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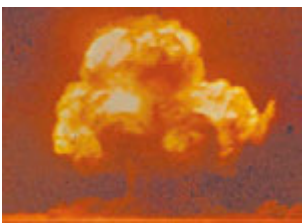
Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



Ford Bayard
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Volume 20 • Number 8



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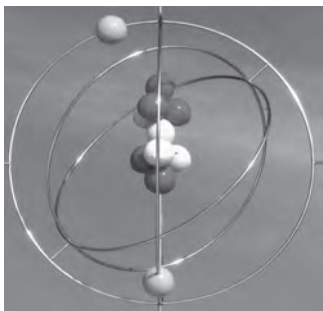
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About the cover: Supercharged Vintage Chrysler
Airbrush artist Luis Navarro created the flames for car collector David Cheek’s Supercharged vintage Chrysler. Navarro originally began his career as an artist at the Art Institute of California and then worked as a film industry artist on the West Coast. About 10 years ago, Navarro opened up shop in Las Cruces and has been kept busy mainly by word of mouth. In addition to vehicle designs, Navarro creates a host of other airbrush media from paint cans to T-shirts and murals in people’s homes. His workspace is at the West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla Street in Las Cruces. See more of his talent at luisnavarroart.com.
David Cheek is active with Cruisers Unlimited Car Club New Mexico and an enthusiastic participant in car shows across the Southwest with historic cars, of which he has several. Cheek can be spotted reflected in the chrome on the photo.
It is the Copper County Cruzers who are running the Run to Copper Country car show in Silver City Aug. 14 and 15. Vehicles from across New Mexico and southern Arizona will be driving into town for the event which begins with a Hot Dog Burn at 5:30 p.m. Friday and shows off the cars at Gough Park Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gila Trout Restoration



The Gila National Forest played a large part in the accomplishments highlighted in the June Desert Exposure issue about Gila Trout restoration. The whole project is the accomplishment of several agencies and people with Jerry Monzingo, former forest fisheries biologist (now forest biologist) working in partnership with New Mexico Game and Fish. (Photo by Craig Springer/United States Fish and Wildlife Services)



Photo by Elva K. Österreich

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Written Life

Festival, contest winners on tap for October

They say newspapers are going the way of the dodo, slipping into obscurity, sliding away into the slippery Internet mania.

I disagree. “No man is an island,” according to John Donne, and while the Internet may serve to tie us together in extraordinary ways once impossible, the community newspaper and its ilk are more about what is in our neighborhoods, what people are thinking that you would never think of, what’s happening in our immediate world.

Newspapers are made with words and; newspapers like Desert Exposure are made with the words of those with beliefs and passions they need to share. Anyone can pick up the paper and begin a journey of discovery into the thoughts, actions and activities going on in Southern New Mexico. Nothing reflects and serves a community like a news product, one that you can pick up, hold in your hands, open and choose what is interesting to you and relative to your world.

Coming to Silver City in October, the Southwest Festival of the Written Word will be celebrating talent and the area, with three days of free events including workshops, readings and presentations from more than 40 poets, novelists, nature writers and other non-fiction writers, many of them prominent in the literary world. Keep an eye on www.swwordfiesta.org for presenters and schedule.

“Living under a wide sky, turquoise bright, in a land where crinkled mountains rise purple and brown behind stretches of grass or cacti, some write of their days. Living in that crease where the past and present meet, where English and Spanish and languages of the indigenous meld, some write of their encounters. The Festival celebrates those who write in or about the Southwest, and brings together their readers to touch the rough and smooth of their words, to taste the fire and cool of our written life.” – Tom Hester

This quote from Tom Hester came from the Southwest Festival of the Written Word website. He came to Southern New Mexico with his wife, Consuelo nine years ago after he retired from the Department of Justice, where he was the head of the editorial staff of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Tom also won the grand prize story, “Josephine Lives!,” last year in the Desert Exposure writing contest.

The deadline for this year’s contest is coming right up on Aug. 26, so get those pens, typewriters and computers moving before the deadline. But I can’t ask you do anything I wouldn’t do myself, so I include here a piece I wrote for a writing contest in 2009. The contest topic – “Why I Write.”

Writing contest: The Desert Exposure grand prize winner will be featured in our October issue,

runners up will be published either in that issue or subsequent ones.

Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 26. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on literary quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit your entries to one or two submissions. Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words. Top prize is \$100 and publication, runners up will get \$25.

Mail entries to: Desert Exposure Writing Contest, 840 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E, Las Cruces, NM 88011, or email to contest@desertexposure.com. Include name and postal address, plus email address if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

Postcards from the edge: Hosting travelers? Take them to your favorite place in Southern

New Mexico and catch them with a copy of Desert Exposure and send it to us. Traveling? Whether you’re going to Nebraska, New England or Nepal snap a photo of yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure and send it to diary@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 840 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E, Las Cruces, NM, 88011.

Elva K. Österreich is editor for Desert Exposure and delighted to be here and holding “office hours” in Silver City on the second Wednesday of the month (Aug. 12) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yankee Creek Coffee House. Please drop by and say hello.



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Why I write?

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echoofthedesert or WordHustler
Elva K. Österreich
That's me, I can say something and
Maybe I'll be on someone's fridge
With the magnetic poetry and
Last week's meatloaf recipe.

I write because I must be immortal
Because I will die and me, I will remain behind
Clawing through the Ethernet, on servers galore
Climbing through the future universe, maybe to Mars or Betelgeuse
Or creeping into the smallest heart, where
A dancing child, a lonely gentleman, an oldster in purple will
Feel a touch
A word touch
And that will be me.
Just me.

I write for butterflies, my children, darkness.
For making others understand what they can't and
Know people they never thought they would care about

And for the people leaving, who should be remembered
With adventures, history, quiet ways that fade away.
I chronicle a place to die slowly, gold and red fiestas, magnificent achievements from old missions to failed rockets, children building magical labyrinths.

I write because without the words flowing out somewhere they might get jammed in
I could be word constipated, with just a trickle of thoughts left,
Or so piled my brain could explode.
Or they could get confused with my blood and act like the cholesterol
Causing a stroke, where the words instead of blood go coursing through
The synapses and frying the little ends of the brain cells
And then, well, who is to say how my brain would compensate, what new dark paths my thoughts would find to be released.

I write with no choice in the matter,
With no ability to not do so,
This is my spirit, soul, heart and flesh too,
Even with no name,
No byline,
No going down in history.
Still would I have to write.

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LETTERS

Replacement Power Plan questionable

Besides threatening a livable future and strapping New Mexicans with an unnecessary financial burden in merely trying to keep our homes comfortable and alight, PNM’s Replacement Power Plan (RPP) Proposal has been awash with questionable ethics, a lack of transparency, and a demonstration of its lack of technological understanding of renewable energy. Following a several month history of hiding and misrepresenting figures and misleading the public across the board in presenting their plan, the state Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) generously gave PNM an extended deadline to modify their proposal by Aug. 1, with the stipulation that the process be completely transparent this time.

With righteous indignation, PNM filed a motion to the PRC requesting confidentiality on much of the documentation regarding its coal deal with the “captive” San Juan coal mine, claiming they had a right to “trade secrets,” one of its many little secrets driving up utility rates in their Plan.

It’s time to say “enough” to the last desperate gasps from a dying fossil fuel industry. Most New Mexicans seem to be more than ready to become the poster child for powering with renewables. PNM’s plan is unacceptable and we need a new plan that works toward a healthy, renewable-energy future at rates New Mexicans can afford.

*Debaura James,
Silver City
Retired Educator; Aldo Leopold Charter School*

Bears shouldn’t be fought by hand

Re: Predator Alert feature. The NM Department of Game and Fish is remiss in its advice about handling a black bear attack. The write “fight back using anything at your disposal, such as rocks, sticks, binoculars (a new one to me) or even your bare hands.”

They fail to advise people who enter black bear country that this species looks upon humans as a food source much more often than grizzly bears and only a firearm of sufficient caliber will stop a determined black bear assault. Check that out in Stephen Herraro’s classic book, “Bear Attacks.” I have been a wildlife field biologist in the Southwest for more than four decades, and one time had to use pepper spray on an adult black bear that was attacking me at a distance of two to three feet. The effect was sufficient to drive the bear off long enough for me to reach a vehicle and vacate the area, but the bear returned shortly and tore up the trailer I had been staying in.

The Boy Scout motto “be prepared,” should be followed when entering bear country. Both E.P.S. approved pepper spray (as suggested by the Arizona Game and Fish Department) and a reliable firearm should be at one’s disposal in bear country; your bare hands, sticks or rocks aren’t up to the task of protecting yourself or those around you in the rare instance of a bear attack. These predators are powerful beyond belief and well equipped with stout claws and heavy-duty teeth.

*Dexter Oliver
Duncan, Arizona*

Bicycle column unbalanced

It is unfortunate the “Calling it What it is” article could not have been a little more fair, balanced and thoughtful. As a long time distance runner and coach, I can completely understand Fr. Rochelle’s frustration with many motor vehicle operators and the apparent adversarial attitude toward both cyclists and pedestrians many of them exhibit on our roadways. But from the behavior exhibited by many of the cyclists in the area, it would appear this adversarial attitude goes both ways.

Although paved roadways were primarily created for the use of motor vehicles, without question pedestrians and cyclists have every right to use them, as long as they abide by the rules of the road. But as a coach with often upwards of 20 runners out on the roads, the rule was always: “Even if you know you have the right-of-way, you will always lose in a confrontation with a car. Don’t ever cross in front of one unless you are certain they have seen you and are going to stop.”

But the real problem I had with Fr. Rochelle’s article is the attempt at twisting language to make his point. That point, apparently, was that whenever a collision between a cyclist and a motor vehicle occurs, the driver of the motor vehicle is automatically at fault. If Fr. Rochelle is going

to “personalize” the cyclist as “a woman on a bicycle” then instead of “the driver of a car” shouldn’t it be “a man or woman driving a car?” And to be fair, how does he know “the driver of a car crashed into” the woman on the bicycle? This implies that the impetus for the crash came only from the car. Was he a witness to the accident/collision? Could the “woman on the bicycle” have swerved into the path of the car and been accidentally struck? The rhetoric used in Fr. Rochelle’s statements reveals his quite substantial bias. And the use of “people walking” instead of “pedestrians” is laughable. A pedestrian is a person walking, at least according Webster’s, and “a person walking” is no less a “category” than “pedestrian.” Anyone with at least a high school education should know the meaning of the word “pedestrian.” No amount of politically correct word wanking will change this. Of course there is another definition for “pedestrian” that does not belong in this discussion.

So let’s try to be fair when discussing the roadway interface between motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Undoubtedly, there are many motorists on the roads who are careless, confrontational, or impaired in some way. I believe the same can be said for some cyclists. Some would say that a cyclist speeding downhill on a blind curve on the wrong side of Highway 15 has a death wish. Some would say that riding four abreast on a highway and not moving over for overtaking traffic is inconsiderate and discourteous. With courtesy and consideration for others using the road, we can all share the road safely. This brings up the major complaint I hear from motorists about cyclists: they don’t contribute anything by way of licensing fees for care and maintenance of the roads. This is a valid point. Perhaps if we required licenses and plates for cyclists we could use the revenue to create more bicycle friendly roadways that could be safely shared by all. And if you spot someone operating a motor vehicle unsafely, you can often get a license number and report them. The same can’t be said for cyclists.

PNM’s plan bad for ratepayers, bad for environment

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has a plan to commit New Mexico ratepayers to expensive dirty fossil fuel technologies for the next 20 years. It has been demonstrated that clean renewable options would save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars and yet New Mexico’s Public Regulation Commission (PRC) appears poised to give approval to PNM’s replacement power plan.

After multiple extensions, PNM has until Aug. 1 to submit final documents including a coal fuel contract and a restructuring contract between partners in the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS). The PRC should come out with its decision shortly thereafter. Why the PRC has given an additional extension to PNM to work out contracts toward a plan that is obviously not in New Mexico’s best interest is perplexing and suspect.

To comply with current environmental regulations, PNM and other parties settled upon a “Stipulated Agreement” to shut down two coal plants (SJGS 2, and 3). There

seems to be general consensus that that is a good idea, but PNM’s plan to replace the power has drawn much scrutiny and the process has unveiled PNM’s deceptiveness:

PNM claims that their plan is the most cost effective plan for its NM ratepayers:

For the majority of the replacement capacity, PNM wants us to purchase coal power from SJGS unit 4 and nuclear energy from Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station unit No. 3. The plan also calls for construction of a natural gas peaking plant and a very small amount of solar power. More specifically, PNM’s plan would replace the power with 38 percent nuclear, 32 percent coal, 26 percent natural gas, 4 percent from solar and 0 percent from wind energy.

Meanwhile in the eastern part of New Mexico, Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) recently purchased wind energy for about ¼ the price of PNM’s preferred energy sources. Additionally, in recent applications submitted to the same, NM PRC, SPS has cited saving customers’ money as the reason that they want to increase their investment in solar power. Solar prices are continuing to come down; Nevada Energy recently announced its purchase of solar power for only 3.9 cents / kWh.

Costs of electricity:			
SPS		PNM	
Solar -	4.2 cents / kWh	Solar -	6.8 cents / kWh
Wind -	2.3 cents / kWh	Wind -	3.8 cents / kWh
NVE		Nuclear PV3 -	8.1 cents / kWh
Solar -	3.9 cents / kWh	Coal SJGS # 4 -	9.0 cents / kWh
• PNM rates were 49% higher than SPS rates in 2014			
• SPS costs as cited in PRC case numbers: 2 new solar facilities 15-00083-UT, SPS Wind 13-00233-UT			
• PNM costs as cited in case numbers: 13-00390-UT, 13-00138-UT, and other PNM Renewable Energy Filings			
• NVE (Nevada Energy) has contracts to purchase a 100 MW of solar at 3.9 cents / kWh			

The SPS and NVE prices were obtained through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process. So far our PRC has not required PNM to issue a competitive RFP for most of the replacement power. Yielding to public pressure, PNM did recently issue an RFP for the Natural Gas portion, resulting in a \$50 million, 40 percent savings for its New Mexico customers. But, PNM continues to avoid putting out an all resource RFP on the nuclear and coal portion of their plan; RFPs should assure ratepayers cost efficiency.

So what would PNM’s motivation be to have its NM customers purchase dirty coal power at 9.0 and dangerous nuclear power at 8.1 cents per kWh when clean sources of energy are available for 2.3 – 4.2 cents per kWh?

LETTERS continued on next page

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LETTERS continued

1) If PNM is allowed to transfer their share of Palo Verde 3 nuclear and SJGS 4 coal plants onto the New Mexico side of their ledger, they will convert what are currently liabilities to shareholders, into assets. Right now shareholders are selling the Palo Verde 3 power on the open market for 3.7 cents / kWh. If they can transfer their share in Palo Verde 3 to us they will be assured 8.1 cents / kWh. Additionally, we would assume significant responsibility for reclamation and decommissioning costs.

2) The more expensive PNM's plan is, the more money they make. PNM is generally allowed cost plus 11.4 percent on capital expenditures once they are incorporated into our rates. If they invest in less-expensive technologies like wind and solar, then our bills are lower and they make less profit. PNM knows that wind and solar would cost us less than the resources that they already own. They want to shackle us with high electricity bills simply to enrich shareholders.

PNM spokespeople often try to justify their plan by saying that the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow:

In reality renewable energy sources fairly closely match user demand and they have the advantage of flexibility. Nuclear and coal plants can not easily stop and start to meet customer demand. PNM has more of these, less-flexible, "base-load" power resources than any of its regional peers. As for PNM's implications that it is not possible, or that renewables would be less reliable, other companies are successfully switching to renewables.

So what would happen if PNM's plan obtained PRC approval and then some future federal regulations on water use, or methane pollution, or ozone, or nitrogen oxides, or carbon dioxide pollution were implemented (new rules on emissions are due out later this summer)?

If PNM's plan is implemented new regulations would cost us, ratepayers, even more, either for pollution control

equipment, or if PNM decides to switch to renewables at that point, in addition to paying for the renewables, we may have to pay stranded asset costs toward no longer using the coal or nuclear plants. In fact, incorporated in the Stipulation Agreement is \$115 million dollars of stranded asset reimbursement to PNM. Of this, \$67 million is for pollution control equipment put on units 2 and 3 that will no longer be used as a result of their retirement. The pollution equipment was just put on these units in 2005. It was well known that this equipment was wholly inadequate to address the other known environmental issues such as carbon emissions and water usage, etc., but PNM chose that route and we are now apparently going to pay them to no longer use this equipment. I call costs such as these "Hidden Costs."

But the unquantified potential Hidden Costs such as stranded assets and the underestimated reclamation and decommissioning costs of Palo Verde 3 and SJGS 4 are by no means PNM's only Hidden Costs.

New Energy Economy (NEE) aided ratepayers when they paid more than \$17,000 to gain two months access to "Strategist," PNM's preferred modeling program. Thus, more than \$1.1 billion in other Hidden Costs were uncovered. These discoveries included a \$367 million fuel cost "error," a \$532 million omission of the normal operating and maintenance (O and M) costs and a "demand forecast change" whereby PNM determined that its New Mexico customers all of a sudden needed 54 more MW (apparently because Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems didn't want it) costing us \$222, million.

If PNM's plan is approved, this \$1.1 billion in Hidden Costs would be passed on to NM ratepayers. False figures were the basis for negotiations during the Stipulated Agreement. As a result of NEE's discoveries, a majority of the signatories have withdrawn from the agreement. Additionally, these omissions made PNM's plan look closer into cost of renewable resources than they actually are. But even utilizing above market figures for renewables, PNM tried to keep its internal comparisons out of the public record because they showed wind and solar to be more cost efficient!

Solar and wind power out compete coal and nuclear on every measure: cost, health, regulatory risk, environment, climate, and jobs. Getting power from Palo Verde would not create any New Mexico jobs.

Tom Manning
Silver City



Mary Penn and her husband, John Robert Penn

Thanks to the community for all the help

I would like to pay tribute to my neighbors in the community and area of Wind Canyon, also to the the businesses of Silver City for all of the help given to me at the time of the loss of my husband, John Robert Penn.

While John was being cared for in the Providence Memorial Hospital at El Paso, my neighbors took care of the sale of our RV and also dealt with the removal of our belongings by the shipping company to be sent to England. I cannot thank all of my neighbors enough for all they did for us at this difficult time.


We never dreamed when we left England in 2002 that we would come and go from the USA for 13 years and find ourselves living in such a caring community as Silver City for 10 of those years. We became enchanted by New Mexico and every time we returned I felt the love of the place and the people and our home. This will never leave me.

I wish to thank all of those people on those trails in every state of the USA for their unselfish help and support. God bless you all and God bless your America.

Mary Penn
Devon, England



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DESERT DIARY

Couple Trouble

Partnership can be tricky ... and funny

Senior romance

A Charlie shares a toothy tidbit:

An older couple were lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk.

She said: "You used to hold my hand when we were courting."

Wearily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep.

A few moments later she said: "Then you used to kiss me."

Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said: "Then you used to bite my neck."

Angrily, he threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"To get my teeth!"

Time and circumstance

Listening to his wife always leads Jim Duchene back to his dad.

I've said it before, and I don't mind saying it again:

My wife's a saint.

So when she runs into the kitchen worried about my father, I have to listen, even though I'm in the middle of reading the Sports Section of our city's fine newspaper and drinking a nice hot cup of gourmet coffee, my only indulgence.

"Your dad," she says, breathlessly.

"What about my dad?" I ask, when she doesn't go past her initial proclamation.

I can see that she's having a problem putting it into words. Thinking about it, I come to realize that it's a little later than my father's usual early-to-bed-early-to-rise time. Thinking about it some more, I begin to get a little worried myself.

"Is he... uh... alive?" I ask her. They weren't words I wanted to say, but they were words that had to be said.

"Yes," she answers, "he's alive, but..."

Even though I asked the question, deep down I knew my father wasn't really dead. If he had been, my wife wouldn't have been worried, she would have been hysterical. As ornery and cantankerous as my father is, the alternative, while eventually unavoidable, is not something we look forward to.

"But what?" I say, encouraging her on.

"Well," she begins, slowly explaining, "when he didn't get up for breakfast this morning, I thought I'd check in on him, and..."

She's right.

By this time of the morning he's had a full breakfast, a slice of pie, and is busy keeping the newspaper away from me.

"And what?"

"And he says he's dead."

"Dead?" I say, although it's more of an exclamation than a question.

My father gets plenty of attention from his

daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, but it's never stopped him from trying to get more. Still, saying he's dead....

That's a bit of a stretch.

Even for my father.

I really don't want to go check on my father, even though I know I have to, because I don't know what kind of nonsense he'll get me into, but I go. My father no longer lives in the father-in-law house in the front of our property. Time and circumstance stuck its ugly nose into my business and he's moved into the main house and has his own room with us. When I've talked to my wife about renting out the little house, my dad, like time and circumstance, sticks in his nose and vetoes the idea.

"Why, dad?" I've asked him.

"Because I might want to move back in," he's answered, even though the two of us both know that that will never happen. My father is no longer independent, but it's important for him to think that he still is.

I knock on my father's door.

He tells me to come in.

I say that my lovely wife – his daughter-in-law – tells me that he's saying he's dead.

"That's right," my father answers. "I'm dead."

"What makes you think you're dead?"

"I must be dead," he insists. "When I woke up this morning, nothing hurt."

Stress reduction can save your life

Geerichard shares a little story about crossing boundaries:

A gent went to the doctors to see if he could reduce his stress level. His wife went along.

After a thorough exam, he was getting dressed while his wife was out talking to the doctor.

The doctor told the wife, "Your husband is suffering from a very severe stress disorder. If you don't do the following, he will surely die. Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant at all times. For lunch, make him a nutritious meal. Provide some fun things to do. For dinner, prepare an especially nice meal.

"No chores. No nagging. Oh, yes, and make love several times a week. Do this for the next year and he'll regain his health completely!"

All dressed, the gent came out. As the couple were walking to the car, he asked what the doctor said.

A bit hesitant, she finally blurted out, "You're going to die."

The man who gave up sex for golf

Jerry the Joker talks about making deals:

A golfer is in a competitive match with a friend, who is ahead by a couple of strokes.

"Boy, I'd give anything to sink this putt," the golfer mumbles to himself.

Just then, a stranger walks up beside him and whispers, "Would you be willing to give up one-fourth of your sex life?"

Thinking the man is crazy and his answer will be meaningless, the golfer also feels that maybe this is a good omen, so he says, "Sure," and sinks the putt.

Two holes later, he mumbles to himself again, "Gee, I sure would like to get an eagle."

The same stranger is at his side again and whispers, "Would it be worth giving up another fourth of your sex life?"

Shrugging, the golfer replies, "Okay." And he makes an eagle.

On the final hole, the golfer needs another eagle to win. Without waiting for him to say anything, the stranger quickly moves to his side and says, "Would winning this match be worth giving up the rest of your sex life?"

"Definitely," the golfer replies, and he makes the eagle.

As the golfer is walking to the club house, the stranger walks alongside him and says, "I haven't really been fair with you because you don't know who I am. I'm Satan, and from this day forward you will have no sex life."

"Nice to meet you," the golfer replies, "I'm Father O'Malley."

How to start a fight

Finally, Jerry the joker has a whole list of ways to start a fight with his wife:

- One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.
- The next year, I didn't buy her a gift.
- When she asked me why, I replied,
- "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"
- And that's how the fight started...
- My wife and I were watching Who Wants to Be a Millionaire while we were in bed.
- I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?"
- "No," she answered.
- I then said, "Is that your final answer?"
- She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes."
- So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."
- And that's when the fight started...
- I took my wife to a restaurant.
- The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.
- "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please."
- He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"
- "Nah, she can order for herself."
- And that's when the fight started...



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In the Mimbres

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Michael Gilman’s garden facade displays an Asian allure and an array of tree species. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)




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Not long after daybreak, the mountain ridges near San Lorenzo appear as endless hazy undulations, majestic and serene. After epochs of mountain formation, time-weariness is undetectable in this light.

Farther on, past the Mimbres River, a side road allows a sweeping view of monsoon-verdant pastureland. In one field among grazing horses, a lone donkey trots cheerfully – looking more free spirit than beast of burden.

Then comes one of those inevitable sights blemished by hard luck and human callousness: rusting, burned-out cars; one wheelless junk-filled pickup; a caved-in trailer home assailed by broken glass and crumpled cans. Only the green of ailanthus trees, normally unwelcome, helps blunt the calamity.

Amidst these varied Mimbres scenes, Michael Gilman has spent the past decade creating a half-acre sanctum that once held garbage and debris alongside buried ancient artifacts.

Seated on his patio, one hears birdsong and a flurry of creature activity.

Hummingbirds nest in low ailanthus branches. Phainopepla eat the berries from Sambucus trees.

Both doves and Gambel’s quail gobble seeds that have dropped to the ground from the native bee balm plant. Some think that its stems provided the black pigment painted on Mimbres pottery.

Reptiles and amphibians also enter the picture – the monsoons have stirred previously burrowed toads; a resident bull snake slithers through tree limbs irking the nesting wrens; a twin-spotted spiny lizard approaches Gilman very closely

– as if wishing to converse.

This garden surrounding man and beasts is now mature with fruit trees and New Mexican olive, as well as desert willow and Italian cypress. Lush stands of black bamboo evoke a foreign realm.

Long before Gilman’s arrival on the property, the ailanthus trees had secured their invasion. Ten days of clearing were required to make space to park his VW bus.

The “tree of heaven/tree of hell” monikers are ascribed per one’s disposition toward the species. Even now, as “pruned” ailanthus highlight the Asian atmosphere of the transformed landscape, their management is an ongoing task.

“But,” Gilman said, “they remind me of the tropics – the way they move with subtle breezes.”

At age 70, Gilman is an elder who lives and gardens on an ancient site. Its rich soil and available water is what drew him there.

“Humanity and nature have been part of this site for millennia. I can see why it drew prehistoric people,” he said. “Both the University of Minnesota and the Museum of San Diego dug here in 1926 and 27, excavating about a quarter-acre of this property. In those days, archeology was more fantasy than science. Archeologists were pot hunters seeking museum-quality specimens.”

Gilman has heard that objects left behind, like mortar and pestles (metates), were collected by locals who were hired to help excavate.

As a college undergraduate he spent years illustrating artifacts at the Archeological Research Lab at the University of Missouri. Consequently, owning such objects no longer holds any appeal for him.

Living among 2,000 years of his-

tory meshes with Gilman’s degree in anthropology. The GI Bill provided his college education.

He joined the U.S. Navy after graduating from high school in Joplin, Mo., “Gateway to the Ozarks.” Only 17 years old at the time, Gilman’s parents had to sign an underage consent form.

“I didn’t know anything about the world then,” he said. “I was an innocent kid with no bad habits and a good physique. Back in Joplin, I would walk along the river at night watching otters and mink search for crawdads. I had an appreciation of nature, but was lacking when it came to people.”

Gilman served in the Navy from 1962-65 as the sole cryptographer on a salvage ship, home ported in Pearl Harbor.

“We didn’t use computers,” he said. “Our technology was from 1943 when the ship was built. There were 70 guys on board, including 13 salvage divers who wore those big diving helmets that bolted to their suits.”

During this period, Gilman traveled throughout the Pacific Rim. In Formosa (now Taiwan), he saw his first Buddhist temple situated high above a river gorge.

“Trees inhabited by monkeys and birds hung from the cliffs,” he said. “At the bottom of the gorge was a river and at the top, a temple. After that day, I was always pulled to Buddhist sites. I sat on the steps and photographed them, but it was too early to ask myself what I was doing there.”

Today, the shipshape quality of Gilman’s home and grounds is not only attributable to the Navy’s instilled fastidiousness, but also to his building skills and artistic eye.



A blooming castor bean. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)



Buddha watches over the plantings.

“The good money that I made in the building trades allowed me to travel six months of the year,” he said. “I was drawn to creative custom work – finish carpentry. Eventually I got the name ‘Tight-fit Gilman’ because my work was exact, never sloppy.”

On a big ranch in eastern Oregon, he worked as a cowboy-handyman and also branded and butchered pigs. In Bend, Ore., he created playground equipment for the Parks & Recreation District and also helped restore a lodge.

During this period, Gilman ceased living solo and was married for 13 years.

Then came a brush with mortality. At age 36, Gilman suffered encephalitis, a disease that attacks brain cells. He was not supposed to survive.

“I breathed mechanical air for 27 days in the hospital.”

Afterwards, he endured a lengthy period of neurological and spinal problems – making his future uncertain.

What Gilman explains as “pivotal clarity” came in his mid-50’s.

“I was living in Prescott, Ariz. and the mail carrier – she was a Buddhist – left me a flyer announcing that Ripoche Garchen was coming to give a teaching on Tibetan Buddhism,” He said. “Ripoche Garchen triggered my awareness of the ‘knowing’ that has always been with me, but I could never explain. Under his influence, I heard the dharma.”

For the next three years, Gilman lived among monks and stupas at the ashram outside of Prescott. Devotees like him helped to landscape meditation trails and other areas on the 76-acre site.

Aspects of Gilman’s varied experiences – his inner landscape – are reflected on the Mimbres property. A salt cedar gate evokes mysteries beyond it. Elements like bamboo, bird baths set on terra cotta pillars, stones and prayer flags appear throughout the grounds.

Gilman said the prayer flags are connected more with “the sentiment that the world needs help” than with Buddhism per se.

About six years ago, he began building “Non-Ado,” a small, cool abode “for tranquility and rest – not meditation.”

“At this point, there is nothing else I need to do in the physical world,” Gilman said. “And in the garden, I am happy watching Nature take her course.”

In June, his place was a stop on the 24 Club home tour. A sign on the door at Non-Ado requested that visitors remove their shoes before entering the spirit house.

“I accompanied a young Hispanic woman inside, and during our conversation explained how nothing can be accomplished, learned or experienced that instantaneously brings enlightenment,” he said. “There’s a point where you’re just waiting, and grace taps you the shoulder and says that you are now.”

“The woman turned to me, and said sweetly – ‘my name is Grace.’”

Today – back in the now – Gilman finds life “kind of a sweet time.”



An exotic cactus and a wind chime mark the entry to the living quarters.



Michael Gilman in his Mimbres garden. During his travels abroad, he visited rural areas to learn what people were doing for food. Now he enjoys a productive vegetable garden, cans for year-round produce, and also keeps chickens.

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings

Silver City
The 2015 Silver City Art Guide has been published. Its 28 pages are arranged to feature galleries, artist's studios, and independent artist members with photos and a brief description, along with maps indicating art locations. All galleries, studios and the Silver City Visitor Center have free copies available. The Silver City Art Guide can also be downloaded from the website: www.silvercityart.com.



The Silver City Clay Festival continues across town through Aug. 2 with workshops, exhibits, mud pie contest, exhibition and marketplace. (Courtesy photo)

The Silver City Clay Festival continues across town through Aug. 2 with workshops, exhibits, mud pie contest, exhibition and marketplace. On Aug. 1 a CLAY in the Streets celebration downtown offers live music and dancing, a beer garden and art for the whole family from 7 to 10 p.m. visit clayfestival.com for more information.

At the Copper Quail Gallery Mariah Walker's fanciful art is featured this month with an exhibit called, "Look What the Wind Blew In!"

Walker, paints in watercolor and mixed media. She creates unique subjects in bright colors with a joyful style. Walker offers framed originals, matted prints and notecards. A reception for the show will be held Aug. 8 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Copper Quail, 211-A N. Texas St. in Silver City. The show will remain featured through Aug. 30.



The creative talent of Mariah Walker is featured this month at the Copper Quail Gallery.

Common Ground Gallery features Roxanne Swentzell's show through Aug. 29. The gallery is also expanding its hours to Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A Native American potter, Swentzell focuses on interpretative female portraits with the idea of returning a balance of power between the male and the female. She uses humor as a tool to communicate the messages through her work. Common Ground is at 102 West Kelly in Silver City.

Deming
In August, the Deming Art Center presents a Fine Arts Photography Show. Call the Deming Art Center at 575-546-3663 or check the website at www.Demingarts.org for more information.



Roxanne Swentzell's creations are on display at the Common Ground Gallery all month.

September at the Deming Art Center will feature, Lyn Orona: A One Woman Show; Painting, Sculpture and Jewelry. Orona has shown all over the Southwest and California and has been an integral part of the local art community for a decade. This exhibit will display her mastery of three widely varied and difficult mediums. The show will run from Aug. 29- Sept. 30 at the Deming Art Center, 100 S. Gold St., Deming. Check www.Demingarts.org for more information.

Black Range and Plein Air Artists are hosting a juried fine art show to benefit the St. Jude's Research Hospital, Oct. 9 at the Event Center, 2300 E. Pine St. in Deming, the show will remain up Oct. 10 and 11.

The membership of the Black Range Artists covers all of southern New Mexico and west Texas and is a



Black Range and Plein Air Artists are hosting a juried fine art show to benefit the St. Jude's Research Hospital, at the Event Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Oct. 10 and 11.

not-for-profit art organization. The group's mission is to give back to the community. In doing so this year, we elected to do a benefit for the St. Jude's Research Hospital cancer treatment for our sickest children.

St. Jude's Hospital is located in Memphis, Tenn. It's mission is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. No child is denied treatment based on race, religion or family's ability to pay. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing and food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child to live.

Each participating artist attending the Black Range and Plein Air Show has agreed to donate 20 percent of their sales to St. Jude. Also, they are shouldering the expense of travel, food and lodging expenses. As an important addition to the Show will be the Plein Air landscape painters. This remarkable event is happening with the support host of Black Range Artists, Plein Air Painters of New Mexic, International Plein Air Painters, and Tucson Plein Air Painters Society.

There are a few spaces left for artists, and the group is still looking for sponsors and silent auction items. For more information go to the Black Range website: www.blackrangeart.com or blackrangeart@gmail.com or call Lyn Orona at 575-546-4650.

Sierra County

The **Hillsboro Historical Society** is sponsoring a sealed bid auction of original works by Leonard Peltier (Anishinable/Lakota); **Dan Viets Lomahaftewa** (Hopi/Choctaw); and **Bernie Granados, Jr.** (Apache/Zacatec) from its collection of Native American paintings. Bids will be accepted through Sept. 7, including during the Hillsboro Antiques Festival, Home Tour and Wine and Microbrew Tasting Labor Day weekend. Proceeds will support the education efforts of the HHS. For information and bid forms, contact Robin Tuttle, Hillsboro Historical Society Board of Directors, at 575-895-5187 or at robltut@yahoo.com.



Leonard Peltier’s “Buffalo Hunter,” is one of four featured artworks as part of a silent auction to benefit the Hillsboro Historic Society.

Alamogordo

Desert Blooms, a photography exhibit of flowers that bloomed in the foothills east of Alamogordo between March and June 2015, is on display throughout the month of August 2015 at **Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery** on



Desert Blooms, photographs by Gerald Moore is at Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery on New York Avenue in Alamogordo all month.

New York Avenue in Alamogordo. An artist’s reception for the photographer, **Gerald Moore**, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 21.

Las Cruces

Lulu Fine Art Gallery is proud to announce its newest exhibition by Wichita photographer **Renee Popovich**. A reception and opening



Wichita photographer Renee Popovich provides a solo Show at the Las Cruces Lulu Gallery for August.

is from 5 to 7 p.m., Aug. 6. Popovich moved to New Mexico from Wichita and lived here for five years, long enough for her to fall in love with the state which she uses liberally in her photographs. In Wichita she was the featured artist at Botanica Gardens, the official photographer for Wichita Pride

2014 and a special assignment photographer for the Tulsa Oklahoma Gayly newspaper. **Blue Gate Gallery** will be showing available works from a private collection including oils and watercolors with an opening reception Aug. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. An example is **George Zoretich’s** abstract oil,

ART SCENE continued on next page

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Art Scene continued



“The Gateway,” exhibition is presented at Big Picture Digital Image Experts & Gallery and features the digital art of Micah Pearson.

Mountain City, representing the seven hills of Rome which received an award in a mid-year show at the prestigious Butler Institute of American Art.

The works will remain on display through the end of September. The gallery is located at the intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road, 4901 Chagar in Las Cruces. For more information or appointment call 575-523-2950.

Big Picture Digital Image Experts & Gallery presents “The Gateway,” by digital artist **Micah Pearson**. This exhibit demonstrates

a return to Pearson’s roots as an artist. Embracing a rougher, more natural feel in both texture and form, as well as fully utilizing his training as a photographer; this collection of artwork explores themes of the nature of reality and perception as well as reframing familiar stories from literature.

In order to capture the feeling of each individual artwork, Micah will be presenting his pieces in specialized methods tailored to each piece using a diverse range of materials such as mirrors, acrylics, chalkboard and flagstone. Examples of

Micah’s work can be found at www.micahpearson.net.

The exhibit reception is from 5 -7 p.m., Aug. 7 at the Downtown Ramble and continues through the month of August. The Big Picture Gallery is located at 311 N. Main Street. Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information call 575-647-0508.

The featured artist for August at **El Paso Electric Gallery** will be professional artist and art teacher **Sally Quillin**, who uses color to express her emotional and physical reactions to a variety of subject matter, thus expressing what she cannot say in words. Quillin’s exhibit will begin with an opening reception on Aug. 7.

Every month the Doña Ana Arts Council welcomes local artists to exhibit in the El Paso Electric Gallery in the lobby of the Rio Grande Theatre. Regular exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, or to book an exhibit, call the Arts Council offices during regular working hours.

The Rio Grande Theatre is located at 211 N. Main, in Las Cruces and is managed by the Doña Ana Arts



Frank Rimbach is one of the featured artists at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery for August.

Council. For clarification, photos or additional information, visit www.RioGrandeTheatre.com or contact the Doña Ana Arts Council, 575-523-6403, located on the second floor of the Rio Grande Theatre.

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla, across from the Fountain Theatre, will feature two artists, **Nanci Bissell** and **Frank Rimbach** in the month of August.

Bissell is a graduate of Texas A&M University, having a Bachelor of Science in education and minor in art and English.

She has been an educator, teacher, principal, and assistant principal in the elementary schools, retiring after 26 years. Her paintings have been exhibited in numerous art shows. Bissell’s artistic interests include seascapes, street scenes and landscapes.

Rimbach holds a bachelor’s degree and Master of Fine Arts from New Mexico State University. He also has studied extensively both in old and modern masters in Europe

and the United States. Rimbach’s work is primarily in landscapes, bookcase series and his modern abstracts. He is currently exploring landscapes, as he continues to capture the rugged beauty of surrounding Las Cruces.

In addition, the 30 artists of the Gallery offer art in many media’s, which include original paintings, acrylics, pastels, fused glass art jewelry, unique one of a kind wood-turning objects, stained glass, photography, mixed media, unusual decorated gourds, handmade textile weavings, art tile, affordable natural quality gems stone jewelry, prints, cards, and miniature paintings.

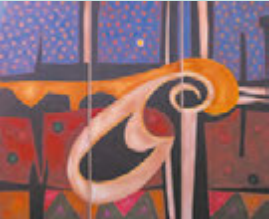
The First American Bank, Mesilla, is well represented by gallery members and continues to rotate their artwork on a monthly basis.

Gallery hours are Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 575-522-2933 or visit www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com

At the **University Art Gallery** **Millee Tibbs** is one of the featured artists in the UAG’s summer exhibi-

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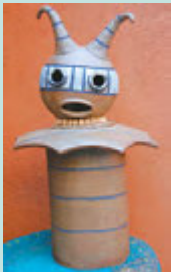
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The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla Nanci Bissell through August.



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From the Ground Up XXVII, Regional Juried Ceramics Exhibition opens in the Las Cruces Museum of Art Aug. 7. (Courtesy photo)

tion, “Re: Visioning the West.” Another featured artist in the current exhibition, **Kathleen Scott**, will be on hand from noon to 2 p.m., Aug. 22, to lead a beginner’s guide to stop-motion videos workshop. This event is free and open to the public. For more information email artglry@nmsu.edu.

From the Ground Up XXVII, Regional Juried Ceramics Exhibition opens in the **Las Cruces Museum of Art** Aug. 7. The exhibit opens at 10 a.m. during the First Friday Ramble in the Las Cruces Museum of Art. The show is co-hosted by Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

This year’s show features 32 artists exhibiting a total of 54 sculptural and utilitarian ceramic artworks. The Museum of Art will host an art-

ists’ reception on Sept. 11, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with an awards presentation by exhibition juror Marcia Selsor.

The Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main Street between the Branigan Cultural Center and the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. The exhibits and events are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information, visit the website at: las-cruces.org/museums or call 575-541-2137.

The **Branigan Cultural Center** in Las Cruces will be undergoing some building renovations starting in August and continuing through the end of September.

The renovations will require the BCC to be closed from Monday, Aug. 3, through Thursday, Oct. 1. The Cultural Center will reopen to the public during the First Friday Downtown Ramble on Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.

In keeping with the rules and regulations of the building being on the National Historic Register, this project is being done with permission and guidance from the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division.

To continue service to the public, center staff have developed a plan to continue summer operations and obligations by working and providing programs at the Museum of Art and the Museum of Nature and Science. Before attending a BCC program, check the website at las-cruces.org/museums and the museum’s Facebook page or call 541-2154 for up-to-date location information.

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ARTS EXPOSURE • DAVID SALCIDO

Local movie returns to area

Grant County based horror film, TRUTH, part of El Paso festival

After a very successful year of screenings in theaters from Santa Fe to Buffalo, NY, Silver City-made feature film "TRUTH" will receive one final screening as part of the Local Flavor Film Series at the Eighth Annual Plaza Classic Film Festival, before being released to DVD by Borderlands Media in early November. One of only three locally-produced feature films

selected from 70 submissions, "TRUTH" will receive a screening at the Philanthropy Theatre in El Paso, at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8.

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Horror/Sci Fi Feature at the 2015 Buffalo Niagara Film Festival, "TRUTH" is a speculative thriller that entertains while at the same time offering deeper themes

that explore who we really are when we lose the ability to live by deception. Shot primarily in Silver City by PRC Productions – from a script by actor/director Michael J. Cramer (Weird Science, Summer Camp Nightmare) and starring William McNamara (Dream A Little Dream, Copycat), along with New Mexico actors Johnny Tabor, Sabrina Gomez, Kenneth McGlothlin, Marcelle Bowman, Jack Lutz and many more – "TRUTH" follows a diverse group of college students who fall victim to a life-threatening virus when they stumble into a top secret facility deep in the mountains of the Gila wilderness.

The Eighth Annual Plaza Classic Film Festival runs Aug. 5-16. The Philanthropy Theatre is located at 125 Pioneer Plaza in El Paso, Texas. Admission for the screening of "TRUTH" is \$4. For more information, visit www.plazaclassic.com.

PRC Productions (PRC-Productions.com) is a Las Cruces-based, full-service production company formed in June of 2010. Since that time, it has produced several shorts films, award-winning documentaries



William Dean, Johnny Tabor and Sabrina Gomez are students who discover the truth really is out there when they stumble onto a secret government conspiracy in a remote hospital, in the suspense thriller TRUTH, by PRC Productions. (Courtesy Photo)

and commercials and nearly 50 aired television programs. PRC Productions has produced and assisted in several feature films including "Eaters," "Frankenstein

vs The Mummy" and Day of the Mummy" starring Danny Glover. For more details on "TRUTH," visit www.WhatIsTheTruthMovie.com.

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Mud Pies

Aug. 1 Silver City Clay Festival holds creative contest

The Silver City Food Co-op is sponsoring the Silver City CLAY Festival's Fourth Annual Edible Mud Pie Contest on Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Silver City Farmers' Market. Bakers and chefs, this is your opportunity to show off your creativity. Pies are due in before 10 a.m. to enter (for free);



judging and tastings begin at 10 a.m.

Mud pies will be awarded based on taste, presentation, and creativity with prizes given for first, second, and third place. Spectators are welcome to a sample of the entries after the judging. For further details, visit CLAYFestival.com or call 575-538-5560.

Mud Fun For Kids invites children to get their hands dirty and play with clay and is for youth grades Pre-K – sixth grade. Children cannot be left unattended. This event, also held Saturday, is hosted by Jared Carpenter, Frances Miller, and the Silver City Food Co-op. Mud Fun will be held under the portico in front of the Market Café located at 614 N. Bullard Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the Co-op at 575-388-2343, or visit www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Real, delicious pies should be submitted to the CLAY Festival Mud Pie Contest Aug. 1.

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AZURITE GALLERY, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.
BARBARA NANCE GALLERY & STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.
BLUE DOME GALLERY, 307 N. Texas, 534-8671. Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.
THE CLIFFS STUDIO & GALLERY, 205 N. Lyon St. and Yankie, (520) 622-0251.
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COMMON THREAD, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 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. Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.
COW TRAIL ART STUDIO, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Monday, 12-3 p.m. or by appointment, (706) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.
CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.
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FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
GUADALUPE’S, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
HUTCHINGS FINE ART, 406 B N. Bullard, Downtown Silver City. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 313-6939.
LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media. www.leybalngallsARTS.com, leybalngallsART@zianet.com.
LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.
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ADOBE PATIO GALLERY, 1765 Avenida de Mercado (in the Mesilla Mercado), 532-9310. Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
GALERI AZUL, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
GALERIA ON THE PLAZA, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m. Galería Tepin, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
THE POTTERIES, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538. Rokoko, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

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ALEGRE GALLERY, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685. Azure Cherry Gallery & Boutique, 330 E. Lohman Ave., 291-3595. Wed.-Thurs. 12-5 p.m., Friday to Saturday, noon-8 p.m.
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LAS CRUCES ARTS ASSOCIATION, Community Enterprise Center Building, 125 N. Main St. www.lacrucesarts.org.
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August 2015

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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIEL ROCHELLE

Consciousness shift

Life is better at 12 ½ mph

Several months ago I wrote about my new commuter or transport bicycle. It has proven to give me even more use and enjoyment than I anticipated – and I anticipated a lot. As I’ve said to a number of people, “If I discover that I need an onion or two, I’ll just hop on the bike to and from the grocery. It doesn’t take that long and I don’t have to look for a parking spot.”

The purchase of this bicycle has measurably increased my commuting, and the novelty has not worn off. Nor do I think that it will. In six months of ownership I have ridden one thousand two hundred plus miles, or an average of two hundred miles a month. I ride to stores, to friends’ houses, to church, to NMSU, to doctors and dentists, to dinner or a beer, and on and on it goes. I also tend to keep the bike clean and treat it as I would a car, perhaps better than my cars.

I have shifted almost entirely to using the bicycle over a car for my local needs and wants. I’ve gone for two and three-week periods without using a car. My consciousness has shifted; it now feels more natural to ride a bicycle than to hop in a car for any trip less than seven miles for which I don’t need a vehicle to haul big stuff. “Seven miles” was an arbitrarily chosen figure but it works as a measuring rod for the moment.

Years ago I made a promise to myself that I would never live so far away from the central location of my work that I would have to use a car for my primary transport. When I lived in Chicago I had trouble cycling from my neighborhood to my place of work, so I combined public transportation and walking, but aside from that I managed to keep the promise, and in the Las Cruces area it has become quite easy to keep that promise once again.

American society as it developed west to California, became more dependent upon the automobile. People began to live farther and farther away from the locus of their work, and so the demand for cars grew bigger. Whole cities were planned with no thought whatever to

the efficiency of public transportation or human-powered alternatives, and now we are paying the price.

I want to urge people to begin to think of alternatives. Most of us realize that we need to reduce our use of fossil fuels. We need infrastructure to support the increasing use of alternative modes of transportation that enable us to make these reductions. We need to begin to think like city planners of Davis, California, who made Davis the safest cycling city in the U.S. for

half a century! Check a video at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6vcBMyx5p8>

Practically, this will mean more dedicated bike lanes, more bike racks at stores and med-

ical offices and schools, more signage that reminds auto and truck drivers that ALL roads are open to bicycles, not merely those marked “share the road,” and more education for the general public on the rules of the road as they apply to cyclists. We need to gain clarity about exactly what “share the road” means in actual road space and lane usage. Kudos to those in our community who revised a map that shows not only bike lanes, but estimates of safety on various roads. We need to encourage law enforcement agencies to recognize the right of cyclists to the roads and enforce such laws as the three-foot margin required for cyclists on the part of cars, five feet on the part of trucks. Life can be better at 12 1/2 mph.

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and secretary for Velo Cruces, a local advocacy committee. The church web site is <http://stanthonyle.org>.

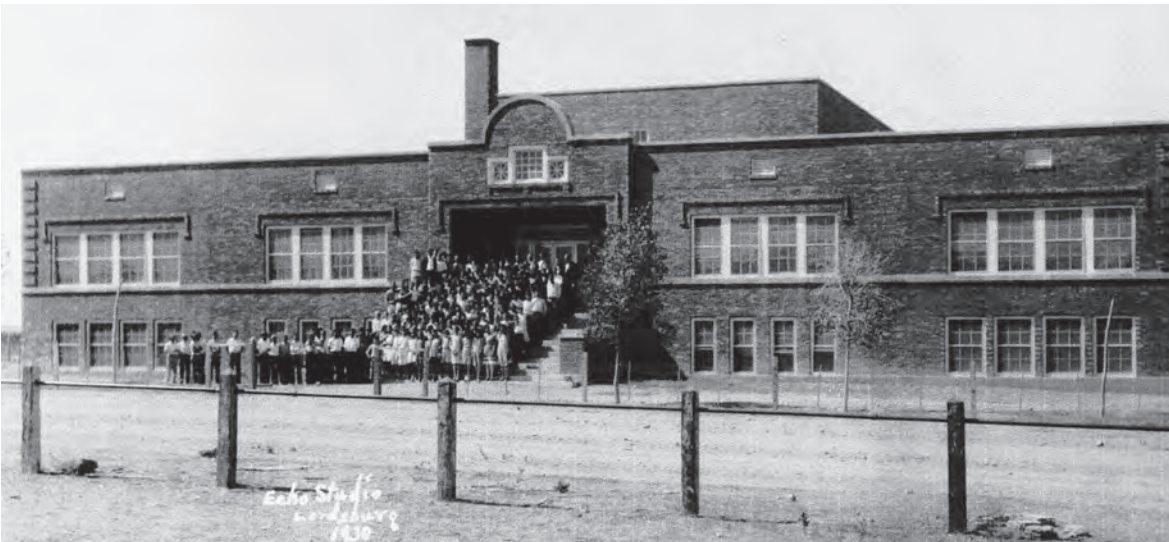


A Mural Camp dedication for two new Silver City murals is planned for 1 p.m. Aug. 2. The murals are called “Food is Life” and “Fruit and Veggie Dance Party.” Both murals and the tiles used were created by Grant County youth as part of the mural camp. Pizza will be served from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Volunteer Center of Grant County, 501 E. 13th St.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION • TOM DRAKE

Visual anchor to the past

Abandoned Lordsburg High School is historically significant



Lordsburg High School after Trost & Trost Architects expanded and restyled the building in 1927. (Photo courtesy of Historic Preservation Division Register files, date unknown)

A grassroots effort in southwestern New Mexico to avert demolition of Lordsburg’s early twentieth-century high school paid off when the state Cultural Properties Review Committee agreed the building was worthy of preservation at the national level.

The committee unanimously decided to forward a National Register of Historic Places nomination to the National Park Service for inclusion on the official United States list of properties that should be preserved. Although inclusion would not prevent the Lordsburg Municipal School District from demolishing the brick school once attended by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, it does draw attention to what still is one of Lordsburg’s most significant buildings.

“This is the only building you have that is substantial and shows where you’ve been as a community,” said Reginald Richey, an architect from Lincoln, and vice-chairman of the committee. “This is the best thing you’ve got.”

Lordsburg Municipal School superintendent Randy Piper told the committee the district has wanted to tear down the building for seven years. He said the building is “a maintenance nightmare” that costs the small district \$12,500 a year in insurance premiums. That money, he said, would be better spent hiring additional teaching staff.

The school has been the focus of 10 years of work by local citizens to raise awareness of its history and to save it. In 2007, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance included it on the nonprofit’s Most Endangered List. The Hidalgo County Heritage Society, which commissioned the National Register listing, gathered signatures from 379 citizens and former students who want the building saved. In 2013, the school district gave permission to list the property in New Mexico’s State Register of Cultural Properties.

If listed in the National Register, the building would be eligible for federal preservation tax credits, which have been used successfully to rehabilitate buildings in communities as large as Albuquerque and as small as Clayton, Silver City, Deming and Hobbs. Notably, Old Albuquerque High School, built ca. 1914, was shuttered for decades until it was repurposed for housing and helped spur revitalization of the area now known as EDO for East Downtown.

Built in 1916 as Lordsburg’s first high school, the buildings significant architecturally for alterations completed in the Mission Revival style by the notable El Paso-based firm Trost & Trost Architects and Engineering in 1927. Henry C. Trost added two classroom wings and a two-story auditorium with a full stage and balcony that was used for performances, movie screenings, community events, a study hall and for staging New Deal programs during the Great Depression. The building was shuttered in the late 1970s.

The nomination also states the building is historic for education because it reflects a period of growth in Lordsburg during a mining boon that fueled optimism for the town’s future and spurred a commitment to establishing a modern setting for education.

Sandra Day O’Connor attended classes at Lordsburg High School for one year when she grew homesick while attending a private school in El Paso, for her Lazy B Ranch near Duncan, Ariz. But tired of the long commute over rutted ranch roads to the border where she had to wait for a bus and resumed her schooling in El Paso the following year.

The building holds strong memories for many in the community as mentioned by Aida Saucedo Estrada who was one of four people from Lordsburg who attended the June 12 meeting. A graduate of Lordsburg High School, Estrada admitted she was sentimental about saving it but said it should be preserved so younger generations have a visual anchor to Lordsburg’s past.

Mothballed for 30 years, the school remains one of the largest buildings in town. Its roof leaks and has collapsed in places, letting in water that has damaged plaster walls and hardwood floors on both stories.

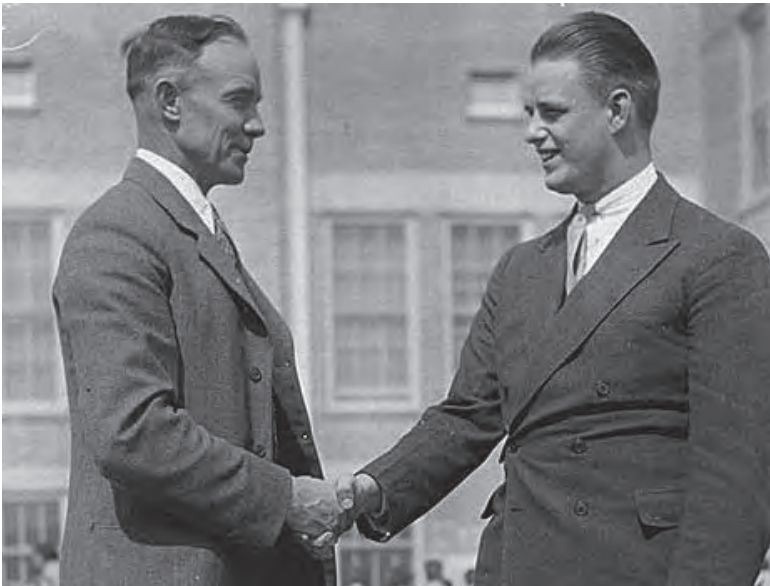
The committee acknowledged the building was in “dire condition,” as stated by member Matthew Bandy. In recommending it for the National Register, the CPRC said it was basing its decision on the importance of the building to Lordsburg’s history.

The nomination was completed by historian John Murphey, a consultant, who also wrote the State Register nomination in 2013.

Tom Drake is a public relations representative for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs in Santa Fe. He can be reached at tom.drake@state.nm.us.



Recent photograph of the front entrance of Lordsburg High School. (Photo courtesy of John Murphey/HPD Register files)



Elliott Roosevelt, the President’s 22-year-old son, contemplated relocating to Lordsburg during a tour of the Southwest. (Photo courtesy of HPD Register files, March 14, 1933)

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Revolution in Palomas?

Government programs may be more effective at meeting needs

There is, I think, a quiet little revolution going on in Palomas to eliminate hunger, but it definitely has its limitations and flaws.

In a town of 4,000 there are 240 families being fed with a food-stamp program who weren't eating enough a year ago. And roughly 250 people have been working

a few weeks at a Foxconn plant at San Jeronimo (west of Juarez) who didn't have steady work before.

But a fairly typical reaction was that of a young man named Juan who was sitting in Pancho Villa Park with his wife and year-old son on a Sunday evening. He'd been working at the Foxconn factory for a month.

I asked him how it felt to be able to eat enough, and he said, "It's a relief." That's all.

I wondered if he was planning ahead to buy some things, imagining they might want to make a repair on their house or buy a junk car. He said they were getting "diapers and milk" for their son. He and his wife looked tired.

"Andamos batallando (we're struggling)," he said. "I don't have water in the house," he said. "A neighbor gives me some." They also don't use electricity.

But people are grateful that their kids are not crying for food.

SinHambre

In regard to the SinHambre program (food stamps on a computerized plastic card), there are without doubt a substantial number of people in Palomas who fall through the cracks in the system. Most people I talked to knew one other person, or a few others, who weren't getting the card and needed it.

The SinHambre program was inaugurated at a big meeting in Palomas in July last year, where low-income residents could sign up. The lunch kitchen manager Brenda Rodriguez said there hadn't been another meeting until April this year. The SinHambre people in Juarez had planned another Palomas meeting for June, but the regional elections got in the way.

Those involved in the program in Palomas say a meeting's planned for August, but not one person knows on what date that will be yet. Their meetings are advertised by flyers in store windows and notices on Juarez TV channels. Amazingly, there's no one to go to in Palomas and no phone number to call if you need a SinHambre card.

Criticism

There's some pretty fierce criticism of the SinHambre program by the Left in Mexico. The arguments circle around the fact that the program isn't addressing the root causes of Mexican poverty and inequality. They say the poor have been getting poorer because of the neo-liberal policies that are still promoting exports in agriculture and draining away subsidies for small-farm producers.

Comandante Marcos of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, which warred against neo-liberalism, hates SinHambre. He made a statement about it in April 2013 when SinHambre was intro-



Norma Casilla, and her baby, Angel, started getting help from the SinHambre food program almost a year ago. Casilla, a single mother of two, said she no longer has to comfort her children when they cry from hunger because of the program's provisions. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

duced, before he disappeared as a political entity in 2014.

What makes it all worse is that SinHambre is partly sponsored by Nestle and PepsiCo, inventors and marketers of junk food that draws people away from locally produced food and causes the extreme obesity rate that's grown in Mexico since the 1980s. That's when processed food, often made by these companies, was introduced into the market. Nestle is of course famous for their low-nutrition infant formula marketing in third world countries. They've developed milk formulas for Mexico that are sold at the DICONSA store in Palomas, where SinHambre clients buy their food.

While all these points may be valid, and probably some if not a lot of refugees from these rural policies have arrived in Palomas, these arguments would seem like abstractions to most of the mothers who have actual food to give to their kids now when they get cranky and want to eat.

Foxconn

Palomenses are obviously glad to get work assembling computers at Foxconn, or they wouldn't be flocking there to work. There are four buses that take people to San Jeronimo in the early morning and three buses in the afternoon for the night shift.

Maybe even more important to the people in Palomas than the pay they get is the benefits offered by Foxconn, from what I hear.

Ramon Tovar had just started working at Foxconn two weeks earlier. He'd worked as a stone mason before, making enough for just one meal a day sometimes. He sat in his yard with his wife in front of their house on the far west side of town.

Ramon said the benefits to employees Foxconn gives are really important to him, especially medical care and retirement benefits. He said he'd never gotten seguros (these benefits) before in his life. "The government here doesn't do anything for us," he claimed.

The \$57 to \$63 he brings home "only allows us to buy tortillas, potatoes, pasta, soups, flour, and cof-

fee"—the basic foods.

"Fruit is a luxury," his wife says with a little wry smile.

The medical benefits seem to be very appreciated in Palomas, but Ramon qualifies that by saying "the medical services are muy chafas – of low quality." Other people say that you often have to buy the medicines in the prescriptions yourself.

Being so close to the border and the much higher salaries in the United States, it's not surprising people in Palomas are not over-enthused about the pay.

I was talking to one man I know who had started work at Foxconn. I congratulated him on his job, but he just stood there with a slight smile on his face. I wondered how to encourage a man who's getting about \$57 there (the pay varies depending on hours worked). He was used to earning that much sometimes in a day in the fields of Deming, before he was deported. He has five young kids and a wife to feed. I don't know what to say to him.

A couple of women workers said they needed daycare centers for their children. Mayor Talaco Sanchez says, a little defensively, that no one has come to his office to ask for that.

Feeding the children

The system as it is has real drawbacks. But it's unbelievable how much more effective the stroke of a president's pen or the forces of pure, heartless capitalism have been to fill children's mouths than the hundreds of well-meaning church people and others who have raised donations and brought sacks of beans and flour to poor people in Palomas for decades (including myself).

The only consolation is that the bureaucrats and businessmen would never have known how hungry people were if the activists, guerrilleros, intellectuals, and church people hadn't told them about it, written about it, marched about it, and died over it.

I think things have taken a turn for the better.

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Wine and Nut Festival

Alamogordo event offers sipping selections

A festival is coming to Alameda Park in Alamogordo on Sept. 18 and Sept. 19, and it's called the Tularosa Basin Wine & Nut Festival. Locals and out-of-town-visitors to the White Sands Balloon Invitational can enjoy New Mexico wines, locally grown nuts, music, and shopping under the cottonwood trees from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The Tularosa Basin Wine & Nut Festival features samples from 19 different New Mexico Wineries, with a wide range of award-winning varieties to try. For the first time, this year's festival will also feature a great selection of pistachio, pecan, and other locally grown nuts in all kinds of combinations, or even just by themselves.

The Tularosa Basin Wine & Nut Festival will take place at the same time as the world-famous Whites Sands Balloon Invitation, just minutes away from Alameda Park. The Tularosa Wine & Nut Festival is hosted annually by the Alamogordo, Tularosa and White Sands Rotary Clubs, and the proceeds benefit their programs throughout the area. Tickets are available in advance online at www.TularosaBasinWineFest.com for \$10 for adults 21 and over.

Two-day Passes are also available in advance for \$16 online. Tickets are available at the gate for \$12, or \$20 for a two-day pass. Advance tickets can also be purchased at First National Bank, 414 10th Street in Alamogordo, or at the Chamber of Commerce at 1301 White Sands Blvd in Alamogordo. All adults must have a valid photo ID with them. Under 21 is free, but must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.



Wine fest vendors have their wares on display at the Tularosa Basin Wine & Nut Festival Sept. 18 and 19. (Photo by Jennifer Gruger)



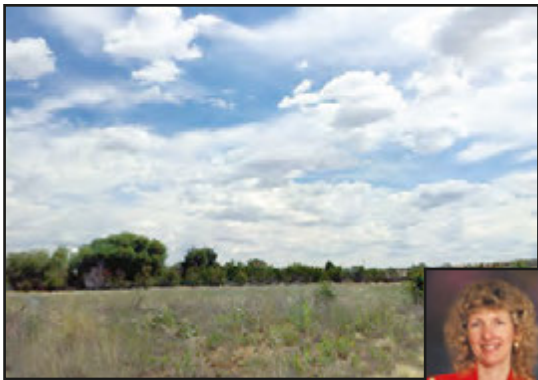
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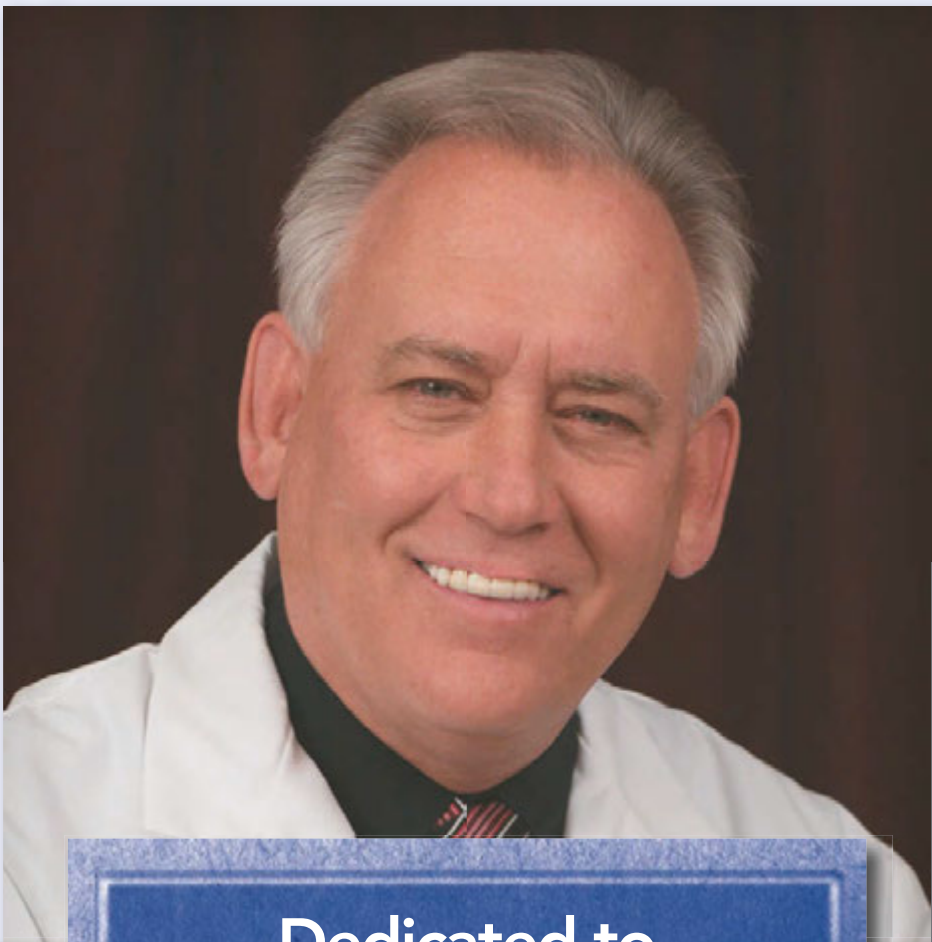
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BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534- 0780
HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703
PRAYER AND STUDY IN 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 AND SINGLE PERSONS OF GRANT COUNTY—Second Mondays. 10:30 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—5:30-6:56 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
THE NEW HOPE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP—MEETS EVERY MONDAY @ 12:05 - 1:00 PM, AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 20TH AND SWAN, SILVER CITY. AL ANON FAMILY GROUPS ARE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ALCOHOLICS. CONTACT: JERRY: 575-534-4866; MATT: 575-313-0330; DIANA: 575-574-2311. THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF AL-ANON.
OLD-TIME COUNTRY DANCING—3rd Mon., 7-9 p.m. Pin Room, Silver Bowling Center. Free.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.
TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

Tuesdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1st Tues. 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR— 2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tues- day. 7 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Mitch Barsh, 534-1134.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.
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.
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP—First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.
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.- 12:45 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, 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, whud- son43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.

BAYARD AL-ANON—6 p.m. Bayard Housing Authority, 100 Runnels Dr. 313-7094.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—7:15 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@wellnesscoali- tion.org,
FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.
GIN RUMMY—1 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY— 2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meet- ing at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-9. 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.
PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— 3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
REIKI SHARE - Noon, Thursdays. For Reiki practitioners any level & lineage. 211-B N.Texas. Contact Gianna, 970.685.0008.
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Sil- ver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
THE WEDNESDAY EVENING AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP—MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 6:00-7:00 PM, AT THE ARENAS VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5 RACE TRACK ROAD, ARENAS VALLEY (OLD RADIO STATION). THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF AL-ANON. CONTACT: TOM: 575-956-8731; KAREN: 575-313-7094; DOT: 575-654-1643.
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. Art- ists 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.
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.
REIKE SHARE—Thursdays at noon, free to Reiki practitioners for hour of meditation, discussion and practice. Interpersonal Peace Center, 211-B N. Texas St., Silver City. Please confirm meeting schedule beforehand by contacting Gianna at 970-685-0008 or reikidancer@gmail.com. For informa- tion about Reiki visit www.AvantHeal- ingArts.com.
GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOUR- ISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
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 Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar.12:30 1:30 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.
Fridays
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center confer- ence room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2nd Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

The Write Stuff

No matter the author or the medium, we love good writing

Last month David Siddens, a senior at Silver High School, got his byline in a statewide publication.

The topic of one of his articles was Derek Salas, a football player at the University of New Mexico, and another Silver High grad.

I had the opportunity to work with Siddens and about a dozen other students at the annual New Mexico Press Association High School Journalism Workshop in Albuquerque in June. Together, those students from throughout the state created the 34th edition of The Future Press, a nice little newspaper produced on deadline.

It's encouraging to see young people excited about writing.

Whenever I'm asked to speak in front of students, I talk about newspapers, of course, but I talk more about writing.

Learning how to write and to write well, can serve a young person in myriad ways.

Ever read a newspaper? Ever read an article on online site? Ever read a magazine? Ever read a book? Ever watch a movie? Ever watch a TV show? Ever watch or listen to a commercial? Ever read a comic book? Ever play a video game? Ever read Desert Exposure?

If you ever do any of those things, you are consuming things

that have to be written.

I was encouraged recently by the national buzz about the release of "Go Set A Watchman," the recently re-discovered novel by Harper Lee, the author of "To Kill A Mockingbird."

All over the country, July 13, people read aloud from "Mockingbird." I'd forgotten how much poetry is in that book. And how much humor. The book came out in 1960, and the movie of the same name hit theaters in 1962. Lee's book won the Pulitzer Prize and Gregory Peck won the Best Actor Oscar for his perfect portrayal of Lee's lead character, Atticus Finch.

There is humor and poetry in the movie, but even more in the book.

The re-discovery and subsequent release of "Watchman," long thought lost to the ages, has re-ignited interest in Lee, who did not have a published book prior to "Mockingbird," and, until now, did not have one published since. Publishing a book every 55 years may not be the typical pattern for authors, but for Lee it worked.

I guess it would have worked for anyone who could have created a masterpiece like "Mockingbird." I read recently "Mockingbird" still sells between 750,000 and a million copies a year,

earning Lee as much as \$9,000 a day. Her net worth is about \$40 million.

We can't guarantee a similar future for writers who win awards in the annual Desert Exposure writing contest, but you can earn you a published byline like young David Siddens.

You can submit an unpublished article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 26. Entries will be judged on literary quality and how well they express an aspect of life in southern New Mexico. No more than two entries per writer. Maximum length is 4,000 words.

Send Entries to: Desert Exposure Writing Contest, contest@desertexposure.com or Desert Exposure Writing Contest, 840 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E, Las Cruces NM 88011. Include name and postal address, plus email address. Entries cannot be returned.

We look forward to seeing your creative work.

See what you can do to spread some of the happiness today. Richard Coltharp is editor and publisher of Desert Exposure



Grant County Events continued

TAIZÉ—2nd Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.

WOMEN'S AL-ANON MEETING: WOMEN EMBRACING RECOVERY — We R GROUP (A WOMEN'S FEELINGS MEETING). MEETS FRIDAYS 4:30-5:30 P.M. AT LA CLINICA HEALTH AND BIRTH CENTER, 3201 RIDGE LOOP (OFF OF 32ND STREET, JUST UP THE HILL FROM GRMC). CONTACT THERESA M 388-4670.

WOODCARVING CLUB—2nd 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— 12:45 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.

DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 PM. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

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

Early Printed Maps exhibition of the American Southwest extended

At the Silver City Museum an exhibition, "Crossroads of Empire: Early Printed Maps of the American Southwest," will continue running until Sept. 2. The exhibition explores the idea that historical maps provide an opportunity to discover how land has been seen throughout time.

The Southwest remained a land of mystery long after the rest of the continental United States had been surveyed and recorded on maps.

This exhibition details the fascinating story of



Crossroads: The Silver City Museum features an exhibition exploring early printed maps of the southwest. (Courtesy photo)

the discovery, exploration and settlement of the area.

"Crossroads of Empire" spans the mapmaking enterprise from 1512 to 1873. The exhibition examines the romance of maps, the legacy of mapmaking and the profound influence of early mapmakers on our world today. Captions and text are in English and Spanish.

For more information, contact the museum at 575-538-5921, info@silvercitymuseum.org, or go to the museum's website www.silvercitymuseum.org.

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www.GRMC.org

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Southern New Mexico

A Mecca for the adventurous



Organ Mountains, west side, after a winter storm. Purportedly, the mountains were named by the early Spanish, who saw a resemblance to the pipes of the great organs in the cathedrals of their home country. (Photo by Jay Sharp)

More than three decades ago, when my wife, Martha, and I moved from Texas’ Galveston Bay area to the Chihuahuan Desert basin and mountain range country, we experienced some environmental shock.

In our old neighborhood, oak and loblolly pine trees towered above the houses and arced across the streets. Dense growths of shrubs and vines choked pathways through the woods. The land lay virtually flat. The soil — fine-grained, dark and rich — bore no stones whatsoever. Two nearby bayous teemed with estuarine species and yielded up occasional alligators. The daytime sky, deep blue between cloud banks, changed continuously. The nighttime sky, frequently overcast, clouded our view of the stars. Rains came in steady drizzles and, in many instances, thunderous downpours. (We once got some 23 inches of rain in 24 hours — about as much as we had during the years 2012 through 2014 in southern New Mexico and far west Texas.)

In our new home, scattered creosote bushes, mesquites and cacti grew across the open desert landscape, and juniper, pinyon pine and Gambel oaks grew along the lower mountain drainages. A nearby range rose thousands of feet above our neighborhood. A dry arroyo ran 100 feet deep immediately behind our back yard. Distant ranges, thinly veiled by desert haze, lay on the desert horizon. Sandy, rocky soils spoke of long-past flash floods and river flows. The daytime sky, typically a faded blue with scattered gossamer clouds, changed little from early morning to late afternoon. The nighttime sky, with the desert haze cleared, offered crystalline views of the stars, the planets and the full moon. Rains, when they came, usually fell randomly, in scattered showers.

At first, we missed the rich greens of our former, wooded home near the Gulf Coast, although I can’t say that we ever

longed for the steamy summers or relentless rainfall. We never yearned for mosquitos buzzing around our faces or ticks embedded in our dogs’ ears.

Then, thanks to friends who had spent lifetimes in the northern Chihuahuan Desert, we would discover over time that we had moved to one of the most diverse arid regions in the world, a land magical for adventurous residents and adventure travelers, a land, the Spanish would say, that often has “duende,” or “a mysterious and ineffable charm.” At length, it drew us, in 1996, to the Las Cruces and Mesilla area.

We would soon learn that that our new communities — along the rich Mesilla Valley — lay in a land grandly sculpted by the geological forces of Rio Grande Rift, one of only five such active continental fractures in the world. We would see plant and wildlife communities remarkably adapted to desert aridity, spotty and irregular rain showers, blistering summer temperatures and, sometimes, below zero winter temperatures. We would find that we lived at the junction of two of the most historic trails in the Americas — John Butterfield’s Overland Mail Company Trail and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (The Royal Road to the Interior). Within a day, we would soon realize, we could visit — or even discover anew — records of our area’s prehistoric and

historic human history. Moreover, we could contemplate our newfound life in museum-like historic buildings, over a good dinner with fine local wines.

After more than 30 years in the region, we have found our home, but we’re still discovering new wonders, nearly all accessible because they lie within public lands.

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument

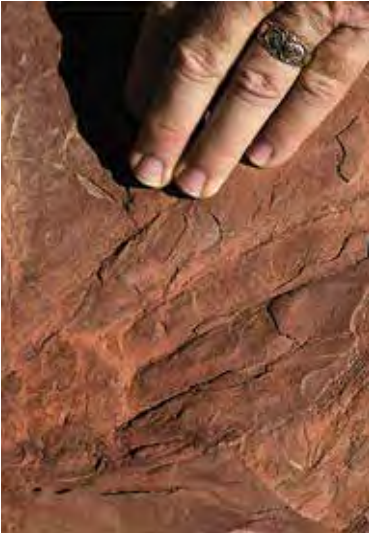
For instance, on the western side of the Rio Grande, just northwest of Las Cruces and Mesilla, you can find stunning tracks of wildlife and imprints of plants’ stems and foliage left in the mud of what was a tidal flat some 280 million years ago, tens of millions of years before the dinosaurs. Now designated as the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, covering some 5,200 acres, it ranks as the world’s most important known fossil record of its kind and time — the Permian Period of the Paleozoic Era. With some 150 Permian Period sites discovered in the monument so far, the area has yielded, investigators say, unparalleled insights into the animals and plants of the period, with lifetimes of discovery awaiting.

Cooke’s Canyon

About 60 miles west of Las Cruces and Mesilla, a few miles northeast of Deming,

for another example, you can explore perhaps the most infamous segment of the trail that John Butterfield’s Overland Mail Company stages and many other travelers followed across the desert Southwest. About six miles in length, it threads through Cooke’s Canyon, at the southern end of Cooke’s Range — named for Captain Philip St. George Cooke, who guided the Mormon Battalion through the mountains in 1846. “A journey of death,” W. Thornton Parker, M. D., called the canyon passage in his Annals of Old Fort Cummings, New Mexico, 1867-8. “... in this Canyon many an emigrant train, and travelers, and hunters, as well as soldiers of the regular army,” said Parker, “have gone to their deaths at the hands of the cruel (Chiricahua) Apaches.”

At the east end of the Cooke’s Canyon, at Cooke’s Spring, you will come upon the ruins of Fort Cummings, a Butterfield way station, and a spring house (don’t drink the water). Nearby, you can wander through the fort’s cemetery, which recalls, hauntingly, the dangers and hardships of the frontier. If you have a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle, you can still follow the trail — the “journey of death” — westward from Fort Cummings, through the canyon, possibly coming across isolated



Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, a 280-million-year-old track, which predates the dinosaurs by tens of millions of years. (Photo by Jay Sharp)

stone-covered graves of those who perished along the way.

Near the western end of the passage, you can still see trail remnants and the iconic hill called “Massacre Peak,” for reasons you can imagine. Near the mouth of Frying Pan Canyon, at a site overlooking the trail, mysterious images engraved into stone surfaces — “petroglyphs” — some by prehistoric people millennia ago, stand as symbols of long forgotten faiths and beliefs. At the nearby Pony Hills formation, more petroglyphs, these left by a prehistoric people mere centuries ago, whisper of different faiths and beliefs, and at least one image indisputably points to contact with the great city-states of Mesoamerica.

Rock Art Sites

If prehistoric images on stone — rock art — should seize your interest, becomes your “thing,” you will find many more sites to explore not far from Las Cruces and Mesilla. For just a few examples, rock art imagery left by prehistoric peoples decorates stone surfaces in the Tonuco and Doña Ana Mountains and in Lucero Canyon to the north; along a lava flow near the Rio Grande’s western escarpment to the south; and in Fort Bliss’ Castner Range area within El Paso’s Franklin Mountains.

At Texas’ Hueco Tanks State Park and Historical Site, located about 30 miles east of El Paso, prehistoric images painted on stone surfaces — “pictographs”

— in secluded alcoves and caves suggest a rich story of the mystical beliefs of early spear-carrying hunters and gatherers and, particularly, more recent Puebloan farmers and Apache raiders. Depictions of goggle-eyed figures, plumed serpents and a collared jaguar suggest contact with Mesoamerica. Masked ceremonial figures may speak to the origins of the Pueblo Indians’ Kachina masked dancing cults. Historically, Butterfield’s coaches paused at Hueco Tanks as they traveled over the desert.

The fabled Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, located about 30 miles north of Alamogordo, near the western slopes of the Sacramento Mountains, offers more than 20,000 images of humans, wildlife,

plant life, and geometric and abstract designs. These petroglyphs, many of them probably produced by Jornada Mogollon Puebloan peoples who lived nearby, in a small village to the south, suggest a rich and mystical spiritual heritage.

The Jornada del Muerto

The 90-mile-long Jornada del Muerto — another “Journey of Death” — ranked as the most dreaded passage of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, which began at Mexico City and ended at the San Juan Pueblo, north of Santa Fe. (Our segment was designated as a National Historic Trail under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act enacted by Congress on March 30, 2009.) Located north of Las Cruces and Mesilla, the Jornada, once defined along its length by stone-covered graves, lies in the desolate desert basin between the San Andres Mountains to the east and the Caballo and Fra Cristobal ranges to the west.

Traveling up the Mesilla Valley, following the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro corridor to reach the Jornada, you will pass the Robledo Mountains, where, in May of 1598, Juan de Oñate’s expedition buried Pedro Robledo (in a grave long lost, with, according to legend, a substantial treasure). You will drive near Fort Selden (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), where the famed World War II general Douglas MacArthur lived as a four-year-old child with his family in the 1880s.

Leaving the valley and following a dirt road that roughly parallels the Jornada, you soon come to Point of Rocks, a small range of hills. Point of Rocks lies near an arroyo where, in May of 1598, a small companion dog found puddles from a recent unseasonable rain — lifesaving water for Oñate and an advance scouting party. Nearby you will find a dirt pathway, built by the Bureau of Land Management, which takes you to an escarpment where you can look down on traces of the original trail. Climb the westernmost Point of Rocks hill to its peak and you will find an unmarked rough circle of stones, where Apaches, archaeologists suspect, kept secreted watch for travelers along the Jornada.

Continuing up the Jornada, you

pass occasional scattered ruins and markers. You may see occasional stone-covered graves — reminders, as Josiah Gregg said in his classic Commerce of the Prairies, that “...this dangerous pass has cost the life of many travelers in days of yore...”

About half way up the Jornada — as far as you can conveniently follow this section of the trail anymore — you will come to Laguna del Muerto (Lake of the Dead, usually dry) and the isolated little community of Engle, now a virtual ghost town. This is where famed early 20th century western novelist and short-story writer Eugene Manlove Rhodes once worked as a cowboy.

Still More Adventure Destinations

As you learn the area, you will keep finding other adventure destinations that you can visit within a day.

For instance, to the west of Las Cruces and Deming, you can explore Columbus and Camp Furlong, an isolated desert settlement located just a few miles north of the border and the Mexican hamlet of Palomas. It was here that Pancho Villa and his force attacked the community and military encampment on March 9, 1916 — the last time a foreign force dared strike America until that fateful day of September 11, 2001. It was here that John J. Pershing and the U. S. Army marshalled America’s latest military technology — aircraft and motorized vehicles — to launch a pursuit of Villa into Mexico—marking the beginning of mechanized warfare.

Northwest of Las Cruces and Mesilla, between Deming and Silver City, you come to City of Rocks State Park, named, as New Mexico State Parks says, for the “incredible volcanic rock formations found here. The ‘city’ is a geologic formation made up of large, sculptured rock columns, or pinnacles, rising as high as 40 feet and separated by paths or lanes resembling city streets. These rocks were formed about 34.9 million years ago when a very large volcano erupted. Then, erosion over millions of years slowly formed the sculptured columns seen today, creating a stunning, otherworldly landscape.”

Just southeast of Deming, at the Rock Hound State Park, in the



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Image on front: Sierra County Courthouse c. 1894. Image on back: Present day Courthouse ruins.

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Frying Pan Canyon rock art, near west end of Cooke’s Canyon, Massacre Peak in background. Spear point shapes on boulder suggest an age of 2000 years or more. (Photo by Jay Sharp)



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, nearby rock-covered graves recall those found along the Jornada del Muerto. (Photo by Jay Sharp)

Little Florida Mountains, you can put your geologic hammer to good use in collecting minerals such as multicolored jasper and black, glass-like perlite. With persistence and good luck, you may find a geode, or “thunder egg,” which is a nodular form of jasper.

When you tire of hammering rocks, you can head north of Deming, to the Gila Wilderness, where you might visit the mid-19th century hamlet of Pinos Altos, which took root in the wake of gold discoveries in a nearby stream and survived in spite of the regular saloon brawls of frontier miners and battles with the Chiricahua Apaches.

Exploring the village, you might plan a stop at the old Buckhorn Saloon, now a well-regarded restaurant, but please heed the ominous warning at the front: “WITCH PARKING ONLY: ALL OTHERS WILL BE TOAD.”

A roughly 30-mile-long, winding drive through the ponderosa pine forest north of Pinos Altos takes you to the 13th century Gila Cliff Dwellings, which Theodore Roosevelt made a national monument more than a century ago. Built in caves in the mouth of a canyon near the West Fork of the Gila River, the cliff dwelling’s stone-wall rooms, said William N. Morgan, Ancient Architecture of the Southwest, “typically have uneven floors cut into the stone in some places and filled in others ... Fire pits are located in the floors of living rooms ... Stone-lined grain bins, metates and manos denote spaces used to grind corn.” The Gila Cliff Dwellings are one of the few Mogollon Puebloan ruins where the walls remain standing.

About 50 miles northeast of Las Cruces and Mesilla, in the center of the Tularosa Basin, you will come to another national monument — the spectacular White Sands National Monument. Spanning nearly 300 square miles, it ranks as largest gypsum dune field in the world, with 60-foot-high dunes, still moving before the desert winds. Much of its wildlife and plant life have developed fascinating adaptations that facilitate survival in the harsh environment. White Sands takes on a magical aura — “duende” — on the nights with a full moon.

Along the western foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, near the mouth of Dog Canyon, you arrive at the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, which offers an intriguing history and a formidable hike. You can visit the late 19th

century ranch house of Oliver Lee, a charismatic figure who could have been an icon for western movies. With the help of his cow hands — according to local tales — he enriched some neighbors’ lives but also helped himself to nearby ranch lands, rustled cattle and shot his enemies. From the Lee house, you can make the tough hike up Dog Canyon, following the route that Mescalero Apaches took into the Sacramento Mountains to escape the U. S. Calvary.

The Organ Mountains — Desert Peaks National Monument

If you are drawn to the story of our earth, to clues about our prehistoric past, and to the history of our western lands, you will find a galaxy of adventures in the Organ Mountains — Desert Peaks National Monument, established by Presidential Proclamation in May of 2014. Essentially surrounding Las Cruces and Mesilla, the monument is divided into several sections. It includes, to the southwest of Las Cruces and Mesilla, the sprawling Portrillo Volcanic Field; to the northwest and north, desert basins and the Sierra de Los Uvas, Robledos and Doña Ana mountain ranges; and to the east, the 9,000-foot-high Organ Mountains. Altogether, it encompasses some 800 square miles — an area a third again larger than Texas’ Galveston Bay.

In the Portrillo Volcanic Field, you can thread your way through massive lava flows spread across the desert floor. (Watch for rattlesnakes!) You can wander through Aden Crater, a “shield volcano,” which looks like a warrior’s shield lying flat on the desert floor; and while there, you can — provided you are in excellent physical condition and properly equipped — descend into a 100-foot-deep fumarole, or gas vent, where three young men found the incredibly well-preserved remains of a late Ice Age giant ground sloth in the 1920s. (The sloth, entombed for perhaps 11,000 years, still had remnants of its last meal in its belly.) You can explore the world-class volcanic crater Kilbourne Hole, a National Natural Landmark, which was created, not by erupting lava, but rather by massive, repeated eruptions of superheated steam formed when magma contacted underground water far beneath the earth’s surface. About a mile across and hundreds of feet deep, Kilbourne Hole

was visited and studied by Apollo astronauts in the 1960s in preparation for their flight to the moon and exploration of its volcanic surface.

In the desert basins and mountain ranges to the north and northwest of Las Cruces and Mesilla, you can come across a record of human history thousands of years in the making. You may find prehistoric fire hearths, flint and chert spear and arrow points, pottery sherds, and abundant rock art — all of which, by law, must be left undisturbed. You can follow Butterfield’s old trail for more than 20 miles. You can still see rock cairns that marked the northern boundaries of land acquired from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase, which added nearly 30,000 square miles, in southwestern New Mexico and southern Arizona, to the United States in 1853. You can wander through the ruins of abandoned ranch houses. You can visit a cave that Geronimo purportedly used to escape a U.S. military force. You can climb to a site called “Outlaw Rock,” where Billy the Kid hid out, leaving his name (now virtually obliterated by the elements) scrawled on a stone wall.

In the Organ Mountains, you will find completely different opportunities for adventure, with several compelling hikes. This 32 million-year-old range has long drawn the adventurous into its rocky folds and crevices of their steep granitic and rhyolite slopes. You will find the evidence in secluded caves, Indian rock art, abandoned mines and crumbling ruins, which, collectively, speak of prehistoric hunters and farmers, Apache raiders, treasure hunters, miners, gunfighters, revolutionaries, Union and Confederate troops, early ranchers, early tourists, an Italian-born hermit and even tubercular patients.

Unlike stratified neighboring mountain ranges, which had origins in ancient and placid seas, the Organs emerged from the molten interior of the earth in a complex sequence of violent magmatic eruptions, lava flows, structural warping and fracturing and relentless erosion. The Organs now stand as “one of the most picturesque and rugged mountain ranges in the Southwest,” said New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology’s W. R. Seager in his Memoir 36 — Geology of Organ Mountains and Southern San Andres Mountains, New Mexico.

Rugged as they are, the Organs — enriched by a few permanent springs, various streams and even an intermittent waterfall — serve as a haven for one of the most diverse plant and wildlife communities in the Southwest. They harbor more than 800 plant species, including several species that occur nowhere else. They host some 80 species of mammals, 185 species of birds, and 60 species of reptiles and amphibians.

Still More

If you’re not yet exhausted by the adventures within a day’s reach from Las Cruces and Mesilla, you might join volunteers in support of the numerous parks and museums within the area,

historians and archaeologists in searches for campsites (parajes) along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, archaeologists in surveys for the some 5000 prehistoric sites in the Organ Mountains — Desert Peaks National Monument, geologists and paleontologists in investigations of the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, ornithologists for seasonal bird counts, or naturalists for desert plant and wildlife studies.

On casual days, you can visit, downstream from El Paso, three-century-old Spanish and Native American communities and charming mission churches. With

good luck and timing, you can make local festivals, experiencing the charm of the matachines, mariachi, ballet folklorico and, occasionally, even flamenco performers and classical guitarists who celebrate Native American and Hispanic heritage. Ask the right people and you can be directed to little “hole-in-the-wall” Mexican food restaurants where you will find true enchiladas, tamales, tacos, chili rellenos, caldillo, quesadillas, flautas, sopapillas, flan and empanadas.

I do have one cautionary note: You may get addicted to green chiles.



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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Doing the Right Thing

The trainer’s biggest challenge: Being honest with himself

Last month I talked about the kinds of qualities you might look for in a good trainer to help you and your horse.

For all the trainers out there, I thought it might be interesting to follow up with some opinions on why it’s so hard to be a good trainer.

The greatest challenge to anyone who wants to be a trainer is something that you will never hear discussed, and most in the business won’t even admit it exists. The very basis of the job starts with an enormous conflict of interest, the conflict of how you balance honesty and doing the right thing with making a living.

What is this inherent conflict? Very simply, it starts with the fact that not all issues with horses are training issues. But, as a trainer, your livelihood comes from fees for training. Can you really ignore that and be objective, even offer alternative solutions, when evaluating a situation with a horse or rider? If you do, it may appear to devalue your service and will certainly cost you money. Isn’t it easier — and more profitable — to say any behavior is a training issue, then sign someone up for a bunch of lessons, or take the horse and “train” it for a few months?

Even all the clinics, training shows on TV, YouTube videos and how-to CD’s imply that all issues are about training, and if you buy that trainer’s products, use their method or take your horse to them, any problem or performance shortfall will be magically trained away.

The fact is, issues with horses can be driven by physical limitations, conformation, medical problems, diet, ill fitting or inappropriate equipment, or, dare I say, the owner. To look past any of these variables and go right to “it’s a training problem and I’ll fix it” seems wrong, but I understand why it happens. It’s hard to put food on the table by suggesting a solution that doesn’t involve your service.

These are a few situations I’ve faced that illustrate this conflict, where the right solutions would potentially (and did) cost me thousands of dollars of income.

An owner came to me with a horse that was exhibiting some dangerous behavioral problems. The rider had owned the horse for many years without any real problems. The owner was eager to fix the problem but also to learn some new techniques, and it would have been easy to create a nice “annuity” for my business with regular lessons. However, after a couple of sessions, I felt this was not a training issue at all, but an indication of a particular medical issue I had seen before. I suggested rather than spending any money with me, have the vet check the horse for this issue because if it’s there, it can be resolved with surgery. The horse did indeed have this problem, the surgery was done, and the owner is still riding and enjoying the horse.

In another case, an owner brought me a horse with a rearing problem. She was convinced it was a training issue — all of her riding buddies said so, so it must be the case. She even said the magic words, “I don’t care how much it costs to fix.” After the very first session, I told her this was not a training issue. My suggestion was to get a true equine dentist in to evaluate the horse immediately because what I saw was a horse trying to avoid the pain and discomfort of the bit. After full dental work and a few weeks of the owner riding without a bit in the safety of her small arena, she was able to return to her bridle set-up with no more rearing or resistance.

A new rider went to a breeder/trainer to look for a horse. An honest horseman would have looked at this person and the horses he had available, and should have said he didn’t really have a horse appropriate for your age, skill and interest. But, that would mean no sale and no income from lessons. So, he convinced an older beginner with no riding experience that the best thing to do is get a young horse (he had plenty of those around — surprise!) and grow and learn with it. After several big wrecks and some injuries, the owner came to me

looking for training to make the horse safe. Sadly, I had to say this was not a training issue at all but simply a bad marriage that required getting a different horse better suited for a beginner who just wanted to ride.

The stories go on and on like this, situations where changes in diet, a new saddle, a bigger trailer or some chiropractic work have solved what were thought to be training problems. In most businesses this kind of honesty and problem solving is truly appreciated, and results in the kind of referrals and reputation that can build a profitable business (sadly, in the horse business, often it does neither). If it should be good for your business, other than the obvious loss of predictable income, why is it so hard to actually do it?

Well, there’s a second part to this conflict — the human. It is far easier for an owner to believe training is the problem (or the solution) because that line of thought is not at all threatening to the person (unless the person has already spent a ton of money with other trainers).

When you start to talk about things like diet, medical issues or equipment, in many cases it will be taken as some sort of criticism of how the owner cares for their horse. Care of an animal is something very personal, and anything perceived as a commentary on care becomes a criticism of the person and not the animal. That doesn’t sit well with most owners, so it can be easier for a trainer to just avoid those issues.

Likewise, if you talk about things like a horse’s age, maturity, conformation, physical limitations or temperament for a particular use, you may hit a nerve with an owner that gets interpreted as saying they bought the wrong horse or, worse, they don’t know much about horses. Oops, there goes another client out the door.

If in your assessment as a professional trainer, you feel a horse is quite good and well trained but the owner is at the root of the problem, it is a challenge to go in that direction without making an owner feel they are not as skilled or as knowledgeable as they thought they were. No one likes to hear that. No one likes reality to come into their dreams.

No matter how much has been written and proven about the nature of the horse, personality and learning differences between individual horses and different breeds, and the physical and mental requirements for various disciplines or activities, many people still believe you can train any horse to do anything. That being the case, it only makes sense to think if something isn’t going well, it’s about training or the trainer and nothing else.

Maybe the work done in cognitive science and the way our own brains work to protect our emotional and physical well being can help to understand this conflict of interest for a trainer (see, for example, the thoughts of Janet Jones, PhD in the July issue of Equus). Looking just at the concept of the “self-serving bias” — where we believe our abilities, skills or behavior lead to our successes, but our failures are the fault of someone else or some set of circumstances out of our control — it’s easy to see why one could focus just on training or the trainer as the problem. It leaves the owner immune to criticism and comfortable with their beliefs, even if they’re misplaced.

No easy way for a trainer to navigate these waters, which is probably why so many don’t even try. There isn’t much in the training career manual that prepares you to deal with these complexities. If the owner thinks it’s a training issue, then that’s what it is — and get out the checkbook. Nobody gets offended, the trainer generates some income and everybody is happy until the next time the horse acts like a horse.

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

THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Ursa Minor, the Little Bear

16,000 light-years away, nova explosion explained

Two-thirds of the way up in our northern sky is the den of Ursa Minor, the Little Bear. The brightest stars of this constellation form an asterism widely known as the Little Dipper. The difference between the two is a few fainter stars that extend the constellation to the south and west. On these August evenings, Ursa Minor is standing up on its tail, stretching its front paws higher into our sky.

The Little Bear and the Big Bear (Ursa Major) are joined in the same myth. The nymph Callisto promised to be faithful to Artemis, but Zeus, the king of the gods, overcame her objections and the two had a son, Arcas. When Zeus' wife Hera found out, she turned Callisto into a bear, and Callisto roamed the woods for the next 15 years, avoiding hunters. Arcas was out hunting in those same woods and came face to face with Callisto. Arcas was afraid and about to shoot her with an arrow, but something in the bears eyes made him hesitate long enough for Zeus to intervene at prevent the tragedy. Zeus changed Arcas into a bear as well and sent a whirlwind to lift them into the sky. Callisto became Ursa Major and Arcas became Ursa Minor.

The most well-known star in Ursa Minor is Polaris, the North Star. This second magnitude star is just three-quarters of a degree from the North Celestial Pole. The Celestial Pole is the extension of Earth's pole into the sky. As the Earth turns, the stars all appear to circle around the Celestial Pole each day. However, the Pole is not fixed in the sky. The Earth wobbles the same way a top does when it is slowing down. This wobble takes the Pole in a 47-degree wide circle that takes 26,000 years to complete. Polaris will be the North Star for a long time, but the Pole will move away from it by one degree every 72 years.

Polaris is actually composed of five stars. The primary star is the bright supergiant that we see in our sky. The rest of the stars

Watch the Skies		
Calendar of Events – August 2015 (MDT)		
02	2 p.m.	Saturn stationary
06	8:03 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
06	8:30 p.m.	Mercury, Jupiter and Regulus close together in the western sky
10	8:30 p.m.	Jupiter near Regulus
13	Midnight	Perseid meteor shower peaks
14	8:53 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
29	12:35 p.m.	Full Moon

orbit the primary, but are much smaller. The primary supergiant is also a Cepheid variable star. This type of variable becomes brighter and fainter (pulse) with a regular period and is one of the “standard candles” for determining the distance to similar stars throughout the universe.

Sixteen thousand light-years away in east central Ursa Minor is the star RW Ursae Minoris. In the early part of the last century, it was an extremely faint 21st magnitude. In 1956, it suddenly brightened to sixth magnitude, right up to the edge of naked eye visibility. This nova explosion made the star a million times brighter than it had been. Even now, it is still more than six times brighter than it was before the explosion.

Novae only occur in close binary star systems. When they are young, one of the two stars in the binary is larger, so it ages more quickly. The larger star reaches the end of its life more quickly, becoming a giant star. It then loses its atmosphere, becoming a white dwarf. The other star now reaches the end of its life and balloons up as a giant star. The white dwarf's gravity starts pulling the giant's hydrogen atmosphere onto its own surface. The hydrogen accumulates on the surface until there is so much of it that it gets hot enough for the hydrogen to fuse into helium.

The fusion process converts about five percent of the accumulated hydrogen into helium, releasing a tremendous amount of light and heat in a violent explosion that blows remaining hydrogen into space. The hot, glow-

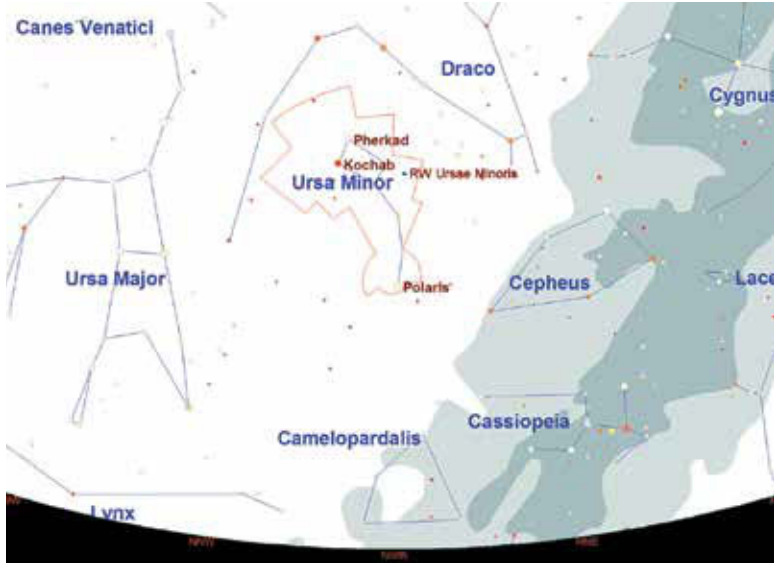
ing gas expands outward from the star, making it appear much brighter. The gas slowly cools down causing the nova to fade. Unlike the much more violent Type I supernova, neither star is destroyed so the process can start all over again.

The Planets for August 2015

Mercury, Venus and Jupiter are all together in southwestern Leo near the star Regulus. They are very low on our western horizon as the month begins. Venus and Jupiter are heading westward toward the Sun and will disappear into the Sun's glare after the first week of the month, while Mercury is heading eastward away from the Sun. It will be visible all month. They are all within six degrees of the horizon as it gets dark during that first week.

Mercury is rather far south, so this will not be a great apparition. At the middle of the month, Mercury shines at magnitude -0.2 with a disc that is 5.6 seconds-of-arc across and will be 76 percent illuminated. The Messenger of the Gods starts the month in Leo, drifting southeast into Virgo as the month ends. Mercury is low on the west-northwestern horizon as the month begins and slides southward along horizon being just south of west as the month ends. Mercury stays within six degree of the horizon as it gets dark during the entire month and sets around 8:45 p.m.

On August 1, Venus's disc is



The North Star, Polaris, is the star at the end of the tail of the Little Bear, Ursa Minor. Ursa Minor is visible every night of the year that it is clear, since it never sets. It just circles around the North Celestial Pole, which is right next to Polaris. On August evenings, Ursa Minor is standing on its tail. (Image courtesy Bert Stevens)

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THE STARRY DOME
continued on next page

just 6 percent illuminated and is 52.8 seconds-of-arc across shining at magnitude -4.3. Moving slightly south and westward, the Goddess of Love nicks the northwest corner of Sextants and the northeast corner of Hydra before settling into Cancer as the month ends.

Jupiter is moving slowly eastward in Leo, passing just a half degree north of Regulus on August 10. At the beginning of the

month, Jupiter's disc is 31.1 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude -1.7.

Saturn sets around 12:30 a.m. It can be found almost 40 degrees up in the south-southwest, as it gets dark. The Ringed Planet stands still on Aug. 2 and then begins to move slowly eastward in eastern Libra. At midmonth, Saturn's disc is 16.8 seconds-of-arc across while its Rings are 38.1 seconds-of-arc across and they

tilt down 24.1 degrees with the northern face showing. It glows at magnitude +0.5.


Mars is just eleven degrees above the east-northeastern horizon as it starts to get light, having risen around 5 a.m. Mars' disc is just 3.7 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. The God of War starts the month in eastern Gemini moving eastward into eastern Cancer.

The annual Perseid meteor

shower occurs this month just before New Moon, so this is a good year to view these meteors with no Moon in the sky. These meteors are tiny particles from Comet P/109 Swift-Tuttle, "burning up" as they hit our upper atmosphere at a speed of 40 miles per second. The shower peaks around midnight, so the entire early morning hours of Aug. 13 are the best time for viewing these meteors. Set up a folding lounge chair facing

northeast, put on some warm blankets or a sleeping bag, and "keep watching the sky!"

An amateur astronomer for more than 45 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



SUBORBITAL • CATHY HARPER

Five join Space Hall of Fame

Disney, Lucas among those to be inducted

On July 4, New Mexico Museum of Space History Executive Director Chris Orwoll announced the names of the International Space Hall of Fame Inductee Class of 2015. The announcement came moments before the City of Alamogordo's annual Fireworks Extravaganza delighted thousands across the basin with what is being hailed as the "best show in years."

"It was a privilege to announce the names of such a prestigious class, people whose vision inspired literally generations worldwide. The Inductee Class of 2015 embodies the true spirit of space exploration by a group of men who, although they never went to space themselves, believed in the future

and possibilities of exploring the universe," Orwoll said.

The Inductee Class of 2015

Best known for his work in animation and popular entertainment, **Walt Disney** created what is today the largest entertainment empire in history. In the mid-1950s, he worked with Werner von Braun on several iconic, "science factual," animated films on science and science fiction subjects, most notably "Man in Space," "Man and the Moon," and "Mars and Beyond." These were designed to be both educational and entertaining, which not only led to millions of people around the world learning about the future of space exploration,



Walt Disney and Wernher von Braun (Courtesy Wikipedia.org)



George Pal (Courtesy 4.bp.Blogspot.com)



Fritz Lang in 1936. (Courtesy Britannica.com)



Lucas and C3PO (Courtesy Starmap.com)



The stamp commemorates the centennial of birth the pioneer French film-maker Georges Méliès, the creator of A Trip to the Moon, the first ever science-fiction film and the first cinema adaptation of a Jules Verne's novel. (Courtesy fineartamerica.com)

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part; much of his efforts have centered on encouraging innovation in education, the arts and technology.

French filmmaker Georges Méliès was a pioneer in the early days of cinema. He created what many regard as the first science fiction (silent) film, 1902's "A Trip to the Moon;" it was loosely based on stories of lunar voyages written by both Jules Verne and H. G. Wells. With a length of fourteen minutes, "A Trip to the Moon" was the longest motion picture ever produced at the time.

George Pal was a Hungarian-born American and is remembered as an animator and producer, principally associated with the science fiction genre in the early days of the space program. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences founded the "George Pal Lecture on Fantasy in Film" in 1980. He produced and/or directed the following influential and Academy Award winning films: "Destination Moon," "When Worlds Collide," "The War of the Worlds," "Conquest of Space" and "The Time Machine."

About Induction 2015

Induction into the International Space Hall of Fame is an honor that has only been bestowed upon 166 people and one team over the past 39 years. This October, the five individuals above will join this distinguished group.

The Induction Ceremony and Founder's Day Activities will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3. Founder's Day at the museum begins at 9

a.m. A celebration of the museum's opening in 1976; this community event has the primary mission of encouraging children to become involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is a family-friendly event and the first 500 children (ages 5-15) will build and launch free model rockets. Dozens of exhibitors from across the state will add to the excitement.

The Induction Ceremony and Gala Banquet will be held at the Tays Special Events Center on the campus of New Mexico State University — Alamogordo. Tickets for the event will go on sale in mid-July.

The International Space Hall of Fame (ISHF), an integral part of the New Mexico Museum of Space History, is the only institution that recognizes the accomplishments of the men and women worldwide who have contributed to man's quest for space. Established in 1976, the ISHF follows strict criteria for Inductees and to date has honored 166 individuals and one team.

The New Mexico Museum of Space History is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information, call 575-437-2840 or toll free 1-877-333-6589 or visit the website at www.nmspacemuseum.org.

BIRTHDAY • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Fort Bayard Celebrates 149 Years

Historic fort to resound with music once again

As Fort Bayard goes into its 150th year, Jane Voss and Hoyle Osborne are helping to celebrate with a concert-lecture on Aug. 22 at the historic landmark.

But the 149th birthday events begin earlier in the day with tours, treats and arts at the old fort.

The amazing history of Fort Bayard includes tuberculosis treatment, buffalo soldiers, new rifle testing, battling the cold and the heat, kindnesses and abuse. Established in 1866 to protect settlers from the Apache, in 1886, following the capture of Geronimo, the fort became home to an

Army tuberculosis hospital and research center.

In 1900, the fort was transferred to the Surgeon General's Department and in 1922 a new hospital was built and the fort became part of the Veterans Bureau. In World War II, Fort Bayard had another job and became a place to hold 100 German prisoners of war. Today, the rebuilt hospital at the site stands empty, but a new Fort Bayard Medical Center stands nearby still taking care of people. The original hospital building can still be seen as well, walls and bottom floor open to the New Mexico sky.

Fort Bayard today is home to some 88 stately and empty buildings, a hospital building the state plans to tear down, the parade grounds with a buffalo soldier statue monument and perhaps a ghost or two. Walking through the streets of the fort is like stepping into another time.

The Fort Bayard Museum, located on the west side of the parade ground, will be open during the celebration from 9:15 a.m. to noon. Military historian Bill Kupke leads a walking tour at 9:30 a.m. and birthday cake will be served at 11 a.m. There will be book signings, old-fashioned

games and toys, and creations of the Grant County Art Guild for viewing and sale.

At 7 p.m. Voss and Osborne, who are with the Chautauqua Program of the New Mexico Humanities Council, perform "1912: A Musical Snapshot of America in the Year New Mexico Became a State," at the New Deal Theater at the fort.

The singer and the pianist will illustrate American life in 1912 through songs of the time. In ad-

dition to songs still familiar to the world, they will include "The Election in Jungle Town," a farcical take on the election of 1912, women's suffrage movement, labor struggles and a Spanish corrido, "Hymn to the Statehood of New Mexico."

Admission is free, but donations to support the goals of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society are appreciated. For more information call 575-056-3294 or 575-388-9123.



Officers' quarters at Fort Bayard in the early 1900s were pleasant and roomy. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



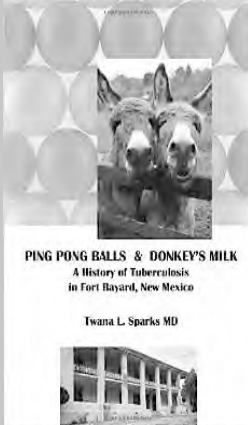
Jane Voss and Hoyle Osborne will pitch in with their musical Chautauqua presentation at 7 p.m. Aug. 22 with a concert-lecture on at the Fort Bayard historic site for its 149th birthday celebration. (Courtesy photo)



Although the first hospital building at Fort Bayard was replaced in 1922, walls of the older facility still stand testament to time. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



Fort Bayard was garrisoned by buffalo soldiers in its early days. This memorial depicts Corporal Clinton Greaves, Company C, 9th U.S. Cavalry, who saved six soldiers and three Navajo scouts from attack by 40 to 50 Chiricahua Apache on June 26, 1877. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



By the Book

Ping Pong Balls & Donkey's Milk A History of Tuberculosis in Fort Bayard, New Mexico offers oral histories told from unique perspective of tuberculosis patients at Fort Bayard from 1900-1949, as told to Dr. Twana Sparks. The history of tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in first half of the 20th century is reviewed and treatments such as donkey milk consumption and ping pong ball implants make for interesting and entertaining reading.

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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 website.

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, 840 N. Telshor Blvd., Ste. E, Las Cruces NM 88001, or email editor@desertexposure.com.

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

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver

Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.*

BILLY'S WILD WEST BBQ & STEAKHOUSE,

Hwy 180E, 388-1367. 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. Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D 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: Monday to Friday L D.

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

CURIOUS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. Contemporary: Monday L, Tuesday to Saturday 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: Tuesday to Friday L D, Sunday 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: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday B L.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREEN TURTLE NOSHERY, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 200-6895. "The menu varies somewhat from day to day, and

reflects the seasonal availability of local fruits and vegetables. Most of the items on the menu are vegetarian, but several non-vegetarian dishes have turned out to be popular and are likely to remain regular options." (July 2014) Baked goods, organic breakfast and lunch items: Thursday to Saturday B L, Sunday B L brunch.

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

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

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "Four generations of the Mesa family who have been involved in a restaurant that remains family-friendly." (June 2014) Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse.*

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. "Since 1978, Kountry Kitchen has been serving up Mexican food that is considered to be some of the best that can be found in the area. All the dishes are tasty, unpretentious, attractively presented and reasonably priced." (February 2013) Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.*

LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday 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.

LION'S DEN, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.

LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. "The menu offers what they call 'pub food' — but always with a bit of a twist." (March 2014) Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Wednesday to Monday L D.*

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: Monday to Saturday B L early D.

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-

5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday 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: Tuesday to Saturday.*

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday 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: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.*

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. "Q's Southern Bistro has found its niche and honed its 'elevated pub' menu to excellence to serve its fun-loving, casual dining crowd." (October 2010) American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Monday to Saturday L D.

RED BARN STEAKHOUSE, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. Steakhouse: 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: Friday to Tuesday D.*

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

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeeshop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffeeshop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only.*

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBEQUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbeque to go: L D.

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. "The menu ranges from humbler (but not humdrum) fare like burgers, pizzas (at lunch and happy hour) and pastas to seasonal specials like duck confit, rabbit blanquette and Elk osso buco." (August 2012) International eclectic: Monday to Saturday L, D.*

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. "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: Monday to Friday L, Saturday

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B L, Sunday B L (to 2 p.m.). *
WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.*
YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffeeshop, coffee, homemade pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard
FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP, 1108 Tom Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.
LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wednesday to Sunday B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menudo: L D.
M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. "A down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices." (October 2011) Mexican and American: Monday to Friday B L D.
SPANISH CAFÉ, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.
SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: Sunday to Friday B L.

Cliff
D'S CAFÉ, 8409 Hwy 180. Breakfast dishes, burritos, burgers, weekend smoked meats and ribs: Thurs.-Sun. B L.
PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Monday to Saturday.

Lake Roberts
LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. "Rustic gourmet... designed to appeal to the eyes as well as the taste buds. And this is true of the items on the brunch menu, as well as those on the very different dinner menu." (June 2012). Steaks, sandwiches, American: Thursday to Friday D, Saturday and Sunday brunch and D. Tavern with soups, sandwiches, Scotch eggs: Daily L D.
SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. "For the German sampler, café customers can choose two meat options from a revolving selection that may include on any given day three or four of the following: bratwurst, roast pork, schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried pork chop), sauerbraten (marinated roast of beef), stuffed cabbage leaves, or roladen (rolled beef with a sausage and onion filling)." (July 2011) German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday 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. Mexican, American, burgers: Monday and Tuesday B L, Wednesday to Sunday B L D, with Japanese tempura Wednesday D.
RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. "Popular and unpretentious food, powered by a huge solar system." (April 2014) Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.
3 QUESTIONS COFFEE HOUSE, Hwy. 35, 536-3267. "Consistently good food based on the success of the family's Living Harvest Bakery." (December 2013) Buffet: Tuesday to Saturday B L.

Pinos Altos
BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Monday to Saturday D.
DOÑA ANA COUNTY Las Cruces & Mesilla
ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday 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: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: D.
THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeeshop.
A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Monday to Friday B L.
BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Saturday to Sunday L D.
BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D.*
BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.
BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: Tuesday to Saturday L D.
BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D.
CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Monday to Saturday L D.
CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffeehouse, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.
CARILLO'S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday L D.
CATTLEMAN'S STEAKHOUSE, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.
CHA CHI'S RESTAURANT, 2460 S. Locust St #A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.
CHIITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.
CHIITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 522-0141. Mexican: B L D.
CHINA EXPRESS, 2443 N. Main St., 525-9411. Chinese, Vietnamese: L D.
CHINESE KITCHEN, 2801 Missouri #29, 521-3802. Chinese: L D.
CIROS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 160 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0341. Mexican: B L D.
CRAVINGS CAFÉ, 3115 N. Main St., 323-3353. Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, egg dishes, salads: B L.
DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday 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.
DELICIAS DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.
DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.
DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D.
DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room... An array of award-winning margaritas and deliciously decadent desserts." (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *
DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: L D.
EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tuesday and Thursday, Sunday B L, Friday and Saturday 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-

Table Talk

Burger Trail: Sparky's lives up to reputation

Often my confession was met with some sort of combination of slack-jaw disbelief or a sad, rueful, slow shake of the head.
"You've lived here how long?"
I was asked that often.
"You've never been to Sparky's?"

Sure, I have been to Hatch a fair amount of times. Sure I've always heard how good Sparky's was and I even drove past a time or two and noticed the restaurant's, shall we say, eclectic décor. When work required me to take an excursion to Caballo Lake recently – dang that work – I told my beautiful wife, Terri, "We're stoppin' in Hatch and I'm going to have a green chile cheeseburger at Sparky's" If for some reason you are not familiar with the eatery, Sparky's welcomes customers at 115 Franklin St. in the Village of Hatch, a municipality of about 1,600 people 40 miles or so north of Las Cruces.
Just take I-25 north until you see an overpass with one green and one red chile affixed to it; exit there.

When you arrive at Sparky's, you are welcomed by life-sized statues of fast food icons Ronald McDonald and Col. Sanders. There are a variety of large figures on the roof too, including a rooster and space aliens.
My 5-year-old, Grant, found the whole scene stimulating. He ran around the front, looking at different elements and then started with the questions.

"Why do they have the McDonald's guy?"
"Who is this guy?"
"How did they get the chicken on the roof?"
"Why is there a chicken on the roof?"
"Have you ever been here before?"
"Why not? Don't you like it?"
"Are we going to eat here?"
Once Grant was finally corralled, we headed inside. This was before noon, and the place was just about half full.

The business' website reports: "In the works for more than 20 years, Sparky's was born from one couple's combined dream. Josie Nunn's love of design and handcrafted coffee, and her husband Teako's desire to make exceptional wood-fired barbecue and made from scratch, green chile cheeseburgers."

The burgers are "world famous" according to the words stretched across the front of the building. The website www.tripadvisor.com reports that Sparky's has one of the best green chile cheeseburgers in Hatch and is the best restaurant in the village.

You order when you walk in and then you find a seat in the dining room



Brook Stockberger relishes his burger, prepared the way he loves it at Sparky's. (Courtesy photo)

or in the adjacent room, known as the Green Chile Room. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. In the Green Chile Room you might be treated to live music on a Friday or weekend afternoon. But I found that room to be a little stuffy and hotter than the main dining room.

I like to eat in moderate-to-chilly environs. If the air conditioner is at full blast, I'm a happy man. Still, when the green chile cheeseburger arrived, a minor complaint about temperature was lost in the enjoyment of the goodness.

I had ordered sliced sausage — in the kielbasa type — and was already floating through a nirvana of food delight. My first bite of burger elicited a smile and a moan.

"You like it," Terri asked.
"An understatement," I told her.
So now, after nearly two decades in southern New Mexico, I'm a Sparky's fan. Sure, you can get some wonderful green chile cheeseburgers here in Las Cruces. I have multiple favorites.

There is something fun, though, about taking a road trip, visiting another town and having good food, good music and a few pops — wink — to wash it all down.

Check out the eatery's website, www.sparkys-burgers.com, for menu options as well as the schedule of musical performers.



A family of skeletons looks down over the lunch room at Sparky's in Hatch. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)



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FARLEY'S, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.
FIDENCIO'S, 800 S. Telshor, 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.
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GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Monday to Friday B L.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.
HABANERO'S 600 E. AMADOR AVE., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican, Because good food shouldn't be bad for you: 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.
J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.
JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.
JOSEFINA'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: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Monday to Friday L D, Saturday D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L.
LA GUADALUPANA, 930 El Paseo Road. 523-5954. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D. Sunday 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, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B.



Jalisco Café in Silver City has a variety of tacos full of fresh ingredients and tortillas made on site. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Monday to Saturday B L.
LET THEM EAT CAKE, 2001 E. Lohman, Suite 136, 649-8965. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday
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.*
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: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday B L.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.*
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D.
MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L.
MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 1300 El Paseo Road, 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Monday to Saturday: B L early D.*
MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.

NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sunday to Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday. L D.*
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*
PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L, early D.
PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D.*
PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.
PIT STOP CAFÉ, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: Monday to Saturday B L D.
PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.
PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.
RANCHWAY BARBECUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday 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: Monday to Friday L D, Saturday D.
ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*
ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 300 N. Main St., 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Saturday to Thursday B L, Friday B L D.
SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.







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SANTORINI’S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. “An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as keftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous.” (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: Monday to Saturday 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: Wednesday to Sunday B L.*

Si ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. “The restaurant radiates homespun charm and the kind of quality that is neither snobbish nor flamboyant. The menu ranges from classic Italian entrées like Chicken Piccata, Chicken Marsala, Frutti de Mare alla Provençal, and Chicken or Melanzane Parmesan to burgers, salads, sandwiches, pizzas and pastas—all tweaked creatively in subtle and satisfying ways. Dessert offers an amazing variety of cakes, pies, cream puffs, brownies and cheesecakes.” (October 2014) Italian: Monday L, Tuesday to Saturday 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: Monday to Saturday 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: Monday to Saturday L D.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo

Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: Monday to Friday 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: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.*

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Monday to Saturday L D.

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Monday to Saturday 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: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.
TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

Doña Ana BIG MIKE’S CAFÉ, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

Radium Springs COUNTRY CUPBOARD, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

Santa Teresa BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

LUNA COUNTY Deming ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. “The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, rib-eye, 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: Sunday to Friday L D.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.*

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. “Refreshingly different from most of the Chinese restaurants you find these days in this country. Chef William Chu, who owns the restaurant and does the cooking, is committed to offering what he calls the ‘fresh and authentic flavors of Chinese food.’” (August 2014) Chinese: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

EL CAMINO REAL, 900 W. Pine St., 546-7421. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELISA’S HOUSE OF PIES AND RESTAURANT, 208 1/2 S. Silver Alley, 494-4639. “The southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie.” (April 2012) American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Monday to Saturday L D. *

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

“FORGHEDABOUT” PIZZA & WINGS, 115 N. Silver Ave., 275-3881. “Direct from New York City, Bob Yacone and his wife, Kim Duncan, have recreated an authentic-style New York pizza parlor.” (June 2013) Italian, pizza, wings: Monday to Saturday L D, Sunday D.

GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.

IRMA’S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. Mexican: B L D.*

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday L D.*

MANGO MADDIE’S, 722 E. Florida St., 546-3345. Salads, sandwiches, juice bar, coffee drinks.

MANOLO’S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. “The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it’s difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there’s a mixture of American-style ‘comfort’ food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic ‘comfort’ food. There’s nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it’s fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable.” (February 2012) Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road,

546-5990. Burgers, American: Monday to Saturday 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: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday 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: Monday to Thursday B L, Friday B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday B L D, Tuesday B L.

TOCAYO’S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

Akela APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, “casino-style” food: B L D.*

Columbus IRMA’S KITCHEN, B L D, Highway 11, 575-694-4026, Mexican food.
LA CASITA, 309 Taft, 575-531-2371. B L D, Mexican food.
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: Tuesday to Friday B L D, Sunday 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: Monday to Saturday B L.
RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Wednesday to Saturday 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: Monday to Saturday L D.

Glenwood ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sunday to Wednesday, Friday to Saturday B L.
GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

MARIO’S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: Monday to Saturday D.

Other Catron County SNUFFY’S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D

SIERRA COUNTY Hillsboro

BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Monday to Saturday L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sunday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 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: editor@desertexposure.com.



Desert Exposure will continue its longstanding writing contest.

Winners will be featured in our October issue.

Mail entries to:
Desert Exposure Writing Contest
840 N. Telshore Blvd., Suite E
Las Cruces, NM 88011
or email to
contest@desertexposure.com.

Include name and postal address, plus email address if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 26. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on literary quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit your entries to one or two submissions.

Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words.

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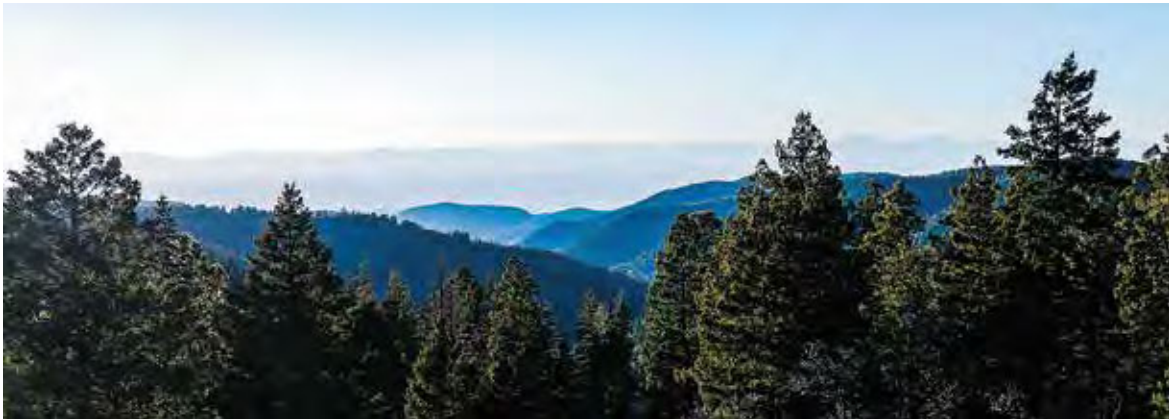
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The Sacramento Mountains are the stunning backdrop for the Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference. (Photo by Kiva Rose Hardin)

WILD SIDE • KIVA ROSE HARDIN

Growing Our Roots

The resurgence of traditional Western herbalism

Under the sheltering arms of sky-island evergreens, a small group of people walk close together. They move attentively through a high elevation forest rich with plant animal life, first laughing giddily and then struck silent, many of them stopping to point at or kneel by wildflowers blooming forth from the dark soil. Among them are a pair of slight figures, the smaller of whom is a young girl with dark hair tied back in a long braid, pausing in mid-stride. Smiling, she drops to her knees in the undergrowth and begins to carefully harvest clumps of the spicy scented oregano de la sierra, the medicine herb the Anglos recognize as purple flowered beebalm. Just a little ahead, her mother reaches up to cut a few fragrant boughs of pine to bring back home for a rich, restorative tea, before they both hurry to catch up with the rest of the group, now pausing to hear the story of a certain health-giving thistle that grows only in the Sacramento Mountains.

This scene is timeless, its possibilities stretching across millennia, a vision of humans moving through the forest in search of sustenance, silence and sweet medicine. Most likely, some will reckon this image comes from a thousand years ago, members of one of the indigenous hunter-gatherer tribes of the Americas. Others will imagine home-

steads from the great migration out West, likely the remnants of an Appalachian family searching for food in unfamiliar woods. And yet, the time of their gathering is now, and the place here in the still wild landscapes of the “Land of Enchantment,” New Mexico.

The occasion is a “plant walk,” a meandering educational survey of the botanical medicines native to the upper elevation Southwest, and one component of an international herbal conference hosted right up the mountain at historic Cloudcroft. Wise teachers from all over the country and world assemble for the Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference, a celebration of the old ways as well as the new wave of self-empowered natural healers blending traditional practices with the latest in scientific understandings. Together, they constitute what the esteemed practitioner Paul Bergner has christened an “herbal resurgence.” For up to four days, youngsters and elders, experienced herbalists and newbies join together to share knowledge and skills, and to party-heartily after long days of excitedly learning what they need to take better care of themselves, their families or clients in this age of pharmaceutical dependence and over-priced health services.

The young woman we see on the plant walk is blazing a new

trail even as she is following in the steps of her ancestors. The call of the green world sings in her blood as she gathers bundles of wild, aromatic weeds with her mother, placing them carefully in handwoven baskets to take back to their small cabin. Leaves, stems, roots and flowers will all be carefully chopped for tinctures made with whiskey, or dried for teas steeped with bittersweet leaves and wildflower honey. She’s young yet, but the stories are already stored in her bones, and she’s treated her fair share of cuts and bruises and sore throats. She knows that this particular root is to stop the bleeding, that flower to help with sleep long in coming, this sticky resin to pull thorns from the flesh and that dark berry to ease a badly broken heart.

She and her mother aren’t alone either. All over the world, the majority of the human population — whether urban or rural — still utilizes herbalism as their primary means of healing. Simple remedies are common knowledge even among children, and those advanced in the trade are esteemed by the larger community. Only in the Western world, primarily in the English speaking portions, have these well-known and widely trusted methods been devalued and mostly forgotten. And yet, the traditions of our places and people do live on in the practices of herbalists and folk healers across many continents. It’s true that too many of our healing ways have been fragmented or cut from their cultural context, not least because of active suppression of and prejudice against them by government, corporations and others in the name of progress and capital gain. Still, much of value has been retained and passed on through both our very bloodlines as well as our relationship with place and community.

“Traditional Western Herbalism” is the collective land-based traditions and practices of those herbalists originating or based in Western Europe as well as North, Central & South America. It may also include the practices of those living in colonized areas such as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa etc., where American and European plants and healing ways have been brought with the immigrants. It’s certainly not limited to English speaking peoples and in



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fact, historically, it has been those of ethnic minorities and non-English speaking communities who have most fiercely held onto their healing traditions. Those without the convenience of medical insurance or the privilege of easily accessible food and shelter know better than anyone how to make do with what's there, how to heal the same way their mother, grandfather and great-grandmother did before them.

In a tiny trailer kitchen in North Carolina, an old woman is doctoring her great-grandson just back from the war, giving him calming drafts of maypop and peach leaf to help him heal from the emotional and physical scars of combat. In the Green Mountains of Vermont an old homesteader is chopping fresh nettle greens and chickweed with his hunting knife to infuse in vinegar for a mineral rich tonic for the long Winter months. On a reservation in Canada, an efficient mother boils the fragrant roots of lomatium and balsamroot on the stove to treat her daughter's insistent case of flu. In a spacious flat in London, a menopausal woman is tincturing the motherwort she found in a local park to help with her hot flashes.

Everywhere, from trailer parks to penthouses to rural farmhouses, the lingering traces of traditional medicine are growing stronger, more insistent. And in the mountains of New Mexico we've gathered here from all corners of the country, and indeed the globe, to both celebrate and share our knowledge of these traditions with each other. An Alabama root doctor learns from a Mexican curandera, while a traditional healer from Chile confers with a German phytotherapist about the healing properties of lavender.

The Medicine Woman's Roots

While using herbs to heal is common to all peoples, in all places and times, an herbal practice is very much informed and formed by the particular regions in which it evolves. In my years of living in the remote mountains of the Southwest, my practice has grown to have the flavor of New Mexico and its blend of Native American and Hispanic cultures, Celtic cowboy self-sustainability and ancient mystical appreciation. I have always considered myself to be very hands-on, common sense and grounded in what works. And so I deliberately don't have any letters after my name, no

special certification or even any fancy memberships to prove my status as a professional herbalist.

In the realm of mainstream medicine, and even mainstream alternative medicine, it is nearly a requirement that you at least pretend to have some sort of certification, some document that assures your clients and students of your competence if not excellence. There's some real validity to this way of thinking if you intend to work within the medical system or desire the respect of other health-care professionals. But as someone molded of this land and its peoples, I'm uninterested in any official status, and intend to stay right here, at the grassroots. For me personally, this means continuing to work with people as an herbal practitioner, as a village herbalist, on a nearly daily basis. It means leaning over peoples' backyard fences and teaching them how to work with the weeds that grow all around them. It means gathering wild plants for food and medicine for my family and friends. It means when I sit down with people to try and help them with whatever discomfort or problem they're experiencing that my aim is to nourish and promote wholeness and vital health. It means I'm a weedy herbalist, subverting the dominant culture with chicken soup and wildflowers, and by reminding people that medicine comes from right here — from the earth we're connected to and from inside our own bodies.

Likewise, none of you need feel unqualified to take up what is at the core a deep relationship with healing plants, assuming the role of caregiver, simultaneously the life-long students of the amazing plant world and active practitioners of an ancient and ever more important craft. By reading the right books, taking online courses, apprenticing locally, and attending educational events like The Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference, you can equip yourself to be a Plant Healer, self-certified, always improving and usually greatly helping those in need.

Tribal Roots

As with most other forms of folk medicine, Traditional Western Herbalism is based in an energetic conception of herbs and diagnostics that stems from sensory observation and the understanding of patterns in both body and plants. The exact structure of these energetics varies a great deal from region to region, including the Appalachian granny-

woman's blood energetics as well the Southwestern curandero's diagnostic methods. What remains the same are some basic concepts, including:

- 1) the understanding that the perceived tissue states (such as dampness/dryness or hot/cold) of the human body have an impact on health and can be influenced by certain herbs
- 2) that illness must be addressed on whole person level that includes body, mind and emotions,
- 3) that simple sensory observation can tell the practitioner a great deal about both human and plant and
- 4) that the herbs are sentient allies that work with the healer to facilitate.

In most regions, people depend on the plants that grow near them, whether wild or in their gardens or those herbs and spices common available by trade and in the market. Folk medicine uses what's available and what works, whether whiskey for tinctures, spiderwebs for wound dressing and the kitchen table as an office for seeing clients.

Frequently caught in a cultural void, we North Americans have developed a tendency to look to exotic places and peoples for identity and ways of healing. Yet herbalism is by its very nature, a place based endeavor. Importing and working with plants that must be grown, harvested and shipped from other areas of the world is not only unsustainable, it also prevents the practitioner from having adequate connection with the herb for an effective alliance and thus, healing practice.

A significant percentage of those raised in mainstream United States believe that the Western traditions of healing are long dead, lost with the genocide and degradation of indigenous cultures, cut down with the forgotten forests of ancient Europe, dismissed as trivial beside our obsession for industrial efficiency and discarded with traditional foods, crafts and lifeways. Many of us are the descendants of immigrating people who, in their eagerness to assimilate into mainstream culture, sacrificed name, story and culture for a new and often anonymous way of life. This served a purpose dubious even in its time, and has now left their grandchildren and great-grandchildren adrift, grasping for remaining threads of heritage and identity. Even those of mixed lineage with ancestors indigenous to the Americas or Europe often feel at a loss for roots and context. Humans are essentially tribal beings, and their identity and well-being are inextricably tied into community and home. Attempting to continue the time-honored work of herbalism cut off from the threads ancestors, cultural customs, lore and land-base is difficult indeed. For many then, discovering that our people and the lands we live on still retain living traditions of any kind is both amazing, and a great relief. Studying the ways of the hills we come from or the watershed we belong to is nothing short of coming home, and learning from teachers among our own chosen folk is on many levels, to find true family.

Recent decades have herald-

ed a hopeful return to traditional ways of all sorts, including food, education, music and yes, herbal healing. Many thanks are due to the story and wisdom keepers over myriad generations who practiced and held this information safe and passed it patiently on. Additionally, herbalists such as Michael Moore, Rosemary Gladstar, Juliette Levy, Matthew Wood, Rosita Arvigo, Tommie Bass and many more are responsible for both carrying on and representing our traditional healing ways to new generations of healers.

Now, there are a growing num-

ber of people eager to return to a deep connection with land through food, medicine, ceremony, music, dance and even oral storytelling. In the healing community, more and more students are expressing a profound desire to learn the ways of their ancestors and to primarily work with the plants that live in their own bioregion. This resurgence of interest in old-fashioned remedies, self-sufficient techniques and wild foods is only the leading edge of the slow but inevitable

WILD SIDE continued on next page

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Workshop participants learn about using the senses to better understand the medicinal properties of herbs at last year's Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference. (Photo by Kiva Rose Hardin)

wave of return to the timeless and still evolving traditions of Western herbalism. New traditions are being born from the warp and weft of our forbearers work, as we each make our own unique contributions to the weave of the healing web. With each turn and addition it becomes stronger — we become stronger.

Wild Roots

I’ve had a lifelong penchant for all things weedy and wild. Garden flowers are pretty enough, but I prefer the bad attitude of rebellious weeds and fierce insistence of wild plants growing out of sharp-edged rock crevices and boggy swamp bottoms. Rare, esteemed herbs from the other side of the globe can be useful enough medicines, but my heart (and the

heart of my practice as an herbalist) definitely lies with the common, abundant plants that grow just outside my door and down by the river.

Even in my small, feral garden, I don’t baby anyone. If they can’t hold their own with the lamb’s quarters and wild mustard, that’s just tough. I’m a great fan of such qualities of tenacity and even a bit of outright mule-headedness can serve very well. And really, this is where my roots grow deepest — among strong, willful plants, land, culture and people. Yep, I like weedy and wild people too. Stubborn, skeptical and child-like in the way that rural and earthy (even while still urban) folks can be. Whether in Appalachia or the mountain Southwest, I am inevitably drawn to those who not only

survive adversity, but thrive despite the difficulties.

I see grassroots herbalism as having direct connections with local plants, with the land both we and the herbs grow from and with the people we work with. All this directness leads to a certain kind of messiness. Sometimes picking your own medicine means there’s strange little bugs in your most recent harvest and sometimes talking to folks about their problems on their back porch leads to a much more complicated conversation than if you’d kept it in your air-conditioned office. Working this way, you get to know the plants in the context of their environment, of their relationship with other plants, with the dirt, with humans. Likewise, we also learn to understand people in the context of their human community and the connections they have to place and more-than-human people (you know, critters of various sorts).

I approach healing as a means of facilitating wholeness in whatever form that takes for each individual. Context is essential to any sort of wholeness. I don’t want to isolate bits of synthesized plant parts for my remedies, and I find my best success therapeutically has always come from working with whole plants. And I don’t desire to remove the people I help from their circumstances and ways of being. I work best when I get to know folks, hear about their life and what they love and what gets under their skin. I can’t really imagine any old-time root doctor or indigenous medicine person working any other way, and it seems the only approach I know how to practice anyhow.

The work I do (and love) is folk medicine, it’s accessible and subversive and messy and is all about the magic of the everyday.

It revolves around good food and weeds and conversation and a return to the heart of what healing is all about: wholeness embodied in the individual, the community and the land.

Growing Our Roots

We are the newest in a long line of herbwives, root doctors, yerberas, mountain men, curanderos, grannymen and village herbalists that stretch back through time and across cultures. The dark haired girl in the mountains is just the most recent of her people to reach out, to touch the earth with seeking hands and bring back medicine, and to be able to share it and celebrate it with a tribe of likeminded folk. From the hills of Appalachia to the shores of Cornwall, the rainforests of the Amazon to the mesas and canyons of this Southwest, we are walking in the footsteps of our ancestors to bring together people and plants. Our traditions are still vital and growing, as willful as the wildest weeds and as deep as the roots of trees growing from sheer cliff-face. The wisdom of healing runs through every bloodline and our inborn relationship with the plant world informs us at the most cellular level. Every grandmother who tells the little ones at her knee the stories of ‘Seng hunting in the old days and teaches them the magic of rose petals infused in whiskey strengthens the web of our herbcraft just as every little boy singing secret songs to the trees and sharing wildcrafted watercress with his family brings new life to it.

We are gathering, not just at the Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference but all around the world, like-hearted plant healers and plant celebrants. We link up as we awaken, from the backwoods



Our native New Mexico St. John’s Worth, *Hypericum scouleri*. (Photo by Kiva Rose Hardin)

of Maine to the back lots of Los Angeles, from the misty Northwest to the peaks of New Mexico... and from the treasured past to the unfolding future. Our herbalists’ web is homespun and weathered, but it is also strong from the hands of a thousand generations weaving and reweaving, infusing it with wisdom, song, blood, and the wild insistence of weds.

We are growing and advancing our traditions, together, from their roots.

Kiva Rose Hardin is a wilderness-dwelling New Mexico herbalist, author, artist, botanical perfumer, and committed culture-shifter. She is the co-founder and coeditor of Plant Healer Magazine (www.PlantHealerMagazine.com) and contributor to two books for herbalists, The Plant Healer’s Path and The Healing Terrain. Kiva invites you all to join her at this year’s Traditions in Western Herbalism Conference, Sept. 17-20 in Cloudcroft, NM, with single day passes available online. For more information or to sign up for her free and informative Herbaria Newsletter, go to the relevant pages from: www.PlantHealer.org





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Other Early August Events at the Museum

The Artistry and History of Mata Ortiz: The Silver City Museum Hosts Oralía Lopez and John Bezy for ongoing presentations, demonstrations, and pottery sale on Saturday, August 1 from 9 am to 4 pm in the Museum Annex at 302 Broadway.

Raku Firing at The Silver City Museum: On Saturday, August 1, from 9 am to 5 pm in conjunction with the Clay Festival, Claude Smith, III will demonstrate the Raku process in the courtyard of the Silver City Museum. Smith will fire leaves made by local children for a mural installation in the museum courtyard. Beginning at 9 am, children will be able glaze leaves. The Raku firing will follow once the leaves are dry and continue until 5 pm.



By the Book

The Healing Terrain and The Plant Healer’s Path by Jesse Wolf Hardin, are filled with enchanting tales, medicinal plant profiles and favorite herbal recipes by Kiva Rose, as well as contributions by David Hoffman, Phyllis Light, Paul Bergner and more. Hardin tackles topics vital to an effective, empowered herbal practice, including many never addressed before, with suggestions for taking control of and enjoying one’s life and tips that can benefit herbalists and non-herbalists alike.



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What's Going On in August

From clay to antiques, plenty to do

SATURDAY, Aug. 1
Silver City/Grant County
New 2 U rummage sale – 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Silver City Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. in Silver City. Info: 575-388-1560.
Silver City Farmers' Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets. Today, mud pie contest at 10 a.m. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
La Esperanza Vinyard and Winery anniversary – All Day at De La O Road in Hanover. Music with Brandon Perralt and Friends 1-3 p.m. and with Teresa Smergut 4-6. Info: 575-538-5555.
Raku Firing with Claude Smith III – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Silver City Museum Courtyard, 312 W. Broadway as part of the Silver City Clay Festival. Info: 575-538-5921.
The Artistry and History of Mata Ortiz – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Silver City Museum as part of the Silver City Clay Festival. Info: 575-538-5921.
Veterans Benefits Fair – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Western New Mexico University Student Memorial Building.
Fifth Annual Kidney Benefit Bike Run – 10 a.m.-noon. at the Brown Derby Night Club, 411 Bayard Street, Bayard. Info: 575-537-2782.
Ray Cressler – 8:30 p.m.-noon at the Buckhorn Saloon, Main Street, Pinos Altos. Info: 575-538-9911.
Lonesome Doves – 8 p.m., Folk Rock duo from Dallas at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy's Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.
Model Sceniking Class – 9 a.m.-noon at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum features techniques for building miniature garden landscapes and structures. Info: 575-647-4480.
Spiders at Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. the BLM Groundwork Crew host science exploration at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Louise O'Donnell will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Grits Wrangler will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.
Bridging the Gap Spiritual Festival – 4 p.m.-midnight at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Info: AllTrueNatural.com.
Learn to play Middle Eastern rhythms – 5:30-6:30 p.m.



On Aug. 1, Claude Smith III is offering a Raku Firing workshop from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Silver City Museum Courtyard as part of the Silver City Clay Festival. (Courtesy photo)

at My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. No drum required but must call ahead for loaner drum. Cost: \$2 per lesson. Info: 575-693-1616.
A Little Chaos – 1:30 p.m. matinée, 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Directed by Alan Rickman and starring Kate Winslet. Runs daily through Aug. 6. Info: 575-524-8287.

T or C/Sierra County
Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.
Petersen Memorial Ranch Rodeo & Dutch Oven Cook Off – All day at the Petersen Ranch, No. 3 St. Cloud Mine Road, Winston. Info: 575-322-6733.
Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday) – 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Alamogordo/Otero County
The Shady Pines Chamber Players – 3-5 p.m. at the Cloudcroft United Methodist Church sanctuary, 50 Chipmunk Ave., Cloudcroft. Info: 361-557-1960.
Drive-In Film Fest movie – Gates open at 8 p.m., film starts at dusk at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. \$10. Info: www.nmspacemuseum.org.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.
Spencer Speakeasy Dinner and Dance – 6 p.m. at the Spencer Theater in Alto. Gatsbyesque Flapper party filled with decadent glee and revelry. Info: 575-336-4800.
Aloe Blacc – 8-11 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: 575-464-7777.

Terry Bullard Band (every Friday and Saturday) – 8-11 p.m. at Bullet's Dance Hall, 119 Island Road, Capitan. Info: 575-354-9202.

SUNDAY, Aug. 2
Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy's Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.

MONDAY, Aug. 3
Silver City/Grant County
Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A Little Chaos – 2:30 p.m. matinée, 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Directed by Alan Rickman and starring Kate Winslet. Runs daily through Aug. 6. Info: 575-524-8287.

TUESDAY, Aug. 4
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Every Other Tuesday: Celebrate Badger Clark – 6:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre Pegie Douglas and Grits Wrangler celebrate life and poetry of South Dakota's first poet laureate. Info: 575-523-6403.
Photographing the DACC Permanent Art Collection by LeeAnn Meadows – 7-9 p.m. with the Doña Ana Photography Club, at the SW Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.
Live edits with Adobe PS Elements by Ron Wolfe – 7-9 p.m. with the Doña Ana Photography Club, at the SW Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 5
Silver City/Grant County
Alzheimer's savvy caregiver class – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Silver City Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria St. Info: 575-647-3868.
Lego Club – 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-9 at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.
Forest Plan Revision Community Conversation – 5 p.m. at the Grant County Con-

ference Center. Info: 575-388-8201.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Repujado (punched tin) workshop – 1-3 p.m. for 3 days at the Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces.

THURSDAY, Aug. 6
Silver City/
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
continued on page 41

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Adult Female Doberman

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Grant County Forest Plan Revision Community Conversation – 10 a.m. at the Thunderbird Lodge in Mimbres. Info: 575-388-8201.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Grandma Mona's Science Story Time – 9 a.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science for children 3 to 5. Info: 575-523-6403.
Renee Popovich reception – 5-7 p.m. at the Lulu fine art gallery, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla.

T or C/Sierra County Tai Chi by Mario (every Thursday) – 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort. Donations accepted and distributed to local charities. Info: 575-744-5996.
Forest Plan Revision Community Conversation – 5 p.m. at the Sierra County Fairgrounds. Info: 575-388-8201.
The Sierra Twirlers (every Thursday) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream/plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences. Cost: \$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

FRIDAY, Aug. 7 Silver City/Grant County Popcorn Fridays – Free popcorn and other food samples. Silver City Food Co-op, 520

N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
Bourbon Legend – 8 p.m., high energy ukulele rock from Las Cruces at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County Live Music with Nikki Lee May – 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the St. Clair Winery Bistro, 1325 De Baca Road. SE. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Evolved: Story of the Mezo-zoic – 3 p.m. at the Museum of Nature and Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Artist Reception – 5-7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre features the paintings of Sally Quillin. Info: 575-523-6403.
The Gateway art show reception – 6 p.m. at the Big Picture Digital Image Lab/Main Street Gallery. Info: 575-528-9453.
Paul Schranz and Deb Johnson reception – 6-8 p.m. at the West End Art Depot. Info: 575-312-9892.
Me and Earl and the Dying Girl – 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 13. Info: 575-524-8287.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Old Lincoln Days – Highway

380, Lincoln. Info: 575-653-4372.
Alto Artists Studio Tour – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Various Houses in Alto. Info: altoartistsstudiotour.com.
ASA NISIM MASA: Circus dinner theater – 6-9 p.m. features a dinner catered by Four Front Cafe with family entertainment. Info: 575-973-4348.

SATURDAY, Aug. 8 Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmers' Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets.
Artisan Market – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 614 N Bullard St.
Latin Comedy Jam – 8 p.m. at the Flame Convention Center, 2800 Pinos Altos Road, Silver City. Cost:\$20. Info: www.thelcj.com.
Sam Madan – 8 p.m., solo vocalist; guitarist from Stafford at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla MainStreet Farmer's Big Daddy's Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
continued on next page




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Model Sceniking Class – 9 a.m.-noon at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum features techniques for building miniature garden landscapes and structures. Info: 575-647-4480.

Bird Feeders at Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. the BLM Groundwork Crew host science exploration at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science. Info: 575-522-3120.

Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Terry Alvarez will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Nancy Jenkins will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.

Red White and Blues Festival – Begins at 4 p.m. at St. Clair Winery and Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla. Info: www.mvjazzblues.net.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl – 1:30 p.m. matinée, 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 13. Info: 575-524-8287.

T or C/Sierra County Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

Second Saturday Art Hop – 6-9 p.m. in downtown Truth or Consequences. Info: promotions@torcmainstreet.org.

Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday) – 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County Alto Artists Studio Tour – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various houses in Alto. Info: altoartistsstudiotour.com.

Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.

Old Lincoln Days – Highway 380, Lincoln. Info: 575-653-4372.

SUNDAY, Aug. 9
Silver City/ Grant County

BRIDGE COMMUNITY
EARLY SUNDAY SUPPER
“Spanning Life’s Transitions”



August 16, 2015
4:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
300 West College St.

Indoor picnic with pulled pork
and all the trimmings
ENTERTAINMENT: Songs by Toni and Rick Spiegel
\$10 donation

Bridge Community is a 501(c) (3) organization working to build a Continuum
Of Care Retirement Center in Silver City.

For more info call 597-0065 or 538-5754

Hiroshima Peace Day Observance – Noon at Gough Park Pavilion.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Me and Earl and the Dying Girl – 1:30 p.m. matinée, 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 13. Info: 575-524-8287.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Alto Artists Studio Tour – 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at various houses in Alto. Info: altoartistsstudiotour.com.

Old Lincoln Days – Highway 380, Lincoln. Info: 575-653-4372.

Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

MONDAY, Aug. 10
Silver City/ Grant County Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County meeting – 10:30 a.m. at Glad Tidings Church, 11600 Highway 180 E. Info: 575-537-3643.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Auditions for “Red Riding Hood” – 10 a.m. Missoula children’s Theatre tour directors will hold auditions at the Rio Grande Theatre and cast 50 to 60 local K-12 students to perform in the production. Info: kathleenA@daarts.org.

Las Colcheras Quilt Guild – 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Info: 575-521-0521.

TUESDAY, Aug. 11
Las Cruces/Mesilla Brown Bag Lecture – 7:30 p.m. at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum features Don Beem on the History of Silver City Train Depots and Railway Systems. Info: 575-647-4480.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl – 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 13. Info: 575-524-8287.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 12

Silver City/ Grant County Alzheimer’s savvy caregiver class – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Silver City Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria St. Info: 575-647-3868.

Lego Club – 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-9 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

THURSDAY, Aug. 13
Silver City/ Grant County Community Forum: Diabetes Talk and Tour – noon-1 p.m. with Deborah Smith of HMS, 614 Bullard St. Info: 575-388-2343.

T or C/Sierra County Tai Chi by Mario (every Thursday) – 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort. Donations accepted and distributed to local charities. Info: 575-744-5996.

The Sierra Twirlers (every Thursday) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream/plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences. Cost: \$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Planeteers explore galaxies – 9 a.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Children ages 3 - 5 are invited to visit the museum and take part in learning about the universe. Info: 575-541-2296.

Native New Mexico: The Art of Collette Marie – 5:30-8 p.m. reception for a new exhibit at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Info: 575-522-4100.

The Inquisition in Early 18th Century New Mexico – 7 p.m. at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Author Linda Tigges will talk about some of the treasures gleaned from research of the Spanish Inquisition. Info: 575-522-4100.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County Skillet in Concert – 8-10:30 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Winners of Best Rock Album on the Loudwire Music Awards. Info: 575-464-7777.



Aug. 16 the Las Cruces Arts Association has an art share and ice cream social at the Community Enterprise Center. (Courtesy photo)



Aug. 14-15, the Copper County Cruzers invite everyone to a car show and the Run to Copper County in Silver City. (Courtesy photo)

FRIDAY, Aug. 14
Silver City/ Grant County Run to Copper Country car show – 2-8 p.m. registration at Host Motel Holiday Inn Express. At 5:30 p.m. the Hot Dog Burn starts and Oldies music plays 6-8 p.m. Info: www.coppercountycruzers.com.

Andrew Dahl-Bredine – 8 p.m., local singer songwriter at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County Live Music with Fastlane – 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the St. Clair Winery Bistro, 1325 De Baca Road. SE. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Fair trade marketplace – Unique gifts hand-made by women from Mexico and the border region available at La Frontera, in Nopalito’s Galería, 326 S. Mesquite St. Las Cruces. The market is open Fridays (4-7 p.m.), Saturdays (noon-5 p.m.), and Sundays (noon-5 p.m.) All of the sales go to the women.

Evolved: Story of the Cenozoic – 3 p.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.

Testament of Youth – 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 20. Info: 575-524-8287.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County ASA NISIM MASA: Circus dinner theater – 6-9 p.m. features a dinner catered by Four Front Cafe with family entertainment. Info: 575-973-4348.

Sandy Hackett’s Rat Pack Show – 8-10 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts in Alto, 108 Spencer Road. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

SATURDAY, Aug. 15
Silver City/ Grant County Run to Copper Country car show – 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gough Park. Vendors, refreshments, music and special events. Info: www.coppercountycruzers.com.

Silver City Farmers’ Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets.

Artisan Market – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 614 N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Southern New Mexico Push/Pull Championships – 9 a.m. The Billy Casper Wellness Center, 300 East 16th St. Silver

City. Info: 607-752-2245.

Seed Saving forum – 11 a.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. with the Grant County Seed Library. Info: 575-538-5555.

Bash on Broadway – At 5:30 p.m. Western New Mexico University President Shepard delivers a state of the university address and at 7 p.m., Radio La Chusma, a Latin reggae band from El Paso plays in front of Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Big Daddy’s Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.

Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.

Petrified Wood at Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. the BLM Groundwork Crew host science exploration at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.

Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Douglas Jackson will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Judith Ames will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.

Testament of Youth – 1:30 p.m. matinée, 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 20. Info: 575-524-8287.

T or C/Sierra County Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday) – 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Alamogordo/ Otero County Drive-In Film Fest movie – Gates open at 8 p.m., film starts at dusk at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. \$10. Info: www.nmspacemuseum.org.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info:

575-653-4025.
Capitan CF Run to Breath – 8 a.m. at Fort Stanton. Profits go to cystic fibrosis causes and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Info: 202-812-0219.

SUNDAY, Aug. 16

Silver City/Grant County
Gila Native Plant Society field trip to Lower Gallinas Canyon – 8 a.m. leaves from the south parking lot of the Fine Arts Theater at Western New Mexico University. Info: 575-535-4064.
Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site Fundraiser – 1:30-5 p.m. at the Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site, Sage Drive, Mimbres. Tours are at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. The museum will be open to visitors and at 3:30 Jericho Country Band performs. Info: 575-536-9957.



Aug. 20-23, the Great American Duck Races take place in Deming. (Courtesy photo)

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Art Share and Ice Cream Social – 1:30-3:30 p.m. with the Las Cruces Arts Association at the Community Enterprise Center next to the Bistro. Info: www.lascrucesarts.org.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

MONDAY, Aug. 17
Silver City/Grant County
Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Testament of Youth – 7:30

p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 20. Info: 575-524-8287.

TUESDAY, Aug. 18
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Every Other Tuesday: Preview of the musical “Passion” – 6:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre Stephen Sondheim “Passion” music. Info: 575-523-6403.
Favorite Events and Places to Photograph – 7-9 p.m. with the Doña Ana Photography Club, at the SW Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 19
Silver City/Grant County
Alzheimer’s savvy caregiver class – 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Silver City Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria St. Info: 575-647-3868.
Lego Club – 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-9 at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Hot August Nights Yappy Hours – 6-8 p.m. at the St. Clair Winery & Bistro. Dress your dog for swimsuit contest and prizes. \$5. Info: 575-642-2648.

THURSDAY, Aug. 20
Silver City/Grant County
Nuclear New Mexico: Past and future – 6 p.m. at the Miller Library, 100 W. College Ave. Silver City is a discussion

with Robert Culp with the Friends Committee on National Legislation and other speakers.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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1708 Juniper Ave. • \$140,000 • 2BR/1.5BA
Great Central Location! Well maintained and up-dated. Attention to detail. This home just has a good feeling when you walk in! Things here have been done well with a good sense of energy flow and space usage. Large yard, covered private patio, carport, RV parking with connections. Garden areas for the plant person, even worm-compost! Newer high quality roof, large capacity wood-burning stove in LR fireplace. Two additional rooms (Office and Huge Pantry) large enough to be bedrooms could be converted if a buyer needs more than the two bedrooms now in use. Enormous amount of storage for a home this size. Extra large laundry/utility room. Clean, comfy, cozy, sweet, and move-in-ready. Hurry for this one!

3358 HWY 35 • \$250,000 • 2BR/1BA
One of the most beautiful little homesteads you could ever hope to find! Recently upgraded adobe 2 br home overlooking the Mimbres River and a producing Apple orchard. Almost 9 acres with water rights, views, privacy, serenity! If you dream of living in a picture as pretty as a post card you may have just found your pick of properties! Additional 50 acres available at \$130,000.

7839 HWY 180 W. • \$275,000 • 4BR/2BA
COUNTRY CHARM! Country Luxury Living in a unique architect designed home on 2 Acres backing up to a stream that runs year-round according to the owners! Light and Bright indoors with many windows and doors. 4 BR plus an office/exercise room and a detached steel garage/shop that would make any hobby type happy. Set up for horses, cows, dogs, cats, birds, etc. 4-H Heaven! If you’re looking for elbow room, peace and quiet, and comfort just 35 minutes from town, this may be your next home! Additional +/- 46 adjoining acres available for \$50,000.

71 N Fork Walnut Creek Rd. • \$460,000 • 4BR/4BA
LOG HOME LIVING IN THE TALL PONDEROSA PINES! A One Owner Property with Pride of Ownership everywhere you look. Beautiful landscape with lawns and gardens, outdoor kitchen and outdoor living/eating areas. Peace and quiet on over 5 acres bordering the Gila National Forest! 2 BR, 2 BA main house, Guest House with 2 separate living areas, each with its own kitchen and bath, plus a complete RV hookup.. Look at the pictures, this property looks like the homes in the glossy Architectural coffee table books and magazines! Once you get here you may never want to leave. Unique, and well worth a look if LOG HOME LIVING is your idea for your next home.

Disclaimer: Each office independently owned & operated. This is not a solicitation of properties currently listed.

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AUGUST 1	BOB EINWECK (TUCSON SINGER/SONGWRITER)
AUGUST 6	TRIO DEL RIO (TX SWING/LATIN/BLUES)
AUGUST 8	GOLD HEARTED CROWS (ROCK, ALT-COUNTRY)
AUGUST 13	DAN LAMBERT TRIO (EL PASO)
AUGUST 15	MONTOKA CLAN (LATIN-ROCK)
AUGUST 20	DAMN UNION
AUGUST 22	NO RESERVATIONS JAZZ TRIO
AUGUST 27	ZACH CARUSO (NJ ROCK/FOLK)
AUGUST 27	JONES & MILES (RUIDOSO COUNTRY-ROCK)

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www.highdesertbrewingco.com

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ages 3-5 at the Museum of Nature and Science in Las Cruces. Info: 575-522-3120.
Testament of Youth – 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 20. Info: 575-524-8287.

Deming/ Luna County
Great American Duck Race – 6:30 p.m. Mizkan Americas Duck Royalty Pageant at the DPS Auditorium. Info: www.deming-duckrace.com.

T or C/Sierra County
Tai Chi by Mario (every Thursday) – 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort. Donations accepted and distributed to local charities. Info: 575-744-5996.
The Sierra Twirlers (every Thursday) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream/plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences. Cost: \$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

FRIDAY, Aug. 21
Silver City/ Grant County
Popcorn Fridays – Free popcorn and other food samples. Silver City Food Co-op, 520 N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
Jane Voss and Hoyle Os-

borne concert – 7:30 p.m. at the First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St. Silver City. Bayou Seco joins the American roots performers. Info: 575-534-0298.
Compasito – 8 p.m., local duo with world music at Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/ Luna County
Great American Duck Race – 4 p.m. carnival, vendors and entertainment start. Info: www.demingduckrace.com.
Live Music with Gertch's Folly – 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the St. Clair Winery Bistro, 1325 De Baca Road. SE. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Fair trade marketplace – Unique gifts hand-made by women from Mexico and the border region available at La Frontera, in Nopalito's Galería, 326 S. Mesquite St. Las Cruces. The market is open Fridays (4-7 p.m.), Saturdays (12-5 p.m.), and Sundays (12-5 p.m.) All of the sales go to the women.
Evolved: Story of Stories – 3 p.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
"Passion" – 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre is a musical as presented by the Scaffolding Theatre Company and the Doña Ana Arts Council. Info: 575-523-

6403.
Güeros – 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 27. Info: 575-524-8287.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

T or C/Sierra County
Elephant Days – 4-9 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park and around Elephant Butte, Truth or Consequences. Carnival, arts, crafts, food and music. Info: 575-744-4411.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
Festival Ruidoso – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at School House Park across from River Rendezvous, in the 500 block of Sudderth Drive. Info: 575-446-1441.
ASA NISIM MASA: Circus dinner theater – 6-9 p.m. features a dinner catered by Four Front Cafe with family entertainment. Info: 575-973-4348.

SATURDAY, Aug. 22
Silver City/ Grant County
Silver City Farmers' Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets.
Fort Bayard birthday event – Begins at 9:30 a.m. at historic Fort Bayard and includes a walking tour with military historian, the Grant County Art Guild display and sale and a musical Chautauqua program at 7 p.m. Info: 575-956-3294.
Live on the Lawn – 5-10 p.m., at the Beer and Spirits Garden, WNMU. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County
Great American Duck Race – 7 a.m. events begin with a hot air balloon rally followed by the race, a parade, a horseshoe tournament and more. Info: www.demingduckrace.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy's Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.



Aug. 23 the Gilbert and Sullivan Company of El Paso brings "The Zoo" to the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces as one of two one act comedic operettas they are performing. (Courtesy photo)

in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.
Petroglyphs at Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. the BLM Groundwork Crew host science exploration at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Loni Todoroki will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Jean Gilbert will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.
Beginner's Guide to Stop Motion Videos Workshop – University Art Gallery in Las Cruces. Info: 575-646-8545.
"Passion" – 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre is a musical as presented by the Scaffolding Theatre Company and the Dona Ana Arts Council. Info: 575-523-6403.
Güeros – Matinée 1:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 27. Info: 575-524-8287.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

T or C/Sierra County
Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta – 6:45-9:30 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park and around Elephant Butte, Truth or Consequences. Info: www.ebbr.org.
Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.

Elephant Days – 8 a.m.-9 p.m. with a parade at 9 a.m. at Truth or Consequences. Carnival, arts, crafts, food and music. Info: 575-744-4411.
Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday) – 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Festival Ruidoso – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at School House Park across from River Rendezvous, in the 500 block of Sudderth Drive. Info: 575-446-1441.
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.
Terry Bullard Band (every Friday and Saturday) –

8-11 p.m. at Bullet's Dance Hall, 119 Island Road, Capitan. Info: 575-354-9202.
Flamenco Star Robert Michaels – 8-10 p.m. at the Spencer Theater, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

SUNDAY, Aug. 23
Deming/Luna County
Great American Duck Race – 7 a.m. events begin with a hot air balloon rally followed by the race, a parade, a horseshoe tournament and more. Info: www.demingduckrace.com.

T or C/Sierra County
Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta – 6:45-9:30 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park and around Elephant Butte, Truth or Consequences. Info: www.ebbr.org.
Elephant Days – 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Truth or Consequences. Carnival, arts, crafts, food and music. Info: 575-744-4411.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy's Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Two one act comedic operettas – 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 Main Street, in Las Cruces. The Gilbert and Sullivan Company of El Paso performs "Trial by Jury" and "The Zoo." Info: 575-523-1223.
"Passion" – 3 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre is a musical as presented by the Scaffolding Theatre Company and the Doña Ana Arts Council. Info: 575-523-6403.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
Festival Ruidoso – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at School House Park across from River Rendezvous, in the 500 block of Sudderth Drive. Info: 575-446-1441.
Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso, includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

Monday, Aug. 24
Silver City/ Grant County
Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

TUESDAY, Aug. 25
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Güeros – 7:30 p.m. movie at

Pet Sitter

Do your pets need a companion while you are at work or away?

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The SW Women's Fiber Arts Collective

Would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers, the community of Silver City, and our sponsors, for the successful

2015 Silver City Fiber Arts Festival

Grant County Cooperative Extension Service, Silver City Arts and Culture District, Gila Community Radio/KURU 89.1 FM, Mimbres Region Arts Council, Town of Silver City Lodger's Tax, WNMU – Media Technology Services, Aunt Judy's Attic, Suzi Calhoun, Kathy and Ron Cole, Mary and Bing Ewalt, First New Mexico Bank, Liza Kuecker, Rebecca La Fleur, Gail Stanford and Herbie Marsden, Betty L. Mishuk, Prudential Silver City Properties, State Farm Insurance – Chuck Johnson, Syzygy Tile, Western Bank, Yada Yada Yarn, Las Colcheras Quilt Group, Murray Hotel, Linda Gerritson, Judith Kreiger, Marilyn McCracken, Lynn Welsch

And a big thank you to all those who made a donation at the festival!

the Fountain Theater. Runs daily through Aug. 27. Info: 575-524-8287.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 26 Silver City/Grant County
Lego Club – 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-9 at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

THURSDAY, Aug. 27 Las Cruces/Mesilla
Nature Kids discuss desert landscape preservation – 9 a.m. for ages 3-5 at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Big Band Dance Club – 8-10 p.m. dance offers ballroom, country, swing and Latin styles at Alma de Arte School, 402 W. Court St. in Las Cruces. The DJ will be Mike D’Arcy. Group dance lesson taught by John Guisto at 7-7:45 p.m. \$7 for all on CD nights except \$5 for students with ID. Info: 575-526-6504.
Güeros – 1:30 p.m. movie at the Fountain Theater. Info: 575-524-8287.

T or C/Sierra County
Tai Chi by Mario (every Thursday) – 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort. Donations accepted and distributed to local charities. Info: 575-744-5996.
The Sierra Twirlers (every Thursay) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream/plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences. Cost: \$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

FRIDAY, Aug. 28 Silver City/Grant County
Popcorn Fridays – Free popcorn and other food samples. Silver City Food Co-op, 520 N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
Live on the Lawn – 5-10 p.m., at the Beer and Spirits Garden, WNMU. Info: 575-956-6144.
Live Music with Smokin’ Mirrors – 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the St. Clair Winery Bistro, 1325 De Baca Rod. SE. Info: 575-546-1179.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Fair trade marketplace – Unique gifts hand-made by women from Mexico and the



Aug. 28, Aires Nacionales, a concert with Astrid Morales, comes to the Rio Grande Theater in Las Cruces beginning at 7 p.m. (Courtesy photo)

border region available at La Frontera, in Nopalito’s Galería, 326 S. Mesquite St. Las Cruces. The market is open Fridays (4-7 p.m.), Saturdays (12-5 p.m.), and Sundays (12-5 p.m.) All of the sales go to the women.
Evolved: Story of the Telescopes – 3 p.m. at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Astrid Morales – 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, an award winning Mexican pianist. Info: 575-523-6403.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ruidoso Antique Show – 5-9 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive. Info: 575-802-0275.
Diamond Rio – 8-10 p.m. at the Spencer Theater, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Six-time vocal group of the year. Info: www.spencertheater.com.
Terry Bullard Band (every Friday and Saturday) – 8-11 p.m. at Bullet’s Dance Hall, 119 Island Road, Capitan. Info: 575-354-9202.

SATURDAY, Aug. 29 Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmers’ Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets.
Community Flea Market – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 614 N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
Live on the Lawn – 5-10 p.m., at the Beer and Spirits Garden, WNMU. Info: 575-956-6144.

Alamogordo/Otero County



Aug. 28, the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science features the Story of Telescopes. (Courtesy photo)

Drive-In Film Fest movie – Gates open at 8 p.m., film starts at dusk at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. \$10. Info: www.nmspacemuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy’s Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.
Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Judith Ames will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Gloria Hacker will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.
Pleistocene Megafauna at Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. the BLM Groundwork Crew host science exploration at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre,

430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

T or C/Sierra County
Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.
Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday) – 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ruidoso Antique Show – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive in Ruidoso. Info: 575-802-0275
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.
Justin Shandor Elvis Tribute – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: 575-464-777.

SUNDAY, Aug. 30 Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ruidoso Antique Show – 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive in Ruidoso. Info: 575-802-0275.
Southwest Chamber Winds

– 3-5 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist, 1000 D. Street, Carrizozo. Info: 575-648-2757.
Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

Monday, Aug. 31 Silver City/Grant County
Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 2 Silver City/Grant County
Lego Club – 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-9 at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

THURSDAY, Sept. 3 T or C/Sierra County
The Sierra Twirlers (every Thursday) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream/plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences.

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
continued on next page

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\$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

FRIDAY, Sept. 4
Silver City/Grant County
Popcorn Fridays – Free popcorn and other food samples. Silver City Food Co-op, 520 N. Bullard St. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Fair trade marketplace – Unique gifts hand-made by women from Mexico and the border region available at La Frontera, in Nopalito’s Galería, 326 S. Mesquite St. Las Cruces. The market is open Fridays (4-7 p.m.), Saturdays (12-5 p.m.), and Sundays (12-5 p.m.) All of the sales go to the women.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

T or C/Sierra County
Hillsboro Antiques Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Hillsboro community Center, 316 Elenore Street, Hillsboro. Includes wine and microbrew tastings and food vendors each day. Info: 575-895-5187.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Terry Bullard Band (every Friday and Saturday) – 8-11 p.m. at Bullet’s Dance Hall, 119 Island Road, Captan. Info: 575-354-9202.

SATURDAY, Sept. 5
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmers’ Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets. Today, mud pie contest. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.
Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Show – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Brancheau PE Complex. Info: www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/.
Taste of Downtown – A walk around downtown Silver City tasting food available at local restaurants. The walk is followed by a Gala Dance and Tasting evening with the Big Ditch Crickets at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 West Broadway from 6-9 p.m. Info: 575-534-1700.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Big Daddy’s Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.
Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Grits Wrangler will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Loni Todoroki will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a \$2 book coupon.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No

Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

T or C/Sierra County
Sierra County Farmers Market (every Saturday) – 8:30-11:45 a.m. at Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside and Cedar, Truth or Consequences. Info: 575-894-9375.
Hillsboro Antiques Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Hillsboro community Center, 316 Elenore Street, Hillsboro. Includes wine and microbrew tastings and food vendors each day. Info: 575-895-5187.
Photographer Wayne Suggs reception – 1-3:30 p.m. Hillsboro Historical Society, Hillsboro. Award-winning photography of Wayne Suggs is on display and he will be on hand to meet guests. Info: 575-8955501.
Ole Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance (every Saturday)– 7-9 p.m. at the New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers Playhouse, 710 Elm Street, Truth or Consequences. Live music, toe-tapping fun, refreshments and a door prize. Info: 575-297-4125.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Labor Day Hoopla – Begins at 10 a.m. in Cloudcroft and features Six Guns and Shady Ladies performing a wild west shootout at intervals all day with street dancing and an evening melodrama. Info: 575-682-2733.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.

SUNDAY, Sept. 6

Silver City/Grant County
Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Show – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Brancheau PE Complex. Info: www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/.

T or C/Sierra County
Hillsboro Antiques Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Hillsboro community Center, 316 Elenore Street, Hillsboro. Includes wine and microbrew tastings and food vendors each day. Info: 575-895-5187.

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Big Daddy’s Flea Market – 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and ousoor vendors on 20 acres. Info: 575-382-9404.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. An absurdist tale of the American dream produced by the No Strings Theatre Company. Info: 575-523-1223.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Labor Day Hoopla – Begins at 10 a.m. in Cloudcroft and features Six Guns and Shady Ladies performing a wild west shootout at intervals all day with street dancing and an evening melodrama. Info: 575-682-2733.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Sunday Under the Stars – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso includes live music and a family movie. Info: 575-464-7777.

MONDAY, Sept. 7

Silver City/Grant County
Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Show – 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Brancheau PE Complex. Info: www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/.
Laughter Club – 12:15-12:45 p.m. at 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info 575-388-0243.

T or C/Sierra County
Hillsboro Antiques Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Hillsboro community Center, 316 Elenore Street, Hillsboro. Includes wine and microbrew tastings and food vendors each day. Info: 575-895-5187.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Labor Day Hoopla – Begns at 10 a.m. in Cloudcroft and features Six Guns and Shady Ladies performing a wild west shootout at intervals all day with street dancing and an evening melodrama. Info: 575-682-2733.

TUESDAY, Sept. 8
T or C/Sierra County
The Sierra Twirlers (every Tuesday) – 6-8 p.m. mainstream plus square dance, including special session time for inexperienced dancers looking to improve their skills, held at 710 Elm St. Truth or Consequences. Cost: \$3. Info: 575-894-0083 or 575-313-9971.

THURSDAY, Sept. 10
T or C/Sierra County
Tai Chi by Mario (every Thursday) – 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort. Donations accepted and distributed to local charities. Info: 575-744-5996.

Calls for artists

Luna County

• The Black Range Artists have and open call for membership. Members have the opportunity to learn from one another and participate in workshops, demonstrations and paint-outs. Membership is \$20 a year. For more information email blackrangeart@gmail.com or call Lyn at 474-546-4650.

Doña Ana County

• ¡Oye! Celebrating Visions for the Future Oct. 10, 1 p.m. – Oct 11, 8 p.m. is looking to stir up public ingenuity and get involved in a 30-hour festival on seven blocks of Main Street in downtown Las Cruces !OYE! calls for all art forms, small and large, that portray the incorporation of sustainable living practices on The Earth. Individual and group installations, demonstrations, exhibits and pieces are welcome. There are no entry fees. ¡OYE! aims to bring together in one place individuals and organizations that recognize the significance of climate change, depletion of natural resources, and shifts in work and leisure activities as robotics become increasingly important in human cultures. Applications and information available at www.oyecruces.weebly.com or text: 575-405-4142 by Friday, Aug. 7.

• The Art in Public Places Program of New Mexico Arts and the Local Selection Committee at Doña Ana Community College (DACC) seek an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commission project on the DACC East Mesa campus. The work will be situated at the center of the campus in the quad area surrounded by the Academic Resources Building, the Student Resources Building, the Auditorium, and the Digital Media & Main Building. Professional artists working in the United States and demonstrating a level of experience that is commensurate with the project scope

and budget are invited to submit qualifications to this project opportunity. A total of \$183,500 is available for the project inclusive of all costs, taxes and fees. The deadline for entries is Sept. 11. See 111.nmarts.org for Porspectus # 228.

• Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery accepting applications. Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is accepting applications for exhibitions, and encourages artists to stop by the gallery to learn more. Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933 or visit www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

• The New Mexico Handmade, Inc. Gallery in the Old Tortilla Factory in Mesilla has space for two more artists. All mediums are considered. Contact Carolyn Kuhn at ckuhn03@sprynet.com for additional information.

• The Rokoko Art Gallery, located at 1785 Avenida de Mercado, seeks artists for solo or group shows in a rental exhibit space on a monthly basis. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m. For prospectus and details, contact Mitch or Ame at alarokokomag@aol.com or call 405-8877.

West End Art Depot Gallery (WE.AD). http://www.we-ad.org/ WE.AD announces a call for regional artists interested in displaying original artwork. For more information email nmartco.op@gmail or call 575-312-9892. WE.AD is a co-operative arts incubator with art studios and workshop space in a warehouse in the Alameda Historic Depot at 401 N Mesilla St, Las Cruces.

• The Calavera Coalition is looking for artists to submit original artwork for the 2015 Dia de los Muertos on the Mesilla Plaza official t-shirt and poster design. Artists of all ages and regions are eligible. All work submitted for consideration must reflect the spirit and celebration of El Dia del los Muertos. Artwork must be

in a black and white format and in pen and ink line art with the understanding that their work must be easily converted for screen printing. The winner will receive one free booth space for Mesilla’s Dia de los Muertos on the Plaza 2015, valued at \$175. Entries should be submitted on a CD or through e-mail as JPEG or PDF files. Files must be accompanied by a list detailing artwork title, size, a brief description and artist’s name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone number. Deadline to receive submissions is Aug. 20. Digital files can be e-mailed to calaveracoalition@gmail.com. CDs can be mailed to P.O. Box 1308, Mesilla, NM 88046. The Calavera Coalition is a not-for-profit organization and all proceeds from t-shirt and poster sales will be donated to local charity.

Sierra County

• The Geronimo Spring Museum is holding a Paint-out Oct. 10. The event includes and artists reception and auction. Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. with the event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reception and auction is from 6 to 9 p.m. For details call 575-894-6600.

Elsewhere in New Mexico

• New Mexico Arts announces the 2013 Purchase initiative and invites artists living in the state and galleries in the state to submit artwork for purchase. All media and genres are accepted. Information and applications: callforentry.org.

• The Vertu Fine Art Gallery in Socorro has a call for artists for its 2015 juried show, Facets and Faces of New Mexico. The opening reception for the show is scheduled Sept. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. The deadline for entry is midnight Aug. 14. Accepted works must be hand-delivered between 1 and 4 p.m. from Aug. 26 to 30. Awards include \$200 for best of show, \$125 for first place; \$75 for second place and &25 for third place. Visit www.vertuarts.com/juried2015/ for prospectus and application.

BAYARD • RAVEN ROONEY

Every Hero has a Story

Town library welcomes guest heroes to summer program

The Bayard Public Library welcomed 35 to 40 students on a daily basis from the Cobre School District, as well as Hurley, Santa Clara, San Lorenzo, Mimbres and Las Cruces. Students ranging in ages from 1 to 14 years participated from June 1 to July 3 as part of the library's hero themed summer program.

On the first week cartoonist Ralph Bakshi visited with the children. Bakshi worked on such projects as “Wizards,” “Lord of the Rings,” “Mighty Mouse” and “The Mighty Heroes.” He is world renowned for his action hero cartoons. Bakshi who is in his 80’s and still working, took the time to put on a presentation, sign autographs, critique the children’s drawings, and even drew a personal picture for several students in the program.

The program consisted of various STEM and socio-anthropological activities. STEM week kicked off with engineering day. It was the girls against the boys in a hands on building competition. The assignment was to first come up with an idea that would make positive social change; draw the design, and then building the project. The girls won. They built a greenhouse and seedbank to sustain their community. The boys created a field hospital for wounded soldiers. The students learned about Jane Goodall's scientific contributions and wrote lovely narratives of how they



A Bayard Public Library reading program participant works on a project during the last day of the summer event. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

could make a difference in the world.

Wolf awareness week featured special guest Deidre Wolf, from Wolf-Song Sanctuary. Wolf put on a demonstration and told “wolf stories” for the students. She brought in a live wolf hybrid as a visual aid and the children were enthralled. The students had the opportunity to touch the wolf “Sun catcher” and ask a real wolf expert their questions. Our wolf activities included making pop-up wolf biology cards, scientific drawings and wolf acrostic poems.

The students also participated in Native American Culture Week which consisted of reading about Native American Folklore and



Children participating in the summer program at the Bayard Public Library create Medusa masks as the final project of the program. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

making dream catchers. In addition, we had Navajo artist and Cobre High School art teacher, Romaine Begay, give a demonstration over printmaking and monographs.

As part of Native American culture week, potter Robin Parson demonstrated Mimbres pottery. Her husband Fred Pinetta gave a demonstration on how to paint the famous Mimbres Indian designs using traditional brushes made from human hair. The students had the chance to experience hands on archaeology when the Native society from Tucson-based Archaeology of the Southwest's professor Allen Denoyer taught the students how to make ancient tools, weapons,

and jewelry.

Marie Elena Sanchez and historian Neta Pope spoke about Luis Armijo, an Apache Indian from Santa Clara, who was a Code Talker during WWII.

The students also experienced Irish culture through storytelling, dance and art; African day where the students were introduced to a beautiful Nigerian story about a folk hero; and programs about Mexico and Greece, Frieda Kahlo and Greek mythology.

Local heroes, Gila Regional Medical Center EMT's, gave a presentation and talk to the students. They discovered how to take their pulse rates and how much math is involved in medical work.

July 2 was a day of science in-

cluding a New Mexican geology experiment, an archaeology dig, salt experiments, and buoyancy experiments. July 3 was the end of Summer Reading Program party. Head librarian Sonya Dixon and librarian assistant Marivel Medel were also integral parts of the program.

Raven Rooney just finished up her master's program at Western New Mexico University for elementary education. The summer reading program was her first teaching job out of school.



ARCHAEOLOGY • KIM VACARIU

Heritage Days

Presentations, crafts fair, farmers market in Rodeo September

A new report on more than 100 centuries worth of archaeological and environmental changes in the Chihuahuan Desert, plus an overview of the latest elegant trogon population changes in the Chiricahua Mountains and a unique mapping tour of one of the world's only "crystal-lined" caves are among many outstanding presentations on the agenda at this September's annual Chiricahua-Peloncillo Heritage Days celebration in Rodeo

A kick-off keynote address on Friday evening, Sept. 11 by life-long trogon researcher and author, Rick Taylor. He will update wildlife enthusiasts about the fast-changing viability of habitat for one of the most revered bird species in the Chiricahua Mountains region. The keynote presentation follows a community reception at the Chiricahua Event Center in Rodeo, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is free to all.

A full day of expert presentations by scientists, private land managers, archaeologists, conservationists and historians will follow on Saturday, Sept. 12, including a first look at the latest carbon dating of undersized bison bones found

during the recent excavation at the 11,300-year-old Cave Creek Midden Site near Portal – bones that may represent a prehistoric species never before catalogued in the borderlands.

Saturday's agenda will also feature a first-of-its-kind look at the unique geological features of Cave Creek Canyon's "Crystal Cave," one of only a small handful of caves in the entire world with similar large quantities of quartz crystals embedded in the walls, including descriptions and new maps of areas in the cave that have rarely, if ever, been visited.

Presentations throughout the day on Saturday will also include a look at the future viability of the San Simon Aquifer, detailed status reports on the health and ecological importance of bootheel-area bats, mountain lions and coyotes, an historical view of the close connection between Apaches and their horses, and a hands-on description of how one local private land manager has restored damaged rangelands — all contributing to a diverse Heritage Days agenda.

Also included Saturday are an on-site farmers market/crafts fair,

open at 10 a.m.; an on-site “Taking Flight”-themed workshop for kids, 9:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and a cash-only buffet lunch. On Sunday, activities include three professionally-guided Field Day excursions, including a wildflower/history walk to Ash Spring, guided tour of the historic Paradise, Arizona townsite and a Cave Creek Geologic History tour.

Annual Heritage Days events draw a broad local attendance, but visitors from across southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico interested in learning about the animals, landscapes, history and culture of the region attend as well. This year's presentations will continue to showcase the co-dependence that wildlife, wild lands, cultural heritage, local history and private lands all have in preserving true community health.

For more information, including full agenda, photos and Field-Day tour sign-ups, contact Kim Vacariu at 520-558-0165 or kim@wildlands-network.org. Heritage Days is sponsored by Friends of Cave Creek Canyon www.friendsofcavecreek-canyon.com and Wildlands Network www.wildlandsnetwork.org.



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MOVING FORWARD • JOAN E. PRICE

Downwinders Speak Out

Candles shine for faces of a cancer culture far from the public eye

At first glance, historic Tularosa seems to be a sleepy little town with a charming variety of trees, gardens, flowers and alfalfa fields wrested away from the Chihuahuan desert. Many of the residents are made up of a tightly knit old community of related Hispanic families. Over 140 years ago, speaking a blend Indian Spanish language, their ancestors founded a safe haven on the Rio Tularosa far from the Confederate occupation of Mesilla on the Rio Grande. When statehood arrived in 1912, the residents brought up the American flag or left for Mexico.

While they succeeded in creating a true oasis in the desert, this oasis has been a dark center of swirling events including the most secretive and horrific experiment beyond imagination; a thunderous explosion and blinding light later called a “second sun” rose 45 miles to the northwest in the early hours of the vital monsoon season on July 6, 1945.

A silver cloud “like snow” covered the land stretching from Alamogordo to Claunch, an agricultural district of potatoes and pinto beans, from Carrizozo to Ruidoso while people marveled about the singular phenomenon — and went back to cultivating their home gardens, fields of corn, bean, squash and heritage chili and tending their livestock. After a few more weak storms, a 14-year drought set in. Many young Hispanic men left the failing farming homesteads for jobs in the recently integrated military. Tularosa has been in the middle from the beginning.

Henry F. Danley, a rancher, was on a military fire observation tower in the military that morning. When he reported the fiery explosion to the Holloman Fire Department, he was ordered to “not talk about it to anyone.” Others

were told it was an ammunitions dump explosion. Many ranchers lost their livelihood in the ensuing expansion of military tests.

In the Alamogordo Daily News of Aug. 9, 1945, readers found out about the bombing of Japanese cities “and in the big news, Alamogordo probably now is a heard of place to peoples all over the world, as the site of the final atomic-bomb test.” Five weeks later, during a visit to the ravaged site by Major Leslie R. Groves and Dr. J.R. Oppenheimer, the entourage was moved quickly along while “instruments the scientists carried determined that there was considerable emanation of destructive rays still going on” and that “these would gradually disappear.”

By early November, young cattle with color changes and texture in the fur were rounded up “from the C.M. Harbey range, 25 or 30 miles from the atomic test” while Alfred Hunter, cattle inspector for the State Sanitary Board for Otero and Lincoln counties, doubted that “radioactive fallout from such a nuclear explosion would harm man or beast.”

In January of 1946, the paper reported, “Government agents bought nearly 30 of the prematurely gray cattle and sent them to Oak Ridge, Tenn. for inspection (from) the Holm-Bursom ranch about 15 miles north of the bomb site.”

“We never even asked what happened,” said Beatrice “Bea” Martinez at the time of the 60th anniversary of the test. “Since we did not know what it was all about we were not scared.”

Cancer survivors in Tularosa talked among themselves for decades about their suspicions of exposure from the Trinity Test. Fred Tyler grew up in Tularosa ranking fourth in his graduating class at Tularosa High School in 1968. In 2005, he had recently retired from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Holloman Air Force Base. His mother, Ruthina Utter Tyler, born and raised in Tularosa, had endured three rounds of cancer of different types — now it was uterine cancer.

In a letter to the ADN in 2004, Tylor wrote, “I wonder (about) the tests at Trinity Site in 1945. I wonder if the tests there had anything to do with the numerous residents of Tularosa and surrounding communities who have contracted various forms of cancer. I think someone with the resources, or some entity like the American Cancer Society, should do a study to see if there are significantly larger numbers of cancers now than before July 1945. Perhaps the DoE or the U.S. government owes compensation to all these people even though most of them were not employees at the time of the Trinity Site test.”

Tyler’s letter got to Tina Cordova, 45, born and raised in Tularosa, valedictorian in her class of 1977. Cordova was an Albuquerque resident with a master’s degree in biology

she went on to medical school at the University of New Mexico. She started doing research looking up statistics on the internet under the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for auto-immune diseases and cancers and found that in 1999, the national average was 202.7 per 100,000 people, but in Otero County, it was 694.6 and in Lincoln County it was 764.5 per 100,000 people.

“From year to year, the numbers are very consistent,” she said.

Cordova is a survivor of thyroid cancer. She said many people in Tularosa have thyroid problems. She started a list of cancers in her family and extended family with a growing realization that she could and needed to do something.

In 2005 Cordova and Tyler began organizing efforts in Tularosa and surrounding communities to complete a study of cancer in the area and the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium was initiated.

Tresa VanWinkle has family photos perched on her desk among the clutter of her downtown office in Alamogordo. She has lost numerous family members in the area to cancer.

“I look at what has happened to members of my family, and I wonder if we are the children of the bomb,” VanWinkle tells visitors. She founded the Cancer Awareness, Prevalence, Prevention and Early Detection (CAPPED) center in Alamogordo.

“If no one is willing to do it we will have to do it ourselves. Eventually someone will listen to us,” Cordova said. “You put up a good



One luminaria, “unknown,” represents the uncounted numbers of people who have died of cancers in Tularosa and surrounding communities. More than 500 additional luminarias were lighted during the candlelight vigil July 18 in Tularosa, each one representing a known cancer victim. (Photo by Joan E. Price)

fight or you give up and don’t look at why this is happening to me. People don’t know where to go. This is going to be a political process.”

Cordova, Tyler and others realized they were part of a much larger movement — and were invisible. The financial and personal impact on families was exhausting. A low income town of some 3,000 residents, one by one, individuals required care from long drives to Albuquerque or to local emergency clinics and the local clinic, and over all, encouraging suffering loved ones. The impact on the churches when the last rites are needed after sometimes long declines led to stoicism and prayers. Insurance was a great “blessing” but all too often that had not been the case.

“Our church bulletin each Sunday has about 30 people who died of cancer for about the last five years; there didn’t used to be cancer. But there has also been that publicity like aspartame sugar sweetener made from formaldehyde causes cancer too,” Tyler said.

Cordova brought a Washington D.C. health advocacy group into the effort. Physicians for Social Responsibility had “done a lot of work with Nevada downwinders to help to build a case,” for consideration for some sort of help from the 1990 Congressional Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, taking the first step towards compensating veterans of the United States’ nuclear weapons production and testing facilities for the ailments they developed as a result of their work. The program, as amended, provides lump-sum payments for sick uranium miners, millers, ore haulers, people present at nuclear tests and residents downwind from certain tests.

In December 2010, the Downwinders hosted a meeting to bring out the newly released Los Alamos Historical Document Retrieval and Assessment (LAHDRA) report, a reevaluation of the clandestine era during atomic testing and radiation exposures. The purpose of the meeting was for CDC to present its recommendations to the DOE as a result of the final LAHDRA report but few attended to hear that the exposures were 1000 times more than predicted by the scientists. The organizers refused to be deterred.

As the TBDC project simmered, LAHDRA revealed that the Trinity Test Project took great effort to prepare for emergency evacuation of local residents if the detonation did not go according to planned radiation levels. They identified every ranch and homestead and “20 government agents were stationed in towns (including Tularosa) up to 100 miles from ground zero on shot day, equipped with recording barographs, seismographs, and recording radiation meters,” confirming the oral histories accounts of many old timers who had long since died. But the information was never collected and analyzed. Project Director General Leslie Groves often voiced fear of “the specter of endless lawsuits.”

While the scientists were monitored carefully, not even the most highly radiated ranch

family, “an elderly couple ... with a young grandson, several dogs,” and 200 goats at Ratliff “hot canyon” Ranch were tested by field teams though they were visited several times during the two years following the extraordinary event that shook the Basin.

“I hate the fact that we have been treated as insignificant — scientists have been compensated but our community has been ignored,” Cordova said.

The LAHDRA project “located no analysis” of any samples or “risk assessments that address exposures” to the public “from inhalation or ingestion of radioactivity.”

H.L. Hempleman, a health physicist, published several reports used by LAHDRA.

“A few people were probably overexposed, but they couldn’t prove it and we couldn’t prove it. So we just assumed we got away with it,” he said in retrospect.

The isolation began to turn as Cordova, Tyler and his wife Kathryn Brusuelas Tyler, Van Winkle and other supporters persisted, continuing to draw up petitions, collecting surveys, protesting at Trinity Site tours conducted each year by the military, contacting congressmen and following every possible lead to outreach and compensation for their families and villagers. They held a candlelight vigil each summer to honor the memory of their personal and disturbing legacy of grief. The participants began to have faces and reality to one another.

Several Congressional members rallied with Tom and Mark Udall and Jeff Bingaman to expand compensation to all New Mexicans under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2010.

TBDC finally got attention from outside journalists. Kathryn Brusuelas Tyler who now handles her husband’s outreach effort since he died last year, began a Facebook page under “Remembering Tularosa.” While the amended RECA amendments for compensation continue to die in committees, their struggle has been widely picked up in just the last year — hundreds of outlets from local television to CBS, the Military Times, and Al Jazeera America got their personal stories out during the 70th anniversary of the atomic test that left the American victims invisible — until now. The financial compensation would be a huge relief, say many with a newly grown strength of community. National recognition and compensation of radiation impacts of the Trinity Test is deep justice, a level of healing but more support continues to be needed.

Saturday evening, July 18, at 8 p.m., the seventh Candlelight Vigil was held at the Tularosa Little League Field to remember and honor over 700 victims of cancer deaths believed to be results of the Trinity Test. The event was organized by the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium.

Joan E. Price is a freelance writer and photographer based in Tularosa.



From left, Natalie Guillen and Dennis Carroll film Tina Cordova and Fred Tyler in 2012 explain the process of gathering statistics about family cancer histories during a Downwinders event in Tularosa gearing up to apply for government compensation. (Photo by Joan E. Price)

70 YEARS • TOM VAUGHN

Birthplace of the A-bomb

Nuclear New Mexico: Past and future

The atomic genie was let out of the bottle 70 years ago here in New Mexico. It can't be put back in; nobody wants it to go away. Nuclear medicine, nuclear power, atomic clocks, nuclear propulsion in submarines and spacecraft ... the technological advances made possible by atomic research are not to be given up. Yet the genie is still capable of destroying worlds, or at least wreaking havoc locally. The challenge today is to keep it corralled.

The earliest uses of uranium ores in New Mexico had nothing to do with radioactivity. Ground to a powder, the yellowish minerals were used by Native Americans to color designs on deerskin cradleboard coverings.

In the 1920s, low-grade uranium ores (autunite and torbernite) were recovered from old silver mines in the White Signal and Black Hawk mining districts west of Silver City for use in glazes and to color glass. Significant uranium deposits in these areas were identified during the uranium boom of the 1950s.

World War II gave birth to the Manhattan Project — a search for a super-weapon that could give its wielder a decisive victory. Building on earlier research into radioactivity and atomic physics, both Germany and the United States raced to produce an atomic bomb.

On the recommendation of J. Robert Oppenheimer, Manhattan Project manager Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, Jr., chose the Los Alamos Ranch School in 1942 as the site of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Oppenheimer became the first director of LANL. The University of California operated the laboratory under contract to the U.S., becoming one of the first Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDC), joining public and academic resources in pursuit of national security solutions.

The Manhattan Project was super-secret and it moved very fast. Two models of nuclear detonation were studied — gun-type and implosion — using two different elements — uranium and plutonium. The first prototype in 1943 — named “Thin Man” after a Dashiell Hammett novel — was a plutonium gun-type bomb. It was 14 feet long, weighed four tons and was

unwieldy to handle and deliver to the target.

Back to the drawing boards. Two detonation strategies were pursued — uranium gun-type and plutonium implosion. On July 16, 1945, LANL tested a uranium implosion bomb (“Gadget”) at the Trinity Site in the Alamogordo Bombing and Gunnery Range — the first nuclear weapon exploded in history. Its explosive power equaled 20,000 tons of TNT (20KT).

While the Trinity test was being prepared, a base was also being readied on Tinian Island in the Pacific, from which B-29 bombers would deliver the nuclear bombs to their targets in Japan. Preparations were also made at Oxnard Field (now Kirtland AFB) for development, testing and assembly of bombs for delivery — this was the beginning of Sandia National Laboratory (SNL).

Just 21 days after the successful test at the Trinity Site, “Little Boy” (named to contrast with “Thin Man”) was detonated on August 6, 1945, over Hiroshima, Japan. This was a gun-type uranium bomb, and its blast was that of 15 kilotons of TNT. It was 10 feet long, 28 inches in diameter and weighed 9,700 pounds. Thirty-two were made before they were withdrawn from service in January 1951.

Three days later, on Aug. 9, “Fat Man” (named after a character in “The Maltese Falcon”) was detonated over Nagasaki, Japan, after being diverted from its original target — Kokura, Japan. This was a plutonium implosion bomb yielding 21 KT, like the one used at Trinity. It was, indeed, bigger than “Little Boy” — 5 feet in diameter and 8 inches longer, weighing more than five tons. This became the preferred model; 120 were built before they were retired in 1950.

Death, the destroyer of worlds
The Manhattan Project scientists knew they were working with a force with truly awesome potential, but the actual consequences of a nuclear explosion were not yet clear. When “Gadget” was tested at Trinity, Dr. Oppenheimer later said, “I remembered the line from the



Six thousand Japanese Catholics died at Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki when “Fat Man” exploded 1,600 feet overhead during morning mass. (Photo courtesy World War II database)

Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita: ‘Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.’

Right away, there was evidence of danger to civilian populations, though those affected did not find out about it until much later. A radioactive plume of fallout from the Trinity test, according to a 2009 Los Alamos report, was tracked northeast across New Mexico, Kansas, Iowa, Indiana, New England and out into the Atlantic Ocean.

The immediate casualty list of the bombings in Japan was large, and the total mortality grew as delayed effects killed more people. It is now estimated that 66,000 people were killed instantly in Hiroshima, 39,000 in Nagasaki. The injured included 68,000 in Hiroshima and 25,000 in Nagasaki. By the end of 1945, the death toll in Hiroshima had reached 140,000 (38 percent of the city's original population), and 70,000 in Nagasaki (28 percent). Many of those not killed at the time of the blasts died of leukemia or solid cancers fostered by the radiation.

Nagasaki had a large Roman Catholic community, founded in 1549 by the Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier. The Urakami Cathedral, built in 1917, had 12,000 baptized members. The tall building was a perfect visual target for the B-29 bombardier. Six thousand Japanese Catholics died when “Fat Man” exploded 1,600 feet overhead during morning mass.

While the atom is now used peacefully in medicine, propulsion, electricity production and other purposes, there are constant reminders of its lethality. Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima are the sites of atomic power plant disasters, resulting in deaths and dead zones.

At home in New Mexico, the danger manifested itself in several ways, starting with the uranium at the core of the nuclear industry. When Patricio “Paddy” Martinez discovered uranium ore deposits on Haystack Mountain near Grants in 1950, he triggered a mining boom that continued until 1998.

Some August Events:

Aug. 6 – “A-Bomb Day” is recognized in the city of Hiroshima which holds the Peace Memorial Ceremony to console the victims of the atomic bombs and to pray for the realization of lasting world peace. The ceremony is held in front of the Memorial Cenotaph in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Participants include the families of the deceased and people from all over the world.

Aug. 6-9 – The Campaign Nonviolence National Conference events are happening in Los Alamos and Santa Fe with various speakers and events. Visit <http://paceebene.org/> for more information.

Aug. 9 – At noon the Hiroshima Peace Day Observance includes a silent memorial and discussion on nuclear weapons. Please bring your own chair. Gough Park pavilion, Silver City.

Aug. 20 – At 6 p.m., David Culp with the Friends Committee on National Legislation and other speakers will address “Nuclear New Mexico - Past and Future” at the Miller Library, 1000 W College Ave., Silver City.

New Mexico's two National Laboratories, operated under contracts with the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), have been free of catastrophic nuclear incidents. There have been two “criticality incidents” at LANL.

On the global scene, there has been a broad consensus about the horror of nuclear weapons. The Canberra Commission, an international group that included former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, reported in 1996: “The destructiveness of nuclear weapons is immense. Any use would be catastrophic.”

The genie ... and the corral
The study of the atom and its power has been a powerful economic stimulus for New Mexico. Money from federal sources is estimated to be 37 percent of this state's annual revenue and 18.5 percent of the state's total work force is federal employees. This includes a broad range of activities: Border Patrol, military personnel, civilian Department of Defense employees, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, etc. The DOE is part of that mix,

with LANL, SNL, WIPP and some ancillary sites to those facilities. Annual federal contracting in New Mexico amounts to \$6.9 billion, of which 73percent is administered by DOE — the laboratories. In addition to the contractors, there are more than 48,000 New Mexicans (2013 data) who work directly for the federal government, receiving \$4.4 billion in compensation (about 10 percent of the total earned compensation in the state).

What if ...?
What if the goal of the NNPT — abolition of nuclear weapons — became a reality next year? How would New Mexico be affected? Would 18,000 workers be suddenly laid off and the state's economy go into a tailspin? Not likely, but the questions show how essential these facilities have become to the state's economy. Sandia exemplifies the dilemma our congressional delegation faces with every fiscal year's budget. On the one hand, there has been progress toward the stated goal of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons. The United States has reduced its nuclear arsenal from



Sandia National Laboratories stretches over 2,820 acres and employs 10,000 people. (Photo courtesy Sandia National Laboratories)

31,139 nuclear weapons in 1965 to 7,700 in 2013 and a projected 3,620 in 2022. The Soviet Union had 39,187 nuclear weapons in 1985; Russia has 8,500 today and is committed to 3,350 in 2022. The United Kingdom and France have followed similar paths of reduction. China continues to build its small arsenal (250 in 2013), as do Israel (80), India (90-110), Pakistan (100-120) and North Korea (6-8).

The “Life Extension Programs” (LEP) are SNL’s lifeblood for the rest of this decade. On May 13, 2015, SNL Director Paul Hommert told the Economic Forum of Albuquerque that \$2.8 billion had been spent in each of the last two years upgrading the B61-12 bomb, the W88 nuclear warhead and the Mk21 fuze for ICBMs. He said work on these LEPs is expected to be completed by 2020. The B61-12 is being modernized at a cost of roughly \$600,000 per year — when finished, the 400 bombs will each have cost more than the value of their weight in gold.

Seventy years later

LANL and SNL are an essential part of New Mexico’s economy. The nuclear activities at the laboratories, though conducted under the aegis of the Department of Energy, are critical to the U.S. nuclear defense program today.

What began as a search for a game-changing weapon to ensure U.S. victory in WWII has grown into a federal investment in capacity and talent that is its own reason for existence. Weapons that have long been considered unthinkable

to use receive the attentions of thousands of New Mexican workers at a cost of billions annually.

The 70th anniversaries of the Trinity test and of the atomic bombing of Japan are reminders of the atomic genie’s terrible power. At the same time, events in the Middle East and Russia stall the nuclear disarmament process the nation is committed to.

New Mexicans will observe these anniversaries in several events around the state. The observances freshen issues that

have been on the back burner for decades. The “plus” of good jobs and fat contracts is offset by the “minus” of environmental impacts (uranium mines and mills, growing amounts of radioactive material in substandard storage, waste issues at both LANL and SNL), accident potential (as evidenced at Church Rock and WIPP), site security issues and the morality of ever again using the “Destroyer of Worlds” against an enemy.

Those who advocate for the national goal of nuclear disarmament

will search for ways in which the capacities of Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories can be repurposed to fill the void left when work on nuclear weapons ceases.

As Albert Einstein observed: “The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one.”

After more than 30 years of government service (3 Army,

22 National Park Service, 7 Bureau of Land Management), Tom Vaughan edited the weekly “Mancos Times” newspaper in southwest Colorado for seven years. Since November 2010, he and his wife, Sandy Feutz, have been enjoying the salubrious climate in the lively community of Silver City. As FeVa Fotos, they “share the joy” they find in the world around them through their photography.



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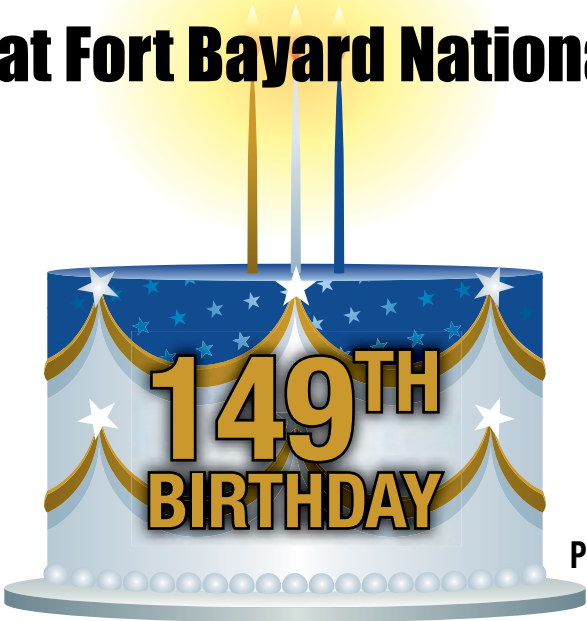
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