

DESERT exposure

BIGGEST LITTLE PAPER IN THE SOUTHWEST



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Deming's circus roper, page 30



Visiting Biosphere 2, page 36

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Sept 18—Kelly Russell and Jeff Boyd

present an inside and an outside perspective on the federal agency in charge of our local national forests and wilderness areas, the US Forest Service. Kelly is the Forest Supervisor of the Gila National Forest; Jeff is a refugee from the overdeveloped East and an inveterate hiker. He has been very active in WILL wilderness activities.



Sept 25—Dr. Jennifer Agosta and Siri D. Khalsa

discuss a subject that we all would rather not think about: what steps to take, and when, to maintain the best possible health situation as we age, while acknowledging the balance of needs of everyone involved. Dr. Agosta is the medical director of Gila Regional Medical Center's (GRMC) Hospice program. Siri D. Khalsa is the volunteer coordinator GRMC's Hospice program.



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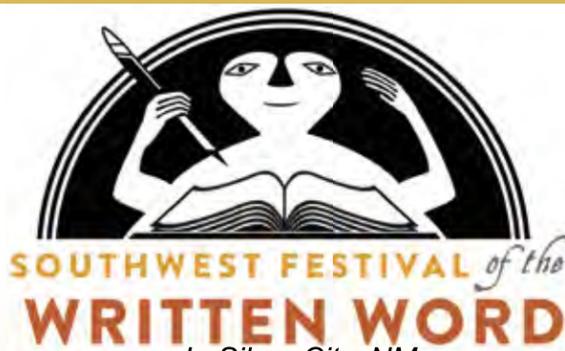
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

My Way vs. the Highway

Why GOP House members like Steve Pearce have no incentive to compromise.

If you want to understand why Congress is broken, you need look no further than New Mexico Second District Rep. Steve Pearce, who last month announced for re-election.

No, this is not another job at our favorite Congressional punching bag. In fact, Pearce deserves for recently defying his party leaders and joining with both New Mexico House Democrats to vote to defund the National Security Agency's phone metadata program. That effort narrowly failed, but it put the spy agency on notice that Congress may yet rein in its surveillance efforts where they impinge on ordinary Americans' privacy.

The problem with Congress in general and the US House in particular is that there are far too few such votes crossing party lines. Despite a recent poll showing nearly 7 in 10 Americans want politicians to compromise, the two sides have never been further apart ideologically than they were in the 112th Congress, according to Vital Statistics on Congress. The bipartisan experts behind those statistics agree that, while both parties suffer from ideological rigidity, Republicans like Pearce are more extreme and more to blame than Democrats.

Consider that in the last session Pearce voted with his party a whopping 92.1% of the time—yet that ranked him way down at 155th among 234 GOP House members in toeing the party line. Overall, among both parties, party-unity votes in the House totaled 72.8%, a sharp increase from 54.5% six years earlier.

Leading GOP figures such as Bob Dole, the party's 1996 presidential nominee, have made headlines lately arguing that their party has become too fixated on "purity." Dole was quoted as saying even Ronald Reagan couldn't be nominated by today's Republican Party. Mike Lofgren, who spent 16 years as a GOP Congressional staff member, has written: "The Republican Party is becoming less and less like a traditional political party in a representative democracy and becoming more like an apocalyptic cult, or one of the intensely ideological authoritarian parties of 20th century Europe."

As Ed Rogers, a top aide to both Reagan and George H. W. Bush, explained in the *New York Times*, "The GOP House has between 20 and 30 members who are ideological purists who think every issue and vote is black and white. Combine that with the members who fear a primary from the right, and you have maybe 60 votes that are hard to get. We have lost the art of governing in Washington. In the Congress no one is able to make and execute long-term plans."

Pearce, with little fear of a primary challenge, falls in a third, middle group of about 30 GOP House members that the *Washington Post* categorized as wanting to find a way to vote for measures such as the farm bill or immigration reform—but who wind up voting no half the time. Add these to the first two groups and it's difficult for the House leadership to deliver even when a compromise is hammered out.

The nut of the problem making the US ungovernable right now is that there's little incentive for Congressmen like our Steve Pearce to compromise. Only 16 current House Republicans represent districts carried by Obama in 2012. Even as New Mexico overall went strongly "blue," Pearce's Second District went for Romney by 52%-45%, actually going more "red" than McCain's less than two-point margin four years earlier.

Meanwhile, despite a barrage of criticism leveled at Pearce by the state Democratic Party, Democrats have been unable to field a credible challenger. In 2012, Pearce clobbered Evelyn Madrid Erhard by nearly 40,000 votes, outrunning Romney with 59.1%. Barring redistricting after the 2020 census that might put more northern New Mexico Democrats into his district, Pearce can safely plan on holding his seat until he feels like retiring and jumping into the lucrative lobbyist pool.

If you think of the "oil patch" that makes up much of the Second District as being more like Texas than it is like Taos, Pearce fits right in with another demographic reality of the current dysfunctional Congress: Two-fifths of House Republicans come from

the 11 states of the former Confederacy, including Texas. These 97 members (98 if you count Texas-born Pearce) are "almost uniformly opposed to negotiation of any kind with Democrats," notes the *Times*.

Nor are House Republicans particularly concerned over the long-term viability of their party or the desire to recapture the White House—motivations that might lead them to compromise, for example, on immigration. As GOP pollster Bill McInturff puts it, "At an individual level, they are acting as rational actors, on the basis of their own perceived political interests.... The rational political incentive for most elected Republicans is to be sure they don't face a primary challenger."

Long-time readers of this page may recall that we pilloried Harry Teague, the Hobbs Democrat who kept Pearce's seat warm for one term when the Republican sought to step up to the US Senate, for *failing* to vote with his party. Teague's refusal to support Obamacare despite his campaign promises was the last straw. Aren't we criticizing Pearce now for toeing his party's line, as we dinged Teague for *not* doing?

We don't expect Steve Pearce to suddenly abandon his principles and start supporting Obama's programs. That's not how representative democracy works. Teague ran as one thing and acted as another—hence our disappointment. (Keep in mind, too, that Obamacare strongly resembled programs that moderate Republicans, including their 2012 presidential nominee, once advocated. The political center has moved so far to the right, as Dole pointed out, that when Democrats mindlessly tag along there's no counterweight for genuine compromise.)

But there's a difference between keeping your campaign promises and shutting down the government or defaulting on the nation's debt when you can't get 100% of your way. Play the game hard, yes. Take the ball and go home, no.

We don't recall, for example, Pearce campaigning on a promise to gut the food stamp program that one in five New Mexicans rely on. But that's the extreme position he and 215 fellow Republicans (joined by zero Democrats) took in July. Unfortunately, many of those food-stamp recipients will still vote for Pearce in 2014, as will many Hispanics even if he opposes the immigration bill.

To be fair, "compromise" is often in the eye of the beholder. Despite the recent *Washington Post/ABC* poll finding overwhelming generic support for compromise in Congress, when people were asked about specific topics such as immigration, their appetite for actual compromise faded. As *Post* columnist Chris Cillizza puts it, "People LOVE the idea of compromise in theoretical terms but love it much less when the conversation gets more specific." Too often then, "compromise" means you giving in and voting for my extreme position.

This is not one of those problems for which we have a "let's all be reasonable" solution. Ideally, the US electorate in 2014 or 2016 would stop dividing our government and give one party or the other a clear shot at fixing what's wrong with the country. Maybe if Congressional Republicans go too far this fall in their zeal to slash spending and undo Obamacare (40 pointless votes for repeal and counting), shutting down the government and/or triggering default, that will be a wake-up call for voters.

It's unlikely to dislodge our Steve Pearce, however. And until he has a reasonable fear of that happening, he has no incentive to be part of the solution in Washington instead of part of the problem.

Just Saying No

Voters torpedo Grant County's wish-list tax increase.

Apparently Grant County voters don't have much use for the powers-that-be who wanted them to "just trust us" with a \$10 million bond issue and gross receipts tax increase. Despite the

backing of county, town and university officials and near-fawning media coverage beyond these pages, the “quality of life” measure was rejected last month by a two-to-one margin. In preliminary results from the special mail-in balloting, 4,134 voted against the tax increase to only 1,923 “yes” voters.

As we warned in this column back in June (“Regressive ‘Progress’”), the gross receipts tax hits hardest those with the least ability to pay, while also penalizing small businesses. The five-project wish list that would have been funded was cooked up with inadequate public input and only back-of-the-envelope cost calculations. In proposing a \$4 million movie

multiplex, little heed was paid to the cautionary experience in just such a project by Luna County, only a few miles down Hwy. 180. Other critics noted the lack of a “sunset” provision on the tax increase.

Grant County voters, we think, showed greater prudence and foresight than the authorities who dreamed up this scheme. If there was also a whiff of arrogance in the “we know best” statements of proposal advocates, that didn’t play well with the “little people” who would have had to foot the bill.

All the same, we applaud those authorities for getting together across town, county and university lines and thinking big. Let’s hope as the dust settles

that same cooperative spirit can be applied to a fresh look at true area economic development. We’d also urge the powers-that-be to take a more overtly open approach to identifying public priorities. And whatever comes next, increasing taxes should be the last resort—not the first. Grant County voters, in their collective wisdom, have made that resoundingly clear. ❁

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.



LETTERS

Our Readers Write

With Pen in Hand

Handwriting matters—but does cursive matter (Continental Divide, August)? The fastest, clearest handwriters join only some letters: making the easiest joins, skipping others, using print-like forms of letters whose cursive and printed forms disagree.

Reading cursive matters, but even children can be taught to read writing that they are not taught to produce. Reading cursive can be taught in just 30 to 60 minutes—even to five- or six-year-olds, once they read ordinary print. Why not teach children to read cursive, along with teaching other vital skills, including a handwriting style typical of effective handwriters?

Adults increasingly abandon cursive. In 2012, handwriting teachers were surveyed at a conference hosted by Zaner-Bloser, a publisher of cursive textbooks. Only 37% wrote in cursive; another 8% printed. The majority, 55%, wrote a hybrid: some elements resembling print-writing, others resembling cursive. When most handwriting teachers shun cursive, why mandate it?

Cursive’s cheerleaders sometimes allege that cursive makes you smarter, makes you graceful, or confers other blessings no more prevalent among cursive users than elsewhere. Some claim research support, citing studies that consistently prove to have been misquoted or otherwise misrepresented by the claimant.

What about signatures? In state and federal law, cursive signatures have no special legal validity over any other kind. (Hard to believe? Ask any attorney!)

All writing, not just cursive, is individual—just as all writing involves fine motor skills. That is why, six months into the school year, any first-grade teacher can immediately identify (from print-writing on unsigned work) which student produced it.

Mandating cursive to preserve handwriting re-

sembles mandating stovepipe hats and crinolines to preserve the art of tailoring.

Kate Gladstone
Handwriting Repair/Handwriting That Works and
the World Handwriting Contest
www.HandwritingThatWorks.com
Albany, NY
(sent from her iPad)

I must object to David Fryxell’s hand-wringing over handwriting. The most famous example of the virtues of handwriting is the Declaration of Independence. This timeless piece of writing is not only a priceless historical document, but with its flowing flourishes, it is also a beautiful work of art; as a student, Thomas Jefferson must have received an A-plus in penmanship.

A typed version of the Declaration of Independence gets lost in translation. “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” loses its ring in print.

Paul Hoylen Jr.
Deming
(sent in handwritten)

Lost and Found

Thank you very much for the excellent article on search and rescue activities in New Mexico, focusing on the Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue team (“Lost and Found,” August). Including the Hiking Smarts tips was also very much appreciated to help people stay safe when venturing into the backcountry. As the article points out, New Mexico is very fortunate to have a statewide system of SAR teams that can deploy statewide, unlike the vast majority of other states that mostly limit SAR teams to county boundaries.

All of the SAR teams in New Mexico are comprised of volunteers who devote their time, energy and personal finances to become well-trained and

-equipped search team members. There are currently over 50 (not 40) active SAR teams listed as resources with the New Mexico State Police, providing over 1,500 individuals, along with their dogs, ATVs, 4WD vehicles, and other equipment, who can be called out for SAR missions. Locally, the Grant County Search And Rescue team, based out of Silver City, has over 20 dedicated volunteer members ready to go at any time.

In addition to the total number of teams statewide, a couple of other minor corrections should be pointed out. There are actually five SAR teams in the Las Cruces area, not two, and while Kurt Anderson would probably not mind being associated with Grant County Search And Rescue, he is actually a member of the Doña Ana County SAR team. Finally, the listing at the end for the New Mexico Emergency Service Council is out of date. That entity has changed its name to the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council, with a web address of www.nmsarc.org.

Thanks again for the article.

Marc Levesque, President
Grant County Search And Rescue
Silver City

Quality of Life

Happy now!? It’s pretty clear that the projects presented in the recent gross-receipts tax vote are unpopular (Editor’s Notebook, June). Now is the perfect time to figure out why and see if there are “quality of life” proposals with clear

LETTERS continued on page 9

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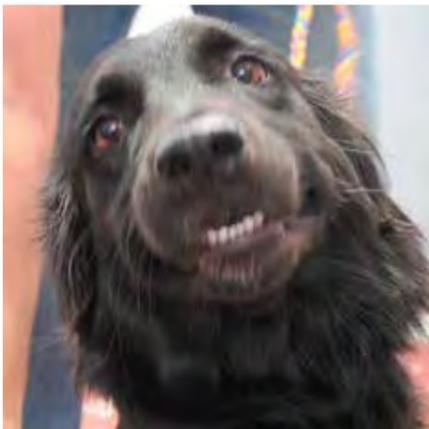
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Katherine
1 yr., Female, Blue Nose Pit



Jazzmin
3 mos., Female, DSH



Buttons
1 yr., Neutered Male, DSH



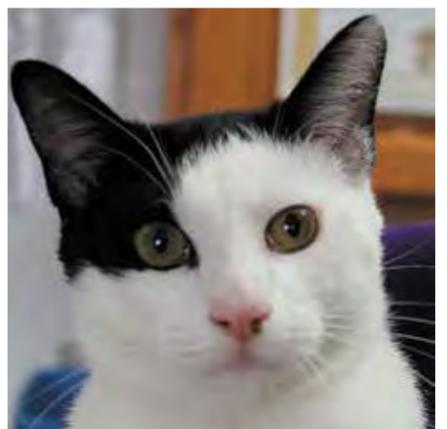
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LETTERS continued from page 7

budgets that would be good ideas that voters would embrace. We deserve and should pay for thoughtful development and improvements in our town.

Swimming is a great sport, avocation and even vocation. Having a really top-notch municipal pool with modern facilities, open year-round, is something Silver City residents have supported since I've lived here, about 10 years. Several years ago a Parks and Recreation committee cajoled the Town Council into fixing the Municipal Pool building so it could be used safely and increasing hours of use. Why is leadership so uninterested in improving that large, centrally located area, walking distance to three public schools? If the town leadership is willing to raise millions of tax dollars, why not put that money to use there? University students would be welcome to use it and perhaps WNMU Swim Team members could work with students at that facility during the year as a community service. And, by the way, a pool facility would have been a sensible part of the New Mustang Village Complex.

Cineplexes are clearly dinosaurs. Most of us are well aware that movie theaters, such as the one in Deming, will go broke in the next few years. My mom's brothers owned movie theaters for decades and sold them off about 20 years ago in favor of restaurant and hotel chains, which still are built with a minimum level of population in mind—there is a formula for sustainability.

The golf course, in the past also a country club, should be able to attract members and stay in business. If not, is it a good idea to put tax dollars into that business? SIGRED, Sirolli and Gila EDA were tasked with bringing businesses and jobs to Silver City and didn't reach any significant result after many years and a quarter-million dollars. (See "The \$250,000 Question," June 2008.) What are the facilities and businesses we need to push our economy and quality of life forward?

The thinking that people move to a city or town because there is a movie theater, golf course and swimming pool seems a bit of a stretch when considering growing an economy and growing the local population. People move to cities and towns for jobs

that pay a living wage, affordable homes, reasonable property taxes, and good schools.

Let's work on that.

Teri Matelson
Silver City

Global Reach

On the topic of immigration (Editor's Notebook, August), I'm reminded of Major General Smedley Darlington Butler, USMC (1899-1933), a recipient of two Congressional Medals of Honor and the most decorated military officer in the history of the United States prior to WWII. He gave an address in New Britain, Conn., to the American Legion on Aug 21, 1931. And this is in part what he said:

"I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high-class thug for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts, I operated on three continents."

General Butler, where are you when we need you now? And how is all this connected to our country and immigration today? Have our adventures in economic imperialism for the sake of bananas, copper, petroleum, sugar, etc. resulted in destabilizing established foreign governments, supporting puppet dictators and causing hardship and suffering on foreign populations with the resulting migrations in the Americas and elsewhere?

If one hears and understands the words of General Butler and reflects upon our past history,

could not one reach another dimension with the current immigration debate in our country? I do indeed so think. And that dimension is that our own country has played a greater role in stimulating these migrations, and thus bears a greater burden of responsibility than we would seem to want to admit and accept. This historical background to the current immigration discussion is an important factor seldom considered. Put it into the mix and go figure.

F. Patrick Fitzgerald
Las Cruces

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

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DESERT DIARY

Beer Wishes and Blondes

Plus dead penguins, air-traffic control tales and daffy-nitions.

The pluck of the Irish... In sharing this first tale, we're sure that contributor **Yerby** would be the first to caution that the Irish don't drink any more than anybody else:

"Two Irishmen, Patrick and Michael, were adrift in a lifeboat following a dramatic escape from a burning freighter. While rummaging through the boat's provisions, Patrick stumbled across an old lamp. Secretly hoping that a genie would appear, he rubbed the lamp vigorously.

"To his amazement, a genie came forth. This particular genie, however, stated that he could deliver only one wish, not the standard three.

"Without giving much thought to the matter, Patrick blurted out, 'Make the entire ocean into Guinness beer!'

"The genie clapped his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the entire sea turned into the finest brew ever sampled by mortals. Simultaneously, the genie vanished.

"Only the gentle lapping of Guinness on the hull broke the stillness as the two men considered their circumstances. Michael looked disgustedly at Patrick, whose wish had been granted.

"After a long, tension-filled moment, he spoke: 'Nice going, Patrick! Now we're going to have to pee in the boat!'"

Corporal pun-ishment... This lesson in Antarctic biology comes to us courtesy of **CharlesC**: "Did you ever wonder why there are no



Postcards from the edge... We continue to get a kick out of the photos submitted by traveling readers, showing themselves holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*, so keep them coming! Our first photo this month came with this note: 'Here is the *Desert Exposure* that traveled with **Jerry and Helen Moser** from Las Cruces to the Temple of Bayon in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Bayon is one of the many temples located in the Angkor Wat area of Cambodia. The Mosers continued with the *Desert Exposure* down the Mekong River, ending in Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.'

dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more!

"It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird that lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

"If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried. The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow.

"Freeze a jolly good fellow..."

The unfriendly skies... Being a bit dated (we still fondly remember TWA and Pan Am!) doesn't detract from our enjoyment of these supposedly actual air-traffic exchanges sent in by **Old Grumps**—nor does the time lag make us any more eager to fly after reading these!

"Tower: 'Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, six miles!'

"Delta 351: 'Give us another hint! We have digital watches!'"

"Tower: 'TWA 2341, for noise abatement, turn right 45 degrees.'

"TWA 2341: 'Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?'

"Tower: 'Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?'"

"From an unknown aircraft waiting in a very long takeoff queue: 'I'm (bleep)ing bored!'

"Ground Traffic Control: 'Last aircraft transmitting, identify yourself immediately!'

"Unknown aircraft: 'I said I was (bleep)ing bored, not (bleep)ing stupid!'"

"A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long rollout after touching down. San Jose Tower noted: 'American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport.'"

"A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in Munich, overheard the following:

"Lufthansa (in German): 'Ground, what is our start clearance time?'

"Ground (in English): 'If you want an answer, you must speak in English.'

"Lufthansa (in English): 'I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany. Why must I speak English?'

"Unknown voice from another plane (in a beau-

tiful British accent): 'Because you lost the bloody war!'"

"The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206:

"Speedbird 206: 'Frankfurt, Speedbird 206! Clear of active runway.'

"Ground: 'Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven.'

"The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

"Ground: 'Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?'

"Speedbird 206: 'Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now.'

"Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): 'Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?'

"Speedbird 206 (coolly): 'Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark—and I didn't land.'"

Losing the battle of the sexes... Read to the end and you'll see why this one from **GeraldH** landed in this category:

"An 81-year-old woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge he asked her, 'What did you steal?'

"She replied, 'A can of peaches.'

"The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches, and she replied that she was hungry. The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can.

"She replied, 'Six.'

"The judge said, 'Then I'll give you six days in jail.'

"Before the judge could conclude the trial, the woman's husband spoke and asked the judge if he could say something. The judge said, 'What is it?'

"The husband said, 'She also stole a can of peas.'"

Then there's this one from **GeeRichard**, a fresh take on a familiar yarn:

"A married couple went to the hospital to have their baby delivered. Upon their arrival, the doctor said he had invented a new machine that would transfer a portion of the mother's pain to the baby's father. He asked if they were willing to try it out. They were both very much in favor of it.

"The doctor set the pain transfer to 10%, for starters, explaining that even 10% was probably more pain the father had ever experienced before. But as the labor progressed, the husband felt fine and asked the doctor to go ahead and 'kick it up a notch.'

"The doctor then adjusted the machine to 20% pain transfer. The husband was still feeling fine. The doctor checked the husband's blood pressure and was amazed at how well he was doing at this point. They decided to try for 50%; the husband continued to feel quite well.

"Since the pain transfer was obviously helping out the wife considerably, the husband encouraged the doctor to transfer ALL the pain to him.

"The wife delivered a healthy baby boy with virtually no pain. She and her husband were ecstatic.



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Western New Mexico University's Extended University department would like to start offering non-credit classes to community residents. We are looking for persons interested in sharing their expertise in educational, cultural, and recreational services.

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Rebecca Estrada, Continuing Education Planner for WNMU, is excited about getting the non-credit program started again. Ms. Estrada's office is located in the P.E. Complex, room 131 and may be contacted by phone at **538-6149** to set up an appointment for persons interested in teaching a class.

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Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo with "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" came from **Barbara Taylor**, who writes: "I love the Colorado mountains and this is a view of the Lagarita mountains in southwest Colorado from Creede."

Whether you're heading to Cambodia or Colorado, 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.

"When they got home, the mailman was dead on the porch."

Daffy-nitions... Got to love these punny definitions, passed along by **Egdirble** (you may want to read them out loud):

"**ARBITRATOR:** A cook who leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

"**AVOIDABLE:** What a bullfighter tries to do.

"**BERNADETTE:** The act of torching a mortgage.

"**BURGLARIZE:** What a crook sees with.

"**CONTROL:** A short, ugly inmate.

"**COUNTERFEITERS:** Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

"**ECLIPSE:** What an English barber does for a living.

"**EYEDROPPER:** A clumsy ophthalmologist.

"**HEROES:** What a guy in a boat does.

"**LEFTBANK:** What the robber did when his bag was full of money.

"**PARADOX:** Two physicians.

"**PARASITES:** What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

"**POLARIZE:** What penguins see with.

"**RELIEF:** What trees do in the spring.

"**RUBBERNECK:** What you do to relax your wife.

"**SELFISH:** What the owner of a seafood store does.

"**SUDAFED:** Brought litigation against a government official.

Persons of the blonde persuasion... As always, you may feel free to substitute the hair hue of your choice in this funny from **The Santa Claran**:

"A man who'd just died is delivered to a local mortuary wearing an expensive, expertly tailored black suit. The female blonde mortician asks the deceased's wife how she would like the body dressed. She points out that the man does look good in the black suit he is already wearing.

"The widow, however, says that she always thought her husband looked his best in blue, and that she wants him in a blue suit. She gives the blonde mortician a blank check and says, 'I don't care what it costs, but please have my husband in a blue suit for the viewing.'

"The woman returns the next day for the wake. To her delight, she finds her husband dressed in a gorgeous blue suit with a subtle chalk stripe; the suit fits him perfectly. She says to the mortician, 'Whatever this cost, I'm very satisfied. You did an excellent job and I'm very grateful. How much did you spend?'

"To her astonishment, the blonde mortician presents her with the blank check. 'There's no charge,' she says.

"No, really, I must compensate you for the cost of that exquisite blue suit!' the widow says.

"Honestly, ma'am,' the blonde says, 'it cost nothing. You see, a deceased gentleman of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday, and he was wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave

wearing a black suit instead, and she said it made no difference as long as he looked nice.

"So I just switched the heads."

Speaking of hair-color changes, there's this from **Ned Ludd**:

"A blonde was really tired of being made fun of, so she decided to have her hair dyed. Once she had brown hair, she decided to take a drive in the country.

"After she had been driving for a while, she saw a farmer and a flock of sheep and thought they were adorable. She got out and walked over to the farmer and said, 'If I can guess how many sheep you have, can I take one home?'

"The farmer, being a bit of a gambler himself, said she could have a try.

"The blonde looked at the flock and guessed, '157.'

"The farmer was amazed—she was right! So the blonde (who looked like a brunette), picked one out and got back into her car.

"Before she left, however, the farmer ran up to her and said, 'If I can guess the real color of your hair, can I have my dog back?'"

In a family way... Get your mind out of the gutter as you enjoy this tale from **Shanty Shaker**:

"A man doing market research knocked on a door and was greeted by a young woman with three small children running around at her feet. He says, 'I'm doing some research for Vaseline. Have you ever used the product?'

"She says, 'Yes. My husband and I use it all the time.'

"And if you don't mind me asking, what do you use it for?'

"We use it for sex.'

"The researcher is a little taken back. 'Usually people lie to me and say that they use it on a child's bicycle chain or to help with a gate hinge,' he responds. 'But, in fact, I know that most people do use it for sex. I admire you for your honesty. Since you've been frank so far, can you tell me exactly how you use it for sex?'

"The woman says, 'I don't mind telling you at all. My husband and I put it on the door knob and it keeps the kids out.'"

Bible lessons... Finally, this tale of teen enlightenment comes courtesy of **Biffy**:

"A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

"The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

"After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut.'

"The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

"His dad replied, 'Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?'"

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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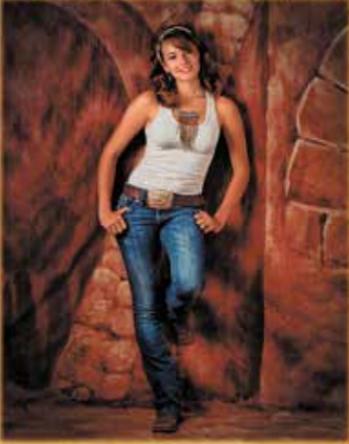
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Frieze Frame

Self-taught artist "Dago" creates a frieze for the Palomas library.

He lives with his wife and one-year-old son in a modest pink house at the south edge of Palomas. His name is Dagoberto Rodriguez, but he's emphatically "Dago" to himself and to people who know him.

I interview him over a kitchen table with an intrepid kitten about five weeks old scurrying around under the chairs.

Dago has been making drawings and commercial paintings on buildings most of his life, but just in the past few years he's been called on to make some public paintings in Palomas—on the base of the tall statue of Pancho Villa in front of City Hall and a few on the gazebo in the main plaza. They give a stamp of individuality to the town.

In the past year he created a highly original frieze out of cement in front of the public library four blocks west of the main street. I tell him the ancient Greeks made friezes, and he wasn't aware of that. He hadn't heard of the word "frieze" (*frisa*). He uses the word *mural* to describe his work.

The piece is an amalgam of images—an Aztec chief, a boy in a wheelchair in front of a computer screen, a peasant woman, with dreamy glimpses of landscapes in the background.

Egyptian art was partly on his mind when he made it, he says, but his most obvious influence is the great Mexican post-Revolutionary murals of Diego Rivera and others.

How did he learn to make the frieze? "*Con fe* (with faith)," he says. He claims he basically made up the technique himself.

This work needs to be painted, he says, and he's planning to do that when he can. He also has plans to create another mural at the library. He's getting paid for them partly by the town of Palomas and partly by the development organization Border Partners.

All his life Dago has resided in Palomas, except when he was in the US. "I've never lived anywhere else," he says. He's made drawings since he was age four or five, of Superman and other superheroes.

His mother was a dressmaker and also made lots of drawings. "She drew them and then threw them out," he says. He doesn't have any of her drawings left.

He says he was kicked out of school at age 12 "*por vago*" (for fooling around). "When I was just 12 or 13, I started painting advertisements on walls," he adds.

At the tender age of 14 he started transporting drugs across the border in a backpack, and by 17 he started a string of incarcerations in numerous jails in the US, including Deming, Lordsburg, Oakdale, Louisiana and Pecos and Big Spring, Texas.

That's the only place he really studied art, in the libraries in the detention centers.

There he pored over books about Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Clemente Orozco and others. He's seen some good art books at the Palomas library, but he says he doesn't have time to read them.

Dago has never heard of the famous potter Juan Quezada and the town of Mata Ortiz, south of Casas Grandes, where about 300 families make pots for a



Top: Dagoberto "Dago" Rodriguez in front of one of the signs he's painted. Above: Detail of his frieze at the library. (Photos: Marjorie Lilly)

living. I tell him he should get to know them.

Now, at 43, Dago works from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., for the Public Works Department in Palomas' City Hall. Besides picking up trash and caring for parks, he paints advertisements on the white walls of the baseball field. He gets paid for this as part of his job, and the town gets \$40 per ad.

Outside of regular hours, Dago also does construction—laying floors and mounting cement blocks—and paints other advertisements on walls of businesses. He charges \$50, \$100 or \$150, depending on the size of the ad and the financial resources of the buyer. He also has a tattoo parlor in a cramped room in his house, where he works on people in the evenings.

"Without work, there is no food," he says.

His passion for painting is so strong that he's rented a house just to do paintings on the walls and then paint over them again.

He shows me a crucifix over three feet tall with a six-by-six-inch hand-painted portrait of a man at the center, for use at gravesites. For years Dago has made these for people at least as far away as Agua Prieta, on the border with southwest Arizona. He says he doesn't know where they all end up.

Often he copies photographs or other people's paintings, but with some pictures he'll add an idea of his own. On a painting on the town gazebo of the *Angel de Independencia* hovering over Padre Miguel Hidalgo, he adds from his own imagination an individual angel freeing a slave.

He makes a point of saying he has done reproductions of Frida Kahlo paintings. He likes Kahlo a lot.

His drawings are rough and even awkward sometimes, but have the self-confidence and authenticity

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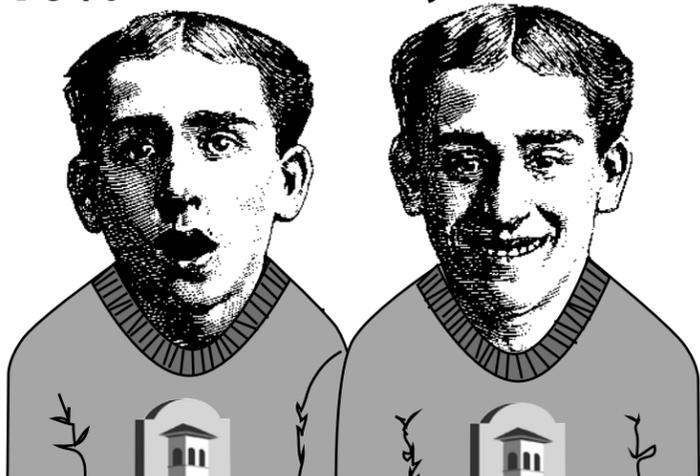


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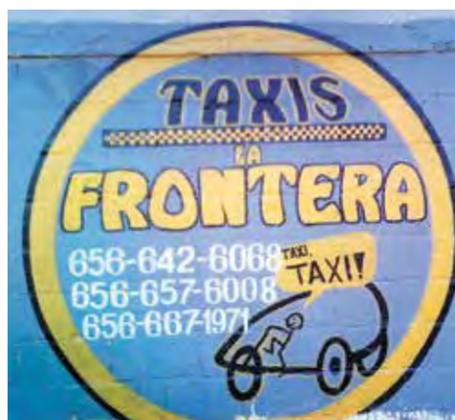
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An example of Dago's advertising art, on the wall at the baseball field.



Dago's painting, from a photo of Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata at the Presidential Palace on Nov. 28, 1914, on the base of the statue of Pancho Villa in front of Palomas' City Hall.

of a true naïve artist embracing the Mexican historical themes of the liberation of slaves and helping the poor.

Technically, he's basically self-taught. He uses mostly small cans of oil-based house paint in his paintings and used an ordinary builder's trowel and cement when making his frieze at the library.

We drive around town a bit, and he points out store after store that bears his paintings. The number is really impressive. He's painted signs for beauty salons, an exercise place called Zumba, a school for beauti-

icians, a pharmacy and more. He's painted a big blue waterfall for the Luz del Mundo church, on the front wall facing the congregation.

Dago's in the process of teaching two guys about 20 years old how to paint ads on walls. I ask him if he wants the competition, and he sounds a little ambivalent. But he wants to help young people. "There are lots of kids who like to do drawings," he says.

He intends to create a sculpture at the baseball field, where they hold games every Sunday—Palomas playing against Casas Grandes, Ascension or Juarez. In his border Spanglish he says he wants the sculpture to represent "un big guante [glove], una bola, y un bat." The sculpture will be held together with iron bars and will be 15 feet tall.

"I want to make lots of things," he says, "but there's no money."

But he does have the strength and energy and will keep slugging out his works as often as he can. ✂

Marjorie Lilly writes the *Borderlines* column.

TUMBLEWEEDS continued on next page

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. Below the top 10 but trending are Spaceport America (topping *Popular Science's* "Best Nerd Road Trip" list), NMSU's new "Pistol Pete" helmets (the only ones in the FBS to sport firearms), Susana Martinez plus 2016, and actor/Doña Ana County reserve deputy Steven Seagal. (Suddenly an expert on border security, Seagal addressed the New Mexico Sheriff's Association Conference in Las Cruces last month.)

1. (1) **New Mexico + immigration**—338 hits (▼)
2. (5) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—306 hits (▲)
3. (3) **New Mexico drought**—263 hits (▼)
4. (2) **New Mexico budget**—238 hits (▼)
5. (7) **Virgin Galactic**—235 hits (▲)
6. (9) **New Mexico wolves**—183 hits (▲)
7. (6) **Sen. Tom Udall**—167 hits (▼)
8. (8) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—161 hits (▼)
9. (4) **New Mexico wildfires**—159 hits (▼)
10. (-) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—90 hits (▲)



"Mr. Seagal has spent decades in law enforcement training, and has a special interest in the unique challenges our department faces along the border."—Under-sheriff Eddie Lerma

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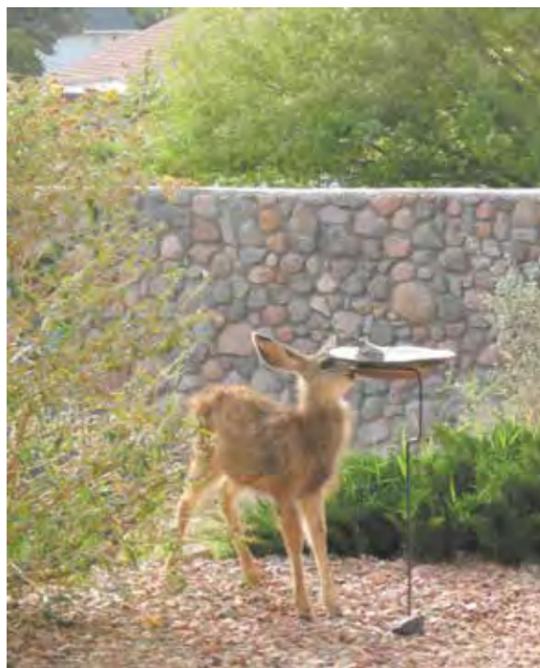
Life in a State of Nature

Reader photos of creatures big and small.

Apparently we've opened a zoo with our call for readers' favorite local wildlife photos. Here's another batch, starting with this stunner from **Marie Southworth** of Las Cruces, who writes: "This photo of a bald eagle was taken at the Bosque del Apache near Socorro in January."



At left is the first photo of many promised by **Erin Evans** from her ranch south of Silver City. She writes, "I have missed the last couple of issues due to living far from town and not going to town unless threatened. But I picked up an issue at the library today and saw that you are printing wildlife photos. I have a few thousand. Well, OK, maybe that is a slight exaggeration, but because of where I live, it's pretty neat."



Kathy Cassell writes, "Deer in Silver City—you either love them or hate them. This is one of those times you have to love them. This little guy couldn't quite reach the bird bath so he had to content himself with the drips falling over the side."

Back on the bird watch, this one comes from **Lon K. Shelton** of Deming: "The roadrunner (we affectionately call it 'Stanly') shows up from time to time to beg for a treat. He has come to know my wife to the point of actually taking food from her hand."



Finally, as promised last month, **Elroy Limmer** shares another rare insect, this time a photo of the American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*): "This is a federally endangered species; supposedly only two populations are now found in the US, one in Rhode Island and another in Oklahoma. I have observed them in my yard for the last four years. This photo shows mites riding on the critter. The beetles feed and make nests in carcasses of small dead rodents and birds. Flies are readily attracted to the flesh and lay eggs on the carcasses, the mites then feed on the fly eggs. So the mites have a symbiotic relationship with the beetles."

Share your own photos of the Southwest's "zoo." 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. 🌵

TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Words of Wisdom

Lessons from summer reading.

It was a welcome change to be able to spend some days inside this summer, listening to the rain and watching grass, weeds and strange, long-dormant plants grow. Gave me a chance to do some reading about the horse world, past and present. I always uncover a few gems that I use to guide and improve my own horsemanship, or to help students improve their skills or increase their understanding of the psychology and behavior of horses.

Here are some thoughts that jumped out at me. Whether you ride Western or English, only on the trail or only in an arena, there are valuable perspectives in all of these comments:

"Regardless of breed, the skeletal system of the horse, the foundation of soundness, athletic ability and longevity, does not mature until the age of six, and the last component of the system to mature is the spine."—Deb Bennet, PhD. In this article she was talking about all the components of the skeleton—bones, ligaments, cartilage, joints. When I look at the training and behavior issues I see in horses, I believe that many problems start when horses are put under saddle and worked too hard before they are mature enough physically and mentally. The sore backs, lameness, the one-sidedness, even some physical deformities can probably be traced back to physical components being put under stress way too early. I'm guessing there would be far fewer unwanted and broken-down horses in rescue facilities if more people would heed this physiological fact.

"If once the lesson or ride is finished, you bring your horse back to the stable without any more empathy than if you were parking your car in the garage, then all of what I say will not be of interest to you."—Master Nuno Oliveira. What an elegant way of saying so many things. Is this the old saying, "You ride every stride with your horse, even on the ground"? Or, maybe, with horses every minute is both a teaching and learning experience? Or perhaps, if you have horses in your life, then you must always be a student of good horsemanship? An absolutely beautiful statement with so many meanings from one of the greatest horsemen of the last century.

"The art of good horsemanship is knowing the difference between a horse that does not want to do something, the horse that is confused about or doesn't understand what is being asked of him, and the horse that is not capable, physically or mentally, to do what is being asked."—Director of Training at the Spanish Riding School. The training techniques at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, home of the famous Lipizzaner horses, are not written down, but are passed down orally to each new class of riders and trainers. Clearly, these great horsemen believe developing a horse is not about rigid techniques, training schedules and breaking the will of the animal, but about feel, observation and working to the level of the abilities and temperament of the animal. That's a good lesson for all of us. As a trainer, I see most training problems in the last two parts of this statement—the horse that is confused or is simply not capable—and the responsibility to see this rests entirely with us.

"The rider should have the feeling that he is connected to the horse's mouth by an elastic ribbon. As the reins are made of leather and have no spring, this elastic connection can be brought about only by the supple flexion of the horse's jaw combined with the sensitive and light touch of the rider's hands."—Colonel Alois Podhajsky. I wonder how many of our horses would say that we ride them, and communicate through hands, with this degree of awareness and sensitivity!

"I believe working with horses is a matter of language and I care about words. I won't allow any coach I'm training to say 'Make him' unless it's an emergency situation. 'Ask him' is my first choice. And only ask for something the horse can do."—Jennifer Howard. With a philosophy like this, I know this is a woman I'd love to ride with and learn from. Unfortunately, she lives in New Zealand!

"Whatever the horse was doing at the moment you released pressure is what the horse learned."—Julie Goodnight. A nice spin on the usual way this is phrased,

that the horse learns only on the release of pressure. What I like about this comment is that it really says how easy it is to teach the horse the wrong thing, something I see as often as teaching the right thing. For example, if I go into my horse's space to do something and don't put a halter on him—say, to put on some fly spray—and he tolerates it for a moment and then walks away, I've just taught him he is free to walk away from me whenever he wants. Coming into his space was pressure. Walking away from me was the release, and the teaching moment—of the wrong thing.

"Regardless of how great a rider's affection is for his horse, or how connected he feels with it, a person should resist the temptation to anthropomorphize, and attribute human motivations and traits to the horse. Horses don't stand in their stalls contemplating ways their vices and bad behaviors could annoy their riders. A horse just reacts, directly or indirectly, to correctly or incorrectly given aids, and to the experiences it has had with riders and handlers."—Dr. Gerd Heuschmann. From only my own experience of working with many horses and riders, I think this attitude of a horse having human motivations has hampered more riders and their horsemanship than just about any other issue.

"Reins should not be used as an instrument of navigation, nor should they ever be used as a brake. They are a tool for communication, literally an aid and nothing more, to help the horse understand the rider's demands. Once the horse has understood and responded, the rider can set them aside."—Heuschmann again. This belief has been behind my goal to bring every rider to the point of some level of comfort with bridle-less riding. I have found it is a skill to master that allows the rider to circle back to the bit and bridle with greater sensitivity and respect for the use of the reins to communicate and not punish or discipline.

"Learning something and knowing how to do it are two different things. You can learn how something can work, but being able to use it is another story. No single tip I can give you will fix a problem with a horse. The remedy has to come from the recognition that what a horse does on the outside is powered by emotions, drives and needs that exist on the inside. The most important place to look for a solution to any problem with a horse is inside yourself. It is my responsibility to fix my mind and my body to where I want them to be; then my horse will be able to understand me."—Ray Hunt. In a similar vein, I try to encourage my students, especially the ones who are junkies for every bit of horse-training material they can find, to take the important step of translating the knowledge to actual skills, both physical and mental. If you don't practice, correctly and slowly so things become instinctive (fixing your body), and don't work on your powers of observation (fixing your mind), it will be hard for you to really help and develop your horse.

"Be as gentle as possible and as firm as necessary."—Tom Dorrance. To me, this is the most misunderstood principle of natural horsemanship. Most people see only the gentle part of natural horsemanship. How many times have you heard people say natural horsemanship is just too soft, too touchy-feely? When I hear that I know such people don't really understand horses. Your goal with a horse, to be just and fair, is to get things done with lightness and as little pressure as possible. But, if you ignore the fact that you will have to be strong and assertive when it is justified and necessary, to teach and not to punish, then you are being naïve. If you don't understand the balance in what appears to be these conflicting messages, then you will never be a competent leader for your horse. 🌿

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



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A Shroom of One's Own

Following the fungi trail with local mycophiliacs.

For the record, mushrooms are fungi, not plants. But anything that pops up in my garden with such supernatural boldness—then disappears faster than a genie—makes me wonder if mushrooms were conjured by moonlight or ascended from hell.

Indeed, a mushroom's appearance is often hobbit-y and peculiar. Their features can be skeletal, scaly, colored, ruffled, utterly space age or thrillingly beautiful.

Then there's the poison stigma—an issue that escaped my childhood development entirely. Instead, I embraced the image of the animated mushrooms in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, who performed the Chinese Dance to Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite."

More than likely, it is the poisonous label that compels many people to kick mushrooms out of the landscape. But I leave them alone. They are temporary occupants that gift the soil with rich organic matter.

As retired Silver City mycologist Dr. Keller Suberkropp points out, "A primary role of many fungi in ecosystems is to decompose organic compounds. The branching, threadlike body of most fungi is called mycelium. Under the proper environmental



An example of the sought-after edible mushrooms in our area. (Photo: Vivian Savitt)

conditions, a mycelium growing in the soil will fruit and produce mushrooms."

He adds, "Whether you pick the mushrooms, throw them in the compost pile, or leave them in your garden, the mycelium will continue to grow, decompose plant litter and enrich your garden soil."

Suberkropp is currently president of the local Native Plant Society (Gila chapter) and taught mycology for 20 years at the University of Alabama. He is also a wood carver, and mushrooms frequently appear in his craft.

Mycologists and experienced mushroom gatherers know that the toxicity of mushrooms can vary according to species, habitat, age, etc. A morel mushroom, for example, should never be eaten raw, as its toxins are degraded by heat in cooking.

Before eating a wild mushroom, you need to know what species to prudently avoid. For example, Suberkropp advises beginners in our area to avoid

the genus Amanita.

Make sure that the mushroom you long to add to an omelet is correctly identified. Even if a species is thought to be nontoxic, human responses to it may vary, including gastrointestinal and allergic reactions.

Like myself, Suberkropp remembers seeing "safe," boxed white button mushrooms at the grocery as a child.

Eugenia Bone addresses button mushrooms in her book, *Mycophilia—Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms* (348 pp., illustrated, Rodale 2013, \$25.99), where she writes about the Kennett Square Annual Mushroom Festival in Pennsylvania, "the event celebrating the white



Above and next page: An array of fascinating mushrooms that can be found in our area. (Photos: Max Carmichael)

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button mushroom.”

Besides tracing the history of mushroom growing in the United States (“we are the world’s second largest producer following China”), Bone reports on the plethora of mushroom items available at mushroom festivals. These include T-shirts that say, “Shitake happens.”

Although shitake mushrooms are not found in our area, the summer’s extraordinary rainfall fostered the emergence of many other species. In a way, I identify with a mushroom’s proclivity for shade and moisture. Hot, arid summers have that effect on the psyche. Perhaps a bond exists between humans and mushrooms solely on the basis of body composition—for, like ours, theirs too are composed mainly of water.

Similar to their fungi cohorts, mushroom folk also materialize when days are moist and misty. A downpour on a Monday evening portended well for my first-ever mushroom hunting trek the following morning.

My companions, Brian Hillman and Michael Lacey, are both seasoned hunters of champignons who met in the early 2000s at a Cherry Creek campsite.

Hillman grew up in New York’s Adirondack Mountains and is a former trout fisherman. He is a white-hair-pulled-back-in-a-pony-tail septuagenarian and naturalist, who once worked as a zookeeper in the herpetology division at the National Zoo.

Lacey, a native of Scotland, favors books by mushroom expert David Arora, including *Mushrooms Demystified* and *All That the Rain Promises and More* (a field guide to Western mushroom species). Lacey studied Russian at the University of Oregon, and buys and sells foreign language books. A lover of the West, he decided to retire in Silver City, although he was seriously tempted by Tombstone, Ariz. “Where else,” Lacey asks, “can you get shot by a gunslinger every day at noon?”

Both men hunt mushrooms because they “like to eat ‘em.”

No drudgery was involved in this mushroom-hunting sortie. The morning was cool and clear. A mushroom’s habitat preferences—in this case pine forest—are conducive to my own. Wildflowers abounded and ferns grew thickly on mounds.

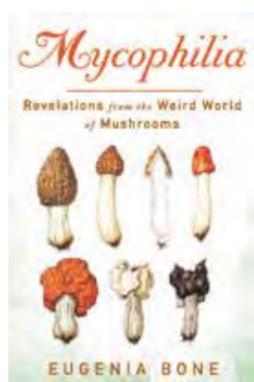


Resources

- Mycologist Dr. Keller Suberkropp will give a WILL-sponsored lecture every Thursday in October (1:30-3 p.m.) on “Molds, Mildews and Mushrooms—Their Importance to Us.” Contact the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning for details <www.will-learning.com>.
- The New Mexico Mycological Society has been around since 1984. Field trip and membership information is listed on its website, New-Mexicomycos.net.
- Fungi Perfecti, owned by mycologist and author Paul Stamets, supplies organic mushroom kits and medicinal mushroom supplements made on his farm in Washington. The online catalog is interesting. See www.fungi.com.

Taking a stumble meant landing in the soft, caressing duff of pine needles, decayed leaves and twigs.

Camouflaged in the lovely duff are mushroom shrumps—domes where some mushrooms emerge. A lucky forager may find mushrooms in their early flowering stage when they resemble eggs. Depending on the species, this can be the prime time for edibility. In



other shrumps, one may find mushrooms munched on by animals or infested with fungus gnats.

Depending on the light quality and a hunter’s spotting experience, mushrooms can also be seen from the road. Lacey credits his brown-tinted sunglasses as a mushroom-spotting aid: “Higher contrast allows me the ability to see mushrooms

more easily,” he reports.

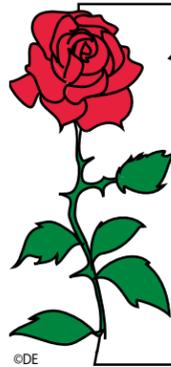
Basic hunting supplies consist of a stick, knife, brush, basket and field guide. Neither trained pigs nor truffle rakes are needed in New Mexico.

You can use the stick as both a walking aid and tool for checking under shrumps and leaves. A sharp knife enables you to remove the mushroom from the ground, while the brush serves to remove the soil clinging to it. A basket transports what you find while providing ventilation.

Several edible species can be found in our vicinity. *Boletus edulis* grows thick and tall. Even raw, they smell like simmering beef bourguignon. This species is called *ceps* in France, and *porcini* in Italy.

In three hours’ time, several edible mushroom species were collected on my mushroom hunting spree. Both Lacey and Hillman described the morning’s bounty as “the best in several years.”

Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.



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• Learn More About Alternatives to a Gila River Diversion and What YOU Can Do at:
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A Serpent's "Tale"

Was it a rattler or an old friend?

I first spied it as I walked up our gravel driveway. At first it didn't register what I was looking at—that is, until I had walked five paces past it. A snake track!

I quickly doubled back and peered down at my feet; sure enough, there was that familiar side-to-side mark made by a heavy and long snake. I judged this first by the length in-between the marks from one side of the centerline to the other, and also by the way the gravel was compacted by its weight.

First I followed the track down below the drive and into the soft dirt; it ended up going through the fence. Then I went above the drive to see if the critter had headed that way, but I lost the trail. There is no way to know which direction a serpent is traveling unless one of the ways yields a live snake!

The troubling thing was, I didn't know what kind of a snake I was dealing with: Was it a bull snake or had a rattler come onto the property for the first time? If it is a bull (gopher) snake, usually but not always, the tail will be dragged and leave a center mark in the trail. A rattlesnake always holds its fragile tail in the air so as not to damage the rattles.

Since this snake didn't leave a tail drag, and was in close proximity to our garage, yard and house, I was worried. This possibly could be a very large rattler! And my property is fully fenced in so that the dogs and cat can roam at large. Not good.

For the next two days, everywhere I went, I was on the lookout for the snake. On day three, I was hiking on the upper north fence and discovered a snake track either coming or going from the property. Had the critter left?

Three weeks went by and I was driving onto the property on my ATV, when suddenly I spied a large snake in the middle of the driveway. Stopping, I realized that it was a bull snake of about five to six feet in length and it wasn't dragging its tail.

I hopped off of the machine and approached the stretched-out serpent: a beautiful specimen, light yellow-gold in color, with dark brown patterns and the familiar tail stripes that make it resemble a western diamondback rattler. The creamy head was a light yellow.

This critter was most non-aggressive; I got to within three feet and it began to slither off into the large stones next to the gravel.

Mystery solved and I gave a sigh of relief. For the past three years a large bull snake has shown up here and I see it usually once or twice and no more; I'm sure this is the same snake but somewhat larger now.

It usually appeared in August but this year it was in the beginning of June. I believe in past years it was going to its winter den on our property up on a hole-filled bank under thick junipers.

Four years ago I had killed an even larger bull snake by mistake when it rattled its tail in leaves and puffed up its head under the very same junipers. I could have sworn it was a cottontail rattler, over six foot long, but when I fetched it up, I was dismayed to discover it was a bull snake.

I prefer to leave gopher snakes alone because they eat rodents. If they don't bother me, I don't bother them!

There is a clinker to everything, however. Three years ago as I left the property, I spied a bull snake on the hard-top and it was coiled around a full-grown cottontail rabbit; it had engulfed the head of the bunny in its mouth. I assume that "my" snake was the same one. Keep this in mind as I go on with the rest of this story.

It was now July 4 as my wife peered out the kitchen window on a rainy afternoon. She said to me, "I think there is a snake curled around the bird-water dish."

Sure enough, there was the bull snake, wrapped completely around the bowl with its head up, waiting for a prey to come for a drink. Jeri didn't like the idea of that critter getting one of "her" birds or squirrels and demanded that I go shoosh it away, which I did.

I used a broom handle to try to pick it up, but it was out of balance and a very heavy snake. It was completely non-aggressive even as I prodded it continuously; it didn't want to leave. It being so docile, I'm sure it was the "driveway" snake.

Finally it took off and, avoiding my best efforts to steer it, made directly for a squirrel hole 10 feet away, where it disappeared. I had the impression that she knew right where that old hole was all along.

I don't know why I felt this critter was a she, but I did.

Now I began to worry again. Remember the bunny? That bunny was nearly as large as my cat, and that got me to cogitatin' over Blue's welfare that night and the next few nights. I kept seeing that danged snake coiled around my

tomcat and sucking the life from him. Not good.

Then reason took over. Hadn't that old snake and Blue co-existed for at least three years now?

Blue was on the back porch each and every morning and has been since then. The snake? I haven't seen it since, but we had a population of six ground squirrels in July, now we're down to three. Hmmm?

On another related note, Blue-the-cat has been a very efficient mouse and rat trap these past eight years on the place. When we first moved here we had mice in the house and in the crawl space. It took him about two years to rid us of every one, but he did it.

He is very good at rat control, too. Every once in a while, to my wife's disgust, he will bring one to the house and deposit it either at the garage or in the driveway near the garage. The remains are always left in the morning for us to see.

If I am around and he is still with his prize, I praise and scratch him for the great job that he does for us, him purring loudly in response.

Seldom does he bring in birds or rabbits to be inspected. In fact, I have often found him lying on the back porch or within five feet of the bird feeder as quail go about eating and neither party seems to care about the other. He does stare and twitch the end of his tail, but that seems to be the extent of it.

He seems to be know that the birds are off limits and are "Jeri's pets." Of course, she has on a number of occasions warned him sternly to leave the birds alone!

Keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you too! ☼

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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Hoodoo Hike

Explore Allie Canyon in the Mimbres Valley.



and the like. You'll see an old cabin, a camp area, George Hightower's grave (for more information, check out: 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com/?s=allie+canyon), and huge hoodoos. Be sure to climb up to the hoodoos and get a good look at these natural wonders! Also be aware that this is ranch land and you can expect to encounter cattle.

Notes: I rated this hike as "moderate to difficult" because of its length and climb up to the hoodoos. It is certainly a doable hike for most hikers. Another option for this hike is to continue past the hoodoos and you'll eventually end



Helpful Hint: Always carry the following items: water, snack, tissues, lip balm, knife, compass, whistle, adhesive bandages, aspirin, bandana, walking stick, appropriate layers of clothing, GPS, cell phone, hat, plastic bags, camera and sunglasses. ☘



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

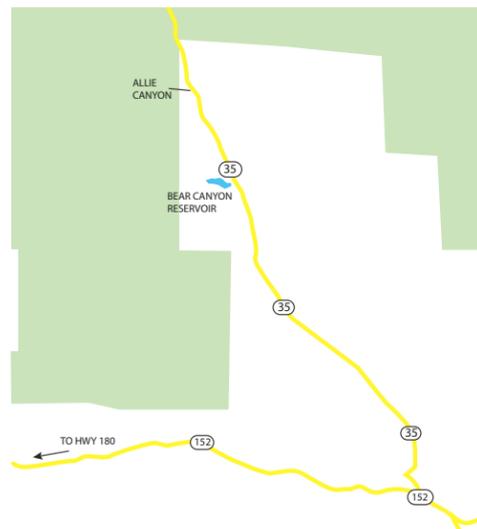
Name: Allie Canyon

Distance: 5.5 miles round trip

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult

up at Signal Peak (an overnigher!).

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy. 180 and Hwy. 152 on the edge of Santa Clara, turn north onto Hwy. 152 North and drive 14 miles to Hwy. 35. Take Hwy. 35 north for approximately 10-10.5 miles. On the left, you will see what looks partly like a road and partly like a wide arroyo (there used to be a street sign that said "Allie Canyon Rd," but as of July 22, it's no longer there). Pull in and soon you'll see a corral, windmill and a parking area. Park and head up the arroyo; there'll be a trail there.



Hike Description: Enjoy Allie Canyon on this hike that includes several hills, meadows, pine groves

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-  **Bayard Community Center Parking Lot**— Good space to ride around when waiting for your older sister to finish her softball game
-  **East Street Park**— Good neighborhood riding
-  **Central Community Recreation Park**— Flat and paved makes for a great place to learn
-  **Bataan Memorial Park Parking Lot**— Lots of space to ride around for hours
-  **Silver City Senior Center**— Great parking lot to start and connects to a big, dirt trail system
-  **Tyrone**— Slow vehicle traffic and an abundance of space makes this safe and fun for all levels of riders

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- Kayaking • Birding • Guided hikes
- Monsoon Puppet Parade • Downtown Art Walk
- Gala for the Gila, featuring The Roadrunners & Silent Auction

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Photo by Van Clotver

Ann McMahon Photography



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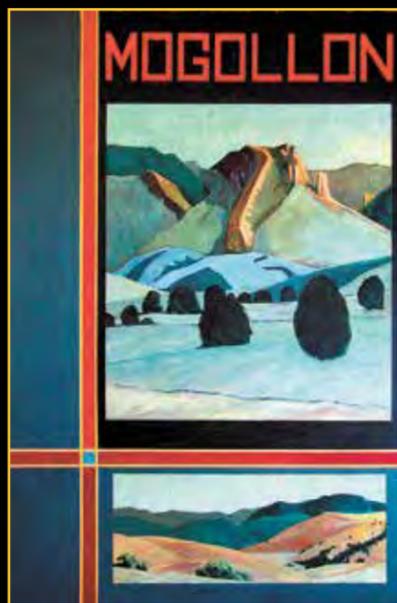
Red Dot Studio & Gallery Tours, Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 11-14

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September
20, 21 & 22

Mogollon, acrylic, 76" x 51"

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Sept. 20-22, 2013

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ARTS EXPOSURE

The Inside Story

Peek inside area artists' studios in the Red Dot Studio Tour, Sept. 20-22.

If you've ever wondered what goes on inside an artist's studio, there's no better opportunity to get a peek than the Red Dot Studio Tour. This free, self-guided tour of Silver City-area artists' studios will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-22, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. (Galleries get their turn next month with the Red Dot Gallery Weekend, Oct. 11-14.)

This is your chance to meet some of the most creative artists in the area and get an up-close and personal look into the artists' studios and their creative process. Visitors will be able to watch them demonstrate their work and talk to them about their processes, their methods and thinking.

Participating artists and their studios are:

- **Joe Wade at the JW Gallery**—Painter and printer; demo of painting and collotype in progress. 99 Cortez Ave., Hurley: Hwy. 180 to Hurley, left at Diaz, right on Cortez to end of street. 537-0300, jw-art-gallery.com.

- **Kathryn Allen**—Ceramic artist; demo of creating bas-relief tile. 601 Erie St., Bayard: Hwy. 180 East into Bayard, go right on to Steyskal Street, one block to Erie Street, turn left, go one block to Odd Fellows Hall. 537-3332.

- **Christopher Saxman**—Abstract photographs; demo on finding abstract images. 4 Hermosa St., Hanover: Hwy. 180 to Hwy. 152 to Hanover, left on Fierro Road 0.7 mile to just past Post Office. 537-3262, fierrocanyongallery.com.

- **Victoria Chick**—Painter; demo of color mixing. 119 Cow Trail, Arenas Valley: Hwy. 180 to Arenas Valley Road, left onto Cow Trail Road, continue 1.3 miles on dirt road to green gate. (760) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

- **Pierre Nichols**—Gourd artist; demo of design layout and pyrography. 2316 Johnson Road: From Hwy. 180 take Delk Road to Johnson, then left. 519-2499, artisticgourds.com.



Artists participating in the Red Dot Studio Tour include Ann McMahon (photograph above, copyright 2012 Ann McMahon), Louise Sackett (below left) and Victoria Chick (next page, top).

- **Barbara Nance**—Sculptor and painter; demo of working in stone and steel, wood carving. 105 Country Road: From Hwy. 180 take Rosedale Road, then right on to Country Road. 534-0530, barbarananceart.com.

- **Ann McMahon**—Fine art print photographer; demo of workflow to produce a canvas print. 125 Country Road: From Hwy. 180 take Rosedale Road, then right onto Country Road to #125. (225) 346-0707, www.AnnMcMahon.com.

- **Susan Szajer**—Acrylic painting, contemporary art quilts; demo of painting in layers. 18 Sanctuary Road: Hwy. 15 north to mile marker 5, right onto Sanctuary Road, third drive on right, turn right before big gates. 313-7197, susanszajer.com.

- **Marcia Smith**—Ceramic sculpture, mosaic benches, assemblage/mixed media; demo of play in clay. 13 Jade Dr.: From Hwy. 180 take Alabama to Cottage San, after 1.8 miles turn right on Jade Drive, sharp right again after creek. 313-6959.

- **Louise Sackett**—Painter; demo of pastel and oil still lifes. 11 Quail Run: From Hwy. 180 onto Fleming Tank Road, right onto Wind Canyon Drive, after 1.7 miles left on to Quail Run, first building. 574-2308, www.louisesackett.com.

- **Ron Hanson**—Jewelry; demo of creating jewelry in a variety of materials. 613 E. 35th St.: Take Swan Street off Hwy. 180 to 35th Place, end of the cul-de-sac, #613. 534-4563.

- **Michael Metcalf**—Fabricated stainless-steel, bronze and stone sculptures; demo of the public art process. 2315 Little Walnut Road: From Hwy. 180 take Little Walnut a half-mile, on the left. 313-4406, metcalfsculpture.com.

In downtown Silver City:

- **Calhoun, Gibson, Porter**—Fiber artists; weaving all day with visitor participation. 107 W. 7th St. 313-6703.

- **Barry Namm**—Sculptor; demo of painting us-



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• **Ann Simonsen**—Painter; demo of oil, ink and acrylic. 104 W. Yankee St. 654-5727.

• **Wynnegate Studio** (Roy Adams and Jane Grant)—Painters and photographers; demo of oil on canvas. 110 W. Yankee St. (214) 957-3688, Wynnegate-Galleries.com.

• **Lois Duffy**—Painter; demo of painting with texture. 211 C N. Texas St. 313-9631, loisduffy.com.

• **Diana Ingalls-Leyba**—Mixed media acrylic and more; painting demo. 102 N. Texas St. 388-5725, www.dianaingallsleyba.com

• **Jo Thomas**—Mixed media and modern mosaics; demo of hammer-hardie. 502 W. Spring St.

For more information and a downloadable brochure with map, see www.silvercitygalleries.com. 🌵



ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

The **Grant County Art Guild's** 28th Annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit will open with an artist reception at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the Pinos Altos Art Gallery in the historic Hearst Church. The show is also available for viewing from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 4-6.

The Purchase Prize Award Exhibit, with the 2013 theme, "Visions of Realism," is open to all New Mexico artists. A total of \$2,400 in prize money will be awarded to the show winners, including the \$1,500 for purchase of the "Best in Show" winning painting. The juror for this year's show is Donna Levine, an artist from Scottsdale, Ariz., with over 40 years of teaching art. She will be offering a three-day workshop on painting in all media Sept. 25-27. For more information on the workshop, call 534-2899.

Old ways meet new to express over 400 years of Hispanic New Mexican devotional art in a new exhib-

it, "Our Saints Among Us: Revisited," opening Sept. 6 at the **Silver City Museum**, described in our August issue. The exhibit will remain on view through March 2, 2014. 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercity-museum.org.

"Light at Play," a show of paintings by Rebecca Kerr, opens Sept. 7 at **Copper Quail Gallery** with a reception from 2-6 p.m. 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankee and Texas, 388-2646.

Works by Patrick Rogers and Nanda Currant will be featured in the "Gila River Show" at **Leyba & Ingalls Arts**, opening Sept. 21, 4-6 p.m. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

Bonnie Mandoe will host an Art Fiesta at **Que-senberry Farmhouse** over the Labor Day Weekend, continuing Sept. 1 and 2, 10 a.m.-4

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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LIGHT AT PLAY



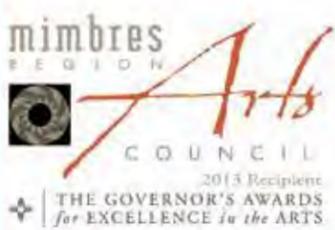
a collection of paintings by

Rebecca Kerr

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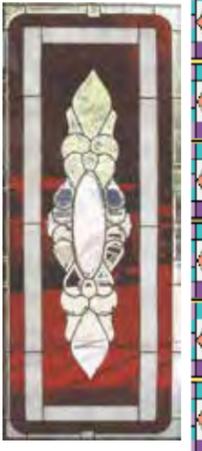
Ticket outlets \$15 Smoke Shop, Silver City Visitor Center, AmBank (all branches), First New Mexico Bank, Food Basket (Silver City & Bayard)

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On behalf of The Silver City CLAY Festival, a Signature Event for the Silver City Arts and Cultural District, I want to thank our sponsors and volunteers, our collaborating local organizations and visitors, for the support given to this year's event. Thank you to our community.
 -Lee Gruber

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WHERE ART HANGS AROUND 575-537-4924

Patrick Rogers Nanda Currant
Gila River Show
 opening 4-6pm September 21st



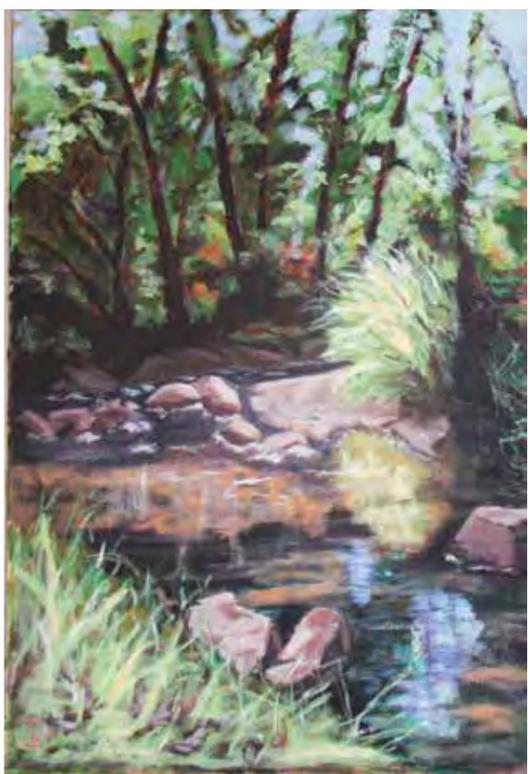
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Our Cover Artist

This month's cover, "Cherry Creek" by **Diane Cornelius**, was the winner of the 2012 Gila River & Landscape Show competition. (The acrylic painting is actually a sort of diptych, with the left side of the work depicted here.) The third annual show, sponsored by San Vicente Artists of Silver City, will be Sept. 20-22 during the Gila River Festival, at the Artist's Lair in the old Elks building at Texas and Market.



"I moved here from Wisconsin 31 years ago," Cornelius says, "to build a passive-solar adobe—making all the bricks, peeling all the vigas. It's been a very comfortable home."

A retired teacher, counselor and massage therapist, she began painting at age 32 to help get through a divorce. "It continues to bring me challenge, growth and pleasure," she says. "I've had some great teachers, the latest of whom is [Silver City painter] Tom Holt, from whom I'm learning the basics of shape, value and color in oils."

Cornelius goes on, "Hiking the canyons, observing plants and wildlife, has always been a passion. Sharing this wildness with others through my landscapes is a joy."

"Art is never-ending learning. The fun and magic are in the process, not the end result. There seems to be a doubting stage in each one: 'How is this ever going to come together?' It can resolve if I wait and

look and let the canvas tell me what it needs." Cornelius' works can be seen at the Silver Spirit Gallery at 215 W. Broadway and "A" Space Gallery at 110 W. 7th, both in downtown Silver City. ☘

ARTS EXPOSURE continued
 p.m. 825 Quesenberry St., half a mile west of the intersection of Picacho and Valley Drive.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature artists Nanci Bissell and Weeden "Rockwell" Nichols this month. Bissell, a retired El Paso teacher, works primarily in pastels and watercolor. Nichols (of the Rockwell family) is a long-time digital photographer. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalley-finearts.com.

The **NMSU University Art Gallery** is featuring three exhibitions on the theme of "Black & White & Caliente," through Sept. 28. The exhibitions include: "Tierra Caliente: A Photographic Essay of Cuba by Patrick Glaize"; "Social Photography from the Permanent Collection"; and "German Op-Art Ceramics, 1955-1975." Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545.

"Paintings and Poetry," with art and poems by Margaret and Rick Bernstein, opens at the **Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 211 N. Water St., Tuesday, Sept. 3, and continues through Sept. 30. 541-2444.

Margaret Bernstein's work will also be featured at **Mesquite Art Gallery** in a solo show of new watercolors, "Orange You Glad You Came," opening Sept.

5 and running through Sept. 28. A reception for the artist will be held Saturday, Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m. 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502.

The **Branigan Cultural Center** will present "Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim," a tribute to a master quilt maker and ardent quilt collector. This show begins on Friday, Sept. 6, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. and concludes on Saturday, Oct. 26.



Paul Pilgrim was a voracious collector of antique quilts. Along the way also found stacks of "orphan blocks." These were quilt blocks that had been completed but had never found their way into a finished product. Exhibit curator and Pilgrim's partner, Gerald E. Roy, states: "After completing a quilt from blocks left by his grandmother, he stretched the custom of using inherited pieces to include many unfinished projects from former unrelated generations... He began incorporating antique blocks and fabrics into his own work." These creations

form this exhibit. Each of these is accompanied by text that allows these works of art to "become a wonderful compendium of textile and block design history."

This exhibit has been developed by the National Quilt Museum, the world's largest quilt museum, located in Paducah, Ky. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.



Photos by Weeden "Rockwell" Nichols will be featured at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

The **Las Cruces Museum of Art** will feature "From the Ground Up XXVI," a regional, juried exhibition of contemporary ceramics, from Friday, Sept. 6, through Saturday, Nov. 9. This biannual event is a collaboration between the Potters' Guild of Las Cruces and the museum. The exhibition opens with an artists' reception at 5 p.m. on Sept. 6. Exhibition juror Jim Romberg will present the awards at 6 p.m. including the Museum Purchase Awards sponsored by the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums. "From the Ground Up XXVI" features ceramic works, both

functional and sculptural, by 36 artists representing New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Local artists include Barbara Williams, Cindy Waddell, Laura Sedillos, Cally Williams, Andrew Nagem, Liz Fisher, Wendy Baldwin, Randy and Jeannine Summers, Danielle Wood, Glenn Schwaiger, Suzanne Kane, Betty Burciaga, Andi Freespirit and Martha Roditti.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m., Romberg will hold a gallery talk and discuss the works selected for the exhibition. Romberg is a professor emeritus from Southern Oregon University, where he headed the Ceramics Department for 19 years. He currently lives in Sedona, Ariz., where he maintains his studio. Romberg previously developed an internationally recognized ceramics program at the Sun Valley Center for Arts and Humanities in Idaho. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.



"The Bird" by Margaret Bernstein, part of a new solo show at Mesquite Art Gallery.



"Shadow Peak" by Dee Knudson, one of five featured artists at Unsettled Gallery.

View the primordial splendor of Iceland's volcanoes, icebergs, geysers and glaciers through the lens of world traveler and photographer Peter Goodman, featured in "Fire and Ice" at the **Main Street Gallery**. The show opens Sept. 6 at the Downtown Art Ramble from 5-7 p.m. and continues through September. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts is featuring "New Beginnings," works by Georjeanna Feltha, during the Ramble on Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m., and also Sept. 13, 5-8 p.m. The show runs through October. 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040.

The 2013 Pro-Artists Series will continue throughout the month of September with paintings by Joyce Macrorie in a special exhibition at the **Adobe Patio Gallery**. The show, "Inside-Outside," can be viewed at the gallery beginning Sept 3. An opening reception

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

JW ART GALLERY

99 Cortez Ave. Hurley, NM

Will present a Kick-off Event for the



SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL of the WRITTEN WORD

Thursday, September 26, 2013

6:00pm - 9:00pm

The evening will feature **Randy Carr** performing act one from his one-man show "Tuck."



Local historian Terry Humble, will discuss his recent publication *Santa Rita del Cobre* and authors Anthony Romero (*Saloons of Santa Clara*) and Christopher Saxman (*The Drive to Cheynne and Burnout*) will autograph their new books.

During the entire weekend of the Southwest Festival of the Written Word, (September 27 through the 29th) the Gallery will have on display a special selection of the artwork of Joseph Wade, Elvira Godfrey, Christopher Saxman and Leighton Fossom.

Also available will be Wade's hand-made book *Poetry²* and a large selection of Southwestern Cookbooks.

For a complete schedule of the festival, *Textures y Sabores*, visit www.swwordfiesta.org.

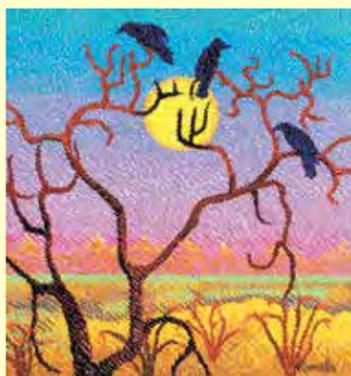
Refreshments will be served.

Call 575-537-0300 for more information

2 RED DOT Events • 2 Weekends 2013 - Silver City, New Mexico



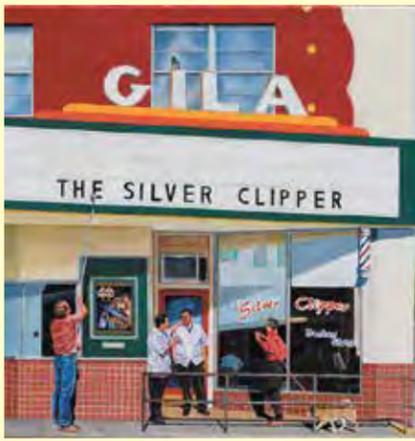
Art & Conversation



Molly Ramolla Gallery



Barbara Nance



Lois Duffy Studio

The Branigan Cultural Center Presents

Blending the Old with the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim

September 6th through October 26th

This exhibition was organized by the National Quilt Museum, Paducah, Kentucky

501 N. Main St
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-541-2154
las-cruces.org/museums



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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

for the artist will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m.

Macrorie says, "The paintings in this Inside-Outside series started with two double-exposure photos of clouds and distant ground which were overlapped on the film, with images taken both from the air and at the house when our air travelers arrived. I found these unplanned exposures to be less 'mistakes' than 'serendipities,' and I began dwelling on the perception that we probably always carry around inside our at-work, in-town selves." The series of portraits of people doing outside what they might have been doing inside that resulted is being shown together for the first time. 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 532-9310.

Nopalito's Galeria will host art instructors Patricia Lawrence and Jeanne Pearsall for a Glass Mosaic Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m. Participants will work with four-inch ceramic tiles to create their own flag coasters. All money collected (\$6 per coaster) will go to "Christmas on Mesquite Street, Camino Del Arte" to help pay for some of the many activities that will be taking place on Dec. 14. Advance registration requested but not required: plawrence13@yahoo.com, nopalitosgaleria@hotmail.com or Victor at 520-6600. 326 S. Mesquite St.

Rokoko Art Gallery will open an art exhibit titled "Let's Face It" with a reception on Friday, Sept. 13, 6-9 p.m. 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

The love of fiber unites the five artists featured in the September exhibit at **Unsettled Gallery**—Linda Giesen, Jan Harrison, Lin Bentley Keeling, Dee Knudson and Maria Navarra-Pino. The exhibit, "Interwoven," opens with an artists' reception on Saturday, Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m. Two artist talks/demonstrations are scheduled during the exhibit. On Saturday, Sept. 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Giesen uses a loom to demonstrate "Weaving a Unique Art Form." On Saturday, Sept. 28, also 1:30-2:30 p.m., Harrison unravels the "Mystery of Basket Making" with a talk and demonstration. The exhibit continues through Oct. 5. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, www.unsettledgallery.com.

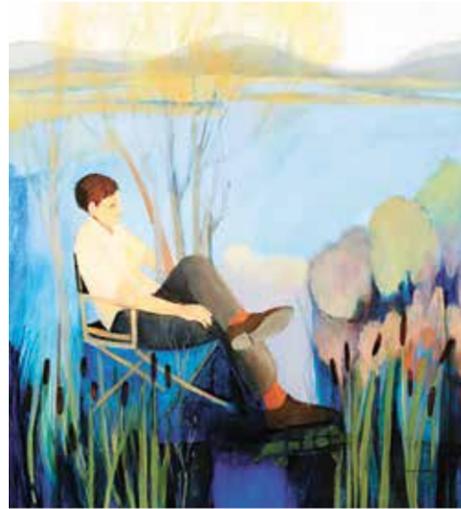
The exhibit, "The Chihuahuan Desert Garden," continues at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum**, with a reception on Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m. The show, on view through Dec. 1, features 35 creations of the New Mexico Watercolor Society—Southern Chapter focusing on the rewards and challenges of gardening in the Chihuahuan Des-



"Hyperreality" by Danielle Wood, featured in "From the Ground Up XXVI" at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

ert. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

The **Southwest Photography Symposium** will be held on Sept. 28, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at San Andres High School, 2355 Avenida de Mesilla. Photographers of all levels are invited to attend workshops on basic digital photography, color theory, Lightroom basics, high dynamic range images, intermediate Photoshop, sunset photography, wildflowers, portraits, action, children and pets, and printing, as well as how to mount, matte and frame a photograph. Keynote speaker is Paul Schrantz, former director of the Mesilla Digital Imaging Workshops. Registration fee is \$60. Register online at www.swpsnm.org or call Ruth O'Donnell, 546-9233.



"A Subtle Encounter," from Joyce Macrorie's "Inside-Outside" solo exhibition at the Adobe Patio Gallery.

The **Art Board of the City of Las Cruces** is calling for artists to display their work in city facilities, primarily the City Hall, for a period of six months to a year. Works may be in any media. Artists must be residents of Doña Ana County, and all works must be original. Deadline for submission is Oct. 15. For further information call John Northcutt at (410) 925-9126.

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



In Silver City, NM

SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL of the WRITTEN WORD



TO WRITE – DEFINING A REGION

Five Festival sessions presented by New Mexico Humanities Scholars

Sept 27, 2:00pm, Silver City Public Library: "Making history: The art of historical writing" with David Remley, Mark L. Gardner, Stephen R. Fox

Sept 27, 3:30pm, Silco Theatre: "The truth and beyond: Creative non-fiction" with John Gist, Philip Connors, Ann Lane Hedlund

Sept 27, 3:30pm, Seedboat Gallery: "We've had words: The literary heritage of southwest New Mexico" with Susan Berry

Sept 28, 10:00am, Seedboat Gallery: "The scripture of snail and fern: Nature writing as spiritual memoir" with Sharman Apt Russell

Sept 29, 10:00am, Seedboat Gallery: "Out of the margins: Multicultural writing in the 21st century" with Felipe Ortego y Gasca, Orlando White, Layli Long Soldier, JJ Amaworo Wilson

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 of All Ages
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 publishing professionals
 in 30 sessions

Fri. Sept 27- Sun. Sept 29

Open to the public and free except for the banquet and the Memoir Workshop



Full Festival details including session abstracts and bios are available at www.swwordfiesta.org/schedule

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388-2993. www.anthony-howell.com.

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

LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordie 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 DELONG STUDIO, 2309 Paul Place, 388-4759. By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.

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

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

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

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.

Tyrone

MOONSTRUCK ART STUDIO, 501 Covellite Dr., 956-5346, 654-5316. By appointment.

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

Pinos Altos

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

Mimbres

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

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

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

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

REESE-BENTON ARTS, 3811 Hwy. 35, 536-9487. By appointment.

Bayard

KATHRYN ALLEN CLAY STUDIO, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.

T. ALI STUDIO, 421 E. Elm St., 537-3470. By appointment.

Hanover

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

LA GARITA, 13 Humboldt, 537-6624. By appointment.

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.

Northern Grant County & Catron County

ANNIE'S ON THE CORNER, Hwy. 180 and Adair, Luna, 547-2502.

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

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

Mesilla

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

ALEGRE GALLERY, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685.

AZURE CHERRY GALLERY & BOUTIQUE, 330 E. Lohman Ave., 291-3595. Wed.-Thurs. 12-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 12-8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GALLERIE CRAMOISIE, 1695 Hickory Loop, 524-9349. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

GRIGGS & REYMOND, 504 W. Griggs Ave., 524-8450, Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

JUSTUS WRIGHT GALERIA, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delval-leprintinglc.com.

J.T. MACROBIE STUDIO, 639 S. San Pedro, 524-1006.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY, behind Downtown COAS Books, 312-1064. Mon.-Thurs., Sat.

STUDIO 309, 309 E. Organ Ave., 649-3781. By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

La Mesa

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

Columbus

ART ON THE WESTERN EDGE, at Windwalker Guest Ranch B&B, Hwy. 11 north, mile marker 7, 640-4747.

Deming

ART SPACE GALLERY, 601 S. Silver, 546-0673. Mon., Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., donni@chris-donni.com.

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

GOLD STREET GALLERY, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200.

STUDIO LeMARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

Rodeo

CHIRICAHUA GALLERY, 5 Pine St., 557-2225.

Hillsboro

BARBARA MASSENGILL GALLERY, 894-9511/895-3377, Fri.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Chloride

MONTE CRISTO, Wall St., 743-0190. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ☞

SUBMIT GALLERY INFORMATION TO— Desert Exposure, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, email editor@desertexposure.com.

"Acoma Parrot Vessel"



TURID PEDERSEN

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CULTURAL CONNECTIONS • DONNA CLAYTON WALTER

Word Up!

Silver City's inaugural Southwest Festival of the Written Word celebrates all things literary.

Make way, Blues and Clay! Silver City's got a new festival coming to town.

Several years in the planning and making, the Southwest Festival of the Written Word will bring together all the elements that Southwest New Mexico locals have come to look for in a downtown special event—fanfare, food and music, for sure. But those will just be the “side men,” so to speak, rounding out the new festival's focus on the written word.

Taking place in downtown Silver City on Friday, Sept. 27, through Sunday, Sept. 29, the inaugural festival will offer

locals and visitors a bustling atmosphere celebrating the literary arts. More than 50 writers, agents and publishers will participate in over 35 events, including panels, presentations, workshops and readings, at more than a half-dozen downtown sites. Festival organizers say they hope to draw up to 1,000 attendees and that the event may happen

annually or every other year, depending on future resources and how this first event is received.

The event's theme, “*Textures y Sabores*,” translated as “Textures and Flavors,” aptly describes the atmosphere they hope to create, organizers say. “All genres will be represented, including poetry, of course,” says Tom Hester, chair of the festival's organizing committee. “It will be quite an event. There will even be music in the streets and one-act plays.”

Originally the brainchild of Bonnie Buckley Maldonado, Silver City's first poet laureate, the festival was created to highlight writers who live and write in the Southwest. And Silver City, says Jeannie Miller, public information chair of the festival, is the perfect place for this event to land, given the area's high concentration of wordsmiths of all types and stripes. More than half of the festival presenters live in the wider Silver City area, Miller says, with the remainder coming from Texas, Arizona, Colorado and other parts of New Mexico.

Also in keeping with local festival tradition, the Southwest Festival of the Written Word will be free and open to the public except for two special events: festival keynote speaker (Friday night at the WNMU Global Resource Center) and novelist (*So Far From God, The Guardians, Peel My Love Like an Onion*) Ana Castillo's Memoir Writing Workshop (\$125) on Saturday afternoon at Bear Mountain Lodge; and the festival banquet (\$30) Saturday night, where

Denise Chavez, author and director of Las Cruces' Border Book Festival, will be the evening's speaker.

“Ana Castillo and Denise Chavez rank among the best novelists of America,” says festival coordinator Peter Garcia, “and their excellence comes in part because they

have remained true to their roots and the rich idioms in the Mexican-American communities of New Mexico, far west Texas and Chicago.”

Hester adds, “It's difficult to overstate how impressive it is to have two of the leading novelists of America giving major talks a day apart in Silver City. Part of the festival committee's purpose has always been to point to Silver City, in the past and today, as a major center for authors.”

A number of local organizations and individuals were key in helping to bring the festival to fruition, Miller says. The Mimbres Region Arts Council is serving as the fiscal agent for the festival.

“We're not a 501(c)3, after all, and they (MRAC) also have given us tons of wonderful, helpful advice,” Miller says. “Also Lee Gruber, who organized the clay festival, shared a wealth of information with us.”

Funding for the event started, Miller says, when New Mexico author Steven F. Havill generously gave a writing workshop at Bear Mountain Lodge back in January, with proceeds going to the festival. Havill is well known to mystery buffs for his Posadas County Mystery Series, set in a fictional county between Deming and Lordsburg. The first book of the series, *Heartshot*, was published in 1991, and since then, Havill has written 17 more. The next book, with the working title of *Night Zone*, is scheduled for publication this October.

In 2009, Havill launched a second series, this time set in the 1890s. The main character, Dr. Thomas Parks, handles medical crises to the best of his ability, given the knowledge and resources available at the time. This new series, Havill says, grew out of his long-time fascination with old medical texts, which he has been collecting for years.

Havill will be a panelist on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 2 p.m. addressing “Something Wicked This Way Comes: Crime & Mystery Writing.”

Miller further notes that Western New Mexico University helped to cover speaker costs and that a number of invited guests generously gave up their honorariums.

There also will be a literary marketplace, serving the double purpose of getting books into festival-goers' hands and generating income for the festival. Book signings and vendors will be at the former Workshops of Carneros space on Bullard Street in downtown.

“Mary Hotvedt (another festival volunteer) went to the Tucson book festival and got ideas and made connections for us,” Miller adds. “Mary said that festival's just five years old and it's *huge* already. That one in Tucson is very spread out; we are concentrating everything downtown, which I think will increase the festival's potency.”

The JW Art Gallery in Hurley will host a kick-off celebration Thursday, Sept. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Randy Carr will perform act one from his one-man show “Tuck.” Terry Humble will discuss his recently published book, *Santa Rita del Cobre* (see “Mining Santa Rita's History,” November 2012), followed by a question and answer session and refreshments. During the entire festival weekend, the gallery will have on display a special selection of the artwork of Joseph Wade, who also serves on the festival committee, as well as Elvira Godfrey and Leighton Fossom.

Other festival highlights include special readings. Orlando White, an award-winning Navajo poet, and Layli Long Soldier, a Lakota poet and artist, who both write in English but use their original languages to add an underlying meaning to their poetry, will read at the festival (Saturday, 3:30 p.m.). They will also participate in a discussion of multicultural writing along with Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, WNMU scholar-in-residence, and JJ Wilson, WNMU writer-in-residence.

There will be several sessions geared for children, says Miller, encouraging local budding writers and

youthful avid readers. In one event, Miller says, “Denise Chavez will give each child participant a certificate, as an acknowledgement—‘from an established writer to a new writer.’ The idea of that gave everyone in the room chills to think about the impact that can have on a child.”

The New Mexico Humanities Council, which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, is underwriting five festival sessions woven together by the theme “To Write—Defining a Region.” For 30 years the council has underwritten New Mexico projects that engage humanities scholars and public audiences in a dialog. The Southwest Festival of the Written Word is one of five projects selected for this granting period.

“We are honored in our first year to have 12 of our outstanding presenters designated as New Mexico Humanities Scholars,” says Miller. Those are Susan Berry, Stephen Fox, Mark Lee Gardner, David Remley, Sharman Apt Russell, John Gist, Ann Lane Hedlund, Philip Connors, Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, Layli Long Soldier, Orlando White and J.J. Amawora Wilson.

Berry, retired director of the Silver City Museum, will mine the rich legacy of writing about and in southwestern

New Mexico in her presentation, “We've Had Words: The Literary Heritage of Southwest New Mexico” (Friday, 3:30 p.m.). In “Making History: The Art of Historical Writing” three master historians—Fox, Gardner and Remley—will describe how their research resulted in an impressive array of histories (Friday, 2 p.m.). In “The Scripture of Snail and Fern,” Russell, professor of humanities at WNMU, will use photographs of the Southwest to demonstrate how nature elicits responses from observers (Saturday, 10 a.m.).

In another session, a panel of three—Gist, a philosopher-novelist-personal essayist and WNMU professor of creative writing; Hedlund, retired museum curator and professor of anthropology; and Connors, editor, Gila National Forest fire lookout, and author of *Fire Season*—will discuss “The Truth and Beyond: Creative Non-Fiction” (Friday, 3:30 p.m.).

And in the fifth session, four more of the scholars—Ortego y Gasca; Long Soldier; White, award-winning poet and professor at Diné College; and Wilson—will converse on the theme, “Out of the Margins: Multicultural Writing in the 21st Century” (Sunday, 10 a.m.).

Several sessions are geared to those wanting to write, or write better, to listen to and even work with published authors.

Castillo, an award winning poet, novelist, essayist, editor, playwright and translator, describes her memoir-writing workshop as a time for “talking, laughing, crying, venting and writing from the heart and mind.” After that, she says, the participants will learn to get rid of all the sentimentality and leave on the page what is important to the reader to know about their memoirs. The workshop will consist of a number of exercises to help participants know how to get started.

“In memoir, the reader must be persuaded that the narrator is writing honestly, whether or not he/she is secondary,” explains Castillo. “It doesn't matter as much ‘what happened’ as what you make of what you remember may have happened.”

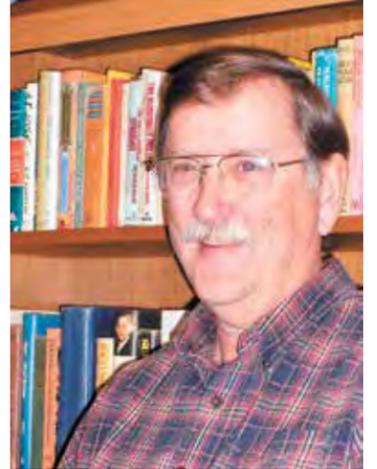
Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell, a former director of the prestigious Maui Writers Retreat, will talk on “Taking Your Writing to the Next Level” at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Fryxell is also a former editor-in-chief of *Writer's Digest* magazine and wrote that

WORD continued on page 28



Keynote speaker Ana Castillo will also lead a memoir workshop.

Denise Chavez speaks at the banquet on Saturday, Sept. 28, which begins at 6:30 p.m.



Mystery writer Steven F. Havill helped jump-start the event.



Silver City's Month of Festivals

A calendar-full of events make this a September to remember.

The Southwest Festival of the Written Word, Sept. 27-29, joins an already jam-packed September lineup of festivals in Silver City. In addition to the events listed here, see the Arts Exposure section to read about the **Red Dot Studio Tour, Sept. 20-22**.

On **Sept. 13-15**, in Gough Park, **Pickamania!** is a joyous celebration of American music: bluegrass, folk, Americana, roots and more. Produced by the Mimbres Region Arts Council, it's the perfect summer bookend to the Blues Fest in May.

The Dusty Buskers perform at the kick-off dance Friday night in downtown Silver City, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Then Saturday at Gough Park, from 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., the lineup features Gene Booth, Last Minute Bluegrass Band, Joe West & the Santa Fe Revue, Bootleg Prophets, The Trishas and Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem.



Solas performs at Pickamania!

That night, there's music in the beer garden, 8-10 p.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., the music is by Sacaton, The Hard Road Trio, Carolyn Martin and Solas.

Among the festival's star attractions, the Trishas first shared a stage in January 2009. Since then, they've been in high demand—showcasing at the Americana Music Association Conference & Festival in Nashville, singing with Raul Malo on his "Sinners & Saints" album, recruited by Ray Wylie Hubbard to sing on his latest release, and touring with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Todd Snider. Celtic musicians Solas are known for fresh and unexpected arrangements of age-old tunes, topical originals and covers, redefining Irish music beyond pubs, green beer and March 17. And then there's Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem, which the *Boston Herald* called "one of America's most inventive string bands."

For more information and a detailed schedule, see www.mimbresarts.org

The 9th annual **Gila River Festival**, in and around Silver City **Sept. 19-22**, will have the theme, "The Gila River is in Our Hands!" It will examine the impacts of climate change on the Gila River and the Gila region and how we can meet our future water needs and ensure the future of a free-flowing Gila River.

Festival attendees will enjoy a variety of expert-guided field trips in the Gila National Forest and along the Gila River, a keynote talk by author and environmentalist Kenneth Brower, a presentation by Dr. Tom Swetnam of the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research at the University of Arizona, panel discussions, workshops, kayaking, films about New Mexico rivers, the Gala for the Gila, a downtown art walk and more.

Keynote speaker Brower learned about environmental issues—such as dam projects like Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River—from his father, the great conservationist David Brower. His most recent book, *The Wildness Within: Remembering David Brower*, honors his father on the centennial of his birth. In his presentation, "Helping Water Win," Brower will talk about the challenges that lie ahead for all of us in addressing global climate change—the topic of his next book, to be published in 2014.

Swetnam will discuss past, present and future wildfire and climate changes in the Southwest through historical documents and tree-ring data. He will also describe opportunities to learn and apply lessons from both the distant past and from recent outcomes of successful and unsuccessful forest and watershed restoration strategies as we adapt to climate change. His talk will be augmented by a series of panel discussions with scientists and practitioners on the various tools available to build resiliency into our natural and human communities.

A new event at this year's festival is "New Mexico, Ancient Waters," featuring films about the Gila and Santa Fe Rivers and the Rio Grande. Two new short films about the Gila River will be premiered. In "Free Flow: Saving the Gila River in New Mexico," Dutch Salmon descends the Gila again to reminisce about earlier journeys and to explore the greater values of a natural stream. "The Gila River is in Our Hands" tells the story of New Mexico's last free-flowing river and how it's up to us to save it for future generations.

The Gala for the Gila fundraiser to benefit the Gila Conservation Coalition will be held at the recently restored Murray Hotel ballroom. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, with beer and spirits provided by Little Toad Creek and dancing to the music of The Roadrunners. Winners of a silent auction will be announced at the gala.

Guided hikes will explore birding, geology, native plants, archaeology, native fish and more. The popular Gila River kayak trip will be back, along with the bus tour. The Monsoon Puppet Theater will lead another colorful Gila River Festival parade through downtown Silver City. Author Sharman Apt Russell will be the guest speaker at the closing brunch.



Kayaking is back at the Gila River Festival.

The full festival schedule and registration is available at www.gilaconservation.org. For more information, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at (575) 538-8078 or info@gilaconservation.org.

The annual **Fort Bayard Days**, sponsored by the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society, will be **Sept. 20-21**. On Friday, more than 20 living history centers will be set up around the parade grounds. A flag ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. and learning centers will end at 3 p.m. The day will feature old-fashioned games and crafts, military re-enactments and Buffalo Soldiers, presentations on nurses and railroads in history, and portrayals of "Josephine Clifford, mother of Fort Bayard" and "Dr. Bushnell, physician at Fort Bayard."



Fort Bayard Days.

On Saturday, step back in history with a look at Fort Bayard's military and medical years, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can take walking tours of the grounds and the commanding officer's quarters/museum, meet local authors and learn about the future of the fort. Then it's the military ball in the theater, 7-10 p.m., \$2.50 a person, children free.

For more information, call Cecilia Bell (575) 388-4477 or Bill Kupke (575) 388-9123, or

see www.fortbayard.org/days.html.

This year's **Annual Red Hot Children's Fiesta**, sponsored by the Grant County Community Health Council, is "Out of This World." Look for solar telescopes and other space-y fun. Who knows? Maybe those guys from Roswell will show up! The Red Hot Children's Fiesta is the largest child development and resource fair in southwest New Mexico. It's at WNMU Old James Stadium from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 21. For more information, call (575) 388-1198.

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WORD continued

publication's Nonfiction column for a decade, along with three books about writing, most recently *Write Faster. Write Better.*

If you yearn to be a travel writer, attend the panel discussion on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. with three intrepid southwestern traveler-writers—Richard Mahler, Esther Melvin and Elan Head—who will discuss their adventures and the art of travel writing. Mahler, former “Southwest Storylines” columnist for *Desert Exposure*, is the author of *The Jaguar's Shadow* and *Belize: Adventures in Nature*. Melvin's new book, *Walking Going, A Journey to the Holy Mountains of Nepal*, is a memoir of spiritual seeking and the travel that came with the quest. Head, a Grant County native, began her career as a local newspaper reporter; since then, writing has taken her around the world, from posh resorts in Palau to combat outposts in Afghanistan. Along the way, she became a commercial helicopter pilot and flight instructor, and spent four years as editor-in-chief of the helicopter industry magazine *Vertical*.

Festival spokesperson Miller, a long-time board member of the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning (WILL) as well as a teacher of expressive writing, says she is looking forward to the festival finally happening. She's eager not only to see the fruition and completion of so much hard work, but also to drink in the atmosphere herself.

“As a writer and a writing teacher, I just think it's so cool to get all of these people together. It's so neat to hear how authors think,” Miller says. “People have ideas about ‘how writers are,’ you know. But this is a chance to meet the *person* who is a writer. I think it

will be so interesting and powerful to hear them talk about how they work, in their own words. There are quite a few sessions I want to attend!”

She goes on to say, “The most eloquent description of ‘Textures y Sabores’ can be found on our home page. It reads, ‘Living under a wide sky, turquoise bright, in a land where crinkled mountains rise purple and brown behind stretches of grass or cacti, some write of their days. Living in that crease where the past and present meet, where English and Spanish and languages of the indigenous meld, some write of their encounters. The festival celebrates those who write in or about the Southwest, and brings together their readers to touch the rough and smooth of their words, to taste the fire and cool of our written life.’”

“The festival has something of interest for everyone,” she adds, “from the first-grader who will write and read his or her own book, to published authors who want to mingle and converse with other southwestern writers. If you read, you'll want to meet your favorite authors and discover some new ones. If you write, you'll want to check out three days of great how-to sessions about writing in all genres. For all who love words, this will be an amazing opportunity!”

For a full, updated schedule of events, see the festival website at www.svwordfiesta.org. To register for Ana Castillo's memoir writing workshop, email chair@svwordfiesta.org. For more information on the kick-off event at JW Art Gallery, see www.jwartgallery.com or call (575) 537-0300.

Freelance writer Donna Clayton Walter is a past Desert Exposure senior editor who now sends her words from Santa Fe.



Poetry is represented in part by Layli Long Soldier, a Lakota poet and artist.

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See Video Online

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See Video Online

14 Woodland Dr: \$159,000 – 3/2.5/1CG 2 Acres. Arenas Valley. Additional Shop!

See Video Online

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See Video Online

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THE COWBOY WAY • PAUL HOYLEN

Seeing the Elephant

Classic cowboy, barber and circus rope-trick performer, Deming's Darrell Hawkins has lassoed life for 85 years.

They say you can tell a cowboy by the way he walks and the get-up he wears. Well, I reckon Darrell Hawkins is the real deal in his cowboy hat and boots and his distinct bow-legged gait—"the result of a horse wreck," he offers.

"I never worked a day in my life; I play all the time, seven days a week," Hawkins brags as he sets his electric train in motion inside his Deming bunkhouse. "Choo, choo!" Hawkins hollers over the engine's whistle. Next to the circus posters on the wall is an anonymous motivational message that advises, "Go after life as if it's something that has to be roped in

a hurry before it gets away."

Hawkins has grabbed life by the horns and never let go. He recently turned 85, and still enjoys life with great gusto. Over the years he has sought adventures and challenges, chasing them like wild stallions across the open range.

Those adventures have included a few film appearances and a lengthy third career—after cowboying and barbering—as a trick roper in the circus,

which he ran off to join just shy of his 60th birthday.

Work, play and fun have all been integral parts of Hawkins' character. He was born August 19, 1928, in Emporia, Kansas, a water stop for cattle driven up from Texas and Oklahoma. Boyhood chores included dehorning cattle, milking cows and dipping and shearing sheep. He fondly recalls the pony his dad gave him on his 11th birthday. Another great gift was seeing the Bud Anderson Circus, which winter-quartered in Emporia in 1939. The circus included Western movie legend Tom Mix, who performed fancy shooting tricks, and Anderson himself, who did rope tricks astride a big white horse—and left a lasting impression on young Darrell Hawkins. Anderson literally showed Hawkins the ropes. The youngster was quick to learn rope tricks, which he practiced on his pony before showing off to his friends at school.

Hawkins defines freedom as "not being tied to one place." A self-described "drifter," he epitomizes the self-reliant, independent streak of the cowboys from the Old West. "When you're a drifter, you don't make much money, but you sure as hell have a lot of fun," Hawkins admits.

Not one to stay home on the range, this cowboy—emphasis on "boy"—moseyed from ranch to ranch working around animals. "Have pony, will travel," he describes his youth. In his wanderings, he wound up in Wyoming at age 18. It was there at Cheyenne's famed Frontier Days that this buckaroo rode bulls for \$5 a ride at the rodeo. Then he took his earnings on over to Arizona and hired on to pack mules and take tourists to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Don't believe any of Hawkins' "Aw, shucks, that was nothin'" asides. The truth is that big things happened to this little man who stands at five-foot-three without cowboy hat or boots.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, Hawkins cowboied in the Bootheel of New Mexico, participating in round-ups at the U-Bar Ranch at Hachita and the Diamond A range at the Gray Ranch. A round-up consisted of tough, gritty, down and dirty work sorting, counting and branding 400-pound steers. Round-up cowboys put in 14-hour days, seven days a week over a three-month period in the fall. A 30-60-foot lariat was used to lasso a steer's horns or hooves. No doubt the rope tricks Hawkins learned from Bud Anderson stood him in good stead.

Hawkins will never forget a harrowing incident that occurred in 1950. While returning to the Gray Ranch, a bolt of lightning struck so close that his horse was knocked to its knees; horse and rider high-tailed it to the ranch at lightning speed.

On another occasion, a hungry Hawkins and his partner stumbled on a promising-looking hog when they were suddenly confronted by a wild boar. The boar charged Hawkins. When the cowboy tripped, the boar's tusks slashed his jeans and damaged his pride. Needless to say, these cowpokes did not bring home the bacon that day.

This rugged cowboy way of life was captured in the 1954 documentary film, *The Cowboys*, directed by Elmo Williams. Williams also directed *The Tall Texan*, starring Lloyd Bridges, after being film edi-

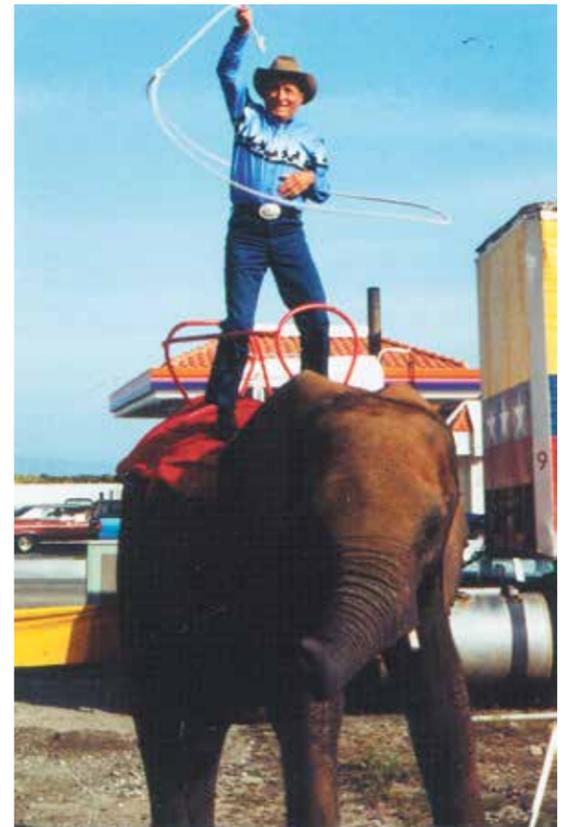
tor for *High Noon*. *The Cowboys* is an important American artifact because it records on film a vanishing way of life. The movie was narrated by singing cowboy Tex Ritter, who dedicated it to "the cowboys whose hearts are as big as the country they ride."

Shot in and around Luna County, the film features interviews with working cowboys including Riley George, whose grandfather rode with cattle boss Charlie Goodnight of Goodnight-Loving Trail fame. Other cowboys involved were Ross May, Johnny Crawford, Boug Thomas and Darrell Hawkins. He is recorded on film saying in his typical self-deprecating and laconic manner, "My part was very small, but I had a good time."

Hawkins had bit parts in other movies. At one point he played an Arab in an obscure film. Along the way, he met up with William Boyd ("Hopalong Cassidy"), Clayton Moore (the original TV "Lone Ranger"), Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, along with cowboy-turned-actor Ben Johnson, whom Hawkins describes affectionately as a "good ol' boy."

Hawkins continued cowboying around southern New Mexico until he sold his cattle in 1963. It was the end of an era for the 34-year-old cowboy.

Not letting any grass grow under his feet, Hawkins went to barber school in the cowtown capital of Fort Worth, Texas, figuring



Hawkins doing tricks atop a circus elephant.

cutting hair couldn't be much different than shearing sheep. Returning to Deming, Hawkins worked at the Elite Barber Shop for a barber with the improbable name of George Shear. Hawkins enjoyed giving close-cropped crew cuts to his customers, many of whom were fellow cowboys. Eventually, he bought Deming's Star Barber Shop, which he ran for more than 20 years.

Although he was about to turn 60, 1988 was a huge year for Hawkins. For Hawkins, it's never too late to have a happy life. A favorite saying of his is, "Some day I'm gonna be just like you, but still a kid." Hawkins' second childhood came in early 1988 when the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, run by Robert "Red" Johnson, came to Deming. The circus magic still magnetized him, and the big top conjured up happy images of the rope tricks he'd learned at the hands of Bud Anderson so many years ago.

Without telling anyone, Hawkins put up a "Gone Fishing" sign on the Star Barber Shop and ran away

with the circus, never to look back. "Red" Johnson put word out that he needed a four-minute act and so this old cowboy joined the fire eater, the strong man, the tight-rope walker and other circus performers to go on the road 233 days a year, seven days a week across 14 states in the West and Midwest.

Among the many rope tricks was one called the wedding ring. Here he stood inside a 20-foot loop, which was then lifted smoothly off the floor, and repeatedly spun around the waist and over the head. The 20-foot loop fit nicely inside the 33-foot circus ring.

Another trick was twirling the loop and

making it move like a dance partner. Hawkins added to the fun by jumping back and forth through the wide loop. One of the more difficult tricks was simultaneously spinning three ropes using both wrists and his teeth. Not bad for a little man under a big top. Hawkins also performed rope tricks atop a horse, harkening back to the acts cowboys excelled at in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show a hundred years earlier.

"Seeing the elephant" was an expression Old West cowboys used to refer to the wild and woolly wonders they experienced in the wide-open "zoos" of Dodge City and Ellsworth, Kansas, the Sodom and Gomorrah of their day. But Hawkins really did see an elephant. Buffalo Bill would have been proud of him flawlessly executing the "wedding ring" atop a three-year-old circus elephant named Barbara. "I'd



Darrell Hawkins in 1949 on the Open Diamond Ranch, 30 miles northeast of Deming.

Hawkins doing his rope tricks on a different kind of steed.



Hawkins performing at Rex Allen Days in Willcox, Ariz., in 2005.

do anything to show off," the roper recalls fondly.

Besides performing fancy rope tricks, Hawkins also did an unsupported ladder trick. This act involved him standing on an eight-foot ladder and walking it across the floor.

Hawkins roped a widow named Deloris Ruebush in Deming on Mother's Day in 1991. Deloris became Hawkins' partner, sidekick and soul mate, joining him in performing rope tricks at the circus. The hopeless romantic finally slipped the ring on her finger in 2006, and they've been at each other's side ever since.

Hawkins has done other circuses over the years. In 1994, Dave Twoomy of Happy Time Circus flew Hawkins to Alaska for the rope spinning and unsupported ladder acts, which he performed three times a day for the Alaska State Fair. In May 2000, the Howdy Fowler Circus put on two Wild West shows in Deming in which Hawkins showed off his roping skills to a new generation of fans.

But Hawkins' favorite circus has always been Culpepper and Merriweather. In 1996, at the age of 68, he set out on his farewell tour with that venerable circus, then retired after completing the full season.

Never bored, Hawkins hired on to do special shows. His rope tricks were featured as half-time entertainment during NMSU basketball games. He also had gigs at Big Nose Kate's Saloon in Tombstone, Ariz., where he did rope tricks for beer. In Dodge City, Hawkins wowed green-horn tourists at Wild West shows.

In February 2011, he and Deloris ran away to the circus again; Hawkins was 82 at the time. The



Hawkins performing in 2003.

dynamic duo was hired by the Kelly Miller Circus to do two shows a day, 180 shows in 90 days—five and a half-minute acts for each show. The circus traveled from Brownsville, Texas, to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

To his dismay, however, Hawkins found that he didn't have the energy he once had; at the same time, he didn't want to let the Kelly Miller Circus down. Fortunately for everyone, Hawkins found a young whipper-snapper in the form of Joel Faulk who could crack a whip as quick as throw a rope. "Joel took over my circus act and we left the show on May 3, 2011—a great way to

end my circus days," Hawkins says, relieved.

This old cowboy is not quite ready to ride off into the sunset just yet, though. He still performs now and then, but declines most offers due to a "stove-up leg."

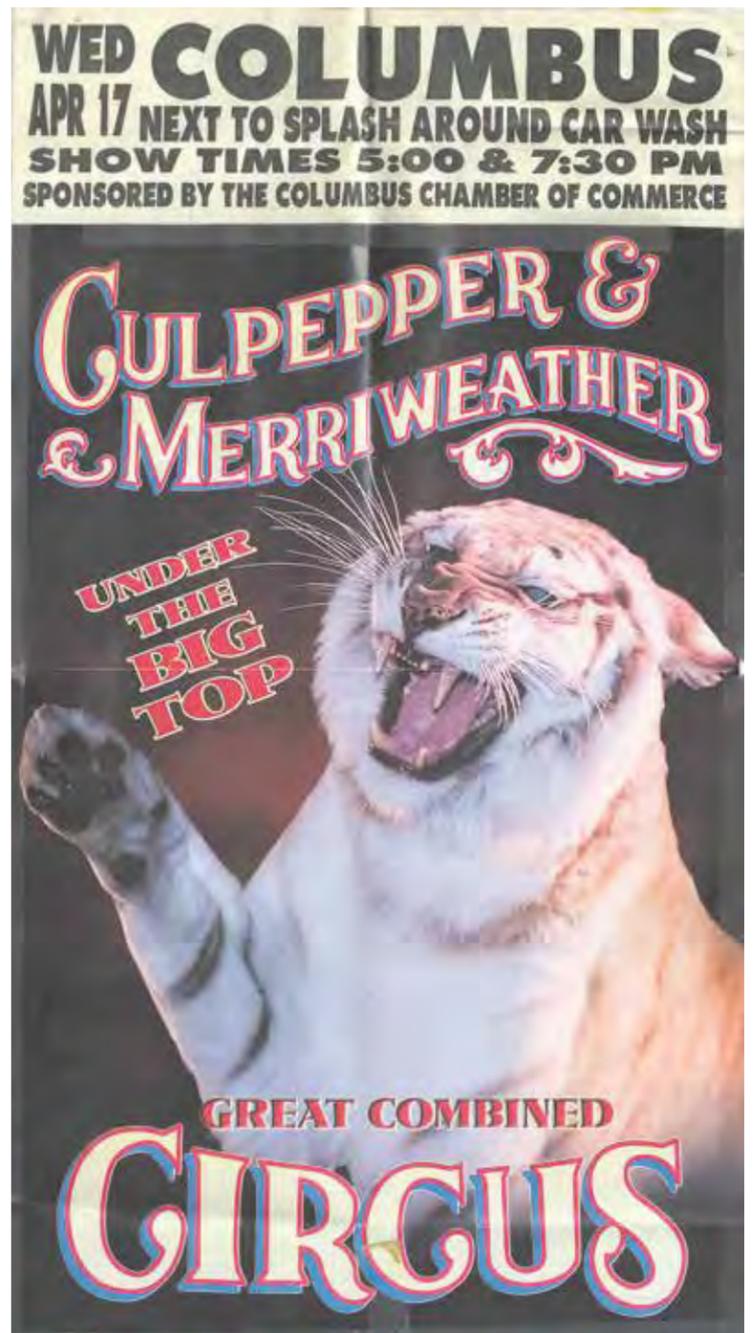


Hawkins' wife and fellow performer, Deloris.

Deloris Hawkins says that there are only three days in the circus world: yesterday, today and tomorrow. Hawkins says that he has no regrets about yesterday, enjoys today, and looks ahead to tomorrow.

When Hawkins visits Branson, Mo., he and Deloris are given front-row seats where they watch youngsters, some of whom he taught, perform rope tricks. "Shucks, they're better ropers than I ever was," he says modestly. "Now it's my turn to sit back and enjoy the show." ❁

Deming author and artist Paul Hoylen was profiled himself in our December 2012 issue ("Comic Anthropologist").



Hawkins' favorite circus has always been Culpepper and Merriweather. In 1996, at the age of 68, he set out on his farewell tour with that venerable circus, then retired after completing the full season.

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER • TOM BARRY

¡Ah, Chihuahua!

The changing character of the vast Mexican state that's our neighbor.



Above: Abandoned grazing and traditional farm lands turn to sand near Villa Ahumada on the highway heading south from Juarez to Chihuahua City. (Photos by Tom Barry)

Seldom does a name of a place—Chihuahua—seem to capture so much of its identity and spirit.

Perhaps that's due to the name's own expressive rhythm. Or it may have more to do with the many emotions associated with the popular expression, "¡Ah, Chihuahua!" whose beat and varied intonations communicate its different meaning—whether lament, astonishment, surprise, annoyance or dismay.

It's an expression that transcends the border, as do so much of Chihuahua's history, identity, economy and culture—whether in English or Spanish, "¡Ah, Chihuahua!" or simply "¡Chihuahua!"

The name Chihuahua is certainly of pre-Hispanic origin, but its exact derivation is disputed. Some scholars say it's a name linked to the land's lack of

water, while others argue that it signifies a place blessed with water.

Dry, Sandy Place

"Xicuhua," a Náuatl word meaning "dry, sandy place," is the most widely accepted origin of Chihuahua. It's a vast state—Mexico's

largest—that is occupied by a desert with the same name. Chihuahua encompasses one-eighth of the nation's land. It's a state larger than many countries, including Great Britain.

The Chihuahuan Desert—the largest and most diverse of North America's four deserts—spreads through the heart of the state, dropping south from southeastern Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas.

Heading south across the border and through Ciudad Juárez, there is nothing but desert. You encounter a vast aridness of mesquite, creosote bushes,

Below left: Statues in front of the Palacio de Gobierno in Chihuahua City. Below center: Tarahumara woman weaving a basket on the rim of Barranca del Cobre (Copper Canyon). Below right: Tarahumara farmer readying his family's plot for corn planting before the summer rains, near El Divisidero.

tarbush, acacia and occasional tufts of zacate, mostly trimmed to the ground by starving cattle. (An estimated 400,000 cattle have died on the range during the drought in 2011-12 alone.)

More than 230 miles of desert pass before the toll road approaches Chihuahua City, the state's capital. In the early 18th century the Spanish founded Santa Fe Real de Chihuahua, a villa that served as the midway point along the Camino Real between the rich mine of Hidalgo del Parral in the southwest and El Paso del Norte.

Although Spanish explorers had first passed through the northern territory that is now Chihuahua in 1528, it wasn't until two centuries later that the Spanish and *criollo* elite began to settle in the region, drawn by the silver and gold mines in the Sierra Madre Occidental. In the 1700s, the outpost of Chihuahua functioned largely as an administrative center for the region's mines.

The Chihuahuan Desert envelops the city, extending south into Durango and east throughout Coahuila and edging into Nuevo Leon. In the state's southeast corner lies a barren and barely populated expanse sometimes called the Zona del Silencio.

In many ways, the absence of water and the resulting harshness of the terrain seem to define Chihuahua. Aridness is its essence, and the struggle to survive in this stark land may help explain the reputation of Chihuahuenses—their determination, independence, pride and infectious appreciation of life.

When the dust blows, when the sun parches, and when not a single tree breaks the horizon in any direction, Chihuahua certainly seems nothing but a dry, sandy, uninhabitable land—an unending, oppressive aridness.

Where Rivers Meet

But there is another way to see Chihuahua: looking beyond the aridness to see how much the state is shaped and defined by the power, presence and fundamental importance of water.

There are many who say Chihuahua's name has more to do with water than desert. Before there was the territory, city or state of Chihuahua, there were native Rarámuris or Tarahumaras living at the intersection of two rivers, the Sacramento and the Chuvíscar. When the Spanish moved in, they adopted a variation of the indigenous phrase meaning "the place where two rivers meet."

No longer do these two rivers meet in Chihuahua. Only the sandy and gravel-strewn beds of the Sacramento and Chuvíscar remain—the rivers now running only immediately after torrential downpours during the summer's monsoons.

Recent summer rains have lifted spirits in Chihuahua and watered near-empty reservoirs. But prevailing trends of climate-change-aggravated drought and the disappearance of deep aquifers challenge



Entering Chihuahua City, you pass over what used to be the defining feature and resource of the city. Río Sacramento, now just a memory.

the future sustainability of the state's cities and rural economies.

Where there are (or once were) rivers in Chihuahua, there are also corridors and centers of human life. In the north, the Río Bravo/Río Grande separates Chihuahua from Texas, while the Río Conchos (which runs southwest from the border town of Ojinaga) is that river's largest tributary.

You don't, however, need to spend much time in Chihuahua to recognize that its life depends on the *sierras*. A third of Chihuahua is mountainous, and no other Mexican state has so much forested land. The melting snow and rainwater, which come rushing and seeping down from the mountains into the grasslands and desert valleys, have made Chihuahua habitable.

Drug Wars and Water Wars

Over the past six years, no other state has been so closely associated with the horrors and the intensity of the drug-war violence of Mexico. For most people not from Chihuahua,



Tarahumara women gather in front of the Palacio de Gobierno in Chihuahua City as part of campaign to save their land and water from a government-sponsored megatourism project in the Sierra Tarahumara in southwestern Chihuahua.

whether inside or outside Mexico, the images and numbers of the drug wars have come to define Chihuahua.

In Chihuahua, you often hear the charge that the foreign media and the State Department have colluded to paint a misleading picture of a land besieged by crime, a type of "failed state." In fact, locals assert, for most people, particularly those not involved in the drug trade and other organized crime, life has gone much as usual.

Yet there is no disputing the graphic images of tor-



tured victims and numbers of dead that have given the state's largest city the reputation as the world's murder capital. The tens of thousands of Chihuahua residents who have fled the state are also testament to high levels of violence and fear that have swept across the state like a desert dust storm that blasts all in its path.

For whatever combination of factors (including the resolution of inter-cartel conflict, the decrease in social cleansing carried out by government and organized crime elements, and cyclical shift in pattern of crime), the drug-war related violence has diminished considerably over the last couple of years in Chihuahua, most notably in the epicenter Ciudad Juárez.

There is widespread hope in Chihuahua that the state has seen the worst of the drug wars—a hope engendered not only by the falling murder rates in Juárez but also by the end of the Felipe Calderón *sexenio*. Many believed that that his successor as president, Enrique Peña Nieto, and the PRI would engineer a truce among the cartels or somehow end the drug wars, perhaps by ending the military's central role in the drug war or by reorganizing and reconstituting the federal, state, and local police.

Drug-related violence has somewhat subsided in Juárez and Chihuahua City, bringing these cities back to life, although fear and pessimism rise after occasional spikes that rival the worst days of the Calderón years. Meanwhile, criminal bands associated with drug production and trafficking continue to ravage many parts of the state, highlighted by the assassination of a journalist in the border city of Ojinaga and the murder of a mayoral candidate in the southwest.

As drought persists and water reserves shrink,



Along the Río Bravo, Santa Elena Reserve.

the drug-war crisis has been increasingly overshadowed by the rising fears about water supplies and by escalating battles over access to the state's diminishing reserves. (See "The Coming Water Wars," April.)

Wherever one travels—through the heart of the great desert, past the parched and rapidly disappearing grasslands, into the sierra, and off the traffic corridors into the *colonias* of the capital city and Juárez—life in Chihuahua is threatened. The essential aridness that has defined the region—giving rise to the Páquime civilization a thousand years ago and birthing the Mexican Revolution a hundred years ago—is threatened by a still greater aridness that is marked by higher temperatures, more severe droughts, and rapidly depleting aquifers. ☼



A rancher in Janos, just south of the New Mexico border.

Tom Barry, senior policy analyst at the Center for International Policy in Washington, DC, lives in Pinos Altos. He blogs at borderlinesblog.blogspot.com.

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LOOKING BACKWARD • TWANA SPARKS

The Queen of Brewer Hill

Remembering Madame Rebecca Brewer, healer, philanthropist, spiritualist, hill namesake and Silver City character.



Rebecca Brewer in her eighties. Used by permission of the *Silver City Daily Press*.

two little cowboy-booted, Wrangler-clad preschoolers. Rebecca A. Brewer, also known as Madame Brewer or *La Negra Rebecca*, was one of the most colorful residents of all.

Most of what I have been able to learn about Rebecca Brewer came from newspaper references and the people who lived near her until her death in 1969 at age 101. If Joe Fierro or Marsha Lopez' great-grandmother Gutierrez said it, then it is good enough for me.

Rebecca Brewer was born in Macon, Georgia, in 1868. She was the daughter of freed slaves. Around age 32, as one story goes, she came alone to Silver City at the urging of her family, to seek a better climate for her tuberculosis woes. She was a big, striking woman, and a practitioner of natural healing, a *curandera*. Local children called her "La Negra (black) Rebecca"—not necessarily a term of endearment, as she was unusual enough to be frightening to some. No one recalls her ever returning to Georgia, nor seeing her family again.

If she had tuberculosis, she did recover her health. Another rumor is that she came here as the maid of a white family. They didn't like the area and returned to Georgia, but she chose to stay. Yet another tale tagged to her name says she wanted to live in a "boom town" in the West and this place qualified.

Whatever the real reason she came (and it could have been all three), the unconventional Rebecca Brewer managed to become quite wealthy. Though her unofficial title was "Madame Brewer" there is no belief among her acquaintances that she was involved in prostitution in any form. This title designated her as a medium or spiritualist. She initially made a living doing massage at what's now Faywood Hot Springs. She moved on to construction, and ultimately became the "boss" or foreman of the crew that built the Lincoln School, which now houses El Grito Head Start at 300 S. Cooper St.

She was deputized from time to time, to bring in female prisoners. She was on the job once, when a male fugitive tried to use her as a shield. The sheriff reached over her shoulder and shot the man dead. I wager that did not do her hearing any good.

If she was seeking adventures, there were plenty in her life. She told of a woman who was in a saloon on Broadway with a roll of "stage cash" surrounded by a single real bill. When she left, someone waylaid the woman for the money by hitting her on the head with a lead pipe. Madame Brewer found the lady in the Big Ditch bleeding and carried her on her own back to the victim's home. This involved going over

I'm convinced Silver City is a magnet for colorful characters. The diversity of this community is amazing. In line at a store, one may be behind a Hispanic grandmother whose ancestors were given land grants here 200 years ago, and in front of some burned-out hippie who hitchhiked here in the 1970s and makes a living as a rather amazing artist, and a ranching mom with her

a swinging bridge that crossed San Vicente Creek at the time. Brewer tended to her until she recovered.

Madame Brewer told others she had learned from her parents to diagnose illness and which herbs could heal. She was charged at one time with practicing medicine without a license and arrested, but paid the \$1,000 cash bond, and the charges were dropped. Her Spanish was excellent. She arrived as a Roman Catholic, but rumor has it she was excommunicated from that group because of assisting with pregnancy terminations.

The area where she amassed considerable real estate in the southeast part of town, once called Sonora Hill, came to be known as Brewer Hill. The steep, irregular rocky terrain was relatively inexpensive, and she financed the resales herself, allowing Hispanic and black families to own land, paying whatever they could afford. She lived there as well, donating land and a building for the Brewer Hill Baptist Church, which was attended by the black people of the area, since they were not welcome in other congregations. Looking out my window east, I can see both her home site and that place of worship.

She also had boarding houses and a tenement, again rented primarily to black residents. The largest rental property burned in 1948, some say under suspicious circumstances. A contributing factor was that the nearest fire hydrant was a quarter-mile away.

She did tell fortunes and make potions and cast spells. My friend Ruth, two years older than I, went to have her palm read and fortune told. It cost \$2. This was a rite of passage for local high school girls in the 1960s. This was just before Brewer's death that year at age 101. Ruth brought me the report that Madame Brewer seemed timeless in both body and spirit. She gave the much-anticipated information that romantic dreams would come true in "two, two, two for sure, two weeks or two months, but no more than two years." Just for the record, they did not.

I mentioned this adventure to my Spanish teacher at Cobre High School, Barbara Serna née Wray, who was then the wife of the district attorney. She recalled that the eccentric Brewer had employed her in the 1940s. Barbara was a six-year-old girl when she made a nickel a day packaging "*polvos de amor*" (love powders) for Madame Brewer to sell to the lonely-hearted. This work consisted of cutting three-inch-square pieces of wax paper, placing a half-teaspoon of baking soda in the middle, and folding the edges over tightly, securing them with a strand of cotton cord. Profits were pretty good, as each sold for around \$2.



Rebecca Brewer in her home full of knick-knacks and treasures, on her 100th birthday in 1968. Used by permission of the *Silver City Daily Press*.



The original headstone made by friends for "Madame Brewer" was homemade from cement. It was replaced by this professionally engraved one, by a young man grateful for a favor she did for his parents.

Perhaps they worked in a self-fulfilling sort of way, a vicarious placebo.

Neighbor of Brewer's, Joe Fierro, was born in Fierro, NM, in 1931 and worked laying railroad ties for both the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific lines. He and "the most beautiful woman in the world"—his wife, Seferina Leyba—moved to Brewer Hill in 1959. They later bought a house there, but he did not know Madame Brewer had likely made the purchase possible.

He recalls his wife and his mother-in-law taking him with them when the women needed a consultation from Madame Brewer. He never knew what the purpose of the visit was. Though the Brewer home was only 100 yards away, he had never been there. He had seen her on the street, but said she hunched over and did not give eye contact. He believes her eyes were red, and that she had powers—not only healing *curandera* powers, but magic witch or *bruja* powers.

Inside the house, he recalls, the rooms were packed with knick-knacks and oddities, the function of which he could not imagine. In jars were desiccated lizards, hummingbirds, horned toads and *chapulines* (grasshoppers). He envisions them being used as substitutes for those whom Madame Brewer was paid to cause suffering, as in the voodoo tradition. The strangest part of the visit, he says, was the live raven that kept circling in the living room.

Fierro does not believe the medium caused him any suffering. He also doubts that love powders were responsible for the great love he felt for his wife, who passed away in 2009.

It was probably her uniqueness in this remote area that caused many to believe in Madame Brewer's skills as a seer. They would take her out into the forest or wilderness or desert to hunt treasure, hoping she could direct the search. She never located any, nor promoted herself as able to, but get-rich-quick hope springs eternal.

On Memorial Day, 2013, a creative event was held in Memory Lane Cemetery. Actors from the area stood near the graves of departed memorable figures and told about the lives of those they were portraying.

Rebecca A. Brewer was played by Pat Ross, who attends Brewer Hill Baptist Church and is married to Earseye, the minister there. The original headstone was homemade and well-tended, but "a grateful young man" donated a new stone and perpetual care because of a favor Brewer had done for his parents.

Pat Ross reported that Madame Brewer loved children and was very generous with them. She had a little store in her home where they could acquire sweets and some necessities. She gave them odd jobs for pay. She made sure they had shoes and no one went hungry.

She didn't trust banks so she kept her cash in her mattress. Her house burned once, and the kids in the neighborhood knew it and they dashed in and rescued her mattress. There were bills flying every-

where in the street.

When she celebrated her 100th birthday, many of those children, now grown, returned to celebrate.

At age 97, Brewer took a trip to the Bahamas. She said she met her first billionaire there. She was unimpressed, adding, "He looked like he wasn't worth a nickel." She hoped to go back to the Bahamas before her death, but never made it.

About two months before she departed this planet, she finally could not care for herself and that time was spent at Fort Bayard Medical Center. One of the nurses' aides found Madame Brewer to be very outspoken. The nurses' aide commented, "Your skin is so beautiful and young, despite your age. What do you do to keep it that way?" Madame Brewer not so delicately ended the conversation by answering, "I keep my skin young by minding my own business!"



Pat (Mrs. Earsey) Ross portrayed Rebecca Brewer at the Town and Country Garden Memorial Day Event in May 2013.

Her obituary listed a sister, niece and nephew in Florida. She never married. She believed in the Good Lord, and was flattered and "blessed" to have a church named after her. At the end, she was heard to pray that she had done everything in her life that she could to help people.

Twana Sparks is a surgeon, humorist and the author of a new book, *Ping Pong Balls and Donkey's Milk: The treatment of tuberculosis at Fort Bayard, New Mexico*. The book is available at www.createspace.com/4250883 and at Amazon.com.

Joe Ferro reminisces about the unique Madame Brewer at the decaying adobe ruin next door to her home site.

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Under the Dome

Twenty years ago this month, the first crew emerged after two years in Biosphere 2, north of Tucson. Today it's a university research facility—and a tourist attraction.



Biosphere 2, north of Tucson. (Photos by Lisa D. Fryxell)

Twenty minutes north of Tucson on Hwy. 77, the suburbs and shopping malls trickle away into scattered ranches and remote ranch houses, gas stations and bar-and-grills. The backsides of the Catalina Mountains knife into the sunshine above a rolling green and brown desert scrubland. Just before you reach the oasis of civilization that is the town of Oracle, a sign and an even narrower road beckon you to the right, through stunted hills and huddled blobs of greenery. Everything you've been driving through is "Biosphere 1"—the teeming planet Earth. You are about to enter "Biosphere 2."

While Biosphere 1 currently holds some 7 billion people, at its peak population Biosphere 2 was home to only eight. Much like the fictional characters of this summer's TV hit "Under the Dome," they lived inside a closed ecosystem, under several white-roofed domes and a soaring glass pyramid. When the eight original "biospherians" emerged blinking into the Arizona sunshine after exactly two years—20 years ago this month, on Sept. 26, 1993—however, their experience was rated as anything but a hit. What had originally been hailed by *Discover* magazine as "the most exciting venture to be undertaken in the US since President Kennedy launched us toward the moon" would come to be viewed by *Time* as one of the "100 Worst Ideas of the Twentieth Century."

Today, after an interim management by Columbia University that sought to distance itself from the original Biosphere 2 experiment, the facility is run by the University of Arizona. You can tour the 3.45-acre campus and marvel at the facility that includes one of the world's largest greenhouses: 91 feet at its highest point; 7.2 million cubic feet of sealed glass; 6,500 windows; all sealed from not only from above but also

from the earth below, by a 500-ton welded stainless-steel liner; inside, 4,000 species and 20 tons of biomass. The guided tour includes a short film about the facility and the original experiment, though this introduction leaves out much of the colorful background that led to the \$150 million project. For that you'll need to pick up a book in the gift shop, *Dreaming the Biosphere*, by



The rain-forest biome.

Rebecca Reider.

Though less shy about Biosphere 2's eclectic saga than under Columbia's stewardship, the University of Arizona also touts its current experiments at the site on water use, solar energy and climate change. "This engineering marvel," says a brochure, "was created to better understand how natural environments create habitable conditions for human sustainability. It is a unique facility that can be used to understand the role of life on Earth and the effects of climate change."

In fact, however, the original impetus for creating Biosphere 2 wasn't improving life on Earth at all. It was to prepare for life off Earth—for example, on Mars.

The term "biosphere" was coined by Australian geologist Edward Suess in 1875 and elaborated upon by Vladimir Vernadsky, a Russian geochemist, in an obscure 1926 monograph. It refers to "the totality of living beings, together with the air, minerals and water that they controlled through biogeochemical cycles," according to Reider. "Biosphere" didn't enjoy much currency until the 1982 Institute for Ecotechnics Galactic Conference in southern France, where experimental architect Phil Hawes unveiled a model of a "biosphere" designed for life in space. Such starry ideas were hardly unusual at the conference: "Here people talk casually about retiring on Mars," one reporter wrote. "Here people talk about Mars as if it were France."

Hawes and another attendee, John Allen, had been part of a group in northern New Mexico in the 1970s called Synergia Ranch that Allen refused to call a "commune." Members also toured the country in a second-hand yellow school bus as a performance troupe called the "Caravan of Dreams" and later the "Theater of All Possibilities." Happily for what would become Biosphere 2, one of their supporters was Texas philanthropist and multi-millionaire investment mogul Ed Bass.

The group began to turn from theater to science after the Ecotechnics conference, founding Space Biosphere Ventures (SBV) in the early 1980s. Not long after, in the autumn of 1984, Allen, Bass and other Synergia alumni drove out into the desert north of Tucson to inspect 1,800 acres of former ranchland. "We're going into the space race," Allen told the group.

He had selected southern Arizona as the ideal location for a glassed-in biosphere because of the year-round sunlight. The site he had in mind had once been part of the CDO Ranch and now contained a small cluster of buildings used as a conference center, first by Motorola and then the University of Arizona.

A little over two years later, with funding from Bass' bottomless checkbook, SBV broke ground for what a swooning news media would call a "planet in a bottle" and a "greenhouse ark." The *Tucson Citizen* hailed the event as "nothing short of the first step to creating permanent life on another planet—if not the discovery of a New World, at least the making of one."

That was exactly what Allen and co-author Mark Nelson had in mind in their 1986 book, *Space Biospheres*. Warning of environmental catastrophe or nuclear armageddon, they argued that Biosphere 1—that is, Earth—"must disappear...

unless it can participate in sending forth offspring biospheres... to evolve off planet Earth."

Today, the shimmering glass pyramid and domes of Biosphere 2 appear like a mirage as you drive through the familiar landscape of Biosphere 1, park in a tree-studded lot and enter the standard-issue visitors' lobby. You pay an entrance fee, then exit outside and make your way past a little café and a covey of casitas built during the Columbia University era. Signs lead you down to the airlock where, on Sept. 26, 1991, the eight biospherians began their scientific adventure. Yours will take less than two hours; theirs lasted two years.

Entering the airlock is anticlimactic if you expected something out of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. There's a whooshing and then you're in. A few exhibits explain the current university research at the facility; you can peruse them while waiting for the next showing of the welcome film.

After the film, a jovial tour guide leads you to the first of Biosphere 2's five "biomes," meant to reproduce ecosystems from across the planet. The route passes by the farm area that fed—not very well, as it turned out—the eight biospherians, now another university experimental area.

Then, with a sharp spike in humidity, you enter the rain forest. Initially, the 20,000-square-foot area feels as though you've stepped from Arizona straight into the Amazon jungle. Trees soar more than 90 feet overhead into the heights of the glass-pyramid part of Biosphere 2. Bugs imported from South America creep and fly and crawl. But no birds sing or flit about and no lizards scuttle underfoot; it's hard enough keeping the smallest life forms from escaping to the neighboring "desert" or "marsh."

Next comes the ocean, though you'll get a better view—from down below, in an underwater, aquarium-like viewing room—if you take the optional self-



guided tour at the end. A wet rectangle with a small white rowboat improbably docked at one side, the coral-reef biome was filled with 100,000 gallons of actual sea water imported, coral critters and all, from the Pacific off San Diego. Another 650,000 gallons were added from local wells, salinized by mixing in a commercial sea salt called "Instant Ocean."

Today the ocean is being used as a testing bed for solutions to the "Pacific garbage patch"—a Texas-size agglomeration of plastic trash that's floating out here in Biosphere 1. Researchers are introducing different types of plastic to test what micro-organisms consume the plastic and what toxins are produced in the process.

Building the ocean was typical of the snags and delays that inevitably afflicted a project of this complexity. A convoy of milk trucks was hired



Inside the "fog desert" biome.



The indoor 750,000-gallon ocean and coral reef.

to haul the ocean water from San Diego harbor, but the trucks turned out to still contain milk residue that contaminated the seawater. Everything was dumped in the desert and the scrubbed-out trucks sent back to the Pacific to try again. The rain forest was planted before the biome could be sealed, so local insects invaded and Arizona deer gamboled in to munch on the exotic plantings. The mangroves for Biosphere 2's marsh had to be harvested before Florida's hurricane season hit, but their area of the project wasn't ready; a special greenhouse had to be built to contain them, only to be torn down once the marsh was prepared.

Populating Biosphere 2 with humans proved no less tricky. A pool of 14 applicants, among them many with ties to Synergia Ranch, was whittled to eight—four men and four women, ages from 20s to 67, representing a doctor and his assistant, two engineers and four science students. Two were a couple before entering the airlock, while another man and woman paired up soon after. Most were vegetarians.

One biospherian, asked years later by Reider about the selection criteria, replied, "By what they could contribute. And how much they could be controlled." John Allen would not be among those locked inside what was largely his creation, but he would be there very much in spirit.

Even before the airlock was sealed, problems arose in feeding the eight inhabitants: Two biospherians presented a report showing the closed ecosystem could not possibly produce adequate food. Allen promptly dropped them from the crew, although one had to be reinstated when no one could be found to take her place in time.

The rush to occupy Biosphere 2 also meant that the first mission began as the days started to get shorter and sunlight levels lower—compounded by an unusually cloudy El Niño weather pattern. That meant plants produced less food and converted less carbon dioxide into oxygen. On the other hand, the microbes in the soil feasted on an unusually nutrient-rich mix—meant to sustain Biosphere 2 for a hundred years—and competed with the humans for oxygen as they thrived.

High carbon-dioxide levels in the "atmosphere," combined with a super-compressed water cycle, caused carbonic acid to form. The resulting "acid rain" weathered the rocks inside a hundred times faster than they would have outside the dome, polluting fresh water in turn with dissolved materials.

After the rain forest, you tour that hard-won mangrove marsh, which combines fresh- and saltwater in what the guide calls the "kidneys of the ocean." Many places outside the dome that once had mangrove forests are now trying to regrow them for their environmental benefits, and may learn

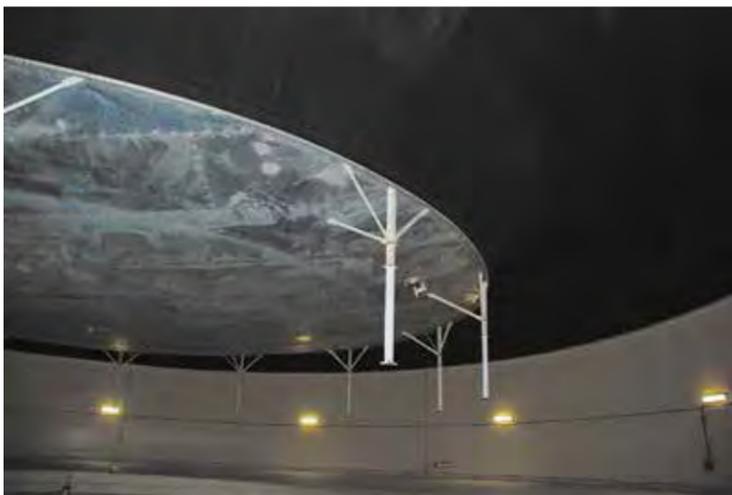
something from Biosphere 2.

Next comes the "fog" desert, built to re-create a coastal desert rather than the Sonoran aridity beyond the dome. The more temperate deserts of Baja California or Chile, with moisture coming off the ocean, proved more practical given that an artificial ocean was, well, just over there inside the dome. Today, a Northern Arizona University project uses the desert biome for a study of the weathering of rocks.

From there the tour goes underneath Biosphere 2 to view what makes the facility live and "breathe." The basement contains 52 "technospheres," machinery clusters the size of train cars that control the water temperature, electrical equipment and other functions that took 400 engineers and scientists to design. If the tour guides appreciate the irony that this ecological paradise relied on conventional generators (it's now on the grid) for 98% of its power—solar contributing only a meager 2%—they show no sign. The subject comes up only when inquisitive tourists ask questions.

(Reider encountered the same paradox in researching her book, interviewing the biospherians: "None of them seemed concerned by the massive fossil-fueled power plant that was literally sustaining their 'self-sustaining' world. They paid intense attention to carbon dioxide levels in Biosphere 2, where they could feel the effects of their own actions, but the project's effects on Biosphere 1 were harder to grasp, farther away.")

Low, hunch-down tunnels next take the tour to one of two "lungs"—giant diaphragms that equalize the air pressure throughout the facility. Each looks like a flying saucer, with a rubber membrane perched on an aluminum circle that raises and lowers as Biosphere 2 "breathes." The design, which won an international award, still functions even though the complex is no longer sealed.



Top: One of the "lungs" that "breathe" for Biosphere 2. Above: The complex infrastructure below the biomes.

Breathing proved to be one of the toughest challenges for the original eight biospherians. Compounding the environmental imbalances that led to a buildup of carbon dioxide at the expense of breathable oxygen, the concrete used in construction sucked in oxygen as it cured. The cause of this disappearing oxygen was at first a mystery, then a crisis. The biospherians found themselves panting as they did their 14 hours of daily chores. Some woke up at night, gasping for breath, and tried sleeping with masks hooked up to tanks of oxygen extracted from the internal atmosphere. As the first anniversary of entering the airlock approached, oxygen levels had fallen to 14.2%—equivalent to the thin air experienced climbing a 17,000-foot peak.

Finally, in January 1993, the managers in Biosphere 2's "Mission Control" threw in the towel on the dream of a totally closed system. Liquid oxygen

BIOSPHERE continued on next page

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BIOSPHERE continued

was pumped inside to raise levels to 19%.

This was not, however, the first crack in the closed system. Only two weeks after the airlock had been sealed, biospherian Jane Poynter sliced off the tip of her finger using a machine to thresh rice. Although the doctor inside sewed it back on, the damage required Poynter to exit the dome for a five-hour trip to a Tucson clinic.

The once-fawning press pounced on these perceived failures. But Biosphere 2's creators had set their own high standards: "No air, water or material will cross the airtight boundary of space-frame and glass between Biosphere 2 and the surrounding biosphere of Earth." After the experiment was over, the oddity of the endeavor and these cracks in the project contributed to a popular perception of Biosphere 2 as a flop—or worse. Besides *Time's* "Worst Ideas" list, the project earned an entire chapter in a book on "Twists and Turns of Bad Science." Comedian Pauly Shore spoofed Biosphere 2 in a movie, *Bio-Dome*.

Defenders of the original experiment point to the fact that the biospherians did tough it out for the entire two years, recycling 100% of their waste, and managed to grow 80% of their food, organically, on a scant half-acre of land.

Food, however, would be a constant concern during the two-year experiment—the biospherians were hungry most of the time. Part of the problem was simply that, as one put it, "We just plain were not good farmers." They learned fast, but other challenges of the closed ecosystem kept cropping up.

Pesticides were forbidden inside—not just for philosophical reasons, but because they would persist in the sealed environment. So insects, some of them rare outside the dome such as broad mites, thrived at the expense of agricultural efforts. The uninvited mites, which normally infest only greenhouses and mountainous tea plantations, exploded under Biosphere 2's unusual combination of high humidity and low light. Mites gobbled up the entire potato crop, and the biospherians resorted to blowing them and other bugs off plants with hairdryers.

In other cases the sealed world didn't have enough bugs—specifically, pollinators. Lacking wind and pollinators, the crew had to whack rice plants with sticks to release pollen and jiggle tomato plants with electric buzzers to encourage flowering.

At times, the hard-working biospherians were getting by on just 1,750 calories a day. After many failures with other crops, they settled on three that came to occupy two-thirds of the tiny arable land: beets, sweet potatoes and "lab-lab" beans (which they dubbed "blah-blah" beans). This diet was so rich in beta-carotene that some of the crew's hands turned orange.

Bananas from the rain forest supplemented this modest harvest, prepared in every imaginable way—porridge, stews, homemade banana wine. Coffee plants in the ersatz Amazon produced only enough beans for one cup per person every two to three weeks. A few pigs produced occasional meat and goats supplied a little milk. Fish raised in the rice paddies proved tiny. Chickens laid rare eggs.

Although they would regain some weight in year two, initially the men lost an average 18% of their body weight and the women, 10%. The heaviest biospherian dropped from 208 pounds to 150, accord-

IF YOU GO

Biosphere 2 is located off Hwy. 77 (Oracle Road) at milepost 96.5, approximately 20 minutes north of Tucson and 90 minutes south of Phoenix. It's open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. No reservations are required. Tours depart every 30-45 minutes from 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Admission is \$20 adults, \$18 military and seniors, \$13 children; \$2 AAA discount. A small café provides food on-site, and there is a gift shop. (520) 838-6200, info@B2science.org, B2science.org.

ing to Reider, "his old clothes hanging loosely on his bony frame."

Some pleaded with Mission Control to break the rules and send in food. Finally, shortly after the one-year anniversary, the biospherians began literally "eating their seed corn," consuming the extra grains and beans intended for use in planting future crops.

Many of the dome's non-human species found survival equally problematic. Only 6 of the 25 vertebrate species brought into Biosphere 2 survived. The hummingbirds in the rain forest all perished, possibly eaten by galagos monkeys ("bush babies"). All the bees and butterflies died out, either from a failure to reproduce or attacks by cockroaches and uninvited birds. (So common were the cockroaches that the crew vacuumed up the bugs and fed them to the chickens.)

The guided tour of Biosphere 2 ends in the quarters that the eight biospherians called home for 24 long months, two decades ago. Unlike the rest of the facility, the ironically now-glassed-in rooms look lost in time—like dorm rooms from the late 1980s, right down to the beige Touch Tone phones. The crew's red jumpsuits hang from a spiral-stair railing as though "Star Trek" had just been filming here.

"While the biospherians worked hard to take care of their Biosphere," Reider writes, "their own human relations fell apart." Factions quickly formed, and "disagreements flared into snide comments and insults." Poynter later reflected, "It was as if we were starting the process of divorce after a passionate love affair had gone awry, each party feeling betrayed by the other."

Nonetheless, they stuck it out, emerging to a crowd of 5,000 and an explosion of camera flashes. Ed Bass, who had spent not only \$150 million to build Biosphere 2 but also an estimated \$50-\$75 million in operating costs, greeted the eight as they emerged, their original close-fitting jumpsuits now noticeably baggy: "Welcome home."

On March 6, 1994, a second crew of seven entered the airlock for a yearlong Mission Two. But less than a month later, on April Fool's Day, Bass pulled the plug on SBV and got a court order locking out Allen and other founders—enforced by a posse of armed US marshals. The Mission Two crew came out after six months, barely halfway through their planned stay. Maintenance workers were ordered to destroy any physical artifacts of Allen and the other founders. Suit-coated business executives asked a Cherokee medicine man to ritually cleanse the place.

Biosphere 2's current management took over in 2007, after a \$30 million, 10-year gift from a Bass philanthropic arm to support the University of Arizona's research there. The land was bought by another Bass company. And now tourists come and go freely through the remarkable, wondrous, exotic and ultimately unlikely "greenhouse ark" adrift in the Arizona desert.

None of us is going to Mars any time soon. But at least we denizens of Biosphere 1 can visit Biosphere 2, for a glimpse of another world—so like our own, yet so dreamily different. ☘

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.



"Biospherian" living quarters.

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

A Breath of Fresh Air?

Fans and other improvements at Deming-area agricultural plants.

They have fans now! Food processing plants in Deming now have huge fans that actually keep people cool. This is a major step in making them better places to work.

I remember working at Border Foods a decade ago and rolling down my rubber gloves to just below the first row of knuckles because it was so unbearably hot. I remember having the sweat flow down my back and onto my behind as I worked on *la linea*, the conveyor belt where they peel the skins off chile. The chile had just been boiled, making the summer air hotter than it already was and steamy, too.

What they have now is not true air conditioning, which would cost much more, but it really does keep workers cool, people who work there say.

When I first worked at Border Foods, I was put in a room irreverently called the "hot box," where people slapped together cardboard boxes by hand. Its name fit. But later they bought a computer that made boxes and put air conditioning there to maintain the computer.

When I was working in the next room over, a woman near me stepped through the door into what used to be the "hot box" to bathe blissfully in the air conditioning for a minute or so during some downtime on the machine. I told her what they had the air conditioning for, and I remember the way she gasped at the injustice of it.

At the Billy the Kid onion shed at a big curve on the old road to Lordsburg, they've made dramatic improvements over the previous plant that was there, in terms of both comfort and safety. (The Mexicans say they're working at "*la curva*" or at "*Bili*.")

A friend of mine, Yoli, who works there talks breathlessly about the cafeteria they have there, the fans, several bathrooms, and how she has cold water right near her that she can drink. A young supervisor near her says, "Yoli, *cuidate* (take care of yourself), don't fall."

The staff tells them to go rest whenever they have a headache and take some pills. They tell them they are ready to take them to the hospital if they are seriously sick. She says the company pays for lunch time and breaks.

This is in stark contrast to what the building was like about a decade ago when Yoli and I first met. It was a different company, with 15 or 20 workers. There wasn't even a table to sit at to eat—people ate outside on a rock or in their cars. There was one bathroom, and there was no drinking water—clearly a code violation.

The larger number of employees now, something like 100, is a major reason for the changes. But when I went to the Billy the Kid plant a few weeks ago, I asked a man in the entryway why they had air conditioning and so forth.

He was Anglo and looked like a managerial type. "It's because farmworkers in California have been having a lot of lawsuits," he said.

It's heartening to hear that activism can actually have an effect. The rule is that it's not likely managers would improve work conditions just out of the goodness of their heart.

This season at Billy the Kid, employees worked phenomenally long hours. They often put in 15 hours a day, which is just under the legal limit of 16 hours as stated on a FAQ sheet at the New Mexico Workforce Connection website. On at least one occasion they worked 22 hours. The legality of this is unclear. The question is whether onion-shed workers are "farm hands" as stated on the FAQ sheet.

But workers are basically excited to be making so much per day in Deming. When I asked one young man who worked there if anybody objected to working so

long, he said, "There's always the door."

Border Foods now has Japanese owners, and I was told it is called Border Products, or Mizcan Foods. But it will be called Border Foods by a lot of people, including myself, for years. It's the largest chile plant in the US.

A lot has changed since I worked there, according to what I've heard. I think it's somewhat changed for the better.

There are the new fans, of course, although I was told by one man in the parking lot that there are still some rooms that are "very hot."

I've heard that they now give rubber boots to employees when they clean the floors at the end of their shift. It was a miserable, soggy job before.

Some dangerous machines that I worked on have been removed within the last couple of years. They had elevators that lifted pallets full of empty cans to a conveyor belt. Twice when I was working nearby, one of these accidentally slammed down to the floor in about half a second, which would have killed anyone underneath. Forklift operators now perform the same functions.

I've heard that what were called the "*planchas*" (irons) are still outside. These were machines that sealed cans, with a large, flat metal surface that presses down on top of them. When I worked there I heard that a man had had his head squeezed in one of these, and that he wasn't right mentally after that.

I regret I never investigated that case further, but know from experience that these people don't usually go around making up stories. Workers continue to have accidents at Mizcan, as I hear about anecdotally.

Some Mizcan Foods employees living in trailers north of town had some ideas on how things could be improved further.

A young, uneducated couple said that the video they watched before working showed a plant they weren't familiar with. They suggested the company should "take them [new employees] inside and show them what is dangerous."

The wife said the video showed some skull-and-crossbones symbols that were meant to warn of danger, but that they didn't see any of these at work. I have wondered myself if they could use that symbol to warn of dangerous places in the plant, for the sake of the many illiterate workers there. There are refrigerated rooms, floors slippery with chiles, and toxic chemicals to be wary of.

Another man, a Mexican civil engineer named Manuel Vargas, had the terrific idea that the staff could take a video camera around to all the work areas at Mizcan to teach new employees about the dangers. That wouldn't be hard to do.

"There's a lot more to do," Vargas says.

If these things get done, maybe the improvements will consist of more than just fans and other physical changes, and they'll have a workplace with a zero tolerance for accidents, too. ❁

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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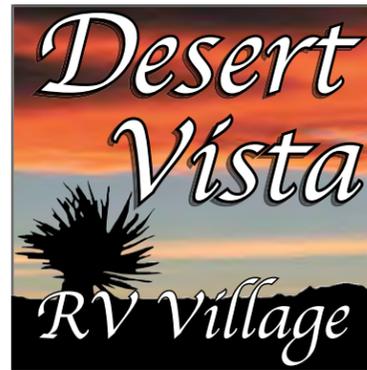
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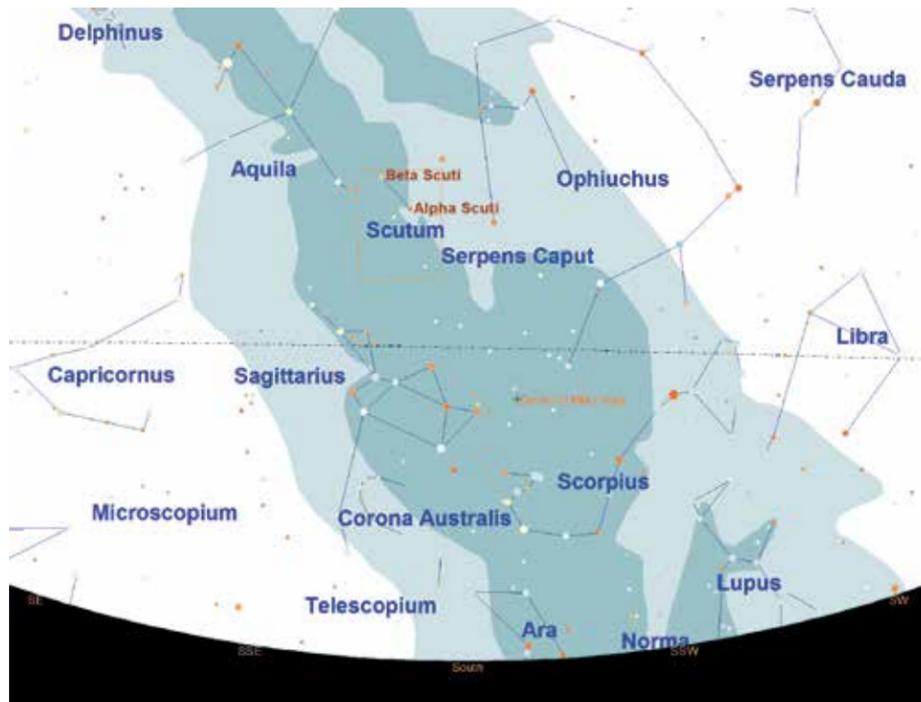
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Scutum, the Shield

Plus the planets for September.



Scutum, the Shield, is a rectangular constellation just above the teapot-shaped constellation Sagittarius. This Shield is decorated with the brightest part of the Milky Way, the Scutum Star Cloud. This bright area is unobscured by interstellar dust that dims other parts of the Milky Way.

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

Scutum is a small, rectangular constellation just north of Sagittarius, where the center of the Milky Way resides. Like Sagittarius, Scutum also has the Milky Way passing through it. Scutum is 84th in size among the 88 official constellations, with only a few deep-sky objects in it. On September evenings it can be found about halfway up in the southern sky.

Scutum is not one of the ancient mythological constellations, but rather was invented in 1684 by Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius and published posthumously in his 1690 catalog *Prodromus Astronomiae*. Its original name was *Scutum Sobiescianum* (the Shield of Sobieski), referring to Polish King Jan III Sobieski, who led forces of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth along with those of the Holy Roman Empire to defeat the Ottoman Empire near Vienna in 1683. This broke the Ottoman siege of Vienna and put the Habsburg dynasty solidly in control of the Holy Roman Empire and Central Europe. When Scutum became an official constellation, the name was shortened.

In north-central Scutum is a bright part of the Milky Way called the Scutum Star Cloud. This area is one of the brightest sections of the Milky Way, where the light coming to us from the stars beyond is unimpeded by the dust common in other areas of our galaxy. The Scutum Star Cloud has no official designation, but is rather obvious in our sky. It is not a cluster, nebula or other astronomical object, just a bright region along the Milky Way.

Many other areas of the Milky Way are dimmed by dust. We are all familiar with dust here on Earth—particles of the local soil small enough to be picked up by the wind and far too often deposited in our houses. But what constitutes dust out in the Milky Way (and other galaxies)?

Dust in space has nothing to do with soil at all. It is solid matter that is composed of various molecules sticking together. The dust is not the hard, round, grains that you might imagine, but forms rope-like strands that are bound together by molecular bonds. These molecules are made up of silicates, carbon, ice and/or iron compounds.

When you look at dust clouds in space, the most important thing that determines how the cloud looks is whether there is a nearby star in front of it. If there is such a star, its light falls on the dust cloud, illu-

minating it. Because of the size of the dust particles, they are more likely to reflect blue light, while red light still easily passes through. This means these illuminated clouds appear blue in photographs. In fact, almost all of the blue nebulae are dust clouds reflecting the blue light of a nearby star.

But what about the dust clouds lacking a nearby star? These dust clouds are not bright, but dark. Stars far behind the cloud have the blue part of their light scattered away, but some of the red light gets through with only slight scattering. This makes those background stars appear much redder and dimmer than they actually are.

These un-illuminated clouds often appear as dark areas in the Milky Way, with only the brightest stars shining through. Examples of these dark clouds include the area behind the Horsehead Nebula, the continental edges around the North American Nebula and the dark areas west of the Scutum Star Cloud. There are many more that are not associated with a bright nebula. Small dark nebulae where star formation may be occurring are called Bok Globules, after Dutch-American astronomer Bart Bok who first studied these objects in the 1940s. Perhaps our own Sun was born on a Bok Globule some 5 billion years ago.

The Planets for September

Making a very poor appearance in our evening sky this month is **Mercury**. Due to the tilt of its orbit, Mercury is traveling southeastward across the already southward-leaning ecliptic that is in the western sky at this time of year. This means that for northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will not get very high above the western horizon. It will first appear in the west during the second week of the month. It will

Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

- Sept. 5,** 5:36 a.m.—New Moon
7 a.m.—Venus 1.8 degrees north of Spica
- Sept. 8,** evening—Venus, Spica and Moon together in western sky
- Sept. 12,** 11:08 a.m.—First Quarter Moon
- Sept. 19,** 5:13 a.m.—Full Moon
6 p.m.—Venus 4 degrees south of Saturn
- Sept. 22,** 2:44 p.m.—September Equinox
- Sept. 24,** 1 p.m.—Mercury 0.8 degrees north of Spica
- Sept. 26,** 9:55 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon

then travel slowly southward only five degrees above the horizon as it gets dark. It will not even reach its farthest distance from the Sun until next month. At midmonth, the Messenger of the Gods' disc will be 5.2 seconds-of-arc across and 87% illuminated. It shines at magnitude -0.3, setting just before 8 p.m. Mercury starts the month in Leo, moving into Virgo where it ends the month in the south-central part of that constellation. It passes 0.8 degrees north of Spica on Sept. 24.

Venus will pass Spica earlier in the month, on Sept. 5, when it will be 1.8 degrees north of that first-magnitude star. Venus starts the month in Virgo, moving into central Libra where it ends the month. The Goddess of Love is about 16 degrees up in the west-southwest as it gets dark and sets by 9 p.m. At midmonth it is magnitude -4.1 with a disc that is 16.4 seconds-of-arc across and 69% illuminated, becoming thinner every day.

Saturn is magnitude +0.7 at midmonth, shining out from western Libra, where it is moving slowly eastward. The disc is 15.7 seconds-of-arc across with the Rings spanning 35.6 seconds-of-arc. They are tilted down 18.7 degrees with the northern face showing. Saturn is getting lower each day, only 20 degrees up in the west-southwest as it gets dark and setting around 9:20 p.m. Venus will pass 4.0 degrees south of Saturn on Sept. 19.

Jupiter rises around 1:30 a.m. in the east-northeast. Moving slowly eastward in central Gemini, Jupiter's disc is 36.0 seconds-of-arc across and it is 59 degrees up in the east-southeast as it gets light. The King of the Gods glows at magnitude -2.1.

Mars rises around 3:30 a.m. and is 34 degrees up in the east as it gets light. The Red Planet moves eastward from west-central Cancer into western Leo during September. It is magnitude +1.6 with a disc that is 4.2 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

It is equinox time again; this time the Sun crosses the equator traveling north to south. In the northern hemisphere, this marks the beginning of autumn on Sept. 22 at 2:44 p.m. Nights will keep getting longer, so you will have more and more time to "keep watching the sky"! 🌌

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



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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Drive, He Said

The new slacker generation doesn't even care about driving.

As a scion of the Great American West, I am enamored by the distant horizon and the infinite landscapes that surround me. Unlike our more urbane American cousins along the two seaboards, we squinty-eyed westerners are undaunted by the prospect of piloting a clap-trap pickup truck dozens of miles across coyote-infested, moisture-less wastelands just to buy a bag of chicken feed. Whether that pickup starts with an actual ignition key or a screwdriver jammed into the slot, to live in the West is to have access to motorized transportation and the ability to conquer great distances in it. Getting my first driver's license was a passage into adulthood far more momentous than the advent of secondary body hair. So how is it that many of today's generation eschew the ownership of something so indispensable as a license, much less a motor vehicle?

Recently, since my truck's radio is permanently stuck on NPR (the knobs fell off in 1997), I heard it reported that the independence of the automobile is losing its allure with today's teenagers. The venerable relationship between the nation's teen culture and the automobile is fading because kids are driving less, getting their licenses later and rejecting the bourgeois concept of auto ownership. According to the American Automobile Association, two-thirds of kids had their license by age 18 just 20 years ago, but only half do today. Like backward baseball caps and neck tattoos, this is another indicator that our kids are still nibbling on lead-based paint.

Demonstrating exemplary journalistic integrity, the NPR reporter proceeded to interview some slacker children in and around Modesto, Calif., where the classic car-culture movie *American Graffiti* was set. They interviewed a 19-year-old girl who doesn't have a driver's license and was dropped off at the movies by her parents. "If there was something that was out there forcing me to get out there and actually get my license I probably would," she drooled. "But there's, like, your parents, so you have something to depend on...." I'm sure those parents are proud beyond belief.

Of the six kids interviewed, only one had a license. The others depended on their friends, girlfriends, parents or hobos for rides. One of them said that driving around town has been replaced by documenting life on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. I would suggest that Facebook, Twitter and Instagram be replaced by a measure of pride and self-sufficiency.

I doubt this is any sort of a social statement about the evils of the fossil-fuel chugging automobile. Modesto isn't a densely packed urban paradise with a multitude of public transportation options, so it can't be a function of urban infrastructure. I also think it

has nothing to do with the operating costs of a hooty since Craigslist is festooned with wheezing hulks that still technically function, for less than the price of a big-screen TV. And here in New Mexico, it's not like they need to be insured or anything. So why are so many kids indifferent to the prospect of driving?

It's easy: Why buy the cow when you get the milk for free? As parents, we are a generation of enablers. We misinterpreted the definition of what constitutes a good parent as whelping a child who wants for nothing. From sneakers with blinking lights and kid-centric pilgrimages to Disneyland to attending endless Little League games and annual public-school graduation ceremonies in the name of instilling self-esteem, today's kids honestly think every snowflake is special and that the universe is grateful for their existence. In a world without consequences, there are no responsibilities, and whether it's society as a whole or the parental units in particular, there is no shame in dependence.

I'm not sure if a similar Peter Pan attitude prevails in our slice of desertified heaven as it does in Modesto, but I have met actual young people who don't like driving and don't own cars, depending instead on others for transportation. This concept is as nonsensical to me as an Amish computer programmer or a French soldier.

I fear that such youthful complacency bodes ill for our future, as our geography requires productive citizens to traverse substantial distances at extra-legal velocities just to get things done. Driving is tantamount to having a job, taking care of your family, and having the ability to bug out when the zombie apocalypse happens. Of course, maybe I'm overlooking the possibility that my friends can pick me up and shoot the zombies for me, so all I will need to do is look pretty.

Choosing not to participate in gas-fired mobility for fear of harming the planet is one thing, but throwing yourself on the altar of dependence to other, more responsible people because it's easier isn't really the stuff legends are made of. Just as I wouldn't buy an alcoholic a cocktail, I don't believe any of us should give a ride to the slackers who choose to be burdensome. Enabling a lack of motivation is hardly part of the code of the West. ☘

I have met actual young people who don't like driving and don't own cars, depending instead on others for transportation.

Henry Lightcap parks in Las Cruces.





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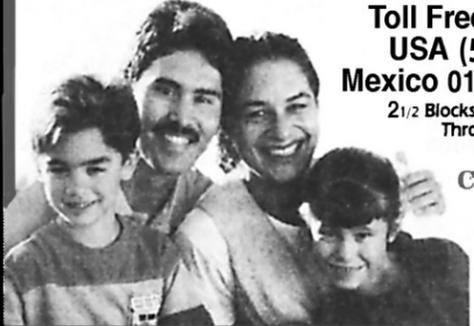
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • JOHN CATSIS

Diary of a Caregiver

When his wife's ailing parents moved in, everything changed.
Second of four parts.

Editor's note: When Silver City author John Catsis' in-laws, Harry and Vera, moved from San Antonio, Texas, so Catsis and his wife could care for them, he began keeping a diary. He shared the first part last issue, and the story continues here.

May 5, 2012

Special day. Cinco de Mayo, Buddha's birthday, and most important, my wife Connie's birthday, 67. Vera had me buy Connie a strawberry/rhubarb pie and flowers to mark the day. I'd gotten Connie a small window air conditioner for her art studio. Harry forgot the day.



May 7, 2012

For the first time in weeks Vera left the house. She accompanied Harry to see the podiatrist, as a follow-up to his toenail removal. While Connie was parking the car, Vera asked why Connie was not in the waiting room with us. "She doesn't like you anymore," I said. Once again I had made a joke without thinking. How would she react?

Minutes later Vera decided she'd had enough of people, and announced she would wait in the car. Uh-oh, I thought. My heedless comment had affected her, after all. Fortunately, as I learned later, I was wrong. She probably hadn't heard me. And when I confessed to Connie what I had said, she roared with laughter. "You've got to put this in your diary," she said. So here it is.

The doctor pronounced Harry's right big toe healing nicely, with no further checkups required.

May 10, 2012

When I gave Harry the morning paper, I asked how he was doing. "Not well," he replied. Then he went on to indicate that

he was ready for his life to end, wishing he had a pistol with which to do it. That's the first time he's said something like this.

May 13, 2012

On this Mother's Day Connie invited her mom to join us for dinner on our deck. Vera was not in a good mood. During the meal, when I mentioned her nephew, Steve, she bristled, and indicated she had no use for him. Interesting, because it was Steve, and his helper, Juan, who cleared all of Harry's many vehicles from a rental property last year, saving \$300 a month in rent. Over the years, Harry had collected more than 40 vehicles of various types, all requiring extensive repairs, most of which were never completed. Steve's cleanup of this collection had been a herculean task. At the same time he also supervised the repair of the roof and replacement of the fascia boards on their residence. But because this work had not been done on a schedule that would have satisfied Vera, she was angry.

Later, I talked to Connie about this, and asked if she'd noticed any change in her mother. "Not really," was the reply, "except mom told me she was now getting tired of taking care of Harry."

Connie also said her mother was talking more about going to Air Force Village, a retirement facility in San Antonio. Six months ago, that was out of the question. Connie sees this as a transition from anger to acceptance.

May 22, 2012

Harry could not find his penis in order to urinate. He told Vera it had retracted into his body. She couldn't find it, either. Connie called Hospice, who told her someone would be over within the hour to insert a catheter.

May 29, 2012

This morning, I was seated at my computer when I heard Vera approaching, commenting about being "pissed off." As she entered, I asked her who she was pissed off at. "You," she said angrily. The scowl was unmistakable.

She claimed to have overheard me saying I planned to charge her daughter and daughter's husband rent during their stay here next week, while we went on a trip to Taos. I told her that wasn't true. Connie, standing at the doorway, confirmed my statement.

"I know what I heard," Vera said loudly. "I'm not stupid." The exchange of words became louder, as she continued to insist that she heard me correctly. Finally, I found myself shouting, "It's not true."

Connie explained that we had prepared a seven-page set of instructions for them during their stay. Vera dismissed the instructions as unnecessary. But before she stormed from my office, I handed her a copy.

An hour later I encountered Vera at the fridge, getting ice. "Hey, I want to talk to you, John," she said loudly.

Here we go again, I thought. "Those instructions you prepared were quite good," she said. "I'm sorry for what I said." It didn't sound like a full-fledged apology, but I would not let the moment pass.

"Your apology is accepted," I replied, putting my arm around her. The crisis had ended. But for how long?

June 2, 2012

Vera wants to go home. Never mind that Harry is in no condition to travel. Never mind that Vera is incapable of running a home by herself. Never mind that she is now beginning to become more and more disorganized. Never mind that she cannot fully care for her husband. Never mind that Connie prepares meals for her parents and oversees medical and hospice care and does their shopping, jobs that take up most of her waking day. Never mind all that.

Vera wants to go home. Connie does not disagree. What good would it do to argue? Harry told Connie he was also ready and prepared to drive. All this can change quickly. Who knows?

June 7, 2012

We leave for Taos today! Both Connie and I are excited.

June 15, 2012

We are back and everyone is alive. From what we have been able to gather, the week went smoothly. It appears Harry and Vera were well taken care of.

June 21, 2012

Daniel Franchette, a Hospice case nurse, visited Harry today. Afterward, Connie and I had a long talk with him. Two points stuck with us. First, he believes Harry has dementia, not Alzheimer's, and second, Harry seems to be improving, which may result in "graduation." That means Hospice will no longer take care of him. Something called "home care" then takes over, also covered by Medicare. As Daniel explained, Hospice is preparing for one's death. Home care is for restoring one's health. A patient can be rotated in and out of Hospice, apparently any number of times.

July 5, 2012

Harry officially was graduated from Hospice today. Daniel came to our home with the paperwork. As part of the "graduation ceremony," Connie was required to return the morphine Hospice had left with her. The contents were poured into a small plastic bag containing sand, rendering the medication useless. Daniel took it with him. As he walked out the door I heard Connie remark, "Hospice people are angels." Daniel probably heard her.

July 9, 2012

It's my birthday. Harry and Vera joined Connie and me on our deck for a birthday breakfast, complete with cinnamon rolls that Vera had baked that morning. They repeated their desire to return to Texas. Connie has told them she will take them soon after her final eye appointment in Tucson, which is scheduled for July 25.

The trip to Texas would be in early August. And what could be more wonderful than San Antonio in August?

July 11, 2012

Harry fell twice today. The first time was when he was out on our deck, chatting with a volunteer. Because of a recent case of soreness and raw skin on his buttocks, brought on by bed sores, Harry decided to change chairs. In the process, he fell, skinning a knee. Fortunately the volunteer was able to get Harry back on his feet.

That evening he fell again, when he decided to get out of bed to return a newspaper to a bookshelf. I was not home, which meant Connie and Vera had to work together to get him up and into bed. The brunt of the work was up to Connie. At one time Vera might have helped. Thirty years ago she had lifted a car that slipped off a jack, pinning Harry underneath. Vera's effort probably saved his life.

Tonight's fall injured Harry's back and caused cuts on a toe and finger. Connie bandaged the wounds and provided a heating pad for his back.

When I returned home, Connie had just finished helping her dad. "I now believe he needs to be in a nursing home," she told me later, then adding: "I can't believe I just said that. I'm a grownup now, but after seven months of living with my parents I feel I am reverting to a 13-year-old again. I'm not. I've got to buck up."

July 12, 2012

I got a call from Air Force Village in response to an email I'd sent, asking for more information and a price list. When I mentioned that Harry was in need of regular care, the representative said "that would be more difficult." He explained that most retirees enter Air Force Village needing minimal care, then "transition" to more accelerated care.

Later in the day, Vera encouraged Harry to spend some time out on their deck. In the process, Vera locked themselves out. She had to re-enter from our side of the house to get back to her husband, still on the deck, oblivious to what had happened.

Tonight, Connie had a meeting to attend. When Vera spotted her leaving I told Vera, "It's just you and me tonight. Keep Harry in bed."

Harry did not stay in bed. I was watching TV when Vera came to my room, asking for help. Harry was on

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the floor again.

I found him on his knees. After Vera and I got him back in bed, I asked why he'd gotten up. "I was trying to get to my walker, so I could get to my car," Harry answered. He said he was preparing to go to San Antonio. "What car do I have outside?"

"None," I replied kindly. "You don't have any cars, outside. Now please stay in bed." Harry replied by pursing his lips, as if asking for a kiss. I declined the offer.

An hour later, Connie returned home. "I understand you had an adventure," she said, smiling, as if to say, "This time it was your turn."

That's when Vera told Connie she was ready for Air Force Village.

July 14, 2012

Connie made an appointment for her and her mom to have a massage. If there's one thing that will get Vera out of the house it's a massage. Good thing, because each time Vera expressed an interest in going to town for any reason, she would later change her mind, saying she was not feeling well. Once, she was fully dressed when she decided to stay home. It's now two months since she last left the house for a trip to town.

I was sure this would not happen with the upcoming massage, but it did. Connie went alone.

That evening, Vera came to the kitchen to get some ice. We chatted briefly about Harry's health. "I didn't think it would take this long," she said, turning to leave. That's the first time she's said anything like that... to me.

July 25, 2012

Connie's sister Monica had come down from Santa Fe to care for her folks while we made another trip to Tucson for Connie to see a retina specialist.

We had barely left Silver City when Connie's cell phone rang. It was one of the new caregivers who wanted to confirm an appointment. As we entered Arizona, the phone rang again. This time it was Monica. Vera had mistakenly given our dog, Opa, two heart medications, thinking they were dog treats. "Who is your veterinarian?" she asked. What an ominous question. Was Opa OK? Monica assured us she was. She just wanted to be cautious.

"Seems even with help from your sis," I said, "we can't escape caring for your parents. The problems follow us, no matter where we are." We discussed taking further precautions around the house, such as securing all medications, making it easier to move around both living areas by removing cutesy decorations and making passage spaces wider. This should not be difficult, as Connie is a retired interior-design professor.

At the retina specialist Connie learned the problem in her left eye was improving, but had not yet cleared up. The doctor then injected a \$2,550 shot. Fortunately, there is an organization that provides financial support for patients like her. Unfortunately, we must return to Tucson for another checkup next month.

July 30, 2012

Connie and Vera were together, going through documents this morning, as I approached. "Ah, I'm glad you're here," said Connie, shoving some papers in my hand. "Check these out to determine their status."

They were three insurance policies. All were folded tightly and rubber-banded together. The yellowing documents had dates going back to 1959. I was told to learn if the policies were still in force, and if they were paid up. The face values were shown on the front of each.

One insurance-firm representative would not provide any information unless she received approval directly from Harry. So I took the cordless phone to Harry's bedroom. "This is Ellen on the phone," I told him. "She wants your OK to talk to me."

It took a few moments to clarify the situation and to get Harry to respond without cracking jokes. Harry always enjoyed making light of nearly everything. "If you don't," he once told me, "then it gets too heavy." I'd warned Ellen about Harry's jocular dementia. Finally, when she was satisfied, I received the needed information.

August 2, 2012

We had just finished breakfast and Connie and I were in the kitchen cleaning up. "What's that noise?" Connie asked. At first she thought it was coming from my office, but then realized it was coming from the her parents' suite.

Two minutes later she returned. "It was their smoke alarm. Mom burned the toast."

Oops. We hadn't provided a fire extinguisher. I would correct that right away. I found three in our kitchen. I cleaned up the nicest one and installed it.

August 4, 2012

Connie told me she plans to take Vera to the Farmer's Market this morning. "Sure," I said somewhat sarcastically, not disguising my disbelief at the idea of Vera actually leaving the house.

At 11:30 I found Connie in bed. "Hey, Farmer's Market closes in half an hour. You and your mom will barely have time to make it."

"This time I'm the one who doesn't feel like going," she said.

That night, Harry invited Vera to join him in his bed. Connie tried to tell him that his twin bed was too small for the two of them. "Well, I guess I can miss not sleeping with Vera for a night or two," he replied.

Actually, it has been thousands of nights, going back to San Antonio 10 years ago. ☘

John Catsis moved to Silver City in 2007 after a long career in broadcast journalism. He recently published his first novel, Fulltimers—The Adventures of Lou and Martha, available at the Silver City Museum gift shop and at KOA.

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Body, Mind & Spirit • Cindy Donatelli

Staffing Up

The challenges of staffing the Affordable Care Act in Southwestern New Mexico.

The Affordable Care Act, more familiarly known as Obamacare, is just about to kick into high gear, as crucial parts of the legislation become effective in the next few months. On Oct. 1, 2013, the Healthcare Exchanges will be open for business—Expedia-like websites that will allow people to sign up for health insurance offered online. There will also be personal and phone-in support to ensure that everyone is able to register, even if you do not have access to a computer.

In New Mexico, currently 415,000 people lack any kind of health insurance. It is projected that by 2014, up to 172,000 of the state's uninsured population will receive coverage either through Medicaid expansion or through participation in the health insurance exchanges. The latter will offer subsidies to those who earn between 133% and 400% of the poverty level (as established by the US government) to make health insurance more affordable.

On Jan. 1, 2014, all US citizens will be required to have health insurance, or face fines. Pre-existing conditions will no longer determine who qualifies for coverage, and health insurers, by law, will have to offer certain set standards of care.

It is obvious that this is going to create huge changes in healthcare delivery. Changes in the implementation dates for certain key provisions of the act have been in the news just recently, an indication that we are all still in flux with all these changes just a few months away.

But here, I want to consider not the implementation of the act itself, but the consequences for patient care here in New Mexico, in both the short and long term. In a state already underserved by healthcare practitioners, new patients who enter the system in 2014 will create a wave of demand for healthcare that almost certainly cannot be met by the status quo. There is no question that we will need more primary care practitioners, as well as nurses. A report by the Department of Health submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee in May 2013 declares: "In the near-term, the lack of supply will result in longer wait times to see a provider and more difficulty accessing specialists."

On top of that, New Mexico's population is graying: By 2030, New Mexico will rank fourth in the nation in the proportion of the population over age 65. Since older individuals are more likely to be heavy users of healthcare, it will be an even greater challenge to provide adequate healthcare delivery given the demographic projections in the state.

So how will we increase our capacity for health delivery to meet these challenges, especially when 13.5% of physicians in New Mexico "report they plan to retire or to significantly reduce their patient care hours," according to the Department of



Michael Harris, FNP-C at Silver Health CARE, part of the "mid-level" solution to healthcare staffing challenges.

Health? First of all, we must recognize that the entire population does not require the same level of care. There will be changes in healthcare delivery. An effort is underway to coordinate the care of patients with multiple chronic illnesses by establishing "medical homes." Relatively healthy patients will require low levels of care with more emphasis on preventative approaches. But even if we achieve greater efficiency and economy in healthcare delivery, we will still need new practitioners to meet the increased demand.

According to the Department of Health's report, the answer seems to demand that "mid-levels"—nurse practitioners and physician assistants—play a greater role in primary care. While nurse practitioners currently practice independently without restrictions on their license, physician assistants, while they may see patients on their own, must practice under the supervision of a physician. For example, Silver Health CARE is able to provide improved access to both primary care and urgent care because it has three nurse practitioners and six physician assistants on staff, who see and treat a considerable number of patients.

Indeed, a recent survey reported that patients are more willing to be seen by mid-levels, especially when there was a long wait time to see a physician or when they have already been treated by a mid-level. The key role of the mid-level in healthcare is still not entirely clear to the public because of greater prominence accorded historically to the role that doctors play in the medical system. More mid-level primary care providers will keep people healthy by monitoring emerging medical problems before they become chronic or life-threatening.

Yet while the legislative report recognizes that mid-levels would provide the healthcare delivery necessary for the new patient population, the report also recognizes that New Mexico does not have enough training programs to increase this mid-level labor force quickly enough. Recruitment from other states will no doubt prove difficult since the needs for mid-levels are just as great elsewhere in the country.

Recruitment from other states will no doubt prove difficult since the needs for mid-levels are just as great elsewhere in the country.

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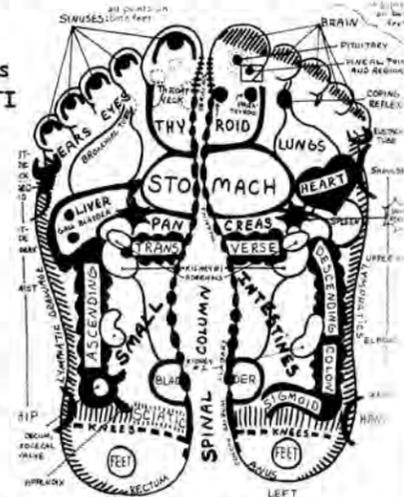
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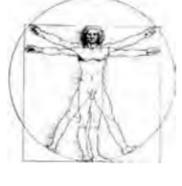
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The unequal distribution of the healthcare workforce in New Mexico exacerbates the problem in rural areas like Grant County. Southwestern New Mexico has 10% of the doctors in the state, compared to Bernalillo County, where 41% of the state's physicians practice. The report concludes by proposing an increase in the number of training programs for mid-levels in New Mexico. Economically, mid-levels cost much less to educate; training costs are estimated at 20-25% the cost of a physician. The report also suggests revisiting the requirement that physician assistants work under the supervision of an MD by granting them the same independence as nurse practitioners once they have been supervised clinically for three to five years.

New patients who enter the system in 2014 will create a wave of demand for healthcare that almost certainly cannot be met by the status quo.

While southwestern New Mexico will face challenges as a rural area, we begin with an inherent advantage in having two well-established, successful clinics to treat patients in Grant, Luna, Hidalgo and Grant counties, as well as the Gila Regional Medical Center. Silver Health CARE, established in 1975, is now in its 39th year of continuous operation. It began as a practice of two physicians, Dr. John Bell and Dr. Samuel D. Dye, who were later joined by Dr. James Skee in 1981. Over the years, the clinic has expanded dramatically to improve accessibility for all patients in the area.

In addition to the main clinic and The Family Clinic in Silver City, clinics have been opened in Deming and Bayard. Urgent Care Clinics for walk-ins in Deming and Silver City provide an affordable alternative to the emergency room for minor illnesses and injuries. Urgent Care was set up to give patients access to care without an appointment; by being open weekends and evenings, it gives patients an option when other offices may be closed.



Marvin White, PA at Silver Health CARE.

Hidalgo Medical Services is the other well-established medical clinic for patients in these counties. HMS originally received state and federal funds to meet the medical needs of Hidalgo County, but its services and clinic locations have expanded dramatically over the past 18 years. Originally established in a trailer behind the hospital in 1995, HMS currently operates seven clinics in Hidalgo and Grant Counties, and celebrated the opening of the impressive HMS Silver City Community Health Center in February 2013, which offers primary care, dental and behavioral healthcare,

and family support services at one site.

Both clinics have shown themselves to be proactive in adapting to change, and that bodes well for the expansion of quality healthcare for the patients of southwestern New Mexico, even with the upcoming challenges of the Affordable Care Act. HMS has used its *promotoras* to promote health education and preventative care among marginalized and vulnerable communities, and to offer other patient-oriented services. HMS's sliding scale has allowed the extension of healthcare to those who can least afford it, a precursor to one of the main goals of the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA. Most recently, HMS has established a Family Practice

Residency program, which is intended to bring in doctors who might decide to settle in our communities to provide primary care.

Silver Health CARE, in addition to its physical expansion into more communities, has been a cutting-edge innovator in healthcare delivery. Silver Health CARE has been acknowledged as the state leader in the introduction of electronic medical records; the clinic switched over to electronic records in 2001, thereby anticipating one of the goals of the ACA. With a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified lab onsite, Silver Health CARE is able to provide patients with faster and more convenient results at an affordable cost. A secure patient portal, WebView, allows patients to view their medical records online, and plans are underway to expand the communicative capacities of these portals between practitioner and patient.

There have also been very successful collaborations between Hidalgo Medical Services and Silver Health CARE that have as their goal improved health education and access. The Medication Assistance Program was developed by Silver Health CARE and was later shared by both clinics. It continues to offer counseling at both sites to help those who have difficulty purchasing prescribed drugs, assisting them in determining which among the myriad plans best meets their needs. Health fairs and other educational events have been joint efforts as well, where the two clinics have cooperated along with other health-related organizations in our county.

While the implementation of the Affordable Care Act is going to be a bumpy ride for all over the next few months, we can perhaps all agree that the goal of the act, to provide access to healthcare for as many as possible, is laudable. We in Southwestern New Mexico can be encouraged that we have well-established and innovative healthcare organizations in place to make the changes necessary to adapt to the increased patient demand for medical services.

Cindy Donatelli is in charge of advertising, marketing and public relations at Silver Health CARE. For appointments, call (575) 538-298 in Silver City and (575) 544-4422 in Deming.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • JEAN EISENHOWER

The Wisdom of Gardens

Growing benefits for body, mind and soul.

The space around one's home can offer life-changing benefits to one's body, mind and soul (and of course one's pocketbook, too). Getting all the benefits at once requires a "design mind," what some have called "pattern literacy," and the perseverance to work a sometimes-complicated puzzle.

The life-changing benefits are worth it!

Benefits to the Body

A good garden design can deflect strong winds. It can shade special areas in summer and warm them in winter. It can direct rainfall to the gardens or into tanks while keeping other places mostly dry, saving work, making one more comfortable. It can even help protect one's home from fire.

A good design can provide healthy, organic food and natural medicine, more oxygen, and cleaner air.

A good design can make outdoor chores easier, more efficient and more pleasant.

Benefits to Mind

A good design can provide a nurturing place for private reflection, reading, art and visiting with friends and family.

A good design can absorb unpleasant noise, block less-than-lovely views, and accentuate the most pleasing scenery.

Benefits to Soul

A good design can provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife whose presence can delight us and remind us of eternal realities.

A good design can help us recycle and in many ways be more responsible with our little piece of Earth and all the resources flowing through our lives.

A good design can encourage us to spend more time with trees and other plants, which philosopher/mystics like Paracelsus, Rudolph Steiner and others have credited with providing valuable spiritual insights to humans through the ages.

A good design can help us learn about other living things and give us tangible feedback on our growing consciousness.

Benefits to Pocketbook

A good design can save us money on food, water, medicine and even entertainment: If home is so wonderful, why go anywhere else?

A good design can extend a home's living space and add significant beauty, both increasing the value of one's property.

The Design

So, how do we create this truly good design? I learned my skills 24 years ago in my training as a Permaculture designer. I define Permaculture as a philosophy, a practice and an ongoing conversation across cultures, bridging indigenous and modern



The author's terrace, before (top) and after.

people, sharing techniques and ideas for living sustainably on Earth. It can be applied to small gardens (even patios), neighborhoods, large landscapes needing restoration, communities, and even towns and cities needing rebirth.

The first step is observation, maybe lasting a year or more, humbly setting aside what we think we know and being willing to ask questions: Why have skunks, or deer, chosen to frequent this area? Why do those weeds thrive there? Why do I never use this area?

The second step in my process is to create a map with legal boundaries and constraints, such as easements, fence-height limitations and utility lines (check with the city on all these),

buildings (with their heights noted), topography, existing plants and soil types, etc.

The third step is to analyze the elements: What elements (trees, other plants, animals, buildings) exist or are hoped for, what does each element require, and what does each element produce? For instance, a fruit tree needs good soil, water on a certain schedule and to certain depths, nutrition at certain times, pruning, protection from insect predators and poorly timed frosts, and more. It will produce not only fruit, but leaf "litter," shade, windbreak, wood and more. When a list of needs and products is created for every element, a good designer will plan to have each element's products supply its own and/or other elements' needs.

The fourth step is to analyze the energies moving through one's property: the winds (both prevailing and daily thermals), the sun's rays (daily and seasonally), water (rain and downspout), cold air flow, noise, wildlife, erosion, etc. These can be plotted on a series of maps.

Zones

The fifth step is to analyze the zones of human activity, beginning with the house. The first zone, the house plus the areas nearest the most-used door(s), is where to plan for daily activities like harvesting herbs or tomatoes for a meal, taking out kitchen compost, watching the children play, watering the garden, collecting eggs and feeding the chickens, and maybe taking a path to and from the house and town.

The second zone is for activities performed a little less often: hanging out clothes and taking out trash.

Zone three (these last three usually only on larger lots) might contain fruit orchards, bees and maybe goats; zone four will be for grazing larger animals and planting hardwood trees and other plants with long-term value and little maintenance; and zone five will be left wild for our personal education about things such as plant succession and perhaps some moderate wildcrafting.

Within each zone, a design needs to also consider the elements over time: how tall a tree will grow, what's to fill the lateral space until the tree reaches maturity, and how various elements might be "stacked," for instance, ground cover beneath shrubs and vines winding up trees—especially when these can share needs and products.

The Puzzle

When the analysis is complete, the puzzle may seem impossible! But the longer I am here on my tiny, one-10th acre of rocky land with a house, small shop, vehicles and

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a corner with height restrictions, the more I discover I can do!

And it's important to recognize that the puzzle is ongoing. First, it's easier and smarter to implement a design in stages, so we can actually live with parts before other parts are envisioned. Second, life changes constantly, so the design will usually change as we live with it. I'll share two of my design challenges and solutions.

Water

When I moved onto this lot seven years ago, my biggest priority was redirecting roof runoff away from the house and toward where I planned to have gardens.

I didn't want all this water to flow into the street, as bad design over a century ago has famously turned certain roadways around here into creeks during rainy periods, and I certainly didn't want to contribute to that. I also wanted to harvest the value—"turning a problem into a resource," a primary tenet of Permaculture.

Therefore, I created a long swale (a shallow depression with a berm on the downslope side) to move the deluge alongside the one-day gardens to a deep tree basin near the western boundary, then back east, again slightly downgrade, all the way across the property to a garden on the opposite side. Then I graded the rest of the land slightly to flow into this swale or other gardens, so that today not a drop of water flows into the street. Because of this, and because I mulch my gardens thickly, I don't have to water as often during the summer.



Living in Harmony with the Hidden World of Nature Spirits from Fairies to Quarks
 BY PETER TOMPKINS
 One of the 87 New York Times Bestsellers, The Secret Life of Nature

Growing on Rock

This property was long ago carved out of a solid granite hillside and has virtually no native soil on it. So my second major project was creating garden beds and holes in which to plant trees—speeding up a process that might otherwise take hundreds of years. Garden terraces were made of dry-stacked stone placed alongside the rock hill about three feet high, and tree holes were picked two feet deep into the granite ground.

Though I initially purchased garden soil and still occasionally purchase it, I've been working to be more soil-self-sufficient by making it from my own organic kitchen compost and garden debris, all of which is rich in essential nitrogen and creates excellent soil to grow in.

Over the years, besides food and herb gardens, I've planted six trees and three grape vines. In addition, I've erected a fence and shade patio, built a grape arbor, installed a few water-harvesting tanks, created a small pond, laid a natural varnish-hardened adobe-concrete patio, installed a water tank for summer dips, and built a chicken coop ready now for new birds!

Next plans include a solar hot-water heater, outdoor shower, eight more fruit trees and another large garden—and we still have enough social space for good-sized summer parties! (Gotta have those priorities in place!)

Today this yard, so desolate before, is where I spend a great deal of my life throughout the year—and not just working! My partner and I sit and read and sing and muse on the beauty for hours almost every day, most seasons, and in special times nearly all day!

The Soulful Part

Sitting in my garden amongst trees, flowers, herbs and food, I sometimes waver between bliss and faint fear. I realize the fear is connected to a memory of childhood when I heard the plants and spoke to them and was later told they didn't have minds, didn't speak, didn't listen—but I had been certain that they did.

Today I believe our culture is on the verge of coming to terms with a reality larger than that I was born into in the early 1950s. And this larger reality includes intelligence that resides in all living things—and I believe also in things we call "non-living," like rocks, or as Indigenous Americans call them, "Stone People."

Helping modernized Americans along is author Peter Tompkins, whose *The Secret Life of Plants* was a number-one *New York Times* bestseller—attesting to Americans' readiness to expand their world views. Thmpkins also wrote *The Secret Life of Nature: Living in Harmony with the Hidden World of Nature Spirits from Fairies to Quarks*.

Quarks?! There was no marketing gimmick in that title. Nature mystics have been tested by physicists and at least sometimes are found to be able to perfectly describe things like quarks, superstrings, gluons and other structures that scientists measure in fractions of a centimeter, in one case with 35 zeros after the decimal point! And history recounts one mystic who described unknown isotopes before any scientist "discovered" them.

Psychics have also described, consistently throughout the millennia, intelligent beings who somehow inhabit our trees, forests, mountains, rivers and valleys. These have been given various names in different cultures throughout time, such as devas, fairies, elves, gnomes and the like. They usually avoid contact with humans, but occasionally communicate with them.

Whether by devas or our own intelligence, gardens are a wonderful place to learn and develop one's consciousness. I've noticed in recent years that I sometimes have an idea that a plant needs something different from what I am giving it, and if I ignore that idea (maybe feeling too busy), the plant suffers somewhat or dies. That feedback—relatively quick because of the short life of these plants—helps me to remember not to ignore what I hear, so I vow to listen and respect. Now, paying better attention, my garden is doing much better, and I am feeling more conscious and aware. We are both clearly serving each other symbiotically.

The Greek philosopher Paracelsus—and Rudolph Steiner, 400 years later, lecturing in Paracelsus' own Swiss canton—both described the trees and other plants standing nightly under the stars, receiving messages from the cosmos while we sleep, then passing the information into the earth. And if we put our hands in that soil, perhaps some wisdom comes to us in the process.

Wherever we are on our consciousness path, I've come to believe these silent beings—tomato plant, almond tree, comfrey—can bless our souls in more ways than we might suspect.

Jean Eisenhower has been designing homes and gardens for 24 years, and now offers workshops, design groups and consulting in garden and passive solar home design through her business, Home and Garden Inspiration, www.homeand-gardeninspiration.net.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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Introduction to Meditation

Discover health benefits and feel less frazzled.

Meditation is not just for Zen masters. It's for anyone who ever wishes to feel less frazzled, which, these days, is just about all of us. But meditation remained an Asian enigma ignored by Western scientists until the 1970s, when Harvard cardiologist Herbert Benson accidentally popularized it.

In 1968, Benson was using biofeedback gear to teach monkeys to lower their blood pressure. Devotees of transcendental meditation (TM), the practice that Maharishi Mahesh Yogi had taught the Beatles, learned of his research and told Benson that they could lower their blood pressure without biofeedback equipment, simply by meditating. Benson was skeptical, but tested the meditators and discovered that TM did, indeed, reduce blood pressure. It also lowered metabolic rate and oxygen consumption to levels unheard of except in hibernation or deep sleep.

Benson realized that the physiological changes caused by transcendental meditation were not unique to meditation. Other relaxation techniques also produced them, including yoga and hypnosis. The calm induced by meditation was a natural reaction, the physiological opposite of the fight-or-flight instinct that prepares the body for defense or escape. The fight-or-flight reflex increases blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and metabolism. The relaxing disciplines did the opposite. They reduced blood pressure and slowed heart rate, breathing and metabolism. Benson called this meditative reaction the "relaxation response."

In 1975, Benson's book *The Relaxation Response* became a bestseller. It broadened the Western concept of meditation beyond spiritual associations and presented a physiological case for deep relaxation that was palatable to Western sensibilities.

To elicit the relaxation response via meditation:

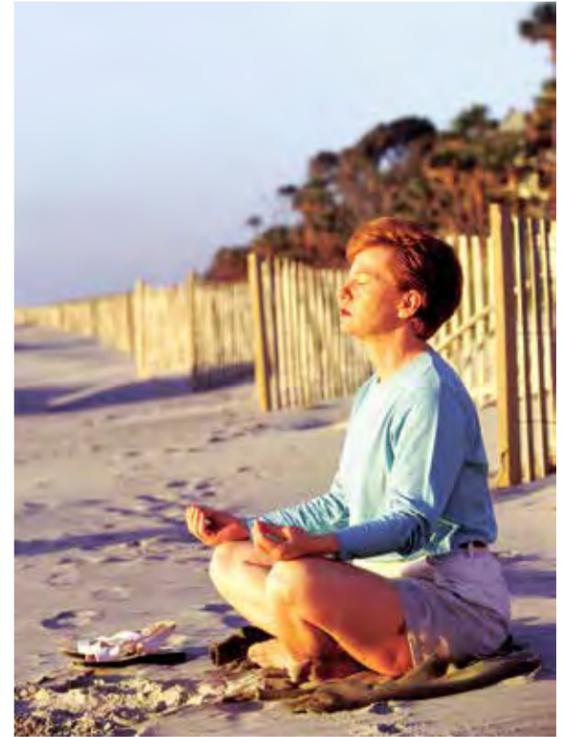
- Find a quiet place with a comfortable chair.
- Sit with eyes closed.
- Select a word or phrase—*one, peace, ice cream*, whatever. That's your "mantra."
- Silently repeat your mantra. Begin with a minute or two. Work up to 20 minutes once or twice a day.
- While meditating, try to empty your mind of other thoughts. Assume a passive, accepting, nonjudgmental attitude. When distracting thoughts intrude—they're inevitable—notice them, accept them, then dismiss them as you refocus on your mantra.

In another type of meditation, breath meditation, there is no mantra. Practitioners focus on their breath. The other steps remain the same.

Beyond deep relaxation, after a while, the relaxation response and all other types of meditation—including prayer—produce something extra, a feeling of wholeness that lingers long after you resume normal activities. Religious meditators describe this as "feeling the divine presence."

Benson's work spurred doctors to prescribe meditation as part of treatment for many conditions, among them:

- **Blood pressure**—University of Kentucky researchers analyzed 107 studies of meditative approaches to blood pressure control. They showed that meditation reduces blood pressure significantly.
- **Stress/anxiety relief**—Harvard researchers taught meditation to half of a group of 58 doctors and nurses. Eight weeks later, the meditators reported significantly less stress and enhanced mental health. Meditation has also reduced stress for military veterans and students facing exams.
- **Depression**—University of Louisville scientists taught meditation to women who were depressed because they had fibromyalgia. Compared with a control group, the meditators reported significantly less depression.
- **Pain**—British researchers subjected 42 university students to mild pain and recorded their reactions. Then the students were taught to meditate. When subjected to the same amount of pain, they reacted less. Another study scanned participants' brains using functional magnetic resonance imaging



(fMRI). Longtime meditators showed 45% less activation of the areas of the brain that react to pain.

- **Hot flashes**—Menopausal women with severe hot flashes were taught to meditate at the University of Massachusetts. After 11 weeks, their hot flashes caused 40% less discomfort.

- **Diabetes**—The latter study also showed that meditation improves the body's ability to use insulin, thus reducing risk of diabetes.

- **Healthcare costs**—Meditation improves so many measures of well-being, it stands to reason that it should also reduce healthcare costs. That's what Blue Cross found in a study of members in Iowa: significantly lower healthcare costs for meditators.

There's another kind of meditation, a practice Buddhists call *vipassana*, or insight meditation. Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn calls it "mindfulness," the art of becoming deeply aware of the present instant. Mindfulness turns down the noise in our heads, the guilt, anger, doubts and "shoulds" that upset us moment to moment. Mindfulness encourages us to stop and smell the roses.

"The key to mindfulness," Dr. Kabat-Zinn says, "is not what you focus on, but how you do it, the awareness you bring to each moment."

To teach mindfulness in his clinic, Kabat-Zinn hands each of his students a single raisin and asks them to eat it. Ordinarily, people would simply pop the raisin into their mouths, chew a few times and swallow, largely unconsciously. But mindful raisin eating is different. It begins with looking intently at the raisin, considering its shape, weight, color and texture. Next comes placing the raisin in the mouth, focusing on how it feels on the tongue as the mouth welcomes it with salivation. Then the mindful raisin eater chews the raisin slowly and thoroughly, focusing on its taste and texture. Finally, swallowing the raisin involves following it all the way down to the stomach.

Of course, it's impossible to live life entirely mindfully. But those who commit to some mindful meditative moments every day generally feel less anxious. Try ending phone calls mindfully. Instead of just hanging up, enter a mindful moment as you say goodbye. Appreciate your connection to the person. Take several deep breaths. Then proceed with your life. Once you commit to a mindfulness trigger—ending phone calls or sipping tea, starting the car or petting your dog—it's not difficult to work a dozen mindful moments into each day. ☸

Excerpted from Mother Earth News, the Original Guide to Living Wisely. To read more articles from Mother Earth News, please visit www.MotherEarthNews.com or call (800) 234-3368 to subscribe. Copyright 2013 by Ogden Publications Inc.

Body, Mind & Spirit

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.
BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780
HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703
PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

Mondays

A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298
AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.
AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.
TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

Tuesdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—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.
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.

SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

Wednesdays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.
BAYARD AL-ANON—6:30 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.
FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
GROUP MEDITATION—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 1st Weds. 5:30 p.m. Sparks Clinic, 1000 N. Hudson. 590-8797.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

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.
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.
GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria

St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HATHA YOGA—5:30 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St. Lori Zitzmann.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

Fridays

KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.
WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

Saturdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.
BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸



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Tuesday —New Time—Qi 1-2pm, QST 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday —Qi 8-9am
Thursday —New Time—QST 1-2pm, Qi 6:30-7:30
Friday —QST 7-8am
 Closed Sept. 2

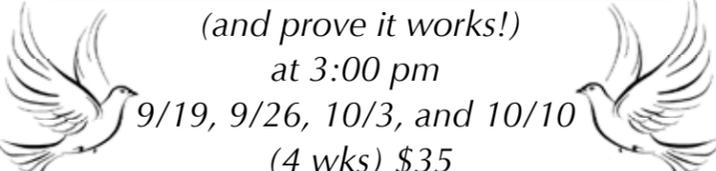
September Workshops
Monthly Breath Empowerment
 Sat., Sept. 14, 10am-12noon \$20
Monthly 9-Breath & Prayer Circle
 Sat., Sept. 21, 11am-12:30pm, \$10
 Half of the proceeds collected donated to local non-profit.
October Food Healing Workshop
 featuring natural Diabetes management
 Saturday, Oct. 19th 2:30-5pm \$25
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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. "Under new ownership and refocusing on what has made it a longtime Silver City favorite: excellent breakfasts and lunches." (April 2011) Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.*

ALOTTA GELATO, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato, desserts and hot drinks: All day.*

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 388-0777. "A boundless buffet that would satisfy the Mongol hordes." (April 2010) Chinese, Thai, Malaysian, sushi: L D.

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A freewheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat.-Sun. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "Authentic Southern-style barbecue.... Brisket, pork ribs, chicken and sausage dinners, pulled pork and chopped brisket sandwiches." (August 2010). Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR 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.

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Catering.*

GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-3663. Mexican: B L D.

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

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. "If you sometimes long for the guilty pleasures of the Chinese food served at a mall food court—think Panda Express—or just want your wontons without waiting, there's good news.... Normal appetites will find the three-item combo tough to finish, so plan on leftovers whether you're eating in or taking out. All of it's plenty tasty, and you can enjoy it just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.

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

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

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

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "The Mexican restaurant where you take out-of-town guests.... Jalisco's massive menu goes well beyond the traditional combination plates, though it has those, too." (December 2007) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B only.*

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

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L D.*

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. "Carrying on the legacy of unpretentious but tasty and authentic Mexican food established many years ago at the family's restaurant in Chihuahua." (April 2013) Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankee, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.

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.

PEACE MEAL BURRITO BAR, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "Slow-roasted beef, pork and chicken options in addition to vegetarian and vegan fare... with a commitment to provide food that is organic and healthy." (January 2013) Chipotle-style burrito bar: Weds.-Mon. L early D.*

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Mon.-Sat.*

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. "Q's Southern Bistro has found its niche and honed its 'elevated pub' menu to excellence to serve its fun-loving, casual dining crowd." (October 2010) American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Mon.-Sat. L D.

RED BARN, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. "From the friendly staff to the down-home food—steaks, of course, plus chicken, seafood, burgers, sandwiches and a sampling of superb Mexican fare—you might be settling in for lunch or dinner at an especially large ranch house." (October 2009) Steakhouse: L D.*

RIVER RANCH MARKET, 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328. Grass-fed meats, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods, to-go soups and stews, cast-iron cooking. Weds.-Sat.*

SABOR, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-2737. Mexican, sandwiches: B L D.

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "If sampling new types of food is part of the adventure of traveling for you, you only have to go as far as Shevek & Co. Restaurant in Silver City to take a culinary tour around the world." (May 2013) Mediterranean: Fri.-Tues. D.*

SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: L D.*

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. 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.*

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBEQUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbeque to go: L D.

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: Mon.-Sat. 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 relleno poppers, egg rolls (with specialty fillings changing from day to day) and the ever-popular, ever delicious bacon-wrapped dates." (August 2012) International eclectic: Mon.-Fri. L, D. Sat. D. Sat.-Sun. 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. "If you want to know how special a hot dog can be... these Sonora-style hot dogs are masterpieces that please the eye as well as the taste buds. First, the beef hot dogs are wrapped in bacon and grilled, then nestled into a special soft, ever-so-slightly sweet bun custom-made especially for Los Compas at a state-of-the-art bakery located in Palomas. The dogs are topped with beans, melted cheese, guacamole, mustard, ketchup, grilled and raw onions, diced tomatoes, and then the whole thing is finished off with decorative squiggles of mayonnaise." (May 2012) Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, 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.

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.

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.*

BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.

BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. "Dedicated to owner Janice Williams' love of movies and theater, movie posters and stills dot the walls. The menu uses groan-inducing but fun movie-related puns, such as "The Ommies," for the nice selection of omelets. Lunch offers a full range of sandwiches, salads, burgers and a few wraps. Portions are done right—just enough to fill the gap without emptying your wallet." (Sept. 2008) 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.

CATTLEMAN'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.

FOX'S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.

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

DINING GUIDE

continued on page 53

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



Still crazy after all these years! Yes, we just celebrated our tenth birthday, and we feel like we're really an accepted part of the Silver City community. (One indication of this is that fewer people are coming in and asking what happened to the car dealership that used to occupy the building!) When we first opened our store in those carefree, fun-filled days of 2003, we had no idea how many people's lives (and waistlines) we'd be affecting!

Whenever you visit **ALOTTA GELATO** at 619 N. Bullard St. in Historic Downtown Silver City, you'll have a variety of irresistible treats awaiting you. How about dairy-free Sour Cherry gelato, or good old-fashioned Butter Pecan? Marvel at our amazing Gila Conglomerate—who knew a rock could taste this good? Oh yeah, I almost forgot: our Fall flavors are waiting in the wings— watch for them!

Have you seen our new "It's Pronounced HEE-lah" T-shirts yet? Stop by and pick one up—you too can make a fashion statement, while providing valuable information for visitors to our fair city!

We want to remind you that our delicious low-fat Italian ice cream is available in hand-packed pints and quarts in your choice of 30+ incredible flavors, including sugar-free ones sweetened with Splenda® (and yes, we can pack several flavors into each insulated container). We carry delicious dessert items, too— such as Key Lime bars, brownies, cheesecake, cookies, flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin' slices of triple-layer Carrot Cake— plus hot and cold drinks to go with them. Lastly, we have gift certificates available in any amount for any occasion—including birthdays!

Come on down and experience the best gelato anywhere, from the oldest gelato store in the Land of Enchantment! Thanks for reading. As a birthday present from us and a token of our esteem for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

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



Second Location Now Open on Saturdays

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

Come on in or use our convenient drive-through. Enjoy freshly baked treats and free WiFi. If you have the time, we offer a relaxing comfortable location for informal meetings of getting together with friends.

At Sunrise Espresso we specialize in high quality espresso drinks designed to please the most discriminating tastes. The menu includes lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, and one of the best black cups of coffee you will find anywhere. All our drinks can be made hot, frozen (blended), or over ice, and most drinks can be made sugar free. Non-coffee drinks include Chai lattes, Italian cream sodas, and assorted teas.

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. 6am to 5pm • Sat. 8am-3pm

OPEN For Dinner All Labor Day Weekend!

Greek Cooking Class

Saturday, October 5, starting at 11am. Learn all the dishes served during our Greek Wine Tasting Dinner— attendance at the Wine Tasting Dinner **not** required to take the class. See the link on our website for details. Preregistration required.

Greek Wine Tasting Dinner

Join us on Friday, September 27 at 6:30pm for a six-course dinner featuring the foods from various regions of Greece with optional matched wines. See our website for details—or scan the QR code at right. Reservations highly recommended.

In Historic Downtown Silver City
 602 N Bullard St (at 6th St)
575.534.9168
silver-eats.com

Summer Hours:

Monday 5pm-9pm
 Tuesday 5pm-9pm
 Wednesday CLOSED
 Thursday CLOSED
 Friday 5pm-9:30pm
 Saturday 5pm-9:30pm
 Sunday 5pm-9pm





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Look for the red heart menu items- your guide to diabetes and heart friendly selections.

Viva New Mexico Restaurant Program-encouraging diners to select more health conscious meals when eating out.

- Silver City -
Adobe Springs Café
Billy's BBQ
Diane's Restaurant
Grinder Mill
Kountry Kitchen
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Silverado
The Jalisco Café
The Red Barn
NEW Tre Rosat Café
Vicki's Eatery
Wrangler's Bar & Grill

-Bayard-
Little Nisha's
M and A Bayard Café

-Hurley-
Gateway Grill
-Mimbres-
Elks Xing Café
-Lordsburg-
El Charro
Fidencios
Ramona's Café
-Rodeo-
Rodeo Café

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Eatery Evolution

Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's in Silver City has it all.

When I first arrived in the Silver City area back in 2007 and asked about good restaurants in town, Diane's was one of the two places mentioned. It was known, I was told, for its lunchtime fare of innovative soups, salads and sandwiches made with homemade artisan breads, as well as for its delectably upscale dinner menu.

By that time, I now know, the establishment had expanded far beyond owner Diane Barrett's initial vision. An award-winning trained pastry chef with impressive experience as a baker at El Dorado, Santa Fe's largest luxury hotel, and at the Ritz-Carlton on the island of Maui in Hawaii, Diane returned to Silver City in 1996 with the youngest of her three children. She had lived here in the 1970s while married to Frank Werber, and the two had established the first health food store in Silver City.

Back in town after an absence of nearly 20 years, she decided to put her baking talents to good use, and set out to create a small bakery operation in a storefront on Bullard Street. She launched the business on a shoestring budget.

"I got a \$5,000 micro-loan from the Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team, bought a secondhand stove for \$20, and opened the doors on May 1, 1996," she says.

Her artisan breads and fancy pastries were an immediate hit. The pastry parlor concept quickly edged toward restaurant status, as people asked for soups and sandwiches, in addition to baked goods. Diane responded with enthusiasm and creativity.

In 1998, the growth of the venture took a quantum leap forward as Diane's older son, Bodhi Werber, left a lucrative chef's position in Hawaii and joined the business.

"Mom really needed some help, and it was a wonderful opportunity for me," Bodhi explains. It was he who added the fine dining dimension to the thriving little restaurant. "I felt there was a need for a different type of food in this area."

The adjacent storefront was acquired to add more seating space. "We cut out sections of the wall, and doubled our size. Had a big party to celebrate," Diane says. "We got a beer and wine license, and went to fine dining at night."

"Dinner—that's where we shine," Bodhi says, his enthusiasm clearly undimmed 15 years later.

Diane's younger son, Daniel Benavidez, has also joined the business and brings his own intense and quirky style to the operation.

"I am a firm believer in family," Diane says. "We all cook. We all bake. Our strength is in the kitchen. And that's where it ought to be."

Do the three see eye to eye on everything? Well, no. "We often disagree, but we talk it out," Diane says. "Bodhi and I argued for six months before I let him put the green chile in our Fettuccine Alfredo. It sounded awful to me, but the Green Chile Alfredo has turned out to be a very popular dish."

Diane's business has continued to grow in response to the needs and desires of its customers. Eight or nine years ago, the restaurant expanded into the third store in the same building, adding still more seating. This is now the casual section known as The Parlor, with a wine and beer bar, live music in the evenings, and lighter fare available throughout the day.

"The Parlor was our answer to the Recession," Diane says. "We opened it about three years ago, with burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis. It's a relaxing environment where you don't have to spend a lot of money."

The Parlor menu also offers inexpensive and unusual treats like Homemade Hummus & House Crostini for \$4, Four Dolmas (vegetarian) for \$3, Marinated Goat Cheese & Fresh Bread for \$6 and Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables in Olive Oil with Bread for \$6.

"Actually, you can get anything you want in the Parlor—any of the food that's available in any part of the establishment at the time," Bodhi explains. "Filet mignon for dinner in the Parlor? Sure. But in the main dining area, only the fine dining menu is



Diane Barrett sits at the wine and beer bar in The Parlor, flanked by her two sons, Bodhi Werber (left) and Daniel Benavidez, both of whom play major roles in Diane's Restaurant.

available at night. No burgers. No pizza. We put on the dog in there."

"Linens. Candlelight. Fine dining," Diane agrees.

The bakery operation around which the restaurant evolved is now located in a separate building across the street in The Hub, where quality deli products are offered, as well as the original artisan breads and fancy pastries. "We also sell breakfast burritos on weekday mornings, pizzas, big Hoagie sandwiches, fancy cakes, homemade pies," Diane says.

"The bakery and deli is more like the operation she first envisioned," Bodhi says. "I kind of pushed us into the full dinner."

Lunch, of course, is less costly than dinner. Sandwiches range from \$7.50 (for cold ham and cheddar or a "Big Bun" with two eggs and bacon or ham) to \$9.25 (for grilled tuna with ginger-caper tartar sauce or the Bullard Street Cheese Steak). Meal-sized salads cost anywhere from \$7.75 for a Caesar Salad to \$9.50 for a Grilled Tuna Salad. There are several kinds of quiche available for \$7.75, and Diane's Spanakopita costs the same.

Dinner prices range from \$15 for Asian vegetable red curry to \$31 for Parmesan-crusting halibut. Steaks cost from \$20 for a 10-ounce New York strip steak to \$28 for filet mignon. Special toppings are available for all steaks at additional cost.

Gluten-free items are available for all meals. And the kitchen will do its best to accommodate other food allergies, as well.

The main restaurant with the Parlor section is located at 510 N. Bullard. It's open every day except Monday. The Parlor is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

In the main dining area, lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, with brunch and lunch available on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. And \$2 champagne is available all day on Saturday and Sunday.

Dinner is served Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the main dining area, a special cook's choice "Family Meal" is offered for \$9. "This is usually a one-bowl meal—Spaghetti & Meatballs, Meatloaf & Potatoes, Lasagna and salad, something like that," Diane says. "There's no fine dining on Sunday nights."

The Bakery & Deli is located at 601 N. Bullard in The Hub. It's open seven days a week—7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Diane's also does catering for events of all sizes.

The telephone number for the restaurant is (575) 538-8722. For the bakery-deli, the number is (575) 534-9229.

Local residents can sign up for Diane's "Locals Club" to receive a 15% discount on food prices, as well as e-mail notices of special events like the recent Tapas Night. ☘

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

COMPASSION

Is a well
From which good
Springs forth



**Pecans • Chile Products
Warehouse & Gift Shop**

1655 West Amador Avenue • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
(575) 526-5745
Fax (575) 526-2794 sherry@sansabapecan.com

A Fund Raiser to Benefit Bridge Community

Early Sunday Supper

with entertainment by The Hi-Lo Silvers

Sunday, September 15

at 5:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
314 W. College Ave., Silver City, NM

Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage
\$10 per person

For more information, please call 575-538-5754

Bridge Community is a project to bring a continuum of care senior living facility to Silver City.

DINING GUIDE

continued

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. 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.*
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. Coffeeshop, 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. Brewhouse 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.
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

DINING GUIDE
 continued on next page

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DINING GUIDE

continued

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 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. "A showcase for St. Clair wines... rooted in the same attention to detail, insistence on quality and customer-friendly attitude as the winery." (July 2012) Wine tasting, bistro: L D.

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

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

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

THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. "Greek as the Parthenon, the only pure outpost of Greek food for 200 miles.... When the food arrives, it's in portions that would satisfy a Greco-Roman wrestler." (February 2005) Pizza, Greek, deli: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.

VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday fish fry.

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

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

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. "Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

Anthony ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.
LA COCINITA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

Chapparral EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

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

Radium Springs COUNTRY CUPBOARD, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

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

LUNA COUNTY

Deming

ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tues.-Sun. B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. "Owner Albert Campos prides himself on the authentic Mexican and southwestern food he cooks up, inspired by his home in the Mexican state of Zacatecas—such as the fantastic BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich, a family recipe. But the restaurant has much more than Mexican fare." (June 2007) Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.*

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

ELISA'S HOUSE OF PIES AND RESTAURANT, 208 1/2 S. Silver Alley, 494-4639. "The southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie." (April 2012) American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

"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. "Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The

extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast that's worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito." (September 2009) Mexican: B L D.*

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tues.-Sat. L D.*

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

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING Co., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Mon.-Sat. L D.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. "Even if you think you don't like Italian food, you might want to try this family-run enterprise, with Harold and Palma Richmond at the helm. In addition to the name, Palma brings to the restaurant her Sicilian heritage and recipes that came to the United States with her grandmother. Harold brings training in classic Continental cuisine, along with his family's New England food traditions." (Sept. 2010) Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. "The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85% lean beef—a half-pound apiece before cooking—and formed for each order. You can adorn your burger in any of a dozen different combinations of cheese, bacon, chiles, pico de gallo, sautéed onions, barbecue sauce, fresh mushrooms, even ham." (February 2006) Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

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

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. "Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

Akela

APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.*

Columbus

PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY

Lordsburg

El Charro

RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

Kranberry's

Family Restaurant

, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA

Rosa's Pizza

, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S

CAFÉ

, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030.

"Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

Animas

Panther

Tracks Café

, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D.

Rodeo

Rodeo Store

and Café. 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffee-shop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

Rodeo Tavern

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

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve

Adobe Café

, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.

Black Gold

, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffee-house, pastries.

CARMEN'S

, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ

, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR

, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ

, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. "Dig into an honest taste of the local scene and a down-home breakfast you'll surely wish your mama had made. The specials listed up on the whiteboard all come with biscuits and gravy, and the ample menu has all the usual suspects—omelets, pancakes, French toast and, of course, breakfast burritos—clueing you into the rib-sticking satisfaction ahead." (Nov. 2007) Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA

, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "This unpretentious eatery serves up better pizza than you'll find in many a big city. But a recent visit to the tiny, scenic mountain town will forever be remembered as the time I had, absolutely, the best calzone of my life." (Nov. 2008) Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Table Talk

Greek food will be on the menu at **Shevek & Co.'s** latest wine-tasting dinner, Friday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Six courses of Greek food will be matched with appropriate international wines. Reservations highly recommended; \$80 per person (\$45 food without wines). You can follow up (though the dinner's not a prerequisite) with a cooking class at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3 featuring all six dishes. The class fee of \$75 (due at class time) includes laminated recipes, demonstration and hands-on practice, and a meal of the dishes taught at the end. Preregistration required. 602 N. Bullard St., Silver City, 534-9168, www.silver-eats.com.

Italian nights with Chef Nico are back at **Billy's** in Silver City, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Hwy 180E, 388-1367.

Café Osol at Bear Mountain Lodge will host trivia nights, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 11. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

Tre Rosat Café in downtown Silver City is now open for weekend brunch, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and you can try out its new patio. 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919, www.treosat.com.

The name of the new Vietnamese restaurant in Las Cruces, **A Dong**, comes from "Pho A Dong," meaning "Asian soup." But there's much more than soup on the menu, which boasts nearly 100 choices. Owners Joe and Nancy Nguyen brought their recipes from their native Vietnam, with a stopover in San Diego where they also ran a restaurant. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248.

Gina's Cantina in downtown Las Cruces at 300 N. Downtown Mall—the former site of Ono Grindz—has closed its doors. Owner Regina Hollars tells the *Sun-News* that she felt it was time to get out of the restaurant scene and take a step back, although she did struggle with signage issues and letting people know that the restaurant was there. She does have interest from potential buyers, however, so the restaurant location may yet have a third life.

Now open in Las Cruces is **Genghis Grill**, a Mongolian-barbecue chain based in Dallas. Described as a "build-your-own bowl, fast, casual, Asian stir-fry concept," the chain already had two locations in Albuquerque and one in El Paso. Hours are Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 840 S. Telshor Blvd., 532-1413. ☼

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

Other Catron County

PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.
SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY

Hillsboro

BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.
HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.

NOTE—Restaurant hours and meals served vary by day of the week and change frequently; call ahead to make sure. Key to abbreviations: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner.*=Find copies of *Desert Exposure* here. Send updates, additions and corrections to: updates@red-or-green.com. ☼

BILLY'S

Italian Nights with Italian CHEF Nicola Mariella

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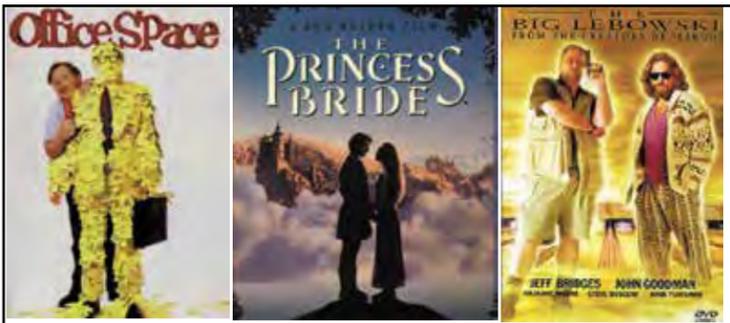
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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in September

Plus a look ahead into early October.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County 30TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Through Sept 2. Vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, educational displays. Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E. www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com. 1 Silver City/Grant County Chicano Rock—Documentary that inspired the Grant County Music Project. Free. 2 p.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater. 538-4332, gccmusicproject@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BEFORE MIDNIGHT—Through Sept. 5. We meet Jesse and Celine nine years on in Greece. Almost two decades have passed since their first meeting on that train bound for Vienna. Director: Richard Linklater. Stars: Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy, Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick. 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.

FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS—Through Sept. 2. 75 artists, live music, food, silent auction, raffle. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Holy Cross Retreat Center, 600 Holy Cross Road.

GREATER TUNA—Through Sept. 8. What do Arles Struvie, Thurston Wheelis, Aunt Pearl, Petey Fisk, Phinas Blye and Reverend Spikes have in common? In this send-up of small-town morals, they are among the upstanding citizens of Tuna, Texas' smallest town. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

GUIDED HIKES—Saturdays and Sundays. Journey through the park on a ranger-led hike. Explore the Bosque; learn about our native wildlife and plants while seeing firsthand the impact of the regional drought on our local natural environment. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sun protections. Binoculars are always a bonus. 2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 2. Celebrate New Mexico's wine harvest with grape stomping, wine tasting, live entertainment. Festival features arts and crafts vendors, children's activities, hourly wine seminars. Music by Eli James Band 12 p.m., Josh Grider 3 p.m. 12-6 p.m. \$15 includes souvenir glass, free under 21 if accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, nmwine.com.

Hatch

HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL—\$5 per car. Hatch Municipal Airport, 1 mile west of town on Hwy. 26, 267-5050, www.hatchchilefest.com.

Hillsboro

CREATIVE RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FOUNTAIN MURDER TRIAL—This original piece was written by retiree Garland Bills with contributions by some of the actors. In his former life Bills was a linguist at UNM. See story in August issue. 2 p.m. Hillsboro Community Center, Elenora St., 895-3324.

HERITAGE DAYS—10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MONDAY LABOR DAY

2 Silver City/Grant County 30TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, educational displays. Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Free. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E. www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—See August 31. Music by Soulshine 12 p.m., Locomotion 3 p.m. 12-6 p.m. \$15 includes souvenir glass, free under 21 if accompanied by parent or legal guardian; active military \$3 off. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, nmwine.com.

FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS—See Sept. 1. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Holy Cross Retreat Center, 600 Holy Cross Rd.

TUESDAY

3 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.

Hwy. 180 PROJECT—Exhibit through Sept. 30. 70 miles of photos and watercolor landscapes from Alma to Silver City by Luanne Brooten. Opening reception. 4-5:30 p.m. MRAC Gallery, Wells Fargo Building.

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.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Dusty Low. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—Nationally recognized expert on feral cat care, Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County DIRTY WARS—Documentary by Jeremy Scabill. Plus "How Do You Surrender to a Drone?" Fundraiser for Gila Mimbres Community Radio/KURU. 6 p.m. \$25 online or at GMCR studio, Alotta Gelato, Gila Hike & Bike. WNMU Global Resource Center. 597-4891, gmcr.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FAMILY CONSTELLATION AND SYSTEMIC WORK—Wednesdays in September with Cecilia Richardson, trained facilitator. Free. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, 523-1791, illuminationtherapy@gmail.com.

WHITE SANDS

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. Outstanding short and feature-length documentaries and narratives of all genres from around the world, with a special focus on Latino and New Mexican film-making. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wssiff.com.

THURSDAY

ROSH HASHANAH 5 Silver City/Grant County WILL SIGN-UP SOCIAL—Learn more about WILL free programs for the public as well as courses for members. Meet the fall semester course facilitators and sign up for courses if you become or are a member. Membership forms will be available for anyone interested in joining and registering for courses that evening. 5:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

THE GRUDGINGS KILLINGS—Ron Henderson will present as part of the museum's ongoing series of free Brown Bag lunchtime presentations. He will discuss the little-known death of William Grudgings and the early homesteaders and ranchers on the Gila National Forest. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BLENDED THE OLD AND THE NEW: QUILTS BY PAUL D. PILGRIM—Through Oct. 26. Tribute to a master quilt maker and ardent quilt collector. Reception 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—7-10 p.m. Free. Jim Helder Septet. Birthday Party. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

GRAIN-FREE BAKING—Learn about grain-free baking essentials, favorite

grain-free recipes, and sample delicious grain-free baked goods. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

GREATER TUNA—See Sept. 1. Through Sept. 8. 7 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SILVER SHIPS—With JoDee and The Messengers. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SPIRITUAL PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS—Linda Marlena Carr. 2:30-5:30 p.m. Fee. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE WAGER REDUX—Through Sept. 15. A wager between a very physical college football coach and his condo-mate, an English professor with machine-gun verbal skills, sets off mayhem in their lives, as well as the lives of their neighbors, a cerebral microbiology professor and his statistician wife, who is not at all what the three men presume her to be. Laughter, gunplay and some philosophical musings about love and madness ensue. Not part of the regular season. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept.



Karen J. Lauseng teaches the ancient metalsmithing technique of "Casting Metal in Cuttlebone" on Sept. 7 at the Silver City Museum.

4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wssiff.com.

FRIDAY

6 Silver City/Grant County OBBQ BRISKET DINNER—All the trimmings. Fundraiser for the charitable work of the Order of the Eastern Star. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$8, \$4 12 and under. Silver City Masonic Hall, 11 Ridge Road.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

OUR SAINTS AMONG US: REVISITED—Exhibit through March 2. Opening. The exhibit is derived from the private collection of Barbe Awalt and Paul Rhett. The collection includes works in the forms of santos, retablos, bultos, colcha, tinwork, and other media depicting saints and other traditional themes. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FIRE AND ICE—Opening reception. Featuring the photography of Peter Goodman. View the primordial splendor of Iceland's volcanoes, icebergs, geysers and glaciers through the lens of this world traveler. 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

FROM THE GROUND UP XXVI—Exhibit through Nov. 9. Artists' reception and awards ceremony. A regional, juried exhibition of contemporary ceramics. 5 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

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

LUNCHTIME YOGA—Fridays. 12-1 p.m. \$12 with lunch, \$6 yoga only. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Main St., 647-9642.

RG T LIVE!—Open mic. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW—Bag of props for every audience member. Dress up and join in. 8 p.m. \$10. NMSU Fine Arts Center Theater, 646-4515.

SAM GOMEZ—Artist reception. 5-7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. Through Sept. 15. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 children six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

UNFINISHED SONG—Through Sept. 12. Grumpy pensioner Arthur honors his recently deceased wife's passion for performing by joining the unconventional local choir to which she used to belong, a process that helps him build bridges with his estranged son. Director: Paul Andrew Williams. Stars: Terence Stamp, Vanessa Redgrave, Gemma Arterton. 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.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

Deming

GERT & GERRY KRETEK—5-7 p.m. Deming Visitor Center, 800 E Pine St., 524-2023.

Rodeo/Portal

HERITAGE DAYS—Through Sept. 8. Keynote film presentation and reception. Chiricahua Apache documentary. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Arizona time Chiricahua Event Center, Portal, (520) 558-0165, portalrodeo.com/heritage-days.html.

SATURDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County CASTING METAL IN CUTLEBONE—Ancient metalsmithing technique that was used in Mediterranean countries for centuries. Karen J. Lauseng. 1-2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade artwork. Live music, artists, food, entertainment. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

LIGHT AT PLAY—Opening reception for paintings by Rebecca Kerr. 2-6 p.m. Copper Quail, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankee and Texas, 388-2646.

OFFICE SPACE—Cult Classic Film Series. 5:30 pm. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silcotheater.com.

OUR SAINTS AMONG US—Gallery talk with Barbe Awalt. 10-11 a.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. Salsa contest judged by local firefighters. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

TASTE OF DOWNTOWN—Sample fare from downtown restaurants. 1-4 p.m. \$20. Downtown Silver City.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANNUAL RHIZOME—Through Sept. 8. Spring color your garden! Mesilla Valley Mall, 653-7550, zianet.com/mvis.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP—MVM Farm Manager Lori Garton. This workshop will demonstrate how you can use free or low cost resources to supply your soil with more nutrition, beneficial microbiology, water holding capacity, and organic matter. 9-11 a.m. \$20, \$15 members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

GALLERY TALK: FROM THE GROUND UP XXVI—Jim Romberg. 11 a.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

GREATER TUNA—See Sept. 1. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

NICHOLAS GINBEY—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. MINNESOTA—6 p.m. \$13-30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

PRO-ARTISTS SERIES—Exhibit Sept. 3-28. Joyce Macrorie, "Inside-Outside." Artist's reception. 6-8 p.m. Adobe Patio Gallery, 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 640-8328.

SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS—Saturdays. With members of local Audubon Society and park volunteers. No reservations needed, wear comfortable

walking shoes and bring or borrow park binoculars. 7:30 a.m. Park entrance fee. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

St. GENEVIEVE'S CHURCH FIESTA—Through Sept. 8. Live entertainment, band music, mariachi vocalist Ramiro, Cindy and Elena Naranjo, Ballet Folclorico. Food, famous gorditas. Children's activities, arts and crafts. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 621-6231, stgen.info.

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

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Loni Todoroki and Sonya Weiner. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. Through Sept. 15. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

RODEO/PORTAL HERITAGE DAYS—Through Sept. 8. Presentations, crafts fair, farmers' market, kids workshop. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Arizona time. Chiricahua Event Center, Portal, (520) 558-0165, portalrodeo.com/heritage-days.html.

SUNDAY

8 Las Cruces / Mesilla ANNUAL RHIZOME—See Sept. 7. Mesilla Valley Mall, 653-7550, zianet.com/mvis.

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

NMSU WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. UC-RIVERSIDE—1 p.m. NMSU Soccer Fields.

St. GENEVIEVE'S CHURCH FIESTA—See Sept. 7. Huachas tournament. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 621-6231, stgen.info.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, more 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. Through Sept. 15. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

Deming

St. ANN'S FIESTA—BBQ and festivities. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver, 546-3343.

Rodeo/Portal

HERITAGE DAYS—Guided field day excursions in Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountains. Chiricahua Event Center, Portal, (520) 558-0165, portalrodeo.com/heritage-days.html.

MONDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY/GRANT COUNTY WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Historian David Remley. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 537-3643.

TUESDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County ICE CREAM MAKING 101—Also Sept. 12. Co-op community forum. Learn to make your own ice cream using fresh ingredients. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, www.silvercity-foodcoop.com.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.

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

11 Silver City/Grant County HONORING OUR HEROES—9-11 Patriot Day Memorial—Memorial boards. Presentation. 3-7 p.m. Gough Park.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FILM LAS CRUCES—Monthly film forum. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ORTHO-BIONOMY—"When Nothing Else Helps Your Pain," demonstrated by Patricia Gray. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.



Greater Tuna runs through Sept. 8 at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces.

THURSDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Meeting. "Adventures in Australia" with Prof. Mary Dowse. Potluck. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

POETRY AND THE PROVOST—Dr. Jack Carter, WNMU's new provost, reads his poetry. 6:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Miller Library. 654-6803, www.swwordfiesta.org.

ICE CREAM MAKING 101—Co-op community forum. Learn to make your own ice cream using fresh ingredients. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WORKSHOP—Also Sept. 13. WNMU Parotti Building. 519-9042, 574-8728.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Ron Thielman High Society Orchestra. President's Ball. Formal/semi-formal. Finger food. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

DAVID VIDAL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NEW MEXICO'S SPANISH LIVESTOCK HERITAGE—Author William W. Dunmire. Survey of the history of domestic livestock in New Mexico. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. Through Sept. 15. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

FRIDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County 5TH ANNUAL PICKAMANIA!—Kick-off dance with the Dusty Buskers. 6:30-9 p.m. Downtown. www.mimbresarts.org.

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING—Richard Felger on "Gila Forests: Losses, Gains and New Economic Crops." A researcher with the Herbarium and Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science at the University of Arizona, Felger has conducted research in deserts worldwide and has published extensively in the fields of botany, ethnobiology and new food crops. 7 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall. 388-5192, www.gilanps.org.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-

1444. **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WORKSHOP**—WNMU Parotti Building. 519-9042, 574-8728.

Las Cruces/Mesilla LET'S FACE IT—Opening reception. 6-9 p.m. Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. Through Sept. 15. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lcctnm.org.

SATURDAY

YOM KIPPUR

14 Silver City/Grant County 45TH ANNUAL PICKAMANIA!—Gene Booth, Last Minute Bluegrass Band, Joe West & the Santa Fe Revue, Bootleg Prophets, The Trishas, Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem, Band in the Beer Garden. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. Gough Park, mimbresarts.org/5th-annual-pickamania.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Saturdays. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH—Concerts, scholarship fundraiser. 2 and 7 p.m. \$15, tickets at Smoke Shop, Visitor Center, Ambank, First New Mexico Bank, Food Basket. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater. 519-9042, 574-8728.

IRISH FIDDLE WORKSHOP—10-11:30 a.m. \$20. Seedboat Center for Performing Arts, 214 W. Yankee St.

KIDS CRAFT CLASS—Participants will create a God's Eye, a simple weaving made across two sticks. The design represents the legendary four elements: earth, wind, fire and water. Learn the history of this historical craft. The class is recommended for crafters aged eight

and older and is limited to 10 participants; pre-registration is encouraged. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. Music by Bayou Seco and the Fiddling Friends. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

THIS IS SPINAL TAP—Cult Classic Film Series. 5:30 pm. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silcotheater.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA—Through Sept. 15. Mexican Independence Day. Folklorico dances, mariachi music, authentic Mexican cuisine. 12-10 p.m. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, mesillanm.gov/tourism.

DOÑA ANA DOLL CLUB—18th annual show and sale. Dolls, their accessories, fabric and trim, Teddy bears and small toys will be displayed and for sale. Restringing and minor repairs done on site. Doll IDs and appraisals. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$2, 10 and under free. Columbus Conference Center, 901 Avenida de Mesilla.

FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS FIESTA—Through Sept. 15. Games for children, remote car races, foods, music, art show. Holy Cross Church and School, 1327 N. Miranda, 532-6293.

INTERWOVEN—Exhibit through Oct. 5. Artists reception. Linda Giesen, Jan Harrison, Lin Bentley Keeling, Dee Knudson and Maria Navarra-Pino. 6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St, 635-2285, unsettledgallery.com.

KRISTOFFER ROCKWELL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

MARGARET BERNSTEIN—Exhibit Sept. 5-28. Reception. 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., mesquite-artgallery.com.

NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. UTEP—6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah Juba Addison and Sharlene Wittern. 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 WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5.

EVENTS continued on next page

**The Grant County Rolling Stones
Gem and Mineral Society's 30th Annual**

2013 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

~ LABOR DAY WEEKEND ~

Saturday, August 31 ~ 9AM-5PM

Sunday, September 1 ~ 10AM-5PM

Monday, September 2 ~ 10AM-4PM

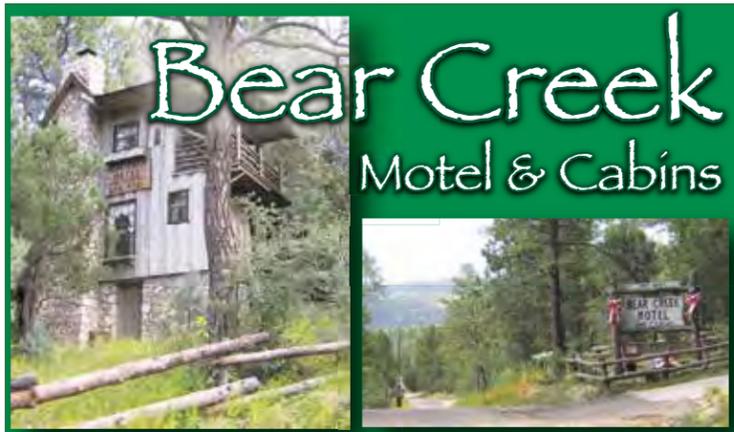
Grant County Business and Conference Center
3031 Hwy 180 E in Silver City (next to Ace Hardware)

- Large assortment of vendors
- Daily field trips for Collecting & for Local Geology and Mining History
- Educational displays provided by:
 - ~NM Institute of Mining & Technology
 - ~NMSU's Zuhl Collection

A great FREE family event with Wheel of Fortune & Silent Auction

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No Early or Late Admissions

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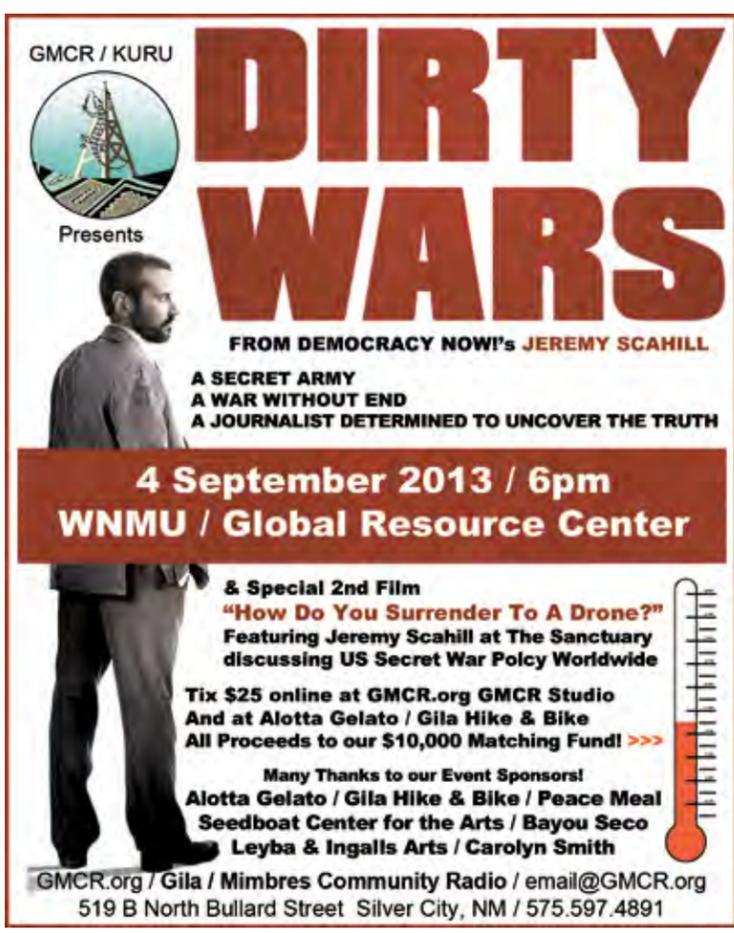
Earth Matters

A show about earthly matters that impact us all!

Brought to you by:
Gila/Mimbres Community Radio
Gila Resources Information Project
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance

Every Tuesday and Thursday
10 am & 8 pm
via [webstream@www.gmcr.org](http://webstream/www.gmcr.org)

Podcasts available @ <http://gmcr.org/category/earth-matters/>



DIRTY WARS

FROM DEMOCRACY NOW!'s JEREMY SCAHILL

A SECRET ARMY
A WAR WITHOUT END
A JOURNALIST DETERMINED TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH

4 September 2013 / 6pm
WNMU / Global Resource Center

& Special 2nd Film
"How Do You Surrender To A Drone?"
Featuring Jeremy Scahill at The Sanctuary discussing US Secret War Policy Worldwide

Tix \$25 online at GMCR.org GMCR Studio
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519 B North Bullard Street Silver City, NM / 575.597.4891

THE TO DO LIST

September's bountiful harvest.

Unless you're one of those folks who reads from back to front, by the time you've arrived here your September to-do list is probably already pretty darned full. Elsewhere in this issue you've read all about the new **Southwest Festival of the Written Word**, along with returning Silver City-area favorites **Pickamania!**, the **Red Hot Children's Fiesta**, the **Gila River Festival** and **Fort Bayard Days**. You've already made plans to take advantage of this month's **Red Dot Studio Tour**, in and around Silver City.

Plus of course you already know about the **30th Annual Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Show**, which began August 31 and continues through **Sept 2**. The popular free event at the Grant County Business and Conference Center on Highway 180E features vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, and educational displays.

Here's hoping, though, there's still a little room in your schedule for another annual Silver City favorite, MainStreet's **Taste of Downtown**. On Saturday, **Sept. 7**, from 1-5 p.m., you can sample 20 different establishments for just \$20. Advance tickets are available at Yankie Creek Coffee House, Curious Kumquat, Alotta Gelato, the Visitor Center and Ambank.

September is also **Hispanic Heritage Month**, which features a special concert on **Sept. 14** at 2 and 7 p.m. at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater. Tickets, \$15 at the Smoke

Shop, Visitor Center, Ambank, First New Mexico Bank and Food Basket, benefit a LULAC scholarship fund. In the week leading up to the concerts, WNMU's Parotti Building will also host a pair of workshops, Sept. 12 and 13.

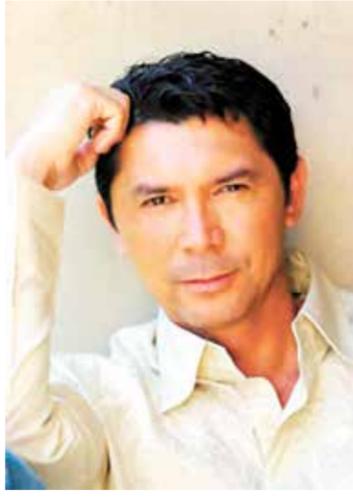
If you've had enough of summer movie blockbusters and are ready for some substantive filmgoing, Gila/Mimbres Community Radio has the screening for you on **Sept. 4** at the WNMU Global Resource Center. It's showing **Dirty Wars**, a documentary from Jeremy Scahill of "Democracy Now!" Plus there's a special second film, **How Do You Surrender to a Drone?**, also featuring Scahill. The films are a fundraiser to help get the station on the air, and proceeds at \$25 a ticket will go toward a \$10,000 matching-fund goal. You can get tickets online at gmcr.org, at the studio on Bullard Street, or at Alotta Gelato or Gila Hike & Bike.

This month also launches a "Cult Classic Film Series" at the Silco Theater in downtown Silver City, with admission by donation benefiting the theater's renovations. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and programs begin at 6 p.m., Saturdays beginning **Sept. 7**. The schedule: Sept. 7—*Office Space*; Sept. 14—*This Is Spinal Tap*; Sept. 21—*The Big Lebowski*; Sept. 28—*Rocky Horror Picture Show*; Oct. 5—*The Princess Bride*.

Movie buffs in Las Cruces will be heading over to the **White Sands International Film Festival, Sept. 4-8**. The festival will honor actor Lou Diamond Phillips and feature outstanding short and feature-length documentaries and narratives of all genres from around the world, with a special focus on Latino



Above: Jeremy Scahill. Below: Lou Diamond Phillips.



season begins with "The US Forests in These Parts," a look at the Gila National Forest by Kelly Russell, Forest Supervisor, and Jeff Boyd, inveterate hiker. 12 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com

White Sands
FULL MOON HIKES—Hike the moonlit dunes with a ranger. Reservations required and accepted two weeks in advance. 7 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

THURSDAY
19th Silver City/Grant County Annual Gila River Festival—Through Sept. 22. Four days of exceptional speakers, guided hikes, kayak trip, workshops, and more. See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. 538-8078, info@gilaconservation.org, www.gilaconservation.org.
MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—7-10 p.m. \$7. CDs. Mike D'Arcy DJ. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.
CHIHUAHUA DESERT GARDEN—Artists reception. 6-8 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarman-dranchmuseum.org.
FATIGO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
SPIRITUAL PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS—Linda Marlena Carr. 2:30-5:30 p.m. Fee. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Wellness class. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP—7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

White Sands
FULL MOON NIGHTS—Listen to music, learn about the monument, and enjoy

EVENTS continued

Through Sept. 15. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lctnm.org.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE—Also Sept. 15. Anton Chekov's most time-tested themes transferred to 21st century Pennsylvania. 8 p.m. \$25-\$35. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

Radium Springs
ANNUAL FRONTIER DAYS—Take a trip back in time with a visit to Fort Selden State Monument as they honor the civilians and soldiers who lived at the fort and protected the residents of the Mesilla Valley after the Civil War. Among the groups honored are the Buffalo Soldiers who were some of the first soldiers assigned to the fort. Fort Selden State Monument, 526-8911, nmculture.org.

SUNDAY
15 Silver City/Grant County 5th Annual Pickamania!—Sacaton, Hard Road Trio, Carolyn Martin, Solas. 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. Gough Park, mimbresarts.org/5th-annual-pickamania.
McMILLAN CAMPGROUND FIELD TRIP—A favorite location in the Cherry Creek area, home of our famous Crataegus woottoniana (Wootton's Hawthorn). Also likely see Valeriana (Valerian) and, with the summer rains, there will be a great flush of other beautiful species. Gila Native Plant Society. 8 a.m. Free. Meet at WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 388-5192, www.gilanps.org.
EARLY SUNDAY SUPPER—Benefits the Bridge Community. Entertainment by the Hi-Lo Silvers. 5 p.m. \$10. First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College Ave. 538-5754.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
COMPASSION & CHOICES—Sharing our stories, unwanted medial treatment.

1:30-3 p.m. Free. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., 528-4000, library.las-cruces.org.
DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA—See Sept. 14. 12-7 p.m. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, mesillanm.gov/tourism.
FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS FIESTA—See Sept. 14. 5k run/walk. 6 p.m. Holy Cross Church and School, 1327 N. Miranda, 532-6293.
SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
THE WAGER REDUX—See Sept. 5. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 seniors/students/military, \$7 six and under and season-ticket holders. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Main St., 523-1200, lctnm.org.
VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE—See Sept. 14. 2 p.m. \$25-\$35. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

TUESDAY
17 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.
SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—"Earth Approaching Objects—How Close Are They?" Dr. A.D. Grauer. 6:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Student Memorial Building. silvercityofstars@gmail.com, www.silverastronomy.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.
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Al Chance. Great singers of the 1950-70s come alive. 6 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY
18 Silver City/Grant County WILL LUNCH AND LEARN—The

the beauty of moonlit dunes. 7 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

FRIDAY
20 Silver City/Grant County 9th Annual Gila River Festival—Through Sept. 22. Four days of exceptional speakers, guided hikes, kayak trip, workshops, and more. See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. 538-8078, info@gilaconservation.org, www.gilaconservation.org.

FORT BAYARD DAYS—See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. Old-fashioned games and crafts, military re-enactments and Buffalo Soldiers, presentations on nurses and railroads in history, and portrayals of "Josephine Clifford, mother of Fort Bayard" and "Dr. Bushnell, physician at Fort Bayard." 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Dinner, followed by guest speaker, Dr. Doug Dinwiddie, 6:30 p.m. \$15. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

GILA RIVER AND LANDSCAPE SHOW—Artists reception. 5 p.m. The Artists' Lair Gallery, Market and Texas.

RED DOT STUDIO TOUR—Through Sept. 22. See story in Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. silvercitygalleries.com.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

LIFE QUEST 40TH BIRTHDAY—Information, fun, food, giveaways, bake sale, speakers. 12-4 p.m. Free. 907 Pope St., 388-1976.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
FRUITVALE STATION—Through Sept. 26. The purportedly true story of Oscar Grant III, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident, who crosses paths with friends, enemies, family and strangers on the last day of 2008. Director: Ryan Coogler. Stars: Michael B. Jordan, Melonie Diaz, Octavia Spencer. 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.

GHOST MAGIC SHOW—Through Sept. 22. Based on the life of an actual historical figure, the performance is a living history lesson. Born in 1849 in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, Yarbber lived a colorful life and ended up being Albuquerque's first elected sheriff. Convicted of murder, he met his fate at the end of a rope in 1883. The show combines humor, history and magic. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SATURDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County 9th Annual Gila River Festival—Through Sept. 22. Four days of exceptional speakers, guided hikes, kayak trip, workshops, and more. See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. 538-8078, info@gilaconservation.org, www.gilaconservation.org.

RED DOT STUDIO TOUR—Through Sept. 22. See story in Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. silvercitygalleries.com.

FORT BAYARD DAYS—See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. The museum will be open and there will be tours of Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark. Other activities include living history centers, vintage baseball, a military band concert with the Fort Lowell 4th Cavalry Military Band. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Military Ball, 7-10 p.m. \$5 per couple, \$2.50, children free with parent. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

RED HOT CHILDREN'S FIESTA—See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. Out of this world fun! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Old James Stadium. 388-1198.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Saturdays. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.

GILA RIVER SHOW—Works by Patrick Rogers and Nanda Currant. Opening 4-6 p.m. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.leybalngallsARTS.com.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

THE BIG LEBOWSKI—Cult Classic Film Series. 5:30 pm. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silcotheater.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GHOST MAGIC SHOW—See Sept. 20. Through Sept. 22. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

GOOD ROCKIN' LIVE!—A salute to Sun Records. Live concert. 7 p.m. \$25-\$35. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N.

Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Gloria Hacker. 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.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

WEAVING A UNIQUE ART FORM—Exhibit through Oct. 5. Linda Giesen uses a loom to demonstrate. During "Interwoven." 1:30-2:30 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St, 635-2285, unsettledgallery.com.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 312-1974.

Deming
MARIACHI AND BALLET FOLKLORIC—6 p.m. Rockhound State Park, Hwy. 143.

White Sands
WHITE SANDS BALLOON INVITATIONAL—A collection of colorful balloons filling the air over the white gypsum dunes. 7 a.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

SUNDAY
22 Silver City/Grant County 9th Annual Gila River Festival—Speakers, guided hikes, kayak trip, workshops, and more. See "Silver City's Month of Festivals" in this issue. 538-8078, info@gilaconservation.org, www.gilaconservation.org.

RED DOT STUDIO TOUR—See story in Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. silvercitygalleries.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GHOST MAGIC SHOW—See Sept. 20. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

RIO GRANDE RAMBLERS—Mostly original tunes in the folk music tradition. 6 p.m. Park entrance fee. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

NMSU WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. KANSAS CITY—1 p.m. NMSU Soccer Fields.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

YANG & OLIVER LIU—Husband and wife duo Yang & Olivia Liu create a storytelling event on violin and piano. 3 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.



The "Ghost Magic Show," Sept. 20-22 at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces, is a living history lesson based on the life of an actual historical figure.

MONDAY
23 Silver City/Grant County FREEDOM TO READ—Talk by Dr. Felipe de Ortega y Gasca. Banned Books Week. 5 p.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

TUESDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

VISIONS OF REALISM—Grant County Art Guild's 28th Annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit will open with an artist reception. 5:30 p.m. The show is also available for viewing from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 4-6. Pinos Altos Art Gallery in the historic Hearst Church.

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
25 Silver City/Grant County 2013 CLIFF, GILA, GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 29. Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1559.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE—The library completed a major renovation project last winter, and this open house will be a special opportunity for everyone in Grant County to visit and see the results. The library will also be unveiling its new database system, which will be implemented near the beginning of September. This system will make it easier for library users to find the items they need and to manage their library accounts. 3-5 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

WILL LUNCH AND LEARN—"Options and Issues in Elder Care: What steps to take, and when, to maintain the best possible health situation as we age." Speakers are Dr. Jennifer Agosta, Director of the GMRC Hospice Center, and Siri D. Khalasa, Volunteer Coordinator at the Center. 12 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

THURSDAY
26 Silver City/Grant County SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD KICKOFF—See story in this issue. Features Randy Carr performing the first act from his one-man show "Tuck," local authors Terry Humble, Anthony Romero, Christopher Saxman. 6-9 p.m. Free. JW Art Gallery, 99 Cortez Ave., Hurley, 537-0300, www.jwartgallery.com, www.swwordfiesta.org.

2013 CLIFF, GILA, GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 29. Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1559.

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AMANDA MORA—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Jim Helder Septet. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

RED—Through Oct. 13. In this play, famed Painter Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, but now faces the challenge of creating work that lives up to its promise and pricetag. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

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

FRIDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD—See story in this issue. Sessions 2-3 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Multiple downtown locations; free. Opening ceremony, 5-6:30 p.m.: Ana Castillo, award-winning poet, novelist, essayist and playwright, will give the keynote address, "Two new books and how they came to be in an anti-print age." WNMU Global Resource Center, 12th Street and Kentucky. Free. www.swwordfiesta.org.

2013 CLIFF, GILA, GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 29. Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1559.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. FT. LEWIS COLLEGE—7 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
I'M SO EXCITED—Through Oct. 3. When it appears as though the end is in sight, the pilots, flight crew and passengers of a plane heading to Mexico City look to forget the anguish of the moment and face the greatest danger, which we carry within ourselves. Director: Pedro Almodóvar. Stars: Javier Cámara, Lola Dueñas, Cecilia Roth. 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.

RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA—Through Sept. 29. One big street party complete with food, dancing, a parade

EVENTS continued on next page

BEER • FOOD • MUSIC
HOURS • MON-SAT 11:00-MIDNIGHT • SUN NOON-10:00
LIVE MUSIC THURS & SAT 8:00-11:00

Thu 9/5 Silver Ships w/ JoDee & The Messengers (Austin)
Sat 9/7 Nicolas Ginbey (Austin)
Thu 9/12 David Vidal (Los Angeles)
Sat 9/14 Kristoffer Rockwell
Thu 9/19 Fatigo (Bisbee, AZ)
Sat 9/21 Tiffany Christopher
Thu 9/26 Amanda Mora (Austin)
Sat 9/28 Slow Motion Cowboys (San Francisco)

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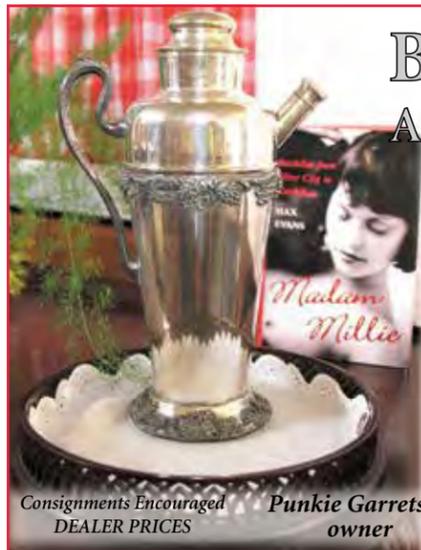
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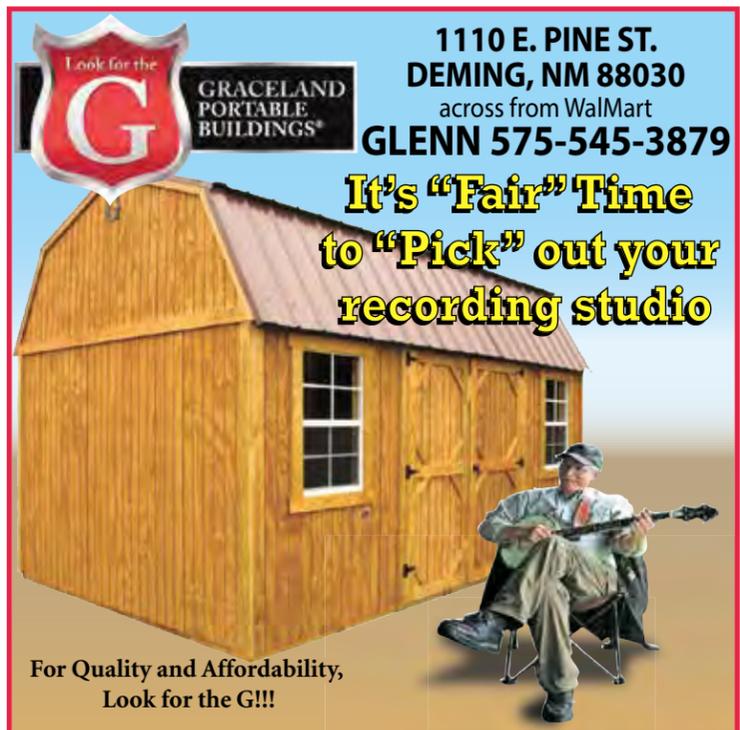
Party Zone

Wishes everyone a safe and fun Labor Day weekend!

Still time for a luau...lots of decorations, plates and accessories for your Indian Summer luau!

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EVENTS continued

and the making of one of the world's largest enchiladas. Meerschedit Center Complex, 1605 E. Hadley, 526-1938, enchiladafiesta.com.

SATURDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD—See story in this issue. Sessions 10-11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 2-3 p.m., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Multiple downtown locations. Family and kids' sessions, 10 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Silver City Museum Annex. Workshop on writing pre-teen fiction, Silver City Public Library. Free. 2 p.m.: Memoir-writing workshop by Ana Castillo, award winning poet, novelist, essayist and playwright; \$125, registration required (chair@swwordfiesta.org, 645-6803), space limited. Bear Mountain Lodge, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road. 5-6 p.m.: Slam poetry by Poetry Bread, free, A Space Gallery, 110 W. 7th St. 6:30-9 p.m.: Dine with Your Favorite Southwest Writers, festival banquet, keynote address by Denise Chavez, "El Espejo de la Frontera: The Mirror of the Border," music by Mark Lee Gardner; \$30, reservations at chair@swwordfiesta.org, 654-6803. Complete schedule at www.swwordfiesta.org.

2013 CLIFF, GILA, GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 29. Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1559.

ARTISTS LECTURE SERIES—These programs provide an opportunity to get up close and personal with some of America's finest artists. The new season begins with Tony award winner Mark Medoff ("Children of a Lesser God," "Apology," "When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?") 10 a.m. Free. Silco Theatre, 311 N. Bullard, 538-2505, mimbresarts.org.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Saturdays. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONAL JOURNAL—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

GHOST TOWN DIARIES—Exhibit opening. Karl Kernberger. Many of the photographs in this exhibit are original prints meticulously developed by Kernberger himself. Each town has its own story. The stories in the exhibit were collected from residents by Karl Kernberger and Michael Jenkinson and were included in their book on ghost towns of New Mexico. 10 a.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

LOOSE BLUES BAND—Classic blues, rock, folk and country. 9-11 a.m. Silver City Farmer's Market.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW—Cult Classic Film Series. 5:30 pm. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silcotheater.com.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Loose Blues Band, 9-11 a.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY—7 p.m. wnmumustangs.com

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. SAN DIEGO STATE—6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

SLOW MOTION COWBOYS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SOUTHWEST PHOTOGRAPHIC SYMPOSIUM—Photographers of all levels are invited to attend workshops on basic digital photography, color theory, Lightroom basics, high dynamic range images, 3D photography, intermediate Photoshop, sunset photography, wildflowers, portraits, children, pets and printing as well as how to mount, mat, and frame a photograph. Keynote speaker is Paul Schranz, former director of the Mesilla Digital Imaging Workshop. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. \$60, includes lunch. San Andres High School, 546-9233, swpsnm.org.

THE MYSTERY OF BASKET MAKING—Jan Harrison. Part of "Interwoven." 1:30-2:30 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St, 635-2285, unsettledgallery.com.

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA—See Sept. 27. Through Sept. 29. Meerschedit Center Complex, 1605 E. Hadley, 526-1938, enchiladafiesta.com.

Deming
FALL PLANT SALE—8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Rockhound State Park, Hwy 143.

SUNDAY
29 Silver City/Grant County
SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD—See story in this issue. Sessions 10-11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Multiple downtown locations. 12:30-1 p.m. closing ceremony, location TBA. www.swwordfiesta.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA—See Sept. 27. Meerschedit Center Complex, 1605 E. Hadley, 526-1938, enchiladafiesta.com.

White Sands

LAKE LUCERO TOUR—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands and learn about the formation of the dunes. Reservations required. 4 p.m. \$3, \$1.50 children. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY
2 Las Cruces / Mesilla
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO—Midway, auction, food, music, livestock shows and a cowboy rodeo. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 524-8603, snmstatefairgrounds.net.

THURSDAY
3 Las Cruces / Mesilla
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO—Through Oct. 6. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 524-8603, snmstatefairgrounds.net.

FRIDAY
4 Las Cruces / Mesilla
LA CAMIONETA—Through Oct. 10. Every day dozens of decommissioned school buses leave the United States on a southward migration that carries them to Guatemala, where they are repaired, repainted and resurrected as the brightly colored camionetas that bring the vast majority of Guatemalans to work each day. Since 2006, nearly 1,000 camioneta drivers and fare-collectors have been murdered for either refusing or being unable to pay the extortion money demanded by local Guatemalan gangs. 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.

MATT THE ELECTRICIAN—7:30 p.m. \$15. Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO—Through Oct. 6. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 524-8603, snmstatefairgrounds.net.

SATURDAY
5 Silver City / Grant County
8TH ANNUAL MIMBRES VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL—Live music with Bayou Seco and more, health fair 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Mimbres Valley stories and poetry, kids' activities, farmers' market, arts and crafts fair, locally prepared food, greenhouse tours and workshops, raffle. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. San Lorenzo School, Hwy. 35, 536-9337, 534-7577, www.MimbresHarvestFest.com.

THE PALISADES AT LITTLE CREEK—Benefit auction of Harry Benjamin painting. Mimbres Region Arts Council. \$40. Bear Mountain Lodge. www.mimbresarts.org.

WNMU FOOTBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES—Homecoming. 1:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

OCTOBER FIESTA—Loose Blues Band, family activities, food, arts and crafts for sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Main Street, Pinos Altos. 574-8394.

THE PRINCESS BRIDE—Cult Classic Film Series. 5:30 pm. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, silcotheater.com.



The Cult Classic film series at the Silco Theatre features *The Big Lebowski* on Sept. 21.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
MESILLA JAZZ HAPPENING—Live jazz music, and many more activities throughout the day. 12-7 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 526-2620.

NEW MEXICO PUMPKIN FESTIVAL—Event includes all the fun of the Mesilla Valley Maze, pumpkin-pie eating, pumpkin-carving contests, a Pumpkin Princess, pumpkin products and more. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$8.50-\$10.50. Lyles Family Fun Farms, 3855 W. Picacho, 522-1232, newmexicopumpkinfestival.com.

RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO—Through Oct. 6. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 524-8603, snmstatefairgrounds.net.

VERMICULTURE WORKSHOP—With MVM Farm Manager Lori Garton. Composting with worms. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20, \$15 members. Pre-register. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

Radium Springs
MUSIC IN THE STARS—Enjoy an evening of music by local talents followed by a night of stargazing with the park's new observatory. Park rangers and volunteers from Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will be on hand to guide you through the universe. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Park entrance fee. Leasburg Dam State Park, 12712 State Park Road, 524-4068, emnrd.state.nm.us.

SUNDAY
6 Las Cruces / Mesilla
RIO GRANDE RAMBLERS—Mostly original tunes in the folk music tradition. 6 p.m. Park entrance fee. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

NMSU WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY—1 p.m. NMSU Soccer Fields.

RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 2 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR & RODEO—Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 524-8603, snmstatefairgrounds.net.

THURSDAY
10 Silver City/Grant County
WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-COLORADO SPRINGS—7 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
RED—See Sept. 26. Through Oct. 13. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.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 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.

EARTH TALK • E - THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Seeking Energy Answers

Looking for future fuel in food waste and uranium mines.

Q Dear EarthTalk: Might another possible source for ethanol be discarded pastries from bakeries? For that matter, wouldn't fermenting unsold bananas, oranges and apples from grocery store produce departments be able to provide an ample supply of fuel?

A Food waste is indeed an untapped resource with great potential for generating energy. Some one-third of all food produced around the world gets discarded uneaten, and environmentalists, energy analysts and entrepreneurs are beginning to take notice. Diverting even just a portion of this waste to so-called waste-to-energy (WTE) systems could free up large amounts of landfill space while powering our vehicles and heating our homes, and thus putting a significant dent in our collective carbon footprint. Perhaps that's why WTE is one of the fastest-growing segments of the world's quickly diversifying energy sector.

Currently there are some 800 industrial-scale WTE plants in more than three-dozen countries around the world, and likely thousands of smaller systems at individual sites. Most employ anaerobic digesters, which make use of microorganisms to break down and convert organic waste into a fuel such as biogas, biodiesel or ethanol. With some 70% of food waste around the world still going into landfills, there is a lot of potential feedstock to keep this environmentally friendly, carbon-neutral fuel source coming.

"Waste-to-energy doesn't involve drilling, fracking, or mining, and it doesn't rely on scarce and politically charged resources like oil," reports RWL Water Group, an international company that installs water, wastewater and waste-to-energy systems. The waste from small slaughterhouses, breweries, dairy farms and coffee shops can power hundreds of typical homes each day if the infrastructure is in place to sort, collect and process the flow of organic material.

Navigant Research, which produced a 2012 report "Waste-to-Energy Technology Markets analyzing the global market opportunity for WTE, expects waste-to-energy to grow from its current market size of \$6.2 billion to \$29.2 billion by 2022. "With many countries facing dramatic population growth, rapid urbanization, rising levels of affluence, and resource scarcity, waste-to-energy is re-establishing itself as an attractive technology option to promote low carbon growth in the crowded renewable energy landscape," says Navigant's Mackinnon Lawrence. "China is already in the midst of scaling up capacity, and growth there is expected to shift the center of the WTE universe away from Europe to Asia Pacific."

The question is whether governments and individuals will make the effort to support diversion of waste into yet another separate stream. In areas



Diverting even just a portion of the world's food waste to waste-to-energy (WTE) systems could free up large amounts of landfill space while powering our vehicles and heating our homes, and thus putting a significant dent in our collective carbon footprint. Pictured: Three anaerobic digestion WTE tanks in Fenville, Mich. (Photo: eXtension Farm Energy)

where such systems are working, individuals are incentivized to separate out their organic and food waste because it saves them money on their trash pick-up bills. And bakeries, restaurants, farms, grocers and other big producers of organic or food waste provide an endless source of feedstock for WTE systems as well.

"We're barely scratching the surface of this potential—dumping over 70% of the world's food waste into landfills, rather than harnessing it for fuel and electricity," reports RWL. "Over the next 25 years, global energy demand will grow by 50%, while global oil supply dwindles at a rapid pace. Waste-to-energy is an obvious solution to meet the world's burgeoning energy demand."

CONTACTS: RWL Water Group, www.rwlwater.com; Navigant Research, www.navigantresearch.com.

Q Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that there has been an increase in uranium mining in the US due to a renewed interest in nuclear energy? What are the health and environmental ramifications of this?

A The big boom for American uranium mining was in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and the US remained the world's leading producer of the radioactive element for many years until 1980, when US production fell off dramatically due to dropping uranium prices as other countries stepped up mining of their own sources. Today American miners turn out only about 10% of what they were producing in 1980.

But that may all change as several deep-pocketed mining interests have turned up the heat on lawmakers to allow them to explore and open up new sources of uranium across the American West and elsewhere. The nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council reports that the timing is no coincidence, since the program that has been supplying a large portion of US uranium needs in recent years—Russia's surplus weapons uranium stockpile—is ending this year. This restriction of supply is predicted to drive prices up. Mining interests are pushing hard to open up promising sites to their drills while keeping many existing uranium mining sites open but inactive in hopes they get the green light to ramp up extraction.

The dark sides of uranium mining are well documented by now, though workers in the industry during its heyday had no idea how hazardous the element would be. Indeed, uranium miners have experienced high rates of cancer, heart disease and birth defects. Stronger regulations have since been put in place to protect mine workers, but increased cancer rates still remain an issue for current and former mine workers.

As for risk to the public, uranium mining releases radon from the ground into the atmosphere, thus posing a slight risk to surrounding populations. Radon and other pollutants can also make their way into streams, springs and other bodies of water and can contaminate drinking water in surrounding communities. According to a report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), uncontrolled releases

as a result of natural disasters like floods, fires or earthquakes can also be an issue for those around uranium mines, with even a single minor incident potentially leading to dramatic and lasting effects.

In addition to its direct human health impacts, uranium mining can jeopardize the health of ecosystems. Radioactive materials can pollute air, water and the soils near a mine. And the waste products produced from uranium mining, known as tailings, remain potentially hazardous for thousands of years and must be disposed of in specially designed, hugely expensive disposal sites. No one can be sure how effective these disposal sites will be after hundreds of years or longer. Meanwhile, decommissioning uranium mining and disposal facilities to make affected areas safe for other activities remains overwhelming; the process can take centuries, is expensive and can be dangerous for workers and the surrounding environment.

CONTACTS: NRDC, www.nrdc.org/nuclear/files/uranium-mining-report.pdf; NAS, www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=13266&page=123.

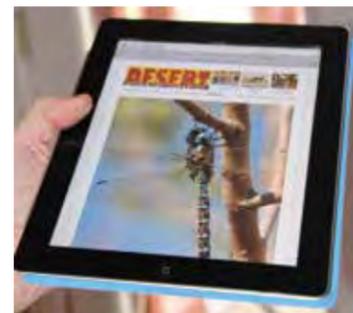
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The Mi Vida uranium mine, near Moab, Utah. Note alternating red and white/green sandstone. This type of uranium deposit is easier and cheaper to mine than the other types because the uranium is found not far from the surface of the crust. (Photo: Wikipedia)

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

A Covey of Problems

There's no feathered fury like that of a nesting mother quail.

With summer hatching season safely behind us, I'm hoping we can at last exhale and tell the tales of what for some reason has been the Year of the Quail around our place. Not to muscle in on the territory of Ramblin' Outdoors columnist Larry Lightner (who is writing about snakes this month—completely different!), but we have experienced some wildlife adventures of our own. And for those of you who still think of this page as “stuff I saw in my backyard,” well, you're probably eager for another fix of our outdoor ineptitude.



Quail visitors from a previous summer get a drink.

This business with the quail was not my fault, however. Blame those silly quail, or maybe just a little blame my wife. (But please don't tell her I said that!)

The first quail saga unfolded when my wife was out cleaning up the yard. Now, as faithful readers know, I view one of the great benefits of moving from a place of manicured lawns like Cincinnati or the Twin Cities to the untamed high desert as the ability to let nature be, well, natural. We sold our lawnmower when we left Ohio and haven't looked back.

Except, of course, that a few years into our Southwestern sojourn, my wife bought a “trimmer” that's something of a cross between a lawnmower and a weed whacker on steroids. This sucker can handle pretty much anything even our rough-and-tumble yard can dish out—including shooting small rocks from the ordinarily unkempt area straight through the sunroom windows. I applaud the idea of several times a year mowing down the worst of the weeds (and anything else that comes in range!) to reduce the wildfire danger around our house. But once you've crossed that line into giving a damn, well, it's hard to go back to a completely laissez-faire attitude about our little chunk of the great outdoors. Hence my “applaud”-ing, rather than actually participating.

Anyway, my wife was out there engaged in the Sisyphus-like chore of de-jungling our yard when she noticed a recently hatched quail chick. Worse, the chick noticed her. And started following her around.

Apparently we were now in that *Are You My Mother?* book. The chick seemed to have “imprinted” on my wife—at least that was our amateur naturalist explanation—and was following her lead as it would its quail mommy's. As the chick pursued my wife, it strayed ever farther from where it presumably belonged. What to do?

Since there were no other quail immediately about, my wife smartly figured that Quail Mom and Quail Dad

must have lost track of the chick after a feeding foray under our fruit trees. They'd gone back to quail suburbia, out in the hinterlands of our property.

Every attempt to shake the chick's affections failed. Finally, my clever wife used a piece of cardboard to scoop up the chick and scampered far out into the back of the yard, where quail tend to hang out. She released the chick and made a mad dash to the house and out of sight.

Since we didn't subsequently see buzzards circling overhead or hear cries of lamentation from bereft Quail Mom and Dad, we chose to decide that this story had the happy ending of a feathered family reunion. If some smarty-pants quail expert out there has a different take, keep it to yourself, you heartless know-it-all!

We did call in the experts, however, on the summer's second quail saga. My wife had planted some herbs, mostly basil, in a big ceramic planter to which she hooked up an irrigation line. The plants took off in the summery heat and pretty soon I was cranking out pesto as fast as the blender could chop it. (See? I'm not entirely useless around the house.)

Unfortunately, this little herb-garden of Eden was also paradise for a quail looking to nest. One day when my wife went out to harvest more basil, she was startled by an explosion of feathers and squawky scolding. When the equally startled quail had retreated to an angry distance, my wife discovered eight little quail eggs nestled inside the planter, under the canopy of herbs.

Other than the hassle of disturbing Momma Quail every time I needed herbs in the kitchen, this would not have worried us much—except we began to fret about how the chicks would make it to the ground once they hatched. First there was the problem of the planter itself, which was several feet from lip to ground that would have to be navigated. Then there was the worrisome fact that the planter itself was set several more feet above the ground—with only a sloping bunch of rocks below, not offering much of a claw-hold for chicks barely able to walk.

Happy as we were to give shelter to a fledgling quail family, when those chicks actually fledged we feared the worst. We could practically see the owls planning their menus for when the chicks toppled to their doom.

So we debated: Would it be better to let nature take its (possibly grim) course, or to intervene? If we relocated the eggs to a safer hatching location, would the mother follow or would she abandon the whole clutch? (What if they began to hatch in transit and again bonded with my wife? Would each quail have to get its own room in our house? Could we afford to send them all to college?)

This time we needed expert advice. I emailed Dennis Miller, emeritus professor of biology at WNMU, who runs Gila Biological Consulting and Gila Wildlife Rescue. I'd once spent a memorable afternoon with

him for a story, during which a golden eagle showed up for saving (“The Call of the Wild,” August 2005).

Dennis replied that it's unusual for quail to lay eggs up high; normally they nest right on the ground. He then confirmed our fears about an intervention strategy: “I don't think moving the nest is a choice. The parents probably will not find it or will reject it if any of the eggs are moved or the nest moved. Many birds have to have their eggs carefully removed and not turned or tilted at all and the have to point the same way they were in the nest directionally (north, south, etc.), and even then the success rate after moving is low, so that would be a last resort.”

Dang finicky birds! Who knew they were so OCD?

Dennis advised instead letting nature take its course—possibly with a little human assistance if the chicks seemed stranded. “The parents will find them. Don't worry about human smell on them. That is an old wives' tale; truth is that birds have a very, very poor sense of smell except things like vultures,” he added. Immediately we felt a lot better about the chick in saga number-one who'd been relocated away from my wife and toward its parents.

We learned a little more about our nesting visitor: “The nest is usually shaded from the midday sun. They usually lay 10 to 12 eggs and incubate for 21 to 24 days. They may not incubate much if the temperatures stay as high as they have been, but at night they should be on the eggs. If they are not, they may have abandoned the clutch, which is rare but happens.”

No abandonment issue here! Momma Quail sat it out except when we came to harvest herbs, when she'd fly just out of reach and give us a piece of her avian mind until we went back to the kitchen and she could return to duty.

We happened to take a trip out of town about three weeks after discovering the nest. When we returned, Momma Quail was nowhere to be seen—and the herb planter was full of little eggshell bits in a pattern suggesting hatching rather than depredation. Best of all, no stranded chicks (or, ugh, their remains) could be seen. Somehow they had made it to the ground.

Sure enough, a few days later we saw what we now thought of as “our” quail family scampering across the yard. And just the other day I spotted a covey of “teenage” quail following two adults through the greened-up underbrush. Whew!

It could have been much worse, we now realize. Heck, Larry keeps telling us that mysterious hole in the dirt at the edge of the upper yard could be home to a badger.

How many offspring, do you suppose, do badgers produce at one time? And how would we fit them all around the dining-room table? ☘

When not watching his wife do yardwork, David A. Fryxell edits Desert Exposure.



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Friday, Sept. 27

AM PRE-FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS—Presented in partnership with area schools, WNMU and the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2:00-3:00 | Panel—Silco Theater Books, Nooks and hooks: How the publishing industry is changing Bill Charland, Grael Norton, M. H. (Dutch) Salmon | Reading—Seedboat Gallery The poetry of ... Tom McCoy, Terry Song, Rick Stansberger, Raven Drake | Workshop /Panel—Old Elks Lodge Fixing fiction: Troubleshooting for novelists Steven Havill, Nancy E. Turner, Daniel Chacón | Panel—Silver City Public Library Making history: The art of historical writing David Remley, Mark L. Gardner, Stephen R. Fox |
| 3:30-4:30 | Panel—Silco Theater The truth and beyond: Creative non-fiction John Gist, Philip Connors, Ann Lane Hedlund | Talk—Seedboat Gallery We've had words: The literary heritage of southwest New Mexico Susan Berry | Talk & poetry—Old Elks Lodge Poems squared: A collaboration between poets and artists Joseph W. Wade, Jr., Elise Stuart Bonnie Buckley Maldonado, Tom McCoy | Talk—Silver City Public Library Trinidad and Tobago: Folktales and pirates Ann Harvey, Gwen Countryman |

5:00-6:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**—Global Resource Center, WNMU
Plenary session with keynote address by Ana Castillo: **Two new books and how they came to be in an anti-print-age**

Saturday, Sept. 28

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 | Workshop—Silco Theater All five things I know about playwriting and screenwriting Mark Medoff | Talk—Seedboat Gallery The scripture of snail and fern: Nature writing as spiritual memoir Sharman Apt Russell | Workshop—Old Elks Lodge Legal issues writers need to know Nancy E. Turner | 10:00-12:00 | Workshop—Silver City Public Library The world so new and all: Writing preteen fiction Betsy James | Workshop—Silver City Museum Annex Families reading and leading Jill Hare Maria Azucena Vigil | Kids' Activities—Silver City Museum Word play on the Museum lawn |
| 11:30-12:30 | Talk—Silco Theater The contemporary literary marketplace Peter Riva | Panel—Seedboat Gallery Walks on the wild side: Nature & environmental writing Doug Fine, Jack Carter | Panel—Old Elks Lodge Imagined worlds: The art of literary fiction Phillip Parotti, Rick Collignon, John Gist | 12:00-12:45 | READINGS BY YOUNG WRITERS Silver City Museum courtyard/Javalina (high school students) | | |
| 2:00-3:00 | Panel—Seedboat Gallery No end in sight: The writer's life Sharman Apt Russell, Felipe Ortego y Gasca, Mark Medoff | Reading—Old Elks Lodge A fistful of laureates: The poetry of... Bonnie Buckley Maldonado, Rebecca Seiferle, Hakim Bellamy | Panel—Silver City Public Library Something wicked this way comes: Crime & mystery writing Steven Havill, Susan Cummins Miller, Jonathan Miller | Workshop*—Bear Mountain Lodge Writing a Memoir Ana Castillo *Registration fee \$125 Limited to 15 participants To register, contact chair@swwordfiesta.org | | | |
| 3:30-4:30 | Panel—Seedboat Gallery Roads taken: Travel writing Elan Head, Esther Melvin, Richard Mahler | Talk—Old Elks Lodge Wormholes, time travel, and the multi-verse: A presentation on the image, incantation, and "loops" in poetry and fiction Daniel Chacón | Reading, Q & A—Silver City Public Library The poetry of... Orlando White, Layli Long Soldier | | | | |
| 5:00-6:00 | SLAM POETRY—A Space Gallery Poetry Bread , Silver City's slam poets | | | | | | |
| 6:30-9:00 | BANQUET (Ticket purchase required, \$30 per person)—Venue TBA Performance by Mark Lee Gardner: Music of the American West Keynote address by Denise Chávez: El Espejo de la Frontera: The Mirror of the Border | | | | | | |

Sunday, Sept. 29

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|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 | Panel—Silco Theater Bows, arrows and ball gowns: Historical fiction Linda Lafferty, Nancy E. Turner, Elizabeth Fackler | Panel—Seedboat Gallery Out of the margins: Multicultural writing in the 21st century Felipe Ortego y Gasca, Orlando White, Layli Long Soldier, JJ Amaworo Wilson | Panel—Old Elks Lodge Winging it or swinging it: How to survive as a freelancer Jim Kelly, Elan Head, Ron Hamm | Talk—Silver City Public Library Book art, illustration & photography Michael Berman |
| 11:30-12:30 | Panel—Silco Theater Lives through the looking glass: The biographer's art Ann Lane Hedlund, Mark L. Gardner, Harley Shaw | Performance/talk—Seedboat Gallery Song lyrics Abbe Anderson | Talk—Old Elks Lodge Taking your writing to the next level David Fryxell | Workshop—Silver City Public Library Top 10 ways to make your writing stand out on the web Derek Markham |

12:30 **CLOSING CEREMONY**— Venue TBA

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grant County Community Enhancement Fund | Silver City Museum Silver City Public Library Silver City Arts and Cultural District Town of Silver City Lodgers Tax Western Institute for Lifelong Learning | Mimbres Region Arts Council ASpace Gallery Bear Mountain Lodge Javalina Chris Raphael |
| New Mexico Humanities Council Friends of the Silver City Library | | |

Full Festival details including session abstracts and bios are available at www.swwordfiesta.org/schedule

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Silver City's #1 Selling Office for 2012—157 Transactions—\$19.2M sold



MLS 30384 • \$588,000

CUSTOM 4BD/4BA set into lush CF Canyon with towering Cottonwoods, oaks & seasonal creek. 30.6 acres with two sides of National Forest boundary. Private and secluded, 3,459 sq.ft includes living/kitchen/master suite + office/loft & guest bath on first floor, 3Bd/2Ba upstairs with decks off the bedrooms. Full Redwood covered deck off the front with views of the canyon. Radiant in-floor heat downstairs, clerestory windows, beamed ceiling, fireplace with hand picked stones, central refrig. air. Property also includes a spectacular indoor pool and a pond. 1/8 acre GSF water right.



MLS 30345 • \$160,000

Not a typical Tyrone home. Everything has been updated and remodeled including new light fixtures, bathrooms, kitchen, new dining room, huge laundry/pantry and really nice outdoor space at the end of a cul-de-sac. Kitchen/baths have granite counters, isinglass and tile. There is also a metal roof and attached garage.



MLS 30364 • \$39,000

Nice 5+ acre parcel south of Silver City. This lot has great views of the Burro Mountains and long range views. Easy access. Power to property. The whole parcel is usable - flat with a slight slope. Very buildable.



MLS 30359 • \$225,000

Secluded, entirely usable, 16.95 acres with several acres fenced off for grazing—combination of pasture and abundant scrub oak and juniper and amazing rock formations. A huge shop, tack room and room for stalls and hay barn are also included in the deal! Newer manufactured home with 3 bd 2 ba, Flagstone pathways with pond and mature trees.



MLS 30320 • \$399,000

A showcase home in the Mimbres with a million dollar view. Must see craftsmanship—10" lodge pole pine, extra large garage, hand carved front door & 500 gal. propane tank. Kitchen with Viking stove, stainless steel appliances, granite & slate, & pecan cabinets. Great room with hickory floors, 30' aspen cathedral ceiling, custom copper chandelier, & a Vermont Casting stove. Master bedroom has master bath in loft. Master bath comes with dual sinks, Jacuzzi tub, his & hers walk-in closets. French doors from the great room & kitchen open to an extra large wrap around deck. Breathtaking views are of the Black Range & the Mimbres.



MLS 30389 • \$38,500

Well established turn-key business that has been established for 10 years. This is a business only listing.



MLS 30305 • \$299,000

Hacienda style 3bd/3ba with 1bd full apartment, hobby room/art studio, workshop, & shared laundry all on 5 acres. Panoramic views from the mogollon mtns. All the way to cook's peak. Great covered outdoor areas with saltillo tile, 2 car garage, well with 3,000 gallon storage tank.



MLS 30325 • \$164,900

Country living with city conveniences. Horses are ok. Home has a split floor plan. Large open kitchen with island and upscale appliances. Master bedroom is spacious with 5-pc bath. An oversized sun room/family room with large windows and French doors. A paved driveway & 2 car garage. Additional separate 1 car garage, an RV metal carport, storage building and a green house. The yard is completely fenced. Large mature evergreen trees provide shade and fruit trees throughout.



MLS 30354 • \$250,000

2bd/2.5ba two-story home on 2 tracts of land totaling 14+ acres in the Burro Mountains. Excellent views & privacy. Great horse property, partially fenced, & a garage/workshop with 3/4 bath possible guest quarters. Kitchen/dining/ living areas + 1/2 bath & master suite with 3/4 bath. Office nook a& 2 sleeping quarters + 3/4 bath with shower.

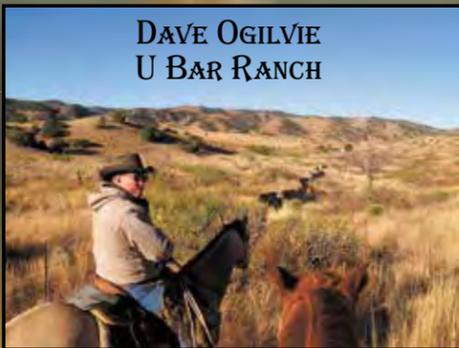


MLS 30330 • \$107,500

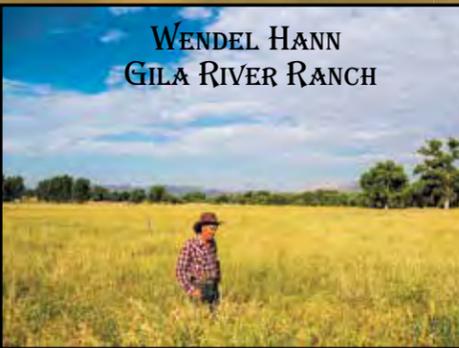
CLEAN & TIDY with new paint, new carpet on 1/3 acre lot with all city utilities. 3Bd/2Ba, Garage with Workshop, garden shed, front deck. Move-in ready and available now!

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