DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

Our 20th Year! • September 2015

Volume 20 • Number 9

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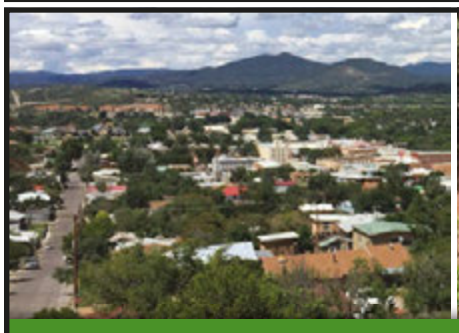

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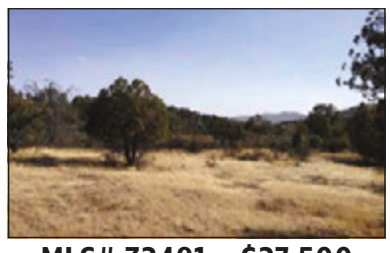

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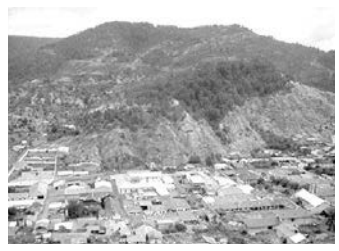

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About the cover:
By Peter Bill

Peter Bill teaches Art and Media at Western New Mexico University in Silver City. He enjoys getting his students into graduate school, painting from life, badminton and fighting the money idolatry that has become the state religion of the USA. Bill is heading the Time-Lapse Film Festival during the Gila River Festival in and around Silver City Sept. 24 – 27 and he designed the program for the 2015 festival. You can see more of his work at vimeo.com/peterbill and peterbill.us.

Correction:

The August 2015 cover featured this supercharged 1957 Chevrolet, Bel Air belonging to auto enthusiast/collector David Cheek.

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POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

Postcard from the edge – Helgi Osterreich of Tularosa still enjoys her Desert Exposure during her trip through New England. Shown here in Rochester, New York, her journey takes her through Connecticut, New York, Toronto and Montreal.

Whether you're going to Nebraska, Washington State 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. Or, if you have visitors from out of state, introduce them to Desert Exposure and send us the shot.

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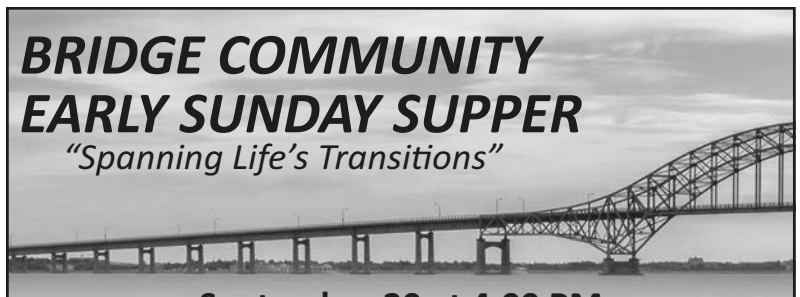

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Wildlife World

Predators under attack for following their nature

On one hand we have ranchers posting photos of foals trying to walk with half of one of their back legs visibly missing, attacked by coyotes – or wolves.

On the other hand, we have a dentist, lambasted, threatened and in hiding because he killed Cecil, a well-known lion of a Zimbabwe reserve which was lured out of the safety of the area and shot for a trophy. Many posts related to the Cecil story suggest the dentist, Walter Palmer, should have his own head cut off and put on a wall.

Most controversial issues have gray areas, rational places where discussion can begin and minds can come to compromise, but in the area of the Mexican gray wolf and other predators, people are either in favor of killing them – or not.

Well maybe not that simple, as it seems some of the same people who wanted to put Palmer's head on the wall are also in favor of coyote hunting contests. Some of the people whose dogs tree the nearest cougars so they can be made into rugs are those who are angry because the Yellowstone rangers killed a mother bear for eating a hiker. But in general, there are those who think wild predators are a nuisance to be rid of and those who think they are cute and noble.

Protesters in front of Rep. Steve Pearce's Las Cruces office oppose proposed legislation to turn over Mexican gray wolf management to the state. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Me, I fall in the grey area anyway. I think horses are cute and noble. I have had them, ridden them, brushed them, shod them and sorely regret the lack of opportunity my children had to grow up with horses. I cuddle them at every opportunity (after asking permission from the owners of course) and breathe in their delicious scent with fond memories.

I understand well the ache of losing a horse to a coyote or a rattlesnake.

But the totems through my life have been cougars, tigers and bears – beasts with no apologies necessary who operate differently, who are not prey except to humans. It turns out I am no different than most people because humans identify most strongly with the strongest creatures. We want to believe we have the traits of the natural predator. Beauty, strength, powerful love for our children and the ability to protect our loved ones are desired traits for most people.

This brings us back to Cecil the lion, who is known and loved and therefore missed and mourned. He is but one of thousands of lions brought down by hunters, why is he so important? Is his life really worth more than that mountain lion, that coyote, that Mexican wolf? Why?

U.S. Rep. Pearce has sponsored legislation, H.R. 2910, which would nullify two federal rules promulgated on Jan. 16 that respectively list the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies and prescribe management of the reintroduced population that spans the New Mexico and Arizona state border. Rep. Pearce and his cosponsor Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) have said the bill would have the effect of turning over management of the Mexican wolf to state authorities, and that they are considering inserting the language into unrelated spending measures.

The Western Environmental Law Center just filed a lawsuit to protect endangered Mexican gray wolves. Earlier this summer, a group of concerned constituents met in front of Pearce's Las Cruces office to protest the legislation. Signs held by protesters said "HR2910 = death sentence for wolves," "Pearce = Lobo extinction," and "Pearce, hands off our wolves."

Pearce has said the legislation will protect New Mexicans and Arizonans from Mexican grey wolf attacks and severe economic losses. He said species recovery should be left to the individual states and not the federal government.

Meanwhile, websites still decry both sides of the question with outrageous, painful stories and questions. Numbers are thrown around like popcorn. One website, www.gilacountywatch.com, has so many photos and stories of wolf predation and danger that if all the stories were true, all the wild Mexican wolves are stalking humans and livestock. Another, www.predatordefense.org, claims "over 3,600 (grey) wolves have been slaughtered in just six states. Now the entire species is teetering on the brink of losing federal protection across the nation."

Then there is the jaguar, the third largest cat in the world next to lions and tigers. Once they roamed from south to north of the Americas, now they may or may not have a real presence in the United States. Conservationists are fighting to keep ranching organizations from overturning federal protection of habitat for the jaguars on mostly public land.

Jaguars were once widely distributed across much of the southwestern United States, but now just one jaguar is known to live in the country, in one of the areas protected for the species in Arizona. According the Center for Biological Diversity, New Mexico critical jaguar habitat is important as unobstructed travel corridors north into the United States, since both mountain ranges extend across the Mexico border, where no wall has been erected. On two occasions, 1996 and 2006, separate jaguars were brought to bay by the same outfitter's hounds in, respectively, the Peloncillos and San Luis mountains; both were allowed to escape and ran south toward Mexico.

What I know is after living in the desert world of Dog Canyon south of Alamogordo is the cycles of wildlife and predation are ongoing and severe. When the coyotes are down in population, the rabbits decimate the yards, gardens and trees. When the rattlesnakes are rare, the mice and other rodents populate, spread into the house trailer walls and destroy electric wires. The system of life is made for both prey and predator, and the balance is important regardless of dangers to livestock or human perceptions of cuteness and nobleness.

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 (Sept 9) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House. Please drop by and say hello.

LETTERS

Bicycle column not so unbalanced

In regards to: "Bicycle column unbalanced" in the August 2015, Desert Exposure

The letter suggested that walking people (pedestrians) and bicyclists comply with the rules of the road and that they build their own bicycle and pedestrian friendly roadways. Are they aware that bicyclists or pedestrians may have paid more in taxes than themselves? If so should the bicyclists and pedestrians have more right to be on that road than the motor vehicle operator?

Consider the p or b (pedestrians or bicyclists) is in the elements, (heat, cold, rain, snow), walking or pedaling out of necessity or for pleasure and if they did have the misfortune of getting in an accident they would likely hurt themselves and not anyone else or their property. All this on a road they helped pay for.

Consider the motorists immune to the elements, in fact, comfortable, possibly multitasking, his vehicle requiring minimal effort to accelerate, stop, etc. taking up a good portion of the road, and if he had the misfortune of getting in an accident would be protected by two tons of metal, seat-belts, and airbags would probably walk away unharmed while at the same time capable of causing considerable human and property damage. All this on a road they all helped pay for.

The privilege of being human requires that we be respectful, and considerate of all, whether in two tons of steel on the street or a pair of tennies walking down the street. – John Bever

LETTERS

Disaster objection

I write to object to a statement made by Tom Vaughn in his article "Birthplace of the A-bomb" beginning on page 50 of the August 2015 issue.

Toward the bottom of the third column is the following sentence: "Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukishima are the sites of atomic power plant disasters, resulting in deaths and dead zones."

This is a horribly misleading sentence. These three events are very different from each other, and it does a disservice to the public to lump them together as far as what actually happened in each instance.

Three Mile Island was a human-caused accident ("disaster" is a bit strong a word). There was a partial meltdown of the nuclear core in one of the reactors there, but no radiation of consequence was released, there were no "dead zones," and there were no deaths.

Chernobyl was a human-caused accident, but it is a far different circumstance in that it occurred on Russian soil and was subject to far less stringent safety standards than would be found in any U.S. or other western country. If Chernobyl had followed U.S. safety standards in terms of containment buildings and so forth, there might never have been an accident at all. This doesn't mitigate what happened there. My point is that it is unfair and misleading to lump Three Mile Island and Chernobyl together in the same sentence. The only thing they have in common as far as the events that took place was that they are both power plants.

Fukishima was a nuclear accident that occurred because of an act of God, not because of human actions. Radiation was released, but no deaths were attributed to this. More than 18,000 people died, though from the earthquake and resulting tsunami. There may be deaths in the future due to long-term effects from radiation exposure. This remains to be seen.

So, to set the record straight:

Three Mile Island – no radiation release, no deaths, no dead zone

Chernobyl – radiation release, deaths, dead zone

Fukishima – radiation release, no deaths, no dead zone. Possible future illnesses or deaths.

Mr. Vaughn's sentence is only accurate in regard to Chernobyl.

– Daniel Gulino, Las Cruces

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DESERT DIARY

A little food, a little drink

A letteration and his wife enjoy a toast once in a while, he says:

For years, my wife and I have enjoyed a before-dinner cocktail, a martini for me and for her, a Virgin Mary (a non-alchholic Bloody Mary). For all those years, I've been making her drink without gin. But recently I learned that the traditional Bloody Mary is made with vodka. So, being a purist about booze, I now make her Virgin Mary without vodka.)

Jim Duchene and his father share a gaggle of googles and discuss strange dog food allergies in another chapter in his raisingmyfather.blogspot.com saga:

I enjoy watching baseball on TV as much as the next guy, as long as the next guy is someone who doesn't enjoy watching baseball on TV. On the other hand, my elderly father who lives with me loves watching baseball on TV, and he'll spend many happy hours sitting in front of the television set doing just that. I pay extra for the Major League Baseball channel, and, believe me, it's worth every penny.

I want to spend time with my dad, but I don't want to sit in front of the TV for hours doing nothing, so I'll grab my laptop and join him. He'll do his thing, I'll do mine, and somewhere along the line we'll even exchange a few words.

Recently, during a commercial of course, he asked me, "What do you do with that?"

"What do I do with what?" I asked him back. I must admit, I wasn't paying much attention.

"What do you do with your computer?"

Finally, a subject I actually had some interest in.

"Well, pop, right now I'm doing some research on Google."

It's true. My dog had developed an allergy to his food, and I was researching grain-free, limited-ingredient, hypoallergenic dog foods. Whoever said dogs are no trouble have never met mine.

"What's Google?" my father wanted to know.

"Well, Google is what's called a search engine," I explained. "You ask it a question, and it gives you the answer."

"I don't believe it."

"It's true."

"Any question?"

"Any question," I assured him.

My dad thought a bit, and then said, "You know, my brother has been sick."

"I know, dad," I sympathized, thinking my father had changed the subject.

"Ask Google how he is."

Jerry the Joker says, "No good deed goes unpunished," especially when taking a drunk home:

A guy was in a bar about as drunk as it's possible to get. A group of guys notice his condition and decide to be good Samaritans and take him home.

First, they stand him up to get to his wallet so they can find out where he lives, but he keeps falling down. He fell down eight more times on the way to the car, each time with a real thud. After they get to his house, he falls down another four times getting him to the door.

His wife comes to the door, and one guy says, "We brought your husband home."

The wife asks, "Where's his wheelchair?

The packrat out back recently heard some history from merry Olde England:

• There is an old hotel/pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "one last drink." If he said yes, it was referred to as "one for the road." If he declined, that prisoner was "on the wagon."

• In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old'."

• Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "'chew the fat'."

• Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

• Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "'the upper crust'."

• Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake."

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MUSIC SCENE • JEANIE MCLERIE & KEN KEPPELER

Rolling Postcard 2015

Silver City musicians hit the roads of Europe

Bayou Seco musical duo Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler enjoy one of several stone arrays they visited during their time in the United Kingdom during the summer months.

ANGELUS, ANGELUS—Get out of bed you silly goose. Clang, clang, clang go the bells in the Eglise de Droyes (Haute Marne) in France each morning at seven. First seven strikes on one bell, a nice pause, then seven more on the next bell, a bit lower in tone, and then a third bell joins in and there begins a raucous conversation together. The overtones that resonate between each bell are just wonderful to hear, fortunately, because these bells have a great sound (none are cracked). It is a wild dance of musical tones, each note, do-si-do-ing around each other, swinging their partner and circling up in a fast moving orbit. On Sunday at noon, the bells give a wonderfully weird concert of popular tunes such as "Au Claire de la Lune," "J'ai du bon Tabac" and "Ave Maria," but with some of the notes in another mode because the 12 note scale is not all there.

This is our 23rd year of touring around Europe with our music. It is always an amazing odyssey. There is a lovely continuity and symmetry to our trips, visiting many of the same people and playing in some of the same venues. But there are always new twists and turns, new friends to meet along the way, and new things to discover. The rhythm of a typical day is get up, eat some breakfast, pack up the car with the instruments and all the other stuff and then head out to the next destination. Upon arrival, the process is reversed.

On this tour, which lasted two and a half months, we played more than 30 concerts, slept in 37 different places and covered 9,000 kilometers in our leased Renault Kangoo. We like it a lot, it runs economically on Diesel fuel, at least 50 miles to the gallon. It looks a little bit like a Ford Transit van with windows all around. And it holds enough fuel to go 1,000 Kilometers.

We left New Mexico in the third week of April and flew to Paris where we picked up the car. And then we went two and one half hours east to Droyes in the Haute Marne, passing by impossibly green fields of wheat and rye, and neon yellow rape seed (soon to be canola oil) stands. Our dear friends, Philippe and Francine Pierson live in a lovingly restored 120 year old house. They keep our guitar, banjo and two accordions for us while we are home in New Mexico.

After a few days we headed north to the United Kingdom. Four hours to Calais, the ferry to Dover, a night spent in Canterbury, and then Whittlesey, and we landed in Dumfries, Scotland where we played for a wedding in nearby Moniave, a charming little town. The New Mexican Broom dance was requested. All the men had on kilts and it was a very fun event, kilts a-flying.

The next day we took the Irish ferry to Larne, north of Belfast to stay with our mates in Keady Clachan. Here, the pet turkey named Cracker, a BBC Radio star, is invited into the house at any time. The goat, Billy, wanders around the yard ready to greet with his horns (watch out) and the Irish Hospitality shines like Waterford crystal. Our hosts, Mickie and Joan loved showing us the sights. We slept well in a little attic room up under the eaves with views over to the Lough Foyle.

A misspelling of the band's name gives the Bayou Seco pair cause to giggle while visiting Shropshire County in England.

For the next week, we were under the care of Teknopeasant, aka Conor O'Kane, who put us on the bill at the Derry City Culturelann theatre opening for Balkan Alien Sound. Fun culture clanging indeed. We then went to the Cup of Tea festival in Ardrara near Donegal town and had a super few days listening to all the fine music, much of it played by very young Kids. Our "Oh how I love that Chile Verde" was a hit, even though these folks are not known for their love of hot food.

We then went over to Belfast, stopping at the beautiful stone circle in Drumskinney near Kesh. The weather was typical for Ireland, blustery, rainy and dark grey, with bouts of brilliant sunshine all of a sudden. This circle is very small and intimate compared to most we have seen. Only fairly recently excavated (in the last 50 years) from a very boggy area, it seemed so serene and perfect. We were there all alone, and it was one of those magical moments we love when we are on tour.

ROLLING POSTCARD
continued on page 11

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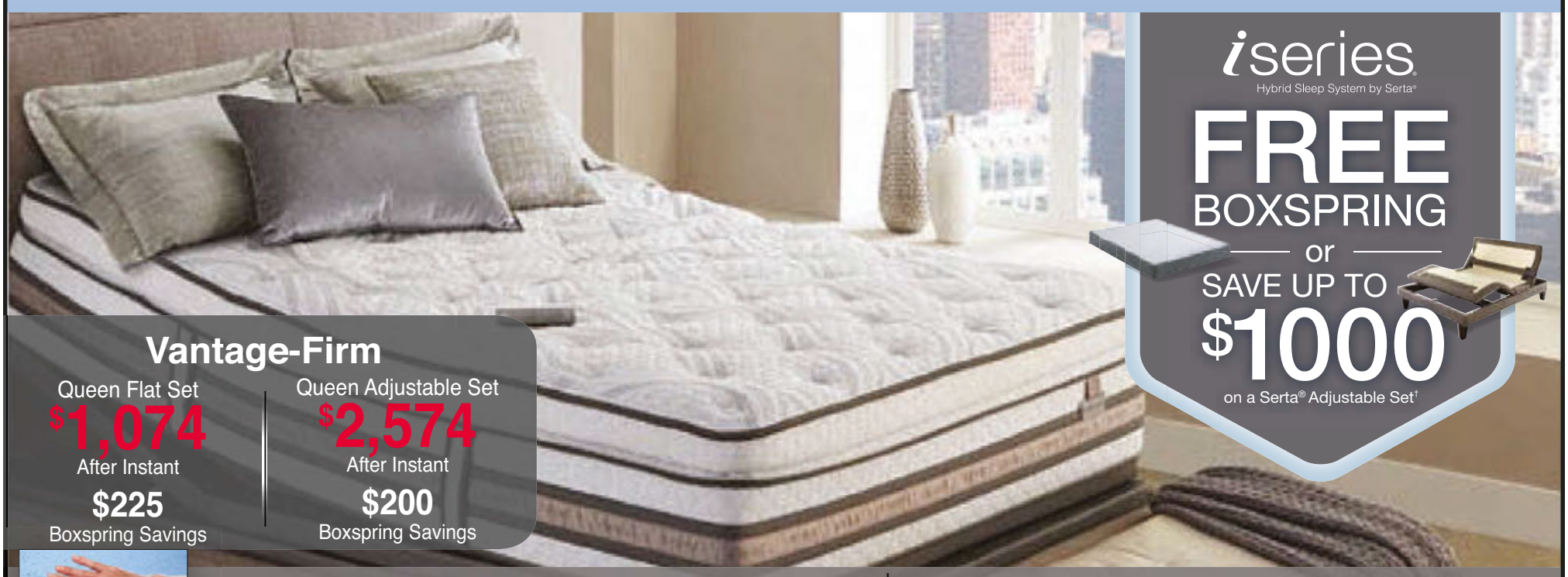

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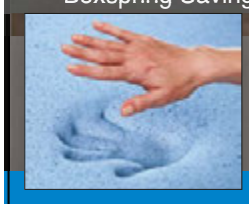

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ROLLING POSTCARD

continued from page 8

Whistling the Kesh jig, we got back on the road and went through one of Ken's family towns called Fintona, pronounced Fintna. It is a wonderful feeling to be in an area where many ancestors have lived.

We got to Belfast and had a couple of days to relax, and we really enjoyed playing at the No Alibis bookstore again. This book store specializes in crime novels as well as Irish poetry and literature. The bookshelves are on wheels, and can be moved off to the side to allow many evening events such as poetry readings and musical concerts. David and Claudia are the most welcoming hosts. If you are ever in Belfast, please say hi for us. We then headed back up to Keady Clachan where we played a concert in the one hundred year old stone barn which is the home of many a ceilidh and community gathering. Taking the slow boat from Dublin (the fast ferry had been cancelled due to high winds) we landed in Holywell, North Wales and began three weeks of gigs all over England. Village halls, pubs, folk clubs, a farmer's market, restaurants, schools, the Cecil Sharp House in London, and even an Aspera(gus) Fest which celebrated that delicious spring treat of a vegetable.

For Ken's 70th birthday we spent a very rainy afternoon talking to the rocks inside the double stone circle in Avebury, Wiltshire, and chasing down white chalk horses of pagan origins which have been carved into the hills nearby, some since the Iron Age. The horse near Uffington is a graceful horse with extremely modern lines. It is really only well viewed from the air.

Then we were back on the ferry to the mainland to play near the old city famous for its lace, Bruges, in Belgium. The Cowboy Up steakhouse and pub in Waardamme is a cool place to play, and they really love Cajun music there.

In Germany we landed near the very old (2,500 years) town of Limburg. In the little town of Hahnstaetten, we played a town concert for the Kulturbeutal (Culture Club).

We had met Selma and Geert at Camp Thunderbird in the Mimbres last fall when we played for a wedding. The town butcher made chile and beans. It was very good, and even quite spicy. We played acoustically in the town square next to the fountain for about 80 people, two sets, introducing the songs in Ken's charming German, and my slowly spoken English. Everyone enjoyed dancing the Broom Dance and the Valse de los Paños. Songs like "When I was a Cowboy" needed no translation. The review in the German newspaper said we looked like a classic pair of vintage cars sitting on the tiny stage.

Our suitcases, which had been filled with chile powder and other New Mexico treats on the way over, were now bulging on the home trip with sea salt, beautiful tea towels, olive wood spoons and many, many new CDs that we will be playing on our GMCR.com/KURU, 89.1 FM Radio Show, "Roots and Branches" every Saturday morning. We feel like we have really hit the motherlode with all the music we have heard and can bring home.

And most importantly, returning home to Silver City is such a joy. Seeing the green hills and the happy smiles at the Farmer's Market makes us so very glad to live in this fine community. There is no place like it.

Editor's note: Desert Exposure is proud to continue the tradition of publishing the yearly adventures of Silver City's "chilegumbo" musical duo, Bayou Seco as they journey through parts of Europe bringing the flavor of New Mexico to Scotland, Ireland, Germany and France over the summer months. Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler host Roots & Branches on gmcr.org or KURU 89.1FM in Silver City, every Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m.

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY

Grant County Art Guild's annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit celebrates its 30th year of the exhibit with 60 entries from many outstanding New Mexico artists. A guaranteed purchase of the Best of Show winner for $1,500 and other cash prizes make this a popular show for both local and nonlocal artists. The show will open at the Guild's **Pinos Altos Art Gallery** with an artist's reception on Sept. 22, at 5:30 p.m. "Open Roads to Realism" is the theme of the show and it features paintings in oils, acrylics, watercolors and pastels. The exhibit will also be available for viewing during regular gallery hours through Oct. 4.

The Purchase Prize Award Exhibit is judged annually by a specially selected accomplished artist from out of state. This year's judge is **Brian Freeman** from Tucson who is an award-winning artist and also instructs art workshops. In keeping with the Guild's mission statement of art education, he will be doing a special three-day, all day, all media workshop open to the public on Sept. 23, 24 and 25. Call 575-535-9462 for more information or to reserve your spot in the class.

Last year's artists' reception for the Grant county Art Guild's annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit drew a large crowd to enjoy the artwork and festivities. (Courtesy photo)

The **Pinos Altos Art Gallery**, located at 14 Golden Ave. in the historic Hearst Church, is open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day through Oct. 18. The Guild's Red Dot Show will be the following two weekends in October with some exciting special happenings planned.

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.

Rebecca Kerr is the featured artist at Copper Quail Gallery in Silver City for September.

At the **Copper Quail** in Silver City "The Gila and Beyond" is the September show featuring the latest works by **Rebecca Kerr**. She paints in acrylics, depicting landscapes, wildlife and occasionally a slice of history. Copper Quail will host a reception on Saturday, Sept 5, from 2 to 6 p.m. with light refreshments. Additionally creatures of the Gila will be represented through wildlife photography by **John Wachholz** and wildlife paintings by **Jan Fell**. This show runs from Sept 1 through Oct 4 at the Copper Quail, 211-A N. Texas St. in Silver City.

DEMING

In September 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.

Lyn Orona creates paintings, jewelry and sculpture and is featured at the Deming Fine Arts Center for the month of September. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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 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.

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 Mexico, 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.

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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.

ALAMOGORDO

Manny's Pallette Talk, a grouping of art reflecting the love of nature, animals and humans by **Manuel Guisa**, is on display throughout the month of September at **Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery** on New York Avenue in Alamogordo. An artist's reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Sept. 18 at the gallery, 917 New York Ave. Alamogordo.

SOCORRO

It is clear from talking to them that Georgette and Prescott Grey had no idea in 1995 that the gallery they opened in Newburyport, Mass., would be engaging in its fourth relocation 20 years later in Socorro. While a bricks-and-mortar version of the **Vertu Fine Art Gallery** has not been continuously in existence over that entire 20 years, there has been a web presence for www.vertuarts.com for most of that time, as attested to by the web's "Wayback Machine." Today they are getting ready to host a New Mexico juried show. **"Facets and Faces of New Mexico"** will open Sept. 4 at Vertu's new location on Socorro's Historic Plaza.

The Vertu Fine Art Gallery in Socorro is having a grand opening in September with a special juried art show. (Photo by Tom Iron who will a featured artist at Vertu in October)

Entries to this show were juried and judged by art marketing specialist and fine art photographer **John R. Math**, of the online art gallery Light Space and Time. Best of Show went to **Arlene J. Tugel**, of Mesilla Park, for her transparent watercolor "Mountain Magic." First place was taken by "Aristócratico," a pastel by Albuquerque artist **Marilyn Drake**. Las Cruces artist **Sue Ann Glenn** placed second with her "Blue," another transparent watercolor, and **Heather Blair Jones** of Albuquerque took third place with "Desert Dwellers," a Watercolor on wrinkled rice paper. A catered artist's reception for this exhibit, open to the public, will be held on Friday, Sept. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will run through Sunday, Sept. 27.

The work of Manuel Guisa, is on display throughout the month of September at Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery in Alamogordo. (Courtesy photo)

ARTS SCENE
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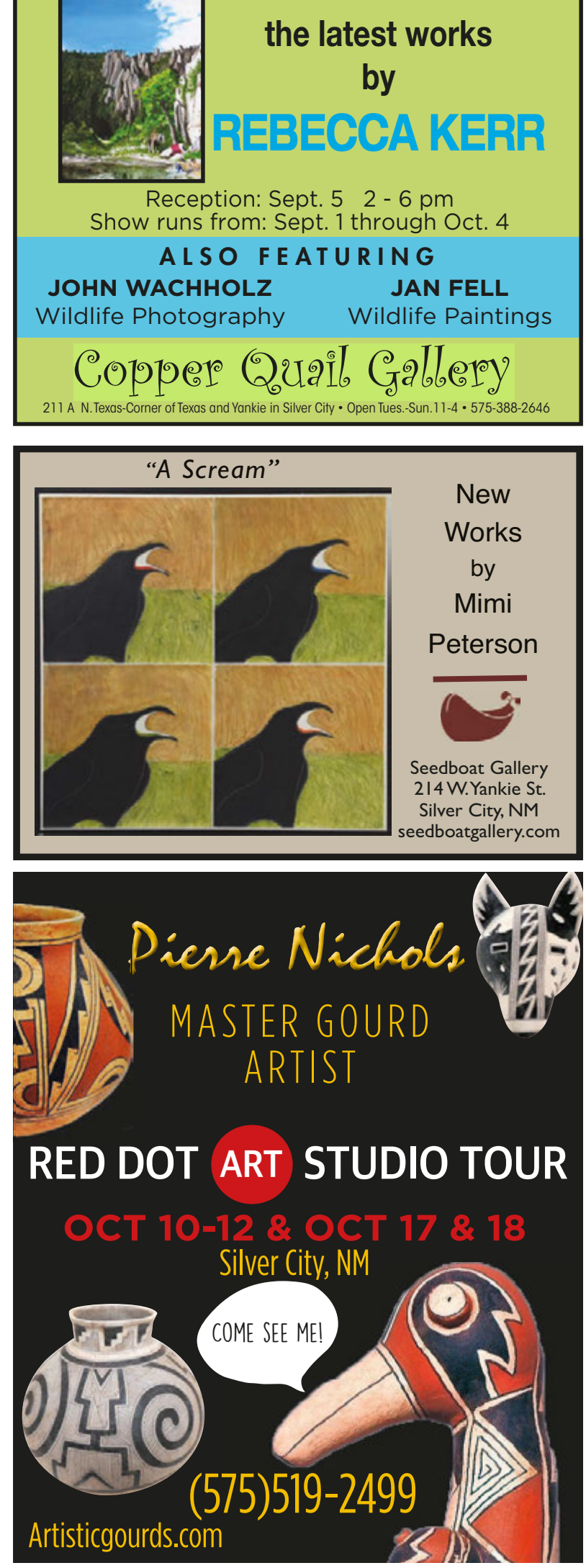

ARTS SCENE

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LAS CRUCES

"The Humor of Wall Batterton" exhibit is featured at the **Café de Mesilla** during the months of September and October.

Batterton began painting oils, watercolors, doing ceramics and drawing with collage in Los Angeles in 1960, after completing four years at **Chouinard Art Institute**. He did live in Las Cruces in the late 1980s, and returned in June 2013. He has had a solo exhibit at Cutter Gallery and several group shows at Rococo since his return.

"This show is a result of my sense of humor being ignited by all kinds of imagery that one finds constantly in our society," he said.

There will be an opening event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. of Thursday, Sept. 17. **Café de Mesilla**, a coffee shop offering breakfast and lunch as well as gifts, is located at 2190 Avenida de Mesilla.

For more information call 575-524-0000.

The Tombaugh Gallery presents "Re-Awakenings," an exhibit of new works by Las Cruces artist **Georjeanna Feltha**. The show opens Sept. 6 with an artist reception from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"'ReAwakenings' reconnects the past by attaching a golden thread from it to my future," Feltha said.

The Tombaugh Gallery is located inside the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, and is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a soft opening Oct. 4th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with a fashion show displaying designs created by the artist. Feltha's exhibit continues through Oct. 23.

"Ebb & Flow," a three-month exhibit by the **Ten O'Clock Club**, opens at the **Cottonwood Gallery** in the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main Street, Las Cruces on Sept. 4. The public is invited to the group reception during the Downtown Ramble from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Tenners meet monthly at 10 a.m. on the 10th of each month to talk art. Every other day of the week at 10 a.m., they think art, or most often get involved in their media to create, work and play.

Aa Studios, located behind 2645 Doña Ana Road in Las Cruces, features **"Natural Selection,"** by Las Cruces painter **Stephanie Sweet** for September. The opening will be held on Friday, Sept. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. The show will also be open Sept. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sept.13 from 2 to 4 p.m. The gallery may also be visited by appointment by calling Roy van der Aa at 575-520-8752. The show runs through Oct. 30. **"Natural Selection"** is a group of select paintings and mixed media works ranging from the year 2003 through 2015. They are all Sweet's personal favorites, on display for the first time together at Aa Studios alongside her brand new series, **"The Journey of a Universal Explorer."**

Sweet's new series, "The Journey of a Universal Explorer," is a series of oil paintings inspired by her love and obsessive fantasies about traveling. The series began just before a two-month long road trip from Las Cruces to Michigan, her home state. Aa Studios is open the second weekend each month and by appointment for the rest of the month.

The Museum of Art will host an artists' reception for the exhibition **"From the Ground Up XXVII"** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 11, in the **Las Cruces Museum of Art**. Exhibition juror Marcia Selsor will give a gallery tour and talk at 4 p.m. prior to the reception, and will present awards at 5:15 p.m. "From the Ground Up XXVII" is a regional, juried ceramics show, co-hosted by the 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 show continues through Oct. 24.

The Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main Street in Las Cruces between the Branigan Cultural Center and the Museum of Nature and 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 http://las-cruces.org/museums or call 575-541-2137.

Mesquite Art Gallery at 340 Mesquite St. Las Cruces, welcomes artist **Bonnie Mandoe** in September. The show opens Sept. 3, with a reception the same night as the Las Cruces Art Ramble, Sept. 4. Mandoe loves painting New Mexico scenes, but also loves Hawaii – Hawaiian scenes will be exhibited at the **Mesquite Art Gallery**. These paintings were largely painted outdoors (en plein air). Her goal was to impart a tangible sense of the winds and mist of the Islands. This show opens Friday evening, Sept. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in concert with the Downtown Ramble. The painter will speak about her trip and her work throughout the evening.

The Mesquite Gallery event sets the stage for the Labor Day Open Studio at **Quesenberry Farmhouse**, Mandoe's historic Home/Studio/Gallery. Her recent interpretive New Mexico historical paintings will be on display there Saturday, Sept. 5 through Monday, Sept. 7, noon to 5 p.m. Find further information at www.bonniemandoe.com.

Mandoe's Quesenberry Farmhouse Studio/Gallery is located at 825 Quesenberry Street in Las Cruces, half a mile west of the intersection of Picacho and Valley Drive. Turn south on Quesenberry St. (you'll see Aamco Transmissions on the corner).

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla, across from the Fountain Theatre, will feature two artists, **Arlene J. Tugel** and **Sylvia Hendrickson** in September. Tugel likes the pure, glowing color of watercolor. As a retired Soil Scientist and outdoor enthusiast, her love of the earth inspires her paintings. Hendrickson's love for gourds occurred when she moved to the Las Cruces area in 2007. Her technique includes carving and wood burning, using dyes, inks, paints, beads, feathers and leather with a variety of other natural products. In addition, the 30 artists of the Gallery offer art in many medias. **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 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 575-522-2933 or visit www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Blue Gate Gallery is showing available works from a private collection including oils and watercolors. An example is **George Zoretich's** abstract oil, 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 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.

The West End Art Depot (We.AD) is proud to present **"The Academician,"** a solo exhibit by local artist **Michael Poncé**, for the month of September. The artist's reception on Sept. 4 at 5 p.m. is open to the public and refreshments will be served. "The Academician" runs through Sept. 26. Poncé wanted to do something extraordinary, simple and elegant, with flawless lines and attention to detail. The exhibit includes drawings from life and sketches from memory. We.AD is located at 401 North Mesilla Street in Las Cruces. Gallery hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m. Sundays and by appointment. For more information www.we-ad.org or contact Chris Bardey at 575-312-9892 or nmartco.op@gmail.com.

"Wide Bay High Desert II" at **Unsettled Gallery**, Las Cruces and **Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery**, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia is an exhibit in which six artists from each country have created four artworks for the exhibits; two artworks from each artist are on display at each venue.

The artists have also shared their way of working and supported their fellow artists through the WBHD blog widebayhighdesert.wordpress.com. There, you can check out the many images and stories the artists shared as their work progressed.

Marlies Oakley and **Adrienne Williams**, Australian artists and exhibit participants, are in-residence in Las Cruces for the duration of the exhibit. More details will be forthcoming about the numerous events featuring both our Australian artists-in-residence and US artists to be held throughout the exhibit which runs through Saturday, October 24 US/October 25, Australia.

Jacklyn St. Aubyn, who created "Cherries," is one of six artists displayed at Unsettled Gallery in Las Cruces.

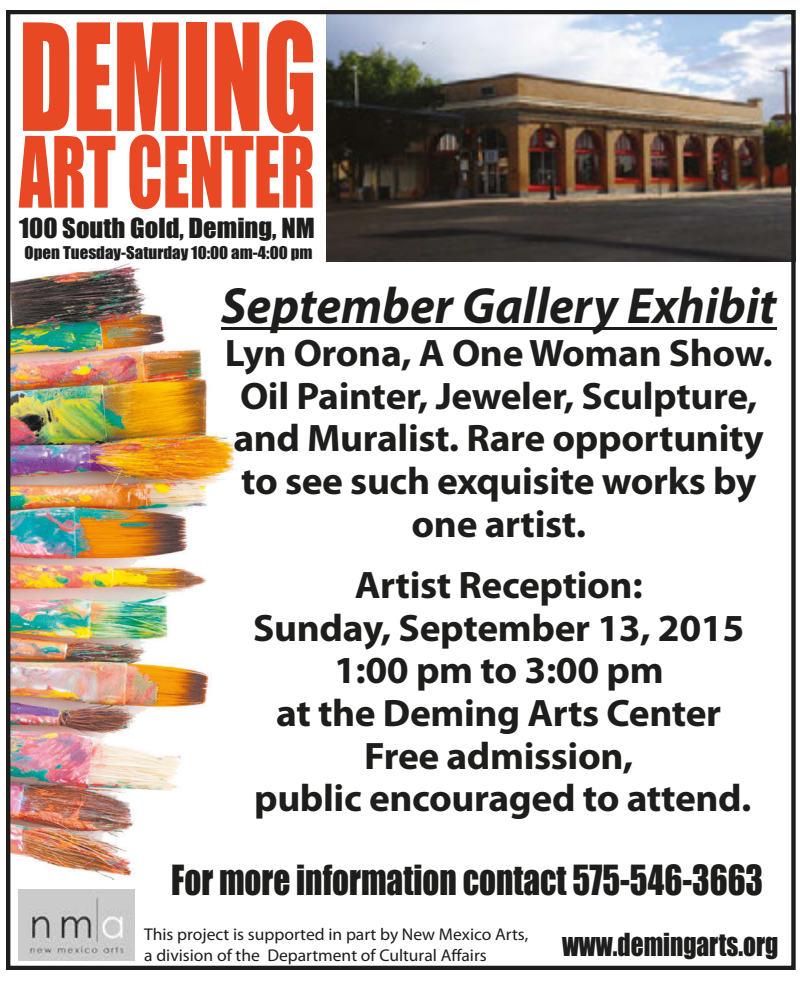
Participating artists are **Ariella Anderson, Jacklyn St. Aubyn, Alexander Eulert, Susan Hutton, Marlies Oakley, Jo Rango, Virginia Maria Romero, Trevor Spohr, Christine Turner, Jean Reece Wilkey, Adrienne Williams** and **Nolan Winkler.**

For more information visit the Unsettled Gallery; 905 North Mesquite Street; Las Cruces, NM 88001; 575-635-2285; u@unsettledgallery.com; www.unsettledgallery.com.

The Gallery at Big Picture presents **"Landscapes Thru My Eyes,"** by fine artist **Alex Rosa**. Rosa likes to paint big – a talent carried over from his sign painting days. He will present Tranquility, the largest art work ever shown in our gallery. In addition Rosa will offer color matched archival fine-art prints for sale along with his originals works.

Exhibit reception opens Sept. 4th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Downtown Ramble and continues through the month. **The Gallery at Big Picture** is located at 311 N. Main Street. Hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information call 575-647-0508.

From the earliest pre-historic cave paintings and rock art to the present, artists have long found inspiration for their work in animals. For Las Cruces artist Collette Marie, the animals of New Mexico not only provide inspiration – but they carry a spiritual meaning as well. Marie's deeply cherished connection with nature is strongly reflected through the collection of screen prints and paintings that make up the new exhibit, **"Native New Mexico: The Art of Collette Marie,"** at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** in Las Cruces. The show will remain in the museum's Arts Corridor through Nov. 29 and regular admission is required to see the exhibit. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, please call (575) 522-4100.



ARTS EXPOSURE • J. SCOTT

What's in Your Trash?

Tularosa artist makes found junk into refreshing treasure

Michael Gruger allows himself to get lost in the moment as he creates his metal artwork. (Photo by J. Scott)

Laying in the dirt, among the scrub of the Tularosa Basin, there is a lot of junk. The rabbits hop over it. The roadrunners perch on it. The lizards use it for temporary residence. Michael Gruger picks it up.

This is a man who believes that there is a future potential use for almost anything. Items that have outlived their previous purpose and have been discarded — over time rusting and deteriorating. He doesn't always know right away what exactly the potential might be and often has to look at something a few times before the vision is clear. Sometimes he just picks things up that he just really likes and has no idea why.

Whatever it is, he picks it up, shakes off any unsavory stowaways and into his truck it goes. Upon arriving back home among the cottonwoods and acequia interspersed through the "original 49 blocks" of Tularosa, he places it thoughtfully among countless other items, on a neatly organized shelf or in a marked container or maybe into a miscellaneous pile that makes sense only to him. All of these found objects are fondly referred to as "inventory."

Gruger's business name, "Things I See By MG" describes his perspective and gives some insight to what might distinguish him from other artists. A photographer, a sculptor, a crafter of water features – each item is fully his own

As far as his hand-crafted pieces go – at a time when "junking" and "shabby chic" and DIY is all the rage, this artist is unapologetic in his commitment to keeping the junk junky. When barn wood, bailing wire and discarded exhaust manifolds are in such high supply – to Gruger, time and money are wasted on faux-aging wood with paint and wax and strategically applied sandpaper. It is in the imaginative repurposing and the final presentation of the items so close to their "as found" state that makes his work so appealing. The thing he first saw first on the desert floor, or in his favorite junk yard, comes to life in a new, inspired way.

Gruger's inspiration comes in many forms. Some of it is realized right away and some of it comes trickling in. Some inspiration comes from nature and how things occur when undisturbed. Some of it comes from historical evidence. The evolution of people and machinery is his primary inspiration.

After living away from Tularosa for almost 30 years, in late 2014, the time was right for Gruger and his wife to close up their Albuquerque lives and rekindle their Tularosa life. Michael left a stable job as warehouse and logistics manager for a manufacturing and distribution company after 22 years.

"We love living in Tulie," Gruger said. "It's where I was born and raised and where both my wife and I have lots of family. The move has allowed me the time and space to work on art that has been floating around in my head."

As a new face on the craft show circuit, he really appreciates talking to other artists, of all ages, and seeing their creations.

"I was just at the Otero County Fair and I saw some art from an elementary school on display," he said. "There was a lot of inspiration just hanging on those walls."

Whether sculpture, wood work, photography, metal work, jewelry or anything that is created with hands and thoughtfulness, Gruger appreciates the process. Getting feedback from people is inspiring, whether it is good, bad or indifferent.

"As artists we can never appeal to everyone but it's all the input and reaction to something that moves us to continue to create," he said.

A favorite at any show and currently his top-selling items are the water features making up the "Garden Symphony Series." They are so named

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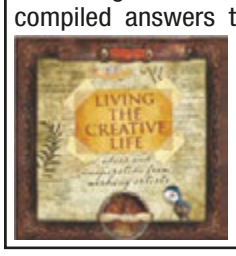
By the Book:

In "Living the Creative Life," author **Ricë Freeman-Zachery** has compiled answers to questions asked of 15 successful artists in a variety of mediums — from assemblage to fiber arts, beading to mixed-media collage. Creativity is different for everyone, and these artists share their insights on the muse (if you believe in her), keeping a sketchbook (or not), and prioritizing your art, whether you aspire to create solely for your own pleasure or to become a full-time artist.



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because the sound of the water falling out of one old piece of inventory into another and sometimes into yet another, is its own self-contained symphony of soothing sounds. These creations can take anywhere from a couple of days to a couple of weeks. It just depends on the time he has allocated to focus on it, available resources and what other projects he's working on at the same time.

Each water feature comes with an owner's manual describing basic care and handling instructions to ensure lasting enjoyment as well as a description of the history of the components. Gruger's story goes into every piece.

He has recently started to fabricate and weld. Nothing "elaborate" as he says, despite approximately 300 hand-cut and shaped feathers spread across two human-sized bird sculptures. "Santiago" is commissioned flamingo, standing 6-foot tall, made entirely out repurposed metal and "Pedro" is a larger-than-life roadrunner sporting his own handmade hat and thrift-store cowboy boots.

"I love shaping metal," Gruger said. This is a medium he is exploring further and he looks forward to the challenge of learning new skills and even more ways to repurpose found objects.

"I have a good support system that encourages me to work on art and to create the things I see," he said.

Santiago, along with Michael's photography can be viewed at the Red Door Gallery in Tularosa, where Highways 54 and 70 intersect. Pedro and the latest additions to the Garden Symphony Series along with wine racks, photography and other new creations will be available for sale at two upcoming shows in Southern New Mexico, the Tularosa Basin Wine & Nut Festival, Sept. 18 and 19 in Alamogordo and the Artfest Show, Oct. 3 and 4 in Cloudcroft.

For inquiries about commissioned work and studio hours call Michael Gruger, 505-350-4531 or visit www.thingsiseebymg.com.

Santiago, the flamingo, and Michael Gruger in a rare moment of repose. (Photo by J. Scott)

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ART EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

Ann Simonsen Studio-Gallery, 104 W. Yankie St., 654-5727.

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

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.

Diane Kleiss’ encaustic multimedia art. By appointment. doart2@yahoo.com, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.

Common Ground, 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087. Open by chance or appointment.

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.

Dragonfly Studio, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.

Four Directions Weaving, 106 W. Yankie St. Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday. noon-3 p.m. 263-3830.

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 Wednesdy 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.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@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.

Lumiere Editions, 108 W. Broadway, 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Monday to Friday.

Mary’s Fine Art, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.

Mimbres Region Arts Council Gallery, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.

Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing, 203 N. Bullard, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

Ol’ West Gallery & Mercantile, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Seedboat Gallery, 214 W. Yankie St., 534- 1136. Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

Shevek and Co. Restaurant, Features Ann McMahon Photography during open hours or call for appointment, 575-574-7194. www.AnnMcMahon.com.

Studio Behind the Mountain, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

The StudioSpace, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.

Studio Upstairs, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

21 Latigo Trail, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.

Tree Spirit Gallery, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.

Vibrations Gallery, 106 W. Yankie St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.

Wild West Weaving, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.wildwestweaving.com. Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wind Canyon Studio, 11 Quail Run off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574- 2308, (619) 933-8034. Louise Sackett. Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment.

Wynnegate Gallery & Studio, 1105 W. Market St., (214) 957-3688. Monday and Thursday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday 11:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment.

Yankie St. Artist Studios, 103 W. Yankie St., 519-0615. By appointment.

Zoe’s Gallery, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910.

Pinos Altos

Pinos Altos Art Gallery-Hearst Church Gallery, 14 Golden Ave. Pinos Altos, 574-2831. Open late-April to early October. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mimbres

Chamomile Connection, 3918 Highway 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

Kate Brown Pottery and Tile, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

Narrie Toole, Estudio de La Montura, 313-7390, www.narrietoole.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.

Bayard

Kathryn Allen Clay Studio, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.

Hurley

JW Art Gallery, Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300. Wednesday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., www.jwartgallery.com.

Cliff

Gila River Artisans Gallery, 8409 Hwy. 180. Eclectic collection of local artists. Friday to Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Northern Grant County & Catron County

Casitas de Gila, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. gallery@casitasdegila. com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.

Mesilla

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 Tepín, 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.

Las Cruces

Alegre Gallery, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685. Azure Cherry Gallery & Boutique, 330 E. Lohman Ave., 291-3595. Wed.-Thurs. 12-5 p.m., Friday to Saturday, noon-8 p.m.

Blue Gate Gallery, 4901 Chagar (intersection of Valley and and Taylor roads), open by calling 523-2950.

Charles Inc., 1885 W Boutz Rd, 523-1888, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cottonwood Gallery, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo,541-0658. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Galerie Accents, 344 S. San Pedro #3, 522-3567. Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Griggs & Reymond, 504 W. Griggs Ave., 524-8450, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Justus Wright Galeria, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com.

Las Cruces Arts Association, Community Enterprise Center Building, 125 N. Main St. www.lacrucesarts.org.

Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Downtown Mall, 647-0508. Tuesday to Friday. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. Thursday to Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 2-5 p.m.

M. Phillip’s Fine Art Gallery, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.

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

New Dimension Art Works, 615 E. Piñon, 373-0043.

New Mexico Art, 121 Wyatt Dr., Suite 1, 525-8292/649- 4876. Wednesday 1-6 p.m., Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

NMSU Art Gallery, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545. Tuesday to Sunday

Nopalito’s galeria, 326 S. Mesquite. Friday to Sunday, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Ouida Touchön Studio, 1200 N. Reymond St., 635-7899. By appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

Quillin Studio and Gallery, behind downtown Coas Books, 312-1064. Monday to Thursday and Saturday.

Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281. Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

Unsettled Gallery & Studio, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285.

Virginia Maria Romero Studio, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment. agzromero@zianet.com , www.virginiamariaromero.com.

Deming

Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gold Street Gallery, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200. Open Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Call first to be sure they are open.

Orona Art Studio, 546-4650. By appointment. lyntheoilpainter@gmail.com, www.lynorona.com.

Reader’s Cove Used Books & Gallery, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.

Studio LeMarbe, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

Rodeo

Chiricahua Gallery, 5 Pine St., 557-2225. Open daily except Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hillsboro

Barbara Massengill Gallery, 894-9511/895-3377, open weekends and by appointment.

Chloride

Monte Cristo, Wall St., 734-0493, montecristogallery@windstream.net. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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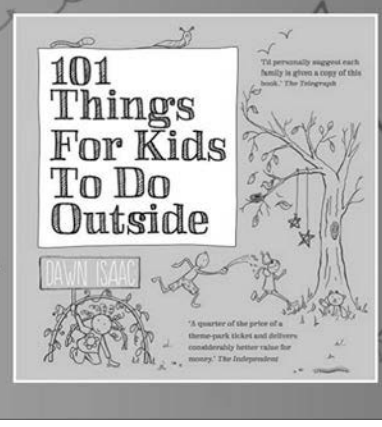

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

A State of Mind

Endless summer in New Mexico

The calendar says summer ends Sept. 22, but here in southern New Mexico, we'll keep having hot days into November.

That's both a blessing and a curse, but it makes New Mexicans very creative when it comes to spending their free time.

When it's still hot in mid-October, we've got some great places to cool down: the Gila, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso and, of course, well down below the earth's surface in the always amazing Carlsbad Caverns.

And, often as not, it's still warm enough in November you can take your out-of-town Thanksgiving guests to White Sands National Monument and go sledding and picnicking in shorts and bare feet. And a hike at White Sands, and many other areas in the region, is much more enjoyable – and safer – at 60 or 70 degrees than 90 or 100.

What is summer, though?

Today, in 2015, summers like many experienced years ago don't really exist.

I'm old enough to remember getting out of school right after Memorial Day.

From then until Labor Day, summer days followed a predictable script:

Roll out of bed about 8 or 9. Grab some toast or bowl of cereal and bolt down the street to your best friends' houses and gather a group to go bike riding, exploring, or playing baseball.

Usually around 10:30 or 11, someone's mom might yell out and have some lemonade or Kool-Aid ready for the kids on the porch. After downing the refreshing, high-fructose-free beverage, the kids would sprint back to their outdoor activity.

Kids would find their way home around lunchtime, for a sandwich, usually bologna or peanut butter and jelly. We would wolf it down and then head back to the game or bike ride.

Usually around 3 or 4 in the afternoon, fatigue and heat would set in, and we'd return home for air conditioning and some TV reruns, maybe "Gilligan's Island," "Leave it to Beaver" or "I Love Lucy."

With the increase of working mothers, latchkey kids and, of course, video games, summer has changed. The decrease of school summers had an effect, too. Kids today typically return to school two to three weeks before Labor Day.

As adults, our summertime is much more limited. So we have to look at summer a little differently.

Instead of a month off visiting relatives in another state, or going to a two-week summer camp, we have to fold our fun into long weekends or half days off.

That's where the unique setting of southern New Mexico works to our advantage.

Say, for example, you're starting your day in Deming. You could leave around 7 a.m. and get to White Sands National Monument before 9 a.m. When's the last time you had a breakfast picnic? There's no more beautiful place to have it than on a glorious morning on the dunes of White Sands.

That time of day, the temperature even on the hottest day is comfortable. Before it warms up too much, head to Cloudcroft. In a half hour or so, you'll be in the Lincoln National Forest, with temperatures 20 degrees cooler. Go for a nice hike, and when you finish, you'll be up for lunch at the Western Cafe. After that you can stroll the quaint and quirky shops of Burro Street. On the way back home, you can make stops at the Apple Barn or for pistachios. Dinner in Las Cruces and you'll be back in Deming by dark.

Or, if your day starts in Las Cruces, you could be at City of Rocks State Park for a morning hike in 90 minutes or less. From there, venture into Silver City for downtown shopping and lunch. Maybe you'll spend the night in a cabin, and visit the Cliff Dwellings the next day.

These are the types of getaways to clear your head and heart of the routine obligations.

Don't worry, believe me, the obligations will still be there when you get back.

No need to fret at the farewell to summer.

Here in New Mexico, summer's only a state of mind.

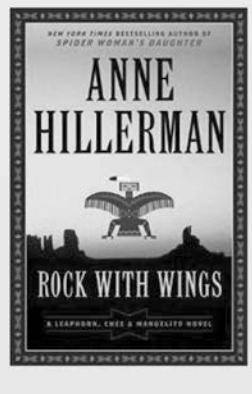
See what you can do to spread some of the happiness today.Richard Coltharp, publisher of Desert Exposure

BOOK TALK

HILLERMAN IN LAS CRUCES

Award-winning mystery writer Anne Hillerman will give a book talk at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Good Samaritan – Las Cruces Village's auditorium. This free event, hosted by the Las Cruces Press Women, is open to the public and will be followed by a book signing, with Barnes & Noble on hand to offer Hillerman's books for sale.

Anne is the daughter of famed mystery writer Tony Hillerman, whose books featuring Navajo tribal police officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee introduced the Southwest to readers across the world. Anne's novels "Spider Woman's Daughter," and the newest, "Rock With Wings," continue the series introduced by her father, introducing new characters and expanding the personal and professional relationships of Leaphorn, Chee and Officer Bernadette Manuelito.



Anne's first novel, "Spider Woman's Daughter," became a New York Times Bestseller within a week of its debut. It was awarded the 2014 Spur Award for the best first mystery novel from Western Writers of America. "Spider Woman's Daughter" also received two New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, Best Book of 2014 and Best Mystery of 2014.

More information is available at lcpresswomen.blogspot.com or by e-mailing lcpresswomen@gmail.com. The auditorium is located downstairs in the Good Samaritan Social Center at 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces.

WRITTEN WORD

Celebrating Authors

Nine Southwest Festival of the Written Word participants named New Mexico Humanities Scholars

The Southwest Festival of the Written Word (SWFWW), which celebrates the power and beauty of the written word, embracing the rich diversity of Southwestern cultures, has received a grant award from the New Mexico Humanities Council.

The award is in support of nine of the more than 50 writers who live and work in the southwest and who will be participants in the 2015 Festival, which takes place Oct. 2-4, in historic downtown Silver City. SWFWW is open to the public free of charge except for the festival banquet tickets. This project is funded in part by the New Mexico Humanities Council through the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico.

The nine writers are Daniel Chacón, Denise Chávez, Rob Connoley, Stella Pope Duarte, Nasario Garcia, Felipe de Ortego y Gazca, Simon J. Ortiz, Elise Stuart, and Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie.

Each of these individuals has been named a "New Mexico Humanities Scholar" by the New Mexico Humanities Council and will participate in sessions focusing on "The Power of the Land - Writing in and About the Southwest."

In the sessions, the Scholars will weave together the stories of how the land influences their work as writers. The sessions, themselves, will create a cultural mix that reflects the multiple realities of the Southwest, both in terms of the background of the writers and their work which includes fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

SWFWW sessions that feature the New Mexico Humanities Council Scholars include:

Friday, Oct. 2: Dr. Nasario Garcia, will discuss "My New Mexican Roots: A Source of Literary Inspiration." Dr. Nasario Garcia is one of New Mexico's greatest chroniclers. He is famed for his capacity to render characters and places with extraordinary color and vitality. In this session, he will go back to his roots and describe how the people and the history of New Mexico have affected both his fiction and non-fiction.

Friday, Oct. 2: Silver City Poet Laureate, Elise Stuart, is a well-known literacy advocate whose work encompasses family tales, nature as destroyer and healer, and the power of memory. Stuart will reflect on her craft and how the land as muse has affected her work.

Saturday, Oct. 3: In a moderated panel, three respected writers, Nasario Garcia, Felipe de Ortego y Gasca and Simon J. Ortiz, will talk about aspects of the literary life, in a session called "Three Wise Men: In Conversation with Nasario Garcia, Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, and Simon J. Ortiz." These gentlemen will relate how they found inspiration, what motivates them to continue to write, how their philosophies of life and their cultures shape their words, and how the landscape helped them find their voices.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Stella Pope Duarte will present a session entitled, "How to be a GPS Story Teller". Her session will emphasize "place" as a strategic tool for telling stories. Duarte has used her urban childhood in the barrio of Phoenix as a focus for her work. She also researches and investigates, sometimes for years, issues that affect her own "place". The session is for anyone who has memories to record or create which are based on a particular site.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Chef Rob Connoley, of the renowned Curious Kumquat in Silver City, will discuss the power of the land to feed the hungry. His new cookbook, "Acorns & Cattails: A Modern Cookbook of Forest, Field and Farm," is a discourse on the locavore movement whose principles are to grow, sell, buy and eat local foods and on the process and ethics of foraging food in southwest New Mexico. A key strategy used by Connoley in his book has been the exploration of historic Apache diets in the Gila Wilderness.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Author, performer, stage director and founder of the Border Book Festival, Denise Chávez embodies the life of an artist. In this session, she discusses her new novel, "The King and Queen of Comezón," in which she fictionalizes the experiences of women growing up Latina in a multicultural New Mexico. "Comezón" is both a longing and the name of the border town that the novel takes place in. Through her characters, Chávez explores the social and psychological aspects of how the land and a community affect behavior.

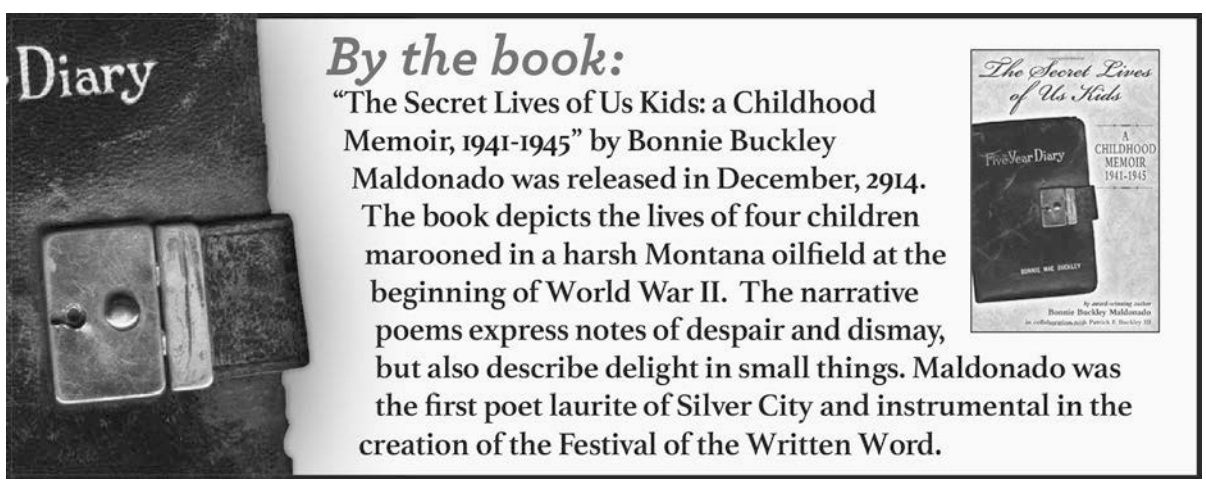
Saturday, Oct. 3: Simon J. Ortiz, who is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and the 2013 Golden Antelope International Prize for poetry, will share his award winning poetry with the audience.

Saturday Oct. 3: The keynote presentation at the SWFWW banquet, "The Politics and Realities of Living on the Border -- With a Dash of Humor" will be presented by Daniel Chacón. Chacon's obsessions are the desert, the border and stand-up comedy. Author of four books of fiction, Chacón will discuss how he combines his preoccupations. For "Hotel Júarez: Stories, Rooms and Loops," he spent time in Júarez, often crossing over the border at night to walk the streets and talk to the people. To ensure the authenticity of his observations, he wrote and performed stand-up comedy based on these encounters. In his presentation he will show how writing humor is a very particular way of understanding and revealing humanity.

Sunday, Oct. 4: Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie, known as the author of a major text on the Navajo language, recently published the novel, Her Land, Her Love. By using her extensive historical and linguistic research, Dr. Parsons-Yazzie was able to depict a Navajo family's struggles on The Long Walk. Parsons-Yazzie writes rich, nuanced words about her people, the Dine, which are all the more compelling because of her study of language.

Sunday, Oct. 4: "Three Wise Women: In Conversation with Denise Chávez, Stella Pope Duarte, and Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie" is a moderated panel, in which these three fascinating women will share the pain and joy of literacy and the examined life. All three have used fiction to explore the cultural milieus in which they grew up in. The Southwest has impacted all their lives whether it be in a barrio or a border town.

Visit www.swwordfiesta.org for full Festival information and schedule and to read the bios of all the festival presenters.



WRITTEN WORD
ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Festival Expects Hundreds

Southern New Mexico authors featured

Author Denise Chávez, a featured writer during the Southwest Festival of the Written Word, brings her newest book, "The King and Queen of Comazón," out at her bookstore, Casa Camino Real. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

Jeannie Miller, one of the founders of the Southwest Festival of the Written Word is excited about this year's event to be held Oct. 2 -4.

"I have been with this project since its inception, when it was a glimmer in Bonnie Buckley Maldonado's eye," Miller said. "It's something that seemed like a really cool thing for the area. We knew we wanted it to be open and free to the public."

And so it is, most of the numerous panels, readings and workshops associated with the event are free for anybody to attend.

"I really is a community project and it reaches out to everybody," she said.

The first edition of the event took place in 2013 and, much to the surprise of the organizers, drew 650 to 700 people in attendance, Miller said. They did not want to do the full festival as a yearly event and decided to hold it every two years. But they run prolog events, workshops and talks, all year long.

"I just feel that it's something that is well worth doing," Miller said. "It's a great group of people to work with, the steering committee is wonderful, they step up and stuff gets done. We have people from all across the community."

Miller said she enjoys meeting the authors best and showing people what a great place Silver City is.

"This is a very comfortable, friendly thing," she said.

Miller said this year's festival features writing of all kinds from slam poetry to nature and fiction.

"There are a lot of folk that write about a lot of border issues," she said. "Lots of Latinos, outstanding nature writers and environmental writers, children's activities on Saturday with Jennifer Cervantes who writes for small children and Betsey James at the Silver City Library."

The kick-off event will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 1 at the Webb Theater at Western New Mexico University. Miller said the Virus Theater is putting together a performance piece based on Maldonado's work, Silver City's first poet laureate.

On Friday the marketplace opens in the early afternoon and the opening ceremony is Friday night. The Saturday night banquet tickets are $30, and author Daniel Chacon provides the keynote words in his stand-up way of talking about Juarez.

Most of the session will be in downtown Silver City, held at the Church of Harmony, Seedboat Gallery, Javalina, A Space Gallery, Yankie Creek, the Little Toad, and the old Elk's Club, Miller said. The marketplace will be at the Murray Hotel, headquarters for the event.

"The biggest thing about the festival is It's just going to be a blast," she said.

Writer Denise Chávez is having a Tardeada, an afternoon party, at Javalina on Saturday afternoon – just one of the many events happening as part of the Southwest Festival of the Written Word. On Sunday she is part of a panel, Writer's Life: Three wise Women.

Chávez is a southern New Mexico author, 20-plus year Border Book Festival organizer and has won numerous awards for her books and stories over the years.

"The festival embodies what I love about literature and culture," Chávez said. "The details of this festival are immaculate."

She will be talking about writing and reading with the border. Chávez operates out of her bookstore, Casa Camino Real and is loving her bookseller incarnation.

"I get excited when people love a book," she said. "What I love about being a bookseller is the research and I get to fall in love with the writers. It's more than the book, it's the spirit embodied in the book."

Festival information can be found at www.swwordfiesta.org.

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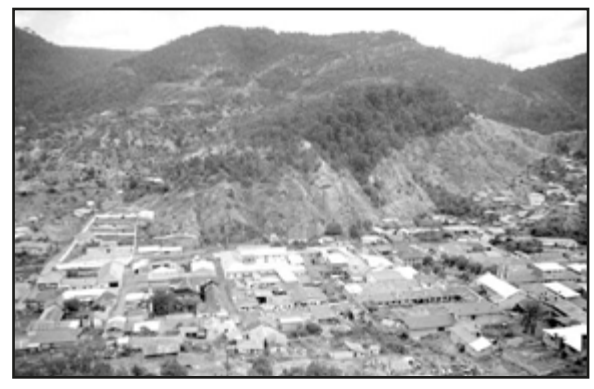
BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Golden Triangle

Reflections on the nearby drug trade

On the Internet, photos of Guadalupe y Calvo in southern Chihuahua show a rugged mountainous region with shreds of mist floating among the peaks or snow covering the mountainsides.



Guadalupe y Calvo, a town in southern Chihuahua, is known as a center of drug violence in the state. (Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

The town is set in the heart of the "Golden Triangle," at the juncture of Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Durango, where a major portion of Mexico's illicit drugs are grown and processed.

Anabel Hernandez, who in 2010 wrote the best-selling book "Los Senores del Narco" (over 100,000 sold, a phenomenal number for Mexico), says in its introduction, "The anecdotes about El Chapo passing through the streets of Guadalupe y Calvo protected by personal bodyguards dressed in black are heard all over. The residents have adopted the myth of the generous man serving as godfather to baptisms, first communions, and everything else, as if he was the witness of God."

Chapo Guzman, head of the Sinaloa Cartel, could be walking the streets there now, after his recent bolt from prison. So could Rafael Caro Quintero, who was released two years ago from a Mexican prison on a technicality after serving 28 years for participating in the murder of US Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. Hernandez mentions other famous narcos who have resided there from time to time.

Guadalupe y Calvo

Despite its appearance as a tourist spot for hikers and bikers, it's one of the main foci of drug violence in Chihuahua. It contributed to the state's No. 2 position for murder rates in all of Mexico in 2014, according to INEGI figures. Guerrero held the No. 1 place.

Although the level of violence in Juarez has fallen like a stone in a few short years, the state of Chihuahua still racks up some formidable statistics. It had a rate of 46 killings per 100,000 people in 2014, while Guerrero had just a slightly higher rate of 48. The Sinaloa rate was 38 and Tamaulipas was down to 25.

The city of Parral, almost on the border with Durango, was No. 4 in murder rates among cities with over 100,000 inhabitants in the entire country.

Although El Diario de Juarez does only spotty reporting on the violence in southern Chihuahua, it did cover the recent July 26 massacre of eight members of a family who were decapitated, including two 15-year-olds, in Guadalupe y Calvo. In July 2013 there was a five-day battle where at least 23 people died.

Poppies and marijuana have been grown in the southern part of the state for decades. Hernandez writes that in the very poor area surrounding Guadalupe y Calvo, 80 percent of the inhabitants grow these drugs. The marijuana crop was the main crop grown in the 1960s, but heroin became much more popular in the 1980s. Marijuana has probably fallen off now because of its legalization for recreational use in Colorado and other states.

A Mexican-American friend in Deming named Angela, who has passed on, once told me that she and her parents used to visit family near Casas Grandes when she was young. The little towns south of there used to "empty out," she said, when the residents traveled to hand-harvest the plants in the Sierra Madre to the south.

This would have been in the '60s and early '70s. It was before the birth of the massive drug cartels, which occurred in the 1980s in Guadalajara.

Another woman at the Mizkan chile plant (formerly Border Foods) said this migration to work is still going on. She mentioned Altamirano as a town with a lot of fields of illicit drugs. It's a tiny town in the municipio of Janos.

The violence that soared in 2008 in Juarez was nothing new in the southern part of the state. A study in 1996 showed that in the early nineties Guadalupe y Calvo and Batopilas, a town 60 miles away, each had a murder rate of about 500 per 100,000 (about 25 killings in a town of 4,400). The area seems to have been made as the site for perpetual blood-letting in the name of the god of drug-trafficking in Mexico.

The vision of backpacks and ten-speed bikes in Guadalupe y Calvo won't happen in a hundred years, unless more illegal drugs get legalized in the US, which would probably kill the drug business, or if Mexico has an economic miracle up its sleeve, or if there is a mass renunciation of drug use in the United States.

Madera

The town of Madera is going to pass an important milestone on Sept. 23. It's the 50th anniversary of the pre-dawn attack by 13 members of the Grupo Popular Guerrillero on the Madera army barracks, killing six soldiers and eight rebels. Five rebels fled into the countryside. Madera is a town about 80 miles south of Nuevo Casas Grandes as the crow flies.

The insurrection seems to have been a failure, but the event is considered the first Cuban inspired revolt (not Cuban-sponsored) in Mexico and in Latin America. The largest of 15 leftist armed groups in the 1970s was named after the revolt — the Liga Comunista 23 de septiembre — and the name of their publication was Madera.

Some guerrillas who survived because they couldn't get to the barracks — most prominently Salvador Gaytan — became part of the Liga Comunista 23 de Septiembre.

The magazine was resurrected online in 2010 with the original mast-head with Gothic script. The publishers have re-named themselves the League of Socialist Unity but the publication is still clandestine.

A smiling young woman from Madera working at a store in Palomas that sells electronics and lots of miscellaneous things hadn't heard of the insurrection at all.

Insurrection continues

In Chihuahua after the Revolution, land distribution to peasants was suspended by the powers that be, allowing ambitious ranchers to scoop up land.

An article in the "Heraldo de Chuhuahua" tells how a cattle company with 150,000 head of cattle, called Cuatro Amigos, abused smaller land-owners. They burned ranches, killed ranch owners and kidnapped others, torturing them in remote places to terrorize them into selling their land.

Another major problem was the exploitation and devastation of forests in the area by a company named Bosques de Chihuahua.

The guerrillas consisted mostly of teachers and students, along with some peasants. Arturo Gamiz Garcia, a rural schoolteacher, was the leader, and died in the fight. Almost all were under 30.

At this date it's not clear what kind of commemoration there's going to be in Madera, if any. But there's already been a polite commemoration in Casas Grandes that was publicized in the El Diario de Juarez.

But the uprising won't be forgotten. The shadow of Arturo Gamiz Garcia tends to grow longer as the years pass.

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.

FOCUS CONSERVATION • ALLYSON SIWIK

Finding Balance in a Changing World

Gila River Festival offers many events, time-lapse film fest

A kayak adventure on the Gila River is one of the highlights of the Gila River Festival.

The 11th annual Gila River Festival – Finding Balance in a Changing World – planned in and around Silver City, Sept. 24 to 27 will explore the inherent tension between modern society's technological sophistication and our imperative to live within the bounds of the natural world. How do we balance humanity's needs and desires while living within the confines of nature, and with respect for other living beings? What does our current imbalance mean for the Gila River and its watershed?

The Gila River Festival attracts an audience of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts eager to learn about and experience the Gila's natural wonders. Festival attendees will enjoy a variety of expert-guided field trips in the Gila National Forest and along the Gila River; a keynote talk by filmmaker Godfrey Reggio, director of the acclaimed film Koyaanisqatsi; Gila Time-lapse Film Fest; panel discussion by author and activist Jack Loeffler and guests; presentations by Norm Gaume, former director of the Interstate Stream Commission, engineer Mark Stone, climate scientist David Gutzler and fish biologist David Propst; kayaking; puppet parade and street party, featuring live music by the Roadrunners and others; a downtown art walk; and more.

World-renowned filmmaker Godfrey Reggio, director of the groundbreaking "Qatsi Trilogy," will give the keynote address, entitled "Take a Walk on the Wild Side." His premise is that we don't merely use technology: we live it. Einstein said, "The fish will be the last to know water," and we will be the last to know technology.

To complement Reggio's keynote, the Gila Time-lapse Film Festival will explore man's relationship to nature and technology. Reggio's three Qatsi films – "Koyaanisqatsi," "Powaqqatsi" and "Naqoyqatsi" – will be screened along with films from around the world and the southwest. "Desert Flower," filmed in Joshua Tree National Park, "Jewel of the Dolomites" filmed in northern Italy, and "Light Study" from Canada will be featured as part of the Gila Time-lapse Film Fest.

Hopi filmmaker Victor Masayesva will introduce three of his films: "Paatuwaqatsi-H2opi Run to Mexico," "Time Keepers-Calendario Desconocido," and "Color of Wilderness." Guggenheim fellow Michael Berman will give a presentation on his photographic journeys in the wilderness, and also host a tour at his Mimbres photography studio.

Writer, aural-historian, and conservationist Jack Loeffler will lead "Thinking Like a Watershed," a panel discussion with Rina Swentzell, who will represent the Puebloan sense of coherence, Enrique Lamadrid, an authority on

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Dutch Salmon of the Gila Conservation Coalition and Trout Unlimited's Jason Amaro and Toner Mitchell will lead a fly-fishing workshop during the Gila River Festival.

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A hike with New Mexico Wilderness Alliance's Gila grassroots organizer Nathan Newcomer takes participants on a day hike through the Gila Middle Box Roadless Area.

Saturday children's events in Downtown Silver City feature numerous activities and discoveries for the young folks participating in the Gila River Festival.

FOCUS CONSERVATION

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the history of acequias, and Steve Harris, director of Rio Grande Restoration and proprietor of Far Flung Adventures. At a Saturday brunch, Jack Loeffler will regale us with stories about his decades-long friendship with the late writer Edward Abbey, "a gadfly with the wingspan of a buzzard."

Free presentations on Sept. 24 and 25 impart information about different aspects of the Gila River. Water resources engineer Mark Stone will discuss how a diversion on the Gila River would affect the river's healthy functioning, and fish biologist David Propst will talk about how the diversion would impact imperiled native fish populations. David Gutzler will present historical river flow data as compared to climate change predictions. Former Interstate Stream Commission director Norm Gaume will discuss not only the fatally flawed Gila River diversion, but also the common-sense opportunities for southwest New Mexico to meet its water needs. Fort Sill Apache leaders talk about their historic ties to the Gila River watershed.

Carrying on festival tradition, guided hikes such as birding, geology, native plants, Apache rock art, river changes, potential diversion sites and more continue through festival days. Again this year, the festival hosts the Gila River kayak trip. The Monsoon Puppet Theater will lead another colorful Gila River Festival parade through downtown Silver City with handmade puppets and masks celebrating the Gila's diversity of wildlife.

The parade ends at the Bullard and Yankie street intersection, where the street will be closed for a party featuring kids' activities, food and music by Silver City's own No Dam Diversions, Bayou Seco and Friends, and the Roadrunners. After dark, new media professor Peter Bill's Gila Time-lapse Film Festival will project films onto the Murray Hotel, accompanied by street performers and musician Danny Reyes.

Other events include a bike tour of Silver City rainwater harvesting sites with restorationist Van Clothier; a fly fishing workshop led by Dutch Salmon of the Gila Conservation Coalition and Trout Unlimited's Jason Amaro and Toner Mitchell. Art events include a self-guided tour of local galleries, and a reception for Gila River artwork at McCray Gallery. The festival concludes with contemplations and meditations at the river, facilitated by Lotus Center teachers.

The full festival schedule is available at www.gilaconservation.org. For more information, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at 575.538.8078 or info@gilaconservation.org.

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ROCK ART • PUNKY MOORE

Looking for Meaning

Celebrating native interpretations of petroglyphs with Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team

The Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team (CRAT) visited several "rock art" sites on the Gila National Forest in July.

Commonly known as "rock art," pictographs (pigment on rock) and petroglyphs (images pecked or incised into rock) are much more than art. They reflect the history and values of peoples who once lived here and are a tangible reminder of their connection to the landscape.

One goal of the visit was to discuss the Gila National Forest's plan to install interpretive signage at or near popular "rock art" sites. This project is in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. These signs, and additional web-based materials, should enrich visitor experience by celebrating Native interpretations and providing valuable guidance on how to treat "rock art" so that it survives into the future. Multiple tribes and pueblos have been invited to participate in the project.

Curtis Quam of the Zuni CRAT said, "(projects) like these and experiencing these places is really important … particularly sharing it with the kids."

Multiple sites were visited by the Zuni CRAT over the two-day visit. The Dragonfly site (primarily petroglyphs) along the Dragonfly Trail was one resource visited. Zuni CRAT members taught the field trip participants the Zuni word for dragonfly which is shumak 'olo:wa. They also shared their interpretation of the images at Dragonfly with Silver City District Ranger Diane Taliaferro, Dr. Steve Nash from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and archaeologists from across the Forest.

The symbols at the Dragonfly site represent many kinds of water animals. The Zuni conveyed that these kinds of animals are thought of as protectors of or bringers of water and rain.

"(The Dragonflies) are the ones that are receiving the rain, so you see a lot of them when there is going to be moisture or where there is moisture, so it has a lot to do with rain, moisture, riparian areas … so if you see dragonflies you know there is some water somewhere," Octavius Seowtewa said.

According to Zuni oral history, their people emerged from the water and traveled extensively before being led to their home by a water strider; images at the Dragonfly site also celebrate the story of emergence. Images associated with emergence were present at many sites.

Tribal representatives were interested to hear that Aldo Leopold students (working with Marilyn Markel, a Site Watch volunteer) serve as site stewards at Dragonfly. They were also impressed with the work accomplished by students from Aldo Leopold and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps on the trail system.

NHPA and other laws help build and maintain connections to the land, learning more about our past while managing for use into the future.

Rock art sites are, "a library, a teaching place for us all," Seowtewa said.

Visitors to sites are welcome to take photos but should be careful to avoid contact with rock art; remember some may be under foot. To ensure that these resources are around for future generations avoid touching surfaces, applying any substance to it, tracing images with a stick, or in any way defacing the sites. Even the oil from hands increases the natural deterioration process of the rock.

Above: Presley Haskie, Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team (CRAT); Curtis Quam, Zuni CRAT; Chris Adams, Gila National Forest; Steve Nash (DMNS), Octavius Seowtewa, Zuni CRAT; Elizabeth Toney, GNF; and Eldred Quam, Zuni CRAT investigate petroglyphs on a July visit to the Gila National Forest.

Right: Petroglyphs at Dragonfly Site

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Watson Mountain overlooks Mary Giardina's "willow garden" in the Gila. (Photo by Mary Giardina)

SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

In the Gila

A family legacy flourishes in new form

They worked the soil for generations – first in the mountains of Sicily, later in Pennsylvania's Mercer County. And for the past 17 years, Mary Giardina has pursued her Italian forebears' love of the rusticated life – gardening on a mesa in the Gila.

"My granddad established a vineyard on his dairy farm in Mercer County. I have fond memories working alongside my grandmother in the grape fields," Giardina said. "My parents lived on adjacent land, and mother would can all summer long. I also love processing food for winter. I have always felt really in tune with plants... felt it in my blood," Giardina continued.

With a passion this strong, it's not surprising that giardina means gardener in Italian. Although her parents and grandparents spoke Italian among themselves – Giardina and her six siblings did not. "We were encouraged to fit in. We called our grandmother, 'grandmother,' not 'nona.'"

Finding the 10 acres in the Gila that she shares with her partner, Mark Kycia, resulted from studying herbs in Albuquerque.

"I also wanted to learn how to grow herbs, and Seeds of Change had a research farm and garden in Gila where I stayed for three years," she said. "By then my daughter, Mariah, was in school, so I took a job with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). When we learned that her sixth grade teacher was selling this land, we bought it."

Giardina describes gardening and exchanging recipes as part of the Gila Valley lifestyle. She puts up pickles and tomatoes; freezes green beans, broccoli and squash. Winter smoothies are made with frozen watermelon, and this year she planted a melon variety called "Moon and Stars" with seed purchased from Peaceful Valley Farm Supply.

Walking briskly through one of her two gardens presently under cultivation, Giardina points out the "vine house" formed from honeysuckle, trumpet and passion flower.

"Mark made the vine house for me last Mother's Day. We often sit inside it to cool off and meditate," Giardina said.

Next she scrutinizes the plantings – pulls three huge zucchinis off their bushy vines.

"At this size," she said, "they're too tough for salads, but are all right in zucchini bread."

A cucumber is also picked on the spot and sliced into four perfectly vertical segments. Giardina wields a knife with the aplomb of a celebrity chef.

"My sister is the Italian cook, not me," Giardina said. "I was the first person in my family to be a vegetarian. My diet is more Mexican. I grow beans, dry them and cook a pot every week – accompanied by tortillas and homegrown chilies."

"Growing soil" is an ongoing effort. Giardina replenishes her gardens with nutrients like manure tea and bone meal. Alfalfa is used as a mulch.

Current projects include "weather-safeing" an outdoor kitchen that she built under an octagonally shaped roof. When completed, Giardina will be able to process food adjacent to her gardens.

The many projects in her Gila realm – tending chickens, crops and structures – extend beyond the breathtaking mountain vistas. She also accommodates her artistic sensibilities: playing banjo with the Big Ditch Crickets band and developing her pottery line, Wild Crafted.

"A pressing project" Mary remarks, "is getting my clay studio together." After attending art school in Pittsburgh, Giardina taught clay to children in a north side Pittsburgh ghetto. Its streets displayed once-elegant Victorian architecture defeated by misfortune. The classes soon became part of an art collective housed inside an old mattress factory. Today, the area has bourgeoned into a well-known arts district, and the Mattress Factory is famous.

Giardina left Pittsburgh at age 22, driving a VW van toward destinations West.

"I was the only one in my family who took off. It was the 1980's and my mother worried about my being lured into a cult."

Giardina, however, was an adept adventurer.

"When I was running out of money, I would look in the telephone book and call up potters

IN THE GILA
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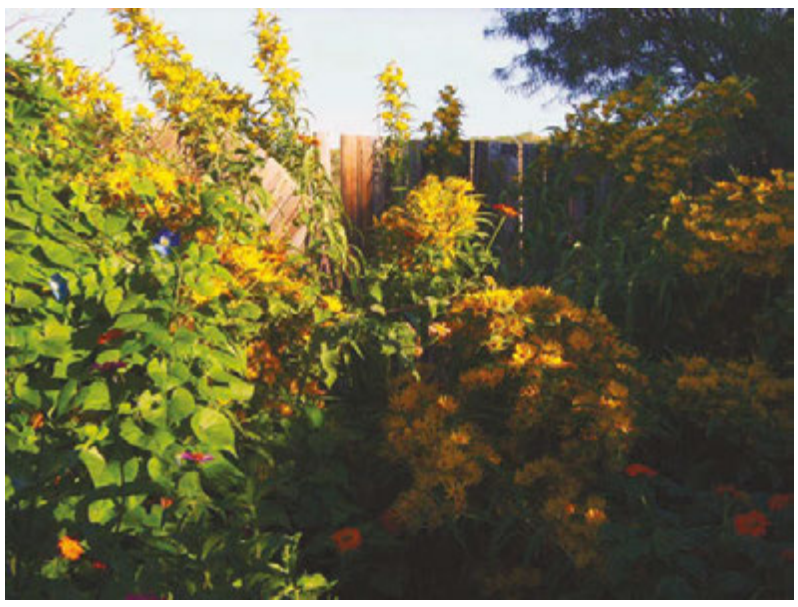
At her festive Farmer's Market booth in Silver City, Mary Giardina sells pesto, garlic braids, flowers, herbs, dried gourds and a variety of Gila-grown vegetables. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)



Maximilian sunflowers often appear in Giardina's floral arrangements. (Photo by Mary Giardina)

IN THE GILA

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to ask if they needed help throwing pots. That often led to jobs for a month or two."

In California and Washington, she picked strawberries and apples alongside migrant field workers.

"I was usually the only person who spoke English."

Becoming proficient in basic auto mechanics, Giardina sold the van for a school bus. The new mode of transportation provided room to take on passengers who bartered gasoline money and food to ride along with her.

One such journey took the group to Cottonwood, Ariz., where they parked the bus and ventured into Mexico using commercial transportation.

"My lifestyle has been an evolving process that previously didn't warrant future planning," Giardina said. "Part-time and seasonal jobs always got me through. When Mariah was a child I somehow juggled twenty things at once and accomplished them all."

"Now clay fulfills the artistic side of me, and I am excited about how that may enfold financially as I age."

This fall, she will showcase her pottery at several art festivals in the West.

In Flagstaff, Giardina will stay with Mariah and her 8-year-old son, Tripp.

Raised "to dig in the dirt and be an independent go-getter," Mariah is now an environmental scientist with the US Geological Survey who conducts fish studies on the Colorado River.

"As a little girl traveling with me in the school bus, Mariah understood the concept of saving room by eliminating clutter, Giardina said. "Consequently, she mastered the Swiss Army knife. Much later, when it was discovered on a college field trip that there was no can opener, Mariah wowed everyone by opening can after can with her knife."

Mariah also has a knack for languages and studied on a foreign exchange program in Liège, Belgium. When she and Giardina visited relatives in Milan, Mariah readily picked up Italian.

That memory reminded Giardina to point out, "My grandson, by the way, calls me Nona."

Long-neck dipper gourds will dry on the vine all winter, then sold at the Grant County Farmer's Market next year. (Photo by Mary Giardina)

One of Giardina's "Wild Crafted" plates — inspired by writer Gary Snyder's remark — "wildness is a state of complete awareness." Giardina feels "complete awareness" when throwing her pots. (Photo by Mary Giardina)

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Living in the Moment

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Since coming to Silver City over nine years ago, an increasing number of my horsemanship students have been adult first time riders, or older riders wanting to return to the saddle after years away from the sport. Included in this mix are people recovering from various medical problems that have restricted their activities (think new hips, new knees and arthritis).

Maybe it's living in a part of the country that is so appealing to adults looking to slow down a bit in a climate that isn't a constant battle, or perhaps it's all the aging boomers who want to keep trying new things, or maybe it's just wanting a little bit of the western lifestyle — which almost always means horses or riding — now that you actually live here. For whatever reasons, it has really changed the look of much of my training business.

Introducing a new, older adult rider to horses, or bringing a returning rider back after a long layoff, can be tough balancing act. It requires honesty that clarifies the differences between perception and reality with horses without destroy enthusiasm and dreams, although in some cases it has to do that for the health and wellbeing of an individual. It requires setting realistic goals and expectations, and a lot of creativity for the best ways to teach a complex physical activity to people who have not really tested their own bodies in quite a while. It certainly takes a whole lot of patience.

If I had to point to one trait that makes horses and people so different, and the one thing that gets in the way of progress for a lot of new riders, it is that horses live in the moment as part of their basic nature and we don't. I always try to shift thinking towards this basic trait of the horse right away when talking to any new adult rider, and especially the ones coming back to riding.

We spend our whole lives thinking about what we've done or what we used to be able to do. We're still hung up on what our parents did when we were 10 or what some bully did to us in high school. We never get over that first sweetheart who broke our heart, that bad grade, getting fired or striking out with bases loaded. We carry all this, good or bad, into our current lives, and it even colors what we think may happen to us in the future. We remember what we used to be able to do with our bodies or minds, and think about all the changes over the years, and worry about what might be possible in the future. We rarely have a day where our mind doesn't drift between the past, the present and the future. It's what makes us human and in many cases it's what helps us get through the day. All too often our personal history may become an obstacle.

On the other hand, for the horse, the only thing that matters is today – do I have enough food and water, do I have some buddies in a herd, do I have a good leader, am I safe from any predators, will I make it through the day? They don't think about the past, don't worry about the future.

Why is it so important for a new rider to try to think this way, to think like a horse? For me, if you don't make this adjustment, you will underestimate how challenging riding can be. If you do that, you may get badly hurt, or give up on the activity pretty quickly. I've seen numbers that say 90 percent of people get out of horses in the first year, and I'm convinced this is a primary reason.

When I meet with a new rider or a new rider with their horse, we talk a lot about past physical skills and interests, past riding experience and the history of their horse. But, what I'm really looking at is what I see before me right now. The reality of the current situation is the only thing that matters going forward. It doesn't matter to me or to the horse whether or not you used to be a good dancer or a great athlete or loved physical activities if you've just had a knee replaced, need a cane sometimes or you're a little north of your ideal weight. Likewise, your horse may have done amazing things, come from well-known bloodlines, won ribbons and cost a pretty penny. Not relevant! What matters now is, what will the horse's job be today for the person that will ride him, and has this horse been well trained and prepared for that job?

My job as a natural horsemanship professional is to look at the situation in front of me and try to figure out how I can help the person realize their dream of riding, and to develop a plan, no matter how weird it might sound, to get it done. Sometimes, my job requires me to say when I think it isn't a good idea for this person to pursue riding, or to pursue it with a particular horse, and to provide clear, logical thinking of why I feel that way.

The reason I focus so much on the present with horses is that riding, no matter what it looks like on TV or what people tell you, is not a passive activity. Far too many people come to the sport thinking this is just sitting on a horse and being carried around by a sweet, calm animal. The only riding that was ever like that was on the horse in front of the barbershop that stopped on its own when your time ran out.

It only makes sense to start by trying to get a clear picture of the person as they are right now. How is their strength? Can they pick up a saddle, lift a hoof for cleaning or do basic horse care without obvious strain or discomfort? Do they have enough leg strength to mount a horse or give a leg cue? Can their body handle the kind of jostling that comes with riding or will their back or neck scream from arthritis or nerve issues? Do they have the suppleness to develop a good seat or survive a shy that can really torque a body? Do they have enough cardiovascular fitness to do even basic ground work or to walk back to the trailhead if they have to get off a horse on a trail ride? Do they have any issues that may affect balance or are they taking medication that might affect judgment or motor skills? If the bottles says don't operate heavy machinery, you probably shouldn't be on a horse. What would happen to their body in a fall, even a minor one?

If going over this basic checklist and asking the person to do some simple exercises or tasks shows there are issues, it certainly does not mean you have to give up your dream of riding. I know people who have started late in life with various physical issues and have ridden well into their 70s and 80s. But these were people who accepted their current situations and adjusted their goals accordingly. Some never left the relative safety of an arena or could only ride for half an hour on any given day, but they were still doing something they always wanted to do and enjoying every minute of it.

What it does mean, however, is that you need to work on yourself first before you even think about getting on a horse. I try to give good guidance as to what you should work on, and in some cases exercises to make big improvements. Even my first riding lessons are focused more on athleticising you than riding technique. But none of this works unless you dedicate yourself to preparing "today's you," not the you of your past, for what is needed to ride a horse with some degree of confidence and safety.

Be a horse, be in the moment and be honest about the current version of yourself. When you do this, you can understand and accept the physical challenges of the sport, and it will be much easier for you to move towards your dreams at a pace that's right for you.

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

Lyra, The Lyre

Trapezoid boasts unusual binary star pair

Just east of overhead on these September evenings is a lyre that plays the "Music of the Spheres". Lyra, the Lyre is a small constellation, the 52nd in size out of the 88 official constellations. Lyra has the fifth brightest star in the sky, Vega, marking its location in the sky. Southeast of Vega is a trapezoid anchored by four stars, one at each corner of the trapezoid.

Lyra represents the lyre played by Orpheus who received the harp from his father, Apollo, and played it with such skill that all who heard it were charmed. Orpheus fell in love with the nymph Eurydice and they were soon married. Not long after, Eurydice was wandering the fields when a local shepherd spied her and began chasing her. As she ran through the grass, a snake bit her and she succumbed to the poison.

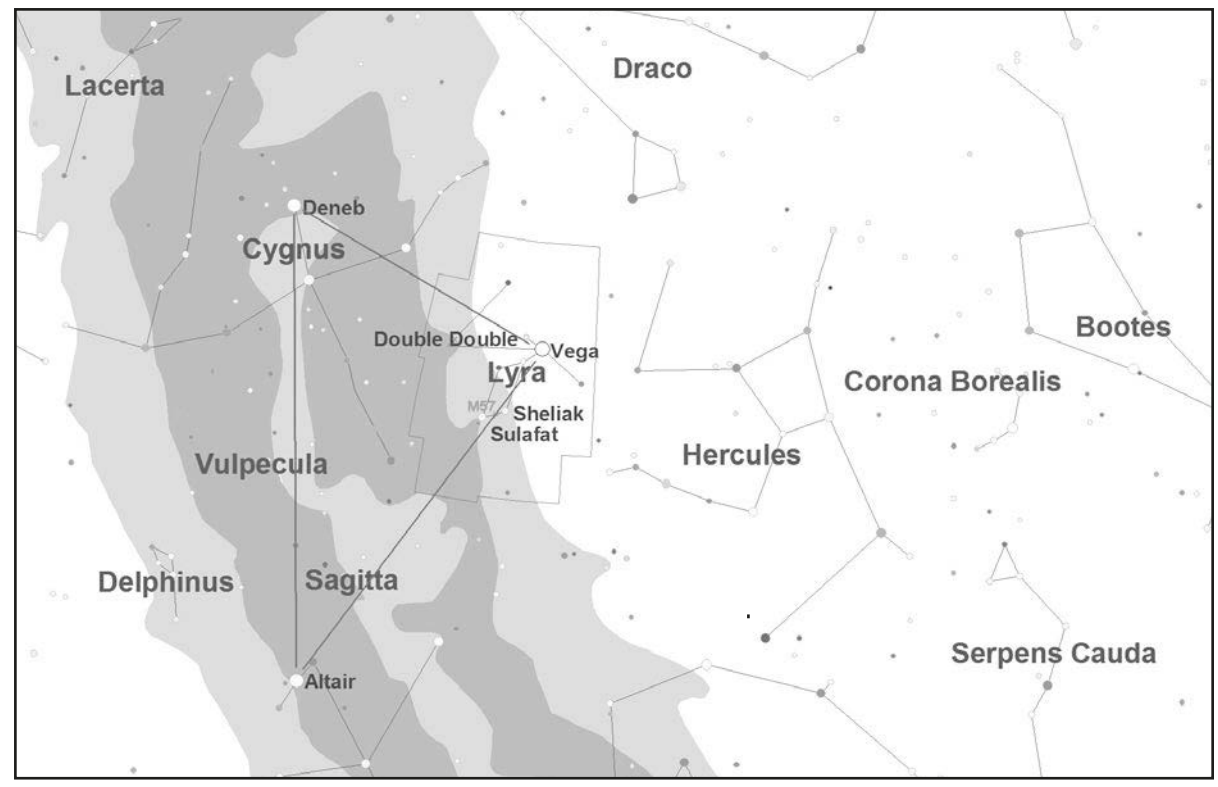
Orpheus could not bear the loss of his beloved and gained an audience with Pluto and Persephone, the king and queen of the underworld. They were charmed by Orpheus' music and agreed to let Eurydice return to the world with him. The only requirement was that Eurydice would follow Orpheus back to the land of the living, but he could not look back until they reached our world.

Eurydice followed Orpheus through the gloom toward the surface. Just before they reached our world, Orpheus, fearing that Eurydice's injury would keep her from reaching the surface, turned around and watched as Eurydice faded back to the underworld. Heartbroken at the second loss of his wife, he lost interest in other women. The women of Thrace were infuriated by this and dismembered him, throwing his head and the lyre into the river Herbus. Zeus sent an eagle to get the lyre and placed both of them in the sky.

The southwestern star of the trapezoid of Lyra is Sheliak (Beta Lyrae). This star is a close binary, the two stars are so close together that one can draw the outer atmosphere off the other. The pair originally consisted of a rather large star (the primary) and a slightly smaller one (the secondary). Being larger, the primary aged more quickly and expanded to become a giant star. As its atmosphere expanded, the nearby secondary star's gravity was able to pull in the primary's outer atmosphere. The secondary started to grow as the primary shrank.

The secondary now became more massive than the primary and the leftover gas from the primary circles it in an accretion disc as it is drawn down onto the secondary's surface. In addition, some of the gas is jetted out the poles of the accretion disc. The accretion disc blocks our view of the secondary, making it hard to determine its spectral class. These two stars transfer a Sun's worth of mass every 50,000 years.

Even more unusual is that as the two stars orbit each other, one goes in front of the other as viewed from Earth. This means that we see eclipses of these stars with first one being eclipsed and then the other. We see Beta Lyrae vary from magnitude 3.4 to magnitude 4.3 and back again as the eclipses occur. It only takes 12.94 days for these two to orbit each other. While we can only think that the original secondary is a B-type star, we know that the original primary is a spectral class B7 star, but what its real type is may be a mystery for a long time.



Lyra, the Lyre, is a small constellation nearly overhead on these September evenings.It has the bright star Vega, the westernmost star of the Summer Triangle, formed by Deneb and Altair in addition to Vega (marked with brown lines). These bright stars are obvious even with all of the stars of the Milky Way in this area of the sky.

The Planets for September 2015

Low in the western sky, Mercury is visible for only about half an hour after it gets dark at the beginning of the month. After the first two weeks of the month, Mercury will head back toward the Sun disappearing from our sky. At the beginning of the month, Mercury's disc is 6.9 seconds-of-arc across and is 58 percent illuminated. It shines at magnitude +0.2. The Messenger of the Gods starts the month in southwestern Virgo, moving first eastward and then westward.

Saturn is moving slowly eastward

LYRA
continued on page 29

Watch the Skies

Calendar of Events – September 2015 (MDT)

04	4 a.m.	Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun (27 degrees)
05	3 a.m.	Venus stands still
05	3:54 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
13	12:41 a.m.	New Moon-Partial solar eclipse in southern Africa and Antartica
17	7 a.m.	Mercury stands still
21	2:59 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
23	2:21 a.m.	September Equinox
24	11 a.m.	Mars 0.8 degrees north of Regulus
27	8:51 p.m.	Full Moon-Total lunar eclipse

Total Lunar Eclipse – September 27 (MDT)

Event	Time (MDT)	Azimuth	Altitude
Moonrise	6:53 PM	89° East	0.0°
Partial Eclipse begins	7:07 PM	91° East	2.5°
Total Eclipse begins	8:11 PM	99° East	15.4°
Maximum Eclipse	8:47 PM	104° East-southeast	22.7°
Total Eclipse ends	9:23 PM	110° East-southeast	29.8°
Partial Eclipse ends	10:27 PM	122° East-southeast	41.8°
Penumbral Eclipse ends	11:22 PM	136° Southeast	50.8°

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for more info: 505-469-7505
marionbowersnewton@sbcglobal.net
Church of Harmony
Corner of 7th & Arizona, Silver City

Silver City Zen Center
(Ginzan-ji Zen Buddhist Temple)
Meditation Practice (Zazen) Monday-Friday 7:00-7:30 am
Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 pm
Zazen & Dharma Talk Saturday 9:00 am
Informal Dharma
Discussion Group Friday 5:30-6:30 pm
Community Movie Night Every other Monday 6:00 pm
Resident Priest: Rev. Dr. Oryu Paul Stuetzer
506 W. 13th St. (corner of 13th and Virginia)
575-388-8874

CYCLES OF LIFE • GABRIEL ROCHELLE

How Right is Right?

Bicyclists caught in Catch-22 on roads, streets and highways

The law states that people riding bicycles should stay "as far to the right as is practicable" on the road. Bicycles are classified as vehicles. If you check the individual state regulations for vehicles, you will find that this law is consistently applied throughout the United States. The vehicle laws also state that people driving cars should remain "a safe distance away" from cyclists.

These laws have been on the books of the states since the passage of the Uniform Vehicle Code shortly after World War II; this code was revised in 1992, but it remains essentially the same as when it was drafted. Article XII concerns the "operation of bicycles, other human-powered vehicles, and mopeds." Both of the rules mentioned above are contained in this Code.

The law about staying "as far to the right as is practicable" is ambiguous, because drivers often think this means that cyclists should ride in the gutter, over the shoulder line, whereas cyclists think – rightly – this means as close to the shoulder line as possible but still within the lane itself.

There are two complicating factors. First, how far to the right is far enough? Experience has taught most people riding bicycles that if you ride far to the right, basically cruising just inside or on the white line that marks the border between lane and gutter, you will be passed by people driving cars too fast and too close for your own comfort. If, however, you follow the general rule that we are riding actual vehicles and, thus, we may legally ride in the lane (and on some roads the signs say "cyclists may use full lane"), then motorists will quickly become incensed at your audacity. Either way, cyclists are at a disadvantage.

The second complicating factor is, what qualifies as a "safe distance?" The code does not stipulate an actual distance. The provision cried out for definition, so now twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have in their codes that cars should remain three feet away (or more) from a person riding a bicycle, five feet or more if you are driving a truck. Police in Chattanooga, Tennessee, using newer radar techniques, have begun ticketing drivers who do not maintain that distance. But is this distance enough to ensure safety?

The League of American Bicyclists, that venerable organization founded 1880, recently reported on a new approach pioneered in Oregon in 2007, which is called the "fall over" distance. This came about because of the vehicular death of a triathlete whose life would have been spared had she been passed at "fall over" distance.

The concept is simple: if you were to fall over on a bicycle into the traffic lane, how much room is necessary for a car to pass you without incident? The answer is closer to six feet than three. The point here is not an arbitrary standard, however, as if a tape measure could be the judge for safety. What's called for on the part of the person driving a car is alertness when overtaking a cyclist. The motorist must pay attention to the cyclist and then proceed to pass, allowing for an estimated distance should the cyclist "fall over." The whole process involves more awareness on the part of both driver and cyclist, which is surely a positive gain overall.

"Fall over distance" is now the legal standard in Oregon. It needs to be copied in all states, including New Mexico. Let's work for it.

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

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LYRA

continued from page 28

in eastern Libra. At midmonth, Saturn will be 30 degrees up in the southwestern sky as it gets dark, setting around 10:30 p.m. The Ringed Planet's disc is 13.0 seconds-of-arc across while the Rings are tilted down 24.5 degrees with the northern face showing and are 36.3 seconds-of-arc across. Saturn glows at magnitude +0.6.

Mars rises at 4:30 a.m., shining at magnitude +1.8. The Red Planet is 22 degrees above the eastern horizon as it starts to get light. Mars' disc is a tiny 3.8 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. As the month begins, the God of War is in eastern Cancer and moves eastward into central Leo, passing the red star Regulus on Sept. 24.

Venus is about eight degrees to the right of Mars as the month begins. Venus moves from eastern Cancer to southwestern Leo during the month. Shining at magnitude -4.5, Venus's disc is 41.7 seconds-of-arc across and it is a 22 percent sunlit crescent. The Goddess of Love rises at 4 a.m. and is 27 degrees up in the eastern sky as it gets light.

Jupiter is also in Leo this month, moving slowly eastward. Its disc is 31.0 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth and it shines at magnitude -1.7. The King of the Gods rises at 5:40 a.m. and is only seven degrees up in the east as it starts to get light

The Moon will pass through the Earth's shadow on the evening of September 27 and we will be able to see this total lunar eclipse from here in the desert southwest. The eclipse has already started when the Moon comes up in the east, but it will probably be hard to tell since the Earth will block only part of the sunlight at moonrise. At 7:07 p.m., the Moon begins its entry into the darkest part of the Earth's shadow where there is no sunlight. The entire Moon has entered that zone, called the umbra, by 8:11 p.m. The Moon may have a red glow from the sunrises and sunsets all around the world.

The eclipse reaches maximum at 8:47 p.m. when the Moon is 23 degrees up in the east-southeast. The Moon will be quite dark, except for the red glow. The Moon finally starts to leave the umbra at 9:23 p.m. as direct sunlight once again falls on it. The entire Moon is back in the sunlight by 10:27, but not full sunlight. It will take until 11:22 p.m. for the Full Moon to reach its normal brightness.

Autumn begins on Sept. 23 at 2:59 p.m. when the Sun passes the celestial equator heading south. That day the length of day and night will be the same. After that the nights will get longer and the days shorter. So get out the long underwear for observing on those cold nights 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.

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CLUTTER to CLARITY

Ruth Plenty with Improper Conduct, aka: I.C. I.C is a mare who celebrated her 30th birthday March 27. She is a former race horse, broodmare, and more recently has served 15 years with the mounted patrol.

Mr. Porter, is a blind appaloosa in his mid-20s and has been at Harmony and Hope Haven for almost 5 years. Manager Ruth Plenty said he has learned all four sides of his pen to the extent it seems like he counts his steps.

BODY, MIND, SPIRIT • STATIA BUTTON DOUGHERTY

Harmony and Hope

Haven provides horses a place to thrive

Just below Granite Gap, off New Mexico State Road 80, is a little known haven for horses. Not just any horses, but special needs horses – horses that have been thrown away, or deemed no longer useful.

As I turned down a road aptly named Chilopsas, I open and close gates behind me. Continuing along the willow-lined dirt road, I marvel at the views of the Chiricahua Mountains. The air is fresh after a night of good rain. White puffy clouds dance in the crystal blue sky, and darners play in puddles. Upon entering the second gate, I know that I am on the 40-acre property, as I'm welcomed by a sign that reads "God Is My Partner."

I reach the area where 71 horses are contentedly enjoying their morning rations of hay. Every stall and pen is immaculate. Every horse is freshly watered. Among the horses is Ruth Plenty, where you can always find her, checking hooves, applying fly wipe or working the ground in her tractor. Plenty is the founder and president of Harmony and Hope Horse Haven. She is a pistol of a woman, always loaded and waiting to fire, a virtual fountain of energy. Weighing in at about 120 pounds, soaking wet with boots and jeans on, Plenty never seems to tire.

She greets me with a warm welcome, anxious to introduce me to her "kids" as she calls the horses. Plenty has mares, geldings and stallions on her property, separated by only a few yards. The stallions are kept in one area, and the mares in an area that Plenty calls "the mare village." The first horses to which she introduces me is Mr. Porter, named for the livestock inspector who brought him to Plenty. He is completely blind, she tells me. One of his eyes had been purposely "punched out." Plenty sarcastically explains that some believe that if a horse is a nipper, this is a way to control, and make a horse more responsive. If they can't see the distractions, they are more easily handled, especially on the trail. Eventually, with age, Mr. Porter went blind in his one good eye, but knows every inch of his pen and feels confident in his familiar surroundings. Many of Plenty's horses are in their 20s and 30s. They have come to live out their lives on the horse haven. None of Plenty's horses are ridden these days, although occasionally, Plenty will slide onto a favorite's back and ride it around the pen, no saddle or reins required. Plenty does not recommend this as the safest riding procedure, however.

Plenty, along with her husband Dennis White, established the horse rescue in 1996. Once breeders of Thoroughbreds for the racetrack and race horse owners, it could be considered somewhat of an oxymoron that they decided to take in horses off the track that are no longer useful.

"They all come to me broken," Plenty said.

She doesn't mean broken to ride, either. She means both physically and mentally broke down. They come with issues. Many of her horses require daily medications, like Mr. Porter, who besides being blind has Cushing's disease.

"In more recent years we have received deeply loved and cared for horses whose owners are now older and can no longer care for them," she said.

Plenty knows every horse on the haven intimately. She can tell you their lineage, how many foals they have produced, how many starts they've had, how many purses they've won, what their stud fees were, and like any proud mother, she's only too happy to tell anyone who will listen.

She then introduces me to one of her latest arrivals, Big League. He and another Thoroughbred came to the haven just last March, after being rescued from a last stop before a "kill buyer" was to ship them out. The chestnut stallion is now 17 years old, and as a yearling he sold for 275,000.

"He started life with so much promise," Plenty said.

He raced in Florida, California and Arizona with a total of 36 starts and seven wins, earning $177,500. He last raced in 2005. Big League stood at stud, with his first foal registered with The Jockey Club in 2006; his last registered foal was in 2010. After that there are no records on Big League until he was sent to auction severely underweight and injured.

"He's coming along but still not content, not completely happy," she said. "He still has trust issues."

The Thoroughbred that came along with Big League is a 22-year-old broodmare, granddaughter of Seattle Slew. Stallions at the haven are not put to stud, and mares are no longer bred. They are there

HARMONY & HOPE
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Grant County Weekly Events

Sundays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sunday of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

Mondays

AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria.

AARP WIDOWED AND SINGLE PERSONS OF GRANT COUNTY—Second Monday. 10:30 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP, NEW HOPE —12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact: Jerry, 575-534-4866; Matt, 575-313-0330; Diana 575-574-2311. Open meeting.

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.

SILVER CITY SQUARES — Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

WIDOWED AND SINGLE PERSONS OF GRANT COUNTY — Second Monday10:30 a.m. at Glad Tidings Church, 11600, Highway 180 E. Info: 537-3643.

Tuesdays

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT — First Tuesday 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.

BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR — Second 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 — Fourth Tuesday. 7 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, Seventh and Texas St. Mitch Barsh, 534-1134.

FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING — 4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.

GILAWRITERS—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP — First Tuesday. 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

SLOW FLOW YOGA — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE — 10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 575-534-0059.

Wednesdays

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — 6 p.m. at Arenas Valley Church of Christ, 5 Race Track Road, Arenas Valley (the old radio station). Contact: Tom, 575-956-8731; Karen 575-313-7094; Dot, 575-654-1643. Open meeting.

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY — Third Wednesday of every month. October-November, January-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN — Second Wednesday 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 Drive 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@wellnesscoalition.org.

GIN RUMMY — 1 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House.

GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY — Second Wednesday potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.

LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION — 8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.

LEGO CLUB — Ages 4-9. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Third Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

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

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-purpose room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

Thursdays

ARTS ANONYMOUS—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the 12 Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.

DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS — 12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY — Second Thursday, 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.

HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thursday, 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE — 10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 575-534-0059.

TOPS — 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

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. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, Seventh and Texas.

Fridays

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS — 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.

SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB — Second Friday, 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.

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

WOODCARVING CLUB — Second and Fourth 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, Eighth & 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 — First Saturday 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.

HARMONY & HOPE

continued from page 30

only to enjoy their final years. They are also not available for adoption.

Although Harmony and Hope Horse Haven is an IRS approved, 501c3, nonprofit organization, qualified to receive tax-deductible donations, a large portion of their care comes directly from Plenty and White's personal resources.

"It's always nice when a big check comes through, but the $5 and $10 donations touch my heart. I know they are given with love for the horses, and it means a lot to me," she said.

She also sings praises for Dr. Allred from Arenas Valley Animal Clinic in Silver City, and Dr. Chapman from Desert Cross in Thatcher.

"Dr. Allred has come and spent a whole day here," she said.

Plenty also depends on, and appreciates, volunteers who come to brush horses, feed and change water. There are no paid employees on the 40-acre horse ranch. When asked, "What if you get sick?" Plenty answers, "I don't get sick; I can't get sick." She conservatively estimates the care of each horse to be around $140 a month.

"I've put a cap on adoptions now," she said. "I just can't take in anymore, although I'd love to take them all."

As she made this proclamation, I think back to a time when Plenty had 60 horses and said the same thing. Today, there are 71 horses at the ranch. Of them, 51 are beneficiaries of Harmony and Hope Horse Haven. Thirty two are Thoroughbreds. Nineteen others include ranch and rodeo retirees, two miniature donkeys, and one miniature horse named Little Sam. The remaining horses are personal horses leftover from their racing and breeding days, and do not qualify to receive benefits. With today's economic hardships and lack of donations, and the rising cost of quality feed, Harmony and Hope depends more than ever on grants from Thoroughbred fundraising foundations, and private donations to keep the horses fed and healthy.

"It's all about the horses. They come first," Plenty said.

Visitors are always welcome at the Horse Haven. Call ahead at 520-558-1950.

To make a donation, please visit the website at www.harmonyandhopehorsehaven.org

Plenty apologizes that the website is in need of being updated some, but hasn't had the time.

Ruth Plenty works with Little Sam, a 9 year old miniature horse, who was left at the sanctuary in extremely thin condition Plenty said it took about four months of veterinary clinic care before he could be let into the pastures.

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BODY, MIND, SPIRIT • MICHU

Life as a Continuum

Buddhist Spiritual Master speaks in Silver City on Oct. 7

The Venerable Wangchen Rinpoche will visit Silver City again this October. He was in town last December talking about the Buddhist world view and is coming back to lecture on the Buddhist View of death and dying.

Rinpoche entered the Sonada monastery in Darjeeling, India at the age of seven under the guidance of the foremost Buddhist spiritual master of the 20th century, His Holiness Dorje Change Kalu Rinpoche. Rinpoche entered the traditional three year retreat at the age of 16 and has been teaching and accepting students for more than 30 years. He is one of the principal lineage holders of the Shangpa Kagyu lineage. He currently travels and teaches widely in Asia and also Europe. He lives in Los Angeles, Calif. and is the author of the book "Buddhist Fasting Practice, The Nyungne Method of Thousand Armed Chenrezig" The Nyungne method of Thousand Armed Chenrezig. Rinpoche leads monthly Nyungne retreats at his Dharma center.

Rinpoche will provide help and guidance in understanding how life is really a continuum and death is not the end. Although the physical body is gone, the consciousness remains. For the most part Westerners are generally resistant to thinking or talking about death, our inevitable end. The Buddhist view is a broad one in that it is seen that we are always in transformation and change is constant. In every moment we live there is a beginning, middle and end. This can be seen in every aspect of our lives from the beginning, middle and end of a breath, to waking, living and sleeping and in the context of a career; for example, you train, you practice your trade, and then you retire. The teachings on death and dying are applicable to living and our everyday lives right now. In this very moment our inherent future is before us. To live with conscious awareness of our thoughts, words and deeds, we can positively affect the course of our lives and make it meaningful, which can then carry forward to future lives as well.

Wangchen Rinpoche (Courtesy photo)

Anyone who is familiar with the Tibetan Book of the Dead, knows the term "bardo." Bardo can mean a gap, an in between state or a dividing line that marks the end of one thing and the beginning of another; it can also mean a bridge or a link that unites two things. According to the text there are six bardos – the bardo of this life, the bardo of dream, the bardo of mediation, of dying, of reality, the existence of here and now. They are all states of mind, of consciousness. We experience them constantly – for example, as the gap between inhalation and exhalation, between one thought and another, and in the broad sense between birth and death and the very important gap between death and rebirth into our next life. There is opportunity in all the bardos we experience, this is the thrust of the teaching. If we can learn to see the different stages of our lives and all the moments that string together a lifetime we can see that there is always opportunity for growth and awareness.

It is rare to find an enlightened teacher with Rinpoche's qualifications who is so accessible to his thousands of students all over the world. His unwavering and immeasurable compassion extends to all who meet him. Rinpoche is uniquely qualified to speak on the subject of death and dying as he holds the title of Tulku, meaning he is a recognized high lama from a previous incarnation. Two well-known current examples of tulkus are His Holiness the Dalai Lama and His Holiness the 17th Karmapa, the spiritual leader of the Kagyu lineage. This is the earliest of the recognized incarnate lineages and dates back to the 12th century. The current Karmapa's 16 previous lives are well documented in the fascinating book entitled "The History of the Karmapas, Lama Kusang, Lama Pemo and Marie Aubele."

Rinpoche will be speaking in Silver City at the old Elks Lodge 315 N Texas (Vicki's Eatery building) at 7 p.m. Oct. 7. The lecture is open to the public and tickets are free but seating is limited. Tickets are available at The Marketplace, in The Hub, 601 N. Bullard Unit D, downtown Silver City.

For more information, contact Michu at 575-313-1075 or email michu@gilanet.com. For more information about Rinpoche's Dharma center in Los Angeles, visit www.rimeling.org

For members of the Western Institute of Life Long Learning Rinpoche will be teaching a class on Oct. 9. The class is: "Introduction to the Tibetan Book of the Dead." Contact the WILL office at 575-538-6835.

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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. American: Monday to Friday L, Saturday 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. Yankie St. Coffee shop, 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, portas, 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: Thursday to Sunday 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. Sometimes they even have RC Cola! 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.

ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

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

THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeehouse.

A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Monday to Friday B L.

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. Outstanding greenchile cheeseburgers. Note: Good food takes time: Tuesday to Saturday L D.

BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer. 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. Don't miss the chicken taco special on Thursday. 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.

CHILITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.

CHINA EXPRESS, 2443 N. Main St., 525-9411. Chinese, Vietnamese: L D.

GIROS 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.

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.

EMILIA'S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.

ENRIQUE'S, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.

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

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, 920 N. Alameda Ave., 635-7857. Health food, soup, sandwiches, juices, smoothies: Monday to Friday B L, early D. Saturday B L.

FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.

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

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

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: 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. Life-changing nachos and more. 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 Alley), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.

JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.

KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Meals created before your very eyes. 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-

continued on page 35

Filet Mignon~Pasta~Pizza
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Table Talk

Las Cruces establishes 'Walk of Flame'

Trail offers visitors the ultimate green chile immersion experience

Green chile is a top commodity in sunny Las Cruces. Almost every restaurant in town has a unique take on this iconic local ingredient, and not to be outdone, so do all the watering holes. Las Cruces even has its own green chile research center at New Mexico State University. So it's only fitting that the city would connect the dots with its new "Walk of Flame," a guide that helps visitors get their fix in dozens of fun and inventive ways.

Launched just in time for the annual green chile harvest, the "Walk of Flame" directs those who like it hot to various chile-laced foods, drinks and experiences in the area. In Las Cruces, green chile crops up in and on everything from ice cream to pot stickers to hot dogs to wine, not just New Mexican fare. Visitors can feast on **Aqua Reef's** New Mexico Pecan Green Chile Rolls, sip Chile 'Rita's at **La Posta de Mesilla** or surprise their senses with a Green Chile Sundae from **Caliche's Frozen Custard.** Green chile chasers also have the option to get their hands dirty on a tour of the **Chile Pepper Institute Garden** at New Mexico State University. They can even pick their own at **Joe Lujan's Green Chile Farm** and learn to roast them through a video offered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

The Chile 'Rita at La Posta in Mesilla is but one of the many forms the spicy fruit of the chile plant can be found in southern New Mexico.

"Green chile is an integral part of the Las Cruces tourism experience and we're happy to make it even more accessible in all its glorious guises to our visitors," said Philip San Filippo, executive director of the Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau.

To round out the Walk of Flame experience, visitors may take advantage of a special Green Chile Lovers Package at **Hotel Encanto**. The package includes luxurious room accommodations, dinner in **Garduños** Restaurant (featuring signature green chile dishes) and drinks such as the Green Chile Margarita or Bloody Mary. Additionally, guests will receive a green chile grab bag provided by the **Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau** and a "local treasures" 15 percent discount card. To reserve the package, visit www.hotelencanto.com/green-chile-lovers.

DIGGING DESERT EXPOSURE

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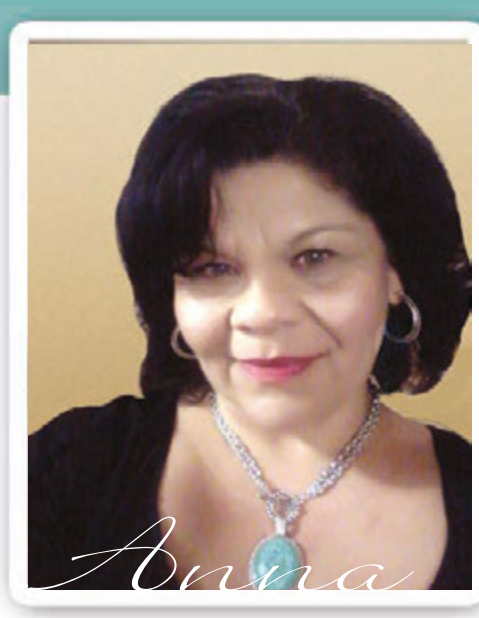

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DESERT exposure

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. The Tacos Estrella are the bomb. 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.

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Monday to Saturday B L.

LET THEM EAT CAKE, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 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.

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. Some of the hottest salsa in town. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday B L.

MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Go for the Kenya coffee, stay for the green chile bagels. 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. Can you say delicious fried egg sandwich? Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 1300 El Paseo Road, 523-0436. 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.

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, 125 S. Campo St., 526-7926. 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. Excellent, gorditas, of course, but also amazing chicken tacos. Mexican: Monday to Saturday L D.

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. "An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as keftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: 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 Piccatta, 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 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 Chapparal 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, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbequed pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: 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.

"FORGHEDABOUDIT" 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: Monday to Friday 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. Coffeehouse, 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.

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MOVING FORWARD • JOAN E. PRICE

What Are We Walking On?

Discovery could change view of Jornada time frame

It is possible that with public awareness and financial support, a public archaeology project of a unique prehistoric settlement in the Tularosa Basin could rock the scientific, Native American and public world with new dates in great kiva architecture and irrigation systems used far earlier than the accepted timelines in archaeology in the Tularosa Basin.

As small fragments of a painted black and white design on clay fell out into a shovel managed by Dale Frost, we gave a shout to call the other crew over to see. This was not just a common prehistoric earthen-colored clay pottery fragment for everyday use in a household.

David Greenwald brought a brush to carefully release another fragment from the ancient soil that held it for a thousand years. It half fell into his hand and together with the others, a stunning spiral was pieced together. But, curiously, this spiral was not circular. Someone over a thousand years ago had carefully painted a continuous line starting in the center, yes, but then right angled the sensuous line at four equidistant points and then, after only one round, a fifth angle was added to create a five pointed spiral emerging from the center of what was left of a shallow bowl. There are hints of a wide black framing band around it that would have created an even more dramatic message to the future, in this case, a public archaeology project above the Tularosa River in south central New Mexico.

Frost, about to graduate at University of Texas-El Paso, tentatively placed it at "early Mimbres." That would be around 800 A.D. and is a sign that there was an important pottery trade in place. Mimbres pottery fragments from settlements far to the west have been found in many of the prehistoric sites that have been recorded around the lush Sierra Blanca Sacramento mountain range that centered the Jornada Mogollon cultural groups extending south to include Otero Mesa and Hueco Tanks Texas State Park.

Greenwald, a professional archaeologist with 40 years of field work at sites throughout the American Southwest, is overseeing the formal archaeology project, organized to develop a public awareness and hands-on appreciation and to uncover the site which is the first known settlement with a formal great kiva in the region.

This structure alters long standing datelines for organizational relationships thought to exist among prehistoric settlements in the Sierra Blanca Sacramento Mountains.

"Acre for acre, the Southwest has seen a greater investment of archaeological energy, effort, brains, and money than any comparable region of North America. We know a lot about the Southwest," said Stephen H. Lekson, Curator of Archaeology at the University of Colorado.

But the Tularosa Basin, a 60-miles-wide valley running 140 miles south to north, a finger of the Chihuahuan desert extending out of northern Mexico into El Paso and south central New Mexico, has only a small number of publically known sites of any time period — the information is buried in boxes in federal archives or university museums far from public appreciation.

Alamogordo High School students screen the soil of the prehistoric Creekside Village site to find artifacts of materials used or crafted by the residents to make everything they needed while Environmental Science teacher Kerry Miyoshi, right, looks on. (Photo by Joan E. Price)

In the basin, an astounding number of archaeological sites have been investigated and recorded since current cultural resource preservation laws required professional surveys before federal dollars are spent that would destroy a prehistoric site. But the reports and artifacts are turned over to the federal and state agencies and little public awareness has developed in the prehistoric cultural legacy of the Basin in spite of many promises of educational outreach.

On Fort Bliss alone, more than 18,000 sites have been surveyed and archived in labeled boxes. A few displays can be seen but not touched, for example, Lincoln National Forest artifacts from professional excavations and historical museums from donations from private collections.

Numerous riverine watersheds once filled with water grace the slopes of the Sierra Blanca and Sacramento mountain range, galleries of petroglyphs and scatters of hearth stones, arrowhead manufacture and pottery sherds beyond count identified prehistoric occupants living quarters when the first non-Indians arrived.

Numerous types of bones revealed a menu of meat and wide-ranging hearth types for cooking it, even decorated bones with possible ritual value and heritage down through family lineages. Bone needles and awls for weaving nets, sandals and intricate baskets, numerous shapes and styles of pottery, stones tools and grinding surfaces for more than 50 types of seeds, all give up their secrets under the variety of techniques

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John Hayden, an "archaeologist before there were any," with the U.S. Forest Service, discovers a fine imported limestone hand tool most likely crafted at the Creekside Village site. Still in situ (on site), the find provides valuable context. (Photo by Joan E. Price)

Fragments of an unusual squared spiral are brought out of a trench dug across a pithouse at the Creekside Village site. It is from the Mimbres ceramic design tradition hundreds of miles to the west. (Photo by Joan E. Price)

of analysis used to peer into the early life of humanity here. Clearly there was cultivation of corn types brought north from Mesoamerican city states along with core concepts of cosmologies that stem back into centuries before Columbus.

Greenwald's unique public excavation project, now named the Creekside Village site and officially registered with the New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology, includes an extensive prehistoric irrigation system coursing through the singular kiva community just upslope from the Tularosa River suggesting a level of skillful water management that has not been professionally seen or recorded before on the slopes of the Sierra Blanca Sacramento mountain range.

Almost 20 years ago, Greenwald located a historic irrigation ditch lined with dead cottonwoods and eroded retaining features recalling a flood of the 1890s that cut the beginnings of the present canyon into the valley, which was followed by desertification caused by overgrazing by cattle and sheep. Greenwald located old ranching structures and found evidence of vicious gun battles that took place over water use. He has walked miles and miles along the Tularosa River following what he suspected as a sophisticated prehistoric residential pattern and irrigation system underlying recent New Mexico history.

"(The irrigation system) is just common sense," Greenwald said as he reeled off the names of mountain streams and alluvial deposits fanning out of the massive mountain range sustaining hundreds of years of Jornada people in sometimes lush environments of wetlands, animals, birds and insects.

Signs of water diversion is "least likely to survive through time yet provides multiple ways to increase moisture and water delivery during dry seasons," Greenwald said. "But these water systems require an organizational system to balance out the needs of each of the users with the seasonal volumes in a satisfactory way for all."

Subtle filled-in, stone-lined ditches and check dams still clinging to the south facing slopes of "Cat Mountain" disappear and reappear in stands of species of mesquite bushes and bean pods, Spanish dagger, nopales and cholla — staple foods and resources for thousands of years in the basin.

"But irrigation systems are perhaps far more complicated than they appear," Greenwald said. "Initially, construction is required and someone needs to organize and design the system, annual and momentary maintenance of the diversions and delivery systems need to be organized and scheduled. Distribution and allotment of water needs to be scheduled. Then, access and rights to arable lands for fields need to be defined. Without such organization, decisions and allocation, irrigation simply will fail."

A series of communities and water system as complex as the one Greenwald has found requires a sophisticated small government structure of some sort and is a likely precursor to contemporary Puebloan ancestral kiva based communities.

The archeology project is being carried out under the Jornada Research Institute, a nonprofit educational organization. With the volunteer help of archaeology students and experts, the land owners, avocational archaeologists, writer photographers, housewives, high school students in environmental science and parents, a great kiva has been uncovered. A kiva such as this can be associated with complex social organizations which lasted hundreds of years the Piro and Salinas Jumano to the north and along the Rio Grande before the Spanish conquest.

Greenwald has financed C14 dating over the summer which reveal far earlier occupation within adobe walls than accepted timelines — 650 AD – 1,400 years before our modern occupation and 700 years before formal pueblo sites on the desert floor.

The subsurface record at the site, including radiocarbon dates from the collapsed roof of the Great Kiva, will challenge currently accepted dates of the prehistoric record of the entire Rio Tularosa watershed, sites all around the Sierra Blanca and Sacramento mountain range and indeed the entire Basin of the Rio Tularosa with implications regarding the settlement patterns of Jornada Mogollon groups and how they organized to meet their needs and leisure time.

One important venue for bringing professional work out among peers has been the Jornada Mogollon Biennial Conference. Every other year, professionals have presented papers, learned about the newest findings of their peers. Each year a collection of the previous years' papers is published. Greenwald will be there this year to formally share the carbon date reports on the site of the great kiva.

For more information on participating on the public excavation project on the Tularosa River, go to www.jornadaresearchinstitute.com. For more information on the upcoming Jornada Mogollon Conference Oct 9-19, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, check out https://archaeology.elpasotexas.gov/events/2015/10/9/jornada-mogollon-conference.

HIKING THE GILA • DONALD PRECODA

Hillsboro

Meditation, quiet appreciated at top of mountain

Hillsboro Peak is a beautiful part of God's country located in southwest New Mexico. It is a tall and broad mountain with a nice meadow on top. The peak is a way point on the Forest Service Black Range Crest Trail 79, which is also the Sierra/Grant county line from Thompson Cone northward to near Diamond Peak. Crest Trail 79 is also a short segment of a longer alternate CDT route that begins north of Palomas, Mexico, passing Deming and Cookie's Spring before traveling up Macho Draw (difficult navigation for CDT hikers) and climbing Sawyer Peak, Emory Pass and Hillsboro Peak. The alternate route continues through Mimbres Valley to Gila Hot Springs Ranch for resupply and then joins the other CDT somewhere over the horizon near Beaverhead.

Hillsboro Peak has visitors. Most visitors are day hikers coming up from Emory Pass. A few horse and riders come up Railroad Canyon. Almost no one comes up the trail from Kingston, the Animas country, or North Percha Creek. Perhaps 10 to 20 northbound CDT-through hikers pass by Hillsboro Peak during April. Another five or 10 southbound-through hikers pass by during November and December. The historic cabin on Hillsboro Peak is trail magic to CDT hikers and a planned overnight stop. A bunk out of the wind beats a stick in the eye.

On an explore through southern New Mexico Verity Mathis, who completed her master's degree research at New Mexico State University, enjoys the view from Hillsboro Peak. (Photo by Aaron Faka)

Most visitors to Hillsboro Peak leave written entries in a log book placed inside the old cabin. Thoughts of God and life, stories and poetry, weather, humor, date and trail monikers are recorded. Some visitors leave drawings, mementos or trail magic. These visitor log books go back in time many years. In 1992, I saw entries by Peter Hurd (dated 1950), Werner Von Braun and colleagues (Alles auf Deutsch geschrieben in 1947), Eugene Manlove Rhodes (1928?), and other scamps, politicos, ranchers, governors, generals, cowboys, astronauts, the noteworthy and the notorious from New Mexico history. Only a few visitors to Hillsboro Peak stay overnight. Some sleep in the historic cabin like Rhodes and I. Some camp in the meadow under the stars. Others stretch out in the old unused corral. It's shaded, clean, grassy and private – in a depression shielded from the winds.

Hillsboro Peak has history. Many old mines are visible. Some isolated relic cabins still survive. Rabb Park is nice country. Nearby Hillsboro Lake is interesting if it is a wet year and has water. Segments of present day Forest Road 157 were once upon a time the wagon road connecting the mining camps of Chloride, Hermosa, and Kingston. Buffalo Soldiers rode this way to find, fight, and fall to Victorio's Apaches in Massacre Canyon back in September 1879. The graves are still there. Go and look.

Nowadays, it's the views people come for. Everyone – geocachers, riders, hikers, day trippers, scientists, foreigners and locals – young and old – in-laws and outlaws, the high and the low, all climb the 60 tower steps for the view. And the view is great: The Dos Cabezas and Chiricahuas near Wilcox. Mt. Graham near Safford. The Organ and Franklin Mountains near El Paso. The Sierra Juarez in Old Mexico. Big Hatchet and Animas Peak in the boot heel. The Sacramento Rim country behind Alamogordo. Sierra Blanca and Nogal Peak in Lincoln County, and the Sierra Oscura above Trinity Site near State Highway 380 in Socorro County. Salinas Peak on White Sands Missile Range is in the middle distance, as are the Magdalenas, San Mateos, Floridas, Mogollons and the Gilita country. Close by are all the Black Range peaks. Many and many mountain ranges from Arizona to Texas are visible. The view is great.

Hillsboro Peak has silence and solitude. Days and months when no one tries for the top because of cold or wind or snow. Only the wind comes whistling up the trail. When the wind is calm one hears many sounds. Birds in flight.

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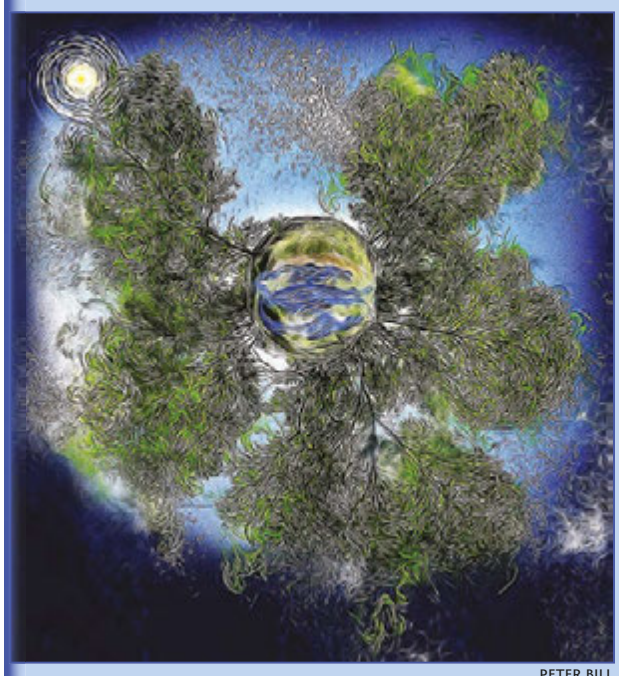

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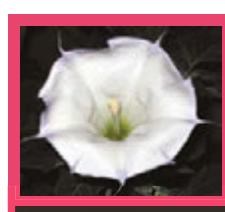

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Verity Mathis, mammal collections manager at the Florida Museum of Natural History, takes a trek to Hillsboro Peak. (Photo by Aaron Faka)

Animals calling. Aspen leaves shaking. Thunder. Rain on the roof. Mice. One Sunday morning I heard Kingston VFD traveling to Hillsboro village for a structure fire. The wail of fire engine sirens floated up from 3,000 feet below and miles down the canyon. In summer, the roar of Harley Davidson motorcycles leaving Kingston is common on top the mountain. Then, silence.

Hillsboro Peak has nightlife. After dark, the lights of Silver City and Truth or Consquences, the Mimbres and Rio Grande valley all shine from afar. The stars so clear and close they might be touched. Meteors flash by and are gone. UFO sightings are recorded. Kids play Frisbee gold in the meadow under a bright full moon. Nocturnal vermin slink about their business while owls perch on tower steel, silent and watching. Inside the cabin is pinochle and popcorn by gas lamp. The nights are special.

Hillsboro Peak has wildlife. Deer graze through the meadow at sunrise and sunset. A flock of turkeys feed their way through the meadow twice daily. Ever try counting turkey poults the size of golf balls? 31-45-36-48. Never the same number twice in a row. By August, the brood has lost half its number and the remainder has grown to football size. A new bear comes up every month or so. Sometimes it's a female with cubs, or a male bear alone, or yearling twins traveling together. Bears are great roamers. They stay awhile and move on. Sometimes they are seen but more often it is a fresh footprint in the mud, or a snag pushed over and pawed through, or the sound of bear running through brush that gives them away. They grub a living for a week or so then move on, to be replaced a week or two later by another bear. Other wildlife include snakes, salamanders, butterflies, red fox chasing chipmunk, coyote, lizards and other critters commonly called varmints. There are many and many raptors, game birds, song birds, woodpeckers, carrion eaters, and hummingbirds including Magnificent. There may be a mountain lion. And one frog that quacks like a duck. Don't believe it? Read on.

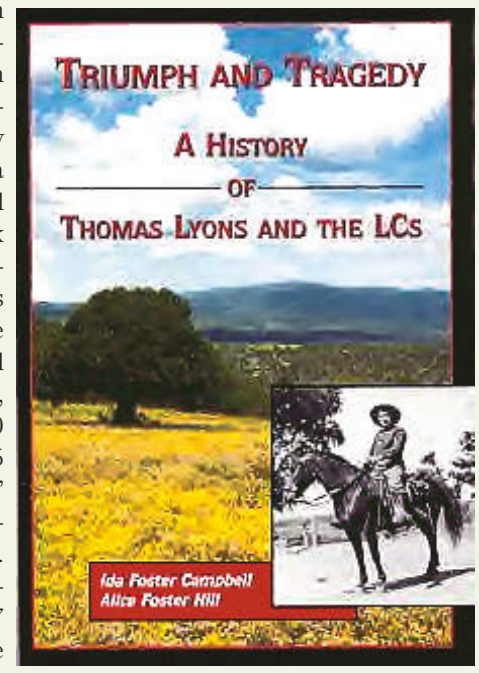
One afternoon while in the tower scoping buffalo on Ladder Ranch I heard a duck call out. Then again. I looked around the clear blue sky and saw nothing. Over the course of two hours, the same call came maybe 20 times. Sometimes loud, other times faint. I was sure it was a duck. I looked and looked and looked. No duck. It called again. Cleaned my eyeglasses and looked – no duck. It called again. Cleaned the tower windows and looked – no duck. It called again. I would be satisfied to see any flying bird, call it a duck and go home. But no. It called again. You know how a human mind can fixate on something and just it and chew it like stringy Mexican beef? That's how it was with this duck. Finally it shut up, and I gave up. That night I had dreams of a duck. I killed, cleaned, cooked and consumed duck. What a delicious dream. The next dream was not so pleasant. Some duck drank up all the water in Caballo Reservoir and flew over the peak looking for me. Then a river of something slimy came bullseye on my head. Yuck.

By next morning, all was forgotten. Clean air, robust living and high place have that effect. During lunch on the porch, the duck started calling again. I stayed under cover. Another call. All at once I realized three things: It was not a duck; the sound came from ground level just 50 feet away; it now sounded like the croak of a duck. Over several minutes as it croaked, I slowly honed in on its call. Then I see it – a tree frog, less than one inch long. Can you imagine? A frog at 10,000 feet. How does a frog survive? Yes, another person saw it one year later. He took a better photo, too. So who knows?

Hillsboro Peak has many tales to tell. Stories of mountains and memories, boots and bones, sunsets and smiles. Happy trails to

By the Book

From his early beginnings as a cowboy and self-taught mining engineer in the 1870s, Thomas Lyons — with partner Angus Campbell — would build an unparalleled cattle empire in southwest New Mexico. According to a livestock trade journal of the time, at its peak the LC Ranches controlled 1.5 million acres of range, grazed some 60,000 cattle, "and employed 100 wagons, 750 riding horses, 400 work horses, and 75 cowboys in season." But powerful men create powerful enemies. The murder of Tom Lyons in El Paso in 1917 remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of the old Southwest. A man of myth until now, this thoroughly documented account is Tom Lyons and the LCs in history.



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LOS DORADOS DE VILLA • MORGAN SMITH

In Vaquero Country

Mexican town celebrates Pancho Villa event

On June 26, 1913, the famous General Francisco "Pancho" Villa, also called the "Centaur of the North" formed a rural guard of personal bodyguards that he called the "Dorados" or Golden Ones. Not only were they elite soldiers but they were also totally dedicated to his protection. Villa handpicked the soldiers for this very tough job and most of them died in various battles. This took place in the town of Ascención, today about a one hour drive south of the border crossing between Columbus and Palomas, Mexico.

On June 26, Ascención celebrated the 102nd anniversary of this important event. I was there because the following Saturday, June 27, I had been invited to attend a meeting of mayors and municipal presidents from towns from Silver City in the north to Nuevo Casas Grandes in the south. These 11 towns are working together to improve the economy throughout their area, especially tourism. I wrote about their project – the Mimbres-Paquimé Connection – for the May issue of Desert Exposure. It's a superb example of both cross-border cooperation and of small communities taking charge of their economic futures and I have been able to attend all of the meetings except one.

In this instance, I went a day ahead of the meeting so that I could see the celebration of Los Dorados de Villa and learn more about the historical importance of Villa in this part of the state of Chihuahua and the rich history of towns like tiny Ascención, population 15,000, things that are basically unknown in the United States.

The celebration began with a visit to the cemetery where three soldiers who were wounded in the attack of Villa's men on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916, are buried. After the battle they were brought back to Ascención where they died.

There was a cavalcade of riders with us because this is cowboy or "vaquero" country. The leader was Cipriano Gutierrez, a bow legged local vaquero dressed as Pancho Villa including a fake mustache that was glued to his lip. After the ceremony in the cemetery, we went to the central plaza in a cavalcade with the riders, a band from Palomas and even soldiers with a machine gun.

Ascención had been quite dangerous with an average of three kidnappings a month in 2010. This completely changed, however, when eight kidnappers tried to abduct a girl from a seafood restaurant called Mariscos Lolo and local citizens chased them and killed two. I remember interviewing then-Presidente Municipal several months later. He wouldn't concede that the citizens had killed the two but was very pleased that his citizens had ended the kidnappings.

Waiting for us in the central plaza were two groups of young dancers, the men dressed as soldiers and the women in dresses of brilliant colors. Then a tremendous rainstorm poured down so we had to make a sudden retreat to the Centro Social where the whole community had prepared the auditorium for the performances. Even Sergio Gonzalez, the mayor, pitched in and wiped off the wet plastic chairs with a towel. "I'm responsible for this being a success," he said nervously.

Part of the Cabalgata, or cavalcade, at the Ascención cemetery, includes "Pancho Villa" in the center. (Photo by Morgan Smith)

Cipriano Gutierrez as Pancho Villa hands out wooden rifles during Ascención's celebration in June. (Photo by Morgan Smith)

Then there were dances, singing, and the recognition of important visitors like Ruben Parra, the municipal president of nearby Janos.

The male dancers were dressed like "Dorados" and Gutierrez, the "Pancho Villa," gave them each a rifle – made of wood. Then they danced with their "novias," a farewell dance before leaving for the war. For the real Dorados 102 years ago, it was probably their last dance because almost all of them were killed. But one, Captain Guillermo Reyes Flores lived to be 116 years old and finally died in November 2014. Francisco Villa Campa, a grandson of Villa came to his funeral and said a few words on his behalf.

This Dorados de Villa celebration was beautiful, emotional and well worth seeing but having been the only "Anglo" there, I'm sure that it is totally unknown in the United States.

Where did the name "Dorados" or golden come from? From the gold with which they were paid? Or because of the insignia they wore on their hats? The historians I met there said it was the insignia.

The following day was the Mimbres-Paquimé Connection meeting of the mayors and municipal presidents. Shortly beforehand, however, I had my own run in with the local police. Thinking of maybe following up on the earlier incident of the killings, I went by Mariscos Lolo to photograph the sign on the side of the building. A man came out and I explained what I was doing and that I didn't want him in the shot. Everything seemed fine until 15 minutes later when I was driving down the main street and the police pulled me over. Four officers quickly surrounded my car, claiming that I had taken this man's photo without permission. However, when I showed them the photo and, more important, my invitation to the Mimbres-Paquimé Connection meeting, we suddenly became best friends.

The fact is this region of Mexico has changed dramatically in the last three to four years. I feel no apprehension whatsoever in driving around in towns like Palomas or Ascención. The local history is extraordinarily rich, even though largely unknown. It's my hope that the local officials from small towns in both countries will use the Mimbres-Paquimé Connection to help open up this part of Mexico to us Americans. If so, maybe I won't be the only Anglo at next year's 103rd anniversary of the Dorados de Villa.

Morgan Smith lives in Santa Fe and travels to the Mexican border at least monthly to document conditions there and assist various humanitarian programs. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.

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What's Going On in September

Memorial Day heralds fall celebrations throughout the month

The Hatch Valley Chile Festival begins with a parade Sept. 5 in Hatch. (Courtesy photo)

TUESDAY, Sept. 1

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Every Other Tuesday: Groove Factory – 6:30 p.m. Comprised of veteran musicans from in and around the Las Cruces area at the Rio Grande Theatre, 214 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

Gallery wrap your photos – 7-9 p.m. at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. Las Cruces. Ron Wolfe presents a do-it-yourself demonstration plus "10 Minutes with Wynn Bullock and Aaron Siskind," presented by Jim Rodgers and Debra Sands-Miller. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

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. $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. Main St., 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.

Chicano Music Fest and Car & Bike Show – Held at Gough Park all day. Info: 575-590-7100.

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 at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science – 3 p.m. the Story of Luna at the museum. Info: 575-522-3120.

Downtown First Friday ArtRamble Reception – 5-7 p.m. features retrospective photographs and art from the last 89 years of the Rio Grande Theatre's history at the El Paso Electric Gallery in the lobby of the theater, 214 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-6403.

Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 8 p.m. at 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.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Cottonwood Festival – All day at Alameda Park with entertainment, arts and crafts. Info: 575-437-6120.

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, salsa tasting and ticket sales for a Taste of Downtown Gala. Info: 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Signal Peak Fat Tire Festival – Mountain bike event and ride. $20. Info 575-388-3222.

Chicano Music Fest and Car & Bike Show – Held at Gough Park all day. Info: 575-590-7100.

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 – Beginning at noon, walk around downtown Silver City tasting food available at local restaurants. The walk is followed by a Gala Dance and Tasting evening from 5:30-9 p.m. with the Big Ditch Crickets at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 West Broadway from 6-9 p.m. Info: 575-534-1700.

Book Launch – 1-3 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffeehouse, Texas and Yankie streets. Author Beate Sigriddaughter will be reading from and signing her book, "Audrey." Info: 575-654-4144.

Hatch

Hatch Valley Chile Festival – 9 a.m. parade, 11 a.m. opening ceremonies, 2 p.m. chile-eating contest, 4 p.m. watermelon-eating contest, 8 p.m. dance with the Tiquela Knights. Info: www.hatchchilefest.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. in Downtown Las Cruces, along Main Street.

Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. Is your egg fresh? at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.

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 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,

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The Silver City Rolling Stones are hosting a Gem and Mineral Show over Labor Day weekend at Western New Mexico University. (Photo by Anita Williams)

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.
Cottonwood Festival – All day at Alameda Park with entertainment, arts and crafts. Info: 575-437-6120.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County

All-American Gun & Western Collectible Show – 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive in Ruidoso. Info: www.trekwest.com/gunshow.
Two Rivers Arts & Crafts Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Riverwalk Trail behind the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce. Info: 575-937-1734.
All-American Festival – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at All American Park in Ruidoso Downs, across the street from the post office, U.S. Highway 70. Info: 575-446-1441.
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.
Bait Night – 6-10 p.m. watch the movie "Bait" on the lake in a boat at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso. $20. Info: 575-464-7777.
Journey Tribute Band – 8 p.m. at the Spencer Theater in Alto. Info: www.spencertheater.com.

SUNDAY, Sept. 6

Silver City/ Grant County

Signal Peak Fat Tire Festival – Mountain bike event and ride.
Bob: A Life in Five Acts – 2:30 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.

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.
Cottonwood Festival – All day at Alameda Park with entertainment, arts and crafts. Info: 575-437-6120.
Concert at the Lodge in Cloudcroft – 6 p.m. with Cooper Ayon. Info: www.thelodgeresort.com.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County

All-American Gun & Western Collectible Show – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive in Ruidoso. Info: www.trekwest.com/gunshow.
Two Rivers Arts & Crafts Festival – 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Riverwalk Trail behind the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce. Info: 575-937-1734.
All-American Festival – 10 a.m.-6p.m. at All American Park in Ruidoso Downs, across the street from the post office, U.S. Highway 70. Info: 575-446-1441.
Ranger Talk at Lincoln Historic Site – Highway 380, 12 miles east of Capitan. Info: 575-653-4025.
End of Summer Bash – 3p.m.-midnight family event, music, carnival and fireworks at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso. 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 – 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

Two Rivers Arts & Crafts Festival – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Riverwalk Trail behind the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce. Info: 575-937-1734.

TUESDAY, Sept. 8

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.

Hatch

Hatch Valley Chile Festival – 11 a.m. entertainment begins. Info: www.hatchchilefest.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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.

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.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Restoration of Wildlife Habitat at the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Are in Belen – 7 p.m. Ted Hodoba talk brought by the Native Plant Society to the conference room of the Social Center at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-8413.

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.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

History Notes: Lost Apache Treaty of 1852 – 1 p.m. Dr. Jeffrey Shepherd lecture at Branigan Cultural Center. Info:

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The Inn of the Mountain Gods near Ruidoso features several concerts, films and an End of Summer Bash throughout the month of September. (Courtesy photo)

575-541-2219.
New Mexico Symbols and Icons – 7 p.m. presented by Henrietta Christmas at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces. Info: www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

FRIDAY, Sept. 11
Silver City/ Grant County
Pickamania – 7 p.m. Big Ditch Crickets at Gough Park in Silver City. Free bluegrass, folk, Americana, roots and singer/songwriter festival. Info: 575-538-2505.

Hidalgo County
Chiricaua-Peloncillo Heritage Days – Evening reception in Rodeo New Mexico.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Evolved at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science – 3 p.m. the Story of the Future at the museum. Info: 575-522-3120.

SATURDAY, Sept. 12
Silver City/ Grant County
Silver City Library Quarterly Book Sale – 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 1510 Market Street. Friends of the Library only from 9-10 a.m. Info: folsilvercitynm@gmail.com.
Pickamania – 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at Gough Park; 8-11 p.m. with the Dead Pigeons at the Beer Garden. Free bluegrass, folk, Americana, roots and singer/songwriter festival. Info: 575-538-2505.
Fiesta de la Gente – 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. performances of mariachi and Ballet Folklorico at Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Theater. $15.

Hidalgo County
Chiricaua-Peloncillo Heritage Days – All day in Rodeo New Mexico.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. Eggshells & Acid Rain 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.

SUNDAY, Sept. 13
Silver City/ Grant County
Pickamania – 11:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Gough Park. Free bluegrass, folk, Americana, roots and singer/songwriter festival. Info: 575-538-2505.

Hidalgo County
Chiricaua-Peloncillo Heritage Days – All day in Rodeo New Mexico.

MONDAY, Sept. 14
Silver City/Grant County
Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County – 10:30 a.m. at Glad Tidings Church, 11600 Highway 180 E. Anita Roberts from CASA talks aboutchild advocacy. Lunch is $12. Info: 537-3643.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Boots to Business Reboot – 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at La Posta de Mesilla, 2410 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla. Free two-day seminar for veterans and their guests.

TUESDAY, Sept. 15
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Every Other Tuesday: No Strings Attached – 6:30 p.m. Drummer Joe Seltzer introduces his latest power ensemble at Rio Grande Theatre, 214 N. Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.
A Year in the Mesilla Valley, Photo Opportunities by Month – 7-9 p.m. at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. Las Cruces, with photographer Mike Groves. Info: www.daphotoclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 16
Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally – Held throughout Ruidoso and at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: info@motorcycleraly.com.

THURSDAY, Sept. 17
Silver City/Grant County
Presidio Brass – 7 p.m. with the Community Concert Association at Western New Mexico Fine Arts Theater. Info: www.gccconcerts.org

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

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally – Held throughout Ruidoso and at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: info@motorcycleraly.com.

FRIDAY, Sept. 18
Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally – Held throughout Ruidoso and at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: info@motorcycleraly.com.
Devon Allman Free Concert – 8 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso. Info: 575-464-7777.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Evolved at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science – 3 p.m. the Story of the Future at the museum. Info: 575-522-3120.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Tularosa Wine and Nut Festival – 4-10 p.m. at Alameda Park in Alamogordo. Info: 575-524-8118.

Grant County Community Concerts is bringing Presidio Brass to Western New Mexico Fine Arts Theater Sept. 17. (Courtesy photo)

THE GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S 32ND ANNUAL
2015 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
~ LABOR DAY WEEKEND ~
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No Early or Late Admissions
Paid in part by Silver City Lodger's Tax

The White Sands Balloon Invitational features hot air balloons rising over the sand dunes on both Saturday and Sunday mornings on the third weekend in September. The lines are long out to the monument so those planning to see the site should arrive well before the 7 a.m. start time. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

SATURDAY, Sept. 19

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. Walking on Eggshells at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.

Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Gloria Hacker will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Pat Gill will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a $2 book coupon.

"Latino Americans" screening – 1 p.m. viewing, open discussion and guest speakers at the Branigan Cultural Center on Main Street, Las Cruces. Info: 575-541-2154.

Celebration of Recovery – 5 p.m. an evening giving voice to people who suffer from behavioral health addiction issues. Keynote speaker is Kevin Hines. Info: 877-339-1616.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County

Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally – Held throughout Ruidoso and at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: info@motorcycleralley.com.

Devon Allman Free Concert – 8 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso. Info: 575-464-7777.

Alamogordo/Otero County

White Sands Balloon Invitational – 7 a.m. going up from White Sands National Monument and Balloon Park in Alamogordo. 7 p.m. baloon glow at the same park. Info 575-921-1523.

Tularosa Wine and Nut Festival – noon-6 p.m. at Alameda Park in Alamogordo. Info: 575-524-8118.

SUNDAY, Sept. 20

Silver City/ Grant County

Field trip to Sacaton Creek – Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Fine Arts Theater at WNMU for this adventure in the Mogollon Mountains with the Gila Native Plant Society. Info: 535-4064.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Jim Helder Trio – 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo. $5. Info: 575-640-8752.

Alamogordo/Otero County

White Sands Balloon Invitational – 7 a.m. going up from White Sands National Monument and Balloon Park in Alamogordo. Info 575-921-1523.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County

Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally – Held throughout Ruidoso and at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Info: info@motorcycleralley.com.

MONDAY, Sept. 21

Las Cruces/Mesilla

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

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 23

Silver City/ Grant County

Grant County Fair – 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Cliff, north from Silver City on Highway 180. Info: www.grantcounty-fairgrounds.com.

THURSDAY, Sept. 24

Silver City/ Grant County

Gila River Festival – All day celebrate the river and explore conservation ideas, visit the Time-Lapse Film Festival. Info: www.gilaconservation.org.

Grant County Fair – 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Cliff, north from Silver City on Highway 180. Info: www.grantcounty-fairgrounds.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Rio Grande Theatre 10th Anniversary Re-Opening Celebration – Three-day birthday bash includes free live performances, Rock 'n' Roll dinner and more. Info: www.riograndetheatre.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, Sept. 25

Silver City/ Grant County

Gila River Festival – All day celebrate the river and explore conservation ideas, visit the Time-Lapse Film Festival. Info: www.gilaconservation.org.

Grant County Fair – 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Cliff, north from Silver City on Highway 180. Info: www.grantcounty-fairgrounds.com.

Deming/ Luna County

PetPourri Party – 4-8 p.m. fundraiser at Luna Rossa Winery. Info: 575-544-2209.

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.

Rio Grande Theatre 10th Anniversary Re-Opening Celebration – Three-day birthday bash includes free live performances, Rock 'n' Roll dinner and more. Info: www.riograndetheatre.com.

Marketing and the Business of Art – Noon workshop for artists to promote themselves features Cathie Fern, Cathy Lockman and Cindy Breedlove. Info:

The PetPourri Party fundraiser at Luna Rossa Winery begins at 4 p.m., Sept. 25 at the Deming business. (Courtesy photo)

The Farmers & Crafts Market in Las Cruces happens every Saturday in Downtown Las Cruces along Main Street. (Courtesy photo)

www.riograndetheatre.com.
Evolved at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science – 3 p.m. the Story of the Future at the museum. Info: 575-522-3120.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Strumming – 7 p.m. join the music, make your own, instruments provided at CAPPED, 907 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-434-4673.

SATURDAY, Sept. 26
Silver City/ Grant County
Gila River Festival – All day celebrate the river and explore conservation ideas, visit the Time-Lapse Film Festival. Info: www.gilaconservation.org.
Silver City Farmers' Market – 8:30 a.m.-noon at Bullard and Seventh streets.
Grant County Fair – 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Cliff, north from Silver City on Highway 180. Info: www.grantcountyfairgrounds.com.
Full Moon Ceremony – 7-10 p.m. in Mimbres. Info: 575-536-9335.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Rio Grande Theatre 10th Anniversary Re-Opening Celebration – Three-day birthday bash includes free live performances, Rock 'n' Roll dinner and more. Info: www.riograndetheatre.com.
Family Science Saturday – At 10 a.m. Egg-citing Engineering at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature & Science. Info: 575-522-3120.
Storytellers – At 10:30 a.m. Louise O'Donnell will be telling tales at COAS Downtown and Sonya Weiner will be telling tales at COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a $2 book coupon.

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
Darlings of the Desert Annual Vintage Market – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Carrizozo, 407 Central Ave. Info: 575-973-0571.

SUNDAY, Sept. 27

Silver City/Grant County
Gila River Festival – All day celebrate the river and explore conservation ideas, visit the Time-Lapse Film Festival. Info: www.gilaconservation.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
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.

Monday, Sept. 28
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, Sept. 29
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Every Other Tuesday: Danny Ruley – 6:30 p.m. Country, rock and jazz, peppered with a little romance at the Rio Grande Theatre, 214 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

THURSDAY, Oct. 1
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.

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.

Veronika Barns plays Oktoberfest style for the Pinos Altos October Fiesta on Oct. 3. (Courtesy photo)

FRIDAY, Oct. 2
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.

Ruidoso/ Lincoln County
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, Oct. 3
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.
Pinos Altos October Fiesta – 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Main Street in Pinos Altos is a benefit for the Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue. Photos taken with fire house dog, bratwurst, vendors, music and entertainment. Info: 575-574-8394.

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

Mesilla Valley Film Society
September 2015
August 28 -- September 3: I'll See You in My Dreams
September 4 – 10: The Farewell Party
September 11 – 17: Amy
September 18 – 24: Jimmy's Hall
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COAS Solano. Children who attend will receive a $2 book coupon.
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.

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.

SUNDAY, Oct. 4
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.

THURSDAY, Oct. 8
Silver City/ Grant County
Women in the Arts lecture with Rose Simpson – 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:45 p.m. lecture with Native American artist at WNMU Light Hall. Info: 575-538-6179.

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

FRIDAY, Oct. 9
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.

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, Oct. 10
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.

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.

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

MIMBRES ARTS

Pickamania!

Lineup features many award winners

The Mimbres Region Arts Council brings the rollicking and highly danceable Black Lillies headlining Saturday night, and the critically acclaimed, award winning Claire Lynch Band headlining Sunday to Pickamania! happening Sept. 11 to 13.

The Silver City Market Café hosts the Friday night kick off dance from 7-9 p..m in the Café parking lot, corner of Bullard and Seventh streets, with local favorites the Big Ditch Crickets and newcomers on the local scene, Average Cadaver.

This year's line-up runs the gamut of Americana music, from the eclectic, genre expanding country artists the Black Lillies, who've recently taken Nashville by storm, to the classic yet maverick bluegrass performer, Claire Lynch Band. Also on the bill is an eye-popping array of New Mexico talent at this free music event Silver City's Gough Park.

Local crooner Amos Torres kicks off the main event on Saturday, followed by fellow Silver City musicians the Gypsy Feet Band. Former Silver City resident Greta Hunstiger returns with her band The Dead Pigeons for some good ole barn dance-style fiddling. Next up are back-to-back husband and wife duos Truckstop Honeymoon and returning Pickamania! favorites the Birds of Chicago. Dead Pigeons play in the beer garden Saturday at 8 p.m., just after the Black Lillies,

On Sunday the day starts off with New Mexico's own Compasito, playing their interpretations of the music of South America and Africa, followed by Silver City's delightful budding local musicians and festival favorites the Fiddling Friends and Homemade Hoedown Kids. Sit tight (if you can) for duel banjo pickers The Lowest Pair, followed by The Bus Driver Tour, (hailing from Montana and Tennessee). 2013 Female Vocalist of the Year, bluegrass singer/songwriter Claire Lynch and her band will close out the Festival Sunday evening.

A diverse group of food and artisan vendors add to the local, handcrafted flavor to the festival. Many volunteer positions are open for those wishing to be a part of the festival. Call Linda at 575-538-2505 for more information.

Claire Lynch is a featured performer at Pickamania in Silver City, Sept. 13. (Courtesy photo)

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2015
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2015
THE SILVER CITY MUSEUM CELEBRATES THE GILA RIVER FESTIVAL
11 AM TO 12 PM "TAKE BACK THE RAIN: SILVER CITY'S URBAN WATER HARVESTING MOVEMENT" A VIRTUAL TOUR AND PRESENTATION BY STREAM DYNAMICS, INC.

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SEPTEMBER 17	DOUBLE CLUTCHERS (ROCKABILLY TRIO)
SEPTEMBER 19	GOLD HEARTED CROWS (ALT-ROCK/COUNTRY)
SEPTEMBER 24	SEAN ASHBY (GUITAR VIRTUOSO FROM WINNIPEG, CANADA)
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Aa Studios looking for artists

Aa Studios, located at 2645 Doña Ana Road in Las Cruces, is calling for regional artists to exhibit in 2016. The 17' x 25' studio/gallery features fine contemporary art from emerging artists and artists with limited local gallery representation. Owner Roy van der Aa opened his working studio as a gallery in August 2012 and participates in the North Valley Art Loop openings every 3 months. Five two-month slots are currently available taking either two feature walls or the whole gallery. The gallery has posted hours three days per month and is open by appointment the rest of the month. There is no fee to apply or show, but the gallery takes a 20 percent commission on work sold. Interested artists can email a proposal, short artist bio, resumé, and 8 jpeg images (4" on the longest edge at 150 dpi) to wysiwyg@zianet.com.

Proposals are due by November 15, 2015. For details, call 1-575-520-8752.

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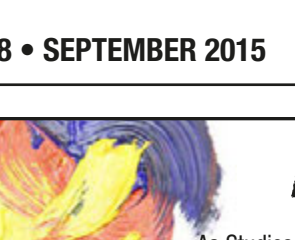

Seedboat Gallery
214 W. Yankie
534-1136
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Yankie Street Artists
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519-0615

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Breakfast • Sunday 8a-2p
Breakfast • Saturday 7a-10:30a
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Sparky, a 13 month, 12 lb male terrier mix, playful and loves people and dogs, isn't sure about cats.

Call Pat at 575-649-7644

CALL 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 Orona at 474-546-4650.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

• **The Potters' Guild of Las Cruces** invites artists who work in fabric/fiber to collaborate with Potters' Guild clay artists to create works for the biennial show "Fire and Fiber 2016." For more information and to team up with a clay artist contact Mary Lou LaCasse, 649-0182 mlacassearts@gmail.com

• **¡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.

• **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 Marcado, 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.

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

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Oct 3: Stella Pope Duarte—"How to be a GPS Story Teller"
Oct 3: Chef Rob Connoley—"The Power of the Land to Feed the Hungry"
Oct 3: Denise Chávez—"Una Tardeada—Fictionalizing the Latina Experience in a Multicultural New Mexico"
Oct 3: Daniel Chacón—"The Politics and Realities of Living on the Border—with a dash of humor" (Banquet Keynote speaker)
Oct 4: Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie—"Her Land, Her Love—The Navajo Experience as Inspiration for Fiction and Non-Fiction"
Oct 4: Denise Chávez, Stella Pope Duarte, and Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie—"Three Wise Women in Conversation"

Times and Locations and Scholar Bios available at www.swwordfiesta.org

This project is funded by the New Mexico Humanities Council through the Community Foundation of SNM.

A BITE OF HISTORY • PHILLIP BRITTENHAM

The Craigs of Mogollon

From Pittsburgh to New Mexico, a family heritage

In the late 1880s, Anna E. McKay was a 17-year-old Pittsburgh socialite with a big problem. What looked like a whirlwind romance had turned into a nightmare in retrospect, Anna later confided to her daughter Ernestine. The handsome young mining engineer that she favored seemed totally oblivious to her charms. Oh, he was polite enough when he spoke to her with that frustrating English formality and reserve, but she wanted a more serious relationship, and it was like he looked right through her and seemed immune to what she estimated were her many attractions. Her father Jim McKay had taken to the man at once, and that was the nightmare she now endured. Ernest Craig was showing up at their home regularly, when he was not being wined and dined by other upper-crust families, but the visits invariably turned to talk about mining operations with her father. "Rats," she might have been forgiven for muttering.

Ernest Craig was indeed the hero of the moment in Pittsburgh, and balls and parties were being given in his honor. He had earned the esteem of the people of the city a few weeks before by extinguishing a mine fire that had doomed three trapped miners to all but certain death while everyone looked on and waited in horror. As a specialist on mine fires, he alone had known how to put out the fire and save the men, and the relieved citizens of the city could not do enough for him. After having been disinherited by his father once again, Craig had determined to make his way to America and establish himself through his own efforts, and this acceptance so soon upon his arrival was astonishing success for a man of but 27.

Jim McKay[1] was a self-made industrialist who emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland. His company was the largest manufacturer of chain in the country, but he also had oil interests and mining claims spread across the land. Rockefeller had tried to entice him deeper into the oil business for a third share of his business, but McKay did not feel comfortable in that arena and was satisfied with the wealth that he had accumulated. He did, however, seem more interested in his mining operations, and he had acquired a share in the Yankee Girl Mine, between Silverton and Ouray, Colorado, one of the more prosperous silver operations in the state. That mine followed a column of high-grade silver ore more than a thousand feet straight down into the Earth. But it was another mine, in the Cripple Creek area, that was to figure more prominently in Anna's romantic plans.

To Anna's great frustration, the two men planned a trip to visit McKay's Cripple Creek property, and they did not even bother to invite her on the trip. Whether Jim McKay was aware of his daughter's feelings towards Craig is unknown, but it is a fact that he relented when she insisted on joining the party. He also extended an invitation to the family clergyman, Dr. Arondel, so perhaps, he had an inkling that something was up.

By the time the group reached the mine, Anna was feeling totally ignored, and entering the cold, dark tunnel, she decided to light a candle that she spied on the ground. As she started to do so, she saw in Ernest Craig's terror-stricken face that for once, she had his complete attention as she never had previously, for the candle was actually a stick of dynamite. In that brief moment, she knew that Craig was really seeing her for the first time. What that moment revealed did not dissipate when the emergency passed.

Then followed the whirlwind courtship that Anna had been hoping for all along. By the time, they reached Denver, Ernest Craig had asked Jim McKay for his daughter's hand in marriage and had been roundly refused. After all, Anna was only 17, and McKay planned to send her to Paris for a year to complete her education. McKay did not say so, but he certainly knew that the life of a mining engineer involved often long absences or life spent in remote mining camps where the wife of the engineer and maybe the wife of the owner were the only women in areas above timber line. Or they might live in rough mining towns in the West where existence was anything but genteel for a girl born to wealth and leisure.

That the two were madly in love was undeniable. While visiting in Denver, they went to the theater together with the rest of the party. At the intermission, they snuck away from the others, met Dr. Arondel at a small chapel, and were married after being acquainted for only four weeks.[2] "Rats," we can imagine Jim McKay muttering as he realized that he had supplied the means of foiling his plans for his daughter. Ernest and Anna then took up residence in Denver as man and wife, with their only child, Ernestine, being born a year later.

About the same time and many hundreds of miles to the south, prospectors from the mining camp of Cooney in the Gila country of southwest New Mexico were finally able to explore the countryside without the threat of Apache attack. Mining men like John Eberle and John Lambert were attracted to Silver Creek Canyon just over the mountain from Cooney. The consummate prospector of the region, James A. McKenna, explains that silver ores were often difficult to identify visually and that it might be weeks before samples could be assayed. He says, "The old-timer knew nothing of horn silver, chlorides, bromides, or bornites, and what he did know often did him little good."[3]

The story that William French tells of Old Charlie and his partner Mike Tracey shows how deceptive the ores could be. Charlie and his partner explored the Mogollon area, and when Charlie was murdered in a Cooney bar, his friend Captain French asked that his ore samples be sent away for assay. An old prospector helping French settle Charlie's estate apparently decided the samples were worthless and just threw them away. As it turned out, a sample of copper ore came from what became the Morenci copper mines, and a sample from the Mogollon area came from what became the Last Chance Mine and other mines on the vein of that name.[4]

Although Ernest Craig refused to carry a firearm, he knew how to use one. (Photo courtesy S. Wheaton-Smith)

In the area of Mogollon, John Lambert and John Eberle claimed the Last Chance property, but in turn, they ridiculed a black prospector named Howard Wilson, who thought some funny looking quartz that they had passed over themselves might be valuable. It was, and the Maud S. Mine became a good producer on just such ore.[5]

The lone prospectors generally lacked the knowledge and investment funds to develop the deep mines of Silver Creek. Most sold out soon after making their claims, and their fortunes were often fleeting. In 1893, Eberle killed a man in Silver City in a quarrel over mining claims and consequently took his own life. The Lordsburg newspaper, oddly enough called the Western Liberal, observed, "The prompt, economical and satisfactory manner in which he disposed of the case merits the commendation of all law abiding citizens. Suicide of a murderer is as satisfactory as lynching and gives the community a better name. We commend this to the next murderer in this county."[6]

Frank Vingoe, who discovered the Little Fanny Mine, lost his fortune through bad investments, and Wilson, who had discovered the Maud S. and other claims, turned up forlorn and broke in the El Paso jail where he decided to sell his interest in the mine.

As the mines along Silver Creek began to be developed by Eastern syndicates, it quickly became apparent that the usual mercury amalgam methods were not sufficient for dealing with the Mogollon ores, but no one had an alternative. Some mines were washing away almost half the gold and silver that they tried to recover, and it was difficult to make an operation pay with such losses. Not surprisingly, the new mines and mills were often shut down in those early years and were undervalued. This was the scenario that resulted in the shutdown of the Last Chance Mine after an auspicious start when the company saw almost half its income sacrificed to inefficient methods. The mine sat idle for a number of years until Craig leased it and brought his family to the remote community in the mountains.[7]

Ernestine Craig recalled her childhood adventures in Mogollon, many years later in a series of audio tapes. Her long stage ride from Silver City, began in the early morning and ended at eight at night. Five changes of horses were required. She did not say what she thought of her new town in its steep mountain valley, which never really looked new, just some quickly hammered together cabins and shacks, a few prominent stone buildings, and an enormous ditch following the main road out of town.

The Craigs took a house in the middle of the town, and Ernestine was never allowed outside during the weekends because of the flying bullets that sometimes filled the air. Transportation in the town was by foot or horse, and Ernest bought a horse from a member of the Black Jack gang who was going to prison. The horse was famous for carrying multiple riders from the scenes of various crimes, and Ernestine remembered the time that the horse, Mac, tore through Mogollon with her father barely hanging on until it reached the saloon frequented by its former owner and slid right into place. After the Craigs had returned to England, Ernest heard that the outlaw had gotten out of jail early and returned to Mogollon. On seeing the horse, he threw his arms around it and began to weep. Ernest said that if had known, he would have returned the horse to him.

Captain French notes that trouble started in Mogollon that ended with the death of a cowboy he admired and respected, "It seemed that some new-comers who had recently got hold of the Last Chance Mine had been shocked at the Western habit of going about armed and the reckless manner in which they loosed off their guns on slight provocation."[8] These newcomers asked that a town marshal be appointed to keep order. One of the newcomers certainly sounds suspiciously like Ernest Craig, who, as a matter of principle, never wore a gun. For that matter, neither did Captain French, who was from Ireland. The person appointed marshal was, according to French, a cowardly lout, who almost had his gun taken away by a man armed only with a rock. When he approached French's friend in a saloon to arrest him for wearing a gun, he snuck up on him from behind, grabbed him, and, in his nervousness, accidentally discharged his firearm into the man's head.

At night, Mogollon saloons became wildly rambunctious, and when they

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THE CRAIGS

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got too lively, Craig would simply walk into the offending saloon and stand wordlessly. He was such a commanding presence, his daughter said, that the men quieted down, and then he returned to the house. Indeed, having the boss eyeing you hard in a saloon late at night might tend to have a somewhat bracing effect for a miner. In this raucous environment, Craig was lauded by the Rev. Horne in The Sacramento Missionary for providing for the spiritual dimension of the miners by teaching religious classes himself and offering Episcopal services at the mine.[9]

According to Ernestine, people were much more moral and peace-loving then, if a little exuberant. One code that was never broken was the stricture against shooting an unarmed man. Ralph Jenks, a tough who was later shot while being transported by a posse on a charge of murdering a deputy, lived outside the town for a while. He threatened a woman from back East in her home, but she finally ran him off with a pistol. When Jenks tried to claim that he had an alibi for the time of the incident, Craig proved that it was false, and Jenks was taken to trial, although he was eventually acquitted, as were most of those who broke the law in Mogollon. The citizens of Mogollon figured that Craig would not be among the living much longer, and no one wanted to stand near him in the open. Nevertheless, Craig continued to walk alone from the Last Chance Mine to his house and was never harmed because he was never armed.

Among Craig's innovations in Mogollon was the automobile. These

Ernestine Wheaton-Smith and family. (Photo courtesy S. Wheaton-Smith)

contraptions did not share the road well with the 12 and 20 mule teams that still transported heavy goods and fuel oil to Mogollon. The rule, according Mrs. Scott, the wife of a mining engineer who arrived four years after the Craigs departed, was that the mule teams got the safe side of the cliff and the automobile got whatever was left or backed down to the nearest turnout. Having gone up the road for the first time, Scott resolved that she would never go down the road. When the roads became impassable with deep mud, the mines occasionally had to be shut down until conditions improved, sometimes for weeks.[10]

On one trip that Ernestine recalled, the car drove off the road and down a precipice where it was held in place by a single tree. Ernestine and Anna sat in the car while it was pulled out, and Ernestine was warned, "Not a squeak out of you. Remember whose daughter you are." And she did not squeak. H.A. Hoover, who worked for the Little Fanny Mine, took his first car ride ever in one of Craig's autos with four other passengers and the town's mail sacks wedged in. After leaving at 7 a.m., it was 11:30 p.m. when they finally arrived after three flat tires and a change of automobiles. Hoover observes, "On the whole, I must have enjoyed that ride."[11] However, considering the hardships, he could not quite explain the enthusiasm indicated in his diary for the day. After two months of trial, the mail returned to being carried by the stage.

Although development work at the Last Chance Mine opened up deposits of ever greater value as lower levels were reached, the percentage of the gold and silver retrieved remained excruciatingly low, and the cost of processing was high. Craig struggled with the problem for years, and these were difficult years for him, with no assurance of success. Craig revamped much of the mill processing technology and achieved many economies. However, he is best known for bringing relatively untried cyanidation techniques into the region. The cyanide process for separating minerals from the ore seemed promising, but he was unable to fine tune the process enough to get the kind of values he needed from Mogollon ore until around the turn of the century. The exact amount of savings produced using the cyanide process varied dramatically among newspaper reports of the day, but it is perhaps more telling that after the process was widely adopted, the reworking of old mine tailings produced using the old methods became big business. As Craig's positive results became known, many Mogollon mills were quickly converted to the cyanide process, and Craig was again hailed as a hero, one who brought profitability to the mines in the region. Some mining men called him the Father of the Mogollon Mines.

Processing improvements and increasing mineral values as the mine went deeper began to erase the red ink that had threatened to close the mine and devastate the Craigs financially. In 1902, the Ernestine Mining Company was incorporated, and Anna's brothers were among the major investors. Mining and Engineering World[12] described the impact of the new technology:

> As an illustration of the rapid increase in the value of the Last Chance it is only necessary to say that about two years ago the mine could have been bought for $15,000 but a purchaser could not be found. Three months ago the price asked was $1,150,000 and there was more than that much in profit in the ores in sight.

By 1912, the Last Chance Mine was sold, and the Craigs were moving to England. They left without Ernestine, who had married Franklin Wheaton-Smith, like Ernest, also a mining engineer. The wedding had to be postponed a week or so because Ernest was in the midst of running for parliament. Anna returned to visit in the area every two years to see Ernestine and her family and to attend to the family's mining interests. Ernest turned from gold mines to coal mines and was elected as a Conservative member of parliament. However, he was always attentive to the needs of his workers and was able to act as an intermediary between labor and management when labor strikes crippled the coal industry. For his services, he was made a baronet in 1927. Anna became Lady Craig, lauded for her attention to miners' charities.

That, however, is not the end of the story of this remarkable family. Ernestine's husband, Franklin, managed the Faywood Hot Springs Resort and the Mimbres Hot Springs Ranch. Their son, Craig Wheaton-Smith showed up in both England and the U.S. He first married a Polish-Russian princess, Tatiana, whose mother Rose was the daughter of H. Selfridge, of the London department store fame. On the next go-round, he married the ex-wife of the Astor heir.

Tatiana was the mother of Simon Wheaton-Smith, who is happily producing sundials in Phoenix, Arizona, the calculations for which are extremely complex, and conserving the legacy of his family's rich history. Simon's sister Tatiana Cleone Anne Wheaton-Smith married Richard Parker, Ninth Earl of Macclesfield. She is now Cleone Augur, living in England by the River Thames.

The author thanks Simon Wheaton-Smith for details of the family history, family photographs, and audio interview tapes of Ernestine Wheaton-Smith recalling the early days in Mogollon.

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Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Dinner: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Presentation begins at 7:00pm

Tales of Lost Gold and Other Treasures
When Legend, History and Archaeology Meet In Southern New Mexico

Bring your friends and join us at HSR's
5th Annual Buffalo Roast Fundraiser.

Ticket price of $40 per person
Doors open at 5:00
with Cash Bar and Silent Auction;
Buffalo Roast dinner served at 6:00pm.
Presentation to begin at 7:00pm.

Advanced Ticket Sales Only due to limited seating.

Tales of lost mines and treasure in Southern New Mexico have been told since the arrival of the first explorers some 400 years ago. Any number of would-be treasure hunters and prospectors have spent their lives and fortunes in the search. Who lost it and why should it be there? It has been attributed to Aztecs fleeing Spanish, early Spanish miners, bandits operating on the Camino Real, French priests, Maximillian and Carlota and Apaches. Laumbach shares the insights and stories that forty plus years exploring the archaeology and history of southern New Mexico have provided.

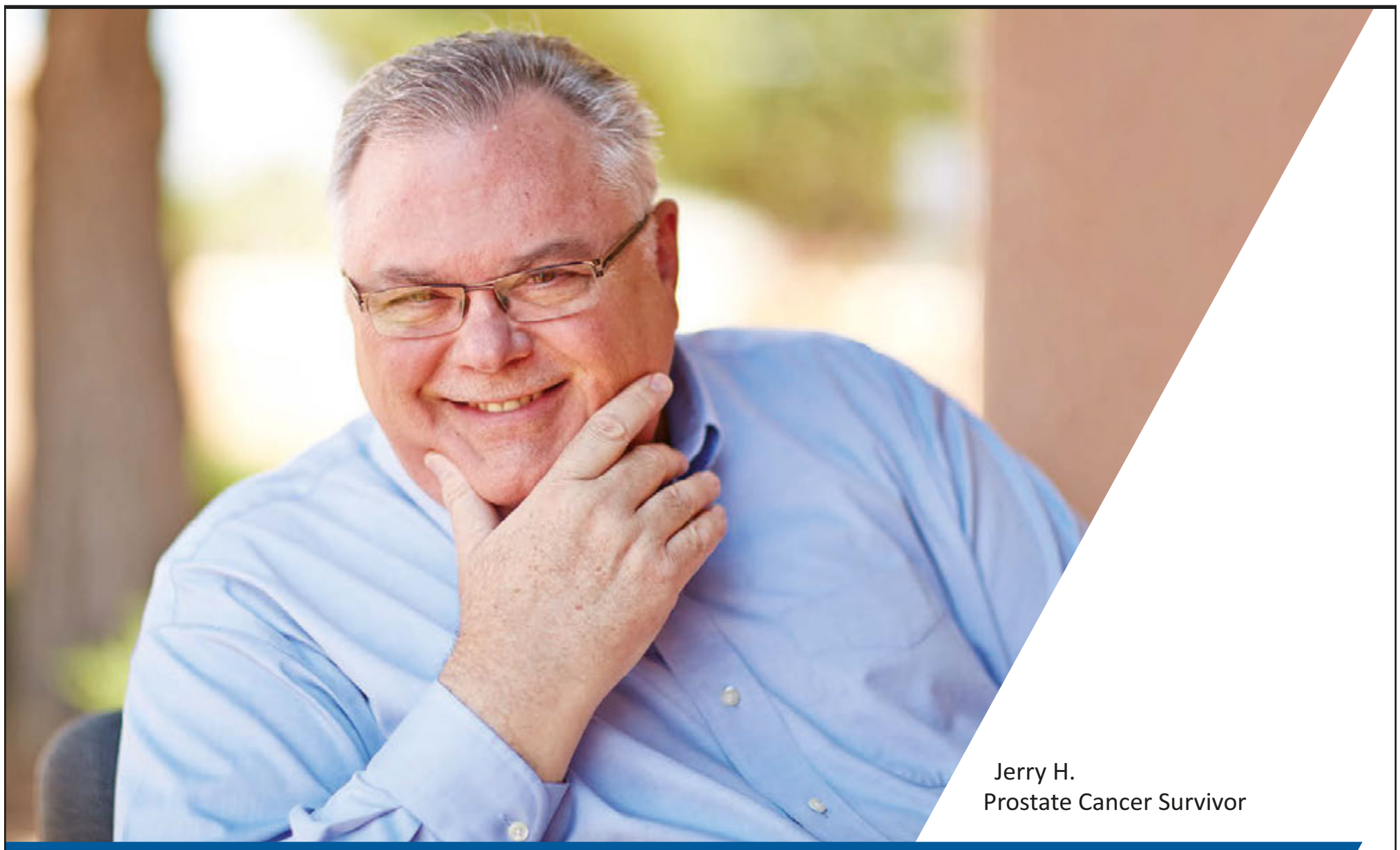
True West Magazine Cover, October 1959

Karl W. Laumbach, Associate Director of Research and Public Education at Human Systems Research has pursued an archaeological career in New Mexico since 1974. A graduate of New Mexico State University, he joined HSR in 1983 where he currently serves as Associate Director and is Principal Investigator for a wide variety of Projects. His research interests are varied, including land grant research in his native northeastern New Mexico, the pueblo archaeology of southern New Mexico and the history and archaeology of the Apache.

LOCATION:
New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum
4100 Dripping Springs Road
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Human Systems Research, Inc.
P.O. Box 728
535 S. Melendres Street
Las Cruces, NM 88004-0728
Email: info@humansystemsresearch.org

Call HSR for further information at (575) 524-9456



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SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL of the WRITTEN WORD

Friday–Sunday, October 2–4, 2015

in historic downtown Silver City, NM

Free and open to the public except for the banquet. Banquet tickets: $30.
For tickets contact tickets@swwordfiesta.org

Murray Hotel (Headquarters, Marketplace, and Information)
200 West Broadway Street

FRIDAY: October 2, 2015

	PRE-FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS Presented in partnership with area schools and WNMU, New Mexico Humanities Council				
2:00–3:00	*Talk–Old Elks Lodge–* **Publishing industry** **Peter Riva**	*Reading / Q & A–Seedboat Gallery–* **Fiction** Night at the fiestas **Kristin Valdez Quade**	*Poetry reading–Javalina–* **Poetry** **Elise Stuart & Bonnie Maldonado & Orlando White**	*Talk–Church of Harmony–* **Outdoor writing** Evolution, Ethics, Exposure and Extreme Exaggeration **John Fayhee**	*Talk–S.C. Library–* **History** Chasing History; The Trials, Tribulations and Joy of Researching, Writing, and Publishing History. **Tom Chavez**
3:30– 4:30		*Talk–Seedboat Gallery–* **Writer's Life** My New Mexican Rural Roots: A Source of Literary Inspiration **Nasario Garcia**	*Talk–Javalina–* **Narrative non-fiction** Midnight in Mexico: searching and writing for truth against time **Alfredo Corchado**	*Talk–Church of Harmony–* **Writer's Life: In conversation with …** **Sharman Russell**	*Talk–S.C. Library–* **Historical fiction** Historical fiction: A Story by Any Other Name **Melody Groves**
5:00– 6:30	**OPENING CEREMONY** *Light Hall* Welcome, opening remarks, book launch **JJ Amaworo Wilson**				

SATURDAY: October 3, 2015

10:00–11:00	*Panel–Old Elks Lodge–* **Writer's life: Three Wise Men** **Simon J. Ortiz** & **Nasario Garcia** & **Felipe de Ortego y Gasca**	*Panel–Seedboat Gallery–* **Nature/environment** **Susan Zakin & Susan Tweit**	*Talk–Javalina–* **Fiction** **Lily Hoang**	*Format: workshop–Church of Harmony–* **Editing** Scalpel and Thread: the art of fine-tuning your writing **Mary Sojourner**	*Talk–S.C. Library–* **Grade 5-7 fiction + readings by young writers** The Journey of Writing **Jennifer Cervantes**
11:30–12:30	*Panel–Old Elks Lodge–* **Crime & mystery writing** **Jonathan Miller** & **Judith van Gieson**	*Talk–Seedboat Gallery–* **Spiritual/self-help** The Experience of Spiritual Research **Ambika Wauters**	*Poetry performance–Javalina–* **Poetry** **Tanaya Winder & Logan Phillips**	*Workshop–Church of Harmony–* **Fiction** How to be a GPS Storyteller **Stella Pope Duarte**	
1:30–2:30	*Talk–Old Elks Lodge–* **Writer's life: In conversation with ...** **Demetria Martinez**	*Talk–Seedboat Gallery–* **Writer's life: In conversation with ...** **VB Price**	*Performance piece–Webb Theater–* **Performance piece based on the poetry of Bonnie Maldonado** **Virus Theater**	*Talk–Church of Harmony–* **Food writing** **Rob Connoley & Carolyn Niethammer**	*Activities–S.C. Library–* **Children's workshops and readings** **Betsy James**
3:00–4:00	*Talk–Old Elks Lodge–* **Memoir** Leaving Out the Boring Parts **Phil Connors**	*Poetry performance–Seedboat Gallery–* **The poetry of…** **Simon J. Ortiz** & **Jessica Helen Lopez**	*Talk–Javalina–* **Writer's life** Writing and Reading the Border: A Tardeada with Denise Chávez **Denise Chávez**	*Talk–Church of Harmony–* **Self-publishing** Self-publishing: how to take your book from dream to reality **Richard Mahler**	
4:30–6:00	*Old Elks Lodge* **Round Table with Writers** **7 writers shoot the breeze**		*"A" Space* **Open mike/Poetry/Flash fiction** **Open mike**	*Yankie Creek Coffee House* **Theater "Love Letters" A.R. Gurney** **Performed by Phyllis & Jim McQuaide**	
7:00–9:00	*Dinner + Talk–Light Hall–* **Dan Chacón** *The Politics and Realities of Living on the Border--with a dash of humor (Ticket purchase required, $30 per person)*				

SUNDAY: October 4, 2015

10:00–11:00	*Talk–Old Elks Lodge–* **Publishing industry** A Quick Tour of Writing and Publishing in 2015 **Lisa Lenard-Cook**	*Talk–Seedboat Gallery–* **Fiction** **Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie**	*Panel–Church of Harmony–* **The Art of Book Design** Illustrations, Photographs, and Options **Paul Hotvedt** & **Anne Lowe**	*Talk/Demonstration–S.C. Library–* **Electronic literature** **Sandy Baldwin**
11:30–12:30	*Panel–Old Elks Lodge–* **Freelancing** **Tim Matthes** & **John Gist**	*Panel–Seedboat Gallery–* **Writer's life: Three Wise Women** **Denise Chávez** & **Stella Pope Duarte** & **Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie**	*Talk–Church of Harmony–* **The Short Story** **Lee Abbott**	*Panel/Performance–S.C. Library–* **Song lyrics** **Greg Renfro & Melanie Zipin & Jack Crocker**
1:00– 2:00	*Panel–Little Toad–* **Round Table with Writers**			

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