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New Mexico classics,
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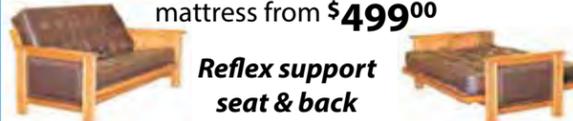


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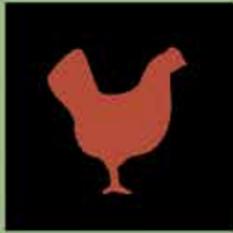
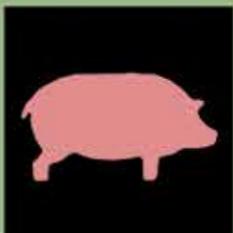


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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Spy vs. You and I

Udall, Heinrich and Pearce agree on one thing: The NSA has gone too far.

When the editors of *Time* magazine put their heads together later this month to pick the publication's annual "Person of the Year," they should give serious consideration to one of the men most reviled by the US government: spy-agency contractor-turned-leaker Edward Snowden.

Keep in mind that the selection does not necessarily reflect approval, but rather an individual's impact, for good or ill, on the world that year; both Hitler and Stalin made the cover when *Time* still called it "Man of the Year." And there's no question that Snowden broke the trust of his bosses at the National Security Agency (the NSA, so secret it's sometimes called "No Such Agency"). But the NSA, as Snowden's revelations keep bringing to light, has broken the trust of the American people, exceeding its mandate and engaging in mass domestic data collection bringing us perilously closer to Big Brother.

Snowden's leaks and the investigations following up on his disclosures have also had the remarkable effect of getting all three men who represent New Mexico's Second District in Congress on the same page—at least in pushing back against the surveillance state. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Steve Pearce don't often agree on much, with the two liberal Democrats far to the left of the hard-right Republican Pearce. But all three deserve credit for recognizing that there's a place in the partisan political spectrum where patriotic Americans come together to protect our basic freedoms.

Udall, Heinrich and Pearce are all original co-sponsors of the USA Freedom Act, which would roll back some of the excesses of the misbegotten Patriot Act and rein in the NSA's dragnet collection of data on innocent Americans. The bill was introduced last month in the Senate by Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and in the House by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Crime and lead author of the original Patriot Act.

Both the Bush and Obama administrations have wrongly used the Patriot Act to authorize mass collection of domestic phone data, Sensenbrenner says. "This misinterpretation of the law threatens our First, Second and Fourth Amendment rights," he argues. "Congress never intended this."

Udall, who cast a courageous post-9/11 vote in the House against the Patriot Act, agrees. "I believed the Patriot Act was hastily written and had the power to undermine the constitutional rights of our citizens," he says. "Unfortunately we now know that those concerns were justified—government surveillance under the law is far broader than the American people believe is acceptable."

Pearce spoke out even more strongly in endorsing the reform legislation, saying, "Americans are disgusted—and rightfully so—to know that the FBI and NSA have grossly misused and abused the law to collect phone records and other data. This legislation restores and narrows the Patriot Act to its original intent: to protect our communities, cities and nation from terrorists both foreign and domestic.... Americans should never have to fear that their government is spying on them. Today's legislation responds to the public outcry by putting a stop to the appalling over-

reach of the federal government."

The USA Freedom Act includes a number of key provisions to protect Americans' privacy and freedoms, according to Pearce. It ends "bulk collection" of Americans' records, and implements and strengthens prohibitions against other targeting of Americans. Government agents would have to show they are looking for specific suspects thought to be working for or in contact with a foreign power or engaged in activity currently under investigation.

It creates an "Office of the Special Advocate" to promote privacy interests before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court's closed proceedings. It improves transparency and accountability by requiring the government to submit new reports on its data-gathering activities. The legislation fixes the draconian gag orders attached to FISA rulings, which prevent companies ordered to turn over data from providing basic information to their customers and the public. The goal would be to end the construction of a web of secret laws and court orders, utterly devoid of independent scrutiny.

The secret FISA court would still be able to issue subpoenas, but these would be limited to information that directly pertains to a terrorist, his associates or his activities. In the absence of an emergency or a court order, the act would prevent the government from searching through data collected on US individuals under the FISA Amendments Act. And the USA Freedom Act closes a loophole in the FISA that allows "reverse targeting" of Americans' email and Internet communications.

"The government has not made the case that this is an effective counterterrorism tool," says Leahy of the vastly expanded spying, "especially in light of the intrusion on Americans' privacy rights."

Despite these commonsense arguments, expect pushback from the nation's sprawling intelligence community. Spymasters will continue to wave the bloody flag of 9/11, a dozen years after that tragic day. They would certainly prefer a bill offered as an alternative by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), which would give the NSA "explicit authority" for mass data collection. That bill would make clear that phone, email and Internet data can continue to be gathered without even a scintilla of suspicion, much less the probable cause guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment. The Feinstein bill would for the first time in history explicitly authorize dragnet domestic spying programs targeting ordinary Americans.

But wouldn't ever-greater surveillance make us safer? As Leahy notes, that case has not been made. We should perhaps remember, in any event, the words of Benjamin Franklin: "They who give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Fortunately, our three New Mexico voices in Congress have come down squarely on the side of essential liberty. In supporting the USA Freedom Act, they join nearly 90 other bipartisan co-sponsors in the House and Senate, along with such diverse organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association.

As the calendar page turns to 2014, let's hope that together we can take this important step forward—instead of meekly accepting a world that looks instead ever more like 1984. ❄️

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LETTERS

Our Readers Write

Odious in the Eye of Beholder

Toward the end of your long editorial last month bashing Pearce and the hapless Republicans (Editor's Notebook, November), you mentioned "the odious electioneering by the far-right Koch brothers" as a reason for avoiding products produced by their conglomerate.

I don't pay much attention to the Koch brothers. I know they founded the Cato Institute in 1977, a libertarian think tank "dedicated to individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace," nothing I myself find odious, but I realize "odious," like "beauty," is in the eye of the beholder.

Perhaps you could offer some examples of "odious" electioneering by the Koch brothers?

Like you, I thought about not buying products of companies run by people I think are politically misguided—e.g. "No Coke for me, Warren Buffet"—or avoiding products advertised on shows I don't like, such as Al Sharpton's show on MSNBC.

I even spent about 20 minutes watching the ads on Sharpton's show, but then I gave up. What a waste of time. Besides, I found myself feeling sorry for the Reverend Al. You might be happy to know that Bounty, the non-Koch brothers product you prefer, is a Sharpton advertiser.

Sharpton's success is a sad triumph of political correctness over common decency. He's a horrible person. (Google up Sharpton along with any of the following: Tawana Brawley, Crown Heights, Freddie's Fashion Mart to see for yourself.) I was shocked when "60 Minutes" described him as "a trusted White House advisor" (May 19, 2011).

I guess he is. Google "Obama Sharpton Photo" and you'll find pictures of a smiling President Obama with his arm around Al Sharpton.

Odious.

Peter Burrows
Silver City

Editor's note: You're conflating two separate editorials, as the partisan-product comments were actually part of a second editorial "bashing" (in your words) a proposal by New Mexico's *Democratic Party* chair. We object to the Kochs' Americans for Prosperity efforts not because of what they stand for but because of the way their PAC ads twist and distort the truth. For a long list of examples, see the nonpartisan FactCheck.org (www.factcheck.org/tag/americans-for-prosperity).

We're no fan of Rev. Sharpton, either, but that's more a matter of style than substance. Thanks for writing.



Marty Feldman as Igor in *Young Frankenstein*.

Creating a Monster

Ienjoyed your editorial in the November *Desert Exposure* ("Republicans Unbound"). I used a similar, although less literary, comparison when discussing the Tea Party's behavior during the shut-down with my fellow "nonessential" federal workers and contractors. Instead of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* I compared the situation to the scene in *Young Frankenstein* when Dr. Frankenstein asked Igor about the source of the brain he had just implanted in

the monster and Igor replied, "Abby, Abby Normal." I guess you get what you pay for.

Kathryn D. Lynnes
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Packing a Punch

Enjoyed your column on baggage ("Baggage Claims," Continental Divide, November). Sometime try dealing with the different rules for domestic versus international. It gets interesting when you have to fly from El Paso to LA and then onward to Asia.

Ed Teja
via email ✉

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DESERT DIARY

Cop Talk and Blond Guys

Plus finding Grandpa and ringing a bell.

Kids say the darnedest things... From the mouths of babes—and the email of **GeeRichard**—we have this first yarn:

“While shopping with his grandfather, a small boy became separated from the elderly man. Remembering what he was taught about safety around strangers, the child sought out a uniformed mall security officer. ‘I’ve lost my Grandpa,’ the boy told him.

“What’s his name?” the officer asked.

“Grandpa,’ the boy replied.

“The officer smiled, then asked. ‘What’s he like?’

“The boy pondered for few moments, then his face brightened and he said, ‘Single-malt whisky and women with big chests!’”

Anals of law enforcement... Southern cops have a way with words, says **Old Grumps**, who sends along what are purported to be “actual comments made by South Carolina troopers that were taken off their car videos”:

“You know, stop lights don’t come any redder than the one you just went through.’

“Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they’re new. They’ll stretch after you wear them a while.’

“If you take your hands off the car, I’ll make your birth certificate a worthless document.’

“If you run, you’ll only go to jail tired.’

“Can you run faster than 1,200 feet per second?”



Postcards from the edge... Continuing to catch up (but keep them coming, folks!) with photos submitted by traveling readers, showing themselves holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*, we open with **Bob and Kari Scullion**, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on the island of Maui. They were joined by their daughter, Kimberly Scullion from Palo Alto, Calif., and long-time friends Bob and Claudia Dignan from San Luis Obispo, Calif. Kari adds, “I have been reading and enjoying *Desert Exposure* for several years, and always look forward to Postcards just to see where readers take ‘the biggest little paper in the Southwest.’ When planning our Hawaiian vacation, I knew what I would be reading during our six-hour flight!”

Because that’s the speed of the bullet that’ll be chasing you.’

“You don’t know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?”

“Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don’t think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I’m the shift supervisor?”

“Warning! You want a warning? OK, I’m warning you not to do that again or I’ll give you *another* ticket.’

“The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?”

“Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs and step in monkey poop.’

“Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven.’

“No, sir, we don’t have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we’re allowed to write as many tickets as we can.’

“I’m glad to hear that the chief (of police) is a personal friend of yours. So you know someone who can post your bail.’

“You didn’t think we give pretty women tickets? You’re right, we don’t. Sign here.”

Don’t make us issue a warrant for your jokes! Send them to diary@desertexposure.com and maybe we’ll go easy on you.

A close shave... Thanks to **Ned Ludd** for sharing this grooming tale:

“An old cowboy walks into the barbershop for a shave and a haircut and he tells the barber he can’t get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old cowboy to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

“When he’s finished, the old cowboy tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he’s had in years. But he wanted to know what would have happened if he had swallowed that little ball.

“The barber replied, ‘Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does.’”

Losing the battle of the sexes... We have several reports from the front lines of the gender wars this month, beginning with this courtesy of the **Silver City Greek**:

“The mother-in-law arrives home from shopping to find her son-in-law boiling angry and hurriedly packing his suitcase. ‘What happened?’ she asks anxiously.

“What happened!? I’ll tell you what happened. I sent an e-mail to my wife telling her I was coming home from my fishing trip today. I get home and guess what I found? Yes, your daughter, my Jean, with a naked guy in our marital bed! This is unforgivable, the

end of our marriage. I’m done. I’m leaving forever!’

“Calm down, calm down!’ says his mother-in-law. ‘There is something very odd going on here. Jean would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I’ll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened.’

“Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. ‘I told you there must be a simple explanation,’ she says. ‘Jean didn’t get your e-mail!’”

On a more philosophical note, there’s this submission from **Toni in the Vet’s Office**:

“No dictionary has ever been able to define the difference between ‘complete’ and ‘finished.’ However, in a linguistic conference, held in London and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Sam-sundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clever winner. His final challenge was this:

“Some say there is no difference between ‘complete’ and ‘finished.’ Please explain the difference in a way that is easy to understand.

“His response was:

“When you marry the right woman, you are “complete.” If you marry the wrong woman, you are “finished.” And, when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are “completely finished.”

“His answer received a five-minute standing ovation.”

Finally, **CharlesC** passes along this romantic yarn:

“A wife, being the romantic sort, sent her husband a text: ‘If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you!’

“The husband replied, ‘I am on the commode. Please advise.’”

Persons of the blond persuasion... Finally, says **The Santa Claran**, jokes about blond (note there’s no “e”) men! Nonetheless, as always you are free to substitute the hair hue of your choice:

“A friend tells the blond man: ‘Christmas is on a Friday this year.’ The blond man then says, ‘Let’s hope it’s not the 13th.’”

“Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asks: ‘What if one explodes before we get there?’ The other says: ‘We’ll lie and say we only found two.’”

“A blond man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts: ‘Did you find the shampoo?’ He answers, ‘Yes, but I’m not sure what to do. It’s for dry hair, and I’ve just wet mine.’”

“A blond man goes to the vet with his goldfish. ‘I think it’s got epilepsy,’ he tells the vet. The vet takes a look and says, ‘It seems calm enough to me.’ The blond man says, ‘Wait, I haven’t taken it out of the bowl yet.’”

“A blond man shouts frantically into the phone: ‘My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!’ ‘Is this her first child?’ asks the doctor. ‘No,’ the blond shouts, ‘this is her husband!’”

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Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo with "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" was sent in by **Nadine Robele**, who writes: "I went to metro-Chicago for the month of June, taking the May issue of *Desert Exposure* so I could share with my relatives and friends there the outstanding short stories written by students of Aldo Leopold High School (where my youngest daughter just graduated from). At Northwestern University my husband and I attended our middle child's graduation and were able to spend time with her before she leaves for a year-long fellowship to South Africa. The picture is of me in front of the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, just a short distance north of Chicago."

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or just getting away from it all, snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

"A blond man is driving home, drunk as a skunk. Suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another. A cop car pulls him over, so he tells the cop about all the trees in the road. The cop says, 'That's your air freshener swinging about!'"

"A blond man's dog goes missing and he is frantic. His wife says, 'Why don't you put an ad in the paper?' He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing. 'What did you put in the paper?' his wife asks. He replies, 'Here, boy!'"

"A blond man is in jail. The guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet. 'Just WHAT are you doing?' he asks. 'Hanging myself,' the blond replies. 'It should be around your neck,' says the guard. 'I tried that,' he replies, 'but then I couldn't breathe.'"

The friendly skies... Put your seat backs and tray tables in the full upright and locked position for this funny from **Shanty Shaker**:

"Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced: 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain. Welcome to flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York. The weather ahead is good, so we should have a smooth, uneventful flight. So, sit back, relax, and—OH, MY GOD!'"

"Silence followed. 'Some moments later, the captain came back on the intercom. 'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!'"

"From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled, 'For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back o' mine!'"

Capital pun-ishment... The puns toll for thee in this tale from **Jess Hossinaround in Arenas Valley**:

"After Quasimodo's death, the bishop of the Cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he would conduct the interviews personally, and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process.

"After observing several applicants demonstrate their skills, he had decided to call it a day. Just then, an armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell ringer's job. The bishop was incredulous: 'You have no arms!'"

"'No matter,' said the man. 'Observe!' And he began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon. The bishop listened in astonishment, convinced he had finally found a replacement for Quasimodo.

"But suddenly, as he rushed forward to strike the bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the street below.

"The stunned bishop rushed down 295 church steps. When he reached the street, a crowd, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moments before, had gathered around the fallen figure. As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, 'Bishop, who was this man?'"

"I don't know his name,' the

bishop sadly replied, 'but his face rings a bell.'

"The following day, despite the sadness that weighed heavily on his heart due to the unfortunate death of the armless campanologist, the bishop continued his interviews for the bell ringer of Notre Dame.

"The first man to approach him said, 'Your Excellency, I am the brother of the poor armless wretch who fell to his death from this very belfry yesterday. I pray that you honor his life by allowing me to replace him in this duty.'

"The bishop agreed to give the man an audition. But, as the armless man's brother stooped to pick up a mallet to strike the first bell, he groaned, clutched at his chest, twirled around, and died on the spot.

"Two monks, hearing the bishop's cries of grief at this second tragedy, rushed up the stairs to his side. 'What has happened? Who is this man?' the first monk asked breathlessly.

"I don't know his name,' sighed the distraught bishop, 'but he's a dead ringer for his brother.'"

Sermon notes... This view from the pew was contributed by **Gerald H.**:

"A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

"With even greater emphasis, he said, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river!'"

"And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river!'"

"Sermon complete, he sat down. The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River."'"

Political incorrectness... Finally, expressing a view we suspect is shared by readers of all political persuasions these days, this brief editorial from **Judge Hazard A. Guess**:

"The Washington Redskins are going to change their name because of all the hatred, violence and hostility associated with their name.

"From now on they will be known simply as the Redskins." ❌

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



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TUMBLEWEEDS

Life in a State of Nature

Reader photos of creatures big and small.

This month's collection of reader photos of our Southwest "zoo" ranges across the region geographically as well as zoologically. This tarantula posed for **Geri Reeves** of Lordsburg, who writes: "We've had a visitor come creepy-crawling through the yard several times a week that I've named 'Tickles.' I'm fairly new to living in the desert and its unusual creatures so I'm always taking pictures of whatever I see. I'm not afraid of tarantulas so I got as close as I could with my camera. I hope this hairy fella wasn't too upset with my paparazzi-ness and feels safe enough to stick around so we can enjoy his visits next year, too."



From arachnid to avian, here's this picture from **Kara Naber**: "I took this photo of a dove family, safe from predators in a cholla cactus, outside our home in Columbus."



Turning to mammals, we've got another shot from **Ron Saltzman**, proprietor of the Frame and Art Center in Las Cruces. This bison was part of a photo safari at the Ladder Ranch in southern New Mexico.

Lizards, anyone? **Dennis Lane** of Silver City writes: "This juvenile Greater Short-horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma hernandesi*, was seen on the road to Bear Mountain Lodge. Of the horned lizards, this is one of the most common in the area because the species is more adaptable to higher elevations compared to its horned-lizard 'cousins.' The adults are about three and a half inches long and their diet includes harvester ants, which we found in abundance along the trails. Identification was done by Julian Lee."



Share your own photos of local creatures across the taxonomic spectrum! Send to editor@desertexposure.com or mail to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, and include your postal address for a little thank-you. 🐾

TUMBLEWEEDS • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Risky Business

Virgin Galactic gets cozy with NBC, asks other media to cut it (even more) slack.

If Virgin Galactic could manage the intricacies of spaceflight as well as it handles the news media, its SpaceShipTwo would already be ferrying tourists skyward at New Mexico's Spaceport America. (Instead, the Richard Branson space enterprise is at least five years behind its original schedule, a fact seldom mentioned in fawning media reports.)



of precious airtime to a wholly uncritical piece on the promise of space tourism, featuring Branson but not, alas, a single mention of Spaceport America. Branson and son Sam, who along with daughter Holly will be aboard the maiden flight

whenever it finally happens, were interviewed about the thrill of going into space. Left unsaid was the detail that SpaceShipTwo will launch tourists only to the very edge of the technical definition of "outer space," at about

70 miles up—less than two-thirds the 116-mile altitude achieved by astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American in space, in 1961.

Lacking any apparent news peg—SpaceShip Two's last powered test flight was back in September—what motivated NBC to air this puff piece? The answer came at the end of the segment, when it was announced that Virgin Galactic and NBCUniversal have signed a “multi-platform partnership” for the network's affiliates to transmit the maiden flight.

According to the Universe Today website, “Disclosed platforms so far include CNBC, MSNBC, NBCNews.com, Syfy and The Weather Channel. They also plan a primetime special on NBC on the launch's eve, and to host a live event for three hours on NBC's ‘Today’ show. Financial terms were not released.” A “Today” story suggests that flight could actually launch from Spaceport America in Upham, NM, rather than Virgin Galactic's Mojave, Calif., testing facility as originally planned.

As for the test flights underway at the Mojave airstrip, Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides wants science journalists to, well, stop acting so much like journalists and more like the cheerleaders at NBC. Speaking at the New Horizons in Science conference, a meeting of science writers at the University of Florida, his presentation ended with a plea for the media to put such projects in context.

According to the New Space Journal website, Whiteside said, “We face a challenge in the Western world right now, and that is an aversion to risky proj-

ects. We need a capacity to engage in audacious, bold and risky projects in our society.” The media, he said, have a duty to “contextualize” such efforts and the public's resulting perceptions.

“I'm not arguing that that means the press should cast an uncritical eye towards such projects,” he said. “But, in cases like, for example, flight tests, you all play a critical role in explaining to the information consumer what's really going on, and how people should think about it.... We're doing flight tests now. Things will go wrong in flight tests, I guarantee you.... The point of flight tests is to figure out where things go wrong and to fix them before you put them into commercial service.”

After the talk, when one questioner asked the CEO, “With all the problems we have on Earth, why are we creating amusement park rides in space for rich people?,” Whiteside shot him down: “We are privately funded, so it's not up to you. You have a right to talk about your tax dollars, because it's your tax dollars. This is not your money, so you don't have a right to say that it shouldn't be done.”

Apparently the Virgin Galactic CEO doesn't count the more than \$200 million New Mexico taxpayers have contributed toward building Spaceport America. The New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) recently requested an additional \$6.9 million to fund the paving of a \$15 million road to the spaceport. The agency blamed delays in the launch schedule for shortages of expected revenues from Virgin Galactic spaceflights and tourists. ❄

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com). Trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list. Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. We officially have our first Top 10 Lady Gaga sighting, as the singer announced plans to perform at Spaceport America before blasting off and singing from space. Plus we're keeping an eye on the much-chattered Chris Christie-Susana Martinez 2016 ticket, while wondering why it shouldn't be *Martinez-Christie* instead....

1. (2) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—387 hits (▲)
2. (5) **Virgin Galactic**—371 hits (▲)
3. (3) **New Mexico + immigration**—252 hits (▼)
4. (-) **Spaceport America**—221 hits (▲)
5. (9) **Sen. Tom Udall**—191 hits (▲)
6. (6) **New Mexico gay marriage**—190 hits (▲)
7. (-) **Lady Gaga + Spaceport**—174 hits *
8. (-) **New Mexico spaceport**—171 hits (▲)
9. (4) **New Mexico drought**—147 hits (▼)
10. (-) **Susana Martinez + NJ Gov. Chris Christie**—112 hits*



Future Spaceport America passenger Lady Gaga. We're pretty sure she's already “out there.”

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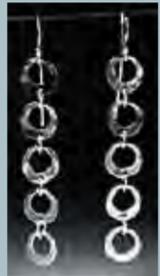
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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Santa on Horseback

Wishes for the holidays... and beyond.

Where did this year go? Seems like only yesterday I was writing about all the things I was thankful for during 2012 and in my horsemanship past. Now 2013 is coming to an end. One of the first attractions of the horse world for me was the need to be in the moment, in "horse time," if you will. When you were with your horse, time sort of stood still. No looking forward or dwelling on the past, just dealing with things as they are right now—the way the horse lives. I found this a great way to put the day-to-day grind of life, business and commitments aside for a few hours.

But if things keep moving as fast as the distance from the numbers on my birth certificate, maybe it's best to look forward with a wish list before the coming year becomes history. If there is a Santa, a genie or someone else who delivers on good wishes, maybe he or she will be reading *Desert Exposure* this month.

This is a big one, and certainly not possible, but I wish for a home for every horse. I could say the same about every dog, cat or other animal that has been neglected or become unwanted, as they have no say or alternatives in their lives beyond what man decides.

For all the horses that will never find a home, I wish there were more people like Carol Johnson and all the volunteers at End of the Road Ranch in Silver City (sanctuary@endoftheroadranchnm.com). Working tirelessly, and at great financial burden, they provide a sanctuary for as many horses as possible, where they are promised a home for life. I wish for a lottery win for Carol and everyone else trying to do the same thing for the literally hundreds of thousands of unwanted horses.

In fact, I wish more people would come out and visit Carol's ranch, especially to meet one of the most inspiring horses I know, Cheyenne. Pushing 37 years old, a bit sway-backed and missing a few teeth, she strolls the grounds greeting volunteers and visitors, and keeping an eye on the herd. She even breaks into a spirited trot up the driveway and back to her field at mealtime. She embodies the magic and wonder of the horse and what kindness and respect can mean to an animal. I'm not sure what 37 years old for a horse translates to in human aging, but I hope I look as good and move as well as she does when I'm that age.

I wish there were more breeders like Heidi Collings of Dripping Springs Ranch in Mule Creek. I spent a good deal of time this past summer helping some good friends and students looking for new horses, and had a chance to meet Heidi and some of her Spanish Barbs. Being in the business, it was inspiring for me to see someone who lets her horses grow up as horses and starts them correctly. She seemed more focused on truly matching the horse and rider, based on the variables that are important to me as a trainer, rather than just trying to sell a horse. I'm sure she would walk away from a sale if she thought the match was simply not going to work. You can't imagine how rare this is. If you're looking for a smaller, handy horse with a great mind and superior foundation, you should go see Heidi and her Barbs (sbhorses@gilanet.com).

I wish we could keep the instant gratification, quick-fix, top-line mentality of the Internet age out of the horsemanship business for as long as possible. It just seems like instant and horses don't go together. To think there is a shortcut, a piece of equipment or even, God forbid, an app that will immediately solve a performance or behavioral issue with a horse completely devalues the horse as a living being. I hope the horse/human partnership, and the time and patience it takes to build it, does not get abandoned because it takes too long and is really never finished.

Case in point: I wish I never have to hear another story like the one I heard this summer from a mom in one of my clinics who loved horses and bought a

pony for her daughter, who had been begging for her own horse—only to find that her daughter spent more time playing with a virtual horse on her computer than with her real horse in the backyard, because the virtual horse was "nicer, cleaner and easy to take care of."

For the veterinarians in Silver City, and all over for that matter, I wish for no weekend emergencies so they can get some sleep and enjoy their families.

I wish that some of the folks in the cattle industry who have been hit so hard by the drought and other factors would take a look at all their land and see that it might still be profitable as a retirement home for horses. There are so many horse owners who have the means but not the space and want or need to retire their horses. There simply aren't enough safe and well-managed retirement operations with affordable prices to meet the demand.

I wish "buying local" and supporting local small businesses meant something to more horse people. Sure, we're a small town and don't have the population and financial base to be state-of-the-art in everything to do with horses. But there is a lot of talent and experience here that will not be able to survive or improve if horse owners ship their dollars out of town every time they think they need help in some area. I'm sure every business owner in Silver City feels the same way. If we don't want local resources to dry up and blow away in the spring

winds, we need to keep some money here.

For some of the people I know who are entering the final phase of their riding lives, I wish their last years on their horses will be happy and safe.

I wish I had the time, the space and years left to take all the knowledge and experience I've gained to bring along a horse that is a blank slate. I have a beautiful young horse in my facility for foundation training for a great owner, and it is simply amazing to watch and be part of the learning process. It confirms one of my strongest beliefs that so much of what happens with horses is based on what happens in the first few years, and that developing a horse doesn't require a fight or that you have to "break" them. I wish I had time to do it for myself.

For every horse owner, I wish for lower hay prices.

I wish someone would design riding pants for men that looked like jeans but were as comfortable as riding tights. We could still look manly but not be as grouchy after a long ride.

I wish researchers could find the definitive cause for laminitis and come up with a cure so horses prone to this awful problem could still get a treat once in awhile. A similar wish for finding a way to keep horses colic-free for their entire life.

I wish designers could find a way to make safety helmets and vests look cool enough that more riders would wear them and not feel they were giving up Western style.

I wish more drivers would respect that a horse trailer probably contains horses and stop tailgating.

I wish there was one Mr. Ed out there who could tell us exactly what horses really think about what we ask them to do.

Finally, I wish our two horses could stay as energetic and entertaining as they are now for as long as we're able to get up in the saddle.

Happy holidays to all and have a great New Year! Stay deep in the saddle and think about just how lucky you are to be able to enjoy the company of one of the most amazing creatures on earth. 🌟

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



ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

The Grant County Art Guild's show of "Southwest Birds" opens Saturday, Dec. 7, at the **JW Art Gallery** in Hurley with a reception from 1-5 p.m. All entries in this show are by local artists, including those whose work you have admired over the years as well as new and upcoming talent in the local art scene. Following the reception, the exhibit will be open to the public through Jan. 3. 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300, www.jwartgallery.com.

The 33rd annual **Mimbres Hotspots Ranch Studio Sale** will be Dec. 7-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Works by more than two-dozen artists and crafts people include pottery, glass, photography, jewelry, fiber arts, cut-paper art, toys, block-printed linens, letterpress prints, watercolor and oil paintings and more. Music will include performances by the Glee Maidens and Bayou Seco on Saturday, Jesi Tallman and Dustin Hamman on Sunday. Take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 South to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs 2 1/2 miles. No pets, please. www.studiosalemimbres.com.

Seedboat Gallery will have a closing reception Dec. 7, 4-6 p.m., for "Anti Gravity," works by Paula Wittner, with a narrative slide show by the artist at 5:30 p.m. Kate Brown's 33rd annual pottery sale will also be at the gallery Dec. 7-8. The gallery's holiday jewelry and gift show continues through December. 214 W. Yankee St., 534-1136.

Copper Quail Gallery will feature "The Wild... Life of John Wachholz," with new wildlife photos in handcrafted frames. The show runs Dec. 3-31, with a reception Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m. 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

Artist Paul Hotvedt will talk on "Representational Painting" Dec. 10, 5-6 p.m. at **Leyba & Ingalls Arts**. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

Victoria Chick's **Cow Trail Art Studio** in Arenas valley will be open Mondays, 1-3 p.m., during December and features a new exhibit of 19th and 20th century original prints. 119 Cow Trail, www.victoriachick.com.

The new **Ursa Minor** gallery is featuring new work by Carlen Roters. 303 N. Texas.

Wind Canyon Studio, featuring works by Louise



Works in "Southwest Birds" at JW Art Gallery include "Barn Owl" by John Catsis (above) and "Roadrunner on Red" by Cynthia Lindhorn.



Sackett, is holding a pre-holiday sale until Dec. 20. It's open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and by appointment. 11 Quail Run, off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574-2308, (619) 933-8034.

Raven's Nest Boutique will have a reception on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 3-6 p.m. to introduce metal art on the patio by artist Mark Bowen. 106 W. Yankee St.

The **Yankie/Texas Arts District** in downtown Silver City will celebrate the season at galleries and shops on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy music, luminaria, treats and beverages.

A Nizhoni Pottery Studio Sale, featuring contemporary Navajo pottery by **Romaine Begay**, will be held Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at 3235 Little Walnut Road.

"Femme Schism: Warrior Women Paid Less?," a solo exhibition (18 and up) opens Jan. 4 with a reception at 7 p.m. at **a)sp."A"©e Studio•Art•Gallery**, and runs through Jan. 30. 110 West 7th St.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The first artwork ever to be displayed at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** belonged to Robert "Shoofly" Shufelt. Fifteen years after he loaned some of his lithographs for a temporary exhibit, Shufelt and his wife, Julie, have do-

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

We've got gifts!



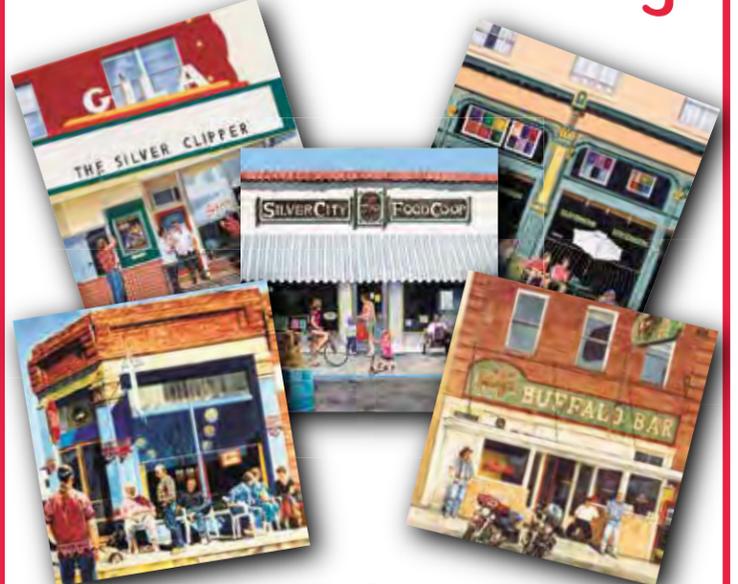
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SAT., DEC. 21 - 4 to 7 pm

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Yankie/Texas ART DISTRICT

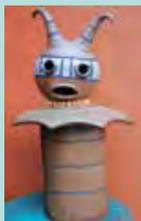
at the crossroads of Yankie & Texas Streets in Historic Downtown Silver City



Vibrations Gallery
108 W. Yankee
654-4384



Lois Duffy Art
211C N. Texas
313-9631



Copper Quail Gallery
211A N. Texas
388-2646



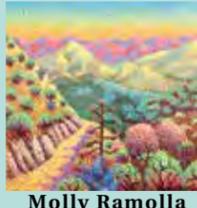
Seedboat Gallery
214 W. Yankee
534-1136
Wed-Sat 11am-5pm or by appt.



Vicki's Eatery
315 N. Texas
388-5430
Breakfast M-Sat 7-10:30
• Sun 8-2 • Lunch M-Sat 11-3



Artesanos Gallery
211B N. Texas
519-0804



Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing
303 & 307 N. Texas
538-5538 or 654-0334
www.ramollaart.com



Yankie Street Artists
103 W. Yankee
519-0615

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Kate Brown Pottery & Tile
katebrown@gilanet.com 575 536 9935

33rd Annual Studio Sale Dec. 7 & 8
In Silver City at Seedboat Gallery
Tile Classes: Sat & Sun, Jan 25 & 26

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Artist Talk:

Tuesday, December 10th
5-6pm

Paul Hotvedt Representational Painting

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A personal journey through
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ARTS

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• 19th and 20th Century Original Prints by
American and New Mexican Artists



New Exhibit
of
19th and 20th
Century
Original
Prints

Stop by for coffee, cider, and conversation
Mondays 1-3 during December.
Visit the Studio at
119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley
www.victoriachick.com

106 W. Yankee Street

Holiday Happenings
at the Raven's Nest Boutique

- ❖ Sat. 12/7 - Book Signing with Esther Melvin, author of "Walking Going," trekking in Nepal 1 pm- 4 pm.
- ❖ Sat. 12/14 - Reception introducing metal art on the patio by artist Mark Bowen 3 pm - 6 pm.
- ❖ Sat. 12/21 - Celebrate the Season with the Yankee/Texas Arts District - Music, luminarias, cookies, & drinks at the galleries and shops 4 pm - 7 pm.

Silver City, New Mexico

ARTS EXPOSURE continued

nated his collection to the museum for a new exhibition. To showcase this compilation of Shufelt's work, the museum staff renovated part of the Generations exhibit in the Heritage Gallery to create a new fine art section called the Heritage Art Gallery. About 50 or 60 of the 132 "Shoofly" lithographs donated to the museum will make up the initial art exhibit, which opened Nov. 23 and will be on long-term display.

Shufelt retired from the commercial art world in order to get away from deadlines. In 1975, he and his wife Julie moved west from Chicago, settling first in Tucson, and later in Wickenburg, Ariz. Since 1991, the Shufelts have called New Mexico their home; they now live in Hillsboro.

Shufelt, who says being an artist "is a compulsion, not a decision," is a master of the pencil. He brings to life dramatic imagery with bold sunlight and shadow.

"Cowboys have always been my heroes," Shufelt says. "Most of today's cowboy art romanticizes and



A collection of works by Robert "Shoofly" Shufelt is now on display at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

thus misrepresents the cowboy. I know of no other labor which involves so much skill for so little pay as that of the professional cowboy. My aspiration for drawing the 'cowboy way' is to depict the spirit of ranching. I never stage a theme to draw, but work from environmental and cultural involvement with my subject."

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$2 for children ages 5 to 17. Children 4 and under, museum friends members and US military veterans with ID receive free admission. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art presents "Tejido Fronterizo/Border Tapestry" by the Juntos Art Association and The Border Artists and "Metamorphosis," the artwork of Santa Fe artist Gail Factor. Both are on display through Jan. 18, with receptions Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m.

New Mexico artists Gunnar Plake and Marietta Leis showcase their works in separate exhibitions now on view at the Museum of Art. On Saturday, Dec. 7, Plake will host a gallery talk at 10 a.m.; Leis will speak at 1 p.m. the same day. Both exhibitions are on display through Jan. 18, 2014.

Plake's exhibition, "Extended Passage of Time" is composed of panoramic images collected during a winter's day at White Sands National Monument. "Rather than photography's concentration on the frozen moment, I am after the space between moments where time is expanded and dates compressed," explains Plake of his exhibition. "By moving the camera during exposure, I include more information in each image and expand the expressive possibilities of the photographic medium."

Leis' exhibition, "GREEN Abundance," was influenced by a recent artist residency in Thailand. "My studio was a veranda with a thatch roof that looked out to vegetation of all colors, so my palette was ever-changing," notes Leis. "The color linchpin, however, was green—the living breathing color of life." Her multimedia works are an expression of the imagery and ideas that flooded

her during her stay in Thailand. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org.

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery this month features Rayma Claessen and Richard Spellenberg. Claessen will exhibit landscapes, including miniature collections of the Organ Mountains. Spellenberg holds a PhD in botany in plant diversity with a minor in art, who became interested in wood turning after retiring in 2000. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

The Las Cruces Arts Association will hold a Christmas Bazaar at the Mountain Gallery, featuring handcrafted art, decorations, prints, cards and other works of art. Hours are Friday, Dec. 6, from 4-7 p.m. during the Downtown Ramble and Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 138 W. Mountain Ave.

The Main Street Gallery hosts a presentation of art by Mary Beagle, "Many Faces from Different Places," featuring her oil portraits of Native American and Latino cultures as well as several pieces of stone sculpture. The show opens with a reception Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts will host "An Evening with the Artist" with Pamela Needham on Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m. Needham works in photography, focusing primarily on nature themes and landscapes. Next month's artist evening, Jan. 3, will feature Linda Hagen, who paints Southwest landscapes, horses and Western scenes in oils. 220 North Campo St., 312-3040.

On Dec. 14 the Mesquite Historic Preservation Society is hosting its third annual "A New Mexico Christmas on the Camino Real" and Second Saturday of the Month "Camino del Arte" event. At the same time, the city of Las Cruces Senior Programs and individual seniors are co-sponsoring an art show at Nopalito's Galeria, "Artistic Moments and Winter Bazaar." A horse-drawn stagecoach will tour the Mesquite Historic District, and Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will arrive on the stagecoach for a stop at Klein Park about noon.

ArtForms is seeking participants for the 16th annual For the Love of Art Month member show at the Branigan Cultural Center, Feb. 7 to March 1, 2014, and for a regional-artists show (non-members welcome) at the Convention Center, Feb. 7-8. Deadlines are Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. For information, see www.artformsnm.org or email artformsfloa@gmail.com or call 527-0020.

Luna County

Studio LeMarbe in Deming will hold an open studio sale on Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

The Deming Arts Center's Christmas Market, with handcrafted gifts, continues through Dec. 22. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The next exhibit at the center, opening with a reception Jan. 5, 1-3 p.m., features Las Cruces painter Irma Lee. 100 S. Gold, 546-3663,

"Moon at Sunrise" by Gunnar Plake (right) and "Chronicles 3" by Marietta Leis, featured at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.





The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery features works by Carlos West.

demingarts@hotmail.com.

The **Black Range Fine Art Show**, to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and homeless veterans, is looking for submissions of original fine art. The indoor event will be held at the Mimbres Valley Event Center in Deming next year, Oct.11-12. There will be extensive advertising and \$2,400 in cash awards will be given. For more information, call Lyn at 546-4650 or email blackrangeart@gmail.com.

Sierra County

The **8th Annual Yuletide** in Chloride continues through Dec. 8. Many of the old building in the historic ghost town will be decorated for the holidays, and the **Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery** will feature works by local artists. The Chloride Bank Café will be serving up hot cocoa and treats along with regular menu items. You can also take in the Pioneer Store Museum while in town. 40 miles west of Truth or Consequences via Hwy. 52. 743-0493, 743-0414, montecristogallery@windstream.net.

Hillsboro's annual holiday celebration, **Christmas in the Foothills**, will be Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center. Highlights of the festival include a wide array of

vendors selling specialty arts and handcrafted gifts, the annual raffle of an original work of art depicted on collectible art prints, and the popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale. Each item in the art show will be sold for \$49.99 to a winning ticket holder, and all items are guaranteed to be worth more than that. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 for a chance to win the original framed pastel painting, "A Chile New Mexico Christmas," created for the event by Hillsboro artist Judy Madden. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Community Center at 3:45 p.m. Limited-edition prints of Madden's artwork are also for sale.

In addition to Christmas in the Foothills events at the Community Center, Hillsboro's Main Street merchants, including restaurants, antique shops and museums, will all be open, and musicians and singers along Main Street will provide seasonal and regional accompaniment to the festivities. Nine miles west in Kingston, holiday celebrations include vendors at the famed Spit and Whittle Club.

During the weekend, Dec. 6-8, the Hillsboro Historical Society will showing the work of three Native American artists donated to the Society from a private collection. The paintings will be exhibited at the Society's Education Center.

Hillsboro is located on Hwy. 152 approximately 17 miles west of I-25 at exit 63. From Silver City take Highway 152 east 57 miles to Hillsboro. Signs and holiday greeters in Santa hats will direct visitors to the Hillsboro Community Center.

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

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

Copper Quail Gallery presents

**The WILD...
LIFE of
JOHN
WACHHOLZ**



featuring
**New Wildlife
Photographs**
in Stunning Handcrafted Frames

Show: Dec 3-31 Artist's Reception: Dec 7 1-4 pm
211A N. Texas • Corner of Texas & Yankie in Silver City • Open Tues-Sun 11-4 • 575-388-2646

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- Stained Glass
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Mimbres Region Arts Council
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7:00 pm | \$50

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Live music

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**Enchanted
Christmas Tree
Tour**



Saturday, December 7th
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday, December 14th
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Sunday, December 8th
3:00pm - 7:00pm

Sunday, December 15th
3:00pm - 7:00pm

25 Decorated Christmas Trees and a Miniature Christmas Village in a Historical Home

Tickets \$5 for adult \$1 for children 12 and under
Tickets may be purchased at Alotta Gelato, AM Bank, Aunt Judy's Attic

Tickets sold at the door during the tour - 615 A Street

Proceeds Benefit Children's Charities in Grant County

Contact Info: 575.538.3216

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthonyhowell.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, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordie Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tyrone

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

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

Pinos Altos

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

Mimbres

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

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

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

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

Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.

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

Bayard

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

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

Hanover

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

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

Hurley

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

Northern Grant County & Catron County

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

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

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

Mesilla

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

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

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

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

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

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

La Mesa

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

Columbus

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

Deming

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

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

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

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

STUDIO LeMARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

Rodeo

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

Hillsboro

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

Chloride

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

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

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PET TALK • CHRISTINA SUMMERS

Vital Vaccinations

Don't let misinformation keep you from protecting your pets.

Vaccinations are a critical component to the preventive care of your companion animal. Your health, as well as your pet's, depends on it. While this may seem like common knowledge to some, the topic of pet vaccination can be quite controversial, making it a hot topic in veterinary medicine today.

Most veterinary professionals agree that vaccinating your pets is the best way to protect them from various life-threatening illnesses. "Controversy about vaccinating your pet is usually centered around misinformation or the false concept in humans that suggest vaccinations cause autism," says Dr. Bethany Schilling, clinical instructor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Choosing vaccinations specific to your animal's health and lifestyle should be an informed decision made between you and your veterinarian.

Many pet owners believe that the possible dangers of pet vaccinations outweigh the positive aspects. One risk that worries pet owners is the chance that their pet will have a negative reaction from the vaccination. While this is a viable concern, Schilling and many other veterinarians agree that this occurrence is rare. "Vaccine reactions are usually non-life threatening, are easily treated, and can typically be prevented in the future," says Schilling. "Reactions in dogs are typically swelling of the face or hives, and reactions in cats are typically vomiting or diarrhea."

Vaccines do not guarantee that your pet will not become sick, just as a human getting the flu vaccine can still catch the flu. But vaccination will likely minimize the seriousness of illness in your pet.

Vaccines help build up your pets' immune system so that their chances of becoming ill when exposed to disease are much lower. They can prevent many upper respiratory diseases in cats such as herpes, calicivirus and panleukemia, as well as feline leukemia and rabies. There are vaccines to prevent various diseases in dogs as well, such as parvovirus, leptospirosis, Lyme disease, Bordetella and rabies. Bordetella is found to be one of the causes of "kennel cough," a highly contagious respiratory disease in dogs.

The two classifications of pet vaccines are core and non-core vaccines. "Core vaccines are things the entire pet population should be vaccinated against, due to universal risk," says Schilling. "Non-core vaccines are recommended based on region of the country in which the patient lives and individual patient risk factors, like lifestyle and travel." Core vaccines would include vaccines against common diseases, like rabies, whereas vaccines against Lyme disease or kennel cough are among the non-core vaccines. Non-core vaccines are not usually considered necessary, but are available to pets that are at risk for illness due to geographic locations or specific lifestyle needs.

Another debate among many pet owners is whether performing at-home vaccinations on your pet is easier and more efficient than taking them to a veterinary clinic. When making this decision, it is important to keep in mind that vaccines are extremely sensitive to handling. Various factors such as extreme temperatures can inactivate them, and vaccines purchased at a feed store are not guaranteed to be effective.

"Vaccines administered at a vet clinic are handled appropriately and care can be made to make sure the pet is vaccinated at appropriate intervals to ensure protection," says Schilling. "The pet is examined prior to receiving vaccines each visit to make sure they are healthy."

Companion animals today have the opportunity

to live longer, healthier lives than ever before. This is partly due to the availability of vaccines to prevent them from many infectious diseases. There are always risks accompanying any medical procedure, but the chances of your pet having an adverse effect from a vaccine are minimal.

Hear and Now

Deaf dogs can still be humans' best friends.

Man's best friend is a term with no discrimination. Whether your dog is large or petite, obedient or a little rebellious, you love them just the same. The unparalleled companionship between a human and their deaf dog is no exception.

It is a popular yet wildly misguided rumor that deaf dogs are unable to be a loving member of your family. Impossible to train, aggressive and unruly, and incapable of living a normal life are all stereotypes falsely attributed to deaf dogs. "Adopting any dog means that you are committing your family to providing a loving forever home," says Dr. David Nelson, clinical associate professor and director of emergency services at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "The handicap is not the determinant of suitability, but rather the training and assimilation that you are going to undertake."



A genetic predisposition for deafness is a serious health problem for Dalmatians; only about 70% have normal hearing.

The biggest difference between a hearing dog and a deaf one is that you can't use your voice to get the dog's attention. Training a deaf dog is not necessarily harder than a hearing dog; it just requires a different approach. "One key point in their training is that if they are not looking at you, they can't receive feedback and they don't know you have information to provide," says Nelson. "They have to learn sign language and body posture, which needs to be consistently delivered, and, just like any other dog, you must not let them get away with bad behavior."

Another training technique helpful for communicating with your deaf pooch is to train them to respond to a vibrating collar. A push of the radio transmitter causes a vibration in the collar, and you can then condition your dog that this is a fantastic opportunity for a reward. After multiple positive rewards, their attention should turn towards you immediately after signaling, so you can then provide further instruction. Keep in mind that the vibration from the collar should never have a negative connotation, or your dog will be afraid to respond in the future. Having them come to you without hesitation is extremely important, so always be sure to provide positive feedback.

"We hike in the national forests with him off leash and he actually is easier to manage than the other dog who can hear just fine," says Nelson about his own deaf dog. "We always have the safety net of the vibrating collar but rarely use it, and he has learned to check back visually and will come to a hand sign without delay."

Another common misconception about deaf dogs is that they are aggressive. This makes many people question whether it is safe to have a deaf dog in their home around children. "It is not deafness which determines suitability of a dog to be with children, but the personality of the dog, the child, and the home environment," says Nelson. "Deafness does not mean that the dog is bad for this or that; the dog's personality and the owners' training determine those results."

Deaf dogs can be startled when touched unex-

pectedly, so establishing a "communication spot" that you touch when you need to wake them up is a good idea. "We have trained him that the top back of his head is the communication spot, and when we touch it and he is sleeping he immediately begins wagging his tail because he knows it is one of us," says Nelson.

Certain breeds of dogs, such as Dalmatians, carry a gene that causes deafness. If the deafness isn't genetic, it is still common for a dog to lose hearing from an ear injury or simply from old age, just like people.

If you believe Spot may be deaf, there are various tests you can perform. Simple at-home tests work just fine, like clapping your hands together or ringing a bell, but the most reliable way to test for deafness is called BAER testing (Brainstorm Auditory Evoked Response). This test can be costly, but it is extremely accurate and will let you know if your dog is partially or wholly deaf.

"If you came and interacted with our two dogs, you would not be aware that one is deaf, as we talk to him just like the other dog and the hand signs are subtle," says Nelson. "He has been totally deaf since birth and is a wonderful boy that loves people, animals and children."

Despite the few adaptations you must make for training and living with a deaf dog, the love and appreciation you receive far outweighs any perceived adversity from their disabilities. The friendship between a human and their dog, hearing or not, knows no boundaries. ❧

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at vetmed.tamu.edu/pettalk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.

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Required Reading

The essential New Mexico library, plus where to get your books fix.

“His steamer was wrecked and sunk in the Galveston harbour, and he had lost all his worldly possessions except his books, which he saved at the risk of his life.”—*Death Comes for the Archbishop*

I have enthusiastically collected New Mexico-themed books for a couple of decades now and enjoy them for inspiration, use them for research, and just generally revel in the topics they cover about my beloved state. Several years ago I sold every extra non-New Mexico book I could stand to give up to purchase a copy of *Cow Dust and Saddle Leather* by Ben Kemp and J.C. Dykes, a volume I'd asked Coas Books in Las Cruces to find. The anticipation of waiting for a requested book to turn up is part of the fun of the hunt.

New Mexico has served as setting and subject of many books written by authors who have made its uniquely beautiful landscape home. But which should be part of an essential New Mexican library? Choosing which to include is admittedly a subjective task.

I agonized over which books to give place of honor for this best of New Mexico roundup. How

to choose one and not include another? It's like asking which of your children is your favorite; it can't be done. So, with the caveat that I know readers will have their own favorites, following are brief synopses, in no particular order, of the ones that made my personal list. If you have a local book-lover on your holiday gift list, consider this a place to start.

I also polled four area bookstore owners about what books would be on their lists. They know their books and are persistent in tracking down elusive books for their customers. These folks are owners of some of the best places to spend a day in the southern part of the state, hands down. As fellow bibliophile Mark Twain once said, “In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.”

Tularosa: Last of the Frontier West by C.L. Sonnichsen is one of the foundational books for acquiring an overview of the New Mexico west as it was and is. This is the place to start for anyone seeking to understand a bit of western culture as it was played out here in the southern part of the state. You need to know about Fountain and Fall, cattle and lawmen, miners and Apaches, Garrett and the Kid. Sonnichsen writes: “On a clear day you take in a panorama of 300 miles of heaven and earth, and it puts you in your proper place.”

No Life for a Lady by Agnes Morley Cleaveland is a classic memoir of a young ranch woman in the Datil area beginning in 1886. It is dedicated to: “All those Pioneer Women whose stories can never be adequately told but whose courage, endurance and determination to hold fast to their highest ideals contributed to the making of America.” The protagonist's first sight of the wide open country leading to her new home is memorable: “No sign of human habitation greeted us as we topped the divide west of town and gazed across at the blue bank of haze that blanketed the western sky—the Datil Mountains, our destination, 40 miles away.” The book details the amazing

amount of freedom and responsibility young people in New Mexico often experienced.

Black Range Tales: Chronicling Sixty Years of Life and Adventure in the Southwest by James A. McKenna is an eyewitness description of the life of a miner, prospector and explorer in the West of the late 1800s. McKenna, a true gentleman, relates with classic western humor and rare poignancy the adventures, legends and characters he encountered while living in southern New Mexico. This book is suggested reading for New Mexico newcomers and history buffs alike.

Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of New Mexico by James E. and Barbara H. Sherman is a comprehensive look at “more than 130 of the state's old and defunct mining, farming, railroad and lumbering communities.” The book is full of historical photos from the towns' heydays as well as more current shots of what remains (or did, when it was written in 1975). There is even a map section to help you with your weekend explorations. The well-researched back stories for each entry are loads of fun; I often curl up on a winter night with my dog-eared copy of this book just to daydream.

The Great River: The Rio Grande in North American History by Paul Horgan is a beautifully written, extensive overview of our history-making river. His preface to the fourth edition states, “In its length of nearly 2,000 miles and its cultural evidence encompassing 10 centuries and more, the Great River remains the unifying vein of history not only of the life adjacent to its banks, but also of the greater southwest.” Horgan, winner of the Bancroft and Pulitzer Prizes in history, achieved his goal of producing “a sense of historical experience rather than a bare record.” The river is the anchor point around which time, history and culture revolve in New Mexico.

The Milagro Beanfield War by John Nichols is a rollicking good read set in northern New Mexico. The characters are hilariously recognizable here in the southern regions, too. Those of you with agricultural connections may feel as if you live parts of this story on a regular basis. Derek Fisher of Santa Fe writes: “There is one thing about *The Milagro Beanfield War*.... You cannot put it down. I have lived in northern New Mexico for most of my life, and there is no written word that comes close to the people here except for *The Milagro Beanfield War*. I must say that growing up in a small northern New Mexico town, I have seen most of this story first hand. (I went to school with the young versions of these characters). This is such a comedic book, I fell off the couch several times laughing so hard it hurt.” The 1988 film version was shot in Truchas, NM.

Skinwalkers? A Thief of Time? Hmm, how to choose a favorite Hillerman book? A prolific, award-winning author, Tony Hillerman was best known for his series of 18 mystery books featuring Navajo police officers Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. Wes Studi and Adam Beach played the officers in the PBS film version of three of the books (*Skinwalkers*, *Coyote Waits*, *A Thief of Time*). “It's always troubled me that the American people are so ignorant of these rich Indian cultures,” Hillerman once told *Publishers Weekly*. “I think it's important to show that aspects of ancient Indian ways are still very much alive and are highly germane even to our ways.”

I have to pick both:

A Thief of Time—Deals with pot hunters, a missing anthropologist and sacred ground as well as a couple of corpses, all set in the Four Corners area on the Navajo reservation. Jim Trageser in the *Chula Vista Star-News* writes, “The characterizations are also of the highest order, with the major players being fleshed out, with all the faults and shortcomings inherent to real-life human beings.... Reading Hillerman is pleasure not only for the fine story he tells, but for the sheer joy of watching how he does it.”

Skinwalkers—Someone tries to kill Jim Chee and three murdered people are found with small pieces of bone in their bodies at various locations on the reservation. Several clues guide Leaphorn and Chee to follow leads related to Navajo skin-walkers.

Red Sky at Morning by Richard Bradford is the story of southerner Josh Arnold, a teenager spending the years of World War II in small-town northern New Mexico while his father is in the Navy. Josh and his friends Steenie and Marcia bear witness to the earthy humor, swagger and pathos of adolescence. The book is a humorous, bittersweet take on the life, characters and cultural mix of Bradford's small town. The most memorable dead horse scene in print will stay with you for years. Bradford's pithy dialogue begs for some out-loud reading and by all means, if the last time you read this was for high-school English class, pick it up again. The 1971 film version earned a Golden Globe Award.

Albuquerque: A Novel by native son Rudolfo Anaya is written through the lens of boxing champion Abran Gonzalez, a product of two cultures. (The title really is “Albuquerque,” as in the original 1706 *Ranchos de Albuquerque*.) Abran and his bicultural friend Joe “learn together the ways in which community and family might once more be linked by a lasting connection to ‘the earth and the rhythms of the people,’” according to local author Kevin McIlvoy's review in the *Los Angeles Times*. The novel is woven around ceremonies and fiestas as it explores some of the issues that have always intrigued New Mexicans: land, water, class and culture. Another of Anaya's well-known novels, *Bless Me, Ultima*, was produced as a film in 2013.

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather tells the fictional story of Bishop Jean Latour and Father Joseph Vaillant's arrival and subsequent life work in New Mexico. As Jeff Berg noted in *Desert Exposure* (“Local Characters,” January), “Cather studied up on many real folks, including Jean-Baptiste Lamy, using different names to portray him and others in the book while slipping in real-life luminaries such as Kit Carson.”

With all the reading I've done over the years, I'd missed this one. What a mistake! Cather has an exceptional ability to create fine art with the written word: “Elsewhere the sky is the roof of the world; but here the earth was the floor of the sky. The landscape one longed for when one was far away, the thing all about one, the world one actually lived in, was the sky, the sky!”

Following are four great places to go for your book fix, with the booksellers' own picks. Take your list and you can knock out your Christmas shopping in a delightful afternoon.



Gabriel D'Amassa, age 5, discovers the joy of reading at Readers' Cove in Deming. (Photo by Algernon D'Amassa)



The recently brightly repainted Readers' Cove in Deming. (Photo by Daniel Gauss)

Readers' Cove

Readers' Cove Used Books and Gallery in Deming has been located at 200 S. Copper St. for 17 years. Current owners Margaret Fairman and Daniel Gauss bought the store in May 2012 and kept the name. Margaret's deeply ingrained love of reading and books has been with her since childhood, when she'd talk with friends about owning a bookstore. “When we travel we go to the used bookstores,” she says. “I can tell you all over the country where the used bookstores are.” Her favorite topics tend to fiction, memoirs and nature writings. She just finished reading a book about snakes and commented that “there's not time to read at the store but I'm always taking books home.”

Dan's photography (Shot on Site Photography) is displayed in the store. Margaret says, “It's mostly New Mexico-related: mountains, landscape, flora and fauna, New Mexico creatures, plus vintage cars, fireworks and other miscellaneous.” She also carries

gift items such as collectible dolls and Kachinas.

The Cove's bestselling titles include anything to do with New Mexico and the Apaches. "As soon as I get something in related to Apaches or the Apache Wars, it goes," Margaret says. People passing through the area are often interested in anything about Billy the Kid. Other popular books at Readers' Cove are *The Great River* and *Black Range Tales* as well as *Bless Me, Ultima*. She recommends Ben K. Green's stories of horse trading, wild cows and western veterinary life and also sells "a lot of natural history-type books." There is a big interest in western history and Margaret says, "I'm amazed at the variety of things people come in here looking for."

Margaret Fairman's Essential New Mexico Library

- Black Range Tales* by James A. McKenna
- The Great River* by Paul Horgan
- Catherine's Son: The Story of a Boy Who Became an Outlaw* by James L. Smith (written from perspective of Billy the Kid's mother)
- Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- Milagro Beanfield War* trilogy by John Nichols
- Madame Millie: Bordellos from Silver City to*



Mike Beckett helps customers at Coas Books in Las Cruces. (Photo by Brandon Beckett)

- Ketchikan* by Max Evans
- No Life for a Lady* by Agnes Morley Cleaveland
- Gila Descending* and *Gila Libre!* by Dutch Salmon

Coas Books

Coas has "one of the largest book inventories available anywhere" and is one of the most charming places in Las Cruces to spend some free time. The family-owned enterprise, named with the Nahatual term for "digging sticks," was started in 1984 by historian and archaeologist Pat Beckett. In 2007 his son, Mike, and Mike's family took over, sons Brett and Brandon working alongside their parents. Located on the Downtown Mall at 317 N. Main, the store's convenient proximity to the Las Cruces Farmer's Market (held Wednesdays and Saturdays) is a wonderful excuse to head downtown and get lost in the books for a while. Coas has also expanded into a second location at 1101 S Solano Dr.

"The Land of Enchantment' is such a perfect thing to describe New Mexico," says Mike. He should know, as not only was he born in Las Cruces, but his Lucero family has been in the area since the 1600s.



Coas Books in Las Cruces on market day. (Photo by Brandon Beckett)

READING continued on next page

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READING continued

While studying engineering, he discovered that although he enjoyed it, "I'm too social." Running a bookstore scratches that socializing itch; he really enjoys being with the people who come into the store. He likes visiting with local authors, too. "There's kind of an unknown author by the name of Dan Aranda; he helped write these Fat Boy books.... This guy knows his history, it's amazing.... He's part of the Historical Society and he really knows history, he loves it, he lives it!"

Mike also mentions works by Chris Shurtz, Billy Kiser and John P. Wilson, but says there are so many good local authors he's afraid he'll inadvertently leave one out. As we wander through the store he stops and grabs books off the shelf. Handing me one called *The Texas Rangers* by Charles H. Harris and Louis R. Sadler, he exclaims, "Oh, gosh, these guys have won three Western Spur awards. That's a pretty big accomplishment.... They're both out of NMSU."

He goes on, "One that we push a lot is *Tularosa*, also *Black Range Tales*, the Pot Thief Books by [J. Michael] Orenduff, and the Cricket Coogler books, *Murder Near the Crosses* and *Cricket in the Web*." His favorite photographic book is *The Las Cruces Photographic Journey*, produced by local newsweekly *The Bulletin*.

Mike Beckett's Essential New Mexico Library
Tularosa by C.L. Sonnichsen
The Two Alberts: Fountain and Fall by Gordon R. Owen
Las Cruces by Linda Harris
The Fabulous Frontier, 1846-1912 by William A. Keleher
The Great River by Paul Horgan
Paso Por Aqui by Eugene Manlove Rhodes
A Brief History of New Mexico by Myra Ellen Jenkins and Albert H. Schroeder
Turmoil on the Rio Grande by William Kiser
The Cloud-Climbing Railroad: Highest Point on the Southern Pacific by Dorothy Jensen Neal



Mesilla Book Center, on Old Mesilla Plaza. (Photo by Karen Ray)

Mesilla Book Center

Not many people can say they grew up in a bookstore, but owner Cheryll Blevins really did. The building that houses the Mesilla Book Center on the plaza in Old Mesilla was also her home. The store began life as a mercantile and dates from the 1850s. Blevins says it was remodeled in the 1950s and today remains "pretty much the same." Her mother, Mary Bowlin, born on the Navajo reservation at Fort Defiance, bought the building in 1966



Mural and books inside Mesilla Book Center. (Photo by Karen Ray)



Coas Books with the backdrop of the Organ Mountains. (Photo by Brandon Beckett)

and opened a bookstore, which she ran for over 40 years. David Thomas, author of *La Posta*, a book that has been selling well for the Mesilla Book Center, describes the property: "Lot D: Originally owned by Pedro Perez and his wife, who have a store on the lot. Pedro appears in the 1851 census and is one of the administrators of the Mesilla Civil Colony Grant."

The historic building has two-foot-thick interior walls and some original flooring dating from the days of the Confederate occupation of Mesilla. Paul Blevins, Cheryll's husband, notes that one of the four original fireplaces is decorated with tile from the old Fort Fillmore. Today there is an antique Mexican buggy stored in the small courtyard, originally accessed by a *zaguán*, or alleyway, behind the shop, next to a tile mosaic of St. Francis.

Cheryll's family connections to the plaza and New Mexico history run deep; the Bowlin family has been involved with the Navajos and state history for a long time. Her parents even had the New Mexico pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

The bookstore's business card notes: "Some of the best books never make the bestseller lists." Cheryll says of bookselling, "You don't do it because you make money at it."

The shop carries a tremendous selection of historical books and volumes covering more current border issues in addition to southwestern collectibles, including pottery and Navajo and Chimayo textiles. The wonderful children's room invites a lingering browse among books and toys. When you stop for a visit, the shop dogs will wag a friendly greeting and then leave you to your browsing.

Cheryll Blevins' Essential New Mexico Library ("It's hard to choose")

Tularosa by C.L. Sonnichsen
The Great River by Paul Horgan
Black Range Tales by James A. McKenna
Anything by Tony Hillerman
God's Middle Finger by Richard Grant
The Border Trilogy: All the Pretty Horses, The Crossing, Cities of the Plain by Cormac McCarthy
No Life for a Lady by Agnes Morley Cleaveland
The Rounders by Max Evans
The Time It Never Rained by Elmer Kelton
A Place as Wild as the West Ever Was by Mary Daniels Taylor

She sells quite a few of the "Into the Lawless" books by Richard Grant and also anything about Billy the Kid. There are several interesting ones but Cheryll recommends *The West of Billy the Kid* by Fredrick Nolan. Other popular topics are Pancho Villa and anything about Colonel Albert Fountain, such

as *Murder on the White Sands* by Corey Recko. Cheryll comments that "we have much in common with Old Mexico," due to the border location, and the shop's selection reflects this multicultural nature. Mesilla Book Center stocks beautiful photographic books representing the state as well, including *New Mexico: Portrait of a State* by David Muench and *New Mexico, Wild and Beautiful* by Lawrence Parent and Emily Drabanski.

O'Keefe's Book Shop

Dennis O'Keefe's journey down the road to the world of books commenced with



Interior of Mesilla Book Center. (Photo by Karen Ray)

a “childhood home filled with books. My mom especially loved reading and the books themselves.” But they couldn’t compete with guitar and sports, much “to my mom’s regret,” he relates. He began professional life as a civil engineer out of NMSU, but became bored and “started building adobe homes in Santa Fe...still reading very little. After quitting building and searching for more of an intellectual life, I discovered the beauty and power of books for the first time in my life.”

He opened up O’Keefe’s Books in Silver City in 1984 with his mother, brother and sister-in-law, “all of us pooling some of our own books for the stock.” Years later he took over operation and ownership of the shop, at 102 W. Broadway. In 1996 Dennis met his wife, Allyson Siwik, when she came in the shop one Saturday

during a visit from Connecticut. They now have a lovely 13-year-old daughter, Gabriela.

“We are a mostly used bookstore, as I still prefer the recycling nature of used books,” Dennis explains, “but we do handle some new local and Southwestern books and field guides.” His top-selling books include:

Gila Descending by Dutch Salmon, *Black Range Tales* by James McKenna, *Madam Millie* by Max Evans, *Six-Guns and Single-Jacks: A History of Silver City and Southwestern New Mexico* by Bob Alexander, and *No Life for a Lady* by Agnes Morley Cleveland. His two favorite photographic books are both titled *New Mexico*, one by David Muench and the other by Laurence Parent.

Dennis has a remarkable story about the most memorable book he’s come across: “In the early years of buying books at estate sales, I waited all day to bid on a small box of 100-year-old, leather-bound books.... I persisted and got the books. My favorite one was a huge, four-inch-thick *Don Quixote*, illustrated by Gustave Dore, with probably 150 full-page steel-engraved prints. The book is over a hundred years old and I still love it. I decided back then to keep it for myself and it’s on my shelf at home.”

He still does some book repair and “enjoys being able with simple materials to put a family treasure back together for someone.” In his early years he worked with one of Santa Fe’s top architects and continues architectural design work through O’Keefe Design.

Readers’ Cove Used Books & Gallery, 200 S. Copper St., Deming, (575) 544-2512. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Coas Books, 317 N. Main St., Las Cruces, (575) 524-8471. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Coas Books, 1101 S. Solano Dr., Las Cruces, (575) 647-4472. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sun.
Mesilla Book Center, 2360 Calle Principal, west side of the plaza in Old Mesilla, (575) 526-6220. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.- 5:30 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.
O’Keefe’s Book Shop, 102 W. Broadway, Silver City, (575) 388-3313, Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

In a 2008 Business Exposure column in *Desert Exposure* (“Another Chapter”), Donna Clayton captured Dennis’ enthusiasm for both people and books: “I get to meet the really neat people who want to sell their books, and talk with them about their books. And it’s great to see the look on people’s faces when they find something unique, or even just what they’d been looking for, some obscure book of poetry or something.”

Dennis O’Keefe’s Essential New Mexico Library

- Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols
- Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- Red Sky at Morning* by Richard Bradford
- Tortuga* by Rudolfo Anaya
- A Taco Testimony* by Denise Chavez
- Sky Determines* by Ross Calvin
- Fire on the Mountain* by Edward Abbey
- House at Ottowi Bridge* by Peggy Pond Church
- Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
- People of the Valley* by Frank Waters

Virginia Woolf said, “Second-hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.”

Bookstores are some of the most enjoyable places on the planet. I hope you’ll take the time to stop in

and savor the word-art offered up in these four regional gems. Take your book list with you; you’re bound to find a new addition to your collection of New Mexico books. 🌵

Karen Ray is preserving stories of ranching and farming life in southern New Mexico for a collection of essays. If you have one you’d like to share please contact her at Karen@remembering-thetime.net



Gabriela O’Keefe in front of her dad’s shop in Silver City. (Photo by Dennis O’Keefe)



O’Keefe’s Book Shop in Silver City. (Photo by Dennis O’Keefe)

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Holiday Wrapping

Silver City celebrates the tastes and traditions of tamales, America's oldest Christmas food.

"Do you like to play with your food?" asks Consuelo Hester with a twinkle in her eye. "Because this is like playing with your food."

The 15 students in her Western Institute for Life-long Learning class chuckle, and a few shift nervously in their folding-chair seats in the parish hall of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Silver City. They've assembled this Friday morning to learn how to make tamales, the traditional Mexican holiday fare, and most seem game for whatever Hester (lit-

erally) dishes out. But just how messy will this be?

"You may not want to do it once you see all the paraphernalia and how long it takes," Hester adds, gesturing at the array of bowls, string, corn husks, masa harina packages, chiles, cheese and spoons on the table in front of her. Fortunately, she and

husband Tom—who's serving as her sous chef for the class—have already done most of the prep work: mixing bags full of masa dough from scratch, cooking a turkey and shredding it into a fragrant sauce, soaking dried corn husks (*hojas*) to make them pliable.

The class will be "playing with their food" by learning to spread the masa onto a corn husk—not too much, not too little—held in the hand, using a vigorous motion with the back of a spoon that winds up applying the last swipe of masa to your palm. (If you don't get a little on your hand, you're not doing it right.) Then the students will add a generous dollop of turkey filling—squeeze it with your already-messy hands so it's not too liquid—and fold. Got it? Repeat.

If this were a true *tamalada*, a pre-celebration tamal-making gathering of family as traditional and essential to Hispanic holidays as Christmas cookie-baking is in other parts of the continent, the repetition would continue until the steaming pots on the stove had cooked 30-dozen tamales or more.

"It's not a *tamale*," Hester adds—one last point before getting down to business. "It's a *tamal*."

Hester will also be demonstrating the making of tamales—plural—at the Silver City Museum on Saturday, Dec. 7, as part of the day-long Tamal Fiesta y Más downtown, sponsored by the Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce. The third annual fiesta will feature tamales and other traditional treats, such as capirotada, bizcochos and Mexican hot chocolate, and even red-chile kettle corn. Competitors will vie for top tamal-

making honors, which last year were shared by Masa y Mas and St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Tamales are, as the Lonely Planet travel website puts it, "America's oldest Christmas food." Native peoples started making tamales long before contact with Christianity—the word comes from the Nahuatl *tamalli*—and no one knows for sure how the food came to be associated with this particular holiday. "The general explanation is that no one wants to go through the effort of making them more than once," suggested Lonely Planet writer Andy Murdoch after a tamal-sampling visit to New Mexico, "so you might as well do it for the biggest meal of the year."

The communal tamal-making of the *tamalada* continues a long a tradition of women gathering in the kitchen to labor over filling, masa and *hojas*. So delicate is the process—not so unlike giving birth—that in parts of the Yucatan the tamal is referred to as "the baby." Buying them in the grocery store, as you can around Christmas time throughout the Texas and the Southwest, might be considered non-traditional; ordering tamales online from Williams-Sonoma—\$60 a dozen, shipped frozen—is definitely cheating.

Although tamales are eaten all year, it's the holiday season when *tamaladas* make them in bulk, hundreds at a time. For Mexican families, the holidays begin with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 and extend through Three Kings' Day on Jan. 6. Nearly a month of celebrating can require a lot of tamales.

The process of making tamales, syndicated columnist Gustavo Arellano ("Ask a Mexican") told the *New York Times*, communicates the culture across generations, encompassing the value of family, nourishment and collectiveness. Arellano added, "Tamales are a magical thing."

"I really got introduced to tamales when I was eight years old," Consuelo Hester recalls. "My parents were undocumented workers, living in south Texas, and we didn't have any family there. So we went back across the border on a bus and I was introduced to this big, huge Mexican family. They lived in an old village outside of Monterrey.

"They killed a pig and we all shucked the corn. The women made lard in this big copper pot. Kids in my age group learned about selection; you had to pick perfect *hojas*. We'd shoo the flies away from the meat and masa. Making tamales was an event and a feast, everybody coming together."

When she was a little older, age 12, Hester got to help make the actual tamales. "I've been making them ever since," she says with a smile. "We make them for Christmas, New Year's, Day of the Dead, weddings, birthdays, baptisms, any place you see large families. Five years ago, we drove to Chicago to visit my sister, and there she was on Christmas Eve, making tamales to eat after midnight Mass."

She adds, "I don't know how to make small amounts. The way I make them, it's five dozen."

Fortunately, tamales freeze well; the fully cooked samples she's brought for the class to take home are frozen into bricks of a half-dozen, wrapped in aluminum foil. To reheat, she advises, steam without thawing first just as you would cook newly made tamales, but allow 90 minutes to two hours, rather than 45 to 60 minutes, because they're frozen. You can also grill pre-cooked tamales, still in the husk, or microwave them.

Asked about sauces for tamales or other fancy fixings, she wrinkles her nose. "The way I learned to eat them, growing up, we ate them right out of the pot and you tried to get as many as you could as fast as you could. It's a hand food.

"You do have to peel them," Hester reminds her class of tamal novices. "Don't eat it with the husk!"

Tamales date to pre-Columbian times, probably from what is now Mexico, when warriors needed a portable yet sustaining food. They could



Hester's tamales, sealed with the masa dough, can simply be folded rather than tied individually, then bound in batches of six for steaming.

be made in advance, to be warmed directly atop a bed of coals, steamed or grilled, even eaten cold on the move. Some scholars believe leaf-wrapped tamales predated those wrapped in corn husks.

But corn has always been the essence of the tamal. Early Mesoamerican peoples believed that the gods created humans out of corn, and their diets went a long way toward making that metaphorical literal. First they domesticated *maize*, then developed the process of nixtamalization that made the primitive kernels digestible and nutritive to the human body: The hard corn was soaked with water and ashes (to make an alkaline solution), then hulled and ground into corn flour, known as masa. Today the process usually employs limewater, and is used in the production of tortillas and tortilla chips, hominy and of course tamales.

The nutritional benefits of the process "saved the entire Mesoamerican civilization," according to Claudia Alarcón, a Texas cultural historian who is writing a book on the history of tamales. The painstakingly wrapped tamales, she told the SeattlePI.com web-



Hester demonstrates spreading the masa with the back of a spoon.

site, became a part of ritual offerings—even a sort of human stand-in: "When the conquistadores came, and human sacrifice was no longer acceptable, they used tamales as a substitute, placing little bundles of corn as offerings."

Although pork, beef and chicken are the most common fillings in traditional Mexican tamales, over the centuries tamales have been made with cheese, fish, frogs, turkey, mushrooms, rabbit, goat, wild boar, lamb, ox, gopher and even ants. Sweet tamales have contained chocolate, raisins, honey, bananas, pumpkin, berries and pineapple. In a second WILL class on sweet tamales, Hester features chocolate with pine nuts and star anise, cinnamon and pecans; she has also made them with raisins and other dried fruits, and is experimenting with an "apple pie" tamal filling.

Fillings also vary by geography. Garfish tamales are popular in the Gulf Coast state of Tabasco. In Oaxaca, in southwestern Mexico, tamales are wrapped in plantain leaves instead of corn husks and filled with chicken, onions and a mole made with poblano peppers and chocolate. Venezuelan versions, called *hallacas*, favor a filling of pork, raisins and olives. People in Chiapas, Mexico, and in Guatemala make bean-filled tamales, similar to the "broadswords" or bean bread enjoyed by the Cherokee. Brazilians make a sort of corn dumpling called *pamonhas*, while Cuban street vendors cook up a masa and meat porridge known as *tamal en cazuela*.

Tamales came to the United States with Mexican immigrants to places like San Antonio, Texas, and Los Angeles, where they were so



Consuelo Hester holds up an *hoja* and asks her WILL class, "Do you like to play with your food?" (Photos by David A. Fryxell)

Masa spread and filling added, the tamal gets folded—first the sides, then from the bottom.



popular by the 1870s that city officials struggled to regulate an army of street vendors. California celebrates its tamal heritage with the annual Indio International Tamale Festival, held every December, which has set records both for the world's largest tamal (40 feet in length) and as "the world's largest cooking and culinary festival." Texas adopted tamales with equal enthusiasm, and entire makeshift factories spring up to meet Dallas' holiday-season hunger.

The rest of America first experienced tamales at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where even today machine-made tamales wrapped in paper are sold alongside hot-dog stands.

A different strand of tamal heritage was already established, however, in northern Louisiana, where Spanish settlers from central Mexico arrived in 1721. A Tamale Fiesta is still held every October in Zwolle, Louisiana. Perhaps as an offshoot of this culinary tradition, or inspired by later migrant Mexican laborers, African-Americans in the Mississippi Delta developed a spicy "tamale" made from cornmeal instead of masa, boiled in corn husks. Roving vendors of these tamales pop up in the lyrics of early 20th-century blues music, and Robert Johnson sang about them in a popular 1937 song, "They're Red Hot."

The "tamale pie," a sort of cornbread casserole, was invented around the turn of the 20th century as a lazy alternative to hand-wrapped tamales. Don't even talk to the cooks at a true *tamalada* about "tamale pie."

In Consuelo Hester's *WILL tamalada*, it's all about the ingredients. "Try to find the freshest types of food, especially the chiles," she advises. "I prefer anchos, but it's hard to find ones that are fresh, not old.



Consuelo Hester checks on a pot full of steaming tamales, while husband and sous chef Tom looks on.

"I don't know how to make small amounts. The way I make them, it's five dozen."

"If your tamales taste too bland, put more chiles in. You don't want a hot burn—you want to be able to taste it when eating it, to taste the meat inside. And don't just boil the meat; put in carrots, celery, chiles and my favorite, garlic. For pork tamales, I start with a 10-pound pork shoulder roast."

Finding good hojas is crucial. She'll shop at Pro's Ranch Market in Las Cruces, but also picked up a tamal-making kit at "Wally's" (she refuses to call it "WalMart") that has promise. Avoid dried corn husks with brown areas or dark spots, Hester says. "And if you see huge ones, run away!"

Traditional tamales are tied with a strip of the corn husk, but here Hester departs from the old ways. "I got modern," she confesses, holding up a ball of twine and a pair of scissors.

None of the recipes she hands out to the class calls for lard, another traditional component. You can make the masa dough, Hester says, with shorten-

TAMALES continued on next page

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ing, butter, margarine or even canola oil, in a recipe she dubs “Heart Smart Masa.” If you want to use olive oil, she recommends freezing it first.

She also opts for the modern in choosing how to mix the dough, recommending a heavy-duty stand mixer. Start with a whisk to beat the shortening, salt and baking powder until fluffy, then switch to a paddle attachment and add the moistened masa harina in handfuls. Beat, slowly adding vegetable or chicken stock, “until the masa is smooth, about the consistency of cake frosting.” Then whip for another 25 to 30 minutes until fluffy.

Another of her recipes says simply, “Beat together all the ingredients. Beat till smooth. Beat some more.”

How do you know when you’ve worked the masa dough enough? “Drop a grape-sized bit of masa into cold water. If it floats, it’s airy enough to spread on the hojas. If it sinks, beat another five minutes and try again.”

Taking a well-soaked corn husk and a healthy dollop of masa dough, she sets the open husk in her palm and applies a smear of masa with the back of a spoon. (Not the tip of the spoon, but the bowl.) With each whisk of masa, she moves the husk around in her hand to present a fresh canvas. With each whisk, too, a yellowish line of dough winds up on her palm at the end of the stroke.

She covers slightly more than the top half of the husk with masa, then adds the filling. The sides fold in—one, two. Unlike tamales made more like a burrito, with the masa plopped in the middle rather than spread like peanut butter on a sandwich, this approach sacrifices a little masa when the steamed tamal is unwrapped. It has the advantage, however, of employing the sticky dough to seal the folded tamal.

Up goes the bottom to complete the basic tamal fold. The top remains open, so the tamales need to stand upright in the steamer. Because of the dough’s adhesion, it’s not necessary to tie each individual tamal to keep it closed. Hester places them, folded side down, on a cutting board until she has a half-dozen, then runs twine around the entire bunch.

Into the steamer they go, with extra hojas in-between layers. “If you do not have a stew pot with a rack on the bottom,” her recipe handout advises, “crumple aluminum foil to make about a three-inch reservoir where you pour water and place 10 small pebbles. When the pebbles click during cooking, you know you don’t need to add water. When the clicking stops, add boiling water to the pot.” (Another layer of hojas goes between the aluminum foil and the tamales bundle.)

Cook covered for about 45 minutes. Cool slightly and enjoy with family.

In Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell’s house, the traditional Christmas fare is Scandinavian krumkake.

Right: Hester displays a finished batch of tamales, hot out of the steamer.



Entertainers at last year’s Tamal Fiesta y Más.

Hot Tamales!

Activities for the third annual Tamal Fiesta y Más in Silver City include:

On Broadway west of Bullard Street, Saturday, Dec. 7:

10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Food and folk art vendors

10-11 a.m.: Opening ceremony with a mariachi troupe

11:15 a.m.-noon: Traditional dancers from Chihuahua, Mexico

Noon: Tamal judging, awards for best traditional and gourmet tamales

1-4 p.m.: Tardeada, street party with live music, dancing, shopping and food

At the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway:

Friday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m.: Book signing with Stacia Spragg-Braude, author of *If There’s Squash Bugs in Heaven, I Ain’t Staying*, about a woman farmer from Corrales, NM

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. for adults, 1 p.m. for children: Tamal-making workshops with Consuelo Hester. Learn about cultural heritage in the kitchen. Also, the museum will have printouts of traditional Hispanic recipes available all day.

At the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College:

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.: Storytime, with an Hispanic foods theme.

For more information, call (575) 538-1337 or visit www.tamalfiestaymas.org.

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LOOKING BACKWARD • JEFF BERG

The Home Front

The good, the bad and the curious aspects of New Mexico's role in World War II.

Every day we lose more and more World War II veterans. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the armed forces during the war, it is estimated that about 600 per day don't make it to the next sunrise. Somewhere between 1.2 and 1.7 million

of those US veterans still survive to mark Pearl Harbor Day this month.

New Mexico, as everyone knows, played an enormous role in the war—the development and testing of the atomic bomb at Los Alamos and White Sands, respectively.

Then there were the members of the New Mexico National Guard

who were captured at Bataan and took part in the Bataan Death March and imprisonment. About 1,800 New Mexicans participated in the battle at Bataan, with fewer than half returning home after the end of the war. Battery G of the 200th Coast Artillery, part of the Bataan defense, listed its home station as Silver City, while the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Battery listed Deming as their home stations. The 200th was an offshoot of the New Mexican cavalry units that were sent to Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

New Mexican members of the Dine (Navajo) tribe became “Code Talkers,” whose distinctive language helped defeat the Japanese army in the Pacific. (There were also Comanche Code Talkers in the European Theatre, and several from the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa were used in North Africa.)

Although not a Code Talker, Sgt. Joe Kieyoomia was a Dine of the 200th Coast Artillery who was taken prisoner on Bataan and survived the Death March and several years of imprisonment. He was tortured repeatedly, including being forced to stand in the snow until his feet froze, tearing the skin off his soles when he was finally allowed to move. His captors at first thought he was a Japanese traitor, but when they finally realized that error they tried to force Sgt. Kieyoomia to break the code. He was not trained in the Code Talkers' lingo, which used shortened and metaphorical versions of the native language (such as the Dine word for “potato” for “hand grenade”), and he thought it was gibberish. Sgt. Kieyoomia also has the distinction of surviving the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, crediting the thick concrete walls of his prison cell for his survival.

New Mexico also contributed two journalistic icons, writer Ernie Pyle and cartoonist Bill Mauldin, to the story of World War II. War correspondent Pyle, although originally from Indiana, was fond of Albuquerque, where he lived for a few years before his death in the Pacific. He wasn't as embracing of other parts of our fair state, noting that many of the authors and artists in Santa Fe were “freaks and pretenders,” who had “overinflated views of themselves.” (That same sentiment is shared by many 70 years later.)

Mauldin, who was born in Mountain Park, NM, in Otero County, later moved to Arizona, but is still seen as a great New Mexico-bred talent. His car-

toon work, often depicting “Willie and Joe,” two bedraggled infantrymen, led to a great print career and earned him two Pulitzer Prizes.

But New Mexico went above and beyond the call of duty in other ways as well. Nearly 50,000 men from the state were drafted or enlisted in the armed services, with around 2,500 New Mexicans giving their lives. New Mexico had the highest rate of volunteers and the highest percentage of casualties of all the then-48 states.

Additionally, New Mexico was home to prison camps, several Japanese-American internment camps, artillery and aerial bombing ranges, training stations, and a number of other military installations, many of which were clustered in southern New Mexico.

Among them was the Alamogordo Army Air Field, which is now Holloman Air Base, a training base for B-17 and B-24 bomber crews. It also was a base where WASPs—Women Airforce Service Pilots—were used, flying B-17s, C-47s and at least six other types of planes. They did cargo deliveries, search missions and flight checks.

WASPs served extensively stateside, with nearly 1,100 women passing the training of the 25,000 or so that applied. WASPs were also used at Biggs Field in El Paso, Clovis Army Air Field, Deming Army Air Field (where the women flew at least four different types of military aircraft) and Fort Sumner Army Air Field, where they were used as utility pilots for C-47s and C-53s. No African-American women were allowed as WASPs, although one Lakota Sioux was accepted; it is not clear if any Latinas were part of the crew. During the short existence of the WASPs, 38 women died. They were not considered veterans or even part of the military until the late 1970s, after a long fight with the military higher-ups.

Other air bases were established in Carlsbad, Roswell, Hobbs and of course Albuquerque, the former Albuquerque Army Air Base. That base is now Kirtland Air Force Base, the sixth largest airbase in the US. All were used for training.

The famed Tuskegee airmen, the US' first African-American aerial combat group, also trained in Deming and Roswell.

Prisoners of war were also sent to New Mexico, which had at least three camps:

in Santa Fe; in Roswell near the Walker Airbase, which held about 4,800 German and Italian soldiers; and Camp Lordsburg, which housed German and Italian prisoners and more Japanese internees. The latter had “branch” camps in Hatch, Fort Bayard, Deming, Anthony and Las Cruces (from which Werner Paul Lueck escaped in 1945, not being caught again until 1954 in Mexico City), as pointed out in Roger Lanse's interesting book, *World War II Prisoner of War Camps in Southwest New Mexico* (“Stalag Lordsburg,” June 2011). Lanse notes that there were nearly 700 POW camps or branches in the US during the war, which held a half-million prisoners over the course of the conflict.

In New Mexico, the prisoners were used for all types of work, from agriculture to clerical to construction, and were paid \$3 per day, the minimum wage of the times. Prisoners also helped build the state fairgrounds in Albuquerque.

There is mention of another camp at the Portales fairgrounds where Italian prisoners were held, but there is not much information available about the accuracy of that possibility.

An interesting story that took place at Deming, a camp that was used for less than a year, was the escape of Georg Gartner, a German prisoner, who was never recaptured. Even though the war had ended, Gartner wasn't too anxious to return home after learning that



“You'll get over it, Joe. Once I was gonna write a book: exposin' the army after th' war myself.”

New Mexican Bill Mauldin won two Pulitzer Prizes for his “Willie and Joe” cartoons.

his hometown was in the hands of the Russian Army. After being pressured by his American wife, in 1985 he turned himself in. He was formally “forgiven” and became a US citizen and lived until January of this year.

Lordsburg's place in history as a Japanese internment camp was sealed in July 1942, when two Japanese men, Toshio Kabata, age 58, a farmer from California afflicted with TB, and Hirota Isomua, 59, a fisherman in California who had spinal injuries and who is said to have walked with a stoop, disembarked from a train in Lordsburg. While one of the soldiers assigned to guard them went for water, the second, a PFC Clarence Bureson, shot and killed both men, whom he claimed tried to escape. Bureson was court-martialed and charge with manslaughter, but was found not guilty. Locally, he was briefly feted as a hero; an officer kept the shotgun-shell casings from the gun that killed the two men, proclaiming that Bureson deserved a medal. That did not happen.

Camp Santa Fe housed POWs and Japanese internees as well over the course of the war. It was not without its own problems, the first being when a group of armed locals went to the camp in early 1942, bent on revenge after hearing of the Bataan Death March. The camp commandant talked them out of it, noting that any action might lead to harsher treatment of American POWs by the Japanese.

In March 1945, an uprising by some of the Japanese took place, when they were protesting the transfer of three of their comrades who were leaders of an earlier protest. Some rocks were thrown at Border Patrol agents and the response was quick and harsh, as the guards used batons and tear-gas grenades to break up the melee. Four Japanese were injured and taken to hospital.

As reported in the *Montreal Gazette*, of all places, four German sailors escaped the camp located at Fort Stanton, near Capitan: “A mounted, gun-toting posse of ranchers and cattlemen rounded up and corralled four escaped German prisoners from the federal internment camp at Fort Stanton today. On[e] prisoner was wounded slightly in a brief exchange of gunfire as the posse surprised the sleeping Germans on a hillside in the Lincoln National Forest about 14 miles from Fort Stanton. The Germans, seamen from the scuttled liner *Columbus*, were interned after the outbreak of the European war in 1939.”

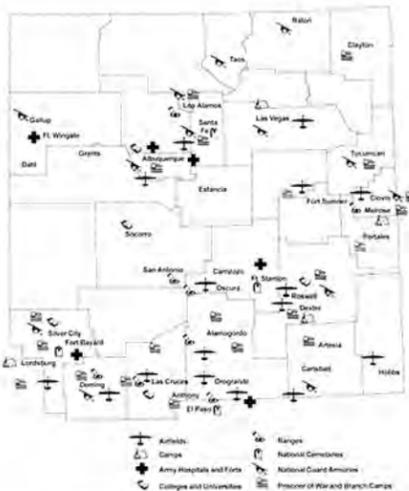
Perhaps that soldier was the only Axis casualty on the US mainland.

Bombing ranges were also numerous, used by flyers for practice. The ranges were used for dummy bombs made of concrete or that were metal shells that were filled with sand. A smoke charge was inside each “bomb,” to mark where it landed. In Albuquerque, mock airplanes were placed



A crowd gathers in the plaza in Taos on Dec. 11, 1942, to hear the US' declaration of war. (National Archives)

Map of New Mexico's WWII sites. (City of Albuquerque)



Military Activities in New Mexico During World War II 1939-1945



Fiery aftermath of the "bat bomb" test in Carlsbad.

on tall poles and were used for target practice by aerial gunners.

Our fair state was also the home of two other unusual war-era incidents, one during the war and one a couple of years after, which demand a notation.

The first was the testing of a new device called the "bat bomb." An idea proposed by a dentist, Dr. Lytle Adams, the bat bomb came to be when he discovered that bats could carry up to three times their own weight, which would allow for them to be used to "firebomb" Japan.

According to nowiknow.com, Adams' theory was straightforward: Collect a million of bats and strap timed incendiary devices to their backs while they hibernated. Stick a thousand of them each into a thousand bombs designed to open at high altitudes. Fly over Japan at night, drop the bombs, and then let the bats fly

around. When daybreak came, the theory went, the bats would hide in dark places—such as attics. The timer would tick down shortly after and, without obvious explanation, hundreds of thousands of Japanese buildings (which were built mostly of wood and paper) would burn to the ground.

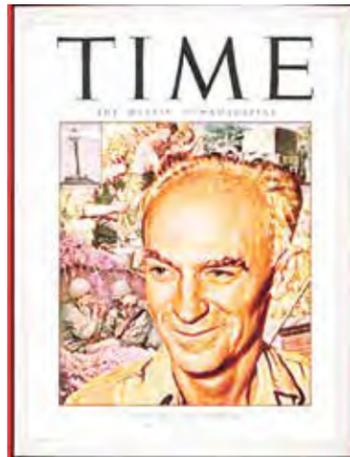
The military liked the idea so much that it allotted \$2 million for the project, which started in 1942, but was scrubbed in 1944, since it would have taken at least another year to develop. But that was only after some bats that were accidentally released burned a test range in Carlsbad, where the idea was being tested, due to the availability of the millions of bats that roost in the caverns. Not content with that, the disgruntled bats, with explosives attached, went to roost under a fuel tank.

A V-2 rocket, the awful weapon developed by Germany for World War II, also made history in New Mexico, but not until 1947. That was when an errant variation of the V-2, the Hermes 2 missile, was fired from White Sands, and due to a "breakdown in missile range safety protocol" was launched and headed a bit too far south, landing ironically in a cemetery 3.5 miles south of Juarez, Mexico. The missile took only five minutes to reach its destination, creating a crater 50 feet across and 24 feet deep.

There were no injuries, apologies were made and



The WWII-vintage V-2 rocket that struck Juarez (right) from White Sands in 1947.



War correspondent Ernie Pyle lived in Albuquerque.

the area cleaned up at US taxpayers' expense.

Quipped an expatriate German scientist working on the project at White Sands: "We were the first German unit to not only infiltrate the United States, but to attack Mexico from US soil!"

War never serves any useful purpose, but when it was required, New Mexicans certainly proved that they would do their part to bring the world back to some semblance of peace. ☘

Longtime Desert Exposure contributor Jeff Berg now lives in Santa Fe.

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FICTION • PHILLIP PAROTTI

Cotton and Cepeda

In the school of street smarts, these young entrepreneurs were way at the head of the class.

Editor's note: Our special holiday gift to readers is the return of Phillip "Pep" Parotti, whose autobiographical (and otherwise) tales of growing up in Silver City have enlivened our pages many times. This entertaining yarn is more fiction than non- (we think) and will leave you smiling as much as any present under your tree.

Have I known them long? Cotton and Cepeda? Ray Cotton and Rudy Cepeda? Well... yes. I think they both joined our class right after the Korean War ended. That was in '53, so we must have been starting the sixth grade at the time. Their fathers were Korean War veterans, but before that, I think that both men had been drafted during the Second World War. Afterward, they'd been in the reserves, so they'd had the bad luck to be called up a second time for Korea.

I saw Cotton's father a few times; he worked as a jack-of-all-trades for one of the Realtors, and from what I recall, he was a lean man and didn't smile much. According to Cotton, his father had been wounded in Korea and had a purple heart. Someone—maybe it was Jesse Wallman—told me that the Cottons had moved up here from one of the villages south of El Paso, from Fabens or Fort Hancock, where their father had worked for the railroad between the wars. I didn't know Cepeda's father, but he worked at the Santa Rita mine, on a drilling crew, or so Rudy told us. Cepeda and his sisters had been born in Bisbee,

clothes to wear—often hand-me-downs from older relatives or friends—and we could go to the movie or out to dinner once a month, but we didn't have "money," and neither did anyone else we knew.

With Cotton and Cepeda, I think things were harder. Even in the dead of winter with snow on the ground, neither of them wore anything warmer than a Levi jacket, but at that age, it never occurred to us that they might have been cold. Cotton's family drove an old Jeep with a canvas cab cover, and the family seemed to hunt or fish every weekend of the year. We assumed that they were all keen on sport, and we were rather envious; it never crossed our minds that such activities were the main means for putting meat on the Cottons' table.

Once or twice in the spring, when our baseball coach drove us home from Little League practice, 14 of us wedged into the bed of his pickup, we dropped Cepeda off at his house on Brewer Hill, and that came as a revelation. His family of six seemed to be living in an adobe shotgun house with a cook shack standing to one side and an outhouse out back. When we let him off, I could see homemade, three-tiered bunk beds on either side of the front door with a single table, a single chair and a pot-bellied stove standing at the rear of the one room. As I was to learn, several of our schoolmates lived in similar houses, because in those days The Hill harbored more than a few of them, with little or no plumbing and precious little heat.

The Cotton family, living in an old frame house partway up the Pinos Altos Road, might have been slightly better off but not by much. I know for a

fact that Mrs. Cotton still cooked on a wood stove because I once had one of her biscuits, and Ray told me that it was the wood stove that made her biscuits so fluffy.

What I'm trying to say is that right from the beginning, both of those boys had seen rough going, and that, I have to suppose, is what caused the two of them to be a little ahead of the rest of us in what we are today calling the department of street smarts. Each, in one way or another, knew how to squeeze a nickel out of a wood chip, and when you put them together, they made an effective team.

With Cotton and Cepeda, the entrepreneurial urge struck early and struck deep. In those days, child labor laws being what they were, all we boys had jobs of one kind or another. Allowances for the girls seldom topped a quarter a week, enough to cover the cost of a movie and a box of popcorn, but for the boys, things were different. I worked Saturday mornings in a mom-and-pop grocery around the corner from my house, earning the princely sum of 25 cents per hour for stacking the shelves, sweeping the floor, and keeping the cooler filled with sodas. Two of my friends mowed lawns throughout the warm months and managed to make their way through winter on the proceeds. Three others had newspaper routes.

As soon as the leaves began to fall, Cotton and Cepeda went into the leaf-raking business, earning an hourly wage for their labor while contriving to double their profit by selling the bagged leaves to people who wished to use them for compost. That was regular employment in my book, but where I learned that they had to be watched was when the two of them went into the pencil business.

At school in 1954, we still did our written work with fountain pens; ballpoints were only in their infancy, and our teachers didn't like them because the ink tended to smear. Arithmetic, science and a host of other assignments were still done in pencil, and when this or that classmate sharpened his or her pen-

cil down to the nub, it had been customary to "borrow" a pencil from a classmate who had two. Cotton and Cepeda did their best to change that practice.

From somewhere—from the garbage cans behind the college dorms and the nearby high school, I suspected—they acquired an inventory of *pre-owned* pencils, some of them with teeth marks, few of them with erasers intact, none of them more than three or four inches in length. They began selling these gems to us in the capacity of "stop-gaps" for a "reduced price." That is, a new pencil bought from the nearest grocery store cost five cents; a *C & C Special*—even that early they had already adopted the *C & C* logo for their enterprises—cost three cents, unless the used pencil was more than four inches long, whereupon the price tended to go up. (Cepeda carried a flexible plastic ruler in his hip pocket, a handy reference to be used when closing a deal.) I won't tell you that the boys made a heap of money from this venture, but they did make money until Miss Bascomb, our teacher, discovered what they were doing and put a stop to it by supplying the principal's office with a box of new pencils that could be purchased for one penny each.

What I like to remember as The Great Snake Scam followed shortly thereafter. In the mid-Fifties, almost all of us belonged to the Boy Scouts. Aside from weekly troop meetings, weekend hikes, quarterly overnight camp-outs, the annual merit badge show, and our yearly first-aid competitions, the really big event of the year, the one to which every boy looked forward, was summer camp. This promised one entire week to be spent 20 miles north of town, high up in the Gila National Forest at Camp Tuff Moses, a small paradise located on Meadow Creek at the foot of Signal Peak. The mere thought of spending a whole week unrestrained by parental rules, sleeping in tents, staying up late, reliving the adventures of real mountain men was more than enough to gladden the heart of every boy under the age of 14—if, that is, one could raise the \$14 camp fee. That fee covered, probably, what passed for food in the mess hall and a few minor incidentals such as our entrance physical, which was designed to prevent us from carrying chicken pox or measles into the camp.

I wasn't working in that mom-and-pop grocery for nothing; I had Camp Tuff Moses in mind. I am fairly certain, too, that the *C & C* pencil business added at least a dollar or two to what Cotton and Cepeda had been saving up from their leaf-raking venture toward the camp fee. So, when the time came, right after school let out, we packed our knapsacks, rolled our sleeping bags, laid down our entry fee, and set off for a joyous week at Boy Scout camp.

Now, I must say that with regard to most things, Cotton and Cepeda were fearless. They had no hesitation about climbing higher into Silver City's ubiquitous Chinese elm trees than any of the rest of us were prepared to go. Cotton, risking life and limb, regularly practiced for track season by pole vaulting over barbed-wire fences, and when we were attempting to eradicate a wasp's nest somewhere around town, something which Silver City had in abundance, both boys were invariably in the forefront with whatever weapons they could bring to bear.

But when it came to handling reptiles, I happened to know for a fact that both of them were terrified of snakes and lived in mortal fear of crossing paths with so much as a bull snake or, worse yet, a live rattler. I knew this, and therefore, on the third day of camp that year, while I was sitting on a rock 10 or 15 feet above a shallow pool on Meadow Creek, whit-tling with my jack knife, I was not surprised to see the two of them turn over a rock below me and then leap about six feet into the air as they jerked to back away. What they had done was to uncover a nest of harmless baby water snakes, none of them more than 10 inches long.

Once the shock of their discovery wore off, frightened but fascinated, they each picked up a long stick and began, more or less, to herd the little reptiles—which, being so recently hatched, appeared to have no intention of leaving the water. And it was in that moment, not more than a minute or two after the snakes had been uncovered, that the lambs showed up to be shorn.

The lambs in this case, a group of eight or nine urban scouts from an El Paso troop, all of them wearing "Tenderfoot" badges on their uniforms, all of them under the supposed leadership of one "Second Class"



but their father had brought them all over here after he came back from Korea because the Bisbee mine was closing while the copper pit at Santa Rita was thriving.

Oh, no, nothing of the sort. Both of them settled right in and adjusted to the rest of us in quick time. Most of us, boys as well as girls, had been together since kindergarten. Once, in the fourth grade, a girl had joined the class who was not accepted, but she was with us only for a brief stretch and moved somewhere else within a couple of months. Cotton and Cepeda were accepted immediately. Sports, or what passed for sports in those days—touch football on the September playground—broke the ice. Cotton was fast, and Cepeda had a good throwing arm, so we weren't three days into the first week of school before those talents put them on greased grooves. What we boys accepted, the girls also tended to accept, so within a week or two, it was as though they had started with us from the beginning and always been a part of our class. There was, however, a slight catch to our relations, and it is about that catch which I probably ought to inform you.

During the time I was growing up in Silver City, by national standards, we kids were all poor only we didn't know it. My father, a teacher, did well enough, but nevertheless, we still raised chickens and tended a good garden in the spring and summer because we needed to supplement what we bought at the grocery store. Food was expensive; the monthly grocery bill took more than a quarter of my father's salary, while we were also trying to pay a mortgage and making payments on our first car. We had enough to eat,

From somewhere—
from the garbage
cans behind the
college dorms and the
nearby high school,
I suspected—they
acquired an inventory
of pre-owned pencils.



scout, appeared unannounced from around a boulder in the direction of the mess hall. They spotted Cotton and Cepeda stirring the waters and hastened forward, intrigued.

"Our snakes," Cepeda replied. "Once a day, we bring them down to this pool and exercise them."

"Hey," the one in the lead called out, "whatcha got there?"

Cotton, playing it cool, said nothing but continued to stir the waters amidst the snakes, leaving Cepeda to seize the opportunity and open the negotiation.

"Our snakes," Cepeda said, in a calm, flat voice, barely glancing in the direction of the newcomers. "We're exercising them."

"Whadayatalkin' about?" said the kid from El Paso.

"Our snakes," Cepeda replied. "Once a day, we bring them down to this pool and exercise them. They need exercise just like you and me."

"Hey, wanna sell one?" said one of the Tenderfeet, rushing forward enthusiastically.

"Well," Cepeda said, hesitating, sounding like he would rather cut off his right foot than part with one of the little darlings, "I dunno."

"I'll give you 25 cents for one!" the Tenderfoot offered.

Cepeda looked grim. And again, he hesitated, and then he turned to Cotton. "Whadaya think?" he said. "Do you want to sell Rover or, maybe, Harry?"

"I dunno," Cotton said, finally turning in the direction of the El Paso troop. "Fact is, we've gone to a lot of trouble to collect these snakes. We've been working at it for the last three days, and then, if you see what I mean, we sort of hate to break up the herd. If, maybe, you guys would be willing to buy the lot for say... oh, 50 cents each, and collect them after they finish with their exercise, and keep them together as troop mascots, well... I suppose we might be willing to let them go."

Personally, with that bit about collecting "them after they finish with their exercise" and keeping "them together as troop mascots," I thought Cotton had overplayed his hand. I thought the Tenderfeet would break out laughing. They didn't. Instead, they coughed up, leading me to believe that their patrol

leader, the Second Class scout, was either an idiot or too much caught up in the excitement of the moment. Cotton and Cepeda immediately collected \$4.25, while nine Boy Scouts from El Paso waded straight into the pool and began chasing snakes. If you are wondering about the odd 25 cents, one of the Tenderfeet had only a quarter, so they "cut a deal" by selling him the runt of the litter.

No, nothing of the sort. When we all finally got to high school, rather than tone down their operations, Cotton and Cepeda turned *C & C Enterprises* into a going concern. First, if memory serves, came the sunflower-seed concession, Cotton and Cepeda buying sunflower seeds wholesale from the local grocery warehouse and selling them for an inflated price before and between classes. That worked pretty well for about two months, until the janitors complained about having to sweep up so many of the discarded shells. Mr. Craven, our principal, he of the 300 pounds and the foghorn voice, summoned Cotton and Cepeda to the office. With his usual keen eye, Mr. Craven had failed utterly to notice that sunflower seeds were being sold, but after being informed by the school secretary, she who knew everything about everything that went on in our school, "operations" were closed at once, and adjustments were set in motion.

Cotton and Cepeda next established *C & C Catering: Food for the Gods!* This business operated from the trunk of a dilapidated 1942 Ford, still painted olive drab—something, I have to imagine, that Cotton and Cepeda had acquired from an Army surplus auction or a condemned junk yard in a place like Deming or, perhaps, Lordsburg. Understand, if you will, that in those days we still qualified for New Mexico driver's licenses at the age of 14, so once those two had their licenses, they invested the proceeds of the sunflower-seed business in the '42 Ford and got it for about \$35, or so Cepeda claimed. That car was such a wreck and the tires so slick that I don't know how they ever managed to keep it running, but in fact, the heap formed the foundation of their business.

They were able to race away from school at noon, whip straight down to Bennie's Diner on Pope Street, pick up whatever hot dogs they'd pre-ordered for the day—all nicely wrapped in clean waxed paper—and rush back to the high school parking lot within 15 minutes. There, applying a 100% markup, they swiftly sold out to hungry students who were trying to avoid the school cafeteria. Business proved invariably brisk; as everyone knew, the food in the school cafeteria resembled the swill from a piggery, particularly on Friday when ground bottom-feeders were offered in imitation of fish.

Eventually, someone complained, and in this case, it happened to be the bookkeeper who kept books for the cafeteria. The rub was that Cotton and Cepeda were feeding about a hundred students each day, so the cafeteria teetered on the verge of bankruptcy. A health inspector was summoned, and as soon as he took one look at the *C & C Catering* vehicle where the cooler used to keep the hot dogs warm happened to be resting on the boiled-out skeleton of a deceased raccoon, *C & C Catering* was closed down under

COTTON AND CEPEDA continued on next page

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COTTON AND CEPEDA continued

threat of swift legal action.

Candy bars, bottles of pop, cigars and other such items never sold as well for *C & C* as the hot dogs, so I have no option but to think that our sophomore year in high school offered slim pickings for Cotton and Cepeda. But during our junior year, in chemistry class, when the two of them hit upon the idea of renting test tubes to students, they struck a gold mine and managed to work it to the limit for about a month.

By nothing more than pure chance, Cotton happened to be in the lab, alone, on the day when a delivery man showed up at the door with a large crate of brand-new test tubes, which Mr. Martinez, our chemistry teacher, had been anxiously waiting to receive. Time and normal breakage had made a considerable dent in the preceding year's supply of test tubes. Because we were about to start qualitative analysis, Cotton knew that large numbers of the glass tubes would be needed in order for each student to complete the associated experiments. Once more seizing an opportunity, Cotton shifted about half the contents of that delivery into his and Cepeda's individual storage drawers, carefully hiding them beneath old lab aprons.

During the weeks that followed, when this or that student ran short of test tubes, Cotton or Cepeda generously offered to *loan* their classmates any number of additional test tubes for only a small rental fee. As I recall, it came to about a nickel a test tube. I caught onto the scam after it had been in operation for two weeks, but I don't think that Mr. Martinez ever did. Business continued undetected until it ended swiftly one afternoon—leaving *C & C Enterprises* with profits well into the black—when Lola Fae McNight carelessly set the lab on fire with a Bunsen burner. This unexpected event caused the chemistry classes to dispense with lab work for the remainder of the year.

Well, *no*. The "test tube rental" was a clever project, but it was far from the slickest thing that I ever saw Cotton and Cepeda try. Now, understand, if you will, that I left for college in 1959, so what *C & C Enterprises* might have undertaken between 1959 and 2005 when I retired and returned here, I really can't say. Given the houses those two are presently living in, the cars their wives are driving, and the businesses that I'm told they own, they seem to have done very well for themselves. But

"What the hell would any self-respecting New Mexican want with a bunch of poblano chile peppers?"

you the truth, I'm not sure I want to.

What I remember as their attempt at a "Grand Slam" happened a long, long time ago—in the fall of 1958 to be exact, not long after we had started our senior year in high school. It was about the time that the Republican Party was starting to assemble a war chest for the 1960 presidential campaign as well as a host of local and state races.

One morning in September, about two weeks after we started school, about the time the chile roasters began to appear around all the grocery stores, I got a telephone call from Cotton.

"Rudy and I could use a little help," he said. "We're going to pick up some chile. Want to go for a ride? We'll promise to have you back before supper."

I wasn't working that day, so I said, "Sure."

Fifteen minutes later, I was surprised to see a stake truck stop in front of the house and honk the horn. I had, I suppose, expected to see the pickup they had bought to replace the '42 Ford. Where they had found the stake truck was anyone's guess, but as soon as I saw it, I knew why they needed me: They weren't going after *some* chile; they were going after *a lot* of chile.



They generously offered to loan their classmates any number of additional test tubes for only a small rental fee.

The next surprise came when, instead of heading east out US 180 in the general direction of Central, Bayard, Hurley, Deming and, ultimately, Hatch—green chile capital of

the world—we turned south up Cooper Street and made a beeline for Highway 90, accelerating rapidly in the direction of Lordsburg.

"What the hell?" I said. "This isn't the way to Hatch!"

"We're not going to Hatch," Cotton said, letting loose a snicker.

"No," said Cepeda, throwing me a broad grin, "Who said anything about Hatch? We're going to Portal."

"Portal? Portal what?" I said. I'd never heard of the place.

"Portal, Arizona," Cotton said. "It's just a little southwest of Rodeo."

I knew about Rodeo. It was a tiny spot on the road well down in Hidalgo County not far from the place where Geronimo had once surrendered and just across the border from Arizona.

"You've got to be kidding," I said. "That's alfalfa country. They don't grow chile down there."

"Oh yes, they do," Cepeda grinned. "Guy we know down in Portal has one entire acre of poblanos just waiting to be picked, bagged and returned to Silver City for a whopping big profit."

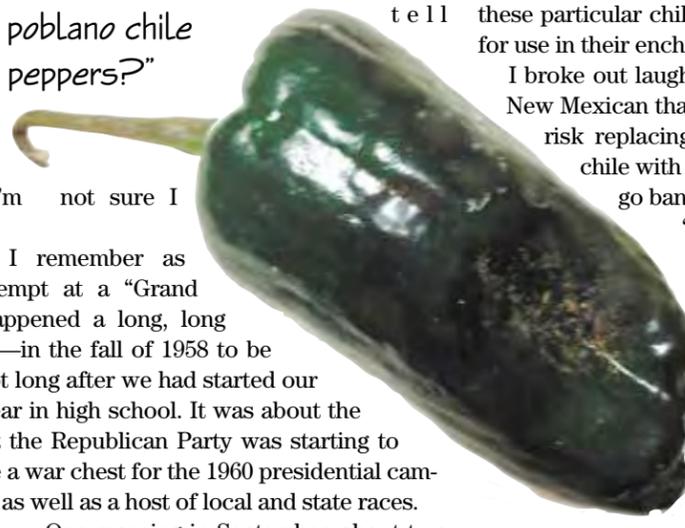
"Now I know you're kidding," I said. "What the hell would any self-respecting New Mexican want with a bunch of poblano chile peppers? You planning to sell the darn things as fertilizer?"

"No," Cotton said, "what we intend to do with these particular chiles is sell them to willing buyers for use in their enchilada suppers and the like."

I broke out laughing. "Not a chance," I said. "No New Mexican that I've ever met would even once risk replacing a good Hatch or Rio Grande chile with a poblano. You guys are going to go bankrupt on this deal."

"Wanna bet?" said Cepeda.

After a second's hesitation, I said, "No." I knew who was offering me the wager.



I apologize. I don't mean to mystify. I know that you have only been in town for a short time, and I fully recognize that a lifetime lived in Philadelphia is no foundation for understanding much about chile, so let me try to explain.

When you go downtown in Silver City to George's Cafe, the Copper Taco Parlor, or Esperanza's Mexican Food and order an enchilada or a chile relleno, you can rest assured that you are going to be sold genuine Hatch chile or, at the least, Rio Grande chile grown somewhere on the river around Mesilla. Hatch chile is not a variety; Hatch chile is merely a New Mexico chile grown in the vicinity of Hatch, NM. You might call it an Anaheim chile, but if you've ever sampled a Hatch chile you'd know the difference.

Poblano peppers, imported originally—I'm

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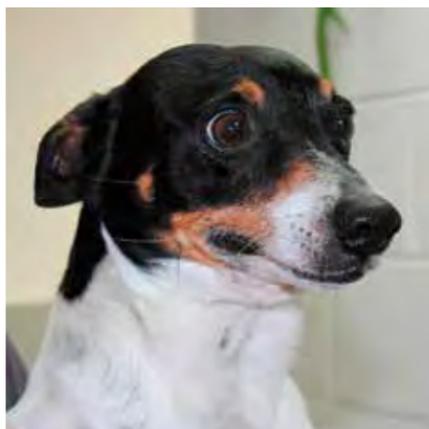
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COTTON AND CEPEDA continued

told—from somewhere around Puebla, Mexico, are much fatter and deliver far less heat and taste than Anaheim chilees, and frankly, most New Mexicans don't much like them. They might get by for some dish worked up in a Tucson restaurant, but not here. Hence my astonishment when I discovered that we were driving south, well away from the Rio Grande Valley, in search of a load of mushy poblano peppers.

We got over to Portal around 10:15 a.m. that day, so by 2 p.m., we had picked that acre clean of poblanos, bagged the lot, and started home. We pulled into Silver City at about 4:30, whereupon Cotton drove straight to Reston Keefer's house. Reston owned a small appliance store; he also liked to do barbecue events for the service clubs in town. In addition, he held down a minor post in some association that lent support to the local conservatives. In advance of two or three forthcoming enchilada suppers that the Republicans were preparing to put on for the purpose of fundraising, Reston had offered to act as party quartermaster for the events. How Cotton and Cepeda had learned of this, I can't say, but they knew it, and that is where they saw their opportunity.

"What the hell do you mean, 'these are Republican chile peppers?'" Reston grunted, barely able to conceal his amusement.

"Well, they are!" Cepeda protested. "These peppers are fresh, and they come straight from Arizona. That's Goldwater country! You know, *Mr. Conservative!* How much more Republican can you get? And just think of the marketing potential. You could advertise with something like *The Grant County Republican Party Invites You to an Enchilada Supper Where the Enchiladas Will Be Made from Genuine 100% Republican Chile!*"

"Yeah," Cotton said, "you'll pack them in like sardines! You might even run out of peppers!"

Reston Keefer broke out laughing, slapping his thigh. "I've got to hand it to you, boys," he said, once he'd caught his breath. "For sheer brass, that beats anything I've ever heard. But if I actually tried to do a number like that anywhere in Grant County, I'd be run out of New Mexico on a rail or, worse yet, boiled in oil. Do the two of you really suppose that a single citizen anywhere around here—Anglo, Mexican-American, or even Asian—can't, in an instant, differentiate between a poblano pepper and a Hatch chile? But... because I like your style and don't want to stand in the way of free enterprise, I'll give you some advice that just might help you unload... how many sacks did you say you'd picked?"

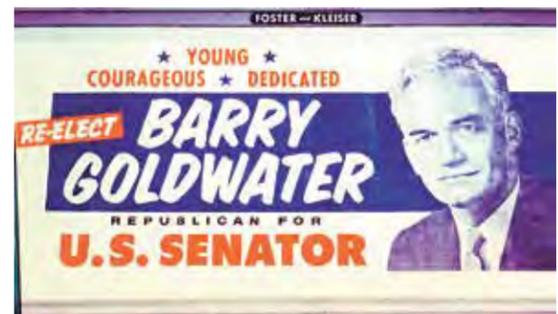
"Forty," Cepeda said, somewhat crestfallen.
 "Right," Reston said. "Forty sacks. Well, either of you boys ever hear of that stuff they call *Tex-Mex*?"

"Isn't that the kind of Mexican food they try to pass off as genuine somewhere down in Texas?" Cotton asked.

Reston Keefer smiled. "Give you any ideas?" he asked.

Cepeda's eyes lit up. "I wonder how far it is to Fabens or Fort Hancock?" he said.

"I think," Reston speculated, "that you might have to go a little farther, possibly as far as Van Horn, before you begin to hit the kind of uninformed *Tex-*



"These peppers are fresh, and they come straight from Arizona. That's Goldwater country!"

Mex cooks that you're looking for."

"You mean Anglos who have never seen a real, flat, New Mexico enchilada?"

Cotton clarified.

"Exactly," said Reston Keefer.

"If we leave now," Cepeda said, looking at his watch, "we can make Van Horn in time for breakfast, just about the time the restaurant people are starting to buy their day's supplies."

"Right," Cotton said. "Thanks for the help, Mr. Keefer."

"Don't worry about me," I said. "I'll walk home from here, and good luck."

"One more thing," Reston Keefer said, as the boys were starting to head for the truck.

"Yes, sir?" Cotton said.

"I think I'd forget about calling those things *Republican* peppers, if I were you," Reston said. "I'd just tell whoever you happen to meet that you have chile to sell and let it go at that."

Exactly what may have happened in Van Horn, I don't know, but two days later, Cotton and Cepeda were back, having sold all 40 sacks or their poblano peppers to their "new buddy," *Billy Jim*. Billy Jim, I gathered after a few minutes' conversation with them, was the owner of Billy Jim's Tex-Mex Fiesta Garden, a diner of sorts located somewhere on the outskirts of Pecos, Texas, which is a stretch beyond Van Horn. That the trip proved lucrative was only too true because the boys weren't back three days before they called me again to see if I wanted to help them pick a two-acre stand of poblanos growing somewhere in the vicinity of Willcox, Arizona. Having never smelled so much as a scent of remuneration for my previous labors on their behalf, I declined by telling them that I was already slated for work at the grocery.

So, if, as you say, you are really planning to buy a car from *C & C Motors*, let me offer you these few words of advice. If it is a new car that you are planning to buy, I would imagine that you are on fairly firm ground. If, on the other hand, you are looking at one of their *pre-owned* vehicles, I would check very carefully to make sure that the car has not previously been floating amidst the Hurricane Sandy sea surge.

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Lending a Hand

People in Palomas still need your help.

I sit at the large wooden kitchen table with Gloria Reyes and the representative of Casa de Amor for elderly people, Maria Lopez. The television sound is at a low level.

Gloria's mother, Maria de Jesus, sits in a chair against the wall, probably because it's easier for her to sit there than at the table. She's 80 years old and can hardly raise her hand far enough to shake mine.

Gloria tells an all-too-typical story for Palomas.

She's helping take care of her mother in the middle of a daily and weekly struggle to eat and pay bills. She cleans house for people, sometimes two times a week, sometimes not at all. Her two unmarried sons are still working in the chile fields in Colonia Victoria. But they get just between \$15 and \$18 a day, with \$2.50 taken out of that for the ride to work.

Wood from mesquite bushes is one thing that's for free in the desert. Fortunately, Gloria has a heater made of a black metal barrel that is fed by this wood.

But Gloria is two months behind on her water bill. Finances are difficult now, but it's even worse in winter, when they sometimes eat just once a day.

Maria Lopez has not had any funds for elderly people for two months, and isn't sure when she'll get more.

Hunger in Palomas has gone on unchanged since the disasters struck in recent years—the tightening of the US border that dried up the sources of employment depending on border crossers, then the US recession, and then the drug violence that scared Americans away from going to the oculists, pharmacists and dentists in town.

Palomas has a new mayor, Talaco Sanchez, who served as mayor before the late Tanis Garcia did. Townspeople can only hope that he can bring new employment to the town.

You might think that people in Mexico can live on less money than we do, or that things are cheaper there. The people seem to live in a kind of minuscule, Lilliputian economic world compared to ours. But in reality they live in the same world. And Gloria's sons earn in one day what people working for minimum wage in the US do in two hours.

A study of Juarez carried out about a year ago concluded that the cost of living there is just 19% less than it is across the border in El Paso.

Even though the macro-economy is improving in Mexico, the micro-economy in Palomas and areas nearby isn't changing, and people still could use help.

There's someone I've gotten to know recently who's doing exciting things in Palomas. She's Sheila Bjelitch, one of the travelers mentioned in last month's column.

She's a semi-retired former engineer who's promoting the idea of free online education to street kids and other poor kids in town. Last year they used to meet with kids where the empty tables are at the Del Rio store, and there were 20 kids there sometimes. This year they're meeting in smaller groups at the library, where they can be seen fingering the keys of very small laptop computers.

To illustrate some particularly heart-rending aspects of poverty, I'll transmit some of Sheila's stories about these children.

Sheila tells about two boys whose mother has a new baby every year, and there's never enough to feed them. So the boys are prostituting themselves to men for their younger siblings' sake. The boys don't buy anything extra for themselves, Sheila claims.

Whether the child abusers are American or Mexican, or if they're part of a prostitution ring, Sheila doesn't know or even ask. She just keeps herself on the positive side and gets them educated.

(Male prostitution has gone on in Palomas for years, but apparently on a small scale only.)

Sheila knows a 13-year-old girl named Amanda whose father took her out of school in sixth grade to sell gum on the street, even though she's exceptionally bright. "She gets the highest grades without

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appearing to study much at all," Sheila says. "She's super sweet and one of the most ambitious kids in Palomas."

Amanda's older sister was pushed into prostitution by her parents, and Sheila and other people feared that the same thing might happen to her. So Sheila has given a stipend to the parents for necessities and keeps Amanda learning.

A 17-year-old went to study nursing in Nuevo Casas Grandes, and when she came back she talked about all the things she's learning. Now there are a

couple other girls who are planning to be nurses, too.

"When they see someone go to college, it's as if they see how they do that, and think about doing it themselves," Sheila says.

She avoids getting help from church organizations or anything institutional. Instead, she finds support in spontaneous friends who come along, both Mexican and American. "There's more spirit in it that way!" she says heartily.

Sheila carries out the same project west of Mexico City. "It's my passion—it's pedal to the floor!" Unhappily for Palomas, she's planning to make her base in that part of the world pretty soon.

During the past two or three years, it seems as if donations for Palomas organizations through this column have come to a standstill. It's hard to track these things, but none of these organizations is reporting any inflow of money at all.

It could be partly because the violence in Palomas has slowed down and there is less of a crisis now. But there is no less need there at all. Hunger is silent and invisible.

People still need food donations, which come mostly through Casa de Amor. All the other organizations do essential things, too. There will forever be a need for soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, diapers for children and elderly people, and all kinds of household items.

Casa de Amor has a very hopeful scholarship program for kids at all levels of school. The Asilo para Ancianos appears always wanting for sheets, diapers, towels, food and cleaning materials. Border Partners can always use more funding for its creative projects. And Our Lady of Las Palomas has distributed several thousand dollars' worth of food in Palomas this year.

So please give generously this year, taking into account that contributions are tax-deductible.

And may everyone have a happier holiday than usual this year. ❄️

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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Knowing When to Fold 'Em

In search of the perfect burrito.

I have rarely been accused of being some sort of pinky-extending gourmand, or a revered authority among the gastronomical illuminati. I am unrepentant about my appetite for starchy, salty foods that are generally smothered in melted cheese or gravy. Sometimes both. My future coronary surgeon will doubtlessly disapprove of my gullet-stuffing shenanigans, but until he has my credit-card number on file, I will hold no caloric delivery system more divine than that fluffy staple of local cuisine, the venerable burrito.

The humble burrito has been around for a long time in New Mexico, probably longer even than non-functioning turn signals. My mom grew up in Socorro (town motto: "It's Not Always Dusty, But When It Is, It's All Sad, Huh?"), caught up in that twilight zone between southern and northern New Mexico. Thus, she introduced these soft cylinders of wonderfulness to me as "burros" as a kid. We would all squeeze into the family pickup and drive up to the Monzano Mountains to cut firewood for the day, and spread across the dashboard were foil-wrapped bean-and-cheese burros for lunch, basking in the warm autumn sunshine coming through the windshield.

Mom would pack my school lunch, and on a magnificent day, these same bean-and-cheese carb-missiles would be in my brown sack. Once the family relocated to Las Cruces, however, I was quickly informed that these delicacies were actually known by a more diminutive name. "Menso," the overly large kid with apparent glandular problems said as he relieved me of my lunch, "They're called 'burritos.'"

It struck me then as a perfect, portable food construct, a beautifully simple solution to onerous mealtime traditions. By ensconcing a mixture of beans, chile, meat, cheese or any combination of said items in a tight, edible flour-tortilla wrapper, I could munch with confidence that there would be no waste. In fact, one of the benefits to the burrito is that it requires no external support apparatus: no plate, no fork, not even a napkin if you use the last scrap of tortilla efficiently to dab the corners of your meat-hole.

It wasn't long until I discovered the amazing versatility of the burrito. You can stick anything into a flour tortilla and ram it down your gullet. I've introduced a plethora of non-traditional ingredients into the burrito format with positive results: hot dogs, lunch meat, meatloaf, leftover enchiladas, fish sticks and even once, in an experiment that can only be

described as a bold vision that didn't meet expectations, gummy bears. It's perfect for breakfast stuffed with eggs, chorizo and potatoes. At lunchtime, a light concoction of frijoles and green chile will work. And smothered burritos can rule the dinner table like round little pipes of chewy joy. Like a designer tuxedo, a burrito is perfect for all occasions.

Some gastronomical infidels have introduced maverick ingredients to the basic burrito concept that are pushing the envelope a bit too far, however. And yes, I'm looking at you, California. I have no particular gripe about adding rice to a burrito, but I am fully aware it is a cheap filler, not a tasty bonus ingredient. If rice becomes a primary ingredient, you're doing it wrong.

Even more worrisome is the trend to stick healthy food into the tortilla. Bean sprouts, lettuce, salad dressing, alfalfa sprouts—you know, panda food. Luckily, these offending entrées are classified as "wraps" so they're easier to avoid.

Less easy to avoid are the fast-food temples that compress a watery egg-and-sausage-dust mixture into a soda-straw-sized cylinder and market it as a "breakfast burrito." It tastes like a mouthful of sadness and disappointment. As much as I encourage burrito experimentation, moreover, thou shalt not deviate from the classic white-flour tortilla. A tomato-basil-pine-nut gluten-free tortilla will get your ass beat.

Epic burritos are still whispered about in reverent tones whenever we New Mexicans gather—the burritos that changed our lives and brought us closer to God. For me, the legendary ones are few but classic: a greasy Frontier breakfast burrito in Albuquerque; a meat-packed giant as big as a baby's forearm at Go Burger in Las Cruces; a smothered chorizo burrito at Andele's in Mesilla. We all have our life-changing burritos, and luckily for us, they can be found at every hard-grease, back-alley restaurant in every town in New Mexico.

Perfection may be the realm of the Gods, but the burrito is proof that divinity lives within each of us. ☘

Henry Lightcap fills his burritos in Las Cruces.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • BINA BREITNER

Addiction as Adultery

The primary relationship is between the addict and the substance. You come second.

Even though adultery is sexual, and addiction usually isn't (unless it's an addiction to something sexual), addiction and adultery are first cousins.

When you're in a committed relationship, and your partner turns to someone else for sex, you can draw basic conclusions about his (or her) relationship with you and with the lover:

1. Perhaps he isn't sexually satisfied at home. That could speak to your vitality as a sexual partner and to your sexual congeniality, or it could reveal something about him, perhaps an evasion of commitment, an internal boredom, selfishness, lack of maturity, a wish to feel young again, or a sexual addiction. So maybe it's partly about you, or maybe not.

2. For whatever reason, he or she doesn't consider you as important as his sexual satisfaction. One friend asked a devoted husband if he'd ever cheated on his wife during their 30 years of marriage. "Oh, no!" he said. "It would hurt her too much. I'd never take that chance." He was thinking of consequences for his wife. She loved and trusted him, which gave him a responsibility. If your partner is cheating on you, it's pretty clear the potential effects on you aren't his primary concern. It isn't that he actively wants to hurt you (most of the time), just that he hasn't really thought about how it might affect you. You're not at the top of his list of priorities.

3. In other words, maybe he or she doesn't connect the dots emotionally. He might even believe the affair has nothing to do with his love for you. He "compartmentalizes." The fling is his; the relationship with you is separate, unrelated. He may have no wish to jeopardize the relationship. He just believes his convenient delusion that the affair is happening on another continent and there's no intercontinental travel.

These comments are about adultery. If someone you love is addicted to something—a substance or a behavior—the same conclusions apply: (1) You may or may not be a causal factor. (2) His or her primary relationship is with the addiction. (3) She may kid herself that it isn't affecting you. Whatever ideas, justifications, excuses and logic decorate the addiction, the one certainty is that everything else, and everyone else, including you, comes a distant second.

Ron is married to Janine, and they have three children. Ron cares about his family but is most deeply attached to his drink. Because he keeps disappointing them, their love for him is steadily eroding. They know he isn't truly engaged in their lives; he goes over to his "lover," his buzz, his drink, his high, every evening.

Since the people who believe and hope they matter to him are secondary, he's betraying his marriage. He's betraying his family. He doesn't think of it that way, but whenever there's a conflict between those people and his alcohol, like a tug-of-war, the rope connecting him to his drink turns out to be stronger than the rope connecting him to his family.

Part of what his family struggles with is knowing he doesn't want to hurt them. He also doesn't want to be an alcoholic. He's probably not drinking to punish them. He just wants, he needs, his drink (or his drug, his exercise,



his work, his pornography...). The effect is the same, however: The "intimate" people are secondary and repeatedly at risk of being deeply hurt.

A man who had a very good marriage in many ways was stymied by his wife's attachment to marijuana. She could stay straight when she didn't have any dope in the house or when they traveled, but once she had access she simply couldn't leave it alone. If it was there, she smoked it. Every night. Sometimes during the day, in little hits.

He wasn't categorically opposed to weed. He'd smoked it himself and had no moral judgment about it. But he felt he got only part of his wife. The dope made her dull. She forgot things. Her wit lost its sharp edge.

He came to realize that, while he didn't object to the use of marijuana, he objected strongly to addiction. He came up against what I call "the quality of attachment." You can enjoy your evening glass(es) of wine. Someone else has to have his. You and he

may drink the same quantity of wine in an evening, but you drink yours for the pleasure of it, whereas he drinks his because he can't stand the evening without whatever those glasses of wine provide for him. He is dependent, and you are not.

So let's say you're in a relationship with an addicted person. What can you do, and how do you want to understand it?

First comes admitting the reality. It is an addiction, a kind of adultery. You don't matter as much as the substance, behavior or lover. Your trust is regularly betrayed. That's really painful.

Then comes the recognition that it's mostly about her, not so much about you. Her attachment to the "other" is all hers. You could be anyone, and you'd be in the same lower part of her pecking order. Addicts are not making choices; the substance is driving.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

He's probably not drinking to punish them. He just wants, he needs, his drink (or his drug, his exercise, his work, his pornography...).

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

ing them. Try not to take it personally. (Which means admitting more fully the breadth and power of any addiction, and feeling more grief for this person you love.)

At the same time, it's absolutely about you, because it affects you deeply. That's where your responsibility toward yourself begins.

What are your choices? And what are the addict's (or the adulterer's) choices? You can enable, in whatever degree, or you can name what's going on.

If you enable, you're making a decision about what's worth what to you—for your own reasons, you're choosing to tolerate the pain of staying with someone you no longer trust. How you weigh the cost/benefit of staying or leaving will vary widely according to each person and situation. And there's no right or wrong answer. It just has to be digestible for you.

If you enable, you make the compensations—earn the money he doesn't because he isn't reliable, go to all the children's games, activities, school meetings, by yourself. Participate in the community as a wife without her husband present. Protect his image, because it's part of your image. Figure out how to manage your own anger. Believe it isn't that bad... discipline yourself to put up with a choice you feel you have to make....

Or you can change the game. Stop pretending to others that he's a social drinker. Stop picking up all the pieces he drops. Tell him what you perceive to be the truth (without softening it to protect his ego), and state your own limits: "If you keep drinking, I'm leaving." "I'll tolerate your drinking three evenings a week as long as you don't drink the other four." (I realize that sounds odd, but I know a couple for whom it worked.) Whatever you can live with.

The hardest part, if you love someone who's an addict, is recognizing that the addictive substance or behavior is her meaningful relationship—her lover, her (sadistic) muse, her other household. As long as she's engaged with her addiction, you are just not as important to her. But that recognition honors you by respecting yourself enough to tell the truth. Once you name it, you admit, you know, she isn't primarily interested in you or the family, even if she herself wishes she were.

There's freedom in that acknowledgement. If she isn't primarily interested in you, maybe you don't have to be primarily interested in her. She's doing what she most cares about; you can focus on what matters to you. You can think of that as "to hell with her," or you can think of it as equilibrium. You're not doing it "against" her; you're doing it "for" yourself and to balance the relationship. You don't have to stay angry to change your own priorities. You can swear and grieve, and then change your expectations, adjust your life. It isn't fun, and it feels lonely, but it is strong. You're taking care of yourself, you can crawl out of the infinite pit of his or her addiction-attachment, and you can design days that hold you at their center.

If you're telling truths out loud, you can choose to put it to him: This is how his addiction and his behavior are affecting you and others. How much does he care? Enough to make changes? Enough to get the help he needs in order to make changes? Does he really want to try, or is he "trying" because he doesn't want to lose the status quo? How far gone (into the addiction, away from you) is he, really? Can he even know himself well enough to tell the truth?

How trustworthy he is, how trustworthy his an-



swers are, how much staying connected matters to you, how much you need the relationship financially, how scared you are of unhooking... those are your questions, which only you can answer. If you name his realities, such as his addiction, you'll end up having to name your own as well (often a motivation to keep enabling—as usual, the enabler has her reasons for enabling).

If he keeps insisting it's not a big deal, your situation is not hopeful. If he blames you (*you're too sensitive about it*), that's not hopeful, either.

Iregret that it isn't simple to deal with. A few people can say, "He's drinking, or he's screwing around—I'm leaving." Most people aren't so clear, especially when there are complex ingredients like families, long histories and integrated finances involved.

So you struggle. But time will provide the guidance, and it will probably come from within you. If you tell the truth, stop blaming yourself or making excuses, you'll wake up one morning and have your answer. "I can put up with

this, on such-and-such terms"; or, "I've lost my connection and need to leave"; or, "I know what I need and can get it inside or outside of the relationship; these are my limits...." Whatever feels true for you will be your guide.

So tell yourself your truth, give it some time, and listen well. Then you'll be in charge of your life again. That is, you'll be your own first-in-line, no longer just the person someone left for a lover. ❀

Bina Breitner, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) in private practice in Tucson. She can be reached at (575) 538-4380, or (520) 820-7930, on Skype at bina.breitner, or at <binasun@yahoo.com>.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • JO ROBINSON

Maximizing Nutrition

10 nutrition tips to boost health and flavor in fresh food.

I've spent the past 10 years combing through scientific studies for little-known, but important nutritional information about fruits and vegetables. I've discovered a great deal of valuable research that has yet to filter down to consumers. Follow these 10 tips to get the most from your food.

1. Eat Heavy Breathers First

Fresh fruits and vegetables continue to respire, or "breathe," even when stored in the depths of your refrigerator. Some fruits and vegetables respire more quickly than others—I call these "heavy breathers."

These are the foods you should aim to eat as soon as possible after you harvest them or bring them home from the market. Foods that fall into this category include artichokes, arugula, asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cherries, corn, kale, lettuce, mushrooms, okra, parsley, raspberries, scallions, snap beans, spinach and strawberries.

2. Fresh and Picked Ripe

Soft vegetables and fruits, such as berries, will provide incomparable flavor and nutrition if grown at home or bought from a local farmer. These foods are easily damaged during mechanical harvest, shipping and storage. Berries are naturals for the home garden because they're delicate and can spoil in a matter of days. Treat yourself to a feast of flavors by growing these at home or embarking on a "U-pick" session at a local farm.

3. Taste the Rainbow

So-called "novelty" vegetables, such as blue potatoes, purple cauliflower and red carrots, are beginning to show up more often in supermarkets, farmers markets and seed catalogs. We've bred out the rich hues in favor of white, green and orange. Unwittingly, when we got rid of the blue, purple and red, we were casting away anthocyanins—potent antioxidants that may reduce the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes and memory loss.

Reclaim these benefits by buying deeply colored fruits and vegetables at the market or grow-



For increased nutrition, look for deeply colored produce. Purple produce is often the best choice. (Photo: Jo Robinson)

ing them in your garden.

4. Chill Out

Commercial growers know produce stays fresher longer if it's chilled right after harvest. We would do well to follow that example. Rather than leaving a basket of freshly harvested lettuce or kale sitting on your back porch, bring it in, dunk the greens in ice water, dry them off, and store them in the crisper drawer of your refrigerator.

Meat and dairy must be refrigerated ASAP, but the heat in a car can also spur the growth of potentially deadly bacteria on fresh produce. Make a habit of shopping for food after you've completed all of your other errands. Take along an ice chest if you have a long journey home.

5. Make Mine Crunchy

Asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cabbage should be cooked lightly. If they cook for more than five minutes, their natural sweetness disappears, and "off" flavors and sulfurous fumes begin to develop. To shorten the cooking time, chop the vegetables into smaller pieces. Follow these steps to perfectly steam broccoli: Cut the broccoli into egg-sized clumps and arrange them stem-side-down in a steamer basket over a pot of boiling water. Put on the lid, and set a timer for four minutes. As soon as the timer rings, take off the lid, remove the broccoli from the heat and arrange it in a serving dish.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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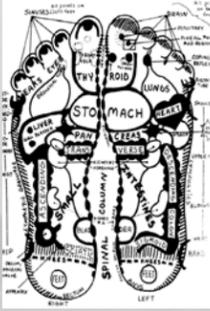
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Same Time and Place
Gila Regional Medical Center—
Conference Room (1313 E. 32nd St.)
Facilitators:
Dave Schwantes and Walt Hanson

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





BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

6. Health Benefits from Garlic

To get the biggest health boost from garlic, chop it, slice it or press it, and then let it rest for 10 minutes on your cutting board. Here's why: Allicin is the main healing ingredient in garlic, and this healthful nutrient forms when two compounds in the clove mingle together. This mingling happens when we bite, chop, slice or press garlic. The reaction of allicin in garlic takes about 10 minutes to complete, but it stops short if you expose the garlic to heat before the time has elapsed.

7. Smaller May Be Better

Neighborhood bragging rights typically come from growing the biggest fruits and vegetables on the block, but new research shows that smaller varieties may be more nutritious. This is especially true for tomatoes: The smaller and darker red the tomato, the more lycopene it has per ounce. Small tomatoes are also higher in sugar and have a more intense "tomato" flavor than slicing or beef-steak varieties.

8. Onion Nutrition

Use sweet onions for salads, sandwiches and other foods you eat raw. Use hotter, more pungent onion varieties in all other foods. If you cook them for just five minutes, they will become sweet and mild without losing any nutrients.

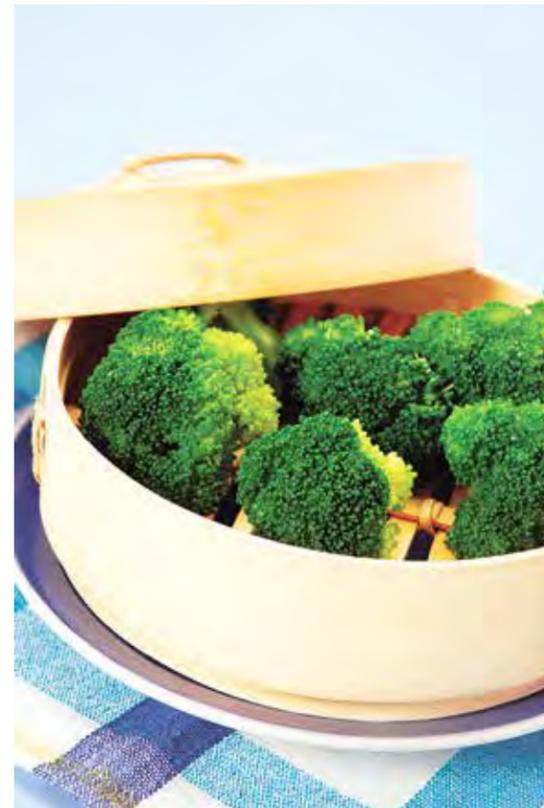
Red onions can be either sweet or hot. You can tell them apart at a glance because the hotter ones are oval or round while the milder, "hamburger" onions are flat and wide. "Red Baron" is a small variety with vibrant burgundy bulbs that are extra-high in antioxidants. Scallions (or green onions) are better for your health, because the green part of the vegetable is more nutritious than the white bulb. The same is true for leeks.

9. Leaf Lettuce Rules

Of the four main types of lettuce—leaf lettuce, crisphead (iceberg and the like), romaine and Bibb—leaf lettuce is the most nutritious. The



Purple, yellow and red carrot varieties offer the most nutrients. Choose purple varieties of produce when possible. (Photo: Jo Robinson)



Take care not to overcook broccoli, asparagus, cabbage and cauliflower, or you will lose a lot of nutritional value. Only lightly steam broccoli when you cook it, and eat it raw when possible. (Photo: Teresa Kasprzycka)

reason has to do with the arrangement of its leaves. The sun is essential for plant growth, but it also emits damaging UV rays. Plants protect themselves from the harmful part of the sun's spectrum by creating a chemical sunscreen in shades of red, purple or reddish brown. When we eat the plants, those same chemicals go to work protecting us from UV light and diseases that result from UV exposure. The plant's protection becomes our protection.

10. Check the Stems

Grapes and cherries sold in supermarkets are sometimes weeks old, yet they still look fresh. To determine their true age—and thus their health potential—look at the stems, not the fruit. Fresh grapes and cherries have bright green, flexible stems. If they've been stored for weeks, the stems will have turned brown and started to wither.

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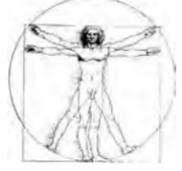
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Driving While Breathing

In-car air pollution may pose "one of the greatest modern threats to human health."

Dear EarthTalk: Can you discuss pollutants in car interior materials, and also pollution inside cars originating from gasoline and diesel exhausts outside the car?



The interior of your car may seem like a safe haven from air pollution, but it may actually be quite the opposite. Chemicals emanating from the steering wheel, dashboard, armrests and seats mix with the airborne pollution being generated under the hood to form a witch's brew of toxins for those riding inside.

"Research shows that vehicle interiors contain a unique cocktail of hundreds of toxic chemicals that off-gas in small, confined spaces," says Jeff Gearhart of the Ecology Center, a Michigan-based non-profit. The extreme air temperatures inside cars on sunny days can increase the concentration of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and break other chemicals down into more toxic constituents. Some of the worst offenders include airborne bromine, chlorine, lead and other heavy metals. "Since these chemicals are not regulated, consumers have no way of knowing the dangers they face," adds Gearhart.

Exhaust fumes also find their way into the passenger cabins of many cars. The International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA) found that concentrations of carbon monoxide (a noxious by-product of internal combustion known to cause headaches, dizziness, nausea and fatigue as well as being a major asthma trigger) may be 10 times higher inside any given car than outdoors along the roadside. ICTA added that in light of the fact that the average American spends an hour and a half driving around each day, in-car air pollution may pose "one of the greatest modern threats to human health."

To help consumers minimize their exposure, the Ecology Center released the fourth version of its *Consumer Guide to Toxic Chemicals in Cars* in 2012, comparing over 200 different cars across the 2010 and 2011 model years. Those scoring the most kudos in regard to interior air quality include the Honda Civic, Toyota Prius and Honda CR-Z. The Civic scored first by being free of bromine-based flame retardants (BFRs) in interior components, utilizing polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-free interior fabrics and trim, and having low levels of heavy metals.

Meanwhile, pulling up the rear were Mitsubishi's Outlander Sport, the Chrysler 200 SC and the Kia Soul. The Outlander finished in last place due to its use of BFRs as well as antimony-based flame retardants in its interior, chromium treated leather components and excessive amounts of lead in seating materials.

"The good news is overall vehicle ratings are improving," reports the Ecology Center, adding that the top performers have gotten rid of BFRs and PVC altogether in their interiors. "Today, 17% of new vehicles have PVC-free interiors and 60% are produced

The Ecology Center's 2012 Consumer Guide to Toxic Chemicals in Cars compared over 200 different cars across the 2010 and 2011 model years. Those scoring the most kudos in regard to interior air quality include the Honda Civic, Honda CR-Z and the Toyota Prius, pictured here. (Photo: Toyota)

"Research shows that vehicle interiors contain a unique cocktail of hundreds of toxic chemicals that off-gas in small, confined spaces."

without BFRs."

Consumers can check on their late-model car by steering their web browser to the HealthyStuff.org website, the Ecology Center's free online resource for consumer information. While environmental and public health groups are working to try to get automakers to clean up their interiors, individuals can reduce their exposure by parking in the shade, using interior sun reflectors to keep temperatures down inside the car and rolling down the windows to let the fresh air in.

CONTACTS: Ecology Center, www.ecocenter.org; ICTA, www.icta.org; Model Year 2011/2012 Guide to New Vehicles, www.healthystuff.org/documents/2012_Cars.pdf.

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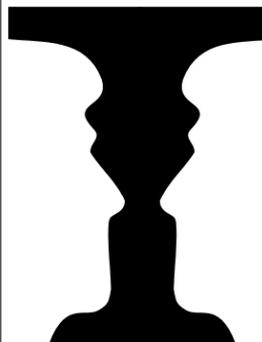


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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • GINA DEBACKER

Turn Back the Clock

A guide to natural anti-aging skin care.

Anxieties about aging have many of us swarming the market for products that promise to bring back youthful, radiant complexions. The US anti-aging skin-care industry is expected to expand from \$80 billion in 2011 to \$114 billion by 2015, according to the market research firm Global Industry Analysts. It can almost feel more natural to fight the aging process than to embrace it.

Aging is a fact of life, and some natural skin changes are unavoidable: Our skin starts to produce about one percent less collagen each year after age 20, leaving it thinner and more fragile. As we age, skin also produces less elastin and glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), which help support elastin and collagen.

But our habits also affect our skin. Sun and environmental damage such as pollution can leave us with freckles and sun spots, and exacerbate loss of collagen, elastin and GAGs. In fact, up to 90% of the wrinkles, dark spots and loss of collagen we typically attribute to aging is actually caused by sun exposure.

To maintain youthful skin, start with healthy habits: Eat well, stay hydrated, exercise regularly, and avoid exposure to sun and smoke. Signs of aging such as wrinkles take decades to develop. It's unlikely they will disappear entirely with a smear of a cream. Instead, aim to slow the aging process by preventing damage. Protect, exfoliate and moisturize, and pay attention to what you put on your skin—many "miracle creams" are made with potentially irritating chemicals that offer modest results at best.

Safe, Natural Solutions

Protect: Sunscreen is one of the most important ways we can keep younger-looking skin. People who regularly apply sunscreen have 24% fewer signs of skin aging than those who only use sunscreen on occasion, according to a new study published by the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Avoid sunscreens made with vitamin A (more on that later), estrogen-mimicking oxybenzone, and SPF's higher than 50, which research indicates may not actually provide additional protection. Opt for a mineral-based natural sunscreen that lists micronized zinc and titanium dioxide as active ingredients, at SPF 30.

Exfoliate: Because it sloughs away dead skin cells and unclogs oil and dirt from pores, exfoliation is particularly important for aging skin. As our skin ages, the natural exfoliation process slows and dry cells linger longer on the surface. Gently exfoliate mature skin once or twice a week with natural particles such as sugar, nuts or seeds. (Salt is typically too abrasive for facial skin.) Avoid products with plastic microbeads, also known as polymers. These scrubber fragments move through drains and into the ocean, where they have become a concern to marine life.

Moisturize: As we age, our top layer of skin can dry and form microscopic cracks that make it more irritable and prone to inflammation. Regular application of moisturizers with natural emollients and ingredients can help: A popular active ingredient in anti-aging moisturizers, coenzyme Q10 can improve skin's texture and elasticity, boost collagen production and ward off free radicals. Indian frankincense extract, also known as *Boswellia serrata*, has anti-inflammatory properties and may help reduce wrinkles. Vitamin B3, often called niacin or niacinamide on product labels, boosts hydration and reduces redness.

More Topical Skin Treats

Resveratrol: Most often associated with defending against heart disease, the antioxidant resveratrol may also fight sun damage when applied to the skin, according to a 2005 study. Look for topical beauty products that contain resveratrol, and consider taking it in supplement form for additional skin benefits.

Tea: Green, black, white and oolong teas contain antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds that help calm and soothe skin. Green tea extract is used in wrinkle creams to help slow the development of some signs of skin aging and enhance sun protection.

Vitamins: Aging skin naturally loses vitamin C, a nutrient that can help fight signs of aging. Use beauty products with this essential nutrient to reduce age spots and boost collagen production for firmer skin. Combined with vitamin E, it can pack a powerful punch in repairing skin damage from both age and sun.

Anti-Aging Ingredients to Avoid

Shopping for anti-aging skin care, you will see many of the same "miracle ingredients" listed on product after product. Just because they're popular doesn't mean you should assume they're effective—or safe. The laws surrounding labeling on skin-care products aren't as stringent as you might think (or hope). Here are a few common anti-aging ingredients that raise concerns.

Retinol, a derivative of vitamin A found in skin-care products and sunscreen, is often used to reduce the appearance of wrinkles, boost skin elasticity and encourage skin regeneration. Retinol can also cause itchiness, dryness and peeling. The renewed skin retinol encourages may be more sensitive to sun and susceptible to risks such as sunburns and skin cancer. Studies show that high doses of retinoids (the class retinol is part

of) may be harmful to children in utero and nursing infants. Oral retinoid isotretinoin (used in some acne treatments) is known to carry a high risk of birth defects or even loss of pregnancy. Avoid using products with retinol during daytime (especially sunscreen) and do not use them if you are pregnant. Retinol may be listed on labels as retinyl linoleate and retinyl palmitate.

Alpha-Hydroxy Acid (AHA) is added to anti-aging products to exfoliate and remove dead skin cells. Unfortunately, this chemical ingredient also increases sensitivity to ultraviolet rays. The FDA has warned consumers about AHA concerns, revealing reports of effects that include burning, dermatitis and swelling.

1,4-Dioxane is used in creams to make harsh ingredients milder. Banned from personal-care products in the European Union, it is associated with headaches, respiratory and skin irritation, and is a probable human carcinogen. You will rarely, if ever, see 1,4-dioxane listed as an ingredient on personal-care products. Instead, look for the ingredients sodium laureth sulfate and chemicals with xynol, ce-teareth and oleth in their names—1,4-dioxane is a frequent contaminant of these chemicals.

Get Your Beauty Sleep

As it turns out, "beauty sleep" is not just an old adage. In a new study commissioned by Estée Lauder and conducted at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, researchers used a skin-aging scoring system to identify signs of aging in 60 premenopausal women between the ages of 30 and 49, half of whom fell into the category of "poor-quality sleeper." Poor-quality sleepers showed increased signs of intrinsic skin changes such as fine lines, uneven pigmentation and skin elasticity, whereas good-quality sleepers recovered more efficiently from environmental stressors such as sunburn. There's no magic number when it comes to adequate sleep, but aim for seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night. ☘

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780
HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703
PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

Mondays

AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298
AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.
AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
LEGO MINDSTORMS—Ages 10 and up. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.
TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

Tuesdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1st Tues. 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
CHESS CLUB—All ages. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 534-1134.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.
KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.
LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.
REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing.

Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.
SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

Wednesdays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.
BAYARD AL-ANON—6:30 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org,
FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
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.
LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-10. 4:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

Thursdays

ARTS ANONYMOUS—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E, 590-2578.
DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church

of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
GILA WRITERS—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.
GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HATHA YOGA—5:30 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St. Lori Zitzmann.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women's Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

Fridays

KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.
WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

Saturdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.
BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bikeworks,

815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College

Ave., 538-3672.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ✽
 Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.

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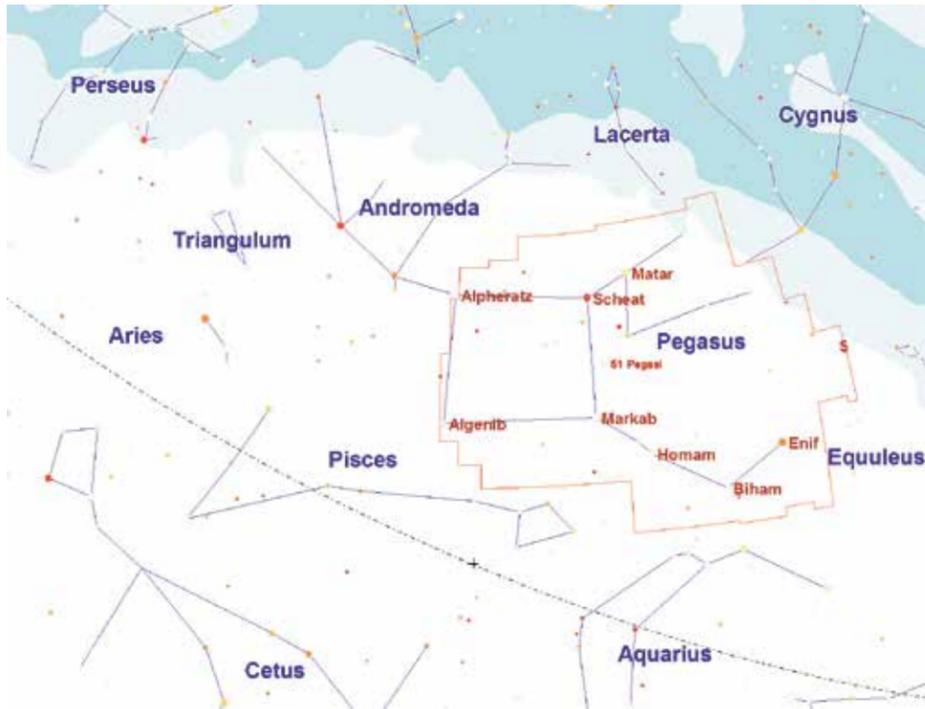
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Pegasus, the Winged Horse

Plus the planets for December.



Just a little south of overhead, the constellation Pegasus, the Winged Horse, flies over us on these December evenings. The stars Alpheratz (technically part of Andromeda), Algenib, Markab, and Scheat are all first-magnitude and form the "Great Square of Pegasus." The Great Square is obvious in the sky and can act as a marker to find the rest of the bright stars of Pegasus, as well as Andromeda and the Great Andromeda Galaxy.

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

Many constellations in our sky are hard to make out when standing under the night sky, but a few are blindingly obvious. One of these is almost overhead on December evenings, the constellation Pegasus, the Winged Horse. What makes it most obvious are the four first-magnitude stars that make up "the Great Square of Pegasus." These four stars—Alpheratz, Scheat, Markab and Algenib—actually form a rectangle, but it is close enough to a square that most people just think of it that way. Actually, Alpheratz is not even in Pegasus, but just over the border in Andromeda. Nevertheless, stargazers consider it part of the Great Square of Pegasus.

Pegasus represents the famed flying horse of Greek mythology. Since he could fly, he got around and had many adventures. One story is that he used his hooves to start the spring Hippocrene flowing. Anyone who drank the water from Hippocrene was blessed with the gift of being able to write poetry.

In another story, Bellerophon, one of the three great heroes (along with Camus and Perseus), was able to capture Pegasus. He used the winged horse to help him kill the Chimera, a creature usually depicted as a lion with the head of a goat coming out of his back and a tail ending in a snake's head. Bellerophon's fame grew and so did his hubris.

When his children had grown, Bellerophon convinced Pegasus to take him to Olympus. Zeus was angered at Bellerophon's presumption and had a gadfly sting Pegasus, causing the winged horse to buck. Bellerophon fell back to Earth, landing in a thorn bush. He lived out his life as a blind, crippled hermit, while Pegasus continued to Olympus to become Zeus' bearer, carrying his lightning bolts.

One star in Pegasus is the first to have a planet discovered orbiting it. Many stars are part of a multiple star system; double stars are common, while triples, quadruples and quintuples are less so. But no one had any evidence of a planetary-sized object orbiting a main-sequence star until Oct. 6, 1995, when two Swiss astronomers, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz, announced the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting the star 51 Pegasi. The planet was unofficially named Bellerophon and officially 51 Pegasi b (51 Peg b). This unprecedented claim was confirmed just six days later by two California astronomers using the Hamilton Spectrograph at the Lick Observatory near San Jose.

51 Peg b orbits very close to its parent star, just 4.8 million miles away (Mercury orbits 36 million miles from our Sun). This causes 51 Peg b to orbit its star every 4.2 days, and as you can imagine it is a very hot place, with a surface temperature around 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit. It is a large planet, 47% the mass of Jupiter, so astronomers made it the prototype of the class of exoplanets called "hot Jupiters." Even so, it is not directly visible from Earth since it does not glow with its own light. The parent star 51 Peg is about 50.9 light-years from Earth. It is spectral class G5V, indicating it is very similar to our Sun, a G2V.

This exoplanet, along with many others since, was discovered by the radial-velocity method. This method requires that the star be observed with a spectrograph; in this case it was discovered with a telescope at Observatoire de Haute-Provence in France using the ELODIE spectrograph. A spectrograph spreads the light from the star into its individual colors, like a rainbow, and records it for later analysis. Among the colors are very specific ones belonging to different atoms in the star's hot atmosphere. These colors

Watch the Skies

(times MST)

- Dec. 2**, 5:22 p.m.—New Moon
- Dec. 6**, 12 p.m.—Venus greatest illuminated extent
- Dec. 9**, 8:12 a.m.—First Quarter Moon
- Dec. 10**, 8 a.m.—Jupiter passes 15 minutes-of-arc north of Wassat
- Dec. 13**, 11 p.m.—Geminid meteor shower peaks
- Dec. 17**, 2:28 a.m.—Full Moon
- Dec. 20**, 1 p.m.—Venus stationary
- Dec. 21**, 10:11 a.m.—Solstice (winter begins)
- Dec. 25**, 6:48 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- Dec. 28**, 4 p.m.—Mars passes 40 minutes-of-arc south of Porrima

glow brightly as lines on the spectrogram.

When a star is moving toward you, the bright lines in its spectrum shift toward the blue; if it's moving away, the lines shift toward the red. This effect is called a Doppler shift. When observing a star like 51 Peg over a number of days, the spectrum will shift a little toward the blue and then back toward the red and then blue again. This indicates that the star is moving toward us and then away. We see the star do this as the exoplanet orbits it because the two objects orbit around their center of mass, much like an older (bigger) child swinging around a younger (smaller) child; the younger child will move much more than the older, but the older child will still move.

In the same way, 51 Peg and 51 Peg b swing around their common center of mass, and we see the spectrum of 51 Peg shift over the 4.2-day orbit of 51 Peg b. Advances in technology have allowed astronomers to take more precise spectra of the star more frequently to allow the slight red and blue shifting of the parent star to be measured and the exoplanets to be discovered.

The Planets for December

The only planet in the sky as it gets dark this December is **Venus**. It is the first "star" that you will see in the southwest as it gets dark. Venus starts the month moving eastward in eastern Sagittarius. As it approaches the border with Capricornus, it slows to a stop and then turns back toward the Sun (westward). This signals the imminent end of Venus' appearance in our evening sky. At midmonth, it is 21 degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets dark. Venus will be magnitude -4.7 with an 18% illuminated crescent disc that is 47.6 seconds-of-arc across. The Goddess of Love sets around 7:30 p.m.

Jupiter is moving slowly westward in east-central Gemini. It passes 15 minutes-of-arc north of the 3.5-magnitude star Wassat on Dec. 10. The King of the Gods rises in the east-northeast at 6:45 p.m. and is visible for the rest of the night. The midmonth disc is 46.1 seconds-of-arc across and Jupiter glows at magnitude -2.7.

Mars shines at magnitude +1.1 as it comes up around 12:45 a.m. in the east. The God of War's disc is growing slowly larger, reaching 6.1 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. It is moving eastward in western Virgo, passing 40 minutes-of-arc south of the 2.7-magnitude star Porrima on Dec. 28.

Saturn has finally moved away from the Sun and is traveling slowly eastward in central Libra. It shines at magnitude +0.6 at midmonth, when its disc is 15.5 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are 35.2 seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 21.7 degrees with the northern face showing. The Ringed Planet rises at 4:15 a.m. in the east-southeast.

Mercury is too close to the Sun to be observed this month, but will be back in the evening sky in January.

The **December Solstice** occurs on Dec. 21 at 10:11 a.m. when the Sun reaches its southernmost position in our sky. This marks the beginning of northern hemisphere astronomical winter. So put on your cold weather gear and "keep watching the sky!" ❄️

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



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Christmas Suggestions

Gift ideas for outdoors-people on your list.

It's time to think about those gifts you would like to get for that special someone who appreciates outdoor activities, and that might even include what to get yourself! The following list features items that I believe can be used for more than one outdoor activity.

First up is an item that I consider to be one of the "latest-greatest" in the outdoor market; it is the trail camera. This gizmo permits the user to just see what wildlife is actually out and about, either at your home or your campsite or your prospective hunting area, on a 24/7 basis.

I personally like the "Stealthcam" brand of camera, but these days they all are of good quality. Look for these main features: compact size, uses AA batteries, the most number of LED lights, and distance that the camera will pick up subjects.

I put one in the backyard last year and was startled to see all manner of wildlife come into my watering troughs.

By the way, if you plan to use the camera outside of your property, I suggest you also buy a lock-box to put it in or at least a plastic-coated steel cable and padlock. I know of several users who have had the gizmos stolen when not locked up!

For some strange reason, the cameras attract both bears and cattle right up to them, and bears are prone to smack the cameras!

You will also need memory cards in the 4-16-megabyte range, plus a reader of some sort. You can buy portable readers that allow you to see what is on the cameras there in the field, or buy one that plugs into the computer. I've used both plus a laptop in the field.

Next on the list is a compact digital camera, the smaller the better, to record those once-in-a-lifetime memories as you hike, camp or whatever. This gadget can also be used to view those photos from your trailcam! You just need the proper connecting cord.

Speaking of all of these electronic devices, third on the list is the first stocking stuffer: AA batteries. Buy lots of them. I tried store brands in bulk but their life was not near what good ol' Duracell gives. I also like to use rechargeable batteries, and a charger isn't all that expensive. While they won't last as long as Duracells, they can be charged a bunch of times and you will save big bucks!

I carry a dozen in the field with me, just in case.

Another great item is the doodad that I wrote about earlier this year—"Sissy Poles," er, I mean trekking poles or walking staffs. Get the best that you can afford. Try for carbon fiber or aluminum with adjustability. The better ones come in three segments or two segments for less-sturdy ones. Look to see if they have cork or rubber handles so your hands don't slip off, and wrist straps for the same reason. I don't hike without at least one pole any more, and I prefer two for maximum stability.

You can never go wrong in buying a Global Positioning System (GPS), along with a new, plastic-coated National Forest map and a quad-map of the area you will be exploring in the outdoors. The local Forest Service office has both types of map. I prefer the simplest GPS I can use. Basically I want to know where I am at, at any given time, and I am always in the know if I have my map along (which I always do).

Cell phones don't work everywhere, which I found out the hard way, but Verizon seems to work in the most places. None works north of the Tadpole Ridge until you get about 15 miles north, and in some deep valleys, the cell phone won't help.

But there is the satellite phone that works near everywhere! Trouble is, these puppies cost more than a thousand dollars to own and then the monthly fee is about 60 bucks; that's a chunk of change! But you can rent an outfit by the week for about \$130, a far better arrangement if you will be outdoors for days at a time.

Every outdoor adventure requires a fanny-pack, to carry all of those outdoor gizmos plus other necessities. I prefer a lightweight nylon pack that won't weigh much when loaded. I usually wear mine with the pack in front where I can reach things handily.

That brings up stocking-stuffers to put in the pack: two emergency blankets, a whistle, a fire-starter, 50 feet of 1/8-inch nylon cord, face-wipe moisturizer packets (good for other parts of the anatomy, too).

One of the best outdoor accessories is a stout, thick leather belt, 1 1/2 inches wide, to support what you can't carry in a pack. It will give you good back support while holding up your trousers or shorts.

For putting on that belt you might buy a water purifier bottle, a quality utility tool, and the "optional" small handgun, all good gifts.

Don't forget a good pair of snug-fitting leather gloves; you/they will need them! Along with those, consider a quality pair of waterproof hiking shoes—six inches high for ankle support. Along with those, two more stocking stuffers: two pairs of nylon/polyester/cotton-blend heavy-duty socks.

Everyone needs a good soft hat of some kind. I prefer three types in the warmer months: a baseball cap, a wool-felt fedora, or a western "cowboy" hat. With the fedora and western style, the brim keeps rain and sun off my neck. In the winter, I prefer a baseball cap or a wool watch cap.

How about some big, big bandanas? They can be used to keep sun off your neck, the grit out of your mouth, or as a soaker to cool you off, or even as an arm sling or leg wrap in case of injury.

Do you/they own a quality headlamp? It frees up the hands for steadiness in the dark, as well as examining injuries or seeing the path or dressing an animal. Also get a couple of inexpensive LED keychain lights; these gizmos throw an amazing amount of light. They're god for looking through gear at midnight or checking to see just how far that skunk is ahead of you!

One last item and it ain't cheap! I'm talking about the new "Fat-Tire" mountain bikes. The better ones have three-to-five-inch-wide knobby tires, with a rigid frame and 10 speeds on a single front sprocket. There is no need for suspension because the tires are run at a low pressure of 7-10 pounds to facilitate shock and traction.

My friend Nils has one and he is an avid mountain biker. He loves his new machine and says that it will take him just about anywhere! The wide, soft tires permit him to go upon sand and snow, mud and hard, rocky terrain, albeit at a slower speed.

Look for brand names like "Surly Moonlander" or "Salsa"; prices begin at about \$1,300 up to \$2,500.

If you want something inexpensive and one speed, you may look at "Cruiser" bikes; they feature the same wide tires but no extra gears. They can be had at Wally World or online or the local bike shops, starting at \$199. Names to look for are "Mountain Cruiser" or "Pacific Cycle."

That's it! Permit me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and remember the "Reason for the Season." Keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you all! ❄️

When not Ramblin' Outdoors, Larry Lightner puts up his Christmas tree in Silver City.



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Red or Green?



Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

Red or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at www.desertexposure.com—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified. We also note with a star (*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of *Desert Exposure*.

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find

a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up-to-date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o *Desert Exposure*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, or email updates@red-or-green.com.

Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at www.desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!

GRANT COUNTY Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFE, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.*

ALOTTA GELATO, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato, desserts and hot drinks: All day.*

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A freewheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Karaoke Fri., live entertainment Sat. Barbecue, steak, pasta, pizza: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

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

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. "Bear Mountain Lodge blends food, art and natural beauty into a memorable experience that pleases all the senses.... The menu changes daily, with entrées that are always imaginative and tasty—comfort food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) Weekend brunch, weekday L by reservation only.*

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. "All the food is cooked to order. This means that not only does every dish arrive at the table freshly cooked and steaming, but also that you can tailor any dish to suit your taste." (October 2012) Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

COURTYARD CAFE, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L, with special brunch Sundays.*

CURIOS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrées always include vegetarian and vegan options... plus others determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) Contemporary: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.*

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

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

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Take-out meals, catering.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B only.*

LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.

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

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. "Carrying on the legacy of unpretentious but tasty and authentic Mexican food established many years ago at the family's restaurant in Chihuahua." (April 2013) Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.

MASA Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, (505) 670-8775. Tortillas, tacos, chimichangas, burritos, enchiladas, menudo, tamales and more. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.*

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

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Mon.-Thurs. L, Fri. L D.

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253. "The food is oven-fresh and innovative." (November 2012) Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tues.-Sat.*

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

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tues.-Sun. L D.

PEACE MEAL BURRITO BAR, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "Slow-roasted beef, pork and chicken options in addition to vegetarian and vegan fare... with a commitment to provide food that is organic and healthy." (January 2013) Chipotle-style burrito bar: Weds.-Mon. L early D.*

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

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Mon.-Sat. L D.

RED BARN, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. "From the friendly staff to the down-home food—steaks, of course, plus chicken, seafood, burgers, sandwiches and a sampling of superb Mexican fare—you might be settling in for lunch or dinner at an especially large ranch house." (October 2009)

Steakhouse: L D.*

RIVER RANCH MARKET, 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328. Grass-fed meats, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods, to-go soups and stews, cast-iron cooking. Weds.-Sat.*

SABOR, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-2737. Mexican, sandwiches: B L D.

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "If sampling new types of food is part of the adventure of traveling for you, you only have to go as far as Shevek & Co. Restaurant in Silver City to take a culinary tour around the world." (May 2013) Mediterranean: Fri.-Tues. D.*

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

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat. B L, early D.

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

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBECUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbecue to go: L D.

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

TRE ROSAT CAFE, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. "The dinner menu ranges from humbler (but not humdrum) fare like burgers, pizzas and pastas to daily specials that include more upscale items like grilled salmon and petite sirloin steak. Appetizers include homemade chile relleno poppers, egg rolls (with specialty fillings changing from day to day) and the ever-popular, ever delicious bacon-wrapped dates." (August 2012) International eclectic: Mon.-Fri. L, D. Sat. D. Sat. brunch.*

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. "Serving hearty breakfasts, sandwiches both cold and grilled, wraps and salads that satisfy in a homey yet sophisticated way. Don't miss the German potato salad." (Dec. 2009) American: Mon.-Sat. B L Sun. B.*

WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.*

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeeshop, coffee, homemade pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP, 1108 Tom Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.

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

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd., 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menudo: L D.

M & A BAYARD 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: Mon.-Fri. B L D.

SPANISH CAFE, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.

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

Cliff

PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.

Hurley

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. "From Friday Steak Night to everyday American and Mexican food, worth hitting Hwy. 180 for." (December 2011) American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

Lake Roberts

LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. Closed for the season.

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. "For the German sampler, café customers can choose two meat options from a revolving selection that may include on any given day three or four of the following: bratwurst, roast pork, schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried pork chop), sauerbraten (marinated roast of beef), stuffed cabbage leaves, or roladen (rolled beef with a sausage and onion filling)." (July 2011) German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday midday D.

Mimbres

ELK X-ING CAFÉ, (352) 212-0448. Home-style meals, sandwiches and desserts: B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. "You won't go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Café, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican." (Jan. 2009) Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

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

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

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

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Mon. B L, Tues.-Sun. B L D.

ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tues.-Sun. L D.

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

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

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

THE BAGEL SHOP, 1495 S. Solano Dr., 521-4784. Bagels: Mon.-Sat. B L.

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

A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Mon.-Fri. B L.

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

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Sat.-Sun. L D.

BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

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

BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.

BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.

CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffeeshop, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.

CARILLO'S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. "The restaurant uses local produce whenever possible, including the pecan wood pellets used in the smoking and grilling. A lot of the foods and drinks are infused with pecans, and also with green chiles from Hatch, processed on site. They even serve green chile vodka and green chile beer." (February 2010) Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.

DELICIA'S DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. Uni-

versity Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.*

DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sun. B L, Mon.-Sat. B L D.

DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room... An array of award-winning margaritas and deliciously decadent desserts." (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: L D.

EL AHUUA'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 556-9484. Mexican: B L D.

EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thur., Sun. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L early D.

EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.

EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.

EMILIA'S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.

EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Asian: L D.

ENRIQUE'S, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.

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

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

FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.

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

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

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

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

GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican, seafood: B L early D.

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

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

HIEBERT'S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.

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

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

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

J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.

JESSE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs-Sat. L D.

JIREH'S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.

JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.

JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "A delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in

a cup or bowl, and salads." (October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.

KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.

KIM-CHI HOUSE, 1605 S. Solano, 652-4745. Korean: Tues.-Sun. L D.

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

LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.

LA GUADALUPANA, 930 El Paseo Road. 523-5954. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D. Sun. B L.

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

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

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s." (September 2011) Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.

LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.

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

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

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

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

LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

MARIA'S, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 556-9571. Mexican: B L D.

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

MESILLA VALLEY PIZZA & SUBS, 3961 E. Lohman Ave. #21, 521-9293. Pizza, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. L D.

MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: L D.

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

MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat.-Sun. B L.

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

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

MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 120 S. Water St., 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Mon.-Sat.: B L early D. *

MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley

DINING GUIDE

continued after next page



Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO

Ho ho ho! You folks absolutely love our Pumpkin Pie gelato (which is only available for a limited time)! We'll keep it around a while longer in order to (as they say) satisfy popular demand. Thank you for your enthusiasm!

Our Egg Nog flavor is back again this year, and it should be available through New Years Day and beyond. Also, our Peppermint Stick flavor has returned for the Christmas/Hanukkah/ Kwanzaa/Yule/Solstice/You-Name-it holiday season. Hurry on over and try out these fine flavors, and pick up a hand-packed pint or quart for that holiday party! (And yes, we can put several flavors into each container so everyone can have their favorite.)

If you are stumped about what to give a special someone, we suggest one of our wonderful World Music CDs from the Putumayo label; we also carry CDs from many local artists including the "Sounds of Silver City" collections.

We'd like to point out that gift certificates are available for all occasions, can be purchased in any amount, can easily fit in any stocking, and are always (ahem!) in good taste.

Don't forget: ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 nights a week until at least 9:00 PM (10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights), and though we'll be closed on Christmas Day, we'll close early on New Years Eve, and we'll be closed on New Years Day, we will be open as usual the rest of the holiday season. We have all kinds of hot drinks (such as coffee, 20-plus kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles) to warm your insides when it's chilly outside, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, Chocolate Chip cookies and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake! Come join your friends and neighbors, celebrate the holiday of your choice, impress your out-of-town relatives and guests and enjoy the best gelato in the state! Thanks for reading! As a token of our esteem for you, our valued customer, bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.

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



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Open Christmas Eve featuring traditional holiday fare

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Open New Year's Eve dinner & champagne—or regular menu

Reservations recommended

Shevek & Co. Restaurant
 602 N Bullard St (at 6th St)
 575-534-9168
silver-eats.com

Winter Hours

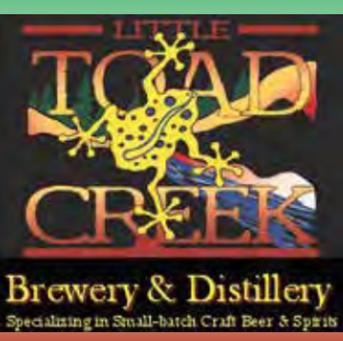
Monday	5pm to 8:30pm
Tuesday	5pm to 8:30pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	5pm to 9pm
Saturday	5pm to 9pm
Sunday	5pm to 8:30pm

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RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

All You Can Enjoy

Mimbres Valley's new 3 Questions Coffee House is the answer for delicious breakfasts and lunches.

For the past 17 years, the Coffey family's Living Harvest Bakery ("Our Daily Bread," April 2008) has been known for its success in using freshly ground whole-wheat flour to produce tasty, nutritious breads and muffins that are considerably lighter in texture than most whole-wheat products. From the beginning, the bakery that Travis and Amy established to support their growing family soon after arriving in the Mimbres Valley has represented not just a way of making a living, but a way of life that seamlessly integrates family, religion, education, service, community, health, nutrition, creativity and reflection.

The same can be said of the family's newest venture, the 3 Questions Coffee House, which offers a breakfast buffet Tuesday through Saturday from 7 to 11 a.m. and a lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both buffets offer a selection of tasty, wholesome, unpretentious food. Both cost \$6.50. And both are offered on an "All you can enjoy" basis.

"With 'all-you-can-eat' buffets, people tend to stuff themselves to the point of misery," Travis says, explaining the choice of words. "We just want to encourage our customers to stop eating before they reach the misery stage."

Included in the price of the buffet is a choice of four different kinds of coffee (Columbiana, Hazelnut, Chocolate Piñon and Decaf), a large assortment of tea varieties for hot tea, milk, orange juice, and several flavors of half-and-half created in-house (caramel, vanilla, as well as plain). At lunchtime, iced tea and iced coffee are also available.

The 3 Questions Coffee House opened for business on Oct. 8, the Tuesday after the Mimbres Valley Harvest Festival.

"We used the Harvest Festival to spread the word about the opening of the coffee house. That was our only advertisement—word of mouth," says 17-year-old Bethany Coffey, who is clearly delighted to be part of the crew at the new eatery.

"And word of mouth did it," states Travis, with gratitude. "The Mimbres Valley community responded immediately. People came from day one."

It is entirely appropriate that the Coffey family's new venture is located in the building known locally for many years as the Rock Church, but constructed originally as the Mimbres Valley Christian Fellowship by the Mennonite group whose lifestyle and religious commitment attracted Travis and Amy Coffey to the Mimbres Valley 17 years ago.

"It wasn't the climate or the food or the culture that brought us here," Travis says. "Our reasons were entirely religious. We were looking for something that was better spiritually."

"We were looking for down-to-earth real Christianity," Amy explains. The original brochure for the Coffeys' Living Harvest Bakery spelled out the kind of Christianity they were looking for: "Pure and simple, no taint, no denominations, just tried and true life-giving hope."

The Mennonite group moved on quite a few years ago, but the Coffey family remains rooted in the valley. And their 3 Questions Coffee House shows every sign of growing and flourishing, as the bakery has.

The décor in the coffee house is simple, tasteful, restful, thought-provoking and unabashedly reverent without a shred of stuffiness. And the open-kitchen design allows customers to see the entire baking operation in action.

"The open-kitchen design was pretty much a collective idea. We all love seeing kitchens in action at restaurants," says 19-year-old Benjamin Coffey. He designed and constructed the custom-made tables that are scattered through a small warren of spacious but cozy partially walled compartments.

The entire Living Harvest Bakery operation was moved into the Rock Church building back in April, and the baking is done in such a low-key, efficient, low-tech way that it's easy to miss it. "It's surprising how many people walk up to the counter and have no idea they're looking at the kitchen where all the baking is actually done," Benjamin comments.



The Coffey family's buffet crew: (l-r) Bethany, Elizabeth, Travis, Benjamin. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

All the bakery's breads, muffins, cookies, granola and other products are on display and available for purchase at the coffee house counter.

A crew of four family members operates the coffee house and takes care of all the baking chores. That crew includes Travis and the three oldest children still at home—Benjamin, Bethany and Elizabeth. The enthusiasm that radiates from each is unmistakable.

"It's just fun," says Elizabeth, with a shy but radiant grin.

"It is fun," Bethany agrees. "We like it a lot. I particularly like it when there are lots of people here. When it's jumping—with lots of conversation. And when everything's running smoothly, of course."

"The kids work wherever needed. Bethany, being older, is more confident working with the public," says Travis. "So Elizabeth moved into what's left—cooking."

"Which is the part that's really important," Bethany chimes in, staunchly.

"Well, we've all done cooking around the house," Elizabeth says, heading off the notion that she has special talent in that direction.

What cannot be denied is that the food on both the breakfast and lunch buffets is good. Consistently good.

The sausage gravy deserves special mention on the breakfast buffet, along with the Fiesta Eggs (scrambled with bits of sausage, diced tomatoes, just a hint of green chiles and Monterey Jack cheese). The pancakes are also exceptional, made with 100% fresh-ground whole-wheat flour but light and almost crepe-like in texture and served with a choice of real maple syrup or homemade blueberry or strawberry syrups.

The lunch buffet includes a wonderfully nippy jalapeño-laced quesadilla, along with two notable soups—cream of potato and a cumin-enhanced Conestoga Stew that reminds me of the East Coast version of beef chili that was all I knew until I came to New Mexico. And one mustn't forget the chicken salad sandwiches or the hand-formed hamburger patties, all served on Living Harvest rolls. A tasty chicken-based green chile stew appears on both the breakfast and lunch buffets.

If you're wondering about the name of this new eatery, Benjamin explains, "We believe there are three basic questions everyone needs to consider: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going when I die? So we chose the name 3 Questions Coffee House to make people think about those questions. We aren't providing answers, just the questions."

"The answers are every person's responsibility," Travis agrees. "No one else can answer them for you."

The three questions are printed in several places in the coffee house, in case you feel like contemplating them while enjoying a tasty, wholesome meal in peaceful surroundings.

The 3 Questions Coffee House is closed on Sundays and Mondays. It is located on Hwy. 35 in the Mimbres Valley, about two miles in from the Hwy. 152 intersection. For more information, call (575) 536-3267. ☞

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

DINING GUIDE
continued

Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L.

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

NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sun.-Tues., Thurs.-Sat. L D.*

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*

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

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

PARKER'S BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L, early D.

PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D.*

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

PIT STOP CAFÉ, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.

PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.

Q's, 1300 Avenida De Mesilla, 571-4350. Brewhouse with steak and pasta: L D.

RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat. D.

RASCO'S BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorty's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.

RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.

RENOO'S THAI RESTAURANT, 1445 W. Picacho Ave., 373-3000. Thai: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.

ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*

ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 420 Ave-

nida de Mesilla, 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Sat.-Thurs. B L, Fri. B L D.

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SAVOY DE MESILLA, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. "If you are adventurous with food and enjoy a fine-dining experience that is genuinely sophisticated, without pretension or snobbishness, you definitely need to check out Savoy de Mesilla. The added attraction is that you can do this without spending a week's salary on any of the meals—all of which are entertainingly and delectably upscale." (March 2013) American, Continental: B L D.

THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*

SHEBA GRILL, 2265 S. Main St., 525-1100. Indian, Middle Eastern: Mon.-Thurs., Sat.-Sun L D, Fri. D.

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. "Wood-fired pizzas are the star of the show, along with plenty of authentic pasta dishes." (February 2006) Italian: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soups, salads: B L.

SI SEÑOR, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. "A showcase for St. Clair wines... rooted in the same attention to detail, insistence on quality and customer-friendly attitude as the winery." (July 2012) Wine tasting, bistro: L D.

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D.

TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you....

The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek, deli: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.

VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday fish fry.

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

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

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. "Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.

Anthony ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.

LA COCINITA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

Chapparal EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

LUNA COUNTY Deming ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The

DINING GUIDE
continued on next page



SUNRISE ESPRESSO 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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

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

Now with two convenient locations to serve you!

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

Silver City's PREMIER Drive-Up Espresso Bar!
1530 N. Hudson • Silver City, NM • 575-388-2027
Mon.-Fri. 6am to 4pm • Sat. 7am to 2pm
New Second Location: 1212 E. 32nd St. • Silver City, NM
Mon.-Fri. 6:30 am to 2pm • FREE WiFi



Millie's Bake House
Serving soup, salads, sandwiches and baked goods

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Millie's is available for all your small catering needs.
Time to Order Your Holiday Goodies...
Pies, Cookies, Cupcakes

Tina Klassen, owner WiFi Available **215 W. Yankee St.**
575-597-BAKE • 575-597-2253 Silver City, NM 88061



The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge
A NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
Come and see the luminarios
Tuesday, DECEMBER 24, 2013 • Served 5PM to 8PM
Entrée Choice:
New Mexican Posole either with Roasted Pork or Veggie style served with all the fixings (avocado, red chili flakes, sunflower seeds, monterey jack cheese, cilantro, and lime) served with a hardy romaine salad with dried cranberries and local pistachios and artisanal bread
Hot apple crisp and whipped cream
\$25.



IT'S CHRISTMAS DINNER
Wednesday, DECEMBER 25 — Noon-5pm
Reservations a Must 575-538-2538
Please Choose Entrée and Dessert When Reserving

Starter:
Butternut Squash Bisque served with a Crostini of Olives and Figs on the Side

Entrée Choices:
Homemade Pumpkin Ravioli with Pistachio Pesto Sauce
or
Crab Cakes served with a Basil Lemon Aoli
or
Roast Pork Tenderloin stuffed with Jack Cheese and served with an Apple Chutney

All served with Mashed Potatoes and Roasted Veggies, Corn Pudding, Bear Mountain Lodge Romaine Salad, and Homemade Bread

Dessert:
Panna Cotta topped with Poached Pears and Chocolate
or
Ginger Yule Log
\$38.

NEW YEARS EVE
Tuesday, DECEMBER 31 — 5-8pm
Reservations a Must -575-538- 2538
Please Choose Entrée and Dessert When Reserving

Starter:
Mini-Potato Pancakes topped with (or without) Crab and Basil Cream

Entree Choices:
Roast Beef Encrusted with Mustard, Horseradish, and Pistachios served with Rice Pilaf, Gingered Beets, and Steamed Asparagus
or
Herbed (inside and out) Roast Chicken served with Rice Pilaf, Gingered Beets, and Steamed Asparagus
or
Manicotti Stuffed with Roasted Butternut Squash and Homemade Ricotta Cheese with Lemon topped with a Sauce of Fresh Tomatoes, Basil, Red Bell Pepper and Toasted Pistachios

All Entrees served with a Caesar Salad and Homemade Bread.

Dessert:
Lemon Curd Poppy Seed Cake with Lemon Syrup and White Chocolate
or
Chocolate Raspberry Trifle
\$42.

60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road • 575 538 2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com

Third Annual
TAMAL FIESTA Y MÁS
 DECEMBER 7, 2013

10:00am to 3:00pm - Good, music, folk art!



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 Springs forth

Faywood Hot Springs Resort
 2013 Holiday Season Food Drive



Help us make a difference this Holiday Season by giving back to the community.

During December 2013 bring in at least two nonperishable food items and in thanks you will receive \$2.50 off that day's soaking pass at Faywood Hot Springs Resort

All items collected in December will be donated to Deming Helping Hand Food Pantry

Food Drive

Needed Food Pantry Items in High Demand: PEANUT BUTTER - is much in demand Canned or dry mix soups, Hamburger Helper (or similar) boxed dinners, Canned meats & stews including, tuna, Manwich, Spam, Dinty Moore, etc. Spaghetti and other pastas. (Ramen noodles, etc.). Canned cooking sauces such as spaghetti sauce, pasta sauces, etc. Pork & Beans, Packaged dry goods such as rice, stuffing, boxed potatoes, baking mixes, etc. Breakfast foods such as cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, etc. Juice or fruitdrinks in cans or plastic containers (Ocean Spray, etc.). No perishable food items, produce or pet food. No glass jars or bottles, please.

FAYWOOD HOT SPRINGS

For more information contact us at:
 Faywood Hot Springs Resort
 165 Highway 61
 Faywood, NM 88034
 575-536-9663
 www.faywood.com

Thank You for your support

DINING GUIDE
 continued

dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tues.-Sun. B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. "Owner Albert Campos prides himself on the authentic Mexican and southwestern food he cooks up, inspired by his home in the Mexican state of Zacatecas—such as the fantastic BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich, a family recipe. But the restaurant has much more than Mexican fare." (June 2007) Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.*

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: L D.

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

EL CAMINO REAL, 900 W. Pine St., 546-7421. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELISA'S HOUSE OF PIES AND RESTAURANT, 208 1/2 S. Silver Alley, 494-4639. "The southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie." (April 2012) American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

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

GOLDEN SUN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese: L D.

GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.

IRMA'S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. "Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast that's worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito." (September 2009) Mexican: B L D.*

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tues.-Sat. L D.*

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Mon.-Sat. L D.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. "Even if you think you don't like Italian food, you might want to try this family-run enterprise, with Harold and Palma Richmond at the helm. In addition to the name, Palma brings to the restaurant her Sicilian heritage and recipes that came to the United States with her grandmother. Harold brings training in classic Continental cuisine, along with his family's New England food traditions." (Sept. 2010) Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

RANCHER'S GRILL, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse, burgers: L D.*

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795.

"Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is really exotic.

But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

Akela APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.*

Columbus PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY Lordsburg EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. "Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

Animas PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

Rodeo RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ, 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffeeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

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

CATRON COUNTY Reserve ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.

BLACK GOLD, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeeshop, pastries.

CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233.

Table Talk

Are you a fine food artisan? If so, the **Curious Kumquat** wants to reward you. The restaurant is offering a \$500 cash prize for the best food artisan in Grant County. According to Kumquat's Rob Connoley, "A food artisan is any person (hobbyist or professional) who produces items that may include but are not limited to: confections, flavored vinegars, pickles and chutneys, salsas, preserves and jams, wines and beers." Submissions will be accepted up until 5 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the restaurant. There is no entry fee; judging will be based on flavor and use of local ingredients. For more information contact info@CuriousKumquat.com.

Curious Kumquat will also be offering a vegetarian Indian cooking class, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m., with instructor Farzana Curmally. Registration is required at \$35 per person, which includes a full Indian meal. Call 534-0337 or stop by the restaurant to register. 111 E. College.

Café Oso Azul at Bear Mountain Lodge plans a "New Mexico Christmas Eve Dinner," Dec. 24 from 5-8 p.m., featuring traditional fare including pork or vegetarian posole with all the fixings (\$25). Reservations are required, as they are for the Lodge's special dinners for Christmas, Dec. 25 from 12-5 p.m. (\$38), and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 from 5-8 p.m. (\$42). 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

Shevek & Co. in downtown Silver City will be celebrating the holidays with traditional holiday fare on Christmas Eve, a buffet on Christmas Day, and dinner and champagne on New Year's Eve. Reservations are recommended. 602 N. Bullard, 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Eat Your Heart Out catering is closing as of Dec. 20, with owner Veralee Berg retiring. 800 W. Market, 313-9005.

Three Dogs Coffeehouse & Eatery is featuring seasonal latte flavors for the holidays. Note Three Dogs' new fall hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 503 N. Bullard.

As promised in these pages, **Arabella's** restaurant is now open in Mesilla, serving "Cuban and Italian immigrant cuisine." Initially open for dinner only, the restaurant will eventually also serve lunch. 1750 Calle de Mercado, 526-1313.

The former Dickey's Barbecue at 1660 S. Valley Dr. in Las Cruces is being transformed into a **K-Bob's Steakhouse**. The regional chain currently has a half-dozen locations in New Mexico as well as restaurants in Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma. ☼

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

Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.

SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY Hillsboro BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.

NOTE—Restaurant hours and meals served vary by day of the week and change frequently; call ahead to make sure. Key to abbreviations: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner.*=Find copies of *Desert Exposure* here. Send updates, additions and corrections to: updates@red-or-green.com. ☼

100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Going Gulch

A challenging hike along Sheridan Gulch.

Name: Sheridan Corral Trail #181

Distance: Various

Difficulty: Moderate-Difficult

Directions: Beginning at the intersection of Hwy. 90 and Hwy. 180 West in Silver City, drive west on Hwy. 180 for 51.9 miles. On your right, you will see a dirt road labeled CO54 (it is just after the Aldo Leopold turnoff, which is on the left). Turn right onto CO54 and drive 3.8 miles to the end. You will see a Trailhead marker and other Forest Service signs there.

Hike Description: This trail is well worth the drive. You will enjoy amazing views, a pleasant walk along Sheridan Gulch and a section of the 2012 burn area. When you first get on the trail, you will see a sign that says, "Trail not maintained difficult to find." You will experience sections of loose, slippery rock and erosion of trail. A few spots have loose rock along steep ledges. Please please please be careful. This trail is for the sure-footed. If you're like me, you'll take this as a challenge and you'll go and discover this gem.

Up approximately two miles you'll come to an intersection of Trail 181 (left) and Trail 225 (right). Trail 225 will take you uphill and on to



The trail along Sheridan Gulch offers amazing views. (Photos by Linda Ferrara)



Skunk Johnson's cabin. Enjoy exploring this area of our great wilderness.

Notes: You will spend some time picking through the creek bed, so be patient and enjoy it. I spoke with the Reserve Forest Ranger and he said there are no plans to maintain this trail in the near future, so you should expect to climb over dead trees and such. If you want to go to Skunk Johnson cabin, it is a 10.6-mile round-trip hike. Several guide books and websites describe it as "difficult."

Helpful Hint: If you



brought it in, bring it out! 🌿

To read more about Linda Ferrara's 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com. Look for a new and extended format for her hiking column in our next issue.



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Food Artisan Competition

\$500 prize

The Curious Kumquat is offering a \$500 cash prize for the best food artisan in Grant County. A food artisan is any person (hobbyist or professional) that produces items that may include but are not limited to: confections, flavored vinegars, pickles and chutneys, salsas, preserves and jams, wines and beers. Items should be jarred, canned or preserved. Submissions will be accepted up until 5 pm on December 14th at the restaurant. There is no entry fee and the judges decision will be final. Judging will be based on flavor and use of local ingredients. For more information contact info@CuriousKumquat.com

Pickles	Preserves	Jerky
Jams	Chutney	
Salsas	Dried fruit	Vinegar

Open Tue-Sat at 11 am 543-0337

CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY EXPANDED CHEESE SELECTION.

.....

Offering a delicious array of traditional and specialty cheeses, including: Freshly - cut Parmigiano, Reggiano, Cave - aged Gruyeres, Goat Goudas, Triple - cream Bries, and more!

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DON'T MISS OUR CHEESE TASTING EVENTS on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH FROM 10am-2pm and SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST FROM 12pm-4pm

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Directed by Tanner Harvey

Starring Rosaruby Kagan
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DECEMBER FILMS

Dec. 6-12 **Still Mine** (102 min.)
Dec. 13-19 **You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet** (115 min. French w/Eng Subs)
Free for current members
Dec. 20-26 **Portrait of Wally** (90 min.)
Theatre Closed December 24th & 25th
Dec. 27-Jan. 2 **Kill Your Darlings** (104 min.)

Mesilla Valley Film Society
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287
Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.
The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in December

Plus a look ahead into early January.

DECEMBER SUNDAY

1 Las Cruces / Mesilla
29TH ANNUAL NOCHE DE LUMINARIAS—6-8 p.m. Free. NMSU Corbett Center Student Union, 646-4415,
BEL CANTO—Also Dec. 8. An evening of art song. A Victorian soirée, a genteel gathering filled with beautiful music and good conversation. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.
CHRISTMAS CAROL—Through Dec. 8. World premiere of the all-new musical version of Charles Dickens' classic tale of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he confronts the spirits of Christmases past, present, and future. 2 p.m. \$10-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com/boxoffice.php.

FALL STUDIO TOUR—10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Picacho Corridor, 635-7899, fallstudiotour@gmail.com.
GUIDED HIKES—Saturdays and Sundays. Journey through the park on a ranger-led hike. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sun protections. Binoculars are always a bonus. 2:30 p.m. Park entrance fee. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

HOLIDAY ANTIQUE AND CRAFT SHOW—St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

WADJIDA—Through Dec. 5. The deceptively simple story of a girl who's willing to do just about anything to buy her first bicycle. The film, which finds a sneakily innocuous way to address the severe constraints placed on women in Saudi society, was also written and directed by a woman, Haifaa Al-Mansour. Arabic with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

Chloride

8TH ANNUAL YULETIDE IN CHLORIDE—Through Dec. 8. Many of the old buildings in the historic ghost town will be decorated for the holidays. Downtown Chloride.

Deming

DPAT JAM SESSION—Sundays. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpatt.org.
KIWANIS CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE—6 p.m.

MONDAY

2 Las Cruces / Mesilla
TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA—The Lost Christmas Eve Tour. 7:30 p.m. \$33-\$61.50. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

WE SHALL WALK IN BEAUTY—Author and NPR contributor Craig Childs and award-winning Native American musician Randy Granger collaborate for an evening of readings and music. 7-9 p.m. \$15 couples, \$10, \$8 students and seniors. West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St., 312-9892, we-ad.org.

TUESDAY

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

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

Animas

ACA HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE—8 a.m.-12 p.m. Elementary School. 534-0248.

WEDNESDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County
WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY—6 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

TRIVIA NIGHT—Bring yourself or a team of seven people, max. 7 p.m. Free. Bear Mountain Lodge, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEW

MEXICO—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

THURSDAY

5 Silver City/Grant County
BROWN BAG PROGRAM—Programming and events for 2014. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING—Remember loved ones at the holidays. 5:30-6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center front canopy, www.grmc.org.

WARM YOUR HOME NATURALLY—Jean Eisenhower, of Home and Garden Inspiration. Attendees will learn the basics of designing passive solar ovens, water heaters, homes and home renovations. 12-1 p.m. Free. Food Co-Op Community Room. 534-0123, homeandgardeninspiration.net.

WNMU JAZZ ENSEMBLE—A performance of jazz standards that will take you through Bebop, Bossa Novas, Swing and Modern Jazz. With Brandy Bingham, voice; Oliver Perrault, trumpet; Maria Camuñez, sax; Joe Chavez, piano; Miguel Narvaez, guitar; Michele Parlee, bass; Nelson Williams, drums. WNMU Parotti Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder Septet. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

CHRISTMAS CAROL—See Dec. 1. Through Dec. 8. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com/boxoffice.php.

JEN EXTEN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

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

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

FRIDAY

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

FESTIVAL OF TREES—Through Dec. 8. Live decorated and undecorated evergreens, baked goods, handmade holiday decorations, lights, activities. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Guadalupe Montessori, 1731 N. Alabama St., 388-3343, guadalupemontessori.org.

GAZEBO LIGHTING AND SING-OFF—Christmas music, treats and holiday fun for all. Come for the lighting of the gazebo and cheer for your favorite singers from Kiwanis youth groups. 5 p.m. Free. Gough Park.

GILA WILDLIFE RESCUE—Dennis Miller will present a short talk on the raptors in his care this past spring and summer, including the story of a golden eagle that survived a terrible impact with a car and was tracked after release to the north banks of Alaska. Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society. 6-7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 388-2386.

NO ROOM AT THE INN—Through Dec. 7. Nativity display returns. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 300 College St., 538-5754.

ROOTS—Through Dec. 8. A 5rhythms dance workshop with Visudha de los Santos. Three-day workshop. 6-9 p.m. \$155. NM College of Natural Healing Integrative Health and Wellness Center, 310 W. Sixth St., 313-9851, visudhadelossantos.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

THE WORLD OF DON QUIXOTE—Artist reception. Artwork items related to the classic novel. 5-7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre.

CHRISTMAS CAROL—See Dec. 1. Through Dec. 8. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com/boxoffice.php.

COME BLOW YOUR HORN—Through Dec. 22. Neil Simon's first Broadway comedy smash. Alan Baker, a 30-ish swinging bachelor with time, money and women to spare, welcomes rebellious and eager 21-year-old brother Buddy into his den of iniquity while their horrified parents can only watch and pray. This farcical 1960s romp became a hit

movie starring Frank Sinatra. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctctm.org.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—Through Dec. 7. Las Cruces Arts Association. Hand-crafted art, decorations, prints, cards and many other works of art. 4-7 p.m. Mountain Gallery, 138 W. Mountain Ave.

NORA—Through Dec. 15. A minimalist version of the play utilizing five actors who remain on stage throughout the play. Set on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, it's the story of a young Victorian wife who is trapped by her own kindness and adherence to standards of what a wife must be. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STILL MINE—Through Dec. 12. This film tells the true story of what happened when Canadian farmer Craig Morrison's (James Cromwell) determination to build an easy-to-navigate house for his ailing wife, Irene (Genevieve Bujold), ran afoul of the local building commission. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

ART RECEPTION—Four exhibits: "Tejido Fronterizo/Border Tapestry" by the Juntos Art Association and The Border Artists; "Metamorphosis," the artwork of Santa Fe artist Gail Factor; "Extended Passage of Time" by Gunnar Plake; and "GREEN Abundance" by Marietta Leis. Through Jan. 18. Reception 5-7 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org.

TOYS AND DOLLS: THE MAY/WARNER COLLECTION—Through Jan. 25. Reception 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

Lordsburg

ACA HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE—11 a.m.-3 p.m. Special Events Center. 534-0248.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE—Moonlight Madness. New Mexico Special Events Center, 542-8844.

SATURDAY

PEARL HARBOR DAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
ANTI GRAVITY—Paula Wittner. Ending reception. 4-6 p.m. Seedboat Gallery, 214 W. Yankee St., 534-1136.

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE TOUR—Also Dec. 8, 14-15. Over 25 decorated Christmas trees in an historical house with a miniature Christmas village. Tickets at Alotta Gelato, Ambank, Aunt Judy's Attic, at the door. 4-8 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 615 A St., 538-3216.

ESTHER MELVIN—*Walking Going, Journey to the Holy Mountains of Nepal*. Book signing. 1-4 p.m. Raven's Nest Boutique, 106 W. Yankee St.

FESTIVAL OF TREES—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 8. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Guadalupe Montessori, 1731 N. Alabama St., 388-3343, guadalupemontessori.org.

NO ROOM AT THE INN—See Dec. 6. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 300 College St., 538-5754.

SOUTHWEST BIRDS—Opening reception. Grant County Art Guild. 1-5 p.m. JW Art Gallery, 99 Cortez Ave., Hurley, 537-0300, www.jwartgallery.com.

STUDIO SALE—Through Dec. 8. 33rd Annual Mimbres Hot Springs Ranch. Works by more than two-dozen artists and crafts people include pottery, glass, photography, jewelry, fiber arts, cut-paper art, toys, block-printed linens, letterpress prints, watercolor and oil paintings and more. Music will include performances by the Glee Maidens and Bayou Seco on Saturday, Jesi Tallman and Dustin Hamman on Sunday. No pets, please. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 South to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs 2 1/2 miles. www.studiosalemimbres.com.

THIRD ANNUAL TAMAL FIESTA Y MÁS—Stroll along decorated streets, visit traditional crafts vendors and eclectic shops and galleries, and enjoy some of the best holiday food in the Americas. Eat tamales right on the spot at the festival, or order a dozen to take home. See story in this issue for detailed schedule. Downtown Silver City, 538-1337, tamalfiestaymas.org.

THE WILD... LIFE OF JOHN WACHHOLZ—New wildlife photos in handcrafted frames, through Dec. 31. Reception 1-4 p.m. Copper Quail Gallery, 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

Las Cruces/Mesilla AQUAPONICS WORKSHOP—With Lori Garton. Aquaponics Workshop—Innovative, sustainable growing system where fish and plants are grown together, mutually benefiting each other. Learn about this sustainable food system and how to produce vegetables like lettuce, sprouts and herbs in your own urban aquaponics system. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20, \$15 members. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mountain-viewmarket.coop..

CHRISTMAS CAROL—See Dec. 1. Through Dec. 8. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com/boxoffice.php.

COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

DAN LAMBERT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Ilya YAKUSHEV—Also Dec. 8. Piano-Classics Three. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

LA CASA ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR—Also Dec. 8. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Convention Center, 680 E University Ave., 526-2819.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—See Dec. 6. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain Gallery, 138 W. Mountain Ave.

NMSU SWIMMING AND DIVING VS NORTHERN ARIZONA—11:30 a.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

NORA—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 15. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SANTA FE OPERA HOLIDAY SHOW—7-9 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

Deming

MIKE MOUTOUX—Cowboy poet. 2-4



Luminaria will fill the plaza in Old Mesilla on Christmas Eve.

p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

Glenwood

HOLIDAY BAZAAR—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Senior Center, 539-2522.

Hillsboro

CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOTHILLS—Annual holiday arts and crafts festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hillsboro Community Center.

SUNDAY

Silver City/Grant County ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE TOUR—See Dec. 7. Also Dec. 14, 15. 4-8 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 4-8 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 615 A St., 538-3216.

FESTIVAL OF TREES—See Dec. 6. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Guadalupe Montessori, 1731 N. Alabama St., 388-3343, guadalupemontessori.org.

Hi Lo SILVERS—Holiday concert and sing-along. Singers are directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on bass violin. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1915 N. Swan St.

STUDIO SALE—See Dec. 7. 33rd Annual Mimbres Hot Springs Ranch. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 South to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs 2 1/2 miles. www.studiosalemimbres.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BEL CANTO—See Dec. 1. 7 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

CHRISTMAS CAROL—See Dec. 1. 2 p.m. \$10-17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, nmsutheatre.com/boxoffice.php.

COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

Ilya YAKUSHEV—See Dec. 7. 3 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

LA CASA ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR—See Dec. 7. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E University Ave., 526-2819.

LAS CRUCES MARATHON—Marathon, half marathon, 5k, and fun run.

MESILLA VALLEY CHORALE—3 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NORA—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 15. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Deming

DPAT JAM SESSION—Sundays. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

MONDAY

Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY/GRANT COUNTY WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—10:30 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings church, 537-3643.

EL PASO BRASS—Composed of key members of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and other distinguished artists from across the Southwest. Enjoy an all-new half-classical, half-jazz show of favorite seasonal music and songs to get you in the holiday mood. Benefits KRWG. 6:30 p.m. \$20, \$7.50 students 6-18, free under 6. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

TUESDAY

Silver City/Grant County CULTURING VEGETABLES—Also Dec. 12. Learn simple techniques to enhance the nutrition and improve digestibility of different foods. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

PAUL HOTVEDT—Artist talk on "Representational Painting." 5-6 p.m. Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.leybalngallsARTS.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—John Oscar. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

GLUTEN-FREE BRUNCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS—5-6:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

VIRGIN DE GUADALUPE FESTIVAL—Through Dec. 12. Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe of Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces. Free. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

WEDNESDAY

Las Cruces / Mesilla BIG BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT—Traditional Christmas music arranged in the jazz idiom for the big band. 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr.

VIRGIN DE GUADALUPE FESTIVAL—Through Dec. 12. Free. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

THURSDAY

Silver City/Grant County BOOK TALK—Doug Fine on his latest work, *Too High to Fail*. 5 p.m. Free. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

CULTURING VEGETABLES—See Dec. 10. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Annual holiday party. Enjoy ham and turkey, with potluck side dishes and desserts provided by members; bring service-ware. 6-8 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St. 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

GREEN DRINKS—The monthly meeting of the Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce and the Silver City Chapter of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association will discuss 2014 legislative platform topics and further implementation of the Buy Local Program. 5:30-7 p.m. Shevek & Co. Restaurant, 602 N. Bullard St. 538-1337, swgreenchamber@gmail.com.

29TH ANNUAL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS—Traditional decorations, music, hot mulled cider and holiday treats, all in the spirit of an old-fashioned community celebration. Visitors are welcome and need not be dressed in clothing from

the period to enjoy the evening. Music: 5:30 p.m. Community Chamber Singers; 6 p.m. Desert Larks; 6:30 p.m. Spare Parts; 7 p.m. Concert Band of the Southwest Brass; 7:30 p.m. Gila Highlanders. 5:30-8 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercity-museum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. Mike D'Arcy DJ. 7-10 p.m. \$7.00. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL—The holidays can be a hectic time of year, but there are natural ways to relax and release mental and physical tension. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

VIRGIN DE GUADALUPE FESTIVAL—Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe of Guadalupe Pueblo of Las Cruces. Free. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

FRIDAY

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

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT—Through Dec. 15. Voz Vaqueros, The Singing Men of Las Cruces. 7 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2900 Elks Dr., 523-4232.

BORDER BAROQUE HOLIDAY CONCERT—Alliance of professional musicians dedicated to bringing the masterworks of the Baroque era to contemporary audiences. Ensemble programs are enriched by the occasional addition of works from other musical eras to compare or contrast with the unique and rich musical heritage of the Baroque. 7 p.m. \$3. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

CHRISTMAS IN OLD MESILLA—Lighting of the Christmas tree. 6-9 p.m. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, mesillanm.gov/tourism.

COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET—Through Dec. 19. Director Alan Resnais depicts a group of players assembled at the remote house of a fictitious playwright. The playwright has left behind a filmed production of "Eurydice" as enacted by a very young theater troupe. As the old-timers watch in a screening room, they speak the lines and enact the play themselves, taking over from the tyros on screen. In French with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 children and Weds, Free MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY

Silver City/Grant County BLACK TIE BENEFIT BALL—"Route 66: A Holiday Road Trip." Live music, dinner, cash bar. Mimbres Region Arts Council. 7 p.m. \$50. Lawley Toyota Showroom, 2750 E Hwy. 180, mimbresarts.org.

CRAFT CLASS—Christmas Ornaments. Ages 8 and up. Pre-registration encouraged. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE TOUR—See Dec. 7. Through Dec. 15. 3-7 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 4-8 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 615 A St., 538-3216.

FRIENDS OF THE SILVER CITY LIBRARY BOOK SALE—Huge variety of gently used books, music CDs, DVDs, recorded books on tape and CD, and videotapes. Funds help support library programs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1510 Market St.

GUARDING AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT—With Joe Wlosinski. Sponsored by AARP. 1 p.m. Free. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave.

4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE—Through Dec. 15. Presented by Grant County Home Business Network. Crafts, gifts, food, knife sharpening, entertainment and free raffles. Have your child or dog's photo taken with Santa Paws. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, Hwy. 180E.

MARK BOWN—Metal art. Artist reception. 3-6 p.m. Raven's Nest Boutique, 106 W. Yankee St.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

EVENTS continued on next page

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All classes are Wednesdays at the CATS/KOOT 88.1 FM studio located at 513 N. Bullard Silver City, NM. Classes start at 5:30 PM and last one hour. Spaces are limited, so please call 534-0130 to reserve a spot 24 hours in advance!

December 2013 Classes

12/4/13: **Audacity Radio Editing Program** with Todd Dennehy! Learn how to record and edit your own KOOT 88.1 FM radio show!

12/11/13: **Advanced Movie Maker Video Editing!** Learn how the pros do it-add special effects, music and more to your production!

12/18/13: **PRO Radio!** Wonder how the Pros do it? This class will turn you into a PRO! Taught by KOOT 88.1 FM Pro, Todd Dennehy!

January 2014 Classes

1/8/14: **Movie Maker!** Want to show others your photos, but they aren't interested? Learn how to turn your digital photos into a video production!

1/15/14: **Audacity Radio Editing Easy**, beginner editing class! Great way to get started in radio!

1/22/14: **Advanced Movie Maker Editing!** Learn how to add special effects, titles and music to your production!

Classes are **FREE** to members! Non-members are charged a \$10 fee. Limited seating, so please call 575-534-0130 to sign up **24 hours in advance.**

Become a CATS/KOOT FM Member—Yearly Memberships: Television-\$50, Radio-\$75, Both-\$110

For more information: 575-534-0130

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Thu 12/5 Jen Exten (TorC Singer/Songwriter)
Fri 12/7 Dan Lambert (El Paso Multi-Instrumentalist)
Thu 12/12 Tiffany Christopher (Lady Rocker)
Sat 12/14 K.C. Turner, Roem Baur, and The Welcome Matt (San Francisco Indie Showcase)
Thu 12/19 The Blue Grammas (Bluegrass Townies)
Sat 12/21 Swing Soleil (San Francisco Gypsy Jazz)
Thu 12/26 Bourbon Legend (Uke-rock heroes)
Sat 12/28 Steve Smith (Mando-virtuoso)

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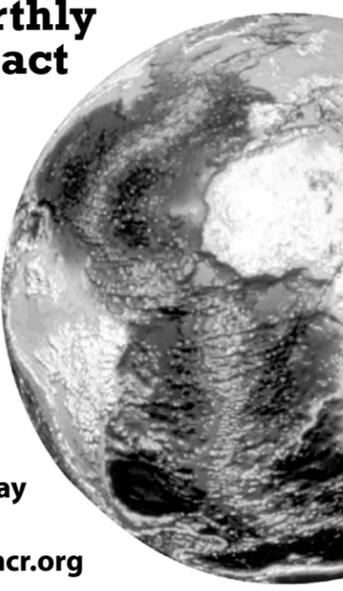


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New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance



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THE TO DO LIST

Happy ho-ho-holidays!



A rosemary plant in the Guadalupe Montessori School garden, with decorations by students.

Whoever opined that “there’s no place like home for the holidays” must have sneaked a peek at this month’s must-not-miss list. It’s prime time for seasonal spirit throughout *Desert Exposure* country.

Start with the **Light Up a Life** memorial tree-lighting ceremony at Gila Regional Medical Center, **Dec. 5** at 5:30 p.m. To learn more about how to remember a loved one at the event, see www.grmc.org.

Speaking of trees, you’ll find live trees, both decorated and au naturale, along with holiday goodies and fun at the **Festival of Trees** at Guadalupe Montessori School in Silver City, **Dec. 6-8**. Next come lights and carols, which you’ll find at the Kiwanis Club’s annual **Gazebo Lighting and Holiday Sing-Off** at Gough Park in Silver City on Dec. 6, featuring singers from Kiwanis youth groups. Then it’s both lights and trees along the trail of the **Enchanted Christmas Tree Tour**, sponsored by the Evergreen Garden Club, **Dec. 7-8 and 14-15**, with 25 decorated trees and a miniature Christmas village, at 615 A St. in Silver City.

The **Hi Lo Silvers’** annual holiday concert and sing-along is **Dec. 8** at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Silver City. The popular singers are directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on bass violin.

In Deming, local favorite cowboy poet **Mike Moutoux** takes the stage at Historic Morgan Hall on **Dec. 7**; we expect he’ll share a few of his Christmas poems. In Las Cruces, **A Christmas Carol** continues **through Dec. 8** at the new NMSU fine arts center.

Two Silver City holiday traditions take center stage the following week, with the annual **Victorian Christmas** at the Silver City Museum, **Dec. 12**, and the Mimbres Region Arts Council’s **Black Tie Benefit Ball** (on the theme of “Route 66—A Holiday Road Trip”), **Dec. 14** at Lawley Toyota.

In Las Cruces, **Voz Vaqueros**, the Singing Men of Las Cruces, perform their annual Christmas concert, **Dec. 13-15** at three different locations; check our listings for details. **Dec. 13** is also the **Border Baroque Holiday Concert** at the Rio Grande Theatre, featuring an alliance of professional musicians dedicated to bringing the masterworks of the Baroque era to contemporary audiences.

Still got gifts to buy? Check out the fourth annual **Christmas Boutique** at the Grant County Business and Conference Center, **Dec. 14-15**.

But you’d better hurry, because we’re not the only ones making a list and checking it twice this month. ❄️



A Christmas Carol at NMSU.

EVENTS continued

WNMU MEN’S BASKETBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
9TH ANNUAL MOTT POTTS STUDIO SHOW—Raku pottery firing demonstrations. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE—See Frank Capra’s iconic 1946 film, starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, on the big screen. An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed. Show time TBA. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT—See Dec. 13. Through Dec. 15. Voz Vaqueros, The Singing Men of Las Cruces. 7 p.m. St. Paul’s Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs. 526-6689.

CHRISTMAS ON THE HISTORICAL CAMINO REAL—Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by stagecoach. 12 p.m. Klein Park.

COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

COMPASSION & CHOICES—12 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154.

KC TURNER, ROEM BAUR, AND THE WELCOME MATT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming
HOLIDAY LUMINARIAS—Friends of Rockhound. 5-6:30 p.m. Rockhound State Park, Hwy. 143.

Glenwood
HOLIDAY BAZAAR—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Senior Center, 539-2522.

Radium Springs
FORT SELDEN LUMINARIA TOUR—Enjoy living history military re-enactors, 1,000 luminarias, free cookies and beverages. 5-9 p.m. Fort Selden, 526-8911.

SUNDAY
15 Silver City/Grant County ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE TOUR—See Dec. 7. 3-7 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 4-8 p.m. \$5, \$1 children 12 and under. 615 A St., 538-3216.

INDIAN COOKING—Vegetarian. Farzana Curmally. Includes full Indian meal. 3 p.m. \$35. Curious Kumquat, 111 E College Ave., 534-0337.

4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE—See Dec. 14. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, Hwy. 180E.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT—See Dec. 13. Voz Vaqueros, The Singing Men of Las Cruces. 7 p.m. Good Samaritan Village, 3025 Terrace Dr., 522-1362.
COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.
WHITE CHRISTMAS—Starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. Time TBA. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSION—Sundays. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

Glenwood
ANNUAL BAKE AND BOOK SALE—10 a.m.-3 p.m. Glenwood Community Center.

MONDAY
16 Las Cruces / Mesilla EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Stress Cooking Class. Attend the corresponding Wellness Class the Thursday prior to learn how reduce stress through natural supplements and by eating right. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TUESDAY
17 Silver City/Grant County WANT TO CAPTURE AN EXO-PLANET?—Silver City Astronomical Society. 6:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Student Memorial Building, 3rd floor.

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

Lordsburg
FARM AND GARDEN WORKSHOPS—Get tips for hoop house, backyard and community gardening from John Garlich of NMSU Cooperative Extension Services. These workshops are part of the Hidalgo County Food Coalition Winter Workshop Series. 2 p.m. Lordsburg Fairgrounds, 313-0765.

WEDNESDAY
18 Rodeo FARM AND GARDEN WORKSHOPS—Get tips for hoop house, backyard and community gardening from John Garlich of NMSU Cooperative Extension Services. These workshops are part of the Hidalgo County Food Coalition Winter Workshop Series. 6 p.m. Rodeo Community Center, 313-0765.

THURSDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County NEWCOMERS CLUB—Meeting, entertainment, luncheon. The Newcomers Club of Grant County is seeking the participation of new arrivals to our area, as well as those who are long-standing members of our community. Speakers will discuss various topics during luncheons and will include drawings for GCCC concert tickets. 11 a.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Ron Thielman 10-piece band. Christmas Ball. Semi-formal. Finger food. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.
SPIRITUAL PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS—Linda Marlena Carr. 2-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
THE GRAMMAS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP—Open to vegans and those who are curious about the vegan lifestyle. 7-8 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY
20 Las Cruces/Mesilla COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.



The Big Ditch Crickets, The Fiddle Club, Fiddling Friends and other special guests join Bayou Seco on Jan. 4.

PORTRAIT OF WALLY—Through Dec. 26. A documentary about the 1912 Egon Schiele painting "Portrait of Wally," which immortalized the Austrian artist's then-mistress, which works like a suspense drama and a slippery chronicle of ownership, theft and vaguely unsettling resolution. No showings Dec. 24-25. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County
YANKIE/TEXAS ARTS DISTRICT—Celebrate the season at galleries and shops Enjoy music, luminaria, treats and beverages. 4-7 p.m.

NIZHONI POTTERY STUDIO SALE—Contemporary Navajo Pottery by Romaine Begay. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 3235 Little Walnut Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. Through Dec. 22. 8 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—Learn about safe and comfortable baby-wearing, practice new methods, try different carriers and meet other baby-wearers at this monthly meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NORTHERN NEW MEXICO—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

SOUTHWEST BASSOONS HOLIDAY CAROLS—Southwest Bassoons Holiday Carols will feature the holiday spirit this Las Cruces Bassoon group. 12-1:30 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

SWING SOLEIL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

TRADITIONAL & SPECIALTY CHEESE TASTING—12-4 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Deming
CAROLYN MARTIN DUO—Western Swing. 2 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

Radium Springs
TURNING BACK THE SUN—Join New Mexico State Parks staff, Friends of Leasburg Dam, Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, and members of various Native American communities. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Leasburg Dam State Park, 524-4068.

SUNDAY
22 Las Cruces / Mesilla
COME BLOW YOUR HORN—See Dec. 6. 2 p.m. Las Cruces Community Theater, 311 N. Main St., lctnm.org.

Columbus
LUMINARIA & TREE LIGHTING—6 p.m. Pancho Villa State Park, S. Columbus Road, 531-2711.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSION—Sundays. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

TUESDAY
24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Silver City/Grant County
THE ARAMAIC PRAYER OF JESUS—Experience in circle dances and chants the vibration of Jesus' original words in the Lord's Prayer. No experience necessary. Live music. 7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND LUMINARIAS ON THE PLAZA—The historic village of Old Mesilla is aglow with thousands of luminarias and caroling. 5 p.m. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, mesillanm.gov/tourism.

WEDNESDAY
25 CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY
26 KWANZAA
Las Cruces / Mesilla
BOURBON LEGEND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
27 Las Cruces / Mesilla
KILL YOUR DARLINGS—Through

Jan. 2. Young Allen Ginsberg (Daniel Radcliffe) has ideas about breaking rules but is too meek to do much about it. That is, until he meets the seductive Lucien Carr, who takes him downtown, feeds him drugs and introduces him to the best minds of his generation. Carr, Ginsberg and William Burroughs are vessels just about to burst. And before they can ever get to writing their masterpieces, they have to have life experiences. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY
28 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ESTHER MELVIN—Walking Going, Journey to the Holy Mountains of Nepal. Book signing. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. COAS Books, 317 N. Main St.

NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SOUTH ALABAMA—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

STEVE SMITH—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SUNDAY
29 Deming
DPAT JAM SESSION—Sundays. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 110 E. Pine, 545-8872, dpat.org.

White Sands
LAKE LUCERO TOUR—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands and learn about the formation of the dunes. 10 a.m. \$3, \$1.50 children. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

TUESDAY
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY
1 WEDNESDAY
NEW YEAR'S DAY

SUNDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
BUNNY BUNNY: GILA RADNER, A SORT OF LOVE STORY—Also Jan. 4. By Alan Zweibel; a staged adaptation of the book. Directed by Tanner Harvey. Starring Rosaruby Kagan. Tickets at MRAC office. 7:30 p.m. Location TBA. 536-9935, www.bunnybunny.freestandingroom.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. REGIS UNIVERSITY—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. REGIS UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DOLL-MAKING—In conjunction with Toys and Dolls and the Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War exhibitions, a morning of doll-making using traditional materials accessible in the Civil War era. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

SATURDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
COMMUNITY DANCE—Big Ditch Crickets, The Fiddle Club, Fiddling Friends and other special guests. All ages. Dances taught. 7-10 p.m. \$5, free for children under 12. Old Elks Lodge, 315 N. Texas St.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. METRO STATE UNIVERSITY DENVER—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. METRO STATE UNIVERSITY DENVER—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

BUNNY BUNNY: GILA RADNER, A SORT OF LOVE STORY—See Jan. 3. 7:30 p.m. Location TBA. 536-9935, www.bunnybunny.freestandingroom.com.

FEMME SCHISM: WARRIOR WOMEN PAID LESS?—Solo exhibition (18 and up), through Jan. 30. Opening reception. 7 p.m. a)sp."A" @e Studio•Art•Gallery, 110 West 7th St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
FARM FUN FOR KIDS—Youth ages five and up are invited to participate in a farm workshop tailored specifically for inquisitive minds. The workshop is designed to help kids learn about different aspects of vegetable farming, livestock, worm farming, and composting. 12-1:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mountainviewmarket.coop.

TUESDAY
7 Las Cruces / Mesilla
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Kim Lyton. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY
9 Las Cruces / Mesilla
NMSU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SEATTLE U—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu. ☼

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or NEW—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.



BEFORE YOU GO: Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.

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Magnetic Memories

Video visions of holidays past.

My wife, bless her Scandinavian work ethic, has recently taken on the tedious task of transferring all our home movies from tape to digital. She quickly ran into a technological roadblock with the earliest of these tapes, when our last surviving VCR decided to start eating them rather than playing them. Amazingly, it is still possible to buy a new VCR on Amazon, but for the money (for a machine we would never use again) we can have those tapes professionally transferred.

So the chore has now focused on the smaller tapes from our most recent video camera, which fits neatly in the hand and was quite high-tech in its day. That day, we were reminded when my wife played the tape still in the camera, apparently ended when our daughter graduated from high school. Our daughter recently turned 30, so it's been awhile since we captured,

at stupefying length, her tennis lessons, baseball games, soccer practices and school plays and concerts. Since she went to college in another city, we weren't around to document her every move (*thank goodness*, she'd probably say). And her wedding last year was extensively (not to mention expensively) recorded in photographs, while we were a little too busy walking her down the aisle

trip to New England (probably just as well, as our daughter spent most of that trip pining for her teenaged pals), Orlando and out West, which was our first time in New Mexico. (Insert fateful foreshadowing music here.) There's way too much scenery, too little of loved ones.

Oh, there's plenty of our daughter—and a bevy of now-forgotten teammates—in the feature-length footage of her various sports endeavors. But she's necessarily at a distance in these videos, since we lacked that overhead-camera-on-a-wire gizmo that brings the NFL into such close focus. Tiny figures make patterns across a soccer field, ho-hum. And let's be honest, soccer finishes just above paint drying for visual excitement, anyway, even when played expertly by professionals. Mowing the field before the game has more action.

What were we thinking? Who would want to watch these games again? We made it through the first, in-person viewing only because of parental duty! (At least we didn't videotape every single soccer game, as certain maniacal soccer moms and dads did. Then they'd make their kids watch the game film, as if they were NFL players who'd performed poorly the previous Sunday.)

School plays and band concerts were similarly recorded *ad nauseum* for an uncaring posterity. It's fun to see a snippet of our daughter performing in costume or playing her (long since abandoned) saxophone, sure. But that initial flush of nostalgic delight soon fades, leaving you wishing you had a dentist's appointment to go to instead of watching the rest.

The happy exceptions are videos involving our pets and (you knew I was getting to this eventually) holidays, especially Christmas. What a joy it is to see and remember our furry friends when they were just kittens and a puppy. How tiny they were and how frighteningly energetic! Could that really be our cats, Peaches and Frodo, whom we lately recall from their dotage as lazily settled furballs, skittering around the house like Tasmanian devils on Red Bull? When did our daughter do that charming "day in the life" video of Peaches, whom I still miss daily? What a find! And our first cat, whom I feared we hadn't taken enough photos of despite her 13 years with us, comes alive again on video in scene after scene.

Many of those scenes seem to be of us trying to make the cat wear a Santa hat or open her Christmas presents, when she'd really rather be playing with the ribbon on the packages. We hauled out the camera for the holidays not only to capture Christmas for our own later viewing but also to share, transferred to VHS tapes, with family not present for the present-opening. Thus the overacting and mugging for the camera: "A waffle iron! Just what I wanted! Thanks!" And the feigned excitement over gifts we couldn't quite decipher: "Wow, what a surprise! I've never seen one of these before. It'll go great in the... kitchen? TV room?"

When family members did visit, it was usually my mom, so we have her gentle presence on one holiday video after another. "Oh, that's so sweet," she says, or "You made it yourself?" when inspecting some school project gifted by our daughter. She never betrays on film that, for example, she really wished we'd stop giving her those little bird figurines. (*Dangit, mom, you're hard to buy for! Start a collection!*)

She's been gone for 11 Christmases now, but these videos put

her right back beside our tree. Still photos are fine for most things, but to see motion and especially to hear a long-gone voice... well, it makes it worth wading through the previous 90 minutes of soccer "action." How I wish video technology had been a household thing back when my dad was still alive!

Seeing our daughter grow up from one Christmas to the next is priceless, too. It turns out she was a drama queen when the camera was on from the very earliest of these videos. (Sorry, sweetie, but it's a bit like watching *Sunset Boulevard* meets "Here Comes Honey Boo-Boo"—in, of course, an adorable way.) She grows up, but that Christmas face never changes.

Long after the toys have been forgotten, it's those faces and voices that make Christmas special. (Did we really buy that air-hockey table? What was in our heads? Whatever became of it?) Oh, sure, you can say that it's the memories that matter, not some collection of magnetic bits on an old videotape. We'll always have the memories, even if technological progress makes the movies impossible to play anymore.

But memories fade, of course, sometimes even faster than old video tapes. And aren't there days when you wish you could step back into your memories, if only for an hour or so? That long-ago Christmas with the dated haircuts and the now-discarded gifts flickers to life on the screen and there you are again. Everyone is laughing as the cat tries to shake off her little Santa hat... and I'd forgotten about that old sofa and that lamp! The gauzy-rainbowed glow of the tree casts across the faces that look so young, the hair not yet gray.

Another Christmas video shows the "magic snow" boot-prints on the mat by the front door, where Santa must have entered (that house having no chimney). The cat inspects the mystery, then hustles off before someone tries to stick a red hat on her head. She's already been captured on a Polaroid by a certain rosy-cheeked elfin visitor, who also made quick work of the milk and cookies. It's Christmas morning and the stockings are full. Pajama-clad and inadequately caffeinated, parents and grandmother wait at the bottom of the stairs. The video camera whirrs, dutifully capturing winter-sunlit moments we won't view again until grandmother is gone, daughter grown and married.

Down the stairs our daughter comes, and for an instant "the eternal light with which childhood fills the world" suffuses the screen.

Play it again. ❄️

David A. Fryxell hangs his stocking at Desert Exposure World Headquarters.



and choking up to play Cecil B. DeMille.

After her high school graduation, then, our lives dropped off the map, video-wise. (Until, of course, smartphone cameras made it possible to record every moment, no matter how trivial. Would you like to see an adorable iPhone video of our cat "helping" to make the bed? Adorable, I tell you!) But luckily our video-camera ownership and passion for using it at interminable length, complete with shaky handheld shots and way-too-fast, urp-inducing pans, coincided with a period in our lives when our daughter was growing up and three of her grandparents were still alive.

Unluckily, as I realize far too late, peeking over my wife's shoulder as our past unspools on her computer screen, we spent far too much footage on the scenery of that span of our lives and too little on the people. I videotaped a lovely trip to the zoo in my hometown, for example, with my mom and our daughter. If you want to see what the animals in the Great Plains Zoo looked like in the early 1990s, settle in with some popcorn for a complete tour. If you want to see my mom and our daughter as she looked back then, however, you'll be mostly disappointed.

Why would I think we'd ever want to relive that trip in such detail? Why did it not occur to me to mostly focus the camera on my mom together with her granddaughter?

The same pattern recurs, more or less, in the videos of our



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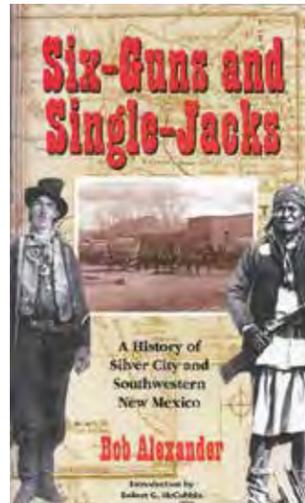
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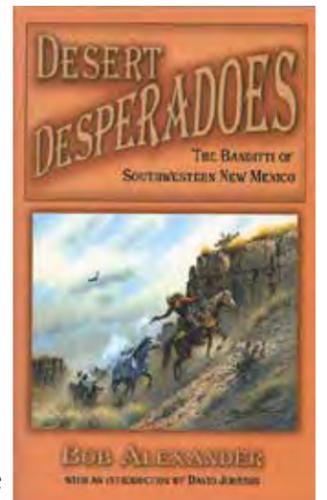
GIVE THE GIFT OF THE OLD WEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Six-Guns and Single-Jacks: A History of Silver City and Southwestern New Mexico
by Bob Alexander (\$21.95)

Step back in time with as Bob Alexander colorfully recounts tales of the violence and lawlessness that made Silver City and Old Grant County one of the most dangerous places in the Southwest. Settlers and Apache struggled for control of this rugged mountain haven, while later the likes of Billy the Kid used it as a launching pad for a lifetime of crime. Alexander has synthesized his years of researching and writing about this corner of the Old West into a comprehensive history of those colorful pre-statehood days, illustrated with more than 80 rare historic photos.

Desert Desperadoes: The Banditti of Southwestern New Mexico
by Bob Alexander (\$21.95)



Award-winning author Bob Alexander traces the area's Old West outlaws across Las Cruces and the Mesilla Valley, Silver City and Grant County, Deming and Columbus, Lordsburg and Shakespeare, into the Gila and even to El Paso and southeastern Arizona. Besides such well-known desperadoes as Billy the Kid and Johnny Ringo, the book colorfully recounts the careers of characters including "Bronco Bill" Walters, "Curly Bill" Brocius, Kit Joy, "Three-Fingered Jack" Dunlap, Pony Diehl, "Black Jack" Christian, "Six-Shooter Smith" and John Kinney, "King of the Rustlers." Among those seeking to bring the book's "banditti" to justice are Pat Garrett, "Dangerous Dan" Tucker and Harvey Whitehill. Illustrated with more than 80 rare historical photographs, plus a cover by noted Western artist Donald Yena.

Available locally at:
Silver City Museum
O'Keefe's Bookstore in Silver City
Log Cabin Curio Shop in Pinos Altos
Mesilla Book Center



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Patrick Conlin, Broker/Owner

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



MLS 30672 • \$275,000

Renovated & upgraded home on 7 acres has excellent views, privacy & 2 living areas. Detached garage/workshop. Custom concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, kitchen island & eating area open to the living room with vaulted ceilings. 3Bd/2Ba upstairs, and family room, laundry, storage, & second deluxe master suite downstairs. Wrap-around deck with views of Burro Mts. & Jack's Peak



MLS 30664 • \$459,000

Fantastic & well-kept home on 23.5 acres, 3,180 sq.ft. with 3bd/3ba, 2 living areas, vaulted ceilings, panoramic views. Pond, garden area, flagstone patio, screened seating gazebo, detached workshop/storage, fire pit. Wooded & grassy areas, horses ok, small corral area, partially fenced acreage. Skystream wind generator which is hooked into the electric grid conveys.



MLS 30661 • \$130,000

Rarely available duplex in town. Great investment opportunity to take advantage of Silver City's strong rental market. Two 2Bd/1Ba units with central heating & cooling. Recently painted on the exterior. One unit has been left vacant for easy showing & has new carpet & new paint. Well-maintained, close to elementary school & parks. Live in one side & rent out the other!



MLS 30656 • \$125,000

Two homes on unrestricted 5.75 acres set along Twin Sisters Creek. Renovated 3bd/2ba double-wide on perm foundation with newer metal roof, windows, & front/back covered porches. 2bd/1.5ba single-wide for extended family or rental income. Storage building, RV hook-up, chicken coop, room for horses. City water plus well, advanced septic but city sewer available.



MLS 30660 • \$155,000

The old Elias Ranch homestead! 20 acres is offered with fixer adobe house, electric available, and a seasonal stream! Wooded, views, southern exposure, minutes to town & very close to Ft. Bayard game refuge. Additional acreage available.



MLS 30648 • \$115,000

Affordable airpark property! 40' x 50' garage/workshop /hangar. Located adjacent to the Casas Adobes private airstrip. Year round flying, close to the Gila National Forest. Recent remodel; Unfinished room intended for a media room has endless possibilities. Private courtyard with hot tub. Views of the mountains. Outdoor entertaining area. 1 car attached carport and paved driveway.



MLS 30645 • \$147,000

Upgrades in every room. Living room features pellet stove. New kitchen with maple cabinets. Laminate and ceramic flooring. Master bathroom with walk-in tiled shower, double sinks, tiled backsplash & soaking tub. Walk-in closets in bedrooms. 1 car garage with workshop area and carport. Detached building perfect for hobbies, yoga or storage. Fenced yard and dog run. Mature landscape.



MLS 30644 • \$239,000

Delightful 3Bd/3Ba home in Indian Hills, well-maintained & close to town. Fenced backyard, two covered seating areas, attached/3-sided enclosed carport. Clean, move-in ready, recent upgrades and plenty of living space. Possible master-suite on 1st level.



MLS 30642 • \$264,000

Exceptional views, energy efficiency and well-maintained 2BD/2BA home. Two living areas, office space, and flex space. Two detached garages, one has an added 3/4 bath, a workshop and a solar heated hot tub! Tied into the grid with a 2,880 kw solar panels. Passive solar design, a trombe wall, solar pre-heated water, new windows, two pellet stoves, hot water radiant heat, ceiling fans. A wrap-around deck.



MLS 30619 • \$288,900

4bd/3ba in Indian Hills home with many upgrades. One park-like acre with privacy & views, fenced yard for pets. Large patio, 1 car garage and/or workshop plus 3 bay enclosed carport. Insert wood-burning stove & one free-standing. Excellent master suite and self contained apartment/guest quarters. 1,344 sq.ft. bonus room includes sauna, bar and unused in-ground pool. Maintenance free exterior with standing seam metal roof, brick exterior, circular paved driveway & xeriscaped yard.

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**Real Food
 Real Choices**



**River Ranch Market
 is YOUR source for
 healthy food this holiday season!**



Jean Juszczyk moved here more than 30 years ago and was the first customer at River Ranch Market on May 1, 2013. She is excited to be serving a pastured heritage turkey this year for her holiday gathering. She's a wonderful customer, we love seeing her walk through our door.

NEW Stilton Bleu Cheeses from England

Green Chile Pork Sausage

**Oregon's Central Coast Creamery
 fabulous cheeses:**

- Holy Cow • Goat Gouda • Goat Cheddar

Smoked Hams & Bacon

(We smoke them with Apple & Hickory right here at River Ranch Market)

Pick one up for your special holiday meal!



Gift Certificates Available
 A Great Hostess Gift or
 Stocking Stuffer



**CERTIFIED
 American
 Grassfed
 Association**

**We are now the Southwest Chapter of
 the Weston A. Price Foundation**

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 Historic Downtown Silver City, NM
 NEW WINTER HOURS:
 Wednesday—Saturday 8-6**