DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

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February 2017

Volume 22 • Number 2

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Becky - Ext 11

PRICE REDUCED! HIGH ON CALIFORNIA ST – One of Silver City's best view sites, this 2-level home with walk-out basement is ready for your own personal updates. LR has FP and vaulted ceilings, southern exposure and open floor plan. 1 BR 1 BA ustairs, 2 BR 1 BA downstairs, + workroom, greenhouse, established fruit trees & more. Now $185,000 – See it soon!

Becky - Ext 11

RURAL FEEL, INSIDE CITY LIMITS - Stunning view from this tucked-away acre lot with all city utilities. 4 BR, 3 BA newly re-decorated and ready to sell. Spacious full under-story includes workshop and storage area as well as a bedroom-bath combo. Front and back covered decks. Affordably priced at $179,900. MLS #33948

Becky - Ext 11

NEW LISTING! – 10 acres in the pines, but just minutes from downtown. This Bear Mountain Rd. homestead has a little house and the beginnings of a large metal Quanset outbuilding. Electricity in place. A great hideaway! Only $125,000. MLS # 33849

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COUNTRY LIVING – 5+ acres with 2 water sources - well and community water system. Spacious main house has 3 br, 2 ba + sunroom. Guest house or studio has 1 ba, 1 ba. Also includes garage/workshop, well house/storage, garden space and more! All for $179,500. SEE IT SOON! MLS #33744

Becky - Ext 11

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – This cozy 3 BR 2 BA in a quiet Bayard neighborhood is nearly finished – seeks a new owner who can finish the remodeling the previous owner started. Roomy lot with storage, carport, and priced to sell at only $65,000. MLS#33593

Becky - Ext 11

NEW LISTING – UNIVERSITY AREA, Sweet and tidy, with easy-care yard and exterior. This 2 bedroom 2 bath stucco home has a great southern deck, spacious open living area, wood floors, and lots of appeal. $149,000 – See it soon! MLS #33745

Becky - Ext 11

HAPPY ON HILL STREET! – This older home has been completely redone, and awaits its new owner. Beautiful hardwood floors, new tile and kitchen and bath. Custom window coverings. Metal roof, easy-care landscaping. Over-sized lot. 2 bedrooms 1 bath on main floor, bedroom or office + laundry & storage on garage level. Price Reduced to $159,500 – See it soon! MLS# 32925

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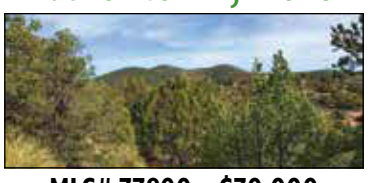
MLS# 33884 • $1,330,000
Blue River Lodge. Master crafsmanship really shows in this vaulted, open log beamed ceiling home with stream and private 1 acre lake in highly desired southwestern New Mexico; Viking Refrigerator, Stove and seperate wine room. 2 master suites in this 5 bedroom 4 bath lodge. You could probsbly sleep 16 by making one of the bedrooms a bunk room. Knotty pine cabinets and pine interior doors. 4 gentle seasons. Gated entrance, acreage completely fenced. Bring your horses to the 3-Horse stall and corral. Bunkhouse above the detached 3 garage. Your private sanctuary, bordering national forest in the White Mountains on the New Mexico/Arizona line. Are you dreaming big enough? Water rights included with this property.

MLS# 33947 • $75,000
Private cul-de-sac location. Great views of the Black Range. Open, split floor plan ready for you to customize. New vinyl in kitchen and dining room. Built in surround sound. Fully fenced, storage shed and mature landscaping. Rural subdivision with community water and private airstrip. Minutes to Bear Canyon Lake, Gila National Forest, senior center, HMS clinic and wonderful restaurants.

MLS# 33917 • $123,900
Quiet, off the high traffic roadways, home on cul-de-sac near hospital and schools. 3 bedroom 2 bath with a spacious office area and a separate hobby room. This home boasts a fairly good size kitchen that is well lit by the morning sun. New electric water heater installed.



MLS# 33890 • $30,000
Top of the mountain! Panoramic views from this wooded 10 acres close to town. Build on the ridgetop, electric & phone to the lot line.

MLS# 33913 • $35,000
5 SPACE MOBILE HOME PARK, 4 TRAILERS CONVEY. Set on 1.47 acres, trailers and property are in rough condition. Lots of trash/debris remain. Cash only sale, sold as-is. City sewer coming to Mobile Dr. in 2017.

MLS# 33916 • $79,500
1998 Cavco 3/2 manufactured home on 1.3 unrestricted acres close to town. Fenced area with barn/stall/tack room. Horses ok.

MLS# 33843 • $150,000
GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! This is the location of the DRIVE-THRU Don Juan's Burritos in Lordsburg, close to the I-10 freeway exits. Purchase price includes the real property with ample parking & all equipment (walk-in freezer, cooler, storage).

MLS# 33235 • $205,000
GREAT 3BD/2BA HOME PLUS 1BD/.75BA ATTACHED/SEPARATE LIVING SPACE. Close to the Silver City Golf Course, unrestricted 3.6 flat acres, quiet park-like setting, private well and city sewer! Two RV/trailer hook-ups, covered back porch, storage, dog run. Large trees, horses OK. Home has been remodeled with double-pane windows, laminate flooring, paint.

MLS# 33898 • $169,000
3bd/1.75ba near the golf course, 1/2 acre, city water & natural gas. standing seam metal roof, 2 living areas, fenced backyard with a view. tile & laminate floors, fireplace.

MLS# 32883 • $124,900
5 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING IN THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT. BUILT 1883 AS A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME, THIS MANSARD STYLE BRICK CONSTRUCTION BUILDING HAS ONE 1 BEDROOM/1 BATH UNIT AND FOUR 2 ROOM EFFICIENCY APTS. Scheduled income is $1,800/month with owner's unit vacant. Owner pays all utilities/expenses. Interior recently re-painted. This property would make a great bed & breakfast, AirBnB/short-term rentals.

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Jacob Lawrence, *Carpenters*, Offset lithograph on Rives BFK, 1977

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ReTooled was organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, from Tools as Art: The Hechinger Collection, gift of John and June Hechinger.

ABOUT THE COVER

Laurie Churchill's Beaded Corazón is the Desert Exposure cover art this month. Churchill is member of the ArtForms Artists Association which is celebrating February as "The Love of Art Month." Artists across Doña Ana County are holding special events and studio tours as part of Love of Art Month as reflected in this issue's Arts Scene and 40 Days and 40 Nights sections.

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Welcome to the community!

Alphonse Aversa, MD
Dr. Aversa and his wife moved to Silver City to be near their daughter and to enjoy the slower pace and sunny climate. Dr. Aversa practiced and taught internal medicine for many years in New York. He looks forward to serving his new community.

Heather Schmidt, MD
Dr. Schmidt specializes in family medicine. Originally from Michigan, she recently moved here with her partner from Cranberry Lake, a small town in NY. She is happy to be back in a *big city* ...

Meredith Moss, PA-C
Meredith practices family medicine. She most recently lived in Tucson, AZ but is originally from Wisconsin. She moved here with her beloved dogs to enjoy the Gila Wilderness.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Writing Contest Follow-up

In November, 2016, Prinnie McCourt received an Honorable Mention award in the Desert Exposure's writing contest for her poem, "An Unattended Death." The poem was inspired by a police report from June, 2016, in the Deming Headlight, "The body of a female, age 13 to 17, was discovered by the US Border Horse Patrol in the desert east of Columbus, N.M. No identification for the deceased. Female was dressed in camo."

McCourt received something even more important to her in December, a reader's response offering closure. A field deputy medical investigator for Grant, Hidalgo and Luna counties, responded to the poem in an email.

"The girl did not die alone," he wrote. "She was with others, who left her there. She was 18 years old, from a remote village in Honduras. Her native language was Mayan. Her family was notified and she is now back in Honduras. There are photographs of her short life. There was closure. It is a sad event, that is true, but, life goes on." — Mike

Gratified at receiving his email, McCourt wrote back to thank him and received more information and response. She told him she had imagined the girl would remain unidentified and be buried in an unmarked grave and the family would never know what happened. She said she was indebted to Mike for letting the readers know what happened.

"Prinnie," he wrote. "Thank you for your response to my communication about the UDA in the desert. Your composition got to me as this death did and I wanted to fill in the blanks as I felt that you needed closure. Like you I have posted articles in the local papers and there are no responses. It seems to be a one-way ticket to the dark side of the moon." — Mike

So, encouraged, McCourt wrote back with more questions, which he graciously answered.

"First of all, I work from home," he wrote. "I am on call and respond when there is an unattended death. There was a birth certificate in the clothing of the girl. ICE contacted the Honduran Consulate and was able to obtain the next of kin information. As to who pays for all of this, it depends. In many cases the United States taxpayers pay the full freight.

"In our area, we typically have one or two UDA's a year. I personally do not have any statistics on UDA deaths in our area or their age or gender nor do I know how the decedent traveled from Honduras to Palomas. My main response area is Grant County and have occasional cases in Luna, Hidalgo, and Sierra county." — Mike

Happy New Year!

Year of the Rooster

Beginning on Jan. 28, it is now the year of the Rooster per the Chinese zodiac. People born in a year of the Rooster are considered observant, hardworking, resourceful, courageous, talented and confident in themselves. (Artwork by Kay Susin.)

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Postcards From the Edge

Desert Exposure Travels

Janet Thomsen's daughter snapped a picture of Janet on the way to Tucson in January. The Thomsen's son Carl, from Provo, Utah, and daughter Jen and her wife Fiona visited for the holidays. Jen and Fiona are from Darby, Pa. (Photo by Jen Thomsen)

If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure it to diary@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Letter to the Editor

An encouraging moment in New Mexico

Dear Editor,

Many New Mexicans may not be aware of an incident in Albuquerque (reported Nov. 24, 2016) about a (presumably Muslim) woman wearing a hijab (scarf) in a supermarket, who was verbally assaulted by a hysterical woman telling her to go back where she came from, etc.

According to the news story, virtually every customer and employee in the store came to the support of the assaulted woman, and the assailant was escorted from the store.

You don't have to be obsessed with the Holocaust (as I am), nor well-versed in any such dark chapters of history, to appreciate how encouraging this is. Even in the current atmosphere of bullying and racism stirred up even beyond "normal" by some politicians and "opinion makers," which has resulted in sharply increased incidents of harassment of anybody who does not look WASP, Albuquerque and New Mexico have risen to the occasion.

We have our problems – as we who live here know better than anyone – but still there is a spirit of kindness and community and diversity in New Mexico which I think is extraordinary, and shows itself in this and many other ways.

Let's cherish and encourage this and perhaps be an example for the rest of the country in these troubled times.

Jim Terr
Las Vegas, N.M.

Desert Dumbfounder #8
by Dave Thomas

The following is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month's ***Desert Exposure***. Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to nmsrdave@swcp.com, and be recognized!
TIPS:www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm and www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg

Clue: Z = P, V = M

"IJDA SKZBISDBIDWE DEIW UDEKSBM OSKKP BYYA BEWIJKS AISKBU IW JBSXWS FDMB ISWNI." - BEYQ YKBE, MKBY FDMB ISWNI

XDWMWFDAI TWS IJK TDAJ BEY VDMYMDTK AKSCDOK

Use the answer key below to track your clues, *and* reveal Secret Words!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "IF I WERE RUDOLPH, AND SANTA CAME GROVELING UP TO ME AFTER YEARS OF NEGLECT AND ABUSE -- POW! -- RIGHT IN THE KISSER." - JIM DUCHENE ON "RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER" Secret Words*:"PUNISH OLD FAKER"

Congrats to #7 solvers Will Adams*, Mike Arms*, Shorty Vaiza*, Claudette Gallegos*, Vivian McAlexander*, & Christina McAlexander*!

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

All the Little Lies

Growing a relationship by knowing when to be honest

In a society with more and more oversight, people trust each other less and less every day. Some workplaces are requiring satellite tracking on their employees, others have reams of qualifications they demand.

The problem is, the more restricted our lives become and the more rules are set up, the harder it becomes to be honest. Following that, once you tell a little lie, it gets easier to lie, and there you are. The most honest person in the world has been sucked in to the lie machine.

Trust is at risk here, and every little lie degrades the connections between human beings. For example, the popular habit of blaming the phone/Internet connection/email for miscommunication both makes people feel technology is unreliable while at the same time makes legitimate technology failures seem like lies.

But the little things have always been there, the white lies to tell people they look great or they will call you later, or a million other things about appearance and connection and wanting. The problem getting worse are the bigger, more important issues.

For example, you're depressed and can't get out of the funk, you know there is help available through various programs but to get that help, maybe you have to be suicidal. You make that call and say, "I am thinking about killing myself." You get the help you need but then you are stigmatized and people treat you with kid gloves. They watch you, and sometimes might take your rights away by having you committed.

Or, you work for an insurance company as an intermediary, you have a client who is getting the services and care he needs in the way he needs it. But as the rules the company has get more and more constricted, you must find creative ways to serve both client and insurance company which sometimes involve lies.

But my hypothesis breaks down here because the deeper one looks, the further back it goes. The truth is there is so much to lie about that lies have always been used by people to protect themselves, to protect others, because it's easier to lie than to explain, to get what they want and any number of other reasons. It's not worse at all, it's the same as its always been.

As usual, I have lost track of the point. Maybe it is just "think before you lie."

Research reported by the Association for Psychological Science, found that people lie the most when they are pressed for time, when they don't have time to think about their answer and the need for truth-telling.

"When people act quickly, they may attempt to do all they can to secure a profit — including bending ethical rules and lying," University of Amsterdam psychology researcher Shaul Shalvi said. "Having more time to deliberate leads people to restrict the amount of lying and refrain from cheating.

"One implication of the current findings is that to increase the likelihood of honest behavior in business or personal settings, it is important not push a person into a corner but rather to give him or her time. People usually know it is wrong to lie, they just need time to do the right thing."

When in a loving relationship, lying becomes a trickier business. There is a fine line between damaging yourself and others with lies and promoting trust.

Readers Digest writer Chelsea Stone suggests sometimes honesty isn't the best policy. She lists five lies that are okay to tell a partner.

Shut down a fight by saying "you're right," even if you don't agree.

Say "you look great," immediately so you don't broadcast negative thoughts when asked about potential negative qualities like "do I look fat?"

Deceptive affection can fill in even if you don't feel a certain way at a given time. It's OK to say "I love you more than anything," as long as the true feelings are there at the foundation.

There are times when a partner wants to know everything about how you are feeling, but sometimes all they need is reassurance. "I'm fine," is enough as protective buffering when insecurity is behind the question.

"I understand," demonstrates care and concern, even if nuances don't add up all the time.

To me, Stone's lies aren't really lies but details of empathy and connection. It's all in the thought and time and tolerance. If you behave honestly, your words will follow.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and delighted to be holding office hours in Silver City. In 2017 the day changes and I will be there on the third Thursday of the month (Feb. 16) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House. Please drop by and say hello.

DESERT DIARY • PATRICIA MCKAY SKILLINGSTAD

My Valentine

How one man is many things and love never gets old

Forty years ago, I put in a singles ad seeking an "Appolonian/Dionesian X-Breed."

Thirty years later, to quote a friend's letter, "a gentle widower observed Patricia's fine qualities," and we found one another. Since then, my life has been inordinately enriched:

Appolonian Ernie shares books and ideas with me. We have studied western history and indian cultures together. After less than a year, I feel I have been happily RVing forever.

Dionesian Ernie has eyebrows like Jack Nicholson. With his little forehead wiggle and a special glint in the eye, he makes me feel like the most desirable of women.

Strongman Ernie can break rocks apart with a mighty lunge if they are in my path, and leap on a maddening bull to protect me when needed. He can (and does) fix anything, usually without so much as a "honey-do" impetus.

Adventurous Ernie, who had never before left his farm, is willing to try all kinds of new things. He has braved the jumping cholla at Joshua Tree, driven a tank at the Patton Museum, gotten weighed on the huge scale at a morgue, grown his hair long, and tried out dreads.

Ernie and Patricia Skillingstad share a moment, holding their marriage together with humor and love. (Courtesy Photo)

Animal Lover Ernie has searched all night for a missing kitty, goes out at all hours to get fresh food and won't turn over in bed lest he disturb the sleeping feline next to him. (Not me – I'm on the other side - but he won't disturb me either.) He worries about the welfare of the pets left at home and asks about them in his calls.

Retired Ernie has learned how to relax for the first time in his life whether it is lying in the sun, or learning how to play ping pong with a grandchild.

Domestic Ernie washes the dishes for me, vacuums the floors and does all the RV dirty work.

He cooks an occasional meal, helps with the laundry, drives me to innumerable errands without complaint, and is learning to sew so we can make crafts together. He even paints my toenails!

Wonderful Ernie treats me like a cherished equal, on the one hand I feel safe and protected, and on the other we are strong partners sharing a new life. He will do everything with me unless I want some private space and that, too, is granted with a flair. We can spend a day or evening together in silent harmony.

After a very long wait for prince charming, my life has become a fairytale romance thanks to the existence of one very special valentine, Ernie Skillingstad.

MANEUVERING ELDERDOM • VIVIAN SAVITT

They ♡ Animals

Two artists reveal the comforts of creatures

Jan Fell at her Copper Quail Gallery, 211 N. Texas St. Although the eyepatch lends her a buccaneer aura, it serves as an aid against double-vision. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)

Let's relinquish those swiftly unravelling New Year's resolutions to Valentine's Day sentiments and our ageless love of creatures. Their allure, beauty, majesty and delightfulness — appearing in art since prehistoric times — are present in the uplifting work of Silver City artists Jan Fell and Chris McDaniel, both sexagenarians. Fell, who has owned the Copper Quail Gallery for eight years, describes the 17 other artists whose work shows in the space as "true friends" and colleagues in elderdom.

Prior to moving to Silver City, she spent 20 years living in Arizona's White Mountains and recalls happily cutting wood with a chainsaw, bringing up her daughter, and observing and raising animals that she would "never dream of eating." It was there in rural Show Low that she taught herself to paint.

Beginning with traditional pen and ink drawings, over time Fell progressed to paint.

"I kept at it because it was so enjoyable," she said.

The nooks and crannies of Fell's life allow ample space for her stunning wildlife paintings. Her acrylic miniatures — ranging from frogs and birds to porcupines and bats — are widely collected. Outside the gallery, Fell's home and studio also serve as residence to her two shelter dogs, John Doe and Clyde.

"Animals," Fell said, "are pure and each creature plays its perfect part in balance with nature. As I fell in love with animals my spirituality increased."

Fell does not attend church, but "leans on God, and reads the Bible every day."

Both Fell, 69, and McDaniel, 63, express their concerns about longevity and living life fully. Having spent the previous year caring for a sister who has Alzheimer's Disease, Fell ponders her own mortality. Like many elders, her approach to life has taken on more immediacy.

"It both propels and worries me. I've always been a hard worker, but not an optimist. Now I treasure — not just love — things that I never treasured before: my time, my family and my pets."

"Also," Fell said, "I don't feel like I fit in this world — I'm not a modern person. I am probably one of the last two people in the world who loves to write letters.

"I have a great deal of respect for elders, especially those that struggle with a cane or a walker and still manage to smile and carry on with courage. The will to thrive — in people who have a lot going against them — inspires me to be like that."

Due to a weakening eye muscle, Fell suffers from double-vision. Four years ago she began wearing her eye patch in public.

"It was hard to accept. Even pouring coffee or driving a nail was a challenge. But fair or not, I accepted it."

McDaniel's life also involves challenge. Every summer, she participates in the Colorado Rocky Mountain Bike Tour, a 400-mile trek with 40,000 feet of climbing.

She has spent the last four decades biking, hiking and camping with her husband Larry, a retired veterinarian.

"We have a great life, but realize there isn't that much time left," McDaniel said. "We want to make it all count. And we also worry about the state of the world and do a fair amount of public service."

"Prior to our marriage, Larry handed me a copy of James Herriot's 'All Creatures Great and Small' and said 'this is how I want to live.'"

Long before the couple moved to Silver City, they had made several forays into the Gila Wilderness — eventually with their two children in tow.

A Stephens College art graduate who also taught in an inner-city school in St. Louis, McDaniel absorbs the outdoors as a palette for her textiles. She began drawing, carving and stamping her cloth images 10 years ago with painter Elli Sorenson serving as a mentor.

"Elli taught me production and also to trust my own instincts about design and color," she said.

McDaniel's photography, along with illustrations from books and magazines, provides resource material for her art.

She photographed an Orsini's viper during a cycling trip through the French Pyrenees and was amused to encounter snakes in France. However, it is local flora and fauna that appear foremost in her work.

On the Continental Divide Trail near Sapello Campground, McDaniel photographed agave in bloom to capture the extraordinary hues of its flowers. They materialized on a tablecloth — a commissioned piece.

Shortly before Christmas, McDaniel ventured into Copper Quail Gallery seeking a gift for her son. She felt an immediate connection with Fell's work and chose an owl painting for him. It is now part of a small collection of Fell's wildlife art that "sits on his mantle in Durham, North Carolina," McDaniel said.

Although the two artists do not know one another, their mutual appreciation for animals and the natural world serves as a bond and an anchor for them both.

Chris McDaniel and her dog, Kip, with a wintry agave in the background. In vet-speak, Kip is a mixed-breed with "hybrid vigor."

Motifs from a recent tablecloth design. Chris McDaniel's fiber art, usually stamped on linen, includes potholders, throw pillows and napkins. An array of her work is at Blue Dome Gallery in the Arts District and Bear Mountain Lodge.

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TALKING HORSES
SCOTT THOMSON

I'm Talking to Myself, but I'm Not Crazy

The power of private speech

During the past holiday season, we had to take a brief trip over to Tucson for the usual reasons – getting the Subaru serviced and stocking up at Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and the Babylon Market. Based on the number of people who asked if we were from Silver City when they looked at our shopping carts, I'm sure this is a regular excursion for many local residents.

Hanging around a car dealership waiting for your car to be serviced is a great opportunity for thought (for example, with so many Subarus in Silver, how come we don't have a dealer here or a specialist mechanic?). After looking at every car on the lot and telling any salesperson who asked that we were not interested in buying another car, I turned my attention to the horribly out-of-date magazines that seem to live in every waiting room. This can be fun, looking at what someone said or predicted would happen months ago and comparing it to what actually happened. I especially enjoyed the magazines that pre-dated the most recent elections.

I even stumbled across a section of a newspaper that was current. Don't see these much anymore. There was an interesting little column in this sliver of newsprint that stuck with me. It had nothing to do with horses per se, but it had a lot to do with learning, problem solving and performance. When your life revolves around horses and teaching people how to be better with their horses, it's pretty easy to take almost any general article about human behavior and apply some of the concepts to the world of horses.

I didn't tear out the article and stuff it in my pocket – always a rude thing to do in a waiting room – so I can't relate all the details perfectly, but I did write down a few of the key points to think about later. The title of the article was "We're better problem solvers when we talk to ourselves" and it was written by a psychologist named Charles Fernyhough.

The gist of the article was that a characteristic of human beings as verbal creatures is we seem to be better at solving problems or dealing with stressful or challenging tasks when we talk to ourselves. The professionals call this "private speech", speaking out loud but directing it at yourself. This is something we do a lot as children during play and early learning, regardless of whether one is alone or not. As we grow up, however, social pressures cause us to stop the activity. Most of us believe that an adult talking openly to himself is probably dealing with some kind of mental issue, and we'll go to the other side of the street to avoid a person having a conversation with himself in a public place.

The reality is for most of us we don't abandon this private speech as we mature, we simply internalize it or save it for the times we're alone. The author mentioned advances in neuroscience that show the private but now inner speech in adults actually uses some of the same pathways in the brain that are used for out-loud speech, but actually moves faster in the brain. Hence, it can accelerate and enhance the learning or creative process. There were also a number of studies cited that showed there are still times and situations where we will turn the inner speech to an out-loud version, especially when a situation calls for all of our attention or is very difficult or stressful. One study indicated talking to oneself is most effective when we address ourselves as "you" rather than "I".

Pretty heady stuff, so to speak. So, what did I see in this column that I thought could help a person with their horse?

Anyone who knows me or has read this column over the years knows that I'm a firm believer that the communication between horse and human has to be about body language because this is the "language" of the equine species. Nothing irritates me more than the person who is constantly talking to their horse, somehow believing that, one, the horse understands and "thinks" English (or whatever language is being used), and, two, the horse is rational and logical enough to put your words together to give you the behavior you want.

But maybe there is a place, as this writer suggests, for more private speech in the process of learning how to be better with horses. It is a very challenging activity that calls for being 100 percent in the moment. It demands all your attention and can be stressful and even dangerous. It requires clear and sometimes rapid thought that has to be translated to timely, precise movements in your body to communicate with the horse. It seems the perfect situation to be talking to yourself!

TALKING HORSES
continued on page 12

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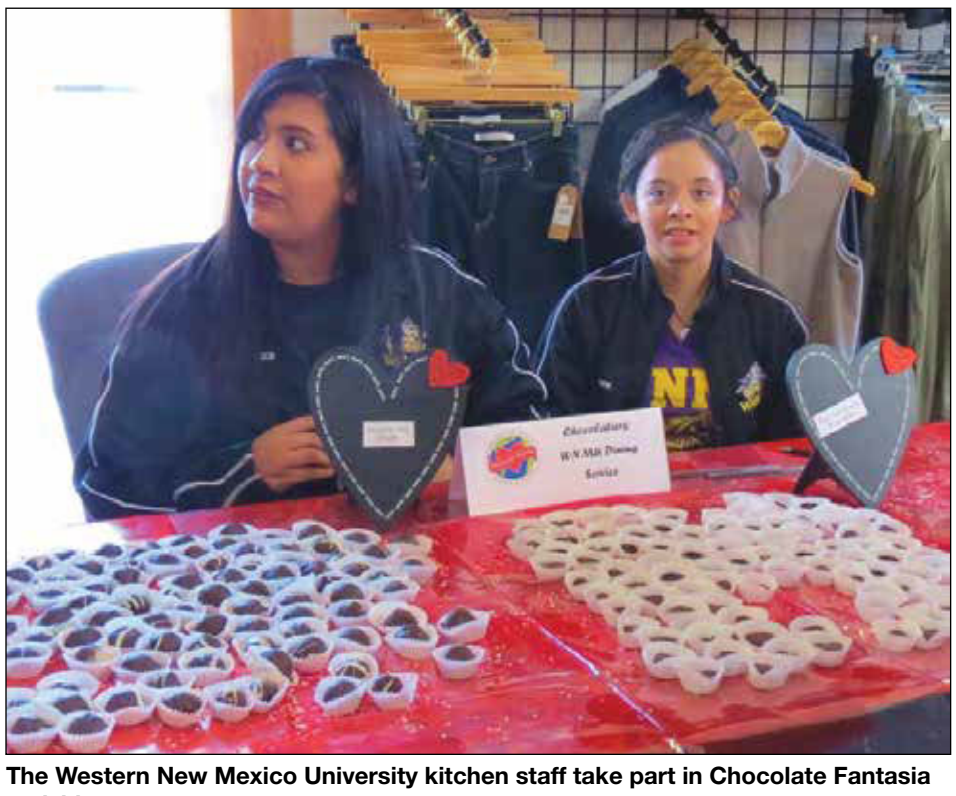
Karen Porter shares delicious cherries with participants in the 2016 Chocolate Fantasia. (Photos by Sandy Fuetz/FeVa Photos)



The Western New Mexico University kitchen staff take part in Chocolate Fantasia activities.

Many downtown Silver City businesses participate in the Chocolate Fantasia event every year, offering Chocolate Stops of their own.

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SWEET TIME

Chocolate Fantasia

Wild West Days, new kick-off time

The Mimbres Region Arts Council is planning a Western theme for this year's Chocolate Fantasia in Silver City on Saturday, Feb. 11.

A variety of chocolate confections are available at dozens of Chocolate Stops in and around the town's historic district.

Tasting tickets are $25 for 20 samples of chocolate confections.

More than 30 downtown merchants and galleries will participate in distributing chocolates.

Many shops will decorate in keeping with the Wild West Days theme, opening the event to a wide variety of possibilities. Fun for families includes games and crafts for kids.

This year's event begins an hour later than in past years, from noon until 5 p.m.

Event maps and empty candy boxes ($2 each for collecting your chocolates so you can save some for later) will be available at Chocolate Fantasia Headquarters, The Family Karate Center, at 416 N. Bullard St. Headquarters opens at 11 a.m.

Ticket holders can cast their People's Choice votes for best chocolates and best business decorations on the back of their tasting tickets, and then, once they have finished collecting their chocolates, turn in their tickets at any of the business host sites.

Awards for best decorations and chocolates will be given out at Little Toad, corner of Bullard and Broadway, at the 5:30 p.m. closing ceremonies.

For more information or to buy tickets, call MRAC at 575-538-2505, or visit http://www.chocolatefantasia.org/home or http://mimbresarts.org/.

Chocolate Fantasia tasters get advice about where to go next for another taste.

FILM FESTIVAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Event Brings Writer Home to New Mexico

Medoff student to receive award in Las Cruces

Returning for another year, the Las Cruces International Film Festival is bringing film community from across the country together for a fabulous affair from March 8 to 12.

Hollywood comedy writer/producer will return to New Mexico where he attended high school and went on to be a theater student with Mark Medoff at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces from 1978-81.

Foster is traveling to Las Cruces in the company of one of the stars he worked extensively with, Johnny Galecki, of "Big Bang Theory" fame.

Galecki and Foster will be participating in the LCIFF in a panel discussion together. Foster will be accepting the Mark Medoff Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment Writing Award.

"Writing is my passion," Foster said. "It's what drives everything else I do in the television business."

He said comedy television is different from film in that it is the writers who create the shots and are called executive producers. in film, the director calls the shots. In television, the writer gets to make all the decisions. The buck stops at the writing executive producer."

In 1990, Foster, coming from an improv culture, had the opportunity to write for the "Rosanne" show. He found with the improv theater experience, he flourished in the writing team situation comedies are created in.

Foster called Medoff from Los Angeles.

"He was so excited because he was just hired on the Rosanne show," Medoff said. "During all the time he was struggling and successful in LA, he has remained an absolutely wonderful human being."

After the "Rosanne" show, Foster worked on a number of projects including "The Louie Show" with Brian Cranston in 1995. From 1997 to 2002, Foster wrote for and worked his way up to executive producing "Dharma & Greg."

Then there was "Two and a Half Men," "Big Bang Theory" and "Mike & Molly."

Foster thrives in the situation comedy atmosphere. The shows are still put together the same way they were in Dick Van Dyke days. Dubbed multi-camera shows, cast, writers and crew pull together during the week, rehearsing. Then, the show is shot in one day, sometimes in front of a live audience.

Don Foster

"You make changes all the while, throw new lines at them," Foster said. "The audience is the test audience. If they laugh, you know it's going well."

Foster said he has the best job in the world.

"I haven't had all the jobs in the world," he said.

"But I would be hard pressed to imagine a job that was better than this. It's about smart, creative, interesting people creating the best possible production. Long hours are a small price to pay for the best job in the world."

But he also writes for himself every day, by himself. He has a lot of projects he does for himself, he said. One of the things he has his focus on is a project featuring the desert Southwest prominently.

"I grew up primarily in the desert Southwest, which is why I still think of New Mexico as my home even though I've been in LA for 26 years," Foster said. "It is without a doubt a factor in who I am."

When he watched television as a child, observing and learning, everything was set in Los Angeles or New York or some fictitious Midwest town. The Southwest was overlooked as a setting, and now he intends to change that.

New Mexico State University changed the trajectory of Foster's life as a young man. What was great about being a theater major in Las Cruces was the diversity of participants.

"My time at NMSU was extremely formative," he said. "There were young teens, actors, directors and writers with real-life experience and they were doing theater because they just loved it, not because it was a career move."

In the three years Foster was in the department, Medoff wrote five plays.

"I saw the process start to finish and it gave me the perspective of what could be done," he said.

Then Foster moved to Minneapolis and started working in improv. Another formative learning experience.

"Learning how to do improve comedy gave me the confidence and the skill set to write comedy weekly for a national audience," he said.

"I am proud of him as a former student," Medoff said of Foster. "And as an adult, I am respectful of him as a creative force in the universe."

LCIFF is cosponsored by New Mexico State University and features both a film-making contest for independent films both local and international participants, and showings of contemporary films. This year free industry workshops include acting, screenwriting, make-up, special effects, app development, film editing and technology.

An acting seminar featuring casting directors is being offered with the intent of providing area actors a chance to hear what it takes to break into the business and what casting directors are looking for in an audition.

For information and tickets, visit www.lciffest.com.

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TERRITORIAL CHARTER • LUCY WHITMARSH

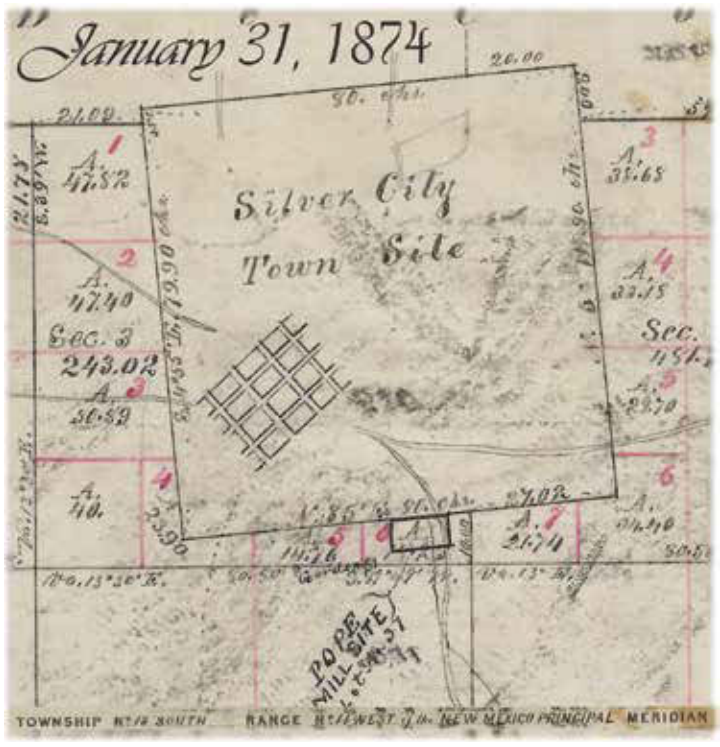
Silver City Celebrates a Beginning

On Saturday, Feb. 18, Silver City will celebrate the 139th Anniversary of the signing of the Town of Silver City Territorial Charter by Gov. Samuel Axtell on Feb. 15, 1878. Silver City is the oldest, continuously incorporated municipality in New Mexico.

On Jan. 26, 2016, the Town Council of Silver City adopted a resolution designating the Saturday closest to Feb. 15 as Territorial Charter Day. The day has been set aside to celebrate the unique historical evolution that has helped shape Silver City into the community that it is today.

This year's celebration begins with an opening ceremony at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 18, followed by a program of traditional music from the late 1800s. At 1 p.m., there will be a two-hour hike through the historic mining sites on Boston Hill. At 4 p.m. there will be a biscocho baking contest judging and bake sale at JavaLina Coffee House at 117 W. Market St. in Silver City.

Grant County was formed in 1868 from the western portion of Doña Ana County. After silver was discovered in 1870, the town site was laid out and the name for fledgling community selected. In 1871, Silver City was designated as the Grant County Seat. At the time, Silver City was a silver mining town with a population of 70 in 1870. By 1872, the population had grown to 1,000, and in 1873, an inventory of buildings included 284 dwellings, five smelting furnaces, two hotels, two printing offices, a livery stable, a jewelry shop, a watchmaker's shop, two shoemakers, six quartz mills, 10 retail shops, three bakeries, three meat markets, a brewery, four carpenter shops, two blacksmiths, a lumber yard and a



BEGINNING
continued on page 20

TALKING HORSES

continued from page 9

In this column, the author talked about one of the most obvious uses of out-loud private speech, the times when you can see or hear an athlete having a conversation with himself prior to or during a competition, or during an intense workout when trying to learn a new play or perfect a movement or stroke. It would appear this is part of our DNA and plays an important role in the way we learn, think and perform.

When I think back to my early days with horses, I realize I drew a lot of my approach to learning this new activity from my days as an athlete. Yep, I talked to myself a lot. I had a continuous conversation going on about where to stand, how to hold a rope, where to put my leg, how and when to apply an aid. If I was alone, this conversation would turn from internal to external. I understood the goal of good horsemanship was to have most of this become instinctive, happening from "feel" rather than thought, but I was nervous, a bit scared at times, and this was all new to me. Maybe this self-talk, when added to the enormous number of hours I put in and the great teachers I had, helped me progress as quickly as I did.

I often do hear people talking to themselves when they work with their horses, but it seems to be more along the lines of comments like "you dummy" or "why did you do that" or "I can't believe you did that". In other words, addressing or commenting on their mistakes or incompetence. What I'm suggesting here is focus on the steps or movements of the techniques and the positives to teach yourself and improve your skills.

Notice I'm not telling anybody to talk to their horse to improve the horse's behavior or performance. That's still a waste of time in my book. But, if we're hard-wired to talk to ourselves to help us learn faster, gain confidence, stay focused or improve movement, then by all means use this to improve your horsemanship. If you're in a group or there are other people in the arena you may want to keep those conversations to yourself or you'll probably find the other horse owners wondering about your sanity. But, when you're alone with your horse, see if some self-dialogue, you to you, helps improve your skills and confidence.

It can't hurt. And, unless your horse puts his hooves up to his ears because you're talking too much, he probably doesn't care and will actually appreciate your efforts to improve your skills.

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

FOR THE LOVE OF ART • MIKE COOK

Month of Celebration

Las Cruces artists have 20 years of February love

For the Love of Art Month, always in February, is celebrating its 20th year in Las Cruces.

In 1997, ArtForms Art Association, a nonprofit, was founded.

"February finds ArtForms members drawing our membership, other arts organizations and the community into the ArtForms organized and promoted For Love of Art celebration," according to www.artformsnm.org.

"Following the Las Cruces City Council proclamation declaring arts an important component of a community's quality of life, galleries, museums, non-traditional venues and artists' studios welcome the public to exhibits reflecting the vibrancy, diversity, history and culture of art in southern New Mexico" throughout the month, the website continues. "Special activities include studio and gallery tours, a member art show and art venues all around the town."

The Founders Exhibit will be held throughout the month of February at The Gallery at Big Picture, 311 N. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces, right next to Las Cruces Community Theatre.

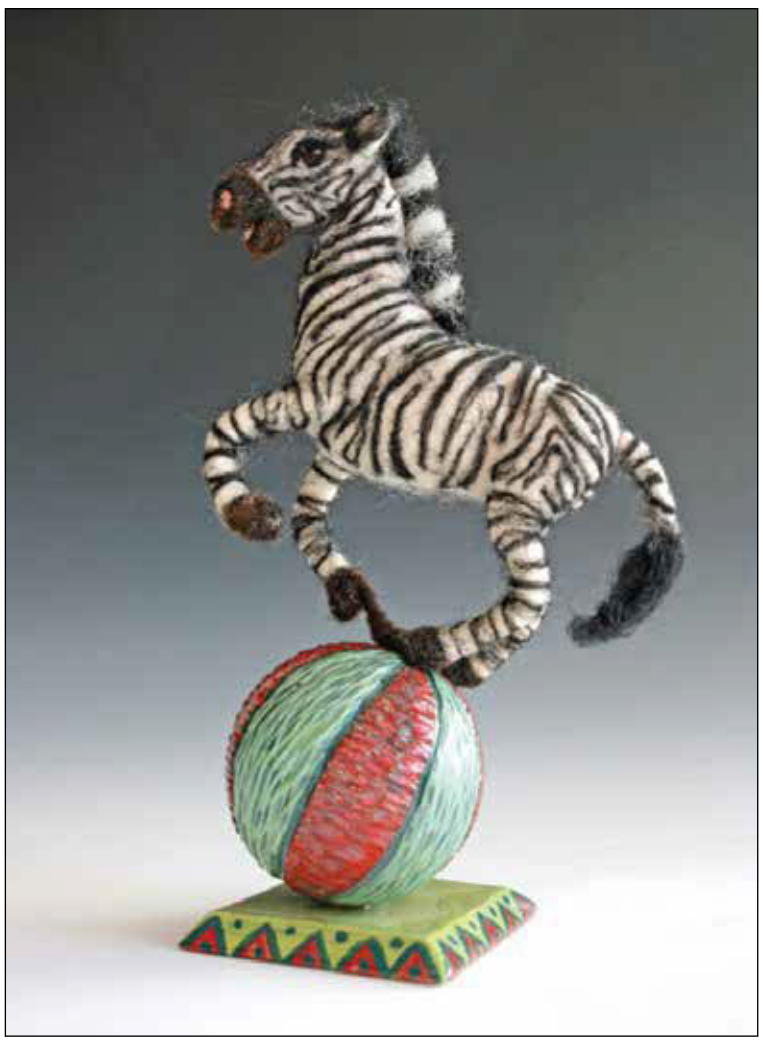
Event guides for the 2017 Love of Art Month are available at locations throughout Las Cruces and Mesilla, including the Las Cruces Art Museum, 491 N. Main St. downtown. The event guide lists the studio tours and arts events that will be going on during the month, along with a map.

For the Love of Art Month will include artist studio tours every weekend in February. Studios will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. "A total of 28 artists' studios will be open this year, often with more than one artist displaying their work," according to ArtForms. Check the event guide to find out when each gallery is open. "You will find local artists displaying sculpture, fiber arts, watercolors, paintings, fractals, jewelry, photography, silk art, ceramics, mixed media and much more."

There also will be art exhibitions and performing arts events throughout the month. Local entertainer Chris Waggoner (he and his wife, Liza, own Boba Café and Cabaret) will be performing his much-heralded Neil Diamond tribute at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. downtown on Saturday, Feb. 11. The Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., will present Deborah Zoe Laufer 's "Out of Sterno" continuing through Feb. 12. Black Box Theatre will present the Mesilla Valley Dance Collective performance of "A Reimagining of Pandora's Box" on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25 and 26. The Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., will present its three final performances of Edward Albee's award-winning play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2 through 5.

The 2017 ArtForms Member Show will open during the first Friday Ramble on Friday, Feb. 3 and continue through Saturday, Feb. 27. It will be held at Mas Art Frame & Art Supply, 126 N. Main St., the El Paso Electric Gallery inside Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., and Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St. The show will be juried with award ribbons going to first-, second- and third-place entries, plus an honorable mention award.

For more information, visit www.artformsnm.org.



This zebra by Milette Lanphere embodies some of the joy and excitement of For the Love of Art Month in Las Cruces. (Courtesy Photo)

Mike Stephens' "Oh What a Night" melds romance and the love of art for a Love of Art Month presentation.

PRACTICE ART

Studio Art Classes at the Las Cruces Museum of Art

The Las Cruces Museum of Art offers Studio Programs art classes to give the community access to creative learning opportunities. Children, teens and adults are given the opportunity to learn a new skill or enhance existing knowledge while guided by local, experienced and qualified professional artists.

Students will be encouraged to have fun and be inspired to discover their inner creativity through various class options including beginning and intermediate ceramics, drawing portraits, still life painting, and art exploration. Classes are offered to all levels of artists. A full listing of classes is available at each museum and can also be found at museums.las-cruces.org.

Classes begin March 22 and run through April 29.

Registration is located at the Museum of Nature and Science at 411 N Main St. Students must register in person Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registrations are due one week before classes start, accepted until March 15.

Admission to the Museum of Art is free. The museum is located at 491 N Main St. and is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

For additional information, visit the website at: museums.las-cruces.org or call 575-541-2137.

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A performer sings on the Mexico side of the border wall, as seen from the Nogales, Arizona side.

A look at the border wall in Nogales, Arizona during "Border Convergence."

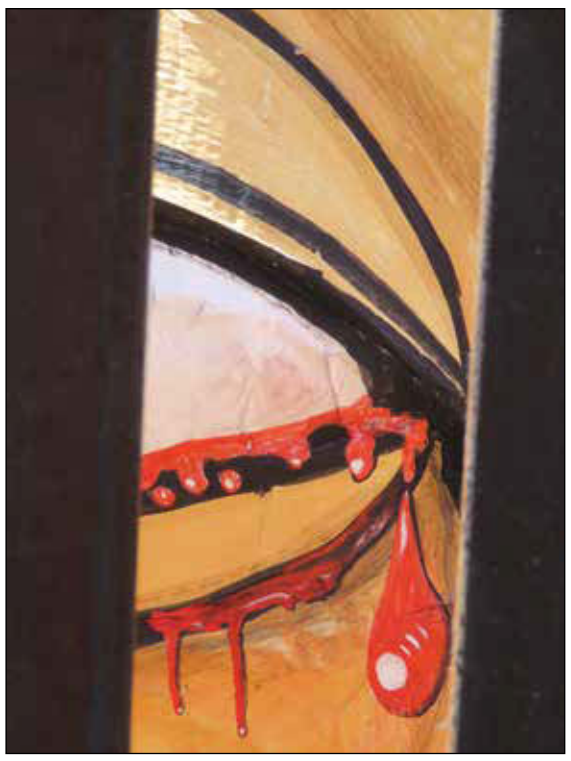
ON THE WALLS

FeVa Fotos Presents Border Images

"Convergence - of Borders and Minds" is the name of the new exhibit of original photography by FeVa Fotos, photographers Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan, that is up at the Mimbres Region Art Council Gallery for the month of February.

The exhibit is based on the unique and intriguing event that the photographers attended and photographed this last October in the Arizona border town of Nogales. "The Border Convergence" was sponsored by numerous regional and national organizations and drew approximately 1,200 people from across the United States who gathered in peaceful demonstration of concern for Mexico/United States border issues.

FeVa Fotos intent with this exhibit is to capture the beauty, passion and emotion of the gathering and share it with the Silver City community through their photography. Of particular interest was the march to the border wall where music and speeches were being held on both sides of the wall during two days of the three-day event.



A large image from the Mexico side, as seen through the border wall at Nogales, Arizona. (Photos by FeVa Photos)

"Convergence - of Borders and Minds" is on display at the MRAC gallery located in the Wells Fargo Bank Building. The exhibit is available for viewing from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, during February.

ON STAGE

Directing Workshop Offered by Silver City Community Theatre

The Silver City Community Theatre (SCCT) is offering a workshop on the basics of stage directing. Taught by Ann-Marie Elder, associate professor of theater at Western New Mexico University, this workshop consists of two 3-hour sessions, 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 3, and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4. It is designed for potential or somewhat experienced directors in theaters, and deals with the creative process: what it is and how it is used in theater. The fee is $60, and the class requires a minimum of five students. Deadline for registration is Feb. 17.

Elder has been teaching since 2002. She first served as the Production Manager for WNMU's Fine Arts Theater and taught technical classes as well as mask making, makeup for the stage, and introduction to theatrical design. She has been directing shows at WNMU since 2006 in cooperation with Theatre Group New Mexico, which she helped to found.

Her most recent professional credits include serving as the sound designer and production stage manager for Mark Medoff's new play, "Marilee and Baby Lamb: The assignation of an American Goddess" at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces.

The Silver City Community Theatre (SCCT) promotes community theater opportunities for residents of southwest New Mexico in all aspects of theater — stage work, publicity, acting and costuming. The objective of this young theater company is to enrich, educate and entertain with a vibrant range of live theater experiences year-round. The group draws on the community for directors, stage managers, set design and construction, technical support, costuming, makeup, programs, ticket management, and volunteer coordination.

For further information on either or both classes or SCCT, contact Ted Presler at 575-519-8375 or presrub@gmail.com, or write to SCCT, PO Box 402, Silver City, NM 88062.

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

Silver City

Jan Fell's owl is on display at the Copper Quail Gallery, part of the all-arteis celebration show at the Silver City gallery Feb. 7-27.

Copper Quail Gallery invites art lovers to enjoy its all-artist show Feb. 7 - 27. Featuring clay art, paintings, metal and wood creations, glass, photography, jewelry, mosaics, decorative gourds, and weavings, this is a multi-media fest. The entire gallery is filled with an impressive variety of fine art and quality hand-crafted pieces, all by local artists. The Copper Quail can be found at 211-A N. Texas St. in Silver City. New gallery hours at the Copper Quail are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

Deming

Born in Deming the work of David Vega Chavez has been shown across the U.S. and is features at her Deming Art Center February show.

Deming native, **David Vega Chavez** of Albuquerque and **Ralph Roybal** of Santa Fe, are the two featured artists for the **Deming Art Center** February show. Chavez, who was born in Deming, began drawing and painting in high school but eventually moved in another direction spending much of his early life involved in choreography, directing and dancing in the motion picture industry, television and the Las Vegas nightclub scene.

Also featured at the Deming Art Gallery is the work of Santa Fe artist Ralph Roybal.

Roybal began his career in bronze sculpting as an apprentice in some of the leading bronze foundries of the southwest. It was at Santa Fe Bronze under the famous sculptor Ernest Berke that Roybal realized his potential in bronze work.

The show runs through Feb. 24. The center is located at 100 S. Gold St., Deming and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Visit the website, at www.demingarts.org, Facebook or call 575-546-3663 for more information.

Las Cruces

Quillin-Stephens Gallery transports the high seas to Las Cruces for February For Love of Art Month. Watercolorist Joe Thompson, a member of the American Society of Marine Artists, brings the oceans to the New Mexico desert through his depiction of the sea as well as aspects of man's life on the sea. Generations of his family made their livelihood from the sea, and Joe is a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer who was ultimately in command of a cutter.

Immersed in the nautical world since childhood, his goal is to give you the view from a seaman's eyes. Meet Joe and see his watercolors during the February Ramble, from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 3 and stop in during the month between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday or from 8:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturdays. Quillin-Stephens Gallery is located at 317 N. Main behind COAS Books.

Las Cruces artist Flo Hosa Dougherty with one of the pieces of original art she created for the book "The Man Who Set the Town Dancing," (Photo by Mike Cook)

Blue Gate Gallery's Love of Art Studio Tours are scheduled for the second and third weekends of Feb. 11-12 and 18-19. **Flo Hosa Dougherty** will feature a closeout sale of original illustrations used in the book, "The Man Who Set The Town Dancing," about Jose Tena's Folklorical dance group.

Also, works pertaining to music and dance will be shown through March and can be viewed by appointment by calling 575-523-2950 or blue-gateflodoc@aol.com during those two months.

The home gallery is located at the intersection of Valley Drive and Taylor Road.

Inspired by his love for farming, photographer Jay Hill shares his enthusiasm for the beauty of the element with his images at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

Farming in the Mesilla Valley is featured in a new exhibit at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** in Las Cruces.

The exhibit **"Jay Hill: Our Wholesome Valley,"** features photography inspired by Jay Hill's life as a farmer in the Las Cruces area.

"For so many, the thought of modern agriculture removes the beauty of the profession," Hill said. "We have traded the horse and mule for tractors and precision equipment. My journey into agriculture found me wanting to show the world the beauty that exists in modern agriculture.

The exhibit will be on display in the Museum's Arts Corridor through April 2.

The Quilin-Stephens Gallery features work by Joe Thompson for February, Love of Art Month, in Las Cruces.

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Michael Berman's new work on the grasslands of Wyoming and the sites of his trip to Mongolia.
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MUSIC SCENE • BILLY HUNTSMAN

Smooth Sounds

Classical guitarist opens school in Las Cruces

Las Cruces has a new classical guitarist available for performances, as well as private lessons.

In November Hunter Beck moved south from Santa Fe, where he'd lived for the past 30 years performing weekly at art shows and teaching privately. He said he decided to move to Las Cruces after visiting several other small cities and finding he liked Las Cruces' "mellow vibe" the most.

Beck was first introduced to classical guitar when he was 18, when he had a roommate who had a classical, a steel-string and an electric guitar. After picking up the classical guitar and awkwardly strumming, Beck said his interest was sparked. When he had enough money, he bought a classical guitar for himself.

"Classical guitars feel better to me," Beck said.

Beck received his master's degree in classical guitar from Arizona State University, where he taught for a number of years.

Though he specializes in classical, Beck teaches theory, history and technique for all styles of guitar.

"I love the process of discovering and nurturing each individual's unique talents," Beck said.

Beck can be reached at 575-522-5181.

Hunter Beck strums his classical guitar outside in Las Cruces. Beck is opening a guitar school for southern New Mexico residents. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

ARTS FAIR

Original Work

Las Cruces Arts Fair shines in March

The Las Cruces Arts Fair opens on Friday, March 17 at 6 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. In its seventh year, the Arts Fair features original work by fine artists from throughout the United States and Mexico. This year the Arts Fair fills the entire Convention Center, utilizing both ball rooms.

It is a showcase of work from 94 artists who were selected by a jury of local arts professionals. There are many returning artists, even more new artists, and emerging student artists. Patrons who purchase opening night tickets are free to return on Saturday or Sunday.

Opening night festivities begin at 6 p.m. Patrons may visit the cantina, browse the silent auction tables, visit with the artists, and listen to live entertainment. New this year will be a "Quick Draw" contest with cash prizes. Participating Quick Draw artists will draw, paint and compose between 6 -7:30 p.m. while patrons have the opportunity to view the working artists. At 7:45 p.m., the art work will be auctioned by a live auctioneer. Proceeds of each sale will be split between the artist and the Doña Ana Arts Council. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best of Show ($150), Second Place ($50), and Popular Vote ($100). All artists are welcome. Artists participating in the Las Cruces Arts Fair may register for free; all others may register in advance by contacting the Dona Ana Arts Council at admin@daarts.org or 575-523-6403.

The Las Cruces Arts Fair continues 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 18, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 19. Artists provide continuous demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information about the Las Cruces Arts Fair, including a complete list of participating artists, and other Doña Ana Arts Council programs call 575-523-6403 or visit www.DAArts.org

THE CHROMATIC SCALE • MARTY RACINE

Ruidoso: Strumming on Sacred Ground

The tourism draw of Lincoln County is a small town with no musical identity or industry, as viewed through any national or regional lens.

Yet, the evergreen hills surrounding Ruidoso harbor plenty of talent.

"Ruidoso has not dozens but maybe 200 guitarists who seemingly appear out of the woodwork, or woods, as it were," said Ray Poston, a drummer at open mics and jam sessions around town. "So, a lot of excellent music gets created on the spur of the moment, ad-libbing all the way."

Among the axe-slingers are Mark Kashmar, Tradd Tidwell, Rich Chorne, Tim McCaslin, David Millsap, Tyler Jones, Jhett Schiavone and Jack Lobb.

"Ruidoso is developing a brotherhood/sisterhood of dedicated musicians who are getting the job done," Poston said. "They exchange ideas, sometimes turn cover songs inside-out, practice their craft, show up on time, put on a fine show. There is a real camaraderie."

There's a drummer who has played in Paris, France, with blues legends Lightnin' Hopkins, Willie Dixon and Sonny Terry.

There's a rancher from north of town who looks like Wyatt Earp and blazes Led Zeppelin licks on his black Stratocaster.

There's a petite, ginger-haired songstress who can field-dress an elk by day and sing by night like Nancy Sinatra.

There's a 6-foot-5, blond who dresses like Cochise and sings like a 70-year-old bluesman on a front porch in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

There's a new resident who played guitar for Fort Worth roadhouse warrior Delbert McClinton for 20 years.

There's a guitarist retired from the legendary Flying J Wranglers who can turn every country lick known to Chet Atkins.

There's a harmonica player who learned his craft playing every blues club on Maxwell Street in Chicago.

In addition, Khaliya Kimberlie of the Mescalero Apache tribe appeared on "The Voice" in 2016. Kimberlie, who speaks fluent Apache, joined a choir after singing in a 5th-grade talent show and now performs at local benefits for women affected by domestic violence.

The Jones and Miles Band prides itself for its merging form of bluegrass, punk, blues and Irish/Celtic music influences. (Courtesy Photo)

Singer/songwriter Julia Jones Cozby and Mike Montoya, both from down the hill in Tularosa, play Ruidoso fairly regularly. Cozby's song "Lincoln County Line" "has 'hit' written all over it, once she gets it recorded," Poston said.

"The best news," he said, "stems from the younger generation. Sure, they might have their ever-present smart phone in one hand...but in the other is a guitar. Ella and Grant Miller, ages 11 and 14, respectively, are already seasoned road dogs (puppies?) and put their own spin on today's songs by the likes of Shovels & Rope and Katy Perry.

And, yes, a few acts are making a name for themselves throughout the state and parts of the West.

Gleewood, "a musky Americana act that swaggers through blues, folk, and rock 'n' roll," has dropped their new, and second, album, Sweet, Sweet Time, recorded at Secret Circus Studio in Roswell (gleewoodmusic.com; gleewoodbandcamp.com). One of the cuts, the 7-minute "Whiskey Sue," plus their 16:46 "Live Session," rocks a video on YouTube.

Gleewood is the husband/wife team of Jhett and Callie Sioux Schiavone. The two met when Jhett moved back to New Mexico from Hawaii, and they occasionally bloom into a trio or quartet by adding drums and other instruments to the mix.

"We call ourselves mountain music because we like to take people through the peaks and valleys of music," Callie Sioux explains. "I'm a storyteller and it takes a lot of elements to create a good story."

Gleewood has performed more than 800 shows, including multiple tours to Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. They appear in Las Cruces at High Desert Brewery on Feb. 16.

Jones and Miles, who played High Desert in early January, have recorded a number of songs at Secret Circus and have a 12:56 minute live "Full Session" on YouTube. Brothers Tyler and Cody Jones, Chris Miles and Donnie Marling "push the limits of traditional bluegrass and folk," according to their bio. "Incorporating elements of rock, reggae, jazz, and punk they have created a unique original sound that provides for one of the most entertaining live shows in the Southwest."

On the recording front, Richard Cagle has built a state-of-the-art studio on top of a mountain. Cagle moved here from Houston, where he had been a singer with his own band, The Voodoo Choir. "Acid blues-rock," Poston said. "His backing Houston musicians are superb, the real blues."

That said, the Ruidoso infrastructure is not really conducive to its talent. Years ago, Dream Catcher café had a running feud with the village over decibel levels after 9 p.m. And though a few songsters appear on sidewalks from time to time, the village has restrictions against street musicians.

"Also, the advertising and promotion of bands need drastic improvement," Poston said. "There is entirely too much misinformation in the media and on posters: wrong starting times, incorrect dates, no phone numbers given, bad directions. You have to sometimes dig like archaeologists for pertinent information."

And, Ruidoso has few venues. O'Malley's Irish pub, which featured an open mic on Thursday nights, has closed. Anaheim Jack's no longer has live music. Casa Blanca Mexican restaurant, which hosted weekend shows in its downtown bar, is quiet after new ownership took over.

Sacred Grounds Coffee & Tea House, which has offered an open mic on Fridays for about six years, is still operating. However, owner Will Ponder announced recently that "all music offerings are being re-evaluated. Sometimes we'll have them, sometimes not."

Rich Chorne's Annual Birthday Band Bash is held at Sacred Grounds, bringing up old buddies from El Paso. "Leads to an all-out jam and is the party of the year," said Poston. El Paso jazzbos are exceptional players."

Guitarist Dan Rivera hosts a twice-monthly open jam Sunday afternoons at Ruidoso Art Gallery on Sudderth Drive. "The group is smaller, but there seems to be a core forming," said guitarist Doug Hunsicker.

Marty Racine spent 22 years as a music critic for the Houston Chronicle. After leaving the Ruidoso News in 2011, he fell back in love with the guitar. Today he serves as managing editor of the Las Cruces Bulletin. Racine can be contacted at martyracine@hotmail.com; 575-973-4644.

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DESERT exposure

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery, 371 Camino de Vento in Wind Canyon. By appointment, Letha Cress Woolf, potter, 907-783-2780.

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

[a]SP.“A”©E, 110 W. Seventh 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.

Copper Quail Gallery, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas streets, 388-2646. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 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.

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

Francis McCray Gallery, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Glasserie Studio and Store, 106 E. College, Monday to Saturday 11 a.m.-6 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.

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.

Moonstruck Art Gallery, 110 W. Yankie St., featuring fiber, mixed media, pottery, and jewelry. 575-654-5316.

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

The Place@108, 108 Yankie Street.

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

Soul River Gallery, 200 N. Bullard St., 707-490-4367.

Tree Spirit Gallery, 206 N. Bullard St., 303-888-1358.

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.

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. Wednesday to Thursday 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.

Casa Blanka Home Décor & More, 1615 N. Solano, Ste. C, 575-526-5272.

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.

Ruidoso

Art Ruidoso Gallery, 575-808-1133, www.artruidoso.com, 2809 Sudderth Drive.

The Adobe, 2905 Sudderth Dr., 257-5795. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dizzy Lizard Tile, 254 Hwy. 532, 336-4061. Hand sculpted and painted tile. Call first.

DJ’s Jewelry, 618 Carrizo Canyon Rd., 630-1514. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Specializing in turquoise, Native American traditional, New Mexican contemporary and estate jewelry.

Earth-N-Stone, 2117 Sudderth Dr., Ste. 14, 257-2768., 808-1157. Pottery studio/gallery of Alan Miner.

Gazebo Potters, 2117 Sudderth Dr. #7, 808-1157. Pottery classes, workshops, wheel time, kiln firing, works by local potters.

Josie’s Framery, 2917 Sudderth Dr., 257-4156. Framing, gallery representing regional artists and photographers.

LongCoat Fine Art, 2825 Sudderth Dr. (at Mechem), 257-9102. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Contemporary Masters and historical works of art. Burnett Interiors showroom.

Mountain Arts, 2530 Sudderth Dr., 257-9748, www.mountainartsgallery.com. Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tanner Tradition, 624 Sudderth Dr., 257-8675. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Quality Native American art and jewelry.

Thunder Horse Gallery, 200 Mechem Dr., Ste. 1, 257-3989. info@thunderhorsegallery.com. Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m.-5p.m. Bronze sculpture by Rory Combs, Sarinova Glass and fine art.

The White Dove, 2825 Sudderth Dr. #A (at Mechem), 866-257-6609, www.thewhitedove2825.com. Daily, 9:30 a.m-4 p.m. Authentic Native American jewelry and artifacts.

Kenneth Wyatt Galleries of Ruidoso, 2205 Sudderth Dr., 257-1529, www.kennethwyatt.com. Fine art by the Wyatt family.

Ruidoso Downs

Pinon Pottery, MM. 26465 Hwy. 70, 937-0873, 937-1822, www.pinonpottery.com. Pottery by Vicki Conley and other area artists, fine art by Anita Keegan and Virgil Stephens.

Alamogordo

Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery, 575-434-4420, 917 New York Ave.

Patron’s Hall/Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 575-434-2202, 1110 New York Ave.

Tularosa

Red Door Gallery and Gifts, 575-491-5100, 1201 St. Francis Drive. Thursday to Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Carrizozo

Heart of the Raven, 415 Twelfth St., 937-7459, www.JudyPekelsmacom. Functional and decorative pottery, classes.

Lincoln

Old Lincoln Gallery, across from Visitor’s Center in Lincoln, 653-4045. Coffee bar featuring 45 New Mexico artists. Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

San Patricio

Hurd La Rinconada, MM 281 Hwy. 70, 653-4331, www.wyethartists.com. Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Works by Peter Hurd, Henriette Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, N.C. Wyeth and resident artist, Michael Hurd.

White Oaks

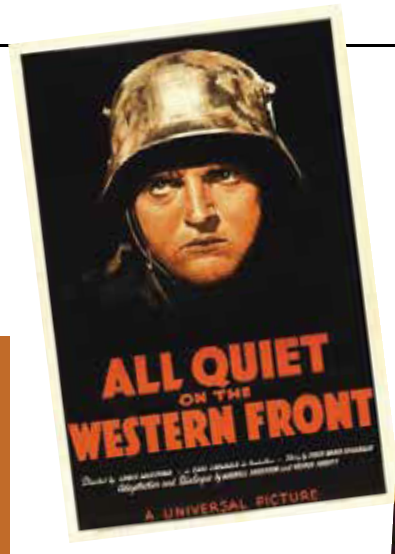
White Oaks Pottery, 445 Jicarilla Rd. (3 miles past White Oaks), 648-2985. Daily 10 a.m-5 p.m. Porcelain pottery by Ivy Heymann.

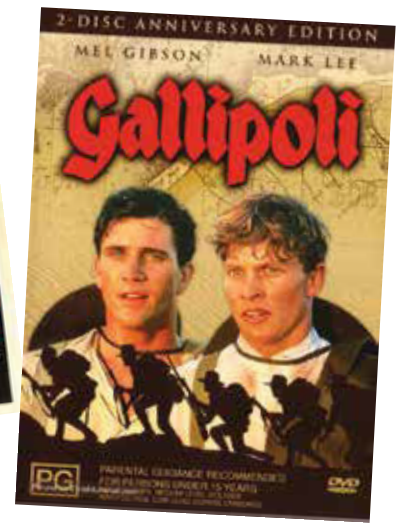
Submit gallery information to Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM, 88005, email editor@ desertexposure.

ON SCREEN

World War I Turns 100

Fort Bayard spring film series begins Feb. 2





In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into World War I, the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society (FBHPS) is sponsoring a 10-part film series this spring.

Showings begin on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. All presentations begin at 7 p.m. and feature opening remarks by Dr. Doug Dinwiddie of the FBHPS. Dinwiddie serves as historian for the group, and is a retired professor of history from New Mexico State University and Colorado State University.

Admission is free and donations are accepted. Concessions will be available for purchase at the showings.

The film series consists of both documentaries and Hollywood feature length movies, and will run every Thursday evening from Feb. 2 through April 6. Among the titles are classics such as "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Gallipoli," and "The Lost Battalion."

A full list of titles may be seen on the organization's website, www.fortbayard.org.

Additional events to commemorate Grant County's role in The Great War are being planned, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the declaration of war on Germany, April 6.

For additional information, call 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Schedule

Feb. 2 — "World War I: The 100 Year War 1914-2014"
Feb. 9 — "All Quiet on the Western Front"
Feb. 16 — "Gallipoli"
Feb. 23 — "Last Voyage of the Lusitania"
March 2 — "Paths of Glory"
March 9 — "Woodrow Wilson"
March 16 — "World War I: America and the Great War"
March 23 — "The Lost Battalion"
March 30 — "World War I: The Complete Story"
April 6 — "The Last Voices of World War I"

BUSINESS IN BUSINESS • BILLY HUNTSMAN

Morning Star Service for 25 years

A popular Silver City sporting and outdoor store will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Feb. 25 and invites the community to help them celebrate.

Morning Star, 809 N. Bullard St., was opened in 1992 by Rocky and Lynn Mondello.

"When we first started out, people called us a T-shirt shop because we only did screen printing at the time," Lynn said.

They had been printing T-shirts on a small scale and selling them at local crafts markets before this. But after Rocky decided he'd had enough of being an electrician, they wanted to open their own business.

"We had the opportunity to buy bigger screen printing equipment and we took it," Lynn said.

Over the years, as the various high school and club sports teams came to the store to get uniforms printed and trophies engraved, they started selling sports items, Lynn said.

Being part of the community is the most rewarding aspect of the business, Rocky said.

Customer service is at the top of mind at Silver City's sporting and outdoor store, Morning Star. (Photo by Pam Rossi)

Among the highlights of the past 25 years, Rocky said, are helping to sponsor the Blues Fest, coach his sons in soccer and wrestling, and seeing the Silver City High School baseball and softball teams win the state championships in the same year.

Rocky said they are especially grateful to the Silver City community for allowing the business to prosper. Rocky said he and Lynn are looking to "semi-retire" and put the business more into the hands of three of their sons, who already work there.

"People sometimes ask me, 'How's business?' And I say, 'I'm able to pay all my bills and have a little left over, and I'm just blessed,'" Rocky said.

The celebration on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 25, will include food, music and embroidered and printed apparel to be given away to attendees, Rocky said.

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Gas Prices in Mexico Squeezing Population

About 60 demonstrators, mostly from Ascension, Mexico, occupied the Port of Entry between Palomas and Columbus on Jan. 4 and 5.

The activists were bringing a nationwide protest right up to the northern border in a demonstration against a sudden rise in gas prices in Mexico that's being called a "gasolinazo."

The local protesters didn't stop traffic, but they prevented Mexican Customs officers from collecting customs fees from drivers and stopped them from inspecting vehicles. The participants waved signs and sometimes wrote "Fuera Peña" ("Peña Out") on vehicles with red and green shoe polish—the colors of the Mexican flag and of Peña's PRI party. They slept on the street for two nights and didn't leave till 7 a.m. on Friday the 6th.

The protesters were mostly from Ascension, but others came from the small towns a half-hour south of Palomas and from Janos. A few people in Palomas, including the new mayor, Ramon Rodriguez, took part temporarily.

Activism in Chihuahua

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced on Dec. 28 that the 20 percent increase would happen on New Year's Day.

The price hike was even higher in Palomas, apparently. An employee at the Pemex gasoline station in Palomas said the price per gallon rose from $2.49 to $3.59 within a week after Jan. 1, a difference of close to 50 percent. In the junction half an hour south of Palomas and in Ascension, the price change was closer to 20 percent.

Valeria Martinez waits on Esperanza Raigoza Rojas at the Super Vasquez, in Palomas, where prices are rising quickly. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

There reportedly were demonstrations in 25 states in Mexico (and looting in some) and in many cities and towns in Chihuahua.

There were marches in Juarez, a few of the usual blockades of bridges over the Rio Grande, and a blockade over a mile long on a major highway outside the city.

Another blockade was staged in Chihuahua City on a highway with vehicles moving slowly and honking horns.

There was a petition promoted by young people in Ascension, a "mega-march" planned by women in Nuevo Casas Grandes, and a Catholic mass at a toll booth in Camargo where some people kneeled and sang the national anthem before massed Federal Police who wore formidable-looking metal helmets.

Food prices going up

It's not just the gas prices that concern people in Mexico, but the expected ripple effect on the price of food and other products distributed by trucks.

The rise in prices is already felt in Palomas.

A man named Javier working at the grocery store "Abarrotes 'Rafa'" estimated on Jan. 9 that food prices had already gone up 10 percent.

The cost of pastries at the La Favorita Bakery had risen.

Valeria Martinez at the "Super Vasquez" said prices had risen from three to 10 pesos per item since gas prices rose. She guessed prices in general had already risen 20 percent at the store.

A woman selling used clothing in the street, Aracely Valtierra, said, "It's hard, in every way. People are working for less, and the price of food has gone up. Everything has gone up — propane and gasoline, tortillas, and meat."

The issue of how to control the prices is being hotly debated in Mexico.

Opposition politics

Opposition to Peña Nieto took off when the 43 students at Ayotzinapa disappeared in 2014, and has swelled with a general increase in murders and disappearances.

Peña Nieto, in a message to the public, said getting public funds from gas taxes is a better solution for the poor than the drastic cuts to social services he'd have to make if the gas prices had not increased.

Julio Hernandez, a columnist for La Jornada, said in an interview on YouTube with journalist Carmen Aristegui that the gasolinazo was the result of "galloping ineptitude."

Proceso magazine writer Jenaro Villamil, in the same program, complained that Peña Nieto and his staff never take the blame for anything.

"If nothing is the responsibility of Peña, why is there so much social discontent, why are we in such bad shape, why do gas prices continue to grow, and why didn't the prices go down when international prices were low? There's no logic," Villamil said. "And what there is, is a terrible political sadism in applying these measures to the people."

In Spanish, a blow with a hammer is a "martillazo." Mexicans are being hit in their pocketbooks by the gasolinazo, which is why the protest is so widespread.

It's impossible to know where all this is going to end. Peña Nieto has one and a half years to go.

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.

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BEGINNING
continued from page 12

brick yard.

In 1872, community leaders proposed a bill to the New Mexico Legislature authorizing the incorporation of Silver City. After the bill failed to pass, a feeling of unrest started to grow in the community. Community leaders felt the needs of Silver City were not being recognized by the government officials in Santa Fe. Making matters worse, the Republican Administration reduced the number of legislative representatives from the predominantly Democratic counties of Doña Ana, Grant and Lincoln from four to two thus decreasing representation from the area to the Territorial Government.

Silver City leaders were feeling disenfranchised and thus the seeds for a succession movement had been sown. Led by residents of Silver City who had a growing disenchantment with New Mexico, Grant County petitioned the federal government to become part of the Arizona Territory.

The leaders felt that Grant County was more economically, politically and culturally aligned with Arizona than with New Mexico.

Grant County waited until 1876, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, to propose legislation that would allow Grant County to secede from New Mexico. The Arizona Territorial Representative introduced the bill but it died in committee and was never acted upon.

After the failure of the secession efforts, Silver City leaders regrouped and obtained a sponsor for a bill authorizing a Territorial Charter for Silver City that was introduced to the New Mexico Legislature on Jan. 31, 1878.

The bill passed unanimously and was signed into law on Feb. 15, 1878. With the newly granted and hard-won Territorial Charter, Silver City residents could elect city officials and participate in self-governance. The charter allowed for collecting taxes to be used for public improvements such as streets and sidewalks, and providing for public safety. Obtaining the Territorial Charter allowed the fledgling community to achieve even greater growth and prosperity.

For information, contact Silver City MainStreet at 575-574-8394 or by email at downtownsilvercity@gmail.com

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PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

The greening of New Mexico?

Legislature looking at marijuana legalization. Again.

I'm no expert.

The closest I've come to using marijuana is listening to Bob Marley or Willie Nelson.

I do know almost anyone in America can readily obtain marijuana for recreational use if they want it. My guess is, in New Mexico, it's probably easier to obtain illegal recreational marijuana than legal medicinal marijuana.

A downside to that easily obtained, illegal pot, however, is you're only a few degrees of separation from a hardened criminal, someone who probably wouldn't have a problem physically harming you.

Another downside is, the bulk of the commerce from the transactions ultimately goes to those hardened criminals. Sure, you're not paying tax when you buy illegal pot, but you're certainly paying for quite a bit of overhead and middlemen, essentially a tax.

A bald guy with a partial beard who hails from Las Cruces, and spent a couple of years at Harvard, wants to re-direct that overhead and middleman money.

The bald guy, State Rep. Bill McCamley, wants to play Robin Hood, stealing from the rich (drug dealers) and giving to the poor (the state of New Mexico).

It's a decent amount of money, too.

McCamley's Cannabis Revenue and Freedom Act, co-sponsored by fellow State Rep. Javier Martinez of Albuquerque, calls for the legalization of recreational marijuana in New Mexico. They quote an Albuquerque firm, O'Donnell Economics and Strategy, which estimates legalization would infuse $400 million and 11,400 jobs the first year.

The plan allows the state to tax that money at 15 percent, and use it for education, health care and other designated purposes.

The plan makes it optional for municipalities.

"If there's a city or county in New Mexico that really doesn't want this, for whatever reason, we don't want to force them," McCamley said.

Municipalities who adopt it, though, can add their own 5 percent tax for use in their communities.

Back when former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson first started talking about legalizing marijuana more than a decade ago, a lot of people thought he had lost it, and some called him a kook.

Turns out, he was just ahead of his time.

There's a real logic in taking this commodity, which has been entrenched in American society for two or three generations, and treating it like every other commodity consumers use.

Willie Nelson

Bob Marley

When Colorado passed its law legalizing marijuana, people laughed and made annoyingly repetitive jokes about "Rocky Mountain High."

Well, no one's laughing much anymore, but the Colorado state government is certainly smiling, as they've created a new, sustainable, substantial revenue stream and tons of new jobs and economic activity.

The little city of Trinidad, Colorado, sits just north of the New Mexico border.

McCamley tells the story of, when legalization came to Colorado, Trinidad estimated an increase of $200,000 in revenue for the city.

The actual result?

More than $800,000.

Why was their estimate so far off?

McCamley said the actual revenue was four times higher (higher, get it? … I'm sorry) because of New Mexicans. Enough people from northern New Mexico, and probably tourists as well, made the short trip to Trinidad for marijuana to give that community an unexpected boon.

The same phenomenon could happen in southern New Mexico, where currently neither Texas nor Arizona has legalized recreational marijuana (although Arizona has legalized medicinal marijuana).

If it were legal in New Mexico, McCamley believes, folks would flock from El Paso to Las Cruces to get their share. Lordsburg, similarly, could become a hub for wayfaring Arizonans.

After the November elections, there are now eight states, plus the District of Columbia, where marijuana is legal recreationally. In 20 additional states, medicinal marijuana is legal.

The national tide may be turning toward legalization, but possession and use remain federal offenses in non-legal states, because the FDA still classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 narcotic.

There also remains a great deal of opposition to legalizing marijuana.

Bill McCamley

Many people from government on down, despite scientific research to the contrary, still view it as a dangerous drug.

Others are concerned there's no current methodology to determine if drivers are impaired by marijuana.

Most of the arguments against marijuana begin to sound hypocritical, however, when you realize tobacco and alcohol have long been legal in America. In almost any comparison, those two drugs have a far greater negative effect on people and society.

I used to think marijuana would be just as bad as cigarettes, because you're inhaling smoke into your lungs. It's got to be at least as unhealthy as smoking tobacco, right? A New Mexico doctor, though, corrected me.

The difference is, he said, tobacco smokers will consume 20, 30 or more cigarettes a day, whereas a marijuana smoker might take months to smoke that many.

Some worry legal pot will have a horrible influence on our youth.

That apparently hasn't been the case in Colorado, where studies show teen use of marijuana has actually dropped 12 percent since it became legal.

Maybe kids find it less appealing to use since it's less rebellious.

Interestingly, it may be the older folks who are more influenced. A Reuters article from 2015 described the flight of many retirees moving to states with legal marijuana. Folks who grew up in the 1960s and 70s, the age of marijuana's biggest rise, are now at retirement age. Plus, as Baby Boomers age and develop health issues, they're finding more and more problems are being helped by marijuana.

So, who knows? If pot were legalized in New Mexico, we might see another retiree revolution.

All of this talk could be moot, however.

Now that both houses of New Mexico's legislature have a Democratic majority, McCamley's measure might have a chance of passing this year, after failing the past three years. Still, it has to have the signature of Gov. Susana Martinez, who likely will continue to oppose legalization and retains the power of the veto.

If that's the case, many marijuana enthusiasts in our state will have been, as Marley sang, "Waiting in Vain."

Richard Coltharp is publisher of the Las Cruces Bulletin and was completely sober when he sang "Amazing Grace" with Willie Nelson (and 5,000 other people) in Albuquerque. He can't verify Willie's sobriety. Coltharp can be reached at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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EXPLORING HERITAGE • LISA MAUE

Catholic or Jew?

Some New Mexicans find Jewish tradition in their pasts

"I think we are Jews." The thought crystallized during a conference Sonya Loya attended in Glorieta during 1999 where others were exploring their Jewish roots. It was a turning point for the Ruidoso resident who was raised Catholic. Looking back on the conference, she remembers trying to avoid a woman who dogged her, persistently asking questions about her family. Polite at first, Loya finally asked: "Why do you want to know?"

"Because it sounds like you are from the Marranos," she answered.

"I was already annoyed with her, and now she is calling me a pig?" Loya said in a recent interview. "But she explained it was a historical term referring to those who converted to Christianity from Judaism during the Inquisition."

Spain's persecution of heretics culminated in 1391 when Jews were given the ultimatum to become Catholic or be killed. Those who converted were known as "conversos," a term applied to their descendants as well. While some Jews turned to Christianity voluntarily, others resisted, observing Jewish beliefs behind closed doors. The latter group became known as Crypto-Jews. Their existence presented a perceived threat to such an extent that in 1479 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain enacted the Spanish Inquisition with the specific aim of eliminating Crypto-Judaism. Torture was used to obtain confessions, and heresy trials were held. For those found guilty, sentences included acquittal (rare), forced labor, confiscation of property and corporal punishment. In cases where the accused had been tried but relapsed, the punishment could mean being burned at the stake. Edicts were disseminated across the land encouraging neighbors, friends and family members to report possible Judaizers. Finally, in 1492, all Jews were ordered into exile. It is estimated that as many as 300,000 Jews were murdered, converted to Christianity or fled Spain.

Many conversos emigrated to Portugal and then to Mexico, but the persecution did not end. An extension of the Inquisition was established in 1571 in New Spain, which included Mexico, parts of Central America and what is now the southwestern portion of the United States. Twenty seven years later, Juan de Oñate led an expedition of colonists north into modern-day New Mexico. On the journey were members with the same surnames listed as being under investigation by the Mexican Inquisition. As subsequent trade routes, including El Camino Real, were established, many families, including those who were Crypto-Jews, some banding together in solidarity, settled in enclaves along the way. Today their ancestors still inhabit rural areas including small villages north of Santa Fe and along the borderlands.

Dichroic glass objects at Sonya Loya's shop often reflects Jewish symbols.

Sonya Loya takes a few moments off her feet at her place in Ruidoso. (Photos by Lisa Maue)

According to Frances Hernández in "The Secret Jews of the Southwest," there may be as many as 1,500 Hispano families in New Mexico with legitimate claims to these original conversos. Given the secretive nature of those involved and shifting interpretations of what it means to be a converso, however, this number is far from absolute. What is apparent is that there are families in the area who may not be aware of their Jewish heritage.

Loya returned to Ruidoso from the conference in Glorieta and intensified her research into church history and the Inquisition. She found a genealogy website listing Sephardic (Sephard being the Hebrew word for Spanish) surnames, including her own and started reading about Jewish rituals and traditions.

Her sources included Vatican documents. Ironically, the fervor that took root during the Inquisition, including systematically writing down the practices of Crypto-Jews as a sort of field guide for informers, now serve as a trove of information into what went on behind closed doors centuries ago.

"I thought it was normal to light two candles on Shabbat (the period of time just before sunset on Friday through Saturday nightfall). I didn't know it was a Jewish ritual. I remember my grandmother covered her head and prayed facing the east, three times a day. I just thought Granny was a really holy Catholic," Loya said, laughing.

Among other customs she remembers were her grandmother teaching Loya's mother how to check eggs for blood, her father bleeding meat after butchering the animal by slitting its throat in a humane way, removing the sciatic nerve, salting the meat and then saying a prayer as the blood was buried. Dirt was swept into the middle of the floor, never crossing the threshold, in fear of desecrating a mezuzah that might be hanging on the doorframe. Cleaning often took place on Friday, so there would be no chores on Saturday. Some rituals reflected the age-old fear of being reported to the Inquisition: windows were routinely closed and curtains drawn so neighbors could not see in.

When her great grandmother was dying, Loya's grandmother and her two sisters were sent to retrieve the family priest.

"That is another clue — the oldest son in the family was a priest to keep an eye out for the Inquisition and to make the Church believe that these families were totally Catholic," Loya said.

"My great grandmother requested that her feet be facing the east when she died, which is a Jewish custom, and she was buried the next day," Loya said. "My mother said that they washed her body and said special prayers, but she doesn't remember what those prayers were."

Loya's father remembered being taught special prayers by his grandmother too, but he does not remember them either. He was aware, however, of the stigma of being Jewish. When Loya's father was six years old, his uncles came back from World War II. One of them had been involved in the liberation of the concentration camps. He saw Sephardic names and told his family that it was still not safe to be Jewish. Loya's father was sworn then and there not to tell of their heritage. It was a secret he kept for more than 60 years.

"The word Crypto-Jew comes from the term "encrypted" which means hidden or secret," Loya said. "My father was a Crypto-Jew. I am not. I am not hiding anything."

Today in New Mexico, more and more Catholic families are finding out about their hidden Jewish roots, but their discoveries have been met with skepticism by some in the Judaic community. There are religious leaders who believe that only those born of a Jewish mother are considered Jewish. Conversion requirements typically depend on a particular branch of Judaism, and recognition is not always guaranteed by other denominations. Additionally, there are conversos who do not feel the need to convert since, after all, their families have been practicing for centuries.

DNA testing has been used to uncover Sephardic links. Bennett Greenspan launched the Family Tree DNA website that merges genetics and genealogy. Building on the University of Arizona's research that a certain Y chromosome pattern of markers was present in many men who could trace their ancestry to Ashkenazic (Central and Eastern Europe) and Sephardic groups, Family Tree DNA offers genetic testing to the general public.

Loya's father and brother took the test (only men have Y chromosomes). The genetic link was confirmed, erasing any doubt as to the family's Jewish ancestry.

Recently Sonya Loya's story was part of New Mexico History Museum's "Fractured Faiths: Spanish Judaism, The Inquisition and New World Identities" exhibit. One of the last images viewers saw was a small multi-media sculpture by Loya that embodies her journey. An accomplished artist, she continues to create and sell jewelry and fused glass pieces, many incorporating Jewish symbols, in Hosanna's, her shop and gallery in Ruidoso.

Together with Ashley Perry, director general of the Knesset Caucus for the Reconnection with the Descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Communities and president of Reconectar, an organization also advocating for Sephardic Jews, Loya is currently focusing on organizing trips to Israel for those interested in learning about their ancestral home. Participants must be converts, over 18 years old and must meet the criteria of the Law of Return, legislation created allowing Jews to live in and become citizens of Israel. Her Aliyah tours, named for the goal of many Jews to return to Israel permanently, can accommodate 20 to 30 people and will last approximately a week. Part of the trip will be to sites; the rest will be spent helping with immigration details and the reality of day-to-day living.

It is a big step for a woman in south central New Mexico who is about to commit to life in a very different part of the world. But then again, for someone who has unearthed and embraced so much already, the next phase of her life may become the most serene and familiar since, finally, Sonya Loya will be going home.

For more information on the Aliyah tour, contact Loya at tav_22@yahoo.com.

Sonya Loya's Ruidoso shop, Hosanna's carries Simha beads and other symbolic relaxing items.

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THE STUDY OF HISTORY • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Human Systems

Archeology making connections a

Human Systems Research Inc., a nonprofit archeological research firm, is celebrating its 45th birthday this year.

The company is focused on exploring the ancient world of New Mexico and sustains its research projects in part by contracting its services to government agencies and other companies. For 21 years HSR served as the archeological contractor for White Sands Missile Range and still works out on the range for certain jobs.

In 1972, a small group of University of New Mexico graduate students created the nonprofit, said Deborah Dennis, director of HSR.

"With most of our effort tied up in our own research, we earned the money by working for the feds, the government and others," she said. "We competed against huge corporate conglomerates and sustained ourselves."

In the Bush years, around 2004, things were tougher because government entities like WSMR became small business set asides, and only small businesses could be on contract with them.

"The idea was to give the small businesses a better chance," Dennis said. "But large corporations fronted the small businesses. We were cut out of the work at WSMR, but they would find ways to sole-source to us anyway."

HSR was tasked in 1988 by WSMR to monitor the efforts of Ova Noss, who was searching for a stash of gold supposedly hidden in the San Andres Mountains by Warm Springs Apache Chief Victorio.

"We were there to keep an eye on them, to preserve cultural resources," Dennis said. "Then our guys started finding cartridges."

The cartridges led to one of the biggest archeologic projects in New Mexico when HSR developed the Hembrillo Battlefield find. Volunteers painstakingly went over 900 acres with metal detectors, recovering on- ground objects, recording every one of them.

Observing cartridge striations, the archeologic investigators were able to isolate individual guns. And using the ARC view program, they were able to track the guns' movements on the battlefield and recreate the 1880 battle.

"The Buffalo soldiers were blamed for losing the battle, but archeological evidence proved they were not at fault," Dennis said. "Victorio fought a rear-guard action. It was his last big battle before his death."

Today, she said, the Army uses the lessons learned from Victorio for strategic training. Archeologist Karl Laumbach still goes out to the field and gives tours to visiting generals and officers.

Dennis said all Victorio ever wanted in the first place was a homeland. President Grant had, in 1874, given the Warm Springs Apache the Montecello Box Canyon west of Truth or Consequences as their home. But Victorio's people were soon uprooted from that homeland by the Department of the Interior and shuffled to Arizona, an action which led to Victorio's flight and ultimately to the battle at Hembrillo.

In 1989, the experience at Hembrillo took HSR to explore the canyon where Victorio's people claimed home. The Montecello Box is located in an area called Cañada Alamosa.

"We were dumfounded," Dennis said.

The exploration of Cañada Alamosa that grew out of the Hembrillo exploration turned into a 20-year research project. HSR branched out into the Cañada Alamosa Institute, which found site after archeological site in the canyon, and began the work of excavating some of them and trying to determine timelines, as and whether they are contiguously connected by one people or if the place has been occupied and used by a variety of peoples.

The Cañada Alamosa Project systematically tested four sites, each located less than one mile from the others. Collectively their temporal components span the time period from circa A.D. 600 to A.D. 1400. These sites are the Montoya Site, the Kelly Canyon Site, the Victorio Site and the Pinnacle Site.

After excavating for 13 years, the company has now been assembling and correlating the research. They will be coming out with two books on the project, Dennis said.

"We only began to scratch the surface," she said. "We are looking at a series of migrations. Very different pop-

Above images are from Cañada Alamosa research sites taken over the 13 years Human Systems Research Inc. was on scene collecting and documenting in the Montecello Box Canyon area about 25 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences. (Courtesy Photos)

The Building

New Mexico had more Civilian Conservation Corps camps than any state in the Union, Dennis said.

The building in which Human Systems Research Inc. is housed, 535 S. Melendres St. in Las Cruces, was built in 1937 as a CCC school. The CCC was specifically created for young men 18 to 21. In 1998 HSR purchased the building and discovered old CCC workbooks still in the building.

"A lot of them tried to get into the CCC specifically so they could complete college with engineering degrees by going after work," she said. "The CCC camp sustained the agriculture in the area."

But then the program had been under the Department of War and they made the area into a German/Italian POW camp and the building became the army's administration headquarters for the camp. When the Germans and Italians didn't get along, the Italians were moved to a separated camp, located where Young Park is now in Las Cruces.

HSR is working to preserve the historical building and getting it listed on the National Historic Register.

s Research

cross time

ulation came in and used the area."

The Mimbres were there, she said, with their black and white pottery. The third- and fourth-oldest pottery sherds found in the United States came out of the Cañada Alamosa. Dennis plans two books around the discoveries at the box canyon.

HSR Research Inc. and Cañada Alamosa Project raise funds to continue their research annually with a Buffalo Roast Fundraiser. The event has been moved to March in conjunction with the 45th anniversary. It takes place March 11 at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

"The event provides a venue for the community to come and hear about the history of the area, which is why we are excited about being here."

Dennis feel it is important to the future that people discover their past.

"If we don't understand out history, we are doomed to keep making the same mistakes over and over again," Dennis said. "Our culture seems to make progress by destroying the past."

HSR Projects

HSR Research has worked on sites in the Tularosa Basin and across southern New Mexico since its inception.

Culturally significant places it has focused on include the Alexander McSween home, Lincoln County War history and the restoration of the Oliver Lee Ranch House in Dog Canyon, Otero County. HSR was founded with a focus on the archaeology of the Tularosa Basin in particular and on southern New Mexico in general.

At one time HSR created a curriculum, "Capture the Past," for kindergarten through 12th grade to get the youth out into the field for hands-on experience with archeology, Dennis said.

"We used to spend a lot of time in the schools," she said. "The curriculum is still available. Teachers still use it."

They had the original spaceport survey in 1994, when Spaceport America was but a glimmer in a governor's eye. HSR was contracted to pick up and document everything culturally significant on El Camino Real where it came close to potential spaceport construction locations.

"What we found in terms of quantity was shoe nails," Dennis said. "Everyone was coming out of their shoes — men, women, children, horses, mules."

HSR still takes on government contracts and other private company work. There are 10 full-time paid employees and numerous others are contracted on an as-needed basis.

"We are just always taking on projects," she said. "El Paso Electric, Santa Teresa Airport, just for a few."

The organization has always been a training ground for those studying in the field.

"We use a lot of graduate students," she said. "You can look around the state and almost everyone (in the field) has been connected with HSR."

Buffalo Roast

On March 11, Human Systems Research Inc. is inviting the community to a fundraising buffalo roast at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

Funds received by participants go to support the Cañada Alamosa Project.

The buffalo comes from Colorado and is cooked by Las Cruces chef Juan Morales of the Santa Fe Grill.

"We have people who come for the buffalo, we have our supporters and volunteers, and some come for the presentation," said Deborah Dennis, HSR director.

The 2017 presentation is "Amazing Women of the West," a Chautauqua by VanAnn Moore. Moore takes on the aspects of three diverse women from the mid-1800s.

Doña Tules owned gambling houses in Santa Fe and established close relationships with Mexican and American leaders. Susan Shelby Magoffin, often billed as the first Anglo woman down the Santa Fe Trail, recorded her adventure for future generations. Lydia Spencer Lane, the wife of an army officer who served at Fort Fillmore and elsewhere in New Mexico, also produced a memoir of her life and times.

Moore draws on the wealth of material to offer a look at women's lives in territorial New Mexico.

Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and the presentation is at 7 p.m. Dinner is $40 per person and tickets are available for pre purchase. The presentation itself is also open to the public and part of the New Mexico Humanities Council Chautauqua program.

For more information

www.humansystemsresearch.org/
www.canadaalamosaproject.org

RANDOM ACTS OF NONSENSE • JIM DUCHENE

Grandpa, P.I.

If you've read the Raising My Father stories over at the Desert Diary section of this fine publication, you know that my much older brother takes care of our elderly father. He does this without complaint. At least I think he does it without complaint. I quit listening to him years ago.

There are times, however, when my brother and his family travel out of town on vacation and are unable to take him along. This is when I've had the pleasure of taking care of my father. Let me stress that it is indeed a pleasure, because, if my brother happens to read this, I want him to think he got the better end of the taking-care-of-your-aging-parent deal.

It was during these adventures that I came to the conclusion that my father should be a private investigator, and I'm not just saying that because he sports a thick mustache, drives a red Ferrari, and has an old war buddy who flies a helicopter for a living. No, I'm saying that because he has all the qualities it takes to fight crime and baby kangaroos.

Despite what you see on TV, private investigating actually consists of doing nothing for long periods of time. Heck, my dad can do that standing on his head, which, at times, he's been known to do. Also, my father is naturally curious. There is no private conversation I can have with my lovely wife that my father won't try to eavesdrop on.

"Honey," I'll say, as I'm whispering sweet nothings into her ear, "let's go take a nap."

"A NAP?" my father will interject from across the room, his TV blasting away at full volume. "It's the middle of the day! Why would you want to take a nap?"

I also have to be careful where I place my mail because my father will pick it up and go through it as if it's any of his business, which it usually isn't. His own mail, however, he has no interest in. My brother tells me he'll hand it to him and our father will just put it down wherever he's at. There it will stay until my brother brings it to his attention.

"Aren't you going to check your mail, dad?"

"Why bother?" my father will say. "It's nothing but bills."

We, his children, take care of all his other expenses. Like a true P.I., my father isn't interested in paying his bills, so we take care of those, too.

My father understands human behavior and has the uncanny ability to anticipate what someone is going to do before they do it. When he watches a baseball game and all the bases are loaded, he'll say of the batter walking to the plate, "I bet he bunts." When the batter then hits a home run, he'll still insist, "He should have bunted."

With his hearing aids, not only can he hear, but he has SUPER hearing.

If a bad guy he captured were to confess, "I admit it, gumshoe. I assassinated President Kennedy, kidnaped Jimmy Hoffa, and put the heartbreak in psoriasis," my father would nod his head knowingly.

"What did he say?" a police officer just arriving at the scene might inquire.

"I don't know," my dad would answer. "I can't get this dang hearing aid to work. Wait a minute!"

"What? WHAT?" the cop would say, pulling out his gun, ready for anything.

"My son and his wife are taking a nap... and it's The Middle Of The Day!"

Nothing goes undetected or unreported by my father. In the brief time he was with us, my son received an important phone call on our landline. He was job hunting, you see, and had applied to several companies. When he came home, my father gave him the happy news.

"Somebody called. They said you've got the job."

My son was so excited he jumped for joy and got stuck.

"That's great, grandpa! Who called?"

"What?" was my father's response.

"Which company called?"

"Company?"

"Yes. Which one called?"

"Don't you know?"

"How would I know? I didn't answer the phone. Did they leave their name and number?"

"As a matter of fact, they did" my father sniffed, offended.

"What is it?"

"I forgot."

And don't let my father's fading eyesight fool you, nothing escapes his notice. Just ask the lady who likes to sunbathe next door. Which reminds me of a private investigator's most valuable skill: womanizing. Like any P.I. worth his salt, womanizing is just one of my father's many talents.

"Dad, you should start walking at least 15 minutes every day," my wife, concerned for his health, told him.

"Why walk when I can sit and watch TV?" he answered, shrugging it off.

"Because it's good for your sex life," I joked.

My father thought about that.

"Who do I know lives 15 minutes away?" he wanted to know.

It's this dedicated avoidance of exercise that, despite his advanced age, gives him the stamina of a much younger private investigator. As long as that P.I. is only six days younger.

After doing something strenuous, like eating lunch, he'll announce to no one in particular, "I'm going to take a nap."

My wife and I will look at each other.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?

Born in the southwest, President Jim Duchene proudly honored the tradition of a peaceful transfer of power with a minimal loss of life. See if you survived at JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com, RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com, and @JimDuchene.

GUEST COLUMN • CATHY WARD

Wheelchair Rants

The view from a seated position not always so pretty

So-called "handicapped" or "accessible" bathrooms: Accessible motel bathrooms with a bathtub. It doesn't matter how many safety bars there are — and sometimes there are so many that it looks like a jail. A person whose legs don't work can't get into or out of a bathtub safely.

"Accessible" bathroom stalls that have no room for a wheelchair and the person in it. On a recent trip, we found one that we managed to squeeze into except for two problems. We could not close the door, and no matter how many yoga positions we tried, there was no way I could get on the throne. Perhaps they meant handicap like in golf. What's with the safety bar behind the toilet? Is that to be used for a person to grab and vault himself or herself off the toilet and back into the wheelchair. Not a pretty picture!

Doors: doors that open out toward you. Try sitting in a chair and opening a door toward you and somehow getting in. This often leads to painful injuries (more handicap issues) or waiting for some kind soul to hold the door open.

Ramps: Who wants to climb Mount Everest in a wheelchair? Some ramps are so steep they look like the streets of San Francisco! Downtown Deming has a few ramps from street parking to the sidewalk but this often entails traveling in the street to get to a ramp and hoping no one hits your chair which could be a real handicap! Also, people park in the marked wheelchair loading zones which makes it very difficult-more traveling in the street!

Equipment: I have decided that whoever designed wheelchairs, scooters and power chairs never sat in them for more than five minutes. My little scooter is great for shopping except for the seat which feels like a block of cement.

Try sitting on a block of cement for an hour. It does something to one's disposition that isn't nice. Then there are the cushions. They are designed to give one a permanent wedgie and a burning behind. I have a gel cushion that likes to goose me every time I move.

Power chairs and scooters should have rear view mirrors as standard equipment. I have lost friends due to my lack of backing up skills. However, some of them have forgiven me as I can park close to stores and carry bags.

Prices: For some reason, anything with the designation as "handicapped" automatically adds hundreds of dollars to the price. Why is that? Most people with a handicap don't appear to be that well off.

In summary, I am suggesting that perhaps actual handicapped people should help design wheelchairs and other equipment as well as doors and ramps. Also, it sure would be nice to see less exorbitant prices for our equipment.

THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Horologium, the Clock

We are all hostages to the clock. There is no escape and no relief, not even in our sky. Horologium, the Clock, straddles our southern horizon on these February evenings. It is the 58th largest constellation in the sky. Horologium is mostly composed of faint stars, with only one being brighter than magnitude four.

This modern constellation was created by the French astronomer Nicolas Louis de Lacaille in 1752. Lacaille had spent two years in South Africa charting the southern skies. While he was observing there, he used a pendulum clock to time his observations. Astronomers use a form of longitude called Right Ascension to record locations in the sky. Right Ascension is measured in hours, minutes, and seconds of time as astronomers like Lacaille measured a star's position by noting the time the star disappears behind a crosshair in their telescope.

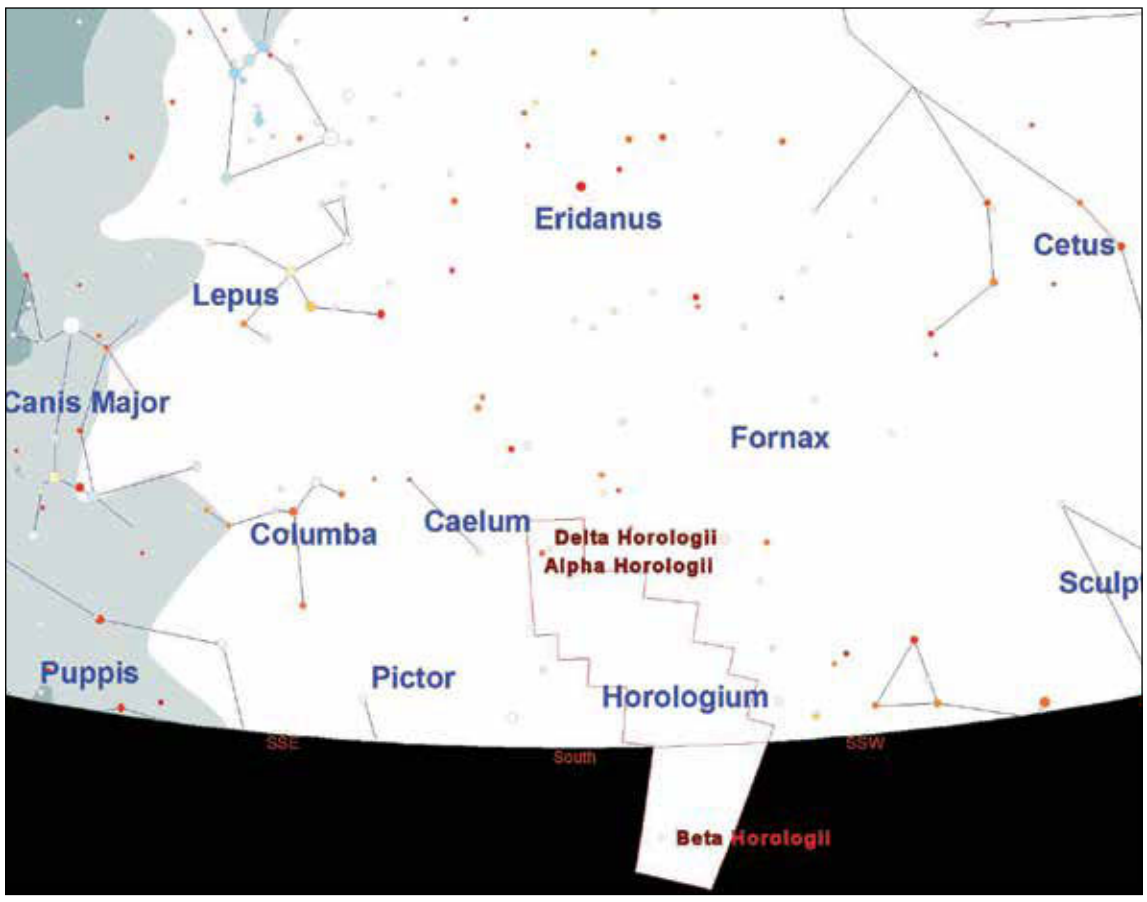
His new star catalog provided Lacaille the opportunity to create 14 new constellations in the southern sky. Most were technological instruments of the time, including what he called in French as l'Horloge à pendule & à secondes (clock with pendulum and seconds hand), much like the one he used when making his observations. Lacaille Latinized the name to Horologium for his 1763 star chart. There, he depicted this constellation as a pendulum-controlled wall clock with a pair or weights that provide the power to keep the clock running.

Within the boundaries of Horologium is the globular cluster NGC 1261. Composed of mostly faint stars, this globular cluster is just over 53,000 light-years away from us. It is not visible to the naked eye, with a magnitude of only 8.3, but it is easily seen in a telescope. NGC 1261 was discovered by James Dunlop on Nov. 24, 1826. Dunlop was a Scottish astronomer working at the Paramatta Observatory just outside Sidney in New South Wales, Australia, at the time of the discovery.

Globular clusters appear circular in the sky. NGC 1261 is 12.9 minutes-of-arc across, making it about a quarter of the area of the full moon. It is actually a giant sphere of stars, which are loosely packed in the outskirts, but become increasingly more densely packed near the center of the cluster. In the center, the stars are a million times more densely packed than in our region of space.

None of the observed globular clusters have any active star forming regions. This means that the stars that form these clusters have been in existence for a very long time. In fact, globular clusters are some of the oldest objects in our neighborhood. They are even older than the Milky Way galaxy itself.

Our galaxy was formed from a giant gas cloud. Before it started to form our galaxy, isolated areas of the cloud began to collapse, forming the individual globular clusters. Having formed before the rest of the galaxy, globular clusters are not confined to the plane of the galaxy like the much younger open clusters. They travel above and below the plane of the Milky Way, orbiting the center of our galaxy. NGC 1261 is currently south of the plane of our galaxy, but it will eventually turn northward travelling through the plane of the Milky Way. It will then turn back southward, passing through the plane again to return to its current position.



Horologium, the Clock, straddles our southern horizon on February evenings. This constellation is mostly composed of faint stars that were grouped to form a clock, filing in this section of the southern sky. When we look at Horologium, we are looking southward out of the plane of our Milky Way galaxy, so there is much less gas and dust to obscure our view out of the galaxy than along the plane of the Milky Way. This gives us a better view of globular clusters outside our galaxy proper.

NGC 1261 is not the only globular cluster in Horologium. Arp-Madore 1 is one of the most distant globular clusters orbiting our galaxy. It is named after Halton Arp and Barry F. Madore who used the United Kingdom Schmidt Telescope near Siding Spring, Australia, to classify this faint cluster as a globular cluster. It is the most distant globular known today, located south of the Milky Way, about 398,000 light-years distant. This is more than twice the diameter of the Milky Way, a truly distant globular cluster.

The Planets for February 2017.

Venus reaches its maximum brightness for the current evening apparition on Feb. 17, reaching magnitude -4.63. As Venus comes around the sun, it gets closer to Earth so it appears larger. It is also becoming more of a crescent, so less of the disc is illuminated. On that date, the increasing size of the disc will begin to lose out to the disc becoming more of a crescent.

The sunlit side of Venus will cover the maximum amount of sky for this apparition, with a disc that will be 40 percent illuminated and 39.5 seconds-of-arc across.

Venus moves eastward from western Pisces to the central part of that constellation where it comes almost to a stop. The Goddess of Love is 33 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark and sets around 9 p.m.

The God of War is just above Venus as the month begins and continues eastward during the month even as Venus slows down. Mars is 38 degrees up in the west-southwest as it gets dark, setting around 9:30 p.m. Its disc is 4.8 seconds-of-arc across and it shines with a reddish glow at magnitude +1.2. The God of War travels from western Pisces to eastern Pisces during the month.

Jupiter is stationary in central Virgo at the beginning of the month, turning westward later in the month. At midmonth is rises around 10 p.m. in the east and it is 48 degrees up in the south as it gets light. At midmonth, the King of the Gods' disc will be 34.7 seconds-of-arc across shining at magnitude -2.1.

Around 5 a.m., Saturn rises in the east-southeast, shining at magnitude +0.5. It will be 32 degrees above the south-southeastern horizon as it gets light. The Ringed Planet's disc is 15.8 seconds-of-arc across, while the Rings are 35.8 seconds-of-arc across and they are tilted down 26.6 degrees with the northern face showing. Saturn moves slowly eastward from eastern Ophiuchus into western Sagittarius.

At the beginning of the month, Mercury will be seven degrees above the east-southeastern horizon as it starts to get light after rising just before 6 a.m. Its disc will be 5.6 seconds-of-arc across and 81 percent illuminated. Each day will see Mercury getting lower in the sky until it is no longer visible by midmonth. The Messenger of the Gods travels eastward from central Sagittarius, through Capricornus and into central Aquarius.

There will be an annular solar eclipse on Feb. 26. The path of annularity runs from southern South America, across the southern Atlantic Ocean and into south-central Africa. None of this eclipse will be visible from the desert southwest, but you can still "keep watching the sky"!

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

Calendar of Events – FEBRUARY 2017 (MST)

03	9:19 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
06	12 p.m.	Jupiter stationary
12	5:33 p.m.	Full Moon
17	12 a.m.	Venus greatest illuminated extent
18	12:33 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
26	7:58 a.m.	New Moon-Annular Solar Eclipse

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SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Along El Camino Real

Area relay foot race begins in El Paso, ends at Spaceport America

Marc and Marianna Heon have participated in 24 relay foot races. Their love for the special aspects of the format has led them to create their own company, MH Enterprises, which specializes in organizing races, from 5K to 200 miles, with unique finish lines distances.

Now, the couple is organizing a race, April 8 and 9, from El Paso to Spaceport America. All levels of runners are invited to participate in the Spaceport America Relay, from amateur to professional levels, and form teams from groups of friends to company coworkers, including participating in the Corporate Challenge.

What Marc loves best about the relay aspect is the teamwork.

"There is something about the team aspect that is pretty amazing," he said. "It's something that is truly a team effort. There is always some obstacle that crops up — you do truly have to come together as a team. This is something fairly unique in the race world, not relying on just one runner."

The 180-mile race is a point-to-point relay with 36 designated exchanges — locations to switch out runners/walkers. As long as the team makes the trip in the 40-hour time limit, people can participate at their own levels. The exchanges are located at interesting, culturally significant and unique locations, Marc said.

Marianna and Marc Heon of MH Enterprises, organizers of the Spaceport America Realy have done their share of competitive racing across the Southwest. (Courtesy Photo)

"The runners are going to have the best of both worlds, from the conquistadores to space," he said. "In this type of a race event, we have an overnight run. Along the course we have minor exchanges and major exchanges where we have aid stations, medical support and water stations. When we mapped out course, we highlighted areas of history and communities providing moments you can stop and reflect.

The shortest leg of the race is two miles and the longest is 13.1 miles, Marc said. That is the big challenge leg for the hardcore runners. All the runners completing the 13.1-mile stretch receive an official medal for doing so.

Mark and Marianna have been to the race area multiple times to scope out the course. They are excited about the special aspects and history of the area.

"The finish line at the spaceport is fantastic," Marc said. "There is no other race in the world that has a spaceport as a finish line. Once we established the finish line we fell in love with the region, the Rio Grande Valley, etc. History is part of the excitement, the idea we are following the whole trail, coming though the path of the conquistadores."

He said one of the benefits of the Spaceport America Relay Race is that it is an opportunity for people from around the country to experience the communities and learn about the history not only relevant to the area but to the United States.

While Marc does much of the traveling and networking for MH Enterprises, Marianna is working hard at home in Surprise, Arizona, scheduling, planning and making sure all the ducks are lined up. During the race she will be waiting, organizing and documenting at the finish line while Marc is out on the course making sure everything is moving smoothly.

"We have grassroots ambassadors in multiple states (promoting the race)," Marc said. "We are looking for people who are looking to try out a new adventure."

Las Crucen Justin Atteberry is a 26-year-old runner who will be completing the entire 180 miles by himself. Atteberry said he has done several 100-milers and a number of multi-day endurance events.

"Over the years I went from from 50-milers to 100-milers and I have been wanting to do a 200-miler for some time," he said. "When I saw this event going on, it really spurred my interest. I thought it would be really cool to actually do."

Atteberry is a structural engineer working in El Paso and trains for his running daily, extra on weekends.

"With my busy schedule, there is no consistent training plan," he said. "I go home (after work) and do 4-6 miles every night, 10-18 miles on weekends. It's about spending as much time on your feet as you can. In an ultrarun sometimes you are on your feet for 36 hours."

When Atteberry was 8 years old, he did his first Bataan Memorial Death March with his dad. When he was in college he started running regularly in college. At 21, his dad asked him if he would participate in a 50-mile ultra-marathon.

"I thought 'you've got be somewhat dumb to do a 50-miler,'" he said. But when his dad said they would do it together, Atteberry said "yes."

Not a competitive person, Atteberry does long-distance running to challenge himself. He likes talking to the other runners and keeps his spirits up that way.

"Running is what I really enjoy," he said. "It is about finishing in a reasonable amount of time."

Atteberry said someone once told him, "If you have some type of problem, you go on a 4-hour run and if you haven't figured it out by the end, you should give up on that problem."

Find out more about the race, or register at spaceportamericarelayrace.com.

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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIELE ROCHELLE

Committed to Commuting

Starting a new year of cycling the streets

I logged 7,000-plus cycling miles in 2016, far more than I logged with my two cars together. Thirty-five percent of my rides (roughly 2400 miles) were for commuting — to work, to school, to church, to meetings, to shops and for visits. With time off for trips without my folding bike, that averages 50 miles a week. In 2015 I increased the miles I was willing to commute from seven to 10; that commitment led to enhanced 2016 figures.

All commuting cyclists can testify that making such a commitment changes your attitude and perception. I experienced a mental shift from "I'm a driver who occasionally cycles for commuting" all the way to "I'm a cyclist who occasionally uses a car for commuting."

So what are the benefits of commuting?

Number one is an increase in mental and physical health. There is a true increase of joy at being alive when you ride more. Often it seems that motorists are frustrated and hassled when commuting because they failed to calculate the time needed for tasks. Cyclists experience little of this frustration because we adjust our expectations and needs relative to cycling. We have to calculate in advance our commuting needs and timing each day, but having done so, the day proceeds at a steady, more leisurely pace. Cycle commuting also gives you opportunity to gear up for the day and to wind down at day's end, because you are not fighting traffic as you do in a motor vehicle.

Number two is the increased awareness of your surroundings. When you cycle, you see people walking and may take a moment to interact. You perceive the natural world even in the midst of a city. You see surroundings — the mountains, the sky, the clouds, the sunshine, the people — and this enhances your life. You are not over against your surroundings, but you are in tune with them. You are not apart from the environment, you are part of it and it feels good.

Number three is the decrease in pollution from fuel emissions and from noise —plus it saves you money. The money part is clear. According to the American Automobile Association, it costs approximately $8,500 to operate a car each year. My three bikes cost me $560 to maintain in 2016. I keep accurate budget figures so I can testify that my costs of running a car plummeted over the course of 2016 by 60 percent (not counting necessary repairs to both automobiles).

The pollution part should be obvious, but here are a few facts: noise is minimal when you ride a bike. Often you hear only the sound of your chain circling the crank. But look at emission figures: the CO2 emission for a cyclist is 21 grams per kilometer; for an automobile it is 271 grams, and for a bus 101 grams. Again, no contest.

Number four is safety — yes, you read that correctly. As you develop street smarts, maintain your bicycle properly fitted with lights and wear helmet and reflective clothing as protection, you will be in a safer situation than if you drive.

If you are a commuter, or intend to be one, join us on the second Monday of each month at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla Street (north of Amador), at 7:05 a.m. for the Visibility Ride. Certified bicycle educators regularly participate in this ride and are more than willing to assist you as you begin commuting. Consider joining a local cycling group; there are many across southern New Mexico.

Thanks to my companions on the Velo Cruces Board for input for this column. Next month we will consider how to begin as a commuter.

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, an avid cyclist and secretary for Velo Cruces, the local advocacy group; see Velocruces.org. The church is at http://stanthonylc.org.

BODY, MIND, SPIRIT • SUZANNE BARTEAU

Minimalism All the Rage

Asking for a spark of joy

The word "minimal" has been getting a good workout lately. It's the new hip trend! So long, feng shui, adios decluttering, all the cool people are becoming minimalists now. Minimalism is so cool, in fact, it has transcended, like yoga or meditation, from being an activity, i.e. something you do, to a practice, i.e. something that signifies what kind of person you are. It's a lifestyle, a philosophy, even — dare I say it — a world view.

There's a certain irony in our ability to complicate simplicity itself. The problem is actually very straightforward: having too much stuff can weigh you down. The solution is almost elegantly simple: try having less stuff and see if your life feels lighter.

Speaking from experience, if you can get past all the unnecessarily burdensome significance people are attaching to the concept, minimalism is a fad worth trying. And I'm not just saying that because I have an ad-filled blog about minimalism that you should really click on. (Just kidding! I don't have one of those. Yet.) I'm saying it because last year, around this time, I got rid of about 75 percent of the contents of my home, and it was deeply, incredibly satisfying. A year later, my life does in fact feel lighter and my house still feels a lot more spacious.

Marie Kondo was my guide. Kondo is an elegantly slender young Japanese woman who wrote a bestselling book that promises "life-changing magic" to anyone willing to do a little 'tidying up.' Her method is to tackle your belongings by category, rather than on a room-by-room basis, and to keep only the things that "spark joy." The first category she says to start with is clothing.

First, take all the clothes you own from every drawer, cupboard and closet, and pile them on your bed. You should end up with a heap that reaches almost to the ceiling fan and spills off the bed in every direction, covering the entire floor. Next (this is not in the book), open a cold beer and a mystery novel, and if anyone asks, tell them you've decided to see if sleeping on the couch feels better for your back. At some point, one or two visits to the chiropractor later, you'll be ready for what follows: stand in the doorway to your bedroom and start picking up and handling each item of clothing individually.

As you hold each item, listen for a little voice inside that says "I love you," or possibly for a jolt of electricity to run up your arm and make the hair on the back of your neck stand on end. I'm terrible at turning off my brain and listening to my gut, unless ice cream is involved, and the static is so bad in my house in winter that I shock myself a dozen times a day anyway, so I ended up with a lot of false positives. Fortunately, the final tally was still a lot less clothes than I started with.

Next comes the step most likely to trip you up: donate and/or discard all the items that didn't make the cut. It can be hard to let go. If you're worried there's something in the discard pile that you might regret getting rid of, you can borrow from the "Packing Party" idea suggested by Joshua Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus, who have a blog called "The Minimalists." They say to invite friends over to pack up all your belongings as though you were moving to an island in the South Pacific, and after three weeks get rid of everything you didn't go to the trouble of unpacking. I suggest you stuff your discard pile into bags and boxes, and wait one month. That gives you a window to change your mind about one or two specific items, but still clears a space for the things you really love and use all the time.

It took me three months to make it through the rest of my belongings the Marie Kondo way, category by category, keeping only the things I really cared about or needed. After the donation trips to the local thrift shops and used book stores had slowed to a trickle, the pawn shop had been visited, and the yard sale was over, the house looked decidedly more spacious and I felt about a thousand pounds lighter.

Now, having lived with less stuff for almost a year, I have absolutely no regrets. It turns out that nothing that left my house for good last year was really important to me. It also turns out that the carefree feeling of not being burdened by excess belongings is so delightfully enjoyable that now I try to be vigilant about not letting new things in to fill up the space that was so painstakingly liberated. Junk mail goes in the trash immediately. Books arrive, but they leave as soon as they're read. It was hard work to free up this inner and outer space, and I don't want to have

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Jay Smith gets directions from passing Sioux at one of the Standing Rock camps. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

A teepee at one of the Standing Rock camps keeps those still at the camp warm for the time being.

A temporary shelter at a Standing Rock camp is destroyed during a winter storm.

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TUMBLEWEEDS • MORGAN SMITH

To Standing Rock

Cold, waiting, DAPL issue still in limbo

"What now?" my son, Jay asked. It was Sunday, Dec. 5, and we were just north of Dilia, New Mexico, where he has a small farm and where we had loaded his Toyota Tundra with firewood. We were headed to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota but had just heard that the Army Corps of Engineers had called a halt to the Dakota Access Pipe Line (DAPL) project that had been under protest there. Should we call it quits or continue the 1,000-mile drive?

"Let's keep going," we both said simultaneously.

After a night at his home in Denver, a stop near Cheyenne to leave off our trailer because of the intense winds, stops in Lusk, Wyoming, Spearfish and Faith, South Dakota, Elgin, North Dakota, after passing even tinier towns like Mud Butte and Flasher and after a day and a half of blowing snow, beautiful but isolated ranchland, icy narrow roads and bitter cold, we came across an array of cars and trucks stuck in snowbanks and then the Oceti Sakowin camp. There were no demonstrations, no police, just dozens of flags whipping in the wind and a hunkering down for survival.

It was 4 degrees with 50 mile-per-hour winds. Jay and I have experienced cold before; we did many winter climbs of Colorado 14ers and once camped at timberline on Mt. Elbert in January and summited in below-zero temperature. This, however, was a different dimension — intimidating and demoralizing. I came away with the deepest respect for all those who were there to protest. Real social change requires sacrifice and risk — not just talk — and this is what the Lakota Sioux personify as well as the volunteers who came from all over the country.

Our truck was loaded with the much-needed firewood, propane canisters, clothing and boots as well as a huge freezer full of beef and elk meat donated by a bow hunter here in Santa Fe named Jesse Gries. First, we tried to help two young women from Missouri jump start their car. There were people from all over and many were unprepared for this savage weather.

We then distributed the firewood, propane and clothing and later found a friend from Santa Fe, Brian O'Keefe, who had been there for a month and had been arrested and banged up in a demonstration. At his request,

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PIPELINE UPDATE * SUZANNE BARTEAU

Is it Over?

Standing Rock Sioux wait to see what happens with Dakota Access Pipeline

The fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline appeared to achieve victory on Dec. 4, when the Army Corps of Engineers announced it had denied the permit for Energy Transfer Partners to drill underneath Lake Oahe on the Missouri River, just north of the Standing Rock Reservation, and promised that a full environmental-impact study would be launched.

Many activists and water protectors have left the camps, but many remain, and four were arrested as recently as Dec. 28 while engaged in a peaceful prayer walk. The pipeline company's drilling equipment also still remains, although work appears to have stopped, which may in part be due to the frigid winter weather and blizzard conditions. Record amounts of snow have fallen in North Dakota this winter.

Work is now underway to close the Oceti Sakowin Camp because of its location in the floodplain. The concern is that when snowmelt begins and the water rises, everything left at Oceti Sakowin will be washed down the river. People are being moved to higher ground at the other two camps, but a big concern is the dwellings, equipment and other belongings abandoned in place.

Many people brought or built shelters and left them behind, either hoping to return or for other people to use. Most of the donated clothing and camping equipment has also been left behind, and now must be dealt with. A group called the Indigenous Environmental Network has committed to do the enormous work of returning the land to its original conditions.

The fight does not end with the closing of Oceti Sakowin Camp. In fact, it has spread out around the country in the form of protests in hundreds of cities

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Ghost Adventures

Travel Channel Films in Old Messilla

Jay Wasley, Aaron Goodwin, Zack Bagans and Billy Tolley doing a take on their introduction shot. (Photos by Tabitha Rossman)

One of the film crew waiting to get started.

Ghost Adventures crew visited Las Cruces to film at the Double Eagle, old Court house and the old Jail house on Jan. 10 and stayed until the end of the week filming for their next season that will be airing in a few months.

The Ghost Adventures crew had a meet and greet session with local fans of all ages before they went in for the lock down where they stayed the night inside the Double Eagle filming their paranormal encounters.

The Ghost Adventures Nick Goff greeting the fans as he arrives on to the set of their new episode.

STANDING ROCK

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we bought more propane, a portable heater, food items, balaclavas, cooking equipment and other necessities in Bismarck the next morning and braved the icy roads once again. We were also able to jump start frozen cars and pull others from snowbanks. This was an intense and humbling experience and I have nothing but admiration for the Lakota Sioux who are standing up to protect their land and water. When the weather is better we plan to go back.

Morgan Smith is a frequent Desert Exposure contributor on border issues. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.

DAPL protesters take turns maintaining prayer fires at the camps to welcome and protect visitors. (Photo by Morgan Smith)

MINIMALISM

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to go through it all again.

So if you're getting the urge to try minimalism on for size, I highly recommend it. You don't have to re-evaluate your lifestyle, or have an epiphany about the meaning of your role on the planet, in order to lighten your load by minimizing the number of your belongings. The word "minimalist" may have been co-opted by bloggers who are genuinely unclear on the concept or perhaps cynically trying to capitalize on the latest fad to capture some internet traffic, but no matter.

Just tune out the hundreds of Facebook groups and Pinterest boards cheerfully marketing minimalism-branded products to people who just want a simpler life with less stuff. The sheer quantity of books being published on how to become a minimalist is absolutely mind-boggling. Resist them! You really only need one guide, if that many, and you won't need it for long. When you're done with it, give it to someone you love, or to your local library. Once it has served its purpose let it go. You'll be glad you did.

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by citizens demanding their local governments close accounts and cut ties with major banks that are invested in the pipeline. Two such demonstrations took place in Albuquerque and Santa Fe on Jan. 10 and 11.

Meanwhile, concern is growing that the promised Environmental Impact Study had not yet begun as of this writing. Water protectors are asking for help in putting pressure on the Army Corps of Engineers to start the process, amid fears that the new presidential administration will prevent the EIS from happening altogether and cause the denied permit to be issued after all.

While the final outcome of the NoDAPL effort is unknown, some of its water protectors have turned their attention to pipeline concerns in other parts of the country. In Florida, at issue is the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline which threatens the Floridan Acquifer.

In Texas, a Trans Pecos natural gas pipeline is slated to be constructed through the fragile Big Bend bioregion and under the Rio Grande into Mexico. And in Louisiana, the same company trying to build DAPL is also trying to push through the Bayou Bridge pipeline through the Atchafalaya Basin, potentially destroying hundreds of acres of wetlands.

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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 Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — Second Monday, 10:30 a.m. Cross Point Assembly of God Church. All singles welcome. 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.

Mom & Baby Yoga — 5:30-6:30 p.m. La Clinica Health & Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop. 388-4251. Free to patients, $5 for non-patients.

Republican Party of Grant County — Second Monday, 6 p.m. at 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).

Silver City Squares — Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

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.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group — First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

PFLAG Silver City — First Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House. Confidential support for LGBTQ persons, their families and friends. 575-590-8797.

Slow Flow Yoga — 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild – First Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. at the Grant County Extension Office, 2610 N. Silver Street, North Entrance. Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 575-388-8161.

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.

Babytime Sing & Play — 10:30 a.m. for infants 0-12 months and their caregivers to enj stories, songs and rhymes, and movement. Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 575-538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.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.

Future Engineers — 4-5 p.m. For children ages 6-12. Creative construction fun with Lego, K'NEX, and Strawbees! Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 575-538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Gilawriters — 2-4 p.m. Silver City Food Co-op's Market Café Community Room, 615 N. Bullard St.

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.

Prenatal Yoga — 5:30-6:30 p.m. at La Clinica Health & Birth Center, 3201 Ridge Loop. 388-4251. Free to patients, $5 for non-patients.

Prostate Cancer Support Group — Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

THURSDAYS

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

Blooming Lotus Meditation — 5:30 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.

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.

Little Artist Club — 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children ages 0-5. Creative fun for children. Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 575-538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

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.

WildWorks Youth Space — 4 p.m. For children ages 10+ Space for youth to hang out, experiment, create and more. Free, no registration necessary. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Avenue, 575-538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Yoga class — Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, Seventh and Texas.

FRIDAYS

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group — First Friday, 10:20 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hidalgo Medical Center. Ask at the front desk for the room number. 575-388-4539. Free senior care service available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Silver City Senior Center. Call Gigi at 575-388-1319 for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous — 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. 575-654-2067.

Silver City Woman's Club — Second Friday, 10:30 a.m., lunch is at noon, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. Kathleen at 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 — First and third 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.

Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip" —11 a.m. to noon, at First United Methodist Church.

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.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga — 10 a.m. All levels. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

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ENERGY WORK • TIFFANY ACOSTA

Pollution Prevention in T or C

NMSU College of Engineering staff helps small businesses with energy efficiency

A team from New Mexico State University has spent the past year providing technical assistance to two small businesses in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Funded under a two-year grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the work has focused on encouraging pollution prevention, and economic and energy efficient practices among rural hospitality-based businesses in the southern portion of the state.

Through the Engineering New Mexico Resource Network in the College of Engineering, Chris Campbell, senior program manager, and Jalal Rastegary, research scientist, along with Amirreza Barin, a computer sciences graduate student, worked with the R & C Sumthins Ice Cream Shop and Desert View Inn to assess and recommend pollution prevention and energy efficiency best practices.

"Our objective was to identify hospitality-based businesses that had an interest in participating in the project," Rastegary said. "The technical assistance we are able to provide involves a non-regulatory assessment that results in tangible recommendations for cost-savings."

The NMSU team met with Hans Townsend, owner and operator of the Desert View Inn, to evaluate the motel, which includes 11 rooms and was built in the 1950s. The NMSU team found that Townsend had already taken initial steps to adopt energy efficient and pollution prevention best practices including weatherization of windows and most doors, equipping lighting fixtures with LEDs or energy-saving fluorescent bulbs, recycling cardboard via on site pick up, and benefiting from other recycling offered at a city transfer station.

Enhancements to current practices included recommendations to replace appliances such as televisions, refrigerators and air conditioners with new Energy-star models. Additional suggestions included installing occupancy sensors or motion sensors for lights and appliances, and enhancing recycling of materials at the city transfer station.

The NMSU team also worked with Laurette Towne, owner of the R & C Sumthins Ice Cream Shop, which is located near downtown T or C in a 1930s building. Current energy best practices and disposal and recycling activities within the shop include weatherized windows and doors, unplugging of electrical devices when not in use, equipping lighting fixtures with CFLs or energy-saving fluorescent bulbs and recycling cardboard weekly via on site pick up while other recyclables are disposed because recycling is only offered at a city transfer station.

Following an onsite assessment, the NMSU team recommended replacing all older freezer units with Energy-star replacements, removing a water softener unit to increase storage, scheduling regular trips to the city recycling station, continuing to unplug devices when not in use, and to use only CFL, LED or energy-saving fluorescent bulbs.

Despite their locations in older, non-efficient buildings, the NMSU team was impressed with both the Desert View Inn and R & C Sumthins Ice Cream Shop's adoption of good energy best practices and commended the owners for their attempts at energy efficiency.

"Traditionally underserved portions of rural New Mexico provide us with wonderful opportunities to practice pollution prevention and energy efficiency especially in small businesses that can readily benefit from the resulting cost-savings," Campbell said. "Recommendations for the two T or C businesses, if adopted, could result in over $28,000 in savings over the next three years. Since 1999, NMSU and our partners at EPA have been able to provide these services free-of-charge to all New Mexico communities."

"Engineering New Mexico is committed to expanding the pollution prevention and economic energy efficiency services to businesses across the state," said Patricia A. Sullivan, associate dean for outreach. "This upcoming year, we are focused on expanding our collaboration with the New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership to provide a portfolio of business assistance services statewide."

Businesses interested in learning more about these services are encouraged to contact Campbell at chriscam@nmsu.edu or by phone at 505-263-0646 or the Engineering New Mexico Resource Network at engr-nm@nmsu.edu.

Supporting Each Other

'Crochet For The Kids' helps foster children

According to Debbie Orona, office manager for Hidalgo County Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Luna, foster children need warm blankets, hats, and mittens this winter. The seniors at the Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) Ena Mitchell Senior Center are committed to helping make such handmade items for local foster children. The seniors just need the community's help with collecting a sufficient amount of yarn and crochet needles to make it happen.

"The seniors who utilize the Ena Mitchell Senior Center suggested this very generous idea," said Edith Lee, LMSW, HMS Chief Support Officer. "HMS is committed to helping to make their innovative recommendation a reality. Blankets, hats, and mittens are the primary items that these Hidalgo County seniors would like to crochet to share with local foster children between the ages of newborn and 18 years. The primary items needed for seniors at the HMS Ena Mitchell Senior Center include yarn and crochet needles."

Hidalgo Medical Services' Ena Mitchell, senior center volunteer, works with community members who are assisting with the "Crochet for the Kids" program and organizing recently-donated crochet materials. From left to right are Lynn Hendley standing in front of John Givan, Advisory Council President, Judith Smotts, Teresa Bravo, Secretary, Maura Rico and Susan Lamb.

"This collaborative effort between HMS and CYFD in Hidalgo County serves as another opportunity for the individuals that HMS serves, such as our Hidalgo County senior population, to help make a positive difference in the lives of others," said Dan Otero, HMS chief executive officer.

Those interested in donating yarn and crochet needles or who want to participate in this program are encouraged to contact HMS Family Support Services.

Hidalgo County drop-off and contact information: Ena Mitchell Senior Center, 532 E. DeMoss Street in Lordsburg, 575-542-9414.

Grant County drop-off and contact information: HMS Family Support Services Office, 110 W. 11th Street in Silver City, 575-534-0248.

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HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

It's a Bumpy World

Rock house mine hike in the Organ Mountains

If you take Baylor Canyon Road from the south side (Dripping Springs Road) for about three miles, about 1,000 feet after the road changes from dirt to paved, a road turns off sharply to the right and you cross a cattle guard. Immediately, the road turns rocky. You might dare continue if you have a high clearance old Jeep. Otherwise pull over and follow the road on foot.

The way leads to an old rock house (Google Maps calls it Mine House Spring), which sheltered miners who worked the mine farther up the trail. One corner still shows signs of open-pit fires, which might stem from more recent times. Behind the house you can make out the remnants of a garden or probable pasture for animals. A big tree offering shade completes the idyllic scene.

Follow the trail farther and it will lead you to the mine. It is a fun site to explore with kids but keep a close eye on them. While some entrances below have been closed with metal doors, on top of the hill are several wide-open pits without rails. Throw a rock in to see (or rather hear) how deep these mining tunnels go.

For an even bigger (and much longer) adventure you can continue from the top of the mine and follow the ridge trail towards the mountains, which later curves left (north) and leads up to a canyon full of giant boulders and, eventually, the Rabbit Ears Plateau.

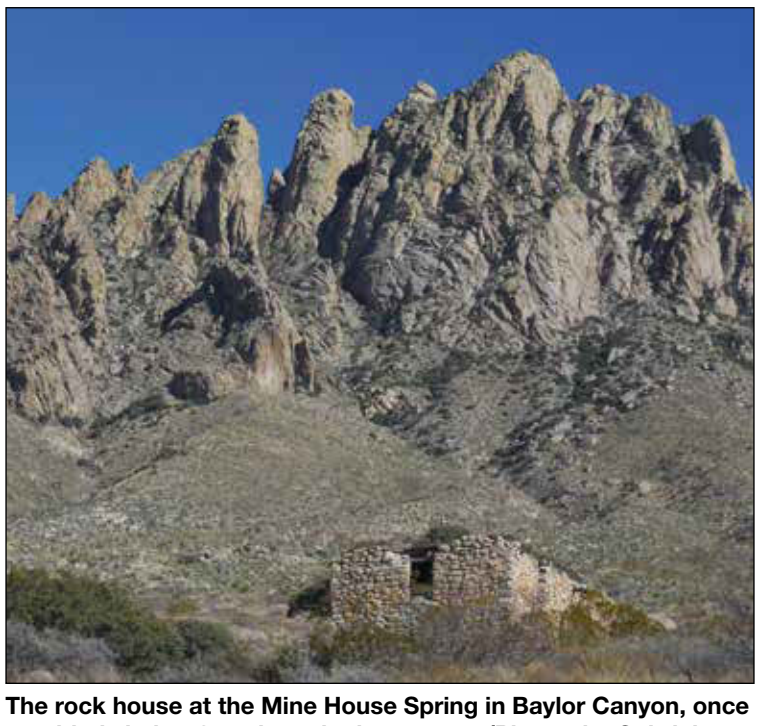
On one of our outings a few years back we had to call the Search and Rescue Team to aid some rock climbers who got stuck on a cliff face there. We had heard them earlier, gleefully hollering, but were too far away to actually see them (note to self: bring binoculars next time!) and the afternoon was getting windy and cold, so we turned around. That's when their cries suddenly sounded more frantic and with a lot of yelling back and forth we finally determined that they indeed needed rescuing. We called 911 and gave them our coordinates (it's good to have a GPS or smart phone with you). They connected us to the State Police who sent out an officer and also informed the Search and Rescue Team. We still chuckle at how our son yelled to the climbers: "We called the police and they will come and GET you!" He meant well.

At the bottom of the trail by our car we met the police officer and later we found out that the climbers had been brought to safety. Too-cold fingers had made it impossible for them to get either up or down, but once off the wall they were able to walk out.

This is no news, but the mountains can be dangerous if you don't come prepared. So, as always, go out, have fun, enjoy the outdoors, but remember your sunscreen, hat and sturdy shoes! Hubby has taken to bringing a hiking stick along for additional stability and support.

They make collapsible ones now that can be easily stashed in your backpack.

Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for the last 18 years — and loved every minute of it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding and all over this beautiful state.



The rock house at the Mine House Spring in Baylor Canyon, once provided shelter for miners in the canyon. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)

Old mining equipment can still be found in the area of Baylor Canyon Road.

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Dr. Everett earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery at Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry. He also completed a Master's Degree in Oral Biology and Periodontics at Texas A&M University. Originally from further north in the Texas Panhandle, Dr. Everett was born in Amarillo to a great family of ranchers and farmers, and called the nearby town of Stratford, Texas his home. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Everett to Silver Smiles.

BRONCO SUE • JENNIFER GRUGER

'2017 Best Western Hat Maker'

Custom headwear team creates classics

At first blush, Kenny and Lou Lynn Bratcher are about as laid back and relaxed a couple as you could imagine. Sitting in their shop in Tularosa, you would think they had just returned from a stroll through the 49 blocks and were considering whether to have lunch or read the paper first.

When you sit with them for a bit however, what you discover is confidence and humility based on years and years of experience as business owners, community members, and most importantly of course, very busy hat makers in their business, Bronco Sue.

The couple started out by selling palm leaf hats (think traditional working cowboy hat made from what you might have thought was a straw material.) They started out just managing the business from their home in Radium Springs, New Mexico. They did well advertising through magazines and going to Western events and trade shows.

Kenny developed a curiosity about felt hats, but discovered quickly it wasn't going to be easy to break into the realm of custom felt hat making. Equipment was hard to find. Plus, the knowledge he needed to develop the skill was held closely by the successful hat makers he knew. Over time however, he gained the trust of his mentors and began to acquire the equipment needed piece by piece.

Today there are only about 60 people in the United States who make felt hats in large part because the equipment is no longer made. One piece, still used daily in the Bronco Sue facility, was made in the 1890's. The "newest" pieces are 65 years old.

Bratcher said this is because after World War II, most people stopped wearing hats; plus the equipment was so well made. He can maintain the equipment himself and has a source in St. Louis for the sewing machines and parts. He also continues to stay in touch with his mentors.

Originally from Tucumcari, the Bratchers ended up in Tularosa because they "just liked it!" Kenny said, passing through to visit his grandparents in Piñon and had fond memories of it. In 1997 they took over the old used truck lot, located at 907 St. Francis Drive, "Bell Boy's Trucks and Stuff" owned by Monty Bell at the time.

They had a retail presence in Ruidoso for a time, but are now exclusively producing and selling hats from this location in Tularosa. Bronco Sue has shipped hats to 15 countries and to all 50 states. Lou Lynn said they have quite a clientele of Texans and tourists passing through as well as loyal repeat customers.

"We had a lady a few months ago who flew from Yoakum, Texas, to Albuquerque and rented a car to drive down to pick up two custom hats for her rodeo queen daughter," she said.

When asked about the process for creating a custom hat, Kenny said people will often say, "I want a hat like so and so wore in such and such movie." Most of the time they know exactly what they want.

Sometimes there are new customers who've never owned a hat before, so the Bratchers offer advice based on the intended use of the hat and the personal habits of the customer. A custom fit requires measurements to be taken and then a special form is created, just for that person, called a "retainer." The retainer is used to shape the hat and then goes home with the hat for storage so the shape can be maintained over time. Many of their customers make repeat orders so the Bratchers keep a log of the measurements taken or the customer will send or bring in the retainer to reuse for the next hat.

Once the size and shape are determined, a hat body, made from 100 percent animal fur (beaver is the best) is selected. The hat bodies themselves are only made in a handful of places in the world and the Bratchers only buy from one factory in Tennessee. All components are made in the U.S. in fact.

The sweatbands (one of the most important parts of the hat) are made from sheep skin and are vegetable tanned using a special process just for sweatbands in a tannery in New York. (Even the sheep are from the U.S.) This attention to the quality of the sweatbands is one of the major selling points for Bronco Sue customers. Using the equipment and years of experience, the hat comes to life and is finished with a hand-creased brim by Kenny himself.

These are not your average dime-store hat obviously. Prices start from the $300's up to thousands depending on the requirements, materials and detail. The quality results that meet Kenny's standards are not cheap.

"If I could sell a hat for $50 that I could live with, I would," Kenny said.

The Bratchers have made hats for Dale Robertson, George Montgomery, Lynn Anderson, Marty Cove, Frank Stallone, Kenny Vaughn. Hank Williams Jr. bought one from the guy Kenny originally made it for.

Whether you're in the market for a new hat or not, a visit to Bronco Sue Custom Hats is worth the stop. The Bratchers are happy to tour you through the vintage equipment and share their love of quality hat making. Be sure to ask about why they chose the name Bronco Sue! You can also visit their website for a little history about this gun-totin', cattle stealing, heartbreaker of a cowgirl.

Blocking machine made in 1890's, used to make every felt hat in the shop. This is the first step where a hat block is set into the hat body to start to form the shape of the crown of the hat.

Kenny and Lou Lynn Bratcher standing in their shop at 907 St. Francis Drive in Tularosa. Kenny was named "2017 Best Western Hat Maker" by readers of True West magazine. (Photos by Jennifer Gruger)

If You Go

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday
907 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa 575-630-1912
www.broncosue.com
On Facebook: Bronco Sue Custom Hats

Kenny Bratcher holding a fuzzy, floppy "hat body" on the left, which is the starting point of a custom hat and a finished hat on the right.

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TABLE TALK • BILLY HUNTSMAN

Caution

Locate the nearest fire extinguisher before reading

In 1914, Fabian Garcia, a professor of horticulture and the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Mexico State University, bred the first pod-type chile pepper. To commemorate and continue his research, the university established the Chile Pepper Institute in 1992.

New Mexico is the land of red and green chile, so it stands to reason that it's also the land of 1,000 salsas. And as we await word of when/if the ninth annual Las Cruces Salsa Fest will take place, here's a rundown of some of the best (hottest and savory-est) salsas around town.

"We started off doing jams and jellies," said Justin Hawman, co-owner, along with his father, of the Truck Farm. "Then we decided to move into making salsas."

The Truck Farm offers salsas premade and jarred, as well as salsa packets, which can be poured into tomato sauce.

Hawman said their most popular salsa is Cannon Fire.

"It comes in medium and hot," he said.

Hawman said he and his father get ideas for new recipes from their customers.

"They tell us what they like and we try to give it to them," he said.

Once they begin experimenting with different ingredients, Hawman said it takes a couple months to the get the recipe right.

Other popular salsas at the Truck Farm include Besito Caliente, a sweet-spicy salsa with half a pound of blackberries in each bottle, and though not a salsa, Cherry A'More, which has the flavors of cherry and chipotle chiles, and can be used as a marinade, salad dressing or ice cream topping.

The Truck Farm is located at 645 S. Alameda Blvd. and can be reached by phone at 575-523-1447. Online shopping is available at sweethots.com

Rachel Schneider has owned the Ol' Gringo Chile Company, which is an offshoot of Ándele Restaurant owned by Schneider's family since 2014.

"We had been looking for several years to bottle our salsas because that's what the restaurant is known for," Schneider said.

Ol' Gringo packages and sells Ándele's famous salsas.

"We have 18 different types of Ándele's products," Schneider said.

The most popular is Ol' Gringo New Mexico Gold, as is Ándele Traditional, Schneider said.

Ol' Gringo is located in Building 1-A, 1447 Certified Place, and can be reached at 575-525-1542. Online shopping is available at olgringo.com.

Janet Beatty-Payne is the president of the Las Cruces Community Theatre. On Fridays audiences can attend a performance, then on Saturday mornings head to the Farmers' and Crafts Market, where Payne and her husband, Patrick, serve green-chile-sauce-covered ambrosia out of their food truck, the Green Chile Paddy Wagon.

"Our entire truck is themed around my husband's green-chile salsa," Payne said. "Our bestsellers are our brisket burritos and melts, and of course we put the green-chile salsa in everything we make."

They also make the New Mexico sandwich, which is a grilled cheese compressing salsa-infused green-chile salsa with bacon crumbles.

"People love it," Payne said.

Though the green-chile salsa is the food truck's foundation, Patrick also makes a variety of other salsas.

"One day he made this apple-cinnamon-ginger-habañero salsa and it was just to die for, it was so good," Payne said.

He's also made a strawberry-jalapeño salsa and a mango-habanero, all made exclusively with produce from the Paynes' own home garden, Payne said.

The idea to open the food truck started when a friend recommended they enter Patrick's salsa in the 2014 Las Cruces Salsa Fest. They won fourth place, which gave them confidence in the idea of selling to the public, Payne said.

"We are always at the Food Truck Fiesta events on the first and third Wednesdays of the month," Payne said.

The Food Truck Fiesta's calendar can be found on its Facebook page, as can the Green Chile Paddy Wagon. Though they do not regularly sell their salsas, Payne said special orders can be made. Catering is also available. Payne can be reached at 575-571-5399.

Of course, no article about salsas would be complete without elucidating on the Chile Pepper Institute's products.

On its website, the CPI sells a variety of products in addition to salsas: mustards, ketchups, dry rubs, powders, purees, wings and taco sauces, as well as seeds for growing your own peppers at home.

Many of these salsas and other products are based on one or a mix of peppers, among them: bhut jolokia (a.k.a. ghost pepper), Trinidad scorpion, chocolate 7 pot, and the hottest chile pepper in the world, Trinidad Moruga scorpion.

For comparison, chile pepper heat is rated in Scoville heat units. Your garden-variety jalapeño ranges from 2,500 SHU to 10,000.

Ghost peppers start at one million SHU, Trinidad scorpions at 1.5 million SHU, chocolate 7s at 1.8 million SHU, and Trinidad Moruga scorpions at two million SHU.

The institute's best (melt-your-face) salsa has to be the Sancto Scorpio, a blend of the two Trinidad peppers.

And scientists at the institute are constantly researching how to up the ante and create hotter varieties.

"We'll probably see someone get a three million or four million SHU fruit down the road," said Paul Bosland, NMSU Regents Professor and director of institute.

RED or GREEN?

Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico.

We are in the process of updating and modifying these listings. We are asking restaurants to pay a small fee for listing their information. Restaurant advertisers already on contract with Desert Exposure receive a free listing. For other establishments, listings with essential information will be $36 a year and expanded listings, up to 10 lines, will be $48 a year. To get an updated listing in Red or Green?, contact Melissa Atencio at Melissa@lascrucesbulletin.com or at 575-680-1980.

The listings here are a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at www.desertexposure.com. 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.

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,

1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, 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

1ZERO6, 106 N. Texas St., 575-313-4418. Pacific Rim, South East Asian, Oaxacan and Italian: Friday to Sunday D, by reservation only.

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Sunday B L, all week B L D.

BURGERS & BROWNIES & BEER, OH MY! 619 N. Bullard St., 575-597-6469.

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. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D.

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

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D, Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, pastries, sandwiches, deli: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday 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. Mexican: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday B L Thursday to Saturday B L D.

FORREST'S PIZZA, 601 N. Bullard St. Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, Slices only at lunch time.

FRY HOUSE, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964.

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.

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. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

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. Mexican: Monday to Sunday 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. Mexican and American: B L.

LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Monday to Sunday L D.

MARKET CAFÉ, 614 Bullard St., 956-6487. Organic and vegetarian deli food. Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesday) B L.

MEXICO VIEJO, Hwy. 90 and Broadway 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, 602 N. Bullard St., 597-2253. Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods and now serving barbecue on Saturdays: 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. 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. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Monday to Saturday L D.

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

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

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

TAPAS TREE, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, Wednesday to Sunday L, Fridays L D.

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

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. 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, home-made 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. 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. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday.

Mimbres

ELK X-ING CAFÉ, (352) 212-0448. Home-style meals, sandwiches and desserts: B L.

RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Monday to Saturday D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.

ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.

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

THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.

A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily 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 green-chile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D.

BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer.

CAFÉ A GO GO, 1120 Commerce Drive, Suite A, 522-0383, www.cafeagogonm.com. Bistro with an eclectic menu. "We have a passion for delicious food and it reflects in our dishes:" Monday to Saturday L D.

CARILLO'S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday L D.

CATTLEMAN'S STEAKHOUSE, 3375 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.

CRAVINGS CAFÉ, 3115 N. Main St., 323-3353. Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, egg dishes, salads: B L.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water and Las Cruces streets, 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D.

PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.

DELICIAS DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: 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. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: L 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: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD, 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.

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

GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D.

GIROS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 160 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0341. Mexican: B L D.

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E. Lohman Ave. , Las Cruces, NM 88005, 575-524-9251. **Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Specializing in Relleno Burritos and Other Mexican Food**

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: B L D.

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

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

J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.

JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alley), 526-8855. 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.

GET YOUR RED AND GREEN ON!

Restaurateurs:

Lock in your local listing

Basic listings with essential information will be $36 per year. Expanded listings up to 10 lines will be $48 per year. Only paid listings will be in the March issue!

Restaurant advertisers already on a retail contract with Desert Exposure get a free listing.

To get your updated listing in the guide, contact Melissa Atencio at Melissa@lascrucesbulletin.com or 575-680-1980.

DESERT exposure

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 GUADALUPANA, 930 El Paseo Road. 523-5954. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D. Sunday B L.

LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: L D.

LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524Mexican, 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: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

LET THEM EAT CAKE, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. 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.

N.M. GRILLE & BAR, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354, www.metropolitan-deli.com. Sandwiches and catering: L D.

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

MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday B L.

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

MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. D3, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D.

MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9345 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffee shop, 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.

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.

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

PHO A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.

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

PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO., 3900 W. Picacho, 575-680-6394.

Feb 3rd - Groove Session
funk rock n' roll

Feb 4th - Missy Andersen
soul, blues, r & b
"one of the truly great voices of our times"

Feb 5th - DiTrani Brothers
ragtime, swing, gypsy jazz

Feb 13th - Marbin
jazz rock fusion like you've never heard

Feb 21st - Amanda Kitchens
accordanista - jazz nouveau - folk

Valentine's Day
Special Menu
&
Live Music by
Chicago Gypsy Jazz All Stars
February 14th

It's Always Hoppin' at the Toad
Little Toad Creek
Brewery & Distillery
Downtown Silver City
open seven days a week

PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Herb Wimberly Drive. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B 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. Greek, Mediterranean: Monday to Saturday L D.
SALUD DE MESILLA, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla B, 323-3548. American, Continental: B L D.
THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wednesday to Sunday 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, 524-2408. 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. Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.
TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd No. 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, 519 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, 901 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, 300 Paloma Blanca Drive, 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.

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. Bar, deli, steaks: L D.
BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Monday to Friday L D, Sunday B.
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. 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. Southern soul food: Tuesday to Sunday 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. Italian, pizza, wings: Monday to Sunday L D.
GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.
IRMA'S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.
LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. 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. 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 Quality 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, 544-7795American, 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, etc.: 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. 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 U.S. Highway 80, 557-2295. Coffee shop food: Monday to Saturday B L.
RODEO TAVERN, 209 U.S. Highway 80, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Wednesday to Saturday D.

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve

ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 and Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.
BLACK GOLD, 102 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeehouse, pastries.
CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.
ELLA'S CAFÉ, 96 Main St., 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: Closed Friday, Monday and Wednesday.

Other Catron County

PIE TOWN CAFÉ, Pie Town, NM, 575-772-2700, Open Friday to Monday.

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The World through Imagination

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going On in February

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

Silver City/Grant County

Hot Cross Buns and Spotted Dick: Why English Food Isn't One of the World's Great Cuisines — Noon at the Western New Mexico University Global Resource Center Auditorium, 12th and Kentucky in Silver City. The Western Institute of Lifelong Learning's first Lunch and Learn of the year. Info: 575-538-6835.

Silver City Photo Club — 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 3845 North Swan, in Silver City. Joe Butts talks about determining a subject's best side or angle and how to best light the subject's face to create the most flattering portrait. Info: 860-670-4543.

Deming/Luna County

Hump Day Academy: Microsoft Outlook — 10-noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Space is limited, RSVP to Jessica_etcheverry@lunacountynm.us. Free event, free lunch. Info: 575-543-6643.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

Silver City/Grant County

Continental Divide Trail Greenways meeting — 3 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Third Floor Seminar Room, Student Memorial Building. Info: 575-313-3750.

"World War I: The 100 Year War 1914-2014" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. This is a film with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society spring film series and is accompanied with opening remarks by historian Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. Info: 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is $3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Calling Ukulele Players and Dreamers — 5:15-6:16 p.m. strum for fun group, 6:30-8 p.m. performance group practice at Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village in the Social Center arts and crafts room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

Silver City/Grant County

Popcorn Fridays — all day at 614 N. Bullard St. Free popcorn and food samples. Info: 575-388-2343.

Spring Concert Series: Cipriano Vigil — 6 p.m., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Vigil is the living embodiment of nuevomexicano ritual music. Info: 575-538-3672.

Groove Session — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Rock and blues with a funky flare. Info: 575-956-6144.

On Feb. 3 Cipriano Vigil, the living embodiment of nuevomexicano ritual music, plays at the Silver City Public Library.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Artist reception for ArtForms Member Show — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

"Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey," live theater by Kid's Entertainment — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

"Out of Sterno" — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. A coming of age play in an Alice in Wonderland world explores growing up and the contradictory societal pressures women face just trying to make it across town. Info: 575-523-1223.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Launch Pad Lecture: John Glenn's famous mission — 9 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History first floor. Glenn steps into the history books with the flight of Mercury-Atlas 6 and Friendship 7. Info: 575-437-2840. The Launch Pad Lectures are streamed live on Periscope and are available on the museum's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Sirh-gX3NsxcREfOVLjHeA.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

Silver City/Grant County

Co-op Explorers Craft — 1-2 p.m. at the Market Café, 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. For children 12 and under. Info: 575-388-2343.

Missy Anderson — 7:30 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Blues, soul, rhythm and blues from "one of the great voices of our times." Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Downtown Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

Bayou Seco — 8-11 p.m. at High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley, Las Cruces.

"Out of Sterno" — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. A coming of age play in an Alice in Wonderland world explores growing up and the contradictory societal pressures women face just trying to make it across town. Info: 575-523-1223.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

Silver City/Grant County

DiTrani Brothers — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Ragtime and gypsy jazz. Info: 575-956-6144.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Music Improv at Art Ruidoso Gallery — 2-5 p.m. at Art Ruidoso, 2809 Sudderth Drive. Info: 469-363-7066.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7

Silver City/Grant County

Tech Workshop: Microsoft Excel — 4-5:45 p.m., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Free workshop on how to use Excel for personal and business accounting. Info: 575-538-3672.

Trivia Night — 6:30 p.m. at Burgers & Brownies & Beer Oh My! At 619 N. Bullard St. Gift certificate prizes for top three teams. Info: 575-597-6469.

George Winston — 7 p.m. at Light Hall, Western New Mexico University. Solo pianist will be playing the new Steinway piano, Grammy Award winner. Info: 575-538-6469.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

Silver City/Grant County

Savvy Shopper Co-op Tour — 10-11 a.m. at the Silver City

With the help of technicians, astronaut John Glenn enters the Friendship 7 capsule for his historic flight on Feb. 20, 1962. Learn more about the flight and the man during the free Launch Pad Lecture at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 at the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo. (Photo courtesy NASA.)

The Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces features the coming of age play "Out of Sterno," on Feb. 3.

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Not So Easy: Images of Middle Class Men Accosting Unchaperoned Women on the Streets of Paris circa 1840s-1890s — Noon at the Western New Mexico University Global Resource Center Auditorium, 12th and Kentucky in Silver City. The Western Institute of Lifelong Learning Lunch and Learn presented by Carmen Vendelin. Info: 575-538-6835.

Trivia Night at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery — 7 p.m. at 200 N. Bullard St. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County

Hump Day Academy: Microsoft Word — 10-noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Space is limited, RSVP to Jessica_etcheverry@lunacountynm.us. Free event, free lunch. Info: 575-543-6643.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9

Silver City/Grant County

The Universality of the New Mexico Colcha Stitch — noon-2 p.m. at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway. Presented by Monique Durham and cosponsored by the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning. Limited seats. Info and registration: 575-538-5921.

Suzanne Donazetti, artist lecture — 5:30 p.m. meet the artist, 6:30 lecture at Light Hall, Western New Mexico University. Solo pianist, Grammy Award winner. Info: 575-538-6469.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. This is a free film with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society spring film series and is accompanied with opening remarks by historian Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. Info: 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is $3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Calling Ukulele Players and Dreamers — 5:15-6:16 p.m. strum for fun group, 6:30-8 p.m. performance group practice at Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village in the Social Center arts and crafts room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.

The Fiddling Friends are featured at the Hub with live music while visitors browse downtown Silver City for the Chocolate Fantasia event Feb. 11.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10

Silver City/Grant County

Open Technology Lab — 10 a.m.-noon at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Try out the library's tablets or bring you own laptop or mobile device for troubleshooting. Info: 575-538-3672.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Sawyer Brown — 8-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: 575-464-7777.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

Silver City/Grant County

Artisan Market — 1-2 p.m. at the Market Café, 614 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Info: 575-388-2343.

Chocolate Fantasia — Noon-5 p.m. in Downtown Silver City features Chocolate tasting at many businesses and live music at the Hub.

Rhythm Mystic — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Soul, funk, rock-n-roll dance party. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Downtown Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

Southwest New Age Expo — 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 575 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 979-255-9736.

Chris Waggoner's Tribute to Neil Diamond Play Me — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

WWE Live: Road to Wrestlemania — 7:30 p.m. at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces. Info: 800-745-3000.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County

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

Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Galaxy Gala — 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo. Formal and fun affair with live music and a silent auction. A fundraiser for Chinlren in Need of Services. Info: 575-434-3011.

Chris Waggoner sings tribute to Neil Diamond at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces on Feb. 11.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Vines in the Pines Wine Festival — Noon-6 p.m., at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. Valentine shopping with more than 30 local vendors. Info: 575-257-7395.

Carpenters Tribute — 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Info: 575-336-4800.

Tyler Farr, country star — 8-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: 575-464-7777.

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

Silver City/Grant County

Live performance — 1-3 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankie St. in Silver City.

Alamogordo/Otero County

The Art of Wine — 1-4 p.m. at the Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70, between Tularosa and Alamogordo. Enjoy a day of instructor supervised acrylic painting on canvas while enjoying Heart of the Desert Wine. Info: 575-464-0035.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Vines in the Pines Wine Festival — Noon-6 p.m., at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso. Valentines shopping with more than 30 local vendors. Info: 575-257-7395.

MONDAY, FEB. 13

Silver City/Grant County

Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — 10:30 a.m. at Cross Point Assembly of God Church, 11600 U.S. Highway 180 E. Jeanine Jenks will talk about her trip to China. Info: 575-537-3643.

Spiritual Discussion Group — 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Center for Healing Arts, 300 W. Yankie St., Silver City. Info: 575-956-5038.

Marbin — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Jazz-rock fusion on tour from Chicago. Info: 575-956-6144.

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

Silver City/Grant County

NOVA Science Film Series: The Pluto Files — 4:30-5:45 p.m., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Film hosted by Neil deGrasse Tyson. Also will view historic photographs of Pluto discoverer Clyde Tombaugh and photos from the recent New Horizons mission. Info: 575-538-3672.

Trivia Night — 6:30 p.m. at Burgers & Brownies & Beer Oh My! At 619 N. Bullard St. Gift certificate prizes for top three teams. Info: 575-597-6469.

From Russia with Love: The Kat Trio — 7 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Theater. Three friends from the Ural Sate Music Conservatory play in Silver City. Educational Outreach programs are available at 10:30 a.m. for grades 1-5. Info: 575-388-2386.

Chicago Gypsy Jazz All Stars — 7 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Swing, jazz and blues. Info: 575-956-6144.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Art Jam Party at Art Ruidoso Gallery — 6-8 p.m. at Art Ruidoso, 2809 Sudderth Drive. Info: 469-363-7066.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Rhythm of the Dance (National Tour Series 3)— 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Silver City/Grant County

Virtual WNMU and YOU: Cutting Edge Online Courses Offered through WNMU — Noon at the Western New Mexico University Global Resource Center Auditorium, 12th and Kentucky in Silver City. A Western Institute of Lifelong Learning Lunch and Learn with Jennifer Coleman and Deborah Heller speaking. Info: 575-538-6835.

Gila Back County Horsemen — 6 p.m. at Western New Mexico University's Watts Hall, Room 224, corner of U.S. Highway 180 and Swan Street. Info: evideo@mymacmail.com.

Trivia Night at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery — 7 p.m. at 200 N. Bullard St. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County

Hump Day Academy: Income Taxes and Cash Flow — 10-

A Carpenters Tribute begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 11 at the Spencer Theater in Alto.

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Feb. 10-16: **Lion**
Feb. 17-23: **2017 Oscar Nominated Short Films**
Live Action: Fri, Mon, Wed at 7:30. Sun at 2:30
Animation: Sat, Sun, Tues at 7:30. Thurs at 1:30
*** Thursday Feb. 23 1:30 matinee; no evening screening*
Feb. 18: **Van Gogh: A New Way of Seeing** *** 1:30 only!*
Feb. 24-Mar. 2: **The Brand New Testament**
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*** NOTE: Saturday, Feb. 25 No matinee*

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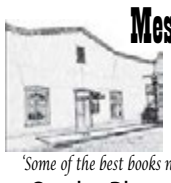

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noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Free event, free lunch. Info: 575-543-6643.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Beginner Bird Walks — 7:45 a.m. at the entrance to Tellbrook Park to walk with the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. Info: way1mike@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 16

Silver City/Grant County
Tech Workshop: Microsoft Word — 10 a.m.-noon., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Free workshop on how to use Microsoft Word to create documents, including how t use the templates and ribbon functions. Info: 575-538-3672.
"Gallipoli" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. This is a free film with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society spring film series and is accompanied with opening remarks by historian Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. Info: 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is $3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Calling Ukulele Players and Dreamers — 5:15-6:16 p.m. strum for fun group, 6:30-8 p.m. performance group practice at Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village in the Social Center arts and crafts room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.
Alina Kiryayeva pianist — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Performing light-classical music, Kiryayeva is known for her powerful command of the instrument, unique interpretations and clarity. Info: 575-523-6403.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

Silver City/Grant County
Wait for What? — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Rock-n-roll. Info: 575-956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Bayou Seco, Mardi Gras Theme Contra Dance — 7:30-10:30 p.m. in La Mesilla. Info: 575-534-0298.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Granger Smith — 8-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: 575-464-7777.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Wiley Ramey and the Big O Band present Roy Orbison Returns — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

Silver City/Grant County
Territorial Charter Day — 10:30 a.m. at the Silver City Museum Courtyard, 312 W. Broadway. Celebrate the enactment of the Territorial Charter in 1878. Opening remarks by the mayor. Info: 575-538-5921.
Sample Saturday — 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Market Co-op, 520 N. Bullard St. in Silver City. Drop by for dinner samples and recipes. Info: 575-388-2343.
Mini-Retablo Workshop — 1:30-3:30 p.m., Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway. Join Las Cruces based artist Pamela Enriquez-Courts to create a miniature wooden retablo. Registration is required. Info and Registration: 575-538-5921.
Stars-n-parks program — 7:05 p.m. at City of Rocks State Parks. Neptune, Mars and Venus in the west. Orion and Canopus are near the meridian. Info: 575-496-1735.**DJs Mr. Anderson and Curtis Pink —** 9 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Black light dance party. Info: 575-956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Battlefield Archaeology: Some New Insights into Custer's Last Stand — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center/Ralph Edwards Auditorium, 400 W. Fourth St. Sierra County Historical Society Dinner and Fundraiser presented by Dr. Douglas D. Scott, visiting research scientist at Colorado Mesa University. Brisket dinner, music and silent auction. Info: 575-894-6600.
Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Downtown Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

Silver City/Grant County
Live performance — 1-3 p.m. at Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankie St. in Silver City.

From Russia with Love, the Kat Trio play classical music at Western New Mexico University Feb. 14.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Music Improv at Art Ruidoso Gallery — 2-5 p.m. at Art Ruidoso, 2809 Sudderth Drive. Info: 469-363-7066.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

Silver City/Grant County
Black Reconstruction and the New Fusion Politics — 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave. Exploration of the concept of "Reconstruction" in American history, led by Jeffrey Scott. Info: 575-538-3672.
Trivia Night — 6:30 p.m. at Burgers & Brownies & Beer Oh My! At

Granger Smith plays the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero on Feb. 17.

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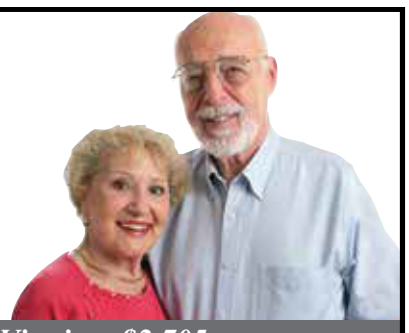

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Pancho Villa State Park will host its ***14th Annual Camp Furlong Day*** *event* on **Saturday, March 11, 2017** at the park's exhibit hall with three special guest speakers providing historical presentations & slide-shows.

- **1:00** p.m., U.S. Army historian Dr. Robert Bouilly will provide a pictorial history of the Camp at Columbus/Camp Furlong from 1908 to its close in 1924. These historic photos will bring the story of the U.S. military camp in Columbus to life.
- **2:00** p.m., the President of the 1st Aero Squadron Foundation, Ric Lambart, will give a presentation and slide-show about the "re-birth" of American civil aviation in 1917.
- **3:00** p.m., Mr. Florian L. Waitl is a military historian and leadership development specialist with Human Dimension Leadership Consulting (HDLC) based out of Kansas City, Missouri. He will discuss some of the timeless leadership lessons and insights that can be gained from the study of Pancho Villa's Raid on Columbus and the subsequent "Punitive Expedition" into Mexico.

At Pancho Villa State Park, regular day-use and camping fees apply. For more information about Camp Furlong Day, call 575-531-2711, or visit www.PanchoVillaStateParkFriendsGroup.org.

The **Village of Columbus Chamber of Commerce** will welcome the annual ***Cabalgata Binacional*** into the village plaza at around 11:00 a.m. Riders on horseback from Mexico will cross into the United States at Palomas, Mexico and join with riders from the U.S. to make the three-mile trek to Columbus as a gesture of peace and goodwill between the two nations. Folklorico Fuego De Phoenix dancers and Mariachi Encanto will entertain in the village plaza. For more information about the Cabalgata Binacional and plaza events, please contact 575-343-0147.
How to get there: From Deming, head south on Hwy 11 for 30 miles to the intersection of Hwys 9 and 11. From El Paso, take the Artcraft Road exit off I-10 to Hwy 9. Head west on Hwy 9 for 75 miles to Columbus. All the day's activities will be within easy walking distance from the intersection of Hwys 9 and 11.

On Thursday, March 9**,** the **Columbus Historical Society** will hold its annual ***Memorial Service*** at the **Depot Museum** at **10 a.m.** in remembrance of the Americans whose lives were lost during the 1916 raid on Columbus. For info call 575-531-2620.

619 N. Bullard St. Gift certificate prizes for top three teams. Info: 575-597-6469.

Amanda Kitchens and Garner Sloan — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Kitchen is singer/songwriter/accordionista and Sloan if a folk/rock master from Austin, Texas. Info: 575-956-6144.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Silver City/Grant County

Giardia, Laughing Frogs and Bi-parental Care in the Peruvian Amazon— Noon at the Western New Mexico University Global Resource Center Auditorium, 12th and Kentucky in Silver City. A Western Institute of Lifelong Learning Lunch and Learn with Lynn Haugen speaking. Info: 575-538-6835.

Deming/Luna County

Hump Day Academy: Public Relations and Media — 10-noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Free event, free lunch. Info: 575-543-6643.

Legends of the Celtic Harp bring their ancient tunes to Las Cruces on Feb. 22.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Beginner bird walk — 7:45 a.m. at Tellbrook Park, 4290E. Winchester Road in the Las Alturas area. Walks guided by members of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society to help birders observe the ever-changing birdlife that lives and visits. Info: way1mike@yahoo.com.

Legends of the Celtic Harp — 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S. Solano. Info: 575-522-7281.

Alamogordo/Otero County

Wine Down Wednesday — 6-9 p.m. at the Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70 between Alamogordo and Tularosa. Music and libations with live folk and soul music by Delaney Davis. Info: 575-434-0035.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Silver City/Grant County

"Last Voyage of the Lusitania" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. This is a free film with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society spring film series and is accompanied with opening remarks by historian Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. Info: 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is $3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Calling Ukulele Players and Dreamers — 5:15-6:16 p.m. strum for fun group, 6:30-8 p.m. performance group practice at Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village in the Social Center arts and crafts room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.

African Guitar Summit (National Tour Series 4) — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Silver City/Grant County

Popcorn Fridays — all day at 614 N. Bullard St. Free popcorn and food samples. Info: 575-388-2343.

Black Teas — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Local rock duo. Info: 575-956-6144.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Annual Gathering of Quilts — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center/ Ralph Edwards Auditorium, 400 W. Fourth St. Large quilt show features locally made quilts, includes vendors, a quilt raffle and appraisals. Info: 575-894-2959.

Getting Your Camera off Auto Mode is the subject at the Feb. 25 Photo Boot Camp with the Doña Ana Photography Club.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

Art Jam Party at Art Ruidoso Gallery — 6-8 p.m. at Art Ruidoso, 2809 Sudderth Drive. Info: 469-363-7066.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

The Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues Society presents the Black Market Trust with Gypsy Jazz — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

Silver City/Grant County

Sam Madan — 8 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Country and rock. Info: 575-956-6144.

Deming/Luna County

Stars-n-parks program — 7:05 p.m. at Rockbound State Park. Neptune, Mars and Venus in the west. Orion and Canopus are near the meridian. Info: 575-496-1735.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Annual Gathering of Quilts — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center/ Ralph Edwards Auditorium, 400 W. Fourth St. Large quilt show features locally made quilts, includes vendors, a quilt raffle and appraisals. Info: 575-894-2959.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Downtown Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

Photo Boot Camp: Getting Your Camera Off Auto Mode — 9 a.m.-noon at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 Main St, Las Cruces with the Doña Ana Photography Club. Info: education@daphotoclub.org.

"Awakening in Taos: The Mabel Dodge Lujan Story" — 7:30 p.m. film at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. A Gala precedes the screening at 6:30 p.m. for a pre-party at Film Las Cruces Headquarters, 340 Reymond St. Info: 575-523-6403.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County

The Five Irish Tenors — 7-9 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto. Info: 575-336-4800.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

Silver City/Grant County

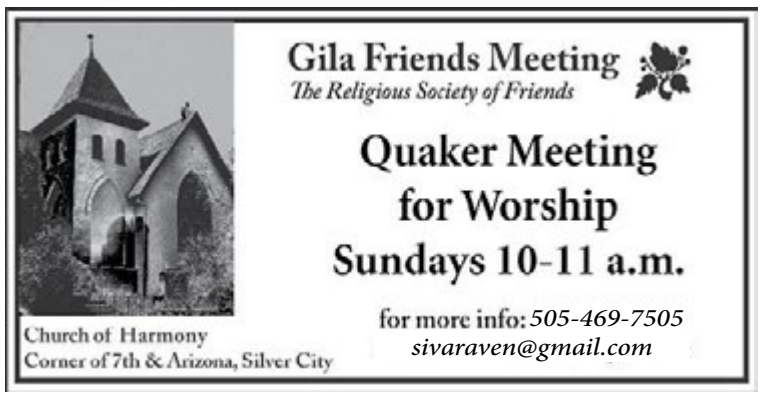
Live Performance — 1-3 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankie St. in Silver City.

Mardi Gras history program — 10 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Bayou Seco presents the program including Mardi Gras music, customs and history. Info: 575-538-0101.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County

The Role of Venice in the History of Art — 1-2 p.m. at RioBravo Fine Art Gallery, 110 N. Broadway, Truth or Consequences. An Art Talks Lecture with John Rawlings. Info: 575-894-0615.

Black Market Trust plays with Gypsy Jazz at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces on Feb. 24



Truth or Consequences holds a huge quilters event every February, this year it is on the 26th.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Classy Glass Hearts in Bloom — 1-4 p.m. at the Heart of the Desert, 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70, between Tularosa and Alamogordo. A day of instructor supervised enamel painting on a wind glass while enjoying Heart of the Desert Wine. Info: 575-464-0035.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
"Awakening in Taos: The Mabel Dodge Lujan Story" — 11 a.m. film screening and student workshop at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.
"Awakening in Taos: The Mabel Dodge Lujan Story" — 6:30 p.m. film at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. in Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

Silver City/Grant County
Mardi Gras Cajun Feast — 5-10 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Costumes and masks encouraged. Info: 575-956-6144.
Trivia Night — 6:30 p.m. at Burgers & Brownies & Beer Oh My! At 619 N. Bullard St. Gift certificate prizes for top three teams. Info: 575-597-6469.
Mardi Gras Cajun Dance Party — 7:30-11 p.m. at Little Toad Creek, 200 N Bullard St. in Silver City. Rhythm Mystic plays, costumes and masks encouraged. Info: 575-956-6144.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Fat Tuesday at Ski Apache — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ski Apache, 1286 Ski Run Road. Info: 800-545-9011.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Deming/Luna County
Hump Day Academy: Advertising/Internet Marketing — 10-noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine St. Free event, free lunch. Info: 575-543-6643.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Silver City/Grant County
Joy Harjo, poet — 5:30 meet the artist, 6:30 lecture in Light Hall Theater at Western New Mexico University. Info: 575-538-6469.
"Paths of Glory" — 7 p.m. at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory. This is a free film with the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society spring film series and is accompanied with opening remarks by historian Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. Info: 575-388-4862 or 575-388-4477.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is $3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Calling Ukulele Players and Dreamers — 5:15-6:16 p.m. strum for fun group, 6:30-8 p.m. performance group practice at Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village in the Social Center arts and crafts room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle in Las Cruces. Info: 575-405-7133.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Silver City/Grant County
Popcorn Fridays — all day at 614 N. Bullard St. Free popcorn and food samples. Info: 575-388-2343.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Say Cheese: The First Photo From Space — 9 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Space History first floor. Info: 575-437-2840. The Launch Pad Lectures are streamed live on Periscope and are available on the museum's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Sirh-gX3NsxcREfOVLjHeA.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Downtown Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: www.lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County
Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

Ruidoso/Lincoln County
Big Mountain Challenge — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ski Apache, 1286 Ski Run Road. Info: 800-545-9011.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Silver City/Grant County
Live Performance — 1-3 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankie St. in Silver City.

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Thurs., Feb. 23, 2017
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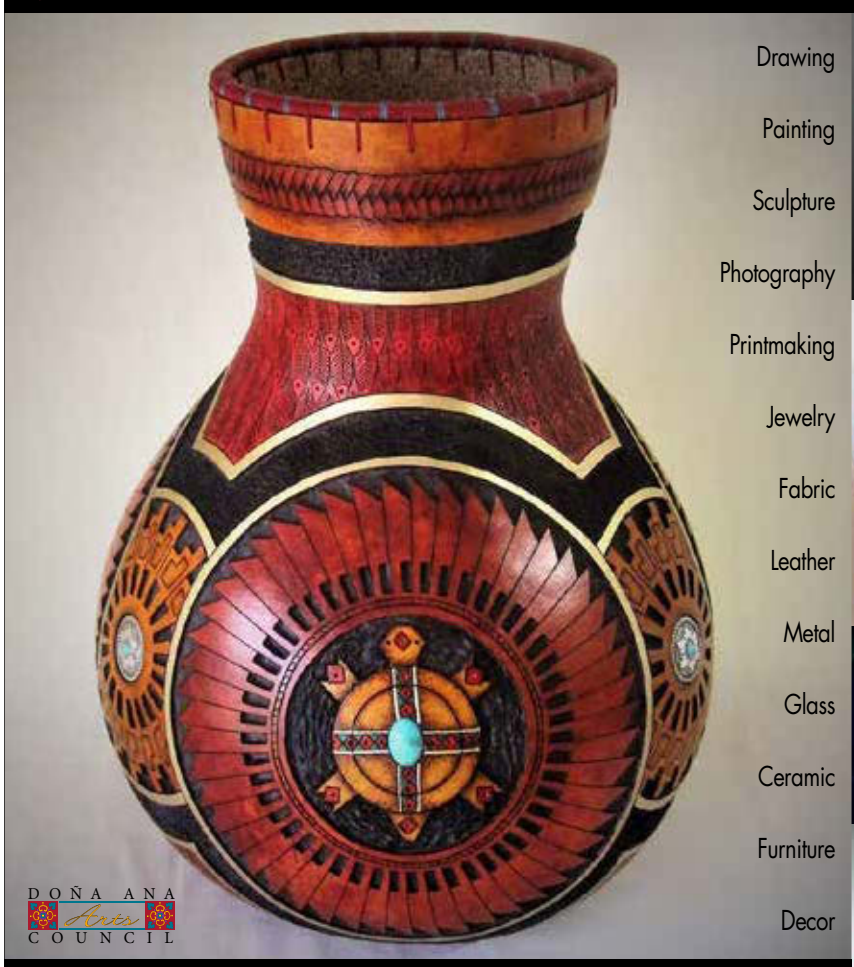

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ON THE TRAIL

City, Boston Hill Partner for Improvements

Trail advocates get together to make plans

Boston Hill Open Space trail advocates Bob Schiowitz and Joseph Gendron recently took a walk with Silver City Mayor Ken Ladner to discuss the upcoming improvements at both the Cheyenne and Market Street trail head entrances. Both have seen drainage and grading improvements to reverse damage from heavy rains in 2016, making the trails less steep and more accessible to a diverse group of users, said James Marshall, assistant town manager.

"Most people don't understand that the Town of Silver City doesn't have staff dedicated to maintaining our local trail system — we just don't have the resources," Marshall said.

"That's why we are so appreciative of local trail and open space advocates who bring maintenance needs to our attention, and who are willing to get out there and help us actually do the work. This partnership makes all the difference in the quality and accessibility of our open spaces here in Silver City."

There are nearly 20 miles of publicly owned trails in Grant County, all of which need regular care and maintenance, in addition to other informal trails within Silver City town limits.

Collaboration is key, Marshall said, given the trails pass through lands owned by various governmental entities, including the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The Market Street trail entrance improvements are a collaborative effort of Silver City, Grant County, Western New Mexico University and trail advocates like Schiowitz, Gendron and others who will help improve trail head aesthetics once the grading work is completed.

In 1999, trail advocates convinced town leaders to purchase Boston Hill for recreation-

IMPROVEMENTS
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Boston Hill Trail is seeing improvement after Silver City administration and other groups come together to work on the area. (Photo by Brook Stockberger)

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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

How RVers Saved the Day for Amazon

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."
— Merle Donald Walsch

Most fulltime RVers love Amazon.com almost as much as we love our cell phones and our laptops and telephone banking and mail forwarding services. But I have reason to love them for the glimpse into a world that was completely outside my experience.

My husband Jimmy and I were working at a campground in inland Maine, suffering through the muggy, muddy aftermath of a hurricane that had traveled all the way up the East Coast, when the phone call came from a personnel representative at the Amazon distribution center in Campbellsville, Kentucky.

"We read your resume on the Workamper Magazine site," she said. "Would you be interested in applying for one of our holiday seasonal jobs?"

All Amazon distribution centers must up their staff during November and December, and for those located in small communities like Campbellsville, that means getting creative to find enough temporary workers.

One year that facility contracted with a nearby prison; another year involved refugees from Hurricane Katrina. Both plans flopped. Then the previous year they'd hit on the idea of hiring workampers, mostly retired RVers who were available for seasonal jobs around the country.

The 50 or so they'd hired had been so dependable and responsible that their goal was to hire at least 500 for the current season, dubbing them their "Camperforce."

That year Amazon was offering around $11 an hour with overtime pay and an end bonus, free RV sites with utilities and Wi-Fi, and your choice of the jobs. Jimmy and I went with "picker: must be able to walk 10-15 miles a shift on concrete floors, climb three flights of stairs, lift 40 pounds."

Eleven-hour shifts began at either 6 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. — again, our choice. We're not morning people, so we chose the overnight shift. Now, neither of us had ever worked at a warehouse or worked overnight shifts, or had to walk 15 miles a day on concrete, but what the hell? Adventure, right?

In mid-October we headed to Kentucky in our motor home. Seven RV parks had recently been built specifically for Amazon's Camperforce, giving us our first clue to how important Amazon is to this region of chronic unemployment.

An even more impressive reminder of Amazon's influence was the recent addition of alcoholic beverages to the menus of several town restaurants in this historically dry county.

Our lives quickly turned upside down. Fortunately, the 5 a.m. happy hours held in the park's laundry room gave us something fun to look forward to at the end of our shift and also helped us relax enough to sleep until time to go back to work.

And make no mistake, the jobs are horrid. As pickers we scurried around a warehouse the size of three football fields interspersed with four-story high sections, carrying handheld computers that not only gave us the exact location of the next item to "pick," but which also timed us for efficiency.

We were robots with two breaks and a half-hour dinner period, robots who filled baskets with products and loaded them onto conveyor belts. We left the parking lot in the dark and came back in the dark to do it all over again.

The other positions sounded even worse — stowers placing each item in its exact bin, packagers and wrappers making the same motions over and over. At least we got aerobic exercise.

For the first few days, just finding the correct product in the correct bin on the correct floor in the correct section (pod) of the warehouse was my biggest challenge, along with working through the dreaded energy slump that hit me around 2 a.m.

I did occasionally make discoveries in the product bins that gave me food for thought during my tedious travels. Bags of candy and chips partially consumed and replaced, discreetly-wrapped "adult" toys taken out of their packaging (yes, you can buy anything from Amazon). And then there was the young couple actually having some "adult" recreation behind a tall stack of Kindles — to relieve the boredom, perhaps?

We have to give Amazon credit for doing its absolute best to make our workday as pleasant as possible. They cut us workampers some slack on our efficiency requirements, occasionally brought in good catered meals, provided us with plenty of fresh fruit and water.

We had mandatory stretching session twice a shift, personnel reps were always available for problem solving and management was visible and supportive.

After a few weeks, Jimmy was reassigned to the position of trouble-shooting the vast network of conveyor belts that surrealistically crisscrossed the heavens of the warehouse, carrying bins of products from the pods to packaging.

"It figures!" I griped every time I passed him just hanging out, chatting up all the passersby. Of course, he did have to climb a precarious ladder occasionally to unjam a conveyor.

On our days off, we still had to keep our upside-down schedule, but fortunately the town offered little entertainment to distract us.

We did manage to earn our souvenir t-shirts from the Kentucky tourism bureau by touring six bourbon distilleries, several of which ironically were in dry counties.

For the record, there's only one way to make bourbon, and by the time I'd been on six tours I could have given the lecture myself.

For some reason that I can't fathom now, we went back to Campbellsville a second year, insisting to ourselves that it "hadn't been all that bad."

Well, it had been, even though it gave us a great appreciation for those who work year-round to make it possible for us to shop from the comfort of our RVs.

And as we finally drove our motor home out of the park and headed for a much-deserved couple of months lazing on a Florida beach, we told each other it had been a great experience but we never, ever wanted to work that hard again. And that's a vow we intend to keep!

Sheila and husband Jimmy Sowder have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City for four years following four years of wandering the US from Maine to California. She can be contacted at sksowder@aol.com.

IMPROVEMENTS

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al use, and negotiated a portion of the land to be donated.

"Now the challenge is to find funding to manage and maintain our local trails," said Schiowitz, who is considering creating a nonprofit organization to do just that.

"We've been fortunate to have help from local trail enthusiasts, youth from Aldo Leopold High School as well as the International Mountain Biking Association to develop the trail heads and kiosks. Hidalgo Medical Services funded all of the signage —it's been a real community effort over time."

Schiowitz added trail advocates are currently evaluating the Spring Street trailhead for maintenance needs. He encouraged trail users to pitch in and help maintain the trails for everyone.

"People assume that there is someone getting paid to maintain the Boston Hill trail system, but that's just not the case, and we all need to help," he said.

"If you see trash, pick it up. Anyone can pitch in an hour or two of their time. You'd be surprised what you can accomplish when we all work together. These trails are a great natural resource close to where many people live, and they really improve the quality of life for Silver City residents."

For more information or to volunteer, contact James Marshall, assistant town manager, at 575-597-6340.

DESERT exposure

March Deadlines

February 13, noon:
Space reservation and ad copy due

February 14, noon:
All stories and notices for the editorial section

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, **PLEASE CONTACT**:

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