

# DESERT exposure



Ye Good Olde Days  
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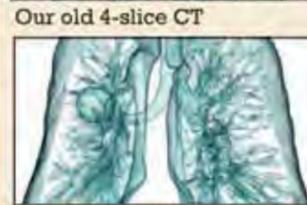
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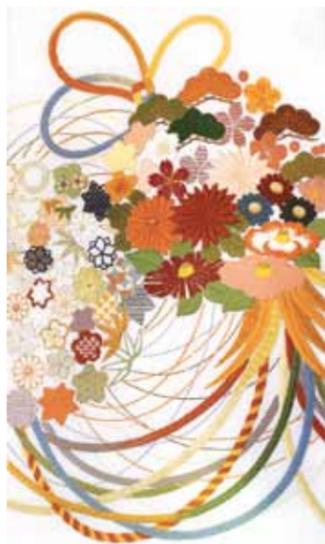
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**About the cover:** Kathryn Elms' Phase Ten "Flower Ball" design, "Kusudama," contains all of the 46 stitches used in Japanese embroidery. For more on the artist and this month's Silver City Fiber Arts Festival, see the Arts Exposure section.

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## Color Our World

"The biggest little paper in the Southwest" is now all in color in one section.

Do you remember when you first got a color TV? If you're part of the Baby Boom generation that grew up in front of the television set, that moment when the world on the tube in your living room finally matched the colorful world around you is indelibly inked in your memory.

For *Desert Exposure* readers, this issue is a bit like that. One of the first things we did upon taking over the publication in 2003 was to add color to a few inside pages, introducing the Arts Exposure section. Demand for color advertising has continued to grow since then, enabling us to bring four-color photographs and other artwork to selected pages. But printing and cost constraints have necessitated that a majority of our pages be black-and-white only.

Until now. A change in printers now allows us to run four-color images and ads anywhere we want, on every page of the issue. The benefits for readers, who can now enjoy all our photographs in their original color, are obvious. The benefits for our color advertisers, whose ads now no longer need to be crowded together and can appear in sections such as Body, Mind & Spirit and 40 Days & 40 Nights, are equally compelling. But we also think our black-and-white advertisers, long a mainstay of *Desert Exposure's* success, will benefit from the visual variety on a page that comes from a mixture of color and black and white. Everything "pops" more.

Frankly, the whole editorial "environment" for advertisers—who, after all, make *Desert Exposure* possible every month—will be upgraded. Although we like to think that the words on our pages have always been of "magazine" quality, when some of them must be accompanied by photographs that aren't all they could be, the overall impression suffers. Now, however, every page of every issue can look as good as it reads.

Yes, even the reader-submitted "Postcards from the Edge" snapshots in Desert Diary are now in color, so you can see "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" in all its glory in destinations from Madrid, Spain, to Madrid, NM.

With the printing switch comes another change that may even be more obvious to regular readers, who even now are probably searching frantically for the "B" section of this issue: *Desert Exposure* is once again all in a single section. We realize this may discomfit some readers who liked the two-section publication because it avoided squabbling with their spouse or partner over who got to read *Desert Exposure* first. You hereby have our permission to take two copies—no need to share.

For readers who sometimes got home with their eagerly snatched issue to discover that the second section was missing, however, this should be welcome. No longer, too, will orphaned B sec-

tions contribute to clutter at the establishments that so kindly open their doors to distribute *Desert Exposure*.

This single-section issue, by the way, is printed with soy ink, derived from soybeans rather than petroleum. Compared to traditional petroleum-based ink, soy-based ink is more environmentally friendly, provides more accurate colors, and makes it easier to recycle the paper it's used on.

Producing *Desert Exposure* all in color in a single section also, ironically, makes it more convenient to deliver online in a format that matches the "dead-tree" edition. While we'll continue to make the contents of each issue available (and fully searchable) on our popular website, [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com), we're also experimenting with posting a PDF edition for viewing or download on the free Scribd website. Just click on the link on our homepage at [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com), or search for "Desert Exposure" at [www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com).

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**D**on't worry, though—the (soy) ink-on-paper *Desert Exposure* isn't going away anytime soon. After all, we just switched to what

Walt Disney used to call "the wonderful world of color." Like a kid with a new color TV, it's going to take us some time to explore this wonderful new world and all the possibilities it opens up for *Desert Exposure's* advertisers and readers.

Just look at the bottom of this column, for example. Yes, that's me in living color. Now when I run into readers on the street, they will no longer be surprised that in person I'm flesh-toned rather than in black and white.

Guess I'll still have to explain why my head is actually bigger than half an inch high, though. ☹

*David A. Fryxell is editor and publisher of Desert Exposure.*



LETTERS

# Trap Talk

Plus catching "kuru"—our readers write.

## Trapping Debate

**T**hank you for your recent editorial, "Trapped in the Past" (October). I felt the piece adequately described the issues involved in the current trapping debate in New Mexico. However, the article erroneously suggested that trapping is a useful tool for controlling rabies.

This assertion is not supported by scientific evidence nor the Centers for Disease Control, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) or the World Health Organization. In 1973, the NAS subcommittee on rabies concluded: "Persistent trapping or poisoning campaigns as a means to rabies control should be abolished. There is no evidence that these costly and politically attractive programs reduce either wildlife reservoirs or rabies incidence. The money can be better spent on research, vaccination, compensation to stockmen for losses, and education and warning systems."

In fact, researchers have discovered that trapping may actually increase the spread of disease. By removing mature, immune animals, trappers reduce competition for habitat and make room for newcomers who may not be immune. In addition, animals infected with rabies do not eat in the latter stages of the disease and thus do not respond to baited traps. Hence, traps set will more often capture healthy animals than infected animals.

Indeed, traps are notoriously indiscriminate and pose a serious hazard to non-target species. Born Free USA's recently released trapping investigation, [www.bornfreeusa.org/victimsofvanity](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/victimsofvanity), uncovered shocking images of New Mexico wildlife suffering at the hands of trappers, including bobcats sought after for their spectacularly spotted coats and non-target catches including black bears and mountain lion cubs.

The damage trapping inflicts on New Mexico's wildlife and the cruel methods used by trappers to kill captured animals are completely incompatible with the Game Commission's responsibility to protect wildlife and to serve the public interest.

Monica Engebretson  
Senior Program Associate  
Born Free USA  
Sacramento, Calif.

need to be non-partisan. We need referendums in this state so that the people have the right to vote these folks in or out and we have the right to vote our concerns.

New Mexico needs to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century! Change is good, change is inevitable! Otherwise the "good ol' boy" system persists in this state.

Pat Wolph  
Silver City

**I** don't agree with 99.9% of your Editor's Notebook (to use an exaggerated number like you did), but we're all entitled to our opinions. I would, however, like to point out some fallacies in your argument so you can refine your barbs for the next round. I have worked as a threatened and endangered species specialist in the Southwest for decades, as well as doing wildlife consulting and nuisance wildlife control (like those pesky skunks and coyotes you repeatedly mentioned) in Arizona and New Mexico. And I have been what you called "an enlightened trapper" for more than half a century.

Furbearer trapping shouldn't be compared to cockfighting, bullfighting, dog fighting or any other "blood sport" man has dreamt up; it's nothing like those. It happens to be a worldwide cultural heritage, one that played, and still plays, a large role in the development of North America and indeed humankind. Harvesting a renewable natural resource, unlike, say, manufacturing faux fur from finite petroleum, is about as "green" as raising rabbits or chickens to eat with produce from your garden patch. You ridicule the \$20 pricetag for a resident of one of the poorest states in the nation and discount offhand that some of your out-of-work fellow citizens might well need to earn a few dollars trapping. That's a bit elitist but then maybe they're not part of your readership so who cares?

You mention (twice) that there are no restrictions to the number of traps allowed per individual, yet you must understand full well that a daily inspection of each set would obviously restrict

LETTERS continued on next page

**G**reat editorial on trapping! This is all part of a disturbing trend by our elected, appointed (anointed) politicians to NOT listen to the people. This is on a state and federal level.

I had a similar situation with the New Mexico Livestock Board, regarding a very abused horse. The two board folks that were contacted were hostile, and not one responded to all my letters and pictures of that poor horse.

I think it is time for these important positions to be elected by the people. They



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## LETTERS continued

that number.

Your claims about animals chewing their feet off are also muddy waters. Might happen with illegal trappers not checking sets in the time frame required by law or possibly using improper traps but I haven't seen it in 50 years of using footholds. And please, this idea of catching people is the worst kind of urban folklore.

You hold up organizations mostly dealing with domestic animals as the touchstones for issues dealing with wildlife. Well, that's fine but again these aren't your "peers" on a jury when dealing with trapping wild animals. Why not consult such national organizations as the National Wildlife Control Operators or go worldwide with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to get your quotes from? Oh, that's right, they have completely different outtakes on the subject and it wouldn't fit into your thesis. That's lopsided journalism.

I contend that it's your responsibility, especially when you were new to the area (ten-derfoot) to know what is going on in your environment. "Those who are supposed to be regulating trapping" (i.e. NMGF) not only do regulate it, they put out for public consumption the annual hunting and trapping regulations/seasons/maps.

Using second- or third-hand "information" about hot-button topics is always risky. You leave yourself open for snickers from the peanut gallery because of incorrect or dubious opinions, many based solely on emotions.

Dexter K. Oliver  
Duncan, Ariz.

**Editor's note:** We regret that space and our 500-word limit on letters to the editor kept us from running Oliver's complete letter, which was longer than the original editorial. For more of his views, readers may consult his article, "The Castration of Rural Life" in the September *Glenwood Gazette*.

Reader Oliver, alas, misses the point of our October editorial—or perhaps exemplifies it. We sought to caution trapping advocates and their game-commission allies that continued intransigence—one might even say arrogance—in the face of growing public disgust with their sport risks an eventual ban. Better to take sensible steps toward reform now than to face an outright ban in an increasingly urbanized future. Suggesting, for example, that all newcomers to the state ought to study the 64-page guide to big-game hunting and trapping before venturing outdoors might be a good idea. But it's not a practical or politically savvy position in the face of aggrieved dog owners whose pets have been ensnared.

All the "second- and third-hand information" in the editorial, incidentally, was checked by a veteran outdoorsman with more than 40 years' experience, who did not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed, but confirmed the accuracy of the facts.

Your Editor's Notebook quotes a national trappers' association regarding livestock predation after banning traps in Colorado and Arizona. That's like asking the proverbial fox guarding the hen house if it should be replaced by guard dogs, which also can be used to guard other livestock. And skunks can be caught in more humane traps. "Hobbyist trappers," like recreational hunters, can find plenty of sadistic video games to play instead.

Bob Young  
Las Cruces

Thank you so much for the editorial about trapping. But before jumping to the conclusion that trapping is a necessary evil to combat livestock predation, please consider the following. Our neighboring states of Arizona banned traps on public land in 1996 and Colorado banned

them two years later statewide. Last year, the National Agricultural Statistics Survey of livestock deaths around the country found that, contrary to what one might suppose, New Mexico—with the most unrestricted trapping of the three states—reported the highest percentage of losses to native carnivores for both sheep and cattle. Arizona, with trapping only on private land, was next and Colorado, with trapping prohibited statewide, had the fewest. It is an interesting correlation that the

more restrictions there are on trapping, the lower are the livestock losses in the three states. In addition, livestock losses to native carnivores compared to other causes of livestock death are very small, and the commonly trapped bobcat and grey fox are almost never to blame.

Having more rules for trapping on public land while still allowing it would be small comfort to the hikers and hunters whose day will still be ruined when their dog is caught and whose wallets will be lightened from veterinary and medical costs imposed by trappers. Posting warning signs about traps might as well say

"Keep Out" to the many who would seek to recreate in these places, turning multiple-use into single-use. We need not fear a world in which trapping is prohibited. It is already illegal in national parks and monuments in New Mexico and we do not see swarms of rabid animals or the annihilation of deer and antelope by coyotes there, trapper propaganda notwithstanding.

The vast majority of the 12,000 comments opposing trapping received by New Mexico Game and Fish did not ask for improved trapping management but to remove traps from our public lands. Homeowners could still trap a skunk under their house (although for that, cage traps work very well). Ranchers could still allow trapping on their own land.

Supporting the prohibition of traps on public land to protect the public's wildlife and the public is already an enormous concession when trapping is so indiscriminate and brutal no matter where it takes place.

Mary Katherine Ray

Wildlife Chair, Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club  
Winston, NM

## Catching Kuru?

Did Kyle Johnson ("Tuning In," October) specifically request the call letters KURU-FM, or was this some jest on the part of the FCC to assign the name of a dread tropical disease to Gila/Mimbres Community Radio?

Years ago I spent a decade volunteering with Radio Free Georgia (WRFG) in Atlanta. You learn how heterogeneous a "community" can be when you sit in a meeting between redneck bluegrass fans and dreadlocked reggae fans, watching them discuss how to divide air-time to serve their respective audiences. The jazz fans and political discussion fans also contended for their share of prime time.

Besides "kuru," there are quite a few four-letter words with two Us valid in Scrabble. Here is a little story I wrote containing, I hope, all of them:

"The Luna Guru Luau was a lulu last week. The men wore sulus, while the ladies were all decked out in mumus, or tutus with jujus. The hostesses sliced the B-B-Q kudu, unau, fugu and urus with ulus. Nobody got kuru, so a fine time was had by all!"

Joel Chinkes  
Deming

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 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.

HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

# Taking a Seat

Time to take a stand—but without the bother of budging.

Life moves at a different pace in our part of the world. People tend to talk slower, move slower and drive even slower. Commonly referred to as a “mañana” attitude, I think it’s more like a “whatever” philosophy, a carefully crafted blend of pragmatism and apathy that makes the average New Mexican far more fun to quaff a beer with than an uptight firebrand of political change and action. There are a lot of problems in the nation these days, however, and it simply won’t do to remain unaffiliated with some sort of politically motivated cadre. In today’s electoral landscape, actually changing the system is secondary to the appearance of activism, but what group to join? I’m not passionate enough to join either the Tea Party or the Occupy Wall Street cluster, so I am forming my own grassroots organization: “Occupy My Seat.”

Like both the Tea Party and the Wall Street groups, I’m miffed about the lighter nature of my wallet these past four years. Congress and the Federal Reserve played some fraternity house-quality grab-ass with Wall Street and left all of us to clean up after the free-money keg stands were concluded. As taxpayers, we coughed up the dough to bail out the very banks that stuffed our retirement funds into the toilet, and now we’re making less money to repay the government for the bailouts we couldn’t afford in the first place. “Occupy My Seat” still has faith in capitalism and the free market, but when the people we trust to manage the system are caught elbows-deep in the collective clam bucket, we get angry.

I’m not so angry, however, that I’m willing to give up my seat. My low-impact brand of political outrage won’t garner much press coverage, as it’s apt to take place only in my living room, lawn chair or truck seat. “Occupy My Seat” will be an unruly mob of one, bent on engineering social change and political solutions from the billowy perch of a pleasantly comfy seat.

“But Henry Lightcap,” you might puzzle, “how can you orchestrate revolution from a sitting position? How can you effect change with your stocking feet up on the coffee table? How can you reach the remote from there?” To be truthful, I’m not all that invested in revolution at this time, but I am interested in using the system to effect change. Chanting slogans and mucking about with cardboard signs isn’t really my style. I vote, and I sometimes shoot off a letter to an apathetic elected official (I really enjoy form letters) or drizzle a bit of pocket change for the cause du jour, but generally,

I am content with being a member of the silent majority.

Sadly, the “whatever” philosophy is stronger than any of the other ideological entities in the news these days. According to the United States Election Project, New Mexico ranked 39th in voter turnout in 2008. This was good news for number 35 Mississippi, which finally outperformed us in a national survey, which is nice for them; they’ve had a helluva time of it. But I digress. My point is, our forefathers, who were an amazingly smart bunch of dudes, designed a system of government that not only allowed our leaders the latitude to screw the pooch at times, but gave the enraged masses the ability to fix it without revolution.

Thomas Jefferson said a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, kind of like a chicken-fried steak covered in gravy once in a while is a good thing. It depends on what you consider “rebellion.” If your idea of rebellion involves squatting in a city park, fighting over bagel crumbs with the pigeons and sleeping on concrete while some dreadlock-wearing history major sings Joan Baez songs and smokes a fatty the size of a rolled taco, then go nuts. Maybe your brand of rebellion involves hanging out with a bunch of gray panthers and wild-eyed conspiracist xenophobes at a properly permitted demonstration featuring American flags with snakes on them and Lee Greenwood music. Either way, that’s a citizen’s constitutional right, and I applaud their fervor and passion for ill-defined answers to insufficiently explained problems. Good luck with that.

Detractors of my new “Occupy My Seat” demonstration, which really isn’t all that new, will point fingers and accuse me of apathy or laziness. They could be right, but I tend to think of it as a higher, more efficient form of protest. I will read the stories and opinion columns, and figure things out for myself, without disrupting the lives of others or brandishing a cacophonous brand of cardboard campaigning in the faces of those who just want to be left alone—by radicals, by Wall Street, by bankers, and by the media. The multitudes of voters who are like me will wait until November to make our voices heard, and I think they will be heard this time. Especially in Mississippi. 🐾

*Henry Lightcap takes a seat in Las Cruces.*



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## DESERT DIARY

# Heavenly Daze and Military Maxims

Plus the name game and the green thing.

**A**nnals of young love... Ah, the idealism of youth! In this yarn, the **Silver City Greek** brings it back down to earth:

"A young woman brought her fiancée home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiancée to his study for a talk. 'So what do you do for a living?' the father asked the young man.

"I am a Biblical scholar," he replied.

"A Biblical scholar. Hmm," the father said. 'Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?'

"I will study," the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.'

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asked the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replied. 'God will provide for us.'

"And children?" asked the father. 'How will you support children?'

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replied the fiancée. The conversation proceeded like this and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

"Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, honey?'

"The father answered, 'He has no job, no plans and he thinks I'm God!'"

**H**eaven can wait... While we're on things spiritual (sort of), let's continue with this tale from **Old Grumps**:

"Ed came home drunk one night, slid into bed beside his sleeping wife, and fell into a deep slumber. He awoke before the Pearly Gates, where St. Peter said, 'You died in your sleep, Ed.'

"Ed was stunned. 'I'm dead? No, I can't be! I've got too much to live for. Send me back!'

"St. Peter said, 'I'm sorry, but there's only one way you can go back, and that is as a chicken.'

"Ed was devastated, but begged St. Peter to send him to a farm near his home. The next thing he knew, he was covered with feathers, clucking and pecking the ground. A rooster strolled past: 'So, you're the new hen, huh? How's your first day here?'

"Not bad," replied Ed the hen, 'but I have this strange feeling inside. Like I'm gonna explode!'

"You're ovulating," explained the rooster. 'Don't tell me you've never laid an egg before?'

"Never," said Ed.

"Well, just relax and let it happen," says the rooster. 'It's no big deal.'

"Ed did, and a few uncomfortable seconds later, out popped an egg! He was overcome with emotion as he experienced motherhood. He soon laid another egg—his joy was overwhelming.

"As he was about to lay his third egg, however, Ed felt a smack on the back of his head, and heard: 'Ed, wake up! You pooped in the bed!'"

**Y**ou're only as old as you feel... And that aging theme carries us right along to this submission from **Ned Ludd**:

"A group of seniors were sitting around talking about all their ailments. 'My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee,' said one.

"Yes, I know," said another. 'My cataracts are so bad, I can't even see my coffee.'

"I couldn't even mark an X at election time, my hands are so crippled," volunteered a third.

"What? Speak up! What? I can't hear you!"

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a fourth, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy!" exclaimed another.

"I forget where I am, and where I'm going," said another.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded in agreement.

"Well, count your blessings," said a woman cheerfully. "Thank God we can all still drive."

*Share your favorite jokes, anecdotes and tall tales with Desert Diary at [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com).*

**O**ur men and women in uniform... We happily welcome back **Bert in the Burros**, who writes, "I thought that your readers with military backgrounds would enjoy these terse and wise bits of guidance." Indeed, Bert, we salute you for sharing!

"Don't draw return fire. It irritates those near you.

"Tracers work both ways.

"If the enemy is in range, so are you.

"Five-second fuses usually go off in three seconds.

"If stupid works, it's not stupid

"If your in a fair fight, you didn't plan well.

"Aim toward the enemy.

"When the pin is pulled, the grenade is not your friend.

"Dig latrines downstream from the mess.

"Recognize these last words: 'Did you feel that?'

"What was that noise?' 'Oh, crap!'"

**W**hat's in a name?... As a great man once said, 'Stupid is as stupid does.' As evidence, here's this yarn from **GeeRichard**:

"Patrick's pregnant sister is in a terrible car accident and goes into a deep coma. After being in the coma for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.

"The doctor replies, 'Ma'am, you had twins, a boy and a girl. The babies are fine; however, they were doing poorly at birth, and had to be christened immediately, so your brother Patrick came in and named them.'

"The woman thinks to herself, 'Oh suffering Jesus, no, not me brother! He's a clueless idiot.'

"Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, 'Well, what's my daughter's name?'

"Denise," says the doctor.

"The new mother is somewhat relieved, 'Wow, that's a beautiful name. I guess I was wrong about my brother. I really like the name Denise.' Then she asks, 'What's the boy's name?'

"The doctor replies, 'Denephew.'"

**L**osing the battle of the sexes... We warn you: This dispatch from the gender wars, passed along by **Pop Hayes**, is not for the squeamish!

"This is a story about a couple who had been happily married for years. The only friction in their marriage was the husband's habit of farting loudly every morning when he awoke. The noise would wake his wife and the smell would make her eyes water and make her gasp for air.

"Every morning she would plead with him to stop, because it was making her sick. He told her he couldn't stop it and that it was perfectly natural. She told him to see a doctor; she was concerned that one day he would blow his guts out. The years went by, however, and his habit continued.

"Then one Thanksgiving morning as she was preparing the turkey for dinner and he was upstairs, sound asleep, the wife looked at the bowl where she had put the turkey neck, gizzard, liver and all the innards—and a malicious thought came to her. She took the bowl and went upstairs where her husband was sound asleep. Gently pulling back the bed covers, she tugged open the elastic waistband of his underpants and emptied the bowl of turkey guts into his shorts.

"Some time later she heard her husband wake with his usual trumpeting, which was followed by a blood-curdling scream and the sound of frantic footsteps as he ran into the bathroom.

"The wife could hardly control herself as she rolled on the floor laughing, tears in her eyes! After years of torture she reckoned she had got him back pretty good.

"About 20 minutes later, her husband came downstairs in his bloodstained underpants with a look of horror on his face. She bit her lip as she asked him what was the matter. He said, 'Honey, you were right. All these years you have warned me and I didn't listen to you.'

"What do you mean?" asked his wife.



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**Postcards from the edge...**

Delightfully, our globe-trotting readers keep playing along with our game of taking photos on vacation holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*. This month we have **Peggy and Elizabeth Wright (right)**, who took "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" along Down Under to Australia. They write, "This picture was taken in Sydney harbor with the Harbor Bridge in the background."



Next up is **Teri Toth (left)**, who clearly has her priorities in order: "When I planned my trip to Vienna, Austria, the first thing on my list was to pick up the latest edition of *Desert Exposure* to take with me. This is me in front of the monument to Empress Maria-Theresia, located (where else?) in the MariaTheresiaplatz. Vienna will spoil you! It's beautiful, friendly, has wonderful food and local wine, the subway (the UBahn) runs on time, and the majority of Viennese speak at least a little English. It's just a wonderful place to visit."

Whether you're heading Down Under or Back East, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com).

thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

"We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

"But we didn't have the green thing back then.

"Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

"We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

"But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?"

**Yumpin' yiminy!...** As half-Scandihoovians ourselves, we're suckers for a Sven and Ole joke. Hence this final salvo from **CharlesC**:

"There was a Midwestern phone company that was going to hire one team of telephone pole installers, and the boss had to choose between a team of two Norwegian guys and a team of two Irish guys. So the boss met with both teams and said: 'Here's what we'll do. Each team will be installing poles out on the new road for a day. The team that installs the most phone poles gets the job.'

"Both teams headed right out. At end of the shift, Pat and Mike, the Irish guys, came back and the boss asked them how many they had installed. They said that it was tough going, but they'd put in 12 poles.

"Forty-five minutes later, Ole and Sven, the Norwegian guys, came back in and they were totally exhausted.

"The boss asked, 'Well, how many poles did you guys install?'

"Ole, the team leader, wiped his brow and sighed, 'Sven and me, we got three in.'

"The boss gasped, 'Only three? Those two Irish guys put in 12!'

"'Yeah,' said Ole, 'but you should see how much they left stickin' out of the ground.'" ❄️

Send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales to *Desert Diary*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, email [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com). The best submission each month gets a brand-new *Desert Exposure* mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to *Desert Diary*.



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**F**eeling a little green... New correspondent **R1Dork** shares this reflection on generations and "going green":

"In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, 'We didn't have the green thing back in my day.'

"The clerk responded, 'That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment.'

"He was right—our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

"But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

"We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

"Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts—wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

"Back then, we had one TV or radio in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

"In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

"When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded-up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

"Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

"We drank from a fountain when we were

TUMBLEVEEDS • JEANIE McLERIE AND KEN KEPPELER

# Chilegumbo in China

Bayou Seco brings a bit of New Mexico to a wedding halfway around the world.

**Editor's note:** We're delighted to once again share a "rolling postcard" from the popular Silver City "chilegumbo" musical duo, Bayou Seco, on tour in China.

**"L**ike a fairytale ending I'm lost in your charms, and I could waltz across China with you."

A long time ago an old friend, who is our daughter's age, whom we have known since he was 12, said he would like us to play music at his wedding if he ever got married. That friend, Aaron Chang, a great musician and sometimes Bayou Seco guitarist, now lives in Shanghai where he runs his own web business (and our website). There, he met Mallissa Wang salsa dancing five years ago. They got married on in her home town, Anshan, a northern steel town. So that is why we went to China this year.

China is stunningly beautiful, and the people are warm, welcoming, compassionate and very friendly. Most of the huge population lives in the big cities, more than 20 million people in Beijing alone, and yet when you fly over the country, there are vast areas of open spaces. The pollution level is enormous, and many people wear face masks at all times. A river of brightly colored parasols flows wherever you walk because of the hot, strong sun. The food is delicious and inexpensive.

The noise level in most outdoor settings is huge. I always wore earplugs on the subway and in the

tourist spots, where tour leaders use crackly and distorted megaphones. The subway in Beijing was very cheap and efficient. It cost only two yuan (six yuan equal \$1).

We drank bottled water only, as the tap water is not considered safe. I worried about all the plastic bottles, but that plastic got swiftly recycled by people who constantly went through the trash. Anywhere you

saw trash bins, they were always being upended and sorted through, with everything being put back if it was not recyclable or useful.

The taxi rides were terrifying to me—totally lawless, with no seatbelts in the back seat, and rarely in the front. As Ken put it, one of the highlights of the whole trip was the amazingly polite and cautious cab drivers, who were kind enough to continuously remind others of their existence with their loud horns as they swerved back and forth on both sides of the road, ignoring most traffic lights, center lines and rules. In their wonderful attempt to make sure we made it to our destination in the shortest time and in the most relaxed condition, they reassured us that the nonexistent seat belts were in no way necessary. Most taxi rides cost between 6 and 15 yuan; a 45-minute ride from the airport to Beijing city center cost 150 yuan.

We stayed in the Orange Hotel, which is a popular chain of hotels with reasonable prices—about \$40 a night. There were always two fresh white peaches placed in our room each day. A nice touch.

**W**e met Aaron in Beijing and spent the first four days there. Aaron's mother (who had run a very popular dim-sum restaurant in Albuquerque, and had been our landlady in the early 1980s), his sister and her son were also in our group.



The authors with the Tao Lee violin family.

On the first day we bought two very nice violins to play at the wedding and re-sell here. Visiting many instrument shops was fun for us. We saw a lot of erhus, the two-string Chinese violin that has snakeskin stretched over the head of the cylindrical body. We coveted the horsehead fiddles from Mongolia—trapezoidal shaped, played like a cello, with two fat strings that are noted by touching the back of a fingernail to the string as opposed to pushing the string down to the fingerboard. But we could not imagine carrying one of those around for the whole trip, so we resisted.

That night we walked a long way to a fantastic Szechuan restaurant—arriving very hungry and with quite sore feet, but it was worth it. The black carp cooked in oil with several kinds of peppers was amazing. The big skyscrapers were lit up in fantastical ways all along. The architecture in Beijing is innovative to say the least.

On the second day, a friend of Mallissa's who has a construction company gave us a van and a driver for the day to take us to the Great Wall, a two-hour drive from Beijing. We passed some of the magnificent Olympic buildings en route. The sheer volume of the Great Wall is astonishing, especially when you take into account that it stretches 4,000 miles, and the construction was begun in the third century BC.

It was packed with people, but the Chinese seem to find a way to flow amongst each other in large crowds without being pushy or rude. We noticed this over and over during our 11 days there. One of the interesting aspects of the trip was the reaction to Ken's quite ample beard. People were always asking him to pose for photos with them or their relatives and friends. And when he put his beard up behind his glasses, it started all over again, making a short walk along the wall quite a bit longer, but lots of fun.

In the evening we ate at a lamb restaurant. Lamb dumplings, mutton dishes and more lamb in many guises were on the menu, as well as our beloved eggplant. Having a fondness for that lovely vegetable, we ordered it with every meal, and it was always different and always delicious.

**O**n the third day we went to the Forbidden City and the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Again there were very many people there, and an amazing scale of buildings in an enormous space. I retreated to a café for an hour while the rest of the group walked around the vast spaces. I was happy to eat a frozen lime yogurt pop and visit with the other tourists who also

needed to take a break. We topped off the day with Crispy Peking Duck at a very elegant restaurant.

On our last day in Beijing, we visited the Hutong Courtyard Houses of Old Beijing, which was a relief after the huge crowds we had seen everywhere else: a lovely lake and a river, houses built around little courtyards, and men playing mahjong, a calm not seen in the other parts of the city. We also climbed many steep steps up to the bell tower and the clock tower.

During our stay in Beijing, we usually found a six-yuan breakfast at a small place down the street. We'd eat a rice soup called jook or a millet soup, with little fried things that looked like churros, but not sweet, to dip in the soup, and also some dumplings. Tea was never on the menu at these breakfast places, so we made it in our hotel room—there was an electric kettle, and we could buy small packets of delicious tea at the corner shops.

The food was always fantastic, very fresh and high quality, and inexpensive, and we had no MSG reactions. It is barely used there, and if it is, it is in infinitesimal amounts, as opposed here in the States where they seem to use cupfuls of the stuff. Ken, basically a vegetarian, found lots of good things to eat, especially the eggplant, snow peas, bok choy, broccoli and even potato dishes. He tried bits of meat to be sociable and explore the taste, and he did eat some fish, which was always good, but he tried to stay as veggie as possible. Aaron and Mallissa are gourmards and know Chinese restaurants and cooking quite well. They are considered authorities on it among their friends in Shanghai, so we were in good hands when it came to ordering a nice variety of dishes.

**O**n the fifth night, we took an overnight, slow train to Anshan, northeast of Beijing, above the body of water between China and Ko-



Two girls on the Great Wall of China.

rea. We had sleeping bunks in rooms for four, and it was comfortable and fun, and not at all expensive. The views out the window in the early morning light of the rice fields and pastoral rural China made me wish we could have spent a few days in the country.

We met Mallissa's very dear parents and friends in this big steel city. The views out the hotel win-



Ken and Jeanie visiting the Great Wall of China.



In China, Ken and a friend.

dows were of belching towers of smoke and pollution. The wedding was not traditionally Chinese, but the ceremony did have some traditional aspects. It took place at a grand hotel on a Saturday near midday. More than 250 people came and of course there was plenty of food.

That night about 40 of us went out of town to a more intimate setting in the hills for another party. There was a barbecued goat and lots more wonderful food. We played "Keep on the Sunnyside" and "Estas Lindas Flores" and some Cajun tunes, and then the beautiful Mallissa joined us to sing "Blue Moon" and Aaron sang "Waltz Across China." We led everyone in the "New Mexican Wedding March," which gave a good twist to the evening

as all the friends and family went through the motions of the double entwined hearts, the tunnel of love and the ring. Then Aaron and Mallissa ended up in the middle of their circle of friends and family dancing the waltz to "Flor de las Flores."

**W**hile in Anshan we went up in the mountains and visited a Buddhist monastery, as well as a Taoist shrine (which seemed to be basically focused on money). The Buddhist place was beautiful, and the monks were friendly and quite humorous. One even showed Ken a tai-chi move to release the troubles of the world, laughing all of the time while pretending to attack him.

The day after the wedding we travelled four hours

south to Dalian, which is on a small peninsula between China and North Korea. It is also where the actor Toshiro Mifune (*Rashomon*, *The Seven Samurai*) was born and raised. Eight of us went by rented van on a four-lane su-



Showing off the horsehead fiddle.

TUMBLEWEEDS continued on next page

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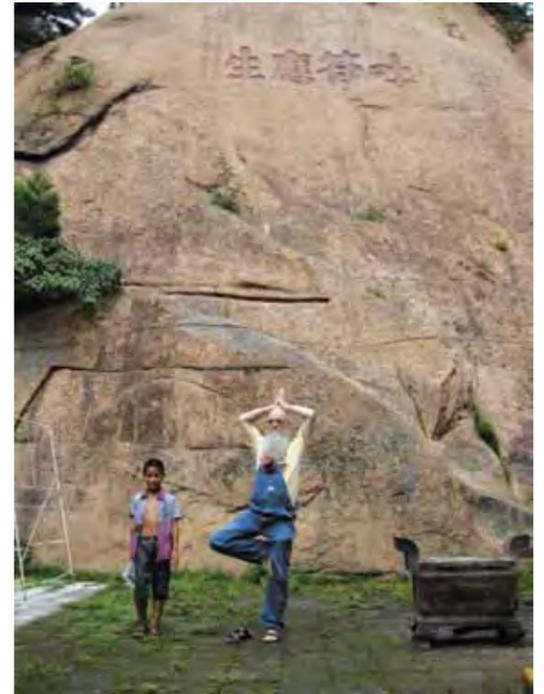
perhighway. We had a fine meal at a restaurant there the first night—a fish place where we picked out our fish fresh from the fish tanks as we ordered. The next morning we went to the beach as a typhoon was battering the coast, giving us a break from the heat for the first time since we arrived in China.

That afternoon, Ken went with Aaron to a small shop that specializes in a certain type of tea, Tie Guan Yin, that we were looking for. The owner served them the inexpensive grade, then the middle grade and then the most expensive grade. Even though they told him they couldn't afford the expensive grade and weren't buying much, he insisted on letting them taste everything. He loved tea and he really wanted to share it with them and to visit. The visit took over two hours, drinking lots of tea in very small cups.

The first thing he did was to pour hot water over the tea in a small glass teapot, let it sit for a very short time, and then he used that water to warm up the cups, which was then poured out. After that, he brewed another pot with the same leaves. The tea tasted best starting around the third or fourth pouring until the sixth or seventh pouring. So they drank a lot of tea, actually feeling a bit high by the end with the taste of the tea filling every breath and vibrating in their mouths. He also showed them how the better the tea, the farther down the throat one could taste it. Ken bought some of the middle grade of the Tie Guan Yin tea to bring home.

The three places we visited were all big cities with quite a bit of pollution, especially Anshan, which had the biggest steel facility we have ever seen anywhere. China is working hard to solve pollution problems, and is investing heavily in alternative energy. The typhoon that hit Dalian damaged a seawall, and shortly after we left, there were big protests about the leaching of chemicals into the sea.

The whole trip was an amazing experience, and it all passed by too quickly. We hope to return in



Ken at the Buddhist monastery.

the near future to Shanghai and do a few concerts as a cultural exchange. Then maybe we can bring home a horsehead fiddle.

We had driven up to Seattle to visit family along the way, and to play two concerts in Astoria, Ore., and Seattle. Catching the plane in Seattle meant a shorter flight, and it was nonstop, only 11 1/2 hours to Beijing. We were very happy to hit the road back to Silver City, but the jet lag was fierce—China is 16 hours behind New Mexico. After three long days on the road, the hills of Silver City looked so very good. Everything had greened up after the fires, and we felt privileged to have been on such a journey, and to return to our own paradise. ☘

*Silver City musicians Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler are Bayou Seco, www.bayouseco.com.*

## Newsmakers

Under the headline, "The Creationist Comedy Stylings of Steve Pearce," Slate's David Weigel reported this attempt at humor by New Mexico Rep. **Steve Pearce**, speaking at the Western Republican Conference last month:

"We got kooks running Washington, basically. Kooks are in charge of our government. You all can recognize a kook, but the media seems to not understand. Around two years ago, some guy in New Mexico claimed he was the messiah. And the press couldn't figure it out. I'm sorry, but the answer to that is real simple. You take them five miles off the coast and let 'em out. If he walks home, you think about it. If he sinks to the bottom, then he probably wasn't the messiah. But we've got people like that in Washington running our agencies. People are declaring that we descended from apes. Now, I know that's not true. The argument that we descended from sheep is still an open question. But the ape idea is completely out of line."

With Florida Sen. Marco Rubio apparently taking himself out of consideration for the GOP vice-presidential nomination in 2012, for which he was widely considered a shoo-in, speculation has turned to other Republican rising stars—including New Mexico Gov. **Susana Martinez**. The *Washington Post* listed Martinez as a veep possibility along with Virginia Gov. Bob

McDonnell, Sens. Rob Portman (Ohio) and John Thune (SD), Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Fox News Latino's Israel Ortega also opined about Martinez, saying, "As our nation's first Latina governor, New Mexico's Susana Martinez seems to understand the unique responsibility the title holds. ... It's clear that she's more concerned with delivering results than being the most popular politician in New Mexico."

### 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), which tracks 4,500 worldwide news sources (trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; \* indicates new to the list). Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. It's all Spaceport, all the time this month, as a splashy dedication and NASA bookings make it seem almost real.

1. (6) **Virgin Galactic**—1,220 hits (▲)
2. (-) **Spaceport America**—899 hits (▲)
3. (2) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—826 hits (▲)
4. (-) **New Mexico spaceport**—699 hits (▲)
5. (-) **Richard Branson + New Mexico**—665 hits (▲)
6. (1) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—448 hits (▼)
7. (-) **Sen. Tom Udall**—294 hits (▲)
8. (10) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—266 hits (▲)
9. (4) **New Mexico wildfires**—253 hits (▼)
10. (3) **New Mexico drought**—224 hits (▼)

Politico reported on Sen. **Tom Udall** donning black tie for the 43rd annual Meridian Ball in Washington, DC. The event featured "dancing and dining for diplomacy... with ambassadors, lawmakers, society darlings, business leaders and young benefactors hobnobbing at the Meridian International Center's historic headquarters." Senatorial spouse Jill Cooper Udall was the ball's congressional chair.

Alaska GOP Sen. **Lisa Murkowski** celebrated the anniversary of Alaskan statehood by giving

New Mexico Sen. **Jeff Bingaman** a beer—and tweeting a photo of the occasion. According to *The Hill*, Murkowski, ranking Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, gave Bingaman a gift bag and an Alaskan Amber Beer. The New Mexico Democrat is the committee's chairman. "I'm wishing all my Senate colleagues a Happy Alaska Day with gift packs, and hand-delivered one to Sen. Bingaman," Murkowski tweeted along with the picture. ☘

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# To Adapt and Improvise

Are you a whiner or an adapter?

I suppose it all began in the decade right after WWII: We began to prosper as a country, and to my reckoning, that prosperity peaked in the 1960s. My generation (the Baby Boomers) plus our children and their children, too, have had it pretty good, for the most part.

We evolved into a society of "haves"; even our poor have it much better off than the truly poor in Third World countries. And because of that we became a society of entitlements, such as welfare, unemployment insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, government grants for everything under the sun, tax relief, tax loopholes, subsidies for farmers, ranchers, oil firms (and many more), incentives, and the list goes on.

It didn't take much after entitlements were firmly established for the whiners to come along. After all, aren't we "entitled" to everything without having to do much in return? Nowadays we seem to whine, whine, whine.

We whine about the president and the Democrats; we whine about the Congress and the Republicans; we whine about the rich not paying "their fair share" and we whine about the poor not paying at all. We whine about too many illegals, and we whine there is no one to pick our chile crops. We whine about it being too cold, too hot, too rainy and too dry. We whine about global warming and the winters being too severe. Is there no topic that we don't whine about?

Now don't get me wrong; I whine, too. Last year, if you recall, I whined about the goathead plants (also called puncture vines) taking over my backyard and their effects on the feet of both dogs and humans.

But I didn't just whine, I decided to do something about it. I borrowed a page from the survivalists and the military elite—I adapted and improvised. My wife and I cut, dug, sprayed and picked for a total of about three months, completely ruining any plans to do something fun outdoors. That resulted in about a 99% rate of success.

Come this past summer, after the first good frog-drowner, however, I spied hundreds upon hundreds of the tiny vines coming forth from the soil. So what'd I do? I whined! I whined to my wife, I whined to my friends, I even whined to my God!

Then, with a fatalistic sigh, I sucked in my gut, tightened my belt and set to war once more, alongside my dear wife. I adapted and improvised some more and I bought a torch! No more goatheads and another battle won by summer's end.

Which leads me to what I really want to talk about. For a while now, I've been spying on and observing nature in my little portion of the world. What I've come to realize is that, unlike humans, nature and the Earth don't whine.

The Good Book says that the Earth groans like a woman in childbirth, but groaning is not whining. Groaning is adapting to the situation and improvising; whining is doing zip—it's complaining while doing nothing constructive.

I've told you before, and it bears repeating, about my favorite poem by D.H. Lawrence:

"I never saw a wild thing

Sorry for itself.

A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough  
Without ever having felt sorry for itself."

When that last, hard freeze hit us last winter and then the severe drought followed, my trees adapted. There is an overabundance of white pin oaks here, and the freeze killed some, but most went dormant after the March leaf-drop.

By July I was worried; the monsoons came, but the trees didn't leaf out as they should have. They appeared to have all died. But as I'd pass them on my hikes, I'd try to break off a tip and every time I was surprised to find they would only bend—they were still green!

Along about mid-August, all of a sudden, here they came to life again! You see, they adapted and improvised, just a full month later than normal.

Nature seems to always have counter measures for everything. Too many trees on the property, due to an errant fire policy by government entities on all levels for the last hundred years or so, has caused nature to introduce the mistletoe as a parasite on both oaks and junipers.

Probably 60%-70% of my trees are infected and they are slowly being thinned out and killed. Nature is pruning itself; it uses bark beetles and other critters in the same way.

When I moved to this property over six years ago, the vegetation was cropped short and subsequent rains eroded the soil severely. I decided to let everything just grow wild and sure enough, as the weeds and grasses grew to be two feet tall, the erosion is now at a minimum. I'm no longer plagued with mud all over the driveway and what runoff I do have is mostly clear water.

My stream bed runs only during times of severe storming. In years past, when the monsoons began, it took six storms to soak the ground enough to cause run off and the filling of the bed. This year, what hard rains we did get were absorbed by the thirsty soil and vegetation; my stream ran only four times all season. And, for the first time, after most rains, the ground was dried up within the first hour—no muddy, sappy ground, no clumpy boots. Only during the one rain when my arroyo ran full did I have mud for more than a couple hours.

The drought affected critters, too. Deer didn't drop as many fawns as they normally do. My quail coveys are down by two-thirds. Only the rabbits seems to be thriving.

What has happened? Everything has adapted and improvised.

Two of the most recent novels I've read are *The Road* and *One Second After*.

Both are about what folks do and don't do after a great catastrophe hits America and we collapse. *The Road* is a story about a huge disaster denuding the landscape. I figured that it was caused by a nuclear holocaust, but the book never says. My buddy Kris said he thought it was a super volcano like Yellowstone. That made more sense to me.

Anyway, the book is about a man and his young son adapting and improvising to deal with what life has dealt them. No whining here, just good ol' stoicism, fatalism and pragmatism.

Which gets me to reality. Many folks are predicting that, as the old Merle Haggard song, says, "The good times are really over for good." They predict that Yellowstone is getting ready to erupt big time; it is documented that the caldera is rising at a rate of 1.5 inches per year! Some of these "experts" also predict that a "perfect storm" is on the near horizon, and that "super quakes" may erupt in the heartland, and on both coasts.

They're right, you know. More major earthquakes have occurred this year than ever in recorded history and there are also more tornadoes than ever.

We are not exempt here in the Southwest. I'm told by geologists that all of our hot springs indicate that we are sitting on volatile ground that could erupt into volcanoes. They now say there is no such thing as an extinct volcano—merely dormant. Have you ever noticed how many abound around us?

When these or other disasters come, and they surely will, the question is: Are we prepared to deal with it all, will we adapt and improvise? Or will we just whine?

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

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



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ARTS EXPOSURE • HARRY WILLIAMSON

# The Exit of the Spirit

One of only 60 certified teachers of Japanese embroidery in the world, Kathryn Elms keeps alive a 1,500-year-old artistic tradition.



Working at her Azumi Japanese Embroidery Studio in Silver City, Kathryn Elms finds a quiet moment to work on a piece of embroidery. (Photos by Harry Williamson)

**A** viewer unfamiliar with the art of Kathryn Elms might be hard-pressed to even name the medium she uses.

"I've had people come in and think they were looking at paintings," Elms says.

A slightly more studious person might finally surmise—after several minutes of pondering—that it was some type of ornate sewing.

That would be correct. But what type of sewing?

The viewer can, for example, see flower petals that appear to be partially submerged in water. Light, shadow, depth and contours dance throughout the piece. A tall, leafy plant leaps out from the background, a three-dimensional fling. Several items appear stacked atop each other.

"I settled on this art because it is a challenge I will never fulfill, there's always something more to learn," says Elms, this issue's cover artist. "You can't go to Wal-Mart and buy a kit. This is something you personally have to immerse yourself in."

She is referring to Japanese embroidery, one of an overflowing basket of fabric arts that will be featured at the first Silver City Fiber Arts Festival, Nov. 11-12 at the Grant County Conference Center on Hwy. 180, sponsored by the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. In a demonstration at the festival on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 3-5 p.m., Elms will discuss the history, traditions, materials, tools and techniques of Japanese embroidery. And she should know: She is one of only 60 people in the world certified to teach this type of sewing, one of only two teachers located west of the Mississippi River.

Also an expert in costume design and construction, Elms was attracted to the art form in 2002 while trying to make a traditional Japanese *dobuku* coat for her husband, Duane Elms, who is the acting director of information technology at Western New Mexico University. Trained in both Japan and at The Japanese Embroidery Center, which was started in the 1980s by Shuji Tamura in a Atlanta suburb, she now operates the Azumi Japanese Embroidery Studio in Silver City.

She says her appreciation of Japanese embroidery was also fueled by a lifelong interest in Asia. That started at age two when her military family was stationed in what was previously a German conclave in Tsingtao (now Qingdao), China, during the final stages of the Chinese Civil War.

"In later years my grandfather would tease me

that I'd break out in fluid Chinese when I would get mad," she says. "It's true."

**I**n his book *The Techniques of Japanese Embroidery*, Tamura describes Japanese embroidery as a traditional art form passed down through the master/apprentice system for more than a thousand years. Originated in China, it entered Japan through Korea in approximately 552 AD, along with the beginnings of the Buddhist religion.

"Since its introduction, it has been worked with a level of technical skill and spiritual devotion rarely encountered in the history of the needle arts," Tamura writes. He adds that the early embroideries were made "to show in picture form the teachings of Buddha in a way that anyone could understand. They served a similar function to that of stained-glass windows in the Christian cathedrals of Europe."

Elms says some of the Japanese temples still maintain embroidery works that go back to the 1400s. "While there is not now a tie between embroidery and any religion, there are still many ties to human development, both technically and spiritually."

Japanese embroidery in Japan is known as *nui-dō*, with *nui* meaning embroidery, and *dō* meaning "the way."

"There are three aspects of *nui-dō*," Tamura writes. "The acquisition of technical skills and knowledge, the development of sensitivity and awareness, and the constant discovery of the spiritual components of the art of embroidery, resulting in an attitude of peace, calm and harmony. Great skill alone, only the technical part, does not produce art."



Careful work shows in this close-up of a piece of embroidery at Elms' studio.

Tamura adds that although Japanese embroidery has changed over the centuries as the country changed, it is one of those rare needlework disciplines that has never died out. For example, in the early 1600s, in what was known as the dark feudal era in Japan, embroidery changed to darker color tones, purple, brown and black, with deep red predominating. This was inspired, he writes, by "the blood of those executed as a result of the persecution of Christians and political purges. By looking at the garments of that period, we can understand how the Japanese were animated by that unique beauty that springs from creative energy."

In later times, various articles of clothing became the focus of embroidery, including first the *kosode* (or *kimono*), followed by the *obi*, originally used to tie garments, and finally, in the early 1900s, by the *han-eri* or half-collar, and the *haori*, a traditional jacket worn over a kimono.

Following World War II, however, Japanese embroidery was running the risk of becoming a dying art.

That's when Master Iwao Saito, who had learned embroidery as a 15-year-old apprentice, began to see his work not as a job, but as an obligation to pass on the tradition. He established apprenticeships for young people in Togane City near



The wooden frame used in Japanese embroidery uses both dowels and lacing to keep the silk ground fabric drum-taut.

Tokyo and later in other areas of Japan. In what had always been an oral tradition, Saito wrote down the techniques, planned curriculums and published a textbook. In 1980 his son-in-law, Shuji Tamura, brought Japanese embroidery to the US, first at the national seminar of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, and later by starting the Japanese Embroidery Center in Dunwoody, Ga., teaching people to become teachers. Classes are now held in England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and other countries.

**E**lms says to become a certified teacher it is necessary to complete a 10-phase core curriculum, which takes most people approximately five years—equivalent, she adds, to a master's degree.

The final, 10th phase uses all of Japanese embroidery's 46 types of stitches. She says that doing just one section took her nine months of steady work. But it was well worth it, as it resulted in both her teacher's certification and also in what she terms her "proudest moment."

She entered the piece, called the *kusudama*, or flower ball design, in the 2009 Albuquerque Fiber Arts Festival. It took home a trifecta of awards: Best In Show, Best Embroidery and—especially important to Elms—the Viewer's Choice Award.

"It's very gratifying when you can engage people who are doing fantastic quilting work and dyeing work and silk painting, doing all the forms of fiber arts," she says.

Describing the stitches used, she says the one that most makes Japanese embroidery unique is superimposing—embroidery on top of embroidery. One form of this is called "couching," using a fine thread to hold down a non-stitchable thread, most often silver or gold, which is silver or gold paper wrapped round a thread.

"Couching thread is often red because it reflects the gold. If you use gold thread, it dulls the gold," Elms says. "The same is true with silver. If you use white thread it brightens it. If gray is used, it dulls it out."

Other categories of stitches include knots, braided cords and various types of padding techniques used to lift up the embroidery, along with what are called "realistic effects," short and long stitches in changing colors to mirror natural motifs. "Fuzzy effects" are created by various types of spaced parallel stitches, described by Tamura as "the technique of highest dignity in Japanese embroidery."

Considering how elaborate the work is, the tools are sparse, with Elms' fitting neatly inside an approximately three-by-five-inch wooden box. Inside her toolbox are two scissors (one for thread, one for metal), several sizes and types of needles, and an awl, which is stuck into the wood frame and used to hold flat silk threads while they are being twisted. Last is a tapered piece of tempered steel called a *teko-bari*, used to flatten silk threads. The wooden frame uses a system of both shuttle poles and lacing to hold the silk ground cloth drum-taut.

The embroider works two-handed, right on top and left underneath.

**D**iscussing the tools, Elms holds up her two hands. "These are your most important tools," she says. "Master Saito said the hands are the exit of the spirit. The first thing I do with all of my students is to have them take care of their hands."

She added that students at the Azumi Studio learn the art in a quiet, peaceful setting, starting with the first phase introduction to all the tools and methods of handling flat silk. One of her students is currently working on the fourth phase.



Kathryn Elms' Phase Ten "Flower Ball" design contains all of the 46 stitches used in Japanese embroidery. It won three first place awards at the 2009 Albuquerque Fiber Arts Festival.



Elms is one of 25 certified teachers of Japanese embroidery in the US.

Another, who has spent time in India, meditates before starting work.

Elms says she would consider offering scholarships to younger students who are interested in learning, again concerned that Japanese embroidery is in danger of becoming a dying art.

"With some degree of perseverance and dedication, anyone can learn this," she adds. "It is intense and exciting to turn out a piece of silk embroidery for the first time." ❁

Contact the Azumi Studio by calling (575) 534-4663, or emailing

elms.duanekathryn@gmail.com.

Harry Williamson moved to Grant County three years ago after reporting and editing for newspapers in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. Feel free to contact him at editorharrydad5@gmail.com.

## Stitching Together a Festival

The inaugural Silver City Fiber Arts Festival, Nov. 11-12, aims to be much more than just a good first attempt.

After extensive study of how successful fiber shows are done elsewhere, the first one in Silver City is ready to bypass infancy and spring into life as a fully mature festival: the Silver City Fiber Arts Festival, Nov. 11-12 at the Grant County Conference Center on Hwy. 180.

Lynn Welsch, who is heading the local show for the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective, says she volunteered at the Albuquerque Fiber Arts Festival to see how a big, well-established show is done. She is also very familiar with the quilt festival in Houston, which is the largest in the world.

"We've spent thousands of hours getting ready for this show, and I'm encouraged by what we are going to have," she says. "I've been amazed by the number and the talent of the fiber artists we have living in this area. I know Silver City is an art town, but I was still surprised."

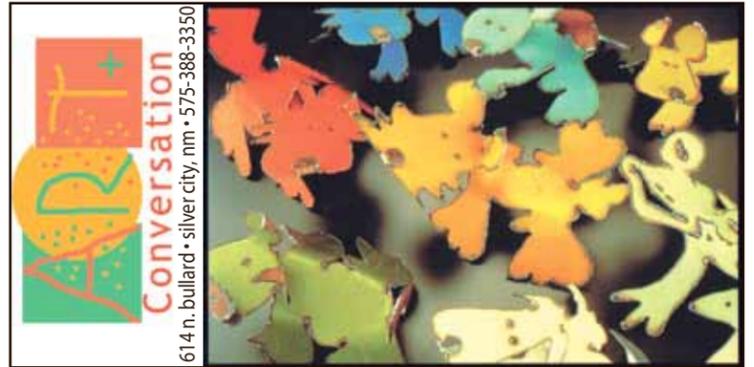
Welsch says the 38 booths will be divided between fine, hand-made fiber art and vendors of fiber art-making supplies.

"This is a show that will really appeal to the public, in part because of its timing just before the holidays," she adds. "We will have wonderful hand-made gifts for the people to purchase."

These items will include everything from shawls, rugs, baskets and belts, to a whole gamut of knitted and crocheted things, and quilts. There will also be people selling hand-dyed yarn they've spun themselves, along with fabric, beads and other supplies.

"This is a juried show, so the artists had to submit photos of their work just to get in," Welsch says. "It's a very important distinction, and should give the public some very nice items to purchase."

FIBER FESTIVAL continued on next page



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Above: Peter Hurd, Skylab, 1973 | Watercolor on paper

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**FIBER FESTIVAL** continued

The two-day show will also feature:

- Karen Earlywine of Silver City, co-author of *Fancy to Frugal: Authentic Quilt Patterns from the '30s*, will present a selection of the quilts and patterns from her book.
- Fabrics designed by artist George Mendoza will be featured in an art quilt exhibit provided by the Las Colcheras Quilt Guild.
- Dr. Eric Blinman, director of the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, will demonstrate the art of spinning yucca fiber and the making of fur/fiber blankets.
- The Cooperative Extension will be setting up sewing machines and bringing pre-cut pillowcase sets for people to sew and donate to military families.
- In a Miniature Quilt Challenge, four area quilt guilds will present special quilts, each done with a unique theme.
- In a special exhibit, "Wool to Wearables," Susie Calhoun of the Yada Yada Yarn Shop will show how fleece from sheep is washed, scoured, carded and spun into fine yarns.
- Eat Your Heart Out caterers will bring special lunches each day, and Grant County 4-H will provide beverages and snacks.

The Silver City Museum will also host classes in conjunction with the festival. Jackie Becker of the museum will show how to care and preserve textiles, along with a demonstration of a washing technique for cotton. The class will include a special display of some of the museum's textiles.



Souvenirs of the first Silver City Fiber Arts Festival will include T-shirts and tote bags. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

Welsch encourages people to sign up early for the classes, which will have small fees and be held at the museum annex. Other classes include "Sewing with Hand-Woven Fabrics," Carry Wilcox, instructor; "Pine Needle Basket Making," taught by Ric Rao; "Quilting: Playful Posies," Lisa Marie Long; "To Spindle or Not to Spindle Basket," Bev Larson; "Colcha Embroidery," Rita Hartley; and "Knitting Snowflakes," Sandra Jefferies.

The shorter "make it, take it" workshops include "Embroidery on Paper: Greeting Cards," where instructor Susie Snedeker will show how to make two cards, one a Christmas tree and the other a heart. The other shorter classes are "Silk Painting," with Blythe Whiteley; "North American Talking Sticks," taught by Bree; and "Hyperbolic Crochet," with Jan Merchant and Irene Mossburg.



Paddy Kuehnlenz shows off a few antique quilts. Activities at the Silver City Fiber Arts Festival will include so-called "bed turnings" where the stories behind many of the quilts on display will be told. (Photo by Marcia Fisch)

The festival garnered support from Freeport McMoran Cooper & Gold, Inc., and for a Town of Silver City Lodgers Tax grant, which provided funds for a wide-reaching advertising program.

"We've done a lot of target marketing in hopes people will do road trips here, promoting the festival, but also Silver City itself," Welsch says. "We put a downtown map in our show booklet."

Welsch believes there has been a resurgence of interest in quilting and the fiber arts since the US bicentennial, including among younger families.

"Fiber arts is just one of the creative arts that help people through tough times," she adds. "I find it a great stress reliever to just go in my studio and work on a quilt."—Harry Williamson

*The Silver City Fiber Arts Festival will be Nov. 11-12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, at the Grant County Conference Center, located on Hwy. 180, beside the Ace Hardware store. The event will feature 38 vendor booths, 12 classes, 19 special exhibits, and 8 demonstrations. Information on all of these activities is online at fiberartscollective.org. Reservations for classes can be made by calling the Common Thread store at (575) 538-5733. Admission to the festival is free of charge, although donations are welcome. There is a small charge for the classes, held at the Silver City Museum Annex.*

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ARTS EXPOSURE

# Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

## Silver City & Grant County Arts Scene

**L**eyba & Ingalls Arts will be celebrating Days of the Dead on Nov. 1-2, open until 7 p.m. both days as well as on First Friday, Nov. 4. 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725.

The Mimbres Region Arts Council will host a **Guatemalan Holiday Market and Sale** on Saturday, Nov. 5, in the MRAC/Wells Fargo Gallery. Proceeds from the sale of authentic, hand-made works from Guatemalan artisans will benefit the arts council. 1201 N. Pope St., 538-2505, [www.mimbresarts.org](http://www.mimbresarts.org).

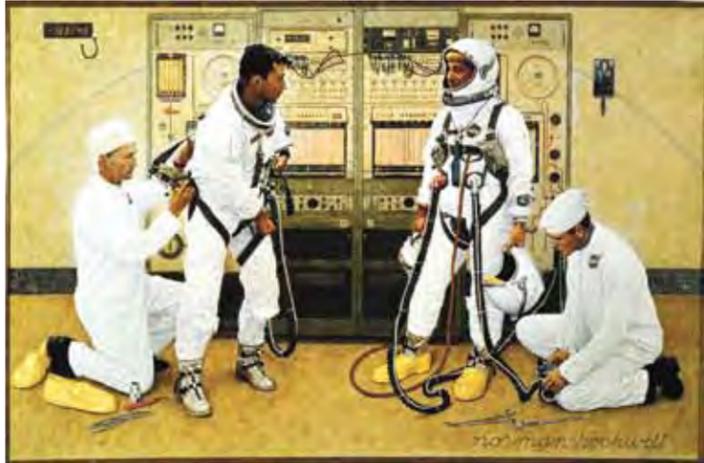
The arts council, along with WILL, will also have the latest in the **Artist Lecture Series** this month: Irvin and Lisa Trujillo, Chimayo master weavers, will present on Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at WNMU's Parotti Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Lisa Trujillo will then present a class, "Intro to Chimayo-Style Weaving," Nov. 11-12 at **Wild West Weaving**. For costs and times, contact Hosana Eliert at 534-1012. Both Trujillos and Ann Hedlund will conduct a weavers forum and open discussion, "Taking Weaving from a Craft to an Art Form," on Nov. 11 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Wild West Weaving, which will have a number of the Trujillos' works on display. An opening reception will be held Nov. 11, 7-9 p.m. 211-D N. Texas.

More fiber arts will be on view at **Copper Quail Gallery**, which will feature "Fun Fiber" with works by Susan Hill and Jane Bowen, with extended hours Nov. 11-12 until 8 p.m. 211-A Texas St., 388-2646.

Another past *Desert Exposure* cover artist, Narrie Toole, has returned to the area and opened **Estudio de La Montura** in the Mimbres. Open by appointment, the studio features contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. 313-2565, [www.narrietoole.com](http://www.narrietoole.com).

**JW Art Gallery** in Hurley is featuring new Gila

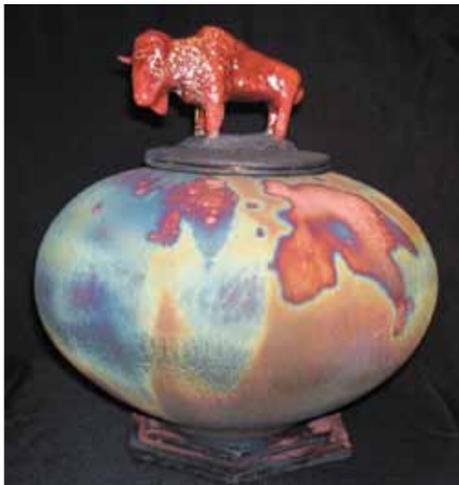


Norman Rockwell is among the wide variety of artists represented in the Las Cruces Museum of Art's "NASA | Art" exhibit.

Wilderness images by Tom Holt. 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300, [jwartgallery.com](http://jwartgallery.com).

**Kate Brown Pottery** will have its annual seconds sale beginning on Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and continuing through the month. Proceeds benefit the El Salvador Project of the Society of Friends. In the Mimbres, [www.katebrownpottery.com](http://www.katebrownpottery.com).

**Seedboat Gallery's** annual jewelry show opens Nov. 25 and runs through Dec. 31. 214 W. Yankie St., [seedboatgallery.com](http://seedboatgallery.com).



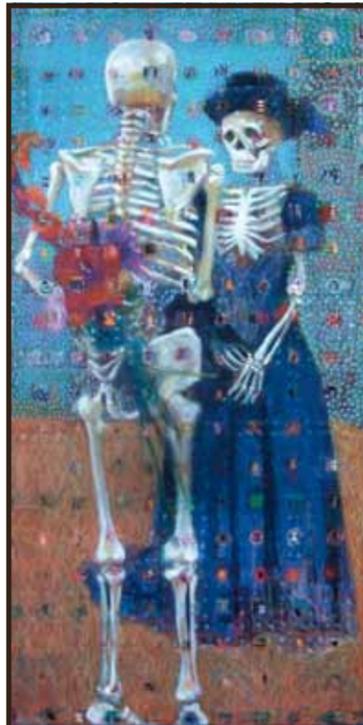
Randy Lucero will be among the artists represented in the Potters' Guild of Las Cruces' annual holiday sale.

**C**an it be holiday arts and crafts fair time already? Indeed it is, offering a perfect excuse for a drive to the "other side" of the Continental Divide to the **Gila Valley Winter Arts and Crafts Fair** at the Old Tavern in Cliff (west side of Hwy. 180). The fair, on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., will feature 20 local artists, with handmade art and crafts for sale. Music will be performed by Bayou Seco, Andrew Dahl-Bredine (see story in this issue), John Osborn and others. Food

and desserts will be available, along with raffles, door prizes and a kids' craft table. And, yes, Santa will arrive at 11 a.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 535-2151.

Then, on the other side of Grant County, it's the **31st Annual Mimbres Hot Springs Studio Sale**, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

ARTS SCENE continued on next page



## DIAS DE LOS MUERTOS DAYS OF THE DEAD

NOVEMBER 1 & 2

First Friday, Nov. 4

Open late—Nov. 1, 2 & 4 until 7pm

We carry the finest in art supplies as well as art for the discriminating collector

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## Potters' Guild of Las Cruces Annual Holiday Sale

Friday, November 11th from 2 pm to 7 pm and Saturday, November 12th from 9 am to 4 pm at the Las Cruces Association of Realtors, 150 E. Idaho Avenue between El Paseo and Main Streets (adjacent to Comcast Cable).

Lots of free parking, and free admission.



# VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY

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- ◆ **Fri Nov 4** *First Fridays Downtown: Dia de Los Muertos.* Street dance on Broadway and/or inside the Old Post Office, 5-8 pm. Family activities at the Silver City Museum. Stores and galleries open late.
- ◆ **Nov 25-26** *21st Annual Lighted Christmas Parade Weekend.* Trolley rides, family movie, music performances, parade, and more! See ad page 2.
- ◆ **Fri Dec 2** *First Fridays Downtown: Holiday Cheer.* Luminarias, family activities, music, and food. Stores and galleries open late. Turn in your holiday passport and win!
- ◆ **Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, & 17** Free gift wrapping for downtown purchases. Saturday afternoons. Silco Theater, 311 N Bullard.

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## ARTS SCENE continued

More than 30 artists will be selling a variety of handcrafted gifts, plus there will be live music, refreshments and door prizes. To get there, take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 south to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs two and a half miles. No pets.

## Las Cruces and Mesilla Arts Scene

The Las Cruces Museum of Art celebrates the artistic side of America's space program with a special exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), "NASA | ART," opening on Friday, Nov. 4, and on view through Jan. 21. NASA's historic triumphs and pioneering legacy are well known to millions, but the rocket launches, moon landings and explorations also had an impact on the imaginations of America's leading artists. As the space agency turned 50, SITES launched a national tour of "NASA | ART 50 Years of Exploration," featuring 74 works from those artists. The exhibit features creations by artists as diverse as Annie Leibovitz, Nam June Paik, Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol and William Wegman. Drawn from the collections

of NASA and the National Air and Space Museum, the exhibition includes drawings, photographs, sculpture and other art forms and media. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.



"Village I" by Bruce McClain, part of a new show opening Nov. 11 at the Preston Contemporary Art Center.

to honor their grandparents who suffer with Alzheimer's disease. A talk by Sandy Smith of Comfort Speakers, "Generation in a Pickle," will be held in conjunction with the show on Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Refreshments will be served and the gallery will be open; call 522-7281 for reservations, as seating is limited. 2000 S. Solano.

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery's featured artists this month are Judy Bess and Nanci

Bissell. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933.

The Preston Contemporary Art Center's new exhibition, on the theme of "Views from the Sky," will open with

a reception for the artists on Friday, Nov. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The works are by photographer Al Weber, painters Bruce McClain and Glynis Chaffin-Tinglof, and scroll artist Signe Stuart. The show will run through Feb. 25. Saturday, Nov. 12, will bring the next in the gallery's Artists Dialogue series beginning at 1 p.m. and featuring Signe Stuart.

The Preston is also looking for artists for its final exhibition before closing its doors, "The Last Picture Show." The juried exhibition, Jan. 13-Feb. 18, is open to southern New Mexico and El Paso area artists, and submission fees will benefit La Casa Domestic Violence Shelter. Deadline is Nov. 15. 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, bschranz@prestoncontemporaryart.com, www.prestoncontemporaryart.com.

The Potters' Guild of Las Cruces will hold its 29th annual holiday sale Friday, Nov. 11, from 2-7 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Association of Realtors, 150 E. Idaho Ave. (between El Paseo and Main, adjacent to Comcast Cable). This is an opportunity to purchase a unique handmade creation direct from the artist. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Thirteen local artists will be selling art and ceramics including jewelry, functional pottery, sculpture, tiles and beads. Participating artists include Joe Angelo, Michelle Arterburn, Wendy Baldwin, Beth Landers-Chidester, Rudy Lucero, Sally McCollum, Monica Maes, John Northcutt, Linda Reeder-Sanchez, Randy and Jeanine Summers, Barbara Williams, Cally Williams and Dorothy Zitzler. 524-1146, 639-6786.

The Rokoko Gallery will host a second reception for the "Bone Tickler," a community art show inspired by Dia de los Muertos, tattoos, voodoo and All Saints Day, on Friday Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m. It will feature Cesar Ivan performing his handmade Calaca (skeleton) marionettes. 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Works by Michael C. Gutierrez and Luis Navarro will be featured on Nov. 11 in the "21st Century Show" at Mesilla Pointe plaza, 6-10 p.m. 207 N. Avenida de Mesilla, 680-6913.

**KATE BROWN POTTERY & TILE SHOWROOM**  
IN THE MIMBRES  
ANNUAL 2NDS SALE, SAT NOV 5 10 AM - 5 PM  
SALE CONTINUES ALL NOVEMBER !!  
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SAT & SUN, DEC 3 & 4  
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Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat. — noon until 3 p.m.  
119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley  
www.victoriachick.com

Mesquite Art Gallery features the work of a 10-year-old digital artist, Luke Tumblin, beginning Nov. 3, with an opening reception Nov. 5, 4-6 p.m. 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502.

Unsettled Gallery and Las Cruces artist Jeri Desrochers are teaming up with the Fairlight Community Gardens to "artfully" help spread the word that fresh, organic food is available to low-income families in the area. From Nov. 5-26, the gallery will host a fundraiser for the gardens featuring Desrochers' work in the exhibit, "Vistas and Vignettes: Mesilla Valley Textures." Desrochers' original oil paintings evoke the Mesilla Valley farmlands and its people through the artist's use of jewel-tone paint applied in a thick impasto style. A portion of all sales from the show will be donated to the gardens. An artist's reception will be held Nov. 5 from 4-6 p.m. 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285.

The Tombaugh Gallery of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Art Association will present a special exhibit to coincide with National Alzheimer's month in November, "Memories Not Forgotten. The show continues until Dec. 3. For the show, member artists painted memories of loved ones who have gone before or who are elderly. There will also be display of memory boxes made by the children of the University Hills Elementary School



"To Everything... Turn, Turn, Turn" by Ruth Park, featured at the Tombaugh Gallery.

The **NMSU Art Gallery** will feature *Glitteropolis*, “a magical and visceral art experience filled with oddity, surreality, glam and glitz” by the Meow Wolf art collective, opening Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. and on view through Feb. 18. DW Williams Hall, 1390 E. University Ave.

Resident artists of Doña Ana County are encouraged to submit original art in all media for display in **Las Cruces City Hall** beginning Jan. 1. Deadline is Nov. 15. For information, call 528-3477 or visit [www.lascruces.org/Departments/PublicServices](http://www.lascruces.org/Departments/PublicServices).



Judy Bess is a featured artist this month at the Mesilla valley Fine Arts Gallery.

If you're in El Paso this month, don't miss **Las Artistas'** art and fine crafts show, Nov. 19-20 at the event center behind First Presbyterian, 1340 Murchison. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3. Proceeds benefit the UTEP Department of Art. [www.lasartistas.org](http://www.lasartistas.org).

**Sierra County Arts Scene**

The annual Hillsboro Christmas celebration, **Christmas in the Foothills**, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., has been recognized as a New Mexico Centennial Event. A state proclamation recognizes Dec. 3 as the 100th anniversary of the death of Nicholas Galles, an early resident of Hillsboro important in New Mexico history.

Galles was a Hillsboro pioneer who led a posse of 15 to fight Apache leader Victorio in 1879. He served as Hillsboro's first postmaster, owned a mercantile business and studied law under Judge Albert Fountain. Galles served in the Territorial Legislature and wrote the legislation to create Sierra County in 1884.

In addition to a photo display about Galles created by the Hillsboro Historical Society and a book

signing/sale for the organization's book, *Around Hillsboro* (see story in August 2011 issue), highlights of Christmas in the Foothills will include an array of vendors selling specialty handcrafted gifts in the Hillsboro Community Center and the popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale. The \$49.99 Art Show and Sale began years ago as a way for local artists, authors and craftspeople to give back to the community at Christmas time. Each item will be sold for \$49.99 to a winning ticket holder, and all items are guaranteed to be worth more than that—many several times more.

One-dollar tickets can also be purchased for a chance to win framed artwork created especially for the event by Julie Shufelt. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Community Center at the end of the event. Limited-edition giclée prints of Shufelt's artwork are for sale at Percha Creek Traders.

*Except as noted, all phone numbers are area code 575. Send arts events to [events@desertexposure.com](mailto:events@desertexposure.com).*



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[www.ginnywolf.wordpress.com](http://www.ginnywolf.wordpress.com)

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Deborah Hutchings is now exhibiting!

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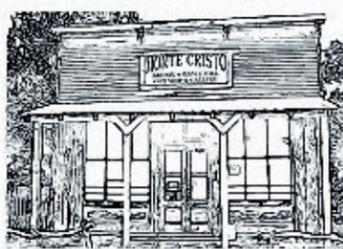
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# LAS ARTISTAS

Art & Fine Crafts Show

Sat ~ Nov 19 ~ 10-5

Sun ~ Nov 20 ~ 10-4

## www.lasartistas.org



Katherine Saulandris & Michael Burris



Alexander Titovets



Jimmy Spier

Event Center behind  
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1340 Murchison  
El Paso, TX

Admission \$3.00  
(under 18 free)

Free Parking

Proceeds from Las Artistas benefit the UTEP Department of Art

ARTS EXPOSURE

# Gallery Guide

**Seedboat Gallery's Annual Jewelry Show**  
November 25 – December 31  
Opening Reception Friday evening

**Jude Clark**  
**Abigail Foulk**  
**Leslie Jensen**  
**Julie Konvicka**  
**Lindsay Livingston**  
**Diane Marsh**  
**Marcia Smith**  
**Joslin Torres**  
and others

**Seedboat Center for the Arts**  
Gallery • Performance & Recording Studio  
214 W. Yankie Street • seedboatgallery.com



Squash Blossom Necklace by Jude Clark

**Antique and Collectible 19th and 20th Century Original Prints and Drawings**

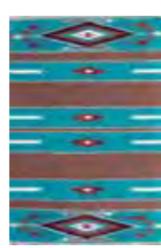
**American artists and artists of New Mexico**



www.victoriachick.com  
Cow Trail Art Studio  
119 Cow Trail, Arenas Valley, NM  
Noon - 3 M, Thurs, Fri, Sat.

Levon West

**MEET THE CHIMAYO WEAVERS**




**Irvin Trujillo**  
National Endowment for the Arts  
National Heritage Fellow 2007  
Master Weaver, Chimayo Weavers

**Lisa Trujillo**  
Master Weaver  
Chimayo Weavers

**Intro to Chimayo-Style Weaving Class with Lisa Trujillo**  
Fri., Nov. 11 & Sat., Nov. 12, 2011  
**Friday:** 9am to 5pm (Lunch noon-2pm)  
**Saturday:** 9am to 6pm (lunch noon-2pm)  
Class limited to 4.  
Cost: \$180.00 includes material

**Weavers' Forum Friday, Nov. 11**  
"Taking Weaving from Craft to Art"  
Panel Discussion with Ann Hedlund, Irvin & Lisa Trujillo  
5:00-6:30 pm  
Wild West Weaving  
Limit of 25.  
Call for reservations.  
Suggested Donation: \$5.00

**Weavings of Irvin and Lisa Trujillo**  
Opening Reception @ Wild West Weaving  
Nov. 11 from 7-9 pm  
Music & Refreshments

Wild West Weaving  
313-1032 • 211D Texas St.  
Silver City, NM 88061

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**Yankie Street Studios: Available Now!**  
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**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"OE**, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.  
**AZURITE GALLERY**, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.  
**BLUE DOME GALLERY**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.  
**CLAYFUL HANDS**, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.  
**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. Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.  
**COW TRAIL ART STUDIO**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon., Thurs.-Sat., 12-3 p.m. www.victoriachick.com.  
**CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS**, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.  
**FRANCIS McCRAE GALLERY**, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.  
**GINNY WOLF STUDIO & GALLERY**, 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.com.  
**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, Christina Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordee Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.leybalngallsARTS.com, leybalngallsART@zianet.com.  
**LOIS DUFFY**, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The studio and gallery of Lois Duffy presents a unique and thought-provoking view of the world through the eyes of an artist. Imaginative portraits, surreal places and realistic scenes of life. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.  
**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.ramollart.com.  
**OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE**, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgallery.com.  
**SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY**, 215 W.

Broadway, 388-2079.  
**STONEWALKER STUDIO**, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Barbara Jorgen Nance.  
**THE STUDIO SPACE**, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.  
**SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO**, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.  
**TATIANA MARIA GALLERY**, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426. New Mexico landscape oils by Dan Boldman and Maria Brion. Fine art glass panels by Steve and PJ Robowski. Mimbres gourd vessels and masks by Pierre Nichols. Gallery designed furniture.  
**TOP HAT ART**, 115 N. Bayard.  
**TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO**, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.  
**TWO SPIRIT GALLERY**, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**WILD WEST WEAVING**, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.hosanaeilert.com. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS**, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.

**Mimbres**  
**KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE**, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilinet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.  
**NARRIE TOOLE**, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietool.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. 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.  
**Mesilla**  
**ELKIN STUDIO**, Oñate Plaza, 635-2025, www.elkinjewelers.com.  
**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.  
**PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER**, 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, www.prestoncontemporaryart.com. Tues.-Sat. 12-5 p.m.  
**ROKOKO**, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.  
**Las Cruces**  
**ALEGRE GALLERY**, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685.  
**BLUE GATE GALLERY**, 311 Old Downtown Mall, 523-2950. Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon.  
**COTTONWOOD GALLERY**, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**CUTTER GALLERY**, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 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@delvalleprintinglc.com.  
**LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART**, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**MAIN STREET GALLERY**, 311 N. Downtown Mall, 647-0508. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**MESQUITE ART GALLERY**, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. Thurs.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 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 909**, 909 Raleigh Road, 541-8648. By appointment.  
**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.  
**KING'S KORNER**, 103 E. Ash, 546-4441.  
**GOLD STREET GALLERY**, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200.  
**ROOM WITH A VIEW**, 108 E. Pine St., 546-5777.  
**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.  
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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Take Your Horse to the Gym

How should you keep your horse fit? The answer may surprise you.

I drove past the Billy Casper Wellness Center the other day and noticed the parking lot was filled as usual. Lots of people working hard to stay healthy and fit—lifting weights, taking exercise classes, pedaling bikes or getting help to restore strength and flexibility lost in an accident or just too many miles on the clock. I imagine everyone in there had a similar goal—to be able to continue with an active life or recreational pursuit without pain, or to just plain feel better when they got out of bed every day.

Later that day I was watching some of the early rounds of the US Open tennis tournament and was struck by how different these high-level athletes look today versus how they looked back in the days of Borg and Connors. Gone is the player with one arm who looked like Popeye and one that looked like Olive Oyl. Now they are cross-trained athletes where every muscle has been developed in order to maintain a balanced body that can withstand the challenges of the sport and resist injuries.

So, what does any of this have to do with our horses? Maybe a whole lot more than we might think. If you love your horse and want your partnership to last a good long time, and you want your horse to be able to perform well and be as comfortable, pain free and healthy as possible, then maybe it is time you treated your horse as an athlete.

As you're out and about and see horses, you'll probably notice the same thing I do—they are all basically just standing around. As the horse evolved from a critical part of daily life to a recreational activity, it created a situation where this incredible athlete is standing around waiting for the few hours per week when the owner has time to ride. Then the horse may be asked to do some things it really isn't physically prepared to do. This is just a fact of life. Unless you're in the horse business, your horse is just one thing in your life competing with all of your other needs and responsibilities.

This is a hot button for me as I regularly work with horses in their early to mid-teens that have started to change behaviors or become increasingly prone to injury. These horses have all had wonderful, loving owners and have been ridden regularly, so there was never a case where the changes could be caused by neglect or poor care. Many of them have been used in only one way for many years, and as a result they have become one dimensional. You can see lack of development in their bodies, and feel them adjusting their posture or movement to accommodate weaker limbs or sore muscles. They may favor a certain direction or one particular lead or diagonal, and often show what could be called "over-use" injuries or soreness due to their unbalanced bodies. It is easy to see why backs drop, saddles don't fit, hoof problems develop or cranky behavior starts to show up. Clearly, just riding a horse doesn't make him fit or happy.

I think we've missed a very important point with our horses. These are high-level athletes that have to be trained and conditioned to be able to do what we want them to do. They were never "designed" to carry a rider and be able to comfortably take us on our weekend trail rides or our once-a-month shows or competitions without sufficient conditioning to perform those tasks. I am absolutely convinced that a cross-trained and well-conditioned horse will be productive and healthier later in life, just as a good fitness program can help us in our daily lives.

If I had one word of advice for people with horses who are interested in keeping their horses fit and happy for a lifetime, the word would be: *dressage*. This may sound strange coming from a natural-horsemanship trainer in an area of the country where most people ride western. The very word brings images of britches, tall boots and fancy horses. But keep in mind that dressage is really about training and communication between horse and rider, and that many of the basic movements were developed out of battlefield requirements on horseback. The dictionary defines dressage as "the training of a horse in deportment and obedience," from a French root meaning "to prepare." Forget the image you might have, and think "cross training" and total

mental and physical fitness.

It wasn't long ago that most big-name natural-horsemanship clinicians spoke openly about their dislike of the world of dressage and the training techniques in the discipline. Now, however, if you go to see any of these personalities they will all trot out a student or two who has used their techniques as a foundation for their work in dressage, jumping or eventing. Look at all the trainers offering "natural dressage" or "dressage, naturally." There is a natural dressage forum on the Internet, and Western dressage groups are forming.

What happened? I think everyone figured out that riding is riding. After you use the proven techniques of natural horsemanship to develop a trusting relationship with your horse, and to teach your horse softness and responsiveness, you still have an enormous responsibility to develop your horse athletically for his well-being and your enjoyment and safety. This is where dressage comes in.

I came across an article in an old magazine that I think illustrates the relevance of this line of thinking for any horse owner, and especially for the way many of us ride in this part of the country. The article was about a woman named Erin McChesney, who won the prestigious 100-mile Tevis Cup endurance race in California twice in the early 1990s. Even more impressive was that in each race she also won the award for "best conditioned" horse. Her second win was on a 14-year-old horse, well above the average age for winners of this challenging event. She freely admitted that she believed it was dressage work that led to these successes. Rather than endless miles to "condition" her horse, she reduced the mileage on the trail and added a regular routine of dressage work to develop total fitness.

McChesney believed that a horse capable of sustained activity without injury must be able to use its energy efficiently and be able to use both sides of its body equally well. The dressage training taught both horse and rider how to easily change leads and diagonals, vary speeds, engage the hindquarters, bend to deal with changes in direction or terrain, collect on the trail and move in a balanced fashion. This helps distribute the stress and concussion of a long ride, and significantly reduces the risk of an overuse injury due to a horse or rider favoring a stronger limb or body part, or a more comfortable lead or diagonal. The training also gave her the tools to ride more effectively and use her seat, hands and legs to support and communicate with the horse.

She felt this approach taught her how to ride her horse "symmetrically," developing the whole horse equally on both sides (as well as the horse's mental balance), and this is what led to the level of total fitness and success.

There is a great message in this for all of us, whether we like our long trail rides, pack into the wilderness or compete at some level. Appreciate your horse for the athlete he is, but understand he needs to be conditioned and cross-trained to develop the well-rounded fitness and athletic ability necessary to work for us, and to fight off the effects of age and wear and tear.

It doesn't take a lot of time or special equipment to learn a few of the basic movements of dressage. With a few arena sessions and some quality practice, you can master things well enough to really help your horse's mind, body and fitness. You can incorporate all of these movements into your regular riding routine, even out on the trail, and you will see great benefits for you and your horse.

And yes, you can do all this in your jeans, boots and western saddle! 🐾

*Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship. He can be reached with comments or questions at [hsthomson@msn.com](mailto:hsthomson@msn.com) or (575) 388-1830.*



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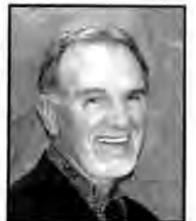
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POLICY PERSPECTIVES • TOM BARRY

# Border Warriors

Border security 10 years after 9/11: Wasteful policy fueling new drug wars.



Fences and vehicle barriers now line the Southwest border. (Photos by Tom Barry)

**Introduction:** Over the past several years, Tom Barry has traveled the Southwest border from Texas through Arizona tracking the post-9/11 security anxiety. Barry, who lives in a largely self-constructed (with lots of help from friends) passive-solar, straw-bale home in Pinos Altos with life partner Deb Preusch and their two daughters Alex and Taylor, has been writing on border issues and US-Mexico relations since the late 1970s.

In his recently released book *Border Wars* (MIT Press), Barry offers a vivid profile of a US borderland that has become a staging ground for the latest front in the four-decades-old drug war, the economic beneficiary of a vast increase in “border security” funding, and the home of a new gulag of private immigrant prisons (such as the two in Otero county just north of El Paso).

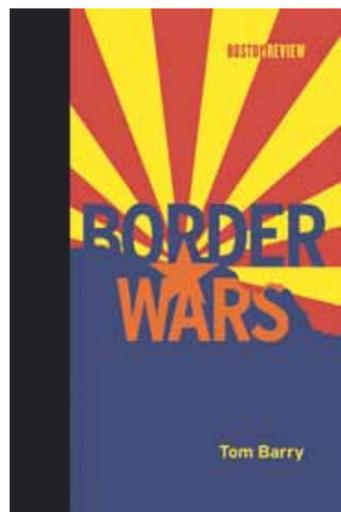
Some see rogue states like Arizona and Texas as a model for the nation in their go-it-alone posturing and tough immigration-enforcement talk. In *Border Wars*, dogged investigative journalist Tom Barry documents the costs of that model: lives lost; families torn apart; billions of wasted tax dollars; vigilantes prowling the desert; and fiscal crises in cities, counties and states.

As Barry explains, the lack of coherent federal policy on immigration and drug war conduct and the uncritical embrace of all things in

the name of national security has opened doors for opportunists from boardrooms to governors’ offices. Corporate-prison magnates eagerly swallow up undocumented immigrants into taxpayer-funded dungeons, border sheriffs and politicians trade on voters’ fears of Latinos and “big government,” and pro-business policy institutes and lobbyists battle the public interest.

*Border Wars* offers a stark portrait of the domestic cost of failed federal leadership in the post-9/11 era.

Tom Barry, senior policy analyst at the Center for International Policy in Washington, DC, is author of many books, including *The Great Divide*



Otero County is now home to two privately run immigration prisons.



and *Zapata’s Revenge*. His article “A Death in Texas” was a finalist for a 2010 National Magazine Award for reporting in the public interest. He blogs at [borderlinesblog.blogspot.com](http://borderlinesblog.blogspot.com).

As a border state, New Mexico has been blessedly free of the anti-immigrant vigilantism and the ranting of border hawks that have agitated Texas and Arizona. Over the past year, however, Governor Susana Martinez has deviated from this tradition with fearmongering about border security and new scapegoating of immigrants for crime and traffic accidents. This plays to her conservative base but has met staunch popular and policy-community resistance.

Like its neighbors, New Mexico has benefited from an infusion of border security funding and infrastructure projects. Since 2005, when the Bush administration launched its Secure Border Initiative and the immigrant crackdown began in earnest, the New Mexico border has had a security makeover. A stark 18-foot-high steel fence rises for five miles on either side of the Columbus-Palomas port-of-entry, picking up again west of the Santa Teresa POE and continuing east past El Paso and beyond Ft. Hancock. A vehicle barrier now protects most of the Bootheel’s border with Mexico. The tiny, scarcely used Antelope Wells POE received a \$1.5 million upgrade with federal stimulus funding.

Hidden in the remote Bootheel is one of the nation’s chief homeland security, border security and counterterrorism training centers. The Playas Training and Research Center brings together most branches of the expanding post-9/11 homeland security apparatus, including the various agencies of the Department of Homeland Security, the military and the drug war agencies of the Justice Department, as well as the state’s own local and state law enforcement agencies—all under the auspices of New Mexico Tech in Socorro, which now promotes its expertise in the “science of security.” Eager to cash in on the homeland security/border security boom with its multibillion surge in DOD, DHS and DOJ grants, New Mexico Tech established the Border Security Center (BORSEC) for Research, Education, Training and Technical Assistance “to aid in countering border violence.” Meanwhile, border area crime continues to fall, and state and federal officials are hard put to document where all this US border violence is.

The Grant County Sheriff’s Office is one of the most unlikely beneficiaries of border security funding, through the DHS Stonegarden Program that funds overtime pay and equipment purchases for border law enforcement. While Grant County doesn’t touch the border, it qualifies for annual grants approaching \$1 million, which has enabled the county to purchase new vehicles, including a barely used state-of-the-art mobile crime lab, and ply the department with overtime pay for deputies who make the two-hour trip to the Bootheel to patrol the road that passes through Hachita. The result has been a major uptick in traffic tickets, as well as an occasional apprehension of an illegal immigrant or two.

Undoubtedly, the border security boom has been good for Grant County and other parts of the greater borderlands. But there is little evidence that, as the sheriff’s department attests in its quarterly reports to DHS, the department “has been successful in counteracting the ravages and terror of human smuggling, drug smuggling, destruction of property and associated criminal activities.” There are few questions and no evaluation about the border security program in Grant County, or anywhere else, because border security is one of the few federal programs that enjoys bipartisan political support, particularly from border politicians eager to see more federal dollars flow into their region.

## Border Security Is Born

Prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the term “border security” was rarely used. Today, however, it is both a fundamental goal of US domestic security and the defining paradigm for border operations. Despite the federal government’s routine declarations of its commitment to securing the border, neither Congress nor the executive branch has ever clearly defined the term “border security.”

Border security constitutes the single largest line item in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget. Nonetheless, DHS has failed to develop a border security strategy that complements US domestic and national security objectives. DHS has not even attempted to delineate benchmarks that would measure the security of the border or specify exactly how the massive border security buildup has increased homeland security.

In its strategic plan, DHS does promise: “We will reduce the likelihood that terrorists can enter the United States. We will strengthen our border security and gain effective control of our borders.” And DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano assured us last year that, as a result of new border security spending by the Obama administration, “the Southwest border is more secure than ever before.”

Since 2003, Homeland Security and the Justice Department have opened spigots of funding for an array of border security operations. These include commitments for 18-foot steel fencing, high-tech surveillance, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), increased prosecutions of illegal border crossers and new deployments of the Border Patrol and National Guard.

Yet the federal government’s continued expressions of its commitment to border security serve only to highlight the shortcomings of this commitment and to spark opposition to long-overdue immigration reform. “Secure the border”—a political demand echoed by immigration restrictionists, grassroots anti-immigrant activists and a chorus of politicians—now resounds as a battle cry against the federal government and liberal immigration reformers. These border security hawks charge that the federal government is failing to meet its responsibility to secure the border, pointing to continued illegal crossings by immigrants and drug traffickers. Border sheriffs, militant activists and state legislatures are even taking border security into their own hands.

The post-9/11 imperative of securing “the homeland” set off a widely played game of one-upmanship that has had Washington, border politicians and sheriffs, political activists and vigilantes competing to be regarded as the most serious and hawkish on border security. The emotions and concerns unleashed by the 9/11 attacks exacerbated the long-running practice of using the border security issue to further an array of political agendas—immigration crackdowns, border pork-barrel projects, drug wars, states’ rights and even liberal immigration reform. Yet these new commitments to control the border have been largely expressions of public diplomacy rather than manifestations of new thinking about the border.

Despite the border security buildups and \$100 billion spent along the southwestern border, no terrorists or terrorist weapons have been seized. DHS does point out, however, that every year it regularly apprehends illegal border crossers from countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism. Border security hawks point to these arrests of citizens from “special interest countries” as evidence that the “broken border” keeps Americans vulnerable and that the border should be completely sealed.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Border Patrol adapted its rhetoric to reflect its recently acquired “homeland” security mission. While the Border Patrol had occasionally referred to “securing the border” in the past, the use of the term “border security” gained prevalence only over the past decade. References to border security and border insecurity not only shape discourse about the border, but also about immigration, drug policy, US-

*The Grant County Sheriff’s Office is one of the most unlikely beneficiaries of border security funding, through the DHS Stonegarden Program that funds overtime pay and equipment purchases for border law enforcement.*

Mexico relations and domestic security.

Border regulation and control have effectively been upgraded to a national security mission. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the DHS agency that oversees the Border Patrol, states that its "top priority is to keep terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States." In keeping with its new status as a quasi-national security agency, the CBP contends that it is securing the nation against "dangerous people and goods."

**National Policy Gone Awry**

The diversity of life in the Southwest has long been a point of pride, especially for those in communities along the border. Public officials and citizen leaders have boasted of the region's binational culture, transborder communities and families, spicy food and easy mix of English and Spanish.

For many vocal borderlanders, especially in Texas and Arizona, however, their borderland status is no longer a common boast or esteemed asset, but rather a liability—and another cause for griping about Washington and big government. Proximity to the border has been the source of a new politic of indignation, outrage and resentment as deepening concerns about spillover violence, public safety threats and immigration flows have produced a sense of vulnerability and stirred deep resentment.

It would, however, be a mistake to dismiss the extreme and often bizarre embrace of the politics of border security as merely a regional affair. The fevered politics of border security taps insecurities, fears, resentment, prejudices and uncertainties felt throughout the nation to varying degrees. The proliferation of immigrant prisons along the border, the defiant creation of a "Texas model of border security," border vigilantism and Arizona's anti-immigrant legislation, while often politically motivated and reeking of opportunism, under-

DHS's contention of its progress toward protecting the border from potential terrorists and criminals.

Instead of controlling the border, US drug and immigration policies are the major contributing factors to the persistent patterns of illegal border crossings. An effective border control strategy must, at the very least, recognize these causal policy factors and address possible fixes—not simply address the repercussions of these failed policies with the traditional fixes of stricter immigration enforcement, increased border militarization, strengthened barriers and increased Border Patrol deployment.

**The Big Tent of Border Security**

The elevated rhetoric—from "control" to "security"—has succeeded in focusing national attention on the border and vastly increasing funding flows. But the new national commitment to border security has not resulted in a more focused, strategic border policy.

On the contrary, the most remarkable feature of border security is how elastic the meaning and use of the term has been over the past 10 years. Border security has become a big tent accommodating not only the post-9/11 border-related national security and homeland security initiatives, but also the traditional operations that target illegal immigrants and illegal goods, mostly drugs.

Immediately after 9/11, border security was associated primarily with counterterrorism and domestic security, but the association was short-lived. The new security framing of immigration and border control empowered restrictionists and the grassroots anti-immigrant backlash movement with a powerful new argument to seal the border and deport illegal immigrants. At the same time that the anti-immigration camps began gathering new forces, the pro-immigration movement and immigrant-rights advocates began to mobilize to pass a comprehensive immigration reform that included legalization.

In the midst of the ensuing national debate, the border security bandwagon gained traction. While the two sides were sharply divided on legalization, common ground emerged around proposals to increase immigration enforcement and border security. Soon, border security became synonymous with upholding public safety in the US borderlands, halting the flow of US weapons into Mexico, supporting the drug war in Mexico and breaking up transborder criminal organizations.

**Serving New Drug Wars**

In late March 2009, in response to rising alarm about drug-related violence in Mexico, Napolitano announced the launch of DOJ's Southwest Border Initiative. This continuing initiative, described as a US-centered adjunct to the State Department's counternarcotics aid to Mexico through the Mérida Initiative, is loaded with border security language.

Rather than deciding that the surge of drug-related violence in Mexico was another reason to re-evaluate the 40 years of failed drug-control policies, the Obama administration has reaffirmed US support for the military-led drug war in Mexico. The administration has also made a major public display of its determination to increase and redeploy DHS and DOJ resources to bolster border security.

In June 2009, the Obama administration released its National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy. Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, contended that the "new plan, combined with the dedicated efforts of the Government of Mexico, creates a unique opportunity to make real headway on the drug threat."

Similar pronouncements have echoed throughout the past four decades of the "war on drugs." Real headway, however, has forever eluded the US drug warriors, and is belied by the US government's own intelligence. In its National Drug Threat Assessment 2010 report, DOJ's National Drug Intelligence Center concluded that "the availability of illicit drugs in the United States is increasing."

**BORDER** continued on next page



Border fence along the Arizona-Sonora corridor.

score the inadequacies of the federal government's border, drug and immigration policies.

In adopting the border security rhetoric following 9/11, the federal government raised unrealistic expectations that the border can indeed be sealed and secured. But never in our nation's history have we actually controlled our 1,963-mile border with Mexico. Contraband and non-authorized crossings have been a constant of border life, not a recent development.

Instead, border policy has been propelled by ambiguous annual statistics on arrests and seizures offered by the Border Patrol to justify budget increases. Year after year, decade after decade, border progress has been measured by the number of illegal aliens apprehended, the number deported and the millions of pounds of illegal drugs seized. When the numbers surge higher, this is cited as clear evidence of success. When numbers are lower, the Border Patrol also claims victory, pointing to the decline as evidence of the success of its strategy to prevent illegal entry through deterrence.

This heads-you-win, tails-you-win trick of tracking border progress continues today, albeit with variations. Regular reports of the numbers of criminal aliens imprisoned and deported compose part of the litany of Border Patrol and Immigration and Custom Enforcement's (ICE) great achievements. The rising number of immigrants labeled as criminal aliens and the number of imprisoned immigrants slated for removal are offered as data to support the

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**BORDER** continued

The main measure of success for counternarcotics operations—namely drug seizures—is not closely connected with drug consumption patterns. In 2009, border agents seized nearly a half-million more kilos of marijuana than they did in 2005. The Border Patrol and ICE routinely emphasize that their operations are “risk-based.” But the actual public safety and personal health risks of marijuana consumption are minimal.

Drug trafficking, dominated by illegal marijuana smuggling and distribution, is hardly benign, however. Drug prohibition policies combined with US promotion and support for drug wars have greatly contributed to the rise of organized crime in producing and transit countries. This criminalization of prohibited drugs and the militarization of counternarcotics campaigns breed horrific violence, not only among the major crime organizations, but also among gangs at the community and neighborhood levels.

Concern about the drug war to our south has provided a new boost for those calling for total border security. Further contributing to the demands for heightened border security is alarm expressed by many border security hawks about the purported threat of narcoterrorism, a term normally used by scholars and analysts to describe forces that conflate drug trafficking and political ambitions.

The steady decline of illegal immigrant flows across the southwest border since 2006—with Border Patrol apprehensions declining from 1.2 million in 2005 to 450,000 in 2010—has undercut the immigration arguments of border security hawks. But as the resonance of immigration-focused arguments for border security has diminished, border security demands couched in threat assessments about spillover violence, narcoterrorism and the drug war have come to dominate border security advocacy.

Even more loosely tied to the 9/11 impetus for border security has been the “failed state” argument for fortifying the border. Organized crime groups, which, while established to traffic drugs, have branched into an expanding array of other criminal and noncriminal operations, increasingly threaten the viability of governance in areas of Mexico and Central America, especially in Guatemala and Honduras. Citing US government threat assessments, many border security hawks contend that the United States is facing the prospect of having failed states as close neighbors and argue, therefore, that increased border security is needed to protect the country against the resulting crime and socioeconomic turmoil.

Tightened control has made illegal crossings more difficult and more expensive. It has also turned what were previously routine, nonviolent crossings into dangerous undertakings that regularly involve dealings with criminal organizations. An indirect and certainly unintended consequence of the US border security buildup has been the increasingly violent competition between criminal organizations and gangs as they struggle to maintain markets and trafficking corridors.

On the US side, the border security fallout is far less grave. Indeed, across the southwestern border, the buildup in border security infrastructure and personnel has injected new life into many border communities. Yet throughout the region, and throughout much of the country, the undue focus on the security of the border has skewed politics,



Checkpoint at Sierra Blanca.

fostered vitriol and split communities into ideological factions.

**Ten Years Later**

A border security juggernaut has swept across the Southwest borderland, leaving in its wake new fears, insecurities and alarm. As billions of dollars are spent to increase security at the border, fear and alarm about the insecurity of the border have deepened since 9/11, along with strident demands that the government do still more.

Continuing down the same course of border security buildups, drug wars and immigration crackdowns will do nothing to increase security or safety. It will only keep border policy on the edge—teetering without direction or strategy.

Without addressing border policy in conjunction with drug policy, the drugs we consume will continue to be the product of transborder organized crime and bloodletting south of the border. Without addressing immigration reform, we face a future of immigrant bashing, divided communities, stalled economies and more immigrant prisons rising up on the edges of our towns.

Alarm about the rising federal budget deficit threatens an end to the customary large annual increases for border security and immigration enforcement, even as the failures and waste accompanying those increases become more apparent. We should welcome the new constraints on border security funding as an opportunity to allow reason and pragmatism to direct border policy instead of fear, politics and money.

The standard of success for our border policy should not be how completely sealed and secured our border is, but rather how well it is regulated. New regulatory frameworks for immigration and drug consumption are fundamental prerequisites for a more cost-effective border policy.

Just as the Bush administration launched the “global war against terrorism” and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in a burst of misguided patriotism, that administration also thrust us

into a new era of “homeland” and border security with little reflection about costs and consequences. Without a clear and steady focus on the actual security threats, “homeland” and border security have devolved into wars against immigrants and drugs.

As a result, the criminal justice system is overwhelmed, our prisons are crowded with immigrants and the flagging “war on drugs” has been given new life at home and abroad. Absent necessary strategic reflection and reform, the rush to achieve border security has bred dangerous insecurities about immigration and the integrity of our border.

It is time to rein in the border security bandwagon and to establish new regulatory frameworks for US border policy. ❁



Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, assist Afghan role players during a counterinsurgency training exercise at Playas Training and Research Center in New Mexico. (Official photo)

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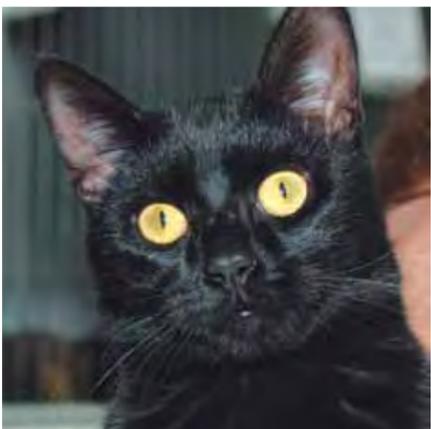
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LOOKING BACKWARDS • JEFF BERG

## Ye Good Olde Days

For local members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, living in the past is something to celebrate.



"Isaboland" jousts astride Zeus, his mighty steed.

For Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) participants Barry Boetto (Viconte Berold de Gilbert) and Victor Singleton (Lord Edmundus Peregrinator), not all the jousting takes place in the field.

During our interview they take short, friendly jabs at each other, arguing the relative superiority of their respective time periods of study, such as the Crusades, and challenging each other's plans to attend this month's 40th annual Renaissance Arts-Faire in Las Cruces (both will be there). They love to spar as good friends do.

Their "battle" ended in a draw, mostly because they have the same goal in mind: learning about and educating others about their interest.

You may have seen SCA members during your travels, but perhaps dismissed them as just a group of re-enactors. Hark, ye are wrong.

Some years back, whilst living in Casper, Wyo., I helped coach a Babe Ruth League baseball team. Games and practices took place in a beautiful city park. Nearby, during almost every game or practice, a group of local SCA aficionados gathered to relive the days of yore. It could be a distraction at times, since they had elaborate costumes and a goodly amount of noise accompanied their assembly, whether from traditional music or from the various types of combat they practiced. Sometimes I'd catch our left-fielder staring at the group, probably wishing he was practicing archery with a fair maiden rather than standing in left field waiting for an elusive fly ball to come his way. He was probably wondering (this line is lifted from the SCA website, sca.org), "Why are those people hitting each other?" You'll find out later.

Here and now (sort of) in the Las Cruces-El Paso area, "Lord Edmundus Peregrinator" is the scribe and hospitaler for the Barony of the Citadel of the Southern Pass. Edmund (for short) takes charge of helping new members get settled in and oriented, sets up demonstrations for outside groups, manages volunteers, and produces beautifully hand-lettered and -drawn scrolls for the group.

"Viconte Berold de Gilbert," as official historian, keeps and shares the history of the group, which became a barony on "October 1st, A.S. XVII, being 1983 in the Vulgar." Each group belonging to the Society for Creative Anachronism is first recognized as a "shire," and has to have at least five participants. Las Cruces, which had one of the first

SCA groups in the country, is just now reforming as a shire. Barony status is reached at 25-plus members—Citadel of the Southern Pass now numbers about 60—and each barony chooses a baron and baroness. Kingdoms have a king and queen, and span larger areas of the country. The US has 19 kingdoms; Edmund and Berold's group is part of the Outlands Kingdom. Today, the SCA is worldwide, with over 100,000 members.

"It started on May 1, 1966, in Berkeley, Calif.," says Berold, whose memory for detail, facts and figures is sword-sharp. "Some students were trying to think of a unique idea for a party for a grad student, and they thought this up for a theme party. The guys built their own armor—" as Berold himself does now—"and they held a tournament to choose ladies to fight for. There was a king of the day and a lady of the day, and from there, the idea went east, to the east coast."

Soon there were groups on both coasts, and then a Kingdom of the West and a Kingdom of the East.

"The middle of the US became the Middle Kingdom. They weren't very creative," Berold grouses. He goes on, "Now there are groups in Japan, Europe, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. I don't think there are any in Africa, but there a lot in Europe."

Edmund sees an opening and jumps in. "There is one in South Africa now," he points out, jabbing his friend dagger-style for forgetting this bit of minutia.

"Yes, that's right," Berold admits, his voice as



"Iva" demonstrates her sewing skills.

pointed as an épée as he acknowledges Edmund's correction.

"We petitioned for barony status in 1983, as the Citadel of the Southern Pass, since we are at the southern end of the Kingdom," Berold resumes. "To do that, you petition the SCA board of directors, they make sure everything is in order, and then it goes to the King and Queen. There is a ceremony that takes place when a group goes from a shire to a barony."

SCA is big on ceremony and recognition, as exemplified by the many calligraphied scrolls Edmunds has made. He does a lot of research and even uses phrases from ancient works that he finds.

"The kingdom," Berold continues, "once included El Paso and Hudspeth County (Texas), all of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and most of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and a corner of Nebraska. It was the fifth kingdom created, and is called Adenveld. In 1986, it was cut down in size, and Outlands was created."

Outlands now covers those same portions of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, southeast Wyoming and a tiny portion of southwestern Nebraska.

The Citadel of the Southern Pass meets weekly for fighting practice, at an El Paso city park, and sometimes on Wednesdays for a



Literal "cloak and dagger" fighting.

more informal gathering.

But it is not all fighting and carrying on, as Edmund points out. SCA's goal is to cover all aspects of life in days of yore, including art, music, science, culture and even food.

Both men insist that SCA is not a group of re-enactors, as they don't get together to act out historical events or battles. Nor do SCA members portray actual people of note from those olde tymes—so you won't see a bunch of Henry VIII's or Joan of Arcs at an SCA camp. All characters must be set prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, from approximately 600-1600 AD, and they are all made up by the individual participants.

So Edmund, when in SCA character, besides his official duties, is a musician. "I play harp, zither, the recorder, hurdy-gurdy and the psaltery."

The what?

A psaltery is kind of like a zither with bows, an unusual-sounding instrument that probably isn't used much in rap or hip hop.

Most of the characters are from the Middle Ages, typically the 13<sup>th</sup> century era, Edmund explains. "The person who participates has to portray someone from a particular era—a specific period of time. Then you create someone whose personality is part of that culture, that milieu. You can choose a persona from anywhere in the world—a vandal, Mongol, someone from the Crusades, even a Native American, as long as there is reasonable supposition that the person you create is Euro-oriented. Who knows? There was a lot of traveling at that time, so a native could conceivably have ended up elsewhere."

Berold is not buying the concept of Native American SCA characters and gives Edmund a poke with his verbal sword.

"You need to find a culture or time period to re-create, being someone who could have existed—finding out what that person was like. You can go as deep as you like," Berold says. "You choose a name, re-create armor, fabrics, even shoes."

Here is where things can get a bit inauthentic, as both Edmund and Berold note that many SCA-ers will use some creature comforts. They might make shoes that are realistic but more comfortable or practical, or add a strap to a piece of armor to make it less unwieldy.

"We have a '10-foot rule,'" Berold says. "If it looks okay from that distance, then it is acceptable."

Edmund, however, sets the bar higher for himself. He describes how he gathers minerals and such to use to match colors of olde. "See that ochre?" He points to an authentically colored drawing on one of his scrolls.

"If done properly, medieval costumes are quite comfy," Berold adds, scornful of Hollywood and picture-book portrayals that make clothing of those times look unbearably uncomfortable.

The research and quest for authenticity can go well beyond costuming. "A lot of people that get involved get their start because they like this art or that science, or I like brewing ale," Berold explains. "So, as that progresses, you study all the details and find out how to make the best ale that you can, who has the best hops, and so on."

Berold shows me a stunning ring with intricate design and period detail. "Some are even able to make a business from their hobby," he says. "This is from a professional re-creationist. Some museums and movie studio prop departments have had SCA people do work for them—illuminated manuscripts, wax tablets, and such."

Edmund adds, "There is a company on the east coast that makes parchment. When we go to the big events around the country, there will also be a lot of

Fighting practice in an El Paso city park.



vendors on hand. It's like an olde country faire, and bartering is something that still happens a lot."

Edmund and Berold have put a lot of time, energy and money into their interest in all things medieval. Berold even met his wife, Becky, at an SCA event in 1990. Eye contact led to a conversation, which eventually led to marriage.

He recalls, "I was attending UTEP in 1981, and overheard some guys talking about a party while in a gym one day. They kept saying things like 'revel' and 'feast,' and I was thinking, What are they talking about? They were talking about going to a revel in Las Cruces. They told me there would be singing and dancing and a party with snacks."

It was a meeting of the Las Cruces SCA, including a fighter practice, and Berold was impressed. He borrowed some armor, then started building his own. "I was hooked."

It helped that Berold was once on the Olympic fencing team. Fencing remains part of his regular life, as he is the assistant fencing coach at El Paso's Chapin High School. He is also a vision therapist there.

A perk of the SCA he wasn't counting on concerned the damsels, none of whom were in distress. "SCA has the most beautiful women...", he says with a dreamy smile.

He adds, "That's a big part of the fighting, to try and curry favor by fighting for 'her' in a tournament. 'He' fights for her; he'll bow to his lady, his king, his opponent. It's all inspired by the lady and there is a lot of chivalry."

Over the years, he and Becky have held different appointments within the barony, but since she is now taking a hiatus, Berold is also stepping back a bit.

Berold's interest lies in the Crusades, and he has an interest in Richard the Lionhearted. Edmund scoffs, noting that King Richard was "not bad for a Norman."

Edmund's introduction to the SCA was similar. He first learned about SCA while attending grad school at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.



"Leah," a damsel not in distress.

"I had heard of SCA and had a friend who was involved. The UW group did some demonstrations and a candlemas (a celebration) and a medieval festival, and I really liked it. I got more and more involved, and really got into the Crusades—in particular, the third."

Here Edmund and Berold go at it again, back and forth over the proper year that the Third Crusade started. With a verbal thrust and parry, Berold wins this round when Edmund allows that it was indeed 1191.

Edmund's travels have taken him to SCA groups in several different areas of the US. His chosen last name of Peregrinator translates to "wanderer" or "strayer." The persona of Edmund has a Bavarian background. When not in SCA mode, he is a chemistry teacher at El Paso Community College. A lot

SCA continued on next page

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SCA continued

of teachers have an interest in SCA, he notes.

Berold produces his sword that he uses for combat. Much of the weaponry is made from rattan, and the combat is quite realistic. Edmund notes that there are a number of safety rules and laws that must be adhered to, and everyone is tested for various skills. The combat, whether rapier, armored or archery, aims to make sure no one gets hurt. There is even a medical officer called a "chirurgeon" on hand.

"Axes, maces, swords, archers..." Berold says. It was a violent era. He adds, "No one has been seriously hurt at any SCA event, anywhere, ever, but there are lots and lots of bruises. You never try to hurt your opponent, just kill them..."

There is no loss of face for the loser of a match. He or she doesn't lose anything or anybody as a result.

That's all well and good, I interject, but what about the food? Do SCA-ers sit around a big table, gnaw on turkey legs and throw the bones over their shoulders?

Not exactly, but the quest for authenticity requires more difficult sacrifices than skipping silverware. "New World fare is frowned upon," Berold says. No tomatoes, pumpkins or potatoes, much less chile peppers. And the two men finally agree



An SCA encampment. More than 100,000 people participate in SCA worldwide.

on something when they bemoan, "No chocolate!"

It's all old world dishes, heavy on the meat. Berold says, "Lamb, beef, pork, chicken. Some SCA members are hunters, so sometimes during the holiday season we'll have venison or elk or other odd stuff. You've heard of 'turducken'? That is actually based on a medieval dish."

Edmund adds, "There would be a boar stuffed with other animals. There is a lot of pageantry in food and even some sculpture. Not like an ice or butter sculpture, but they would roast a peacock and then replace the feathers."

Food aside, I reflect that the world could easily allow for more attention to the "trio of graces" the SCA celebrates—namely, chivalry, honor and courtesy.

I suspect that Edmund and Berold would squabble about which one is the most important, but also be more than capable teachers of all three. ☘



*For more information on the Citadel of the Southern Pass, log on to scaelpaso.org or check out their demonstrations at Las Cruces' biggest art event of the year, the Renaissance ArtsFaire, which will take place Nov. 5 and 6 at Young Park. See www.las-cruces-arts.org/events/renaissance-artsfaire for details. Touché, says senior writer Jeff Berg, who fences with words in Las Cruces.*

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## Walkabout

Musician, teacher and self-styled naturalist Andrew Dahl-Bredine introduces young people to the deep quiet of the great outdoors.



Andrew Dahl-Bredine with some of his drum collection. (Photos by Richard Mahler)

Consider this irony:

Children growing up in Grant County are surrounded by one of the biggest and most beautiful tracts of public land in the Lower 48—yet many never go there. It's as if this wild and remote backcountry does not exist.

Musician, teacher and self-styled naturalist Andrew Dahl-Bredine is trying hard to change that, through multiple modes of creative expression and a venture he calls the Gila Circle Way Project.

"There are not a lot of people getting kids back into the woods or out into the Gila," observes Dahl-Bredine, who was raised and educated—from the Guadalupe Montessori founded by his mother through La Plata Middle and Silver High schools—in Grant County. "I was outdoors a fair amount when I grew up here," he recalls, "but I really wasn't oriented that way necessarily." In fact it took a long stretch away from New Mexico for the young adult to realize what he had perhaps not fully appreciated during childhood.

"I've been influenced by a lot of things," says Dahl-Bredine, citing Daniel Quinn's 1992 book *Ishmael* in particular. In *Ishmael*, Quinn weighs the values of human cultures before the advent of agriculture, challenging a modern belief that life under such circumstances was "devoid of meaning, stupid, empty and worthless."

After living in Los Angeles—where he graduated from Loyola Marymount University—and traveling the world for five years, Dahl-Bredine returned, built a wigwam-type home, started a family, and committed himself to helping children in his hometown better appreciate the outdoors and the arts.

"I want to offer this experience to them," says Dahl-Bredine, who leads up to 10 pre-teen students each week on five-hour walkabouts. "Otherwise, as far as I can tell, we don't really have a pathway to help kids get out there who might not gravitate toward these things or get there on their own." He also teaches African drumming to adults and the Brazilian art form Capoeira to teenagers.

Dahl-Bredine, who lives with his wife and daughter in a tipi near the Gila River, sticks to destinations near Silver City, including Gomez Peak, Boston Hill, Dragonfly Trail and San Vicente Creek. Participants quickly find that "getting out into the natural world is really different from being in your room with your cellphone and your iPod." While these lo-

cales are very accessible, the walkabout guide finds they lend something "rare and wonderful" to our hyper-mediated society.

"Every time children come out with me they become fully alive," says Dahl-Bredine, a blue-eyed blond whose lithe body moves with an athletic grace. "A lot of our time outdoors is unstructured or spent playing games that encourage the kinds of awareness that connect us to nature." This includes "quiet movement, sitting still, opening up wide-angle vision, learning to listen to subtle sounds and identifying plants. I do it in a way that is not direct teaching, but a kind of mentoring or guiding that instead allows the children to follow their own interests. Maybe they are looking at a bug or animal tracks and this will spark a discussion."

Virtually all current walkabout participants are home schooled, so their long hikes provide a much-appreciated break for parents and a chance for the children to improve their social skills.

"What amazes me," says Dahl-Bredine, breaking into a boyish smile, "is how this can be such an exciting and inspiring time for kids. They have innate creative and explorative qualities that really come out in the natural world. And there is very little in the way of interpersonal problems during these five hours, which reminds me that nature is a great harmonizer."

The sort of calming that occurs easily outdoors is different from that forced upon students in a classroom: "I show kids things that are models for being different than hyper and talking all the time. They can relate to this and I find I don't need to reprimand them."

In nature, Dahl-Bredine speculates, "we see how other animals have a different way of being, such as sitting quiet and alert in silence, with all senses awake and present. This is the hunting tradition. It [cultivates] a meditative mind that gets you close to an animal and to observe really well."

Testing oneself outdoors can build self-confidence, too. "A kid," Dahl-Bredine points out, "may tell me, 'I can't cross the stream,' or, 'I can't climb that tree.' But over and over again I see that a few minutes later this same child is doing those things. Seeing this kind of personal growth and new way of knowing oneself is very rewarding to me."

Dahl-Bredine may engage his young charges in the kind of backwoods crafts associated with the Boy Scouts or Outward Bound. He may teach them how to make string or rope out of yucca fibers, for example. "But it happens in the flow of things," he stresses, "and is not really the focus of [the walkabouts]."

Local herbalist Doug Simons is sometimes invited to lead special Circle Way walks for adults that focus on the Gila's native flora, with an emphasis on species that are edible, medicinal, or both. Participants are invited to eat such plants, or to collect sticks and fibers used to ignite fire or make clothing.

In Dahl-Bredine's view, the underlying purpose of such activities is not so much the mastering of basic survival skills, but tapping into and satisfying fundamental aspects of human nature and intelligence left far behind in our desk-bound, intellect-centered, technology-obsessed modern era.

"I think that getting to know the natural world more intimately is a part of our humanness that really needs to be awakened," says Dahl-Bredine. "Kids, especially young ones, are only a skip away from that world. I've found that it's right there un-



der the surface, even if they haven't spent any time outdoors."

For this modern outdoorsman, the desire to help his community strengthen such connections flows in part from an unusual series of personal experiences. In 2000, supported by a research grant, Dahl-Bredine set out from his Los Angeles university in search of indigenous peoples of the Sahara Desert. "I wanted to compare a traditional culture versus ours," he recalls, "and the level of personal happiness in a so-called 'primitive' society versus a modern one. But I had a difficult time finding people who were living much of a traditional lifestyle."

Compounding the problem, Dahl-Bredine was denied entry into Libya because his US passport made him a *persona non grata* there. He ventured instead into remote parts of Egypt and Jordan. "I had some interesting interactions," he says, adding that he observed distinct alternatives "to the way we see the world here."

Years of additional travel and personal growth followed college graduation. "I fell in love with the traditional or classical music of Spain, Brazil, India and Zimbabwe," sighs Dahl-Bredine wistfully, citing a few of the countries he visited. "This music had so much space in it and was part of such a profound poetic tradition. It was different than most of the music with which I was familiar and inspired me to become a musician." He remain long enough to master unusual chord patterns and percussion styles, and to sing in Spanish and Portuguese.

There were times and places where this young man thought seriously about "not coming back" to his extended family and their homeland. He fantasized about settling down in a village whose residents embodied cultural values he had come to admire. "But I

realized," Dahl-Bredine explains, "that it wasn't going to work to join something completely foreign, that my work is more to go where I came from and slowly see if I can bring some of the pieces together that I think are needed here."

He also missed the forests and streams of southwestern New Mexico. "I found, by visiting other countries, that there is very little wilderness anymore—that what we have here is really unique, that a wild river like our Gila is almost unheard of now."

The returning traveler resolved to share, through his own selective performance and gentle teaching, the joys of the music, dance and song he had absorbed in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

"For example, through my Capoeira classes [at Aldo Leopold High School], I see everyone start to move, to have fun, to sing, and to play an instrument. Some kids who are self-conscious or not very expressive or not very good at being engaged in something all of a sudden become involved and confident. It is an amazing thing." In much the same way, the African drumming classes he offers for adults "awaken a very powerful, non-intellectual, non-human-created part of us, just as occurs through [engagement with] nature and dance."

A calendar of events and newsletter are posted on Circle Way's website (see box). At noon on each Saturday following a full moon, Dahl-Bredine gath-

The Gila Circle Way Project was formed in 2010 with the stated goal of "helping local community members learn more about and interact more meaningfully with the wild natural world surrounding us, and with our local human community." For more information, including photos and a calendar of upcoming classes and events, go online to [gilacircleway-project.org](http://gilacircleway-project.org) or email [andrew21@wildmail.com](mailto:andrew21@wildmail.com).

Dahl-Bredine also teaches African drumming to adults.



ers drummers together in Big Ditch Park for a two-hour public African drumming session. Eventually, he'd like to see the creation of a community cultural center where all kinds of classes and events could unfold beneath one roof.



Celebrating the full moon in Big Ditch Park with drumming.

"I see a lot of potential in group-learning activities," he says. "African drumming is a nice metaphor for community: everyone has a voice and everyone needs to be heard, yet must not drown out other voices. What group-oriented forms of music and dance show is great potential for connection, growth, fun, a sense of creative empowerment, and offering participants a confident feeling in their bodies."

The Circle Way website also links to samples of Dahl-Bredine's music. An award-winning singer-songwriter, he performs irregularly throughout the region. "I get inspired and the music or lyrics come subconsciously," he explains. "This has been a long journey for me, influenced by a lot of things. Basically what I'm doing is looking a little deeper into the history—or what might be called pre-history—of human beings and trying to re-create some of what I find of value in my own life and the lives of people where I live."

The common thread binding the activities of the Gila Circle Way Project, Dahl-Bredine believes, is his nurturing of "harmony and connection" within the greater Silver City area. Technological society has so isolated us from one another, he finds, that essential, age-old human needs and desires are woefully neglected. The natural world and our millennia-old forms of human expression, says Dahl-Bredine, stimulate a part of us "that really needs to be awake. I think that engagement is really good for our overall well-being; it connects with a missing piece of our psyches."

Does this mean Americans have gone too far, too fast in acquiring the "good stuff" our way of life seems to celebrate?

"I've been kind of a cultural anthropologist," muses Dahl-Bredine, who looks the part of a field researcher, his sun-burnished face shaded by a wide-brimmed hat he's woven from cattail fibers. "I find great value and potential for balance in some of the qualities of cultures we label 'primitive,' particularly the hunting-gathering ones. They know the places they live, they have extremely close ties with the natural world, and they have close-knit human communities that are tribal or clan-based."

Although some may be tempted to do so, Dahl-Bre-

dine disavows the idea that newcomers can or should imitate the lifestyles of the native people our ancestors displaced more than a century ago. "We can't become 'native' in the sense of bloodlines," he notes. "But one main thing these cultures have that we don't have is extremely deep, really precise, and a very broad understanding and knowledge of the place they live. That's what I'd like to see more of for myself and for our community. I'd like us to integrate some of the qualities [of traditional cultures] with what we are already doing in order to help us to solve problems and to work together a little better."

Richard Mahler is a freelance writer, editor and world traveler based in Silver City. Learn more at [www.richardmahler.com](http://www.richardmahler.com).



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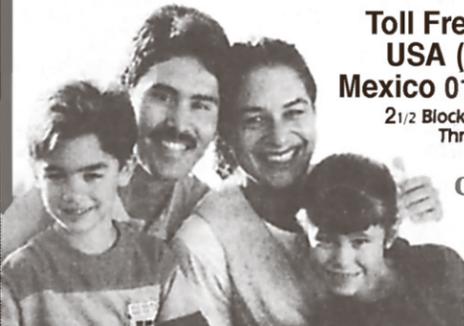


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# Creepy-Crawlies

Meet your desert nightmares: the millipedes, centipedes, scorpions and spiders.

**O**f all the creatures that haunt your bad dreams, especially if you live in our Southwestern deserts, the millipedes, centipedes, scorpions and spiders, whether venomous or not, probably rank near the top of the list.

Even though all have limited mobility and range, the millipedes, centipedes, scorpions and spiders—like their arthropod kin, the insects—occupy widely diversified environments almost across the globe.

Like the insects, too, they all have jointed external skeletons. “Components of the skeleton meet (articulate) at joints, which allows one part of the body to move in relation to another,” notes Barbara Terkanian in her article “A Vertebrate Looks at Arthropods,” which appears in *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*. “Muscles spanning joints and anchored to different parts of the skeleton provide the power for movement.”

The millipedes, centipedes, scorpions and spiders, however, do have distinguishing characteristics, and each of these creatures plays a distinctive role in the desert food chain.

tion in some people. Even if you are so inclined, it is best not to go around handling or eating millipedes.

In its place in the desert food chain, the millipede—one of nature’s recyclers—feeds on just about anything that has died, according to the Petroglyph National Monument site. In the desert, where the dry climate tends to preserve organic matter, the millipede accelerates the process of decomposition, reintroducing nutrients to other organisms. Slow-moving creatures, millipedes have great patience and persistence; generations of millipedes may feed for many decades on the trunk of a single fallen tree.

The millipede’s only real enemy, say Werner and Olson, is “the larva of a beetle called Zarrhipis. This is a slender yellow-and-black-banded larva up to two inches long, with a vicious bite and obvious venom. It searches down millipedes, kills them with a bite and eats its way down inside from the front.”

## The Centipede

**W**hile they may look rather similar, the centipede differs markedly from the millipede. It has a somewhat flattened, rather than a cylindrical, multi-segmented body trunk, with a single pair, instead of two pairs, of legs on each segment (hence the name “centipede,” or “hundred feet”). The centipede’s evolutionary predecessors, like those of the millipede, appear in fossil records hundreds of millions of years old.

The six- to eight-inch-long Giant Desert Centipede, the most conspicuous of our various desert species and one of the largest in the world, typically has a reddish-yellow body with a darker head and tail—a visual signal to the world that it can deliver a venomous bite. Its head comes equipped with sensing antennae, and, according to the Backyard Gardener website, “On the first segment behind the head, the centipede has hollow tubes [actually modified legs near the mouth], with openings at their sharpened tips that function as fangs. They are attached to venom glands, and are

used to kill prey.” As the Pestcontrol website says, at its tail, the Giant Desert Centipede possesses a “psuedohead,’ or false head, to confuse potential predators. Thus, if a predator unwittingly grabs the psuedohead, the envenomated true head is free to bite. The psuedohead bears elongated appendages very similar to the appendages on the head, rendering the centipede very symmetrical in nature.”

Lacking the millipede’s waxy body armor, which would help protect it from desiccation, the centipede simply avoids desert heat and drought. It seeks out the cooler and moister sanctuary afforded by burrows, caves and ground cover during the hours of daylight. It hunts in the coolness of the night. Like the millipede, the centipede mother

lays her eggs in concealed places, but unlike the millipede, the centipede mother stays to tend her brood. She coils protectively around her eggs and her newly hatched young for days, grooming them, presumably to ward off bacteria and mold. The centipede may live for years.

A ferocious and nimble carnivore, the centipede feeds on essentially any small creature it can catch, according to Lizotte. Prey includes “mostly insects, but occasionally other arthropods [for instance, scorpions], lizards, and even small rodents.” As naturalist Susan Tweit says in an online article, “Despite poor vision, centipedes are hunters. They find their prey with keen senses of smell and touch, and then run towards it, propelled swiftly on gracefully flowing multiple legs. They administer the coup de grace by clasp[ing] the prey with a pair of sickle-shaped, venom-dispensing pincers at the end of their first pair of legs.” The centipede, according to some reports, even preys on bats in some parts of the world. Conversely, the centipede itself may fall prey to the American pallid bat (sometimes called “Rambo Bat”) as well as various owl species and the roadrunner.

The centipede, according to some authorities, has a bite about equivalent to a bee sting in seriousness. It can inflict pain, swelling, headaches, palpitations and nausea. Its bite can, however, produce a far more serious situation: In a 1985 incident reported by Tucson doctors Joy L. Logan and David A. Ogden in *The Western Journal of Medicine*, a woman whose medical history “included asthma and an allergy to bee stings” suffered life-threatening disintegration of muscles associated with urination and failure of her kidneys following the bite of the Giant Desert Centipede.

Even if you are so inclined, it is best not to go around handling or eating centipedes.

## The Scorpion

**T**he scorpion, a symbol of our Southwestern deserts, has an almost mystical hold on our collective psyche. The mythological Scorpio slew Orion, the mighty warrior who set out to exterminate all the animals on earth. He gave his name to one of the great constellations. According to astrologers, Scorpio shapes the personalities of those born under his sign, making them strong-willed, egotistical, brooding, passionate, loyal and incisive. (I’m a Scorpio, but I’m certainly not strong-willed or egotistical. Just ask my wife, Martha.)

An actual scorpion, the wellspring of these myths, senses and captures prey with specially adapted clipper-like pincers, kills it with its stinger, and rips it apart with its mouth. It embraces a potential mate with its pincers while the two engage in an elaborate courtship dance, with the union producing offspring that may live for years, possibly up to two and a half decades. The mother carries her several dozen progeny on her back. One species, the bark scorpion, in a behavior extraordinary for ferocious predators, gathers for large conventions, especially during the winter. The scorpion fluoresces a brilliant yellowish-green



This desert-dwelling giant millipede is about eight inches long. (Photo by David B. Richman, NMSU)

## The Millipede

**A** millipede, shaped much like your little finger, has a multi-segmented body, with two pairs of legs on each segment (hence the name “millipede” or “thousand feet”). It grows and sheds throughout its lifetime, adding a new segment and legs with each shed. Typically, the millipede ranges from tan to reddish-brown to black in color. “The body structure of most millipedes,” according to the National Park Service’s Petroglyph National Monument website, “includes a calcified head for digging in soil, antennae for sensing things like food, ocelli (simple eyes) for sensing light, mandibles for chewing food, a telson for waste excretion, and secretory glands for self defense.”

The millipede’s ancestors marched near the head of the parade of the earliest animals to emerge from the sea and walk on dry soil. Some early millipedes, among the largest dry-land invertebrates in the fossil record, measured more than six feet in length and nearly two feet in width. Today, most species of desert millipedes measure only a few inches in length and less than half an inch in width.

The millipede takes refuge from the desert heat and drought in an underground burrow, sometimes appropriating an ant burrow, according to Floyd Werner and Carl Olson in *Insects of the Southwest*. It emerges to feed in the coolness of night or to celebrate in the desert’s rejuvenation after a rainfall. It counts on the soil moisture within its burrow and the waxy coatings on its body to conserve water. According to Renée Lizotte’s article in *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*, the millipede mother lays her eggs in concealed places, then abandons them, trusting that her offspring will be able to shift for themselves. Those that survive can live for 10 years or more.

While a millipede does not bite or sting, it does wind itself into a spiral shape when threatened, and it exudes a foul-smelling and evil-tasting toxic brown liquid from glands near the tops of its legs. The liquid can trigger a mild to severe allergic reac-



Prehistoric desert rock art image, which some have suggested was a symbol of the millipede and its attraction for water.



Centipede climbing down a rock. Note the similarity with the prehistoric rock art, above. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)



The scorpion, a symbol of the desert.

pion's ancestors, with a clear family resemblance, emerged from the sea hundreds of millions of years ago. In fact, says Dawn H. Gouge and her associates on the University of Arizona College of Agriculture & Life Sciences website, "Fossil scorpions found in Paleozoic strata 430 million years old appear very similar to present-day species." Some of the early scorpions were as large as wolves.

"Scorpions," say Gouge and colleagues, "have many adaptations for desert living. They have extra layers of lipids (fats) on their exoskeleton (external skeleton) that minimize water loss. Most are active at night, and spend their days where it is cool and moist under rocks, wood, tree bark or in burrows." While they do drink, they "derive most of their water from their food."

The scorpion preys, usually by ambush, on an array of creatures, including centipedes, insects, various spiders and even other scorpions. The larger species may prey on small vertebrates, including both reptiles and mammals. Conversely, the scorpion serves as a delectable tidbit for the ferocious centipede, tarantulas, insectivorous reptiles, several birds and various small mammals, including "Rambo Bat."

Probably the most venomous of the various species in the desert Southwest is the bark scorpion, which produces a sting that can result in "severe pain (but rarely swelling) at the site of the sting, numbness, frothing at the mouth, difficulties in breathing (in-

under ultraviolet light.

As Steven J. Prchal says in *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*, "The long, segmented body of the scorpion is divided into two obvious sections: the elliptically shaped body and the trademark 'tail.'" Its head, which fuses with the thorax, "contains all of the sensory, locomotion and feeding appendages." The head and thorax are covered by a carapace, or shield, and a "pair of median eyes atop the carapace, as well as several lateral eyes arranged into two groups along its front edge, give the animal its limited vision." The body, with seven segments, has comb-shaped organs used for sensing and openings for breathing and breeding. The scorpion's four pairs of jointed legs have sensory hairs that signal the presence of potential prey a foot away. The tail is "actually an extension of the abdomen. It consists of five segments, each one longer than the last; at the tip is the telson (stinger), which is not considered a true segment."

Like the millipede and the centipede, the scor-

*Its venom liquefies the prey, which allows the toothless spider to suck its meal into its stomach.*

desert Southwest is the bark scorpion, which produces a sting that can result in "severe pain (but rarely swelling) at the site of the sting, numbness, frothing at the mouth, difficulties in breathing (in-

**CREEPY-CRAWLIES** continued on next page

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## CREEPY-CRAWLIES continued

cluding respiratory paralysis), muscle twitching and convulsions,” according to Gouge and colleagues.

The giant hairy scorpion, says Prchal, is one of the least common of our desert species, but it is the largest scorpion in the US, at up to six inches long. Fortunately, it delivers a less venomous sting than that of the smaller bark scorpion.

Even if you are so inclined, I would not recommend that you handle or eat scorpions. I, for one, would not want to froth at the mouth.

## Spiders

The spider, an evolutionary cousin to the scorpion, ranks as a star in horror movies. In *Kingdom of the Spiders*, for instance, migrating swarms of tarantulas kill animals, invade a community, and besiege hotel guests. In *Arachnophobia*, an introduced Amazonian spider attacks residents in a small town. In *Tarantula*, giant spiders assail humans. In the spoof *Eight-Legged Freaks*, spiders infect film aficionados with fun-filled fright. “Spiders always stop a show,” observes reviewer Richard von Busack. “They’re cheap to hire, and if they step out of line, you can step on them back. They have no pressure group, and will not complain if they are misrepresented onscreen.”

“Spiders are soft-bodied arachnids with two body parts: the fused head and thorax... and the abdomen,” writes Renée Lizotte in *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*. A spider’s mouth comes equipped with fangs and glands that the creature uses as syringes for injecting a paralyzing venom into prey. It has appendages, located just behind the mouth, that it uses like hands for repositioning immobilized prey. Its venom liquefies the prey, which allows the toothless spider to suck its meal into its stomach. Typically, a spider has eight “simple” eyes, although some have only six and some (cave-dwellers) have none at all. Its legs, according to Lizotte, have special hairs “through which [a spider can] feel, taste and hear.” It can sense the location of prey “by the displacement of air around these hairs.”

The spider’s abdomen, which contains the internal organs, is equipped with perhaps its most distinguishing feature, spinnerets, which it uses to produce silk threads. The spider’s silk threads, finer by far than a human hair, would exceed the strength of comparable threads of steel. It uses the silk strands for such things as weaving and anchoring its webs or nests, netting and enshrouding its prey, and swaddling its eggs. It even weaves sail-like structures that serve to disperse the spider’s



A tarantula, on a stucco surface. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

young into new areas. (Flying spiders! The title for another horror movie?)

Like the millipedes, centipedes and scorpions, spiders appeared early in the fossil record. “The oldest confirmed spider fossil,” according to John Pickrell in *National Geographic News*, “was found embedded in ancient rock deposits dating to the mid-Devonian period 380 million years ago, long before the appearance of four-footed vertebrates.” Remarkably, a fossilized spider web “was found in Jezzine, Lebanon, by German fossil hunter Dieter Schlee in 1969 in amber beds that date to between 127 and 132 million years ago.”

Like its evolutionary kin, our desert spider copes with the desert environment by seeking daytime shelter in a burrow or other cooler location. It hunts at night. It sips water from moist soil and takes liquid from prey. Some species, for instance the tarantulas, may live for two decades or more.

Spiders, an important link in the desert food chain, prey on insects and other spiders. The tarantula, the largest spider in our deserts, may even feed on small reptiles. Spiders become the prey of numerous animals, such as insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and various mammals. The tarantula, in a nightmare scenario, may fall victim to the tarantula hawk, a wasp that will “first sting the spider, paralyzing it, then lay an egg on it before burying it. The wasp larva feeds on the paralyzed tarantula, which may remain alive for several months while being consumed,” according to R.L. Smith in *Venomous Animals of Arizona*.

While nearly all the spiders of our deserts are venomous, the infamous black widows and the brown recluses rank as the most dangerous. The black widow—shiny black with a red hourglass-shaped design under the abdomen—delivers a bite that can produce aching throughout the body, severe pain in the muscles, shortness of breath, and rigidity of the legs and abdomen, according to the report “IPM for Schools.” The brown recluse, light tan and long-legged with a violin-shaped design on its back, delivers a bite that develops into an ulcerous lesion.

Tarantulas, hairy and fearsome-looking “gentle giants,” according to Smith, will bite if handled carelessly, producing a painful, although not particularly dangerous, wound. Its barbed and venom-tipped hairs, however, can cause severe itching and lesions where they touch human skin. If inhaled, they can cause acute respiratory problems. If the hairs contact the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth or eyes, they will inflict acute inflammation and intense discomfort.

Spider bites and tarantula hairs should probably propel you to your physician for treatment. Even if you are so inclined, it is just better not to go around handling or eating just any old spider. 🕷️



A tarantula, on an adobe wall surface at Fort Seldon, Robledo Mountains in the background.

*Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who is a regular contributor to DesertUSA, an Internet magazine, and who is the author of Texas Unexplained. To read all his guides to wildlife of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife.*

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# Hungry for Help

Efforts to start a soup kitchen as the recession weighs on Luna County.

People are very weary of the recession in Deming, as they are everywhere else. I was talking to a man in the checkout line at Peppers Supermarket yesterday. He wore a red bandana under his hat, so I thought maybe he was a farmworker. But he told me he worked in construction.

With a half-sarcastic smile he said he was working two or three days a week, instead of the six days he had been working before the recession hit and the building bubble in Deming burst.

A few days ago at a gas station I saw someone named Enrique, whom I recognized from working at Border Foods a few years ago. When he paid he spilled nickels, dimes and pennies on the counter. Lots of workers at the "chilera," as it is called, are working only six hours a day instead of the usual 10 or 12.

In retail businesses in Deming you can sometimes sense the sagging hopes. Some business owners seem to be just quietly hanging on, hoping they'll wake up from this dream before long if they keep still enough.

The recession is deeper in Luna County than in most places because it was already so poor before the recession took hold here. Native Demingite Nancy Sherman of the Sherman Family Fund says the way she expresses it when she writes grant requests is that it is "the poorest county in the second poorest state." New Mexico still holds that honor in the 2010 US Census.

But in a Wikipedia list of the 100 poorest counties in the US, combining five sources of information, Luna County trails as only number 44 nationally in terms of average household income. It's all a matter of perspective. McKinley County ranks as number 20 on the "per capita income" poverty list, and Luna County is 65th.

Nancy Sherman and a loose organization of residents, including myself, have been working hard to get a soup kitchen up and running in Deming. Lately, and after a couple of failed efforts, she's been teaming up with a veterans activist named Reggie Price to get one started at the Disabled American Veterans building. He works as a Veterans Service Officer for the state.

It's hard to grasp how Deming could have gone so far into this recession and not had a soup kitchen in place. As Price puts it, Sherman has "run into a lot of walls and rejections." He thinks the city authorities are deaf to this issue.

There have been a couple of faith-based kitchens that have either had very limited services, or are on the outskirts of town, or are dissolving. The best Price can hope for is to start a soup kitchen in six months, when they may get their federal non-profit status.

The terrific thing about this proposed kitchen/homeless shelter is that it's very centrally located. This is especially important in the case of people without cars, like elderly farmworkers. Price's group has big plans to create a multi-service "transitional shelter" that will last.

Price's special concern is the homeless, a lot of whom are veterans. When I asked him if there are a lot who miss meals, he said, "Oo-oo yes!"

He says you can find homeless people of all races sleeping near the railroad tracks and in the elaborate system of alleys behind houses in town. They also sleep on both east and west Pine Street, called "Motel Drive." He says, "You can probably check any building there and find someone."

Price hasn't done an actual head count, but guesses there are 40 or 50 men sleeping outside now, and there will be more in the winter. "As it gets colder, they gravitate to the south of the US," he says.

Farmworkers are having a harder time than usual, with mechanization of the harvest of dry

red chile making the picking season shorter by a month or two. The recession is also hitting them hard. Workers find themselves doing any kind of temporary job they can, from working in the processors to picking chile to yard work.

Juan Flores from El Salvador, sitting on the sidewalk outside the Snappy Mart at 5:30 a.m. waiting for work in the fields, says he's now earning \$5,000 a year when six or seven years ago he was earning \$7,000.

A lot of farmworkers are earning less than before and others are earning the same, but they usually feel there's a need for more assistance with food, clothes, soap and other things. There's no organization specifically helping fieldworkers in the county.

County Extension Agent Jack Blandford estimates that for the chile harvest there are 600 to 750 workers, while someone in the Department of Labor claims workers are virtually non-existent. This is an enormous difference, way too wide for any kind of intelligent policy making.

All I know is that searching for fieldworkers to interview was like looking for hen's teeth, which may partly be because they live dispersed throughout town.

There are a lot of good, self-sacrificing people working on these issues in Deming. But Price and Sherman have often run into the attitude of people who "don't want a soup kitchen next door." You wish people would be more open-hearted in this time of crisis.

There is also a generalized political apathy in southern New Mexico. I know a woman in Hatch, Maryanne Benavidez, who tried to start solidarity groups at NMSU among children of farmworkers, but she didn't get anywhere. "No one cares!" she says despairingly.

It looks like some progress is being made in Deming against resistance and inertia. Maybe this soup kitchen will get established, but maybe it will dissolve into the stew of partial social services that populate Luna County.

But they should get started as soon as possible. Too many people need help.

## Palomas update

Just a word on Palomas: There is a pretty definite consensus that there have been fewer murders there this year than in the past three violent years, although the town is not without tensions. As one elderly man said, "Esta frio"—it's cold (a state of violence is described as *caliente*—heated up—and *frio* is the opposite).

I'd like to make a special appeal this month to help fund the food project of Our Lady of Las Palomas because it has run out of funds. The women in the handcraft cooperative feed disabled and elderly people with this money (PO Box 622, Columbus, NM 88029).

For a complete list of humanitarian non-profit organizations serving Palomas, with addresses for donations, see [www.desertexposure.com/palomas](http://www.desertexposure.com/palomas).

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.*



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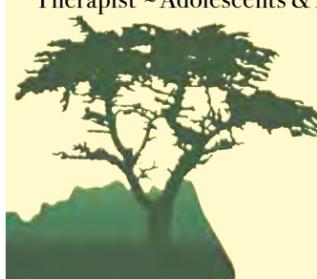


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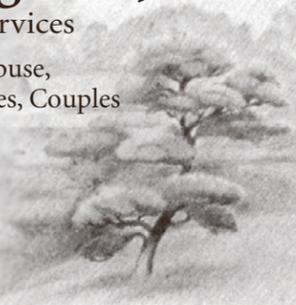


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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

**Perseus, Rescuer of Andromeda**  
Plus the planets for November.

Rising in our northeastern sky as it gets dark is the constellation Perseus. Nestled along the Milky Way between Cassiopeia with its obvious “W” shape and Auriga with its brilliant star, Capella, Perseus does not stand out in the November sky. Its brightest star, Mirfak, is only magnitude 1.8. Mirfak is a member of the open cluster Melotte 20, which extends southeast from Mirfak for about three degrees. This open cluster is about 600 light-years away and includes many of the stars that are visible to the naked eye in that area.

If you’ve been reading this column for a long time, you probably already know the mythology of Perseus and its surrounding constellations. The story of Perseus is very long and detailed with many subplots, so here is a much shortened version: Perseus’ mother was Danaë, daughter of King Acrisius of Argos. The king had consulted the Oracle at Delphi, who warned him that he would be killed by his daughter’s son, so he locked Danaë in a bronze chamber open only to the sky, where no man could reach her. But Zeus came to her as a shower of gold and impregnated her with Perseus. King Acrisius, fearful of the god’s wrath if he killed his daughter and her son, set them adrift in a wooden chest.

They ended up on the island of Seriphos and were taken in by the fisherman Dictys, brother of King Polydectes, who fell in love with Danaë. To get rid of the protective Perseus, Polydectes concocted a plot to send him on a quest to obtain the head of the Gorgon, Medusa. With an assist from Athena, Perseus succeeded—the first of several famous deeds. On his return journey, Perseus saved Andromeda from the sea serpent Cetus and claimed her hand in marriage.

After Andromeda’s death, Perseus returned home. There he discovered King Polydectes had been abusing his mother. Perseus pulled out Medusa’s head and turned the king and his entourage to stone. Later, Perseus accidentally killed his grandfather, King Acrisius, with a discus that went awry, fulfilling the oracle’s prophecy.

Perseus’ constellation has two famous open clusters, known since antiquity and first recorded as a faint patch of light by the Greek astronomer Hipparchus. Their true nature was not known until the invention of the telescope. Officially labeled NGC 884 and NGC 869, they are sometimes referred to as x and h Perseus, the Double Cluster. These two clusters are only a few hundred light-years apart, about 7,600 light-years from us. Both are about 13 million years old, so they are probably siblings that formed from the same gas cloud.

The Double Cluster is a favorite of amateur astronomers, since both are visible with the naked eye between Perseus and Cassiopeia. In a small telescope, the two clusters are readily visible in a low-power eyepiece. Both appear to be composed of bright blue stars, with a scattering of contrasting orange stars. Larger telescopes at low power accentuate the color differences of the stars.

**The Planets for November 2011**

Mercury and Venus are only two degrees apart in the evening sky for the first half of the month. They will line up with the star Antares on the evening of Nov. 10. The last

**Watch the Skies**  
(times MDT-MST)

**Nov. 1**, evening—Mercury and Venus just two degrees apart  
**Nov. 2**, 10:38 a.m.—First Quarter Moon  
**Nov. 6**, 2 a.m.—Daylight Savings Time ends  
**Nov. 9**, 9 p.m.—Mars 1.4 degrees north of Regulus  
Evening—Mercury, Venus and Antares line up  
**Nov. 10**, 1:16 p.m.—Full Moon  
**Nov. 14**, 2 a.m.—Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun (23 degrees)  
**Nov. 18**, 8:09 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon  
After midnight—Leonid Meteor Shower  
**Nov. 24**—11:10 p.m.—New Moon (partial solar eclipse over Antarctica)

evening they will be close together is Nov. 12, when Mercury stops moving eastward and turns back toward the Sun, leaving Venus to continue climbing in the sky by itself the rest of the month. On that date, Mercury’s disc will be 6.4 seconds-of-arc across and 66% illuminated as it dwindles toward the half-full phase. The magnitude -0.3 planet starts the month in Libra, moving immediately into Scorpius and then into Ophiuchus. Continuing in the same direction, Mercury slides southeast over a corner of Scorpius and then back into Ophiuchus, where it ends the month. Mercury and Venus set by 7:30 p.m. at midmonth.

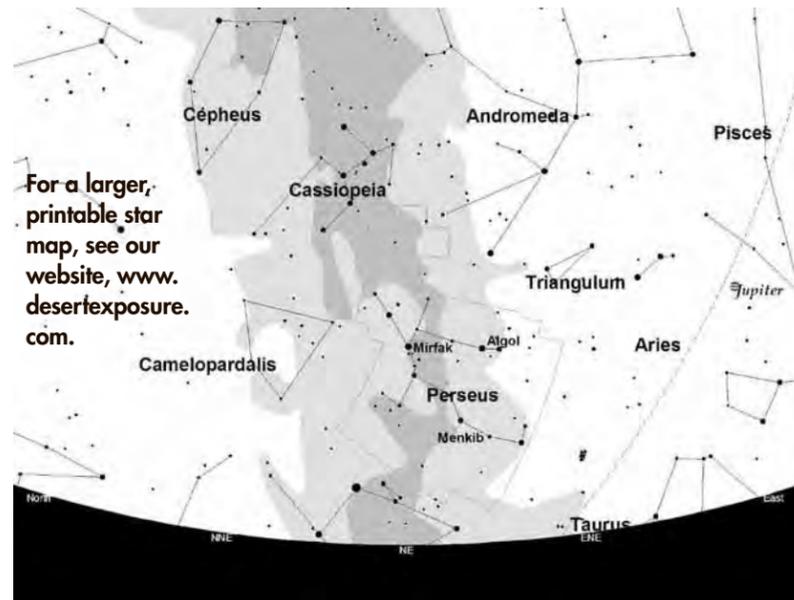
Venus follows a similar course, starting the month in Libra, moving immediately into Scorpius and then into Ophiuchus. But Venus is far enough north to miss that corner of Scorpius and soon it pulls away from Mercury, ending the month in Sagittarius. When closest to Mercury on Nov. 12, Venus will be magnitude -3.9 with a disc 10.9 seconds-of-arc across. That disc will be 92% illuminated and becoming less fully illuminated each day.

Jupiter is moving slowly westward in southeastern Aries. Just past opposition, Jupiter’s disc is 45.7 second-of-arc across and the planet shines at magnitude -2.9. Jupiter is in the east-northeast as evening darkness falls, setting around 5:45 a.m.

The God of War comes up next, rising around 1:15 a.m. in the eastern sky. Mars moves eastward along the ecliptic in Leo, passing Regulus on Nov. 10. Mars is 90% illuminated at midmonth with its disc 6.4 seconds-of-arc across and shining at magnitude +1.0.

Hanging around in Virgo this month, Saturn is moving slowly eastward among the stars. The Ringed Planet rises around 5:30 a.m., just a little more than two hours before the Sun. Saturn shines at magnitude +0.7. Telescopically, Saturn’s disc is 15.7 seconds-of-arc across and the Rings are 35.6 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are now tipped down 13.3 degrees with the northern face showing.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks on the morning of Nov. 18. These dust particles from the tail of Comet Tempel-Tuttle will appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo. Unfortunately, the Moon will be a little more than half-full and located near Leo, making it more difficult to see the fainter Leonids. Unlike the Leonid showers at the turn of this century, this year’s shower is not expected to provide more than about one meteor every two minutes. So bundle up warmly to view this year’s shower and “keep watching the sky”!



For a larger, printable star map, see our website, [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com).

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



BODY, MIND &amp; SPIRIT • PAT YOUNG

# Stroke Happens

One woman's stroke story. Would you know what to do?

There is a popular country song by Tim McGraw called "Live Like You Were Dying" that embodies the desire to enjoy life following devastating medical news.

My medical news was not devastating, but certainly unexpected, and without question has me appreciating quality of life.

On a recent Sunday I woke up feeling very tired, and by mid-afternoon my speech was slurred. Not good, I thought, and looked it up in our well-worn medical book to confirm my suspicions: I had suffered a stroke.

At this point I must stress—don't do what I did. In total denial mode, I took two aspirins and thought, this will go away. When I finally went to Gila Regional Medical Center Emergency Room on Tuesday morning, I was scolded, albeit gently. What was I thinking? I should have come in immediately at the first indications of a stroke.

I have never seen health professionals move so fast as when we walked in to the ER and my husband Jeff said, "I think my wife has had a stroke." Within minutes I was lying on a gurney with wires attached to me in a dozen places and needles stuck in my uncooperative veins. If my blood pressure was high when I walked in, it was truly skyrocketing at this point. But I am not criticizing the abundant and thorough medical staff swarming around me. The care was absolutely top notch.

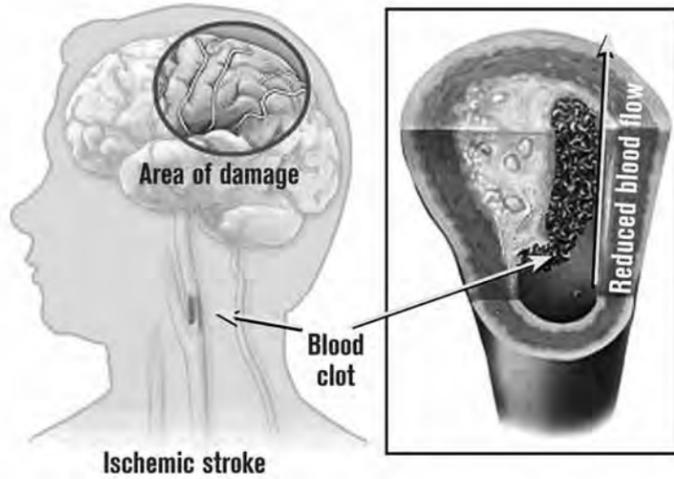
I was wheeled into a tube whose entrance reminded me of a giant donut for a CAT scan, and later the carotid arteries in my neck were checked via sonogram and deemed clear. Soon the flurry of activity died down and I was left to think, Why in the world did I wait to come in?

I was lucky. It was a non-hemorrhagic (non-bleeding) mini-

stroke called an ischemic stroke. If it had been a major stroke, the results could have been debilitating or fatal. But then, if my symptoms had been more severe, I wouldn't have waited to seek help.

I think the "denial factor" came from the fact that I am a thin, reasonably fit 67-year-old who eats right, gets plenty of exercise and doesn't smoke. Unfortunately, age (most stroke victims are over 65) and genetics (my mother had very high cholesterol and blood pressure) caught up with me.

The following day I saw my family doctor as a fill-in appointment. Despite a full waiting room, Dr. John Stanley at Southwest Family Medicine spent an hour with my husband and me. The main concern, of course, was what caused the blockage in



my brain. Dr. Stanley referred me to a cardiologist to see if my heart was the culprit.

A few days later I found myself at Silver Cardiac Associates for two heart tests. Technician Kelly Ward performed an echo test, which he explained provided pictures of my heart via sonogram. The heart is a fascinating organ, especially when you view this bag of muscle at work on a computer screen. My heart was fine. No problems.

The next test was a bubble test, where a bubble saline solution was injected into a vein (yes, another needle). One ventricle of my heart was full of bubbles; the other side was clear. No leaks in my heart were sending clots to my brain. And according to the cardiologist, Dr. G. Scott Smith, ruling out the heart as a cause for my stroke was a very good thing.

This meant that high cholesterol and blood pressure were most likely the cause for my stroke, which means I'll be on medicine for the rest of my life. Unfortunately, this mini-stroke could be a precursor to another stroke, so I'll take my medicine.

On another day (we live an hour out of town—this drive was getting old) I had an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) test, lying very still while a pleasant technician sent strange magnetic molecules bouncing noisily around the

tube I was in to get a clearer picture of my brain. As it turns out, I'd had *two* strokes, one much older than the recent one.

I remember nothing of this previous stroke, but was fully aware of the recent one. It is good to know the symptoms, especially if you are a senior. The Internet lists symptoms like sudden numbness

## Do You Know the Warning Signs?

A recent survey in Michigan found that only 28% of adults recognized the warning signs for stroke—and just 18% knew what to do in the event of a possible stroke. Given the tight timeframe for the most effective treatment for the most common type of stroke (ischemic stroke)—the clot-busting drug TPA—ignorance about stroke could have serious consequences. The most common response in the survey to stroke symptoms was the wrong one: Having a family member try to take the affected person to an emergency room. The right answer? Call 9-1-1. The fastest way to get stroke treatment started, experts say, is to get paramedics to the patient immediately.

Keep that and these five warning signs of stroke in mind:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued

(especially on one side of the body), sudden confusion, difficulty speaking, loss of vision (in one or both eyes), difficulty walking, dizziness or loss of balance, and severe headache. Strokes can be fatal, so don't wait to see a doctor.

My mini-stroke was a wake-up call, sort of a "hello, life is short" awakening. Just as Tim McGraw's song implies, it does make you appreciate life. Yup, that double rainbow dancing over our

mountain really is a mirror image of itself. And isn't that a beautiful sunset? And shouldn't we go visit our kids and grandkids more often?

I thought I was taking care of myself and was healthy, but you never know. ❁

*Pat Young is a retired journalist who lives in the mountains near San Lorenzo.*

### Stroke Risk Factors You Can and Can't Control

Some risk factors for stroke you simply can't do anything about. These include:

- Your age—The chance of suffering a stroke roughly doubles for each decade of life after age 55.
- Family history—Your risk is greater if a parent, grandparent or sibling has had a stroke.
- Race—African-Americans have a much higher risk of death from stroke.
- Gender—Stroke is more common in men than in women. But women are more likely to die of stroke.
- Prior stroke, TIA or heart attack—People who've previously suffered a stroke or a "mini-stroke" (Transient Ischemic Attack, or TIA) or a heart attack are at higher risk.

But plenty of risk factors for stroke are things you can change, treat or control. These include:

- High blood pressure—Effective treatment of hypertension is key to reducing stroke risk.
- Smoking—Research has shown that cigarette smoking is an important risk factor.
- Other health conditions—Diabetes, carotid or other artery disease, atrial fibrillation, other heart disease and sickle cell anemia are all risk factors for stroke.
- Blood cholesterol—High LDL ("bad") cholesterol levels increase your risk of stroke. At least in men, low HDL ("good") cholesterol appears to also be a risk factor.
- Physical inactivity and obesity—Being inactive, obese or both increases your risk for high blood pressure and other conditions linked to stroke.
- Poor diet—High intakes of saturated fat, trans fat and dietary cholesterol, too much sodium

and simply too many calories can boost your stroke risk. But eating five or more servings daily of fruits and vegetables may reduce your risk.

To reduce your risk of stroke, the American Stroke Association advises these dietary steps:

- Use up at least as many calories as you take in.
- Eat a variety of nutritious foods from all the food groups.
- Eat a variety of vegetables and fruits, which are high in vitamins, minerals and fiber but low in calories.
- Choose unrefined whole grains, which contain fiber that can help improve cholesterol levels while making you feel full to help manage your weight.
- Eat fish at least twice a week, especially the varieties high in omega-3 fatty acids (such as salmon, trout and herring).
- Eat less of nutrient-poor foods such as those low in vitamins, minerals and fiber but high in calories, fats and sodium.
- Choose lean meats and poultry without skin and prepare them without added saturated or trans fat.
- Select fat-free, 1% fat and low-fat dairy products.
- Cut back on foods containing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (trans fats).
- Aim to consume less than 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol daily.
- Cut back on beverages and foods high in added sugars.
- Aim to consume less than 1,500 milligrams of sodium daily.
- If you drink alcohol, limit to one drink daily for women and two for men.
- Keep an eye on portion sizes.

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## JESSALYN OLIVAS: A "FEEL GOOD" STORY ABOUT THE URGENT CARE CLINIC



Since Lupita Hernandez had stomach flu, she thought her nine-year-old daughter, Jessalyn Olivas, might have the same thing. But when Jessalyn kept feeling worse, Lupita brought her right in to Silver Health CARE's Urgent CARE Clinic in Deming, to see Dana Weatherford, an experienced PA. As soon as Dana heard Jessalyn's symptoms, she conducted tests, and quickly diagnosed appendicitis. Lupita says that this possibility "never crossed my mind" and Jessalyn herself, a little trooper who "almost never cries," felt a little scared. "My appendix had busted," she said. Dana helped to calm both mother and daughter as she explained in detail what was happening with Jessalyn.

Within two hours of walking into the Urgent CARE Clinic, Jessalyn and Lupita were in an ambulance on their way to Mountain View Hospital in Las Cruces. She was operated on quickly, and it was clear that Dana's precise and quick diagnosis had prevented Jessalyn's condition from becoming much more serious. Jessalyn "did amazing" according to her mother, and in two weeks, Jessalyn was happy to be back at school because she really enjoys it. On top of all this excitement, Jessalyn celebrated her tenth birthday and a few weeks later, Lupita gave birth to little Ethan. It has been a busy and exciting time for everyone.

Lupita now always takes her children to Silver Health CARE. "I love to come here," she says, as she compliments the pediatricians, Dr. Brian Etheridge and Dr. Barbara Mora, at the Deming clinic. Lupita likes the fast and friendly service, accurate diagnoses, and quick turn-around for lab results.



from left to right: Jessalyn, Alyssa, Ethan, Lupita Hernandez, Isis

Jessalyn's experience is shared by many who choose the Urgent CARE Clinics, in Deming and Silver City, for a fast, reliable diagnosis of symptoms by skilled and caring practitioners. Next time you are feeling under the weather, and not quite sure what is going on, discover our Urgent CARE Clinics. Open evenings and weekends for your convenience!

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Mon.-Fri 11AM-7PM  
Sat. 9AM-5PM  
1511 S. Lime St.  
Deming, NM 88030  
575.544.4440



BODY, MIND &amp; SPIRIT • SHANNON HORST

# Seeking Alternatives

Broadening our view of health and healthcare reform.

A decade ago, my mother-in-law lived in Silver City for a few years, and I enjoyed bringing our two boys down (from Albuquerque) and hanging out. Silver City was, to me, a sleepy little mountain town with a heavy jolt of mining culture. It had a nice, small town, friendly and casual feel to it. But I didn't venture much beyond her house near the university.

Recently, I was down for a meeting of the Interim Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee (of the New Mexico Legislature). A significant part of the first day was devoted to hearing about how Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) does its work.

Based on the testimony at the meeting that day (and many other HHS meetings I've attended where healthcare professionals gave testimony), I'd say HMS is probably one of the smartest and most progressive healthcare providers in the nation. Unlike most publicly funded providers, HMS seems to have built a practice that:

- Requires patients (if HMS is going to treat them) to commit to *changing behaviors* that lead to poor health.
- Looks to address, through a wide variety of community resources, the *root cause* of the problem, which may have nothing to do with compromised physical health.
- Has the courage to move away from being paid for "visits" (the model at the heart of our current publicly funded healthcare system) to being *paid for outcomes*.

It's gutsy, refreshing and unconventional. And, as I rode around town with a friend and fellow church member, Carol Kane, and flipped through copies of this publication she had saved for me, I could see clearly that there was nothing "sleepy" about Silver City's attraction for those who are providing or using a wide variety of the healing arts.

Even more refreshing and insightful at the meeting was when Silver City's Senator Howie Morales pointed out that the root causes HMS is finding for poor health were the same root causes he keeps hearing about in legislative committees that deal with our failing public education: broken families, poverty, substance abuse, child neglect and abuse, obesity, and prescription drugs. Perhaps, he mused, the legislature ought to look at how we could spend our precious funds on the root causes rather than pouring hundreds of millions into bandaging the symptoms that show up in healthcare alongside the symptoms that show up in education. Eureka!

In addition to the presentation by HMS that day and the next, there was a great deal of discussion about healthcare reform. Surprisingly, but similarly to many meetings of this committee over the last few years where healthcare reform has been widely discussed and debated, there was no participation by the complimentary and alternative health (often referred to as "CAM" for "complimentary and alternative medicine") community. It seems surprising and befuddling.

Across the nation, 30%-60% of the population is choosing alternative approaches to health, including prayer, in combination with, or in lieu of, Western medicine. That percentage is probably higher in New Mexico. Many doctors indicate that patients regularly ask them about alternative options. And many universities that have medical schools now also have "integrative medicine departments" (including UNM) that investigate and use a wide variety of therapies. The US National Institutes of Health even has its own CAM division.

Further, here in New Mexico, unbeknownst to many in the alternative healing community, during the 2009 legislative session the legislature passed the "Unlicensed Healthcare Practitioner's Act." This law now regulates almost every kind of healing practice—traditional, cultural, ceremonial,

etc.—when offered to patients as a service for pay.

There are, thus, clear indications that:

- The public is choosing a wide variety of non-traditional healthcare options;
- Medical schools are working to catch up with these trends; and
- New Mexico's legislature is aware of this fact and regulates that care at some level.

Yet the legislature continues to see and discuss "healthcare reform" strictly through the eyes of Western, allopathic medicine.

Just as disconcerting perhaps, the CAM community in New Mexico (as best I can tell from observations and reaching out to some in this community) seems to be uninterested in bringing its voice and its resources to the debate. I've tried to find out why by asking a few practitioners I've met recently why there seems to be no interest. Here is what I've learned:

- Practitioners in this field have so many patients they are simply overwhelmed and have no time to attend hearings and lend their voice.
- Patients who choose alternative approaches are used to paying for these treatments outside of any insurance scheme and do so because they find them effective and reasonable and accessible.
- If the treatment isn't covered and they are not using any Western care, they plan to simply pay the fine once the mandatory healthcare insurance purchase kicks in. This, they argue, will still be cheaper than buying insurance to cover Western procedures.

This should be of concern to both legislators and the public alike. Why? Because three of the most fundamental improvements our legislators (those pushing for reform at both the state and federal level) have promised us in the course of achieving reform are:

- Patient choice
- Cost cuts
- Accessibility.

Opening up the debate on healthcare reform to include alternative forms of care and healing would contribute significantly to the fulfillment of all three of these commitments. We already know patients are choosing these alternatives, and studies done in the last decade show that these services—for those who choose them—are easier to access and less costly.

What would happen to the so-called "healthcare crisis" in New Mexico and in our nation if our legislators were to look beyond Western, allopathic medicine and include a wider variety of methods in the search for solutions?

By broadening our view of health and the debate on healthcare reform to include "body, mind and spirit," we might find we are better equipped to tackle this so-called crisis. We might find, as Senator Morales pointed out, that we can get to the root causes that underlie the collapse of our health and our healthcare system. And we might find that we can actually achieve the promise of providing each patient with the approach he/she trusts—quickly and affordably. ❧

*Shannon Horst is a media and legislative spokesperson for the Christian Science churches in New Mexico and those who practice its Bible-based healing system. The observations shared here are based on seven years of attending legislative hearings and healthcare reform committee meetings as well as scanning the media looking for discussions on body, mind and spirit, health, healing, healthcare reform, spirituality and medicine. If you are a member of the CAM community (patient or provider), a physician or a legislator and have a different view or helpful insights on these issues, she would love to hear from you. You can reach her at [newmexico@compub.org](mailto:newmexico@compub.org) or (505) 843-6405.*



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## BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

# Cleaning Green

Picking products that are better for the planet—and your health.

**D**ear EarthTalk: I want to use cleaning products that are healthier for the environment, but I worry that baking soda and the like won't really get my tub and toilet germ-free. Should I continue using bleach products in the bathroom?

**W**hen it comes to household cleaning products, most mainstream brands make use of chlorine bleach, ammonia or any number of other chemicals that can wreak havoc on the environment and human health.

Ammonia is a volatile organic compound that can irritate the respiratory system and mucous membranes if inhaled, and can cause chemical burns if spilled on the skin. Bleach contains sodium hypochlorite, which can cause eczema and other skin ailments as well as breathing difficulties if inhaled. And when it reacts with other elements in the environment, toxic "organochlorines" can form, damaging the ozone layer and causing health issues such as immune suppression, reproductive difficulties and even cancer.

Fortunately, growing public concern about the health effects of toxic exposure has led to an "explosion of environmentally friendlier and non-toxic products," says the health information website WebMD. "There are many products in this category—from laundry detergents and fabric softeners to multi-surface and floor cleaners, to tile and bathroom cleaners—that are... safer for people and the planet."

WebMD warns that while many are indeed safer, others are "greenwashed," meaning they are "marketed as natural while still including suspect chemicals." How does one know? "Get in the simple practice of looking at product labels to see if the cleaning manufacturer is clearly disclosing all ingredients," reports WebMD. "If it is not... it could mean the manufacturer is trying to hide a particular suspect ingredient."

Also, just because a product has an eco-certification printed on its label doesn't necessarily mean it should be trusted. To make sure, check the Eco-Labels section of Consumer Reports' Greener Choices website, which gives the lowdown on what labels really mean and whether they are backed up by government regulations. Another good resource is the US Department of Health and Human Services' Household Products Database, which provides ingredient lists for thousands of



Earth Friendly Products' "Safeguard Your Home" retail pack.

products on US store shelves.

If you want to play it safe and natural when cleaning your home, WebMD suggests using white distilled vinegar—it kills mold and mildew, eliminates soap scum and sanitizes, all in one fell swoop—to clean windows, tile, cutting boards and countertops. Another effective yet gentle natural cleaner for countertops and bathtubs is baking soda, especially when mixed with a few drops of mild soap. Borax can be called in for tougher stains.

If you're interested in cleaning greener, there are many sources of natural cleaning recipes online. Or check out the cleaning-products aisle at your local natural food store, where you will find a wide range of cleaning formulations from the likes of Seventh Generation, Ecover, Green Works and Earth Friendly Products (which sells a "Safeguard Your Home" retail pack that includes one each of a window cleaner, an all-purpose cleaner, a dishwashing liquid, an automatic dishwasher gel, a laundry detergent and a fabric refresher), among many others.

**CONTACTS:** WebMD, [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com); Greener Choices, [www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/eco-home.cfm?redirect=1](http://www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/eco-home.cfm?redirect=1); Household Products Database, [hpd.nlm.nih.gov](http://hpd.nlm.nih.gov).

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**Body, Mind & Spirit** is a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on all aspects of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of *Desert Exposure* or its advertisers, and are not intended to offer specific or prescriptive medical advice. You should always consult your own health professional before adopting any treatment or beginning any new regimen.

Body, Mind & Spirit

# Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

**Sundays**

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP**—5:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center board room. Jerry, 534-4846.  
**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  
**GENTLE YOGA**—5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**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.  
**RESTORATIVE YOGA**—4-5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

**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 Donna, 538-9344.  
**AL-ANON**—Noon. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Shawnee, 313-4721.  
**ART CLASS**—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.  
**KUNDALINI YOGA**—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**—6-7 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.  
**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.

**Tuesdays**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.  
**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.  
**BELLY DANCE WITH ZOE**—5:30-6:50 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 654-4910.  
**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, 313-7362.  
**FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING**—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.  
**GILA WRITERS**—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck,

heck@grmc.org, 538-4072.  
**INTERBODY YOGA**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**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.  
**RESTORATIVE YOGA**—10-11:30 a.m., 5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**SLOW FLOW YOGA**—11:30 a.m. 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.  
**TEA PARTY PATRIOTS**—2nd and 4th Thur. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143..

**Wednesdays**

**AL-ANON**—5:30 p.m., Swedenborgian Church, 1300 Bennett St. Ellen, 535-2596, or Jerry, 534-4866.  
**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. 536-2953.  
**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.  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**—Noon. St. Mary's Academy, 1801 N. Alabama, building by flagpole. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.  
**PFLAG**—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 2nd Weds. 5:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition, 509 N. Bullard. 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**  
**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—2nd 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.  
**CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL**—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin

Bldg.  
**DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS**—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.  
**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.  
**MOUNTAIN DULCIMER JAM**—6:15 p.m., Public Library.  
**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.  
**VINYASA YOGA**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**YOGA CLASS**—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

**Fridays**

**GILA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**—2d Fri. Grant County Admin. Bldg., 1400 Hwy. 180E. tim@tam.u.edu.  
**KUNDALINI YOGA**—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. Art, 590-6141, or John, 538-8779.  
**SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB**—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.  
**TAIZÉ**—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.  
**VETERANS HEALING CIRCLE**—2d Fri. 12-4 p.m. Marian Hall, 1813 N. Alabama St. 388-4870.  
**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.  
**BEGINNING SALSA**—7-8 p.m. Javalina's. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.  
**DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT**—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.  
**EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION**—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.  
**KIDS BIKE RIDE**—10 a.m., Bike-works, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.  
**SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA**—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**SPINNING GROUP**—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.  
**VINYASA FLOW YOGA**—10 a.m. All levels. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425. ☸

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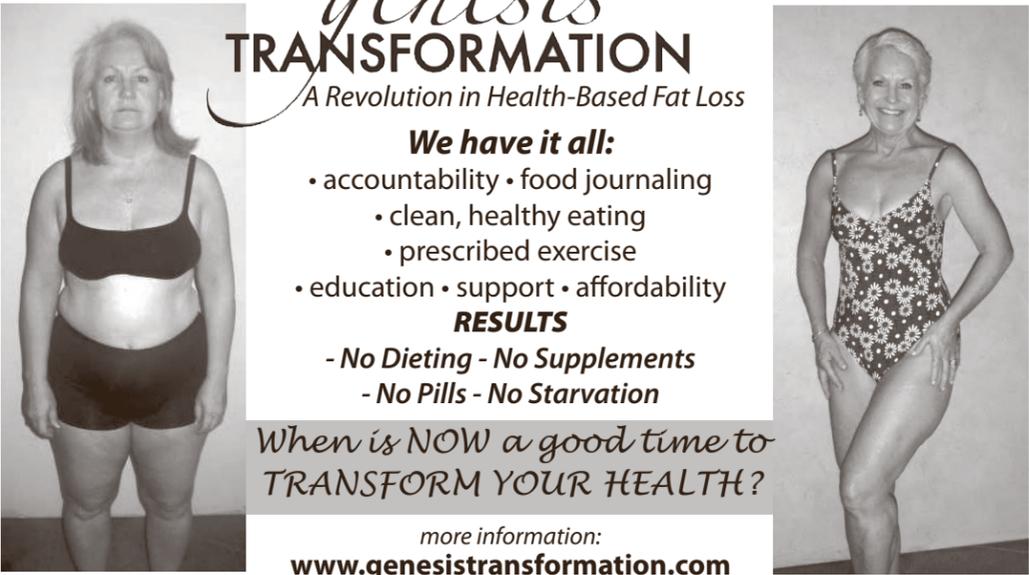
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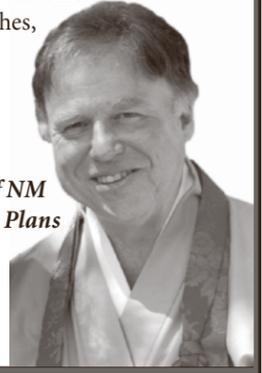
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Silver City, New Mexico ~ 505-670-8775

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**New Year's Day: 8a-noon**  
**Dane Dexter-Piano: 9:30-11:30a**  
**Open Christmas Eve and NY Eve**  
**Bkfst: 7-10:30a, Lunch: 11a-2:30p**  
**Thanksgiving Day: Closed**

**Christmas Day & NY Day Open 8a-Noon**  
**Christmas Eve & NY Eve Open 7a-3p**  
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# Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

**R**ed or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and updated guide online at [www.desertexposure.com](http://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. Call for exact hours and days of operation, which change frequently. 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](mailto: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](http://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: B L.\*

**ALOTTA GELATO**, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato and desserts.\*

**ASIAN BUFFET**, 1740 Hwy. 180, 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. The baby back ribs and beef brisket—all treated with tasty dry rubs and slow-roasted for long hours in the smoker-cooker—are moist, tender and championship quality." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.\*

**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.\*

**CAFÉ UN MUNDO**, 700 N. Bullard, 956-8752. Vegetarian, juice, soup: L.

**COURTYARD CAFE**, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American, Sunday brunch, catering: B L D.\*

**CURIOUS KUMQUAT**, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch (Mon.-Sat.) features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners (Thurs.-Sat.) are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrées always include vegetarian and the super-duper hamburger, plus two determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) L D.\*

**DIANE'S BAKERY & CAFE**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "As they serve Diane's fresh, inventive dishes, the staff will make you subtly aware you are indeed enjoying a big-city-caliber dining experience—without the least bit of snootiness to detract from the fact that you are, nonetheless, in small-town New Mexico." (Sept. 2007) American: L D, weekend brunch.

**DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI**, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Top-notch pastries in the morning, deli lunch or casual, tasty dinner. . . Diane's new Deli has it all—to go!" (Sept. 2007) Sandwiches, deli, baked goods: B L D.\*

**DON FIDENCIO'S**, 901 N. Hudson St., 534-4733. Mexican: B L D.

**DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Hwy 180 E., 538-2916. Breakfast: B L.\*

**EAT YOUR HEART OUT**, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Take-away dinners: 4:30-6 p.m.\*

**GILA BEANS**, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.

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

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

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

**ISAAC'S GRILL**, Bullard and Broadway, 388-4090. American, Burgers, Sandwiches, Sushi: L D.\*

**JALISCO CAFE**, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican: L D.

**JAVA THE HUT**, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Coffeeshop.\*

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

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

**LA FAMILIA**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: B L D.\*

**LA MEXICANA**, Hwy. 180 W and Memory Lane, 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L D.

**MARGO'S BAKERY**, 300 S. Bullard St., 597-0012. Baked goods: B L.\*

**MAS Y MAS TORTILLERIA**, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, 534-9255. Tortillas, Mexican: B L.\*

**MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. Mexican: L D.

**NANCY'S SILVER CAFE**, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: B L D.\*

**OFF THE HOOK**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 534-1100. Catfish, chicken, shrimp: B L D.\*

**THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Sandwiches, light bites: D.

**PEACE MEAL VEGETARIAN DELI**, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "The unique and healthful food is tasty, and the only such of its kind around for miles—maybe even galaxies." (February 2007) Vegetarian: L D.\*

**PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream.\*

**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 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: L D.

**RED BARN**, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. Steakhouse: L D.\*

**SHEVEK & Co.**, 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "Shevek & Co. will take your taste buds on a culinary tour from Spain to Greece, with delicious with delicious destinations all along the Mediterranean in-between. The sheer ambition of the offerings is astonishing." (March 2009) Mediterranean: D, brunch on selected weekends.\*

**SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFE**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: L D.\*

**SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeeshop.

**TRE ROSAT CAFE**, closed for remodeling of new location.

**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: B L.\*

**YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE**, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeeshop.\*

**Bayard FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP**, 1108 Tom

Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.

**LITTLE NISHA'S**, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: B L D.

**M & A BAYARD CAFE**, 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: B L D.

**SUGAR SHACK**, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: B L.

### Cliff

**PARKEY'S**, 8414 Hwy. 180 W., 535-4000. Coffeeshop.

### Hurley

**GATEWAY GRILL**, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. American and Mexican: B L D (Fri-Sat).

### Lake Roberts

**SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFE**, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. (July 2011) German specialties Saturday L.

### Mimbres

**ELK X-ING. BREAKFAST**, sandwiches, Mexican: B L.

**MIMBRES VALLEY CAFE**, Hwy. 35 N., 536-2857. Mexican, American, hamburgers: B L D.\*

### Pinos Altos

**BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE**, Main Street, 538-9911. "The Buck,' as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and 'honest pours' at the full bar." (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: D.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY

### Las Cruces & Mesilla

**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: B L.

**ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: L D.

**AQUA REEF**, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: D.\*

**THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeeshop.\*

**BILLY CREWS**, 1200 Country Club Rd., 589-2071. Steak and Seafood: L D.

**BLUE AGAVE CAFE**, 1765 S. Main St. (inside Best Western Mission Inn), 524-8591. Southwestern: B D.

**BLUE MOON**, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Brew Pub: L D.

**BOBA CAFE**, 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: L D.\*

**BRAVO'S CAFE**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: B L D.

**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

# Table Talk

If it's November, it must be time to tipple this year's nouveau Beaujolais. **Shevek & Co.** will be celebrating the 2011 French harvest with a two-day Nouveau Beaujolais Party, Nov. 18-19, 5-9 p.m. Reservations are recommended. And reservations are a must for Shevek's family-style Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 24, 12-6 p.m. 602 N. Bullard St., Silver City, 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Over at the **Curious Kumquat**, it's a month of contrasts. On Nov. 5, you can learn vegetarian Ethiopian cooking with renowned chef Hailu Robele. Then on Nov. 11, carnivores can pig out—literally—with a “Whole Hog Dinner,” featuring 10 courses from a pig purchased from Silver

City 4Her Emily Montoya. (Reservations are required.) Finally, master desserts at a chocolate-making workshop on Nov. 20. Bullard and College, Silver City, 534-0337.

**Diane's** restaurant is now offering locals a 15% discount. Watch for a new winter menu, too. 510 N. Bullard, Silver City, 538-8722, DianasRestaurant.com.

In Las Cruces, the former home of Taste of India is now **Serefino's**, an offshoot of Serefino's New Mexican Restaurant in Rio Rancho. Hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. daily. 1001 E. University Ave., 522-1444. ☞

All area codes are 575 except as noted. Send restaurant news to updates@red-or-green.com.

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.

**CAFÉ AGOGO**, 1120 Commerce Dr., suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American: L D.

**CATTLEMEN'S STEAKHOUSE**, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.

**CHABELA'S**, 1710 S. Espina St., 52 **CROSSWINDS GRILL**, Las Cruces Airport off I-10, 525-0500. Burgers, Mexican: B L.

**DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: L D.

**DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers.

“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): L D.

**DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI**, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: L D. \*

**DICK'S CAFE**, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican and Burgers: B L D.

**DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.

**DUBLIN STREET PUB**, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American.

**EDDIE'S BAR & GRILL**, 901 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-8603. Pub Food, American and Southwestern: B L D.

**FORK IN THE ROAD**, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D.

**FOX'S PIZZA DEN**, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.

**GRANDMA INES'S KITCHEN**, 2910 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-0602. American: B L D.

**GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American, Southern: B L D.

**GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL**, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, Hawaiian: L D.

**HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew Pub: L D. \*

**HOTEL ENCANTO**, 705 S. Telshor, 532-4277. Southwestern, Continental: B L D. \*

**INTEGRITY BAGELS**, 1405 S. Solano, 522-3397. Bagels and Sandwiches: B L.

**INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS**, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B L D.

**JAPANESE KITCHEN**, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.

**JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFE**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. “Whether for breakfast or lunch, Josephina's offers 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: B (Fri-Sat), L.

**KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL**, 1001 E. University Ave., 532-2042. Japanese: L D.

**KIVA PATIO CAFE**, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern and American: B L D.

**LA IGUANA**, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. “The restaurant is an interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeehouse, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together.” (Febru-

ary 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: B L D. \*

**LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican and Steakhouse: L D.

**LEMONGRASS**, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: L D.

**LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFE**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. Deli, Sandwiches, coffeeshop: B L.

**LORENZO'S**, 1750 Calle de Mercado, 525-3170. Italian and Pizza: L D.

**LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian and Pizza: L D.

**LOS COMPAS CAFE**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS COMPAS**, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.

**LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. \*

**MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN**, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. Mexican and American: B L D. \*

**MESON DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida De Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood: L D.

**MIGUEL'S**, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: L D.

**MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO**, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeeshop: B L D. \*

**MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS**, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian and Pacific: L D.

**MOONGATE CAFE**, 705 E. US Hwy. 70, 382-5744. Coffeeshop and Mexican: B L D.

**MY BROTHER'S PLACE**, 336 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: L D.

**NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.

**NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: L D. \*

**OLD TOWN RESTAURANT**, 155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican and American: B L. \*

**ONO GRINDZ**, 300 N. Downtown Mall, 541-7492. Hawaiian: B L D.

**PAISANO CAFE**, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D. \*

**PANCAKE ALLEY DINER**, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L D.

**PAOLA'S BAKERY AND CAFE**, N. Main St., 524-2025. El Salvadoran.

**PEPE'S**, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.

**PEPPERS ON THE PLAZA**, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.

**PHO SAIGON**, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.

**PIT STOP CAFE**, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: 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.

**RANCHWAY BARBEQUE**, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue and Mexican: B L D.

**RENEE'S PLACE**, 3000 Harrelson, 526-4878. American.

**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: B L D.

**SANTORINI'S**, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. “An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as kftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous.” (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: L D.

**SB'S LATE-NIGHT LUNCHBOX**, 120 S. Water St.. New American fare, vegetarian, vegan, wraps: L D.

**SEREFINO'S**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-1444. New Mexican: B L.

**THE SHED**, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: B L D. \*

**SI ITALIAN BISTRO**, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. Italian: L D.

**SIMPLY TOASTED CAFE**, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soup, salads: B L.

**SI SENOR**, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D. \*

**SMOKY DICK'S BBQ**, 2265 S. Main St., 541-5947. Barbecue: L D.

**SPANISH KITCHEN**, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: B L D.

**SPIRIT WINDS**, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches and Bakery: B L D. \*

DINING GUIDE continued on page 47

## Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



Join us Downtown at the 21st Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday November 26th at 7:00 PM!

Gobble gobble! Pumpkin Pie gelato is back, Egg Nog and Peppermint Stick ought to be back by the time you read this! Our loyal customers wait all year for these seasonal favorites, and they're only available for a limited time. Any of them (or all of them!) would be a welcome finale to a Thanksgiving dinner, or we can hand-pack your choice of

30-plus incredible flavors, including dairy-free fruit flavors and sugar-free ones sweetened with Splenda® (and yes, we can pack several flavors into each insulated pint or quart container). There are no turkeys here, folks: authentic Italian gelato, low in fat but bursting with great tastes, made on the premises with imported flavorings and fresh ingredients.

Remember that we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime bars, Raspberry Streusel bars, Chocolate Chip brownies, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, cookies, flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin' slices of three-layer Carrot Cake— plus hot and cold drinks to go with them. Lastly, we have gift certificates available in any amount for any occasion (and plenty of such occasions are coming in the weeks ahead).

ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 (count 'em!) days a week, beginning at Noon every day until 9:00 PM (Sunday through Thursday) or 10:00 PM (Friday and Saturday)— sometimes even later. (Note that we will be closed on Thanksgiving Day but will re-open as usual on Friday November 25th.)

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Thursday, November 24, 12pm-6pm  
*A Family-Style Celebration*  
Reservations Required



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RED OR GREEN? • VIVIAN SAVITT

# Let Them Eat Cake

Margo's Bakery in Silver City celebrates its first anniversary of serving baked goods "to live for."

**L**ocated at the corner of South Bullard and San Vicente Streets, the front door of Margo's Bakery forms a triangle with the curb as if to remind customers of the wedged shapes (pie and cake slices among other things) awaiting them inside. Perhaps the geometry subliminally influenced a succession of bakeries to occupy the site, including Black Diamond, Bad Ass, Schadel's and the present incarnation for sweetish indulgences owned by Margo Byrne.

Margo's baking career began in the late 1970s as an apprentice to a pastry chef in the San Francisco Bay area who taught the "European method." Later she crossed country and switched coastlines, settling in the Champlain Islands of Vermont, where she worked as a pastry chef specializing in wedding cakes. It seems that celebrating weddings in the Champlain Islands is as popular as honeymooning at Niagara Falls.

In 1994, she opened her own "Pastry Cafe" on Grand Isle featuring made from scratch delicacies containing freshly juiced fruit and whisk-whipped cream. She describes the texture and flavor of her pastry as "European"—indicative of baking that is "lighter, less sweet and containing quality butter—not shortening."

Margo's approach to baking continues unabashed as she celebrates her first anniversary in Silver City on Nov. 7, not only using pastry and cake recipes that originated in France, Italy and Austria, but also preparing bread, cookies, and both a daily fruit muffin and scone.

"My scones," Margo comments, "are as light as clouds."

Equally light is her Génoise cake—an Italian/French sponge cake that relies on eggs for leavening—made of three or more layers of cake filled with mousse, fruit curd or chocolate ganache. She describes her ganache as "classic dark and semi-sweet chocolate, butter and cream."

Another cake, a cassata, may contain either orange liqueur or, in the case of her fresh cranberry cassata, sweet ricotta cheese. The cherry liqueur Chambord is brushed over her Black Forest cake for both flavor and moisture retention.

Six to eight varieties of cookies, priced at \$4.50 a dozen, are especially popular with Margo's customers. Once again, a few international ones are added to the offering—Scottish shortbread with chocolate chips ("Angel" cookies) and Greek kourabiedes ("Grecos")—to oblige the more cosmopolitan cookie monsters.

Set adjacent to the cookie case are tartlets as beckoning as a Wayne Thiebaud confectionary painting. They range from German linzers to Austrian bundernuss and open-face fresh fruit tarts à



Margo Byrne of Margo's Bakery Cafe in Silver City celebrates her first anniversary in business this month.

la français. The proprietress describes her customers as "diverse as Silver City itself. They enjoy my baking and just don't mind walking or driving the extra two blocks from Broadway to get here. It's also quiet enough to read or converse, and they can hang out either inside or on the patio.

"For some of them," she continues, "having a savory empanada (prepared with spinach, onion, mushroom and feta cheese) with a cup of coffee has become a ritual."

She hopes that her made-to-order wedding cakes, which are decorated with fresh flowers, also become a ritual. Filling for wedding cakes may include Italian meringue butter cream.

At present, the lotus cream cake and the chocolate génoise with strawberries are both popular for birthdays. The "roulades" or rolled cakes are suggested to customers who are serving fewer persons.

With the change in weather, Margo's Bakery has begun serving quiche du jour and soup served with fresh bread. Varieties include corn chowder, minestrone, chili cheese and potato leek. Margo roasts peppers to add to her vegetable quiches and also serves a classic quiche Lorraine.

As Julia Child said, "No one is born a pastry chef." After 30 years, Margo feels on top of her métier.



Pastry and cake are offered at regular hours and run the gamut from unusual cheesecakes to French, Austrian and other international delicacies. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)

She says, "I prefer to say that my pastries and cakes are 'to live for,' so everyone can continue to enjoy them!" 🍰

*Margo's Bakery Cafe, 300 S. Bullard, Silver City. (575) 597-0012. Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Whole cakes normally require 24 hours notice. Special orders are welcome. Vivian Savitt writes the Southwest Gardener column.*



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DINING GUIDE continued

**St. Clair Winery & Bistro**, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. Wine tasting, Bistro: L D.

**SUNSET GRILL**, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Steak and Burgers: B L D.

**THAI DELIGHT**, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "The menu quite literally has something for everyone. For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D. \*

**TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE**, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek and Deli: B L D. \*

**TONY'S RESTAURANTE**, 125 S. Campo St., 524-9662. Italian: B L.

**UMP 88 GRILL**, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. Irish pub: L D.

**VALLEY GRILL**, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday Fish Fry.

**VINTAGE WINES**, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

**WOK-N-WORLD**, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese, pizza: 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, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: L D.

**ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA**, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.

**Anthony ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.

**LA COCINITA**, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

**Chapparal EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE**, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: B L D.

**TORTILLERIA SUSY**, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: B L D.

**Doña Ana BIG MIKE'S CAFE**, Thorpe Road. Mexican, Breakfasts and Burgers: B L D.

**SAFARI**, 2221 Desert Wind Way, 382-0600.

**La Mesa CHOPES BAR & CAFE**, Hwy 28, 233-9976. Mexican: L D.

**Organ THAI DELIGHT**, 16151 Hwy. 70 E., 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: L D.

**Radium Springs COUNTRY CUPBOARD**, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

**LUNA COUNTY Deming**

**ADOBE DELI**, 3970 Lewis Flats Rd. SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches, ranging. The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too: filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, NY strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, halibut, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, Deli and Steaks: L D. \*

**BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT**, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. American: L D.

**BELSHORE RESTAURANT**, 1210 E. Spruce, 546-6289. American: B L.

**CAMPO'S 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: B L D.

**CHINA RESTAURANT**, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: L D.

**DAIRY QUEEN**, 1414 E. Pine St., 546-820. Frozen desserts, burgers. \*

**DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL**, 1310 W. Spruce, 546-8832. American, Mexican: B L D.

**EL CAMINO REAL**, 900 W. Pine St., 546-7421. Mexican, American: B L D. \*

**EL MIRADOR**, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: B L D.

**GOLDEN STAR**, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese.

**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 and 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. \*

**LA PARRILLA**, 1409 Columbus Road, 544-4443. Mexican: B L.

**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: L D. Manolo's Cafe, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405.

**MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING Co.**, 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, pizza, burgers, wings, paninis: 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) Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet. Italian: L D. \*

**PATIO CAFE**, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. "The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85 percent 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, sauteed onions, barbecue sauce, fresh mushrooms, even ham." (February 2006) Burgers, American, breakfast specialities: B L D. \*

**PRIME RIB GRILL**, inside Holiday Inn, I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak and Seafood: B L D. \*

DINING GUIDE continued on next page



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At Sunrise Espresso we specialize in high quality espresso drinks designed to please the most discriminating tastes. Our drinks are made by baristas that take pride in their work and it shows in every drink. 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. For those folks who are not familiar with espresso drinks, we are always happy to explain the menu. If caffeine is off your menu our drinks can be made decaffeinated or enjoy non-coffee drinks that include Chai lattes, Italian cream sodas, and assorted teas.

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October 31 No Take Away Happy Halloween!	November 1 Sauerbraten Poppy seed Noodles Red Cabbage Dinner Roll Strudel \$10.00	November 2 Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Vegetable Dinner Roll Pie \$10.00	November 3 Pork Loin Baked Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Dinner Roll Brownie \$10.00	November 4 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
November 7 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders	November 8 Chicken Tetrazzini Caesar Salad Vegetable Garlic Bread Cake \$10.00	November 9 Italian Pot Roast Pasta Green Beans Italian Bread Cookie \$10.00	November 10 Closed for Special Catering Event	November 11 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
November 14 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders	November 15 Lasagna Tossed Salad Italian Bread Pie \$10.00	November 16 Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry Vegetables Rice Dessert \$10.00	November 17 Pork Ribs Baked Beans Slaw Dinner Roll Cake \$10.00	November 18 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
November 21 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders	November 22 Pork Chops O'Brien Baked with Potatoes Tossed Salad Dinner Roll Dessert \$10.00	Thanksgiving Dinner November 23 Turkey and Dressing Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Sweet Potatoes *by order Green Beans Cranberries Dinner Roll Pumpkin Pie \$13.00	November 24 Closed Happy Thanksgiving!	November 25 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
November 28 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders	November 29 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Dinner Roll Pie \$10.00	November 30 Pot Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Celery Tossed Salad Dinner Roll Dessert \$10.00	December 1 Green Chile Chicken Enchilada Casserole Pinto Beans Tossed Salad Brownie \$10.00	December 2 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders

Take Away Dinners Available **TUES - THUR — 4:30-6:00 pm**  
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## RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

# No Passport Needed

Go on an adventure in taste at T or C's Pacific Grill.

If you're looking for adventure in your eating, you just might want to try Pacific Grill in Truth or Consequences.

The menu piques one's culinary curiosity immediately with such offerings as Mojo Chicken, Thai Peanut Chicken, Orange Ginger-encrusted Mahi, Red Chile Mahi cooked “fajita style,” Coconut-Lime Grouper, Hoisin Shrimp & Veggies, and Spicy Red Curry with chicken or shrimp. Even old standbys like Chicken Fried Steak and pasta are given a novel twist at Pacific Grill, with a mildly spicy Green Chile Gravy served in place of regular country gravy with the former, and blue cheese and pesto offered as optional additions to any linguine dish.

Not everything on the menu, however, requires a strong sense of adventure. There is a selection of fried seafood, including haddock, catfish, tilapia, shrimp and clam strips. There are simple grilled items available, too, including salmon steak, a mixed grill that consists of chicken, shrimp and scallops, and grilled mahi.

Grilled steak is always an option, as well, with the specific cut of steak that's available varying on a day-to-day basis. And the restaurant has a good salad bar, too.

Prices are reasonable, ranging from \$6.95 to \$16.95 for entrees.

The restaurant offers a selection of New Mexico wines, as well as 17 different brands of beer.

Pacific Grill is family-run, with founders Tom and Jeanne Lehnert still deeply involved in the day-to-day running of the business, while their daughter Anna and her husband, Dustin Sartin, are shouldering more and more of the responsibilities.

Neither Tom nor Jeanne had had any experience in the restaurant business prior to establishing Pacific Grill. “We had just come back from a visit to Fiji in 1998 and we were kind of at loose ends, so I came up with the idea of opening a restaurant,” Tom says. “Jeanne and I both came from Wisconsin originally, and both of us had hung out in the kitchen in our homes as kids. We both figured out early on that that was where the good stuff was—the cookie dough, the pots of frosting.”

Tom says he has a simple philosophy of food: “I like it! And I like family restaurants. So we set out to create a family restaurant that serves quality food made with quality ingredients. We create our own sauces. We make our own soups. We build our food from scratch. We work with fresh herbs and a huge variety of spices.”

The Lehnerts originally established their restaurant in Truth or Consequences “because we had lived here and it was the friendliest place we could remember,” Tom explains. The business was doing well when they decided to sell it and make a permanent move to Fiji. A change in government in that small nation sent them back to New Mexico, where they established a new Pacific Grill restaurant in Las Cruces.

“We came back to Truth or Consequences in 2001, when our original restaurant became available, be-



Pacific Grill is a family-run business, and the family consists of (l-r) Jeanne and Tom Lehnert, their son-in-law, Dustin Sartin, and his wife, Anna, their daughter. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

cause we like it here,” Tom says. “And we've been here ever since. We're just all interested in food. We like to experiment with ingredients. It's very creative. You're always learning new things. That's why we've managed to maintain some excitement with this. And I think that's the secret to lasting as long as we have.”

At this point, Tom says, he and his wife are in the process of handing the reins of the business over to Anna and Dustin. “They're the key people now.”

“Dad has gone a little more out of the business, but mom does all the baking and runs the front-of-house at lunch,” Anna says. “We haven't found anyone to replace her yet.”

Dustin, a native of Truth or Consequences, was serving as cook at the restaurant when it was first established in 1998.

“He's now the main cook, the chef,” Anna says.

“He's a work horse,” Tom says of Dustin. “He's reliable as can be. I'm so impressed with the level of work he does, day in and day out.”

Anna makes all the sauces, in addition to running the front-of-house at night, and she steps up to the stove at other times, as needed.

All members of the family group fill in wherever necessary, and it's not unusual to find one or another of them washing dishes.

“We actually enjoy it,” Anna says.

“You know,” Tom says, “usually you watch your children grow and move away. The greatest joy for me has been working every day in the restaurant with Anna and watching her grow and become good at what she does.”

Pacific Grill is located at 800 Date St. in Truth or Consequences, and is open for lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's open for dinner as well on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu remains the same for lunch and dinner. For more information, call (575) 894-7687. ☞

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



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### DINING GUIDE continued

**RANCHER'S GRILL**, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse: L D.\*

**SI SENOR**, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: B L D.

**SUNRISE KITCHEN**, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. B L.

#### Akela

**APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT**, I-10. Burgers, ribs, “casino-style” food: B L D.\*

#### Columbus

**PANCHO VILLA CAFE**, Hwy. 11, 531-0555. Mexican and American: B L D.

**PATIO CAFE**, 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 and American: B L D.\*

**RAMONA'S CAFE**, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. Mexican, American: B L D.

#### Animas

**PANTHER TRACKS CAFE**, Hwy 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican and American: B L D

#### Rodeo

**RODEO STORE AND CAFE**, coffee-shop food: B L.

**RODEO TAVERN**, 557-2229. D (Weds.-Sat.).

#### CATRON COUNTY

##### Reserve

**ADOBE CAFE**, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Thursday pizza, Sunday barbecue buffet: B L D (Thurs., Sun.).

**ELLA'S CAFE**, 533-6111. Home-style: B L D.

##### Glenwood

**ALMA GRILL**, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, hamburgers, Mexican: B L.\*

**BLUE FRONT BAR AND CAFE**, Hwy. 180, 539-2561. Mexican and American, weekend Barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.\*

**GOLDEN GIRLS CAFE**, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

**MARIO'S PIZZA**, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: D (Tues., Sat.).

#### SIERRA COUNTY

##### Hillsboro

**BARBER SHOP CAFE**, 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, Sandwiches: B (Sat., Sun.) L.

**HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE**, Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: B L D (Sat.).

**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](mailto:updates@red-or-green.com). ☞

## 40 DAYS &amp; 40 NIGHTS

## What's Going on in November

Plus a look ahead into early December.

NOVEMBER  
TUESDAY

**1 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SPINNING TUESDAYS**—Tuesdays in November. Beginning spinners will learn fiber preparation, different spinning techniques, and how to make yarn. More experienced spinners will learn to make a consistently even yarn. 10 a.m.-noon. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT**—Through Nov. 3. A film about astronomers in the Atacama desert of Chile. But it's not just about people looking up in their search for the origins of everything. It's about people looking down and inward, too—archaeologists, political victims and women who hunt for the bones of loved ones "disappeared" by strongman Augusto Pinochet. In Spanish with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE**—Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

## WEDNESDAY

**2 Silver City/Grant County**  
**PETER & MICHELE**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB**—With Siddeq Shabazz 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION**—Procession to San Albino Cemetery from the plaza. 6-8 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

**GREAT CONVERSATION**—With Randy Harris. 6-7:15 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

## THURSDAY

**3 Silver City/Grant County**  
**KNITTING THURSDAYS**—Also Nov. 10 and 17. Informal sessions provide beginning knitting instruction or help with your projects. Free. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**VINO AND VINYASA**—60 minutes of yoga and a glass of wine. 6:30 p.m. \$10. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, Mimbres, (206) 940-1502.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. FRESNO STATE**—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS**—Reiki Master and Rev. Dawn Cheney. 2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**DEMING FUSILIERS**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

## FRIDAY

**4 Silver City/Grant County**  
**CITIZEN SCIENCE**—Audubon presentation by Dan Hinz, an Americorps OSM/VISTA volunteer working with the Gila Resources Information Project. 7-8 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall.

**EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL**—Through Nov. 6. 4-7:30 p.m. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 534-0510.

**FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**—Day of the Dead. Dance and family activities in the museum courtyard. 7-10 p.m. Free. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMain-Street.com.

**STEVE REYNOLDS**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

**WNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO**—7 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**DOWNTOWN RAMBLE**—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

**GREAT CONVERSATION**—With Randy Harris. 6-7:15 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**NASA ART EXHIBIT**—Exhibit through Jan. 29. See Arts Exposure section. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, lascruces.org/museums.

**STAR PARTY AND NATURE HIKE**—The Astronomical Club of Las Cruces will set up telescopes and share the classic Greek mythology of the stars. Alex Mares will share his cultural Native American star interpretation. 5:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 students, free under 12. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**THE GUARD**—Through Nov. 10. A dark comedy about an eccentric local cop who teams up with a hidebound American FBI agent in an effort to bring down murderous drug runners. The cop is Gerry Boyle, a blustery sergeant played by Brendan Gleeson. The ramrod fed is Wendell Everett, played by Don Cheadle. The drug smugglers are a cranky lot who include Liam Cunningham and Mark Strong. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—Through Nov. 13. This play is a thriller that moves quickly as the suspense builds to a breath-stopping final scene. By Frederick Knott and directed by Karen Caroe. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

## SATURDAY

**5 Silver City/Grant County**  
**107TH ANNUAL BAZAAR**—Brunch, bake sale, clothing boutique, crafts, Nancy Wyatt pottery. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 7th and Texas St., 538-2015.

**AUDUBON FIELD TRIP**—Carpool for a trip to Lake Roberts to look for wintering duck, late fall migrants, and other

early winter visitors. 8 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Building, 388-4210.

**CHILDREN'S STATE SYMBOL CRAFT ACTIVITY PROGRAM**—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**DAVID REMLEY**—Author of Kit Carson: the Life an American Border Man. 11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

**EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL**—Through Nov. 6. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 534-0510.

**FIDDLING FRIENDS**—With Bayou

1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—See Nov. 4. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**Deming**

**HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**—9 a.m.-1 p.m. Holy Family Church, 615 S. Copper.

**STEVE JONES**—A.k.a. the Howling Coyote. Western and folk music. 2 p.m. \$10. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**GLENWOOD**

**ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER**—Glenwood Woman's Club. Take-out available. 5:30-7 p.m. Glenwood Community Center.

**SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**6 Silver City/Grant County**  
**DANE DEXTER**—Nostalgic piano. Vicki's Eatery, Market and Texas.

**EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL**—11 a.m.-3 p.m. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 534-0510.

**KEGAN SEVERE**—Alto flute and penny whistle. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

**SILVER CITY MUSEUM SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**—Annual meeting and special presentation, "Looking at New



Jim Curry performs a tribute to John Denver on Nov. 7 at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater.

Seco. 12:15-1 p.m. Alotta Gelatto.

**GUATEMALAN HOLIDAY MARKET AND SALE**—Affordable, authentic gift items from Guatemalan artists. MRAC/Wells Fargo Gallery, 538-2505, mimbresarts.org.

**STAGED PLAY READING OF BLUE WILLOW**—Fourth of 15 one-act plays by Victoria Tester. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**STEVE REYNOLDS**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**WNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY**—12 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

**WNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO**—7 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**NMSU AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. NEVADA**—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**BECOMING A BIRDER SERIES**—A park ranger will lead a guided tour along the park trails and point out common birds found in the park this time of year. Bring close-toed shoes, sunscreen, binoculars and water. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**FAIRLIGHT COMMUNITY GARDENS BENEFIT**—Exhibit through Nov. 26. Artists' reception, Jeri Desrochers. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

**GEOLOGY OF MESILLA VALLEY**—Join geobotanist Jerry Arp and discover the regional geology as viewed from SWEC Hill in Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. 11 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**LUKE TUMBLIN**—Exhibit through November. 10-year-old digital artist. Artist's reception. 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

**MATINEE**—Step back into a time of outrageous movie-theater gimmicks and larger-than-life B-screen stars in this homage to the great sci-fi and horror flicks of the 1950s and 1960s. John Goodman is at his uproarious best as the William Castle-inspired movie promoter Lawrence Woolsey, who brings his unique brand of flashy showmanship to the unsuspecting residents of Key West. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**RAW FOR 30**—Naturopathic doctor Genevieve Mitchell. 1-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE**—Through Nov. 6. Spend a weekend with kings and queens. Live entertainment, food and beverages. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$6, free under 12. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

**Ty ELWIN**—High Desert Brewing,

Mexico's Struggle for Statehood through Political Cartoons," with Dr. Richard Melzer. 1 p.m. \$5, free for members. Silver City Woman's Club, 1715 Silver Heights Blvd.

**RIVER GIRL**—Staged reading. Third play in Victoria Tester's ghost play cycle. 7 p.m. Free. WNMU Webb Theater.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**MARIACHI SUNDAYS**—2-5 p.m. Free. Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, lascrucesmariachi.org.

**RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE**—See Nov. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$6, free under 12. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—See Nov. 4. Through Nov. 13. 2:30 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**Deming**

**DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—Every Sunday. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

## MONDAY

**7 Silver City/Grant County**  
**TAKE ME HOME**—John Denver's music comes to life through this tribute by Jim Curry and his band. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$20. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater.

## TUESDAY

**8 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SAUSAGE 101**—Also Nov. 10. Using recipes handed down from their grandparents, MaryAnn Markus and Leanne Krieger will introduce you to an easy way to make your own fresh sausage. Noon-1 p.m. Free. Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silverscityfoodcoop.com.

**SPINNING TUESDAYS**—10 a.m.-Noon. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**TEA PARTY PATRIOTS MEETING**—6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BOOK REVIEW**—Lynette Schurdevin on Diane Mott Davidson's book, *Dying for Chocolate*. 1:30 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

**GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**—5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

## WEDNESDAY

**9 Silver City/Grant County**  
**HAVILAH RAND**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB**—With

**EVENTS continued on next page**



The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge

## Thanksgiving Menu

Thursday, Nov. 24  
Served Noon to 7 pm

**Fall Starters**

Brie with Apple Chutney

**Soup Course**

Ginger Carrot Soup

**Entree Choices** (Please Choose One)

Herb Encrusted Roast Thanksgiving Turkey Served with

Apple Pistachio Dressing and Bourbon Gravy

or

Pork Tenderloin Stuffed with Cranberries In A Port Wine Sauce

or

Autumn Garden Vegetables Lasagna Layered with Phyllo and

Homemade Ricotta Cheese (Vegetarian)

**All Entrees Include**

Apple-cranberry Sauce, Coconut Milk Sweet Potatoes, Winter Vegetable Au Gratin,

Homemade Bread, and an Asparagus Red Bell Pepper Tomato Salad and

Bear Mountain Crackers

**Desserts** (Please Choose One)

Pumpkin Cheese Cake with Membrillo Whipped Cream

or

Tiramisu with A Bit of Brandied Cranberry Sauce

Coffee or Tea

**Cost Is \$32.00 Per Person**

Reservation Only (Choose Entree and Dessert When Reserving)

**We Are Proud To Offer New Mexico's Own**  
**Gruet Chardonnay, Pinot Noir or Champagne**

Available by the glass or the bottle. Please consult your server on pricing.

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Thu 11/3 • The Deming Fusiliers  
Sat 11/5 • Ty Elwin  
Thu 11/10 • Havilah Rand (Austin)  
Sat 11/12 • Baxtalo Beng & Alma Zazz (Gypsy Jazz)  
Thu 11/17 • Bayou Seco (Silver City)  
Sat 11/19 • Hymn 4 Her (Philadelphia)  
Thu 11/24 • Closed (Happy Thanksgiving!)  
Sat 11/26 • Kevin Pakulis (Tucson)

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**Sarah's Key**  
Starring Kristin Scott Thomas

"A riveting narrative that grabs you by the lapels and refuses to loosen its grip."  
Rex Reed, *New York Observer*

**Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Real West Cinema, on Highway 180**  
Sponsored by the WNMU-Silver City International Film Society.

Adults \$8. WNMU Students & Staff no charge with valid ID. ©DE



**CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOTHILLS**  
SAT., DEC. 3, 2011 • HILLSBORO • 10AM-4PM  
A NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Julie Shufelt  
artist of our  
2011 fine art  
limited edition  
print

Raffle tickets at Hillsboro businesses for your chance to win this piece of art on display at Percha Creek Traders

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW • MUSIC • SHOPS  
SEASONAL DECOR • OPEN STUDIOS  
BLACK RANGE MUSEUM  
PERCHA BANK & MUSEUM

EVENTS continued

Siddeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**GREAT CONVERSATION**—With Randy Harris. Why buy local. 6-7:15 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**THURSDAY**  
**10 Silver City/Grant County**

**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES**—"The Spanish Jews in Nueva España: Unlocking the Past," with Elsie Galaz Roman. 12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**EVENING WITH THE ARTISTS**—Chimayo Master Weavers Irvin and Lisa Trujillo. 6:30 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall, 538-2505.

**GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**—David Rinsch on Southwestern New Mexico gems. 6 p.m. Silver City Senior Center, Victoria St, 534-1393.

**KNITTING THURSDAYS**—Free. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**SAUSAGE 101**—See Nov. 8. Noon-1 p.m. Free. Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla BATAAN MEMORIALS OF NEW MEXICO**—Historian Christopher Schurtz, grandson of a Bataan POW from Deming. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**HAVILAH RAND**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—See Nov. 4. Through Nov. 13. 7 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**Lordsburg CATTLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION**—6 p.m. Cranberry's, 1405 Main St., (505) 247-0584.

**FRIDAY**  
**11 Silver City/Grant County**

**ERIC HISAW**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**SILVER CITY FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL**—Through Nov. 11. Fiber art exhibits, quilts, fashion show, vendors, workshops and demos. See Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 538-5733.

**LINDLEY CREEK BLUEGRASS**—7 p.m. \$8. Silco Theater.

**SILVER CITY FILM FESTIVAL**—Through Nov. 13. Screenings and events in downtown Silver City. Narrative films, documentary, animation and more. \$10 opening night screening (two films), \$6 single films or events, \$30 for a six-film pass. silvercityfilmfest.org.

**YOUTH CHOIR**—Tribute to veterans concert by newly formed youth choir sponsored by Theatre Group New Mexico and WNMU Expressive Arts Department. Patriotic music, presentations by local veterans groups. 7 p.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla 21ST CENTURY SHOW**—Michael C. Gutierrez and Luis Navarro, photographs and paintings. 6-10 p.m. Mesilla Pointe, 207 N. Avenida de Mesilla, 680-6913.

**BONE TICKLER**—Artist's reception

with Cesar Ivan, handmade mari-onettes. 6-8 p.m. Rokoko Art Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877, www.rokokart.com.

**CITY OF LIFE AND DEATH**—Through Nov. 17. A drama that could pass for a documentary, this film re-creates the Nanjing Massacre, when invading soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army slaughtered some 300,000 citizens of what had been one of China's ancient capitals. Lu Chuan's epic film is harrowing in the extreme. In Mandarin/English, subtitled as needed. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**GREAT CONVERSATION**—With Randy Harris. 6-7:15 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**MARIACHI STUDENT SHOWCASE**—7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**NEW EXHIBIT RECEPTION**—Views from the sky is the theme relating the works of photographer Al Weber with those of painters Bruce McClain and Glynis Chaffin-Tinglof. Scroll artist Signe Stuart's works will complete the show. Preston Contemporary Art, 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, prestoncontemporaryart.com.

**NMSU CHOIRS GO BAROQUE**—Through Nov. 12. With excerpts from Gluck's opera, Orfeo ed Euridice. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$12, \$5 students. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**POTTER'S GUILD OF LAS CRUCES ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART SALE**—Through Nov. 12. Thirteen local artists will be selling art and ceramics. 2-7 p.m. Free. Association of Realtors building, 150 E. Idaho Ave., 524-1146.

**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**—11 a.m. Parque de los Veteranos, Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, oldmesilla.org.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—See Nov. 4. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$7. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**WARREN MILLER'S SKI AND SNOWBOARD FILM**—7 p.m. \$10, \$8 in advance. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**SATURDAY**  
**12 Silver City/Grant County**

**DIABETES AWARENESS WALK**—1 p.m. Fox Field, 534-0248.

**ERIC HISAW**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**—"The Dooms-Day Asteroid: Insights from a Dirty Gym Sock" by Alex Woronow. Recently, numerous professional astronomers have claimed discovery of a new asteroid with a high probability of impacting the earth, with dire consequences. 1 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

**SILVER CITY FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL**—See Nov. 12, Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 538-5733.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO LASTING HEALTH AND FAT LOSS**—Sheri Lynn from Genesis Transformation. 1-2:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. FRESNO STATE**—Military and first responders game. 6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

**15 AMORE**—Through Nov. 15. A film set during World War II in Australia that takes place solely on a country farm homestead, based upon experiences and events from the directors' life as a boy. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members, free for veterans. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**BAXTALO BENG AND ALMA ZAZZ**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**BIRDING TOUR**—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**EL TRATADO DE LA MESILLA RE-ENACTMENT**—1854 ratification of the Gadsden Purchase. 2 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

**MARIACHI SPECTACULAR**—Concert special guest Vikki Carr, con Maricahi Sol de Mexico and Mariachi Cobre. 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$81. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**NMSU CHOIRS GO BAROQUE**—See Nov. 11. 3 p.m. \$15, \$12, \$5 students. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**POTTER'S GUILD OF LAS CRUCES ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART SALE**—See Nov. 11. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Association of Realtors, 150 E. Idaho Ave., 524-1146.

**PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS NATIONAL MONUMENT**—Guided hike out to the discovery site, where 2,500 slabs of trackways were excavated by citizen scientist Jerry MacDonald. 9 a.m. Free. 535-4334, 525-4351.

**SATURDAY SCIENCE**—Motors, electromagnets, Van de Graaf generator. Registration required. 11-12 p.m. Free. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd, 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

**VETERANS DAY PARADE**—9 a.m. Free. Downtown. 541-2000, lascruces-vetday.org.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—See Nov. 4. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**Deming LINDLEY CREEK BLUEGRASS**—2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**SUNDAY**  
**13 Silver City/Grant County**

**EILEEN SULLIVAN**—Irish fiddle. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

**ESTER JAMISON**—Guitar. Vicki's Eatery, Texas and Market.

**GERMAN MUSIC FOR WINDS AND STRINGS**—Music by Telemann, Beethoven, Bruch, Reger and Sandberger. 3 p.m. Free. Church of the Good Shepherd, Texas and 7th St.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla MARIACHI MASS**—International Mariachi Conference. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINES**—Family workshop. 2 p.m. Free. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

**WAIT UNTIL DARK**—2:30 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**Deming FOUR RUIDOSO ARTISTS**—Deming Arts Council reception and exhibit. 1-3 p.m. 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663.

**DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

Presents the Museum Society's Annual Meeting  
featuring guest speaker  
**Dr. Richard Melzer,**  
noted New Mexican Historian



**"Looking at New Mexico's Struggle for Statehood through Political Cartoons"**

Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 p.m.  
(following the Annual meeting at 1:00 p.m.)  
Silver City Women's Club, 1715 Silver Heights Blvd.

Members are FREE, Public \$5  
(waived if you join the museum society before the talk).

Don't miss our "Dr. Melzer Look-alike Contest!"  
Winner will receive an autographed copy of one of Dr. Melzer's books!

Copies of Melzer's books will be offered for sale at the event, and Dr. Melzer will be happy to sign copies purchased at the talk.



Richard Melzer has published countless articles, book chapters and books on New Mexico's colorful history. He is past president of the NM Historical Society and is professor of History at UNM Valencia.



River Girl, the third play in Victoria Tester's ghost play cycle, will have a staged reading Nov. 6 at the WNMU Webb Theater.

Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**16 Silver City/Grant County**

**WALLY LAWDER**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB**—With Sidd-eq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**THURSDAY**

**17 Silver City/Grant County**  
**KNITTING THURSDAYS**—Free. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**VINO AND VINYASA**—60 minutes of yoga and a glass of wine. 6:30 p.m. \$10. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, Mimbres, (206) 940-1502.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BAYOU SECO**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD**—Photographs and artifacts. Jon Hunner of NMSU will speak. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**PIE CRUSTS**—Cooking class. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS**—Reiki Master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**FRIDAY**

**18 Silver City/Grant County**  
**ARI HEST**—Folk series. 7:30 p.m. Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**JOHN CARPINO**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**HIGH HEELS FOR HIGH HOOPS**—5th annual. 6 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 523-2627, highheelsforhighhopes.kintera.org.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—Through Dec. 4. Three vaudevillians head to California to conquer Hollywood's newest advancement: talking pictures. By Neil Simon. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**THE WHISTLEBLOWER**—Through Nov. 123. This film is based on the true story of Kathryn Bolkovac, a police officer

from Lincoln, Neb., who accepted an offer to join the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. While there, she uncovered direct evidence that underage girls were being held captive and bought and sold in a profitable sex trafficking operation. Stars Rachel Weisz. In English, German, subtitled as needed. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**SATURDAY**

**19 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FRANK JUSZCZYK**—Reading and book signing of Our Gal Someday. 12 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

**FIELD TRIP**—Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Details, 388-2010.

**JOHN CARPINO**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**ALICE'S RESTAURANT**—Director Arthur Penn captures the end of an era in this dramatic rendition of folk singer Arlo Guthrie's 20-minute song, "The Alice's Restaurant Massacre." CineMati-nee. Bring a usable non-perishable food item for El Caldito Soup Kitchen and receive a free small popcorn. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**AMERICA RECYCLES DAY**—Learn how to reuse objects you would normally throw away. 1-4 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd, 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

**BIRDING TOUR**—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**HYMN 4 HER**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**ROBERT HIGHSMITH**—Watercolor. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo Rd, 541-0658.

**SKY SAFARI**—Jupiter, Pegasus and M31 (Great Nebula in Andromeda). 7:30 p.m. Tombaugh Observatory, NMSU campus, 522-3120.

**WHEN THE DESERT SLEEPS**—Naturalist Richard Quick from the Museum of Natural History. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**Radium Springs**

**STARS-N-PARKS**—Jupiter low in the east by program end. Fall constellations. Nils Allen. 6:05 p.m. \$5 per couple, \$3 per person. Leasburg Dam

**EVENTS** continued on next page

**MONDAY**  
**14 Silver City/Grant County**

**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES**—"Surrounded by Sheep: Angoras in 1912," with Tom Hester. 12 p.m. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE**—Dr. Joseph Shepherd, president of WNMU. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 538-9344.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**CHOIRS HOLIDAY CONCERT**—Also Nov. 15. NMSU Choirs Holiday Choral Music with excerpts from Gluck's Orfeo and Eurydice, and festive choral music. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

**GREAT CONVERSATION**—With Randy Harris. 6-7:15 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**TUESDAY**  
**15 Silver City/Grant County**

**SPINNING TUESDAYS**—10 a.m.-Noon. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLLEGE OF THE SOUTHWEST**—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM DREAM TO REALITY**—Dr. Son Tran of NMSU's Computer Science Department. 5:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

**CHOIRS HOLIDAY CONCERT**—See Nov. 14. 3 p.m. \$5-\$15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

**COMPOUNDING STRESS: IMMUNE SYSTEM PROTECTION**—Wendy Roben Weir. 6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB**—Photo of the year competition. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

**TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA WINTER TOUR**—7:30 p.m. \$29-\$59.50. Pan

**THE 2011 SILVER CITY FILM FESTIVAL**  
**NOVEMBER 11-13**

**NARRATIVE FILMS**  
**DOCUMENTARIES**  
**ANIMATION**  
**ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**  
**STUDENT FILMS**  
**EXPERIMENTAL WORK**  
**FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS**  
**FILMMAKER Q AND As**

**ADVANCE TICKETS AND PASSES ARE AVAILABLE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER**

**EMAIL THE FESTIVAL or call 575-534-9291**

[www.silvercityfilmfest.org](http://www.silvercityfilmfest.org)  
e-mail: [info@silvercityfilmfest.org](mailto:info@silvercityfilmfest.org)

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**INTERNET RADIO SHOW**  
The best music mix on the web!!  
[www.dansspecialblend.com](http://www.dansspecialblend.com)  
Mon-Fri  
9 am - 3 pm

**NOVEMBER FILMS**

Nov 4-10	<i>The Guard</i> (2011, 96 minutes, in English)
Nov 11-17	<i>City of Life and Death</i> (130 minutes, in Mandarin and Japanese, w/subtitles)
Nov 18-23	<i>The Whistleblower</i> (2011, 112 minutes, in English)
<b>THEATRE IS CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY!</b>	
Nov 25-Dec 1	<i>Salvation Boulevard</i> (2011, 96 minutes, in English)

Mesilla Valley Film Society  
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • [www.mesillavalleyfilm.org](http://www.mesillavalleyfilm.org) • (575) 524-8287  
Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.  
The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

**Find Your SELF in Silver City Grant County, NM**

**November EVENTS**

**Mimbres Region Arts Council**  
**Guatemalan Mercado**  
Colorful, handcrafted items will fill the Gallery space, many historically sell out quickly.  
**Nov. 5 - 10-4**  
MRAC/Wells Fargo Bank Gallery

**Western Institute for LifeLong Learning**  
**ARTIST LECTURE SERIES**  
Irvin & Lisa Trujillo - Chimayo Master Weavers  
**Nov. 10 - 6:30 pm**  
WNMU Parotti Hall  
FREE & Open to the Public

**Silver City Green Drinks**  
**Networking and Social**  
SW New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce & Silver City Chapter of the New Mexico Solar Energy Assoc.  
Isaac's Backroom

**Nov. 11 - 6-7PM**  
**ARI HEST!**  
**Mimbres Region Arts Council**  
**Folk Series**  
**Nov. 18 - 7PM**  
Stellar Singer/Songwriter Extraordinaire!  
Buckhorn Opera House  
Tickets: 575-538-2505

**Annual Lighted Christmas Parade**  
Established in 1991, MainStreet's Lighted Christmas Parade kicks off the Silver City Holiday Season.

**Sat., Nov. 26**  
**Dark-Thirty!**  
**Family Friendly FREE event!**

Floats and other entries:  
575-534-1700

**Exhibitions**

**JOURNEY TO ENCHANTMENT:**  
Celebrating New Mexico's Statehood  
Current Silver City Museum Exhibit  
575-538-5921

**WNMU Museum**  
**Main Floor Permanent Mimbres Exhibit**  
Ongoing exhibitions throughout the Silver City Historic Downtown Gallery District

Silver City Arts & Cultural District serves as an Arts & Cultural Resource for Grant County  
[www.silvercityacd.org](http://www.silvercityacd.org) | email: [silvercityacd@gmail.com](mailto:silvercityacd@gmail.com) | phone: 575-538-5560  
Paid in part with Silver City Lodgers Tax

**VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY**  
GALLERIES • RETAIL & GIFT SHOPS • LODGING • RESTAURANTS & COFFEE • HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

**THE HISTORIC SILCO THEATER**

Photo courtesy of Tyrone Hamblin

- Fri Nov 11** Lindley Creek Bluegrass Concert. 7 pm. Tickets \$8 at Alotta Gelato or at the door. [Lindleycreek.com](http://Lindleycreek.com)
- Sat Nov 26** Family Holiday Movie. 1 pm. Admission 1 can of food. Sponsored by MainStreet and the Town of Silver City. *Stay downtown for:*
- Sat, Nov 26** *The 21st Annual Lighted Christmas Parade* 7 pm, Broadway and Bullard

**Book Your Event Now! (for 10-180 people)**  
575-534-9005 • [silcotheater.com](http://silcotheater.com)  
Ad paid by Town of Silver City Lodger's Tax

# THE TO DO LIST

Events to be thankful for.

two evening films at The Seedboat Center for the Arts: *For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism* is the first documentary to dramatize the rich saga and history of American movie reviewing, directed by *Boston Phoenix* critic Gerald Peary. *Touch the Sound*, a film by Thomas Riedelsheimer, is a documentary portrait of the Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie. Deaf since childhood, she disdains the use of hearing aids and sign language.

Presented on Saturday evening will be the new documentary from Corrales filmmaker Mary Lance, *Blue Alchemy*, a study of the blue dye indigo. Other highlights include: *Run to the East*, a documentary about the role of endurance running in Native American culture; *Sita Sings the Blues*, an animated feature by Nina Paley; and *The Cats of Mirikitani*, the story of Jimmy Mirikitani, an 85-year-old Japanese American artist, now living on the streets of New York City. There will also be an animation program as well as a collection of live-action short films, several by students. See the full festival schedule at [www.silvercityfilmfest.org](http://www.silvercityfilmfest.org).

Music lovers have plenty to be thankful for this month, too. The Grant County Community Concert Association brings a John Denver tribute, "Take Me Home," by Jim Curry and his band, **Nov. 7**, to the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. Advance tickets are available at Alootta Gelatto and Western Stationer's/Thunder Creek.

On **Nov. 18**, the MRAC Folk Series at the Buckhorn features **Ari Hest** (right), who released his first album in four years, "Sunset Over Hope Street," in March. You may have heard his music on TV shows including "Private Practice" and "One Tree Hill" and the indie film *Dreamriders*.



We're also on the cusp of the holidays, signaled by the 21st annual **Lighted Christmas Parade** through downtown Silver City at 7 p.m. on **Nov. 26**. The holiday fun actually gets rolling on Friday, Nov. 25, with free horse-drawn carriage rides (also on Saturday) downtown. Then on Saturday there's a family holiday movie at 1 p.m. at the Silco (admission one can of food), followed by the Silver City Christmas Orchestra at 5:30.

You can get a jump on your holiday shopping **Nov. 5** at the 107th (yes, really!) annual bazaar at the **Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sale items include crafts and Nancy Wyatt pottery, plus there's brunch and a bake sale.

Film fans will be flocking to town for the **2011 Silver City Film Festival, Nov. 11-13**.

This year's event will kick off on Friday with an afternoon Veteran's Day screening and

EVENTS continued

State Park, [astro-npo.org](http://astro-npo.org).

**Rodeo**

**MIXED NUTS FINE ART AND CRAFT FESTIVAL**—9 a.m.-3 p.m. Rodeo Community Center, 16 Hickory St.

**RODEO CHIRICAHUA HOLIDAY SHOW**—Through Nov. 20. Fine arts and crafts. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Chiricahua Gallery, 557-2225.

**SUNDAY**

**20 Silver City/Grant County AMOS TORRES**—Back porch blues. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

**KEGAN SEVERE**—Alto flute and penny whistle. Vicki's Eatery, Texas and Market.

**SARAH'S KEY**—An American journalist is commissioned to write an article about the notorious Vel d'Hiv round up in Paris in 1942. She stumbles upon a family secret that will link her forever to the destiny of a young Jewish girl. Starring Kristin Scott Thomas. \$8, WNMU student and staff free with ID. WNMU-Silver City International Film Society, Real West Cinema II, 11585 Hwy. 180 E., 538-5659, [www.silverfilm.org](http://www.silverfilm.org).

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, [theatre.nmsu.edu](http://theatre.nmsu.edu).

**TOYS FOR KIDS MOTORCYCLE PARADE**—Registration begins at 9 a.m. 12 p.m. Free. Mesilla Valley Mall, 523-1061, [toysforkids-lc.org](http://toysforkids-lc.org).

**Deming**

**DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**TUESDAY**

**22 Silver City/Grant County SPINNING TUESDAYS**—10 a.m.-noon. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, [www.fiberartscollective.org](http://www.fiberartscollective.org).

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**THE WISHING WELL**—Singer Jai Larkan. 7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, [www.no-strings.org](http://www.no-strings.org).

**WEDNESDAY**

**23 Silver City/Grant County BARB & JOE**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, [\[loonandoperahouse.com\]\(http://loonandoperahouse.com\).](http://buckhornsa-</a></p>
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**THANKSGIVING BAKE AND CRAFT SALE**—Bayard Farmers Market. Fresh baked goods, jams and preserves, appetizers and crafts. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Bayard Lions Club, 808 Tom Foy Ave.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB**—With Siddeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**THURSDAY**

**24 Thanksgiving Day**

**FRIDAY**

**25 Silver City/Grant County CAROLYN MARK**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, [buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com](http://buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com).

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, [theatre.nmsu.edu](http://theatre.nmsu.edu).

**SALVATION BOULEVARD**—Through Dec. 1. Based on a book by Larry Beinhart. Greg Kinnear plays Carl Vanderveer, a former pot-smoking Grateful Dead follower who has become a reformed member of a church. The glitzy preacher is Dan Day (Pierce Brosnan), who uses Carl as an example of a "miracle." Carl has also landed a pretty, but uptight wife (Jennifer Connelly), who comes complete with an ex-military father (Ciaran Hinds), and a wise daughter, Angie (Isabelle Fuhrman). Carl meets a fellow former Deadhead in security guard Honey Foster (Marisa Tomei). Trouble begins when Dan debates a scholarly atheist, Dr. Paul Blaylock (Ed Harris), and is invited back to his office for a chat. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, [mesillavalleyfilm.org](http://mesillavalleyfilm.org).

**SATURDAY**

**26 Silver City/Grant County 21st ANNUAL LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE**—Downtown Silver City, Silver City Main Street. 534-1700.

**CAROLYN MARK**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, [buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com](http://buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com).

**FAMILY HOLIDAY MOVIE**—1 p.m. Food donation. Silco Theatre.

**CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA**—5:30 p.m. Silco Theatre.

**GIFT WRAPPING**—Free. Silco Theatre, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, [www.silcotheater.com](http://www.silcotheater.com).

**GILA VALLEY WINTER ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR**—Through Nov. 27. 20 local artists. Handmade art and crafts for sale. Music by Bayou Seco, Andrew Dahl-Bredine, John Osborn and more. Food and desserts will be available. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Old Tavern, Cliff, 535-2151.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**

**NMSU AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO STATE**—12 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, [panam.nmsu.edu](http://panam.nmsu.edu). **BIRDING TOUR**—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**HOLIDAY ANTIQUE AND CRAFT SHOW**—Through Nov. 27. Largest antique and craft shows in Las Cruces. \$2. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

**KEVIN PAKULIS**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, [theatre.nmsu.edu](http://theatre.nmsu.edu).

**RED SKY AT MORNING**—Made in New Mexico. During World War II, Frank Arnold, a shipbuilder living in Mobile, Ala., decides to enlist in the Navy. After arranging for his foreman to manage his shipyard, he moves his wife Ann, an old-money Southern belle, and his 17-year-old son Josh (Richard Thomas) to their summer home, a ranch outside of the small town of Sagrado (Santa Fe), NM. The story follows Josh's adjustment to life in an entirely new world. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, [mesillavalleyfilm.org](http://mesillavalleyfilm.org).

**White Sands**

**LAKE LUCERO TOUR**—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands. Reservations required. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$1.50-\$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, [www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa).

**SUNDAY**

**27 Silver City/Grant County ESTER JAMISON**—Guitar. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W Yankie St.

**FARHAD**—Flamenco guitar. Vicki's Eatery, Texas and Market.

**GILA VALLEY WINTER ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR**—See Nov. 26. A cord of wood will be raffled off to benefit the Gila Conservation Education Center. Call Kathy for tickets, 388-8266. 10 a.m.-3

**Main Office:**  
120 E. 11th St., Silver City, NM  
Toll-free (866) 538-0404  
Office (575) 538-0404  
[www.prudentialsilvercity.com](http://www.prudentialsilvercity.com)  
[info@prudentialsilvercity.com](mailto:info@prudentialsilvercity.com)

**Patrick Conlin**  
575-574-2201  
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**Sylvia Mikes**  
575-590-5700  
[sylviamikes@zianet.com](mailto:sylviamikes@zianet.com)

**Prudential Silver City Properties**  
Patrick Conlin, Broker/Owner

**Motivated Seller — Creative Financing Possible**



**MLS 28505 • \$119,000**

So much potential for this eclectic property in the Historic District. Charming kitchen has custom tile counters, lots of windows and wood flooring. Large living room opens into a parlor or game room. Some of the rooms open to the outside. High ceilings throughout. Other rooms have potential for commercial usage. Possibilities are endless. This and the neighboring property would make a dynamite combination. Check out MLS #28504. Combined price is \$185,000.

**MLS 28504 • \$70,000**

IN-TOWN COTTAGE. Property is zoned commercial, which opens all kinds of opportunities. Just a couple of streets away to Historic Downtown. It is estimated that the home was built in 1907. Adding a deck and a french door would totally change this studio home.



**MLS 28503 • \$189,000**

Traditional adobe home with old Southwestern character close to the University and within walking distance to downtown. Large living room has a kiva fireplace, beamed ceilings and hardwood floors. Tastefully updated kitchen with granite counter and track lighting, wet bar and space for a hutch or table and chairs. The bathrooms have been updated. A great hall/office possibility adds to the unique style of this home. Two picture windows to lush backyard.



**MLS 28477 • \$200,000**

University area, unique 2bd/2ba with large attached sunroom/greenhouse. Updated kitchen & baths, new double-pane pella windows, hardwood & bamboo floors, venetian plaster wall finishes. Wooded lot with seasonal stream, rear deck.



**MLS 28476 • \$115,000**

University area 2bd/1ba home, great location, efficient design, updated bath. Eat-in kitchen, private backyard with seasonal stream.

**Silver City's #1 Listing/Selling office for 2010**

NO MALLS HARLEY-DAVIDSON NO CAGES

**Wishing you happy holidays wherever you may ride.**

**Dyna® Event!**  
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[WWW.BARNETTHARLEYLASCRUCES.COM](http://WWW.BARNETTHARLEYLASCRUCES.COM)  
(575)541-1440

p.m. Old Tavern, Cliff, 535-2151.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**HOLIDAY ANTIQUE AND CRAFT SHOW**—See Nov. 26. \$2. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave, 526-8624.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**Deming**  
**DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**TUESDAY**  
**29 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SPINNING TUESDAYS**—10 a.m.-Noon. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**30 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GORDEE HEADLEE**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB**—With Siddeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**GLITEROPOLIS**—Exhibit through Feb. 18. Art Collective Meow Wolf. 5 p.m. NMSU Art Gallery, 646-2545.

**DECEMBER**  
**THURSDAY**

**1 Silver City/Grant County**  
**LIGHT UP A LIFE**—Tree memorial lighting ceremony. Call to reserve a light in memory of loved ones, 574-4934. \$5 donation. 5:30-6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center front canopy.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**MUSICAL MUSINGS WITH THE MAESTRO**—With maestro Lonnie Klein. 12 p.m. \$16 includes lunch. Ramada Palms, 201 E. University Ave., 646-3709, lascrucessymphony.com.

**FRIDAY**  
**2 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**—Luminarias. Free. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.  
**LAS CRUCES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**—Performance features violinist

Stefan Jackiw, recognized as one of his generation's most significant artists. Mimbres Region Arts Council and Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$15 for MRAC members, \$20 non-members, \$5 for children and WNMU students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre, www.mimbresarts.org.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**8TH ANNUAL TRAILS OF LIGHTS**—Free. Downtown Mall and Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., 647-4480, www.las-cruces.org/public-services/museums.

**ANNUAL LA CASA HOLIDAY BAZAAR**—Preview party. 4 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 526-2819, lacasainc.org.

**LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS TREE**—5 p.m. Free. City Hall, 700 N. Main St., 541-2000, las-cruce.org.

**NUNCRACKERS**—Through Dec. 18. By Dan Goggin and directed by Art Haggerton. Live from the basement of Mt. St. Mary's Convent. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**SANTA AT WINTERFEST**—5-9 p.m. Free. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla Street, 647-4480, www.las-cruces.org/public-services/museums.

**White Sands**  
**4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**—Live music, children's activities, luminarias around the historic adobe visitor center, interpretive programs. 5-8 p.m. Free. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

**Deming**  
**COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**—9 a.m.-1 p.m. Holy Family Church, 615 S. Copper.

**SATURDAY**  
**3 Silver City/Grant County**  
**31ST ANNUAL MIMBRES HOT SPRINGS STUDIO SALE**—Through Dec. 4. Over 30 artists, unique handcrafted gifts. Live music including Bayou Seco, refreshments, door prizes. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mimbres Hot Springs Studio. Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy.

61 south to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs two and a half miles.

**GIFT WRAPPING**—Free. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

**HOME BUSINESS NETWORK CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE**—Grant County Business & Conference Center, 519-2795.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. UTAH STATE**—Country western game. 6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

**ANNUAL LA CASA HOLIDAY BAZAAR**—Through Dec. 4. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 526-2819, lacasainc.org.

**CLASSICS THREE**—Also Dec. 4. Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, featuring violinist Stefan Jackiw, will perform works by Verdi, Beethoven and Dvorak. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

**DOWNTOWN RAMBLE**—Art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

**NUNCRACKERS**—See Dec. 2. Through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. Through Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**RICHARD AND SUSI BERGQUIST**—Folklore clay figures and santos. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo Rd, 541-0658.

**Deming**  
**CALL OF THE WEST**—2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE**—6 p.m. Hillsboro  
**CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOT-HILLS**—\$49.99 Art Show and Sale, specialty gift vendors, live music, free horse-drawn wagon rides, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
**4 Silver City/Grant County**  
**431ST ANNUAL MIMBRES HOT SPRINGS STUDIO SALE**—See Dec. 3.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mimbres Hot Springs Studio.

**DANE DEXTER**—Nostalgic piano. Vicki's Eatery, Texas and Market.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**ANNUAL LA CASA HOLIDAY BAZAAR**—10 a.m.-4 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 526-2819, lacasainc.org.

**CLASSICS THREE**—See Dec. 3. 3 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 North Horseshoe, 646-2421.

**NUNCRACKERS**—See Dec. 2. Through Dec. 18. 2 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**—See Nov. 18. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

**Deming**  
**BLACK RANGE SHOW**—Deming Arts Council reception and exhibit. 1-3 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.

**DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**FRIDAY**  
**9 Silver City/Grant County**  
**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY**—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY**—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**MESILLA'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**—Thousands of luminarias will light up the plaza surrounding the streets in Mesilla. Free. Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, oldmesilla.org.

**NUNCRACKERS**—See Dec. 2. Through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

**SATURDAY**  
**10 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GIFT WRAPPING**—Free. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO**—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO**—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**NUNCRACKERS**—See Dec. 2. Through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

**PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS NATIONAL MONUMENT**—Take a hike with a park ranger back to life 280 million years ago during a guided hike out to the discovery site, where 2,500 slabs of trackways were excavated by citizen scientist Jerry MacDonald. 10 a.m. Free. 525-4334, 525-4351.

**VIRGIN DE GUADALUPE FIESTA**—Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe of Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces. Free. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 524-9649, stgen.info.

**Radium Springs**  
**LUMINARIA TOUR**—Enjoy living history military re-enactors, 1,000 luminarias, free cookies and beverages. 5-9 p.m. Free. Fort Selden, 526-8911, nmmonuments.org.

**Deming**  
**HOLIDAY LIGHTS**—1,000 luminarias light the visitor center, native gardens and labyrinth. 5-7 p.m. Rockhound State Park.

**MIKE MOUTOX**—2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desert-exposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or NEW—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.

**BEFORE YOU GO:**  
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.



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**November Shows**

Nov 5 **Matinee** (1993, 99 minutes, rated PG)

Nov 12 **15 Amore** (1998, 92 minutes, not rated—FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL VETERANS!)

Nov 19 **Alice's Restaurant** (1969, 111 minutes, R)

Nov 26 **Red Sky at Morning** (1971, 112 minutes, PG, made in New Mexico!)

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

# Talking Turkey

We've got plenty to be thankful for—starting with a perfectly cooked bird.

Last fall, as we were driving in the Mimbres to enjoy, of all things, real Southern-style barbecue, several wild turkeys crossed the road in front of us. With all due respect to our outdoors columnist, they did not look like “good eatin’.” We were not tempted in the slightest to swerve and turn the turkeys into dinner, and continued our quest for barbecue. (Our destination, Brian's Pit BBQ, has since departed its highway-side location in the Mimbres, but may park its smoker someplace closer to Silver City in the coming months. Keep your fingers crossed and napkins at the ready.)

It's hard to imagine, in fact, what Ben Franklin could have seen in the wild turkey to promote it as a candidate for our national bird. Beside the undeniably majestic bald eagle, strong and regal and with just a hint of “don't tread on me” menace in its yellow eyes, the wild turkey seems scrawny and underwhelming. Oh, I know a male gobbler in full display can impress in its way, but it's hard to imagine the US Air Force recruiting with posters depicting a turkey, even at its preening finest.

Founding Father Franklin got the last laugh, however, when it comes to how we celebrate Thanksgiving (a holiday not made official until well after his time). This time of year, turkey iconography reigns supreme—at least in the brief interregnum between Halloween goblins and Santa Claus, which seems more abbreviated every season. (Sooner or later merchants will just slap a jack-o-lantern head and some turkey feathers on St. Nick and blur it all into one big shop-holiday.)

I'm sure the nation's turkey producers would happily trade their annual day in the limelight for the 364 days of dinner enjoyed by chicken farmers. Despite their best marketing efforts, most Americans eat turkey only occasionally outside of Thanksgiving: a turkey burger now and then to assuage the guilt of wolfing a Triple Heart Attack beef burger the day before, maybe, or a turkey sausage if you hit that part of the grocery aisle before coming to the real thing. Then, suddenly, on Thanksgiving it's all about the turkey.

Sure, there's giving thanks and Pilgrims and football, but at most American households the holiday centers on the otherwise-overlooked turkey. I know, for some families it's tofurky and at John Madden's house the turkey is only the outer layer of a turducken. But in Norman Rockwell's America the turkey rules Thanksgiving. Not for nothing does Rockwell's iconic image, part of a series celebrating FDR's Four Freedoms, titled “Freedom from Want,” center on the beautifully browned bird.



It's a little odd, when you think about it. No other American holiday revolves so much around a single food. Though we bow our heads in thanks and perhaps think fleetingly of our devout Pilgrim forebears, Thanksgiving is largely a secular holiday. We may feast at Christmas, consume a traditional Seder meal at Passover, and get a sugar buzz from Peeps at Easter, but food is only an accompaniment to those holidays' religious core. Other holidays celebrate soldiers and laborers, or American independence itself, and though they might traditionally include a picnic or cookout, the feasting is again secondary.

On Thanksgiving, though, the key moment—the emotional equivalent of the first blast of Fourth of July fireworks—is bringing the turkey out of the oven and carving it. If the bird is burned, the holiday is ruined. If Grandma cooks the turkey until the breast meat you prefer is dry as sawdust, not all the sweet potatoes in the world can compensate. Even if you don't much like turkey and would rather have, say, ham for the holiday, if you have any manners at all you keep your druthers to yourself and choke down a slice of turkey. It's Thanksgiving, dammit.

Our own family Thanksgiving celebrations, as I've noted previously in this space, depart little from this great American tradition. For many years our only deviation

from the Norman Rockwell norm was relying on Oven Bags (which we always call “browning bags,” for obvious reasons) to guarantee that the turkey will come out both juicy and brown. My mother discovered these bags, which are of a sort of wax-paper consistency and completely encompass the turkey (along with the essential if mysterious additions of a little flour, a chunk of onion and celery or carrots). Not a natural cook, having grown up in the South with servants who handled those duties, she may have struggled with the annual holiday tradition—until she found Oven Bags.

Oven Bags are nearly foolproof, as long as you properly defrost the turkey (been there, forgot to do that). I say “nearly,” because a look at the Reynolds Oven Bags FAQ website reveals that they should never be used in electric roaster ovens: “The hot sides and lid of the electric roaster oven get hot enough to melt the oven bag when it expands and touches them.” (Oops! Talk about a way to ruin Thanksgiving!) Presumably they're equally unwise on the grill or in one of those turkey deep-fryers.

Other dilemmas and potential pitfalls revealed online include “What can I do if the ties for my Reynolds Oven Bags are missing?” (Use a piece of the bag itself.

“Never substitute trash bag or bread bag ties,” the site adds in bold type, hinting at dire consequences for such reckless behavior.) Forget the flour, apparently, and the bag might burst.

Nonetheless, if in doubt, Oven Bags are the way to go. I suspect that if we could have lured those Mimbres road-crossing wild turkeys into an Oven Bag... no, there's still the feathers problem.

Certainly they're a surer—not to mention safer—bet than the aforementioned turkey fryer, which we've also experimented with when Oven Bags seemed too straitlaced and we wanted a walk on the wild side.

Let me just say this: When you're deep-frying a turkey, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of observing Archimedes' principle of fluid mechanics, which states that an object placed into a liquid will displace its own volume of that liquid. Even then, make sure the surface of the turkey is very, very dry before immersing it into the boiling oil.

Here is what happens if you ignore or even just attempt to shortcut either of these rules: Hot oil spills over the top of the pot onto the gas jet used to heat the oil. This gas jet closely resembles the back end of a Dassault Mirage III jet fighter plane and roars at pretty much the same decibel level. When excess oil comes in contact with this flame, it ignites. You can use your imagination from here on, or ask my future son-in-law to view the iPhone video of Thanksgiving 2009 at the Fryxell household.

Needless to say, it's also extremely important to do your turkey deep-frying outside, well away from the house, garage, flammable objects or household pets.

I've also tried smoking our turkey, grilling it and a sort of combination grill-smoking-roasting. Some years we've done two turkeys—or two turkey breasts, since we're not a dark-meat clan—and fried one while grilling or smoking the other. The leftovers, after all, are often the best part of Thanksgiving. (Why don't we just cook up a turkey every now and then at other times of the year, especially in seasons when standing outside to mind the fryer wouldn't be so chilly? It'd be like hanging the stockings for Santa on Sept. 14 or hunting for hidden eggs in July.)

This year I'm leaning toward trying my new rotisserie, on the gas grill, for the annual turkey. It's a weighty decision, though, and I'm not ruling out a fallback Oven Bag plan. Or sticking a backup turkey breast on the smoker. Much to the disappointment of my future son-in-law, we'll probably skip the frying excitement this year, just to let the burn marks in the backyard heal.

The grill and smoker, of course, make me think of barbecue and smack my lips at that Mimbres memory. Outdoors columnist Larry Lightner has talked about bringing over a wild turkey for me to smoke on my armada of grilling gadgets, so we'll see... Maybe ol' Ben Franklin was onto something, after all.

If he'd depicted the wild turkey roasted and surrounded by all the Thanksgiving fixings, we might today be saluting it instead of the bald eagle. Noble as it is, the bald eagle definitely does not look like good eatin'.

Desert Exposure  
editor David A.  
Fryxell likes the  
white meat.



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**Silver City's #1 Listing/Selling office for 2010**



**MLS 28598 • \$850,000**

76+ acre compound w/water rights. Mediterranean entry courtyard with fountain & fruit trees. Living room has vigas, latillas & a wood-burning stove. Kitchen has a dining area, walk-in pantry, a family room & a 3/4 bath. Saltillo tile throughout except 1 bedroom. Bedrooms have a gas fireplace or stove. Includes 1870's log cabin, studio w/a 1/2 ba, split level stone studio, blacksmith shop, wood barn & fire wood storage. 1/3 acre pond for irrigation or swimming.



**MLS 28628 • \$225,000**

Good value on this 10 year old Steve Berry home on 1.4 private acres. Home is tucked away from the road, nestled into the natural landscape. 3bd/1.75ba, ceramic tile & wood cabinetry. Attached garage, metal roof, rear covered patio & fenced area for the pooch.



**MLS 28620 • \$125,000**

Clean & tidy, move-in ready! Very nice 3bd/2ba manufactured home in town & centrally located to schools, hospital, & shopping. Good sized lot, covered front porch, vaulted ceilings. Lightly lived in, great kitchen, cozy fireplace in living room, nice master bedroom suite.



**MLS 28617 • \$18,000**

A secluded parcel for a cabin just outside of Glenwood on Catwalk Rd. The property has a level building site. Currently there is an old cabin that could be used for storage. Lots of trees and vegetation offer much privacy. There is a great mountain view.



**MLS 28591 • \$220,000**

Set high in the pines near Pinos Altos, this triple-wide manufactured home has the look & feel of a site-built house. Delightful front covered porch and rear site-built porch with family room/office addition. Workshops, hot tub, Trex deck, pond, & natural boulders set in to the native landscape. All set on 4+ acres with CITY WATER, this property boasts a lot of amenities & value. New roof in 2011! There is a pistol/shooting range on the north side of the property.



**MLS 28593 • \$79,000**

Fabulous view lots within city limits. Lots of trees, rockwall defined building site and 2 water taps are in place. Close to hospital, medical offices and schools.



**MLS 28605 • \$90,000**

Lovely, rare 4 bedroom home in Tyrone. Completely updated with tile, wall to wall and laminate. New windows. Great views to the north from the very private backyard. Large shed/workshop in back.



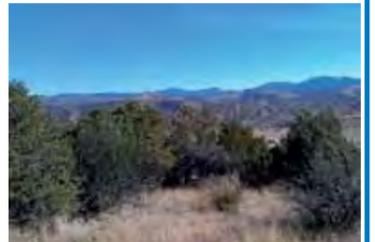
**MLS 28629 • \$117,500**

Efficient & move-in ready, 2bd/1.75 ba centrally located with attached carport & generous yard. New laminate flooring throughout, updated baths with tile, tile counters in kitchen. Covered back deck, storage shed, southern exposure.



**MLS 28584 • \$269,000**

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**MLS 28615 • \$60,000**

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