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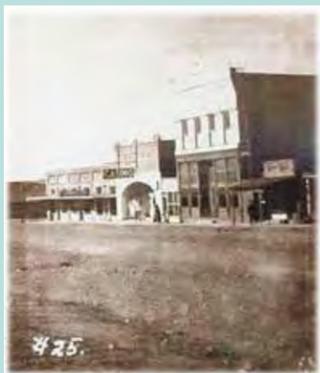


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FEBRUARY 5

**DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY:
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

We need both our downtown businesses and the big-box stores out on Route 180, but finding a proper balance between them has been elusive. The subject will be approached from the Past (Tom Hester), Present (Lee Gruber) and Future (George Julian Dworin).



FEBRUARY 12

**THE MEASURE OF REALITY:
THE RISE OF QUANTIFICATION**

There exists a rather quaint faith in quantification: a notion that anything truly important can be nailed down in numbers, and that anything beyond such impalement—such as art, love, sunsets, and religious belief—is somehow less worth considering. Bill Baldwin, who likes to think in large terms, will recount and ponder this encroaching numerality.



FEBRUARY 19

MEN AND THEIR PLUMBING

Dr. Amos Lash, Silver City's urologist in residence, will discuss matters of large and growing concern to most males of a certain age and to the people who live with them. These matters include sexuality, leaky pipes, random clogs, repeated nocturnal missions, and the ever-annoying prostate gland. Also, more cheerfully, he'll cover some relevant improvement measures.



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About the cover: "Laughing Gin," oil on canvas by **Bonnie Mandoe**, 2009 (private collection). For more about the artist, see this issue's Arts Exposure section.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Right-Wing Retreat

An arm of the Koch brothers pulls out of New Mexico. Why both liberals and conservatives should cheer.

Politics in the Land of Enchantment are looking just a bit more, well, enchanting these days following the news that Americans for Prosperity (AFP), one of the tentacles of the political octopus funded by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, is pulling out of New Mexico. According to Pam Wolfe, field representative for AFP's state branch, the right-wing group is "reallocating their resources elsewhere" and will no longer have any "boots on the ground" here. Whether that also means a 2014 campaign reprieve from AFP's endless TV ads is another question, though we're guessing New Mexicans won't be that lucky.

Based in Virginia, AFP had established chapters in 34 states. In New Mexico, it shares ties and Koch cash with the libertarian Rio Grande Foundation and the conservative New Mexico Watchdog site. In addition to spending \$6.1 million in New Mexico and other battleground states in the 2012 campaign, AFP and its allies worked to defeat an increase in Albuquerque's minimum wage and backed that city's proposed abortion restrictions.

Why should we be rejoicing over AFP's pullback? Don't conservative special interests have the same right to organize and spread their cash around as liberal groups, such as labor unions? Of course they do, and the Kochs have even donated to groups liberals might approve of, such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

But AFP and its web of affiliated groups stand out for their misleading campaign commercials—which are shamelessly truth-twisting even by modern political standards—and the complex "dark money" machinations used to hide their finances and donors. It's not whether they're conservative or liberal; it's that their tactics embody all that is broken in today's political system.

It would take many pages to recount the falsehoods and half-truths perpetrated by AFP. Fortunately, the *Washington Post's* Politifact column has done so in depth, and its findings can be found at www.politifact.com/personalities/americans-prosperity. A summary of Politifact's analysis of AFP's recent ads and claims tells the tale, though: Zero were rated as "true" or "mostly true," two as "half true," four as "mostly false," three as "false" and two as so false as to earn Politifact's "pants on fire" rating for outright lying.

AFP's distortions include "creative editing," exaggerations that "go beyond the facts," substituting Mexico for California, simply ignoring the facts, and citing votes by one Congressman to condemn a different guy.

FactCheck.org, a nonpartisan project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, takes a similarly dim view of AFP's truthfulness (www.factcheck.org/tag/americans-for-prosperity). Typical headlines include: "False Assumptions on the Health Care Law," "Mailers Mislead on 'Obamacare' Opt-Out Amendment" and "A Bogus Ad."

New Mexicans should count ourselves lucky that none of our Congressional delegation is considered a 2014 target. Next door in Arizona, already in January you can't turn on the TV without being assaulted by AFP ads against Rep. Ron Barber, distorting his

support for and the facts about the Affordable Care Act.

This blizzard of half-truths (to be generous) and other right-wing operations are funded by a network of "hidden shell companies and secret wire transfers," according to a recent investigation by the *Washington Post* and the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. Their report likened the secrecy of the 17 interconnected groups, spearheaded by the Koch brothers, which raised more than \$400 million in the last election cycle, to the tactics of drug runners and tax evaders.

No less than labor unions or liberal billionaire George Soros, the Koch brothers have the right to make their opinions heard in the marketplace of political ideas.

But why do they need to hide behind "cryptic, alphabet-soup names like SLAH LLC and ORRA LLC" and nonprofit entities acting "as de facto banks, feeding money to other groups downstream"?

The masks that these billionaire right-wingers put on in order to disguise the true nature of their electioneering can be illustrated by New Mexico Watchdog.

A representative of the blog's national coordinator, Watchdog.org, contacted us last summer about a "content partnership" in which *Desert Exposure* would use free material originated by New Mexico Watchdog. Given our limited resources, naturally the offer of "investigative" content focused on New Mexico was appealing—until we did a little investigating of our own.

The state "Watchdog" sites are funded by the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, which former Reuters chief White House correspondent Gene Gibbons described as "delivering political propaganda dressed up as journalism." The Franklin Center says its funding source is "100% anonymous." But, according to the Center for Public Integrity, 95% of the Franklin Center's 2011 funding—\$6.3 million—came from DonorsTrust, "a spin-off of the Philanthropy Roundtable that functions as a large 'donor-advised fund,' cloaking the identity of donors to right-wing causes across the country."

One of the major contributors to Donors Trust, to the tune of almost \$8 million between 2005 and 2011, is the Knowledge and Progress Fund. Guess who founded the Knowledge and Progress Fund? Billionaire brother Charles Koch, of course. Moreover, at least three staffers at the Franklin Center previously worked for Americans for Prosperity.

New Mexico Watchdog and its sibling sites may have some important things to say; Santa Fe bureau chief Rob Nikolewski also writes op-ed pieces for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. But it's troubling when such overtly (yet covertly) partisan journalism is passed off as the real thing, especially in an era when newspapers and wire services are cutting back on their own statehouse coverage. Readers shouldn't have to play investigative reporters themselves to uncover the omnipresent hand of the Koch brothers pulling the strings of such enterprises.

Americans for Prosperity's pullback in New Mexico probably will barely dent the Kochs' hidden influence here. But is it impolite of us to say to the wearers of those erstwhile "boots on the ground," don't let the door hit you on the way out? 🐾

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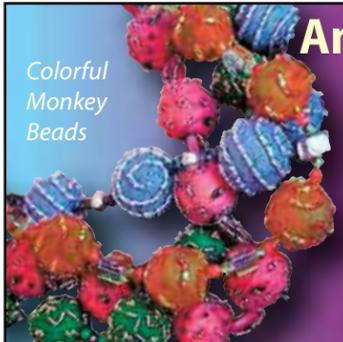
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David A. Fryxell is editor and publisher of *Desert Exposure*, which receives no funding from any foundations or political groups, left or right.



HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Hints from Henry

Make life in southwest New Mexico easier with these tips!
(Please don't sue us when you do.)

Way back when in the Triassic era, when people still read daily newspapers, there used to be a column called "Hints from Heloise." Every week, Heloise would bequeath some secret knowledge translated from etchings found on Aztec temples or something that would make life oh-so-better, like putting a dab of eucalyptus oil on a cool light bulb to fill a room with the pleasing scent of scorched eucalyptus as it warms up.

Today, we call these "life hacks" and I have seen them circulating on the Internet—rarely effective but always amusing. (Did you know that you can start a fire using Doritos as kindling? True.) I thought it high time somebody generated a list of life hacks oriented to our unique New Mexico geography. Call them "Lightcap Legerdemains."

Living the life of a bona-fide desert rat doesn't come with a set of instructions, and even if it did most of your neighbors would use the pages to roll things up and smoke them, so we've had to figure out most of these helpful hints on our own. For example, if you want to save a pile of money on car insurance, the secret is not to pay for it. Despite legislative suggestions otherwise, auto insurance is still an optional item for many New Mexicans, so join their ranks and roll in the savings. Another hint: Save time behind the wheel by resisting the urge to fiddle with the turn-signal lever. It wastes your time and only confuses the locals. Keep a rag in your glove compartment for a handy gas cap, replacement turn-signal lens, or windshield de-fogger.

The friendly desert sun likes to impart a charming baked patina to your car, turning your headlights a nice shade of milky-yellow. Skip the online wisdom of cleaning them with toothpaste—that's for flatlanders. Instead, grab some 1,000-grit wet sanding paper, lubricate with water and swirl away. Soon, the plastic

will be thinner and less yellow. Best of all, you have to do only the one headlight that's still working.

Lightcap Legerdemains make life easier in the kitchen, too. Everybody likes a warm tortilla, but if you're putting them in the reactor to warm them, you're settling for gummy, steamed Mexican pancakes. Instead, toss the tortilla right on the burner of the stove and flip it a few times. Warm, dry and delicious, like a proper tortilla should be! (Bonus: singe the hair off your knuckles and save time at the barbershop!)

To remove red-chile stains from your favorite T-shirt, carefully remove the garment, loosely roll it into a ball and throw it the hell away. You'll save money on detergent! And if your green chile is too hot, simply add more cheese. And then, add even more cheese. This has no downside whatsoever.

No matter what your nose may tell you, dogs need to be bathed every six months. But dogs hate bathing in direct proportion to how much they like hanging out with you, so all you need to do is call Fido into the shower with you. He likes the company, and you can learn to sing together. Speaking of showering, you can keep soap out of your beer by snapping a baby-bottle nipple onto the neck of the bottle. And as wasteful as it might seem to have your own bar of soap, don't use your wife's bar; you'll smell like a lilac bush threw up on you, and she won't appreciate any hairs you leave on the soap.

After a day of kicking field muffins and clomping all over hell, my boots can smell like the south end of a north-bound heifer with an intestinal infection. Make sure your wife isn't watching and pop your smelly footwear into the freezer overnight. It'll kill the bacteria and get rid of the funk.

Plus, you can tell everybody how cool your boots are. Speaking of the freezer, when the inside of yours starts to look like a wampa's cave on Hoth, defrosting is a lot more fun with a weed burner.

Housework is a drag, and until my freshly showered dog can pick up a mop, that's not going to change. But do yourself a favor—skip dusting from late February to early May, because it won't make a difference during our windy season. Also, instead of spending hundreds of dollars on specific cleaners for your toilet, windows, oven, floors, etc., just buy the 10-gallon bucket of Fabuloso at the local market. Fifty thousand abuelitas can't be wrong on this one.

Some cynics confuse finding ways to make life more efficient with laziness, which isn't the case. Our part of the world is sorta famous for a somewhat less stressful, hectic culture, and with Lightcap Legerdemains, you will find more time and have more money for the important things. After all, Heloise never reaped the benefit of her hints by quaffing a cold Tecate over a plate of enchiladas with her free time. How can you trust anything she says? ☘

Henry Lightcap avoids housework in Las Cruces.





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DESERT DIARY

Kites, Golf and Aging Gracefully

Plus blondes and the perfect man.

Persons of the blonde persuasion... Having shared blonde jokes (among others) for nearly a dozen years now, it's POSSIBLE a few of these from **AZHawk** are repeats. But if we can't remember them and they're new to you... As always, you're invited to substitute the hair hue of your choice:

"A police officer stopped a blonde for speeding and asked her very nicely if he could see her license. She replied in a huff, 'I wish you guys would get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you!'"

"A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, 'PULL OVER!' "NO!' the blonde yelled back, 'IT'S A SCARF!'"

"A Russian, an American, and a blonde were talking one day. The Russian said, 'We were the first in space!'"

"The American said, 'We were the first on the moon!'"

"The blonde said, 'So what? Blondes are going to be the first on the sun!'"

"The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads. 'You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!' said the Russian.

"To which the blonde replied, 'We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!'"

"A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. It was her turn. She rolled the dice and she landed on Science & Nature. Her question was, 'If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?' She thought for a time and then asked, 'Is the vacuum on or off?'"

"A woman was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, 'Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?'"

"HELLOOOOOOO!" answered the blonde. "They're *watch* dogs."

Losing the battle of the sexes... The easily offended might want to skip this report from the front lines of the gender wars, submitted by **Ned Ludd**:

"I was in my back yard trying to launch a kite. I threw the kite up in the air, the wind would catch it for a few seconds, then it would come crashing back down to earth. I tried this a few more times with no success.

"All the while, my wife was watching from the kitchen window, muttering to herself how men need to be told how to do everything. She opened the window and yelled to me, 'You need a piece of tail!'"

"I turned with a confused look on my face and yelled back, 'Make up your mind. Last night, you told me to go fly a kite!'"

Thanks to **Biffy** for these "10 pieces of advice to be passed on to your mom, your daughters or granddaughters, nieces, aunts, girlfriends, etc." Ladies, share away:

"1. Don't imagine you can change a man—unless he's in diapers.

"2. What do you do if your boyfriend walks out? You shut the door.

"3. If they put a man on the moon, they should be able to put them all up there.

"4. Go for the younger man. You

might as well; they never mature anyway.

"5. Men are all the same—they just have different faces so we can tell them apart.

"6. Best way to get a man to do something is to suggest he is too old for it.

"7. Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.

"8. The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years. Even in Biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.

"9. If he asks what sort of books you're interested in, tell him checkbooks.

"10. Remember, a sense of humor does not mean that you tell him jokes; it means that you laugh at his."

Annals of inebriation... New correspondent **Rldork** recalls a classic moment from television's greatest bar:

"No one can explain this as well as Cliff Clavin, on 'Cheers.' One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm, and here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keep improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

"In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

"That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

Annals of medicine... Another new correspondent, **Dick-in-a-Box**, passed along this tale from the doctor's office:

"The older gentleman was experiencing some new symptoms, so his wife made sure he went to the doctor by going with him. After a preliminary check, the doc sat them down opposite him at his desk. While still facing them, he said, 'Here's what I need from you, sir,' and then the doctor lowered his voice and dropped his head and began to write while talking. Unheard by the man, he went on to say, 'I need a blood sample, a urine sample, and a stool sample.'

"When the doc had stopped mumbling, the man turned to his wife and asked, 'What did he say he wanted?'"

"She sort of shook her head and said, 'I think he wants your underwear.'"

Join Dork and Dick and become a Desert Diary contributor! Send your favorite jokes, anecdotes and witty words of wisdom to diary@desertexposure.com.

You're only as old as you feel... While we're on the subject of aging, here are some deep thoughts courtesy of the **Santa Claran**:

"Statistics show that at the age of 70, there are five women to every man. Isn't that an ironic time for a guy to get those odds?"



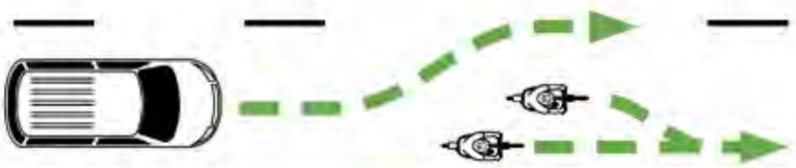
Postcards from the edge... We like to think of this month's trio of photos submitted by traveling readers, showing themselves holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*, as a sort of Valentine. Here are members from the **Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL)**, on a trip down to Mata Ortiz, Mexico. Submitter Denise writes: "We took a photo of our group in front of the Hacienda de San Diego holding the *Desert Exposure*. This location is where the rebels of the Mexican Revolution stood when they captured the Hacienda in 1911. We had lunch here with Spencer and Emi MacCallum. Spencer is the man responsible for introducing Juan Quezada and Mata Ortiz to the world."

BICYCLISTS

Bicycling two abreast is permitted by New Mexico law

Be cautious when bicycling two abreast. You can help drivers pass on two-lane roadways without bike lanes by riding single file when safe to do so (stay at least 2 to 3 feet from the edge of the road).

It's always nice to give a friendly wave when drivers pass safely. (NMMVC 66-3-705)



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“Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

“By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he’s too old to go anywhere.

“Middle age is when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.

“A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of by the police.

“Middle age is having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.

“You know you’re into middle age when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.

“At my age, ‘getting a little action’ means I don’t need to take a laxative.

“Don’t worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

“The aging process could be slowed down if it had to work its way through Congress.

“You’re getting old when ‘getting lucky’ means you find your car in the parking lot.”

A good walk spoiled... Then there’s this report from the fairway sent our way by **Old Grumps**:

“Verne was teeing off from the men’s tee. On his downswing, he realized that his wife, Joy, was teeing up on the woman’s tee directly in front of him. Unable to stop his swing, he nailed it and hit her directly in the temple, killing her instantly.

“A few days later, Verne got a call from the coroner regarding her autopsy.

“Coroner: ‘Verne, your wife seemed to have died from blunt-force trauma to the head. You said you hit a golf ball and hit her in the temple, is that correct?’

“Verne: ‘Yes, sir, that’s correct.’

“Coroner: ‘Well, inexplicably I found a golf ball wedged in her rectum.’

“Verne: ‘Was it a Titleist 3?’

“Coroner: ‘Yes, it was.’

“Verne: ‘Oh! That was my mulligan.’”

Drive, he said... When reading this one from the **Silver City Greek**, just wait for it... wait for it:

“A man walks out to the street and catches a taxi just going by. He gets into the taxi, and the cabbie says, ‘Perfect timing. You’re just like Frank.’

“Passenger: ‘Who?’

“Cabbie: ‘Frank Feldman—he’s a guy who did everything right all the time, like my coming along when you needed a cab. Things happened like that to Frank Feldman every single time.’

“Passenger: ‘There are always a few clouds over everybody.’

“Cabbie: ‘Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand Slam at ten-



Postcards from the edge... Our next reader photo comes from **Suzanne Thompson** of Silver City, who writes: “This photo shows one of the delights of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, in Ishpeming. Do you remember the comic song ‘Second Week of Deer Camp’ by Da Yoopers? They haven’t restricted themselves to music; their country store and museum also poke gentle fun at the U.P. lifestyle. We stopped here briefly on a long road trip back from Connecticut via Ontario, etc. with our favorite paper along!”

nis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone, and danced like a Broadway star. And you should have heard him play the piano! He was an amazing guy.”

“Passenger: ‘Sounds like he was somebody really special.’

“Cabbie: ‘Oh, hell, there’s more’. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody’s birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order, and which fork to eat it with. And he could fix anything. Not like me; I change a fuse, and the whole street blacks out. But Frank Feldman, he could do everything right.’

“Passenger: ‘Wow, some guy then.’

“Cabbie: ‘He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me; I always seem to get stuck in them. But Frank, he never made mistakes, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never argue back, even if she was in the wrong, and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished, too. He was the perfect man! I never knew him to make a mistake! No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman.’

“Passenger: ‘An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?’

“Cabbie: ‘Well, I never actually met Frank. He died, and I married his *%#^!\$ wife.’”

Pondering the imponderables... Finally, we’re pretty sure we’ve run some version of this advice from **GeeRichard**, but he gives it a timely spin:

“In case you are having a rough day, here’s a stress-management technique recommended in all the latest psychological journals. The funny thing is that it really does work and will make you smile.

“1. Picture yourself lying on your belly on a warm rock that hangs out over a crystal clear stream.

“2. Picture yourself with both your hands dangling in the cool running water.

“3. Birds are sweetly singing in the cool mountain air.

“4. No one knows your secret place.

“5. You are in total seclusion from that hectic place called the world.

“6. The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity.

“7. The water is so clear that you can make out the face of the congressman you are holding under water.” ☘



Postcards from the edge... Finally, as a reminder that there are places a lot colder than Southwest New Mexico in February, here is a photo from **Wanda Spitzer** taken in Greenland at the Illulissat Icefjord—back in August.

Whether you’re going to Gallup or Greenland, snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

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 Desert Exposure mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to Desert Diary.



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TUMBLEWEEDS • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Being Prepared

Silver City's Symposium on Preparedness, March 7-8, aims to help residents and officials prepare for the worst.

Three years to the day after the start of the Quail Ridge fire, which destroyed 13 homes in the Silver Acres subdivision south of Silver City, a two-day symposium will help residents and responders prepare for the proverbial fire next time. The free Silver City/Grant County Symposium on Preparedness, March 7-8 at WNMU's Global Resource Center, will address "community resiliency." In addition to wildfire preparedness, topics will include crime, evacuations, food sustainability, and dealing with trauma and loss.

"Each session is designed to help fill a community vacuum," says Kathy Anderson, founder of the Silver City Neighborhood Alliance (see "Out of the Ashes," October 2011), which is organizing the symposium with funding from the Freeport McMoRan/Grant County Community Health Council Community Enhancement Fund. "Any kind of emergency is interrelated to other kinds of emergencies, and cross-training issues are relevant to all of them. People generally think something bad is not going to happen to them. We're not trying to scare people, but you're never really ready for when it does, and that's why it's important to talk about it."

The first day of the symposium, March 7 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., will feature a broad range of topics as well as door prizes. "It's designed for anybody and everybody," says Anderson. Speakers will include



Flowers blooming next to a lot in Silver Acres where the house was lost to the March 2011 Quail Ridge fire. (Photo: Lisa D. Fryxell)

local officials, native-plant and sustainable-building experts, firefighters and neighborhood leaders.

Day two, March 8, will focus on "The Ember Zone: A Guide to Home Wildfire Assessments in New Mexico," and is aimed at emergency managers, first responders, Firewise Communities representatives, insurance agents, homeowner organization leaders and landscapers. Led by Ellen Brown of the US Forest Service, Dan Ware of New Mexico Forestry, and veteran firefighter Eliot Pickett, the first-of-its-kind workshop will be rolled out in Silver City and subsequently offered in Ruidoso.

The genesis of the preparedness symposium came in part from an idea by Nick Sussillo, the first director of Silver City's Office of Sustainability ("Net Positive," July 2010), and part from Anderson, who launched the neighborhood association in the aftermath of the Quail Ridge fire. She in turn met Ellen Brown at a Forest Service booth at the Farmers' Market. The three of them sat down together and began to brainstorm how to boost local preparedness and resiliency.

Anderson recalls a survey conducted by the Grant County Health Council in which area residents were asked to rate the most serious threats to the community. "Bad roads was number one, followed by wildfires. But structural fires ranked second from the bottom." In the reality of wildland urban interface areas, where wildfire fuel reaches almost to the doorways of homes, that represents a disconnect, she says:



This photo of the Lomita fire, which occurred off the Hwy. 180 truck bypass in May 2011, shows the radical physics aspects of fire behavior. (Photo by John Crow, Gila Community News)

"People are building houses into the wildlands but not worrying that they could burn."

The Quail Ridge fire—about which Bill Bertsch, president of the Silver Acres Property Owners Association, says, "As bad as it was, it obviously could have been much worse"—was the impetus for the neighborhood association and in turn next month's symposium. "Silver City is drier and progressively hotter," says Anderson, "and the drought continues unabated. The Forest Service says the moisture content of trees is at an historic low. The fire season is now year-round."

Dedicated as they are, volunteer fire departments may not be adequately prepared for the next such disaster. "The Forest Service is trained to fight wildland fires, and the town fire department is trained for structural fires, but there's nobody in the middle," Anderson says. "Volunteer fire departments should be trained in both, but they are mostly used to dealing with grass fires."

Training of volunteer firefighters can be spotty and is offered only in Socorro. In 2012, 10 volunteer fire departments in Grant County split \$1.2 million in funding for training and equipment. One issue the symposium will raise is whether volunteer firefighters should also be compensated in some way.

Three years after the Quail Ridge blaze, Anderson says the community is better prepared in some ways but not in others. "I think the city fire department is much better prepared, and volunteer fire chiefs are more knowledgeable. Firefighters are more aware of how radical wildfire behavior can be. But other pieces of the puzzle are still missing."

With next month's symposium, she hopes, some of those other pieces will begin falling into place. ❧

For more information on the free Symposium on Preparedness, including a complete schedule and advance-registration form, see www.sneighborsalliance.com/Symposium2014.html. To contact the Silver City Neighborhood Alliance, email sneighborsalliance@gmail.com or write 2311 Ranch Club Road, #416, Silver City, NM 88061.



A sign in Silver Acres, outside a house that escaped the Quail Ridge fire. (Photo: Lisa D. Fryxell)

TUMBLEVEEDS

Life in a State of Nature

More reader photos of creatures big and small.

This month brings a couple more reader-submitted photos of critters in our Southwest "zoo." First, from **Mike Moutoux**, who started this whole thing with his javelina photo awhile back, is this fall snapshot of a deer: "The deer had been infrequent since the rain began, and we were just starting to see them again."



Then ace insect spotter **Elroy Limmer** returns with this mantis: "This male was still active in the yard yesterday afternoon. I believe it is a Bordered Mantis, *Stagmomantis limbata*."

Share your own photos of local creatures great and small. Send to editor@desertexposure.com or mail to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, and include your postal address for a little thank-you. 🌵



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. Immigration issues are back in the news, and Virgin Galactic has a successful test flight (pictured). Plus 2016 speculation about Gov. Susana Martinez cracks the Top 10 again. With New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie looking tarnished by scandal, the Martinez chatter may escalate from the GOP veepestakes to the top of the ticket....

1. (1) **New Mexico + immigration**—209 hits (▼)
2. (3) **Virgin Galactic**—184 hits (▼)
3. (2) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—173 hits (▼)
4. (5) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—128 hits (▲)
5. (6) **New Mexico drought**—127 hits (▲)
6. (8) **New Mexico gay marriage**—114 hits (▲)
7. (4) **Sen. Tom Udall**—105 hits (▼)
8. (7) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—100 hits (▼)
9. (9) **Susana Martinez + 2016**—90 hits (▲)
10. (-) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—62 hits (▲)



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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene
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Silver City/Grant County

A photo show featuring the nature photography of FeVa Fotos and guest photographers from the Silver City Photo Club, “Captured!,” continues at the Mimbres Region Arts Council Gallery in the Wells Fargo Bank Building through Feb. 28. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

Copper Quail Gallery introduces new local artist Jo Thomas, with works in mixed media and modern mosaics, beginning Feb. 7. 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

Lois Duffy's Studio will feature her “Poets’ Corner” paintings during Chocolate Fantasia, Feb. 8. 211C N. Texas, 313-9631, www.loisduffy.com.

“Lagniappe,” a show of artwork by 13 Silver City artists, opens at **Common Ground Gallery** on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 7-9 p.m. The exhibit runs through March 13. 103 W. Kelly.

The **Harry Benjamin Auction** benefiting WNMU's Expressive Arts Department will take place Saturday, Feb. 22, from 1-5 p.m. at the WNMU Global Resource Center auditorium. The hundreds of works include pottery, sculpture, paintings, prints and mixed media pieces done by Benjamin and others. For more information, contact John Abbott at abbottj@wnmu.edu, 538-6515. The online catalog can be viewed at www.harrybenjaminaction.com.



Above: “Early Morning Mist,” photograph by Marty Galster, featured in the For the Love of Art Month exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center. Below: Works by Sue Ann Glenn will be shown at Las Cruces’ Nature & Science Museum.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

If it's February, it must be **For the Love of Art Month**. For the 16th year, throughout the month Las Cruces will be showcasing local artists' work with events presented by the Art-Forms Artists Association of New Mexico. Art lovers will enjoy a month of festivities throughout the city from musical talent to visual arts. Events supporting this celebration of the arts include studio and art gallery tours, concerts, performances, a member art show and art venues across the city.



Event highlights include:

- Friday, Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m.: Reception for Member Art Show at the Branigan Cultural Center. Exhibit will run through March 1. 501 N. Main.
- Friday, Feb. 7-Saturday, Feb. 8: For the Love of Art Show and Fair at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 680 E. University.
- Saturday, Feb. 15-Sunday, Feb. 16: First weekend of Studio Tours. Locations vary. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4



“Shaving Razor” by Michael Borowski, part of the “Trio” exhibit at the NMSU University Art Gallery.

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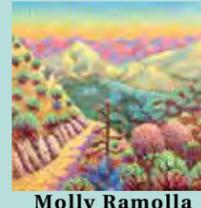
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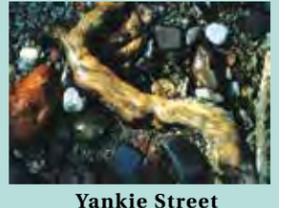
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p.m.; Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

• Saturday, Feb. 22-Sunday, Feb. 23: Second weekend of Studio Tours. Locations vary. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

For more information about For the Love of Art Month studio tours and other events, including a complete studio-tours map, see www.artformsnm.org. For information on individual events, see this issue's 40 Days and 40 Nights section.

An exhibit by the Insighters, "Much Ado About Woode," continues at the **Tombaugh Gallery**, through Feb. 21, with a reception Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The exhibit consists of art containing, referencing, or reinterpreting the idea, material, or concept of wood. Throughout 2013, the group of local artists worked with a variety of repurposed wooden objects including weathered wooden fence pickets, samples of different woods, and cabinet doors. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

The **NMSU University Art Gallery's** new exhibition, "TRIO," will be on view through March 1. The exhibition features works from three contemporary artists—Michael Borowski, Frol Boundin and Richard Hesketh—who are adjunct faculty in the NMSU Art Department. D.W. Williams Hall, University and Solano, www.nmsu.edu/~artgal.

The **Branigan Cultural Center** will also be featuring "Prairie View Furniture," an exhibition of the works of cabinetmaker and artist Doug Ricketts. It opens on Friday, Feb. 7, with a gallery talk at 4 p.m. and a reception 5-7 p.m., and runs through March 1. A native of Oklahoma, Ricketts was raised in Nevada



"Phoenix Tall Clock" by Doug Ricketts, whose work is featured at the Branigan Cultural Center.

and New Mexico and remembers "feeling a need to use interesting materials" as a means to explore his creative strengths. He creates regionally inspired furniture that incorporates "landscape and weather events, profiles of farm implements and buildings" in his designs. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

The **New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter** will present "Early Warmth: For the Love of Our Living Desert," works by Sue Ann Glenn, at the Nature & Science Museum, opening Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m.

The **Las Cruces Museum of Art** will present "Gustave Baumann: A Life's Journey," an exhibition of prints, paintings and furniture, opening Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m., and on view through March 29. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

The **Las Cruces Arts Association's** Mountain Gallery features Dean Lively this month, with a reception Feb. 7, 4-7 p.m. Lively, a retired high-school business teacher, enjoys working in a variety of media

including fiber, watercolor, pastels, acrylics, oils, handmade paper and rolled-paper beads. The gallery will also host a "Creative Totems" exhibit and silent auction. 138 W. Mountain Ave., www.LasCrucesArts.org.

Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts will celebrate Black History Month with artwork by local African-American artist Georjeanna Feltha. Her exhibition entitled "Glimpses of the Past" opens Feb. 7, 5-8 p.m., and runs through Feb. 28. 220 N. Campo, 312-3040.

The annual Egg Tempera Exhibit is opening at the **Main Street Gallery** on Feb. 7, with works by mem-

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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Annual Member Exhibit

Opens Friday, February 7 from 5-7pm during the Ramble and runs through March 1. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main, Las Cruces.

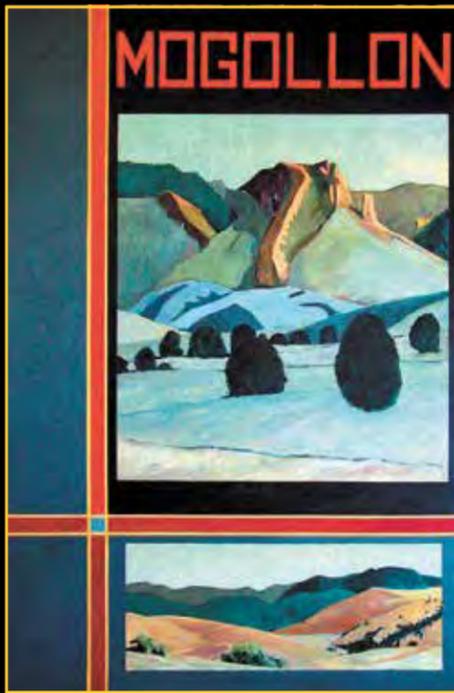
ArtForms Love of Art Exhibit and Fair

Friday, February 7 from 11am-5pm and Saturday, February 8 from 9am-5pm. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University. Entertainment on Saturday. Spotlight on Art Education in Las Cruces High Schools.

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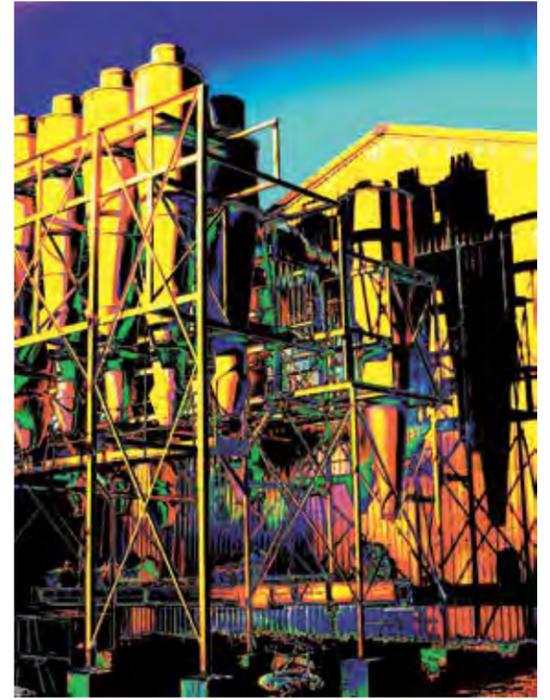
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760-533-1897

Our Cover Artist

Las Cruces artist **Bonnie Mandoe**, whom we profiled back in November 2006 ("Putting Down Roots"), also was our cover artist in June 2011. She tells us, "I've lived in Las Cruces for over 10 years. When I first arrived, I restored old adobes, and I live in one of them, the Quesenberry Farmhouse, built around 1915, which used to be in the middle of cotton and chile fields, and is now surrounded by auto body, transmission, and electric shops. It's a great working environment and a wonderful old house. It's been good for me and for my work. I'm able to paint full time, grow a garden and fruit trees, and generally live the painter's dream.

"I work in water-soluble oil paints, a rather new invention. I'm a huge fan of their less-toxic properties, their relatively quick drying time, and the ability to use them without harsh solvents like turpentine."

From time to time Mandoe offers instruction in the use of these earth-friendly paints. In March, she will offer a class, "Learn to Paint with Water-Soluble Oils." For more information, call (575) 523-9760 or (575) 642-9760 and see her blog on the topic at her website, www.bonniemandoe.com. ❀



"Painted Towers," a new work by Bonnie Mandoe.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued

bers of the Artists Guild of Southern New Mexico. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

The **Mesquite Art Gallery** features mixed media combinations of photography and hectography by Naida Zucker all month, with a reception Feb. 8, 4-6 p.m. 340 N Mesquite St., 640-3502.

Mesquite Street Studios will show paintings by Sylvia Bowers and Marjorie Moeser, with an opening

artist, with works in various churches and chapels in New Mexico and Oklahoma. Just completed in December were four paintings now displayed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tulsa. A copper engraving of Nuestro Nino de Praga hangs in the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague.

Chavez' latest church project, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Deming, will be his largest to date, a mural with a wall space of 45 feet wide by 12 feet high. It will be done in the Baroque style of the 17th century.

The focal point will be St. Michael the Archangel, battling evil with a legion of angels behind him visible through the mist and clouds.

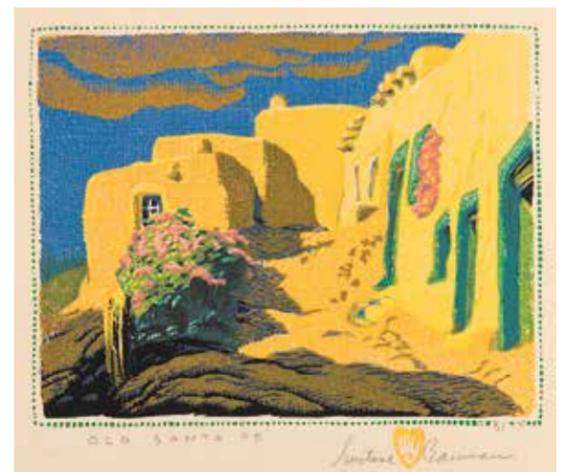
"St. Ann was the childhood church of my baptism, confirmation and first communion," Chavez says. "Awards are plentiful and numerous but to be appreciated by one's own community is the best honor in itself."

Chavez is a member of several artist guilds and associations, including the Spanish Colonial Arts Society in Santa Fe, dedicated to Santero art. All works must be done in the primitive 17th century art style of colonial New Mexico.

"I remember my first major art project as a six-year-old child was creating a Nativity scene," he says. "I had walked downtown with my grandmother to pay bills. I saw several large cardboard refrigerator boxes in the alley. Unable to drag them home, I waited until my grandfather got home. We loaded them up in his truck and I cut out life-size figures of the Nativity, complete with shepherds, sheep and angels. They lasted two weeks out on the front lawn until rain and later, snow, deteriorated the precious art pieces!"

The arts center is located at 100 S. Gold. ❀

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



"Old Santa Fe" by Gustave Baumann, featured at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

Stop in during Chocolate Fantasia February 8th

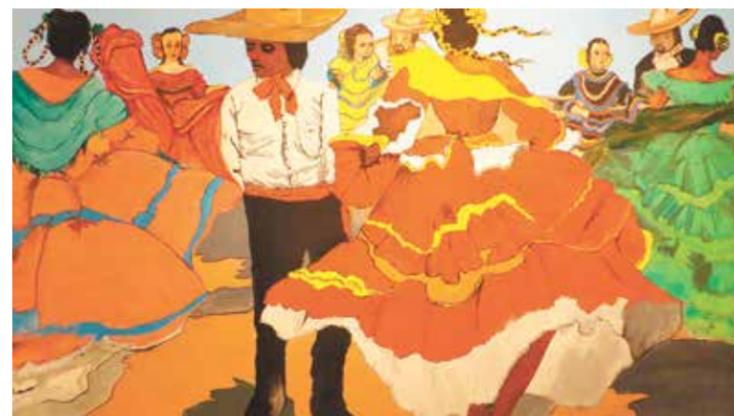
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Works by noted artist Joseph Chavez will be featured in a one-man show at the Deming Arts Center.

reception Feb. 8, 1-4 p.m. 922 N. Mesquite St. 524-0501.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will again mark For the Love of Art Month with its "My Masterpiece" show. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Deming

The **Deming Arts Center** will feature a one-man show, "The Triumph of Faith," by Joseph Manuel Chavez this month, with a reception on Sunday, Feb. 2, 1-3 p.m. Born and raised in Deming, Chavez says, "I never really left Deming and Deming has never left me." As a part-time resident, the artist maintains a studio at the house where he grew up and where he got his first set of oil paints, a Christmas gift from his parents at the age of five.

One series on exhibit, acrylic on canvas paintings, portrays Hispanic and Catholic traditions, such as folk dances, the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and the Matachine pageant play. Chavez will also show paintings on canvas, wood and tin, and a special series on ceramic as well as limited-edition signed and numbered copper engravings and sterling silver jewelry with native stones and bronzes.

The artist's favorite medium is hide painting, on deer, elk and bison hide with natural pigments. Yellows and oranges are from iron oxide, blue is from indigo, reds and its variations are from the cochineal, a small beetle picked from the cactus plant and from the tuna, the fruit off the prickly pear cactus. Black walnut and various clays produce shades of brown. Chavez has collected clay for this use from Maui to New England to Oklahoma to the Gila wilderness.

Church altar pieces are another favorite of the

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

ANN McMAHON PHOTOGRAPHY, 125 Country Road. By appointment. www.AnnMcMahon.com.

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

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, space.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.

COMMON GROUND, 103 W. Kelly, 534-2087. Tues.-Sun. 1-7 p.m.

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.

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

GUADALUPE'S, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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, Gorde Headlee,

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

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@signal-peak.net.

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

LYON STREET STUDIO/GALLERY, 205 Lyon St. & Yankie. Diane Kleiss' encaustic multimedia art. By appointment.

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.

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

SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Weds.-Sat 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

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

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

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

URSA MINOR, 303 N. Texas St. "The little blue box of eccentricities."

VIBRATIONS GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.

WIND CANYON STUDIO, 11 Quail Run off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574-2308, (619) 933-8034. Louise Sackett. Mon., Weds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment.

WYNNEGATE GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 W. Yankie St., (214) 957-3688. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues.-Wed. by appointment.

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

ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St.,

654-4910.

Mimbres

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@gilinet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

NARRIE TOOLE, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietoole.com. By appointment.

Hanover

FIERRO CANYON GALLERY, 4 Hermosa St., 537-3262, www.fierrocanyongallery.com. Thurs.-Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hurley

JW ART GALLERY, Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300. Weds.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., www.jwartgallery.com.

Mesilla

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

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

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

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.

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

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 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.

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

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.

Deming

DEMING ARTS CENTER, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

READER'S COVE USED BOOKS & GALLERY, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.

STUDIO LeMARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

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LOOKING BACKWARDS • JEFF BERG

Other Pioneers

For Black History Month, a look at early African-Americans in New Mexico.

New Mexico is often revered for its ability to balance three very distinct cultural entities—the Hispanics, First Nations, and the newcomers, the Anglos. Overlooked, of course are other groups that aren't as prevalent, including African-Americans.

There is archeological evidence via carbon 14 dating and later DNA evidence that in the Chaco Canyon area, at least one individual from West Africa was in that region as early as 1050. That's going by the carbon dating, but probably much earlier based on his or her DNA, according to University of New Mexico Professor Emeritus Dr. Cortez Williams. How? Why? Is it accurate? We may never know, but if true, it certainly shatters more of the myths about the people who came to this continent prior to European explorers.

But over the years, blacks have been very involved in New Mexico's growth and history. Historical documentation starts clear back around 1533, with an "enslaved Black Moor," originally from Morocco, Esteban de Dorantes of Azamor (also known as Estevan, Esteban, Estebanico, Black Stephen and Stephen the Moor) arriving in New Mexico, not exactly by choice the first time. Since I mentioned Esteban in an article in the July 2013 *Desert Exposure* about the fallacy of "buried treasure" in our fair state ("Fool's Gold"), I have done a bit more research on him. I discovered that for some years, there has been controversy as to whether he was African or a "dark-skinned Arab."

It has been established, in any case, that Esteban was aboard one of the ships on an early Spanish voyage to check out Florida. The 600-man expedition was initially slightly successful, with the ships bouncing off the coasts of Cuba and the Dominican Republic before landing on the west coast of Florida. Motivated by greed and imagined riches, some of the group headed inland only to find death, starvation and very unfriendly locals. Survivors later built small boats from their own weapons and armor to sail back to Mexico from somewhere along the Gulf Coast. Only a handful of the original 600, including Esteban, made it to someplace near Galveston, Texas.

Ultimately only four were left, going on a remarkable journey by foot across Texas, most of northern Mexico and probably parts of Arizona and New Mexico. As led by a high-ranking officer of the original expedition, Cabeza de Vaca, the group was occasionally enslaved by the local people, but also seen as friendly by others. To his credit, de Vaca learned some of the native languages and worked to understand the cultures.

After their rescue in 1536, Esteban was part of a party that went north in 1539 to again look for riches, even though Esteban and de Vaca had insisted there were none. Traveling several days ahead of the group, Esteban reached the Zuni village of Hawikuh. There he was killed, with reports as to why varying wildly—from accidentally offering a gift of a gourd with a red or owl feather (a sign of war for the Zuni) to being arrogant and demanding turquoise and women. Whatever the reason, it was not a good start for African-born people in New Mexico. Esteban's legend may still exist in Zuni culture as a bad kachina called "Chakwaina."

Slaves, of course, came with the Spanish and there are records of "Negros, Mulattos, and Mestizos" (people of mixed Spanish and Indian blood) being present in the future Land of Enchant-

ment from at least 1600 on.

After the Pueblo Revolt in 1680, the 800-person resettlement expedition led by Juan Guerra de Resa that departed from El Paso had several black members, including Sebastian Rodriguez Brito, who would serve as a town crier in Santa Fe and a garrison drummer. Brito, said to be from Angola, might have been one of the first bridegrooms of African descent in New Mexico, marrying in 1697 in Santa Fe to a "coyote" (derogatory but "legal" term for his bride, who was of mulatto and Indian blood). A son, Esteban, succeeded his father as garrison drummer. There is also mention of a native Congolese named Francisco Rico as part of the same journey.

There is not much written about blacks in New Mexico until the Civil War, except for the brief time that noted trapper, trader and adventurer Jim Beckwourth came through in 1821. Beckwourth, who had been born into slavery in Virginia, arrived with another black trapper, Edward Rose. He spent time in Taos around 1840 and came back a third time, opening a hotel in Santa Fe in 1846.

Although slavery existed in New Mexico before the Civil War and that issue was a major reason that New Mexico and Arizona did not become states until many years later, the number of slaves here was minimal.

In an interview with Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley, NMSU instructor and former chief historian for the National Park Service, I did for *Desert Exposure* in November 2009, he told me: "In 1860, New Mexico had maybe 20 slaves (although that does not include other people subjected to coerced labor, such as American Indians and Mexican 'peons'), but we did have a Slave Code. Miguel Otero, who was then the territorial representative of New Mexico, was married to a Southern belle, so he of course, favored slavery and supported the Slave Code. The territory itself was divided, with southern New Mexico—because of its ties to Texas—having pro-slavery sympathies, while support of slavery in the northern part of the state was non-existent."

In general, a Slave Code was a document that provided for the treatment of slaves by their owners. The code for New Mexico "restricted slave travel, prohibited slaves from testifying in court, and limited the owners' right to arm slaves," according to the blackpast.org website. "This code was implemented to keep blacks out of New Mexico (there was an influx of runaway slaves from Texas) and preserve Native Americans as the major group of enslaved workers." It also prescribed fines or other punishment for anyone found helping a slave escape.

The code required blacks living in New Mexico to post the sum of \$200 to insure "good behavior," banned intermarriage, and required newly freed blacks to leave New Mexico within 30 days of manumission.

Otero helped draft one of the most extensive slave codes in the country, but it was never ratified by Congress, which fortunately was too busy with other things.

The Civil War itself brought a few slaves to New Mexico with their owners, mostly Confederate officers. But it does not seem that either side had any black soldiers here during those years.

After the Civil War, things really began to change. Black people of all occupations headed west—railroad workers, cowpunchers

and miners. The latter gave Grant County the fourth-largest population of black people in New Mexico Territory by 1910, accounting for about 10% of the population.

Everyone should know or does know about the "Buffalo Soldiers" (a term now disputed by some historians), who served for many years in New Mexico, including at Fort Bayard.

Usually overlooked, however, is a woman Buffalo Soldier, Cathay Williams, who enlisted in the US Army in 1866. An army doctor "examined" Williams, announcing her fit for duty. One assumes he made sure only that all of her limbs were present during said exam, and soon Private Williams was heading west to New Mexico. She was in the infantry and walked over 500 miles to Fort Union and was later stationed at Forts Cummings and Bayard as well. It appears that Pvt. Williams never was involved in combat, mostly due to deteriorating health issues, which put her into army hospitals at least five times. Again and incredibly, she was never discovered to be female.

After Williams' discharge in 1868, she no longer posed as a man and worked at Fort Union as a cook for an army colonel in 1869-70. She left New Mexico after that and dealt with other health issues and the army Pension Bureau, which oddly also never questioned her gender. There is no record of what happened to her after the Pension Bureau rejected her claim in 1892, making her another African American pioneer lost to time.

Another African-American, George McJunkin, also had an unusual New Mexico story. The son of a blacksmith from Texas, he grew up on a ranch and learned the skills of a good cowboy. With only four years of formal education, McJunkin learned more by watching those around him read and write. A former buffalo hunter, his unheralded claim to fame came in 1908 in far northeastern New Mexico.

It was here that he and a co-worker, William Gordon, observed some bones poking out of the ground on the banks of the Dry Cimarron River near Folsom, NM. Intrigued, McJunkin could tell that they were not the remains of bison or cattle and tried to get some help with his discovery. It was not until 1925 that scientists, who finally paid attention, announced that the find included the ancient remains of bison that had been extinct for over 10,000 years. The site also later revealed spearheads among the bison bones that indicated humans had lived around here for a lot longer than originally thought. The archeological site that McJunkin discovered yielded human remains that became known as "Folsom Man," also over 10,000 years old.

Sadly, McJunkin did not live to learn of the significance of his discovery, passing away in January 1922 in Folsom.

An African-American, Fred Simms, is the reason that the University of New Mexico is in Albuquerque and not Santa Fe. Simms was a stenographer and calligrapher in Albuquerque who later became an attorney. He was involved in legal work and the part of Albuquerque then known as "New Town." Many old deeds were notarized by Simms, as were other documents.

When UNM was founded in 1889, Simms, who worked for a Judge Rodey (Rodey Law still exists in the Duke City), did a lot of the legwork and notarizing of the legal papers for the university, while



A depiction of Esteban, who arrived in what's now New Mexico about 1533.



Born a slave, James Beckwourth got his freedom and went West.



An illustration of Cathay Williams, who served as a Buffalo Soldier by hiding her gender.



Francis Boyer, one of the founders of Blackdom, near Roswell.

studying law under Rodey. He also transcribed all of the information given to him by Rodey and others in one night—the last before the meeting to present articles to start UNM.

Simms took notes for a committee created by the Territorial Legislature to choose the site of the university. When the committee vote was tied between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, Simms was asked to cast the deciding vote. And so Albuquerque got the university.



A family in Blackdom.

Another African-American active in legal affairs was George W. Malone, New Mexico's first black lawyer. In 1916, he was granted admission to practice law by the New Mexico Supreme Court, after first practicing law in Mississippi from 1910-14. He then moved to Blackdom, NM. Attorney Harold Hurd of Roswell "vouched for Malone's integrity and informed the clerk of court via letter of 4835.16 that 'most of the colored population called upon him for assistance.'" When Blackdom failed, Malone moved to Albuquerque, opening an office downtown, but he died not long afterward.

Blackdom is a story itself. Located about 20 miles south of Roswell, Blackdom was founded by Francis Boyer and Daniel Keyes, who walked most of the 2,000 miles from their Georgia homes to found a town for "blacks only."

The first site was near Hagerman, southeast of Roswell, but Boyer and others later moved it to a second site, due south of that city, in 1901. Things went well for several years and for a time the town, which was incorporated, had about 300 residents, some businesses, a newspaper and even a post office. Being an agricultural village, hard times first arrived with worms devour-

ing crops; then the pure but shallow artesian wells that the community relied on dried up. By 1916, most of the town was abandoned, with the Boyers moving to and settling in Vado, south of Las Cruces, where some descendants remain today.

Another such town, Dora, never really had a chance. It was settled in the 1870s by freed blacks, but it was soon

taken over by area cattlemen.

There are dozens of other stories, including that of Henry O. Flipper, the first black to graduate West Point, who later served in New Mexico; Clara Belle Williams, the first African-American to graduate from NMSU; Frank and Dock Oliver, who were among the first to dig tunnels in the former mining town of Dawson; and of course Delano Lewis, a relative newcomer to the state, who was once the head of NPR and a diplomat under Bill Clinton.

Today, New Mexico's black population is a mere 2.4%, but their additions to the state's history and culture remain underreported, vital and important.

Jeff Berg was a contributing writer to African-American History in New Mexico, published in 2013 by UNM Press. He lives in Santa Fe.

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HIKING APACHERIA • JERRY EAGAN

A Peloncillos Encounter

One more story from "Hiking Apacheria."



A panoramic view of the south face of "Peloncillo Massif." Many explorations of this side of the massif yielded interesting finds, none metal-detected. (Photos by Jerry Eagan)

Searching for a new story about "Hiking Apacheria," I told friends this story that happened in the Peloncillos, in October 2011. Believe it or not, it doesn't matter, but my friend Paul DuSablon and I know the truth.

It's an established fact that on April 23, 1882, the US Cavalry clashed with hostile Indians at Horseshoe Canyon in New Mexico, a battle I've written about in these pages. Hoyt Vandenberg Jr., a retired US Air Force major general, has also written about this clash.

Vandenberg mentions finding lots of loose rounds left from the battle. I never use a metal detector, as I think it violates the spirit of whoever might lead me to a site. I never found a single shell casing in my half-dozen or more trips directly into Horseshoe Canyon.

What I had found, though, were many seeps and drips that had obviously been a source of water at certain times of the year in this locale. I'd already covered a tiny fraction of the southern flank of the Peloncillo Massif by then, and discovered what appeared to be breastworks and fighting sites, as well as petroglyphs and possible graves, near Doubtful Canyon.

It was on one of those forays to that area that my hiking partner, Dennis Jennings, and I encountered a scoundrel of an artifact hunter who bragged about running metal detectors the entire length of the Butterfield Trail, scarfing up hundreds of metal artifacts. He even bragged he'd found a Confederate belt buckle on BLM land, and also foolishly acknowledged digging up a Mimbres-era pot that he later sold on the black market for \$78,000.

Sunset, Stein's Peak, near Doubtful Canyon stage stop.



I find these type of "historians" scurrilous. Because I was so annoyed with him, I failed to give him credit for giving me the actual direction to the battle site, on the north side of the mountain range. Even so, my gain was probably a dozen more hikes on the southern and eastern sides of the range, finding many interesting things he never spoke of.

On these hikes, I took many photos of the breastworks and water holes Apaches or even earlier native Americans ground into the rock slopes. These holes, often termed "mortar in bedrock holes," have actually been found by me to have at least three uses:

- Holes for grinding grain;
- Holes to catch surprising amounts of water when found in large formations;
- Caches for a variety of objects, especially when lined by bear grasses, sealed with mud, then covered by flat slab rocks.

The Apaches used these holes in all three capacities. At these various sites in the Peloncillos, there are at least two major formations of these holes within earshot of the battle site. Collectively, they probably collect a hundred or more liters of water. Combined with the seeps and drips, and literal flowing waters during the rainy season or snow melt, the Apaches could have been assured of all that water—while their pursuers probably found such holes emptied by Apaches and their horses.

My friend Paul and I had explored different approaches to the battle site, as is common for me. I tend to walk into an area until I get sick of it. The total number of hikes on both north and south flanks of the "Peloncillo Massif," as I call it, probably totaled 20. That involved a good 90-minute drive from Silver City to the site, each way. So these were long day hikes, often in brutal heat. I was also lucky enough to hike the south side of the Massif with snow on the ground. This was unusual, in my experience, but it does snow right there along the Arizona-New Mexico Border.

I often set out for places where I think I might find rock art (pictographs). These sites are white-faced rock in many cases, and experimentation has proven

me right more than a few times. But this October trip was initially NOT one of those forays. Rather, Paul had seen some overhangs that he thought might hold rock art or breastworks.

We operated with two walkie-talkies, with ranges of less than four miles if there are no obstructions. Paul wears two hearing aids, and after awhile, he said the wind was so strong it made them worthless. He took them out and placed them in his pockets, as is his practice. Unfortunately, that made it hard to communicate with him via walkie-talkie. Remember that: Paul wears two hearing aids, one in each ear.

As we split up (probably half a mile or more apart), we explored. I found an overhang with some interesting debris in it, but it was pretty dark and had bats. I don't mind the bats, but was concerned about mountain lions; an old cowboy, who'd worked for years on the ranch the site abuts, had said there were active lions in these hills. During our hikes, we found more than one kill of such animals (antelope, deer, javelinas), with the most spectacular being the skull and vertebrae of a bighorn ram.

Having already covered a mile or more, each, in separate advances, we began to converge toward a site we confirmed we could both see after I'd finally gotten in touch with him. Like me, Paul was also a Vietnam veteran, a tanker, who'd served with a brigade of the 5th Infantry Division farther north of where I served, in the Central Highlands. He's an experienced hunter, but we both approach our hiking as if we were infantrymen.

I noticed, along a cliff face, a line of thick trees and brush that alerted me to the possibility that water had come down a notch on the cliff face over the years and watered so much foliage. I've always figured these cliff faces might have been more exposed during Apache times, and might serve as a surface for rock art or caches.

Cutting my way through lots of brush (I carried both a small collapsible pruning saw and a pair of pruning shears), I beat my way into the tangle and saw, 15 feet above me, a dark charcoal-stained hole in the rock. It was a bit of a sharp climb and I had to climb carefully, as while I'd alerted Paul to stand by, I hadn't actually made any discoveries. It would also be a nasty fall, so I took off my day pack, but still carried a camera in a camo vest with multiple pockets. In the vest were also: flashlight; waterproof matches; a space blanket for warmth; Band-Aids; some energy powders and snacks; water bottles; a poncho; extra wool hat; bandana; compass; and BLM maps of the general area.



Apache breastworks near the Horseshoe Canyon battle site.

The point is, if I leave my pack, wander somewhere, get hurt, and need to survive the night, the vest holds enough to get me through a chilly night.

When I reached the hole, I peered in. I saw what appeared to be a kind of platform or cradle that might have held an olla (a ceramic jar used for cooking). I also noticed some kind of material that had been deemed special enough to be a half-inch off the surface of the hole—a baby burial? Peering further, it appeared the hole actually might be an entrance to a bigger opening, at a 90-degree angle. I'd found other cracks in the rock on the cliff face before turning up into this notch, and I considered the possibility that this was a small crawl opening into a much larger cave.

I know of several such places where one has to



Exploring the Doubtful Canyon Butterfield Stage Stop: Cynthia Wolf, Brian Huberman, Paul DuSablón.

crawl into a narrow opening, and then worm one's way into a bigger cave, with pictographs inside. I was convinced by then, based on seeps, rock art, breastworks, mortar and water holes, that this area had been a place Apaches (not to mention earlier travelers) had visited more than once. In fact, it made sense that the Chiricahuas had left San Carlos and gone to this area because they knew seeps and other possible water sources were available at certain times of the year. Defense works may have been in place long before the April 1882 firefight, too.

Looking in, however, something said: Do not explore further. I felt privileged to have been "led" to this spot and felt that whatever the small wooden structure was, I should not "mess with it." The spirits dictated a "hands off" approach.

After I explained my logic, Paul acquiesced. We took all the photos we wanted and also felt there might have been some rock art on one of the walls. If it was a burial, I opined, "This rock art, faint as it is, might have warned others that human spirits might be here. And the Apaches did not like messing with the spirit world."

Regardless of the correctness of that conjecture, I nonetheless said, "We should eat. It's two p.m." At that, we worked our way down into a draw, with some minuscule shade, and broke out our lunches.

As I sat there, I began to think: Whenever I find pottery sherds, I always try to make a connection with the women who may have made the pottery. I don't know, perhaps Apache men made pottery, too, but more than likely, the women wove baskets and made pottery.

In this instance, however, I thought of what I knew of the battle, and how Col. Forsyth's 4th Cavalry had charged, in a line abreast, from a cavalry encampment in the area around what is now Virden, NM, towards the Peloncillos at a gallop. The dust cloud thrown up must have been enormous. Apaches, on the heights all around, but in particular on the cliff directly above us, where the hole in the rock with the wooden basket lay, would have been looking north/northeast.

In my mind's eye, I saw Apache warriors, standing, peering to the east, seeing the cavalry as they advanced across alkaline flats, pushing up enormous clouds of dust as they came on, possibly first in a long, slow trot, then a gait, then finally, at a gallop the last few hundred yards. I saw the Apache warriors stand and then make noises to alert other Apaches of Loco's group—men, women and children more than likely scattered in the valley.

At that precise moment, I heard two shouts, *loud enough to be heard above the wind*: "Hey, heyhey! Hey, heyhey!" Or "Yaaah, yaaahyah!"

I couldn't believe what I'd heard. I was stupefied. I didn't want to embarrass myself by asking Paul if he'd heard what I heard.

"Did you hear that?" he asked, within a split second. He was standing. I was seated.

"What?"
"Those voices!"

I nodded, stunned. "I know what I heard, but how in the hell did YOU hear it?"

"I know. Both my hearing aids are still out!" Paul seemed shocked. But not disbelieving.

"I didn't want to say anything. I heard two distinct calls," I told him.

"I only heard one!" he said. "But I know what I heard!"

APACHERIA continued on next page

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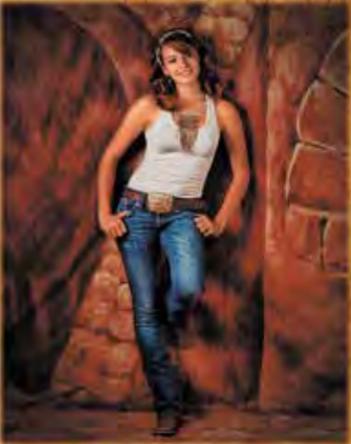
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APACHERIA continued

"No shit. Me, too!" I then explained to him what I'd thought or "transmitted" to the Apache spirits/warriors on the day of the battle. I shared with him that often, when I've found pottery, I've relaxed, held the pottery pieces in my hands, perhaps touched them to my eyes or face, and tried to imagine women making the pottery.

"No one will believe us."

"I don't care. I know what we heard," he said. We both sat there for awhile.

"I think what we heard was their voices," I said. I paused for a few minutes. We ate our lunches silently, the wind blowing as it had been blowing all day. What we'd heard had come from above us, to the ridge to our left, a good 150 feet above the cliff face we'd explored—the cliff face where the hole in the rock with the puzzling object in it was located.

"I don't know what we found up there," I said. I really don't know. But if it was something that was important, or even sacred to those Apaches who were here, I think those voices, those spirits, revealed themselves to us because we respected the spiritual energy up there. We didn't plunder, pillage or alter what was there. The spirits just thanked us for what we didn't do.

We sat some more. Then we rose and continued on a line of march across the valley floor. We encountered what looked like several lines of rock in the valley below where the breastworks were located that I'd found weeks earlier. My cowboy "source" had assured me that "the battle site's right up there." He'd nodded up into the canyon we were in now.

I'd been there during the rainy season, and had actually seen water running out of the rocks. As I looked, I actually found several rock "barriers" that had been erected—who knew by whom, or how long ago? The cowboy had told us that there had once been enough water in the canyon that ranchers had drilled down into the rock and erected a pump.

All of that water had, of course, long since been pumped out for cattle use. But who knows how much water might have been there for the Apaches, and before them, whatever native peoples had walked—not ridden, walked—from where to here. People who had walked all the way down, one way or another, from the Bering Strait and west of there from what was now Siberia.

Among the last native peoples to make that walk had been the Apaches. Then from elsewhere came the Spaniards, the Mexicans and Americans. And now, us.

We continued to find things in that area for three or four more hikes. Beginning around September of that year (before this happened), I'd begun feeling winded and less able to



Apache breastworks near the Horseshoe Canyon battle site.

walk. My health began to deteriorate. I began to have problems breathing, and actually went on oxygen at night. I consulted a heart doctor. In February 2012, I went into a hospital in Las Cruces, very sick.

Somewhere along the line, I asked a priest to give the last rites. Fr. Rich, from Albuquerque, who had married my niece in Bloomington, Ind., had transferred and had responded to a call from my wife. He drove from Albuquerque to Las Cruces. I remembered thinking, afterwards, in the dark, after he and my wife had left me: *God, I'm ready to go. I feel at deep peace with myself and You.* Sometime that night, I crashed and went on life support.

I was on life support for two weeks. At one point, they "brought me up" enough to ask me if I wanted to die. I said I didn't. I went back under. In some ways, I think I experienced the Bardo State of dying that Tibetan Buddhists describe. There were some moments of warmth, comfort, peaceful surroundings, kind people—and there were other moments of hideous nightmares. Nightmares so horrible I wouldn't want to give them the energy to retell.

By the time I came off life support, I'd developed gangrene on nine toes; they were as black as if I'd gotten frost-bitten. Eventually, the left foot toes came back, but I had nerve damage on the left foot and have "drop foot" and must wear a brace. On my right foot, I now have part of a big toe, the middle three are fully amputated, and the little toe is intact. I've learned to walk several times, using walkers and canes. I've seen my heart go from bad to worse and better, but will have heart surgery.

I hope I can write again. I miss "hiking Apacheria," very, very much.

I've always believed Apache spirits wanted me to find the things I've found. If so, that's been because I've never taken those "finds" as anything but gifts. Nothing should be taken for granted. When you find things "out there," respect the experience, don't plunder and pillage things. The debris of battles throughout history have always included the spirits of those who died. Every battlefield, therefore, is sacred ground.

After nearly two years, with all kinds of tragedies, I reflect back on those days of my last serious time Hiking Apacheria. I've wondered: Were those voices we heard from the "warriors," knowing something I didn't, saying: "Thank you!... See you next time... Good-bye... or... We salute you, fellow warriors!?"

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From October 2005 through October 2012, Silver City hiker Jerry Eagan has written 28 accounts of his adventures and discoveries "Hiking Apacheria." You can read them all at www.desertexposure.com/apacheria. Readers with an interest in Apacheria and those with good wishes for his recovery can email him at hikingapacheria@gmail.com. He adds that this article is "dedicated to my Dearable wife, Dorothy Eagan, who gave me the freedom to hike alone, hundreds of times in Apacheria."

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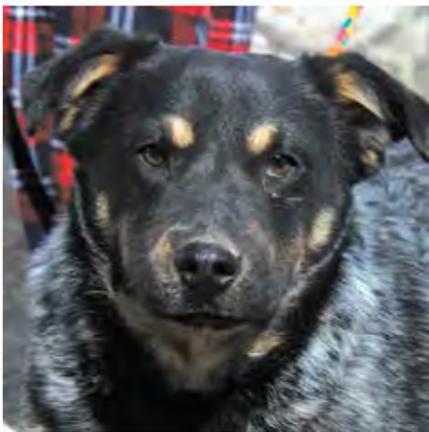
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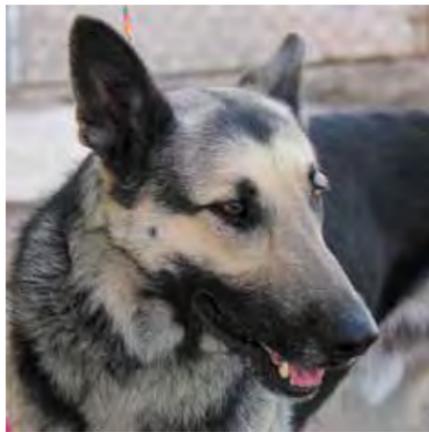
Barbara
2 yrs., Female, DMH



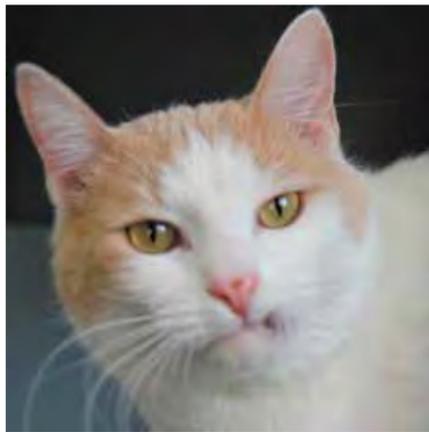
Krosus
1 yr., Male, DSH



Cheddar
6 mos., Female, Heeler



Biggs
2 yrs., Neutered Male, Shepherd



Buttons
Adult, Neutered Male, DSH
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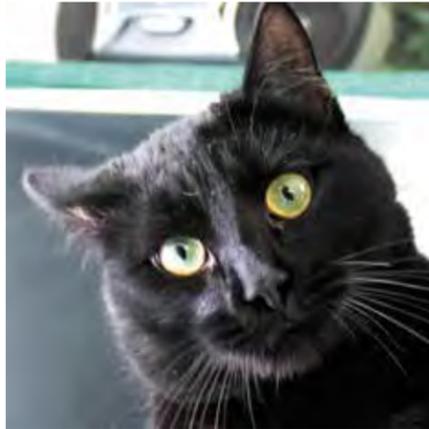
Henry
5 mos, Male, Tabby
Help! I'm growing up here!



Mambo
3 mos., Female, Lab-Shepherd-X



Techno
8 wks., Male, Catahoula-Heeler



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Touching the Past

Back in the late Forties, a trip to Palomas meant “restocking.”

As one’s age and possibly one’s aches advance, it can be stunning—sometimes staggering—to look back and realize how much has changed, how far the journey has carried our bones. Human experience in this regard seems universal; only an individual’s particular perspective on his or her time can seem unique. In my own case, for example, I still remember standing on chairs during the war (that would be the Second World War, if anyone can remember that far back) mixing food coloring into margarine in order to turn it from white to yellow. We called the stuff “butter,” but in so far as I can remember, owing to rationing, we never once saw real butter at the table during the whole of the war. In the same vein, in those days, people often thought olive oil detrimental to one’s health, so invariably we cooked with pure unadulterated bacon grease.

On visits with the grandchildren, as I watch them perform electronic feats that would once have dazzled a NASA scientist and that still dazzle me, I am forced to remember that in the Sixties I went through an entire engineering curriculum doing such courses as advanced physics, thermodynamics and naval architecture armed only with a slide rule. Later, when I started teaching, my own college students had never so much as heard of a slide rule and imagined it to be some kind of yard stick.

And then, of course, we come to the automobile. My grandfather once told me that he certainly intend-



By the time 1948 rolled around and Dad sprang for our first car—a sleek, two-door Chevy Fleetwood—I had developed a sturdy little pair of legs and enough endurance to go with them.

ed to buy one, as soon as vehicles could be purchased “two for a quarter.” My parents, throughout the length of the war and my first eight years, didn’t own a car; instead, like a majority of people in Silver City, we walked—no matter what the weather. So by the time 1948 rolled around and Dad sprang for our first car—a sleek, two-door Chevy Fleetwood—I had developed a sturdy little pair of legs and enough endurance to go with them.

(Last week, I mildly suggested to my wife that to improve our health and in recollection of the good old days, we might like to walk to town for our morning coffee, two miles in, two miles back. My wife said that she thought she could achieve the same result by feeding me raw beets on a bed of uncooked kale or, perhaps, by eliminating my meals altogether. I went straight to the garage and backed out the car. At our house, I found, progress has been embraced.)

In the Chevy Fleetwood, “Old Betsy,” running on incredibly cheap gas (occasionally as low as six cents a gallon during a “gas war”), we discovered “the Sunday drive” and the road to exotic adventure. That meant that for the first time ever we drove to mysterious, heretofore unseen magical places like Cliff, Gila, Glenwood, the Catwalk, Mogollon, Willow Creek for camping, the Sapillo for more camping, the Mimbres Valley, Lordsburg, Las Cruces, the White Sands, Deming, and that most exotic spot of all, located in an actual foreign country, Palomas, Mexico.

For anyone who arrived in New Mexico after about 1965, mention of Palomas is going to require a bit of explanation, so first, some preliminaries, and

then, some description.

In 1948, Silver City had just seen the opening of its first radio station, KSIL, an AM station that carried various news, variety, comedy and suspense programs as well as local public-service broadcasting. Television, something we had vaguely heard about, remained almost a decade away in our future. Downtown, in 1948, only the El Sol and the Silco theaters were running full tilt. The Gila had yet to be built; the site upon which it now sits held several large cottonwoods and three tiny stuccoed offices, one of which housed our doctor.

Dining out in Silver City meant “going for a meal.” The food was good, but aside from The Dix Club, the town’s single key club (now the Moose Lodge), one couldn’t find anything that resembled “fine dining” or a big-city restaurant. New Mexico State Teachers’ College (now WNMU) provided occasional concerts and plays at Light Hall. For evening entertainment, that was pretty much Silver City’s limit, save for one thing. With a population of only around 7,000 at that time, Silver City remained truly a small town, which meant that our most basic form of entertainment, then as now, involved visiting with our friends.

Sometimes, certainly, people used the telephone to extend invitations or mailed notes to generate a visit, but by common consent, in the Forties, most people simply “dropped by,” un-summoned, unannounced, and no one I knew found that in any way unusual. What this meant is that on at least two or three nights each week, we had visitors in the house. If I’d been out to a school event, a baseball game or the movies, I would often walk through the door to find every chair in my parents’ living room occupied, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12 people conversing avidly, talking about everything from politics, business and finance to art, literature and music.

Social stratification was not observed: Republicans and Democrats sat together without gridlock. I can remember an Anglican priest sandwiched between a Roman Catholic priest and two rock-solid agnostics, all of them going strong, talking about the new highway project to be built between Silver City and Central (now Santa Clara). I can remember plumbers, carpenters and electricians talking with bankers, lawyers and college professors, without divisions between the men and the women, everyone taking an equal part in the conversation.

Depending on the subject, two, four or six kids might be sitting on the floor, listening, learning something. But if the conversation turned to issues our parents thought sensitive, we were all dispatched to my bedroom or my sister’s with instructions to see to our own entertainment, and we did, usually with a board game of some kind.

Did the adults share a drink on these occasions? Of course they did. Grant County in the Forties and Fifties registered the highest liquor consumption *per capita* of any county in the United States, and the adults were not drinking white wine. We had bars and liquor stores everywhere in those days, and the only wines sold in town were port and sherry; outside ethnic enclaves located elsewhere in America, table wines hadn’t yet been much discovered in the United States. So beer, Scotch, bourbon, gin and rum were standard, and social drinking was considered a social grace that people had better know how to handle without embarrassing themselves or anyone else in the process. I never saw my father serve anyone more than two drinks in an evening, so people sipped—not very much—and talked, and enjoyed themselves in the company, and after two or three hours and always before 10 o’clock, they were perfectly fit to collect their kids and drive home. And hence, Palomas.

Back in the Forties and Fifties, people went to Palomas for two reasons. If one had visitors from “back East” (that would have been St. Louis and Southern Illinois, in the case of our family), driving them down to see Mexico always proved a major adventure. The first time we saw the place, Palomas constituted a big adventure for us; thereaf-

ter, it was a big adventure only for our visitors. But the other reason people went to Palomas was to restock.

I can’t remember when the law changed, but during the Forties and early Fifties, once each month, the law permitted each adult to bring back one gallon of hard liquor and one case of beer from Mexico without having to pay customs duties. As a result, before people left for Palomas, in the event that more than one adult happened to be going, they invariably called their friends and asked, “Do you need anything?,” which meant, “Can we bring you a gallon or a case of something?” *Oso Negro* gin and *Bacardi* rum both came in wicker-encased gallon jugs, and the *Oso Negro* jugs also came equipped with a little keychain sporting a black plastic bear, *Oso Negro*’s logo. At some point, nearly every kid in town could be found carrying one of those in his pocket.

People generally avoided buying Scotch, bourbon and vodka from Palomas owing to an assumption that the expensive “good stuff” had been extracted from the bottles (by some mysterious process) and replaced with inferior rotgut. Thus a visit to Palomas provided everyone with a spot of genuine foreign travel and local color, but also acted as a replenishment exercise, friends going down helping friends staying home, leaving the Silver City emporiums of sport and entertainment to thrive on their sale of Scotch, bourbon, vodka and whatever else happened to be available.

Palomas in the Forties was not the Palomas that one sees today, and neither was Columbus. In 1948, we were only 32 years past Villa’s raid, and Columbus had not yet recovered. Then as now, one approached both settlements from the direction of Deming, and at some point, before one reached Columbus, US Immigration had an office to the west of the highway. And then, one did reach Columbus, as long as one paid very close attention so as not to miss it because there was almost nothing there. The depot still stood as well as an outbuilding or two; I think I remember a couple of dilapidated stores and a few—a very few—houses, and that was pretty much it. According to a recent census, Columbus now has a population of around 1,700 persons; in the late Forties, if that number topped 100 people, I would be much surprised. Without malice of any kind, most of us imagined that the whole place was about to dry up and blow away.

And then, almost immediately, one passed through a gate in a barbed-wire fence—the border—stopped briefly at Mexican immigration to say, “Tourist,” the one word covering the reason for the visit, and entered Palomas proper. As I remember it, Palomas proper was L-shaped, the village’s layout reversing the direction of the L so that the short leg pointed east toward El Paso while the long leg pointed south into Chihuahua. The short leg stretched, perhaps, the length of a single long building with three or more doors and, possibly, a second small building appended at the east end. One drove straight toward that building from the gate, turned to the west, drove about 40 more yards and made a quick left turn to the south onto the long leg of the L. That leg, if memory serves, extended about two and a half blocks and no more before it dissolved into the Chihuahuan Desert.

The streets, both of them, were dirt or, more properly, dust, and wide, the wall-to-wall adobe buildings on both sides stuccoed, after a fashion, but aged. My best guess is that all of them looked back to the 19th century. At intervals, one found hitching posts of the kind seen in western movies, two uprights with a crossbar.

Almost immediately to the right when one turned onto the long arm of the L, one found Pete’s Place, a large restaurant and *cantina*, the forerunner of The Pink Store. All the way down near the end of the street but on the opposite side, near the edge of the desert, one found Tillie’s Curios, where Pete’s wife did a brisk business selling the kinds of goods today found in The Pink Store, and where also customers “restocked” their liquids. In between Pete’s Place and Tillie’s, all buildings and houses opened straight onto the street.

There were a few windows, some of them with grills, and very solid doors, and I have no idea what those buildings housed because no one I knew ever went into a one of them. I do not remember signs, nor very much in the way of color; the place was drab. There were, I think, one or two smaller *tiendas* along the street, each carrying cheap goods, but mostly, visitors didn’t frequent them. I think, too, there may have been a jail somewhere along the street because,

once, while my mother did everything she could think of to direct our attention elsewhere, my sister and I were thrilled to see two policemen beating the daylight out of someone who had apparently disturbed their equanimity. Out behind the two streets, we could see some dirt tracks and some isolated adobe structures, and that was it; that was Palomas.

Present population figures suggest that upwards of 5,000 people are now living in the town, but in the late Forties, I would once more be surprised to learn that the settlement's population outstripped that of Columbus. At the time, in those long-gone days, they were two tiny enclaves of utter insignificance.

On our normal visits to Palomas, we drove first to Tillie's, driving slowly so as to raise as little dust as possible. Once there, we spent at least half an hour looking over the goods, my sister usually coming away with a tiny pottery tea set, a Palomas standard, while I tried and failed to find the kinds of lead soldiers that one always found for sale in Juarez. Eventually, my parents would "restock," and then we might drive back up the street and stop at Pete's Place so that my sister and I could have a soda while the folks had one beer or one drink before we headed home.

If no one else happened to be in Pete's Place when we went in, the band immediately struck up a number, and it was never mariachi music those guys were playing; instead, it was what I like to think of as down-to-earth *cantina* music, featuring a blaring trumpet, a clarinet with a broken reed, and a piano that sounded like it had been shot to pieces and left behind when Villa had made his retreat. In fact, every note played sounded totally out of tune, but *oh boy*, did that music ever have flavor, and I loved it. My parents, professional musicians, had reservations but never once expressed them be-

fore we got back into the car and started home.

Truth be told, after my sister and I had made our fourth or fifth trip to Palomas, our parents pretty much had to trap us and hogtie us before they could get us to go anywhere near the place. Well, we were children, and after our third visit, we had utterly exhausted the mystery. And furthermore, according to our body thermometers and before air conditioning, we considered both Deming and Palomas to be hotter than Hades and couldn't understand, outside a life and death emergency, why anyone would leave Silver City's mild 70-degree climate in order to go anywhere near the 90- to 100-degree desert temperatures found south of Hurley.

But then, on a summer's day, my aunt and uncle from St. Louis came to visit, expressed an interest in seeing Mexico, and used that tenuous family tie to wedge the two of us once more into the car. It was a lucky thing that they did because if we had gone to the neighbors and stayed home, we would have missed what I have always remembered as a stunning experience.

On the particular day in question, after first calling friends to see if they "needed anything" from Palomas, we all piled into the car and drove down. In Deming, the heat was blistering; in Palomas, it was worse. By the time we stepped out of the car in front of Tillie's, my sister and I were reeling but nevertheless bolted inside to get out of the sun and see if we could find anything in stock that looked new. Forty minutes later and after my father and my uncle had generously "restocked" the trunk, all of us ambled back out onto the street and walked slowly up the shady side to Pete's Place, my uncle and my father having arrived at the conclusion that a cold *Carta Blanca* seemed an absolute necessity.

Before people left for Palomas, they invariably called their friends and asked, "Do you need anything?" which meant, "Can we bring you a gallon or a case of something?"

Once inside, while my aunt and my mother chatted, my uncle and my father, whose first language had been Italian rather than English, got into conversation with the manager; they spoke Italian while the manager spoke Spanish, and they all seemed to understand one another perfectly. My sister and I, understanding neither language, became quickly bored, so within minutes, we made our exit and were soon turning flips on the hitching post near the front door. And then, far down beyond the long leg of the L and well out into the desert, I spotted something, stopped twirling on the hitching post, and stood peering into the distance.

What I had spotted, two or three miles distant, seemed nothing more than a high, thin pillar of dust. But as I looked and squinted, trying to clear my vision, I quickly realized that up the dirt road that led deep down into Chihuahua, something seemed to be moving toward us. Minutes went by and then more minutes, and after eight or nine of them, I began to recognize the outline of a vehicle. Then, to my unrestrained joy and on the basis of my vast experience with World War II movies—I may have seen as many as four by that point in my life—I knew that I was about to inspect, up close and personal, my first genuine half-track.

I could hardly contain myself, and I vaguely remember squeezing my fists together with excitement. My sister seemed about as thrilled as if someone had offered to feed her a full plate of spinach or, perhaps, rhubarb, so she swiftly reentered the *cantina* and took up her chair beside my parents. I barely noticed; I thought I was about to get an exceptionally good look at the Mexican army. But in that regard, the facts soon proved me wrong.

Eventually, moving on its tracks and front wheels, the half-track, trailing a mammoth cloud of dust, its engine sounding not unlike a steam calliope, moved past Tillie's, came on up the road, and then, immediately in front of me, turned, braked and stopped, parking vertically a few yards below the hitching post around which I had previously been playing. And then, I got one of the shocks of my life as the men who had been sitting inside the vehicle stood up and began to dismount over the side.

Those men weren't Mexican army personnel at all; they were *Rurales*, members of the *Guardia Rural*, the rural police first established in

TOUCHING THE PAST continued on next page

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TOUCHING THE PAST continued

1861 by Benito Juárez, but probably most well known for the heavy hand they exerted during the regime of Porfirio Díaz when they acted not only as police but also as enforcers for the *caciques* (the bosses) and the *hacendados* (the big landowners). I did not then know all that I know now about the *Rurales*, but I did know what they were and that they were much feared, and as I watched them dismount, I think the hair on the back of my neck rose more than a little.

And they were a sight, to be sure. Covered thick with dust from head to toe, they were uniformly gray, a color that perfectly matched the gray of their uniforms: high, wide felt *sombreros*, *charro*-type short coats, waistcoats (even in that heat), thigh-high leather boots and leggings, with spurs (even in the half-track), long sabers, holstered pistols of the western Colt variety, and cartridge belts. As they dismounted and moved across the boardwalk and into Pete's Place, those men made music with their spurs—three officers, something made evident by the dust-covered gold braid on their sleeves, and a sergeant, the man who had been driving.

A quiet minute elapsed, and then, about two-thirds of the Americans inside Pete's Place made what I can only remember as a hasty exit, one or two of them actually running toward their cars.

I looked in through the door; I wondered if someone had been arrested. Not at all: The three officers and the sergeant were standing quietly at the bar, each of them lifting a beer. But their singular appearance, sudden and unexpected, had created an immediate business recession for Pete. Save for my father and my uncle, who were still conversing with the manager, the rest of the bar had gone rather quiet, and the band had altogether disappeared.

Once I assured myself that all remained well at our table, I got on with the serious business at hand—inspecting the half-track. Across the 10 minutes that followed, I must have walked around that machine 30 times, memorizing every fitting, bolt and screw. I was eight years old; once school recommenced, I intended to regale my buddies with recollections about this adventure, and if I wanted to stay ahead of the game, I needed to know my stuff.

And then, coming once more around the rear tracks, I happened to glance south, and that's when I spotted a second dust cloud rising in the desert. Fifteen minutes later—and by that time, mind you, I was the only person left on the street—the *Rurales* detachment's enlisted contingent rode into town, led by a corporal, not in half-tracks but on horseback. Suddenly, I had the strange feeling that I was looking straight into the past, straight into what Palomas must have looked like during the Mexican Revolution. And I can only think that when the 20 riders in that detachment dismounted, tied their mounts to the hitching posts, and made their way into Pete's Place, carrying their carbines, their 40 spurs jingling, the remainder of Pete's patrons held the same thought. I don't think it took those customers 30 seconds to make their exit—my parents, my sister, my aunt and my uncle included. I won't say that we exactly ran for the car, but we didn't dawdle. Within about five minutes, every American who had visited Palomas that afternoon was back across the border, back in

the USA, with a story to tell.

In so far as I can remember, that long-ago special trip to Palomas with my parents, sister, aunt and uncle marked my last visit to the town. Thereafter, whenever my folks mentioned that they might be going down, I bolted for the telephone and made rapid arrangements to remain in Silver City with friends. Heat and dust never constituted my idea of a good time, and I felt that I already happened to be encountering enough of both on our un-grassed baseball diamonds. But forever after, I treasured that brief encounter with the *Rurales* for the window it opened into the past.

Then, nearly 20 years later, I found, quite unexpectedly, additional cause to appreciate that visit.



In August 1966, after having spent nearly 10 months sweltering on a destroyer escort in the excruciating heat of the South China Sea, I and my ship returned to San Diego. There, the Navy, in its infinite wisdom, immediately presented me with a new set of orders, promoting me to lieutenant while dispatching me to be a department head on yet

I knew that I was about to inspect, up close and personal, my first genuine half-track.

another destroyer escort, this one home-ported in Newport, Rhode Island. On our way east, my wife and I then stopped in Silver City to spend a two-week leave with our families. A day or two after we arrived, my father turned to me one morning and said, "Son, I hate to do this to you, but I think it's time for us to clean out the store-

house." Regardless of the work portending, I knew he was right; we'd been piling box upon box in that structure for two decades, so I could only wonder what we might find.

Early the next morning, steeling ourselves to the labor, we went to work, and around noon, after a warm morning and after eating plenty of dust mixed with sweat, we suddenly struck gold. "Good Lord," my dad said, after lifting a box that contained old camping equipment and glancing beneath, "what have we here?" What we had, in the days long before the brand could be imported and sold in US grocery stores, turned out to be a full case of *Dos-XXs*, something brought back from Palomas years, even tens of years before, deposited in the storehouse, and forgotten.

On the instant, we both felt certain that the beer had gone bad, but nevertheless, we quickly extracted two bottles and stuck them in the refrigerator. Later that afternoon, after that old storehouse had been put in order, after we had cleaned up, and after we had settled ourselves on the patio, my father and I made the experiment of popping the caps and trying the beer. Let me tell you we rejoiced: That fine Mexican beer proved to be pure nectar, as cold and satisfying in the moment as in the hour in which it had been brewed. We then took immediate steps: We rationed the supply, each of us limiting ourselves to a single bottle per day, stringing out the cache through the whole length of my leave.

Two weeks later, when my wife and I departed for the East Coast, I took to the road and the future with fond memories of Palomas and the delights it had once more so unexpectedly supplied. ☼

Phillip "Pep" Parotti grew up in Silver City during the 1940s and 1950s and has retired and come home after a long teaching career at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

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After the Storm

Columbus is still cleaning up after a monsoon micro-burst last summer.

I meet Bruce D'Salas in Columbus early one day in January, in the light yellow sunlight of a winter morning on the border.

D'Salas is deeply involved with the follow-up after the storm, known as a "micro-burst," last July 23 that damaged at least 40 houses in the northwest part of the town of 1,662 residents. He says almost all those affected are Mexican immigrants who work in "construction, chile picking, chile processing, or onion processing."

He is an aspiring church pastor who has been collecting information about them, counseling them, and praying with them from the beginning.

Most of the damage isn't obvious to the sight. The most visible wreckage he showed me, while driving me around, was a two-by-four piece of wood still lodged in a hole in a roof. "The wood came from across the street like a missile," he said.

The micro-burst was a rare phenomenon involving cold air rapidly falling down into warmer air during a rain storm, causing a strong wind and changing air pressure drastically. D'Salas says it seems to him it was a tornado because of the way it would hit one home and then skip over the next.

We stop at a house where no one answers the door. D'Salas tells me that an elderly couple is living in their very chilly storage shed after their mobile home had its windows and doors blown out, as well as suffering other serious damage.

I've driven through Columbus many times since July and never noticed the damage. I'd naively assumed that the Red Cross or some other organization had probably repaired the homes in a few weeks.

But after the Red Cross, HUD (Housing and Urban Development), the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Tierra del Sol, a church coalition and a few other organizations did their thing, it still seems as if the efforts to help are just getting into gear.

We stop at a trailer where a young woman with a toddler in her arms opens the door. Pricila shows me how the roof and the skirting on the trailer still need repairs. The roof is leaking in several spots "when it snows and rains," she says. "The two windows over the couch blew out, and it rained all over."

D'Salas talks about possible mold in the insulation and how the little boy Nathan has "immune deficiency" (HIV).

The Red Cross was there almost immediately and offered cleaning supplies and a little food. Pricila's husband earns \$8 an hour as a beginning welder, and they have little money to do the repairs.

Not too far away, in a red brick house where two elderly sisters live, large cracks are now all over the walls. The sister who is at the house, Socorro Torres, says a washing machine outside a house over 100 feet away "flew into the alley" beside her own house the day of the storm.

"We were really afraid," she says. "We were saying, 'My God, please help me!' as we huddled together in the street."

Our next visit is to Maria Dolores Gaitan. Hers is a pink stucco house with a nice bay window, built by her now-divorced husband. She lives there now with two school-aged children.

When D'Salas arrives, she asks him if she needs to pay taxes on a shed that blew right over a stucco wall. He says she doesn't.

"The Salvation Army said the wind picked up the roof and set it down again," he says. Cracks are visible everywhere.

The houses with cracked walls need extensive work, beyond just filling in the cracks.

A coalition of churches was set up a few weeks after the storm to help out. Father Henry Hoffman of the St. Augustine Anglican Church in

Deming is spearheading the effort, along with Pastor Tony Egan of the Foursquare Church in Silver City.

Ed Kemp, a volunteer at the First United Methodist Church in Deming, is the project manager for volunteers there. About 10 volunteers helped five families affected by the storm. Kemp believes there are 37 more houses to repair. The coalition is considering replacing three homes with new mobile homes.

But he is elderly and in a wheelchair, and he needs young blood on their committee. "I'm going to go to churches, the fire chief, the police chief, because we need young men. The people who have time are retired, are older—they shouldn't be climbing up ladders and so forth."

Father Hoffman and Pastor Egan between them raised \$25,000. "The Salvation Army was very generous with a \$10,000 grant," says Hoffman. There's been a long delay due to the holidays.

"We have \$10,000 left," he says. "And we need to raise another \$50,000-\$60,000. But what we need most are volunteers to do the work."

The house that belonged to Columbus Mayor Nicole Lawson's late father lost its roof and a wall during the storm and was later demolished. She had insurance to take care of it.

She says that the day after the storm the streets were entirely cleaned because of all the scavenging going on. "I had someone asking for our roof," she says.

Lawson was ready to join the coalition, D'Salas says. "But Pastor Egan asked her to drop out because of politics, so she stepped out gracefully."

Lawson adds, "We don't have the authority or the finances to help."

One might think the town could exempt itself from helping its residents due to its own morass of problems deriving from the arrest of the "Columbus Eleven" in March 2011 for gun-running to drug cartels. City Hall records were left in disarray.

"We had the almost impossible task of developing a system that's accountable," Lawson says. "Our morale is pretty low."

Arrested former mayor Eddie Espinoza returned in late November after serving only one year of his four-year sentence. "He was in City Hall just last week," says Lawson. "The community is embittered."

"But they are a phenomenal bunch of people," she adds. "Some of the poorest people I know give abundantly of themselves."

"We've reached a point where we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel," she says, with an optimism that might be a bit obligatory.

My guess is, the church coalition will do a lot of good things for the storm victims, but that efforts will peter out after a while when donations get thinner. There's so much to do and so little money to do it with. Those affected are too obscure.

But they can really use the help right now. ☘

Contact volunteer project manager Ed Kemp in Deming at (575) 546-6408. *Borderlines* columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.





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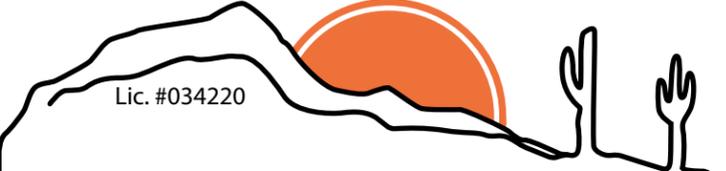
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For info and directions, call 575-531-2711.

The 15th Annual Cabalgata Binacional horseback parade will also take place on March 8 in the Village of Columbus plaza. The annual event promotes friendship between the U.S. and Mexico. The Cabalgata horse riders are expected to arrive in Columbus at approximately 10:00 a.m. Food vendors and a variety of entertainment happenings will be held in Village of Columbus plaza. For more information about the Cabalgata in the Columbus plaza, call 575-494-1535.

On Sunday, March 9, the Columbus Historical Society will hold its 98th Annual Memorial Service behind the Depot Museum at 10 a.m. in remembrance of the Americans whose lives were lost during the 1916 raid on Columbus. Historical photos will be displayed in the memorial garden. For info call 575-531-2620.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Listening With Your Eyes

Need validation? Look to your horse.

We were at a critical spot in a lesson. My student wasn't new to horses but had been away long enough that even she admitted she was pretty "green." She was eager to learn and teachable, and had obviously made the commitment to practice the basics between lessons. The kind of student every teacher wants, no matter what the subject.

This was one of those moments with a horse where you have to bring many different things together in harmony. It was complex groundwork, and it required smooth and coordinated use of the tools in each hand, movement of the feet, concentrated focus while having soft eyes, and proper positioning that had to be maintained even as the horse was moving. There was no room for confusion, as success depended entirely on clear communication the horse would understand. My student was set up perfectly in her mind and with her body, and initiated her "conversation" with her horse.

Then a funny thing happened. She did everything right but missed the result. She turned to her friend who was watching the lesson and asked, "Did I do it right?" Then she asked me the same thing. Both of us responded with great enthusiasm, assuring her that she had absolutely nailed a pretty advanced piece of horsemanship on the ground. The reassurance, support and praise from us humans gave her the confidence to set herself up to try it again.

I see this more and more with people and horses and it always gets me thinking about what has happened to our powers of observation and self-confidence in this connected age.

I've always felt the only feedback you need to tell whether you're doing something right with a horse should come from the horse. The horse never lies. He will always tell you—with an ear, a look in the eye, a drop of the head or the athletic grace when he moves with confidence and softness—that you have asked him for something he understands. In his own way, he will praise your efforts. Or he will make it clear you need to work on your communication skills. This should be the most honest one-to-one relationship you ever have. For both the horse and the human, it is based solely on observation and body language. There are no gray areas and no faint praise.

I wonder why so many people don't see it this way.

If I think about the true masters of horsemanship—not the current names with all the fancy shows, slick training videos and special equipment you can buy only from them—they were quiet, humble, even solitary people. Comfortable with themselves but not necessarily with other people beyond their families. They spent long periods of time alone and on their own, usually on ranches with just their horses. They were more about observing and thinking than talking and promoting. These masters were so good with horses because they focused only on the animals, and accepted the approval from the horse as the only positive feedback they needed to know they were doing the right thing.

When horses moved from a life necessity to a recreational pursuit, and when horsemanship started to become big business, it brought a whole new group of people to the world of horses. Along with that came all the emotional needs of human existence today. Most of us are just not comfortable on our own and we don't draw a lot of personal strength and satisfaction from individual pursuits only we see. We need lots of support from outside sources—promotions and raises at work, assurances from friends, recognition for any accomplishments, support from family or organizations that we have joined—in order to feel good about ourselves and what we're doing. Social media and instant access have only increased our ability to connect and share, and to get immediate reassurance.

When we're with our horses, this means we love to hear people say our horses are beautiful, smart or well trained, as if that is all a reflection of our accomplishments. We like it when people say we look good in the saddle, or even that our tack is so nice and well maintained. We have riding buddies and make the activity a social event, where most everyone is support-

ive. The approval we get from the outside raises our confidence and self-esteem. When things go off track a bit, we blame the horse or the trainer or anthropomorphize about the motivations of the animal or its reactions to certain situations or things so we don't have to feel bad about ourselves.

I'm not being judgmental here. With an undergraduate degree in social psychology and a long career in business, I understand we are social beings who need to find our place in society, and that support and approval from peers, family and friends is critical to our emotional and physical well-being. These are basic human needs.

But maybe all this connection and sharing and looking to the outside for approval for every action or decision has diminished our ability to lead our horses.

When I joined the horse world years ago, I came at it like many beginners. I wanted a pretty horse; I wanted a trainer to show me what to do; I wanted some riding buddies; I wanted people at the barn to compliment me on my progress and skills. Basically, I wanted this to be another part of my life—adding to career, sports and other pursuits—that would provide positive feedback and some ego stroking. I now belonged to another group.

Early on, I got a nice slap in the face that changed my thinking. After my first clinic, the clinician came up and said in pretty strong words, "When you get back to your barn, don't you dare let the trainer in your barn touch your horse." That was like, whoa, what's this all about? He knew the trainer, had high regard for her skills and experience, so this was obviously not about her in any way.

He explained that I had to learn to know my horse, spend time with him by myself and observe him. I had to learn to read his body; he had to learn to read mine. I needed to know when he understood and accepted what I was asking for, and when he was confused. I had to see and feel his approval and acceptance, and should take great pleasure in that. This should trump any approval you get from a friend, trainer or riding buddy. The horse is telling you, "You're doing it right and you're giving me what I need." He'll tell you when you're doing it wrong, too, but that should not feel like failure, just a message to step back and think about what he is saying and how you can help.

It takes a strong-willed person to skip a trail ride with friends in order to work one-on-one with your horse. It is hard to admit that your horse has a "hole," because that says something negative about you. Your friends look at you pretty strangely if you're off in the corner of the arena doing things by yourself. They can take that personally, as if you're making some judgment of their skills or the quality of their advice by going off on your own. If they don't understand what you're doing and why, then to them it means you don't understand it, either. Human nature.

But guess what? The only thing that really matters is whether your horse understands what you're doing.

I know how hard this is because I went through it. But if you want to be good with your horse, you need to find the time for solitary work. Don't be looking over your shoulder for someone to tell you you're doing a good job. Get the rewards and support you need from the animal standing in front of you. Without the power of observation and learning how to "listen with your eyes," you will miss the most meaningful affirmation of your efforts—your horse saying, "Thank you, I understand and I trust you." No pat on the back from another human comes close to matching that. 🌿

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



BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • BEATE SIGRIDDAUGHTER

Fairy Tale Love

What it is, and why, and how to make it.

A young mother rocks her baby, remembering her dreams of a husband who would bring her flowers for her hair each evening in a home filled with laughter and warmth, instead of the distracted one who comes home expecting dinner and a beer. And would she please somehow keep a lid on the baby's incessant crying?

A psychiatrist drags herself home from a day of trying to heal everyone. After listening to many hours of anxiety and stress and conflict, all she wants to do now is read a romance novel with a hopeful ending while sipping a glass of wine.

A soldier returning from duty admits he does everything he does because he wants to be loved.

We all want to be loved. And we all somehow seem to know precisely what love looks like, though when you dig deep enough, you might notice that the models we have for love are not necessarily parents or inspirational elders, but characters from fairy tales instead. Not surprising then that romance novels make up the largest segments in the consumer publishing world, though regrettably men total only 9% or 10% of romance readers—and, frankly, I was surprised to learn there were that many male romance readers. With men encouraged to keep their emotions in straitjackets, small wonder we sometimes think love is women's domain. It isn't. We're all in this together.

What exactly is this love that we so crave and then frequently deny we crave, lest we don't get it and then we would just look bad, so we might as well pretend we didn't really want it in the first place?

It has to do with visibility. After the first few years of being human and helpless and needing to be fed, we can all more or less fend for ourselves. But the craving for benevolent attention does not go away. My question is: Why should it, when it can so easily be satisfied? Or should I say, when it could be so simply satisfied? Because it doesn't appear to be all that easy. Many of us seem to have lost the knack for it, if we had it in the first place.

There are theories that God created the world in order to externalize Himself (Hegel, for one) and experience Himself or Himself (Walsh and other contemporary philosophers). I'll add to that a fairy tale image: At first God was indifferent, much like the sun, and therefore unconditionally and indiscriminately provided for scorpions, roses, rats, eagles, junipers, rocks, grass, whales. And of course God still does so provide. One day, though, God got bored with all that indifference. God wanted love in the mix. So God created human beings.

Of all the world's creatures, we men, women and children are the ones uniquely equipped to not just experience and yearn for, but also to create love, out of nothing, with a rose, a smile, a hug. I am prejudiced in believing God would rather experience a spectacle of people egging each other on while striving for excellence in whatever they do, than a spectacle of conflict and bloodshed, just so there would be something exciting to watch from paradise. I can't imagine God clamoring for just one more car chase, one more scene of battling dinosaurs



with a stick, or one more round of machine-gun fire. It gets old after a while. Love, however, never gets boring, because it keeps evolving and changing with everyone who touches it.



The models we have for love are not necessarily parents or inspirational elders, but characters from fairy tales instead.

You see, love is a fairy tale. As with so many things in life, you have to make it up as you go along. You aren't born, for example, with a life's supply of bread. You have to bake it, or somebody has to bake it for you. And so it is with love. But just because you make it up doesn't mean it isn't real. That's the beauty of good fairy tales.

Remember, too, that fairy tales grow on you as you repeat them.

Meanwhile, just as with bread, for most of us and much of the time, love tastes much better when somebody else makes it up and offers it, and it is a lot less effort to boot. There is a beautiful story in circulation where heaven and hell have exactly the same setting. Soup is on the table and everybody is provided with overly long spoons. In hell, folks suffer from painfully trying to contort themselves to get some of that soup into their own mouths. In

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

heaven they laugh and feed each other. The soup is delicious, even though some of it might get spilled in the riotous process. (Lucky sparrows and mice!)

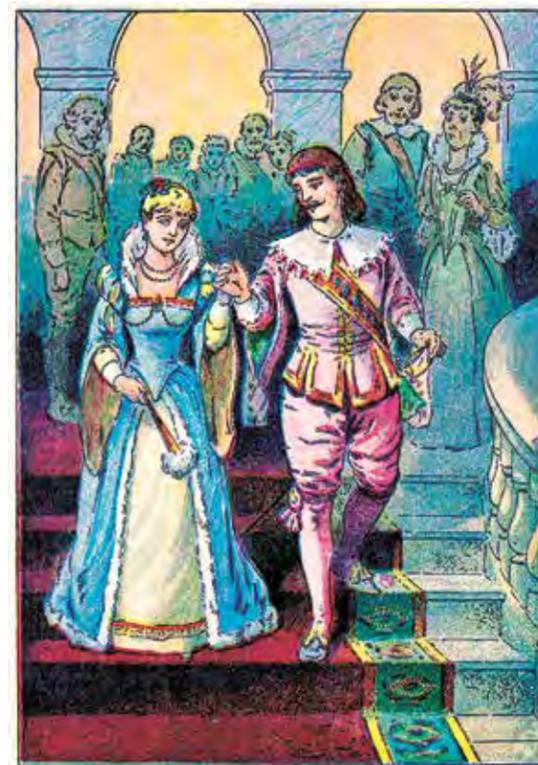
So, too, I find that self-love, while a noble and necessary concept, is not always satisfying. There are times when it pales compared with a caring word or touch from and outside source that “doesn’t have to” be involved. And at times, especially when you crave a hug or direct eye contact, God’s love is a tad too ephemeral and intangible.

A rose smells much sweeter when someone else hands it to you. (With one notable exception: When it’s Valentine’s Day and your significant other has to dip into the family savings to afford roses, you might feel better about buying them for yourself on sale the day after.)

The highest love is walking side by side through this world, making each other visible, and making this magnificent world visible to each other. Each soul has its own path, that’s understood. But on the journey we could all benefit from a mutual admiration club with those who are with us on the road. We can share a small purple flower, a piercing sunrise, or the first lizard of spring, and we can applaud each other for bravely carrying on. In a more intense relationship, all you have to do is turn up the volume of attention. That’s all there is to it. The basic mechanism stays the same: Really look at your partner. Admire his or her dreams. Acknowledge his or her existence. Clap your hands.

Above all, don’t let anybody try to talk you out of love as something too mushy or not respectable enough in this world where allegedly your focus should be on intellectual prowess or ambition and commercial success (which would mean doubling the price of roses for Valentine’s Day, for example). All of those things have their place. Let love come first, though.

Sometimes, in the rush of doubling the price of your roses or trying to earn enough to be able to afford them for your beloved, you might forget how very simple Love 101 can be. If you happen to be in Silver City, there’s a woman here who can handily give you a refresher on how it is done. Her name is Sonia and she makes and sells burritos at Mi



Viejo Mexico at the corner of Hwy. 90 and Broadway. She calls every single customer “my friend” and it is a treat. If God came by for a burrito, she would no doubt call God “my friend” as well, and God would walk away invigorated.

Let’s make an effort to do that sort of thing for one another. Make each other visible with attention. Make it a pleasure to share the road. Make every step a quick caress of our shared wish to be celebrated on our journey from birth to old age. Happy Valentine’s Day. ❀

The highest love is walking side by side through this world, making each other visible, and making this magnificent world visible to each other.

Beate Sigriddaughter is the author of Beauty Sleeping, a new novel about an artist’s journey through the often daunting landscapes of self-doubt and disillusionment. Beauty Sleeping is available from major online booksellers (Amazon., Barnes & Noble, et al), both in print and e-book format, as are her other works of fiction. She lives and writes and sometimes dances in Silver City. For contact and other information, please visit her website www.sigriddaughter.com.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • TABITHA ALTERMAN

Why Buying Organic Is Still Smart
Benefits for you and for the planet.

If you were paying attention to the news last fall, you probably heard about a report by a research team at Stanford University that went viral, proclaiming that there are no nutritional benefits to eating organic food. Various media outlets blasted headlines such as “Why Organic Food May Not Be Healthier for You” and “Organic Food Is No Healthier than Conventional Food.” The media blitz may have left you wondering whether it’s worth it to spend the extra money on organics. We’re here to tell you that it is, and to give you a bunch of good reasons why.

The Stanford Study’s Flaws

Consider that, despite its publicity, there are many reasons not to take the Stanford study as the final word on the nutrition of organics. Published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the paper narrowly defined “health” as vitamin content.

In fact, Stanford’s own research found that eating organic food reduces our exposure to both pesticides and antibiotic-resistant bacteria—obvious health benefits by almost any standard.

The paper didn’t break ground with new research, but rather analyzed a select group of studies comparing organic versus conventional industrial food. Numerous experts have noted that the study was too narrow in focus and have worked to expose the study’s questionable funding and ties to the large-scale agriculture and biotechnology industries. In addition, they question why the results of many important studies were omitted from the Stanford data.

One study excluded from the paper was a meta-analysis out of the Human Nutrition Research Center in the United Kingdom, which found that increased nitrogen in the soil (conventional farming relies on synthetic nitrogen fertilizer) reduces the number of

defense-related compounds—such as vitamin C—in fruits and vegetables. Compared with conventional produce, organic produce contains, on average, about 12% more of these nutrients, which the researchers say would be equivalent to increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables by the same 12%. Another significant study whose results were excluded was one out of the University of Barcelona that found organic



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tomatoes contain more antioxidants than conventionally grown tomatoes.

Pesticides and Kids

Shortly after the Stanford study was published, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) undertook an extensive analysis of the existing scientific evidence about organic food. The AAP analysis confirmed that eating an organic diet could reduce children's exposure to both pesticides and drug-resistant bacteria. However, they also emphasized that the most important thing is that children eat a wide range of produce regardless of whether it's organic, noting that no large human studies have specifically addressed whether reduced exposure to pesticide residues on produce benefits health.

But pesticide exposure has been linked to numerous cancers (brain, breast, colon, lung, ovarian, kidney, pancreatic, stomach and testicular), as well as to nervous system damage; reproductive and metabolic problems; diabetes; obesity; several of the neurological diseases of aging; and other chronic illnesses. Children, whose brains are still developing, are especially susceptible. A study funded by the EPA has shown that children who switch to eating organic food get "dramatic and immediate" reduced exposure to pesticides. The levels of two organophosphate pesticides in children's urine decreased to nondetectable levels immediately after the introduction of organic diets. Today, approximately 1,400 pesticides are approved for use in the United States by the EPA.

Environmental researcher Charles Benbrook estimates that switching to organic food production would reduce our overall exposure to pesticides by 97%. His report, "Simplifying the Pesticide Risk Equation," concludes that the switch would lead to more full-term births, fewer underweight babies, reduced rates of birth defects and significant benefits for developing immune, reproductive and nervous systems. He said the benefits of avoiding pesticide exposure begin about six months before conception and continue throughout life.

Antibiotics Concerns

Animals raised organically are less likely to be contaminated with drug-resistant bacteria because organic farmers are prohibited from administering antibiotics except in cases of medical necessity. Contrast that with industrial farmers—the vast majority in North America—who routinely give animals low doses of antibiotics for nonmedical benefits such as stimulating the animals' growth, although this practice poses serious consequences to human health.

Antibiotics are critical for protecting public health. The inappropriate use of antibiotics, combined with overprescription, of antibiotics threatens their efficacy in fighting human illness. The use of low doses for nonmedical benefits—ubiquitous in



the factory farms that comprise most of our meat production—leads to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria on farms, which can quickly spread into the general population.

GRACE, a nonprofit agency dedicated to increasing public awareness of the relationships among food, water and energy systems, explains it thus: "Similar to how immunization helps the human body fight disease by exposing the immune system to small amounts of a virus or bacteria, when bacteria are continually exposed to small amounts of antibiotics they can develop immunity to them.... These are called 'resistant bacteria' because they have adapted to the point where antibiotics are no longer an effective means of killing them. As a result, some antibiotics have lost their effectiveness against specific infectious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year in the United States almost 2 million people acquire bacterial infections in hospitals, 70% of which are resistant to at least one commonly used antibiotic."

In 2011, the FDA took its first steps toward reducing the amount of antibiotics used in farming, calling the agricultural use of the antibiotic cephalosporin "a serious health threat" to humans. Buying food from producers who eschew the widespread overuse of antibiotics can directly reduce antibiotic resistance in the bacteria that make people sick.

Better Flavor, Sometimes Better Nutrition

Not all organic food is nutritionally superior to conventionally grown food—but some of it is. The Stanford study compared, literally, apples to apples—one variety grown conventionally compared with the same variety grown organically. But organic farmers' ability to sell locally makes them more likely to grow nutritionally superior varieties because they don't have to choose varieties that will remain viable in shipping containers and on supermarket shelves for extended periods of time.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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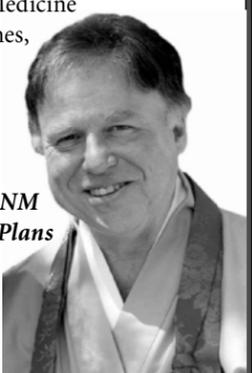
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

Growers who must prioritize shelf life and durability often end up sacrificing nutritional quality.

Donald R. Davis, a retired nutrition scientist from the University of Texas, has studied the nutrient decline in wheat varieties over the past 50 years as farmers have transitioned to industrial methods. "Beginning about 1960, selective breeding and modern production methods gradually increased wheat yields by about threefold," Davis said. Meanwhile nutrient concentrations have been dramatically slashed. Because industrial farming robs soil of nutrients, some of today's wheat varieties have half as much protein and substantially fewer phytochemicals than earlier varieties, Davis said. Because they don't have to focus almost solely on yield, organic farmers can choose varieties of wheat specifically because they are rich in high-quality protein.

Another area of the food sector in which organic techniques do yield nutritionally superior food is meat, eggs and dairy. The food an animal eats directly affects the nutritional content of its meat or milk. Grass-fed (also known as pasture-raised) organic meat, eggs and dairy offer a wide range of health benefits over conventionally raised livestock (including conventionally raised organic): Grass-fed meat and eggs are lower in fat, calories and cholesterol; contain healthier fats and fatty acids; and have been found to be higher in several vitamins (read about numerous studies confirming these findings at eatwild.com/healthbenefits.htm).

For Our Collective Health

Conventional industrial farming practices are detrimental to the health of soil, air, water and wildlife, something that matters to our collective health as much as or more than the nutrient levels of organic or nonorganic apples.

If our soils are farmed intensively for one crop and sprayed with chemicals that kill even beneficial forms of life, the food grown in them ends up nutritionally deficient. In a landmark study, Davis and a team of University of Texas researchers compared the nutritional content of 43 fruits and vegetables based on the USDA's data from 1950 and 1999. They found "reliable declines" in the levels of calcium, iron, phosphorus, protein, riboflavin and vitamin C. They report that there are likely declines in other nutrients

such as magnesium, zinc, and vitamins B6 and E, but there is no data on those nutrients from 1950. A combination of lifeless soil and agricultural practices aimed at improving traits other than nutrition (for example, yield) are the likeliest culprits.

The Organic Consumers Association has compiled similar data, and concludes that the key to healthier food is healthier soil—soil that is regularly replenished with organic compost, in which crops are rotated to use and replenish nutrients in a cycle, in which beneficial insects and other lifeforms are allowed to play their vital role in soil health.

The US food system creates at least 7% of the nation's global warming emissions, according to a conservative estimate from the EPA. Many experts bring that figure closer to 25% or 30% when the various arms of agriculture, such as the manufacture of pesticides and the impact of food transportation, are factored in.

Toxic fertilizer and farm waste runoff is also responsible for a devastating amount of water pollution every year. For example, an Environmental Working Group report on water quality in one important agricultural state, Iowa, found that 60% to 98% of the stream segments evaluated had "poor" or "very poor" quality water. The two pollutants responsible for most of the contamination were two hallmarks of industrial farming: nitrogen and phosphorus.

High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in our waterways make it dangerous for the humans who need to drink it and the wildlife that need to live in it. Every year, scientists measure the extent of deadness in a massive area of the Gulf of Mexico. A stretch of the Gulf is so contaminated by agricultural fertilizers that all organisms requiring oxygen to survive cannot be found anywhere in sight. As of 2010, the dead zone was the size of Massachusetts.

Farm waste runoff also contaminates our waterways with dangerous toxins such as coliform bacteria, E. coli and other nasties found in animal manure. Healthy bodies of water should be able to assimilate small amounts of contamination, but the quantities that pour out of large-scale factory farms can be too much for most of these natural ecosystems to fight.

Large-scale ecosystem damage has other far-ranging consequences, as well. The spraying of pesticides, for example, often destroys pollinator populations. Without our pollinators, many of our favorite foods

could not be grown. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, "Keeping bee populations safe is critical for keeping American tables stocked with high-quality produce and our agriculture sector running smoothly." They report that more than \$15 billion per year in US crops are pollinated by bees.

What we might not want to pay for at the grocery store now—higher prices for higher-quality food—we will most surely pay for later. ☘



The Stanford study compared, literally, apples to apples—one variety grown conventionally compared with the same variety grown organically. But organic farmers' ability to sell locally makes them more likely to grow nutritionally superior varieties...

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • SUSAN MELGREN

Rising Beyond Baking

13 creative uses for baking soda

Commonly kept in the refrigerator to absorb unpleasant odors, baking soda is a staple in almost every home—and one with a bevy of uses. A weak alkaline, baking soda can neutralize acids, break down proteins and restore pH balance, which can be useful in everything from cleaning and deodorizing to soothing skin ailments. Put baking soda to good use with these practical ideas:

1. Odor absorber: One of baking soda's best-known properties is its ability to neutralize odors. Sprinkle some at the bottom of trashcan liners. For carpet odors, sprinkle baking soda over carpet and let sit for 30 minutes to overnight, then vacuum.

2. Food de-gunker: Easily remove caked-on food from pots and pans by soaking them in baking soda. Just sprinkle a liberal amount on tough spots, add water, let soak for 30 minutes to an hour, then scrub off. For extra power, add a few drops of white vinegar to the mix.

3. Laundry booster: Add 1/2 cup baking soda to the wash cycle to enhance the effectiveness of detergent, absorb odors and help remove stains from clothing.

4. Silverware sparkler: To clean silverware en masse, line a large glass baking pan with foil, then add silverware, making sure each piece touches foil. (Combined, heat, baking soda and aluminum create a chemical reaction that reverses the process that leads to silver tarnish.) Evenly distribute 1/2 cup baking soda over silverware, then completely immerse in boiling water. Let soak for five minutes, rinse (carefully—the water may still be hot!) and dry. You can also create a polishing paste by combining one cup baking soda with 1/4 cup water; rub the paste over silverware using a damp cloth, then dry.

5. Natural dentifrice: Make a tooth-cleaning powder by mixing three parts baking soda with one part salt. For flavor, add cinnamon sticks, cloves, citrus peels, a vanilla bean or dried mint leaves. Store in a lidded glass jar for a day or two to allow the aroma to permeate the mix, then transfer to a shaker for sprinkling on your toothbrush.

6. Dental appliance cleaner: Dissolve two teaspoons baking soda in warm water, then let den-

tures, retainers, mouth guards and other oral appliances soak. Or dip a toothbrush in baking soda and scrub.

7. Shampoo booster: Shampoos, conditioners and other hair products can leave behind buildup. Mixing a teaspoon of baking soda into your shampoo bottle can help reduce buildup and make your hair more manageable.

8. Comb cleaner: Remove natural oil buildup from hairbrushes and combs by soaking them in a solution of one teaspoon baking soda combined with water.

9. Sting soother: Bee sting? Because of its alkaline properties, baking soda can help neutralize formic acid in bee stings. Mix baking soda with a little water to create a paste; apply to the sting.

10. Sunburn reliever: Soothe sunburned skin with a baking soda bath. Baking soda can cool the skin while helping it retain moisture. Add one cup baking soda to a tub of cool or tepid water; stir to dissolve clumps, then soak for 15 minutes or more.

11. Antacid alternative: Thanks to its alkaline properties, baking soda can neutralize acid reflux. Treat heartburn and indigestion by mixing one teaspoon baking soda into a glass of water. This simple remedy also works well for ulcer pain.

12. Flower freshener: Keep cut flowers alive longer by adding a teaspoon of baking soda to the vase water.

13. Fire control: Keep baking soda close to the stove in case of grease fires. Water encourages grease fires to spread. Instead, smother it with baking soda. Heated baking soda releases carbon dioxide, eating the oxygen fires need for fuel. ❄️



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

Deborah G. Berry, LMHC

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the end of the world,
the Master calls a butterfly."*
~ Richard Bach

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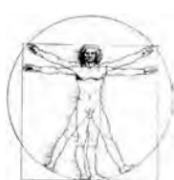
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of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email editor@desertexposure.com. 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.



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ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
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
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.
LEGO MINDSTORMS—Ages 10 and up. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
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—1st Tues. 1:30 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.
CHESS CLUB—All ages. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
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.
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.
ARTS ANONYMOUS—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st 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.
GILA WRITERS—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.

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.
BAYARD AL-ANON—6 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
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.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-10. 4:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
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.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
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.

THURSDAYS
ARTS ANONYMOUS—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
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GILA WRITERS—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.

FRIDAYS
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.
NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women's Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.
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. 6:17 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.

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., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸

SUNDAYS
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BAYARD AL-ANON—6 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.
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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.

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FRIDAYS
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.
NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women's Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.
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. 6:17 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.

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., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸

SUNDAYS
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
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
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.
LEGO MINDSTORMS—Ages 10 and up. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
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.

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Orion, the Hunter

Plus the planets for February.

Winter brings cold weather, but also the glowing gems that decorate the winter sky. Looking up, we can see many constellations that have bright stars in them. These include Canis Major, Canis Minor, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga and the gem of them all, Orion, the Hunter. Orion is composed of four stars (Rigel, Saiph, Bellatrix, and Betelgeuse) that make a vertical rectangle. In the center are three stars (Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka) in a straight line running slightly upward as you look from left to right, forming the belt of Orion. All these stars are first or second magnitude.

Orion's mythology is a little bit hazy, but according to the myth, Orion was a giant hunter who was the son of the sea-god Poseidon and Euryale, daughter of Minos, king of Crete. From Poseidon he inherited the ability to walk on water, by which he reached the island of Chios and he attacked Mepepe, daughter of the king. The king blinded Orion and drove him away. Orion wandered in darkness with his servant Cedalion until he reached Lemnos. Hephaestus, the smith-god, had a forge there and told Cedalion to guide Orion to the utmost eastern point, where Helios healed his eyes.

Later, Orion returned to Crete and hunted with Artemis and her mother, Leto. During the hunt, Orion threatened to kill every beast on Earth. Hearing this, Mother Earth sent a giant scorpion, which stung and killed Orion. The goddesses implored Zeus to put Orion among the constellations. Zeus complied and added the scorpion as well. But to keep the two combatants apart, he put them in opposite sides of the sky, never to be seen at the same time again. Orion is in our winter sky and Scorpius is in our summer sky.

The Milky Way goes right through Orion, putting the constellation right in the plane of our home barred-spiral galaxy. We share the same spiral arm with the stars of Orion. Spiral arms are actually pressure waves traveling around the galaxy. They compress the dust and gas that make up our galaxy, starting the process of star formation.

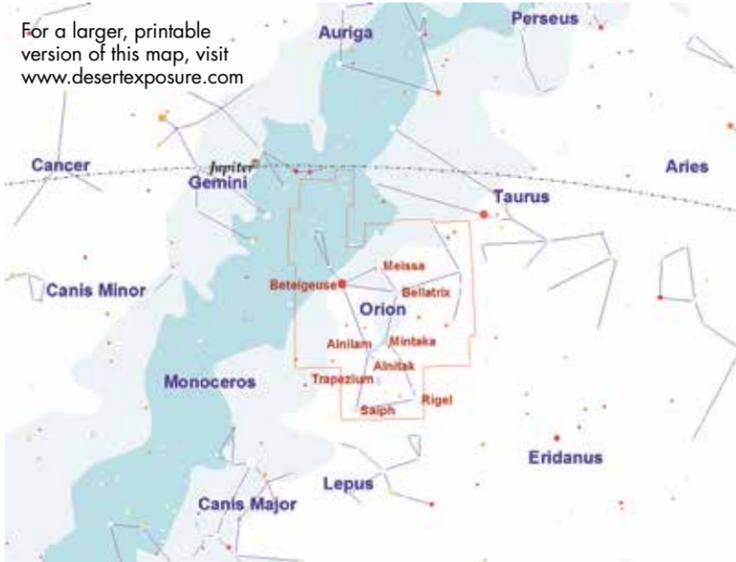
Orion has an amazing number of first- and second-magnitude stars—seven—whereas most constellations have at most one or two. What makes Orion have such a concentration of bright stars?

As they march around our galaxy, the spiral arms occasionally encounter a large cloud of gas and compress it. This causes many stars to form from the cloud, all in the same small area. This is what happened when an arm of the Milky Way ran into what we now call the Orion Molecular Cloud. This giant cloud, composed mostly of hydrogen gas, was compressed in stages as the shock wave that forms the arm passed through it. About 10 million years ago, the shock wave first struck the cloud above and to the right of what is now Orion's belt.

The shock wave then moved downward, compressing the gas cloud to form Orion's belt and its neighbors, between 2 million and 5 million years ago. It continued to move south and formed most of Orion's sword around 2 million years ago. Finally, the shock wave hit the area that now forms the Trapezium, the heart of the Orion nebula. The Trapezium is a tight cluster of eight stars that are less than a million years old.

The stars created in this process range from the bright ones that make up Orion to faint ones scattered throughout the constellation. All these stars

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



Orion dominates the February evening sky. With its bright stars and various nebulae, it is one of the most interesting constellations in the sky. It has a famous supernova remnant (the Crab Nebula-M1), one of the brightest nebulae in the sky (Orion Nebula-M43) and dark nebulae like the Horsehead Nebula (Barnard 33). Its many bright stars make it easy to find.

form the Orion OB Association. The "OB" refers to the classification of these bright stars, types O and B. In many ways, the Orion OB Association is like a giant open cluster. It is between 1,100 and 1,650 light-years away, virtually in our own back yard!

The youngest part of the Orion OB Association is south of the center star of Orion's Belt. If you look there with the naked eye, you will find a hazy patch of light. With a telescope, you can tell that it is a nebula, gas and dust left over from the formation of the Trapezium being illuminated by those stars to form the Orion Nebula. This is one of the brightest and most famous nebulae in the sky. While it seems to be isolated, we are actually seeing an illuminated part of the remains of the original Orion Molecular Cloud.

Among the very young stars around the Orion Nebula, astronomers have found thousands of discs of dust and gas that hide protostars in the process of forming. While the visible light from these protostars is trapped inside the dust and gas discs that still surround them, the infrared light gets out and astronomers can then see them with infrared telescopes. One day we may have a problem recognizing our Orion

with all the new stars that will break out in southern Orion over the next million years!

The Planets for February

Mercury is still in the evening sky as the month begins. It will be visible for only a little over a week as it heads back toward the Sun. At the beginning of the month, Mercury sets just after 7 p.m. and has a disc that is 7.4 seconds-of-arc across and 47% illuminated. The Messenger of the Gods is 11 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark and will be lower each day. It starts the month in Aquarius and moves eastward into the northern panhandle of Capricornus, where it passes the Sun on Feb. 15. It continues across Capricornus and back into eastern Aquarius, where it ends the month. As Mercury enters Aquarius, it becomes visible in the morning sky along the east-southeastern horizon around Feb. 20. By the end of the month, Mercury is eight degrees above the horizon as it starts to get light, shining at magnitude 0.9.

Jupiter is 50 degrees up in the east as it gets dark. It is well placed for evening telescopic observation. You can see its 44.1-seconds-of-arc across disc as it climbs high in the evening sky. The King of the Gods is moving slowly westward in western Gemini and sets by 4:30 a.m. Jupiter shines at magnitude -2.6.

Mars is moving eastward in eastern Virgo, but it is slowing down and will come to a stop on the first

day of March. It is slowly coming closer to the Earth, making its disc grow larger, 10.2 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. The God of War rises in the east around 10:30 p.m., shining at magnitude -0.1.

The Ringed Planet comes up two hours later in the east-southeast. Glowing at magnitude +0.5, **Saturn** is moving slowly eastward in central Libra. At midmonth, its disc is 16.9 seconds-of-arc across with the Rings 38.4 seconds-of-arc across with the northern face showing. They are tilted down 22.6 degrees.

Venus has entered the morning sky for a nine-month run. At midmonth, it is magnitude -4.6 with a disc 40.3 seconds-of-arc across and is a 26% illuminated crescent. Venus rises at 4:15 a.m. on the east-southeastern horizon. Last month, Venus had just slipped over the Sagittarius-Scutum border and become stationary. This month it starts moving eastward, slipping back over the border into Sagittarius and ending the month in the eastern part of that constellation.

Leasburg Dam State Park just north of Las Cruces has a new public astronomical observatory. Established by the Las Cruces Astronomical Society and the State of New Mexico, it gives the public an opportunity to see the sky through a large telescope. Check with the park on the observing schedule 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.



Watch the Skies

(times MST)

Feb. 6, 12:22 p.m.—First Quarter Moon

Feb. 14, 4:53 p.m.—Full Moon

Feb. 15, 2 a.m.—Venus at greatest brilliancy

1 p.m.—Mercury passes between Earth and Sun (inferior conjunction)

Feb. 22, 10:15 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon

Feb. 27, 4 p.m.—Mercury stationary

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Wednesday-Friday 1-4, Saturday 9-1

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Current patients, survivors, and those at-risk for prostate cancer are encouraged to attend. Information on local, state and national resources will be available!

Meets the Third Wednesday of Every Month @ 6:30 p.m.
Same Time and Place
Gila Regional Medical Center—
Conference Room (1313 E. 32nd St.)

Facilitators:

Dave Schwantes and Walt Hanson

For more information, call the Grant County Community Health Council at (575) 388-1198 ext. 10



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RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LARRY LIGHTNER

Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty

Cougar sightings are on the rise.

It's been about a decade since I have seen or heard much about cougar activity around Silver City; then things began to change along come December 2013.

A lady at church told the first story; I was passing by as she related her story and I heard only part of it, but from what I heard, her neighbor in Silver heard a commotion going on with his dog. It sounded like it was being attacked, and he rushed out to find an adult lion attacking Fido. The man took a shovel to the animal and had to beat it off of his pet.

Then in early December a friend of mine was going for her usual jog over at Fort Bayard. She left the parking lot at Arenas Valley and ran east on the same trail that is used by the Cobre cross-country team. She was passing an oak bush when something erupted from beneath the bush. She thought it was a bobcat since she saw it was brown with black spots.

Suddenly she heard a loud noise behind her and turned to see an adult cougar chasing after the smaller animal. The lion stopped and looked at her, and she had the common sense not to run, but stared back at the cougar. It soon turned and left after the other cat.

I surmise that she had flushed, not a bobcat, but a lion cub, and the mother came to check on it. The trouble with this scenario is that the lion wasn't afraid of the jogger, which might mean that it is acclimated (lost its fear) to humans in the area.

If this is the case, then joggers must be on the alert, or we could read about cougar attacks in Fort Bayard, just as has occurred to joggers and bikers in California. I advised her to not use the sanctuary for a long while until things sort themselves out. A word to the wise.

As an aside, I researched the number of cougar attacks on humans and pets in North America since the year 2000; I was shocked to find 73 documented attacks!

Cougars (aka mountain lions) are America's second-largest predator (not counting the rare jaguar). When they are acclimated to humans and pets and see them running away, it triggers an auto-attack response as it does with all predators including pet dogs!

That same week, I had my own experience with abnormal behavior in a lion. My buddy and I were predator calling in the Burros, and suddenly, 15 minutes into the call, a mountain lion appeared and ran towards my buddy, who was operating the caller. At 30 yards it stopped and he shot it.

It turned out to be a very old female with front teeth worn down to her gums, and worn-down incisors. There were several odd things going on here: She had a very large pot belly, indicating that she had just eaten. She should not have answered our call, especially at a run! Lions tend to answer distress calls very slowly and with stealth, and seldom after they have just killed. In most cases both lions and bobcats will take up to an hour to answer (what sounds like) a screaming rabbit.

Then, just before the new year, I was walking in my sandy wash, below the house not 40 feet from the abode. I came upon fresh tracks of a big adult lion! I have not seen cougar tracks on the property in at least five years. I live close to Silver—was this the same lion that attacked the dog I'd heard about in church?

Let me add that Huey, my larger dog, goes 80-plus pounds and his track is a third less in size than the cat's. Hmmm?

According to the state game department, cougar populations are on the increase—so much so that last year they extended the season to year round, allowing two adult cougars per licensed hunter. That confirms my experience

these past five months; I have located no less than five cougar tracks within 30 miles of Silver City. This is something I have not experienced in at least five years, which is the last time I called in a cougar. Last year I came upon only two tracks the entire year and a cougar was standing in one of them!

An adult cougar will weigh between 80 and 180 pounds, with a good-size male sometimes going over 200 pounds—no small kitty. They can bound 40 feet when running, and can travel at a steady 10 miles an hour for long distances. They can leap 15 feet in the air and can carry a dead prey that weighs far more than they do. They can sprint at 50 miles an hour!

Their sharp claws are an inch long, and carry all sorts of nasty bacteria. When it attacks, a lion will kill its prey by biting the back of the neck and severing the spinal cord, or it will bite open the jugular and esophagus. Usually they will cover their kill with debris or dirt, but not always. They can also use those sharp claws to disembowel a human!

Any cat's track will differ from those of canines by the following: A lion's track will be similar to looking at the palm of your hand without fingers, in the size and shape. A feline never leaves claw marks in front of the toes, while a dog will. Felines have three pad marks behind the toes, while a canine leaves two. A dog or wolf's track will leave the impression of an "X" in the middle of the track.

A lion will set its rear foot in the print of the front track, while a dog or wolf leaves a staggered track with all four feet showing in the soil.

A leading cougar-rights group claims that only 10%-14% of lions are killed by hunting, thus hunting doesn't seem to have all that great of an effect on lion populations.

While an adult male cougar usually has a range of 10 square miles, if it finds a local source of prey, it will stay in that area until the prey is killed out or moves away. A lion kills a deer every week to two weeks.

If the prey source is depleted, as with our current declining deer herds, the cougar will seek alternative food sources, and

that may well explain why we are having common occurrences this fall/winter. Food for thought: The state game department has taken steps to drastically reduce deer herds within the surrounding developments. This is a catch-22 situation. Too many deer will bring large predators and too few deer could change those predatory eating habits!

If you encounter a cougar, DO NOT RUN AWAY! Instead, stand your ground and make yourself appear as large as possible, with your arms or clothing. Do make eye contact and speak loudly and firmly to the cat (also true of encountering a bear). If it decides to attack, throw rocks or sticks, or if you have a gun, shoot in front of it twice then aim to kill. If it still comes on, fight with all you have—kick, punch, gouge. Use a knife or pepper spray.

Historically, the cougar is known by 40 different names in North and South America. In the US, the more common names are mountain lion, cougar, catamount, puma, lion painter and panther. By whatever name, mountain lions are rarely white or black, but mostly tawny. I knew a hunter here in Silver who once killed a black cougar in the Black Range; he did it many decades ago. A game warden told me about 10 years ago that he picked up a road-killed black cougar near Steins on I-10.

As always, keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you too! 🐾



Cougar track Note the typical "M" shape on this cougar track. Also note that no claws show on the print. Felines walk with their claws retracted. (Utah Division of Wildlife Management)

When not ramblin' outdoors, Larry Lightner lives in Silver City.



100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Heavenly Purgatory

Hiking Purgatory Chasm with photographer Bob Pelham.

Silver City is full of fascinating people and Bob Pelham is certainly one of them. He leads tours to Latin American destinations such as the Amazon rain forest, is an accomplished photographer, owns and operates Pinos Altos Cabins, is extremely knowledgeable about border security, seems to know every secret natural wonder in a 100-mile radius, and has a cunningly corny sense of humor. I have always enjoyed his nature photographs that he regularly posts on Facebook, so I was pleased when he agreed to talk to me about hiking.

I asked him to describe one of his favorite hikes that he'd like to share with readers:

Name: Purgatory Chasm

Distance: 2.2 miles, round-trip

Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From Silver City, drive north on Hwy. 15 until you reach the intersection with Hwy. 35 (just past mile marker 25). Turn right onto Hwy. 35 and go four miles. You will see signs for Lake Roberts on the right and there is a brown forest sign on the left saying "Purgatory Chasm Trailhead." There is parking just past the sign. You can either walk on the highway to the sign and begin at the trailhead there, or, if you look closely, you will see a trail on the west side of the parking lot.

Hike description: The trail begins by walking through forest and arroyo scenery. Soon after you start walking, the trail splits. You may take either direction as it is a loop trail. We started to the left since that's the quickest way to the chasm. You will



Purgatory Chasm (above) and hiker-photographer Bob Pelham. (Photos courtesy Bob Pelham)

soon enter the chasm and wonder at the steep walls and interesting twists and turns. Stop for a moment and notice the echo your voice makes. Cairns guide you along the way and are markers for side trails to explore. At the end of the chasm, there used to be a wooden ladder that you would climb up, but on our visit on Dec. 19, 2013, it was not there.

Look up and see a cairn. Scramble up, being sure to look back and marvel at the sharp curves of the canyon before you continue on the trail. From here, the trail continues through the woods and starts a gently downhill walk back to the car.

Note: The "Flash Flood" sign should be heeded; we saw evidence of flooding as we traversed this trail. Also, remember that cairns are temporary markers and may or may not be there when you visit.

Tell me about a particularly memorable hiking experience: "About 20 years ago I did a lot of hiking in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, near Naples, Fla. It is a swamp forest, densely foliated with bald cypress, royal palms, bromeliads and endemic orchids. I hiked there many times, often in ankle-to-knee-deep water. One day I led a photo tour of about 17 students from my photography class through the swamp. As we waded through the water taking photos of foliage, frogs and snakes, we suddenly spotted a poisonous cottonmouth (a.k.a. water moccasin) snake, curled up on a cypress stump protruding above the water surface. All 17 people wanted a picture and we slowly surrounded and moved in on him. Suddenly, the snake sprang into the water (did I mention it was murky, dark water?) and disappeared. Imagine the splashing that 17 people made leaping away from this stump all in different directions!

"Looking back, I am surprised that I never got lost in that swamp. When you're knee-deep in water, there's no trail to follow, no footprints or markers. I guess I have a good sense of direction with this sort of thing."

Do you have any observations you'd like to share? Pelham looks out the window towards the mountains near Mexico. "When I moved here, friends in Florida asked me if I would miss the ocean and beach. But I have found that the desert resembles



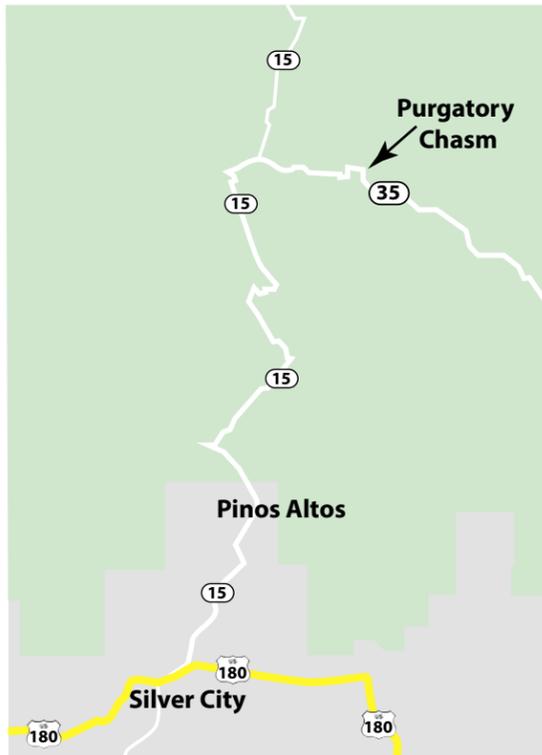
the beach.... Both have long-range views, and a rolling landscape. Driftwood resembles dead cholla and aged juniper."

He adds, "The interesting wildlife of the Gila is a good substitute for the alligators and other critters of Florida," which is why he visits Florida frequently to reconnect with them—and family and friends, of course.

Before we part, Pelham mentions that he always wears one of his ever-present Aussie-style hats, never wears shorts while hiking (he is often down on his knees taking photographs), and rarely uses a GPS.

Try to meet him if you get the opportunity; you may be able to get him to tell you about his 50-plus trips to Costa Rica and other Central and South American countries. 🌵

To read more about Linda Ferrara's 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com.



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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.desertexposure.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.desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. 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 and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Karaoke Fri., live entertainment Sat. Barbecue, steak, pasta, pizza: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. Barbecue: L D.

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN 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. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B L.*

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

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

EL GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. "Breakfast dishes are served all day, along with all the other traditional Mexican favorites like burritos (with a long list of filling options)... plus a vertical grill cooks sizzling chicken and carne al pastor." (October 2013) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

GIL-A BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.*

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

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

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

HEALTHY EATS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: L.

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Espresso and coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.*

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 201 N. Bullard St., 388-1350. Coffeeshop.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*

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. Coffeeshop.

LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY, 200 N. Bullard St. Burgers, American and regional, craft beers and cocktails: Weds.-Mon. L D.*

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.*

MEXICO VIEJO, Hwy. 90 and Broadway. "A remarkably extensive menu for a small roadside food vending stand, and the dishes are not what one normally finds in other Mexican restaurants." (July 2013) Mexican food stand: Mon.-Sat. B L early D.

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. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tues.-Sun. L 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 excel-

lence 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. 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. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat. B L, early D.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffeeshop, bakery: Mon.-Fri. B L, early D, Sat. B L only.*

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: Mon.-Sun. B 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 rellena 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. Sat. brunch.*

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. Coffeeshop, coffee, homemade 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. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, 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.

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.

3 QUESTIONS COFFEE HOUSE, Hwy. 35, 536-3267. "Consistently good food based on the success of the family's Living Harvest Bakery." (December 2013) Buffet: Tues.-Sat. B L.

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. 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.

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

ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.

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. "Las Cruces' smashing, elegant sushi restaurant is more than dinner—it's a dining adventure.... Though Aqua Reef bills itself as serving 'Euro-Asian cuisine,' the menu feels (delightfully!) hard-core Asian, excelling in the fresh and raw." (April 2008) Asian, sushi: D.

ARABELLA'S, 1750 Calle de Mercado, 526-1313. Cuban, Italian: D.

BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.

THE BAGEL SHOP, 1495 S. Solano Dr., 521-4784. Bagels: Mon.-Sat. B 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. "The signature Bubble Tea is just the beginning of an inventive eating experience. The menu—with a long list of soups, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, wraps and 'other stuff'—is the same for lunch and dinner, although Tuesday through Thursday nights Boba lays on special Caribbean fare and Friday nights are Asian-themed, with sushi." (June 2009) Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

BRADLEY D AND WILLIAM B, 2540 El Paseo Road, 652-3871. American comfort food: 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.

BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: Tues.-Sat. L D.

BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D.

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.

CHILITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B 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 AHUUA'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 556-9484. Mexican: B 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.

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

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

FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel

Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.

GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.

GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 522-4300. Mexican: B L D.

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L.

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

JESSE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs-Sat. 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. "A delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in a cup or bowl, and salads." (October 2008) 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.

KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.

KIM-CHI HOUSE, 1605 S. Solano, 652-4745. Korean: Tues.-Sun. L 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 GUADALUPANA, 930 El Paseo Road, 523-5954. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D. Sun. B L.

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

LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "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.

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W.

DINING GUIDE continued after next page

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



February is an action-packed, fun-filled month for us: the Chocolate Fantasia and Valentine's Day serve to keep us hopping. Events like these remind us of why we decided to move to Silver City—it's a place where something good is going on all year 'round. We're happy to remind you that ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 days and nights a week all year long, because Silver City is such a happenin' town. Drop by and see us; you'll be glad you did, and so will we! (Note: in order to get in the proper mood, light a scented candle, put the massage oil into the microwave, and put on a Barry White album before reading the next paragraph.)

Whatever you do, don't forget your sweetie on Valentine's Day! We'd like to point out that gift certificates are perfect for this occasion, can be purchased in any amount, and can be used a little at a time—a gift that keeps on giving! In our (admittedly biased) opinion, few things are more romantic than sharing gelato with the one you love—now that's amore!

The point of this is that you shouldn't go so long without treating yourself to something special...whether it's a cup of our sinful Gila Conglomerate gelato, a big honkin' wedge of triple-layer Carrot Cake, or whatever it is that turns you and/or your Valentine on.

Don't forget: ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 nights a week until at least 9:00 PM (10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights). We have all kinds of hot drinks (such as coffee, 20-plus kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles) to keep you all warm and snuggly, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime bars, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, cookies, and the aforementioned Carrot Cake. Nothin' says lovin' like gelato, so pick up a hand-packed pint or quart today!

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.**

Visit us online at: www.alottagelato.com
Alotta Gelato - 619 N. Bullard St.,
in Downtown Silver City - 575-534-4995



SUNRISE ESPRESSO 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunrise Espresso II
1212 East 32nd St.
Now offering Smoothies

Sunrise Espresso is celebrating its 10 year Anniversary of serving the highest quality coffee to all the good people of Silver City. To celebrate, for the month of October, mention this ad and receive 10% off the cost of your order.

Now with two convenient locations to serve you!

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

Silver City's PREMIER Drive-Up Espresso Bar!

1530 N. Hudson • Silver City, NM • 575-388-2027

Mon.-Fri. 6am to 4pm • Sat. 7am to 2pm

New Second Location: 1212 E. 32nd St. • Silver City, NM

Mon.-Fri. 6:30 am to 2pm • FREE WiFi

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Celebrate Love

Valentine's Day Friday, Saturday & Sunday

with a Five-Course Tasting Dinner including complimentary Toast

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

February 14, 15 & 16, 2013

Regular menu also available

Winter Hours:

Monday..... 5pm-8³⁰pm
 Tuesday 5pm-8³⁰pm
 Wednesday CLOSED
 Thursday CLOSED
 Friday 5pm-9⁰⁰pm
 Saturday 5pm-9⁰⁰pm
 Sunday 5pm-8³⁰pm

This year, give a fun and tasty gift of Cooking Classes with Chef Shevek. See our website for details.



In Historic Downtown Silver City
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<http://silver-eats.com>



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RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Full Stomach, Happy Heart

Silver City's Kountry Kitchen has new owners and a planned new location, but the same good Mexican food.

Since 1978, Silver City's Kountry Kitchen has been serving up Mexican food that is considered to be some of the best that can be found in the area. All the dishes are tasty, unpretentious, attractively presented and reasonably priced. And there is no reason to believe that this will change after the restaurant moves in March to a new location.

The menu is expected to remain the same. Why mess with success? The menu includes all the usual favorites, cooked very nicely indeed, and they are available all day long—tacos, burritos, enchiladas, chimichangas, flautas, quesadillas, tostadas, fajitas, even tamales. Prices for full meals with rice and beans range mostly from \$6 to \$9.25. Individual items can be ordered as side dishes for as little as \$2.50 for a taco or enchilada, \$3.50 for a chile relleno and \$4.25 for a bean and cheese burrito. The most expensive items on the lunch/dinner menu are a House Special combination plate that includes an enchilada, taco, chile relleno and burrito for \$10.50, a chicken or beef fajitas plate for \$11, a sirloin *carne asada* plate for \$11, and a ribeye *carne asada* plate for \$13.

Breakfast items are also available all day long, and choices include *huevos rancheros* (regular or with chunky meat), chorizo and eggs, tamale and eggs, breakfast burritos, omelets, even pancakes and French toast. Prices range from \$5.50 (regular breakfast burrito) to \$8.50 (*huevos rancheros* with chunky meat).

The menus offer a few surprises, as well—like *albondigas* (Mexican meatball soup) on the lunch/dinner menu, and, on the breakfast menu, *chilaquiles* (fried corn tortilla chips smothered in red or green sauce and served with potatoes, beans and eggs). Another less well-known dish on the breakfast menu is *machaca* (shredded pork cooked with onion, jalapeños and tomatoes and scrambled with eggs). Kountry Kitchen desserts also include hard-to-find items like Mexican flan and rum cake.

The cover of the lunch/dinner menu proclaims: "*Estomago Lleno*" (Full Stomach) ... "*Corazon Contento*" (Happy Heart). And the food at the Kountry Kitchen certainly seems to fit the bill on both counts.

The restaurant was established by Gregorio Gerardo, who sold it in 2011 to his brother-in-law, Silver City contractor Joe Parra, and Parra's wife, Cecilia. Three years later, Gregorio hasn't left. He is still there as chef, turning out the same popular, high-quality food as always, with no plans to stop doing so.

"Gregorio is like me—a workaholic," Joe says, with a smile. "He's never going to retire."

Though neither of the Parras had previous experience running a restaurant, long-time customers can rest easy. The Kountry Kitchen is in good hands. Chihuahua-born Cecilia is doing a fine job running the dining room, and Gregorio, of course, continues to

provide a rock-solid base in the kitchen.

Joe's connection with the Kountry Kitchen, incidentally, dates back to the restaurant's very beginning, when the business occupied less than a quarter of the space it does now.

"When Gregorio took it over, it was just a small sandwich shop



Kountry Kitchen's current owners, Cecilia and Joe Parra, pose with Pancho, the restaurant's margarita-guzzling mascot. Neither margaritas or any other alcoholic beverages are available to customers at the Kountry Kitchen, however—just good Mexican food. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

called 'Buns and Cones,' located in a loft overlooking the main floor of the old Maxwell House Store," Joe says. "It was a tiny space at first, with windows that gave a view into the store. The rest of the space that is now restaurant seating was taken up with offices. The offices also had windows overlooking the store."

Joe did the initial remodeling for Gregorio's little restaurant. And, nearly a quarter of a century later, it was Joe who carried out the renovations that quadrupled the size of the small but thriving business by converting the abandoned store offices into a much-expanded restaurant dining area after the Maxwell House Store closed. The original window glass from

the offices still exists behind the decorative arches along the inner wall, he points out.

It seems totally fitting that Joe also carried out the renovations that transformed an office complex into an attractive restaurant premises, at 1700 Mountainview Road, off Hwy. 180 opposite McDonald's. This was the building where the

original Don Juan's Restaurant was established, and it is the very same building that the Parras are now in the process of purchasing, and into which they plan to move the Kountry Kitchen by the end of March.

Joe is busy carrying out more remodeling there. And long-term plans include expanding the seating capacity of the restaurant at the new location by creating a large patio area that will be screened-in during the summer and glassed-in during the winter months. Through all seasons, the patio will offer a panoramic view of the Silver City area.

"Our lease is coming up for renewal at the present location," Joe explains. "We had been thinking we'd really like to have our own building, so we could be open seven days a week, and this seemed like a good time to make the move."

The Kountry Kitchen currently occupies space rented from the Harvest Fellowship Assembly of God church, and cannot operate there on Sundays.

In addition to expanding the restaurant's hours to seven days a week at the new location, the Parras also plan to offer delivery service during lunchtime hours for the immediate Silver City area.

Until renovations are completed in the new building, however, the Kountry Kitchen will continue to operate at 1505 N. Hudson, in the back section of the Harvest Fellowship building. And it will continue to be open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parties of up to 20 people can be accommodated, with advance notice.

For more information or to make a reservation, call (575) 388-4512. ☎

Send Mimbres freelance writer Peggy Platonos tips for restaurant reviews at platonos@gilnet.com or call (575) 536-2997.

silver city food co-op

February Community Forum
Ayurveda:
Healing Body and Soul with Athena Wolf
The forum is presented twice
3rd Tuesday, February 18th &
3rd Thursday, February 20th
from noon to 1:30 pm in the Co-op Community Room
all community forums are
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Diane's

Valentines Weekend

Thursday - Friday - Saturday

Special Menu & Regular Menu

See our Website, Under "Events" for the Special Menu

\$2 Champagne

DianesRestaurant.com
510 N Bullard - Silver City, NM - 538.8722

DINING GUIDE
 continued

Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LET THEM EAT CAKE, 2001 E. Lohman, Suite 136, 649-8965. Cupcakes: Tues.-Sat.
LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. "Homey, classic Italian fare.... Also features ravioli dishes, in half and full portions, served with salad and a basket of warm, fresh bread. Save room for dessert." (July 2008) Italian, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.*
LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
MARIA'S, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 556-9571. Mexican: B L D.
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*
MESILLA VALLEY PIZZA & SUBS, 3961 E. Lohman Ave. #21, 521-9293. Pizza, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. L D.
MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.
METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: L D.
MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat.-Sun. B L.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.*
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #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. *
MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.
NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L.
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.*
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*
PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L, early 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. Brewpub with steak and pasta: L D.
RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat. D.
RASCO'S BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorty's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.
RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.

RENOO'S THAI RESTAURANT, 1445 W. Picacho Ave., 373-3000. Thai: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. 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.
SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. 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 snobbishness, 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) American, Continental: B L D.
THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*
SHEBA GRILL, 2265 S. Main St., 525-1100. Indian, Middle Eastern: Mon.-Thurs., Sat.-Sun L D, Fri. D.
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. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*
ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720

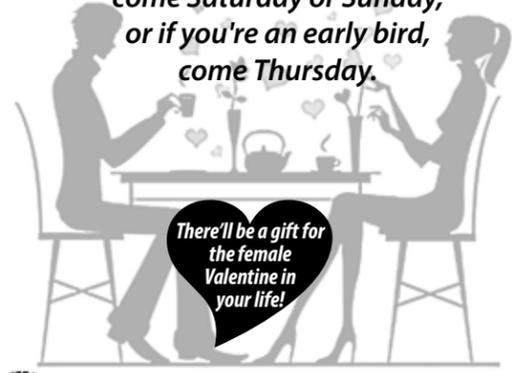
DINING GUIDE
 continued on next page

Valentine's Day

(Isn't just one day at Adobe Deli)

Celebrate Friday, February 14!

*If you can't make it Valentine's Day,
 come Saturday or Sunday,
 or if you're an early bird,
 come Thursday.*



Adobe deli STEAKHOUSE

Restaurant Hours: Mon-Sat Lunch 11:30-5pm • Dinner 5-10pm • Sun 11am-9pm
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5-7 PM

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HEARTY APPETIZER

FRESH TOMATO SOUP WITH LOTS OF BASIL, A HINT OF ORANGE, AND TOPPED WITH AIOLI AND CROUTON

SWEETHEART ENTREES

CRAB CAKES SERVED WITH CAPER AND BASIL REMOULADE OR

BEEF TENDERLOIN ENCRUSTED WITH HORSERADISH AND EAGLE RANCH PISTACHIOS OR

CHICKEN POACHED IN A GRUET PINOT NOIR REDUCTION ALONG WITH GREEN OLIVES, LOCAL PISTACHIOS, CURRANTS, CARROTS AND ONIONS OR

PINE NUT ENCRUSTED ROASTED EGGPLANT STUFFED WITH BASIL AND BRIE

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 STEAMED ASPARAGUS AND BUTTERED RED POTATOES, WITH RED BELL PEPPER AND A TOUCH OF LEMON AND GARLIC.
 HOMEMADE BREAD

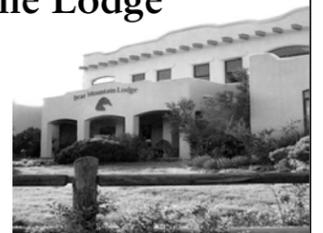
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February 2014 Classes

2/5/14: **Audacity Radio Editing Program** with Todd Dennehy! Learn how to record and edit your own KOOT 88.1 FM radio show!

2/12/14: **Advanced Movie Maker Video Editing!** Learn how the pros do it-add special effects, music and more to your production!

2/19/14: **PRO Radio!** Wonder how the Pros do it? This class will turn you into a PRO! Taught by KOOT 88.1 FM Pro, Todd Dennehy!

March 2014 Classes

3/5/14: **Movie Maker!** Want to show others your photos, but they aren't interested? Learn how to turn your digital photos into a video production!

3/12/14: **Audacity Radio Editing Easy**, beginner editing class! Great way to get started in radio! Be a KOOT 88.1 FM radio producer!

3/19/14: **Movie Maker!** Bring the project(s) that is/are giving you trouble and we'll be glad to help you with whatever it is!

**Classes are FREE to members!
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Thu 2/6	Bourbon Legend (Uke Rockers)
Sat 2/8	The Blue Grammas (bluegrass)
Thu 2/13	Bob Einweck (Tucson singer/songwriter)
Sat 2/15	Lillis Urban (more country, less urban)
Thu 2/20	Gleewood (acoustic duo)
Sat 2/22	Jeremiah Sammartano (LA Blues)
Thu 2/27	C.W. Ayon (one-man blues&rock)

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DINING GUIDE
continued

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 MESSILLA, 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. 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.

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

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, barbequed 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.

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.

DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL, 1310 W. Spruce St., 544-2228. "Indian food is offered on a separate menu and you have to ask for that menu. The list of dishes is not very long, but the spices and flavor of the dishes that are offered are authentically Indian." (November 2013) American, Mexican, Indian: B L D, Sun. L buffet.

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.

"FORGHEDABOUT" PIZZA & WINGS, 2020 Hatch Hwy. 26, 275-3881. "Direct from New York City, Bob Yacone and his wife, Kim Duncan, have recreated an authentic-style New York pizza parlor on the outskirts of Deming." (June 2013) Italian, pizza, wings: Mon.-Sat. L D, Sun. 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. 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: Mon.-Sat. L D.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 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.

TOCAYO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. 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.*

Table Talk

Downtown Silver City's **Shevek & Co.** will be offering a five-course tasting dinner for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14-16; reservations are recommended. 602 N. Bullard, 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Diane's Restaurant will also have a special Valentine's Day menu and a champagne special, Thursday through Saturday. 510 N. Bullard, 538-8722.

Café Oso Azul at Bear Mountain Lodge will have a special Valentine's Day dinner, Feb. 14, 5-7 p.m., by reservation only. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

The Rotary Club of Silver City's **Valentine's Wine Dinner**, a fundraiser for the Volunteer Center, will be Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. (\$65 per person). Contact 534-1135 or ltelaakpat@aol.com by Feb. 5.

In Deming, **Adobe Deli** will celebrate Valentine's Day all weekend, Thursday through Sunday, with a gift for female Valentines. 3970 Lewis Flats Road, 546-0361, www.adobedeli.com.

In Palomas, the **Pink Store** will host its annual customer-appreciation Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Ave. 5 de Mayo 113, (866) 474-4299, www.thepinkstoremexico.com.

In Las Cruces, still more chain eateries are on the way. The complex at 3835-3845 E. Lohman Ave. that already houses Jason's Deli and the new Dunkin' Donuts will add **Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches** and **Sweet CeCe's Frozen Yogurt** this spring. Each is the second Las Cruces location for the chain. ☘

Send restaurant news to updates@red-or-green.com.

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 tradition 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. Coffeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY
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
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 February

Plus a look ahead into early March.

FEBRUARY SATURDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County
JAMES GILLESPIE—Black History Month talk. Civil rights activist. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSU-PUEBLO—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

THE ART OF GETTING WHAT YOU WANT—Through Feb. 2. Two-day workshop. Blake Farley. \$99. Agave Spirit Retreats, 519-4509, director@agavespiritretreats.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSU-PUEBLO—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GENIEVE LEITNER—Classical guitarist. 7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NMSU EQUESTRIAN VS. SOUTH CAROLINA—NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UTAH VALLEY—7 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—Musical composed of two one-act plays linked by the common theme of love. "The Little Comedy" is based on a short story by Arthur Schnitzler. Set in late 19th century Vienna, it focuses on Josephine and Alfred, who have both become extremely bored with their very comfortable lifestyles and have decided to take on new personas. Alfred takes on the role of a struggling poet and Josephine, a working-class woman. The plot centers around their budding relationship as they meet during a weekend in the country. "Summer

dren of all ages are invited to come by the museum and create their own Valentine crafts to take home. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Play reading. Part of the High Desert Play Development program. 7:30 p.m. Free. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

SUNDAY GROUNDHOG DAY

2 Las Cruces / Mesilla
CIRQUE MONTAGE—Features former artists from the famous Cirque Du Soleil. The show emphasizes individual artists and their talents, bringing an array of different and talented performers to the stage. 3 p.m. \$35 floor, \$25 balcony. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

MUCH ADO ABOUT WOODE—Exhibit through Feb. 21, by the Insighters. Reception and gallery talk. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

Deming
JOSEPH MANUEL CHAVEZ—Opening reception. One-man show. See Arts

Future," with Lee Gruber of Syzygy Tile. Buying local has been a Silver City issue for a long time, as the talk's introductory film from the 1930s shows. We need both our downtown businesses and the big-box stores nearby, but finding the proper balance between them is the elusive goal, says Gruber. 12 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th & Kentucky, 538-6835, will-learning.com, info@will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HERBAL MEDICINE—Wednesdays through March 26. From the Ground Up proprietor Deborah Brandt will lead an in-depth course series detailing the diverse uses and applications of traditional herbal medicine to maintain a healthful, vibrant quality of life. Gastrointestinal Health. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members per class. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County
BROWN BAG PROGRAM—"Walk with Me at Chaco Canyon" with Tom Vaughan. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

KINETICS AND PSYCHOMETRY—Psychic Development Series. 1-2:30 p.m. \$10. The Rock Center, 413 N. Bullard St., 956-5200, gayrock.com.

WINTER PLANNING FOR YOUR SUMMER GARDEN—Jean Eisenhower of Home and Garden Inspiration. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. Mike D'Arcy DJ. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 West Court St., 526-6504.

BOURBON LEGEND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
NMSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. IDAHO—6 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 7 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SPIRITUAL PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS—Linda Marlena Carr. 2-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TRADITIONAL & SPECIALTY CHEESE TASTING—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
NONSENSE—Through Feb. 9. 7 p.m. \$10, WNMU students free with ID. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

SWNM AUDUBON—The topic will be "eBird for Dummies," presented by Christopher Rusty. This tool for birders helps keep track of your bird lists, from local to worldwide. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird harnesses your personal data to help ornithologists learn more about bird life and movement worldwide. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 388-2386.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ALL IS LOST—Through Feb. 13. A man-stranded-at-sea movie, starring Robert Redford in a role with almost no dialogue. He plays an unnamed fellow who wakes up on his small yacht in the middle of the Indian Ocean, only to see that a random shipping crate has gashed a hole in the hull. It's like his own miniature iceberg scrape: Suddenly, his boat could go down, and he with it. 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.

ALMA COURT YOUTH—The exhibit will feature the work of two youth artists in the Court Youth Center's Youth Artists in Residence program—Julian Hunting and Ernesto Mocada. Both started their art career as street/graffiti artists and have grown to incorporate their street art into a contemporary and abstract focus. 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

DIY VALENTINE'S DAY—In this do-it-yourself class, learn how to make homemade bath bombs and massage oils.

EVENTS continued after next page



On Feb. 6, the Silver City Museum Annex hosts a Brown Bag Program, "Walk with Me at Chaco Canyon" with Tom Vaughan.

Share" is based on a Jules Renard 1898 play, made into a modern-day musical, set in the Hamptons, about two married couples in their 30s who are spending the summer in a rented cottage. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Douglas Jackson. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Jean Gilbert. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

THE FOREIGNER—Through Feb. 16. Winner of two Obie Awards and two Outer Critics Circle Awards as Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production. The play demonstrates what can happen when a group of devious characters must deal with a stranger who (they think) knows no English. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

THE MULETONES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

URBAN CONTAINER GARDENING WORKSHOP—Want to grow vegetables and herbs at home but don't think you have the space, soil or time? Learn the best strategies and techniques to become an urban grower. This workshop will offer skills and tips on how to grow in small places. Instruction will cover all aspects of growing edibles in containers: What, when and how to plant, as well as how to help your vegetables and herbs thrive. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20, \$15 members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mountainviewmarket.coop.

VALENTINE CRAFTS FOR KIDS—Chil-

Exposure section. 1-3 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.

TUESDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County
WINTER PLANNING FOR YOUR SUMMER GARDEN—Jean Eisenhower of Home and Garden Inspiration. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

EL PASO PRO MUSICA—Piers Lane, Complete Chopin Nocturnes. 7:30 p.m. \$5-25. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Salty Dog Bluegrass Band. The band's principle interest is in bluegrass but they sometimes wander to other genres such as blues, classical, rock-n-roll and doo-wop. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS—7 p.m. \$25-\$82. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—Join nationally recognized expert on feral cat care Joe Miele, who will explain some simple things we can do to make the feral cat population more comfortable, and learn how to humanely reduce the population by preventing new litters. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

5 Silver City/Grant County
WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"Downtown Silver City: Past, Present and

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FEBRUARY

Feb 7-13 **All is Lost** starring Robert Redford.

Feb 14-20 **Girl on a Bicycle**

Feb 21-27 **The Rocket** (Laotian with English subtitles)

Feb 28-Mar 6 **The Invisible Woman** Starring and directed by Ralph Fiennes

Mesilla Valley Film Society
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287
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THE TO DO LIST
Beyond Groundhog Day.

February traditionally brings two big events to our area—one that lasts all month and the other just one delicious day. In Las Cruces, it's the 16th annual **For the Love of Art Month**, opening with the ArtForms member show at the Branigan Cultural Center, **Feb. 7**, and an art show and fair at the convention center, **Feb. 7-8**. This year's studio tours will be **Feb. 15-16** and **Feb. 22-23**. But that's barely scratching the surface of a busy, artsy month; for a complete guide, see www.artformsmnm.org.

The other February tradition is the Mimbres Region Arts Council's pre-Valentine's Day **Chocolate Fantasia, Feb. 8**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in downtown Silver City. This year's theme, "Once Upon a Chocolate," promises to transform downtown galleries and shops into a chocolate-y fairytale wonderland. Tickets are \$20 for 20 individual pieces of chocolate from your choice of over 30 chocolate stops in and around downtown. Merchants and galleries will decorate in keeping with the fairytale theme. The Silver City Museum will host a free children's activity, and there will be free music, site-specific events, games and other children's activities throughout the tasting area. Chocolate Stop maps and empty candy boxes (\$2 each for collecting your chocolates) will be available along with Chocolate Fantasia merchandise at event headquarters, The Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St. Awards will be given out at day's end at Q's Southern Bistro.

February also brings opportunities to learn something new and get involved. The Western Institute for Lifelong Learning's (WILL) lunchtime talk series, "**Lunch & Learn**," features Lee Gruber of Syzygy Tile on "Downtown Silver City: Past, Present, and Future," **Feb. 5**. Other programs, all at the WNMU Global Resource Center, will feature "The Measure of Reality: The Rise of Quantification" with Bill Baldwin, **Feb. 12**, and "Men and Their Plumbing," with urologist Dr. Amos Lash, **Feb. 19**.

Gila/Mimbres Community Radio, KURU, now live on the air at 89.1 FM, hosts an open house on **Feb. 8**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The **Silver City Museum** wants to get to know you this month, with a Volunteer Social on **Feb. 13** at the Museum Annex and two forums at the Silver City Food Co-Op, **Feb. 25 and 27**.

Finally, the month wraps up with the fifth **Natural History of the Gila Symposium, Feb. 27-28** at the WNMU Global Resource Center. The Gila Region is under increasing pressures from both environmental and human threats. Drought, climate change, wildfires and battles over water are having significant impacts on the forests, plants and wildlife. The keynote address and many of the presentations will outline these effects and possible actions to mitigate and rehabilitate the natural aspects of the region. Other presentations will focus on education, paleontology, anthropology and wildlife conservation. Some of the sessions include presentations on the Arizona Water Settlement Act, wetlands and waterways restoration and monitoring, and wildfire recovery programs and monitoring, particularly in the Whitewater/Baldy burn area. The free symposium will be Thursday, 1-5:30 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A Creative Voices session will be Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m., and the symposium wraps up with a social gathering in the Sunset Room, Friday 6-8 p.m. (\$5).

John McCutcheon
Music takes center stage beginning **Feb. 20**, when renowned songwriter and instrumentalist **John McCutcheon** performs at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre in Silver City. McCutcheon, a Wisconsin native, immersed himself in the music of eastern Kentucky's coal camps, union halls, country churches and square dance halls. He is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, notably the hammer dulcimer. His 30 recordings have garnered seven Grammy nominations.

Also on **Feb. 20**, mezzo-soprano **Laurie Rubin** performs at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces. *New York Times* music critic Anthony Tommasini wrote that she possesses "compelling artistry" and "communicative power." Recent career highlights include her UK solo recital debut performance at Wigmore Hall in London, her solo recital debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*.

Then, on **Feb. 22** at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre, the Grant County Community Concert Association will present the young piano sensation **Umi Garrett**. In 2009, the then-eight-year-old prodigy appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," leading to invitations to perform with symphony orchestras in the US and around the world. Now age 13, she has won first prizes in several international competitions.

The next day, **Feb. 23**, the Silver City Public Library hosts a free concert by traditional Irish fiddler and fingerstyle guitarist **Randal Bays**. The *Cork Examiner* called him a "rare beast, a master of both the fiddle and guitar."

Randal Bays

Umi Garrett

Stop by the Pink Store Silver City during Chocolate Fantasia Saturday, February 8 for drawing for a free trip to Mata Ortiz with Luis

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EVENTS continued

5-6 p.m. \$5, \$3 members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART SHOW AND FAIR—Also Feb. 8. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

GUSTAVE BAUMANN—A Life's Journey. Exhibition of prints, paintings and furniture. Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

HOTEL ENCANTO CLASSIC SOFTBALL—Through Feb. 9. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

MEMBER ART SHOW—Exhibit through March 1. Reception. For the Love of Art Month. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

PRAIRIE VIEW FURNITURE EXHIBIT—Exhibition of the works of cabinetmaker and artist Doug Ricketts. Gallery talk 4 p.m., reception 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

RGT Live!—Open mic. 7-9 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

SATURDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County 15TH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FANTASIA—Join us in Downtown Silver City for a day of fun, community and enchantment. Downtown merchants and galleries decorate in keeping with the fairy tale theme, "Once Upon a Chocolate," and there will be free events for the entire family including site-specific events, games, and an awards ceremony. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20 for 20 handcrafted chocolates chosen from 30-plus locations. Downtown Silver City, 538-2505, mimbresarts.org.

FIDDLING FRIENDS—12:15-1 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn.

BAYOU SECO—6-9 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722.

BOOK SIGNING—*If There's Squash Bugs in Heaven, I Ain't Staying: Learning to Make the Perfect Pie, Sing When You Need To, and Find the Way Home with Farmer Evelyn*, with author Stacia Spragg-Braude. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

CHILDREN'S VALENTINE CRAFT CLASS—Ages nine and younger with an adult. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave.

CRAFT CLASS—Make Valentine chocolate treats. Crafters age eight and older, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

NUNSENSE—Through Feb. 9. 7 p.m. \$10, WNMU students free with ID. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

OPEN HOUSE—Gila/Mimbres Community Radio-KURU. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 519 B N. Bullard St., gmcr.org, 597-4891.

VACCINATION CLINIC—9 a.m.-12 p.m. High Desert Humane Society, 3050 Cougar Way, 538-9261.

VALENTINE'S WINE DINNER—Rotary Club of Silver City. 7 p.m. \$65. Contact 534-1135, lteaakpat@aol.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

AMIT PELED, CELLO-CLASSIC FOUR—Also Feb. 9. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART SHOW AND FAIR—9 a.m.-5 p.m. Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

NMSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SEATTLE U—6 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SYLVIA BOWERS AND MARJORIE MOESER—Exhibit through Feb. 28. Artists' reception. 1-4 p.m. Mesquite Street Studios, 922 Mesquite St. N.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Louise O'Donnell. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Judith Ames. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

THE BLUE GRAMMAS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and

under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

10+ONE—Percussion and dance, world rhythms. 1-3 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 500 N. Water St., 621-4657.

Deming

THE FREDDIE AND SHEILA SHOW—Bluegrass, classic country and a variety of guitar instrumental and vocal tunes. 2 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

SUNDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County NUNSENSE—2 p.m. \$10, WNMU students free with ID. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

AMIT PELED, CELLO-CLASSIC FOUR—3 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

MONDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County GROUP MEDITATION CHANTING HU—Also Feb. 24. People of all beliefs are welcome to participate in a group meditation chanting HU, an ancient name for God. The sound of HU opens the heart and brings more love and harmony into one's life. 6:30-7 p.m. Free. Center for the Healing Arts, 300 W. Yankie, 956-5038.

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Presentation on genealogy research on the computer. 10:30 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings church, 537-3643.

TUESDAY

11 Las Cruces/Mesilla ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"The Measure of Reality: The Rise of Quantification," with Bill Baldwin. Are things that cannot be nailed down in numbers of less worth than things that can be measured? What about art, love, sunsets and philosophy? This argument, which began in earnest during the Renaissance and continues today, will be recounted and pondered. 12 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th & Kentucky, 538-6835, will-learning.com, info@will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FILM LAS CRUCES—Monthly film forum. 7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

HERBAL MEDICINE—See Feb. 5. Wednesdays through March 26. Reproductive System Health. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members per class. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Monthly meeting. Presentation by club members Kyle Meredith and Josh Reeves, who will present a slide show of microscope photos of minerals they have taken. They will bring a microscope to the meeting for anyone who wants to bring a sample to examine. 6-8 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

LAGNIAPPE—Exhibit through March 13. Opening reception. Artwork by 13 Silver City artists. 7-9 p.m. Common Ground Gallery, 103 W. Kelly.

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL—10 a.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

WNMU ALLIED HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE—Free books, food and student presentations. 3-5 p.m. Free. WNMU Phelps Dodge Building.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder Septet. Valentine Ball. Semi-formal. Finger food. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BOB EINWECK—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

EAT SMART, LIVE WELL—Heart Health Wellness Class. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL—Lou

Henson Classic. 7 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

FRIDAY VALENTINE'S DAY

14 Silver City/Grant County LOVE SONGS—Greg and Jean Ann. Free. Gila Regional Medical Center Cafeteria, 1313 E. 32nd St..

Las Cruces/Mesilla

GIRL ON A BICYCLE—Through Feb. 20. Paolo (Vincenzo Amato), an Italian who drives a Paris tour bus, has just proposed to his true love, the German stewardess, Greta (Nora Tschirner), when a young French beauty, Cecile (Louise Monot) pulls up beside his bus on her bicycle. In short order, Paolo, following some very bad advice from his friend, Derek (Paddy Considine), finds himself with a German fiancée, a French wife, two Australian children who call him Papa, and his life upside-down. 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, mesilavalleyfilm.org.

NMSU BASEBALL VS. SAINT MARY'S—6:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU MEN'S TENNIS VS. MISSOURI KANSAS CITY—1 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. LAMAR—1 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

TROY COX CLASSIC—Through Feb. 16. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

SATURDAY

15 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Monthly field trip. 8 a.m. 388-2010, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com. Venue

Las Cruces/Mesilla

CELEBRATE NEW MEXICO—The Handsome Family, Boris McCutcheon & The Salt Licks with opening guest Wildewood. Benefit for the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. 8-11:55 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

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.

HOUSES OF YESTERYEAR TOUR—This year's tour highlights several in-process preservation projects in the Las Cruces area, from a historic hotel to a grand Victorian house, as well as a house of worship, a courthouse, a clubhouse and a schoolhouse. 1-5 p.m. \$15. Mesilla Valley Preservation, mypres.org.

LILLIS URBAN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NMSU BASEBALL VS. SAINT

EVENTS continued on next page



JOHN MCCUTCHEON
IN CONCERT **02/20/14**
7:30pm
WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE

"The most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard." - Johnny Cash

"John McCutcheon is the Bruce Springsteen of Folk Music... a national treasure!" - The Oakland (CA) Tribune

"... a booster for all that is good in the human race. You can always count on John McCutcheon's music to provide quality time for families." - Chicago Tribune

"John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter and song leader. And not just incidentally, he is committed to helping hard-working people everywhere to organize and push this world in a better direction." - Pete Seeger

ADULTS: \$20 Students: \$10

Tickets: Mimbres Region Arts Council (MRAC) online (\$5 service charge), WNMU Office of Multicultural Affairs & Student Activities, or at door. Proceeds benefit WNMU student scholarships. Lodging support from Holiday Inn Express. For more information, contact 575.313.3238.

SILVER CITY MUSEUM February 2014 Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 6, 2014
Brown Bag program: Walk with Me at Chaco Canyon with Tom Vaughan
12 pm to 1 pm Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Saturday, February 8, 2014
Craft Class: Make Valentine Chocolate Treats
10 am to 12 noon at the Silver City Museum
For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required.

Saturday, February 8, 2014
Book Signing: If There's Squash Bugs in Heaven, I Ain't Staying: Learning to Make the Perfect Pie, Sing When You Need To, and Find the Way Home with Farmer Evelyn, with author Stacia Spragg-Braude 2 pm at the Silver City Museum

Thursday, February 13, 2014
Volunteer Social, 10 am at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway
Come and meet volunteers and learn about how you can be involved!

Sunday, February 16, 2014
Museum Book Club, 2 pm at the Silver City Museum
All southwest genre!

Tuesday and Thursday, February 25 and 27, 2014
The Silver City Museum, Community and You! Community Forum, Noon to 1 pm at the Silver City Food Co-op Community Room, 111 6th Street, Silver City.

Ongoing Exhibits at the Silver City Museum:
Our Saints Among Us: Revisited, 400 Years of Devotional Art, now through March 2, 2014
Ghost Town Diaries: Karl Kernberger's Search for the Light, now through April 6, 2014

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City, NM, call 575-538-5921, or click www.silvercitymuseum.org

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49th Annual Rockhound Roundup
Gem & Mineral Show



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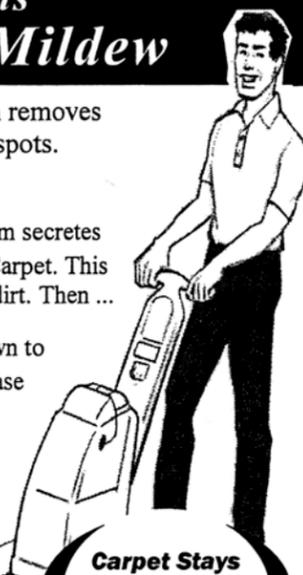
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—Sarah Cohen, S.I., NY



EVENTS continued

MARY'S—1:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.
NMSU EQUESTRIAN vs. SMU—NMSU, nmstatesports.com.
NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. CHICAGO STATE—7 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.
NMSU MEN'S TENNIS vs. NORTHERN ARIZONA—1 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

PSYCHIC READINGS—Dawn Cheney. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah Addison and Sharlene Wittern. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sonya Weiner. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.
STUDIO TOURS—For the Love of Art Month. Locations vary, download map and brochure. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. artform-nm.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 16. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

Deming

MARY KAYE—Multiple award-winning entertainer who shares the stories of the West through music and song. 2-4 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

SUNDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County FUNDRAISING DINNER—Pasta, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Benefits Bridge Community. Program by Danny Reyes and WNMU students. 4 p.m. \$10. First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College Ave., 538-5754.

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB—All southwest genre. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvecitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

NMSU BASEBALL vs. SAINT MARY'S—12:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU MEN'S TENNIS vs. IDAHO—1 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. NORTHERN ARIZONA—10 a.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

ROMANCE/ROMANCE—See Feb. 1. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STUDIO TOURS—For the Love of Art Month. Locations vary, download map and brochure. 12-4 p.m. artformnm.org.

THE FOREIGNER—See Feb. 1. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 students, seniors and military, \$7 children 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

Hillsboro

MARY KAYE—Western Music Association 2013 Female Performer of the Year. 3-5 p.m. \$5 donation. Community Center, Elenora St. lmckray@me.com.

MONDAY

17 PRESIDENTS' DAY Rodeo / Portal 18TH ANNUAL SOUP KITCHEN

FUNDRAISER—Through Feb. 19. Two soups, two breads, dessert, beverage. Fundraiser for Portal Rescue. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$7. Portal Rescue Classroom, portal-rescue.com.

TUESDAY

18 Silver City/Grant County AYURVEDA: HEALING BODY AND SOUL—Also Feb. 20. Athena Wolf of La Curandera Remedies. 12-1:30 p.m. Free. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvecityfoodcoop.com.

SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—"The Sloan Digital Sky Survey: A View from the Observatory." The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) is a major multi-band imaging and spectroscopic astronomical survey based at Apache Point Observatory in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico 6:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Student Memorial Building, 3rd floor, silvecityofstars@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

19 Silver City/Grant County WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"Men and Their Plumbing," with Dr. Amos Lash, Silver City's urologist in residence. The good news of improved treatment measures. 12 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th & Kentucky, 538-6835, will-learning.com, info@will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

HERBAL MEDICINE—See Feb. 5. Wednesdays through March 26. Herbals for Children and Tincture Making. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members per class. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

20 Silver City/Grant County AYURVEDA: HEALING BODY AND SOUL—See Feb. 18. 12-1:30 p.m. Free. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvecityfoodcoop.com.

JOHN McCUTCHEON—Master of a dozen different traditional instruments, notably the hammer dulcimer. His 30 recordings have garnered seven Grammy nominations. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$10 students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

NEWCOMERS CLUB—Tom Hester will speak about local historical figures. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Elk's Club #413, 4051 Hwy. 90.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. DJ Dale Ellis. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

EAT SMART, LIVE WELL—Heart Health Cooking Class. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

GLEEWOOD—High Desert Brewing,



An Iliad, based on Robert Fagles's translation of Homer's epic, runs Feb. 21-23 at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces.

1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Laurie Rubin—Mezzo-soprano. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. TEXAS PAN AMERICAN—6 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

SPIRITUAL PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS—Linda Marlena Carr. 2-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP—7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY

21 Silver City/Grant County CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO—Renée West will give a presentation. The talk will be in two parts. First will be observations on weather changes from the National Park Service that may be related to climate change effects. Second will be her take on where we go from here into the future. Gila Native Plant Society. 7 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall, gilansps.org.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ADVENTURE ART SERIES: ADVENTURE FILM FEST—Surf. Ride. Slide. Climb sheer rock in the Alps. Swim with the world's biggest sharks in an effort to save them! Feel the power of nature in an international celebration of Adventure and Environment. Every year the international Adventure Film selection committee chooses over 30 new films from approximately 200 entries from around the world. 7-9 p.m. \$8. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

AN ILIAD—Through Feb. 23. Based on Robert Fagles's translation of Homer's epic, this modern play retells the ancient tale of gods, goddesses, warriors and their families, and the endless battles of human history with a modern voice. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

NMSU BASEBALL vs. SIU-EDWARDSVILLE—6:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI—2 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

THE FIDDLE CLUB AND BAYOU SECO—Mardi Gras Contradance. La Mesilla

DON'T DIVERT THE GILA RIVER

Save Our River

Save Our Wildlife

Save Our Money

DO THE MATH: Diversion could cost over \$350 MILLION. Federal funding only covers \$128 MILLION. NM TAXPAYERS WILL HAVE TO PAY THE REST!

Call Senator Howie Morales
at 575-574-0043 and THANK him for
OPPOSING diverting the Gila River.

Audubon NEW MEXICO

• Learn More About Alternatives to a Gila River Diversion and Others You Can Contact, Go to:
www.swnmaudubon.org
Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society
 A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Community Center.

THE MIDTOWN MEN—Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer, Michael Longoria and Daniel Reichard perform hits from Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Motown, and more. 7:30 p.m. \$26.50. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

THE ROCKET—Through Feb. 27. In rural Laos, a young boy, Ahlo (Sithiphon Disamoe), is unknowingly born into bad luck. Local superstition dictates that twins are evil omens and the children should be killed off. Ahlo is seen as doubly rotten because his twin brother is stillborn. An exciting and lucrative yet dangerous rocket festival is on the horizon, and to prove he is not the cause of all disasters, Ahlo enters the annual contest in hopes of bringing hope back to his family. The film won the World Narrative Competition prize at the Tribeca Film Festival. In Laotian 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
22 Silver City/Grant County
HARRY BENJAMIN AUCTION—Hundreds of works include pottery, sculpture, paintings, prints and mixed media pieces done by the iconic Silver City artist and others. 1-5 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6515, harrybenjaminuction.com.

22ND ANNUAL EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS CONFERENCE—Conference in science, technology, engineering and math for young women grades 5 through 8. Presenters are local professionals in those fields, who share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the students. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 313-9833. WNMU Brancheau Complex, wnmumus-tangs.com.

NATIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTS—Tricia Hurlley. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$10, \$7 for members. Gila Native Plant Society. WNMU, (602) 810-8059, gilapns.org.

PUSHING THE LIMITS—Interactive discussion on themes of survival and science in Clive Cussler's *Arctic Drift*. Program made possible by the National Science Foundation. We will watch two videos, and associate professor of biology Dr. Lynn Haugen will assist in moderating the conversation. 10-11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

STARS-N-PARKS—Canopus and Orion will transit during the program. Jupiter is high in the sky. The winter Milky Way runs from the southwest to the northeast. 7:10-8:40 p.m. \$5 day-use fee. City of Rocks State Park, nmparks.com, astro-npo.org.

UMI GARRETT—Piano prodigy. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$5 students to age 17. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO MINES—7:30 p.m. wnmumus-tangs.com.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—wnmumus-tangs.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES—5:30 p.m. wnmumus-tangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AN ILIAD—See Feb. 21. Through Feb. 23. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

JEREMIAH SAMMARTANO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE MUSEUM ROCKS! GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Also Feb. 23. Geology discussions and films, as well as children's activities and food and beverages for sale. More than 60 vendors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org, lcmuseumrocks.com.

NMSU BASEBALL VS. SIU-EDWARDSVILLE—1:05 and 5:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU MEN'S TENNIS VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN—11 a.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Douglas Jackson. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Loni Todoroki. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

STUDIO TOURS—Also Feb. 23. For the Love of Art Month. Locations vary, download map and brochure. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. artformsnm.org.

WINE AND CHEESE PAIRINGS—12-4 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

White Sands
LAKE LUCERO TOUR—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands and learn about the dunefield. Reservations

required. 2 p.m. White Sands National Monument, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

SUNDAY
23 Silver City/Grant County
RANDAL BAYS IN CONCERT—Acclaimed Irish fiddler and fingerstyle guitarist. 2 p.m. Free. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—wnmumus-tangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AN ILIAD—See Feb. 21. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE MUSEUM ROCKS! GEM & MINERAL SHOW—See Feb. 22. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org, lcmuseumrocks.com.

NMSU BASEBALL VS. SIU-EDWARDSVILLE—1:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU MEN'S TENNIS VS. ARIZONA—12 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN—10 a.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

STUDIO TOURS—For the Love of Art Month. Locations vary, download map and brochure. 12-4 p.m. artformsnm.org.

MONDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County
GROUP MEDITATION CHANTING HU—See Feb. 10. 6:30-7 p.m. Free. Center for the Healing Arts, 300 W. Yankie, 956-5038.

MARBIN—Eclectic Chicago-based band. 7:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

TUESDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County
THE SILVER CITY MUSEUM, COMMUNITY AND YOU!—Also Feb. 27. The Silver City Museum offers a number of fun ways to become more deeply involved with your community. Come and learn how you can develop a richer relationship with your local historical community. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY
26 Las Cruces / Mesilla
HERBAL MEDICINE—See Feb. 5. Wednesdays through March 26. Herbs for Urinary Tract Health. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members per class. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

MVM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—The first portion of the meeting is reserved for a Member Forum. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

SOLAR MADE EASY—Join Consolidated Solar Technologies to learn about solar energy systems for your home or business. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County
5TH NATURAL HISTORY OF THE GILA SYMPOSIUM—Also Feb. 28. 1-5 p.m., Creative Voices 7-8:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 388-2386, gilasyposium.org.

SILVER CITY MUSEUM, COMMUNITY AND YOU! COMMUNITY FORUM—See Feb. 25. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Steppin' UP. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

CW AYON—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NMSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UTAH VALLEY—6 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

FRIDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
5TH NATURAL HISTORY OF THE GILA SYMPOSIUM—1-5 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center. Social, 7-8:30 p.m., WNMU Sunset Room, \$5. 388-2386, gilasyposium.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
LAS CRUCES ART ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY WORKSHOP—Jon Birdsong. Three-session workshop. Maximum 15 students. \$90. Mountain Gallery, 138 W. Mountain Ave., lascrucesarts.org.

NMSU BASEBALL VS. OAKLAND—6:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN—Through March 6. Starring and directed by Ralph



The Fiddle Club and Bayou Seco perform a Mardi Gras Contradance at La Mesilla Community Center on Feb. 21.

Fiennes, this period biographical drama portrays the whispered relationship Charles Dickens maintained with a much younger woman (Felicity Jones) over the last 13 years of his life. The complexity of a great man's career merges here with a young woman's agitated struggle to redefine her role in life. 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.

MARCH SATURDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
COMMUNITY DANCE—Big Ditch Crickets. 7-10 p.m. \$5, free for children under 12. Round-Up Lodge, San Lorenzo, 388-1727.

WNMU MEN'S TENNIS VS. NM MILITARY INSTITUTE—2 p.m. wnmumus-tangs.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. NM MILITARY INSTITUTE—2 p.m. wnmumus-tangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU BASEBALL VS. OAKLAND—1:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSU BAKERSFIELD—6 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

SUNDAY
2 Las Cruces / Mesilla
2 NMSU BASEBALL VS. OAKLAND—1:05 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

TUESDAY
MARDI GRAS
4 Silver City/Grant County
BAYOU SECO MARDI GRAS PARTY—Wear costumes! 6-9 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722.

WEDNESDAY
ASH WEDNESDAY
5 Las Cruces / Mesilla
HERBAL MEDICINE—See Feb. 5. Wednesdays through March 26. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members per class. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
6 Las Cruces / Mesilla
6 NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. GRAND CANYON—7 p.m. NMSU, nmstatesports.com.

Deming
49TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Through March 9. Gem and mineral show. Over 100 vendors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. SWNM State Fairgrounds, thedgms.com.

FRIDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
RED MOLLY—Three-part harmonies, crisp musicianship, and engaging stage presence. Part of the MRAC Indie/Folk Series. \$20, \$15 members. Buckhorn Opera House, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, www.mimbresarts.org.

SYMPOSIUM ON PREPAREDNESS—Through March 8. In addition to wildfire preparedness, topics will include crime, evacuations, food sustainability, and dealing with trauma and loss. See story in Tumbleweeds section. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th & Kentucky, scneighborsalliance.com/Symposium2014.html.

Deming
49TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Through March 9. Gem and mineral show. Over 100 vendors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. SWNM State Fairgrounds, thedgms.com.

SATURDAY
8 Silver City/Grant County
SYMPOSIUM ON PREPAREDNESS—

"The Ember Zone: A Guide to Home Wildfire Assessments in New Mexico." Aimed at emergency managers, first responders, Firewise Communities representatives, insurance agents, homeowner organization leaders and landscapers. See story in Tumbleweeds section. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th & Kentucky, scneighborsalliance.com/Symposium2014.html.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. CSU PUEBLO—wnmumus-tangs.com.

REGIONAL NATIVE PLANTS—Richard Felger. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$10, \$7 for members. Gila Native Plant Society. WNMU, (602) 810-8059, gilapns.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
15TH ANNUAL COWBOY DAYS—Through March 9. The museum's largest event of the year features two days of family fun that include children's activities, cowboy food and music, cowboy mounted shooting, horseback and stagecoach rides, living history, gunfight re-enactments, arts and crafts vendors, roping, horseshoeing and many other demonstrations. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

Columbus
11TH ANNUAL CAMP FURLONG DAY—Commemorates Pancho Villa's 1916 raid on Columbus with historical talks and slide-shows. 1-4 p.m. Pancho Villa State Park, S. Columbus Road, 531-2711.

15TH ANNUAL CABALGATA BINACIONAL—Horseback parade. The annual event promotes friendship between the US and Mexico. 10 a.m. Columbus plaza, 494-1535.

Deming
49TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Through March 9. Gem and mineral show. Over 100 vendors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. SWNM State Fairgrounds, thedgms.com.

SUNDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
9 Silver City/Grant County
WNMU SOFTBALL VS. CSU PUEBLO—wnmumus-tangs.com.

Columbus
98TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE—Columbus Historical Society. Remembrance of the Americans whose lives were lost during the 1916 raid on Columbus. 10 a.m. Depot Museum, 531-2620.

Deming
49TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Gem and mineral show. Over 100 vendors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. SWNM State Fairgrounds, thedgms.com. ✱

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.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET
FOURTH ANNUAL
HOME AND GARDEN EXPO
GRANT COUNTY BUSINESS & CONFERENCE CENTER
PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET

Friday—MARCH 21st noon to 8pm
Saturday—MARCH 22nd 9 to 4pm

SAVE THE DATES
Silver City Co-op Annual Seed Share
Home & Garden Supplies and Local Service Vendors
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hands on gardening, nutrition and food history

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Fifty Shades of Grey

You can have any car color you like, as long as it's colorless.

Many years ago, not long after the extinction of the dinosaurs and the invention of the automobile that turned those dinos' carbon into miles per gallon, I wrote a column lamenting the vanishing of green cars. This was at the newspaper in Dubuque, Iowa, the town whose little old ladies the *New Yorker* was famously not written for. Those little old ladies needed something to read, nonetheless, and so I churned out four columns a week. Dipping deep into my well of creativity, I noticed that green was no longer an automotive option, and crafted this insight into some profound psycho-socio-economic 850 words.

Some decades later, schlepping into an auto dealership with my wife to get a frammistat or doohickey fixed on her car (she brings me along, obviously, for my automotive expertise), I recently realized that it's not just green that's gone extinct on the showroom floor. Except for a smattering of small cars that are allowed to look snazzy, color in general has been drained from the exterior of the 21st century automobile.

Audi, for example (weirdly, the high-end models have been most ruthless in paring down the spectrum), offers Ibis White, Glacier White, Monsoon

Gray, Ice Silver, Daytona Gray and Lava Gray, all of which look, well, off-white in varying degrees of off-ness. There's one blue (Scuba Blue) and a lone Volcano

Red, plus a few browns and brownish-golds and Brilliant Black. No greens, of course, but also no yellows, oranges or even purples. If this were a riot of color, one septuagenarian WalMart security guard could shut it down with a nighstick.

This, however, represents a veritable rainbow compared to the choices for Infiniti "crossover" cars: Moonlight White, Liquid Platinum and Graphite Shadow—basically all shades of white to gray—plus two blacks (Malbec Black and Black Obsidian—I defy you to tell the difference) and a lone hue that could not be reproduced in black and white, Midnight Garnet. Not even blue!

Domestic models, at least those large enough to carry more than one bag of groceries, are no more vibrant. The Chrysler 300, which someone once claimed was the most popular car in Silver City, doesn't even bother offering a white, but does come in two silver-grays (Billet Silver, whatever "billet" means in this context—a typo for bullet?, and Pewter Gray) and, again, not one but two blacks (Gloss

Black and Granite Crystal, which despite the flouncy name looks pretty much just black). Jazz Blue and Deep Cherry Red are the only choices from an actual color wheel.

Henry Ford, who once boasted you could buy a Model T in any color you liked as long as it was black, would be proud.

But you don't have to venture into an automotive showroom and tempt the clutches of *Car Salesmanus Americanus*

to see what I mean. Take a gander at the Wally World parking lot on any given day: It's a vast expanse of silver, gray, white, gray-white and silver-gray, peppered with the occasional black car whose owner is now regretting his choice as the Southwest sun turns it into an Oven GX50. Here and there you might spot someone who went wild and bought a faintly golden car, and the stray red-hued rebel. That yellow Corvette is your neighbor's midlife crisis, and his wife is about to make him trade it in for a nice Emasculated Pewter minivan.

In that parking lot, my wife's car would be the Citrus Fire—kind of a metallic orange—that looks like it's been beamed down from another planet. A much more lively planet, where not all the automakers are color blind.

Or just study the traffic some day zooming along I-10. (This works much better if you're not the person driving your own gray-white vehicle, but rather a passenger who can observe without endangering life and limb.) Discounting the RVs fleeing frozen places like Ontario and Iowa and the semis, you'll see one vaguely grayish vehicle after another. Even the white cars, carrying a Southwestern load of dust, appear off-white. Similarly, a dusty makeover transforms passing black vehicles into what the showrooms would probably call Desert Gray.

That little red sports car that stands out like a zit on prom night? Well, he stands out to the highway patrol cruiser lurking under the overpass, too, and will soon learn the error of his color-crazed ways.

Perhaps that's the explanation for the drabification of the American automobile. Except on their Facebook pages and Twitter feeds (themselves a sort of conformity to the rule of carefully minimized idiosyncracies), Americans no longer wish to stand out. We have heeded all too well the

dictum that the one who stands out gets squashed, and have no desire for our cars to be Whack-a-Mole targets. Pewter Gray and Monsoon Gray seem safer than Dragonfly Green or Tangerine-Slice Orange.

Even the names of these car colors—who comes up with these? Does somebody just throw words into a hat and pull out two or three at random, like naming subdivisions? (Sierra Ridge... Shadow Mountain Vista... Quail Meadows... you know what I mean.)

The work of developing all those labels for gray alone must be exhausting: Silver Sky, Predawn Gray, Silver Ice, Cyber Gray, Maximum Steel, Quick Silver, Sterling Gray, Ingot Silver... it goes on and on. (All those are actual car colors from various automakers, if you can call them "colors.") What is "Cyber Gray," anyway? Is that the color your face turns when you realize cyberspace has gifted you with a virus and all your PC's data has gone bye-bye?

And "Maximum Steel" sounds like some sort of action movie ("Hugh Jackman shows nothing is tougher than... MAXIMUM STEEL!"). I'm pretty sure Silver Ice is a brand of vodka, isn't it?

Can you imagine this stunted spectrum trying to tempt car buyers back in the wild and colorful 1960s? "Does this model come in day-glo orange?" "Uh, no, sir, but we do offer both Midnight Black and Dark of the Moon Black." "Man, you're harshing my mellow. How about blue, like, you know, the color of the sky?" "Er, it does come in Twilight Gray—that's a

sky color." "Yellow, man, at least you've gotta have yellow. My old VW van was yellow and I loved that car until the transmission fell out." "Did I mention it comes in Midnight Black?"

Maybe this is progress, or perhaps such cultural changes are simply cyclical. Remember how that novel, *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*, captured the conformity of the 1950s? Today's version would have to be titled, *The Man in the Pewter Gray Car*.

I'm pretty sure, though, that the man in the gray flannel suit drove a green car. 🐸

When not editing *Desert Exposure*, David A. Fryxell drives a blue car.



Don't get too excited by the full spectrum on the "Colorizer" button on this Dodge website. When you click it, the result isn't exactly a rainbow.



The work of developing all those labels for gray alone must be exhausting: Silver Sky, Predawn Gray, Silver Ice, Cyber Gray, Maximum Steel, Quick Silver, Sterling Gray, Ingot Silver... it goes on and on.



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#1 Listing/Selling Office 2013 - 113 units sold, \$13.9M



MLS 30771 • \$82,000
 Charming home in Hurley. All new kitchen has custom counters, a large breakfast bar with built in storage and new appliances. New laminate flooring, light fixtures and fans. The home has been repainted, the electrical updated and the roof recoated a year ago. New washer and dryer convey. Landscaped yard with faux river bed & fruit trees. Backyard with shed and a raised garden bed.



MLS 30752 • \$130,000
 3bd/2ba manufactured home on 1.5 unrestricted acres close to town. Views, privacy, fenced & wooded property with attached carport, greenhouse, fruit trees, parking, two storage buildings. Updates including newer kitchen, newer roof & gutters, newer furnace, newer carpet, newer window screens.



MLS 30779 • \$172,000
 This property in White Signal faces south - southwest. It is a 2005 Solitaire with 2x6 construction. Spacious floor plan. Central vacuum and a water de-scaler. Many varieties of fruit trees include apple, peach, cherry, almond, walnut and more. Garden has deer fence and auto timing for watering. Detached garage has work shop space. Mineral rights.



MLS 30756 • \$199,000
 Bordering BLM land, this 150 +/- acre property has two 1,200 sq.ft. Mueller steel buildings, storage/garden shed, & power/well/septic & propane. One building has 1bd/1ba. The other building has a guest area with bath. Set on the west slope of the Florida mountains 11 miles from Deming, the property offers privacy, seclusion, and excellent panoramic views.



MLS 30766 • \$134,900
 Large kitchen with room for dining room table includes island, new stainless dishwasher, breakfast bar, built in china cabinet and pantry. Roomy bedrooms and ample storage. Master bath has large garden tub + large shower stall and Durastone flooring. Master bedroom with large walk thru closet. Oversized 2 stall carport with additional storage shed. RV hookup with 50 amp plug-in.



MLS 30794 • \$135,000
 The absolute best commercial location in the mining district! Great exposure and ample parking are welcoming to almost any type of business venture! Former bank location with vaults. Move in ready!



MLS 30762 • \$265,000
 Exceptional location close to the national forest trails & hiking, refreshed 3bd/2ba home is only 5 miles to town on 2 unrestricted acres. Granite countertops, new carpeting and paint in the bedrooms. Open floor plan with split bedrooms, fireplace. Private covered patio.



MLS 30738 • \$159,000
 What a property with lots of extra shop and storage space. This has captivating views and all tile floors and a modern feel. The shop is wired with outlets everywhere and a separate storage building will make plenty of room for your larger toys in the detached garage/workshop.



MLS 30783 • \$597,697
 The 120,000 sq.ft. Tyrone Mercantile is available for an investor to bring commercial life back into the southern market. There are no retail or service competitors in this area south of Silver City.



MLS 30737 • \$289,000
 Great 3bd/2ba ranch style home with detached 2bd/1ba guest apartment plus 2 car garage. Over 4 acres with exceptional views. Covered porches with seating areas for both units.

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Dave & Tamara Ogilvie
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Jerry & Judith Woodrow
Woodrow Cattle Company, Cliff

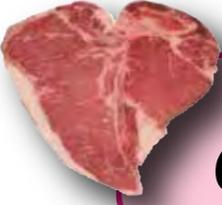
Jerry & Heidi Collings
Mill Iron Ranch, Mule Creek

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Bruton Ranch, Datil

Wendel Hann & Ceci McNicoll
Gila River Ranch, Gila



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