter calls his "back to the land days."



Bring on the Blues

Silver City's 18th annual Blues Festival is May 24-26.

Greg Renfro won't be on the bill for this year's **Silver City Blues Festival**, May 24-26, but there will be plenty of good listening nonetheless. The 18th annual free event, sponsored by the Mimbres Region Arts Council, will once again fill Gough Park with music, fans, food and fun.

Among this year's headliners:

• **Tommy Castro and the Painkillers**—"He can do no wrong... soulful, heartfelt vocals and exquisite, stellar guitar. An inspired blend of blues, R&B, soul and roadhouse rock," says *Blues Revue*. Says the legendary Carlos Santana, "Tommy Castro has the voice and the sound to touch everybody's heart."

• **Corey Harris and the Rasta Blues Experience**—Harris has performed, record-



ed and toured with many of the top names in music. In 2007, Harris received the MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which recognized him as an artist who "forges an adventurous path marked by deliberate eclecticism."

• **Maria Muldaur & the Red Hot Bluesiana Band**—Maria Muldaur is best known world wide for her 1974 Grammy-nominated mega-hit "Midnight at the Oasis." Since then, her career has been a long and adventurous odyssey through the various forms of American roots music. In her latest release she comes full circle, returning to her "Bluesiana" roots.

The complete schedule (all events free at Gough Park except as noted):

Friday, May 24, 2013

9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Kick-Off Dance, The Memphis P-Tails, Buffalo Dance Hall, \$12

Saturday, May 25

12:15-1:15 p.m.: Austin Jimmy Murphy
1:45-2:45 p.m.: Bob Andrews
3:15-4:45 p.m.: Felix y Los Gatos
5:15-6:45 p.m.: Mississippi Heat
7:15-9 p.m.: Tommy Castro and The Painkillers
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Performers Jam with musicians from the festival, Buffalo Dance Hall, \$12

Sunday, May 26

12-1 p.m.: The Oversouls
1:30-2:30 p.m.: Chris Dracup & Hillary Smith
3:00-4:30 p.m.: Maria Muldaur & the Red Hot Bluesiana Band
5:00-6:30 p.m.: Corey Harris and The Rasta Blues Experience

For tickets to paid events and more information, see www.mimbresarts.org.

named GlenWoodStock Festival in Glenwood, "a couple of times with Wally (Lawder) and a couple of times with Ed Teja as Gypsy Feet," Renfro says.

He's played at the Mimbres Region Arts Council's annual Blues Fest (see box) a couple of times, with Ed Teja and with local luthier and performer Scott van Linge (see "Strings Attached," July 2006). Renfro also plays with van Linge as part of the Loose Blues Band.

And he played at the arts council's Pickamania

its first year, performing as part of The Gypsy Feet.

Renfro admits "it's a kick" when someone in the audience requests a song of his by name. "Ode to Billy," a whimsical song he wrote about the area's famous outlaw, Billy the Kid, is popular.

And the song "Hello, My Friend," also the title of an album, is a particular favorite of Renfro's. So much so that he re-recorded the album and released it with a new cover, doing all of the vocals and instruments himself. He plays 6- and 12-string guitars, bass and harmonica. The song is sort of a signature piece of Renfro's songwriting.

"It's like this," he explains. "You go down to the river, you throw in a fishing line. You don't catch anything but you talk with each other. It's about *that*. That experience, that feeling. That's what it's about, you know?" He smiles a satisfied smile.

The river comes to the forefront again when Renfro speaks of a recent project called the Rising River String Band, originally consisting of Renfro, his life partner Jean Eisenhower, and another musical friend, Tom Naples. A folk-music researcher, Naples is credited as being "the inspiration for the Rising River String Band," and he contributed historical narration to introduce the 10 songs in the group's *The Panic Is On* performance, as well as playing banjo and guitar and contributing vocals. Renfro grows excited talking about the trio's recent success with a tribute they did in honor of Woody Guthrie's 100th birthday.

"We worked up enough of Woody's songs for two sets, and performed last July in honor of his hundredth birthday," Renfro says. "The first day, we performed in the courtyard at the hospital (Gila Regional Medical Center), and a second show at the Silver City Museum. There were over a hundred people at the museum. It was a great turnout!"

The next month, the group did another show at the museum, and that led to researching and doing more music by others, Renfro explains. (Currently, the Rising River String Band consists of Renfro and Eisenhower, with Alfero occasionally joining in.)

"Not Woody Guthrie but just great stuff about those times, the Dust Bowl, the Depression. We knew we had hit a vein," Renfro says. This journey into classic Americana and American history led to another album, *Woody Guthrie's 100th Birthday Celebration* and a DVD, *The Panic Is On: Songs & Stories of the Great Depression*. (The title is taken from a song by Hezekiah Jenkins. The DVD of Rising River's performance is available.)

Renfro and company took the show on the road, performing in Hillsboro, NM, and Sunsites, Ariz., to enthusiastic audiences.

"It was very well received," Renfro says. "The shows were financially successful and it was just great to perform for people who appreciated the chance to hear some live music on a Sunday afternoon."

Renfro describes the general theme of his music as "living, loving and learning." He adds with a laugh, "I hope I've done all three!"

Like a winding river with branches, his musical life has taken delightful twists and turns. Along with research into great historical music by others, he also is writing more of his own stuff, hoping to clothe feelings and messages with words and tunes. It's how he expresses the things that are the most important to him, he says.

"It's in my blood—the music, that interaction with the audience, that sharing. For me, it's always been my meditation," he says. "I consider it my religion." ❁

For info, CDs and booking, contact Greg Renfro at: gregrenfro@aol.com, www.gregrenfro.com, PO Box 2941, Silver City, NM 88062, or call (575) 654-3047. A DVD of *The Panic Is On: Songs & Stories of the Great Depression* is available by emailing gregrenfro@aol.com.

Freelance writer Donna Clayton Walter enjoyed the Silver City music scene for 10 years and now listens to Greg Renfro on CD in her home in Santa Fe.

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Editor's note

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the English faculty members at Aldo Leopold High School in Silver City hosted a writer's workshop series. In January, they studied Garrison Keillor, the novelist, essayist and host of public radio's long-running "A Prairie Home Companion," known for his weekly "News from Lake Wobegon." All seminar participants—faculty and students—were challenged to write a story about their own homes and lives in Keillor's style. Teacher Catalina Claussen shared her own "Desert Home Companion"-style story with us (beginning on this page), along with outstanding works by three students (on the following pages). We're delighted to share them with *Desert Exposure* readers—along with a reminder that our annual writing competition is now underway, with a deadline of June 15. If these creative entries inspire you, whether your forte is Keillor-esque or something completely different, you can find the rules in an ad in this issue or under "Start Those Keyboards!" online at www.desertexposure.com/201304/201304_ednote.php.

It's been a quiet week in the Mimbres Valley. The residents ride out the throes of winter in their adobe houses as the smoke from their chimneys rises and then disappears into the clear blue sky. The temperature has dropped just below freezing consistently now for a week with the occasional day of 40 degrees. The wind blows, sending clouds in to do their duty, packing their lunches and making sure their homework is done, but the sun steals their ambition and probably their lunch and so the residents are left staring at the sky full of expectation wondering if, when and why it doesn't snow.

Brandon Claussen sits upright on the couch, fulfilling his end-of-the-winter bargain as he battles out the flu. The sweats and the chills have him wound up in a pitiful mess of blankets as he hunkers down for a third day of aches and pains. A born workaholic, the illness has him wrestling delusions and the reality of running his landscape business and he calls out to his wife, Cathy:

"Say, could you make sure that invoice to... to..."

I think it's Librado Maldonado, or was it the DA? Howie Morales? Oh, no, that's not it. It's Linda."

Cathy's mind flashes to Linda's home set up on a respectably sized hill. The wife of the former mayor has a home equipped with

wide department-store glass doors and no less than three toy dogs of some indeterminate breed that is most certainly AKC certified. Cathy likes the kind of dogs whose paws fill up her whole hand as she squeezes them, the kind of dog unafraid to show a little love with a tackle.

She dismisses her husband's request since it's been two years since he has worked on Linda's home and the list of other invoice recipients he has provided would require her to bill every dignitary in Silver City, which probably isn't the best career move.

"I'm going to Cruces today," Cathy calls out. "The check engine light is on again. Need anything?" Las Cruces is the big city that lies two hours across the wide open desert to the south and east of the valley. Las Cruces has the closest mall, swimming pool and chain bookstore—facts that trouble Cathy, but she seems to be content way out here, with the shades pulled wide open in her passive solar adobe home, except for the one that streams light onto the couch disturbing her husband's roost.

"Could you pay my tree guy? \$200, that's all he gets. I owe him 500, but I'm giving him two right

now. He called me yesterday. Needs all the money he can get. He's working government contracts now to get by. I think he'll grow next year but... well, at least this is the last time I'll buy from him. There's no money in it, you know." He says that and Cathy thinks of the dozen or so trees standing at least 15 feet in the air, jammed in their 24-inch boxes and littered across their property. He changes the subject. "I think I'm going to work around here today." The hope in his eyes is troubling since he hasn't moved from that spot in several days. "You know, I might feed the chickens."

Cathy decides to test him: "Could you start by waking Angie?" And then she thinks about all she knows about germ theory and the delusions and realities that go along with that in her classroom, where just last month one in three children went down with whooping cough. She adds, "But don't touch her."

Cathy goes back to the sink full of dishes that greets her every morning, the load that makes her feel keenly aware of the duties and dualities of motherhood. She's resentful that she's the one who always does them, but somehow deep down grateful for being needed. No, maybe it's just resentful. In any case, today she'll be two hours away checking her engine.

"Mayra," she says, talking to the mechanic on her cell phone as she waits out a Mimbres Valley traffic jam that today consists of a young buck deer whose processing speed seems to be hindered by the fuzz on his horns and the early rush of spring that stems from his loins. Rather than address the fact that her silver SUV, a car that promised to faithfully transport her children and their friends to and from school and soccer and tennis and dance through rain, sleet and snow that has lately picked up a nail or two from the driveway every day since the neighbors' monument to stuff and civilization aka a shed has been under construction for what seems like a full year, rather than address the fact that this car is headed straight for him threatening to cause great damage or even death, the buck stops dead in his tracks chewing on how great his fortunes are this year and how he might be able to court and, well, follow "God's plan" with more than one of them.

"Boys are dumb," Cathy's 11-year-old daughter says in fit of wisdom from the passenger seat. Angie runs a quick hand through her hair that she recently cut to donate to charity, hair that will one day make a wig for kid battling cancer.

Cathy smiles in recognition and says to the phone, "Say listen, Mayra. You know how I called on Thursday about my check engine light and then I called on Friday 'cause it turned off? Well, it's back on again and I was wondering if you still have time for me."

"Sure, sure. Bring it on in."

"Yeah, boys are dumb," Cathy says, confirming

Angie's words as she folds up her cell phone. She and Angie silently contemplate the day ahead free from the guys in their family. Angie recognizes the buck's look from her 16-year-old brother's face. The buck and Byron seem to have a lot in common. Cathy and Angie look at each other and laugh as the buck finally clears off the road. "Clear" might be too strong a word, more like "wanders off" the road trying to train his sights on the does in his fuzzy-horned crosshairs. But the doe-eyed girls left his contemplative self long ago, in search of greener pastures.

"It's gonna be a great day," Cathy breathes, exhaling long and slow after a full breath. A great day.

Two hours later, Cathy pulls into the Honda dealership and parks in the lane that reads "Service Reception." She is perplexed now, since a stop at the cheap gas station in Deming has convinced the check engine light to go off again. The iced lattes at that station are no better than the ones at home ever since Starbucks has standardized the perfect latte in a bottle. Lattes tend to slow the progression of any illness, so Cathy is certain that her SUV's improved condition is living proof. *Leave it to the experts to confirm the diagnosis*, she told herself as she went through with the rest of the drive.

Cathy opens the door and greets Mayra, a female Elvis whose slicked-back, black pompadour speckled with gray reveals her age. Her solid body, which attests to the quality of Christmas tamales in Las Cruces, reaches for the keys as Cathy rattles off a series of complaints. "There's another nail in my tire that slowed me down, but I made it. I had to figure out how to keep the nail in there long enough to get here. I wasn't sure if I could outrun it. The check engine light is off now," Cathy says, priding herself on the idea that last week's oil change, car wash and fill-up and this morning's latte might have done the trick.

"That's not good news," Mayra says. "There's nothing I can do for you." She looks up from the clipboard where she's been recording the make, model and VIN.

Cathy's face falls. "Well what about replacing... something about a recall on seatbelt stitching. I've been getting notices in the mail."

"We've got you down for that."

"And the buttons on the key only work sometimes," Cathy offers, hoping her two-hour trek across the desert won't seem like a waste to her husband.

"It's just a battery that needs replacing."

"How long is this going to take?"

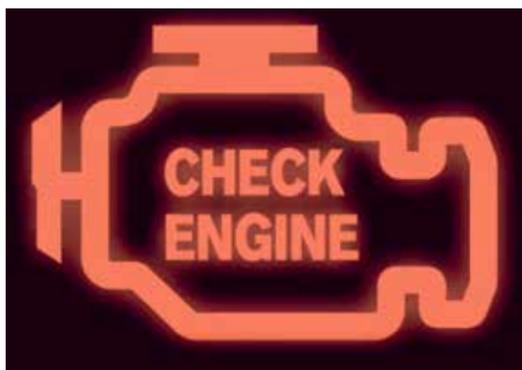
"Well, we're open til one so it can't take much longer than that," Mayra jokes.

Cathy glances at the time on her cell phone: 10:46 a.m.

She and Angie collect their books from the car and settle down in the waiting room. The coffee machine in the corner promises hot fresh coffee with the beans cleverly displayed in a clear plastic bubble on top. Cathy and Angie cue up with styrofoam cups. Cathy presses the vanilla latte button, unconvinced that it has no healing powers, and dangles her cup under the nozzle to avoid the puddle of stale lattes splattered on the grate below. Angie does the same. She dangles her cup and then thinks for a moment about how she's supposed to rebel, given her age and all, and selects mocha instead.

They bring what proves to be a bitter, watered-down version of these drinks to their black leather seats separated by a small coffee table, and open their books to fend of the faint sounds of a college basketball game on the flat-screen across the room. Angie plunges into Ellen Klages' *The Green Glass Sea*, a novel that considers the crimes of Nazi Germany from the perspective of two American girls who hate each other and their surreal existence among the green-glass Coke bottles of the dump located down the hill from their ramshackle apartments in Los Alamos, NM. Cathy escapes to Garrison Keillor's *Life Among the Lutherans*, thinking surely their lives are better.

About 15 minutes later, Cathy contemplates how long re-stitching the seatbelts in her car might take and who exactly may be re-stitching them and the distinct possibility that she may be taking this whole recall thing a little too literally. She fights back visions of elves painstakingly sewing each



and every stitch to prevent accidents that are certainly out of their control and sugar plums dancing in her head. Sugar plums... what are they, exactly?

Angie continues reading and Cathy is proud to be inspired by her own daughter. Maybe she'll lead a life that has no need for lattes. All parents wish that of course for their kids, so why would Cathy's hopes be any different?

"You're all set," Mayra says sometime later. Cathy is relieved. Keillor's version of the Lutherans, while witty, is heavy with despair as the last tale reveals 95 psychological injuries a set of Lutheran parents have inflicted on their grown child, who has written them down and sent them in anonymously to his pastor from some location far, far away from Minnesota. "We replaced the battery in the key, took care of the recall, and pulled the nail from your tire."

Cathy resists the temptation to ask if elves actually stitched her seatbelts into compliance and how they could possibly work that fast, as she would risk insulting the vertically challenged or whatever their current politically correct name is. The bill comes to only \$28.56, a fraction of what she expected to pay. She waves good-bye to Mayra, grateful to her for taking care of her needs and yet unsatisfied about the whole check engine light business.

"Thanks."

"No problem, honey."

Angie and Cathy are now free to do what they want. There's the swimming pool followed by the promise of a great lunch at the Olive Garden. Cathy wistfully remembers her college days where a daily swim kept her lean and sharp in the classroom. The dullness of marriage, career, raising two children and putting other people first have weighed heavy on her hips and stomach—not to mention that packages of holiday sweets, well-wishers, and her husband's distinct chocoholic habits have crept into her cravings. She worries about silly things like how the \$120 two-hour session at the hair salon the day before might melt away in the chlorine of the pool, and so she and Angie head for the nearest Wal-Mart in search of pro-

tection. She crosses the railroad tracks and is glad these are her greatest concerns of the moment.

Angie and Cathy emerge from the Wal-Mart after a young clerk has heroically plunged into the aisles with them in search of swim caps, goggles and an indoor clothes-drying rack for the days the snow may or may not come. Back in the car, Cathy turns the keys in the ignition and the check engine light glows from the dash.

"Seriously?" Angie says, echoing Cathy's thoughts. "It's 12:58."

Cathy reaches for the phone and dials Mayra again. "Hi, Mayra. So, it's back on again. What should I do?"

"Hold on a second." Cathy waits, thinking about chapter seven, page 44, and the element of mystery that Keillor says is essential to all good stories. She thinks about how she misses that in life and she thinks about how sad it is that moments like these, the ones where mechanics dole out your fate, are somehow tantalizing.

"If you bring it in the next 10 minutes we can hook it up to the machine."

"I'll be there," Cathy says, breathing a sigh of relief. Then the worry of the 101 things that could go wrong with an engine takes hold.

Twenty minutes later, Mayra emerges from the bay. Cathy notes how clean her hands are and how the mechanics of everything have really changed. The only hand-wringing going on is her own.

"So the computer says that the fuel you're running is light," Mayra says. "Are you running the top grade of gas?"

"No, the bottom actually. Why does it matter?"

"Well it says the mix is wrong and that's why the light goes on sometimes and then off other times."

"What should I do?"

"Run the medium grade," she says, which makes no sense to Cathy.

"For how long?"

"At least the next two fill-ups," Mayra replies with great certainty. She pauses and then adds, "You're lucky. The last check engine light I ran was a on a

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT continued on next page

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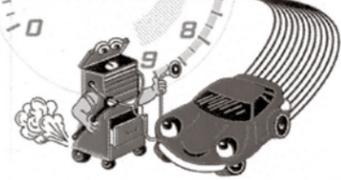
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CHECK ENGINE LIGHT continued

guy's brand-new Civic, 18,000 miles. He lives way out in the boonocks and rodents tore apart his wiring."

"That happened to a friend at work," Cathy says. "What's it cost to fix something like that?"

"Depends on the damage. It could run \$3,000 if the whole wiring system needs to be replaced."

Cathy thinks about her \$28.56 and how she dodged a \$3,000 bullet. There is something about knowing the suffering of others that's comforting. It's a habit she's been trying to break, but just can't. Maybe it's country living, isolated from the experience of others, that makes her problems seem paramount, and knowing that others suffer, too, somehow eases that. She looks at Angie and hopes she won't develop the same habit.

"Thanks," Cathy says.

The day without men-folks unfolds. Cathy whit-

bles her hips in 30 minutes of laps. She and Angie race down the river stream at the aquatic center in compatible competition, then battle wits in a contest of competitive cooperation as each tries to get the other to cross the finish line first. The world of women is entirely their own in these precious hours.

At the Olive Garden, the pretty server with dark hair and glittering eyes engages them in small talk. "We had snow last week," she says. "It snowed all day and night and didn't stick. There was nothing on the ground. It was as if we imagined it." ❄

Catalina Claussen is a founding teacher of Aldo Leopold Charter School. She teaches English for 9th, 11th, and 12th graders. She is also a fiction writer and this story is the first of a new collection of short stories.

"DESERT HOME COMPANION" • ALEXIS RIVERA

Let Them Eat Cake

Be careful what you bake, especially for a birthday.

I live in a house. Not just any house, though. One person, whose name I will never tell, calls it the "crack house," because his mother used to buy dope there when he was little. To the little kids down the street it's the house they want to live in because they live in a trailer, and the roof leaks on their beds when it rains. To my brother's friend it's his safe place to run to when his dad is drunk and starts yelling. To my brothers this house is the first they called home.

My house isn't much, with forest-green trim and a white body. The porch is a death trap. Red tile when wet can break any bone in your body. Trust me, I know. Once, my mother was chasing my dog, who'd taken a shoe; she ran onto the porch, the death slate. She flew down our 12 steps and broke her toe. On our way to the hospital, I told her, "You should have just let him have the shoe." My mother, with her broken toe and scraped-up knees, laughed and said, "I never liked those shoes, anyways."

My house has windows that face the east, to welcome the sun. In the summer kids run through the house, screaming and laughing. In the winter things quiet down; snowflakes pelt the windows. I breathe on one of the windows, and manage to draw a smiley face in the condensation. I read by the fire, while my brothers watch Sponge Bob. I don't know why, but a book and a fire sound more exciting than a sponge that lives in a pineapple under the sea.

My house has different names; it is a different place to each person who walks through our wooden door. To me, my house is my home. It is where I rest my head. I know if these walls could talk, I would never be able to live down the humiliation.

I have chosen to share one very embarrassing



story with you. I like to call this the I-almost-got-away-with-it cake.

My mother's birthday was tomorrow. I know because I checked the calendar.

I made her a cake, with chocolate chips in it. I slaved over this cake all day, bear that in mind. The next morning, I brought out, um, cake and we sang to her. She had the "privilege" of tasting the first bite. I could say I was surprised when she spat it out on the floor; however, my cooking isn't known to be the best. Noting her face, which was twisted like a gnarled piece of wood, I pondered what her problem was.

"Lula," she said, using my old nickname from when I was a wee baby, "what did you put in this?"

Well, I thought about what I put in—a little of this, a bit of that. "Chocolate chips," I said, confident that she was just being rude. I went to the fridge and pulled out the plastic Ziploc baggie, and then I tossed it to my mother, who was still making that face, like she couldn't be more dramatic.

"Lula," she said, "these are the crickets for your brother's science-fair project."

Now, I know what you're thinking, "Ewww." However, crickets are amazing protein. We ended up giving the cake to my uncle whom no one likes, and he ate it all. I know, not very noble, but so funny.

I live in a house, on the corner of Kirk and Matters, and no matter what anyone thinks of my house, it's my home and I'm happy. In the end, that's all that matters. ❄

Alexis Rivera is a freshman at Aldo Leopold High School in Silver City.

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"DESERT HOME COMPANION" • BELLA BJORNSTAD

One Dark and Stormy Night

Sometimes blazing a trail requires getting your feet—and more—wet.

There is a large population of hippies in New Mexico. They are alternative, creative and idealistic, ranging in age from 20 to 80, and all with a similar scent, philosophy and life experience. There is one area in particular which may contain the highest concentration of hippies in all of New Mexico: Grant County.

Silver City, the largest town in the county, is full of urban hippies, building a local food movement, supported by the country hippies in Gila, who carve a living out of rich soil, irrigated by the little Gila River. And then there are the industri-

ous, somewhat unproductive members of Gila Hot Springs. Composed of ultra-conservative ranchers, new age healers, seasoned river guides, hippy-dippy parents and green thumbs, this wide spot in the road is far from ordinary. While we don't really have a defining product, characteristic or even notable presence in the greater Grant County community, we are the dreamers, hikers and philosophers of our little southwestern New Mexico nook. We thrive on our gritty, dirt-under-the-fingernails lifestyle, the sort of lifestyle that requires flexibility, durability and a knack for troubleshooting.

With 40 slow, nauseatingly windy miles between us and the greater world, being low on flour is more of an issue, unless of course your neighbor happens to have a few cups extra. And a trip to the hardware store if your toilet is acting up or the car won't start is less of an inconvenience and more of a complete dead end.

But if you happen to be out of mocha-flavored ice cream or rock-shaped soap, you're in luck! Doc Campbell's, complete with an ice chest and cash register, can supply you with a great number of odd items you may need. However, even this relatively easy commute, Doc's being located in a fairly central part of Gila Hot Springs, has varying degrees of difficulty. There is Airstrip Road, which has the easiest access, then Jackass Lane, named after its inhabitants, which is a small uphill trip. And then there is the Mesa.

A trip to Doc Campbell's from the Mesa is really more of an excursion, and a truly trying enterprise in the dead of winter. Anybody who happens to live on the Mesa endures a heightened exposure to the Gila River, this due to the location of the Mesa. You see, the Mesa overlooks the entire Gila Hot Springs Valley, and it's a beautiful view—with a price, as it is on the other side of the river from the rest of Gila Hot Springs. If you wish to visit the Mesa, or vice versa, you must either drive your car through the Gila River, or you yourself must endure the challenging experience of stripping down to your bare feet and wading the icy water.

In the summer, this task is pretty simple but as the leaves change and colder weather sets in, it becomes mind- —and feet- —numbingly frigid. One year in particular, that will always be with me, is the year of the Big Flood.

After an especially wet winter, we had a late January rain, the sort of rain that soothes the senses and washes off the dust of winter. Only this rain lasted for three days. On the third night, the sky opened and dumped on us. More important, however, it dumped in the back-country, where, we were told, there was about eight feet of snow. Rain melts snow, and all eight feet of it, covering several mountains, parks and valleys, came rushing down the river. It was a torrent. I was awakened by the thunderous roar the next morning.

Little did I know I would be wading through it for the next several months as the government figured out how to deal with us. Because I lived on



Photo by Jesse Wolf Hardin.

the "wrong side" of the river, meaning access to the rest of Gila Hot Springs was dictated by the ability to cross the river on foot or in a car; the flood was vastly more inconvenient to us than to the inhabitants of the "right side" of the river.

Initially it was fun. We had an emergency route out, but having no need at the time, we just hunkered down and enjoyed the cozy solitude. But after a few days the river went down enough to begin thinking about rebuilding our driving crossing, and upon contacting the Forest Service, the provider of this privilege, we were informed that between March 31 and June 1, we were not permitted to drive, let alone bulldoze the crossing. This was due to the endangered Loach minnow, which was spawning during these months, in the exact spot we wanted to drive.

The following months are forever freeze-dried into my memory. Any time that I, or anyone else on that side of the river, wished to go anywhere, we were required to walk through the river. During the day, in February, March, April and May, this is a chilly experience; just imagine at 7 a.m. or 11 o'clock at night. Not only that, but the water was still fluctuating, as regular spring flooding was still in progress, and at 10 years old, I was too short to simply roll up my pants and wade it. No, this ordeal required being naked, as the water was often up to my thighs. And there were several occasions when the water was waist deep. Waist-deep water in February, mind you, is not balmy; this was snow melt, tinged green from the glacial runoff.

It just so happened that our luxuriously warm and accommodating Jeep Grand Cherokee had been totaled just before Christmas. Dad had our pathetic stand-in, a small, tin can of a car, in Tucson or Silver, making money to buy parts for our truck, which had been submerged in the flood. So my mom, sister and I would wake at 6 on Monday morning, carry our necessities for a three-day town trip down to the river, take off our pants, and, in several trips back and forth through the river, carry our belongings to a heat-challenged truck. After dressing in a kind neighbor's driveway, my sister and I would wrap in blankets and huddle next to the weak heating vents, while my mother, wearing a down jacket and gloves, would drive the two-and-a-half-ton truck to Silver City.

Being a New Mexico hippie has many advantages; there are many others who have similar values and ideals, for instance. And as I recall the sparkingly frigid mornings, wading the river, I am reminded of the durability of our kind. We are creators, builders of new ways, always forging a path ahead, in a different direction from everyone else, despite the often challenging results. And where would the world be without trailblazers? 🌿

Bella Bjornstad is junior at Aldo Leopold High School in Silver City.

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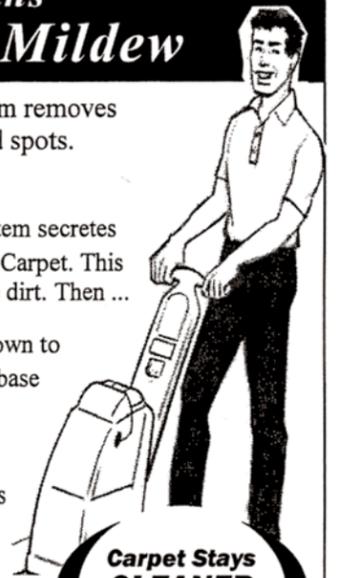
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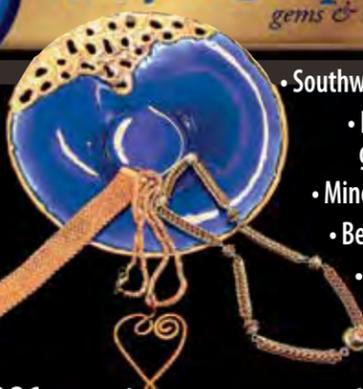
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Very few people, aside from my parents and brothers, know my full name: Milagre de Cielo y los Juniperos Coates. In Spanish, it translates to "miracle from heaven and the junipers," and is, in a very abridged way, the story of me and my origin, referencing my wild roots in the thick ponderosa and alligator juniper forests of Arizona—only about 60 miles from here—and my birthplace of Red Lodge, Montana, one cold, snowy, January evening 17 years ago.

My mother was not expecting, did not even want, another child. She and my dad already had had three boys in the house for more than 15 years. They were looking forward to the youngest one graduating from high school in two years. Besides, none of the children in the house was biologically hers, and while she loved them just as much as their biological mother did, she and my dad were wishing for some well-deserved alone time—sans children.

Of course, we all know the old cliché, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry," but my parents were about to experience it firsthand, in the form of a positive pregnancy test. My mother was shocked and bewildered, my dad ecstatic. He loved children and babies; his abilities as a father had been proven time and time again. My mother's concerns therefore didn't include his capabilities; they were doubts about her own. She had never developed my dad's affinity for children or even changed a diaper. By the time my brothers were living with her and my dad, none of them was a baby anymore. She was scared, full of self-doubt, and had really been hoping for the moment when all the boys were grown and gone, so she and my dad could have their own life together.

With my dad's help and support, however—and a little epiphany of her own—she was able to overcome those challenges and decide that she could be content, even happy, with a child in her future.

On Jan. 8, 1996, I was born into my dad's arms in our little "log cabin"—every owner since the first prospector in the late 1800s had added a room or two—in the small, rural, coal-mining town of Red Lodge, Montana, about 45 miles from the border of Yellowstone Park. My youngest brother (who was almost 17 at the time) was also present. (My parents now joke it was probably the best form of birth control education they could have ever given him). Sadly, I have no childhood memories of the place, having moved to New Mexico when I was only two and a half.

There I thrived in the intense energy of my parents' love and the ceaseless New Mexico sunshine, shooting up like a sunflower and absorbing everything I possibly could about the vibrant natural world I was constantly surrounded with. I spent as much time romping happily through the high-desert scrub that surrounded our house—picking up rocks and branches wherever I went just to see what lurked underneath (and if I could catch it)—as many urban children spend in their neighborhood playground or day-care programs.

Sadly, it being New Mexico, and rural New Mexico at that, there were hardly any children my age within a 30-mile radius. My childhood playmates thus tended to be on the less-than-human side, consisting primarily of our dogs, cats and the yearly crop of goat kids, along with the occasional turkey, chicken or bull snake.

Being homeschooled until age 13 simply reinforced my bonds with our farm animals. To me, the subjects of biology and ecology weren't just some abstract concepts and confusing diagrams out of a book that weighed as much as our *Miriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*; they were the very fabric of my worldview. I watched animals be



The author in 2005.

born, live, breed and die (sometimes by our own hands) in front of my marveling eyes. I watched them feed upon each other, sometimes ruthlessly—ant-lions and spiders were personal favorites of mine—but also witnessed some of the most intimate moments of their lives firsthand—a mother goat tenderly licking her newborn clean and gently nuzzling it upright.

When the many ranching families who surrounded us began to get upset at the Mexican Grey Wolf reintroduction, I could understand their point of view, but the naturalist in me knew their arguments didn't hold much water. Wolves have naturally been in this area for centuries and, as Aldo

Leopold so poignantly knew, they were essential to the balance and health of the ecosystem. Without them, there would be too many elk, too little grass, and the mountains would suffer.

In a similar way, I understood why bullfrogs, an invasive species from the Eastern United States, were bad for the rivers and streams. In order to reach their massive size, they must consume just about every living thing in their paths as tadpoles, including other frogs' eggs and small fish. They also have few natural predators in this area, meaning their populations grow exponentially. I re-

member spending one afternoon with my nephew catching bullfrog tadpoles and throwing them up on the bank for the raccoons. I felt like I was doing a good thing: restoring the balance and natural order of things.

Bits of my childhood have stayed with me to this day. I still harbor an affinity toward animals; I'm not entirely sure how the pet-free-college-dorm lifestyle will work out in the long-term. The fierce curiosity of my youth, while having burned itself down to more sustainable levels, still consumes whatever trivia and minutiae it finds itself surrounded with. I still love being outside; it is there, in solitude, that I can find both my current self and nostalgia for my youth.

Present-me may be wiser about some things, but she always asks past-self if those things are really more important than a basic, primal understanding of the way the world around you works and behaves. What mechanisms truly drive this clockwork orange ever, ever on into the cosmos? 🌌

Milagre Coates is a senior at Aldo Leopold High School in Silver City.

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE • JAY W. SHARP

Gift of the Magma



Created by the fiery interior of the earth some 32 million years ago, the Organ Mountains today are home to one of New Mexico's most diverse ecosystems.

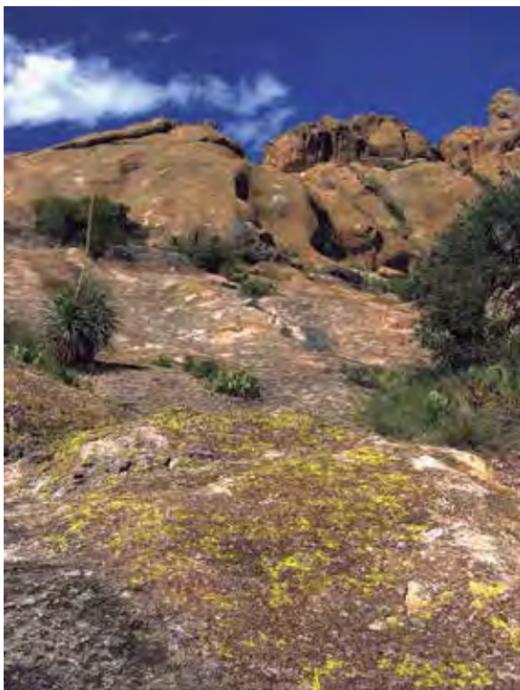
“The Organ Mountains, one of the most picturesque and rugged mountain ranges in the Southwest, form the skyline approximately 10 miles east of Las Cruces, New Mexico..., in southern Doña Ana County,” wrote William R. Seager in his 1981 report, *Geology of Organ Mountains and Southern San Andres Mountains*. “The row of jutting, fluted, bare-rock pinnacles known as the Needles—the backbone of the range—can be seen on a favorable day from nearly 100 miles away, making them probably the most familiar landmark in the region.... Their

stark, sawtooth profile, their challenging slopes and changing moods have made the Needles a favorite of artists, photographers and mountain climbers... as well as a daily pleasure to the people who live within their view.”

According to some sources, the “jutting, fluted, bare-rock pinnacles” reminded early (and probably homesick) Spaniards of the pipes of the organs in the cathedrals of their faraway homeland, and that gave rise to the name for the range.

Basic Geologic History

The Organ Mountain range is one of 10 in New Mexico that parallel the eastern edge of the Rio Grande Rift—a 50-million-year-old fracture that has roiled the earth's crust and defined our historic river's course from Colorado south-



Organ Mountains, west side, with patches of lichen.



Top: Organ Mountains, west side, showing a stand of a few of the range's vascular plants. Above: To the early Spaniards' eye, the Organ Mountain's Needles resembled organ pipes, such as these in the La Almudena cathedral in Madrid. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

ward through New Mexico's heartland.

The Organs' beginnings can be traced back some 32 million years, when magma from the earth's interior rose to intrude into depositional strata laid down by warm shallow seas hundreds of millions of years earlier.

In the northern parts of the range, the magma cooled and solidified before it erupted, and the sedimentary overburden eroded away over time, revealing those craggy, light-gray rock pinnacles, the Needles. The remnants of depositional strata remain today at the foot of the pinnacles. The Needles rise to about 9,000 feet elevation, nearly a mile above the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert floor.

In the southern part of the range, the magma did burst through the sedimentary strata, ejecting lava, rock and ash over 100 square miles of the landscape, according to the Bureau of Land Management. This raised mountains but also triggered a structural collapse that we now call the Organ Caldera.

By comparison, the San Andres Mountains and Franklin Mountains—other ranges paralleling the east side of the Rio Grande Rift, just north and south of the Organs—formed tens of millions of years ago not from volcanic flows but from the depositional strata laid down by the ancient seas. Driven by the tectonic forces of our planet, mountainous blocks of the stratified land fractured, rose, fell, tilted, buckled and folded—dipping generally to the west. Both the San Andres and the Franklins have relatively minor igneous (volcanic) rock exposures.

Organisms Small and Big

Together, the Organ Mountain range—probably the most botanically diverse range in all of New Mexico—hosts, for example, some 870 vascular plant species (plants with tissues that conduct water, minerals and other materials through the roots, stems and leaves). These include not only several rare species—some growing nowhere else on earth—but also, surprisingly, some 30 species of fern, possibly more than any

other mountain range in our state.

The Organs also serve as home for various species of nonvascular plants, or bryophytes—small herbaceous plants that form thick mats on rock and soil surfaces or tree trunks. These include some 87 species of the mosses and 8 species of liverworts, according to authorities Lloyd R. Stark and Richard C. Castetter. The bryophytes are the oldest types of plants on earth.

In many areas, the Organs' rocky slopes support wide swaths of lichen, a colorful interdependent union between a fungus and an algae. The fungus gives the lichen colony shape and form, soaks up water and nutrients, and provides reproductive features. The algae feeds the colony through photosynthesis, which yields the carbohydrates essential for survival. The lichen produces an acid that eventually breaks down its stony home to produce new soils.



Hummingbird, alighting on a feeder at the W.B. Cox Visitor Center.

Between the desert floor and the higher peaks, the Organs embrace three “life zones,” variably nourished—says the Bureau of Land Management—by from 3 to 21 inches of rainfall annually, with the heaviest precipitation typically occurring at the higher elevations. Each zone is defined by the “plant and animal distributions as influenced by elevation, temperature, moisture and exposure.” The zones grade one into the other with variations within each.

The lowest of the three—labeled the Lower Sonoran Life Zone by biological scientists—extends from the desert floor up the mountain slopes to about 5,000 feet. It hosts varied plant species with the dominant including mesquite, creosote and grama grasses. The second highest life zone—the Upper Sonoran—extends from about 5,000 feet upward to some 7,500 feet. Its dominant plant species include various oaks, junipers and acacias. The third and highest life zone in the Organs—the Transition Life Zone—ranges upward from some 7,500 feet to near the top. It features Ponderosa pine, oaks, junipers and mountain mahogany.

“In the rugged topography of the Organ Mountains a high degree of microenvironmental variation occurs in large stands,” noted W.A. Dick-Peddie and W.H. Moir in *Vegetation of the Organ Mountains, New Mexico*. “...the activities of deer, and micropatterns of drainage, runoff and erosion in large randomly located stands all contribute to the diversity.”

The Organs also provide a home for a range of wildlife, including some 80 species of mammals, 185 species of birds, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a galaxy of bugs (or, to be scientific, “arthropods,” which have exoskeletons, segmented bodies and jointed legs).

The mammals include, for a few examples, the Colorado chipmunk, desert cot-



Above: Greater earless lizard in a courtship stance, on the trail from the visitor center to Dripping Springs. Below: Organ Mountains, grass in the Lower Sonoran Life Zone.

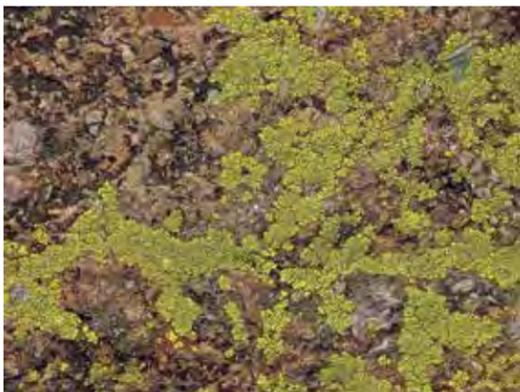


ORGANS continued on next page

Right: A small exploratory mine shaft, now abandoned, at the southern end of the Organs.



Right: Organ Mountains, west side, close up of patches of lichen, an interdependent union between a fungus and an algae.



ORGANS continued

tontails, black-tailed jackrabbits, mule deer, gray foxes, coyotes, bobcats and, occasionally, even a mountain lion. The birds range from the black-chinned hummingbird to the golden eagle. The reptiles include numerous lizard and snake species with, perhaps most notably, three different rattlers—the western diamondback, the black-tailed rattler and the banded rock rattler. The bugs, from butterflies and moths to walking sticks to assassin bugs to harvester ants to paper wasps to scorpions to centipedes, may delight the eye, intrigue the mind, or just sting or bite your skin.

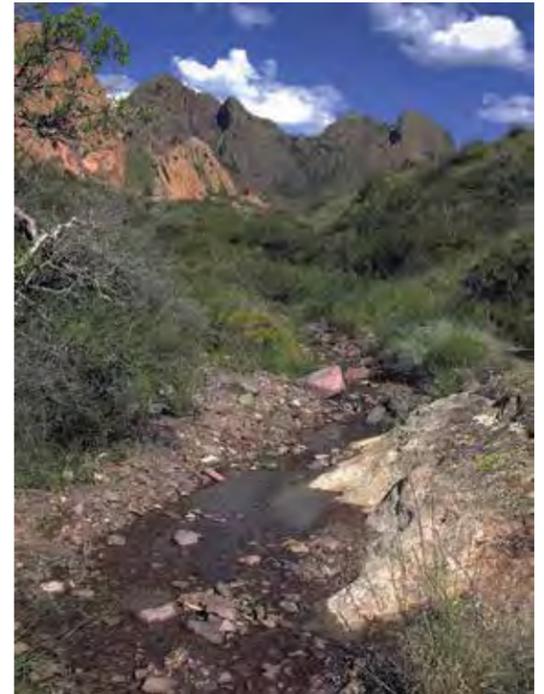
Human History

The Organ Mountains, with a few fairly dependable sources of water, have drawn the human species to their slopes for thousands of years. Hunting and gathering peoples drove their spears into mule deer and bighorn sheep (now extirpated from the Organs), netted desert cottontails and black-tailed jackrabbits, and harvested the produce of juniper and other plants. Prehistoric agriculturists raised corn, beans, squash and probably other plants near drainages fed by water from the mountains; they pounded grains into coarse flour in bedrock mortars; they painted mystical images on stone surfaces near their rock shelters.

Nomadic raiders—the Mescalero Apaches—descended from the Organs to the Rio Grande valley to inflict a heavy toll on early Hispanic and Anglo settlers, robbing them of provisions, horses and even women and children. European descendants looked to the mountains for vengeance, treasure, ranching, escape, healing and spirituality. Pioneering Hispanics hunted down and fought Apaches on the mountain slopes.

In 1861, the Confederates, under Lieutenant Colonel John Robert Baylor, cut through an Organ Mountain pass to overtake and capture a fleeing Union force at San Augustine Springs, at the northern end of the range. In 1908, cowboy Wayne Brazel shot famed lawman Pat Garrett to death near San Augustine Pass, at the northern end of the Organs. (Today, Garrett lies buried in the Las Cruces Masonic Cemetery.)

In the late 18th century, according to one legend, a Spanish soldier prospecting near San Augustine Pass discovered the gold that would become the storied Lost Padre Mine. In the 19th century, other prospectors dug into the Organs' slopes from the northern to the southern end, sometimes striking commercially valuable deposits of gold, silver, iron, lead and other minerals. Organ, NM, a small unincorporated community just west of San Augustine Pass, had its origins as a mining camp. (Today, there are no longer any mining activities in the Organs.)



Intermittent stream that issues from the mountain slopes and flows into the desert to disappear into the desert sands. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

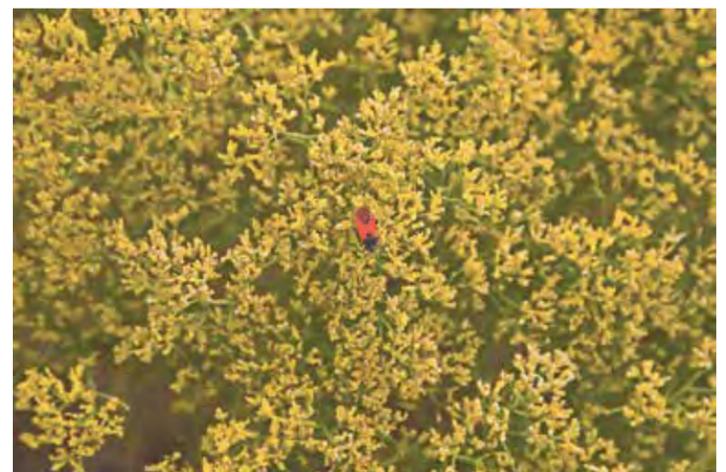
In the late 19th century, ranchers began moving livestock onto the grassy flanks of the mountains, and, over the decades, well-known local W.B. Cox and his family emerged as the predominant land holders and cattlemen on both the eastern and western sides of the range. The Cox home, on the west side, now serves as the visitor center for the Organ Mountain National Recreation Area.

In the 1870s, ex-Confederate Colonel Eugene Van Patten—a native of New York State and a nephew of famed stagecoach-line founder John Butterfield—built a 16-room resort in a secluded retreat on the west side of the Organs, near a small issue of water called Dripping Springs. There—at “Van Patten’s Mountain Camp”—he hosted notables such as Garrett, widely known for killing Billy the Kid at



La Cueva inside, showing the ceiling blackened by smoke from the countless campfires of prehistoric peoples.

the west side of the Organs, near a small issue of water called Dripping Springs. There—at “Van Patten’s Mountain Camp”—he hosted notables such as Garrett, widely known for killing Billy the Kid at



Red beetle on yellow flowers, on the trail from the visitor center to Dripping Springs and the resort and sanatorium ruins.

Fort Sumner, and the fabled Pancho Villa, legendary revolutionary leader across northern Mexico.

In 1917, after Van Patten went bankrupt, doctors acquired his property, added new structures, and converted the facilities into a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients. Eventually, the Cox family would add the resort/sanatorium—in ruins—to its ranchland holdings.

In 1869—in one of the stranger stories of human presence in the Organ Mountain range—69-year-old Agostini-Justiniani, an Italian holy man, healer and wanderer with noble blood in his veins, took up the life of a hermit in a shallow cave not far from today’s visitor center. Within a



La Cueva compacted volcanic ash, or tuff, an igneous formation on the western side of the Needles.

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few months, he died violently at the hands of an unknown assailant. Today, he lies buried in the Mesilla Cemetery, with a tombstone bearing the name "John Mary Justiniani," south of the community's central plaza.

Explore the Organs

For those with a love for our Southwestern mountain ranges and desert basins, the Organ Mountains hold high promise for adventure and discovery.

For example, on the east side of the Organs, you can hike the 4 1/2-mile-long Pine Tree Trail, which loops upward from the Upper Sonoran Life Zone through the Transition Life Zone. Toward the northern end of the range, you can hike six miles through the pass that Confederate Lieutenant Baylor and his forces followed in their march to capture the Union force. On the western side, toward the southern end, you can hike the three-mile-

long Soledad Canyon Trail/Bar Canyon Loop, passing the ruins of a small stone cabin that will give you a sense of the isolation and loneliness of the life of an early resident.

The Organs are a national recreation area administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The W.B. Cox Visitor Center—where you will find

knowledgeable docents, informative printed material, exhibits and a native plant garden—lies at the eastern terminus of Dripping Springs Road, which is an extension of East University

Left: View from the ruins of a cabin in Soledad Canyon, giving a sense of the isolation and loneliness experienced by the residents. Below: Visitor Center, once the home of rancher W.B. Cox.



Avenue, the street that borders the north side of New Mexico State University. From the visitor center, you can make the short hike, on an ascending rocky road, past Dripping Springs, up to the ruins of Van Patten's Mountain Camp and the sanatorium.

From a picnic area not far from the visitor center, you can make a short hike up Fillmore Canyon, passing an abandoned early 20th century mining and milling site, to reach an intermittent waterfall—one of the few in southern New Mexico. Also from the picnic area, you can make the brief walk up to La Cueva ("The Cave"), where the Italian hermit, Agostini-Justiniani, lived and died in 1869. Prehistoric peoples lived there in earlier centuries, leaving the cave ceiling blackened by the smoke from their campfires and earthen floor packed with the remnants of their cultures. According to an old friend, archaeologist Tom O'Laughlin, the prehistoric peoples painted images on the rock surface above the entrance. Those images have now been

The Organ Mountains after a snow-storm.

ORGANS
continued on
next page

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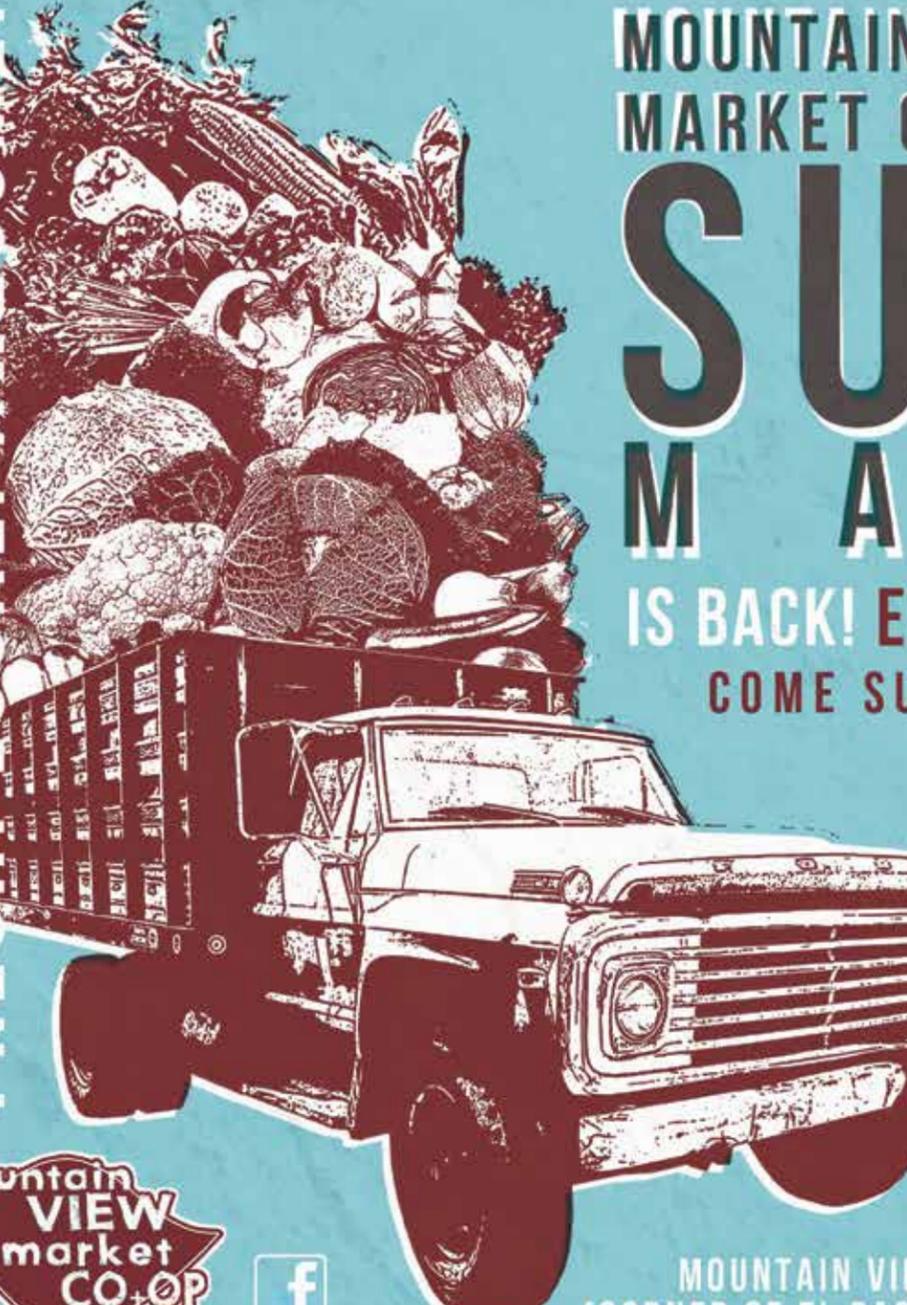
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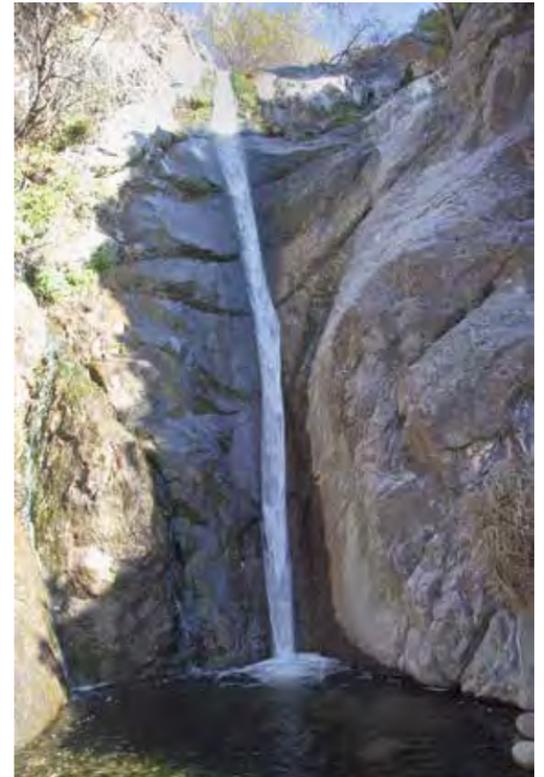
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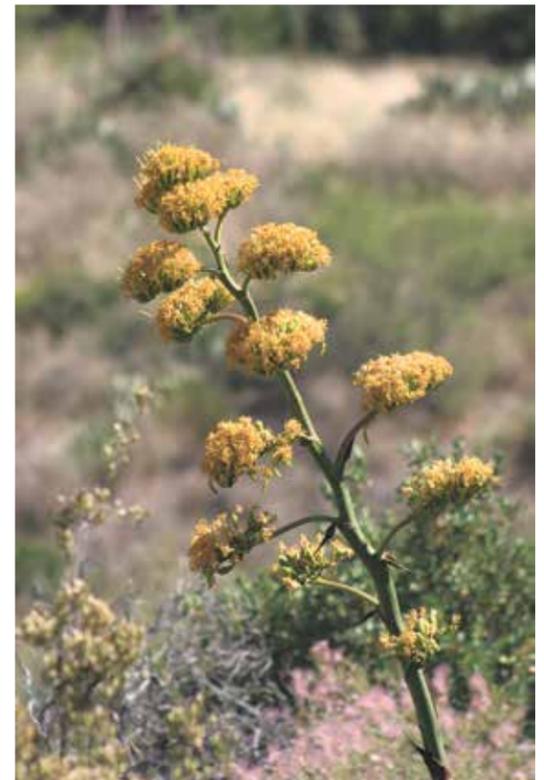
ORGANS continued

Proposed National Monument
 In the spring of 2012, a coalition of regional communities, civic organizations and citizens formally initiated an effort to realize a long-time dream—to establish the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. It would include not only the Organs, but in the desert to the west, a range of exceptional geologic and environmental sites, the world-famous pre-dinosaur trackway site in the Robledo Mountains, a treasure-trove of prehistoric archaeological sites, and a number of storied historic sites. Although the federal government—embroiled in the usual politics—has not yet designated the area as a national monument, the idea is supported by more than 80% of the citizens of Doña Ana County.



Intermittent waterfall on the upper end of Fillmore Canyon. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

lost to weathering.
 If you hold a passion for mountain climbing, you will find a number of challenging peaks and varying ascent routes in the range. Be aware, however, that, as Herbert E. Ungnade warns in *Guide to the New Mexico Mountains*, "Climbing in the Organs is rather different from other mountains in New Mexico. It is necessary to carry water. One must learn to avoid the ever-present cactus, thornbush, and yucca, and climbers frequently clap hands to induce rattlesnakes to rattle so that they may be avoided." Purportedly, German rocket engineers—who came with the famed Wernher Von Braun to the White Sands Missile Range after World War II to help America develop a guided-missile program—became the first to climb several of the Organ Mountain peaks.



Mescal agave blooms, which signal the climactic end of the plant's life.

In the late spring and early summer, you may discover the mountain flanks in bloom—provided some moisture has fallen in the preceding months. You will find, for instance, that the prickly pear, cholla and barrel cacti all produce strikingly colorful blooms. You may find the Apache plume awash in blooms. You will see some of the mescal and lechuguilla agaves—Chihuahuan Desert marker plants—producing tall bloom stalks that signal an elegant and decorative end to their lives.

Most likely in early morning or late afternoon, you may find mule deer feeding, predators hunting, a hummingbird sipping, an eagle soaring, or a lizard courting. Looking closely, you will encounter a diversity of butterflies, bees, beetles and many other insects.

In the monsoonal season (July through September) or during the occasional winter storms, be sure to bring your brush, paints and easel or



Monsoonal thunderstorm gathering over the Organs, seen from Dripping Springs Road, en route eastward, to the visitor center.

your camera. With luck, you will encounter a thunderstorm and a rainbow embracing the Organs, with the slopes aglow in the warm light of a late afternoon sun. Or you may see the Needles, snow-blanketed, revealed by clouds drawn aside like the curtains on a Broadway stage.

You will be reminded that "their stark, sawtooth profile, their challenging slopes and changing moods have made the Needles a favorite of artists, photographers and mountain climbers... as well as a daily pleasure to the people who live within their view."

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Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who has been a contributor for various print and internet publications over the past several years and who is the author of Texas Unexplained, now available as an e-book from Amazon or iTunes. To read all his guides to plants and animals of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife.

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

A Country of Heroes

The extraordinary courage of ordinary Mexicans.

I think maybe Mexico is a country of heroes, only I don't really know much about them because they're not publicized.

Last month, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Company in New York City hosted Marisol Valles and her immigration lawyer, Carlos Spector of El Paso, at the debut of a play based on her life. It was called (in all lower-case) "so go the ghosts of mexico, part one," by Matthew Paul Olmos.

Marisol is the young woman who in 2010 took over the police department in Práxedes G. Guerrero (a small Chihuahuan town named for a Revolutionary leader), one of the embattled towns along the Rio Grande east of Juarez, after the former police chief was decapitated.

International media called Marisol "the bravest woman in Mexico." She re-modeled the department, hiring several women and training them in social work. But in March 2011 she got a phone threat and immediately fled across the border with her baby boy and other family members.

Marisol is really terrific, but I think the attempt of Americans to make her Mexico's hero distorts the situation there, just because she isn't unique.

There are other brave people in Mexico I've heard about.

I talked to Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House in El Paso last fall. Since 1978 the House has taken in people with economic and immigration problems—undocumented Mexicans at first, Central Americans in the 1980s, and Mexicans fleeing violence for the past five years.

I told him about Maria Lopez, who became mayor in Palomas in October 2009 after Tanis Garcia was brutally killed.

"I have met many amazing heroic individuals like Maria Lopez," he told me. "They've been gifted with a moral compass, a sense of conviction, and the courage to stand their righteous ground. And the world is always a better place because of them."

Award-winning actor Gael Garcia Bernal (*Babel*, *Amores Perros*, *Y Tu Mamá También*) says he's been impressed by the courage of church workers he's seen during this crisis in Mexico.

There's the Mexican woman who has published a website called Blog del Narco and has a book out called *Dying for the Truth*. She claims she's had to move several times because of threats by narcos and could be killed at any moment. Some believe she's for real but others don't.

Then there are all the activists who have lost their lives in the conflict, like the six members of the Saul Reyes family of Juarez who have been buried in the last few years. There are too many of these people to mention.

I don't doubt there are many other unsung heroes throughout Mexico.

The hero closest to me is Maria Lopez. I'm going to tell more of the story that I only alluded to before out of fear for Maria's safety. She insists she doesn't worry about danger now. Most people in Palomas feel the town has been peaceful for about three years.

When Maria took office, the state of Chihuahua offered her an escort of eight police. But after a few days she refused their help because, as she put it, she "felt uncomfortable" with them.

I saw her once holding hands with her husband as he accompanied her to work. She introduced me to him as he bent down to the open window of my car. He held my hand closely for a second—letting me know the tenderness and pride he felt toward her.

For some reason Maria was not afraid when she was at home (I'm not sure exactly why),

but she *was* afraid at work. After a few months she had a special stand in her office for a Bible opened to the 91st Psalm ("He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty..."). When I first met Maria, I sensed immediately her seriousness of purpose, but I didn't realize she was so religious until then.

Maria was in danger a couple of times, but I didn't learn about this until after her year in the mayor's office.

She told me that at one point she had fired the local chief of police because he had levied an extortionately high fine on a poor farmworker family. Because they had parked their car carelessly, he was asking \$100 a week from them. A single farmworker often earns less than that per week.

During Maria's discussion with the police chief, he used a very vulgar phrase. "*Bajo mis huevos* (literally, *under my balls*), I'm going to stay," he said.

She countered with "*Bajo mis huevos*, you're going to leave." She is a courteous church-going woman, but handy at times with the argot of her *campesino* background.

The police chief invited Maria to dinner at a restaurant with a couple other guys at 9 p.m. She was scared to go, but more scared of what *narcos* might do to her family if she didn't go. She said she walked into the restaurant as if she were walking

"on sponges" or "on air." She told them she wasn't afraid, but she was. She didn't back down, and the chief eventually left his job.

Their car was intercepted by narcos on a street next to the plaza. This was the same area where the former mayor, Tanis Garcia, had been kidnapped.

Another time Maria's courage was tested was when a woman reported that a car had been stolen by three local policemen. Ironically, it turns out that the woman had actually been taking care of the car for some *narcos*. (This is just part of the murky, ambiguous nature of law enforcement

in Mexico these days.)

Maria fired the policemen. One day, as she was being driven by her assistant Tere to the doctor's office when she wasn't feeling well, their car was intercepted by *narcos* on a street next to the plaza. This was the same area where Tanis Garcia had been kidnapped.

They told Maria to get into their van. Her husband and brother were watering the trees on the plaza, as city employees, and she didn't want to endanger them, so she got into the van without calling for help.

The men drove her as far as the old site of Palomas about seven miles south of town. They had large weapons she couldn't identify. After questioning her for a while, they turned around and brought her back.

When they let her out, she ran. She saw Tere in her car with her hands still on the steering wheel, crying. "She was in shock," Maria said.

On Maria's last day as mayor in November 2010, I happened to come by the office. It was just at the moment she was carefully putting her hat on to leave, as if adjusting a crown on her head. I heard her say quietly to herself something about "*mi triunfo*."

I myself never suspected there was such nobility in dusty old Palomas. But there was, as it turns out.

These people are rare, but everywhere, like the grass. ❁

Borderlines columnist
Marjorie Lilly lives in
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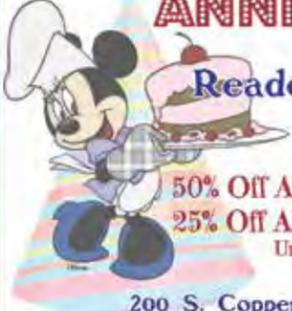
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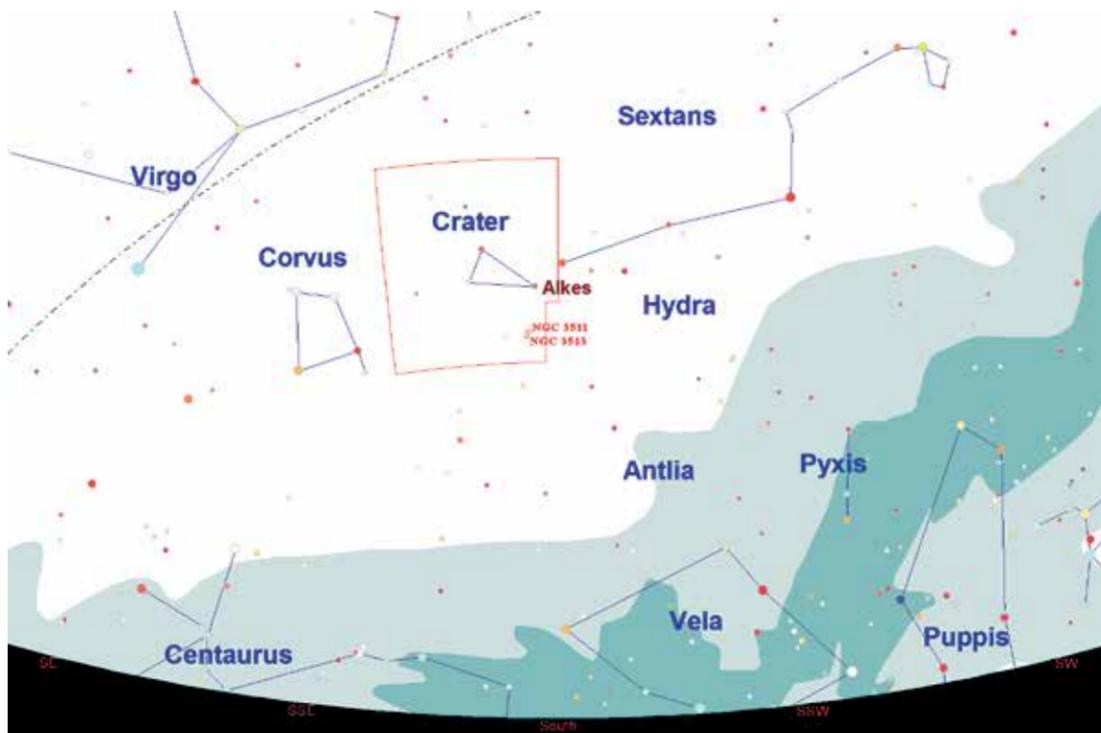


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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Crater, the Cup

Plus the planets for May.



For a larger, printable version of this map, visit www.desertexposure.com

Just a little bit east of south on these May evenings you can find the constellation Crater, the Cup, slightly less than halfway up in our evening sky. Crater's dim stars represent a cup or goblet belonging to the god Apollo. It is 53rd in size out of the 88 officially recognized constellations. Its brightest stars are only fourth magnitude, making it difficult to find from a light-polluted observing location.

The mythology surrounding this constellation is actually focused on the neighboring constellation, Corvus, the Crow. It seems that Apollo got thirsty one day and gave his cup to Corvus, instructing him to fetch some spring water. Corvus promptly flew down to Earth, but as he headed toward the spring, he spied a fig tree with big, almost-ripe figs. Forgetting his task, he headed for the fig tree and spent a couple of days waiting for the figs to ripen. After gorging himself on the figs, he remembered his now-much-delayed task and he headed toward the spring to fill the cup. Realizing that Apollo would be angry with him, he grabbed a nearby water snake and took it with him back to Olympus.

When he arrived there, Corvus told Apollo that the water snake had attacked him and that is why he was late. Apollo knew he was lying, and angrily threw the cup (Crater), the water snake (Hydra) and the crow (Corvus) into the sky to become members of our modern constellations. A slightly different version has Apollo putting Corvus on the back of Hydra, the threatening multi-headed water snake that Hercules conquered as one of his labors. In either case, the cup is there to remind

Crater, the Cup, is almost halfway up in our southern sky on these May evenings. The stars that compose this constellation are only fourth-magnitude, making it difficult to locate. Crater does not have many deep-sky objects; those it has are mostly faint galaxies. Crater's brightest star, Alkes (Alpha Crateris), is magnitude 4.1. It is an orange-hued star (spectral class K1).

Corvus of his misdeed for all eternity.

There are not many interesting objects in Crater, but there are a few galaxies. One interesting pair is NGC 3511 and NGC 3513. These two spiral galaxies are only 11 minutes-of-arc apart and they fit in the same telescopic view. These two are also about the same brightness.

NGC 3511 is the northeast member of the pair, shining with a total magnitude of 11.6. It is 45 million light-years from us. This galaxy has a mottled appearance and is tilted 45 degrees to our line of sight. NGC 3511 is 5.7 by 2.0 minutes-of-arc in size, making it rather elongated. It has a slight central bar, making it a type SBc galaxy. William Herschel discovered it on Dec. 21, 1786.

Its neighbor, NGC 3513, is also a barred spiral of type SBc. It has a strong central bar with an arm swinging clockwise from each end of the bar. We are seeing it face-on, so it appears more circular, 2.8 by 2.3 minutes-of-arc in size. It is magnitude 12.1.

You notice they are both type SBc as classified in Edwin Hubble's "Tuning Fork" galaxy classification system, invented in 1926. Hubble divided the galaxies into three large classes: ellipticals, spirals and barred spirals. A fourth class, the irregulars, was not included on the diagram, because he thought that his diagram represented the actual evolution of galaxies. We know today that it does not.

The Hubble Sequence is arranged like a tuning fork on its side. The base of the tuning fork is on the left, starting with elliptical galaxies that are spherical in shape (type E0). As you move along the base of the tuning fork, the galaxies become more elliptical (E1 to E9). At the junction of the base and arms are the lenticular galaxies (S0). They are shaped somewhat like a spiral galaxy, but have no arms, just a smooth disc.

Continuing along the arms of the tuning fork, the upper arm is the regular spiral galaxies. Type Sa has tightly wound arms; Sb is a little looser; Sc is very loose, with star clusters and nebulae plainly visible. The lower tuning fork arm represents the barred spiral galaxies, classified in the same way as the regular spirals, from type SBa to SBc like NGC 3511.

In 1959, French astronomer Gérard de Vaucouleurs, working at Harvard Observatory, proposed a change to Hubble's Tuning Fork, adding (among other things) types Sd and SBd, which have very

Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

- May 2**, 5:14 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- May 5**, midnight—Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower peaks
- May 9**, 6:28 p.m.—New Moon/Annular Eclipse
- May 17**, 10:34 p.m.—First Quarter Moon
- May 24**, 9 p.m.—Mercury 1.4 degrees north of Venus
10:25 p.m.—Full Moon/Penumbral Lunar Eclipse
- May 27**, 3 a.m.—Mercury 2.4 degrees north of Jupiter
- May 28**, 2 p.m.—Venus 1.2 degrees north of Jupiter
- May 31**, 12:58 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon

loose or fragmentary arms with most of the luminosity of the galaxy in the arms and not in the central bulge. The classification of galaxies continues to evolve, but the Hubble Tuning Fork is still the most commonly used system.

The Planets for May

Mars is still too close to the Sun to be seen this month. Venus and Mercury, however, are moving away from the Sun and back into the evening sky. Venus, Mercury and Jupiter will all be close together on March 26 when they will be within two and a half degrees of each other.

As we get into the last third of the month, you will find Venus and Mercury low in the west-northwest as it starts to get dark. They are both coming out from behind the far side of the Sun. **Mercury** starts the month in Aries. Moving eastward, it quickly enters Taurus, traversing the entire constellation and popping over the border into Gemini as the month ends. At that time, Mercury will be magnitude -0.3 with a 63% sunlit disc that is 6.5 seconds-of-arc across. Mercury sets at 9:45 p.m.

Venus is also traveling eastward, but more slowly. It starts the month in Aries and moves into Taurus, where it ends the month in the eastern part of that constellation. Venus gets passed by the faster Mercury on March 23. By the end of the month, it sets around 9:30 p.m. and has a disc that is 10.3 seconds-of-arc across. Venus will be magnitude -3.9.

Now very poorly placed for observing, **Jupiter** is barely 17 degrees up in the west-northwest as it gets dark and sets by 10 p.m. It is still moving eastward in northeastern Taurus, shining at magnitude -2.0, and its disc is 32.8 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. Mercury passes 2.4 degrees north of Jupiter on March 27 (best seen on the evening of March 26), and Venus passes 1.2 degrees north of Jupiter on March 28 (best seen that evening).

Saturn is just past opposition and is 25 degrees up in the east-southeast as it gets dark. It sets around 5:30 a.m. It moves westward from Libra into Virgo on May 13 and ends the month there. At midmonth, the Ringed Planet shines at magnitude +0.2, with a disc 18.7 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are 42.4 seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 17.7 degrees with the northern face showing.

The Sun will be eclipsed by the **Moon** on May 13 for those in northern Australia and the south Pacific. This annular eclipse has a maximum duration of 6 minutes and 3.4 seconds. The penumbral eclipse on May 24 is so shallow that you will not be able to detect it even though it occurs in our morning sky. The next total lunar eclipse that we will be able to see is next year on April 15, so mark your calendar and "keep watching the sky"! 🌑

An amateur astronomer for more than 40 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • BINA BREITNER

The Slippery Slope of Projection

“Here, put on this costume—I know it fits you perfectly....”

When Carol's husband Quentin came out of the sexual closet after 31 years of marriage, she and both of their grown children accepted his being gay. Quentin was a well-intended fellow. He'd apparently struggled to not-be-gay, or at least to keep it secret, for many years. The family knew it wasn't a choice—he was gay. They were shocked, but they made an effort to adapt.

What infuriated Carol was Quentin's subsequent behavior. He got a boyfriend quickly, put lavish, sentimental gay-group photos on his Facebook page, texted his lover (Sam) during family events, told everyone how happy they were. He was riding high on new love.

She didn't mind too much that he had a boyfriend. She didn't mind that he was happy (even if she was still reeling from the changes to her “family”). What offended her was his public noise, what she called his “I'm Gay Show.” She felt disrespected. He wasn't thinking at all about how his behavior might be affecting her, and, apparently, he didn't care.

She understood this was all new to him, and he was feeling wonderful being in love—and finally being able to drop the pretense of being heterosexual. But she kept feeling angry. She thought it was the hurt of being rejected, and that was real. Anyone who's dumped for a person of the opposite sex feels slugged.

She thought perhaps it was the degree of surprise she felt. Shouldn't she have seen this coming? How could she be married to Quentin for 31 years and not know he was gay? Were her perceptions that dumb and numb? Sure, they hadn't had sex for years, but she'd figured they'd passed into a new phase: the middle-aged couple who still sleep in the same bed but whose relationship has evolved into that of co-parents and pals. Her trust in her antennae was suffering a serious setback.

When she'd recognized all these distresses and more or less worked through them, she still was enraged. What else was going on?

Projection! She had slid into Quentin's view of her: She was yesterday's news, unimportant, invisible. Since she hadn't identified the process, she was still reacting, and she was furious.

Here's how it works:

Someone has an opinion of you, conscious or unconscious. They treat you a certain way. Maybe they worship you and think you're beyond most other human beings. You're going to save them, make them happy, teach them wisdom, cure their acne... whatever power they project onto you. Something they need, or something that fits into their world view.

Or maybe they think you're inferior, not a player. Or you're “too old” or “too fat” or “just a housewife.” Not productive enough. From a “second-rate” social, racial, religious or ethnic group. Too much of a show-off. Or maybe they think you're in love with them and interpret every greeting as a sexualized message. The options for projection are infinite.

The point is, they have this costume, this opinion, this “clothing” hanging around their closet, and they dress you in it. In his own mind, Quentin had taken away Carol's “wife” clothing and dressed her instead in the rags of a cast-off. Carol was no longer relevant to his emotional life, so she wasn't relevant, period. He was now excited about his new group and being with Sam, so she didn't matter any more.

To some degree, his self-involvement was understandable, given the upheaval and heady freedom of his new life. But that was still about Quentin and didn't help Car-



“They have this costume, this opinion, this ‘clothing’ hanging around their closet, and they dress you in it....”

ol. What made the difference for her was recognizing and isolating his opinion (or lack of opinion) of her. She'd become almost invisible. (So had the children, which troubled them and her. Dad was riding high, and they'd gone into the shadows of his earlier life, too.)

The central question for Carol was: *Did she agree?* Quentin now saw her—if he saw her at all—as irrelevant, a minimal presence. Was she irrelevant in her own opinion? Or were those the clothes he'd dressed her in? She'd been sliding into his view of her, continuing to adapt to him as she had during their 31 years of marriage.

There's a simple way to think about projection: “mirroring.” We know that the reflection of ourselves in other people's “eyes” (minds, perceptions) has a huge influence on how we perceive ourselves. If you want to sort out a projection, you can start by asking yourself how you are mirrored in the other person's eyes. What image of yourself do you have when you look at yourself from inside their mind? How important are you? How interesting? How trustworthy? How seriously should you be taken?

Then you can decide whether that image is accurate—according to your sense of yourself, your intentions, your behavior, your beliefs, your character. Oh, and what is your perception of them? Are they given to rigid judgment? Excessive flattery? Indifference to others? How reliable a mirror do you think they provide?

One of the delights of adulthood is being able to make such an evaluation. I've seen a quote from Euripides, “Man's [and woman's] most valuable trait is a judicious sense of what not to believe.” I love that quote. Don't let everything in.

Children don't have that option. If an authoritative adult says X is true, it must be true. But an adult can listen and ask, “Really? I don't think so.” Or say, “I agree with only part of what you're saying or implying.” There's an “I” with enough experience and sense of self to provide a context.

When I asked Carol if she agreed with Quen-

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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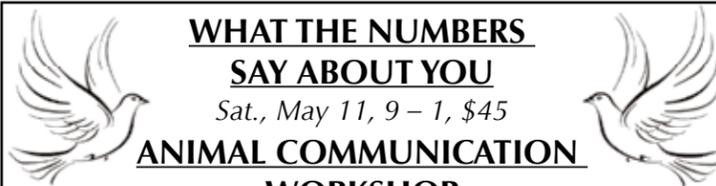
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

tin's implicit demotion of her, and whether she deserved it, she immediately realized she didn't. It was *his*, not hers. She was actually being a good sport about his jumping the marital ship, making every effort to stay courteous and understanding. He, on the other hand, was making almost no effort to help her through his transition out of their marriage. That clarification of boundaries felt somewhat better—there was his view, and there was her view, and they weren't the same.

Another way to understand projection is by way of the more complex business of people's inner stories. You have one, I have one, everybody has one. We all try to transform life (messy) into a narrative (coherent, meaningful). We tell ourselves stories about ourselves, about other people, about the world, about the significance of life, about the past/present/future, about justice or the lack thereof, about hope or despair, about what we can expect, how to be safe....

The story is everywhere in our minds, like the air we breathe, and we notice it about the same amount. It's just "there." It's "reality." We're all trapped inside our own minds.

Carol got through Quentin's disappearance from the marriage, from the family (to some extent), and from their commitment by clarifying the difference between his story and her story. He had left "their" story. He'd probably been itching to leave their story for years, because it didn't give him the environment he needed. But Carol was stunned. She was still telling their story, but it only made sense if they both told it. When he left, so did their story.

I had a friend in Boston whose mother used to say to him, "I'm cold. Put your coat on." She never understood, he said, that he didn't feel the cold the way she did. She was cold; he wasn't. You could see that as an illustration of poor boundaries (she didn't understand the separateness of their two unique persons).

You could also see it as evidence of her love and concern for him. That's where projection gets tricky. Especially with parenthood, you take the child into your heart. His well-being is often more important than your own. And that's as it should be, because you can take care of yourself and the

child can't. You're supposed to be feeling whatever he (or she) feels, so you can respond to his needs. But as he grows, he becomes less a part of your mind and more a part of his own. One of the (many!) challenges of parenting is to keep up with that evolution. (I loved the title of Anthony Wolf's book on coping with teenagers, *Get Out of My Life, but First Could You Take Me & Cheryl to the Mall.*)

Outside of parenting, we still are members of many groups, and people "feel each other out," empathize, try to understand what others are going through. We do that in part through projection: "How would I feel in those circumstances?" Then I respond as if you feel the way I would feel. That's a healthy kind of projection. I imagine I'm you or you're me, as I try to figure out what you need.

But when I slip you into my narrative, the on-



I've projected onto you a role, a character quality, and intentions. You have no idea you've just wandered into my movie, but there you are.

going story in my mind, that's less healthy. Say I've decided the world is a terrible place and people are selfish, indifferent and untrustworthy. You're not feeling very well today and I see the tension or irritation in your face. I decide you're "another one of those people," so I'm rude to you.

I've just projected onto you a role, a character quality, and intentions. You have no idea

you've just wandered into my movie, but there you are. If you're not clear about boundaries, you'll be hurt by my rudeness to you. Maybe you'll be angry. ("Who the heck does she think she is?!")

That's when you'll want to look at the costume I've just dressed you in (for your part in my movie) and think about whether it suits you. The more familiar you are with the energetic confusions of projection, the more quickly you'll learn how to get out of my costume and put your own clothes back on. They probably fit you better. ❀

Bina Breitner is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) in private practice at 808 W. 8th St. in Silver City. She can be reached at (575) 538-4380.

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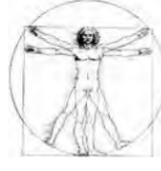
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Cancer Triggers

Plus: How safe is chlorine in your water?

Q I know that some of us are genetically predisposed to get cancer, but what are some ways we can avoid known environmental triggers for it?



A Cancer remains the scourge of the American health care system, given that four out of every 10 of us will be diagnosed with one form or another during our lifetime. Some of us are genetically predisposed toward certain types of cancers, but there is much we can do to avoid exposure to carcinogens in our environment.

According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a non-profit working to protect public health and the environment, a key first step in warding off cancer is lifestyle change—"stopping smoking, reducing drinking, losing weight, exercising and eating right." The American Cancer Society reports that smoking and poor nutrition each account for about one-third of the 575,000 US cancer deaths each year.

But smoking and obesity are obvious and other cancer triggers aren't so easily pinpointed. In 2010 the President's Cancer Panel reported that environmental toxins play a significant and under-recognized role in many cancers, causing "grievous harm" to untold numbers of Americans. And EWG reports that US children are born "pre-polluted" with up to 200 carcinogenic substances already in their bloodstreams.

Given this shocking fact, it may seem futile to try to reduce our bodies' chemical burden, but it

Smoking and poor nutrition together account for two-thirds of US cancer deaths each year, but the President's Cancer Panel reported in 2010 that environmental toxins play a significant and under-recognized role in many cancers, causing "grievous harm" to untold numbers of Americans. (iStockPhoto)

could be a matter of life and death. EWG lists several ways anyone can cut their cancer risk. First up is to filter our tap water, which can include arsenic, chromium and harmful chemicals. Simple carbon filters or pitchers can reduce contaminants, while more costly reverse-osmosis filters can filter out arsenic or chromium.

The foods we choose also play a role in whether or not we get cancer. Eating lots of fruits and vegetables is healthy, but not if they are laden with pesticides. Going organic when possible is the best way to reduce pesticide exposure. And when organic foods aren't available, stick with produce least likely to contain pesticides (check out EWG's "Clean 15" list of conventional crops containing

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

little if any pesticide residue). EWG also suggests cutting down on high-fat meats and dairy products: "Long-lasting cancer-causing pollutants like dioxins and PCBs accumulate in the food chain and concentrate in animal fat."

Eliminating stain- and grease-proofing chemicals (Teflon, Scotchgard, etc.) is another way to cut cancer risks. "To avoid them," says EWG, "skip greasy packaged foods and say no to optional stain treatments in the home." And steer clear of BPA, a synthetic estrogen found in some plastic water bottles, canned infant formula and canned foods. "To avoid it, eat fewer canned foods, breastfeed your baby or use powdered formula, and choose water bottles free of BPA," suggests EWG. Personal care products and cosmetics can also contain carcinogens. EWG's "Skin Deep" cosmetics database flags particularly worrisome products and green-lights others that are healthy.

Another cancer prevention tip is to seal wooden outdoor decks and playsets—those made before 2005 likely contain lumber "pressure-treated" with carcinogenic arsenic in order to stave off insect infestations. Of course, avoiding too much sun exposure—and wearing high-SPF sunscreen—when using those decks and playsets is another important way to hedge one's bets against cancer.

CONTACTS: EWG, www.ewg.org; President's Cancer Panel, deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp.

Q I was wondering how toxic chlorine is, because my well water was just chlorinated yesterday and today the smell is still strong. I have a four-year-old daughter and I'm concerned.

A According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), chlorine levels of four parts per million or below in drinking water—whether from a private well or municipal reservoir—are acceptable from a human health standpoint. Inexpensive home drinking water test kits (from \$5 on up) that can detect levels of chlorine and other elements in water are widely available from online vendors. Administering the tests is easy and can provide parents with a way to involve kids in science for a practical purpose right at home.

Chlorine was first used in drinking water to reduce waterborne infectious diseases in Jersey City, NJ, more than a century ago. It was so effective at destroying potentially harmful bacteria and viruses that the practice soon spread far and wide. Today some 98% of water treatment facilities in the US use some form of chlorine to clean drinking water supplies. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), a trade group representing water utilities across the country, credits the presence of chlorine in drinking water with a 50% increase in life expectancy for Americans over the last century. Indeed, some consider the chlorination of drinking water to be one of history's greatest public health achievements.

But others aren't so sure that any chlorine in drinking water should be considered safe. Opponents of chlorination point to studies linking repeated exposure to trace amounts of chlorine in water with high-



Some 98% of US water treatment facilities use chlorine to clean drinking water supplies. If your water is from a well, there are expensive ways to remove it close to the source, but the most affordable approach is to filter it at the faucet or with a pitcher-mounted filter. (iStockPhoto)

er incidences of bladder, rectal and breast cancers. The problem lies in chlorine's ability to interact with organic compounds in fresh water to create trihalo-methanes (THMs), which when ingested can encourage the growth of free radicals that can destroy or damage vital cells in the body. Besides cancer, exposure to THMs has been linked to other health issues including asthma, eczema, heart disease and higher miscarriage and birth defect rates.

Those with their own private wells who are skittish about chlorine have other options for disinfecting their water. One baby step would be to replace chlorine with chloramine, an ammonia derivative that doesn't dissipate into the environment as rapidly as chlorine and has a much lower tendency to interact in bad ways with organic compounds in the water. However, traces of chloramine in the water may not be to everyone's liking either, because it causes rashes after showering in a small percentage of people and can apparently increase lead exposure in older homes as it leaches the heavy metal off old pipes.

Another option, though somewhat costly, would be to purchase a machine to purify the water. Ozonation units, which disinfect by adding ozone molecules to water and leave no residues, start at around \$9,000. Another choice would be a UV light treatment machine—at \$6,000 or more—which cancels out viruses and bacteria by passing the water through UV light rays. The Clean Water Store is a reputable vendor and good online source for such water treatment equipment.

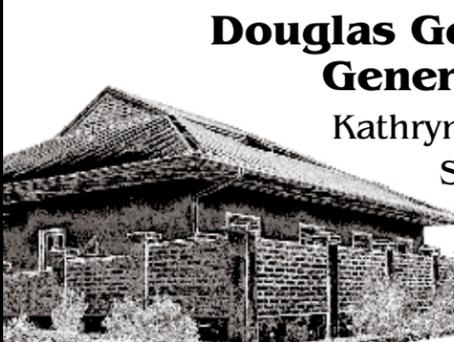
Perhaps the most sensible and affordable approach is to filter the water at the faucets and taps.

Carbon-based tap- or pitcher-mounted filters can work wonders in removing impurities from drinking water. They can even be installed on shower heads for those with sensitive skin.

CONTACTS: AWWA, www.awwa.org; The Clean Water Store, www.cleanwaterstore.com.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • GINA DEBACKER

The Gardener's First Aid Kit

Getting things growing can also be a pain. Here's help to take out the ouch.

There's nothing like time spent outdoors gardening. And while this hobby can reap a bevy of health rewards, it can also cause stress to our bodies. If you plan to spend your spring digging in the dirt, keep this natural gardener's first-aid kit nearby for blisters, sunburns or bumps and scrapes. (Note: With any natural remedy, go easy at first to make sure your skin doesn't have an adverse reaction. If a wound is serious or lasts more than a week without signs of healing, consult a medical professional.)

First Aid for Blisters

Never pop a blister. Doing so invites infection. Instead, dry the blister: Soak a gauze pad in witch hazel extract, a mild astringent with antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties. Place the soaked pad over the blister and cover with an adhesive bandage. If a blister breaks on its own, wash the area with soap and water, then dab it with tea tree oil, a powerful antimicrobial with antiseptic properties. Cover the area with a gauze bandage; reapply tea tree oil and change dressing daily.



Ease gardening woes by keeping a first-aid kit packed with healing essentials such as aloe vera, arnica, tea tree, witch hazel and more. (Photo: Thomas Gibson)

First Aid for Splinters

Use sterilized tweezers to ease a splinter out, then wash the wound with an herbal infusion to disinfect. Herbs with antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties include St. John's wort, chamomile and Oregon grape root. Make a strong infusion by steeping a handful of one or more of these dried herbs in water for 5 to 10 minutes.

First Aid for Minor Cuts and Scrapes

Powdered goldenseal is a powerful antimicrobial and antiseptic that can be sprinkled directly onto cuts or wounds to help stop bleeding. Once bleeding stops, gently wash the wound with soap and water. Pat dry, apply raw, unprocessed honey, and cover with a clean bandage.

Honey reduces bacterial contamination in wounds, helping them heal faster. Change dressing and reapply honey one to three times daily as needed.

First Aid for Stings and Bug Bites

First, minimize stings and bug bites by deterring pests. Rather than commercial brands formulated with DEET—a pesticide that has been linked to neurological damage and can cause rashes and eye irritation—try this herbal spray: 2 ounces of a carrier oil (such as almond or grape-seed) combined with 1/2 teaspoon of citronella or

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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"Dr. Barbara Mora has a gift for being a pediatrician"

After Emma was born, her mother Robin Eng was referred to a pediatrician and she knew she would not be going back. So in searching again, Robin found Dr. Barbara Mora and since that first visit, she could not imagine bringing her children, Emma and Noah, to anyone else. "Dr. Mora has a gift for being a pediatrician, making both children and parents feel at ease with her warmth and understanding. She is very approachable and spends as much time with you as you need." Robin recognizes that Dr. Mora is an excellent clinician, for Dr. Mora has been practicing as a pediatrician for more than thirty years and has "seen it all." She will do "whatever is necessary" for the health of her children, and will make herself available "beyond what you would expect."

When children fall sick, young parents naturally can get scared, and Robin couldn't say enough about the way Dr. Mora addressed her concerns and allayed her anxieties during the visit by clearly explaining "when to worry and when not to worry." As a young mother who was trying to figure out the best for her children, Robin particularly appreciated Dr. Mora's compliments on her parenting, as well as her willingness to share her own experiences as a parent so that Robin would know that the successes and frustrations of parenting are shared, even by a pediatrician. When Dr. Mora came to Silver Health CARE in 2011, Robin immediately went down to fill out the new patient paperwork, and she would follow Dr. Mora anywhere.

Dr. Mora "is also great with kids." When Emma and Noah were little, Dr. Mora "would find clever little ways of doing things" so that the children didn't even realize that they were being examined. Robin recalls that "she even used to knit her own office toys," which were meant to amuse and engage children, as they waited for their appointment.

Robin concludes: "Being a pediatrician is Dr. Mora's calling. I can't say enough about what she has done for my children and family!"

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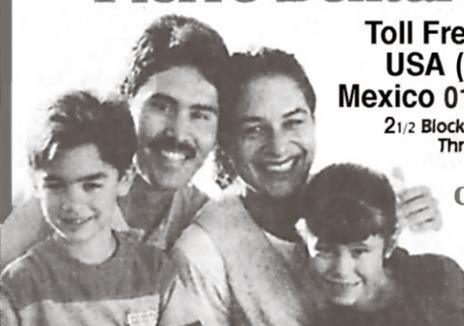
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

lemongrass essential oil. Apply at least every two hours.

Treat minor bites or stings with a poultice made from equal parts echinacea tincture, water and bentonite clay. This blend will draw out the poison and help relieve itching. You also can add a few drops of lavender or peppermint essential oil to boost its antiseptic and antibacterial properties.

First Aid for Bruises

Apply ice to bruised skin to relieve pain and swelling, and apply an arnica cream or gel twice daily. If you are prone to excessive bruising, you may want to consider taking vitamin C capsules or eating more vitamin C-rich foods such as citrus, broccoli and peppers.

First Aid for Poison Ivy and Other Rashes

If you've come in contact with poison ivy or poison oak, take action fast. Wash the area thoroughly with soap and cool water, or sponge with rubbing alcohol to remove the oily resin as soon as possible.

To treat a rash, spray a grindelia tincture—either directly or diluted with water—to the affected area several times a day. The resins and tannins in this herb should stop the itching. Jewelweed is another effective herb for rashes. Crush its leaves to extract its juice, or freeze jewelweed tea into ice cubes; rub the juice or cubes on the affected area. (Jewelweed tea may induce vomiting. Don't drink it.)

For large rashes that have already settled, draw out any remaining toxins by soaking in a tepid or cool oat bath: Wrap unflavored rolled oats in fine cheesecloth to make a packet; run water through the packet into the tub; and relax in the oatmeal-infused water.

First Aid for Sunburns

To prevent sunburns, apply a mineral sunscreen (look for active ingredients zinc and titanium dioxide) no lower than SPF 30,

wear a hat and other protective clothing, and limit your sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—when the sun's rays are the strongest—whenever possible.

To soothe sunburns, apply aloe vera gel to cool the burn and treat the inflammation. Black tea is another natural option, as its tannins will treat the burn and reduce pain and redness. Brew a strong batch, cool it with ice, then gently apply it to the affected area with a towel or washcloth. You can also soothe skin by soaking in a lukewarm apple cider vinegar bath—one large glass of vinegar should do the trick. (A few drops of lavender oil will mask the vinegar smell.)

First-Aid Kit Supplies

- Adhesive bandages in various sizes
- Almond oil
- Aloe vera gel
- Arnica cream
- Bentonite clay
- Boswellia capsules
- Citronella oil
- Cotton swabs
- Echinacea tincture
- Grindelia tincture
- Lavender essential oil
- Oatmeal
- Powdered goldenseal
- Rubbing alcohol
- St. John's wort
- Sterile gauze pads
- Tea tree oil
- Tweezers
- Unprocessed honey
- Vitamin C capsules
- Witch hazel

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Tuesday
Qi 12-1pm, QST 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday
Qi 8-9am
Thursday
Women's Qi 9-10am, QST 12-1pm,
Qi 6:30-7:30
Friday (no class 5/10)
QST 7-8am

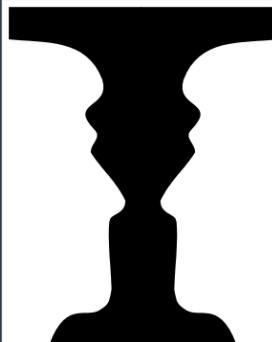
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Body, Mind & Spirit is a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on all aspects of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how

these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email editor@desertexposure.com. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of *Desert Exposure* or its advertisers, and are not intended to offer specific or prescriptive medical advice. You should always consult your own health professional before adopting any treatment or beginning any new regimen.

PRESENTS

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events
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SUNDAYS
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.

BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780

HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703

PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

MONDAYS
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298

AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.

AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.

ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.

GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.

SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

TUESDAYS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1-3 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.

BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 534-1134.

FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.

GILA WRITERS—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck, pheck@grmc.org, 538-4072.

KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.

LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.

REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut.

Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.

SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

WEDNESDAYS
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.

CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N. Hudson St., 519-1070.

GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.

GROUP MEDITATION—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.

LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.

PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 1st Weds. 5:30 p.m. Sparks Clinic, 1000 N. Hudson. 590-8797.

PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

BAYARD AL-ANON—6:30 p.m. Bayard Community Center. 575-537-3141.

THURSDAYS
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, 590-2578.

DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.

HATHA YOGA—5:30 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St.

Lori Zitzmann.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.

TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

FRIDAYS
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.

SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 313-1091.

TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.

WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.

YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

SATURDAYS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.

BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.

DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bike-works, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸

COLUMBUS ANIMAL RESCUE

Rescued, Abandoned and Abused Animals need loving homes.
All are spayed or neutered and have current vaccinations.

FREE TO GOOD HOMES



Bandit is a medium sized Heeler mix.
Weight approx. 35lbs.
Age approx. 14 mos.
He's smart, loving, likes to play with other dogs.
Uses dog door.



Cessie is a chihuahua,
Age approx 12 mos.
Weight approx 10 lbs.
Loves to be petted,
likes to play with other dogs. Uses dog door.

Loving homes needed for Bandit & Cessie!

Call Pat at 575-649-7644 • We have puppies and kittens, too!

100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Boulders to Cross

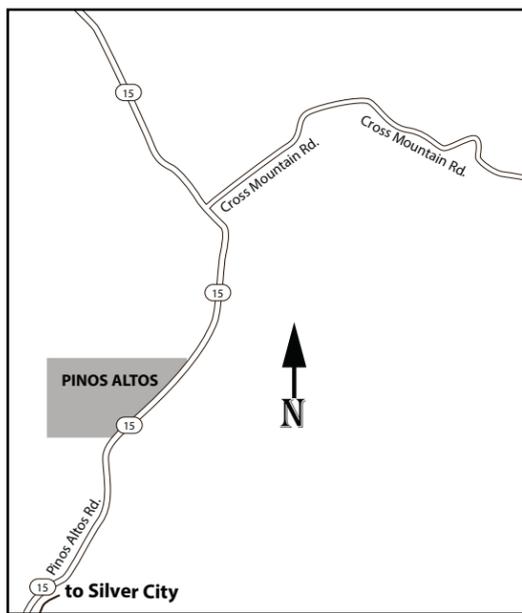
Head past Pinos Altos for this rocky hike on Cross Mountain Road, with a reward at the end.

Name: Cross Mountain Road

Distance: 2.95 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Starting at the corner of Highway 15 and 32nd Street in Silver City, take Highway 15 (a.k.a. Pinos Altos Road, a.k.a. P.A. Road) north 6.0 miles. On the right, you will see a street sign that says, "Cross Mountain Road." Turn right onto the road and drive 0.12 mile and park; there are a few pull-off spots to park in. If you have a high-clearance vehicle and nerves of steel, you can drive up farther. Good luck with that....



Hike Description: An uphill hike on a rough dirt road with lots of boulders, potholes, etc. to traverse. I recommend hiking sticks for this one. You will travel 1.45 miles on this road until you reach a small white cross with an arrow on it on the right side of the trail. Take this trail the remaining way up the hill. Along the way there are attractive places for views and a few nicely shaded areas with pine trees. When at the top of this trail, you will be rewarded with seeing a huge white cross on top of the mountain along with views of Silver City and points south. For more information about the history of the cross, check out my blog entry, 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com/?s=cross+mountain.

Notes: There are several other trails to explore

along this road. Enjoy checking out the town of Pinos Altos from this angle; it's interesting to see the town sitting on the hillside.

Helpful Hint: If you want to see wildlife, leave your dog at home and focus on being quiet. 🐾

Linda Ferrara is a former Silver City real-estate agent and, of course, a hiker

Beginner 3-Mile Guided Hike
10 am at Dragonfly Trailhead*

Guided Bike Ride
10 am at Dragonfly Trailhead*

Bring your bike, a helmet or hat and water. Some bikes available for use.

National Trails Day

June 1, 2013

*Dragonfly Trailhead is at the corner of Arenas Valley Road and Elias Road

Grant County Trails Group

- Explore how trails enhance individual, family and community life with Dr. Richard Kozoll of Cuba, NM at the Cobre Performing Arts Center, at noon.
- Free Raffle
- Trails Day Film Premiere
- Free Trail Guide

For Information contact Andrew Lindlof at (575) 538-8078 or by email andrew@gilaresources.info

Made Possible by the Community Enhancement Fund

RIVER RANCH MARKET
Local Grassfed Meat
Pastured Poultry

We are OPEN!

Wed-Sat

10 - 6

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CERTIFIED American Grassfed Association

GOOD CLEAN FOOD

COOKED IN CAST IRON

BY REAL COWGIRLS

River Ranch Market is a member of SlowFoodUSA.org
Slow food is an idea, a way of living and a way of eating.

300 S. Bullard
Historic Downtown Silver City, NM

The Cast Iron Cowgirls
Louise Cash, Ceci McNicoll, & Dana Carlsen

La Esperanza Vineyard & Winery

Día De Santa Rita, May 11

La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery
11:00 am to 7:00 pm
We invite you to come and celebrate the release of our specialty wine

"BORN IN SPACE"
in tribute to all those born in Santa Rita, NM

1:00 pm-3:00pm
Brief talks by **Terry Humble** on "History of Santa Rita and Mining" and **Antony Romero** on "Santa Rita, NM to Janos, Mexico Trail 1800-1838." Followed by book sale and signing by Terry Humble, of his two award winning books, *Santa Rita Del Cobre* and *Copper Mining in Santa Rita, New Mexico 1801-1838*

Antony Romero will have maps of Santa Rita to Janos Trail

3:30 -6:30 pm
Music by **Brandon Perrault and Friends**
Food by **Acosta Farms**—Quesadillas, Burritos, Nachos, Hot Dogs and Snow Cones

Our Regular Wine Tastings are
Fridays and Saturdays 11am-7pm
Sundays Noon -7pm

David & Esperanza Gurule owners/vintners
505 259-9523 • 505 238-6252
www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com

La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery is located off Royal John Mine Road off Hwy 61.
A 30 minute scenic drive from Silver City.

Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

Red or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at www.desert-exposure.com—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service.

With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified. We also note with a star (*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of *Desert Exposure*.

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up-to-date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o *Desert Exposure*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, or email updates@red-or-green.com.

Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at www.desert-exposure.com. Bon appétit!

Viva New Mexico Restaurant Program
encouraging diners to select more health conscious meals when eating out.

Viva
NEW MEXICO
RESTAURANT PROGRAM

Sponsored by:
HMS La Vida
HIDALGO MEDICAL SERVICES | DIABETES RESOURCE CENTER

Look for the red heart menu items- your guide to diabetes and heart friendly selections.

Viva New Mexico Restaurant Program
encouraging diners to select more health conscious meals when eating out.

- Silver City -**
- Adobe Springs Café**
- Billy's BBQ**
- Diane's Restaurant**
- Grinder Mill**
- Kountry Kitchen**
- Peace Meal Cooperative**
- Shevek's & Co.**
- Silverado**
- The Jalisco Café**
- The Red Barn**
- Tre Rosat Café**
- Vicki's Eatery**
- Wrangler's Bar & Grill**
- Bayard-**
- Little Nisha's**
- M and A Bavard Café**
- Hurley-**
- Gateway Grill**
- Mimbres-**
- Elks Xing Café**
- Lordsburg-**
- El Charro**
- Fidencios**
- Ramona's Café**
- Rodeo-**
- Rodeo Café**

GRANT COUNTY

SILVER CITY

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. "Under new ownership and refocusing on what has made it a longtime Silver City favorite: excellent breakfasts and lunches." (April 2011) Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.*

ALOTTA GELATO, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato, desserts and hot drinks: All day.*

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 388-0777. "A boundless buffet that would satisfy the Mongol hordes." (April 2010) Chinese, Thai, Malaysian, sushi: L D.

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A freewheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat.-Sun. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "Authentic Southern-style barbecue..... Brisket, pork ribs, chicken and sausage dinners, pulled pork and chopped brisket sandwiches." (August 2010). Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUN-

TAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. "Bear Mountain Lodge blends food, art and natural beauty into a memorable experience that pleases all the senses.... The menu changes daily, with entrées that are always imaginative and tasty—comfort food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) Weekend brunch, weekday L by reservation only.*

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. "All the food is cooked to order. This means that not only does every dish arrive at the table freshly cooked and steaming, but also that you can tailor any dish to suit your taste." (October 2012) Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L, with special brunch Sundays.*

CURIOS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrées always include vegetarian and vegan options... plus others determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) Contemporary: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.*

DELIGHTFUL BLEND, 3030 N. Pinos Altos Road, 388-2404. Coffeeshop.

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "As they serve Diane's fresh, inventive dishes, the staff will make you subtly aware you are indeed enjoying a big-city-caliber din-

ing experience—without the least bit of snootiness to detract from the fact that you are, nonetheless, in small-town New Mexico." (Sept. 2007) Home-made American, Euro and Pacific Rim: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only, weekend brunch, catering.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Top-notch pastries in the morning, deli lunch or...dinner. . . Diane's new Deli has it all—to go!" (Sept. 2007) Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: B L D.*

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.

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Catering.*

GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-3663. Mexican: B L D.

GIL-A BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.*

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. "If you sometimes long for the guilty pleasures of the Chinese food served at a mall food court—think Panda Express—or just want your wontons without waiting, there's good news.... Normal appetites will find the three-item combo tough to finish, so plan on leftovers whether you're eating in or taking out. All of it's plenty tasty, and you can enjoy it just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.

Tour of the Gila
Saturday, April 27, through Sunday, May 5

Open
Wednesday & Thursday of the Tour of the Gila.
Special menu items and extended hours.
See the Tour of the Gila page of our website for details

- Open for dinner; regular menu available
- Also offering special menu items geared to competitors' needs—including vegetarian, poultry, seafood and meat dishes
- Gluten-free pasta and bread also available

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12

- Complimentary dessert or glass of wine for any mother dining with us

Blues Festival
Friday, May 24, through Sunday, May 26

- Traditional & fusion Mediterranean cuisine
- Enjoy our tapa bar menu and our casual bar atmosphere
- Featuring sustainably/humanely raised hormone- and antibiotic-free meats and poultry
- Largest wine and beer selection; authentic Italian espresso
- Open late Friday and Saturday
- All major credit cards accepted



Shevek & Co. Restaurant

Wine Bar
In Historic Downtown Silver City
602 N Bullard St (at 6th St)
575.534.9168
silver-eats.com



Memorial Day
Monday, May 27

- Open for dinner

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.*

HEALTHY EATS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: L.

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "The Mexican restaurant where you take out-of-town guests.... Jalisco's massive menu goes well beyond the traditional combination plates, though it has those, too." (December 2007) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Espresso and coffee-shop: Mon.-Sat.*

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 201 N. Bullard St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L early D. Sun. B only.*

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

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L D.*

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. "Carrying on the legacy of unpretentious but tasty and authentic Mexican food established many years ago at the family's restaurant in Chihuahua." (April 2013) Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankee, 654-0353. Coffeehop.

MASA Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, (505) 670-8775. Tortillas, tacos, chimichangas, burritos, enchiladas, menudo, tamales and more. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.*

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Mon.-Thurs. L, Fri. L D.

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankee, 597-2253. "The food is oven-fresh and innovative." (November 2012) Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tues.-Sat.*

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Beer and wine bar, sandwiches, light bites: Tues.-Sun. afternoons.

PEACE MEAL BURRITO BAR, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "Slow-roasted beef, pork and chicken options in addition to vegetarian and vegan fare... with a commitment to provide food that is organic and

healthy." (January 2013) Chipotle-style burrito bar: Weds.-Mon. L early D.*

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Mon.-Sat.*

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. "Q's Southern Bistro has found its niche and honed its 'elevated pub' menu to excellence to serve its fun-loving, casual dining crowd." (October 2010) American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Mon.-Sat. L D.

RED BARN, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. "From the friendly staff to the down-home food—steaks, of course, plus chicken, seafood, burgers, sandwiches and a sampling of superb Mexican fare—you might be settling in for lunch or dinner at an especially large ranch house." (October 2009) Steakhouse: L D.*

RIVER RANCH MARKET, 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328. Grass-fed meats, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods, to-go soups and stews, cast-iron cooking. Weds.-Sat.*

SABOR, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-2737. Mexican, sandwiches: B L D.

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "If sampling new types of food is part of the adventure of traveling for you, you only have to go as far as Shevek & Co. Restaurant in Silver City to take a culinary tour around the world." (May 2013) Mediterranean: Fri.-Tues. D.*

SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: L D.*

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeehop: Mon.-Sat. B L, early D.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffeehop, bakery: Mon.-Fri. B L, early D, Sat. B L only.*

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBEQUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbeque to go: L D.

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeehop, lunch specialties, pizza: L.

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. "The dinner menu ranges from humbler (but not humdrum) fare like burgers, pizzas and pastas to daily specials that include more upscale items like grilled salmon and petite sirloin steak. Appetizers include homemade chile relleno poppers, egg rolls (with specialty fillings changing from day to day)

and the ever-popular, ever delicious bacon-wrapped dates." (August 2012) International eclectic: Mon.-Fri. L, D. Sat. D.*

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. "Serving hearty breakfasts, sandwiches both cold and grilled, wraps and salads that satisfy in a homey yet sophisticated way. Don't miss the German potato salad." (Dec. 2009) American: Mon.-Sat. B L. Sun. B.*

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

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffeehop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

BAYARD

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

LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wed.-Sun. B L D.

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. "If you want to know how special a hot dog can be... these Sonora-style hot dogs are masterpieces that please the eye as well as the taste buds. First, the beef hot dogs are wrapped in bacon and grilled, then nestled into a special soft, ever-so-slightly sweet bun custom-made especially for Los Compas at a state-of-the-art bakery located in Palomas. The dogs are topped with beans, melted cheese, guacamole, mustard, ketchup, grilled and raw onions, diced tomatoes, and then the whole thing is finished off with decorative squiggles of mayonnaise." (May 2012) Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portas, menudo: L D.

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. "A down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices." (October 2011) Mexican and American: Mon.-Fri. 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: Sun.-Fri. B L.



Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO

Don't forget to join the fans of ALOTTA GELATO on our Facebook page! You'll find an updated list of flavors, fan photos, a poll (what's your favorite flavor?), comments, upcoming events, and much more!

Hooray! It's May! As always, this month is as chock-full of special events as a cup of our Rocky Road gelato is full of "rocks" (we make it with our Chocolate Hazelnut gelato and toss in lotsa sliced almonds and miniature marshmallows). With the Tour of the Gila bike race (May 1st through May 5th), Mother's Day (May 12th), The Blues Festival (May 24th through 26th), Memorial Day (May 27th), the Wild West Pro Rodeo (June 5th through June 8th), plus several other items I've probably forgotten, this town will be busy! As usual, we'll be selling our famous limited-edition "Pantani Pink" cherry-chocolate-chip gelato in celebration of the Tour. Stop by and see us—oh, and don't forget to buy a gift certificate for Mother's Day, graduation, or any other occasion you want to make special. They're available in any amount, they don't expire, you can use 'em a little at a time to prolong the pleasure, and we have yet to have anybody return one because it didn't fit.

Now that the days are getting longer, we want to remind you that we're open seven nights a week: we're open 'til 9:00 PM Sunday through Thursday and 'til 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday. Think of us as the perfect place to go after dinner, on a date, after you ditch your date, whatever. We have all kinds of drinks (such as coffee, 20-odd kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles), and we also carry irresistible dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies (try one warm, with a dollop of gelato on top!), Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake! Buy a hand-packed pint or a quart of your favorite flavors and share it with your family, friends and neighbors while you all enjoy the best gelato in the state! Thanks for reading; as a token of our appreciation for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

Find us on Facebook Visit us online at: www.alottagelato.com

Alotta Gelato - 619 N. Bullard St.,
in Downtown Silver City -575-534-4995



Millie's Bake House

Serving soup, salads, sandwiches and baked goods

Saturday, May 4

Join us for our first anniversary open house from 5-7pm

Enjoy cake and refreshments

While you're here, sign up for a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate. (you don't have to be present to win)

Everyone is invited...Come celebrate with us!

Tina Klassen, owner  Available **215 W. Yankee St.**
575-597-BAKE • 575-597-2253 Silver City, NM 88061

DINING GUIDE continued on page 52



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Now in our 5TH year!

Eat Your Heart Out can provide food for all your catering needs.

- Brunches • Luncheons • Dinner Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Meetings & Social Gatherings
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- Family Reunions • Card Parties
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Please go to our website cateringonmarket.com for a current price listing.

Call 575-313-9005 or
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The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge

Bear Mountain Lodge Bike Race Menu

5-7pm daily

Reservations a must! 575-538-2538

Outside portal tables available

Tuesday, April 30

Pasta with fresh basil, tomatoes, garlic, red bell pepper, and zucchini tossed with olive oil and Parmesan Cheese – you may add Homemade Chicken and Currant Meatballs

Wednesday, May 1

Bear Mountain Lodge's Tortilla Soup with or without Chicken with all the fixings-tortilla chips, Monterey jack cheese, sunflower seeds, avocado, limes, and cilantro

Thursday, May 2nd

Roasted Lemon Rosemary Chicken or Veggie Lasagna made with homemade ricotta cheese, tomato sauce, butternut squash and spinach

Friday, May 3

A bed of creamy polenta topped lightly marinated Crab or Fresh Spinach served with poached eggs, lemony hollandaise, and basil

Saturday, May 4

Spicy Flank Steak or Roasted Veggies served with polenta and parmesan cheese

Sunday, May 5

Crab Cakes with fresh corn salsa or Pine Nut encrusted Roasted Eggplant stuffed with basil and brie topped with fresh corn salsa

All entrees include salad, homemade bread, crackers and dessert. \$30.

60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road
575 538 2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com

DINING GUIDE continued

CLIFF

PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.

HURLEY

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. "From Friday Steak Night to everyday American and Mexican food, worth hitting Hwy. 180 for." (December 2011) American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

LAKE ROBERTS

LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. "Rustic gourmet... designed to appeal to the eyes as well as the taste buds. And this is true of the items on the brunch menu, as well as those on the very different dinner menu." (June 2012). Steaks, sandwiches, American: Thurs.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. brunch and D. Tavern with soups, sandwiches, Scotch eggs: Daily L D.

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. "For the German sampler, café customers can choose two meat options from a revolving selection that may include on any given day three or four of the following: bratwurst, roast pork, schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried pork chop), sauerbraten (marinated roast of beef), stuffed cabbage leaves, or roladen (rolled beef with a sausage and onion filling)." (July 2011) German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday midday D.

MIMBRES

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

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. "You won't go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Café, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican." (Jan. 2009) Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

PINOS ALTOS

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. "The Buck," as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and 'honest pours' at the full bar." (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

LAS CRUCES & MESILLA

ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Mon.-Fri. B L.

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Mon. B L, Tues.-Sun. B L D.

ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tues.-Sun. L D.

AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: D.

BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.

THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeehouse.

A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Mon.-Fri. B L.

BLUE AGAVE CAFÉ, 1765 S. Main St. (inside Best Western Mission Inn), 524-8591. Southwestern: B.

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Sat.-Sun. L D.

BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.

BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.

CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffeehouse, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.

CARILLO'S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CATTLEMEN'S STEAKHOUSE, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.

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

CHICAGO SOUTHWEST, 3691 E. Lohman, 521-8888. Gourmet hot dogs and smoothies: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA EXPRESS, 2443 N. Main St., 525-9411. Chinese, Vietnamese: L D.

CHINESE KITCHEN, 2801 Missouri #29, 521-3802. Chinese: L D.

CIROS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 160 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0341. Mexican: B L D.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: Mon.-Sat. L D.

DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. "The restaurant uses local produce whenever possible, including the pecan wood pellets used in the smoking and grilling. A lot of the foods and drinks are infused with pecans, and also with green chiles from Hatch, processed on site. They even serve green chile vodka and green chile beer." (February 2010) Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.

DELICIA'S DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.*

DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sun. B L, Mon.-Sat. B L D.

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

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room... An array of award-winning margaritas and deliciously decadent desserts." (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.*

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

EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thur., Sun. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L early D.

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

EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.

EMILIA'S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.

EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Asian: L D.

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

FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel

Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.

FOX'S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.

GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 522-4300. Mexican: B L D.*

GINA'S CANTINA, 300 N. Downtown Mall, 541-7492. Mexican, Hawaiian: Sat. B, Mon.-Sat. L, Tues.-Sat. D.

GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican, seafood: B L early D.

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

GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Hawaiian appetizers: L D.

HIEBERT'S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.

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.

JAPANESE KITCHEN, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.

J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.

JIREH'S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.

JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.

JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.

KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.

KIVA PATIO CAFÉ, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.

LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s." (September 2011) Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.

LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.

LEMONGRASS, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: Tues.-Fri. L D, Sat.-Mon. D.

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.

LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: 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.

MAIN STREET BISTRO AND ALE HOUSE, 139 N. Main St., 524-5977. Bistro fare, beers: L, D Mon.-Sat.

MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*

MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.

DINING GUIDE continued on next page



Second Location Now Open on Saturdays

Sunrise Espresso II
1212 East 32nd St.
Now offering Smoothies

Come on in or use our convenient drive-through. Enjoy freshly baked treats and free WiFi. If you have the time, we offer a relaxing comfortable location for informal meetings of getting together with friends.

At Sunrise Espresso we specialize in high quality espresso drinks designed to please the most discriminating tastes. The menu includes lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, and one of the best black cups of coffee you will find anywhere. All our drinks can be made hot, frozen (blended), or over ice, and most drinks can be made sugar free. Non-coffee drinks include Chai lattes, Italian cream sodas, and assorted teas.

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May Community Forum

Energy Medicine & Essential Oils
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Presented twice
Tuesday, May 14th Noon-1 pm
Thursday, May 16th Noon-1 pm

In the Co-op Community Room
FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE
Light refreshments served

520 N. Bullard St. 575.388.2343
Monday-Saturday 9-7
www.silvercityfoodcoop.com

Spring Member Appreciation Day
is on Thursday, May 21st

Members receive 10% off most items in the store.
New members are welcomed to join on MAD and will receive full member benefits.



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—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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MOTHER'S DAY @ BILLY'S

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LASAGNA, HAWAIIAN BBQ CHICKEN, BRICK OVEN PIZZA
SMOKED SALMON, SALAD BAR, DESSERT BAR

\$17 INCLUDES CHAMPAGNE FOR MOMS

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OPEN FOR LUNCH on SATURDAYS

Table Talk

As promised in these pages, **River Ranch Market** is now open, Weds.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., featuring grassfed beef, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods and "good, clean food cooked in cast iron by real cowgirls." 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328.

The **Café Azul** at Bear Mountain Lodge will serve up special menus for each day of the Tour of the Gila bike race, 5-7 p.m. each day through Sunday, May 5. Reservations a must. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

Millie's Bake House in downtown Silver City celebrates its first anniversary on Saturday, May 4, with an open house, cake and refreshments from 5-7 p.m. 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253.

In the Mimbres, **La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery** will celebrate the release of its specialty wine, "Born in Space," a tribute to those born in the former town of Santa Rita (now part of the mine), on May 11, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Speakers will include local history authors Terry Humble (see "Mining Santa Rita's History," November 2012) and Antony Romero from 1-3 p.m., followed at 3:30 p.m. by music by Brandon Perrault and Friends and food by Acosta Farms. Royal John Mine Road, off Hwy. 61, Mimbres, (505) 259-9523, www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com.

In downtown Silver City, **Shevek & Co.** (see review in this issue) will be open with special menu items and extended hours for Tour of the Gila, including on Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 and 2. For Mother's Day, May 12, mothers dining at Shevek & Co. will receive a complimentary dessert or glass of wine. And the restaurant will be open late Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25, during the Blues Festival, and be open on Memorial Day, May 27. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

In Pinon Altos, the **Buckhorn** will be serving beer for the Tour of the Gila bike race on Sunday, May 5, and will be open Sunday, May 12, for Mother's Day for dinner. It's the first time the Buckhorn has been open on a Sunday. Main Street, 538-9911.

Billy's will also be celebrating Mother's Day, with an all-day buffet that includes champagne for moms. 2138 Hwy. 180E in Silver City, 388-1367.

Little Toad Creek Inn & Tavern in Lake Roberts will feature a Mother's Day gourmet buffet on May 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call for reservations. 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649, littletoadcreek.com.

In Mesilla, **Arabella's**, serving Italian, Spanish and Cuban fare, will open in the building at 1750 Calle de Mercado that was home to Lorenzo's de Mesilla for 16 years.

The popular **Panda Express** Chinese-food chain has opened a Las Cruces outpost at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on the NMSU campus. Other chain eateries in the works include a new **Dunkin' Donuts**, expected this summer at 2513 N. Main St., and a **Schlotzsky's** restaurant in the 1700 block of east University Avenue. ☘

Send restaurant news to
updates@red-or-green.com.

DINING GUIDE continued

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. #D4, 532-2042. "For a true taste of Tokyo, a classic curry, a Vietnamese tidbit or big bite of Australia—all served up with the sophistication of San Francisco—head to Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine for an international dining experience that satisfies." (March 2008) Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D.

MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeehouse, Mexican, American: B L.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 120 S. Water St., 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Mon.-Sat.: B L early D.*

NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.

NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sun.-Tues., Thurs.-Sat. L D.*

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155

S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*

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

PARKER'S BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L, early D.

PASSION ULTRA LOUNGE, 201 E. University Ave. (inside Ramada Palms), 523-7399. Steaks, burgers, salmon: L D.

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

PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D.*

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

PIT STOP CAFÉ, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

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

PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.

Q'S, 1300 Avenida De Mesilla, 571-4350. Brewhouse with steak and pasta: L D.

RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.

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

ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 420 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Sat.-Thurs. B L, Fri. B L D.

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. "An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as keftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SAVOY DE MESILLA, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. "If you are adventurous with food and enjoy a fine-dining experience that is genuinely sophisticated, without pretension or snobishness, you definitely need to check out Savoy de Mesilla. The added attraction is that you can do this without spending a week's salary on any of the meals—all of which are entertainingly and delectably upscale." (March 2013) Upscale fine-dining: L D.

THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. "Wood-fired pizzas are the star of the show, along with plenty of authentic pasta dishes." (February 2006) Italian: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soups, salads: B L.

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

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Lucust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. "A showcase for St. Clair wines... rooted in the same attention to detail, insistence on quality and customer-friendly attitude as the winery." (July 2012) 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. "For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

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

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.

VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday fish fry.

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

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

CHAPPARAL

EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

DOÑA ANA

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

ORGAN

THAI DELIGHT, 16151 Hwy. 70E, 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: L D.

RADIUM SPRINGS

COUNTRY CUPBOARD, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L 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. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tues.-Sun. B L.

BENJI'S RESTAURANT, 821 W. Pine, 546-5309. Mexican, American: Mon., Tues. Thurs, Fri. B L D, Weds. B L.

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

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: 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. "The southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie." (April 2012) American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

GOLDEN SUN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese: 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. "Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast that's worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito." (September 2009) Mexican: B L D.*

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tues.-Sat. 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. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Tues.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. L D.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Sil-

ver, 544-3100. Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY 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: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. "Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

AKELA

APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.*

COLUMBUS

PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY

LORDSBURG

EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. "Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

ANIMAS

PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

RODEO

RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ. 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffeehouse food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY

RESERVE

ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.

BLACK GOLD, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeehouse, pastries.

CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

GLENWOOD

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

OTHER CATRON COUNTY

PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.

SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY

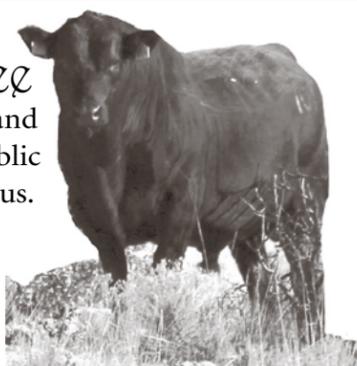
HILLSBORO

BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.

NOTE—Restaurant hours and meals served vary by day of the week and change frequently; call ahead to make sure. Key to abbreviations: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner.*=Find copies of *Desert Exposure* here. Send updates, additions and corrections to: updates@red-or-green.com. ☘

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in May

Plus a look ahead into early June.

MAY

WEDNESDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 5. Silver City to Mogollon road race. 590-2612, tourofthegila.com.

AMOS TORRES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BARBARA—Through May 2. A doctor working in 1980s East Germany finds herself banished to a small country hospital. Directed by Christian Petzold. Stars Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Rainer Bock. German with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

YOURDAY SELFMASTERY CONVERSATION—Wednesdays. Siddeeq Shabazz and Azadeh Boroumand. This month's featured book is *The New Psycho-Cybernetics*. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

2 Silver City/Grant County ANNUAL CHICKEN SALAD LUNCHEON—Silver City Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$7 per plate. Masonic Hall, 11 Ridge Road, 538-2214 for delivery.

BROWN BAG—"An Armchair Tour of Boston Hill" with Jose A. Ray Jr. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

NANCY REYNER—Reyner is the author of two painting-technique books and represents Golden Artist Colors. Acrylic painting lecture. 2-4 p.m. Free. Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 15 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, leybaingallsarts.com/classes.html.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Fort Bayard Loop road race. 590-2612, tourofthegila.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

NMSU MURALS WALKING TOUR—Walking tour of murals on NMSU's main campus, including works by Ken Barrack, Olive Rush and Tom Lea. Refreshments. 10 a.m. Free. NMSU Hadley Hall, 646-1508.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Southern Drive. Cinco de Mayo. Chips and dips. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members.

Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

DOÑA ANA MUSIC NIGHT UNION—7-9 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Turmeric root, which contains curcumin, reputed to contain powerful anti-cancer properties, as well as many other immune-boosting qualities. 5-6 p.m. \$3, MVM free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

JODEE PURKEYPILE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE—Through May 5. By Steve Martin. A Parisian bar is the location for a chance meeting between Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein, who challenge each other's ideas about art, science, life and loves. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Center for the Arts, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

FRIDAY

3 Silver City/Grant County HUMMINGBIRDS @ HOME—Building on Audubon's Christmas Bird Count legacy and the more recent success of the Great Backyard Bird Count, Audubon is launching this new program. Karen Beckenback will introduce this new Citizen Science Project and how people can participate, and discuss which hummingbirds are in our area and how to attract hummingbirds to your yard. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, swnmaudubon.org.

BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

MELANIE ZIPIN & THE SUGAR LEAFS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT EXHIBITION—WNMU Interdisciplinary Expressive Arts Students. BJ Allen, Erika Cox, Anna Davis, Rob Torres. Interactive & New Media Installations/Performance. Brane/String Cosmology, Classical Aesthetics, Art/Artist/Viewer Interactivity, Shakespeare's Ophelia. Light refreshments. 4-7 p.m. The WhereHouse, Texas and San Vicente.

SPRING FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRAFTS—Friday, Saturday and Sunday through May 5. This special show featuring some of the newest works of the Grant County Art Guild's photographers and crafters. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Pinos Altos Gallery, Hearst

Church.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Dan Potts Memorial Tyrone Time Trial 590-2612, tourofthegila.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A ROUND DOZEN: 12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ARTISTS—Exhibit through May 25. Opening reception, New Mexico Watercolor Society—Southern Chapter. There will be an opportunity for you to cast your vote for the People's Choice Award and the Southwest Reed Trio will be providing music. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

DONA ANA MUSIC NIGHT UNION—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SLICES OF LIFE ON MAIN STREET—Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

JASON ALDEAN—With Jake Owen and Thomas Rhett. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

LAS CRUCES ARTS ASSOCIATION—Exhibit opening. 4-7 p.m. Mountain Gallery and Studios, 138 W. Mountain St.

LOCAL SEEDS—Exhibit through May 21. Opening reception. The up and coming artists of D.A.N.G. Art Gang include Meg Freyermuth, Emma Henderson and Coy Lowther. 5-7 p.m. El Paso Electric Gallery, Rio Grande Theatre.

LUNDTIME YOGA—Fridays. Followed by lunch from Mountain View Market Kitchen. 12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Main St.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE—See May 2. Through May 5. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Center for the Arts, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

RGT LIVE!—Opportunity for local singer-songwriters to strut their stuff. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

SILENT AUCTION—All proceeds of the auction will go to support the purchase of new technology, a science lab and a new building for the J. Paul Taylor Academy Charter School. 5-7 p.m. MVS Studios, 535 N. Main, 524-3636, mvstudios.com.

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP—Through May 9. A thriller centered on a former Weather Underground activist who goes on the run from a journalist who

BUCKHORN Opera House
3rd Annual New Mexico Music Series
Door 7:00 pm Music 7:30 pm
ON TOUR 2013
JERRY JOSEPH/WALTER SALAS HUMARA
*** STEVE DRIZOS ***
Friday May 17th
Tickets \$12 in advance 575.538.9911

BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE
Mondays Open Mic Night @ 7pm
MAY 2013
Wednesdays Saloon Spaghetti
Wed 1 **Amos Torres** Folk, Soul, Originals - Silver City
Fri 3 **Melanie Zipin & the Sugar Leafs** - Me Too
Sat 4 **Mark Raborn Trio** Acoustic Jazz, Cajun Blues
Wed 8 **Sean Lucy** Folk Rock - ABO
Fri/Sat 10/11 **The Bus Tapes** Folk Rock - Santa Fe
Wed 15 **The Oversouls** Local Rock & Soul
Fri/Sat 17/18 **Broomdust Caravan** Country Rock - Santa Fe
Wed 22 **Peter & Michele** Local Pop, Jazz & Rock
Fri/Sat 24/25 **Joe & Vicki Price** Blues-IA
Wed 29 **TBA**
Fri 3 **The Oversouls** Local Rock & Soul
OPEN
Sunday, May 5 Serving Beer for Tour of the Gila
Sunday, May 12 for Mother's Day
buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com or 575-538-9911

OPERA HOUSE EVENTS
Fri., May 17 NM Music Series Presents
2013 TOUR
Jerry Joseph, Walter Salas-Humara, and Steve Drizos
Fri., May 31 **OPENING NIGHT GREASE**

Gila National Forest
Silver City is the gateway to the 3.3 million acre Gila National Forest.
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EVENTS continued on next page

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Watch: Cable Channels 17, 18 & 19 Listen: KOOT 88.1 FM
All classes are held on Mondays @ 5:30 pm at CATS Studio, 213 N. Bullard, Silver City
May 2013 Classes
5/6/13: **Movie Maker Video Editing** with a CATS staff person. Great for beginners and those who need a refresher course!
5/20/13: **Radio 101** with Tater Todd Dennehy. Learn how to make an entertaining radio show while learning the rules and regs! Perfect for wanna be DJs and radio hosts!
June 2013 Classes
6/3/13: **Movie Maker Video Editing** with a CATS staff person. Great for beginners and those who need a refresher course!
6/10/13: **Audacity Radio Editing Program** with Tater Todd Dennehy of New Potato X Radio Show. Easy, beginner editing class!
6/17/13: **How to Make Your Production Better!** Advanced Movie Maker Editing class. A CATS staff person will teach you how to add pizzazz to your production!
All Classes are **free** to CATS/KOOT 88.1 **members**. \$10 **fee** per class for **non-members**.
Become a CATS/KOOT FM Member
Yearly Membership Rates: Television is \$50, Radio is \$75, Both \$110
For more information: 575-534-0130

SAVE THE DATE
The 2013
1st New Mexico Bank
of Silver City
Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo



June 5 - 8, 2013
SW Horseman's Rodeo Arena
Silver City, NM

For additional information: 575-534-5030

MAY FILMS

May 1-2 **Barbara**—(German with English subtitles)
 May 3-9 **The Company You Keep**— Stars Robert Redford, Nick Nolte, Stanley Tucci.
 May 10-16 **Emperor**— Stars Tommy Lee Jones, Matthew Fox, Eriko Hatsune.
 May 17-23 **Lore**—Directed by Cate Shortland. (German with English subtitles)
 May 24-30 **No**—Directed by Pablo Larraín. (Spanish with English subtitles)
 May 31-June 6 **To the Wonder**—Stars Ben Affleck, Olga Kurylenko, Rachel McAdams.

Mesilla Valley Film Society
 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287
 Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.
 The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

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Thu 2 JoDee Purkeypile (Austin)
 Sat 3 Doña Ana Music Night Union
 Thu 9 Miss Shevaughn & Yuma Wray (Chicago)
 Sat 11 Hymn 4 Her (Philadelphia)
 Thu 16 Tiffany Christopher
 Sat 18 Shady Rest Band (Austin)
 Thu 23 Fatigo (Bisbee)
 Sat 25 Stefan George (Tucson)
 Thu 30 Ernesto Tinajero (Radio La Chusma)
 Sat 6/1 Jennings & Keller (Miami)

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THE TO DO LIST
 Yes, you May.

It's the month for big annual events in Silver City, from bikes to the blues. The **Tour of the Gila** will race in and around town May 1-5, starting with the grueling Silver City to Mogollon race. It doesn't get much easier after that, with the Fort Bayard Loop on Thursday and Tyrone Time Trials on Friday. Then Saturday the action moves downtown, for the Downtown Criterium and Citizens' Races, along with the Downtown Expo featuring a kids' zone, beer garden and live music. Finally, Sunday it's the—well, we've exhausted our synonyms for "grueling"—Gila Monster Road Race. The whole area will be humming with the whirr of bicycle wheels and the blur of colorfully clad riders all week.



Tommy Castro

Later in the month, it's the blues we'll all be humming, as the 18th annual **Silver City Blues Festival** brings 10 outstanding acts to Gough Park and the Buffalo Dance Hall, **May 24-26**. This year's headliners include Tommy Castro & the Painkillers on Saturday and Corey Harris & the Rasta Blues Experience on Sunday. Other performers on Saturday will be Austin Jimmy Murphy, Bob Andrews, Felix y Los Gatos and Mississippi Heat. Sunday will feature The OverSouls, Chris Dracup & Hillary Smith, and Maria Muldaur (yes, *that* Maria Muldaur) & the Red Hot Bluesiana Band. That's all at Gough Park and all free. Two \$12 ticketed events at the Dance Hall add to the blues experience: a Friday evening Kick-Off Dance hosted by The Memphis P-Tails from Albuquerque, and a Saturday night Festival Musicians Jam, facilitated by Chris Dracup and Hillary Smith. For a complete schedule with times, see page 29 in this issue.

But don't let those annual blockbusters cause you to overlook some of this month's other must-not-miss events. If you're looking for more music, for example, on **May 10 and 12** the **Hi Lo Silvers** present their free spring concerts at the First Presbyterian Church in Silver City, featuring old favorites and songs from Broadway and film. Then the **New Mexico Music Series** con-

tinues on **May 17** at the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos with Jerry Joseph and Walter Salas Humara plus Steve Drizos. The next day, **May 18**, the Grant County Community Concert Association presents the **Phoenix Boys Choir**. The 29-member choir showcases a diverse selection of both sacred and secular music ranging from Bach and Britten to Broadway. This special extra event is at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater.

If this is May, it must be **Cinco de Mayo**, which Deming celebrates a day early, **May 4**, at Voiers Pit Park. In Silver City, **May 5** is the inaugural **5 de Mayo Tardeada**, featuring food vendors and live music, sponsored by the Grant County Chicano Music Project and Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber.

May also means gardening and growing time. In Las Cruces, **May 4** is the **18th Annual Las Cruces Tour of Gardens**; see the listing in this month's calendar for ticket info. It's also the annual **Spring Plant Sale** at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, featuring a variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers all grown in the museum's greenhouse. Then **May 5** the weekly **Sunday Growers' Market** returns at Mountain View Market, featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts and more.



Iron Man.

The **Silver City Farmers' Market** kicks off on Saturday, **May 11**, at Mainstreet Plaza off Bullard and 7th. And lovers of native plants will want to tag along with the **Gila Native Plant Society** on **May 19** on a field trip to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater.

This month marks the 15th anniversary of the return of the Mexican gray wolf to the Gila, which lobo lovers will celebrate on **May 19** at Little Walnut East Picnic Area in Silver City. The free **Happy Birthday Lobos** event features music, kids' activities, cake, sodas and guest speaker Dave Parsons.

And May also brings the annual **Free Comic Book Day**, which this **May 4** will be celebrated at both the Bayard and Silver City public libraries. (We know where *we'll* be that day! After, of course, seeing **Iron Man 3**, which starts the summer movie season on Friday, **May 3**.)

EVENTS continued

has discovered his identity. Directed by Robert Redford. Stars Redford, Nick Nolte, Stanley Tucci. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

VISUAL SONNETS—Artist reception. Bruce Barton. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

Deming

OPEN HOUSE—Performing Arts Foundation. 7 p.m. Old Train Depot Auditorium, 217 N. Country Club Road, 694-1666.

SATURDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CHIROPRACTIC CARE & COLD LASER THERAPY—Dr. Louise Cash. 11:30 a.m. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244, bayardpubliclibrary.org.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY—10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Bayard Public Library, 112 Central Ave., bayardpubliclibrary.org. freecombookday.com.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY—9 a.m.-1 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W.

College Ave., silvercitypubliclibrary.wordpress.com, freecombookday.com.

MARK RABORN TRIO—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Silver City Downtown Expo and Criterium Races. Races all day. Citizen races. Kid zone. Live music. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 590-2612, tourofthegila.com.

SPRING FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRAFTS—See May 3. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Pinos Altos Gallery, Hearst Church.

TOUR OF THE GILA CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES—2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla 18TH ANNUAL LAS CRUCES TOUR OF GARDENS—Visitors may begin the tour in any garden and proceed in any order. Signs in front of the homes help identify the gardens, which are shown on the map provided on the ticket.

There are no toilet facilities available at the homes on the tour. Children should be supervised, as many plants are fragile and some may be poisonous. There will be drawings for gate prizes. Complimentary refreshments will be available at one of the gardens. Doña Ana County Extension Service Master Gardeners will be available in each garden to answer questions. 9 am.-4

p.m. \$7, free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at: Ashley Furniture Home Store, Boudreau Jewelers and Gallery, Dr. Green Hydroponics, The Emerald Isle, Enchanted Gardens, Glen Cutter Gallery, Guzman's Garden Center Color Your World, Indoor Garden Supply, White Sands Missile Range ITR Office.

VAUNDA MICHEAUX NELSON—Author will read from her Coretta Scott King Author Award-winning picture book, *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy US Marshall*. A free copy will be given to every family while supplies last. 10:30 a.m. NMSU Library, 646-6087.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AND WRITING—Talk by author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. 3:30 p.m. NMSU Library, 646-6087.

CHICKEN TRACTOR WORKSHOP—Come on down to the farm to learn how to manage your flock sustainably. Chicken tractors are mobile chicken coops that keep your birds happy by allowing them to have access to new pasture. 9-11 a.m. \$20, \$15 MVM members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

GUIDED HIKES—Saturdays and Sundays. Journey through the park on a ranger-led hike. Please wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sun protections. 3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle.

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MUDDERS MOTHER'S DAY SALE—The Potters' Guild of Las Cruces. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 615 E Piñon, 524-1146.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE—See May 2. Through May 5. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Center for the Arts, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

PLANT SALE—Featuring a variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers. All of the plants are grown at the museum's greenhouse. Museum admission is not required for the plant sale only, but visitors are asked to check in at the front desk. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

BIRD WALKS—Saturdays. With members of local Audubon Society and park volunteers. No reservations needed, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring or borrow park binoculars. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming

CINCO DE MAYO—Parade, queen contest, mariachi contest, soloist contest, best dressed chihuahua contest, jalapeño eating contest, folklorico dancers. 9 a.m. Voiers Pit Park, N. Country Club Road, 546-2675.

DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Sundays. Come out and dance, socialize and have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

SUNDAY

CINCO DE MAYO
5 Silver City/Grant County
5 DE MAYO TARDEADA—The first annual community celebration will feature food vendors and live bands. Grant County Chicano Music Project and Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber. 1-7 p.m. Free. Historic Downtown Silver City, 538-4332.

SPINNING AND KNITTING DEMONSTRATIONS—1-2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

SPRING FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CRAFTS—See May 3. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Pinos Altos Gallery, Hearst Church.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Gila Monster Road Race. 590-2612, touroffhegila.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

GUIDED HIKES—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MESILLA VALLEY CHORALE—Spring concert: "Let It Shine." Sacred selections, spirituals and pops favorites. 3-5 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE—See May 2. 2 p.m. \$10-15. NMSU Center for the Arts, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Deming

OPEN HOUSE—Performing Arts Foundation. 7 p.m. Old Train Depot Auditorium, 217 N. Country Club Road, 694-1666.

MONDAY

6 Silver City/Grant County
SOMEWHERE IN NEW MEXICO

BEFORE THE END OF TIME—Independent film shown for the first time in New Mexico. The film's primary subject, Dr. Guy McPherson, is a resident of Grant County. Since leaving his tenured professor position at the University of Arizona in Tucson, he and a few others have built an off-the-grid, permaculture homestead showcased in the film. Other people who are activists and community builders/members also living in Grant County are interviewed in the film. 6:30 p.m. \$6, \$2 students. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St., 574-8497.

ANIMAL FRIENDS OF NEW MEXICO—Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. Silver City Food Co-Op, 534-1024 or 538-1370.

TUESDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County
GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—Nationally recognized expert Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.



Everybody gets in on the biking action during the Tour of the Gila's Citizen Races on May 5. (Photo: Mitch Clinton, www.clinton-photo.com)

WEDNESDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County
SEAN LUCY—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FILM LAS CRUCES—Trailers for locally made films are screened alongside short films by student filmmakers, followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and industry news as it pertains to our area. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

YOUR DAY SELF MASTERY CONVERSATION—Wednesdays. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County
GREEN DRINKS—Green Chamber of Commerce. 5:30-7 p.m. Shevek & Co., 602 N. Bullard St. 538-4332.

MEETING MASTERY—With Sunny Yates. Discover what is possible when meetings actually work! 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25. The Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St., 534-0665 x231.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING—Roger Dombrowski will present "Oil & Gas from Shale? Why, How, Opportunity/Risk, Pro & Con." He will describe the oil industry positions as well as the risks associated with this technology. Potluck and rock draw. Bring your dishes. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs, DJ Mike D'Arcy. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL COOKING CLASS—Featuring easy and delicious ways to incorporate turmeric into your diet. 5-6 p.m. \$3, MVM free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

LIFE ON THE RANCH—Museum volunteer Neil Fuller delivers a first-hand account of what it was like to grow up on his grandparents' cattle ranch in southwestern New Mexico from 1947-67. He will talk about the history of the ranch, going back to the early 1900s, and the challenges his ancestors faced, as well as describing the daily and seasonal tasks that were required. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

MISS SHEVAUGH & YUMA WRAP—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE SHADOW BOX—Through May 11. Las Cruces High School presents. The play, which won the 1977 Tony Award for Best Play and 1977 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, takes place over 24 hours, in three separate vacation cabins on the grounds of a large US hospital. Within the three cabins are three patients, Joe, Brian and Felicity, living with their respective families as they have reached the end of their treatment and have agreed to be part of a psychological scheme where they live within the hospital grounds and have interviews with a psychiatrist. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

FRIDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County
2013 MEMBERS ONLY SHOW—Exhibit opening, Grant County Art Guild. 5:30-7 p.m. Pinos Altos Gallery, Hearst Church.

BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

HI LO SILVERS—Also May 12. Spring Concert. Directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on string bass, the chorus will sing old favorites and songs from Broadway and film. 7 p.m. Free. First Presbyte-

rian Church, 1915 N. Swan St.

MOTHER'S DAY

SALE—Also May 11. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Kate Brown Pottery & Tile Studio & Showroom, follow signs on Royal John Mine Road, Mimbres. 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com.

THE BUS TAPES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A CELTIC CIRCLE—Mesilla Valley Teen Singers. This spring's concert features a wide variety of music with Irish and Scottish origins, from jigs to ballads and folklore. 7 p.m. Free. University Presbyterian Church, 2010 Wisconsin Ave., mesillavalleyteensingers.blogspot.com.

CARE MOTHER'S DAY DANCE—Phat Soul. 6:30-11 p.m. \$20-\$200. Beverly Hills Hall, 680-5922, carelas-cruces.org.

EMPEROR—Through May 16. As the Japanese surrender at the end of WWII, Gen. Fellers is tasked with deciding if Emperor Hirohito will be hanged as a war criminal. Influencing his ruling is his quest to find Aya, an exchange student he met years earlier in the US. Stars Tommy Lee Jones, Matthew Fox, Eriko Hatsume. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Main St.

OUT OF THE BOX—Sam Peters. Pro-Artists Series. Artist reception. 6-8 p.m. Adobe Patio Gallery, 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 532-9310.

THE SHADOW BOX—See May 9. Through May 11. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SATURDAY

11 Silver City/Grant County
SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Opening day. Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, off N. Bullard at 7th St. 654-4104.

CRAFT CLASS: TREASURE BEAD NECKLACE—For crafters age 8 and older. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

MOTHER'S DAY COUPON BOOK—Also May 12. Craft for children. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING—New Mexico Wine, *An Enchanting History* by Donna Blake Birchell. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

MOTHER'S DAY SALE—10 a.m.-5 p.m. Kate Brown Pottery & Tile Studio & Showroom, follow signs on Royal John Mine Road, Mimbres. 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com.

THE BUS TAPES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SECOND SATURDAY BOOK SALE—Kids get a book free if it contains the word or color "yellow." Friends of the Silver City Library. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1510 Market St.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY ABOUT YOU—Workshop with Gaye Rock. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. Rock Center, 413 N. Bullard St., 956-5200, www.gayerock.com.

DIA DE SANTA RITA—Release of specialty wine, "Born in Space," in tribute to all those born in Santa Rita. Talks and music. Food. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, Mimbres, (505) 259-9523, laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

HIKE AND OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT—Hike and screening of "Planet Earth: Deserts." Please bring a flashlight. 7 p.m. Free. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 524-3334, asombro.org.

HYMN 4 HER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SINGING OUT SPRING CONCERT—Also May 12. Singing Out is a local chorus of singers from all walks of life who come together to make an impact on the community through song. From their lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgen-

EVENTS continued on next page



Sat. May 4th, 11AM - 12:30PM
Tour of the Gila Expo - Morningstar parking lot
Buckhorn Saloon - Wed. May 15th and Fri. May 31st
Silver City Blues Fest - Sunday May 26th, 12 PM
New original CD coming soon - WE GO BY FEEL
CD release party June 29th at the Opera House
theoversouls.com • youtube.com/theoversouls



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A show about earthly matters that impact us all!

Brought to you by:
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SILVER CITY MUSEUM

Thursday, May 2, 12 pm to 1 pm - **Brown Bag program: An Armchair Tour of Boston Hill** with Jose A. Ray Jr.

Saturday, May 4, 2 pm to 3 pm - Tour of the Gila Children's Activities in the Museum Courtyard

Sunday, May 5, 1 pm to 2 pm - **Spinning and Knitting Demonstrations**

Saturday, May 11, 10 am to 12 pm - **Craft Class: Treasure Bead Necklace**
For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5 - Pre-registration encouraged.

Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, 10 am to 4 pm - **Free Mother's Day Coupon Book for children to complete**

Saturday, May 11, 2 pm to 3 pm - **Presentation and Book Signing: New Mexico Wine, An Enchanting History** by Donna Blake Birchell

Sunday, May 12, 12 pm to 2 pm - **Mother's Day - Make a children's hand print keepsake - Free!**

Saturday, May 18, 2 pm to 3 pm - **Presentation and Book Signing: Catherine's Son: The Story of a Boy Who Became an Outlaw** by Jim Smith

Saturday, May 25, 10 am to 11 am - **Bilingual Storytelling: Abuelita's Heart** with Maria Vigil

Saturday, June 1, 10 am to 12 noon - **Adobe Dynamics 101: A Public Meeting on Adobe and Stonework Preservation** by Jake Barrow of Cornerstones Community Partnerships of Santa Fe

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City NM, call 575-538-5921, or click www.silvercitymuseum.org

EVENTS continued

der and allies' base, Singing Out uses the power of music to entertain, heal and inspire the community to respect and value the differences of all people. Spring concert is entitled "Broadway Backwards." 7 p.m. \$10. Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave.

THE SHADOW BOX—See May 9. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Deming

STUDIO LeMARBE—Featuring tiles and sculpture. Open house. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Studio LeMarbe, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

SUNDAY

MOTHER'S DAY
12 Silver City/Grant County
Hi Lo SILVERS—See May 10. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St.

MOTHER'S DAY COUPON BOOK—Craft for children. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org. Also May 12.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT—Make a children's handprint keepsake. 12-2 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SINGING OUT SPRING CONCERT—See May 11. 3 p.m. \$10. Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Deming

HILLSBORO ARTS—Deming Arts Council Reception. 1 a.m. 100 S. Gold, demingarts.orbs.com.

HILLSBORO HARD ROAD TRIO—3-5 p.m. \$5. Hillsboro Community Center.

MONDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County
WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Ginger Husby from Deming will speak about adoption and foster child care. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 537-3643.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PHOTOJOURNALIST—Talk by Robin Zielinski. 7 p.m. Good Samaritan Las Cruces Village auditorium, 3011 Vida Circle, lcpres-women.blogspot.com.

TUESDAY

14 Silver City/Grant County
ENERGY MEDICINE AND ESSENTIAL OILS—Also May 16. With Allee Anabal. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

TOM FOSTER MORRIS & FRIENDS—6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY

15 Silver City/Grant County
THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BLESSING OF THE FIELDS—Annual historical tradition. The colorful, music-filled procession around the museum's campus to bless the animals and field will be led by Bishop Oscar Cantú. 10-11 a.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranch-museum.org.

YOURDAY SELFMASTERY CONVERSATION—7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County
ENERGY MEDICINE AND ESSENTIAL OILS—With Allee Anabal. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A NEW HOPE FOR FIBROMYALGIA: THE UPPER CERVICAL OPTION—Learn what upper cervical care is, how it works, and how it can be a drugless option to help deal with fibromyalgia, as it has for some. Local chiropractor Dr. Tapiwa Chiwawa. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder Septet. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP

—Come to the very first meeting of the Vegan Support Group. Meetings thereafter will take place the third Thursday of each month. This is open to vegans and those who are curious about the vegan lifestyle. 7-8 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY

17 Silver City/Grant County
BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

BROOMDUST CARAVAN—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com/

NEW MEXICO MUSIC SERIES—Jerry Joseph and Walter Salas Humara. Steve Drizos. 7 p.m. \$12. Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

POCKET SKETCHING—Through May 19. Class with Kath Macauley. Ideal for beginners, the class will show how to journal anywhere using only a small art pad, pen, small paint set, a brush and a film canister of water. Register online. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$200. Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 15 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, leybaingallsarts.com/classes.html.

ANIMAL COMMUNICATION—Through May 19. Workshop with Gaye Rock. \$225. Rock Center, 413 N. Bullard St., 956-5200, www.gayerock.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AN EVENING WITH THE ARTIST—J. Carlos West. 5-8 p.m. Creative Harmony Gallery & Gifts, 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040.

Las Cruces COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL—Festival through May 19. VIP reception and concert. 4:30-10 p.m. \$50 weekend pass, \$20 per day before May 15. La Placita and at Las Cruces Ave., 522-1232, lccountryfest.com.

LORE—Through May 23. As the Allies sweep across Germany, Lore leads her siblings on a journey that exposes them to the truth of their parents' beliefs. An encounter with a mysterious refugee forces Lore to rely on a person she has always been taught to hate. Directed by Cate Shortland. In German with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Main St.

STEVE SMITH AND THE HARD ROAD TRIO—7:30 p.m. \$15, \$12 advance. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SATURDAY

18 Silver City/Grant County
PHOENIX BOYS CHOIR—The 29-member choir showcases a diverse selection of both sacred and secular music from Johann Bach, Benjamin Britten and Alan Menken including well-known favorites like "Route 66," "Over the Rainbow," "For the Beauty of the Earth" and a tribute medley to Broadway. Special Grant County Community Concert Association presentation. 7 p.m. \$5. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-5862, gconcerts.org.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Main-street Plaza, off N. Bullard at 7th St. 654-4104.

BROOMDUST CARAVAN—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGN-



The Silver City Museum offers kids' crafting classes May 11 and 12.

ING—Catherine's Son: The Story of a Boy Who Became an Outlaw by Jim Smith. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—Field trip announced at monthly meeting. Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society, 388-2010, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

SILVER CITY H'ART SISTERS EXHIBIT—Opening reception. The watercolors, acrylics, oils, colored pencils, ink drawings, textiles, photography and digital image transfers of mother, Karen Muench, and daughter, B.J. Allen; aunt, Nancy Wachholz and niece, Mariah Walker; and painting friends, Carolyn Paez and Donna Schmidt, will be on display. 2-4 p.m. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244, bayardpubliclibrary.org.

ARTISANS OF THE MIMBRES SPRING FESTIVAL—Painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, solar art, live music, prose and poetry readings, winemaking art, culinary art and nature's art. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Roundup Lodge, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery. 574-7119, 536-2997, www.mimbresartists.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DESERT BABY-WEARERS—Learn about safe and comfortable baby-wearing, practice new methods, try different carriers and meet other baby-wearers at this monthly meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Las Cruces COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL—Through May 19. Songwriters workshop. A unique opportunity for aspiring songwriters to hear firsthand how to craft a hit song. Anchored by Tommy Lee James. 1:30-3 p.m. at Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall. Second concert, 6-10 p.m., at Las Cruces Ave. \$50 weekend pass, \$20 per day before May 15. 522-1232, lccountryfest.com.

NEW HORIZONS SYMPHONY—Dvorak "Symphony No. 8 in G Major," Beethoven "Piano Concerto No. 5." 3 p.m. Free. NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall.

SHADY REST BAND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Columbus
HERITAGE PRESERVATION MONTH—Take a brief ranger-guided walking tour of the historic sites of Pancho Villa State Park and the Village of Columbus where Pancho Villa's forces raided and were repelled by the US Army Camp at Columbus in 1916. Be sure to stop and read our recently refurbished historic markers. 11 a.m. Pancho Villa State Park, 531-2711.

Deming
MIKE MOUTOUX—Cowboy singer-songwriter/poet entertains with a variety of songs and cowboy poetry, much of it based on his work around New Mexico. 6-8 p.m. Rockhound State Park, Hwy. 143, friendsofrockhound.org.

Rodeo
CHIRICAHUA GALLERY SPRING SHOW—Opening reception. The show will feature the gallery's many expert fiber artists as well as new works by over 20 member artists. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Chiricahua Gallery, Pine St. & Hwy. 80, 557-2225, chiricahuagallery.org.

SUNDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County
EARLY SUNDAY DINNER—The Bridge Community. The Gila Highland-

ers will provide entertainment. 5 p.m. \$10. First United Methodist Church, 300 W. College Ave.

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—Field trip to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range. Those attending must sign a release-of-liability form and will receive a list of native plants in the hike area. Hikers are asked to bring water, lunch, a hat and sunscreen and to wear good hiking shoes. 8 a.m. South parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater, 388-5192, gilapns.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOBOS—15th Anniversary of lobos in the wild Gila. Music, kids activities, cake, sodas and other goodies. Guest speaker Dave Parsons. 2 p.m. Free. Little Walnut East Picnic Area.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LAS CRUCES COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL—Country brunch 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Unplugged concert 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Western Fashion Show 12 p.m. \$50 weekend pass, \$20 per day before May 15. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarman-dranchmuseum.org. 522-1232, lccountryfest.com.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

CONTAINER GARDENING—Learn the basics of container gardening with herbs with Jimmy Zabriske of Robledo Vista Nursery: sunlight, temperature and water requirements; how and when to re-pot and harvest; and organic growing options. The cost of the class includes one potted herb, and the selection of herbs will vary. Additional herbs and edible plants will be available for purchase. 6-7 p.m. \$10, \$8 MVM members Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TUESDAY

21 Silver City/Grant County READY! SET! GO!—The Wind Canyon Fire Station in partnership with the Wind Canyon Neighborhood Watch offers a fire preparedness program, including the evacuation of pets and ranch animals. 6 p.m. Wind Canyon Fire Station, 8 Truck By-Pass Road, 644-8859, redholly@rocket-mail.com.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

22 Silver City/Grant County PETER & MICHELE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR—End of year performance. 7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

YOURDAY SELFMASTERY CONVERSATION—7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

23 Silver City/Grant County HEALTH TALK—"Healthy Salads" with Chef Lyle Bolyard. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Space limited, call to reserve. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room, 538-4870, www.grmc.org.

SPRING MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY—Silver City Food Co-Op, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, www.silvercity-foodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM—On this special evening at the Museum, the exhibits will come to life. Encounter characters who step out of photographs, paintings and vignettes and learn about New Mexico history as you listen to stories and interact with an interesting array of people. Celebrate the end of the school year during this first-time, family event. 7-10 p.m. \$3, 10 and under free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarman-dranchmuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs, DJ Mike D'Arcy. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

FATIGO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

White Sands

FULL MOON HIKES—Hike the moonlit dunes and with a ranger. Reservations are required and accepted

two weeks in advance of the hike. 8 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

FRIDAY

24 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY BLUES FEST KICK-OFF DANCE—The Memphis P-Tails. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$12. Buffalo Dance Hall. www.mimbresarts.org.

BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

JOE & VICKI PRICE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

KATE AND RUSSELL MOTT—Exhibit reception. Pottery. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Main St.

No—Through May 30. An ad executive comes up with a campaign to defeat Augusto Pinochet in Chile's 1988 referendum. Directed by Pablo Larraín. In Spanish with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY

25 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY BLUES FEST—Austin Jimmy Murphy, Bob Andrews, Felix y Los Gatos, Mississippi Heat, Tommy Castro and The Painkillers. 12:15-9 p.m. Free. Gough Park. Performers Jam 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$12. Buffalo Dance Hall. www.mimbresarts.org.

ART FOR YOUR YARD—Mark Bowen. Opening reception. 3-6 p.m. Copper Quail Gallery, 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

BILINGUAL STORYTELLING—"Abuelita's Heart" with Maria Vigil. 10-11 a.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

FT. BAYARD WILDERNESS RUN—K & 8.14 mile trail runs start at Old Ft. Bayard Parade Grounds. This year's long race is being billed as the New Mexico State Metric Half-Marathon Masters Championship. 8 a.m. \$15. Ft. Bayard Historical Landmark, 574-2902, zianet.com/ftbayardrun.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

JOE & VICKI PRICE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Main-street Plaza, off N. Bullard at 7th St. 654-4104.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—Through May 27. Visitors can sample wine from the many New Mexico wineries as well as enjoy live entertainment and local vendors. Music: 12 p.m. Fast Lane, 3 p.m. Play Me. Daily 12-6 p.m. \$15 adult with valid photo ID, under 21 free with parent or legal guardian. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, snmwinefestival.com.

STEFAN GEORGE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

VEIL TRICKS AND DRUM HIPPS—Belly dancing workshop with Kareesha Wilow. 12:45-3 p.m. \$25 advance, \$30 door. La Buena Vida Jazercise, 3217 Camino de Real, 644-4156.

SWAPMEET AND HAFLA—Open dancing, snacks. 4-6 p.m. \$5. La Buena Vida Jazercise, 3217 Camino de Real, 644-4156.

SUNDAY

26 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY BLUES FEST—The Oversouls, Chris Dracup & Hillary Smith, Maria Muldaur & the Red Hot Bluesiana Band, Corey Harris and the Rasta Blues Experience. 12-6:30 p.m. Free. Gough Park. www.mimbresarts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

MAYOR'S JAZZ FESTIVAL—The NMSU Jazz Quartet, Billy Townes with special guest Michael Herndon, John Tank with Song of Hope. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—Through May 27. See May 25. Music: 12 p.m. Matt Morgan, Chris Baker and Rein Garcia. 3 p.m. Lauren Ellis. Daily 12-6 p.m. \$15 adult with valid photo ID, under 21 free with parent or legal guardian. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232,

snmwinefestival.com.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

MONDAY

MEMORIAL DAY 27 Silver City/Grant County FORT BAYARD CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM—About 20 actors will portray special people buried there. 4-7 p.m. Fort Bayard Cemetery.

MEMORY LANE LIVE—Memorial Day Chautauqua style program. Meet in person those characters, both famous and infamous, who contributed to the development of southwest New Mexico. Town and Country Garden Club. 4-7 p.m. Donation. Memory Lane Cemetery.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—See May 25. Music: 12 p.m. Unlyshed. 3 p.m. Guitar Slim. Daily 12-6 p.m. \$15 adult with valid photo ID, under 21 free with parent or legal guardian, \$3 discount for active duty military with valid photo ID. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, snmwinefestival.com.

TUESDAY

28 Silver City/Grant County TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB—Meeting. "Ft. Bayard Past and Future" presented by Cecelia Bell. 1 p.m. Ft. Bayard Historical Landmark. 388-1705.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

29 Silver City/Grant County EMBRACING SOCIAL MEDIA: 7 BENEFITS FOR YOUR NONPROFIT—Brown Bag with Derek Markham. 12-1 p.m. \$10. The Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St., 534-0665 x231.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LAS CRUCES CLARINET CHOIR—6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

YOURDAY SELFMASTERY CONVERSA-



Karen Beckenback will introduce the Audubon Society's new Citizen Science Project, "Hummingbirds @ Home," May 3 at WNMU's Harlan Hall.

TION—7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Deming

FRIENDS OF ROCKHOUND STATE PARK—Board meeting, general meeting and program. 9 a.m. Rockhound State Park, Hwy. 143.

THURSDAY

30 Silver City/Grant County BUSINESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP—The Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber, Silver City MainStreet Project and PNM will share information about energy efficiency and funding opportunities for local businesses. 1:30-4 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silco-theater.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Ron Thielman's High Society Orchestra. Spring Prom. Formal/semi-formal. Finger-food. No dance lesson. 8-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARDS GALA—Presented by Doña Ana Arts Council. 6-9:30 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ERNESTO TINAJERO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.



Tommy Lee Jones stars as Gen. Douglas MacArthur in *Emperor*, May 10-16 at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla.

FRIDAY

31 Silver City/Grant County BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

GREASE—Opening night for the popular 1950s-set musical. Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

TERRA NOVA—Through June 16. By Ted Tally directed by Algernon D'Amassa. This drama explores the character of Robert Falcon Scott ("Scott of the Antarctic") in the final, fatal days of his 1911-12 expedition to the South Pole. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

TO THE WONDER—Through June 6. After visiting Mont Saint-Michel, Marina and Neil come to Oklahoma, where problems arise. Marina meets a priest and fellow exile, who is struggling with his vocation, while Neil renews his ties with a childhood friend, Jane. Directed by Terrence Malick. Stars Ben Affleck, Olga Kurylenko, Rachel McAdams. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

JUNE

SATURDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County ADOBE DYNAMICS 101—A public meeting on adobe and stonework preservation by Jake Barrow of Cornerstones Community Partnerships of Santa Fe. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY—Three-mile guided hike or guided bike ride. 10 a.m. Dragonfly Trailhead, Arenas Valley Road & Elias Road. Dr. Richard Kozall on how trails enhance life, noon at Cobre Performing Arts Center. Free. 538-8078, Andrew@gilaresources.info.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Main-street Plaza, off N. Bullard at 7th St. 654-4104.

ANGELS 101—Workshop with Gaye Rock. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$25. Rock Center, 413 N. Bullard St., 956-5200, www.gayerock.com.

YARD SALE—8 a.m.-4 p.m. United Methodist Church, 300 College Ave.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

JENNINGS & KELLER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

TERRA NOVA—See May 31. Through June 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

WATER HARVESTING AND IRRIGATION WORKSHOP—MVM Farm Manager Lori Garton. Learn the basics of making the most of our limited water resources here in the southwest desert. Water harvesting is a simple tool to conserve water. For those who seek a more substantial resource to irrigate their crops sustainably, find out about

drip irrigation and how it can save water while also reducing weeds and strengthening your plants. 9-11 a.m. \$20, \$15 mVM Members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Rd., 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

TUESDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

THURSDAY

6 Las Cruces / Mesilla TERRA NOVA—See May 31. Through June 16. 7 p.m. \$7. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

FRIDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County BIKE-IN MOVIES—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Donation. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

TERRA NOVA—See May 31. Through June 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223.

SATURDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Main-street Plaza, off N. Bullard at 7th St. 654-4104.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays, Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, Gila. 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

MULLIGANS FORE MUTTS—AC-Tion Programs for Animals. Come play golf for animals. 7 a.m. \$100-\$500. RedHawk Golf Club, www.golfdigestplanner/23128-Mulligans_Fore_Mutts, 621-4942.

TERRA NOVA—See May 31. Through June 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223.

SUNDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR—Evergreen Garden Club. Tickets at Silver Heights Nursery, Ambank, Alotta Gelato, Mimbres Farms. 1-5 p.m. \$5. 388-1324.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

TERRA NOVA—See May 31. Through June 16. 2:30 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or NEW—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.



BEFORE YOU GO:

Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.

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Pet Dental Health

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We all know that our teeth are important. We even visit our dentist regularly to have teeth cleanings and oral exams. Keeping our teeth clean is vital to our health and well-being, and that is no different for our pets.

"Ideally, you should brush your pet's teeth daily," states Dr. Johnathon Dodd, clinical professor at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Make sure you are using special toothpaste that is made for pets and is safe for them to swallow. They cannot spit or rinse like we do, so our pets need specific kinds of toothpaste that is not harmful if ingested."

Having your pet's teeth inspected and cleaned is an important responsibility many owners overlook. This seemingly slight slip of your pet's dental care could be causing serious problems in your pet's mouth.

Gum disease is the most common disease occurring in pets today. It results from the build-up of soft dental plaque on the surfaces of the teeth around the gums. The bacteria in dental plaque irritate the gum tissue if it accumulates, which leads to infection in the bone surrounding the teeth.

After plaque has formed hard dental tartar, calcium salts from saliva that has been deposited on

plaque begins to grow. If the surface of the tooth does not stay clean, tartar begins to form within a few days.

The un-brushed tooth provides a surface that boosts further plaque accumulation. If plaque is allowed to accumulate, tartar is difficult to remove without dental instruments.

For our pets, gum disease means bad breath and painful, irritated gums that can lead to bleeding, loss of appetite, and the loss of teeth if the roots have been affected.

There is also the possibility that the bacteria surrounding the root of the tooth gain access to the bloodstream, which can lead to microscopic damage of the heart, liver and kidneys. As the severity of the gum disease increases, so does the damage.

The best way to ward off potential oral disease in your pet is by keeping your pet's teeth clean and checkups regular.

Your veterinarian and local pet retail stores should carry toothbrushes and toothpaste for your pets. Different flavors of toothpastes are available for dog and cats.

"Your pet needs to get their teeth cleaned yearly," says Dodd. "Most veterinary clinics should offer dental cleaning services, but if they do not they can refer you to someone who does."

To help ward off gum diseases and bad breath, there are products you can feed your pet that help improve and promote oral health.

"There are certain dog treats that help promote good dental health," said Dodd. "The right kind of treat should crumble, be easily crushed, and contain chlorhexadine or a hydrogen peroxide-type additive that can help with the bacteria count in the animal's mouth. Balancing this bacteria count can help prevent and get rid of bad breath."

A helpful guide to go by when considering your pet's oral health is the Veterinary Oral Health Council website. It has compiled a list of products that are intended to help reduce the buildup of plaque and tartar on the teeth of animals and have earned the VOHC seal of approval. To see the full list of VOHC-approved products, visit www.vohc.org.

Brushing your pet's teeth, taking them for a yearly visit to the dentist, and giving them VOHC-approved products are all ways that you can help make sure your pet has a clean and healthy mouth.

Gardening and Pet Safety

Spring is the season for being outdoors. For many that means slipping on rubber boots and gloves, grabbing a shovel, and planting seeds in the hope of an ample garden in the near future. While preparing your plot, it's important to take steps to ensure that it's safe for your pets to enjoy as well.

"When planting your garden it is important to note that there are numerous house and garden plants which can be toxic to animals," says James Barr, assistant professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Some include brunfelsia, oleander and even lilies."

Brunfelsia, also known as the "yesterday, today and tomorrow" plant, causes convulsive seizures in dogs. Cycads, low-growing palm trees used indoors and outdoors, are toxic to the liver of dogs and they trend to chew on the roots.

"When the liver is contaminated, the dog's body stops producing the normal clotting factors and the dog starts bleeding excessively. This can progress to the point where the dog bleeds to death," says Barr.

While brunfelsia and cycads have not been known to cause problems in cats, lilies are especially harmful to them. Once ingested, cats develop symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and depression, and will stop eating altogether.

"Once ingested, the cat must be treated by a veterinarian, preferably within 24 hours and not later than 48 hours," says Barr. "The toxin(s) present in the lilies are very toxic to the kidneys."

Kolanchoe is a house plant that is known to be toxic. It contains a chemical that is similar to the human heart medication, digoxin.

"The garden plant oleander also contains digoxin-like compounds. Both kolanchoe and oleander can be toxic to all animals, including dogs and cats, if ingested," says Barr.

Spring is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Taking the time to make sure that everything you put in your yard is safe for your pet will ensure this time is special for the entire family.

Scrap the Table Scraps?

If you find yourself with a fridge full of leftovers, you may figure this means a few less trips to the store for pet food. While sharing lunch with your four-legged friend is possible, owners should realize that your pet has particular dietary restrictions it must follow to guarantee that it stays happy and healthy.

"People enjoy sharing food with their pets; it is part of the bonding process," says Deb Zoran, DVM, associate professor at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "But proper control of the types and amounts of food pets are served is crucial for its safety."

"For example, a diet too high in fats can very dangerous for dogs, even causing such problems as diarrhea or in severe cases pancreatitis," Zoran says. "The additional calories found in average table foods can also lead to obesity problems in your



A common plant in warmer parts of the Southwest, the oleander is poisonous to dogs and cats.

pet if not controlled."

These problems arise not from the food itself, as whole foods such as meat and potatoes are very nutritious and well digested, but from the many spices added and the food not being in the proper balance for the pet.

"The food itself is perfectly good for our pets," Zoran says. "If owners want to feed 'human food,' and are willing to follow prescribed recipes set up by a nutritionist, then it is an excellent way to meet their nutritional needs."

Choosing to feed your pet in this fashion also leaves the owner with the responsibility for meeting their pet's proper nutritional needs, which are different for dogs and cats. Chicken is an excellent and frequently used meat source to feed pets, with the fat removed for dogs and left in place for cats.

"Generally, high fat things are potentially very problematic for dogs, while cats don't need carbs in their diets at all," Zoran says. "Spices and seasonings, especially onions, capsaicin and other additives, are all potentially problematic in your pet food as well." ❁

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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Chow Down

Dry dip, unhealthy bottled water and Frankenstein chips.

As well-fed Americans, we tend to pack an amazing array of chow into our meat holes. Many so-called "doctors" like to alarm us by claiming all the things we most enjoy eating are horribly bad for us, but I reject their screwy "science." If animal fats, salt, sugar and nitrates are so bad for us, then why do they taste so darned good? Sure, we can eat ourselves to death, but it should be via the classic routes of coronary failure or a good ol' diabetic seizure, not by the prevalence of fashionably designed foodstuffs.

See, there was a day when real men died from crappy diets that made this nation what it is today. Many a 48-year-old man executed a flawless swan-dive into immortality after polishing off a three-pound ribeye steak smothered in butter, bleu cheese and cigarette butts. A meal like that needed bourbon and a baked potato loaded with sour cream, cheese, salt, more butter and bonus lard. These men had drum-tight, calcified bellies of emulsified animal fat, with blood pressure sufficient to operate a hydraulic crane. They died young, but they died well.

However, if foodies want to commit suicide by stuffing their skull-caves in today's world, they're going to have to resort to some of the stupidest packaged foods ever offered a glazed-eyed public. More than just containing a plethora of chemicals better suited for embalming a mastodon, which they undoubtedly would do, there are certain food items being offered the American public that are working under the assumption that your brain is already dead.

Take, for example, Hamilton House Roasted Red Bell Pepper & Goat Cheese Dip Mix. The convenience of just whipping something like this into a vat of sour cream is lazy enough, but the package contains a very important disclaimer that sort of renders the entire point moot: "Just add 2 red peppers and 4 oz. goat cheese." Which, coincidentally, are the two very ingredients most snackers would be missing if they wanted to buy a ready-made dip mix.

Another concoction the world doesn't need is "vitaminwater," a drink that makes one of the world's healthiest beverages (water) less so by giving it a name that makes it sound so while shoveling in enough sugar to make it not so. In fact, the corporation that makes "vitaminwater" (which shall remain anonymous to protect this paper from spurious litigation, but which we'll refer to as "Coca-Cola" for the purpose of slander) defends the wholly unhealthy beverage by claiming that "no consumer could reasonably be misled into thinking vitaminwater was a healthy beverage." You

know, except for the word "vitamin." And "water." Sure, I could talk about spray pancake batter that spews sticky goop with a faint taste of nitrous oxide right onto your griddle, or marvel about the barbecued-chicken-sandwich-in-a-can I recently saw on a WalMart shelf (where I'm sure it remains today, redolent in its post-apocalyptic zombie-like cylinder). But that would only detract from the most egregious food category that continues to find new and novel ways to make the rest of the world hate us: chips.

I recently was exposed to a new Lay's potato chip claiming a "waffles and chicken" flavor, the most unholy of flavor mash-ups since my high-school friend Shaun used to dip his tater tots in his milkshake. Placing this potato chip on my tongue was like licking a hobo's armpit. It made me want to shave my tongue. I have no idea why we need any chip flavors more exotic than salty or saltier.

Of course, Frito-Lay didn't get the memo, either. Originally, Doritos tortilla chips were snacking perfection, so of course they had to be futzed with. What was once a wonderful chip embarked on a mission to introduce a multitude of flavors, turning Doritos into a sodium-rich Hydra with heads made out of nacho cheese, ranch dressing and salsa verde.

But the marketing pinheads who make flavor dust have gone off the rails with their latest creation. See, Doritos made a tortilla chip that begat Doritos Nacho flavor, which was then abducted by Taco Bell and begat the Taco Bell Doritos Locos Tacos. Now, Doritos wants a piece of Taco Bell's action, and is offering a new flavor called—I'm not making this up—Doritos Taco Bell Locos Tacos-flavored Doritos. It's the chip inspired by the taco inspired by the chip. And it tastes like meat, which is wrong on so many levels.

This is the kind of gastronomical tomfoolery that makes my head—and stomach—hurt. While I can appreciate the wonders of modern science in our food industry, and clever packaging and bright colors, I'm not sure I need my food this synthesized. As an enlightened man, I do try to eat better and I understand why a diet of scotch and medium-rare beef is not a good idea. But I can't believe that food designed in committee is what my body craves, either. ❄

Henry Lightcap dips his chips in Las Cruces.



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- Free Trail Guide

*Dragonfly Trailhead is at the corner of Arenas Valley Road and Elias Road

For Information contact Andrew Lindlof at (575) 538-8078 or by email andrew@gilaresources.info

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Bee Wise

What's the buzz about spring's flower and fruit-tree visitors?

Making the trek from our house to the gas grill out back lately has felt like a walk through some 1950s horror movie—*Attack of the Bees*. Not that the bees actually attack; they just buzz around the flowers on our fruit trees. So I guess this spring has been more like *Invasion of the Bees* or *Really a Lot of Scary Buzzing and Close Calls with Bees*, which I doubt would have played as well at drive-ins.

In any case, for much of last month we could hear the bees in the backyard all the way from the house. Their busy buzzing was a sort of white-noise background to whatever we might be doing: “Do you (buzz) want any (buzz) more coffee

tree blossoms by hand? I wouldn't even know enough about fruit trees' sex lives to get it right. (“I'm so sorry, sir, I thought you were a ma'am! Is that a stamen or a pistil or are you just glad to see me?”)

So, for the record, I am NOT complaining about our springtime bee invasion, however much excitement it may add to the chore of grilling kabobs for dinner. (In case of duress, I figure I can duel the little buggers, matching my pointy kabobs with their stingers.)

Nonetheless, bees and I do have a complicated history. While not exactly terrified of bees, I've had what you might call a “healthy respect” for them ever since early childhood. I managed to escape those years un-stung, thanks in part to the vivid lesson provided by the kid next door, a slightly older and thus more reckless (or, let's be honest, simply stupid) boy named Jeff. We weren't exactly friends, but were thrown together by gender and neighborhood proximity.

Apparently possessed of a brain smaller than that of a bee, Jeff decided it would be a good idea to catch bees in a jar. Despite his overall ineptitude, he finally succeeded at this and showed off the result to me, his agog acolyte freshly off my tricycle. And then of course he opened the jar for some reason—probably to torture his bee prisoner in some twisted boy-brained way—and inevitably the bee stung Jeff in the hand.

This taught me several valuable lessons, among which was that I didn't want to hang around with Jeff anymore.

Despite the usual boy-hood close calls of being swarmed (well, if two bees make a “swarm”) at swimming pools, picnics and other outdoor activities, I managed to grow up without being stung myself. The closest I came was actually from wasps, not bees, hanging around a fruit market when my parents took me on a summer trip to France. (All those years studying French finally paid off!) The whole market was like a spread-out wasps' nest, or so it seemed to me. Even today, when I hear “Paris,” instead of the Eiffel Tower I think of wasps. (And wine, of course. My parents were quite surprised at how I guzzled the wine that came with the *steak frites*—I'd finish off my mom's carafe, too. The wine-loving has stuck with me far better than all those semesters of conjugating verbs....)

Then, when we were living in Pittsburgh and had a magnolia-type tree that dominated the front yard (and kept any sort of meaningful grass from growing in the lumpy shade), a bee strayed from the tree blossoms into our car, parked in the driveway with a window down. The bee made itself at home on the back of my seat in the car, and did not take kindly to my blindly leaning back into it. I got stung, right in the middle of the back. The bee probably did not survive our encounter, but I was in no mood to offer condolences back at the hive.

Oddly, that very same summer was also the

first time our daughter got stung. We were visiting friends who had a cabin in the woods, and she traipsed past a hive in the ground. An occupant took exception to this intrusion and stung her right on the knuckle. Fortunately, neither she nor I proved allergic to bee stings. (How does one find that out, anyway, until it's too late?)

So don't tell me “bees won't bother you if you don't bother them”—although I guess being sat back upon might count as “bothering.” Nobody invited that bee into my car, though! And it's not as if our daughter went and kicked at the ground bees, or tried to catch them in a jar.

Bees, even the friendly, necessary, non-Africanized ones, can have a temper. They can get riled up at slights that you or I would react to simply by posting a rant on Facebook or sending out a Twitter message (“This big oaf stumbled all over our hive. Can U bee-lieve it?”). Lacking such outlets, apparently bees feel they must lash out. To the best of my knowledge, no amount of anger-management therapy has been shown to ameliorate this behavior in bees.

So, yes, I remain wary around bees, even as I appreciate their pollinating efforts. As spring turns into summer and bees begin swarming around the feeders clearly intended for hummingbirds (what do they need, a sign? “Hummingbirds Only?”), I will even get a tad annoyed at them. Don't make my chore of cleaning and refilling the hummingbird feeders any worse than it is! It's bad enough having the pesky little birds zoom at the window as if to signal, “Feeder's empty, stupid!”

Last summer, in fact, I unwittingly carried a sugar-water-besotted bee right into the house on board a hummingbird feeder taken in for cleaning and replenishing. Here's the thing: Once you realize you have brought a bee into the house, there's no turning back. You can try to reverse course and release the bee outside, but it's just as likely it will buzz free while still indoors, and then what?

Ruthlessly, I continued toward the sink, plotting to drown my groggy little passenger.

Just as I reached the faucet, however, the bee woke up or wised up and made a run for it (well, a fly for it). Fortunately (for me, not it), it was confused by our small bay window behind the sink, flying into it instead of into the rest of the house. Trapping it there, I cruelly sprayed it with Windex until it was soggy and flightless enough for me to murder.

Yes, I felt bad. That's one fewer bee to pollinate the planet.

Let's just hope that none of its family is out there on our fruit trees this spring, sporting a stinger with my name on it. I think it's probably too late to pin the crime on Jeff, the long-ago neighbor boy. ☘

David A. Fryxell edits Desert Exposure with his ears cocked for suspicious buzzing.



Careful, that tree might be loaded!

(buzz)?” And, as I say, going from the kitchen out to the grill (thankfully, screened in by my oh-so-handy wife) meant running a buzzing gauntlet. I know, the bees had plenty on their little minds—harvesting pollen from our fruit blossoms—besides bothering me. But still, the chances of a chance encounter such as smacking face-first into a bevy of distracted bees en route to the grill (me, I mean, since obviously bees can't hold grilling tongs) seemed too high for comfort. Would the smoke from the grill calm them, like beekeepers do, or just make them mad?

It did not make me feel better, besides, to read about an attack of Africanized killer bees the other day over in Sahuarita, near Tucson. Something like 50,000 bees were found inside a 250-pound honeycomb in this house after they attacked the family's two dogs, killing one. (Seriously, how could you not notice 50,000 bees in the attic of your house? “What's that buzzing, dear?” “It must be the fridge making funny noises again.” I actually did a newspaper story, years ago, on a house in Wisconsin similarly infested with bees—ordinary ones, thank goodness—and still recall how the honey literally dripped into the windowsills.)

I know our bees are not Africanized killer bees—*probably*—but how is one to know, exactly? Demand to see their tiny passports? Make them stop their buzzing and flitting to and fro long enough for a DNA test?

Having spoken of our bounty of bees to folks in town, moreover, we realized we should be grateful. In this era of “colony collapse disorder,” apparently not everybody hereabouts is enjoying an adequate supply of bees doing their buzzy work. Like so much in nature, we take bees for granted until suddenly they're gone. What do we do then—go out and pollinate 10 kazillion fruit-

Apparently possessed of a brain smaller than that of a bee, my friend Jeff decided it would be a good idea to catch bees in a jar.



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Gila Regional Medical Center Foundation
a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Saturday, June 15, 2013
Four-Person Scramble! at the Silver City Golf Course
located at 9 Golf Course Dr., Silver City, NM 88061

- **Two Hole-In-One Opportunities to win a Lawley Team Ford Vehicle!** See Facebook for more Info
- Longest Drive Contest!
- Closest-to-the-Hole Contest!
- **Post-Play Raffle and Lunch!**

Schedule:
7:00am Range Open
7:30am Breakfast
8:30am Shotgun Start
2:00pm (Approx.) Raffle & Lunch

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
For more Information contact Ashleigh Garcia at 575-538-4138, or e-mail to agarcia@grmc.org




Evergreen Garden Club's ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR



SUNDAY JUNE 9th 1 PM TO 5 PM

Proceeds benefit Grant County Area Charities

Tickets \$5.00 Available at } Silver Heights Nursery, AM Bank, Mimbres Farms Greenhouse & Nursery, Saturday Farmer's Market in Silver City, Alotta Gelato

For more information call (575) 388-1324

Main Office:
120 E. 11th St., Silver City, NM
Toll-free (866) 538-0404
Office (575) 538-0404
 www.prudentialsilvercity.com
 info@prudentialsilvercity.com



Silver City Properties

Patrick Conlin, Broker/Owner

Mimbres Office:
2991 Highway 35, Mimbres, NM
Toll-free (866) 538-0404
Office (575) 574-8798
 www.mimbresvalleyrealestate.com
 robin@prudentialsilvercity.com

Silver City's #1 Selling Office for 2012—157 Transactions—\$19.2M sold



MLS 29983 • \$340,000

Equestrian paradise. 2 homes 2 barns. Pristine condition. 5 Minutes to the University. This property has been lovingly maintained by one owner (horse lover) for the past 20 years! Hardwood and tile, kiva fireplace, immaculate grounds with flowering and fruit trees, horse set-up includes 4 stall barn, hay barn with trailer parking, round-pen, water, electricity. The guest house is a two bedroom one bath home that is in the same beautiful condition as the main house.



MLS 29998 • \$330,000

Custom log sided home at Lake Roberts on Gila National Forest boundary. Magnificent views of the red cliffs along the seasonal running Sapillo Creek. Soaring 27 foot tall knotty pine ceilings in the great room. Custom light fixtures. Kitchen features custom Southwest style cabinets, tile countertops and breakfast bar. Sit by the warm soapstone woodstove, soak in the hot tub or sun by the above ground pool. Oversized 2 car garage has insulated 640 sf workshop area. Just a short drive, walk or ride to recreation at Lake Roberts or explore nearby Spirit Canyon for pictographs. Unrestricted with horses allowed



MLS 29987 • \$285,000

Sunny, tidy, open, one owner home in the pines near Pinos Altos. Metal roof, stucco exterior, main level master with two separate bathrooms. Tile floors, pellet stove plus fireplace with wood burning insert, high ceilings, plenty of parking. Large deck with fantastic views south overlooking Silver City and mountains. End of the road privacy, tall pines, municipal water only minutes from hospital, businesses, shopping. Wildlife, hummingbirds, peace and quiet!



MLS 29992 • \$147,500

Charming home with New Mexico flavor. New stucco, metal roof, double pane windows and upgrades on the interior. Living room has a wood burning stove. Slate tile in the hallway. The sun room/artists work area. Bedrooms have no closets-office off the master would make a extra large dressing room/closet. French doors through out. Extra room for office or bedroom. Kitchen has red fir flooring, antique cabinet for spices and a hutch for dishes. Bathroom has marble flooring. On-demand water heater. Partial unfinished basement. Well house, block storage room, old barn with a corral and a carport with a work area.



MLS 29917 • \$217,000

Bordering national forest on two sides, this 1,568 sq.ft. 3Bd/2Ba manufactured home is set on 3.2 acres with exceptional views, tall trees, oversized garage/workshop with heating/cooling, greenhouse, carport, covered deck, storage building, garden area. Split floor plan, vaulted ceilings, central heat & refrig. air, pellet stove.



MLS 30000 • \$299,000

Hacienda style 3bd/3ba with 1bd full apartment, hobby room/art studio, workshop, & shared laundry all on 5 acres. Panoramic views from the Mogollon Mtns. all the way to Cook's Peak. Great covered outdoor areas with Saltillo tile, 2 car tandem garage, well with 3,000 gallon storage tank. Would make a super multi-generational living arrangement or possible income from the apartment.



MLS 29916 • \$189,900

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC HOME WITH DETACHED EFFICIENCY GUEST HOUSE. Two living areas in main home, two fireplaces (1 with pellet stove), high ceilings, wood floors, character. South-facing Sunroom with tile floors for passive solar heat, forced-air gas heat too. Walk to restaurants, galleries, coffee shops!



MLS 29915 • \$325,000

5 year old custom home on 5 acres with panoramic views & end of the road privacy. Active & Passive Solar design, southern exposure, outbuildings, front & rear covered patios plus rooftop deck. Ceramic tile floors with in-floor radiant heat. Split floor plan with large master suite, built-ins, walk-through closet, bonus room. In-house workshop & mudroom/laundry. Horses OK, minutes to town, and great night skies!



MLS 29973 • \$184,900

Centrally located in Silver City. Very comfortable southwest style home on a 1/4 acre lot that will be perfect for the working family or retiree. Just blocks from the hospital or schools and an easy 5 minutes to Walmart.



MLS 29996 • \$135,000

Perfect Lake Roberts getaway! Short walk, drive or ride to Lake Roberts and Gila National Forest. Very clean and well maintained. Living room features a woodstove. Kitchen appliances stay plus washer and dryer. Custom built-ins for both bedrooms; cabinet with reading lights in Master bedroom, murphy bed in guest room. Recent bathroom remodel. Covered porches. Mature landscaping and shade trees. 1 car oversized garage with storage and built in dog kennels. Two stall barn and pasture area. 2nd septic system for RV hookup.



MLS 29997 • \$35,000

Lot with a view in a rural subdivision. Nice level lot won't need much prep work. Property has a 12 x 24 Morgan building, water to property and a culvert in place. Great views mountains.



MLS 29995 • \$94,900

3bd/2ba ranch style centrally located on oversized lot. View out the back, storage underneath the home, 1 car carport attached. Fenced backyard, covered patio.



MLS 29979 • \$75,000

3 bedroom, 2 bath 1750 Square Foot home. Masonry fireplace, wood-burning stove, Hardwood Floors. Large fenced yard, big storage building in back yard. Priced to sell



MLS 29942 • \$68,000

The price is right, what more can be said. This is just what you've been looking for. Something that can get you in the right payment range and with a little TLC have some good equity in the home.



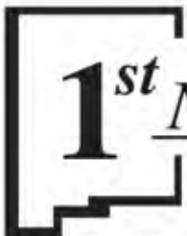
MLS 29986 • \$33,000

Perfect investment opportunity. This 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath features hardwood floors, nice hobby/office and fenced in yard. Needs some work but would make an excellent rental.

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Time to Saddle up!



1st NEW MEXICO BANK
of Silver City



It's Rodeo Time!

Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo

Saddle up for heart-pounding action & EXCITEMENT at the 2013
1st New Mexico Bank Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo
June 5 - 8
 Southwest Horsemen's Association rodeo grounds,
 just off US Highway 180 East and Caballero Road



Bareback Riding • Tie-Down Roping • Saddle Bronc Riding • Bull Riding
• Steer Wrestling • Team Roping • Barrel Racing

