

# DESERT exposure

Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico



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Drone Summit  
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December 2016

Volume 21 • Number 12



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# CLARIFICATIONS:

Re: “St. James Parish Hall Experiencing an Epiphany” in the November issue. The St James Parish Hall undergoing repairs is located at 102 St. James St. in Las Cruces.

Re: “Marching into Antiquity” also in the No-

vember issue. Apache people were not forced to march on foot all the way from New Mexico and Arizona to Florida. They were transported to the Florida location by train, but in some cases were forced to march on foot, sometimes close to 100 miles, to get to the trains.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Tradition

The ties that hold we humans together

In this issue is a collection of contributions about holiday traditions — also reflected in the cookies on the cover of the paper. Because while the holidays may be an indicator of stress and overwhelmed scurrying, they are also gathering time and family time.

Between family blends and reorganizations, shopping for gifts and passing along the intensities of life, the holidays are a somewhat breathtaking, happy and rejoicing time of the year. In the midst of all this, Desert Exposure takes a moment to wish all our readers Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Fabulous Kwanzaa.

In my family, we eat our main dinner on Christmas Eve, then Santa visits and hands out the gifts. On Christmas day, we have created our own tradition of spending the day in the mountains, hopefully with snow, breathing in the fresh, cool air of the world.

Inside this December Desert Exposure you will find holiday

music, where certain traditions started, the spirit of giving, funny stories and a little bit of sadness here and there. And of course, you will find food, the most delicious tradition of all.

Kwanzaa (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) traditions include eating, too, as well as reflection, conversation, contemplation and camaraderie. Structured evenings begin with candle lighting and involve greetings, questions, discussions, music and poetry.

And Hanukkah (this year beginning at sundown Dec. 24 and ending at sundown Jan. 1) is a festival of lights which includes a daily lighting of the menorah, playing the dreidel game, gifting small gifts and, of course, cooking, baking and eating. Reading texts, singing and telling stories are also part of the deal.

All of these holidays, and others of the same time of year, involve powerful human connections and ties to family and religious histories. They serve to bind the hearts of children and great-great-grandparents

and everyone in-between in valuing one another.

Some people have some strange ideas about their holiday traditions and some strange creatures bring them to life.

In Wales, the Mari Lwyd, in the form of a horse's skull attached to a pole and covered by a sheet, might visit you with her handlers. She might expect you to compete with her friends in a rhyming game.

In Iceland, 13 magical Yule lads climb down from the mountains to leave gifts in the shoes of well-behaved children (the bad ones get potatoes instead).

In the Ukraine, magical spiders spin glistening silk on the Christmas trees which turns into silver and gold. Then, in Italy, the witch Befana, the giver of gifts, is in control of distribution. In Austria, the devilish Krampus might accompany Saint Nicholas, gifting the naughty with terrible things. There is the German Belsnickel, who also travels to the Pennsylvania Dutch to reward good

behavior, and use his switch on those who are not so good.

Other creatures abound of course, from reindeer to elves and Christmas cats. Some are good and giving and some are there to punish the bad — all have their parts to play.

So take a little time to relax, get your traditions in. Put your feet up, let your socks keep your toes snug. Maybe take a little time to enjoy a Holiday movie ... or, another tradition to some, just watch some terrible television.

*Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and delighted to be holding office hours in Silver City on the second Wednesday of the month (Jan. 11) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yankie Creek Coffee House. Please drop by and say hello.*



QUEST COLUMN • RAY VIGIL

# Act Now

Enrollment open for affordable healthcare

Affordable healthcare is something that all Americans deserve. Before the Affordable Care Act (ACA), millions of people and their families were at risk of financial ruin because they were uninsured. Health insurance companies could also deny health insurance coverage due to a preexisting condition like cancer or diabetes. Fortunately, you are now protected with the ACA.

Open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act begins November 1 and lasts until January 31, 2017. If you want your coverage to begin on the first of the year, you will have to enroll by December 15. Now is the time to compare healthcare plans so that you can find the best one for you. You and your clients can

learn more about the Health Insurance Marketplace and how to apply for benefits at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

Signed into law on March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act provides Americans with better health security by expanding coverage, lowering healthcare costs, guaranteeing more choice, and enhancing the quality of care for all Americans. As of March 2016, 20 million people have gained health insurance coverage — more than 6 million of them uninsured young adults — because of the Affordable Care Act. We now have the lowest uninsured rate in the country's history.

No matter who you are, you are entitled to affordable healthcare. It's a crucial part of securing to-

day and tomorrow. The Affordable Care Act also ensures that even if you have a preexisting condition you will be covered.

If you are already covered and want to change your plan, this is the time to do it. Factors might have changed over the last year that would make you want to update your coverage. Even if you're just curious about the many plans in the open marketplace, you can compare healthcare plans at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

Having coverage for you and your loved ones is a critical part of a healthy and happy life. Make sure you're covered with the plan that best suits you.

*Ray Vigil is the Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in El Paso, Texas.*

Desert #6  
Dumbfounder  
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](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), and be recognized!  
TIPS: [www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm) and [www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg](http://www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg)

"PZPBHOCGH APRQ J MWJIMP RC EXJH, JIG J MWJIMP RC EXJH  
YWJR RWPY YJIR." - KDQLM QRCBP CYIPB GBD WDOOJBG, CI RWP  
UJK VLBQR KCIGJHQ JR RWP YJBWCDQP (WDBBLMJIP JXXPH)

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: "YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SCOUT TO GO FOR A WALK IN A WILD PLACE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A HIKER OR CAMPER TO SMELL THE DESERT RAIN OR THE PINE FOREST."  
- ELVA ÖSTERREICH Secret Words\*: "NATURE OLYMPICS"

Congrats to #5 solvers Claudia Gallegos\*, Mike Arms\*, Will Adams\*, Christina McAlexander\*, Vivian McAlexander\* & Shorty Vaiza\*!

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# Postcards From the Edge

## Desert Exposure Travels



Susie Byersdorfer, a Silver City resident, spent a few weeks in Borneo working in an orangutan rehabilitation sanctuary.

If you are traveling, don't forget to share, have a friend take a photo with yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure and send it to [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com). Entertaining guests from far away? We would love photos of them being introduced to our little paper as well.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Beyond the holidays

### Tax Season

Grant County's AARP Tax-Aide is looking for some friendly people who would like to join the volunteer group.

Last year 11 volunteers prepared and E-filed over 600 Federal and State income tax returns, for free, for seniors and low income taxpayers. Taxes are prepared in Silver City, Mimbres Valley, and Bayard. No previous experience is needed. Training and equipment is supplied by AARP and the IRS.

New members will be asked to volunteer at least 40 hours during the 10 week tax season plus training time. For more information contact Joe at 575-519-9463.

### Cupid's Cuties

The Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces is spearheading a blanket drive to support the pediatric units at Memorial Medical Center and Mountain View Regional Hospital. The Kiwanians are asking for donations of hand-made blankets or quilts to give to the children, aka Cupid's Cuties, for Valentine's Day.

The blankets can be crocheted, knitted, quilted, or made of cloth. All donated blankets will be displayed at a pancake breakfast at Loma Heights Elementary School on Feb. 4 where the community will be able to judge these blankets before they are distrib-

uted to the hospitals. This will be an ongoing project to brighten the lives of sick or injured kids in our community.

Blankets can be dropped off anytime at First New Mexico Bank on E Lohman Avenue (next to Pier 1) or can be taken to the pancake breakfast. Tickets for the breakfast, which benefits the elementary school, are \$5 for eat-in or take out and will be available at the door. For more information or to schedule a pickup, contact Debra Melcher at 575-202-6366 or Nancy Miller at 575-628-7186.

### Encouraging Readers

Children's Reading Alliance engages families and the community in childhood literacy so all children reach their full potential in school and life. With a motto of "Raising Readers Together," it has directly served 700 families through its parent education program, First Teacher and Dolly Parton Imagination Library. 20,000 new books have been given to children ages infant to eight during summer story time and book-distribution events. Donations of new and gently used children's books are needed. No religious books please. Send cash donations to Children's Reading Alliance, P.O. Box 285, Mesilla, N.M. 88046. Email Rorie Measure at [rmeasure@gmail.com](mailto:rmeasure@gmail.com) to arrange a book drop off. Visit [www.childrensreadingalliance.org](http://www.childrensreadingalliance.org).



# January Deadlines

**December 12, noon:**  
Space reservation and ad copy due

**December 13, noon:**  
All stories and notices for the editorial section

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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DESERT DIARY

# Holiday Cheer

*Jokequote.com shares some of its favorites.*

### The Optimist

Little Susie had been born with a sunny disposition, and was the most optimistic kid anybody had ever seen. She loved people and animals, and no matter what happened, she always saw the bright side.

She was also an artistic girl. So one Christmas, her parents got her a big bag of clay for making pottery. They put it on the back porch next to a bag of horse manure for the garden.

On Christmas Eve, dad wrapped the presents. It was a little dark on the porch, and as you may have guessed, he wrapped the manure by mistake, instead of the pottery clay.

On Christmas morning, Susie was so excited to see what Santa had brought her. When she finally got to unwrap her big present, her parents watched with anticipation to see how much she liked her clay.

When Susie opened the package, and then the bag inside containing several pounds of stinky horse manure, the parents were aghast.

But before they could apologize, Susie said, “Oh boy! I got a pony!”

### Rudolph

One Christmas Eve, Pete and Jane were driving their Russian friend Rudolph back to his house. The weather outside was frightful. Jane asked Pete, “Do you think that’s sleet or rain out there?”

“It’s rain, Jane” said Pete.

“I think it’s sleet, Pete,” said Jane.

Rudolph chimed in, “It’s definitely rain, Jane.”

“No, I really think it’s sleet, Rudolph” said Jane.

“Don’t argue with the expert, Jane,” said Pete.

“What do you mean, Pete?” asked Jane.

Pete replied, “Rudolph the Red knows rain, Dear.”

### Christmas Decorating

I wanted our street to have the prettiest decorations in the neighborhood, so I strung lit colored balls from house to house, all the way down the block. I did all the electrical wiring myself.

If you’d like further information, just drive down Moorpark Street in North Hollywood. We’re the third pile of ashes from the corner. — Bob Hope

### Grandma’s Christmas Strategy

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids’ grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks.

When asked by a friend what caused this change in behavior, the grandmother replied, “Sim-

ple. This year I didn’t sign the checks.”

### Santa’s Lap

A father took his son Billy to the Penney’s mall to see Santa. They stood in line awhile, and finally the boy was able to meet Santa and sit on his lap.

“What would you like for Christmas, Billy?” asked Santa.

“An X-Box and a Hobbit game,” Billy said.

“Okay, we’ll see what we can do about that,” said Santa with a big smile.

Later on that day they also went to see Santa at the Sears mall. When Santa asked Billy what he wanted for Christmas, Billy said, “An X-Box and a Hobbit game.”

“Will you be a good boy and do what your daddy tells you?” Santa asked.

Billy turned to his dad and said, “Let’s go back to the other Santa, Dad.”

“Why Billy?” asked his father. “Because I didn’t have to make

any deals with that one.”

### New Stamps

A guy goes into the post office and asks the clerk for some new holiday stamps.

The clerk behind the counter asks, “Which denomination?”

The guy thinks for a minute, then says, “Give me five Jewish, two Lutheran, and seven Catholic.”

### Christmas Wish

When a father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy replied, “A baby sister.”

As it turned out, the wife was pregnant, and delivered on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day she brought home a brand new baby sister for their son.

The next year, when the father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy said, “If it wouldn’t make mommy too uncomfortable, I’d like a pony.”

## Letters

## Privatizing lands wrong thing to do

Several southern New Mexico legislators have a deep involvement in the land transfer movement, a thinly veiled scheme to privatize our forests and grasslands, must be placed in the spotlight this election season.

Every hunter, angler, hiker and camper who enjoys the Lincoln National Forest, Gila Wilderness and other wild spaces in the state should be alarmed and dismayed at proposed legislation in Congress and in western state legislatures, including ours.

The stated goal of the land-transfer movement is to transfer control of the millions and millions of acres of land belonging to the American people and managed by federal agencies such as the Forest Service and BLM, to state control.

This could place most of New Mexico’s public lands under the control of the New Mexico Land Commissioner, an office created by the New Mexico Constitution and given virtually unlimited power over state lands with virtually no accountability.

Proponents assert that our state could manage these lands more effectively than federal agencies, but the costs of managing them would be astronomical, particularly in light of our currently severe budget woes.

The Land Commissioner would have no choice but to maximize revenues from these lands. There is no doubt that the Commissioner would be forced to sell a significant portion of them to the highest bidders.

It is highly unlikely that our local ranchers would be the buyers. Few have the resources. The very wealthy,

corporations, developers and foreign interests would likely be the top bidders.

The people of New Mexico, including ranchers, would see no trespassing signs where we now graze our cattle, hunt, fish, hike and camp. Ranchers would lose their subsidies on grazing fees.

The current land commissioner has stated that “state lands are not public lands” and has quintupled the fees the Land Office charges for hunting and fishing.

Loss of affordable access to these lands for the people of the United States and the residents of New Mexico would be catastrophic. Our state realizes hundreds of millions of dollars each year in the outdoor recreation industry, and many millions more from the federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program which compensates New Mexico governments for taxes not collected on those lands.

Increased petroleum production would likely be a result of transfer, but we are already overly dependent on the petroleum industry for revenues.

Our current budget crisis is a testament to the danger of relying too heavily on this unstable revenue source. Market fluctuations play havoc with vital services like education, healthcare and law enforcement, making us vulnerable to energy boom and bust cycles.

Proponents of the scheme mistakenly anticipate huge revenues from timber production as well, but cheap foreign forest products and competition from less arid states have led to the decline of our timber industry.

Locally, our forest products industry was in decline long before the Endangered Species Act applied protections to species such as the spotted owl.

The Sacramento Mountains had already been logged over, and lumber

companies simply could not profit given the quality and quantity of timber available.

Our precious public lands: National Parks, National Forests, wildlife refuges, and grasslands are owned by all Americans.

The Bible gives us warning: For a pot of stew, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. Let us not sell ours, for if we do, it is lost to us forever.

*Chris Jones  
Tularosa*

## Spaceport: Richardson’s Other Folly

Readers of “Taking to the Air” in the November Desert Exposure learned that, at long last, Spaceport America has “arrived.”

Some of you may remember that the spaceport was built with taxpayer dollars, over two hundred million of them, back in 2007 so that billionaire Richard Branson would have a site to launch Virgin Galactic spaceships into suborbital flight.

An article in Desert Exposure of February 2006, “Have Spacesuit, Will Travel,” commented: “By the time tourists start to arrive in 2009 or 2010----.”

Well, that hasn’t quite worked out but, hey, it’s the thought that counts.

Then Governor Bill Richardson, who pushed for the spaceport, said in a 2014 interview, “I consider the spaceport my legacy accomplishment.”

I’ve long thought that the “Gov” should be recognized for his legacy by renaming the spaceport. Since “Richardson’s Folly” has already been taken by the Rail Runner, how about “Big Bill’s Boner?”

In fairness, Richardson wasn’t the

only one pushing for the spaceport, and supporters included quite a few Republicans.

I remember telling Dianne Hamilton, at the time the Republican Representative of District 38 that the spaceport was doomed to failure and she got in my face and said: “Well, I hope you’re wrong!” That’s one thing I like about Dianne: wishy-washy she ain’t.

Then there was the Republican Chairman of Dona Anna County, Sid Goddard, who wrote a letter to the editor of the Sun-News expressing his strong support, and there was the editor of the Sun-News, Walt Rubel, who wrote many editorials supporting the spaceport, including a memorable one in which the first line started: “If we build it they will come---.”

Gosh, economic profundity right out of Hollywood’s “Field of Dreams.” What could go wrong?

It appears however that my belief, right or wrong, that Virgin Galactic will NEVER launch passenger flights from the Spaceport may be irrelevant. As covered in the DE article, Spaceport America is hosting Drone Summit 2016, the first of its kind, which will “bring together drone enthusiasts from across the country and beyond.”

The three day event, from Nov. 11 to Nov. 13, features lots of events and in all seriousness, looks like it would be fun to attend.

It’s a far cry, however, from the 700 space flights a year by 2015 promised by Branson in 2005, with all the attendant commerce that would imply, and hardly reason to spend over \$200 million.

I suppose one could say that since drones were not around back in 2005, that The Gov was just being remarkably foresighted. Right.

*Peter Burrows  
Silver City*



TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Rafiki Finds a Friend

And becomes one



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mans had done to her, seemed to like every person who came her way.

I admit I've always had a conflicted relationship with Arabs. I've always admired their beauty, grace and spirit. Without their genetic contributions, many other breeds that we love would either not exist or would display different qualities. Their orientation towards people is legendary.

On the other hand, many of the ones I've met were way too much horse for their owners. They've been disruptive in my clinics, often taking too much time of my time at the expense of other riders. Often it seems certain behaviors have been accepted, or even encouraged, by owners or poor trainers simply due to a belief that "this is what Arabs do." No good horseman ever accepts dangerous or disrespectful behavior due to a stereotypic belief in some genetic traits. I know these horses don't have to be this way.

I approached this horse with mixed emotions. She had more "life" than any other horse at the ranch. The basics seemed to be there — she was easy to catch and lead, loved to be groomed, would go in a trailer, and generally just loved attention. I wasn't sure I should do more because I wanted to be fair to her. I didn't want to promise her a future she would never get. She didn't have great conformation for riding, she could get pretty spooky and who knew what the long-term effects of severe starvation could be on her physical and mental health.

I have little time to spend with any one horse at the rescue as I'm only there as a volunteer when my time permits, but even with brief and irregular sessions, Rafiki made amazing progress. She seemed anxious to learn and actually enjoyed the stimulation and challenges. I didn't ride her much as I thought her overall condition would make carrying the weight of a rider very uncomfortable.

She especially loved doing complex ground work, including advanced liberty work. I could actually take her out in the herd and run with her, at liberty, and she would stay right at my side, even as we moved between other horses. We would change gaits and direction and she would stop on a dime when I did. She was loose and free to leave at any time but she never did. Amazing stuff!

Sadly, when new arrivals show up, I have to shift my attention to other horses. I had to move on from Rafiki knowing her life would be the occasional grooming and hand walk from a volunteer — good, but not the mental and physical stimulation she needed. I was sad to see her at the gate looking at me, as if asking "are we going out to play today?" When nothing happened, she would turn and walk slowly back to the herd.

One thing I try to do for the ranch is watch volunteers around the horses to see if there may be a



Rafiki and Penny Flick work together creating a lasting bond of friendship. (Courtesy Photo)

match with any particular horse. Frankly, I don't think most of the horses care much about this. Remember, humans gave up on them and put them in this rescue, so I think most of them are happy just being left alone to hang out in a herd with plenty of food.

But a horse like Rafiki is a different story. She always seemed more interested in human contact than goings on in the herd.

This is where Penny Flick enters the story. Penny and her husband, Bill, moved here from northern New York in 2014. Penny is an artist (you can see her work at The Place at the Palace) and had experience with horses, but was taking a "brief 35-year break from riding," as she puts it. Bill had already been volunteering, one of the highly valued "guys" doing the heavy lifting the ranch requires. Penny eventually joined the volunteer corps, admitting she wanted to be around horses again, maybe even ride, but was realistic about what that could mean after so many years.

Some of the best horse/human relationships I've seen have been of the opposites attract variety — the spirited horse with the calm rider or the more animated human with the more reserved horse. In the back of my mind I felt this would work for Rafiki if I could find a calm volunteer who could give clear direction and set firm boundaries when necessary.

What I liked about Penny from the beginning was even though she knew a lot about horses, she considered herself a complete beginner again. I'd like to see more older or returning riders adopt this attitude as I believe it opens the door for real learning. She listened, observed, asked good questions, and practiced on her own. She seemed very calm and balanced.

I don't have time to give volunteers real lessons but, whenever possible, I have them help me so





A Guadalupe Montessori School student examines one of the trees for sale during last year’s Festival of Trees. (Courtesy Photo)

HOLIDAZE

# Festival of Trees

Trees, goodies, cheer can be found at fundraiser this year

The Guadalupe Montessori School (GMS) presents the Festival of Trees again for the 2016 holiday season. This year, the festival will occupy the old Western Stationer’s building at 703 Bullard St., in the heart of downtown Silver City. The 2016 GMS Festival of Trees will take place Dec. 2 through 11.

This event is the Guadalupe Montessori School’s primary fundraiser and supports all aspects of the school. This will be the fourth year that GMS has organized this event, though the Festival of Trees has a much longer history in Silver City, as it was previously hosted by Penny Park, and before that, the Mormon church.

The Festival of Trees is a celebration centered on the holiday season and the wonder of individual expression and creativity.

Local artists, individuals and organizations will decorate live Christmas trees, and all community members will have a chance to purchase decorated and undecorated trees as well as other high-quality gifts and hand-craft-



The Festival of Trees offers some uniquely decorated trees as well as those with a more traditional bent during the Dec. 2-11 sale in Silver City. (Courtesy Photo)

ed holiday goodies.

“The diverse crew of decorators makes for a breathtaking presentation of trees, from traditional to whimsical,” said School Director Martha Egnal.

The store will have its grand opening Friday, Dec. 2 and features a wider variety of live trees and plants than ever before, including evergreen trees, culinary herbs, rosemary, poinsettias, succulent bowls and more.

Locally made gifts and ornaments will be available, as well as holiday cards, handcrafted soaps and herbal products from the GMS garden.

GMS was founded in 1979 by Kathy and Phil Dahl-Bredine to

provide accessible, high-quality Montessori education for children in Grant County, and the program has grown to include children from 18 months to 12 years old.

“GMS strives to serve children from diverse backgrounds, maintaining a strong commitment to educational excellence, cultural and economic diversity, and affordable tuition,” Egnal said.

“Our goal is to cultivate a lifelong love of learning, and support students in developing to their highest potential.”

For information visit the school’s website [www.guadalupe-montessori.org](http://www.guadalupe-montessori.org).

## GROWING THINGS ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

### Pining for Christmas

Strain’s Tree Farm near Lordsburg continues 18-year Christmas tree tradiion

Walter Strain and his brother, Mike, have been growing trees on some land on the western edged of New Mexico since 1998.

Today they have the Christmas tree growing system down and are able to provide live trees throughout the area. Actually, while Walt sell the trees from the Food Basket parking lot in Silver City, many more customers go straight to the little farm in Virden to select their own from the home site.

When Mike and Brenda bought the land, it was an alfalfa farm. They had to grow something on it to retain the water rights and decided trees were the way to go. Starting with pecans, they evolved to Afghan pines for landscaping. The trees proved ideal for Christmas sales.

“The variety is Elbarica, or Afghan pines,” Walt said. “It is a low-elevation pine native to Afghanistan and Pakistan. These trees are really hardy trees; they are really drought-tolerant. Once established, they hardly need any water.”

Mike and Walt dig the trees up and put them in pots.

“It’s a living tree,” Walt said. “You can plant them after Christmas.”

Some Strain Tree Farm customers have been buying trees for years, he said. Some have even run out of room for planting their trees and so they donate them to charity causes. They make a great windbreak too, just plant them about 20-feet apart.”

The Strains plant about 200-300 six-inch-high Afghan pine seedlings each fall. Starting in mid-November, they harvest 100-200 live Christmas trees for sale at the farm and at the lot in Silver City. About 20 percent of each planting is lost to weath-

#### How to Care for a living Christmas tree:

- Situate the tree indoors in as cool a location as possible
- Use ice cubes to keep the root ball moist, but not flooded
- Live trees can stay inside up to 10 days
- Readjust the tree to outside temperatures by placing it in a sheltered porch or in a garage for several days before planting
- Select a planting site that has well-drained soil, full sun and is appropriate for the mature tree’s size
- Remove the tree from the container and plant it in a hole the depth of the root ball and at least twice as wide
- Back fill around the root ball with a mixture of 1/3 to 1/2 composted mulch and native soil
- Soak well to remove any air pockets
- Cover the root ball with 3” of mulch or straw to keep it from freezing
- Water deeply every 5-7 days or as needed

er, weeds, deer or gophers; the surviving trees not deemed attractive enough for Christmas will be sold for landscaping.

Each acre planted with Christmas trees, according to the National Christmas Tree Association, produces the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.

The association says it can take as long as 15 years to grow a tree of average retail height, 6 to 7 feet. The average growing time from planting to presents under the tree is 7 years. In the warm, sunny climate of the Gila River valley of southwest New Mexico, the Strains can get their fast-growing Afghan pines to market in three or four years, as the trees reach five- to nine-feet high.

Strain’s Tree Farm is located at 285 Hwy. 92, Virden, 575-358-2109; pickup and delivery are available.

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# A Creative Life

## Silver City welcomes those following their muses

The holidays often spur our creative inclinations whether handcrafting gifts, penning a poem for a New Year's greeting card or preparing an outrageous meal for persons we care about. As we experience both the fun and relaxation of using a glue gun, construction paper or fabric remnants — we experience some of the joys of creativity.

Both gerontologists and neurologists underscore the positive attributes of self-expression. Various forms of creativity — even the sense of inventiveness one enjoys in dressing with flair — nurture an overall sense of well-being. Creative pursuits—

participating in a writing group, playing a musical instrument, acting in a play — also help keep us socially engaged and less apt to isolate.

U.S. Census QuickFacts for 2015 show that in Grant County, 25.3 percent of the population is age 65 and over. A visual appraisal of the arts community, for example, validates this statistic as many artists and gallery owners mirror the county's older population.

It is good to remind ourselves that as we age, we often grow more assured of our instincts and capabilities, acknowledge the plight of perfectionism and worry less about failure.

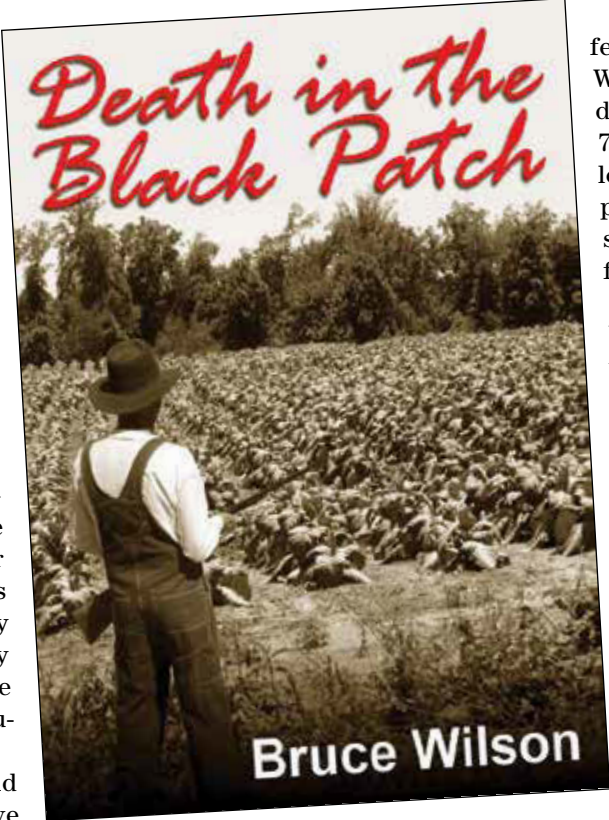
This mind-set strengthens our resolve to use feel-good intervals, when we are neither ailing nor dealing with health issues, to follow our muse.

Many creative people describe themselves as "reclusive" with a limited need for socializing.

They have become comfortable with solitude, and being alone with their creative endeavors offers a unique form of sanctuary.

For the more social among us, living in a friendly small town makes connecting, when necessary, easier — at the grocer, the library or a coffee shop — there are daily opportunities to ward off feelings of loneliness. Alas, even a casual conversation with a stranger on the street can add sparkle and a taste of life to the day.

### Three local residents who demonstrate the positive aspects of creativity



Death in the Black Patch by Bruce Wilson

Since retiring as professor emeritus from WNMU's expressive arts department, Jack Ellis, 76, has maintained his love of theater. For the past six years he has staged an annual play for the community.

Beyond his theatrical bent, Ellis is enamored with Brazil, has made several trips there since retiring, and is studying Brazilian Portuguese.

"In theater," Ellis said, "you learn that you have only so much energy. Rehearsals are not a soak in the sauna. I've been making plays for sixty years.

"Many are too big for me to do now — all the costumes, lighting, props, sets.

Furthermore, my knees are worn out, and I can no longer shimmy up sixty foot ladders or charge onto the stage to hand an actor a note."

"Fortunately," he continued, "many of my stable of actors are not spring chickens either. If I put out a call that I'm doing a show, people bring people and we do a read-through in the living room at my house. Close relationships have developed with the people I have direct-

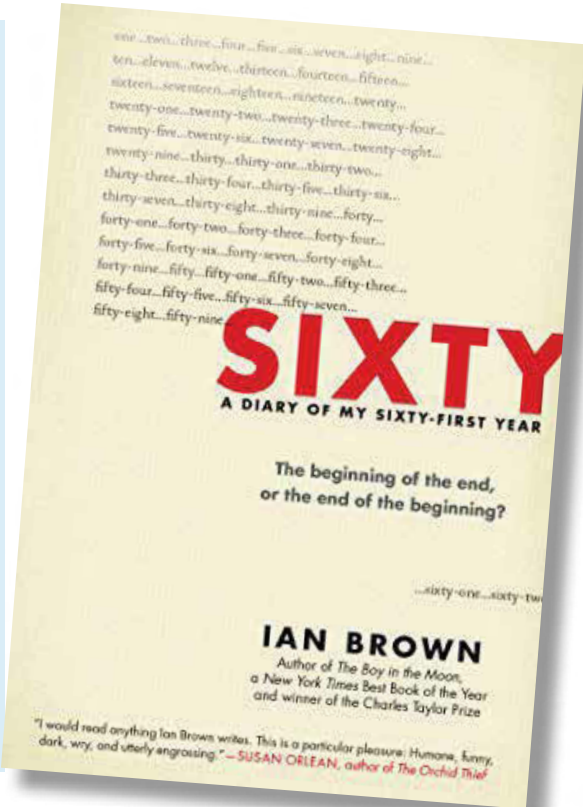
CREATIVE LIFE  
continued on page 11

## By the Book

"Sixty: A Diary of My Sixty-First Year"  
By Ian Brown  
The Experiment 2016

My personal library is chock-full of books on aging written by women and almost all of them are outstanding. Recently however, I discovered one by Ian Brown, the Canadian journalist and award-winning non-fiction writer, which offers insights for men and women.

As successful as Brown is as a writer, it is rather confounding to read of his regrets and self-recriminations regarding his literary aspirations. I hope these feelings find resolution, for Brown is keenly aware of the many changes —physical, mental and emotional—that come to all of us as we age. "Sixty" is an insightful read with many humorous sparks. —V. Savitt







BRUCE WILSON



JACK ELLIS

CREATIVE LIFE

continued from page 10

ed in shows.”

Although Ellis has staged Noel Coward’s “Blithe Spirit” four times, he continues to “learn something new about the play’s structure and characters. Doing a show is emotional, intellectual, physical, spiritual and a totally creative process.”

Scott van Linge, 73, is a popular Silver City musician who performs at Diane’s Parlor and the Buckhorn. He holds degrees in both psychology and social work from Stanford University and Smith College respectively. Moving to Silver City from Amsterdam, van Linge now lives with his four dogs in a sylvan setting on five acres.

A well-known luthier, van Linge said that “from time to time he has to ease up building guitars due to arthritis in his fingers.”

He feels that he has partially remedied the problem by committing to a gluten-free diet that is also devoid of red meat.

The regime has brought about his thirty-pound weight loss and reduced cholesterol levels.

Van Linge “loves performing and adding to the good energy at a gig,” but sees the larger part of his creativity expressed in building guitars.

Bruce Wilson, 70, a retired executive who teaches American history at Western New Mexico University, published his first novel this year.

The book required the diligent self-discipline of a daily



VAN LINGE

writing regime.

Wilson also secured critical feedback from reading chapters to his wife, Mary, as well as input from his writing group.

Germinated 10 years ago during a visit to Wilson’s family homestead in Kentucky, the book was first conceived as a graduate school paper about his ancestors’ involvement in the Black Patch Tobacco War. Ultimately the research became the basis for his novel, “Death in the Black Patch,” (Artemesia).

Lately, Wilson is experiencing a secondary aspect of a novelist’s life — marketing his book — while the underpinnings of a second novel are afoot.

These septuagenarians derive a deep sense of accomplishment from their creative pursuits.

Overall, such efforts have been shown to reduce anxiety, depression and boredom; provide a more defined sense of control and self-identity, and enhance one’s quality of life.



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MUSIC EXPOSURE • BILLY HUNTSMAN

# You Want It Darker

## Cohen wrestles with God on new album

Leonard Cohen's death came just after he released his 14th studio album. I imagine it's every artist's dream — whether a writer, singer-songwriter, painter or otherwise — to leave behind his or her finest work before they die, but rarely does it ever happen.

It happened for Cohen, whose 50+-year career focused on questioning, not the existence of God, but his presence, or lack thereof, in human existence.

In his 14th studio album, "You Want It Darker," he continues his exploration of this topic, which undoubtedly had caused him many sleepless nights when he was younger: If there is a God, which he does believe there is, why does he not intervene to prevent the atrocities of humans?

Enter the titular song, "You Want It Darker," which immediately grabs the listener with an unencumbered bass line and perfectly compliments Cohen's almost monotonous sing-speech, which could send shivers up Tom Waits' spine.

"I struggled with some demons, they were middle class and tame," he says in the middle of the song.

Is there anything more middle class than struggling with your faith? Poor people first and foremost must worry about getting food, sufficient housing and other basic necessities, while the rich focus on money and hedonism.

"I didn't know I had permission to murder and to maim," he says next.

Why does Cohen's God, whom he loves, as evidenced by a later song, "If I Didn't Have Your Love," not intervene to prevent mass shootings, the torture and murder of children? Why could Cohen himself kill somebody and not be punished by anything higher than the law

of man? (Hell does not exist in Cohen's religion of Judaism.)

"If you are the dealer, I'm out of the game, if you are the healer, it means I'm broken and lame."

Why would God create something that needs healing?

"A million candles burning for the love that never came."

Where is this God whom so many people have worshipped and sought for so long?

"If thine is the glory, then mine must be the shame."

If God has turned his back on humanity, which it seems He has, then there are no moral laws to abide by, and so humanity can embrace its vices, which we've been told repeatedly to repress for the sake of salvation, without consequence.

"You want it darker, we kill the flame."

But at the same time he's posing these questions to his God, Cohen resigns himself to the fact that he will never understand his God.

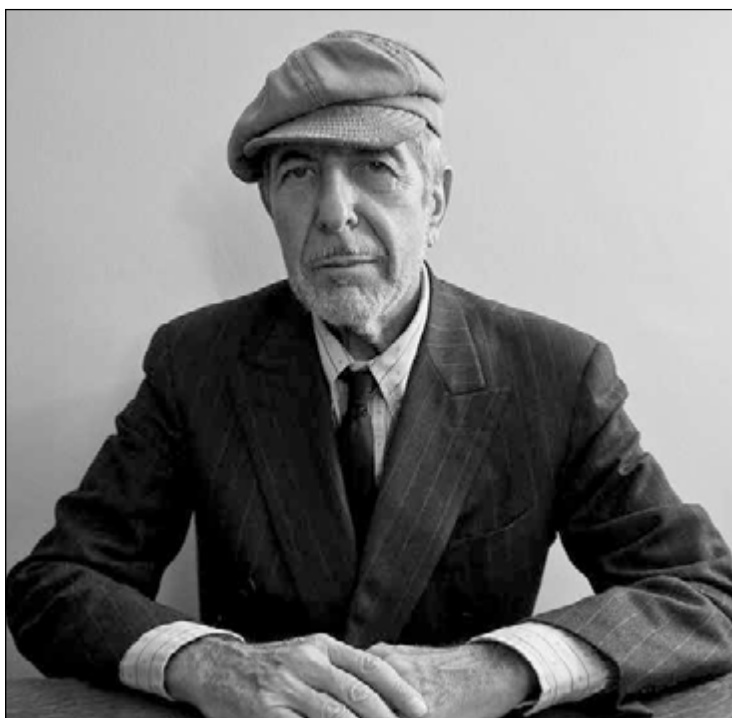
"Hineni," Hebrew for "Here I am; I'm ready, my lord."

Haunting now more than ever, Cohen says aloud he's ready to leave this world he cannot understand and see if there is anything beyond, if in fact there is a God, and, if there is, maybe ask him in person these questions Cohen has had for so long.

The entire album is just as richly layered. Cohen's primary strength is as a lyricist, and so many of the songs' lyrics can be interpreted in multiple ways.

"If the sun would lose its light and we lived in endless and the break of day had nothing to reveal, well that's how it would be, what my life would seem to me, if I didn't have your love to make it real," he says in "If I Didn't Have Your Love."

In keeping with the whole album, I think he's talking about



"I struggled with some demons, they were middle class and tame," Leonard Cohen sings in the middle of the title song of his new album "You Want It Darker." (Courtesy Photo)

his love for his God, which he ultimately believes loves him and the rest of humanity, though not in the conventional way or the way we want.

Cohen's God is Tom Waits' God in "Down There By the Train."

Waits' God is one of unconditional love and redemption, one who does not intervene because there are no actions humans can do that will surrender that God's love.

This is Cohen's dilemma: wanting to believe in such a God, but also being frustrated by human morals.

Of course Cohen could also be talking about a lover, a friend, a child, and in fact maybe he's talking about all four at the same time. Maybe a lover, a friend, a child and his God are one and the same.

In "Traveling Light," a modern-day gypsy jig, Cohen talks about his time not believing in God.

"I'm traveling light, it's au re-

voir, my once so bright, my fallen star...if the road leads back to you, must I forget the things I knew when I was friends with one or two traveling light like we used to do?"

For me, the most mesmerizing song on the album is "Treaty."

"I wish there was a treaty we could sign, I do not care who takes this bloody hill, I'm angry and I'm tired all the time, I wish there was a treaty, I wish there was a treaty between your love and mine."

This album in fact is Cohen's treaty. After 82 years, he was finally ready to accept the paradox of loving a God while also being frustrated with and criticizing him.

The album is Cohen's masterpiece, no minor accomplishment after 50 years of creating music. The fact that the album came out before he died is a small miracle and a blessing for us today and ours in the future.

Shalom, Eliezer.

RAFIKI

continued from page 8

they understand the basic philosophies and techniques of natural horsemanship, and how these relate to the true nature of horses. Penny really took to this limited instruction, and I started to think she could be the friend Rafiki needed.

I introduced the two of them slowly. Starting with just basic catching, leading and grooming, then on to a few basic yields that tell a horse you're a good leader. I had Penny watch me work with the horse under more pressure so she could appreciate what's "under the hood" of this engaging horse. She needed to understand that a horse this sensitive needs clear guidance, especially because all she wants to do is be a pocket-pony.

What an instant friendship! They're finding their way together as Penny tries to improve her skills and they learn to read each other's body language. I swear Rafiki is being patient with Penny and forgiving some of the inevitable missteps or confusing communication because she is so grateful to have someone who comes to see her several days a week, and who is trying to learn her language. She comes to the gate and waits patiently when she sees Penny drive in. She keeps an eye on her the whole time if Penny is doing other ranch chores before coming to get her. There's a lot of nickering going on, and none of it has to do with treats.

I think Rafiki is probably the happiest horse at the rescue now. True to her breed, she needed a lot more than just the occasional visit from a volunteer or training session with me. And true to her name, she's shown what a friend she could be to the right person. Doesn't get any better than that in the rescue world.

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



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ARTS EXPOSURE

# Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY



A holiday art walk Dec. 3 in Silver City features gallery receptions and work during the day. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

On Dec. 3, for the **Holiday Red and Green Art Walk**, many **Silver City Art Association** galleries will have a variety of events, including receptions, openings, exhibits, displays and artists' presentations. Many galleries will have refreshments. The galleries include **A-Space, Blue Dome Gallery, Copper Quail Gallery, Finn's Gallery, Leyba & Ingalls Arts, Lois Duffy Art, Moonstruck Art Gallery, Seedboat Gallery, Soul River Gallery, The Makery, The Place at The Palace and Tree Spirit Gallery.** Reception times vary from gallery to gallery, so it is advised to check with each gallery as to their schedule. More information, such as location of each gallery, can be found at: [www.silvercityart.com](http://www.silvercityart.com).



An open house for the pottery of Romaine Begay is happening at his studio on Dec. 17. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

**Annual Nizhoni Pottery Sale by Romaine Begay** will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at his studio, 3235 Little Walnut Road, Silver City. For more information call 575-590-0698.

For December, **Copper Quail Gallery** opens **"Apaches and Their Brothers,"** a retrospective exhibit depicting aspects of life as it may have been in the 1800's Southwest. **Nancy Wachholz** presents watercolor portraits of the Apache people in vivid color. Wildlife photographs by **John Wachholz** feature wolves, bighorn sheep, elk, and other magnificent creatures who freely roamed the Apache homelands. Works in this joint show are hand-somely presented in John's unique handcrafted frames. Show runs through December with a reception from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. 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. every day.



Nancy Apprill's clay creations are part of the Cloudcroft Art Society show at the Red Brick Schoolhouse Building.

CLOUDCROFT

The **Cloudcroft Art Society** is holding a Holiday art and craft show through December. CAS invites browsers to the village of Cloudcroft in the Sacramento Mountains any Saturday during the months of November and De-



"High Country Road," is one of Lyn Roemer's paintings at the Cloudcroft Art Society show for December.

cember to browse lovely art and craft gift items on display in the CAS gallery. The show is open on Saturdays, and other days like Fridays and Sundays as shown by signs outside, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., inside the historic Red Brick Schoolhouse Building at the intersection of Burro and Swallow streets.

LAS CRUCES

**Aa Studios**, located behind 2645 Doña Ana Road in Las Cruces, presents **"New Paintings,"** by Las Cruces abstract artist **Michael Pavao**. The gallery may also be visited by appointment by calling Roy van der Aa at 575-520-8752. The show runs through Dec. 30. Pavao was born in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1944. He works in acrylic and watercolor, both in figurative and abstract expressions. His work can also be found at [www.saatchi-art.com](http://www.saatchi-art.com). Aa Studios is located behind 2645 Doña Ana Road on Calle de Oro and is open the second weekend each month and by appointment for the rest of the month.



"New Paintings," by abstract artist Michael Pavao are up at Aa Studios in Las Cruces.

Three exhibits are currently on display at the **Branigan Cultural Center**. All three will be there until Jan. 21, 2017. **An Enduring Tradition: 20th Century Navajo Weaving**, explores the traditional roots of contemporary Navajo weaving and discuss materials used and the influences on styles and designs the featured textiles, on loan from the University Museum of NMSU, demonstrate both the individuality and adherence to tradition of Navajo weavers. **Howard Clinton Tibbitts: Historic Advertising Photography of the Southwest**, consists of prints taken by Tibbitts in the early 1900s. Included in this collection are photos of New Mexico's Pueblos, scenes of the Santa Fe Railroad, Fred Harvey Houses of the Southwest, and other little known and rarely seen locales. The exhibit is split between the Branigan Cultural Center and the Las Cruces Railroad Museum. **In Service to Country: Military Equipment 1860 to Present** features various military uniforms, equipment, photographs and personal items dating from the Civil War era to present day. The collection is on loan from the collection of local veteran Kevin Dasing. A selection of local veteran's stories will also be included in the exhibit. Admission is free to the Branigan Cultural Center, located at 501 North Main Street. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. For additional information, visit the website at [museums.las-cruces.org](http://museums.las-cruces.org) or call 575-541-2154.

ART SCENE

continued on page 14

## Happy Holidays

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## ART SCENE

continued from page 13



The Tres Manos Weavers are on display for a special sale event at their boutique in Mesilla.

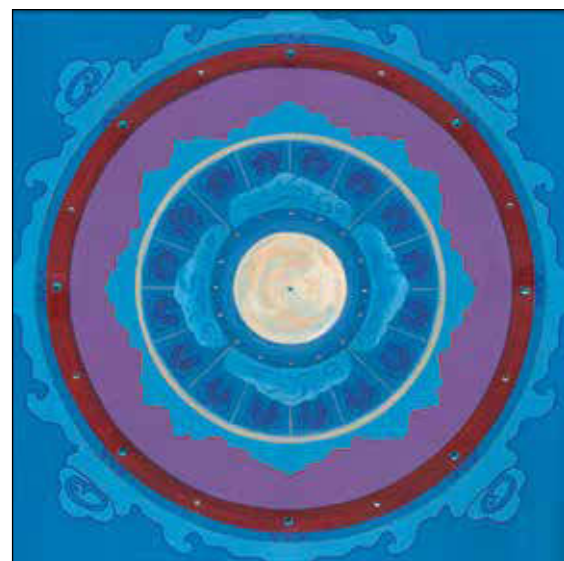
**Tres Manos Weaving** in Mesilla at the corner of Avenida de Mesilla and Calle de Parian in the old Tortilla Factory is offering a pre-holiday sale through Dec. 31. The boutique features the hand-woven garments and home accessories created by the weavers of Tres Manos in Southern New Mexico.

**"NEOMAGIC: 2016 Zuhl Student Exhibition"** is open at the Zuhl Museum at New Mexico State University. The exhibition is focused on spirituality, technology and the natural environment from a student perspective. "NEOMAGIC" is a student show running in conjunction with the "GEO-MAGIC: Art, Science and the Zuhl Collection" exhibition, which is on display through Dec. 21 at the University Art Gallery. "NEOMAGIC," the student show, features 12 art works created by undergraduates and graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Exhibiting artists include **Jennifer Abeyta, Debbie Jo Baxter, Maggie Day, Felicia Castro, Rachel Cover, Joshua Flores, Eva Flynn, Carissa Staples and Lara Teich**. Show hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month at the Zuhl Museum inside the Alumni and Visitors Center. For information, visit [zuhlmuseum.nmsu.edu](http://zuhlmuseum.nmsu.edu), or call 575-646-4714. The University Art Gallery is located in D.W. Williams

Hall. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Designated gallery parking is available. For more information about the University Art Gallery and its upcoming programs, visit [uag.nmsu.edu/upcoming/](http://uag.nmsu.edu/upcoming/).

The art show at the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** in Las Cruces brings viewers close up to some of history's most iconic Native American leaders. Santa Fe artist **Narrie Toole's** paintings pay tribute to Native American culture, spirituality and leadership. The 16 oil paintings — some on canvas and some on linen — are large, several of them 36 inches by 60 inches. They are bold and intense. The show will be in the Museum's Arts Corridor through Dec. 4. For information, call 575-522-4100. The Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents **"Moons, Mandalas and Meditations,"** work by Las Cruces artist **Corina Gabaldon**. The exhibit opens from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 with an artist reception. Inspired by the beauty and magic of the moon, Corina traveled a "wondrous journey into the mystical, universal, and divine circle — the Mandala," discovering the sacred circle residing in herself. The Tombaugh Gallery is located inside the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, and is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. There will be a second opening 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6. The show continues through Jan. 27, 2017. The gallery will be closed between Dec. 24 and Jan. 3. For details call the church at 522-7281.



"Moons, Mandalas and Meditations," work by Corina Gabaldon is featured through Jan. 27 at the Tombaugh Gallery in Las Cruces.

## ARTS EXPOSURE

## Photographer Sees Nature

Photographer **Lynda Brugman** is featured in an exhibit, "Visions of the Natural World," at Alamogordo's creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery for December. A reception for the exhibit will be held from 4 to 8 p.m., Dec. 3. The gallery is located at 917 New York Ave.

Brugman developed an interest in photography during the 1980s when I took a black and white photography class while earning a degree in computer information systems. Since retiring in 2010, she has taken classes at New Mexico State University-Alamogordo to speed transition to the digital world.

"While I loved black and white film photography, digital photography provides exciting possibilities that I have only begun to explore," she said. "My work is an exploration of the natural world, providing a window through which others may share my deep appreciation of nature and experience its infinite variations and beauty."

Brugman said her primary focus is nature and wildlife, but she can always find something inter-



"Autumn Medley" by Lynda Brugman

esting or beautiful to photograph wherever she is.

"Every picture tells a story as seen by the eye of the photographer and perceived in the heart of the viewer," she said. "My goal is to create photographic works of art that portray the innate beauty of the world around us. One of the most rewarding aspects of my photography is visiting with people and listening to their stories, how they relate to an image and what it means to them."

One of Brugman's images, "Cooling off in the Late Afternoon," placed first in the animals category of New Mexico Magazine's photo contest and was published in the February 2016 issue. This is an image of a jackrabbit sitting beneath a shapely spreading mesquite tree with the sun backlighting his enormous red ears.

"I gave a copy to a friend who recently emailed that every time she walks by and sees those ears it just makes her smile, and that just makes me smile," she said. "It's what my photography is all about."

For more information call 575-434-4420.



**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 every day, 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.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.

**Lois Duffy Art Studio**, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

**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.ramollart.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.

ARTS EXPOSURE

# Gallery Guide

**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@gilaret.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

**Narrie Toole**, Estudio de La Montura, 313-7390, www.narrietootle.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. Galeria Tepin, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**The Potteries**, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538. Rokoko, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

**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 Blanca 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 Touchon 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**  
**Chirichuahua 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.

**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.com.



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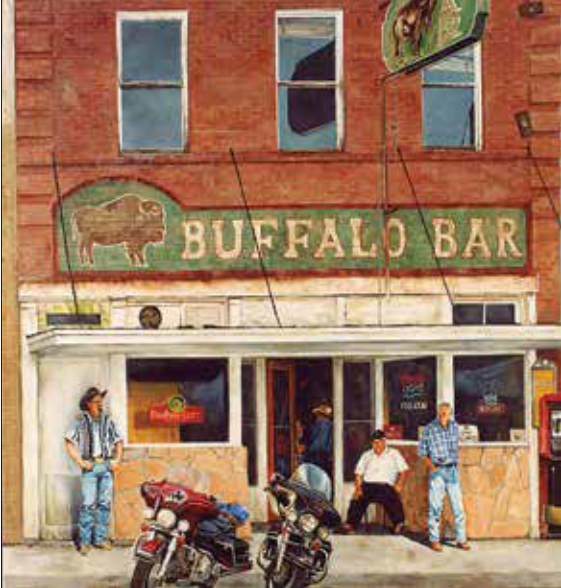
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Three of Ivy Heymann's teapots. (Photos by Lisa Maue)

ARTS EXPOSURE • LISA MAUE

# Teapot Tales

## Creating an ancient form in clay today

Hang out with long time potters for any length of time and the subject of teapots invariably comes up. Requiring a combination of shapes and skills, design and function, the creation of a teapot from scratch out of clay is considered the pinnacle of achievement, a feat mastered by few but honored by many within the craft.

Alan Miner, Denise Henry and Ivy Heymann are among the potters making functional ceramics in Lincoln County. Their styles differ, but all believe that teapots represent the highest level of proficiency.

"Potters who can make a good teapot consistently are worth their salt," Heymann said.

Miner, a ceramics instructor at Easter New Mexico University-Ruidoso for 11 years, works in high-fire white stoneware, fired in the 2,300 degree F range. The hard and dense clay results in large, imposing teapots. Miner offsets massiveness by incorporating large, looped and textured handles that sometimes include hanging embellishments, like crystals.

Henry has been making teapots only for a few years and works in lower temperature stoneware, spurred on by Miner, who was her teacher. Her studio in Ruidoso, close to Miner's shop, features smaller, personal teapots. One looks Japanese while others reflect modern sensibilities. Born in Brasília, Henry is admittedly conditioned by the angular, clean lines of the architecture of Oscar Niemeyer, who helped design the Brazilian capital.

Heymann lives and works outside of White Oaks. She works in porcelain, a smoother clay fired at higher temperatures. The walls of her teapots are thin, and her designs are delicate. She mixes earth materials and metallic oxides for glazes that reflect the colors of the landscape she looks out onto through the window located above her throwing wheel.

Careful examination is needed at every stage in making a teapot, perhaps most of all in inception. Thinking out the process before any manual work has its roots



Heymann holding the body of a teapot with counterbalanced lid in background.

in pottery's earliest history. The teapot's origin is unclear but one theory is that the form evolved from Chinese wine vessels. Beginning in 1510, development of teapots exploded in the Yixing region, largely due to its abundance of a perfect stoneware clay. Early teapots were carved out of a solid block, then thrown on a wheel and then, later that century, cast in molds. Regardless of method, potters did not work alone. Intellectuals and writers were involved in the process, some inscribing poems as decoration, others working out desirable proportions. Critiques pushed potters and elevated the craft into art with the results being efficient pieces of functional ware and a means of artistic expression. This seemingly incongruous combination exists today.

"Every step has a question — what, where, when, why and how," Heymann explained in describing her initial approach. "You have to decide what size you want, what volume, what form, character and style."

For Heymann, style manifests attitude, meaning a decision needs to be made as to whether the pot will embody a sensual, feminine look or a strong, aggressive form or something in between.

Once an idea is fleshed out, the working process takes about a week and begins with a slab of

clay. All the pieces must be made at the same time so they dry at the same rate.

The spout, the lid and the main body are thrown on a wheel.

The body is the largest piece. It needs to keep the water hot but not adversely affect the taste or aroma of the tea being brewed.

"I like spheres," Heymann said. "It is a beautiful form all by itself, and once you put a handle on it, you can hold the teapot from any point and pour."

Meanwhile the spout must ease water out smoothly without it shooting or spurting out or dripping after the pour. Consistent flow is possible when the height of the opening is level with the rim of the body and the spout stands at a sufficient angle.

Angles are also important when slicing off the opening.

"I cut the spout at 45 degrees and then carve a small groove inside the top to slow the water down," Heymann said. "If you cut the spout level, the torque of throwing means that the clay, which has a memory and wants to return to its original state, has a tendency to twist back when it is fired," Miner added. "I also make my spout openings a little bit bigger so the tea flows better, and I include a belly or secondary chamber where it meets the body

TEAPOT

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TEAPOT

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to slow the water down once it leaves the pot,” Miner said.

The lid is then measured exactly to the body opening, typically using calipers, with some type of counterweight or flange extending deep inside so it fits snugly and stays put even at extreme pouring angles.

Heymann makes a couple of lids, since, if one breaks, any attempt to replicate the original, especially after being fired, will not fit correctly.

Away from the wheel, the handle is either extruded through a machine that presses the clay through a die, much like a pasta maker, or pulled by hand. It needs to be strong enough to hold the weight of the pot and water that fills it but curved far enough from the body so as not to burn knuckles. In addition, its placement, if coming up and around from the body cannot interfere with pouring water into the teapot. If the handle is located on the side, it must aesthetically balance out the spout while not putting too much stress on the pourer’s wrist.

Such established theories of ergonomics often have a personal bias.

“Since I have a weak thumb, I sometimes put a tab on top of a handle to make holding the teapot easier,” Heymann said.

Once fabricated, all the pieces are wrapped in plastic so they dry slowly. When the clay is leather hard, the body and lid are trimmed and all the pieces are cleaned up in advance of assembling them into the final form.

Strainer holes, large enough so as not to clog up with glaze later on but small enough to catch loose tea leaves, are pierced into the body.

“You need to put holes in from the outside where you want the spout to go. I forgot to do that on one pot...it is the type of mistake you do only once,” Heymann said, laughing.

The handle and spout are attached to the body firmly but not so forcefully as to distort the form, and the lid is fit exactly to its opening. A breather hole is made either in the body of the pot or in the lid, again to make pouring easier.

“Air helps the flow,” Miner said. “If sealed completely, a teapot will plug.”

In the end, the separate parts must offset one another both physically and visually so that the



Denise Henry in her shop.

vessel will not topple over either sideways or fore and aft when set down and yet is pretty holistically.

As a last step, Miner uses a pin tool to write a saying on the bottom of his pots and smudges a small piece of clay onto the body as a signature, a Japanese tradition, his homage to the form’s past.

The teapot is then set aside to dry before being fired in the kiln for the first time.

Henry learned firsthand what happens when the clay is still wet, as was the case this past humid and rainy summer.

“The pot exploded in the kiln,” Henry said. “The ‘Big Bang’ wrecked a number of other pieces, too.”

When the pot is cool after being fired, it is prepared for the second firing.

“I submerge the whole form into the glaze and then hand dip the handle again,” Heymann said. “Using tongs, it is hard to get all the glaze out of the body before it is too thick, making it heavy, so I do it by hand.”

Excess glaze is cleaned off and the teapot and lid are returned to the kiln for a second firing. The teapot is not out of the woods, however. Miner experienced an explosion in the glaze firing, but rather than it destroying the teapot, a piece of flying brick merely embedded itself into the body.

“There is something Zen-like in accepting the flaw,” he said. “It certainly makes it unique.”

Even with the utmost care, Heymann, Miner and Henry admit to a 20 to 30 percent failure rate.

“You need to concentrate so hard,” Henry said, holding up a glazed but broken teapot. “I was so sad to see this.”

“Making a good teapot is a really long and thoughtful process,” Heymann said. “Making a fancy centerpiece like a soup tureen with all of its ‘la, la, la’ isn’t anything like making a single teapot.”

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Alan Miner holding one of his teapots.

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THE CHROMATIC SCALE • MARTY RACINE

# Eddy Shaver and the Promise of Light

We head into the season of darkness, blowing in on autumn's tempest, and just before the 25th day of the final month the sun bounces off the Tropic of Capricorn and spins northward again, bearing the promise of warmth and light.

We early humans tracking the orb through repeated sunsets weren't so sure of that. The light was slipping away, ray by ray, never to return.

Now we frame the Winter Solstice, Christmas, New Year's and, if you prefer, the "holiday season" as a reassuring tradition. Propelled as they are by the commercial undertow, we're left to our own devices to absorb their meaning or purpose, whether it's in the Nativity, presents under the tree, merry parties, reconstructed families or just a bah humbug! to all that.

Regardless, the promise of light has long stirred melody in the human larynx, from hymns, chants, litanies and carols (originally pagan songs and dances for the solstice) to TV commercials and shopping mall soundtracks. Whether they're "religious" or not, whether it's "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for the true believers or "Rudolph the Red-

Nosed Reindeer" for the kids waiting on Santa, we toss them all into the mix.

And if you're lucky, you might hear a stillness so compelling as to leave you spellbound. "Silent Night," a simple, elegant plaint, a stolen moment in the seasonal rush, just might be the ultimate Christmas song.

Anyway, all the music we indulged in throughout the summer is gone. The festivals are a memory. The big-name tours are in hibernation. It's getting too chilly to while away an afternoon or evening in a beer garden listening to singers and pickers, a few of whom we may know, playing for tips. There's a cycle to all this — we throttle back in preparation for the new year, concocting resolutions that, hey, maybe we'll keep some day.

When I was a music critic at the Houston Chronicle in the 1980s and '90s routinely checking out the clubs four and five nights a week, I resolved to slow down at winter's early call, to embrace the cycle and disengage. Some of us veteran night-crawlers, who were perfectly comfortable in some dank bar on a nondescript Wednesday with a handful of creatures in the joint,

ducked the glamor of New Year's Eve as Amateur Night for those without the time, finances or inclination to consistently support live music. The amateurs would drink one too many and toot plastic horns and warble "Auld Lang Syne" before hitting the blurry streets that normally took me home. I liked those streets all to myself at 2 in the morning.

So, it came to pass that, on the final night of the calendar, this jaded music snob was routinely snoring before the clock struck 12, the corks were popped and the smooch-a-thon began.

New Year's Eve. Wave to the milestone and make merry as you pass by, but know that something's discarded along the way. Something about the passage of time, the rendering of your life and all who wandered through, some of them still here, some gone.

In the dawn of a new millennium, on Dec. 31, 2000, a young guitar player went to his death just as he'd been blessed by God-given talent — enough, you'd assume, to channel his demons through the grace of a maple neck and six steel strings. Heroin snuffed out the heartbeat of Eddy Shaver, 38, son of Billy Joe Shaver, the irascible Texas county outlaw singer/songwriter

and "old chunk of coal" who's too stubborn to kick off before his time. So, we grieve for ourselves because, well, we liked to hear Lonesome Eddy play lead for his daddy.

He Learned guitar from Dickie Betts of the Allman Brothers and grew up busking with Guy Clark, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Dwight Yoakam. With his dad's band, Shaver, he could slide up the Dobro or unleash a honky-tonk Stratocaster that challenged Billy Joe's view of things. In the song "Blood is Thicker Than Water," from their last album together (1998's *The Earth Rolls On*), the men go after each other pretty good over the hurt they put on Eddy's mother and Billy Joe's wife, Brenda Joyce, who had recently died of cancer. Maybe the resentments could only be reconciled in song.

Eddy sang the indictment:

Can't you see I'm down to the ground, I can't get no lower

I've seen you pukin' out your guts and runnin' with sluts when you was married to my mother

Now the powers that be are leadin' you and me like two lambs to the slaughter

I need a friend, I'm your son and you'll always be my father...

Blood is thicker than water.

Two years earlier, father and son released *Victory*, named in honor of Billy Joe's mother. The title tune is a bluesy biography in E minor. It caught my ear and I thought of Calvary Victory Church, something Pentecostal, something edgy and turbulent that wars in the souls of men, certainly in the contradictions of one Billy Joe Shaver.

Maria McKee, a waif-like California country siren, sang in the early '90s, "You gotta sin to get saved." She drew out the cadence with a lilting twang, as if maybe you ought to think about that. So, somebody can be a roughhouse rounder and a righteous man, a brilliant songwriter and a grieving father, a caring son and a junkie. At some point, darkness is no longer an option. When the light returns, it's 2017 and time to make music again.

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. Racine can be contacted at [martyracine@hotmail.com](mailto:martyracine@hotmail.com); 575-973-4644.



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## ON SCREEN

### 'The Tiger Hunter' Opens Film Fest

The Las Cruces International Film Festival (LCIFF) Creative Team has selected "The Tiger Hunter" for its opening night film at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at Allen Theatre Cineport 10 in Las Cruces.

"The Tiger Hunter" is the story of Sami Malik, a young Indian who travels to 1970s America to become an engineer in order to impress his childhood crush and live up to the legacy of his father — a legendary tiger hunter back home. When Sami's job falls through, he takes a low-end job and joins with a gang of oddball friends in hopes of convincing his childhood sweetheart that he's far more successful than he truly is, or perhaps ever could be.

"The Tiger Hunter" stars John Heder ("Napolean Dynamite"), Danny Pudi ("Community"), Karen Da-



vid ("Waterloo Road Reunited") and Rizwan Mangi ("Outsourced"). All four stars, including the writer and director Lena Khan, pictured above, and producer Megha Kadakia, will be attending the festival.

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# Yuletide Carols Being Sung by a Choir

## Love it or loathe it, holiday music is nigh

There's no scientific evidence of whether "enjoying Christmas music" has been mapped on the human genome.

It seems, though, among those I've encountered, people's fondness for Christmas music is a switch permanently turned either on or off.

Can you curl your tongue or not?

Can you wiggle your ears or not?

When Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" comes on the radio, do you instinctively turn up the volume or change the station?

My dad is the classic "Bah Humbug" while my mom is definitely all-out for Christmas, especially when it comes to music.

Genetically, I'm all about the red-and-green, regarding both chile and the December holidays.

My sister and I inherited mom's gene and none of us can start the last month of the year without playing the 1958 album by Johnny Mathis: "Merry Christmas."

Over the years, I've collected a ridiculous amount and variety of Christmas music, rarely sticking to my edict of "This year, I'll just buy one new Christmas album."

Years ago, the Grammy Awards made the distinction between "record of the year" and "song of the year." Record of the year goes to a specific recording of a song by a specific artist. Song of the year goes to a song with the best music and lyrics.

For example, the 2004 song of the year, Luther Vandross's "Dance with My Father," is a beautiful tribute that could be sung by man, woman, child or group and still carry its poignant meaning. On the other hand, the 2016 record of the year, Bruno Mars's "Uptown Funk," would not have quite the same effect if, say, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir were singing the lyrics:

*"Stop, wait a minute  
Fill my cup, put some liquor in it  
Take a sip, sign a check  
Julio, get the stretch  
Ride to Harlem, Hollywood  
Jackson, Mississippi ..."*

So in that spirit, as well as the holiday spirit, I present to you five great Christmas songs and five great Christmas records. It's a tricky thing to do, and I'm already arguing with myself about leaving out such tunes as "What Child Is This," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and 1973's obscure but fun "Santa Claus is a Black Man," by Akim and Teddy

Vann. About the only thing people will agree on regarding Christmas music is the worst song — "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."

### TOP 5 CHRISTMAS SONGS

5. "Ave Maria" – Not everyone can sing this operatic classic written by Franz Schubert in 1825. That also prevents just about everyone from trying. Anybody can sing "Jingle Bells," but very few can sing "Ave Maria." However, when they do, and they do it well, particularly in the acoustics of an old cathedral, the song brings tears.

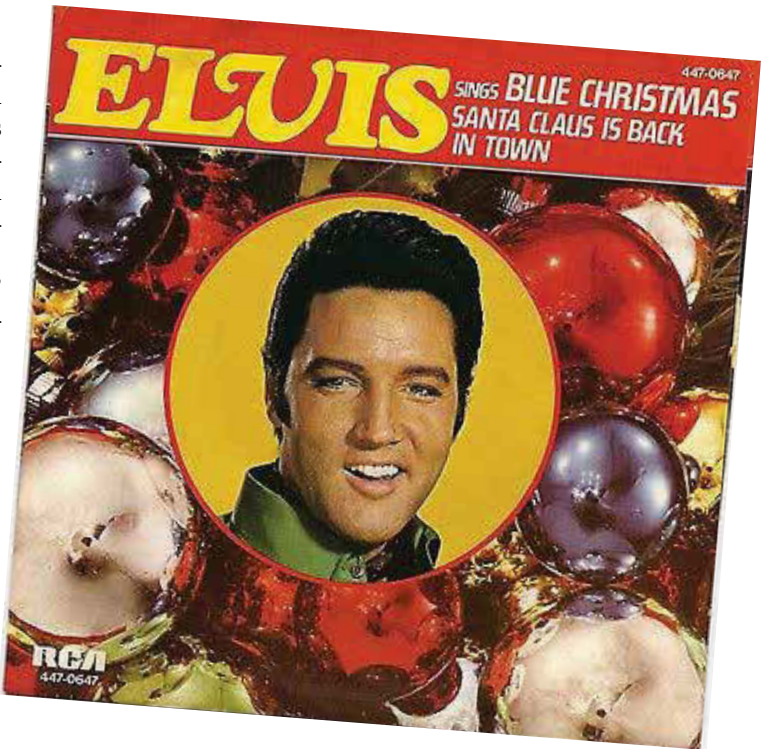
4. "White Christmas" –

This Irving Berlin tune captures the traditional American Christmas, regardless if it's the Crosby classic, the Drifters' R&B version, or even Lady Gaga's recent jazz-inflected version.

3. "Oh Christmas Tree" – A year older than "Ave Maria," this German song was not composed as a Christmas song, but has certainly filled that role over the years. Enjoyable whether it's sung by third-graders at the school concert, or my favorite, the instrumental jazz version from the Vince Guaraldi Trio, made famous in "A

### TUNES

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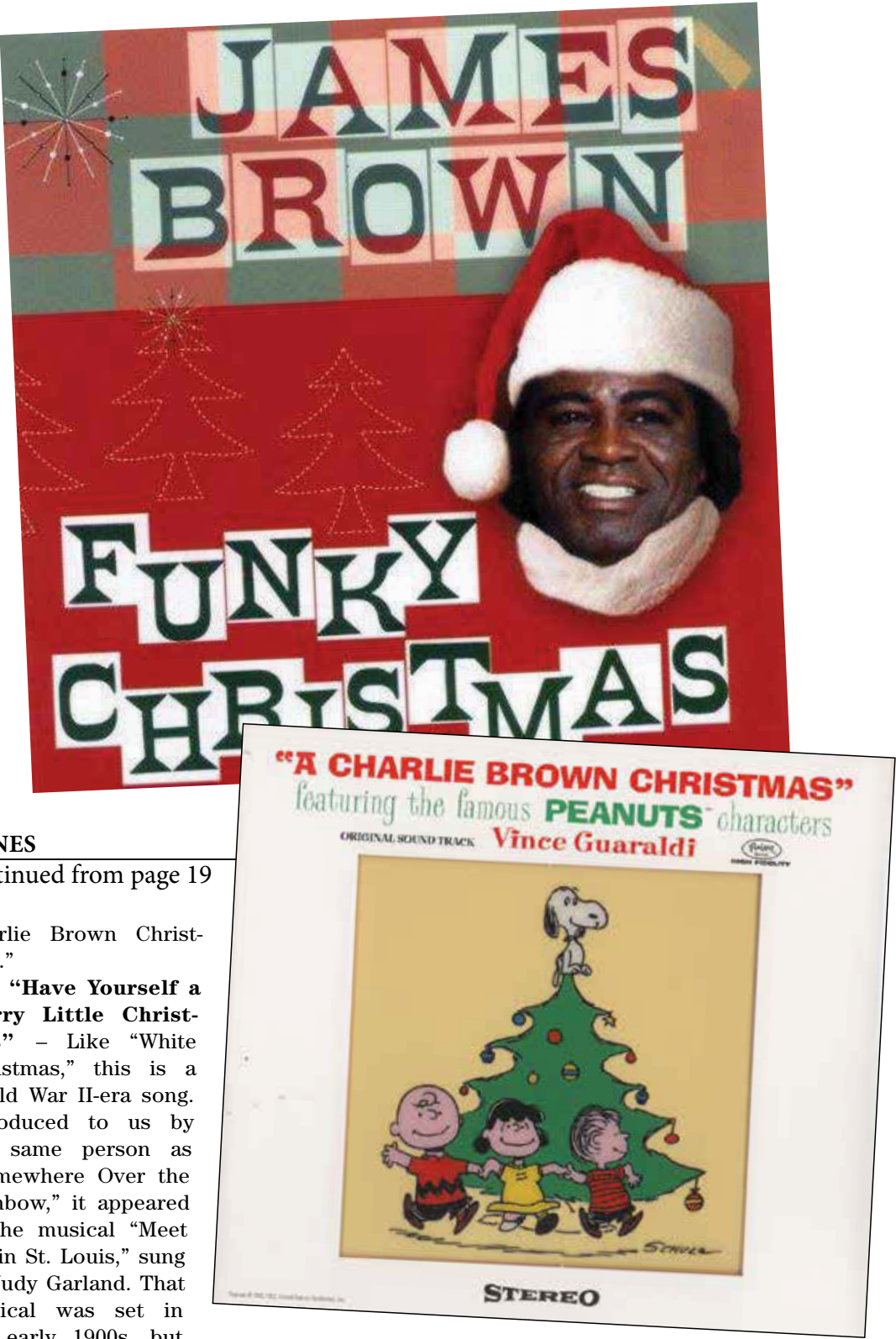
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TUNES  
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Charlie Brown Christmas.”

2. “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” – Like “White Christmas,” this is a World War II-era song. Introduced to us by the same person as “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” it appeared in the musical “Meet Me in St. Louis,” sung by Judy Garland. That musical was set in the early 1900s, but the song was written in 1944. In his haunting 2001 version, James Taylor captured not only how the song may have felt for WWII soldiers and families, but the renewed patriotic and familial spirit Americans felt in the first Christmas after 9/11.

1. “The Christmas Song” – Often referred to by its opening line, “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,” this song has financially set the descendants of its author (Mel Torme) for infinity. I’ve heard a couple hundred versions at least, from Brave Combo’s 1991 pop-polka version to Los Straitjackets’ Latin-surf take in 2002, and no one has messed it up. Although I find it a bit discriminatory to people 93 and older and infants less than a year old when it offers the phrase Merry Christmas only to kids from 1 to 92.

TOP 5 CHRISTMAS RECORDS

5. “Santa Claus, Go Straight to the Ghetto,” by James Brown – Recorded in 1968, the year of Martin Luther King’s assassination, dozens of riots and a pervasiveness of racial tension and civil unrest, it seemed like great advice for Santa. Given the holiday is based on the birth of Christ, who constantly preached about helping the

poor, the tune also evokes the meaning of Christmas.

4. “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” by Burl Ives – The song was originally recorded in 1949 by the singing cowboy, Gene Autry, and based on a children’s book from 1939. However, the 1964 television special forever imprinted Ives’ version on our brains. A huge part of Christmas is kids and fun, and this song celebrates both, as well as the frequent benefits of being unique and different. And don’t forget Chuck Berry’s “Run, Run Rudolph.”

3. “Merry Christmas, Darling,” by the Carpenters – There’s nothing like romance during the holidays. This 1978 record about “Christmas-ing with you” barely edges “This Christmas,” by the late, great Donny Hathaway in the holiday romance category. Hathaway’s 1968 song has been well recorded by others, including the Temptations, but Karen Carpenter’s exquisite voice pushes her song to the top. Her voice was a Christmas gift to all the world and it’s highlighted in the song co-written by her brother, Richard. Sadly, neither Karen Carpenter nor Hathaway lived past age 33, each dying tragic deaths.

2. “Blue Christmas,” by Elvis Presley – The King loved Christmas, and the holidays at

Graceland must have been amazing. This song was first a jaunty country ditty by Ernest Tubb. When you compare Presley’s 1957 version, it helps you understand why we call him the King. I actually prefer Presley’s hard-rocking blues tune “Santa Claus is Back in Town,” in which a sleigh is replaced by a “big, black Cadillac,” but the holidays can’t start until you’ve head Elvis sing “Blue Christmas.” Since the two songs were re-released together on opposite sides of a 45 rpm disc in 1965, technically it counts as one record.

1. “The Christmas Song,” by Nat Cole – It’s been sung many times, many ways, but never better than by this man, which is why we also call him the King.

Although you don’t want to hear him sing it, Richard Coltharp, publisher of Desert Exposure, knows the words to “Welcome, Christmas,” which Dr. Seuss wrote with Albert Hague to accompany the television cartoon “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” The show premiered 50 years ago this month.



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RANDOM ACTS OF NONSENSE  
JIM DUCHENE  
Rudolph, the  
Red-Faced Reindeer

I got home from work last year and saw my little girl watching the holiday classic “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

TWO days BEFORE Thanksgiving!

I grimaced.  
I’m not saying that particular Christmas special is bad (which it is), I’m just saying the only thing worse was listening to Miley Cyrus sing Nirvana’s Smells Like Teen Spirit. And the only thing worse than that is watching her dance to it. Don’t believe me? Check it out for yourself on YouTube. Anyway ...

I sat down and watched it with her. Why? Because that’s what Dads who love their little girls do. As my mind wandered and my eyes glazed over, once again I was reminded of that time, not so long ago, I met a brave little pig.

I drove down to a farm on Highway 28, because I had heard farmers tended to have attractive daughters with liberal ideas about hospitality, but, instead of a daughter, this farmer had a pig. The pig was missing three of its legs, one of its two eyes, both ears, its tail, and part of its snout.

“What happened to your pig, Farmer Brown?” I asked the old coot.

“Well,” the farmer says to me, “one night the pig wakes me and the missus up, ‘cause there was a gas leak (and I’m not talkin’ ‘bout my missus). We barely got out of the house when all that gas exploded, creatin’ a fire. ‘Oh my god! The baby!’ I yelled, and the pig runs into the burning house and saves the baby. From all the excitement, my missus falls to the ground. Heart attack! I don’t know what to do, but the pig does. He jumps up high and lands square on her chest. Her poor ol’ ticker starts right back up again, good as new. That little pig saved all our lives that night.”

“And his injuries were caused by the fire?” I asked.

“Nah, that weren’t it,” Farmer Brown explained. “You see, with a pig that brave... you don’t want to eat him all at once.”

I think about that pig every time I hear the Christmas song “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” Oh, sure, the song starts out happily enough. There’s Rudolph. He has a shiny nose. Big deal, right?

Well, it is a big deal. Apparently, it’s a big deal to all the other reindeers. They laugh at poor Rudolph. They call him names. They shun him. And all Rudolph wants most in the world is to be accepted by his peers and to play their stupid little reindeer games with them.

That, and maybe some Hatch chile.

And what about the adult reindeers? The ones who should know better? Did they step in and stop the bullying? No, they didn’t. They weren’t part of the solution, they were part of the problem.

Even Santa Claus, who, as the

fat cat in charge of the whole North Pole operation, decided to ignore the problem. If he didn’t acknowledge the bullying by the reindeers — both old and young — then it didn’t exist.

Finally, a greater power interceded. No, I’m not talking about Gov. Susana Martinez. I’m talking about a blizzard so huge Kim Kardashian would barely be able to hide it behind her, ahem, talent. Christmas, it seemed, would have to be cancelled.

Santa, in probably the first kind words he ever spoke to Rudolph, finally acknowledges his “special” reindeer, and asks him to guide his sleigh that night for what is essentially a suicide mission.

Like a Japanese kamikaze pilot from World War II, Rudolph agrees, and Christmas is saved. Santa collects his bonus, and Rudolph... well, then and only then do all the reindeers love him. You know what I think about that?

Too little. Too late.

In the first place, Santa lives in the north Pole. He’s been doing this Christmas thing for centuries. You would think he’d have a plan B for what happens when the snow starts to fall, which is EVERY DAY. Secondly, well, there is no secondly. I just wanted to use the phrase “in the first place” to make my point seem more important than it was.

If I were Rudolph, and Santa Claus came groveling up to me after years of neglect and abuse—POW!—right in the kisser. I would have treated him like the punching-bag he’s shaped like. You can take your sleigh and your toys and all your non-glowing-nosed reindeers, fat man, and stick them where the sun don’t shine!

The song is bad enough. Watching the TV claymation version of it is even worse. An elf is brow-beaten just because his true calling is dentistry? Those elves would rather walk around with rotten teeth and bad breath? And Santa apparently values production on the toy assembly-line over the health and welfare of his loyal workers? Where are the Teamsters when you need them? Plus, I was always bothered by the Misfit Toys. An island filled with irregular, but otherwise perfectly fine toys. Santa couldn’t have handed them out to my in-laws? He preferred for them to go to waste?

No, I’ve never cared for the song “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and I care for the TV special even less. Especially two days before Thanksgiving.

My little girl loves it, though. Go figure.

*Born in the Southwest, newly elected Jim Duchene looks forward to being your next president and invites you to enjoy a cup of literary eggnog with him at JimDuchene.BlogSpot.com, RaisingMyFather.BlogSpot.com, and @JimDuchene.*

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# Still Hungry

## Giving during the holidays appreciated

The hunger that gnaws at Palomas has been partly wiped out by the federal food stamps program that's been widely used there in the past couple of years. The Prospera, 65 y Mas, and SinHambre programs have been doing a pretty good job at quieting adults' and children's growling stomachs.

But as long as inconceivably low wages persist and real jobs are rare, hunger won't be totally stopped. There's a kind of infinity of hunger that persists in poor towns like Palomas.

Most of the poor find work wherever they can get it. Women clean houses, make tortillas for restaurants or sell used clothes. Men do temporary building jobs, or work seasonally in the fields.

So the household economies of the poor are usually in flux. They're disrupted by a sudden need for a car repair, a hospital stay or a repair for a roof. It's not just food bills that need to be paid, but high rates for electricity and water.

This year there's been a real shift in the number of Palomas residents who worked in maquiladora plants near Juarez. A lot of single mothers who were bussed there last year have decided to keep their Prospera card and stay at home. Finding someone to take care of their kids every week for 14-hour days was too difficult.

This is a new group of people who are stretched a little thinner this year and indicates the need for childcare in Palomas.

In past years every family got small packages of food from churches and other organizations. Even though it was hard to imagine how these donations could make a dent in a family's hunger, these people were usually quick to give thanks.

Now there's an opportunity to more substantially slice through hunger.

### Typical cases

December is donation time at

Desert Exposure. Maybe readers' contributions can help people like the following. (They're just residents I found at random in Palomas while driving around and talking to people.)

Gray-haired Maria Apodaca is the matriarch of her family. Several of her family members come and go from her house as we talk. She says she has six grandchildren and great-grandchildren living at her house.

As to what she does to earn money, she says, "Lo que sale!" (whatever's available). I ask what the worst-case scenario has been in terms of hunger. She and her daughter Valeria look at each other darkly and say they went through two days without food at one point.

Isaias Lopez Insen lives alone in a house on the far western edge of Palomas. He's a charming elderly gentleman from Coahuila who makes a little money from soldering.

I ask him what he eats, and with a quick smile he says, "Tortillas, frijoles — when I have them."

He said he gets help once a month from Doctor Simi, a man with a pharmacy business in Juarez and Palomas who helps the poor. Insen gets two-pound sacks of flour, beans and a little more.

He's tried to get benefits from 65 y Mas, a government program for the elderly, but hasn't qualified. Maybe it's because he has three black goats and a goat-kid, which he just wants to keep as pets on his rural-looking piece of land.

One hole in the federal food-distribution system may be single women without young children. Fifty-five-year-old Irma Holguin lives by herself and runs a tiny, neat restaurant with two tables called Tortas Holguin.

Holguin keeps books, but she basically just buys more food for

the restaurant with any profit she makes. She won't be eligible for 65 y Mas for a decade and has a heart condition. Simi's pharmacy helps her with deeply discounted medicine.

Her daughter, Irma Rico, who went to Deming schools and now lives in Deming, helps her out sometimes. The daughter is taking tests to get further education, and says she hopes to "be someone" and make enough money to bring her mother to the U.S.

It's obvious there are lots of hungry people who aren't being reached by government programs.

### Ways to donate

Casa de Amor, which houses teenage orphan girls, would be glad to get cash or check donations for food and distribute it among church pastors in Palomas to pass along to congregations. They have been doing this for years. They represent a coalition of churches in New Mexico. Please mention that you heard about them through Desert Exposure.

Send your donations to: Alas de Amor, c/o The Light at Mission Viejo, 4601 Mission Bend, Santa Fe, NM 87507. It is a 501(c) 3 organization and all contributions are tax deductible. They send out contributor receipts in January each year.

If you want to make donations in kind, it's really important to understand what type of food is appropriate. Please don't just donate leftover cans of carrots or Brussels sprouts from your cupboards.

Beans, rice, potatoes, flour, and cooking oil are always safe bets. Most Mexicans who live near the border want these things because they go a long way. They like this type of food.

A woman I know who once worked in the Columbus ele-

mentary school told me one little boy refused to eat anything but beans. They were bewildered but finally realized that this was probably all he had ever eaten and felt uncomfortable eating anything else.

The woman who bought food to distribute to people in Colonia Modelo very naturally wanted to get them small cans of chopped chicken meat, for something "special." One man we gave a can of chicken had to ask a neighbor woman how to prepare it. She put it in a frying pan and fried it.

It's so hard to pry oneself loose from the notion that you should get people what you yourself would like to eat.

About a decade ago a woman from Las Cruces brought a truckload of potatoes from a farm. This was very much appreciated, and if any farmer has a truck full of any kind of fresh produce, they'd be welcome.

E-mail: me\_lill@yahoo.com.

### Holiday season in Palomas

Palomas has been very quiet this year. So have a happy holiday season and feel free to go to the restaurants, high- and low-end gift shops (for Christmas presents), dentists, oculists, pharmacists and bakeries in town.

You'll be making a very real contribution to the lives of the poor, because whenever an employee is paid it can have a ripple effect in cleaning or repair or other temporary jobs for Palomas residents. You'll be a one-man development project.

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.*



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Irma Rico, baby Dilan, Jesus Melendez Apodaca (not pictured), Vanessa Melendez and Valeria Cano, live in Palomas, Mexico, where hunger often keeps belts tightening. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)



LIFE IN MEXICO • MORGAN SMITH

# Eunice Herrera, Lawyer

Determined to help on the border

“Law is a tool to help people who don’t have a voice,” Eunice Herrera told me on Nov. 7 when I visited her new law office. I wrote an article about her for the February, 2016 issue of Desert Exposure and entitled it Eunice Herrera, Lawyer — but that was wrong. She was only a law school graduate then and was facing two big hurdles, passing the New Mexico bar exam and finding a job. Now both have been accomplished.

She passed the bar exam in September and is now practicing immigration law in Santa Fe with the firm of Noble and Vrapí, a leading immigration law firm with offices in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces and El Paso.

This is an extraordinary accomplishment for a young woman who basically grew up in Ascención, Mexico and for whom English is her second language.

Eunice already has a full load of clients in Santa Fe. Most have Mexico-related issues and, therefore, her Spanish speaking ability is a huge asset.

She intends, however, to continue her humanitarian work in two ways.

First, she is planning to go to El Paso for a week to help interview immigrant children who are being detained at the temporary shelter at nearby Fort Bliss.

Although the overall number of immigrants who have been detained has been declining, the number of unaccompanied children is on the rise, especially those from Central American countries like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras where many children are forced to either join a gang or flee the country.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the murder rate in Honduras is 84.6 per 1,000 of population compared to 31.2 in Guatemala, 64.2 in El Salvador, 15.7 in Mexico and only 3.9 in the United States.

No wonder these kids are fleeing to the United States. They have to stay in the shelter until they can be released to an appropriate sponsor who is usually a family member.

The average stay is about a month so if Eunice can help interview these kids and speed up the process of their release it will not only be a benefit to them but also save us taxpayers the very high cost of detention.



**Eunice Herrera in her new office in Santa Fe, ready to work on behalf of unaccompanied minors from southern countries and others who need support. (Photo by Morgan Smith)**

In addition, she will continue her work with La Casa de Amor para Niños, the orphanage in Palomas where she, Jim Noble and his wife, Pat, have been leaders for a number of years.

Keeping the orphanage afloat has been a grueling process, requiring enormous patience and persistence on the part of Eunice, the Nobles and the other volunteers.

Elections are held every three years and that means a new mayor who may have a completely different attitude about their work. For example, a new mayor is taking office as I write this; the Nobles and Eunice know nothing about him.

Their next big event will be the annual Christmas party on Dec. 10.

They have raised funds for scholarships for approximately 150 students and will give each student a change of clothing, shoes and a toy at the event.

Lawyers take plenty of criticism these days for being inattentive, greedy and focused more on money than their clients’ well-being.

Nonetheless, the law is a powerful tool for social good, as Eunice indicated above, especially for people who have no other recourse.

Here is a new lawyer who, I believe, will use that tool as it should be used.

As a lawyer myself, I am proud she is practicing here.

*Morgan Smith visits the border at least once a month and writes about border issues. He can be reached at [Morgan-smith@comcast.net](mailto:Morgan-smith@comcast.net).*

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS • PATRICIA SKILLINGSTAD

# Call Me Nemo

## Latin for nobody

I live in your town, under your bridges, behind your bushes — virtually anywhere I can stay warm and feel somewhat protected. I may or may not have a small income from somewhere; I might ask you for a cup of coffee or a sandwich. Possibly simply a kind word. I could be anybody, but I am not. I am a homeless veteran.

Since mankind has been on the earth, brave men (and women) have been protectors and defenders of their portion of the globe.

When the war is over, we become veterans, or wounded veterans, nearly always respected and often revered. But not all of us.

Many of us have been damaged by our experiences, and suffer from extreme mental anguish due to our wartime experiences.

Seeing too much carnage is often devastating to the human psyche and not all of us can leave it in the past. To paraphrase an early journalist:

“Something was wrong. They put on civilian clothes again and looked to their mothers and wives very much like the young men who had gone to business in the peaceful days before August 1914. But they had not come back the same men. Something had altered in them.

“They were subject to sudden moods, and queer tempers, fits of profound depression alternating with a restless desire for pleasure. Many were easily moved to passion where they lost control of themselves, many were bitter in their speech, violent in opinion, frightening.”

In the Civil War, this condition was known as Soldier’s Heart, in WWI, it was called Shell Shock, In World War II, it became Combat Fatigue. Today, it is called PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and affects many people who have served in Vietnam, or Afghanistan or Iraq, Iran, or... There are multitudes of us.

Today, I am the “nobody” you see wandering about town, angry, or bitter, or depressed, or fearful or withdrawn. I may be unkempt. I may be dirty. I may smell. I am often hungry. But I am still a man or woman and in need of your understanding and your help. Although it may appear to be buried, I have my pride. I don’t need a free bus ticket to get me out of town. I seldom need to be jailed. I just need a hand up.

## Name this Man

Write or draw about the homeless veteran with attitude depicted in the sculpture by Diana LeMarbe for a chance to win several prizes. This is a writing (story, poem, essay) or drawing (any media) contest for all Luna, Grant and Hidalgo county residents. All entries will be shown at the Deming Luna Mimbres Museum Jan. 15-30, 2017. Prizes will be awarded on Jan. 15 at the Museum. Turn in your entry to The Deming or Columbus Library or Deming Art Center by Dec. 15.

The categories for the contest are: K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 and Adult. There will be prizes in each category.

Include the statue’s new name, the artwork or story, name, age, grade, school and teacher (for students) or name, address and telephone number (for adults) on the back.

This contest is a part of Veterans Appreciation Day, Jan. 15, 2017, and benefits the veterans’ Southwest Transition



**This sculpture by Diana LeMarbe is the inspiration for a Veterans Appreciation Day writing and art contest encompassing Luna, Grant and Hidalgo counties.**

Center, Deming, a non-profit volunteer-run organization. There will be a program and exhibit at the Deming Luna Mimbres Museum, prizes will be awarded at that time, along with a drawing for the sculpture and other art objects.

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 This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs [www.demingarts.org](http://www.demingarts.org)



TOP DOG • ELVAK. ÖSTERREICH

# Champion Material

## Drone racer competes, wins at drone summit

Shaun Taylor, AKA Nytfury, is currently the No. 1 drone racer in the world.

The New Mexico resident, five year veteran of a firefighting team, turned his attention fully to drone racing when, in 2015, he saw a video of quadcopters flying through the forest. He has been doing it full time ever since, giving up both his job and his drag car racing hobby.

“When I am not flying, I am thinking about it, and when I am not thinking about it, I am dreaming about it,” he wrote on his website.

During the 2016 World Drone Racing Championships held Oct. 22 and 23 in Hawaii, Taylor came in first place in the individual category. Thirty-seven countries were represented at the event.

The drone Taylor used and won with, named Nytfury after his flying moniker, he designed on a napkin. Today it sits on a shelf with his other winning drones, better than trophies, he said.

“I had every pilot that was there sign it,” he said.

On Nov. 11, 12 and 13, Taylor brought his racing game to Spaceport America as part of the drone

summit and raced in both individual and team categories. Now he has continued the winning trend and took first place at the event in the individual racing category and his team took second place.

Racing for Hobby King, Taylor said he builds his drones from scratch. There are a lot of small companies making parts and more are coming out all the time, he said. To make things work you have to watch for what you need. He designs something different for every race.

“I love flying different stuff,” Taylor said. “I almost always have different stuff.”

“It is going to be very competitive,” Taylor said before the drone summit races. “We have all flown it (the designed course) a lot in the past. There is a lot of luck involved. Anyone could win any given Sunday.”

But Taylor doesn’t let up on himself, he works hard, practices hard and his mind is always working.

“I have a really, really strong work ethic,” he said. “Pushing myself to the limit is my only advantage. When you are passionate, it’s easy to go the extra mile.”



Shaun Taylor receives the First Place individual drone racing award at the Spaceport America Drone Summit Nov. 13.



PHOTOS  
BY  
ELVAK.  
ÖSTERREICH



## Spaceport America Drone Summit

### 25-Lap Team FPV Drone Race:

- 1st Place: Tony Bjerke
- 2nd Place: Shaun Taylor
- 3rd Place: Eric Gordon

### FPV Drone Race:

- 1st Place: Shaun Taylor
- 2nd Place: Justin Carr
- 3rd Place: James Perez

### Aerial Cinem

- 1st Place: Rowan
- 2nd Place: Tony
- 3rd Place: Team





SUBORBITAL • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

# Drone Summit

Buzzing, swooping and learning how to buzz and swoop, participants in the Nov. 11-13 Spaceport America Drone Summit got what they came for and more when they made the drive out to the facility to enjoy some sunny days and friendly competition.

The drone races took place on one side of the spaceport while the cinematography challenge took place on the other side, in an area that became to be known as Asteroid Alley, a byway of concrete and dirt causeways and mounds that create a just-right course

for drone cinematographers to show what they can do.

Weekend workshops took place in the Gateway to Space building gallery, where potential entrepreneurs learned how they could build a \$100,000-a-year drone business and what the regulations are for the drone business. Cinematography experts, who doubled as challenge judges, also gave workshops during the day.

The Aerial Cinematography Challenge judges gathered around a computer screen with the final footage of the competitors and talked about the

quality of what they were seeing, how well that pedestal was displayed, the tilt up, the gel, the reveal?

The judges included David Jean Schweitzer with the International Cinematography Guild; Michael Chambliss, ICG Local 600 representative; Luke T. Davis, Flytcam Motion Pictures Co-founder; and Allen Hrynick, also with Flytcam.

“The footage is only part of the challenge,” Schweitzer said. “We also look at how did the cinematographer work with safety? How was the communication between the crew members?”

## challenge winners

### Cinematography Challenge:

in Boxer  
Vigil  
Mountain Aerial



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Picacho Peak is a volcanic mountain composed of rhyolite (mostly quartz and feldspar) that so-  
lidified at the surface approximately 35 million years ago.

HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

# Picacho Peak

Cool weather, cool volcano

Picacho Peak, a volcano on the skyline West of Las Cruces, offers three different great trails now, up to the top, all the way around and into a nearby canyon. All three hikes are best done in the cooler season, because they offer little shade along the way.

Did you know picacho means “a large pointed isolated hill?” So it is aptly named, although not very poetically.

It is also part of the OM-DP NM, or Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument (Could somebody please come up with a better acronym?! “Omdip” makes me think of some food for meditation.) For that reason it has received a little TLC lately with a flat parking area, a shade structure for picnics as well as some signage. The trail markers help to keep hikers on track. The three possible trails are marked in different color arrows along the way.

We, or rather our son, decided on the “up to the top” option. He wanted to try out his new GoPro Camera for an all-around shot and movie. (The trail movie with the camera strapped to his chest came out funny: Wobbly bouncy footage that gives me a headache to watch.)

The trail starts downhill into a canyon but quickly comes out of it and it's uphill after that. First gentle, then a bit steeper. A big rock outcropping offers good shade for a water break.

Some hikes are more exciting than others. So while we could boast with hail in July, there isn't much to tell here. The most exciting thing was probably the discovery of a horned toad as well as some fairly big stick bugs on the trail. We all took pictures but those bugs have a great way to blend in with the surrounding. See if you can discover it!

The hike up to the top took about an hour, the return was obviously a bit faster, making the total under two hours. The views are magnificent. See how many mountain ranges you can count from up there.

To do this hike a warning is in order: To reach the parking lot and trailhead you must cross some fairly deep ditches on the dirt road and I can only recommend it for high-clearance vehicles. Be careful, especially after some heavy rainfall. We made it but thought we would nosedive a few times in our Dinsti Outback. While the peak itself is part of the monument, the road to get there is public and private land, so the maintenance is probably an issue.

As always: Wear sturdy boots, a hat and sunscreen. Bring enough water. Stay safe and have fun!



A stick bug (phasmid) on a creosote bush: Where does the bush end and the bug start? (Photos by Gabriele Teich)



The horned toad is not bad at camouflage either.



CELEBRATIONS • MIKE COOK

# Beginnings

Holiday traditions come from around the world

Where did Christmas and all its many traditions come from? The religious holiday has apparently been celebrated since about 400 A.D., as Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Christ in religious festivals, or masses – hence, Christmas.

- **Holiday cards (England).** The custom of sending Christmas/holiday cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first “Penny Post” public postal deliveries began. (Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th century’s communication revolution, like email today.) As printing methods improved, holiday cards were produced in large numbers from about 1860. They became even more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one half-penny – half the price of an ordinary letter.

- **Santa Claus (Holland).** Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name “Santa Claus” which comes from the Dutch “Sinterklaas.” Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the fourth century AD. He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire. This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children’s stockings. Civil War cartoonist Thomas Nast drew Santa Claus for “Harper’s Weekly” in 1862 as a small elf-like figure who supported the Union. Nast continued to draw Santa for 30 years and along the way changed the color of his coat from tan to the now-traditional red. Starting in 1931, magazine ads for Coca-Cola featured St. Nick as a kind, jolly man in a red suit. Because magazines were so widely viewed, and because this image of Santa appeared for more than three decades, the image of Santa most people have today is substantially based on Coke’s advertising.

- **Yule logs and mistletoe (northern Europe).** The pagans of northern Europe celebrated the winter solstice with Yule festivals. Yule was symbolic of the pagan Sun God Mithras being born, and was observed on the shortest day of the year. As the Sun God grew and matured, the days became longer and warmer. It was customary to light a candle to encourage Mithras and the sun to reappear the next year. Huge Yule logs were burned in honor of the sun. The word Yule means wheel, a pagan symbol for the sun. Mistletoe was considered a sacred plant, and the custom of kissing under the mistletoe began as a fertility ritual. Holly berries were thought to be a food of the gods.

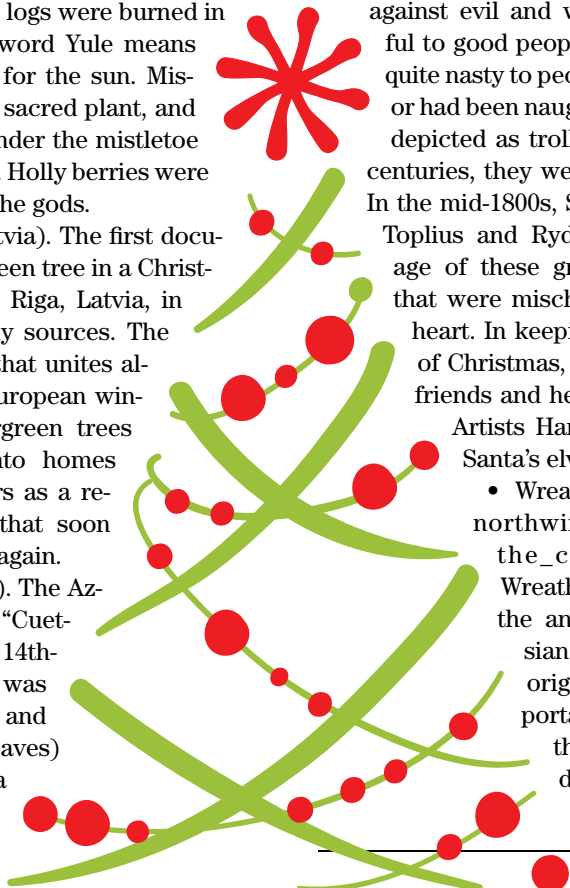
- **Christmas trees (Latvia).** The first documented use of an evergreen tree in a Christmas celebration was in Riga, Latvia, in 1510, according to many sources. The tree is the one symbol that unites almost all the northern European winter solstices. Live evergreen trees were often brought into homes during the harsh winters as a reminder to inhabitants that soon their crops would grow again.

- **Poinsettias (Mexico).** The Aztecs called poinsettias “Cuetlaxochitl.” During the 14th-16th centuries, the sap was used to control fevers and the bracts (modified leaves) were used to make a reddish dye. Montezuma, the last of the Aztec kings, had poin-

settias brought into what now is Mexico City by caravans because they could not be grown in the high altitude. In the 17th century, Juan Balme, a botanist, noted the poinsettia plant in his writings. The botanical name, Euphorbia pulcherrima, was assigned to the poinsettia by the German botanist, Wilenow. The plant grew through a crack in his greenhouse. Dazzled by its color, he gave it the botanical name meaning “very beautiful.” Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, appointed by President John Quincy Adams in 1825. At the time of his appointment, Mexico was involved in a civil war. During his stay in Mexico, Poinsett wandered the countryside looking for new plant species. In 1828 he found a beautiful shrub with large red flowers growing next to a road. He took cuttings from the plant and brought them back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Even though Poinsett had an outstanding career as a U.S. congressman and as an ambassador, he will always be remembered for introducing the poinsettia to the U.S. William Prescott, a historian and horticulturist, was asked to give Euphorbia pulcherrima a new name as it became more popular. At that time Mr. Prescott had just published a book called the “Conquest of Mexico” in which he detailed Joel Poinsett’s discovery of the plant. Prescott named the plant the poinsettia in honor of Joel Poinsett’s discovery. Source: [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/poinsettia/history.html](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/poinsettia/history.html).

- **Stockings (Holland).** During the 16th century, children in Holland would leave their clogs by the hearth. They would fill them with straw for the reindeer or “donkey” as the reindeer were called. A treat for Santa was left in the house near the warm fire. In return, “Sinterclass” would leave the children treats. Later, the clogs would become stockings and the saint would become known as Santa Claus. ([www.siec.k12.in.us/west/proj/claus/stocking.htm](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/west/proj/claus/stocking.htm).)
- **Elves (Scandinavia).** From [www.worldofchristmas.net/santa-claus/christmas-elves.html](http://www.worldofchristmas.net/santa-claus/christmas-elves.html): “Modern Christmas elves find their origin in the house gnomes of Scandinavia present since pagan times. It was believed that these gnomes guarded homes against evil and were benevolent and helpful to good people. However, they could be quite nasty to people who were rude to them or had been naughty and then, they are even depicted as trolls and cannibals. Thus, for centuries, they were both loved and loathed. In the mid-1800s, Scandinavian writers Thiele, Toplius and Rydberg transformed the image of these gnomes to Christmas elves that were mischievous fairies but good at heart. In keeping with the popularization of Christmas, they were depicted as true friends and helpers of Father Christmas. Artists Hansen and Nyström painted Santa’s elves in their present forms.”

- **Wreaths (Persia).** From [www.northwindfarms.com/history\\_of\\_the\\_christmas\\_wreath.html](http://www.northwindfarms.com/history_of_the_christmas_wreath.html): Wreaths “can be traced back to the ancient cultures of the Persian Empire, where they were originally used as a sign of importance and victory. Originally, the circlet was called a ‘diadem’ and took the form of





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BEGINNINGS

continued from page 27

fabric headbands sometimes adorned with jewels. Beginning around 776 B.C., the Greeks placed wreaths made of laurel on the heads of victorious athletes in the original Olympic games. Later, when the games moved to different cities, each host city would award head garlands made of branches of local trees. In ancient Rome, wreaths were worn on the heads of leaders such as Julius Caesar, much like the crown of a king. Exactly when the transition from head ornament to wall decoration occurred is unclear. It probably came about when a warrior or athlete decided to save his or her award as a memento of victory.”

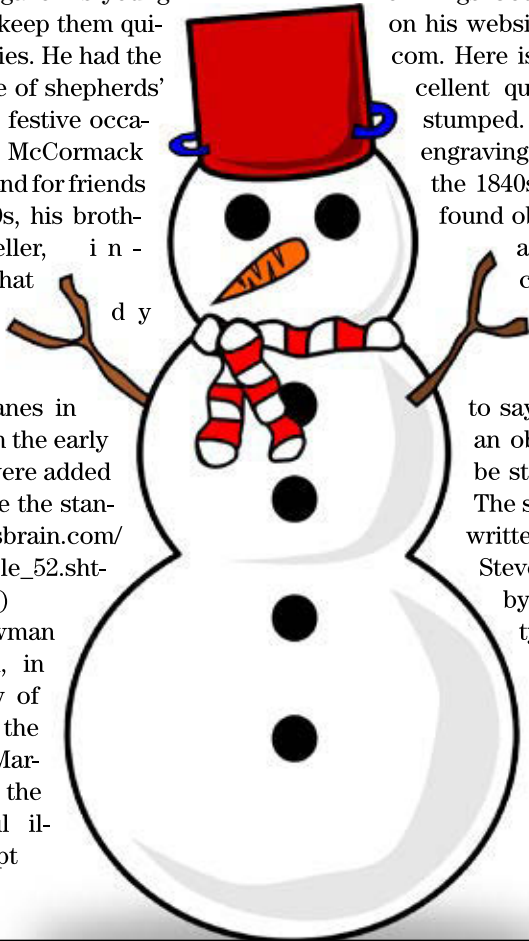
• Candy canes (Germany). “In 1670, the Cologne Cathedral choirmaster gave his young singers sugar sticks to keep them quiet during long ceremonies. He had the candy bent in the shape of shepherds’ crooks to celebrate the festive occasion. In the 1920s, Bob McCormack made candy canes by hand for friends and family. In the 1950s, his brother-in-law, Gregory Keller, i n -vented a machine that (mass-produced) can-canes. Bob’s Candies, Inc. became the larg-est maker of candy canes in the world. It was only in the early 1900s that red stripes were added and peppermint became the stan-dard flavor. (www.classbrain.com/artholiday/publish/article\_52.sht-ml#CANDY%20CANES.)

• Snowmen. “Snowman Expert” Bob Eckstein, in his book, “The History of the Snowman: From the Ice Age to the Flea Mar-ket,” says, “Painted in the margin of a beautiful il-luminated manuscript



(currently in the Royal Library in The Hague) which dates around 1380 history, is a snow-man – wearing only a strange hat and a look of concern ... The melt-ing snowman is created in the familiar method we’re accustomed to seeing today: a modern snowman with one snowball stacked on top of another.

Medieval snowmen had always been sculpted pieces of art.” This, he says, “is the first snowman ever in art of any form.” The manuscript, says Eckstein, originated in Cockaigne,” a mythical (think of Atlantis or Eldorado) land of plenty. Why do they hold brooms? (That’s a question that Lori Sanders of Kings County, California asked Eckstein on his website, www.historyofthesnowman.com. Here is Bob’s answer: “Dear Lori, ex-cellent question. You actually have me stumped. All I can say is that the earliest engravings I found from around 1790 up to the 1840s showed snowmen made from found objects around the farm; baskets and buckets for hats and either canes, sticks or brooms stuck in their body. I have been unable to trace any meaning or sym-bolism by this choice except to say it seems kids figured out that an object like a broom could easily be stuck into the snowman’s torso.” The song “Frosty the Snowman” was written by Walter “Jack” Rollins and Steve Nelson. It was first recorded by Gene Autry and the Cass Coun-ty Boys in 1950 and reached number seven on the U.S. pop singles chart that year. Frosty was the subject of a three-min-ute film in 1957 and a half-hour television show made in 1969. “Frosty Returns” was made for television in 1992.



Cookie Monsters



Cookie Monsters by artist/historical conservator/New Mexico State University Graduate Cassan-dra Rossi. (Courtesy Photo)



Chihuahua Retablo



Chihuahua Retablo, a mixed media holiday piece by Gloria McCollum, glitters on display at the [a]SP.“A”©E gallery, 110 W. Seventh St. in Silver City.

HOW TO CREATE STOLLEN • PATRICIA SKILLINGSTAD  
A German Holiday Bread

**In a large bowl, place:**  
2 envelopes active dry yeast  
½ cup warm water (110-115 degrees F)  
2 teaspoons sugar  
Let stand until yeast softens.

**Add:**  
1 cup scalded (and cooled) milk  
½ cup sugar  
½ cup (1 stick) butter  
And mix well

**Beat in:**  
2 large eggs

**Stir in:**  
3 cup flour (sifted)  
1-1/2 teaspoon salt  
1-1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 teaspoon grated lemon rind.  
Beat until batter drops in sheets from the spoon

**Stir in:**  
3 cups more flour (sifted)  
1-1/2 cups seedless raisins  
1 cup chopped almonds

Turn onto a floured board and knead until smooth and satiny. Put into a greased bowl, turning to bring the greased side to the top.

Cover and let rise in a warm place (80-85 degrees) for an hour, or until dough has doubled in size. Punch down, recover and let it rest for 10 more minutes.

Divide dough in half. Roll each half into a rectangular sheet ½ inch thick and about 12 inches long. Brush each with melted butter (about half a stick).

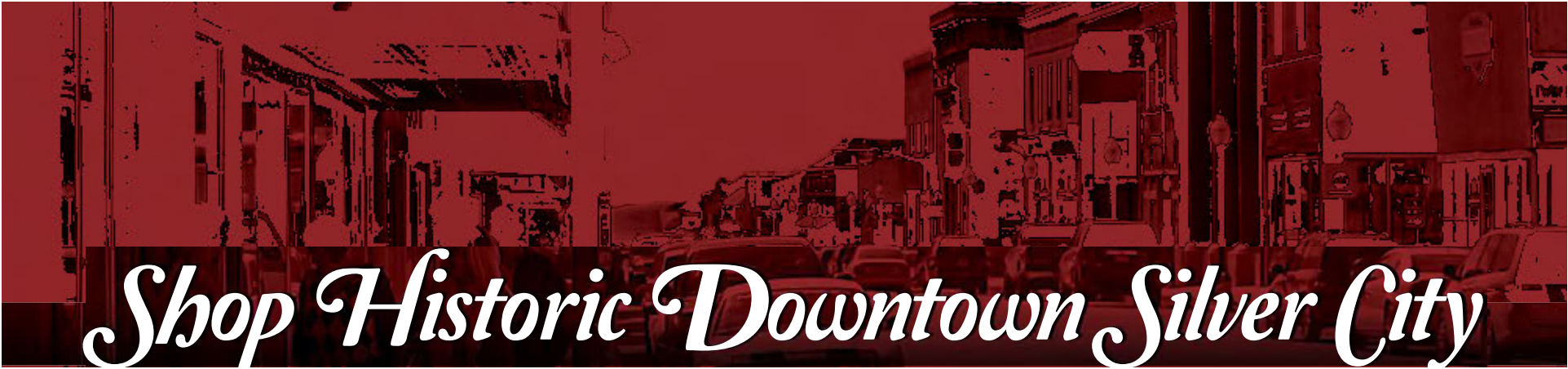
Mix ¼ cup sugar with half a teaspoon ground cinnamon and ½ cup more chopped almonds over the dough.

Fold sides of each piece of dough to the middle and stretch to make long loaves, thick at the middle and narrow at the ends. Place each on a greased baking sheet and brush with melted butter. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double in size (about 45 minutes).

Bake in oven preheated to 375 degrees for 20 minutes or until browned.

Combine two cups sifted powdered sugar with three tablespoons water to make a glaze and spread on top of warm loaves when they have been placed on racks to cool.

Makes two stollens.



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TREE TIME

# Permits Available

Time for annual trek to the forest for a Christmas tree

Permits for cutting Christmas trees on New Mexico National Forests are available at all Ranger District offices.

Permits sell for \$5 each with a limit of one permit per household; or free permits are available for the aromatic piñon trees. Any tree species up to 10' high may be cut.

A Christmas tree tag, an information sheet on cutting regulations, and maps of designated cutting sites are included with the permits.

To protect forest resources, tree cutting activities are not allowed within wilderness areas, riparian (river and stream) areas, and areas within 200 feet of paved roads and developed recreation sites.

It is advisable for harvesters to check with local Ranger Districts for road and weather conditions prior to going into the forest.

During this time of year, the weather can be unpredictable with rain or snow storms making dirt roads muddy, snow packed, or impassable.

Forest users are also asked to respect forest and private lands, dispose of litter in trashcans or "pack it out", and close all forest gates after passing through them.

Forest offices are open Monday through Friday (except on holidays).

Contact the local ranger district offices for further information on Christmas tree cutting.



National Forests across southern New Mexico have Christmas tree cutting permits available. (Wikimedia Commons Courtesy Photo)

TREE TALES • CATLY WARD

## Getting the Tree

Our tradition of harvesting our own tree in the forest began when we moved to Quemado in Western New Mexico. Since we lived not far from the forest, this seemed to be a good family outing. My husband worked for the Forest Service and, as he was frequently out in the forest, was able to scout for areas that had the best looking trees.

Our three children were not quite as enthusiastic and there was much grumbling and sighing on our treks. One year my

sister and her family decided to come visit us from Albuquerque and cut their own tree to take home. So off we set in two vehicles — our crew-cab pickup and my sister's car.

All was well until my carsick prone youngest daughter decided to share her breakfast with her unfortunate fellow passengers in the truck. Luckily, we had brought along water so, after a hasty scrub, we continued on. We did manage to get our trees without further eruptions and quickly headed

home. That was the only time my sister and her family came to get a tree.

Another year I decided I had to have a certain type of tree. My husband found the area where these trees grew and we drove out to the area to cut down our tree.

Unfortunately it had rained earlier and we found ourselves in a mud bog.

The mud was so thick that our shoes felt like they were being sucked off our feet with every step. Needless to say,

everyone reminded me just whose idea this was.

But my husband persisted and finally found a suitable tree and dragged it through the mud to our vehicle. My punishment was all the extra laundry I did when we got home.

We cut our own trees for the five years we lived in Quemado and, despite the mishaps, we always enjoyed having a fresh tree. There is nothing that says Christmas like the wonderful pungent piney fragrance of a tree fresh from the forest.

### 'Twas The Night Before'

BY JIM DUCHENE

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
Here in the Southwest,  
I was drinking outside with  
My usual zest.

My work socks were hung like  
Christmas stockings, you see,  
My wife, she has four kids.  
Myself, I have three.

When what to my watering  
Eyes should appear,  
It was a jolly St. Nick,  
His sleigh loaded with beer.

His eyes, how they twinkled  
Behind his new glasses.  
He was here to bring beer to  
The beer-drinking masses.

He brought Tecate, Coors Light,  
And even Budweiser.  
And then, for much later,  
Some Viagra from Pfizer.

"Ay, loco," I told him.  
"Come join me, my friend."  
But he had just gotten started,  
And must get started again.

As he started to leave,  
He gave a high-five.  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
"And don't drink and drive!"

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THE BEST YEARS • WILLIAM CHARLAND

# Where to Retire — Or Why

## Silver City draws industrious individuals

“Where should you retire?”

That’s a question of the hour, as waves of Baby Boomers exit the workplace. At last count, 10,000 Americans turn 67 – the current age to apply for Social Security benefits – every day. That’s 65 of them every eight seconds. But here’s another question for the Boomers: “What will you do when you get there?”

I came upon a couple of 60-somethings in a Jacuzzi at a hotel in Tucson, Arizona last February. Lubricated with a few libations, they were celebrating their good fortune in the late rays of the afternoon sun, well out of the winter chill in Michigan.

“We’re auto workers,” one of them explained.

“Retired,” added the other. It seemed they’d been wandering with their wives over southern Arizona the past month or two, not sure what to do other than stay out of the cold.

The cities and towns of the Southwest are teeming with retirees who eventually kick back someplace, attracted by the climate or an image of an idyllic life. I live in a town that appears on many a list of best-places-to-retire: Silver City, New Mexico, a rustic spot three hours east of Tucson, in the mountains. What’s become interesting to me, as a part-time reporter for the Silver City Sun-News, is that the retirees I interview don’t fit the kind of mold one might expect. They appear to have come to this town not to become less active but more so, not to get away but to get more involved, not to gain something but to give back. In fact, some days, I’m not sure the term “retiree” can rightly be applied to them at all.

Here’s what I mean. Mitch Hellman leaned into a vat of Italian ice cream and scooped up a cupful of gelato. He passed it to a customer. Then he



Jerry and Carolyn Cogan with Jerry’s Hopi-inspired mask/face, “Healer.” (Courtesy Photos)

wiped his hands on a splattered apron and laid down his ladle.

“Eleven years and nine months,” he sighed.

One more week and he and his wife, Starr Belsky, would lock the doors of their popular snack shop in Silver City: Alotta Gelato. That would bring to a close one chapter in the lives of two transplants from back East, and punctuate one blood-stirring adventure.

Now in their early 60s, Mitch and Starr were members of another caste 12 years ago, a pair of professionals in suburban Baltimore with upscale careers. He was into computers: something so complex, he says, that “it would take too long to explain it.” Starr was a copy editor for the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, a leading think tank.

They liked to travel as a break from their jobs and remembered an old, restored area of Brussels, Belgium: the Grande Place. It was filled with restaurants and taverns, and there were parties going on all the time.

“It’s the theory of the Third Place,” Mitch reflected, “somewhere people can get together other than home or work. That’s

where Europeans tend to entertain, rather than in their homes as Americans do.”

They also recalled some incredible ice cream they’d found in Italy: gelato.

“It’s made with less fat and air than over here,” Mitch said, “and packs a lot more flavor.”

Driving around the western United States, another favorite pastime, they came upon Silver City in 1997. It wasn’t long until they returned. Many residents of this colorful town of 10,000 at the edge of the Gila National Forest will acknowledge they arrived the same way.

Obviously, the couple was too young to retire. And yet ... an idea began to simmer as they arrived in Silver City once again.

“Suppose we moved out here, started a business, and (at this point, they’d break into laughter) what if it had something to do with gelato!”

By 2003, they’d arrived. One resident remembers a civic meeting when Hellman asked for time on the agenda. What about a gelato parlor? Did the idea make sense? The group thought it did, and the couple went ahead. That fall, they opened Alotta Gelato.

For almost a dozen years,

Mitch and Starr ran a profitable business. But they did more than sell gelato. A fellow who hosted a monthly game-night where people came to visit and play board games said it was natural to meet at Alotta Gelato.

But now the gelato hosts say it’s time to relax and enjoy life as retirees. Mitch intends to invest his wealth of local knowledge as a volunteer guide at the visitor’s center. Starr is a caller at folk dances for a local string band.

PJ Robowski and her husband, Steve, also visited Silver City on vacation some years back and moved here five years ago – like Mitch and Starr – in their early 50s. They came from Fayetteville, Arkansas, where Steve had crafted a multifaceted career as an organic farmer, in home construction and marketing, while PJ had worked at a new NPR station. A speech therapy major in college, she’d taken a couple of courses in radio as electives. She found a job as office manager at

the station but quickly moved into a vacant position as their classical music guru.

“I looked up all kinds of information on the lives of composers, ran trivia contests, did lots of interviews, and fundraising. I was on the air six hours a day, plus a blues show Friday nights. I did that for 27 years. Did I burn out? Not really, but after a while it got awfully easy.”

When they moved to Silver City to pursue budding interests as artists, PJ heard of a new public radio station starting up in town. The project sounded fantastic, and it was. Towns of 10,000 don’t have their own public radio stations. “I knew I had to call them,” she recalls. “Here, I’d thought I was through with radio but it was still in my blood.”

When KURU held a fundraiser to commemorate its second full year on the air, they set a goal

### RETIRE

continued on page 34



Mitch Hellman on his last day at Alotta Gelato.

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CYCLES OF LIFE • FR. GABRIEL ROCHELLE

A Present to Cherish

Memories stashed on the frame of a bicycle

It was getting near Christmas 1968 and I decided I wanted to buy my own present that year. I had moved into the city of Allentown, Pennsylvania from the suburbs of Pittsburgh. It was easier to cycle in Allentown than in the North Hills of Pittsburgh so I decided to buy a new commuter bike. Off I went to the local shop around Thanksgiving of that year and purchased a Raleigh Sprite in standard Raleigh green. It was a beautiful bike with chain guard, fenders and a Brooks saddle standard issue. It had a Sturmey-Archer five-speed internal hub, which was a bit of a rarity.

Sturmey-Archer only produced five speed hubs for a few years in the 1960s then dropped that production to focus on their standard three-speed hubs. The system worked quite handily; two levers were mounted on the top tube. The right side was the three-speed lever and the left side lever engaged an overdrive on low and high gears to give you five speeds.

I was serving as a pastor at a parish in Allentown then, and I rode stylish from home to the church a distance of slightly more than three miles, and mostly flat. I wore a suit, a clerical collar and good shoes and I rode that bike for hospital visits, to see folks in their homes, and basically all over the area. Incidentally I wrote my first column

on urban cycling about the same time to be published the local newspaper.

My oldest children were little at the time and I bought one of the flimsy old child seats that were made of plywood, vinyl seat covering, and a metal frame. Totally unsafe by contemporary standards, and slightly rickety, nonetheless they rode in it whenever I could or would take them somewhere in my errands. No helmets in those days, of course.

I moved again and continued riding that bike all over my next territory. It was a bit more hilly, but the five speeds served me well even climbing up hills from the Susquehanna River. That Raleigh became a road bike even though it was not designed that way. It was at best a touring bike, but never mind. I rode it everywhere.

Eventually the bike accompanied me through four different moves and wound up with me in Chicago. Now don't misunderstand what I'm about to say because I loved living in Chicago. But Chicago was also the city in which I rode least, and it was more importantly the scene of the crime: in 1985 the bike was stolen from in front of my flat near the University.

Words cannot describe the pain and sorrow I felt at the loss of that bike. It left a Raleigh-shaped hole in my heart, and in some way it has never

healed.

After all, four of my children had ridden on that flimsy child seat, the bike had been to countless hospitals and homes, it had history written all over it — my personal history. It was like a journal that you ride rather than inscribe.

I've owned six bicycles since then, not counting the tandem, but I still think of that 1968 Raleigh Sprite from time to time. I searched online for a replacement just a few years ago and found an exact match in Michigan, but the man who owned it decided it was as valuable to him as it might have become to me.

Nonetheless, I know that it would not really have been a replacement because memories are not transferable; they are quite specific to location, time, and paraphernalia. So the memories remain and I treasure them in my heart and mind, and most days that's enough.

*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 committee; see Velocruces.org. The church is at <http://stanthonylc.org>.*

EXPLORING HEALTH • TIFFANY ACOSTA

Participants Needed

NMSU study on cancer education for Hispanic mothers needs help

Researchers in the Department of Public Health Sciences in New Mexico State University's College of Health and Social Services have launched a study to examine the impact of cancer on Hispanic family dynamics and help the development of cancer-education programs that serve Hispanic women diagnosed with cancer.

In the first phase of their study, Rebecca Palacios, associate professor, and Karoline Sondgeroth, health education specialist, are looking for participants. Participants must be a Hispanic mother, diagnosed with cancer in the past two years and have at least one child who was between the ages of 5 to 12 at the time of the cancer diagnosis. Participants can live in the Doña Ana County, New Mexico or El Paso, Texas region.

The study will include focus groups and individual interviews. The focus groups will be conducted in participants' preferred language, English or

Spanish, and will last 1.5 hours. Participants will receive a free lunch and a \$25 gift card. Individual interviews, by telephone or in-person, also can be conducted for women unable to attend the focus groups.

According to Palacios, an estimated 1.2 million mothers of school age children will be newly diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. but her cancer is an illness that affects the entire household, including her dependent children. Most of the research on how women and their families cope with cancer is focused on non-Hispanic white participants of middle to upper-middle socio-economic status and the few studies involving racial ethnic minorities typically focus on middle-class African Americans.

"Studies on Hispanics and individuals of lower socio-economic status are lacking, which some researchers attribute to recruitment difficulties and language/cultural differences that impede the effective trans-

mission of health information," Palacios said. "This leaves Hispanics underserved and under-represented, particularly those in the border region between the U.S. and Mexico. This is unfortunate given that Hispanics on the border exhibit the fastest-growing population rates in the U.S. and experience significant cancer health disparities."

As NMSU's lead on the cancer outreach core for the NMSU and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center partnership, Palacios said the team selected this study topic after finding a lack of education programs for cancer patients in the local border region. She added that professional literature about cancer education programs for Hispanics with cancer also was limited and didn't focus on Hispanics of Mexican origin.

To participate in the study, contact Sondgeroth at 575-646-5065 or [ksongd@nmsu.edu](mailto:ksongd@nmsu.edu) or Palacios at 575-646-4309 or [rpalacio@nmsu.edu](mailto:rpalacio@nmsu.edu).



# 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.  
**Gilawriters** — 2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.  
**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group** — First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.  
**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.

**Back Country Horsemen** — Second Wednesday, 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.  
**Bayard Al-Anon** — 6 p.m. Bayard Housing Authority, 100 Runnels Drive 313-7094.  
**A Course in Miracles** — 7:15 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**Curbside Consulting** — Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.  
**Gin Rummy** — 1 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House.  
**Grant County Democratic Party** — Second Wednesday, potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.  
**Ladies Golf Association** — 8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.  
**Lego Club** — Ages 4-9. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**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.  
**Storytime** — all ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

**THURSDAYS**  
**ARTS Anonymous** — 5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the 12 Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.  
**De-stressing Meditations** — 12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

**Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society** — Second Thursday, 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.  
**Group Meditation** — 5:30-6:15 p.m. with Jeff Goin at the Lotus Center. 388-4647.  
**Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting** — Second Thursday, 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.  
**Tai Chi for Better Balance** — 10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 575-534-0059.  
**TOPS** — 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.  
**Vinaya Flow Yoga** — 11:30 a.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.  
**Yoga class** — Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, Seventh and Texas.

**FRIDAYS**  
**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.  
**Blooming Lotus Meditation** — 12:45 p.m. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.  
**Double Feature Blockbuster Mega Hit Movie Night** — 5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.  
**Evening Prayer in the**

**Eastern Orthodox Tradition** — 5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.  
**Kids Bike Ride** — 10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** — 6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.  
**Spinning Group** — First Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard,

388-3350.  
**Storytime** — all ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**Vinaya Flow Yoga** — 10 a.m. All levels. Lotus Center at 211 W. Broadway, Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

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

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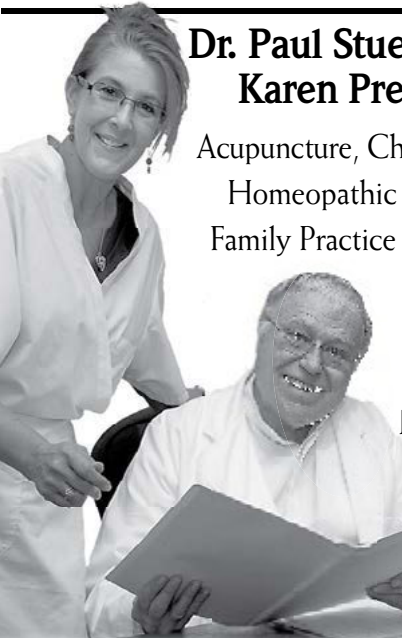
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HONORING HISTORY

# Bataan Death March

Registration is open for 2017 memorial event



Bataan Survivor Richard Trask is ready for the closing ceremony to begin March 20 on White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (Photo by Cammy Montoya)

Considered one of the hardest marathon-length routes in the United States, participants visit White Sands Missile Range from all over the world to honor the Bataan fallen and World War II survivors. The 2017 Bataan Memorial Death March will be

conducted on March 19, 2017 at the range.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging trek through the high desert terrain conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended Corregidor, Luzon and the Philippines during

World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, in many cases, their lives.

Deadline for on-line registration is midnight (MST) March 5. No on-site registration or late registrations will be accepted after this date. Register at [www.bataanmarch.com](http://www.bataanmarch.com).



Marchers push on during the March 20 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Over 6,600 marchers participated in the 27th annual event to honor those who endured the Bataan Death March during World War II (Photo by Miriam Rodriguez)

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## RETIRE

continued from page 31

of \$10,000 and raised almost \$11,000. But the fund raiser was grueling; by the end of it, PJ was hoarse and exhausted. Was this what retirement was about? Yet, she was in high spirits, part of a close-knit group that was making a go of this station.

“One thing about this town,” a fellow fundraiser said, “If you can dream it, you can do it!”

There may indeed be something about Silver City that seems to draw people with restless energy, the dreamers and the doers. Perhaps it’s the unfinished nature of the place. Unlike Santa Fe, say, the better-known tourist Mecca to the north, Silver City always seems to need a leg up. Walk the streets of historic Downtown and you’ll find some intriguing art galleries with quality work. But you also may notice that a lot of the sidewalks are cracked, and about a third of the storefronts lack tenants.

Enter the Cogans. Jerry Cogan and his wife, Carolyn, came to Silver City not long ago to open a gallery on the main street. At 65 and 62, respectively, they brought a vision for an art gallery with a twist. Jerry is a physician who’d just spent four years on the staff of a regional health center serving the Hopi Nation in Polacca, in northeast Arizona. He was at a similar, Navajo facility for a year prior to that.

Their ties to those tribes could help them procure quality art work for years to come. But Native American culture has influenced their lives in other ways, through traces of personal ancestry, and in their own work as artists.



PJ Robowski on the air at KURU in Silver City. (Courtesy Photo)

Jerry entered medical school at 37, after the couple had spent some years building a house on his parents’ homestead in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Carolyn had already earned a bachelor’s degree in business with a major in accounting. Jerry completed an undergraduate major in biology at the University of Alaska, but stopped one course short of a minor in art: his first love. He kept his hand in it while practicing medicine in Denver for 11 years and won a few prizes, principally for photography. Carolyn worked in that medium, too.

Although an established physician, Jerry remembers how proud he felt when a gallery up in the mountains in Breckenridge, Colorado exhibited his work.

“Unfortunately, this gallery closed up one night and disappeared along with some of my work and a couple of sales,” he said.

It was a rude introduction to life as a professional artist.

Now with a venue of his own, Jerry displays photography and carving at the Tree Spirit Gallery while continuing to practice

medicine as a traveling, on-call, physician. His Hopi-inspired, one-eyed, “face” or mask – a work entitled “Healer” – hangs on one wall. Carolyn manages the gallery day to day while exhibiting her own work in photography and fiber arts. Operating a gallery in a strange town will no doubt call for all kinds of new learning, but there’s no doubt this couple has come to Silver City with a road map and a vision.

*Bill Charland is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in newspapers across the country.*

*He has had a long career higher education — he is a Professor Emeritus at Western New Mexico University — and is the author of a half-dozen books in the career field. He’s married to Phoebe Lawrence, a potter and native New Mexican, from Tucumcari. The second segment of his article will appear in next month’s Desert Exposure.*





THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

# Andromeda, the Woman Chained

## Constellation surrounded by myth characters

High in our northern sky, a princess is chained to the rocks at the seashore and being threatened by a sea monster. Princess Andromeda is just a little to the right and below overhead as you face north on December evenings. She is part of a grouping of constellations in the northern sky that tell the Greek myth of Perseus and Andromeda.

Joppa was a kingdom that ancient Greek writers often called Ethiopia in the Upper Nile region and areas south of the Sahara desert. Joppa's King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia had a daughter named Andromeda. Queen Cassiopeia boasted that her daughter was more beautiful than the Nereids. This offended the Nereids who complained to the sea-god Poseidon. Poseidon sent a flood to punish Joppa and then the sea monster Cetus to ravage the kingdom.

King Cepheus consulted the Oracle of Ammon who told him to sacrifice his daughter to Cetus to appease Poseidon and save his kingdom.

Cepheus had Andromeda chained to the rocks near the seashore.

Meanwhile, the hero Perseus had just beheaded the Gorgon named Medusa, whose baleful gaze would turn people to stone. Perseus was flying over Joppa on the winged horse, Pegasus, who had sprung from Medusa's severed neck with Medusa's head in a knapsack.

Perseus spied the beautiful Andromeda and immediately fell in love with her. He asked King Cepheus for her hand, unaware that the King had already promised her to her uncle, Phineus. Cepheus agreed, provided Perseus killed Cetus. Perseus arrived on the seashore just as the sea monster approached Andromeda.

Perseus pulled Medusa's head out of the knapsack and turned Cetus to stone and saving Andromeda. At their wedding, Phineus arrived with armed men to claim Andromeda. Perseus pulled out Medusa's head again and turned him to stone as well. Andromeda bore Perseus nine children.

All the characters in this myth are constellations near Andromeda. Cepheus and Cassiopeia are below Andromeda, while Perseus is to her left. Pegasus is above her and to her left. The sea monster Cetus is above her also, but separated from her by Pisces, the Fishes.

Four bright stars form the Great Square of Pegasus, which make it easy to find this constellation, but the northeast star of the Square actually belongs to Andromeda. This star is named Alpheratz.

Alpheratz (Alpha Andromedae) is a magnitude 2.1 binary star that is just 97 light-years away. The primary star of this pair is 3.1 times more massive

### Calendar of Events – December 2016 (MST)

07	2:03 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
10	10 p.m.	Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun (21 degrees)
12	10 p.m.	Bright star Aldebaran goes behind the Moon
13	5:05 p.m.	Full Moon
20	6:56 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
21	3:44 a.m.	December Solstice
28	12 p.m.	Mercury passes the Sun heading into the morning sky
28	11:53 p.m.	New Moon

than our sun while the secondary is 1.9 times more massive. Together they emit 253 times the light of our sun.

The primary star has an unusual chemical composition. It has 10,000 times the amount of manganese and mercury in its atmosphere than in more normal stars, making it part of the class of chemically peculiar stars called mercury-manganese stars.

Mercury-manganese stars have very calm atmospheres, caused, in part, by the unusually slow rotation of the star. Most stellar atmospheres are very turbulent, with convection and strong magnetic fields mixing the elements in a star more uniformly.

In a calm atmosphere, the star's gravity pulls the atoms of some elements downward while the energy coming out of the star's core pushes the atoms of other elements upward. Which elements rise and which ones fall depends on their individual characteristics.

The theory that the unusual atmospheric compositions of some stars like Alpheratz is caused by a calm atmosphere was put forth in 1970 by Canadian astronomer Georges J. Michaud.

He concluded that elements like helium, nitrogen and oxygen settle out of the upper atmosphere of the star, pulled down by gravity. Chemically peculiar stars can see strontium, yttrium, zirconium, and in stars like Alpheratz, mercury and manganese lofted upward by radiation pressure from the nuclear fusion in the core of the star.

In a normal star, the heat from its interior causes the deeper, warmer material to bubble up by convection as the cooler surface material sinks, producing a continuous mixing of the star's atmosphere.

In stars like Alpheratz, this does not occur, allowing for the settling and lifting of specific elements. Astronomers believe that these stars have a normal overall composition, as does the star's core, reflecting the composition of the gas cloud from which it originally formed.

The Planets for December 2016.

Mercury completes its appearance in our evening sky that started last month. It reaches its highest point above the horizon on Dec. 10, when it will be 21 degrees from the sun. At that time, Mercury will be 8 degrees above the southwestern horizon with

a disc that is 6.6 seconds-of-arc across and 63 percent illuminated. The Messenger of the Gods shines at magnitude -0.4, setting around 6:15 p.m.

It spends the entire month making a loop in Sagittarius, first traveling eastward and then turning back westward. Mercury will be gone from our sky by the end of the third week of the month. It passes between the Earth and Sun on Dec. 28.

Twenty-eight degrees above the southwestern horizon as it gets dark, Venus is like a beacon shining in the sky at magnitude -4.2. Travelling eastward from eastern Sagittarius, through Capricornus, and into far western Aquarius this month, the Goddess of Love has a disc that is 18.8 seconds-of-arc across and 63 percent illuminated at mid-month. Venus sets around 8:30 p.m.

Moving from central Capricornus to central Aquarius, Mars appears 41 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. It sets around 10 p.m. Glowing at magnitude +0.8 at midmonth, the God of War has a disc that is 6.1 seconds-of-arc across.

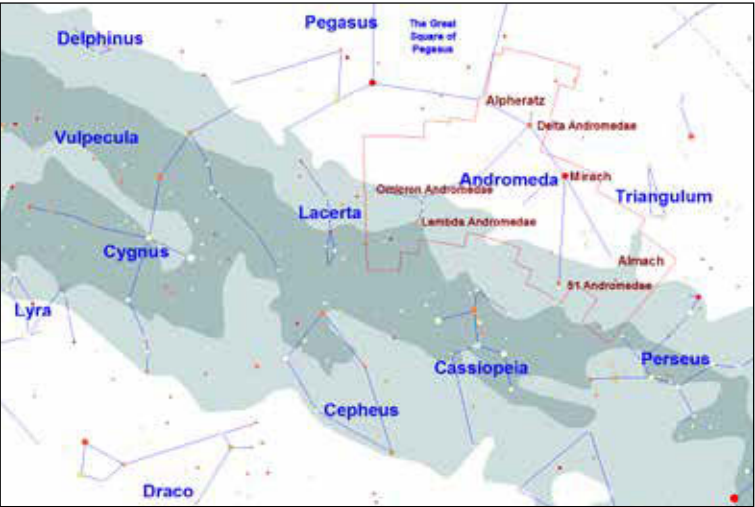
Rising four hours after Mars sets, Jupiter is 48 degrees above the south-southeastern horizon as morning twilight begins. The King of the Gods shines at magnitude -1.9 with a disc that is 33.9 seconds-of-arc across. It is moving slowly eastward in central Virgo.

Saturn is too close to the Sun to be seen this month, but the Earth reaches the point in its orbit when the north pole of the Earth is pointed farthest from the Sun.

This is the December Solstice, which marks the beginning of astronomical winter in the Northern Hemisphere. The Sun will appear as far south of the celestial equator as it ever gets, twenty-three and a half degrees south.

After that, the Sun starts back northward to begin to warm us up for spring. Meanwhile, have a happy holiday season and try to find some time to keep watching the sky!

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



If you stand facing north and tilt your head back to look almost overhead, you will find the constellation Andromeda. This constellation represents a princess chained to the rocks about to be devoured by a sea monster. It also contains the Great Andromeda Galaxy that will be colliding with our Milky Way galaxy in just under four billion years. Since both are mostly empty space, they will pass through each other, but this will probably disrupt the beautiful spiral nature of both galaxies.

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Red or Green? is Desert Exposure's guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com)—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service.

With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified. We also note with a star (\*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of Desert Exposure.



## Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of Desert Exposure from January 2005 on are

available on our website. Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up-to-date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after

this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto: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](http://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.  
**JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffee-house.\*  
**JUMPING CACTUS**, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.\*  
**KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.\*  
**LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.  
**LA FAMILIA**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.\*  
**LA MEXICANA**, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. 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: Wednesday to Monday 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: 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. Yankee 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.  
**Lake Roberts**  
**SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ**, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday D.  
**Mimbres**  
**ELK X-ING CAFÉ**, (352) 212-0448. Home-style meals, sandwiches and desserts: B L.  
**RESTAURANT DEL SOL**, 2676 Hwy. 35, San LorenzoBreakfasts, 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.  
**A DONG**, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.  
**ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.  
**ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D.  
**ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA**, 5195 Bataan Memorial

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Silver City,  
New Mexico



West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday L D.

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

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

**A BITE OF BELGIUM**, 741 N Alameda St. 527-2483. Belgium and American food: Open daily for breakfast and lunch.

**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 AGOGO**, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Monday to Saturday L D.

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

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

**CHA CHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Locust St.-A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.

**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.

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

**DAY'S HAMBURGERS, WATER & Las Cruces St.**, 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D.

**PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. 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: L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GO BURGER DRIVE-IN**, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Monday to Friday B L.

**GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST**

**FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.

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

**HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican,: 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), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.

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

**KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Meals created before your very eyes. Japanese: Monday to Friday L D, Saturday D.

**KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.

**LA 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: Monday to Saturday B L.

**LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 649-8965. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday

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

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

**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevez 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. BAR & GRILLE**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

**METROPOLITAN DELI & GRILL**, 1001 E University Ave. 522-3354. 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. #D4, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D.

**MOONGATE CAFÉ**, 9395 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 SAIGON**, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.

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

**PLAYER'S GRILL**, 3000 Champions Dr. (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-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. American, Continental: B L D.

**THE SHED**, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wednesday to Sunday B L.\*

**SI ITALIAN BISTRO**, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. Italian: Monday L, Tuesday to Saturday L D.

**SI SEÑOR**, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.

**SPANISH KITCHEN**, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

**SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR**, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.\*

**ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO**, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. 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**, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Monday to Saturday L D.

**ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA**, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Monday to Saturday L D.

**ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA**, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.

*Anthony*

**ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.

**LA COCINITA**, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

*Chapparral*

**EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE**, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tuesday to Sunday B L D.

**TORTILLERIA SUSY**, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

*Doña Ana*

**BIG MIKE'S CAFÉ**, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

*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: Sunday to Friday L D.

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

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

**CHINA RESTAURANT**, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. 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. American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Monday to Saturday L D. \*

**EL MIRADOR**, 510 E. Pine St.,

544-7340. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

**“FORGHEDABOUDIT” pizza & wings**, 115 N. Silver Ave., 275-3881. Italian, pizza, wings: Monday to Saturday L D, Sunday D.

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

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

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

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

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

**MANOLO'S CAFÉ**, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. Mexican, American: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

**PATIO CAFÉ**, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Monday to Saturday L D.\*

**PRIME RIB GRILL** (inside Holiday Inn), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

**RANCHER'S GRILL**, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse, burgers: L D.\*

**SI SEÑOR**, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D, Sunday B L.

**SUNRISE KITCHEN**, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795American, 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. Mexi-

### Café Oso Azul

#### Christmas Eve

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 5-7pm

*Come and see the luminarios*

New Mexican Posole either Roasted Pork or Veggie style

served with lime, sunflower seeds, red pepper flakes, avocado, cilantro, cheese, and artisanal bread alongside a hearty romaine salad with dried cranberries and pistachios

Hot Apple Crisp \$28.

#### Christmas Dinner

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> NOON-5pm

**STARTER**

Butternut Squash Bisque served with a Crostini of Olives and Figs on the Side

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Asparagus Butternut Squash Risotto with roasted garlic and lemon

*or*

Crab Cakes served with a Basil Lemon Tomato Remoulade

*or*

Roast Pork Tenderloin stuffed with Jack Cheese and served with an Apple Chutney

All served with Roasted Veggies, Corn Pudding, Bear Mountain Lodge Romaine Salad, Bear Mountain Crackers, and Homemade Bread

**DESSERT**

English Trifle

*or*

Chocolate Mousse \$42

Reservations a must!

**575-538-2538**

ASK YOUR SERVER ABOUT OUR WINE AND BEER SELECTION

**60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road**

**575-538-2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com**



# Check out

## Graceland Portable Buildings of Deming on Facebook for Our December Special!





Now Two Deming Locations: 500 E. Buckeye St.  
1110 E. PINE ST. (across from Walmart)  
**GLENN 575-545-3879**



can: 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 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffee shop food: Monday to Saturday B L.  
**RODEO TAVERN**, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Wednesday to Saturday D.

**CATRON COUNTY**  
**Reserve**  
**ADOBE CAFÉ**, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.  
**BLACK GOLD**, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeehouse, pastries.  
**CARMEN'S**, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.  
**ELLA'S CAFÉ**, 533-6111. American: B L D.  
**UNCLE BILL'S BAR**, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Monday to Saturday L D.

**Glenwood**  
**ALMA GRILL**, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sunday to Wednesday, Friday to Saturday B L.  
**GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ**, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.  
**MARIO'S PIZZA**, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: Monday to Saturday D.  
Other Catron County  
**PIE TOWN CAFÉ**, Pie Town, NM, 575-772-2700

**SIERRA COUNTY**  
**Arrey**  
**ARREY CAFÉ**, Hwy 187 Arrey, 575-267-4436, Mexican, American, Vegetarian, B L D.

**Chloride**  
**CHLORIDE BANK CAFÉ**, 300, Wall Street, 575-743-0414, American, Thursday-Saturday L D, Sunday L.

**Elephant Butte**  
**BIG FOOD EXPRESS**, 212 Warm Springs Blvd., 575-744-4896, American, Asian, Seafood, B L.  
**CASA TACO**, 704, Hwy 195, 575-744-4859, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, L D.  
**HODGES CORNER**, 915 NM 195, American, Mexican, B L.  
**IVORY TUSK TAVERN & RESTAURANT**, 401 Hwy 195, 575-744-5431, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, Seafood, Daily L D, Sunday Buffet.  
**THE CLUB RESTAURANT**, 101 Club House Drive, 575-744-7100, American, Seafood, L D.

**Hatch**  
**B & E BURRITOS**, 303 Franklin, 575-267-5191, Mexican, B L.  
**PEPPER POT**, 207 W Hall, 575-267-3822, Mexican, B L.  
**SPARKY'S**, 115 Franklin, 575-267-4222, American, Mexican, Thursday-Sunday L D.  
**VALLEY CAFÉ**, 335 W. Hall St. 575-267-4798, Mexican, American, B L.

**Hillsboro**  
**HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE**, 10697 Hwy 152, American, Southwestern, Vegetarian, Friday-Wednesday B L.  
**BARBER SHOP CAFÉ**, Main Street, 575-895-5283, American, Mediterranean, sandwiches, Monday-Saturday L.

**Truth or Consequences**  
**A & B DRIVE-IN**, 211 Broadway, 575-894-9294, Mexican, American, Vegetarian, B L D.  
**BAR-B-QUE ON BROADWAY**, 308 Broadway, 575-894-7047, American, Mexican, B L.  
**BRAZEN FOX**, 313 North Broadway, 575-297-0070, Mexican, Vegetarian, Wednesday-Sunday, L D.  
**CAFÉ BELLA LUCA**, 301 S. Jones, 575-894-9866, Italian, American, Vegetarian, Seafood, D.  
**CARMEN'S KITCHEN**, 1806 S. Broadway, 575-894-0006, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, Monday-Friday B L D, Saturday, B L.  
**EL FARO**, 315 N. Broadway, 575-894-2886, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, Monday-Friday B L D, Saturday, B L.

**GRAPEVINE BISTRO**, 413 Broadway, 575-894-0404, American, Vegetarian, B L.  
**JOHNNY B'S**, 2260 N. Date Street, (575-894-0147, American, Mexican, B L D.  
**LA COCINA/HOT STUFF**, 1 Lakeway Drive, 575-894-6499, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, L D.  
**LATITUDE 33**, 304 S. Pershing, 575-740-7804, American, Vegetarian, Asian, L D.  
**LOS ARCOS STEAK & LOBSTER**, 1400 N. Date Street, 575-894-6200, American, Seafood, D.  
**LOS FIDENCIOS**, 1615 S. Broadway, 575-894-3737, Mexican, Monday-Saturday B L D, Sunday, B L.  
**MARIAS**, 1990 S. Broadway, 575-894-9047, American, Mexican, Vegetarian, Monday-Saturday B L D.  
**PACIFIC GRILL**, 800 N. Date St., 575-894-7687, Italian, American, Vegetarian, Asian, Seafood, Tuesday-Thursday-Friday L D, Saturday D, Sunday L.  
**PASSION PIE CAFÉ**, 406 Main, 575-894-0008, American, Vegetarian, B L.  
**R & C SUMTHINS**, 902 Date St. 575-894-1040, American, Tuesday-Sunday L.  
**STONE AGE CAFÉ & POINT BLANC WINERY**, 165 E. Ninth St., (575)894-2582, American, L D.  
**SUNSET GRILL**, 1301 N. Date, 575-894-8904, American, Mexican, Thursday-Monday B L D.  
**THE RESTAURANT AT SIERRA GRANDE LODGE**, 501 McAdoo, 575-894-6976, American, Seafood, B L D.  
**TURTLEBACK OASIS MARKET-PLACE**, 520 Broadway, 575-894-0179, American, Vegetarian, Monday-Saturday B L.  
**YOUR PLACE**, 400 Date St., 575-740-1544, American, Monday-Saturday L D, Sunday L.

**Williamsburg**  
**MEXICAN GRILL**, Shell Gas Station 719 S. Broadway, 575-894-0713, Mexican, Monday-Saturday B L.

**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**Ruidoso**  
**CAN'T STOP SMOKIN' BBQ**, 418 Mechem Dr., 575-630-0000: Monday-Sunday L, D  
**CASA BLANCA**, 501 Mechem Dr., 575-257-2495: Mexican, Monday-Sunday L, D  
**CATTLE BARON STEAK & SEA-FOOD**, 657 Sudderth Dr., 575-257-

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DECEMBER 17	COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS (INDIE/FOLK FROM PHOENIX)
DECEMBER 22	TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER (ONE-WOMAN BAND FROM COLORADO)
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9355: L, D  
**CHEF LUPE’S FAMILY RESTAU-  
RANT**, 1101 Sudderth Dr., 575-  
257-4687: Mexican, Monday-Sun-  
day B, L, D  
**CIRCLE J BBQ**, 1825 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-257-4105: Monday-Sun-  
day L, D  
**COMAL MEXICAN RESTAU-  
RANT**, 2117 Sudderth Dr., 575-  
258-1397: Monday-Sunday L, D  
**EL PARAISO**, 721 Mechem Dr.,  
575-257-0279: Mexican, Mon-  
day-Saturday, B, L, D  
**GRACE O’MALLEY’S IRISH PUB**,  
2331 Sudderth Dr., 575-630-0219:  
D  
**THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA  
RESTAURANT**, 2913 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-257-2522: Monday-Sun-  
day L, D  
**GRILL CALIENTE**, 2800 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-630-0224: Mexican, burg-  
ers, Tuesday-Sunday L, D  
**HALL OF FLAME BURGERS**,  
2500 Sudderth Dr., 575-257-9987:  
Monday-Saturday L, D  
**LINCOLN COUNTY GRILL**, 2717  
Sudderth Dr., 575-257-7669:  
American, Monday-Sunday B, L, D  
**LUCY’S MEXICALI RESTAU-  
RANT**, 2408 Sudderth Dr., 575-  
257-8754: Mexican, Monday-Sat-  
urday L, D  
**LOG CABIN RESTAURANT**,  
1074 Mechem Dr., 575-258-5029:  
Breakfast, Wednesday-Saturday  
B, L  
**MICHELENA’S ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT**, 2703 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-257-5753: Wednes-  
day-Sunday L, D  
**NEW CALI CAFÉ**, 201 Eagle Dr.,  
575-257-8652: Comfort food,  
Monday-Saturday B, L  
**OUR DAILY BREAD CAFÉ**, 113  
Rio St., 575-257-1778: American,  
Monday-Sunday B, L  
**PENA’S PLACE**, 2963 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-257-4135: Breakfast,  
Mexican, B, L  
**PORKY’S**, 2306 Sudderth Dr.,  
575-257-0544: Mexican, Mon-  
day-Sunday B, L, D  
**THE RANCHERS STEAK AND  
SEAFOOD**, 2823 Sudderth Dr.,  
575-257-7540: Monday-Sunday  
L, D  
**SACRED GROUNDS COFFEE &  
TEA HOUSE**, 2704 Sudderth Dr.,  
575-257-2273: Coffee, pastries,  
B, L, D  
**TEXAS CLUB**, 212 Metz Dr., 575-  
258-3325: Steak and seafood,  
Tuesday-Sunday D  
**TINA’S CAFÉ**, 522 Sudderth Dr.,  
575-257-8930: Comfort food,  
Tuesday-Sunday B, L  
**THE VILLAGE BUTTERY**, 2107  
Sudderth Dr., 575-257-9251:  
American, Monday-Saturday B, L  
**YEE’S EXPRESS**, 633 Sudderth  
Dr., 575-630-1120: Chinese, Mon-  
day-Saturday, L, D

OTERO COUNTY

*Alamogordo*  
**ALAMO GRILL**, 2913 N. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-434-5982: Burg-  
ers, breakfast food, Monday-Sun-  
day B, L, D  
**BROWN BAG DELI**, 900 Wash-  
ington Ave., 575-437-9751: Mon-  
day-Sunday B, L, D  
**CAN’T STOP SMOKING BBQ**,  
900 E. 10th St., 575-437-4227:  
Monday-Sunday L, D  
**COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE**, 606  
Hwy. 70 W., 575-446-6300: Mon-  
day-Sunday B, L, D  
**EDDIE’S BURRITOS**, 700 E. 1st  
St., 575-437-0266: Monday-Sat-  
urday B, L  
**EL CAMINO**, 1022 N. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-437-8809: Mexi-  
can, Monday-Sunday L, D  
**HI-D-HO DRIVE IN**, 414 S. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-437-6400: Mon-

day-Sunday B, L, D  
**LA HACIENDA**, 804 N. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-443-1860: Mon-  
day-Sunday B, L, D  
**MARGO’S MEXICAN FOOD**, 504  
E. 1st St., 575-434-0689: Mon-  
day-Sunday B, L, D  
**MEMORIES RESTAURANT**, 1223  
N. New York Ave., 575-437-0077:  
American, Tuesday-Saturday L, D  
**MIZU SUSHI ASIAN CUISINE**,  
1115 S. White Sands Blvd., 575-  
434-2348: Monday-Sunday L, D  
**NUCKLEWEED PLACE**, 526  
Laborcita Canyon Rd., La Luz,  
NM, 575-434-0000: Comfort food,  
Thursday-Friday D, Saturday-Sun-  
day B, L, D  
**OUR COUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1201  
N. New York Ave., 575-434-3431:  
Breakfast, Monday-Saturday B, L  
**PEPPER’S GRILL**, 3200 N. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-437-9717:  
American Monday-Saturday L, D,  
Sunday L  
**PIZZA MILL & SUB FACTORY**,  
1315 10th St., 575-434-1313:  
Monday-Sunday L, D  
**PIZZA PATIO**, 2203 E. 1st St.,  
575-434-9633: Monday-Saturday  
L, D  
**RIZO’S RESTAURANT**, 1480 N.  
White Sands Blvd., 575-434-2607:  
Mexican, Tuesday-Sunday L, D  
**ROCKET NATIONAL BUFFET**,  
607 S. White Sands Blvd, 575-  
437-5905: Chinese, Monday-Sun-  
day L, D  
**ROCKIN’ BZ BURGERS**, 3005 N.  
White Sands Blvd., 575-434-2375:  
Tuesday-Sunday L, D  
**SI SEÑOR**, 2300 N. White Sands  
Blvd., 575-437-7879: Mon-  
day-Saturday L, D  
**STELLA VITA**, 902 N. New York  
Ave.: Steaks, Monday-Wednesday,  
L, Thursday-Friday L, D, Saturday  
D  
**WAFFLE & PANCAKE SHOPPE**,  
905 S. White Sands Blvd., 575-  
437-0433: Monday-Sunday B, L  
**TAIWAN KITCHEN**, 110 N. White  
Sands Blvd., 575-434-4337: Mon-  
day-Friday L, D

*Tularosa*  
**GRILL 49 STEAKS AND TAP  
HOUSE**, 313 Granado Street,  
585-4949. Wood grilled meats,  
craft beer, artisan breads, roast-  
ed chicken: Monday through  
Sunday, including full brunch on  
Sunday. Closed between 3 and 5.  
**LOREDO’S RESTAURANT AND  
BAKERY**, 603 St. Francis Drive,  
585-3300. Mexican menu and tra-  
ditional Mexican pastries, Tuesday  
through Sunday, B L.  
**CASA DE SUENOS**, 35 St. Thom-  
as Drive, 585-3494. Open daily,  
L D.  
**YUM-YUM’S**, 460 Central Ave.,  
585-2529.  
**AL-O-MAR RESTAURANT**, 205  
Central Ave. 585-2129. Classic  
drive-in, carside service or dine in,  
B L D.  
**LA ROSA STEAKHOUSE**, 21 St.  
Francis Drive, 585-3339. Open  
daily, B L D.  
**JAY’S PIZZA & WINGS**, 1108 St.  
Francis Drive, 585-3111. Dine in or  
deliver. Open daily, L D.  
**TULIE FREEZE**, 419 St. Fran-  
cis Drive, 585-2525. Open daily  
except Tuesdays, L D.

**Note—Restaurant hours and  
meals served vary by day of the  
week and change frequently;  
call ahead to make sure. Key  
to abbreviations: B=Breakfast;  
L=Lunch; D=Dinner.\*=Find  
copies of Desert Exposure here.  
Send updates, additions and  
corrections to: editor@desertex-  
posure.com.**

TABLE TALK • PATRICIA SKILLINGSTAD

Delicious Memories

Treats, cheer focus of family holiday

*Editor’s note: If you see a \* in the story, you will find the recipe is included here.*

Most of my childhood was spent in New England, with cold and snow and traditional Christmases. It was the highlight of the year and anticipated for many months in advance.

These were the days before credit cards, so everyone partici-  
pated in Christmas Clubs at the lo-  
cal banks; even kids had accounts.  
You put in a small fixed amount  
each week or month all year and in  
early December got a big fat check  
(it seemed) to buy all the holiday  
gifts.

When Christmas began was al-  
ways a fight. We kids were ready  
for it the day after Thanksgiving.  
Mom would angle for mid-De-  
cember. Sometime between the  
two, the celebration began with  
signing the Christmas cards, sing-  
ing Christmas carols and a nightly  
rendition of, “You better be good,  
you better watch out, better not  
cry, better not pout — Santa Claus  
is coming to town...” to keep us in  
line.

Next, Christmas baking started,  
shopping began, and decorations  
started to appear all over town  
and in our house. The baking be-  
gan with Polverones\* and Mandal  
Kakor\* which needed to age to  
be perfect. It moved on to Spritz\*  
butter cookies and Candy Cane  
Cookies\*, and ended up with sug-  
ar cookies which had to be rolled,  
cut, sugared and/or decorated —  
the most time-consuming project  
because everyone wanted to help.  
It was always a challenge to get  
enough to put up in tin boxes for  
the holiday because, although we  
were only allowed to eat broken  
ones, quite a few “accidentally”  
got broken in the process. The tins

were’n’t opened until Christmas  
Eve, when Santa got the very best  
ones on his plate.

Mom made the Christmas can-  
dy: fudge and penuche for all of  
us, and peanut brittle for Daddy,  
which she had to hide very well  
indeed. The rest was purchased  
— filled hard candies and filled  
“raspberry” candies — or sent.  
Grand Bob always had paper thin  
ribbon candy delivered before the  
holidays.

One night before Christmas we  
would go to some church or oth-  
er for a Christmas Carol service.  
On another, we would go caroling  
with our neighbors. It would al-  
ways be frosty and cold and those  
whom we serenaded would offer  
cocoa and cookies, or hot cider  
and we all enjoyed it. Other nights,  
people would come caroling at our  
house and we offered the treats. It  
made the whole season festive and  
was a way to celebrate for days in  
the small towns of my childhood.

Christmas Eve in our house was  
not really special except for the  
undercurrent of anticipation. It  
was usually leftovers for dinner,  
and admonitions to get early to  
bed. We hung the stockings on the  
mantle, put out the cookies and  
milk for Santa — something to be  
carefully considered — and Mom  
would read the Christmas story to  
us.

Once all were in bed, she and  
Daddy — with one eye on the  
stairs for peekers — began putting  
together the toys, making Stollen  
for breakfast, wrapping gifts and  
piling them under the tree.

On Christmas morning, every-  
one got to get their stockings when  
they woke up (but had to wait until  
6 a.m. to wake the parents). That  
early hour was spent feeling and  
pinching and trying to peer inside.  
Finally, it was 6 a.m. and we could

wake Mom and Daddy, who had  
usually just gone to bed. The stock-  
ings were opened on their bed  
with everyone in residence. Each  
stocking had a tangerine or orange  
in the toe, several small gifts —  
jacks, toothpaste, bubblegum, etc  
— a lump of coal (bad kids got ALL  
coal), and a candy cane on top.

We ate the candy and the tan-  
gerines and littered all the paper  
all over our parents’ bed, then they  
finally agreed to get up.

But we weren’t allowed near the  
tree until after breakfast. So, impa-  
tiently, we had coffee, cocoa, Bra-  
zilian Grapefruit\* and homemade  
Stollen for a quickly-consumed  
breakfast. I don’t remember ever  
even tasting it in the morning, al-  
though I loved it toasted for break-  
fast the next day.

Once the gifts were all opened,  
one at a time, so Mom could make  
lists for thank-you letters, we  
played with our things until dinner.  
Relatives or friends would show  
up for dinner; they would have  
cocktails and good cheer, then the  
bell rang for dinner. It began  
with a toast – wine or cranberry  
juice, depending on your age, fol-  
lowed by the soup course: Puree  
of Crème Mongol; Mom’s secret  
specialty – one she invented by  
trying to replicate a truer version  
from fine restaurants, and truly de-  
licious. Dinner itself was similar to  
Thanksgiving and Easter dinner –  
a large piece of meat (a real rarity  
in our house), and clover-leaf rolls.  
(We got to have, just for Christ-  
mas, more than one thin slice of  
meat and one roll.) The meal was  
always topped off with Cross and  
Blackwell’s Plum Pudding and  
hard sauce, a favorite of mine to  
this day. Christmas evening was  
reserved for carols, board games,  
and a trip to outside to make snow  
candy just before bedtime.

MANDAL KAKOR (SWEDEN)

1 pound unshelled almonds (or 2 cups shelled)  
3 egg whites  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
¼ teaspoon cinnamon  
Shell nuts; dry in 350-degree oven for 10-15 minutes and chop fine. Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold in remaining ingredients and drop by teaspoons on greased cookie sheet or parchment paper (works better). Bake 15-20 minutes in a 300 degree oven. Cool and store in a dry tin.

SPRITZ (GERMANY)

Preheat oven to 400.  
Cream in large bowl on medium speed:  
1 cup butter  
½ cup granulated sugar  
**Beat in:**  
1 egg  
¾ teaspoon Salt  
¾ teaspoon vanilla  
½ teaspoon almond extract  
**Stir in:** 2 1/4 cups flour until blended.  
Place in cookie press; press cookies onto greased baking sheet. Bake 5-7 minutes and cool slightly before remov-  
ing to racks. Decorate as desired.

BRAZILIAN GRAPEFRUIT

½ fresh grapefruit for each person  
Powdered sugar  
Brazil nuts, finely chopped  
Maraschino cherries  
Cut grapefruit in half with jagged edges (like a Halloween pumpkin). Loosen the fruit. If too round on the bottom, slice off a small slice so it will sit on a plate. Mix the

chopped nuts with powdered sugar (half and half) and sprinkle over grapefruit just before serving. Top with a cherry in the center.

CANDY CANE COOKIES (USA)

Preheat oven to 375-degrees.  
Mix together thoroughly:  
1 cup shortening (at least ½ butter)  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 egg  
½ teaspoon vanilla  
1-1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
**Sift together and stir in:**  
2-1/2 cup flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
Divide dough in half and color half with red food color. Mix well. Roll 1 t each color dough into a strip about 4-iches long (or make into long strips like clay snakes). Place one “rope” of each color side by side and roll together to make a rope. Placed on ungreased cookie sheet and curve top like a candy cane. Bake about 9 minutes and sprinkle with ½ cup crushed peppermint candy mixed with ½ cup sugar. Makes about four dozen.

POLVERONES (MEXICO)

1 cup real butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 1/4 cups sifted flour  
½ cup powdered sugar  
¼ teaspoon salt  
Cream butter, gradually adding sugar. Blend in flour, salt and vanilla. Chill until firm. Form into 1-inch balls and placed on oiled cookie sheet. Bake 14-17 minutes at 400 degrees. While still hot, roll in powdered sugar and cool. Roll at least once more after cooled. Store in a dry tin.





The Blue Stone in Alamogordo specializes in cultural gifts of all kinds. (Photos by Jennifer Gruger)

BLUE BASIN • JENNIFER GRUGER

# Treasure Trove of Southwest goods

Alamogordo shop still active after 40 years

Tucked away on the south end of Alamogordo is a treasure trove of, well ... just about everything on your holiday shopping list.

The small entrance of The Blue Stone gallery on South White Sands Boulevard in Alamogordo opens up into a surprisingly expansive collection of things to explore and discover, including a blue-and-gold macaw named Ivan.

Peggy and Tom Edd Davis originally opened a shop called Navajo Arts & Crafts of Alamo on U.S. Highway 60 in Magdalena in 1972. The shop was so named because the items bought and sold were from the Alamo reservation or made in the shop by Navajos from the Reservation.

They moved to their first Alamogordo location, under the name “The Blue Stone” in early 1975. The new name reflected the silver and turquoise jewelry they had become known for. The shop began as primarily a rock shop and even offered some lapidary classes in cutting and polishing rocks. As new merchandise was added, it became clear that the shop was ready for a new location. After a short stint in a temporary location while the current building was under construction, they finally moved into the 1117 South White Sands location you can find them in now.

Today you can still find rocks and minerals at The Blue Stone as well as precious and semi-precious stones set in beautiful yellow and white gold as well as sterling silver. There are many unique gift items too. Mr. Davis, who passed away in 2013, was known for saying “You haven’t shopped until you shop The Blue Stone!” An avid collector of rocks, stamps and coins, Tom Edd was also an educator and very active in the community.



Ivan, the macaw at the Blue Stone gallery, watches over the store and greets customers.

Staff and customers remember him fondly.

For the holiday season, a special event runs Dec. 1 through 24. Customers making a purchase of \$50 or more will be able to select a box from under their Christmas tree. Each box contains a certificate ranging from \$5 to \$100 in value good toward any finished jewelry or gifts throughout the store.

Celebrating 45 years in business this coming February, Peggy Davis attributes the continued success of the shop to two vital elements: high quality and low prices. These ingredients, along with a dedicated staff is the formula that has made The Blue Stone a success story. To shop the wonders for yourself, or just to say hello to Ivan, stop in at 1117 South White Sands Boulevard, Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4:50 p.m. For more information, call 575-437-9828.

DIPPING INTO HISTORY • JOAN E. PRICE

# Not For Sale

Remembering how he multicultural identity was supported to recover from the Great Depression

The National New Deal Preservation Association, with a New Mexico state office in Santa Fe, offers a rich archive of public art work created by talented and now-famous New Mexico New Deal painters, artisans, muralists and architects — and high-style Pueblo Revival municipal buildings and the roads to get to the buildings — for exhibition in New Mexico communities.

For the months of December and January, a comprehensive selection of these public paintings, murals and buildings will be on display at Patrons Hall in the historic downtown district of Alamogordo including local cultural resources to fill out the exhibit.

Curator of the Tularosa Basin History Museum, Jean Killer-Dann, “made the first cut” from available NNDPA pieces but board members and supporters mobilized to retrieve more long ignored WPA public art known in the area.

They brought in large original paintings by Joseph Roy Willis which offer a feel of the quality of the artistic themes that have become the public legacy of a powerful historic era in this state.

The TBHM was too small for all this when Theresa Hamm with the Flickenger Center for the Performing Arts offered the Patrons Hall.

Then “they just kept bringing things in,” Killer-Dann said.

The number of documentary photographs by Dorothea Lange increased to a riveting selection of black and white photographs capturing the gritty conditions of land loss and poverty that had invaded the American dream of prosperity that came crashing down in the Great Depression.

Offering further dimension, the Pueblo revival style building across the street, originally the Alamogordo federal post office and now managed by the county, features not only hand carved and painted doors and huge forged iron chandeliers but also a mural and wall panels by Peter Hurd, a rancher and artist from Arroyo Hondo east of Ruidoso who received \$42.35 per month from the WPA to paint this piece.

The devastating years following the 1929 stock market crash left a 30 year old statewide artist gallery culture tied to “a cash economy” almost penniless. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal projects transformed the artists’ talents into public art in more than 100 New Mexican communities, all financed with federal dollars resulting in an iconic cultural landscape.

While there are some 100 known New Mexico communi-



“Ven a Acariciar la Tierra Sedienta” was painted by bilingual rancher and artist Peter Hurd to memorialize the Hispanic community he lived and worked with. The words translate to “Come holy rain. Come and caress the thirsty earth.”



Board members of Tularosa Basin History Museum install a two-month exhibit on New Deal art in New Mexico with iconic images that became a romantic visual identity and public legacy. (Photos by Joan E. Price)

ties with their own New Deal works, many times these creations go unnoticed or are taken for granted, said Kathryn Flynn, executive director of the New Mexico state project.

While Flynn addressed and charmed a small group of TBHM board members, docents and local museum members with anecdotes of discoveries and her childhood escapades with local educator and historian Dr. David Townsend, Linda Gully, an insurance agent, was checking out the EBay internet sales site for “vintage WPA paintings.” Gully found WPA artist Gene Kloss art works for sale valued from \$550 to “Road in Rancho de Taos” at \$1,998 or best offer. They were gone in six hours.

“They can’t do that if they were paid for by the WPA,”

Flynn said. “These are a public property and our heritage, a heritage for all people.”

Museum board member Donna Milburn displayed a booklet of the numerous iconic WPA buildings in the area built in the Pueblo Revival style, including White Sands National Monument Visitor Center and public buildings in La Luz, Carizozo, Tularosa and Orogrande, schools, women’s clubs, libraries, courthouses and stamped sidewalks.

For in-depth background and information on the National New Deal Preservation Association, Santa Fe office, call 505-473-3985 or 505-690-5845. For more information about the exhibit, call the Tularosa Basin History Museum at 575-434-4438.



40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

# What's Going On in December

**THURSDAY, DEC. 1**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Don Beams** — 6:30 at Diane's Restaurant and Parlor, 510 N. Bullard St. in Silver City.

**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.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**  
**Christmas in the Park** — 6-8 p.m. at School House Park next to the Community Center, Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. Tree lighting, hot chocolate, Christmas carols and visits with Santa. Info: 575-257-5030.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 2**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Popcorn Fridays** — all day at 614 N. Bullard St. Free popcorn and food samples. Info: 575-388-2343.

**Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.

**Christmas Belles** — 7-8:30 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Webb theater. A church Christmas programs spins out of control in this Southern face about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santy, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator. Info 575-538-



The Elephant Butte Luminaria Beachwalk features luminarias, shopping and food on Dec. 10. (Courtesy Photo)

6609.

**Sugar Still live music** — 7:30 p.m. at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, Silver City. Chicago acoustic duo. Info: 575-536-9649.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**  
**Farmers and Artisans Market** — 6-9 p.m. at All American Park in Ruidoso Downs. Info: 575-808-0630.

Gary Allen in Concert — 8-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Country star and Merle Haggard sons tour together. Info: innoftthemountain gods.com/event/garry-allan/.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Carols and Arias** — 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces. Free program. Info: 575-523-6403.

**A Christmas Carol** — 7:30 p.m. at ASTCNMSU Center for the Arts Theatre. This is a song-filled adaptation of Dickens' classic tale. Info: 575-646-1420.

**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.

**Play: A New Brain** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**La Frontera Fair Trade Store** — 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at 326 S. Mesquite in Las Cruces. Fair trade items made by women from the border area and Mexico. All proceeds go to the women who produce the products which include weavings, totes, household items and much more. Info: 575-621-5999.

**Christmas Vendors Bazaar** — 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Info: 575-915-2952.

**Downtown Wonderland and Tree Lighting** — 4 p.m. at

the Downtown Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main St. Info: 575-541-2444

**A Christmas Carol** — 7:30 p.m. at ASTCNMSU Center for the Arts Theatre. This is a song-filled adaptation of Dickens' classic tale. Info: 575-646-1420.

**Feliz Navidad! A Christmas Celebration** — 7:30-9 p.m. in Las Cruces. Traditional song, dance and music reflection the Hispanic culture of Borderland. Info: 575-523-6403.

**Play: A New Brain** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic




Finn's Gallery in Silver City celebrates and shares Christmas cookies all day. (Photo by Yolanda Rubio Armas)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 3**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Tamal Fiesta y Más** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Bullard Street at Eighth Street in Silver City. Food including Disco Cook-Off, arts and crafts, music and folklorico dance. Info: www.TamalFiestaYMas.org.

**Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.

**Silver and Red Holiday Gallery Walk** — Silver City Art Association galleries hold receptions and events at various times. Info: www.silvercityart.com.

**Christmas Belles** — 7-8:30 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Webb theater. A church Christmas programs spins out of control in this Southern face about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santy, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator. Info 575-538-6609.



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Don Beams brings classic folk music to Diane's Restaurant and Parlor in Silver City on Dec. 1. (Courtesy Photo)

ic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County Farmers and Artisans Market** — 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at All American Park in Ruidoso Downs. Info: 575-808-0630.  
**Country Christmas Bazaar** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Capitan. Info: jmcoulton@windstream.net.  
**2016 Parade of Lights** — 5:30-7:30 p.m. through Midtown Ruidoso. Info: 575-857-7395.

**Truth or Consequences/Hillsboro/Sierra County Christmas in the Foothills** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center. Holiday vendors, \$49.99 Art Show and Sale and more. Info: 575-895-5457.  
**Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance** — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

**Alamogordo/ Cloudcroft/ Otero County Holiday Arts and Crafts Show/Sale** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Red Brick Schoolhouse Building, corner of Burro and Swallow streets in Cloudcroft. Info: 575-687-2213.

**Socorro/Socorro County Socorro Fire Department Matanza** — 4 p.m. at Socorro's Historic Plaza. Info: 575-835-8927.

**Luminarias on the Plaza & Arts Stroll** — 4-8 p.m. at Socorro's Historic Plaza. Christmas tree lighting at 7 p.m. Socorro County artists display their arts and crafts surrounded by food, beverages and entertainment. Info: 575-835-2787.  
**Christmas Electric Light Parade** — 6 p.m. beginning at Sedillo Park and traveling to the plaza. Info: 575-835-8927.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 4 Silver City/Grant County Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.  
**Live Performance** — 1-3 p.m. at the Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankee St. in Silver City.  
**Christmas Belles** — 2 p.m. at the Western New Mexico University Webb theater. A church Christmas programs spins out of control in this Southern face about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santy, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator. Info 575-538-6609.  
**Christmas Tree Lighting** — 6 p.m. Outside Valley Community Church, 19-A Racetrack Road in Arenas Valley. A tree lighting, carols and refreshments. Info: 575-538-9311.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla A Christmas Carol** — 2 p.m. at ASTCNMSU Center for the Arts Theatre. This is a song-filled adaptation of Dickens' classic tale. Info: 575-646-1420.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 2 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.  
**Play: A New Brain** — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 6 Silver City/Grant County 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.  
**Railroad History Presentation with Donald Beem** — 4-5 p.m., at the Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., Silver City. Info: 575-538-3672.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County Living in the WUI: Forest Health and Safety** — 6-8 p.m. at Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso, Room 102. Henrietta Stockel speaks about the Chiricahua Apaches. Info: 575-257-2120.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7 Silver City/Grant County Trivia Night at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery** — 7 p.m. at 200 N. Bullard St. Info: 575-956-6144.  
**Photographer Ann McMa-**

**hon presentation** — 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 3845 N. Swan St. in Silver City. A Silver City Photography Club event, everyone welcome. Info: 860-670-4543.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 8 Silver City/Grant County Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.  
**Sample Holiday Foods** — noon-1p.m. at the Silver City Food Co-op Market Cafe, 614 N. Bullard St. Info: 575-388-2343.  
**Victorian Christmas** — 5:30-8 p.m. at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway in Silver City. Victorian Christmas Open House offers hot beverages, cookies and live music along with children's activities and a museum store stocked with Christmas item and Father Christmas with gifts for the children. Info: 575-538-5921, Ext. 10.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla El Paso Brass Holiday Benefit Concert** — 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.  
**Simon Gronowski in New Mexico** — 6:30 p.m. at the Alevy Chabad Jewish Center de Las Cruces, 2907 E. Idaho Ave. An 11-year-old boy on a death train to Auschwitz now 84, from Belgium, will talk about his experience at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. Gronowski is also an accomplished jazz pianist and will perform a few pieces. Reservations: 575-524-1330.  
**Play: A New Brain** — 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 9 Silver City/Grant County Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla Gone Girls present Merry Christmas Darlings** — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. All singing, all dancing girls sing holiday favorites. Info: 575-523-6403.  
**Luminarias Light up the Desert** — 5-7:30 p.m. at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Road. Info: 575-524-3334.  
**Christmas Tree lighting and late shopping** — 6 p.m. in Old Mesilla Plaza.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.



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**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Old-Fashioned Christmas** — 6-9 p.m. in downtown Truth or Consequences. Christmas tree lighting in Evelyn Renfro Park followed by bonfires, carolers, other performers including a live nativity and holiday refreshments. Info: promotions@torcmainstreet.org.

**Alamogordo/Cloudcroft/ Otero County**  
**A Christmas Carol** — 7-9 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-437-3810.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 10**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Gourmet Delights Holiday Baskets and Sweet Sale** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Silver City Woman's Clubhouse, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. in Silver City. Info: 575-538-5591.  
**The Art of Christmas Cookies** — all day at Finn's Gallery, 406 N. Bullard St. Silver Holiday Market — noon to 8 p.m. at the Old Elk's Club, 315 N. Texas St. Silver City. Info: 575-538-5555.  
**Festival of Trees** — at the Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**La Frontera Fair Trade Store** — 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at 326 S. Mesquite in Las Cruces. Fair trade items made by women from the border area and Mexico. All proceeds go to the women who produce the products which include weavings, totes, household items and much more. Info: 575-621-5999.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community

Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.  
**Play: A New Brain** — 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.

**Alamogordo/ Cloudcroft/ Otero County**  
**Christmas Parade** — On 10th Street. Info: 575-437-6120.

**Ruidoso/Lincoln County**  
**Dailey & Vincent** — 7 p.m. at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts at 108 Spencer Road, Alto. The "rockstars of bluegrass," play vocal harmony with one of the top bluegrass string bands in the country. Info: 575-336-4800.

**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Elephant Butte Luminaria Beachwalk** — 5-8 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Features 4,000 lining the paths on the beach leading to community-sponsored campsites with posole, chile, cocoa, cookies s'mores and more. Info: 575-744-4708.  
**Floating Parade of Lights** — 6-7:30 p.m. at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Decorated boats launch from Marina del Sur. Info: 575-894-2041.  
**Old Time Fiddlers Saturday Night Dance** — 7-9 p.m. at 710 Elm Street in Truth or Consequences. Info 575-744-9137.

**Socorro/Socorro County**  
**Mariachi Christmas** — 7:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Tech Macey Center, 1 Olive Lane, Socorro. Featured music and dance groups join show curator Norberta Fresquez. Info: 575-835-5688.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Festival of Trees** — at the

Western Stationer's building, 701 Bullard St. Local artists and others participate in decorating trees which are then available during the festival. This is a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Montessori school. Info: 575-388-3343.  
**Live Performance** — 1-3 p.m. at the Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 West Yankee St. in Silver City.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Mesilla Valley Chorale presents Holiday Fanfare** — 3 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 2 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.  
**Play: A New Brain** — 2:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall. Energetic, comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency. Info: 575-523-1223.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 13**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Trivia Night at the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery** — 7 p.m. at 200 N. Bullard St. Info: 575-956-6144.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**Las Cruces Ukulele Ring in the Holidays** — 6:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las Cruces. An Every Second Wednesday production, a community group of ukulele enthusiasts perform favorites. Info: 575-523-6403.

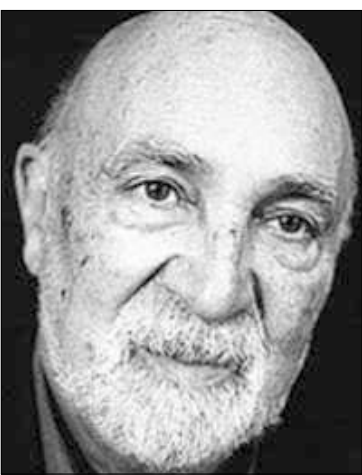
**THURSDAY, DEC. 15**  
**Truth or Consequences/ Sierra County**  
**Sierra Twirlers Square Dance Club dance** — 6-8 p.m. at New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's Playhouse, 710 Elm St. Mainstream dancing every Thursday evening. Cost is \$3 per person; no charge to come and watch. Visitors always welcome. Info: 505-804-3842 or 575-313-9971.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 7 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 16**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Annual Nizhoni Pottery Sale** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3235 Little Walnut Road in Silver City. Info: 575-590-0698.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.

**Alamogordo/Otero County**  
**Downtown Merchant's Art Walk** — 6-8 p.m. on the 900 Block of New York Avenue in Alamogordo's historic downtown. Info: 575-312-5065.



A tale of World War II survival is shared in Las Cruces on Dec. 8 at the Alevy Chabad Jewish Center by survivor Simon Gronowski. (Courtesy Photo)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 17**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Wreaths across America** — 10 a.m. at Fort Bayard National Cemetery. Participating in a nationwide remembrance ceremony, all service branches will be represented. Info: 575-574-0361.  
**Workshop: Tin Ornaments** — noon-2 p.m. at the Silver

City Museum, 312 W. Broadway in Silver City. Make your own ornaments using tin and aluminum. Registration encouraged. Info: 575-538-5921, Ext. 10.

**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.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**La Frontera Fair Trade Store** — 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at 326 S. Mesquite in Las Cruces. Fair trade items made by women from the border area and Mexico. All proceeds go to the women who produce the products which include weavings, totes, household items and much more. Info: 575-621-5999.  
**The Wizard of Oz** — 8 p.m. at the Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: 575-523-1200.  
**Home for the Holidays: A Josh Grider Family Christmas Show** — 7:30 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N.



The official Christmas Tree Lighting and annual holiday mall walk is on Dec. 4 in Las Cruces. (Photo by Elva K. Österreich)

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The Sierra County Twirlers meet every Thursday to stomp their stuff in Truth or Consequences. (Courtesy Photo)

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ture Club of Las Cruces event,  
call for location. Dinner is \$25  
for non-members and in-  
cludes wine or beverage and  
desert. Info: 575-915-8963.  
**Academy of Music and  
Dance Student Recital** —  
3 p.m. at the Rio Grande  
Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las  
Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

**Ruidoso/Carrizozo/  
Lincoln County**  
**The Nutcracker presented  
by the Dali' Ballet Compa-  
ny** — 2 p.m. at the Spencer  
Theater for the Performing  
Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto.  
Info: 575-336-4800.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 20**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.  
**Holiday Movie: "Home  
Alone"** — 4-5 p.m., at the  
Silver City Public Library, 515  
W. College Ave., Silver City.  
Info: 575-538-3672.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21**  
**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 bird-  
ers observe the ever-changing  
birdlife that lives and visits.  
Info: way1mike@yahoo.com.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 22**  
**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

**FRIDAY, DEC. 23**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Popcorn Fridays** — all day at  
614 N. Bullard St. Free pop-  
corn and food samples. Info:  
575-388-2343.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 24**  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**La Frontera Fair Trade Store**  
— 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 326 S. Mes-  
quite in Las Cruces. Fair trade  
items made by women from  
the border area and Mexico.  
All proceeds go to the women  
who produce the products  
which include weavings, totes,  
household items and much  
more. Info: 575-621-5999.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Live Performance** — 1-3  
p.m. at the Yankie Creek Cof-  
fee House, 112 West Yankie  
St. in Silver City.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**Live Performance** — 1-3  
p.m. at the Yankie Creek Cof-  
fee House, 112 West Yankie  
St. in Silver City.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 27**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.

**display** — 4 p.m. Italian Cul-  
ture Club of Las Cruces event,  
call for location. Dinner is \$25  
for non-members and in-  
cludes wine or beverage and  
desert. Info: 575-915-8963.  
**Academy of Music and  
Dance Student Recital** —  
3 p.m. at the Rio Grande  
Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las  
Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

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**Academy of Music and  
Dance Student Recital** —  
3 p.m. at the Rio Grande  
Theatre, 211 N. Main St., Las  
Cruces. Info: 575-523-6403.

**Ruidoso/Carrizozo/  
Lincoln County**  
**The Nutcracker presented  
by the Dali' Ballet Compa-  
ny** — 2 p.m. at the Spencer  
Theater for the Performing  
Arts, 108 Spencer Road, Alto.  
Info: 575-336-4800.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 20**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**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.  
**Holiday Movie: "Home  
Alone"** — 4-5 p.m., at the  
Silver City Public Library, 515  
W. College Ave., Silver City.  
Info: 575-538-3672.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21**  
**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 bird-  
ers observe the ever-changing  
birdlife that lives and visits.  
Info: way1mike@yahoo.com.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 22**  
**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

**FRIDAY, DEC. 23**  
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Gift certificate prizes for top  
three teams. Info: 575-597-  
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The oldest country band in the world brings "Merry Texas Christmas Y'All" to the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts in Alto on Dec. 22. (Courtesy Photo)



CONSERVATION • LORETTA BENAVIDEZ

# Hopping Around

## Survey finds endangered mouse on Lincoln National Forrest

Biologists' recent trapping efforts have confirmed the presence of the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse in an area where it historically occurred in the Sacramento Mountains.

"This is a remarkable discovery," Beth Humphrey, district ranger on the Sacramento Ranger District said.

"There are only a few populations of this species left, with suitable habitats found in isolated areas of New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. To confirm their existence here on the Lincoln National Forest gives hope that this species can recover over a period of time."

The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2014 with critical habitat being designated in 2016.

The species requires tall, dense riparian vegetation during its short summer active season, when it breeds and rears its young and stores fat reserves for its long hibernation. This is a very difficult animal to trap.

District Biologist Jack Williams and a crew of biological technicians surveyed five sites in

suitable habitat and confirmed its presence.

Williams' team used Sherman traps, which are box-style traps used for live capture and release, to confirm the species' presence.

"The crew is also using special cameras to detect the mouse," Humphrey said. "In coming years we'll be using track plates and possibly canines that are specially-trained to detect this species. This is cutting-edge wildlife management being used for a small endangered mouse that is extremely difficult to detect."

The team also conducted detailed habitat assessments, including vegetation and stream and soil characteristics, and collected fur and fecal samples from the mice to conduct an analysis of their diet.

Trapping efforts continued over a period of six weeks starting in July and ending in September with more than 5000 traps set.

In addition to the jumping mouse, species trapped included long-tailed weasel, voles, shrews and woodrats.

During the time that the Lincoln National Forest was conducting surveys, Northern Arizona

University School of Forestry professor and wildlife ecologist Dr. Carol Chambers', PhD, and her crew were wrapping up survey efforts on the Santa Fe National Forest in northern New Mexico and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in east-central Arizona, where the species was also confirmed.

Management for the jumping mouse on the Sacramento Ranger District has been ongoing since 2014.

Management actions taken on the Lincoln National Forest involved three grazing allotments where critical habitat for the mouse was designated in 2016.

Habitat protection included replacement of barbed wire fences at with metal pipe fences to reduce maintenance and compliance costs; issuance of seasonal area closure orders to reduce impacts on critical habitat from recreation use and livestock grazing; construction of corrals and livestock working facilities to allow ranchers the flexibility to work cattle away from the delineated, protected habitat areas, and construction of temporary electric fences to protect NMMJM habitat during the grazing season while provid-

ing access to water for livestock and room for the ranchers to work cattle.

The Lincoln National Forest will continue to work with interested parties, including grazing permittees, local and state governments, hunters and outdoorsmen, and other non-governmental organizations to minimize impacts on this species' habitat while providing for the many uses these areas support.

Beginning this fall, the district will be seeking public comments

about proposals for a long-term management strategy for recovery of the NMMJM and protection of critical habitat. If you are interested in being included on our mailing list and receiving information related to this assessment, please contact Ciara Cusack at 575-682-2551.

For more information about the Lincoln National Forest, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln) and follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/LincolnUSForest>.

A Sacramento Mountains ranger examines an endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, newly rediscovered in the Sacramento Mountain Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest. (Courtesy Photo)



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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

# What's New in RVs?

## Competitive market makes for ample selection

When we bought our first motor home, a 1990 Starcraft, my husband Jimmy was impressed with the 460 big block Ford engine, the Freightliner chassis, and the Rockwell rear end and front axle, but what I loved were the built-in blender, the built-in hair dryer, and the hidden clothes hamper. When we started looking for a new RV in 2014, I assumed those features would be standard since they were so practical.

Over the course of a year or so, we looked at every brand of RV imaginable. We looked at trailers, fifth wheels and motor homes, from the smallest to the largest, from reasonably priced to exorbitant. And, boy, had designs changed! Kitchen islands, king-sized beds, electric fireplaces, extra half baths, and built-in computer desks. A large flat-screen TV in every room was a standard feature, and plenty of models had a panel on the outside that hid an outdoor kitchen. Some even had a huge outdoor TV behind a sliding panel on the side of the RV.

There was rustic-looking laminated flooring instead of the ugly shag carpeting of the past, and the busy floral prints of the curtains, upholstery, bedspreads, and even walls had disappeared, replaced with tasteful solid colors, mainly tones of beige and brown. We even saw a few dishwashers in the more expensive models, and stainless steel was starting to be used for kitchen appliances. Oversized



Kitchens in newer RVs have grown to accommodate every taste. (Courtesy Photo)

faux-leather recliners, love seats and couches were common, as were ceiling fans and surround-sound stereos. The extra back room — the feature that really sold us on our fifth wheel — was just starting to show up on a few models.

But we saw no blenders, no hair dryers, and no clothes hampers, which caused me to surmise that not only have RVs always been designed by men, but also the decisions on what to lose and what to add are based mainly on masculine tastes or some man's idea of what women would like. For example, no self-respecting woman designer ever chose those old flower prints or shag carpeting. And what about those outdoor heaters? That's pure man-taste! But, hey, this is only a theory, so please, no nasty emails.

Recently we spent a couple of hours at Lazy Days RV in Tucson looking at their new models.



Many new RVs have garage space built in for smaller vehicles — dirt bikes, ATVs, etc. — which convert to living space while parked. (Courtesy Photo)

Again, in just a few years, designs have changed and features have been added. Refrigerators have gone from those dinky propane fridges to a full-sized double-door household-style model with bottom slide-out freezer and an ice dispenser on the door! Fireplaces now have blowers for extra heat, and faux stone surrounds. TVs are either mounted on cabinet doors or pop up from behind fireplaces to save space. USB chargers and Bluetooth connectivity are standard, and many models have keyless entry touch pads. We saw many built-in vacuum cleaners, and control panels are high-tech, with apps to control all of the RV's functions from a cell phone.

Pantries and full-size double kitchen sinks are commonplace, and there are now many versions of that extra back room. Walk-in closets are appearing even in the mid-range fifth wheels, and in one model we saw a bathroom large enough to accommodate

his-and-her sinks. On some very large, very expensive motor homes not only are there two full baths, but the master bath opens off the master bedroom and sprawls across the entire last eight feet of the coach. One even had a small sauna!

More and more models feature decks that slide out from either the side or back, and I predict we'll soon see those decks screened in and combined with the outdoor kitchen/entertainment center for a bug-free outdoors experience.

Then there are the toy haulers, those trailers and fifth wheels whose back room serves as a garage in which to carry your motorcycle, boat or ATV. This garage used to end up as wasted space once the RV was parked and the "toys" removed. Now it generally converts to extra living space, often a bedroom with pull-down beds. In some models that garage beautifully converts to a living room or dining area,

with the fold-down garage door serving as a large deck and a pull-down screen covering the back opening. One toy hauler even has a sleeping loft built over the garage for maximum use of the space.

And for those of you that just can't decide whether to invest in a retirement RV or houseboat, there's the custom-built Terra Wind Motor Coach Yacht by Cool Amphibians Manufacturers International that is as comfortable afloat as on land (42 feet long, beginning price of \$850,000). The back wall lowers like a toy hauler ramp and becomes a swim deck, and a sliding glass door provides a view from the bedroom. There's even a whirlpool tub.

Oh, yes, you can find everything from an inexpensive barebones pop-up trailer that will give you a tent-camping experience to a 45-foot high-end motor home with all the amenities of a luxury condo. But nowhere, not on any of the RV models we checked out, was there a built-in blender, a built-in hair dryer, or a hidden clothes hamper.

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 [skowder@aol.com](mailto:skowder@aol.com).



FOOTBALL FOLLIES • SUSIE OUDERKIRK

## A Diminishing Team

Desert Exposure writer Susie Ouderkirk recently got the opportunity to do something she's longed for all her life: play football. Now she's taking the ball and running with it and sharing a play-by-play of this journey.

Two months into the pre-season of the first all-women's full-contact football team in New Mexico, the Las Cruces Coyotes are getting a rhythm. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Oñate High School football field from 7 to 9 p.m.

We're practicing in workout gear: stretch pants, t-shirts, shoes with cleats. Any body-to-body contact is done at 10 percent power, and slowly. We're learning formations on both sides of the line of scrimmage (offense and defense) and starting to throw the football around.

Yes, it's true. Girls throw like girls. My teammates and I looked awkward, elbows akimbo, hands splayed, feet slipping, the ball wobbling like a fake bat



The Las Cruces Coyotes are developing a bond both on and off the field. Desert Exposure writer Susie Ouderkirk is the one with the blonde hair. (Courtesy Photo)

And we're not catching it either. The ball bounces off our open hands, off our stomachs, off our thighs. I think of a comment my dad, Carl, often shouts at the television during Chicago Bears games: "You know those things on the ends of your arms? They're called hands. Catch the ball," and then an expletive.

Of course the coaches are aware of this. They teach us (spin the ball until you find the laces, alternate a finger between each lace, bring your arm and elbow back and throw the ball straight forward, following through so your hand shoots downward.)

And over time, we start to change the dynamics of the throw. We throw less like girls, and more like football players. Maybe girls throw like girls because no one teaches them the correct form.

But as a team, we're establishing something. We're showing up early, and instead of walking, we're running from place to place ("on the hop"). We know each other's names, and we're getting used to Coach Jamar dancing. A lot. Thank goodness he's a good dancer, or those moments would be painful for the whole team.

But we're also noticing our core group getting smaller. And on the team Facebook page, we're starting to get scattershot messages of, "With a heavy heart I have to quit the Coyotes. My

(fill in the blank for significant other) just got transferred and we're moving." Or "I realize that I don't have the time required to devote to the team right now." Or even, "My schedule at work just changed, and now I have to go in Tuesday and Thursday nights."

These kinds of losses are par for the course for any organization, but especially so for volunteer groups and clubs that require a lot of time or money. All of the Coyotes understand and empathize with these situations: a change of location, a change of job schedule, a change of family status can happen to any of us at any time. Those who stay on the team and make it work for the whole 2017 season are one thing: lucky.

It's true that you "make your own luck," but having a supportive spouse or family and having the free time to devote to — I'll just say it: a dangerous, expensive sport — is a privilege many able and willing women cannot do. Those of us on the Coyotes are prioritizing the team (some-

times with twinges of guilt), feeling the pain of intense workouts, throwing up in the grass, falling down and sweating past our comfort zones, but we have to remember we are the lucky ones to be able to do all of those things.

But the team is smaller than it was, and we're feeling the pinch. We need a healthy team of 16 (eight offense, eight defense) with subs. We're down to 19 players. We don't have "depth."

A rancher knows the importance of "culling the herd." A horticulturist knows branches need to be pruned for the overall health of the tree. A pilot knows to dump extra ballast to take off. And better now than a week before the first game.

A second set of tryouts is scheduled, and the saga continues. In the meantime, our team "Mama," Candace Avalos and Coyote player Nicole Zuniga put in an order for shoulder pads and helmets because the team is taking it up a notch and adding in contact to practices.

Now it's getting real.





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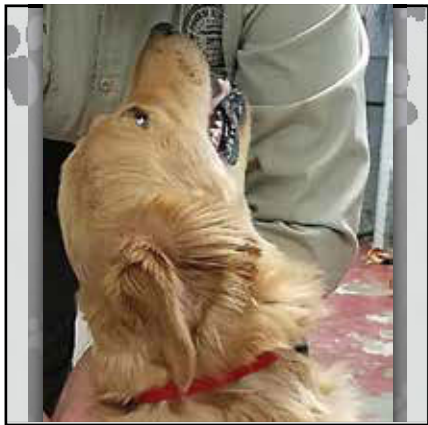
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**Margie**  
Female Blue Merle



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