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*in Silver City
and Grant County*

**2017-2018
COMMUNITY GUIDE**

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Experience the beauty *and magic*



We're convinced Life is Good in Silver City. But don't just take our word for it, go find out for yourself.

This little magazine you hold in your hands serves as a perfect guide to help you experience the beauty and magic of Silver City and Grant County.

Whether you're visiting Silver City for three days, lived here for three decades or planning to move here, there's something in this book for you.

If you live here, you don't need a place to stay, but you may have friends or relatives coming who would like to check out the local accommodations. There's a section for that.

You may already have a pet, or may be considering getting one. There's a section for that.

Traveling with your kids? About to have your first child? Every community looks a little different through the eyes of a child. We've got a section that helps you do

that.

We can't say for sure if Silver City has more labyrinths per capita than any other city in the Southwest, but there seems to be a lot. Check out that story in this book.

These days it can be difficult to determine the origins of the food we eat. However, the farm-to-table movement is burgeoning in Silver City, giving consumers some new options. There's a story on that.

Art, bicycling, history, the outdoors and continuing education are all part of why life is good in Silver City. We've got information on all of those.

Make the most of this little magazine and use it as a jumping-off point to discover why life is good for you in Silver City.



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Silver City

A hands-on experience

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Imagine touching a tree and visualizing the tree's entire life and what it's seen.

Sounds like something from a science fiction movie.

Now, imagine putting your hand on a building and, again, scenes of the building's past – or its future – flow into your mind.

There's no way to avoid the wonderful and interesting history immersed in Silver City. That history gives the community a rich character and heritage.

As the mining industry has gone through inevitable boom and bust cycles, Silver City has continually reinvented itself, adding a unique texture to the history. The town, however, does not live in the past.

Many old buildings have been knocked down to rubble. Other icons have undergone metamorphosis. Still others sit, ghostly, awaiting their next phase.

One current ghost is the old Buffalo Bar, which occupied a prime spot on Bullard Street downtown for many years. It was a place people loved or hated, but its 2014 closure left a hole yet to be filled. As you walk by 211 N. Bullard St., though, you can easily imagine the energy that emanated from the saloon. The music. The rowdy conversations. The quiet contemplations. The motorcycles out front.

Around the corner from "the Buff," at 200 W. Broadway

St., the Murray Hotel is a living illustration of what could be. Built in 1938, the Murray was a gleaming example of Art Deco architecture. During one of the busts, it closed down, and stayed that way for almost half a century. Now it's back in business, painstakingly restored.

Completely erased is the old Hillcrest Hospital, which stood for generations high on the hill overlooking the town. Many folks in Silver City were born in that building. Were you to explore the area now, you feel the aura of all the people who entered the world on that spot. And also, the many people who left the world from there.

Indeed, Silver City is one of those places where you can find yourself. Or, if you prefer, to lose yourself.

In Silver City, you'll find people from all walks of life and all corners of the world, who have come here to drop out, or to start over.

You'll find people who have been here their whole lives. And you'll find people who moved away from their hometown, then came back.

Even in the Land of Enchantment, which is full of funky and distinctly interesting towns and cities, Silver City stands unique.

It's a place where you want to – and should – get your hands dirty.

So much of experiencing Silver City is hands-on.



Feel the mud between your fingers at the Silver City CLAY Festival in July.

Feel the fabric, the beads, the baskets and textiles created by local artists.

Feel the rocks and crystals at the Silver City Gem & Mineral Show Labor Day weekend.

Feel the strings of a guitar or banjo at Pickamania, the annual fall bluegrass festival.

Feel the chocolate melt on your fingers with one of the local delicacies created for Chocolate Fantasia, where sweetness and romance flow through downtown every year around Valentine's Day.

Feel the leather of the reins in your hand as you guide a beautiful, half-ton animal along a horse trail.

Feel the presence of a long-gone civilization at the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

The past, the present, the future: It's all at your fingertips here in Silver City, New Mexico.

Silver City Stats

SILVER CITY PEOPLE

Population: 10,004 (2015)

Households: 4,112 (2011-2015)

Civilian veterans: 641 (2011-2015)

Median household income: \$36,227 (2011-2015)

Median home value: \$143,500 (2011-2015)

WEATHER

Average high temp: 50.8° F in the coldest month (January) to 87.5° F in the warmest month (July)

Average low temp: 23.9° F in the coldest month (January) to 59.5° F in the warmest month (July)

Average precipitation: 16.02 inches

Average snowfall: 14.5 inches

GRANT COUNTY PEOPLE

Population: 28,609 (2015 estimate)

Households: 12,032 (2011-2015)

Median household income: \$38,311 (2011-2015)

Persons below poverty level: 20.5 percent (2015 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates)

BUSINESS

Private nonfarm establishments: 624 (2014)

Private nonfarm employment: 6,921 (2013)

Nonemployer establishments: 1,541 (2014)

Employer establishments: 624 (2014)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,962

Persons per square mile: 7.4 (2010)



Exploring river and forest

Gila National Forest brimming with things to see, learn

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN


The Gila River is a birder's paradise. More than 300 species of birds, including the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo, the common black hawk, the Montezuma quail and the elf owl, have been recorded there flying over the currents and nesting in the trees lining the shores.

In the water, a variety of fish, including the threatened

loach minnow, swim and provide game for competitive and casual fishers and their families.

The river is also important for the adjacent Gila Forest's wildlife, which includes rarely seen mountain lions.

Thousands of years ago, nomadic people used the caves in the Mogollon Mountains, higher than 10,000 feet, surrounding the forest and river as temporary shelter before the Mogollon people arrived in the late 13th century.



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They made these caves their permanent homes and thus today the Gila Cliff Dwellings are deemed as culturally important and were granted National Monument status in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The river and forest are federally designated wilderness areas and in fact were the first to receive such designation. Aldo Leopold, a former Forest Service supervisor, urged the Forest Service to designate the forest as the country's first Wilderness Area. His request was approved in 1924 and a portion of the Gila Wilderness was named the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area.

So valuable, both historically and scientifically, is the Gila that for the past 12 years, there has been a Gila River Festival put on by the Gila Conservation Coalition. Ecology professors from Western New Mexico University, New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, as well as renowned conservation advocates, politicians and authors have been invited to these festivals to give lectures on the various aspects of the wilderness area.

For elementary-school children, the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance has for the past 13 years put on a Children's Water Festival, inviting Silver City children to learn about the river and adjacent habitat through hands-on activities, such as wading in the current, catching river-dwelling life and hiking through the forest.

The UGWA has aligned its festival's curriculum with

that of the Silver City Consolidated School District's Common Core State Standards and hopes to attract school children throughout Grant County in the future.

Hunting, backpacking, horseback riding and camping are welcome recreational activities in the forest and river at the proper times of the year.

To better enjoy the many sights and perhaps have better chances of spotting wildlife, explore the forest along the Catwalk, originally built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and later upgraded by the Forest Service in 1961 before receiving National Recreation Trail status in 1978.

Located about five miles north of Glenwood, which is about 60 miles north of Silver City, at the end state Highway 174, the Catwalk is about two miles long and takes about an hour to an hour and a half roundtrip.

Severe flooding damage in 2013 forced at first only portions of the Catwalk to close before the entire trail was closed in late 2015. Repairs were made, coordinated by state and federal agencies and private contractors, and the Catwalk was officially reopened in May 2016.

The Catwalk is now open all year-round and dogs are welcome on it. There is a designated picnic area along the trail, as well as paved parking. More information can be obtained at the Glenwood Ranger District at 575-539-2481.

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Community Resources

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911

Silver City Police Department

Chief of Police:

Ed Reynolds

1011 N. Hudson St.

575-956-1275

ereynolds@

silvercitymail.com

Silver City Fire Department

Fire Chief: Tim

Heidrich

1011 N. Hudson St.

575-956-1275

Firechief37@

silvercitymail.com

Grant County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff: Raul D.

Villanueva

201 N. Cooper St.

575-574-0100

New Mexico State Police District 12

2584 Silver St.

Building B

575-388-3977

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

3300 J Street

575-544-6100

Deming

www.cbp.gov

Grant County Crime Stoppers

575-538-5254

AROUND TOWN **INFORMATION**

Town Hall/City Clerk

101 W. Broadway St.

575-538-3731

575-534-6346

Code Enforcement

1203 N. Hudson St.

575-534-6367

Community Development

1203 N. Hudson St.

575-534-6348

Municipal Court

215 N. Bullard St.

575-388-4504

Public Library

515 W. College Ave.

575-538-3672

Public Works

610 E. Eight St.

575-388-4640

Silver City Museum

312 W. Broadway St.

575-538-5921

POST OFFICES **Bayard**

810 Central Ave.

575-537-5168

Buckhorn

7658 U.S. Highway

180 W

575-535-4171

Cliff

8427 Frontage Road

575-535-2951

Faywood

1123 N.M. Highway 61

575-536-2880

Gila

407 N.M. Highway 211

575-535-2363

Hachita

26 B St.

575-436-2220

Hanover

70 Fierro Road

575-537-5696

Hurley

16 Cortez Ave.

575-537-2146

Mimbres

3084 Highway 35 N.

575-536-9810

Mule Creek

5 Brushy Mountain Road

575-535-4266

Santa Clara

106 N. Bayard St.

575-537-3888

Silver City

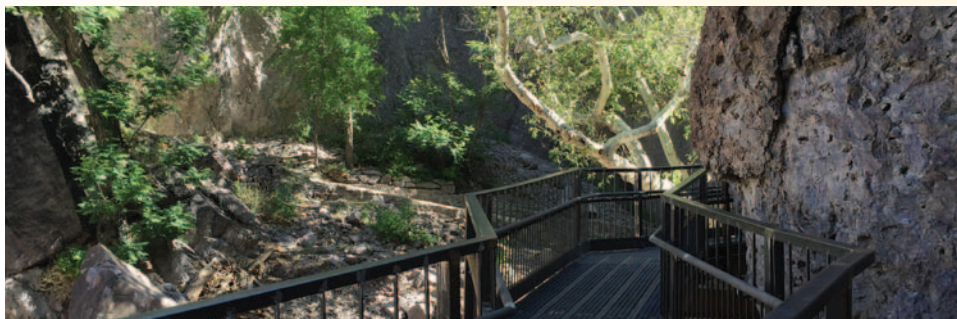
500 N. Hudson St.

575 538-2831

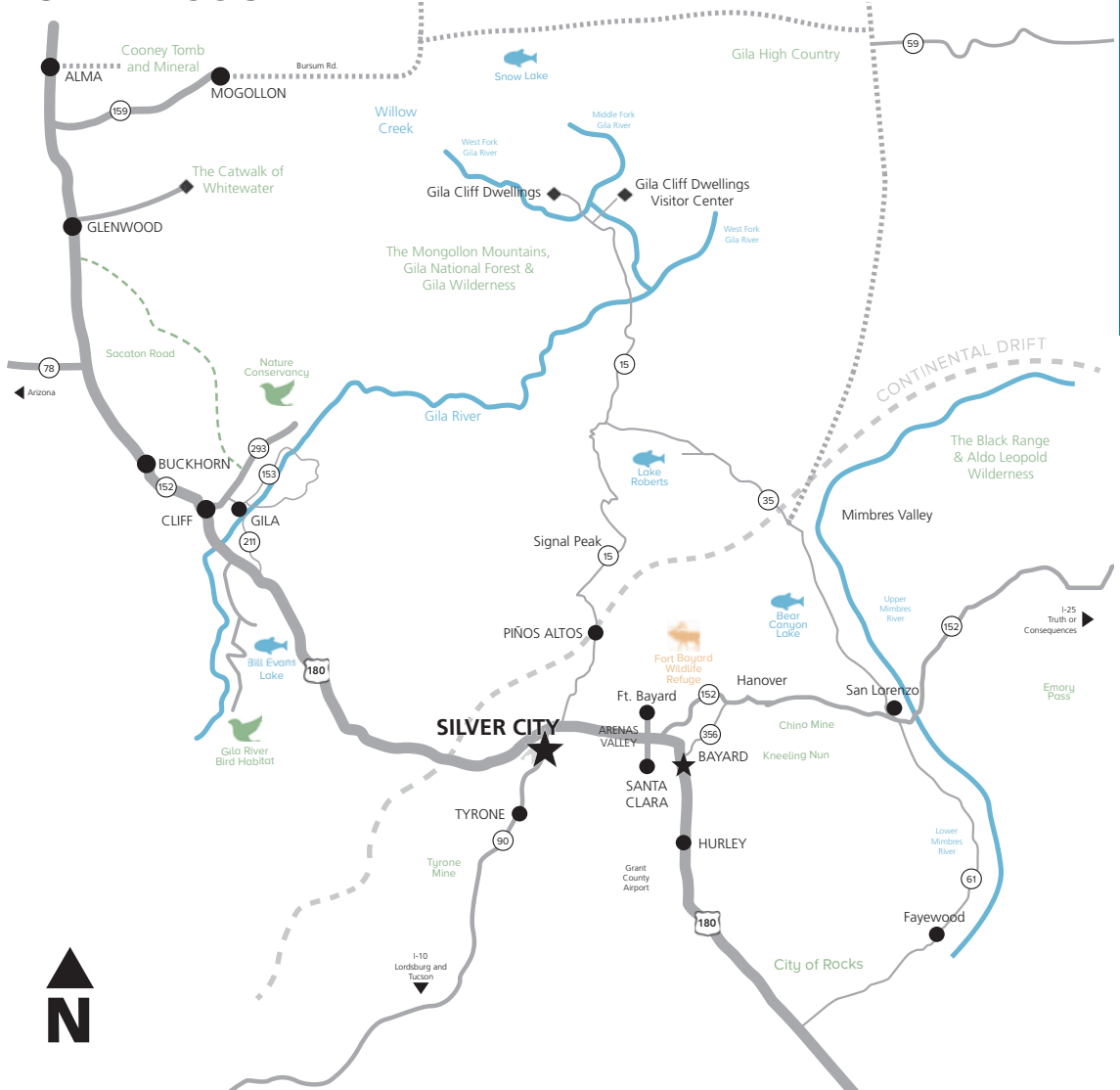
Tyrone

210 Turquoise St.

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LANDMARKS GRANT COUNTY AREA





Farm to table

Movement gains traction in small spaces

BY MARTY RACINE

The farm-to-table movement is growing across the country, transforming restaurants and shopping patterns that bring consumers ever closer to healthy eating.

The movement is centered on sustainable agriculture, organic produce, free-range chicken and eggs, grass-fed and hormone-free beef, dairy and pork, and seasonal, locally sourced recipes based on freshness. It is knowing where your food comes from.

At 5,900-foot elevation and situated in rocky terrain, Silver City is not what you'd call a breadbasket or agricultural hub. Yet, with its dynamic and trend-setting demographics, it is very much on the menu for a movement that seeks independence from the factories, feedlots and chemical saturation of Big Agriculture.

"Right now, I'm working with Frontier Communities, and they're putting together a food hub to directly connect farmers to restaurants," says Barton Hyatt, a self-described movement instigator or facilitator, depending on your view.

Frontier Communities (301 W. College Ave. in Silver City), is a national network assisting "efforts to help frontier regions retain their vitality and make the most

of their inherent assets amidst an ever-changing political landscape," according to its website. "Food Hubs have been springing up all over the country and have helped numerous farmers, food buyers and communities maximize the benefits of locally grown food. NCFC (the National Center for Frontier Communities), along with the Southwest New Mexico Food Policy Council and with funding from the USDA, completed a feasibility study to determine if a food hub could be successful in the frontier region of Southwest New Mexico."

It can be successful, thanks to people like Hyatt, who moved here from Austin, and his network of friends and backyard gardeners who are supplying the food chain with fresh, seasonal products.

"There's two-way communication between what (restaurants) are going to need and what (producers) are going to have," Wyatt said.

"In Austin, there's all kinds of resources for work-share opportunities, so I came here hoping to do the same work-share thing," he said, describing a process whereby individuals can help tend backyard and public gardens for a share of the bounty."

But, he acknowledges, it is work. It takes commitment on the part of farmers, gardeners and ranchers. "When I look at Silver City I look at it as a big farm," Hyatt said. "Somebody's got a tenth of an acre, a quarter of an acre, but they have enough space where they can produce a lot of food. All across the country there's what's called SPIN (Small Plot Intensive) gardening where one farmer (tends) another person's property and sharing the yield with them and also supplying the farm-to-table market at restaurants and farmers markets.

"So, in the big picture, you've got a lot of little farms, a lot of little gardens popping up here. You have guys like Eric Lynch, who's doing SPIN gardening here, leasing other people's property and farming on that. I've got a guy who's had orchards in Santa Fe, and we're doing an intense urban farm at his place. He's got hundreds of trees and he's fixin' to plant 200 more on this three-lot property. The model is super-intense urban farming where you're pulling out \$70,000 a year on a third of an acre, in super-cold places like Michigan and British Columbia. A lot of it is in the Midwest, like Cleveland, where you can buy land on the cheap and the city will sell you adjacent abandoned lots for, like, a dollar.

"That kind of thing is happening everywhere, and it's starting to happen here," Wyatt said.



Elected Officials

GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION

Address: P.O. Box 898,
Silver City, NM 88062

Gabriel Ramos

District 1
575-574-0021
gramos@grantcountynm.com

Brett Kasten

District 2
575-574-0022
bakasten@grantcountynm.com

Alicia Edwards

District 3
575-574-0023
575-654-4364 (cell)
aedwards@grantcountynm.com

Billy Billings

District 4
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bbillings@grantcountynm.com

Harry Browne

District 5
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SILVER CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Ken Ladner

575-534-6346
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Cynthia Ann Bettison

District 1
575-597-7031
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Lynda D. Aiman-Smith

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575-519-1680 (cell)
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Jose A. Ray, Jr.

District 3
575-313-4944
councilordistrict3@silvercitynm.gov

Guadalupe "Lupe" Cano

575-597-7034
District 4
councilordistrict4@silvercitynm.gov



Thrift store provides creative outlet, volunteer opportunities

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

Located on College Avenue, beside the intersection with Bullard Street and Downtown Silver City, Single Socks Community Thrift Store stands as a familiar and friendly reminder of people helping people.

The thrift store was started by Kathleen Wigley in 2009. She opened it with the intent of being a charitable thrift store that would donate much of its money to provide food to such programs as the Aldo Leopold School Lunch Bunch program, the Grant County Community Food Pantry, El Refugio Women's Shelter, the Guadalupe Montessori School, Children of Grant County - Cobre Schools, and First Presbyterian Church.

Since opening in 2009, Single Socks has raised and donated more than \$260,000 to these and other causes, Wigley said.

"The community has absolutely been supportive of us," Wigley said. "We totally depend on the community: Everything in here is by donation, a lot of our employees are volunteers."

Before opening Single Socks, Wigley managed the Silver City Food Co-op and coordinated food donation programs throughout the city, she said. Single Socks was based off this experience.

In addition to donating money for buying food, Wigley said whenever an event in Silver City needs items to give away as prizes, she hopes they come to Single Socks for such items.

"We love to be asked to provide prizes or gifts for other community events," she said. "It's really fun for us to try to be creative about what to give."

Wigley said such opportunities provide her and her staff with a creative outlet. In December 2016, Single Socks donated items for purchase to the annual Festival of Trees put on by the Guadalupe Montessori School.

The festival is a fundraiser for the school, drawing community members to purchase decorated and undecorated trees, as well as crafts made by the children and donated items, such as those from Single Socks.

Wigley said Single Socks is always looking for more volunteers, and if anyone is interested, they should call or go in to talk with her.

Single Socks is not the only charitable thrift store in Silver City. There is also the Silver City Gospel Rescue Mission and Our Paws' Cause Thrift Shop, which benefits the Humane Society, and the Garden Club, that uses the funds raised from its thrift store in landscaping and general beautification efforts throughout the city.



Good health bubbles to the surface at Silver hot springs

BY SUSIE OUDERKIRK

With its fascinating blend of nature, history, abundant health care and unadulterated fresh air, Silver City is the perfect place to be healthy.

And, thanks to Mother Nature, good health literally bubbles up from the ground in Silver City in the form of therapeutic hot springs.

A hot spring is produced by heated groundwater rising to the surface into a natural hot tub. Most springs reach a temperature of just over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the perfect temperature to soak, relax and heal.

Hot springs contain several key minerals that can be beneficial when absorbed into the body including silica, sulfur, selenium, calcium and lithium.

“The natural hot springs water is beneficial to the body due to all the natural minerals contained in it that slowly seep into the body to ease any aches, as well as the hot

water itself which gets right down into the muscles where it hurts the most,” said Connie Butts, an employee at the Faywood Hot Springs Resort, located about half an hour’s drive from Silver City, 165 Hwy. 61.

Silver City visitors and residents alike can take advantage of a number of area hot springs, and the resort in Faywood, open since 1993, is one of the most frequented. With two separate campgrounds (clothing required and clothing optional), cabins (with names like Dragonfly and Consuelo), a club house, RV spaces and a visitor’s center, these hot springs spots offers something for everyone.

The living quarters range in price from \$75 to \$120, and some of the housing units are pet-friendly. Day trippers can buy day passes to enjoy the springs without staying overnight from \$6.50 to \$12.50. The camping costs about \$20 per night; RV parking is around \$30. Weekly and monthly rates are available.

Wildwood Retreat and Hot Springs is another popular destination in the area for individuals and groups, and offers an array of options including cabins, group facilities, individual and group camping areas, a two-bedroom house and a river-side cottage.

With pools that range in temperature from cool (for hot days) to hot enough to heal sore muscles, Wildwood

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ■

Learn More!

- **Faywood Hot Springs:** www.faywood.com, 575-536-9663
- **Gila Hot Springs Campground:** gilahot springscampground.com, 575-536-9944
- **Wildwood Retreat and Hot Springs:** www.wildwoodhot springsretreat.com, 575-536-3600



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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

boasts an outdoor stage with electric hook-ups, a lush lawn and an outdoor kitchen perfect for any size group.

The Wildwood Retreat website invites visitors to “Enjoy a candle-lit dinner, drink your morning coffee, read a book, or just relax from one of our cozy vistas overlooking the Gila river.”

Cabin and cottage stays range from \$80 to \$120 per night. Overnight camping areas range in price from \$10 to \$12. A \$3 fee applies for well-behaved dogs. Wildwood also offers day-use passes for \$7.

About 40 miles north of Silver City is Gila Hot Springs Campground, which includes hot springs, a jacuzzi, horseback riding, corrals, apartments, camping-only areas and an RV park. The self-service camping areas are seldom full, but if they are, campgrounds outside of the hot springs area are available until a spot opens. Day use of the hot springs is available for \$5 per day.

Retreat House

is former convent turned Airbnb

BY SUSIE OUDERKIRK AND ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

When Holy Trinity Anglican Church bought the chapel and the old convent on the St. Mary's property on Alabama Street in Silver City, it was spring of 2014.

"We had been renting the chapel from the Catholic nuns for a year before we found out that the Nazareth Convent and Academy in Kansas was interested in selling the Silver City property," said Cherie Salmon, property warden and

treasurer for Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

The Retreat House is located on a large lot with large trees and plenty of space to walk, or sit outside and enjoy the peace and quiet, Salmon said.

"A short drive takes guests to the Gila National Forest and a short walk leads downtown to restaurants, galleries and museums," she said. "We host tourists, students, people in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ■

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Adobeagave.com

Bear Mountain Lodge

60 Bear Mountain Road
575-538-2538
Bearmountainlodge.com

Carriage House Cottage

603 Black St.
575-388-9680

Comfort Inn

1060 Highway 180 E.
575-534-1883

Copper Manor Motel

710 Silver Heights Blvd.
575-538-5392
Coppermanormotelnm.com

Drifter Motel

711 Silver Heights Blvd.
575-538-2916
Driftersilvercity.com

Econo Lodge

1120 Highway 180 E.
575-534-1111
Econolodgesilvercity.com

Georgetown Cabins

104 Georgetown Road
575-534-4529
Georgetowncabinsresort.com

Gila Mountain Inn

3420 Highway 180 E.
575-538-3711

Holiday Inn Express

1103 E. Superior St.
575-538-2525
hiexpress.com

Motel 6

1040 Highway 180 E.
575-388-1983
Motel6.com

Murray Hotel

200 W. Broadway St.
575-956-9400
Murray-hotel.com

Palace Hotel

106 W. Broadway St.
575-538-1811
Silvercitypalacehotel.com

Pinos Altos Cabins

4687 Highway 15
575-534-0406
Pinosaltoscabins.com

West Street Inn

575-534-2302
Weststreetinn-nm.com

PINOS ALTOS

Bear Creek Motel & Cabins

88 Main St.
575-388-4501
Bearcreekcabins.com

CLIFF/GILA

Casitas De Gila
50 Casita Flats Road
575-535-4455
Casitasdegila.com

GILA HOT SPRINGS

Wilderness Lodge

151 W. Fork Road
Gila, NM 88038
575-536-9749
www.gilahot.com

Wildwood Retreat & Hot springs

111 W. Fork Road
Gila, NM 88038
575-536-3600
Wildwoodhotspringsretreat.com

LAKE ROBERTS/ MIMBRES

Lake Roberts Cabins & General Store

869 Highway 35 N.
575-536-9929

Lake Roberts Motel

863 Highway 35 N.
Mimbres, NM 88049-8804
575-536-9393

Spirit Canyon Lodge & Café

684 Highway 35
Mimbres, NM 88049-8804
575-536-9459

HILLSBORO

Black Range Lodge

50 Kingston Main St.,
Kingston
575-895-5652
Blackrangelodge.com

Enchanted Villa B & B

10682 Highway 152
Hillsboro, NM 88042-951
575-895-5686

GLENWOOD

Double T Homestead

93 NM Highway 174
Glenwood, NM 88039-8803
575-539-2812
Doublethomestead.com

Whitewater Motel

575-539-2581
Whitewatermotel.com

AREA RV PARKS

Buckhorn RV Park

7656 Highway 180 W.
Buckhorn, NM 88025-8802
575-535-2995

Burro Mountain Homestead RV Park

665 Tyrone Road
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-2149
Burromountainhomestead.com

Continental Divide RV

4774 Highway 15
Pinos Altos, NM 88053
575-388-3005
Continentaldividervpark.com

Manzano's RV Park

103 Flury Lane
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-0918
Manzanosrvpark.com

Mountain Spirits RV Park

2743 Highway 35 N.
Mimbres, NM 88049
575-574-7000
Mountainspiritsrvpark.com

Ridge Park RV

2789 Highway 90 S.
Silver City, NM
575-313-9375
Ridgeparkrvsilvercity.com

Rose Valley RV Ranch

2040 Memory Lane
Silver City, NM 88061
575-534-4277
Rosevalleyrv.com

Silver City KOA

11824 Highway 180 E.
Arenas Valley, NM 88022
575-388-3351
Koa.com/campgrounds/silvercity

Silver City RV Park

1304 N. Bennett St.
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-2239
Silvercityrv.com

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

town for short-term work situations and people 'just traveling through.' Conversations are started, dinners are shared and friends are made."

The building was built in 1923 during the heyday of the St. Mary's Academy. The last nun moved out of the convent when Trinity bought the property.

"We decided that the best use of the convent was as a Retreat House," Salmon said. "We originally thought that other Anglican Churches in New Mexico and Arizona would use it for church meetings, but, when after about a year we weren't getting many bookings, we decided to open it to the public."

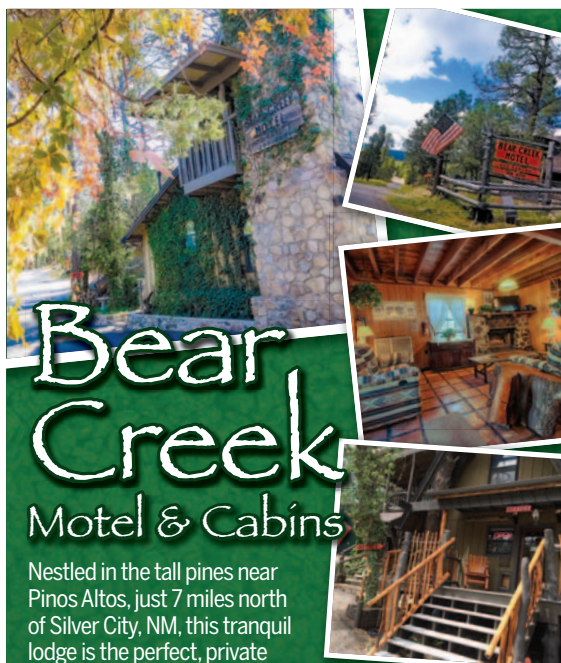
Renovations at the Retreat House are ongoing, she said.

"As with any nearly 100-year-old building, there is always a 'project' that needs to be done," she said.

Painting the exterior woodwork, which was starting to disintegrate, began in the fall of 2014. Since there had been nuns living in the convent continuously until it was purchased, the interior didn't need too much work. By 2015, linoleum had been laid in the bathrooms and in early 2016 interior work included fresh paint, flooring and opening of common spaces.

The facility includes six private bedrooms: one with a double bed, two have one twin bed and three have two twin beds. There are two full baths that are shared by all guests. And there is a fully furnished kitchen and dining room, and a comfortable living room with a TV and DVD/VHS player. There is wireless internet throughout the building. There is a laundry room available for guests staying longer than two days.

Bookings are made exclusively through [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) and each of the rooms is a separate listing.



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- Hiking & Biking

Road Trips to Nearby Attractions

- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
- Access to Continental Divide Trailhead
- Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark
- Lake Roberts
- The Catwalk
- Silver City Museum

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WORSHIP

in Silver City

SILVER CITY

Baptist Student Center
909 W. College Ave.
575-538-0012

Bible Baptist Church
1735 E. 32nd St.
575-538-5368

Calvary Baptist Church
186 Bypass Road

Calvary Chapel
3001 Highway 90 S.
575-388-1031

Church Of Christ
1920 Little Walnut Road
575-538-9533

Church Of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints
3755 N Swan St.
575-538-9485

Church Of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints
811 N. D St.
575-388-5279

Church of the Good
Shepherd
615 N. Texas St.
575-538-2015

First Baptist Church of
Silver City
2300 N. Swan St.
575-388-1582

First Presbyterian Church
1915 N. Swan St.
575-538-3513

First United Methodist
Church
314 W. College Ave.
575-538-2371

Harvest Christian
Fellowship
1500 N. Hudson St.
575-538-3619

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
1801 N. Alabama St.
575-534-9065

Indian Hills Baptist Church
2 Arroyo Seco Road
575-538-3558

Messiah Lutheran Church
2501 N. Swan St.
575-538-9446

Mountain View Church -
Nazarene
210 Mountain View Road
575-388-5257

New Church of the
Southwest Desert
1300 N. Bennett St.
575-519-2579

New Hope Fellowship
22 Kirkland Road
575-534-9509

New Life Fellowship
11 Arroyo Secco
575-388-1122

St Francis Newman Center
914 W. 13th St.
575-538-3662



Service times:

Sunday - 8:30 and 10:30am

Thursday - 6:30pm

575-388-1031

www.calvarysilver.com

Highway 90 south (across from Dickson Rd) Pastor Joseph Gros

WORSHIP

in Silver City

in Grant County

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

420 Market St.
575-538-9373

Silver City Seventh Day Church

12 Peterson Drive
575-538-3882

Silver City Zen Center
506 W. 13th St.
575-388-8874

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3845 N. Swan St.
575-538-0101

SANTA CLARA

Santa Clara Parish
207 S. Bayard St.
575-537-3713

Victory Assembly of God
604 N. Bayard St.
575-537-9085

HANOVER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
575-536-3304

CLIFF

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
575-535-2586

Trinity Church
575-535-2818

MIMBRES

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
575-536-3306

Mimbres United Methodist Church
2622 Hwy 35

Rio Mimbres Baptist Church
29 Cactus Drive
575-536-9453

BAYARD

First Baptist Church
312 N. Railroad St.
575-537-5651

Lighthouse Baptist Church
610 Dayhill St.
575-537-0707

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic
340 E Mayo
575-537-5727

ARENAS VALLEY

Valley Community Church
19 Racetrack Road
575-538-9311

GILA

Gila Valley Baptist Church
402 State Highway 211,
575-535-2977

HURLEY

Infant Jesus Catholic Church
204 Cortez Ave.
575-537-3691

TYRONE

Tyrone Community Church
50 Malachite Ave
575-538-8216

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Service
11:30 a.m.
Bible Study 1p.
480. 707. 7893



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575. 519. 2579

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BY ANTHONY ALBIDREZ

Living in Silver City grants Gila dwellers a sense of freedom to live on their own terms regardless of what interests they hold to their hearts.

Simply put, there is something in Silver City for everyone.

Tucked away at about 5,895 feet against the shadowy crest of the Black Range Mountains, through piñon pines that make up the Gila National Forest, the wild is never too far away in Grant County New Mexico, and wild living is easy.

"I love the sense of freedom I have being in Silver," said Felicia Flores, 24, who is a Western New Mexico University alumna. "I love not being rushed or the feeling of not being overly crowded."

Like other Silver City residents, the wilderness being every direction is a luxury for which they are grateful.

"As for the landscapes, I enjoy getting lost in the woods for a couple of hours just to reconnect with nature. Being out in the wilderness gives me peace and helps me to relax," Flores said.

Residents of Silver City come from all over the place where it was to raise a family or study, and they range in different ages.

"It's an ideal place," Dora Escobar, 93, of Silver City, said regarding raising a family.

Escobar has been a lifelong resident of the town. "Where I live is my favorite part about (Silver City) because I feel safe here. The culture is great."

The place where we call home matters. Whether it's under the skyscrapers of New York City, or with the ebb and flow of the Pacific Ocean in Los Angeles, some choose to call Silver City home.

"I really enjoyed the community involvement in Silver City for a small town there's always events going on," said Sky Klaus, a Western New Mexico University art student. "I also like the diversity of WNMU and being able to be close to the Gila Wilderness."



Getting around *Silver City*

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (BUS/SHUTTLE)

Corre Caminos

3033 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City
866-934-3866, 575-388-3180
Correcaminosnm.com

BICYCLE RENTAL

Gila Hike and Bike

103 E. College Ave., Silver City
575-388-3222
Gilahikeandbike.com

CAR RENTAL

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

1455 Highway 180 East, Silver City
575-534-0000

Department of Motor Vehicle offices

Bayard, 575-537-5313
Silver City, 575-538-3281
1876 U.S. Highway 180 E.

Financial Institutions

SILVER CITY

First American Bank

1609 N. Swan St.
575-534-0550

First Financial Credit Union

2290 Superior St.
505-766-5600

First New Mexico Bank

1928 Highway 180
575-388-3121

First Savings Bank

1221 N. Hudson St.
575-388-1531

Fort Bayard Federal Credit Union

11797 Highway 180 E
575-534-8888

Western Bank

330 Highway 180
575-388-3521

Washington Federal

1203 N. Hudson St.
575-388-1903

Washington Federal

119 W. 11th St.
575-388-1903

Wells Fargo Bank

1201 N. Pope St.
575-956-1500

BAYARD

First American Bank

1401 Tom Foy Blvd.
575-537-2481

HURLEY

First American Bank

512 Carrasco Ave.
575-537-2111





Transportation options abundant in Silver City

BY ANTHONY ALBIDREZ

Silver City may be a small town but there is much to see, so whether you're a local or a visitor, you have options when getting around.

Bicycling, rolling on a skateboard, using the local Corre Caminos transit service and even walking are some of the best ways to get around town.

Public transportation

Founded in January 2001, Corre Caminos provides public transportation in Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties.

Anyone can utilize Corre Caminos, and the fare is affordable to every day riders.

Within Silver City, fare is \$2.50 for an adult day pass and \$0.75 for Corre Caminos in Silver City.

Fare for students ages 6-18 is \$2.50 for a day pass and \$0.50 for a one-way pass.

Fare for seniors 60 and over is \$2.50 for a day pass.

30 day passes are \$12, and children 5 and under ride for free, though if children are under the age of 11 they must be accompanied by an adult to ride.

Exact fare is required, and passes must be presented each time they board.

The transit service averages about 8,300 rides per month and 32,000 miles per month.

For information, call 575-388-3180 or call correcaminosnm.com.

Bicycling

Silver City's bicycling community is strong, and is the best transportation for visitors and locals to use when they want to get some fresh Gila air and an intimate tour of the town.

Don't have a bike? Gila Hike & Bike, located Downtown, has been serving Silver City for more than 25 years.

Don't have the funds to purchase a new bicycle? A local nonprofit, The Bikeworks, is a community bicycle workshop that aims to make bicycles accessible to everyone.

The organization offers refurbished bicycles for sale to support educational programs. Bikeworks also offers an Earn-A-Bike program that allows participants to work towards finding and refurbishing a bicycle of their own.

For information, call 575-388-1444 or visit BikeWorksnm.org.

Skateboarding

Silver City is home to skateboarding culture spanning all ages. It is not uncommon to see skaters pushing through town on a board or even a long board. It is also home to one of the state's most popular skateparks.

The Silver City Skatepark is a 15,000 square-foot, all-concrete park with various bowls, obstacles and rails. The park is open to any skater at any skill level.

For information and rules, call 575-538-3731.

Getting Connected

SILVER CITY

Water/Sewer/recycling Town of Silver City

Silver City, NM 88062
575-534-6365

Electric PNM

Customer Service
888-DIAL-PNM
(1-888-342-5766)

New Mexico Gas

Customer Service
888-NM-GAS-CO
(1-888-664-2726)

Solid Waste Department

1400 Hwy 180
Silver City, NM 88061
575-574-0024

GRANT COUNTY

Electric PNM

Customer Service
888-DIAL-PNM
(1-888-342-5766)

Water departments

Bayard, 575-537-3327
Hurley, 575-537-2287
Santa Clara, 575-537-2443
Virden, 575-538-1000
Hanover, 575-537-6193

Telephone/internet services

AT&T, 800-288-2747
CenturyLink,
877-837-5738

Cyber Mesa Telecom,
505-988-9200,
cybermesa.com

**La Tierra
Communications**,
575-522-2681

Hughes Net,
855-978-2415
Vonage, 844-819-5027



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Care when you're not there

Mis Amigos is a full-service pet boarding, grooming and training facility

BY TRACY ROY

Gail Skee knows dogs. A seasoned trainer and competitor, Skee used her passion and knowledge to start Mis Amigos Pet Care Center in Silver City, a full-service pet boarding, grooming and training facility, about 12 years ago.

Skee has trained and shown dogs in rally obedience, agility and breed-specific conformation, and along the way, entrenched herself in the local pet community. When she decided to open the business, she attended boarding kennel expos to crowdsource ideas, identify needs in her market, learn procedures and then jumped in.

Mis Amigos Pet Care Center employs best practices from the American Boarding Kennel Association and International Boarding and Pet Services Association, and Skee ensures that all staff is properly trained. The guidelines help the staff identify when a pet is ill, for example, or help them more accurately evaluate dogs for play groups.

In recent years, the daycare portion of the business has grown, Skee said. She prides herself in operating small, manageable play groups. Each dog is evaluated for play group placement with compatible dogs using a color-coded system. The staff uses the “Your Dog Guru” training program, based out of Paradise Valley, Arizona, to take the daycare service to the next level. The dogs aren’t simply put out to play, they are also trained while they’re mingling. The program uses a series of games that motivates the dogs to learn and the staff to teach, with staff receiving medals for success rates on tasks and best

practices.

“It’s a way to give them motivation when working with the dogs,” Skee said. “They get rewarded for training. Our goal is to send the dogs off behaviorally better than they came.”

Other types of training are offered in private or group settings.

“Our training focus is on the use of positive reinforcement and strengthening the relationship between dog and human,” reads the Mis Amigos information packet. “Our training methods are effective, dog-friendly, and best of all, fun for dog and handler.”

The “Puppy Start Right Preschool” group class is done indoors in a safe environment, Skee said, and focuses

Mis Amigos Pet Center

What: A full-service boarding and doggie daycare facility, offering grooming and a variety of training classes

Where: 11745 Hwy. 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061

Hours: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday (pickups allowed by prior arrangement only at 5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday)

Contact/info: 575-388-4101; Toll-free 888-388-4101; misamigospetcare@gmail.com; www.misamigospetcare.com

Mobile: Search your app store for “Mis Amigos Pet Care” to download the new Mis Amigos Loyalty app to receive notifications of special offers and deals, see schedules, get alerts and more



on housebreaking, chewing, problem prevention, and particularly, socialization to get the puppy and its owner off to a good start.

"We want to give pet parents skills they need to survive puppydom," she said.

Skee mentioned that a tricks class may be in the works. In addition to training on-site, she offers in-home training consultations.

Skee and her daughter are graduates of the Karen Pryor Academy, a positive-reinforcement animal training system with innovative programs designed for both aspiring and experienced trainers, its website states.

"Dogs are motivated to do things," she said, and a good trainer is willing to do learn how to motivate them. "(Dogs) learn what's expected of them. Training is just communication."

Grooming for both dogs and cats is offered by appointment — though nail trims are offered on a walk-in basis.

The boarding facility offers cats a personal condominium with turnout time in the cat room. Each condo is divided into three areas: a bedroom, a litter pan area and a bird observation area. Dog owners have a choice between regular or large dog runs (indoor/outdoor with a doggy door) or a luxury suite. The floors are heated for comfort, and soothing music creates a relaxed atmosphere. Dog beds are provided, as well as outdoor play time. A variety of packages with extra services are available.

Everything you need to know about paperwork, vaccine records, what to bring and the various services are neatly included in a Mis Amigos welcome packet, available at the front desk. Learn more at www.misamigospetcare.com.

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575-388-4101 or 1-888-388-4101

Visit our Facebook page—
Mis Amigos Pet Care
and see our customers having fun!
or by dropping by Mis Amigos
www.misamigospetcare.com



Animal Ordinances

Silver City

Adopted Nov. 9, 2016

- Silver City residents are permitted two dogs or two cats or one of each to each dwelling unit. Dogs and cats must be licensed annually. A residential kennel license is allowed.
- It is unlawful for any person to permit dogs or cats to run at large in or on any street, sidewalk or other public property, or upon private property without the permission of the owner.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet or contained within a fenced area with adequate exercise space. There are restrictions on tethering or chaining dogs.
- No person shall allow an animal to defecate upon public property or upon any private property other than the property of the owner of the animal without immediately and thoroughly disposing of the feces in a sanitary fashion.
- Keeping fowl, game birds, and livestock within corporate town limits is prohibited with the exception of: veterinarian hospitals; duly licensed wholesale or retail pet shops; small domestic animals kept in their dwellings.
- Households are permitted six chickens, which must be kept in a predator-proof enclosure in backyards.
- Livestock is permitted in rural areas with a permit which can be obtained from the animal control office.
- Public grazing and hitching is prohibited.
- Any animals found in violation of these ordinances will be collected by an officer and be held until the owner pays a \$15 fee, along with a boarding fee.

Pet Resources

Grant County Animal Shelter

3050 S Cougar Way, Silver City, NM 88062
575-538-9261

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

Email: hdhs@gilanet.com

Website: www.highdeserthumane.org

The High Desert Humane Society operates the shelter which serves as an impoundment organization for Silver City and the unincorporated areas of Grant County, housing animals taken into custody by city and county animal control officers. It offers a spay and neuter program called HALT that is not based on income, reduced rates on animal vaccinations, education programs, pet training services and pet cremations services. It is a 501(c)(3).

Puppy Dog Ranch No-Kill Rescue and Sanctuary

27 Twin Sister Creek Rd, Arenas Valley, NM 88022
575-313-7232

Hours: Open by appointment only, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Website: www.puppydogranch.org

Puppy Dog Ranch is a no-kill and no-cage facility in the Arenas Valley that serves communities within a 100-mile radius. Puppy Dog Ranch rescues abused, abandoned, neglected and

injured dogs living in kill shelters and deemed unadoptable because they are considered to have special needs with medical or emotional challenges and expenses. It rehabilitates and adopts these animals when possible or allows them to live out their lives at the ranch. This 501(c)(3) also is a United Way Charity.

Conali Field Dog Park

Hours: Daily, sunrise to sunset.

On the campus of Western New Mexico University at the corner of N. Virginia and W. 13th streets.

SNAP

P.O. Box 1958, Silver City, NM 88062
575-388-5194; 575-297-9734; 575-519-2762

Email: cbreenlee@yahoo.com

SNAP provides dog and cat spay/neuter assistance available to low-income persons in Grant, Catron and Hidalgo counties. Surgeries are performed at four partnering veterinary clinics in Silver City. Clients must call to make arrangements and a co-pay is required.

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

1 Wall Lake Road
Winston, NM 87943-9000
575-772-5157

Website: www.geronimoranch.com



Gila Back Country Horsemen

find fun in public service

BY TRACY ROY

The Gila chapter of Back Country Horsemen (BCH) not only maintains Gila National Forest and other trails, provides input to the U.S. Forest Service, and assists search and rescue and other organizations, but it has fun doing it.

"I'm a goal-oriented person and I like being out in the woods and this is a way to do both," said Gerry Engel, service project coordinator for the group. "It should be enough just going into the forest on its own without working, but for some reason, I like to do the work, too. It gives me a sense of accomplishment."

Engel, who worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 31 years, said he wanted to continue serving after retirement and finds BCH (and its members) a fun way to enjoy the forest and find fun, energetic people to hang around.

The Gila chapter is one of only eight in New Mexico and 31 in the country, and is the state's largest with about 60 members.

"Our basic mission is to provide service to the U.S. Forest Service to help keep trails open (in the Gila National Forest wilderness areas)," said Doug Dexter, president of the Gila chapter. "It's beneficial for the equine community, but also ... for the biking and hiking community as well."

In 2016, BCH members have cleared trails both inside and outside wilderness areas, including about 17 miles of the Continental Divide Trail. The group logged 100 miles of trail clearing last year, for the second time in its 15 years in operation.

BCH works as an independent group, with its own horses and equipment. Members undergo a safety-certification process through the Forest Service, and first-aid certification every two years. The group occasionally conducts chainsaw and cross cut saw training, which involves a day in the classroom followed by a day of hands-on training. Cross cut saws are used in wilderness areas, as motorized equipment

and wheeled vehicles are not permitted.

The Gila chapter schedules trips and projects at the start of each year, including 6-day excursions a couple times a year. The team rides and works on projects during the days and camps overnight.

"One lady in particular is a heck of a camp cook, so we always come out a little bit bigger than when we went in," Dexter said.

For the past couple of years, the Gila chapter has teamed up with search and rescue organizations, such as the Organ Mountain Tactical Team. When there's a mission that needs equine assistance, Dexter said, the team gets a call to assist. Often, it means packing out tactical equipment after a mission, but they've helped pack out people, too. Engel recalled two incidents, one in which a woman with a broken ankle needed to be carried out and another involved a man stricken with a kidney stone while hiking.

Grant funding helps the group purchase equipment and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ■

Learn More!

The purpose of Back Country Horsemen is to:

- Perpetuate common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness
- Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use
- Assist agencies in maintenance and management
- Foster formation of new Back Country Horsemen Chapters

The Gila chapter meets at 6 p.m., second Wednesday of every month, at Western New Mexico University, Watts Hall. Info: 575-590-3497.

Services for horses

One very important detail that affects horses and their owners is the availability of good veterinarians and farriers. Because every horse owner has their own opinion, a short list follows, with the caveat that many other competent professionals also live and work in the Silver City area.

FARRIERS

Vince Vesely, Diamond Bar V Horse Shoeing – 575-388-0302 or vinceandbertie@msn.com; Tammie Baker at The Shoe Fits Farrier Service, www.facebook.com/tammie.baker.927; Zack Crockett, Training & Farrier Service – 719-250-9000 or crockettEquines@gmail.com

VETERINARIANS

The following veterinarians share the equine work in the Silver City area.

Dr. Clay Allred, Arenas Valley Animal Clinic, 575-388-1993;
Drs. Britton and Shelby Bradberry, Advanced Vet Care, 575-388-1503;
Dr. Kevin Brown, Town and Country Vet Clinic, 575-538-3700.



■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

cover travel expenses. Since 2001, the group has secured nearly \$33,000 in grant funding to keep operations running smoothly. Most recently, it secured funding through Title II funds within the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, that allocates money for the restoration and preservation of federal lands.

Between 2004 and 2016, volunteers have logged 9,647 hours to clear or build 820 miles of trails.

To learn more, visit www.bchnm.org or call 575-590-3497. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at Western New Mexico University, Watts Hall.



Horse rescue provides safe haven

Horse rescue is a vital part of Silver City's eclectic persona, and End of the Road Ranch, which has been in existence since 2005 as a private rescue, does its part. The mission of the End of the Road Ranch is to rescue abused, neglected or endangered equines and provide them with the proper care and good quality of life until a loving home can be found for them.

"Our goal is to ensure that these animals be homed in a forever home," said owner Carol Johnson. "Equines, as well as other animals, are not disposable and we are dedicated to ensuring that these animals are matched with a home that will meet their needs as well as their adopters."

The rescue facility is located on 15 acres just out of the Silver City limits, where the horses have plenty of room just to be horses.

End of the Road Ranch

4092 Mountain View Road

Silver City, New Mexico

575-313-5714

Hours: Open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Email: sanctuary@endoftheroadranchnm.com

Website: www.endoftheroadranchnm.com



Monsoon Puppets

bring joy to local parades

BY VIVIAN SAVITT

During high-spirited annual events like the Gila River Festival and Dia de los Muertos, you will surely behold the whimsical and expressive Monsoon Puppets. Often attached to poles and bicycles, the puppets assert themselves on parade routes with expressions and costumes reflecting the occasion. In the past, puppets have materialized in amazing configurations ranging from dinosaur skeletons to river animals and vinegaroons. An 8-year-old remembered a beloved kitty in skeleton form.

Local bands provide drum and fiddle music during the parades.

Whether young or old, if you are attracted to the theatricality of the circus arts — everything from juggling and stilt walking to creating giant parade puppets — check out the Monsoon Puppets.

In summer, the group holds a two-week circus camp where instruction is offered in “Big Top” activities such as plate spinning, tumbling and clowning. At camp’s end a performance is held to show off newly acquired skills.

The Monsoon Puppets provides an outstanding opportunity for parent-child interaction, and family involvement is the organization’s major goal.

Ultimately, this 10-year-old community group appeals to all who dream of turning papier-mâché, cardboard, unused paint and scrap wood into exciting and expressive

creations. What can’t be fashioned by hand is sought out and collected from thrift shops and attics. Often, the inexpensively-made puppets are reused and refashioned as needed.

Pre-parade workshops are held at the Puppet Loft where 20 to 30 puppets are created for each event. Local artists and carpenters offer guidance to assist puppet makers during these sessions.

One founder of the Monsoon Puppets studied at the Giant Puppet Theater in Minneapolis, while another took courses at the Bread and Puppet Theater in Vermont.



Monsoon Puppets

Contact: mariadb74@yahoo.com

Website: nfo.edu/puppet



Festival of the Written Word planned for 2017

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

Every two years, Silver City's literary laborers emerge from their lamp-lit, book-strewn caves to crack their knuckles, adjust their bloodshot eyes from long nights fueled by endless streams of caffeinated coffee, and head for Bullard Street downtown for the biennial Southwest Festival of the Written Word.

For three days, they mingle with each other, as well as writers from around the country brought in by festival organizers, attend literary talks put on by these people and professors from Western New Mexico University — one of the festival's primary sponsors.

"We've had approximately 600 to 650 (people attend) the first two festivals," said Jeannie Miller, public information chair for the festival's committee. "We estimate that's probably what we will get for 2017. Our goal is to have an intimate festival, we're not interested in being a humongous book festival."

Started in 2013 and in two-year intervals since then, Miller said the festival's workload is what makes it a biennial event.

"We are an all-volunteer organization and it takes a lot of work," she said.

But the committee is still busy even in the off years. On the last weekend of the in-between year (a festival was held in 2013, 2014 was the in-between year, another festival was held in 2015), the committee hosts a smaller-scale version

of the festival called the Prologue Weekend.

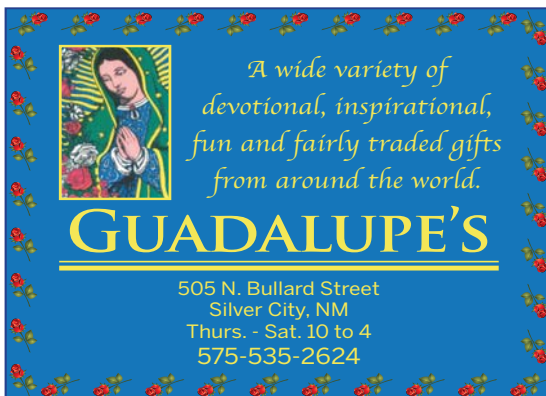
The festival operates on grant funds and donations, Miller said, and none on the committee are paid for their work.

The value of the festival, in addition to providing a specific time and place for the city's writers to network with other writers from around the country, is the benefits received by the downtown's businesses.

"Everything is within walking distance," Miller said. "It helps our local merchants."

Though the committee cannot yet reveal the authors its hoping to bring in this year, Miller said the current tally of invitations sent out is about 30.

The 2017 festival will take place from Friday, Sept. 29, to Sunday, Oct. 1, and is free and open to the public.



*A wide variety of
devotional, inspirational,
fun and fairly traded gifts
from around the world.*

GUADALUPE'S

505 N. Bullard Street
Silver City, NM
Thurs. - Sat. 10 to 4
575-535-2624



Clay Festival enters its 6th year

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

One doesn't have to look too hard to recognize clay is an integral component in Silver City's architecture.

In its downtown strip, outdoor steps are embossed with colorful tiles depicting various animals and symbols. The bases of downtown's entry arch feature tiles on all four sides. And tiles play an especially important part in decorating Penny Park, where children and their families congregate to play and bond.

Beloved by the city, clay has been the focus of a week-long festival celebrating its many uses, both practical and artistic, since 2012.

The Clay Festival was originated by Lee Gruber, who with her husband owns Silver City's Syzygy Tile company. She's also the chair of the board of directors of Silver City's Arts & Cultural District, a program co-administered by private entities and the state Department of Cultural Affairs.

"The state of New Mexico asked each arts and cultural district (eight in all) to develop 'a signature event' to represent the community," Gruber said.

Owning a tile business, a festival centered on the many uses of clay was a natural step for her, Gruber said.

"I really believe the state is very much intertwined with

clay and mud and dirt and adobe," she said.

Gruber said clay is representative of all of New Mexico's culture, as it has an extensive history of use by the Spanish, the Mexicans and the Native Americans.

"The festival has grown each year," Gruber said. "Last year we had about 3,000 people attend."

The festival features guest lectures on the history, usage and best practices when working with clay and Silver City's Bullard Street is often congested with clay artists plying their trade.

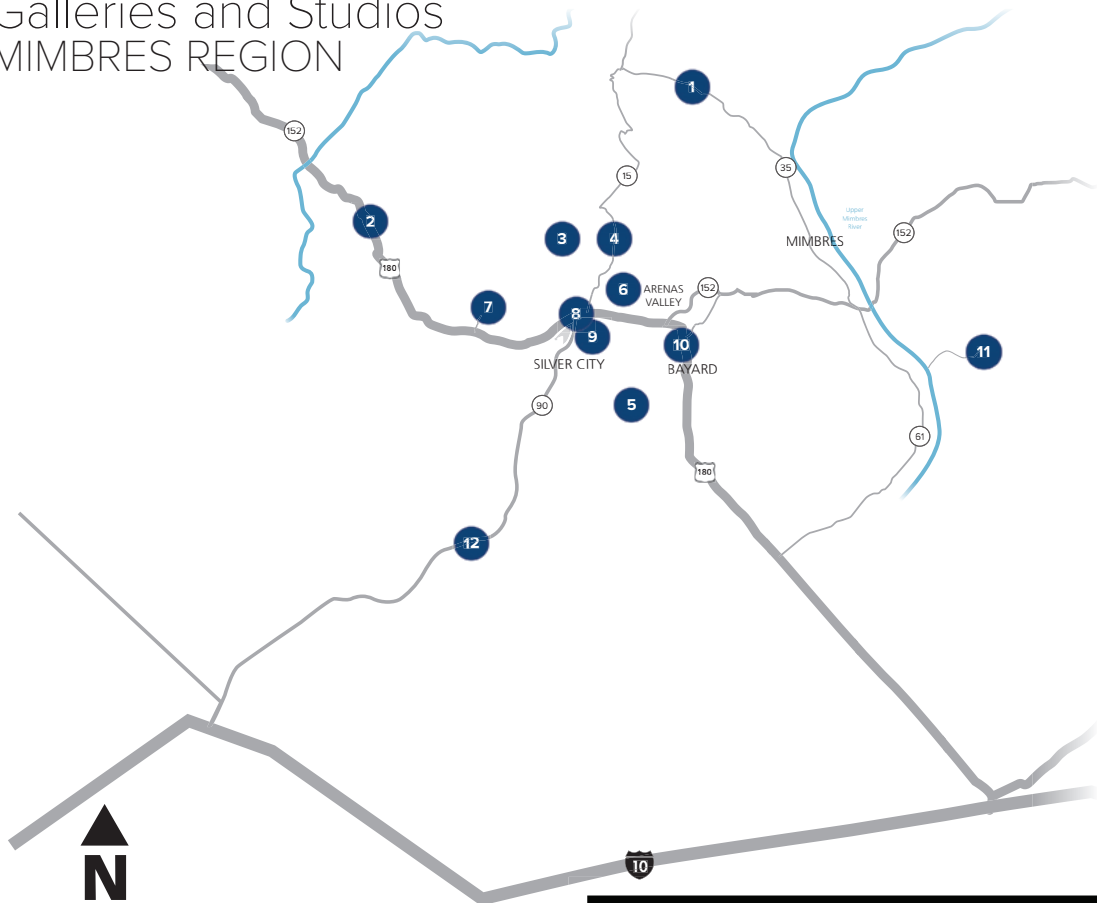
This year's festival includes presentations and workshops involving art, archaeology, food and land, mining and geology, and petroglyphs.

A farm-to-table fundraising opening event features a multi-course dinner prepared by Rita Herbst of the Volunteer Center with the help of middle and high school students in the Rooted program. The dinner will be prepared using locally farmed produce and meats. Attendees are invited to bring their favorite ceramic dishware and a prize will be awarded for the best place-setting.

The 2017 festival will run from July 22-30. Find more information at clayfestival.com.



Galleries and Studios MIMBRES REGION



1. **Chamomile Connection** 3918 Highway 35N, Mimbres, 575-536-9845
2. **Gila River Artisans Gallery** 8409 Highway 180, Cliff
3. **Studio Behind the Mountain** 23 Wagon Wheel Lane
4. **Pinos Altos Art Gallery-Hearst Church Gallery**
14 Golden Ave., Pinos Altos
5. **Victoria Chick - Cow Trail Studio** 119 Cow Trail
6. **Wind Canyon Studio** 11 Quail Run
7. **Mary's Fine Art** 414 E. 21st St., Silver City
8. **Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio** 105
Country Road, Silver City 575-534-0530
9. **Kathryn Allen Clay Studio** 601 Erie St., Bayard,
575-537-3332
10. **Works by Barbara Harrison and Others** 21 Latigo Trail,
Silver City
11. **Kate Brown Pottery and Tile**, San Lorenzo,
505-536-9935
12. **Alaska Mudhead Studio-Gallery**, 371 Camino de Vento
in Wind Canyon, 907-783-2780

MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL

building inspired communities

Silver City
Blues Festival

SouthWest Print Fiesta!

Performance Series




Indie/Folk Series

Fine Arts Fridays
for Schools

Youth Mural Program

Arte Para Todos
Youth Outreach



MIMBRESARTS.ORG | 575.538.2505 |   
1201 North Pope Street, Silver City, NM 88061



Silver City *Festivals*

SPRING CDTC TRAIL DAYS

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition hosts CDTC Trail Days to educate and expose people to the Continental Divide Trail. During the event, various locations will feature entertainment, drawings, seminars, group hikes and gear testing. Info: <http://continentaldividetrail.org/cdct-events>

HURLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

Held each year in May, this one-day festival and car show, held at Hurley Park, includes 20 classes of cars, food, vendors, music, raffles, jumping balloons, games and free trolley rides. Info: 575-956-3535

SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL

Hosted by Mimbres Region Arts Council, the festival showcases "local and rising stars" with a series of free performances over Memorial Day Weekend. The 2017 festival will be held May 26-28, mostly at Gough Park, off Pope Street in Silver City. Info: <http://www.silvercitybluesfestival.org>.

TOUR OF THE GILA

The Tour of the Gila has attracted competitive cyclists both amateur and professional from around the world. The annual race give opportunities for aspiring cyclists to participate on much of the same course and terrain as the UCI professional men and women. Info: tourofthegila.com

WILD, WILD WEST PRO RODEO

The annual PRCA Rodeo features high-flying bull riding, fast riding and roping and much more, all under the cool New Mexico evening skies. Events are held at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off of US Hwy 180 and Caballero Road just east of Silver City, New Mexico. The 2017 event will be held May

31-June 3 and is celebrating 27 years. Info: <https://silvercityprorodeo.com>

SUMMER COPPER COUNTRY CRUIZERS CAR SHOW

Held annually by the car club Copper Country Cruizers, the one-day car show features a hot dog burn, live music, multiple raffles, trophy winner parade and more. This year's festival will be held Aug. 19, at Gough Park. Info: www.coppercountrycruizers.com

FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL

Held every two years, the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective draws an audience from the entire Southwest, and includes local and national vendors, classes and exhibits. Info: <http://fiberartscollective.org/fiber-arts-festival>

HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

The Hummingbird Festival celebrates the small yet fierce birds in a variety of ways. Literature, art, guest speakers and live entertainment highlight the festival, held in July at Little Toad Creek Inn & Tavern near Lake Roberts. Info: 575-536-9649.

ROLLING STONES GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Labor Day weekend brings each year the Grant County Rolling Stones Annual Gem and Mineral Show, in which vendors display high-quality gems, minerals and jewelry. The free show got its start in 1983 and now features more than 40 vendors, a silent auction, "Wheel of Fortune" for kids and exhibits Saturday through Monday. For information, visit www.Rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

RUN TO COPPER COUNTRY CAR SHOW

The Run to Copper Country Car Show, sponsored by Grant County's Copper Country Cruizers, is held

mid-August at Gough Park in Downtown Silver City. It includes a hot dog burn, music, prizes and raffles, and a car show. Proceeds benefit local charities and support a scholarship fund. Info: 575-524-2186 or email coppercountrycruisers@gmail.com

SILVER CITY CLAY FESTIVAL

The signature event of the Silver City Arts and Cultural District, the Silver City Clay Festival takes place in late July into early August. It's a weeklong event that celebrates clay in all its forms at a variety of venues. Info: www.clayfestival.com

SOUTHWEST PRINT FIESTA

A new festival, the Southwest Print Fiesta features original fine art prints, letterpress creations, printed wearables and more, for sale by regional artists and print studio collectives. The inaugural festival was held in 2016. Info: www.southwestprintfiesta.org

FALL

DAY OF THE DEAD

Spread out over several days, from Oct. 30 through Nov. 4, Downtown Silver City observes Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with a parade, music, family crafts, traditional art and food, in addition to paying homage to those who have passed away. Info: <http://silvercitytourism.org>

FORT BAYARD DAYS

Typically held in September, Fort Bayard Days exhibits more than 20 living history stations that bring to life the fort's historic significance. The fort played an integral role in protecting settlers and miners in the 1800s and housed Buffalo soldiers during the Civil War, who fought against Apache warriors. During Fort Bayard Days, volunteers dress in period costume and show attendees what life was like during its heyday. It usually includes a flag ceremony, games for kids, tours, lunch, lectures, dinner and a military ball. Info: fortbayard.org

GILA RIVER FESTIVAL

The annual Gila River Festival, in its 13th year in 2017, celebrates the bounty of the Gila River and highlights its threats and challenges in late September each year. Put on by the Gila Conservation Coalition, the festival explores the relationship between man, technology, nature and that relationship's impact on the Gila River watershed. The event typically offers expert-guided field trips, a Gila River kayak trip, a Gila River bus tour and a puppet parade. Info: www.gilaconservation.org

GRANT COUNTY FAIR

The Grant County Fair supports and showcases agriculture and youth education. Ribbons, plaques and trophies are awarded in a wide variety of categories such as livestock, jams and jellies, handicrafts and baked goods. A rodeo, music acts and other attractions are also part of the week-long celebration. In 2017, it will be held Sept. 20-24 in Cliff, New Mexico. Info: www.grantcountyfairnm.com

MIMBRES VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL & HEALTH FAIR

The harvest festival encourages local agriculture through education, showcases locally grown food and handmade products, and promotes tourism to

the Mimbres Valley. Children's activities focus on fitness. Local musicians provide music along with local storytellers telling of the Valley's heritage past and present. Info: www.mimbresharvestfest.com

RED DOT ART WEEKENDS

The first two weekends in October, Silver City comes alive with art during Red Dot Art Weekends. The event gives visitors an opportunity to mingle with artists, tour area galleries and art studios, attend opening receptions for exhibits and enjoy live music, food specials and entertainment. The annual event is hosted by the Silver City Art Association. Info: www.silvercitygalleries.com

RED HOT CHILDREN'S FIESTA

Hosted by the Grant County Community Health Council and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, the Red Hot Children's Fiesta a child development and resource fair held at Penny Park, 1305 N. Grant St. It offers activities and giveaways for the whole family. Info: gcchc.org

SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD

The Southwest Festival of the Written Word does just what it says: celebrates writers of all types. It is held during the first weekend of October, but the event differs on odd- and even-numbered years. On even-numbered years, the event is dubbed "Prologue Weekend" and offers writing workshops, author readings, book-art exhibitions and literary meet and greets. On odd-numbered years, more than 50 writers, agents and publishers gather for a weekend of literary events, to be held Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2017. Between events, SWFWW offers workshops and other events. Info: www.swwordfiesta.org

TASTE OF DOWNTOWN

Held over Labor Day weekend, Taste of Downtown lets participants experience unique cuisine and fun foods, as well as a pie contest, including about 14 locations that offer a wide variety of treats and delicacies. Info: www.silvercitymainstreet.com

WINTER

CHOCOLATE FANTASIA

Every year close to Valentine's day, about a dozen locations in historic Downtown Silver City offer samplings of sweet treats during Chocolate Fantasia, highlighting Grant County's confectioners with recipes to make your mouth water. Visitors can stroll the streets, shop, listen to live music and taste a variety of gourmet chocolate creations. "Chocolate Stop" maps and empty Valentine boxes are provided, and a sampling ticket lets you try 20 pieces of chocolate. Info: <http://mimbresarts.org/chocolate-fantasia>

TAMAL FIESTA Y MÁS

Held each year on the first Saturday in December, this fiesta celebrates traditional Christmastime treats such as tamales, bizcochos, Mexican hot chocolate and red-chile kettle corn. Held Downtown, food and craft vendors greet visitors, shops are open and tamales may be ordered by the dozen. There's a tamal contest, live musical performances, dancing and other fun activities. Info: www.tamalfiestaymas.org



2. **Francis McCray Gallery**
1000 College Ave., WNMU
575-538-6517

3. **The Glasserie Studio and Store**
106 E. College
575-590-0044

4. **[a]SP."A"cE**
110 W. 7th St
575-538-333

5. **Yada Yada Yarn**
621 N. Bullard St.
575-388-3459

6. **Wynnegate Gallery & Studio**
1105 W. Market St.
575-534-9717

7. **Common Ground**
102 W. Kelly
575-534-2087

8. **Guadalupe's**
505 N. Bullard
575-535-2624


9. **Soul River Gallery**
400 N. Bullard St.
707-490-4367

Elemental Artisans
406-B Bullard St.
215-593-6738

10. **Zoe's Gallery**
305 N. Cooper St
575-654-4910

12
Lyon St.

1



11. **Tatiana Maria Gallery**
305 N. Bullard St.
575-388-4426

Leyba & Ingalls Arts
315 N. Bullard St
575-388-5725

12. **The Cliffs Studio**
205 N. Lyon St
575-622-0251

13. **Finn's Gallery**
300 N. Arizona St. 406-
790-0573

14. **Seedboat Gallery**
214 W. Yankee St
575-534-1136

15. **Blue Dome Gallery**
307 N. Texas
575-534-8671

16. **The Makery**
108 W. Yankee St
575-590-1263

Moonstruck Art
110 W. Yankie St.
575-654-5604

Cooper St.
ayard St.

W. Broadway St.

W. Spring St.

17. **Copper Quail Gallery**
211-A Texas St.
575-388-2646

Lois Duffy Art Studio
211-C N. Texas
575-534-0822

Wild West Weaving
211-D N. Texas
575-313-1032

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

19. **Lloyd Studios**
306 W. Broadway
575-590-1110

20. **Lumiere Editions**
108 W. Broadway
575-956-6369

21. **The Place
on the Corner**
201 N. Bullard St.
575-388-5262

Raven's Nest Gallery
201 N. Bullard St.
575-534-9323

Market St.

Yankee St.

13 14 15 17

N. Arizona 22

**Molly Ramolla Gallery
& Framing**
203 N. Bullard

575-538-5538

**Ol' West Gallery &
Mercantile**

104 W. Broadway
575-388-1811

22. **Manzanita Ridge**
107 N. Bullard St.
575-388-1158

Studio Upstairs
109 N. Bullard St.

23. Syzygy Tile Gallery

Yesterday peeks through *Downtown Silver City is a place to enjoy*

BY MARTY RACINE

There is no getting around it. Silver City's historic downtown is shaped by the epic flood of 1902 that wiped out Main Street, created the Big Ditch and transformed Bullard Street, Main's parallel drive one block to the west, into the town's commercial center after stores linking the two streets simply turned their fronts around.

Think about it: Silver City's founders in all their wisdom platted their main thoroughfare smack down the middle of a flood plain. It had withstood previous torrents, such as the flood of 1895, but eventually grazing and logging on surrounding hillsides created a perfect vessel for a rainstorm-generated gush of water that changed the town's heart and soul forever.

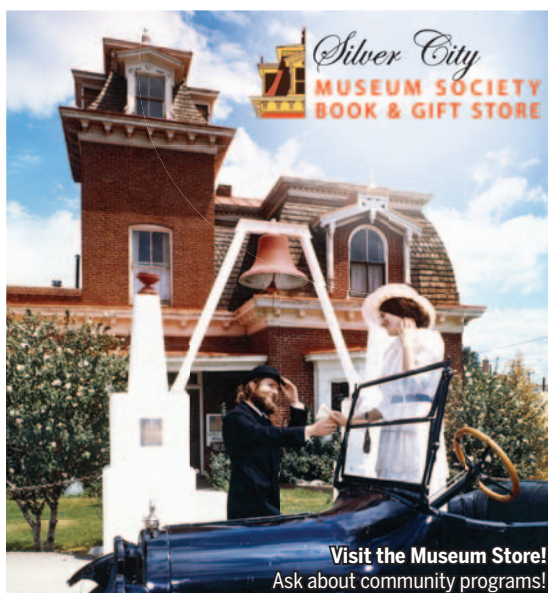
The Big Ditch, much like railroad tracks and modern freeways, also came to symbolize the divide between Silver's poor and prosperous sides. East of the ditch, where the red-light district once served the roustabouts who flocked to a strike of precious metals, are modest neighborhoods, the U.S. Post Office, a few quiet restaurants and what passes for Silver's urban sprawl, with the usual suspects of franchises and in-and-out shopping. It is an area to drive through. To the west are the picturesque downtown and adjacent historic residential districts that tourists identify as a reason to visit this old mining town. Here, you will actually find pedestrians.

Downtown is usually defined by the boundaries of Spring on the south end, Black (west), College (north) and Bullard (east).

It is a slow-moving (vehicles, watch your speed) seven-

by-seven-block grid of bars, cafes, coffee houses, museums, landmark buildings, theaters, studios and galleries that harkens back to small-town America before the onslaught

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 ■



Visit the Museum Store!
Ask about community programs!

Join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2017

Visit our special exhibition,
"50 Years Ago in Silver City"

312 West Broadway • 575-538-5921
silvercitymuseum.org

Image courtesy of Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.



■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

of big-box peripheries. It is a place that calls to your imagination and an inclination to just amble on the steep, old-fashioned sidewalks that stand tall against a vanishing era.

The historic district and its side neighborhoods were established back in the 1970s, aiding any preservation efforts and placing Silver City ahead of the curve in recognizing the value of history-based tourism. Consequently, artists, entrepreneurs and adventurers moved in, injecting an urban pulse and hip vibe to an otherwise small town.

“Without the support of the town, we would not be able to do any of this,” says Lucy Whitmarsh, executive director of the Silver City Main Street Project. “The fact that they have preserved the downtown is very significant. And people come here to see something different; they don’t want to see the same old stuff. And we want to retain our authenticity, because if we don’t we’d be like everywhere else.”

But now the defined area is poised to expand southward, to what is called the Warehouse District a few blocks below Broadway. Back behind some old buildings and empty lots, up close to the Big Ditch and where the trains once steamed in, Little Toad Creek brewery and distillery is moving

their production headquarters (plus a store and tasting room) from miles away at Lake Roberts into a shambling warehouse.

“It’s like Santa Fe and their Railyard (District), if not on that scale,” Whitmarsh says. “It’s that kind of synergy. I definitely think it will spur activity in that area. It will be a big deal for that part of town.”

Another draw to downtown is the San Vicente Trail, an urban trailhead for, or connector to, the nearby and meandering hiker-friendly Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that spans 3,000 miles over the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada. There’s also a hiking trail in nearby Boston Hill just to the west, site of the first mines in the region.

And everywhere you look, you see yesterday peeking through the walls and storefronts, as if the old days came here to rest and got toned up to their former glory. You look at this throwback downtown and the intersections that stitch it together and see a place that’s eccentric and miner-hardy enough to survive the elements and all the booms and busts of ore production. You see a place that’s just grateful to be here.

DOWNTOWN LANDMARKS



Silver City Restaurants

SILVER CITY

1ZERO6, 106 N. Texas St.,
575-313-4418

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ,
1617 Silver Heights Blvd.,
575-538-3665

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

**CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR
MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear
Mountain Ranch Road,
575-538-2538

CHINESE PALACE, 1010
Highway 180E, 575-538-9300

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila
Regional Medical Center,
575-538-4094

DIANE'S RESTAURANT,
510 N. Bullard St.,
575-538-8722

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI,
The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St.,
575-534-9229

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS,
418 Silver Heights Blvd.,
575-538-5440

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE,
711 Silver Heights Blvd.,
575-538-2916

EL GALLO PINTO, 901 N.
Hudson St., 575-597-4559

FORREST'S PIZZA, 601 N.
Bullard St. Unit J.,
575-388-1225

FRY HOUSE, 601 N. Bullard St.
Suite C, 575-388-1964

GIL-A BEANS,
1304 N. Bennett St.

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver
Heights Blvd., 575-388-2323

GRANDMA'S CAFÉ, 900 Silver
Heights Blvd., 575-388-2627

GRINDER MILL, 403 W.
College Ave., 575-538-3366

HEALTHY EATS, 303 E. 13th
St., 575-534-9404

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard
St., 388-2060

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE,
117 Market St., 575-388-1350

JUMPING CACTUS, 503 N.
Bullard St.

KOUNTRY KITCHEN,
1700 Mountain View Road,
575-388-4512

LA COCINA RESTAURANT,
201 W. College Ave.,
575-388-8687

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson
St., 575-388-4600

LA MEXICANA, Highway 180E
and Memory Lane,
575-534-0142

**LITTLE TOAD CREEK
BREWERY & DISTILLERY**,
200 N. Bullard St.,
575-956- 6144

MARKET CAFÉ, 614 Bullard St.,
575-956-6487

MEXICO VIEJO, Highway 90
and Broadway

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr.,
575-538- 5533

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 602
N. Bullard St., 575-597-2253

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N.
Bullard St., 575-388-3480

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM,
312 N. Bullard St.,
575-388-8600

**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND
BREWERY**, 101 E. College Ave.,
575-534- 4401

REVEL, 304 N. Bullard St., 575-
388-4920

**SILVER BOWLING CENTER
CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane,
575-538-3612

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N.
Hudson, 575-388-2027

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E.
32nd St., 575-534-9565

TAPAS TREE, 601 N. Bullard St.
in The Hub

**TERRY'S ORIGINAL
BARBEQUE**, Highway 180 and
Ranch Club Road

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N.
Bullard St., 575-654-4919

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas,
575-388- 5430

WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL,
2005 Hwy. 180E, 575-538-4387

BAYARD

FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP, 1108
Tom Foy Blvd.

LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy
Blvd., 575-537-3526

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy
Blvd., 575-654-4109

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N.
Central Ave., 575-537-2251

SPANISH CAFÉ, 106 Central
Ave., 575-537-2640

SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy
Blvd., 575-537-0500

CLIFF

D'S CAFÉ, 8409 Highway 180

PARKEY'S, 8414 Highway
180W, 575-535-4000

MIMBRES

ELK X-ING CAFÉ,
352-212-0448

RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676
Highway 35, San Lorenzo

PINOS ALTOS

**BUCKHORN SALOON AND
OPERA HOUSE**, Main Street,
575-538-9911



Silver City Museum celebrates 50 years in 2017

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Fifty years ago, in Grant County, the Silver City Museum was born. The museum spent its first three years sharing the historic Ailman House building with the firehouse, according to Carmen Vendelin, museum director.

“The museum opened on July 1, 1967,” Vendelin said. “We are going to tell that story.”

The exhibit for the year is about the times, she said.

“The exhibition is more than just the museum — it’s about how life was in 1967,” Vendelin said. “We have memorabilia and photos that make people think of that time period. And we will be sharing some of the first objects the museum took at the time.”

In 1974, the Silver City train depot was torn down and that occasion galvanized the community to do more historic preservation. Items from the depot were some of the first things collected for the museum, she said.

The exhibition addresses issues that were controversial in 1967 as well, she said. From the Vietnam War to civil rights and a legacy of segregation between Hispanic and

Anglo populations. The Tyrone Mine opened in 1967 and the Santa Rita Mine moved. It was clearly a busy year in Silver City and the museum reflects all of it.

The 50-year exhibition opens on May 19 and will be on display through Dec. 31, 2017. An ice cream social on May 20 celebrates the opening with a Beatles cover band performing. Vendelin said a lot of programming is planned throughout the year.

In July, the music of the time will be played and celebrated; in August is a program on the popular culture of the 1960s and '70s; in September, they will talk about segregation issues; in October, the subject is crime and policing with a panel of crime fighters from then and now; and in November, Vietnam veterans will speak.

Silver City Museum

312 W. Broadway Ave., Silver City, N.M. 88061

575-538-5921

Silvercitymuseum.org



Mountain biking

made accessible, affordable to all

BY LISA MAUE

"There have been a lot of changes in bikes," said Chris Schlabach of Gila Hike & Bike in Silver City. "The nice thing is the trickledown effect. What was expensive 10 years ago is now commonplace. Whether it is suspension, hydraulic disc brakes, tubeless tires or 29-inch wheels that roll over stuff better, you can get a really good trail bike and not break the bank."

Schlabach explained some of the recent advancements to mountain bikes that allow for an enjoyable experience for riders of all abilities at prices in the \$500 to \$1500 range.

There are many places for beginners to ride including Fort Bayard, the Dragonfly Loop, Little Walnut and the Continental Divide Trail. Resources such as www.mtbproject.com offer elevation profiles, distances and rates trails by difficulty. For group rides, SilverCityCycling on Google Groups lists local rides and events.

In addition to the technical aspects of mountain biking, Schlabach also has down-to-earth advice.

"You wouldn't expect to be a master chef in no time, so try things on your own time and skill level. Find a group of people you are comfortable with, ask questions and, most of all, practice patience," he said.

Some things to consider:

- **Stand over height:** According to Schlabach, this is the most important part of measuring a bike. Facing forward

and straddling the top bar with the seat hitting the lower back, the minimum distance between crotch and bar should be 1 inch, with a maximum of 8 inches.

- **Wheel size:** 29-inch wheels are a good choice for trail rides. Riders less than 5 feet 6 inches tall should look at a 27.5 or 26-inch wheel size.

- **Tires:** While most trail bikes have tires ranging in width from 2 to 2.4 inches, "fat" bikes have tires that range from 3.7 to 5 inches wide. Fat bikes have excellent traction and, inflated to just 6 to 10 psi, can ride over sand and snow while offering a forgiving ride on rougher terrain. Tubeless tires are also available. A small amount of liquid latex inside the tire seals small punctures, reducing the number of flats.

- **Suspension:** Options include full (front and back), hardtail (front only) or none at all. For fat bikes, the tires do all the absorbing. Hardtails have a suspension fork in the front, allowing the front tire to track correctly and have fewer moving parts, reducing price. Riders with back problems may benefit from a full suspension bike's plush ride.

- **Brakes:** Disc brakes use a hose and reservoir filled with hydraulic fluid. One-finger braking is possible through hydraulic force in a disc brake setup like a car. The brake is located on the hub so mud, water and snow are non-issues and brake rub is reduced.

- **Drivetrain:** Rather than multiple gears both front and back, 1x drivetrains have a single front chain ring and a

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

wide range in the back cassette with a single shifter on the handle bar. It makes shifting gears easier but is, for now, costlier.

- **Accessories:** Spills are part of the experience. Helmets today are light and comfortable. Full-finger padded gloves can protect hands in case of a fall. Pedals with pegs allow the shoe to grip. Clipped-in pedals are a good option since they allow upward force on the pedal stroke and keep feet secure. They require unclipping practice, so riders should be comfortable with a bike before changing. A spare-parts kit should include a small hand pump, a spare tube, in case a tire is severely cut, patch kit, extra food and a hydration pack. Sunglasses and sunscreen offer protection from the intense UV rays at Silver City's elevation.

- **Women and children:** Look for a women's specific bike with bike sizing, saddles and other features designed for women. Children's bikes are available. The most popular wheel size is 24 inches for children aged 7 to 12. Many bike shops, cognizant of the rate children grow, offer trade-in programs.

- **Test ride:** Try out the bike(s) you are considering. Some shops apply previous rental fees to the purchase price of a bike sold in the store, so rent a bike and give it a real trail ride.



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Fishing at the Gila River

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

If you're a fisher(wo)man, the Gila River flowing north of Silver City is the ideal location for you to fold up some camping chairs, load a cooler full of your favorite beverage and head outdoors.

Rainbow trout are the river's primary game fish, but smallmouth bass, catfish, brown trout and sunfish are also present underneath the sparkling waters.

Fly-fishing is the most common approach to fishing the river, with some fisherman boasting catches upward of three pounds caught on wet flies.

The middle fork of the Gila is home to the river's brown trout population. This part of the river can be accessed through the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. Brown trout can exceed 17 inches in length, though 10-inchers are more common.

The west fork of the river is also easily accessed through the cliff dwellings and houses the majority of the river's rainbow trout population. Both wet and dry flies can be effective. A noteworthy inhabitant of the west fork is the Gila trout—an endangered species that is found in few other places—as well as Gila rainbow trout, a hybrid fish.

Because of the Gila trout's endangered status, the state Game & Fish Department has placed restrictions on fishing for this species. Around the villages of Mogollon, Glenwood and Pleasanton, there is a two-Gila-trout limit. Along the west fork of the river, there is a five-trout limit on other breeds.

Along Mogollon Creek and Black Canyon, these are catch-and-release areas that are currently undergoing Gila trout restoration processes by the game department.

Colorful architectural history

shows Silver was built to last

BY MARTY RACINE

At first glance, Silver City does not strike one as typically “Southwestern,” not in the Hispanic and flat-roofed-style as, say, the Pueblo Revival and Territorial looks of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Taos or Santa Fe.

Beneath Silver’s Victorian charm and Eastern affectations, however, lies a building code that began with the basic material of adobe. For Anglo newcomers flocking to the riches promised by gleaming metal, earthen blocks were cheap and accessible, and good dirt informed the earliest structures of the mid-1800s with a crude, if functional, design.

In time, adobe dwellings adopted sophisticated flourishes such as gabled roofs, lintels, porches, courtyards and wood trim. Many, of course, have long since been demolished, while some remain on what is now known as Chihuahua Hill, settled primarily by Mexicans artful in the mining industries back home in the states of Chihuahua and Sonora.

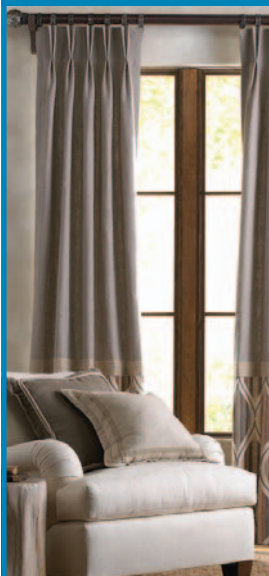
The surrounding mountains and canyons also provided the bustling mining town with lumber and brick clay, and the sawmills and brickyards were essential to the building boom of the 1870s. Bricks were stacked for edifices that reminded proud sophisticates of their departed cities of the East and Midwest. That high-minded attitude, indeed, is concurrent with Silver’s historical self-image as not a ramshackle frontier outpost, but rather a Western replication of civilized means; never mind that brick was costly, more difficult to produce and less insular than earthen block.

As a result, Silver City did not sport the “false-front” look of other Old West towns.

In the 1880s, brick masonry became prominent, due

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48 ■

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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

in part to an ordinance that forbade wooden structures because of fire hazard. Unlike mining towns throughout the mountain West, Silver City began to appear as a city built to last.

Row houses were constructed to house the influx of miners (and even the less-savory professions that accompanied sudden wealth).

Also in that decade, prosperous men of wealth and power built elaborate, brick-and-stone “modern style” homes for their families, embellished with cupolas, Mansard (French-inspired) roofs, staircases, bay windows and other furnishings in an Italianate style befitting their social standing. Two of the more prominent were twin mansions (built from identical floor plans) on Broadway, built in 1881 and home to the H.B. Ailman and H.M. Meredith families. Today, the partially renovated Ailman home serves as the Silver City Museum.

It might be said that the year 1883 was a pivotal marker in Silver City’s future. Incandescent street lamps were erected in the downtown area of Main and Bullard streets, and the telephone and railroad arrived. Women also brought a patina of culture in support of new churches, schools and hospitals, mostly built of brick.

Later in the decade, a scattering of houses known as Black’s Addition, named after noted building contractor Robert Black, was incorporated into the Silver City township. The middle-class homes were attractive, if not ostentatious, made of adobe and brick over-stone foundations, square in design with low, parapet roofs.

By the turn of the century, metal, cast iron and pressed

tin were introduced into building construction. Plate-glass windows were featured, and ornamental brickwork over doors and windows adorned more stately structures.

Yet, the Queen Anne Victorian style of the previous multi-storied Gilded Age that arose with boom-and-bust fortunes was now being applied to homes of a smaller, more realistic scale. The detailed embellishments such as leaded glass, verandas and cupolas, were still in vogue, but they were applied in more sensible dimensions.

This evolved into the Craftsman movement, which largely defines Silver City to this day — homes that emphasized function, modesty and simplicity while still valuing quality and design.

Concrete also entered the picture, and was prized for its insulating properties.

By the 1920s, the adobe-and-viga huts on Chihuahua Hill were being replaced by homes that more resembled the rest of Silver City.

Functional additions to buildings also corresponded to the installation of a city water system (lawns) and the arrival of the automobile (garages). Architectural trends emphasized the Tudor and “Hipped Box” look. Facelifts of downtown buildings included the plate glass windows, arched doorways, marbled counters, wood-paneled offices, and stucco and tile.

Unfortunately, many of the original adobe, brick and wood-framed buildings in Silver City were demolished in the mid-20th century in “restoration” drives. Only since the 1960s, with the advent of a historical consciousness borne of economic exigency and community pride, has the town begun honoring and appreciating its colorful past.

Volunteer Center

welcomes families with youth-centered programs

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

At the Volunteer Center in Silver City, Rita Herbst heads the kitchen, which is the heart of the center. During its myriad programs and projects, the center includes youth and family activities which largely take place in the kitchen.

Herbst said the center partners with the Grant County Youth Business Initiative to work with the Minor's Menace club who are creating a product, root beer, utilizing the kitchen. The club, with a mission to create a business centered on traditional, delicious and relatively healthy root beer, is working to perfect its product.

On every third Wednesday of the month the Volunteer Center hosts Family Cook Night, always focused around

a special theme. For example, in February, the theme was fire, and together staff and families (everyone welcome) prepared grilled corn salsa, fire-roasted kabobs and banana boats for a flaming dessert.

Herbst said the summer Rooted Internship Program works with youth ages 13-17. The program is about food systems and meets three days a week.

In the past, JPO youth were part of the program and they did a lot of work, even built the whole greenhouse at the center.

"We focus on recognizing the unique needs of the students," Herbst said.

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This year, Herbst hopes to expand the Rooted Program. Participants will learn about the food processes from growing to cooking and even to having their own booth at the farmer's market in Silver City where they can sell fresh produce and products they have also made themselves.

The Rooted interns encounter three areas of instruction: gardening, cooking and lectures about subjects such as food justice and food as medicine. All the instruction is in conjunction with the Volunteer Center's mission as a center for food security and sustainability.

"We talk about these issues of the industrialization of food and how that affects Grant County, what food deserts are, and why it's important to be autonomous and be sustainable and be able to hold on to our food traditions," instructor Karen Diaz told the Silver City Daily Press during the 2016 program.

The teachers' goals are not only to instruct but to guide and involve the students. They learn about self-sufficiency, farming, planting and gardening as well as working toward career options.

For the annual Clay Festival, the Rooted students will be providing the dinner launch for the event. All the students will have earned their food handlers' cards by then and produce the entire meal as well as serve it on July 22.

Learn More!

What: Family programs at the Volunteer Center

Info: 575-388-2988

Organizations and Daycares

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Girl Scouts Little House

302 W. 11th St.

575-538-2481

Gsdsw.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters

109 W. Broadway St.

575-538-5786

Mimbres Region Arts Council

Youth Mural Camp

1201 N. Pope St.

575-538-2505

Mimbresarts.org/youth-mural-camp/

Silver City Soccer Club

Gregory Koury, MD

P.O. Box 2337, Silver City, NM 88062

575-313-4211

Silvercitysoccer.com

Grant County Youth Soccer League

2109 Pinos Altos Road

575-313-0120

Grantcountysoccer.org

PRESCHOOLS/DAYCARE

Baby Boot Camp Child Care Center

2609 Camino del Bosque

575-388-2620

El Grito Head Start

303 S. Cooper St.

575-538-5459

Elgritosc.com

Guadalupe Montessori School

1731 N. Alabama St.

575-388-3343

Little Lambs Day Care

300 W. College Ave.

575-538-3228

Fumcsc.org

Lil Ones

370 Rosedale Road

575-388-5178

Silver High School Day Care

600 E 32nd St.

575-388-1289



Silver City Girl Scouts explore, help the community

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

Silver City has a charm to it like Ruidoso and Cloudcroft. Perhaps the charm originates in the city's mountainous geography, which might have deterred other settlers, but not those who came to Silver City. Strong-willed people insisted on building a town up and down the slopes.

Then, of course, the city is surrounded by forest in a massive green hug. Boston Hill offers ample hiking opportunities through a vast variety of landscapes.

And the city's elevation gives it a natural coolness that attracts people to the outdoors who may, in other consistently warmer climates, shy away from such activities as hiking.

This may explain why so many people are involved in Girl Scouts in Silver City and Grant County at large.

Membership manager Annette Toney has been working at Girls Scouts of the Desert Southwest in Silver City for the past 16 years.

Of the approximate 1,800 girls in Grant County, Toney said, about 11 percent or 217 are involved in Girl Scouts through Grant County's 15 troops. Additionally, the parents of these Girl Scouts are frequently involved in the organization.

"The troops do some kind of community-service project every month," Toney said.

Past projects include inviting the public to a mother-

daughter tea party at Bayard Community Center, the entry fees for which were used to buy food for the Humane Society.

"We've also collected canned goods to give to the gospel mission," Toney said. "I've had girls who've helped make bird houses for the assisted living centers. We've made quilts for the Silver Care Center."

Each level of Girl Scouts — Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors—has an ever-growing number of badges for the girls to earn, Toney said.

"Almost every (community-service project) that they do will somehow contribute to one of these badges," Toney said.

Girls can join Girl Scouts as young as kindergarten and continue as troop members through their senior years of high school.

"Once they're out of high school, they can register as adult volunteers and start their own troop," Toney said.

The biggest demographic in Toney's troops are second through fifth graders, she said.

Girl Scouts first came to Silver City in 1920, Toney said, initiated by women involved in the former teacher's college at Western New Mexico University.

The building currently housing Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest's program center is a former Civilian Conservation Corps. building, which was donated to the organization in 1946.



Art is a large part *of WNMU's vision*

BY LISA MAUE

Several large sculptures stand quietly on the xeriscaped terraces near Light Hall on College Avenue. Their presence and placement are neither haphazard nor self-serving. Art, in the form of sculpture, music, films, lectures and performance, has become a part of WNMU's vision for itself as an institution. Art is also seen as a bridge to the residents of Silver City and Grant County.

"(President Dr. Joseph) Shepard has a true belief in the power of arts and culture to affect the quality of life for everyone and, in particular, the WNMU community," said Faye McCalmont, director of cultural affairs at WNMU, via email. "He can also see the clear connection in using the arts and culture to connect diverse communities."

The sculptures were acquired because of New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs' Art in Public Places program. In 1986, the New Mexico Legislature allocated one percent of capital expenditures to art.

"WNMU had built up quite a balance over the last 12 years, and we were able to acquire six wonderful sculptures," McCalmont said. "One of them was installed

in the lobby of the School of Nursing building, and the rest are in The Gardens on College Avenue. We plan to add more in that area as funds become available, but also throughout the WNMU campus. We also are embarking on a plan to place art across the campus that has been in storage as part of the WNMU permanent collection, and adding pieces purchased from or donated by visiting artists presenting on the Women in the Arts Lecture Series."

The newly-renovated Light Hall Auditorium is the setting for the Women in the Arts and other lecture series, many in collaboration with area not-for-profits, and musical performances, including the President's Chamber Music Series. Student art, thesis and faculty exhibits, workshops and juried art shows in McCray Gallery and "Live on the Lawn" concerts also take place on campus. Most events are free and open to the public.

The impetus for these offerings comes largely from Shepard's commitment to present internationally-renowned cultural exchanges in settings other than classrooms. As a bonus, art reinforces the institution's mission as an applied liberal arts and science institution.



A liberal arts education typically includes courses in the humanities, mathematics and social and natural sciences. It is interdisciplinary by nature, acknowledging the interrelatedness of themes across disciplines and over time. Advocates argue that a liberal arts education can provide a fuller understanding of problems and the basis for a systematic way of solving them. In a world where jobs are constantly being developed as others become obsolete, a broader, more diverse type of thinking is becoming a desirable job skill.

The university already has degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies, but, this fall, a new “Applied Liberal Arts and Science” course will be offered to all incoming students.

According to Michael Metcalf, department chair and professor of sculpture, the course will be an exploration of ideas up to the Renaissance and will require quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, communication skills, personal and social responsibility and information literacy. Students will be guided to use these skills further in several other applied liberal arts and science courses, building a strong foundation for students to pursue the major of their choice.

It is hoped that exposure to new public art works on campus and the new applied liberal arts and science focus will motivate students into taking specialized courses in art and music in the Expressive Arts Department.

“The creation of the Applied Arts and Science identity at WNMU will not only prepare future students for jobs that have not yet been invented, but will provide an essential broad understanding that includes arts, allowing students to specialize upon entering the workforce,” Metcalf said.

It is also hoped that this new focus will motivate the public as well to immerse themselves in ideas and different perspectives offered by the arts. Whether it is listening to world music, watching an artist share his or her vision or walking amongst sculptures, the bridge to shared culture,



knowledge and creativity continues to be built at WNMU for students and residents alike.

For information, visit <http://admin.wnmu.edu/cultural>.

Education

in Grant County

There are 16 public schools in Grant County serving 4,418 students. The largest of the districts is Silver Consolidated Schools which operates three high schools, one middle school and five elementary schools all serving more than 3,100 students. The district also employs approximately 259 teachers.

Western New Mexico University is situated at the heart of Silver City and central to Grant County: with a range of associates, bachelor's and graduate degree programs and non-degree study options, WNMU anchors the community's commitment to lifelong education.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Silver Consolidated Schools

2810 N. Swan St.,
Silver City NM 88061
575-956-2000
www.silverschools.org

Cobre Consolidated School District

900 A Central Ave.
Bayard, NM 88023
575-537-4010
www.cobre.k12.nm.us

CHARTER SCHOOL:

Aldo Leopold Charter School

1422 U.S. Highway 180 E.,
Silver City NM 88061
575-538-2547
www.aldocs.org/pages/ALCS

PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

Guadalupe Montessori School

1731 N. Alabama St.,
Silver City, NM 88061
575-388-3343
www.guadalupeмонтessori.org

Silver City Calvary Christian Academy

P.O. Box 29
Silver City, N.M. 88062
575-388-4114
www.silvercaa.org

COLLEGE:

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Silver City Food Co-op

aims to educate, provide low-cost options

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

At the Silver City Food Co-op, the staff is busy making connections to bring the best and most cost-sensible products to the community.

Charmeine Wait, outreach manager for the co-op, said that Produce Manager Ben Rasmussen is always looking for the most local, healthiest produce available.

“There are 50 New Mexico producers we buy from,” Wait said. “If we can buy locally, we do that.”

Wait said the co-op is serious about engaging in the community and getting young people involved. She said youth would be planting the greenhouse.

The business offers regular monthly opportunities for people to work with the co-op, learn more about their world and for children to do hands-on projects.

Every month there are shopper tours, Sampling Saturdays, discount days, “Ask the Dietitian” sessions featuring special subjects like “Foods for the Diabetic,” community forums, and the Co-op Explorers DIY Class for children.

The monthly, second Saturday Artisan Market is held at the co-op owned Market Café and offers a venue for local artists and crafters to sell their wares including quilted bags, jewelry, rag rugs, handmade soap and more.

And, Wait said, prices for organic products are not as high as people often imagine they are and she is out to prove it with programs like “How to Make a Delicious Organic Meal for Less than a Dollar.”

Wait emphasizes the co-op is a community owned market and is always looking to meet the community’s needs. Anyone can shop at the co-op. To get the best deals, you must be a member and pay the \$10 per year membership fee.

“We understand our community and respond to our community,” she said. “Our prices are very competitive and our co-op deals are great bargains.”

About the co-op

The mission of the Silver City Food Co-op is to provide and distribute high quality products and to promote cooperative and nutritional education to our members-owners, our customers, and our community. For information, contact the co-op at 575-388-2343, or visit www.silvercityfoodcoop.coop.

Fort Bayard Medical Center provides three-way services

Fort Bayard Medical Center has three distinct branches of services. The facility provides services to those who no longer can care for themselves and those who need rehabilitative services for drug addictions and other mental health issues. The Fort Bayard State Veterans Home is also located on site.

FBMC, located at 41 Fort Bayard Road, in Santa Teresa, offers care for those who can no longer provide their own care without assistance. The center is equipped with 200 beds, with varied levels of admission requirements and fees depending on individual cases.

Yucca Lodge, located on FBMC's campus, centers on assisting those with chemical addiction. In order to be admitted to the facility a patient must want to enter voluntarily with no pending legal obligations; applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The veteran's home sector of FBMC assists veterans and their families. The home can house up to 40 residents. The services provided and types of needs the residents have are similar to those at FBMC but reserved only for honorably discharged veterans, veteran spouses, or parents of children who were killed while serving in the armed forces.

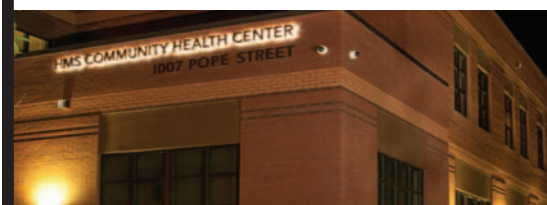
All of the facilities on FBMC's campus are also monitored by the state government, something Contreras attributes to the number of applicants all of the facilities receive.

Each of these facilities offer their services not only to those in the region, but extend their reach to anyone in the United States who feels that one of the facilities will best fit their needs or the needs of someone close to them.

The main number on campus is 575-537-8600.



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Veterans Services

Rural Veterans Coordination Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) created the Rural Veterans Coordination Pilot (RVCP) grant program to support veterans and their families who reside in rural and/or underserved areas of the country. The program is to aid veterans with the transition to civilian life in one or more of the following areas: Increasing coordination of health care and benefits for veterans; increasing availability of high quality medical and mental health services; providing assistance to families of transitioning veterans; women veterans' issues and concerns; and transportation.

Angelina Trujillo
Veterans Outreach Coordinator

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services
11990 US HWY 180
PO Box 394
Santa Clara, NM 88026
Cell: 505-469-3330

New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Services

The Silver City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is designed to deliver primary care services to eligible military veterans. Services include blood draws (by appointment only), EKGs (electrocardiograms), evaluations by doctors, routine lab tests, social work, and mental health services. The clinic is located at 2950 Leslie Road in Silver City. The Silver City CBOC is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday, and closed Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. For appointments, call the clinic at 575-538-2921. No emergency care is available at this facility. For after-hours assistance, call 1-866-862-7863, or for emergency care, call 911. For information about enrollment in the Silver City CBOC, call the Eligibility and Enrollment Office for the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System at 505-265-1711, Ext. 2741.

New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

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Meditation isn't the only use for Silver's labyrinths

BY BILLY HUNTSMAN

Countless cultures throughout history have featured labyrinths in their architecture and artwork. It's almost impossible to say where they originate from, but the most famous labyrinth is associated with Ancient Greece, whose fierce Minotaur was imprisoned in such a construct.

Labyrinths still exist today and in fact can be found, if you look, in abundance in and around Silver City. These are not the high-walled labyrinths of myth but simple ground-level structures made of rocks demarcating the winding paths.

What's their purpose? It depends on whom you ask.

For Joan Eng, deacon of the Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity, 1801 North Alabama St., which has its own labyrinth, it has religious significance.

"Its traditional use is for meditation," she said. "In a sense, you're walking to an encounter with God and then in the center, you have your encounter with God and then you walk your way out of it, meditating on what you learned."

Such a religious labyrinth was built in the Chartres Cathedral in France, perhaps some time in the 14th century, but which still exists today and attracts pilgrims and tourists from all the over world.

But labyrinths have uses outside of religious meditation.

Susan Porter built her labyrinth 10 years ago when she was sick with a lung disease.

"During the process of getting sicker and sicker, I could do less and less, but I kept working on it," she said. "I think of it as my healing labyrinth."

Her labyrinth greatly resembles that in Chartres, which was also replicated in the courtyard of the Gila Regional

Medical Center.

"I used to go there and walk it all the time before I had my own," Porter said.

Porter said she also used her labyrinth for meditation, but not for religious purposes.

"When I'm feeling really discombobulated, this is the one place I know I can come and get re-centered," she said.

Porter said her labyrinth also serves a decorative purpose, as every Christmas she lines the path with luminarias, which draws visitors from all over her neighborhood.

Eng said she has also seen great therapeutic uses for labyrinths.

"If you have kids who have discipline problems or ADHD and you have them go walk a labyrinth, it really improves their behavior," she said. "It helps them focus and calm down."

Labyrinths are also used for performing yoga, as Porter has done and as Cordelia Rose, a yoga instructor, horse trainer and labyrinth designer, does. She lives outside of Glenwood, about 60 miles northwest of Silver City, but has been commissioned several times to build labyrinths in Silver City.

In addition to teaching yoga in her four personal labyrinths (she also has a maze), Rose walks her horses through her labyrinths, which the ancient Romans used to do to strengthen the horses' muscles, Rose said.

The website World-wide Labyrinth Locator (<https://labyrinthlocator.com>) estimates there are seven labyrinths in Silver City, though this website can't account for impermanent labyrinths, such as one found in a mud pit along Boston Hill.

Medical Services

Silver City has long been considered a premiere medical service center in Southern New Mexico. Multiple health care facilities cover all the basics, as well as some top-notch, specialized services.

• Dr. Gregory Koury DPC

www.Ziafamilyhealthcare.com

Longtime Silver City physician Dr. Gregory Koury offers a medical service that has become almost extinct in the country; DPC or Direct Physician Care. Koury's DPC practice, Zia Health Care, does not accept insurance of any kind and you will not need insurance to obtain medical care. If you have a letter proving you are under direct physician care, you will legally not be required to have health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

• Gila Regional Medical Center

www.grmc.org

Gila Regional Medical Center is a county-owned, not-for-profit, 68-bed acute care hospital, featuring 24/7 ambulance and emergency services and state-of-the-art operating rooms that provide surgical services to Southwest New Mexico. A strong commitment to technology and patient-centered care, it is home to the Cancer Center and Surgical Center of the Southwest.

• Silver Health Care

www.silverhealthcare.org

Silver Health Care is a multispecialty group offering a broad range of quality medical services, with 12 physicians (including internists, pediatricians and family practitioners), a podiatrist, four nurse practitioners and five

physician assistants. Silver Health Care also operates two urgent care walk-in clinics, in Silver City and Deming.

• Hidalgo Medical Services

www.hms-nm.org

HMS provides comprehensive health care for the whole family, and currently the only health service provider that offers dental services. It is also the only provider that offers a 24/7 mental health crisis hotline and psychiatric services to both adults and children.

• SW Center for Health Innovation

www.swchi.org

The Southwest Center for Health Innovation is a nonprofit organization focusing on community health. Through advocacy, education, policy and programs, CHI is at the forefront of improving community health for all people, especially those who are underserved.

• Southwest Bone and Joint Institute

www.southwestboneandjoint.com

Founded by board-certified orthopedic surgeon Brian Robinson in 1999, the Southwest Bone and Joint Institute provides a full range of orthopedic services including orthopedic surgery at the Gila Regional Medical surgical center, imaging, rehab and sports medicine.

Homeless and domestic violence *victim services*

• Silver City Gospel Mission

111 S. Texas St.

Thrift store, soup kitchen, food pantry

Info: 575-388-5071, <http://silvercitygospelmission.org>

• Sierra House

1110 S. Bullard St. (next to the Silver City Gospel Mission)

A 1,200 square-foot house with three bedrooms, a living room,

kitchen, laundry room, and a bathroom. One bedroom, is reserved for the Sierra House Manager and the other two contain bunk-beds suitable for two families or four individuals. Info: 575-388-5071, <http://silvercitygospelmission.org/services/support/the-sierra-house>

• El Refugio

800 S. Robert St.

El Refugio shelter is available for women and their children who are domestic violence victims. The shelter offers rooms for eight to nine families, with one family per room. A family can stay at the shelter up to 30 days. If more time is needed, an extension can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Info: 575-538-2125

www.eridv.org



WILL feeds *the will to learn*

BY LISA MAUE

Looking towards the next chapter in his life, Frank Merritt was certain of one thing: he did not want his grandfather's retirement — sitting and watching television in the middle of the afternoon. He wanted to be active and mentally engaged. He wanted to build friendships and feel a sense of purpose.

Merritt traded in his paying job for a volunteer position at the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL).

Today, WILL has 380 members. Between 60 and 70 courses are offered each term in topics as diverse as art, music, literature and current affairs to cooking, how-to and horseback-riding excursions. Courses are taught by facilitators whose backgrounds may be in academics, the business world or individuals who are passionate about a given subject. Many facilitators start out as members who volunteer to teach; in other cases, those who volunteer to share their expertise become members, especially after seeing the camaraderie that develops among members.

Merritt is quick to note that WILL is not just for seniors. It happens that many of the courses take place during the day, making it difficult for those who have 9-to-5 jobs to attend, but anyone is welcome to join. WILL also is not just courses. It partners with other not-for-profits to offer lectures, concerts and cultural activities not easily accessed in Silver City and organizes Lunch and Learn talks from

noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays that are free and open to the public.

Over the past 12 years, WILL has amassed a community of volunteers eager to share their past hobbies and work experience while focusing on five aspects of personal enrichment:

1. Challenge the mind.
2. Encourage people in health to be healthy by offering exercise and fitness opportunities.
3. Present chances for creativity and means for self-expression.
4. Foster friendships.
5. Develop a purpose higher than oneself that relies on volunteering to make the world a better place.

Looking to the future, WILL is starting a travel program for members and enthusiasts that will extend beyond a single course, like yoga, to become a recurring event. Its collaboration with WNMU is yielding the vital and long-dreamt-for enhancement of a place of its own. In late 2016, WNMU President Dr. Joseph Shepard advanced WILL's on-campus presence by providing a social meeting area in addition an office. Preparation is being done largely by WNMU and Merritt hopes the space will be ready by early summer 2017.

What will not be different is the emphasis on volunteering since, like lifelong learning, the benefits

Nursing homes/Assisted living

To report abuse/neglect/exploitation in nursing homes: Department of Health Incident Reporting Hotline Toll Free: 1-800-752-8649 Ombudsman Services Phone 575-647-2023 Toll Free: 1-800-762-8690 www.nmaging.state.nm.us Provides assistance with concerns or complaints about the care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Santa Clara Assisted Living

15 Fort Bayard Road,
Santa Clara
575-537-3077

Fort Bayard Medical Center/ State Veteran's Nursing Home Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation Center

41 Fort Bayard Road, Santa
Clara
Phone: 575-537-3302
Toll Free: 1-800-541-6966

Millie's Assisted Living

600 N. Hudson St., Silver City
575-534-9172
www.milliescenter.com

Silver City Care Center Skilled Nursing Facility

3514 N. Fowler Ave., Silver City,
575-388-3127

Sunset Vista - Assisted Living

3650 N. Fowler Ave., Silver City
575-538-9095

Independent Living

Cantada Creek
2850 Pinos Altos Road,
Silver City
575-388-3004

Subsidized Housing Bayard Housing Authority

100 Runnels Drive
P.O. Box 768, Bayard
575-537-2296

Casa Linda Apartments

100 E. 17th St., Silver City
575-388-3755

Housing Authority - Region V

2545 N. Silver St., Silver City
575-388-1974

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Santa Clara Housing Authority

214 N. Mineral St.,
Santa Clara
575-537-3041

transcend WILL itself. Connection with others is at the core of the organization. Whether as a way of newcomers to get to know their neighbors, affording a social milieu or as a way of making Silver City a better place, building community has become the guiding star for WILL's vision of the future while growing its already strong foundation of hosting courses that inform and inspire WILL and community members alike.

Membership is \$75 for three terms (fall, spring, summer). Registration for classes by members takes place at the start of each term. During Early Online Course Registration, members may sign up for a maximum of five courses. At the Social Sign-Up that takes place two weeks later, members may sign up for an unlimited number of courses. For those interested in teaching a course, a Course Proposal Form is available online. For a list of courses and more information, visit www.will-learning.com, call 575-538-6835 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or send an email to info@will-learning.com.

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Park your RV in Silver City, get best of many worlds

BY SHEILA SOWDER

Silver City is fortunate to have a variety of RV parks, something to suit every RVer's needs and taste. From the remote Burro Mountain Homestead and Park Ridge with their spectacular mountain views, to the Continental Divide RV tucked away among trees in colorful Pinos Altos on the edge of the Gila Forest. From Rose Valley, Manzano's and KOA with convenient locations on the edge of town; to the Mimbres Valley panorama surrounding Mountain Spirit RV; to the in-town walkability of Silver City RV Park. The availability and variety of RV park facilities contribute to Silver City's popularity with vacationers.

But in addition to serving the tourists, our RV parks

provide a pleasant and inexpensive option for retirees who no longer want the drudgery of home ownership and maintenance, and yet crave the privacy not available in an apartment complex. People that want the security of community, but also the accessibility of travel and adventure. More and more senior couples and singles are choosing to buy an RV specifically suited to their needs and lifestyle, and are making their home in one of Silver City's RV parks.

My husband and I have lived fulltime at Rose Valley RV Ranch for the past five years, and our neighbors include many "snowbirds," retirees who still own a home somewhere else but choose to spend the harsher months

Senior Services

For county residents 60 years of age and older, the Grant County Senior Services Department offers a range of programs and services allowing senior citizens to meet, interact, dine together, get in-home meals and receive transportation services, all at no cost. Whether you need transportation to an upcoming medical appointment, an in-home meal or just an excuse to get out of the house for a meal with friendly neighbors. Lunch is served at any of the centers at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Different events or programs occur at different days and times so please contact the center nearest you for further information.

Services currently offered include transportation, meals at the senior centers, home-delivered meals and senior employment.

No financial qualification is required for these programs, but registration is required for and of the services.

SENIOR SERVICES

2610 N. Silver St.
Silver City, NM
575-388-2523
575-388-2524 Fax
Randy Villa, senior services
director
Charlene Fletcher, in-home
administrator

SENIOR CENTERS

Silver City Senior Center
205 W. Victoria St
Silver City, NM
575-388-2545

Santa Clara Senior Center
107 N. East St.
Santa Clara, NM
575-537-5254

Mimbres Senior Center
2620 Highway 35

Mimbres, NM
575-536-9990

Gila Senior Center
403 Hwy 211
Gila, NM
575-535-2888

Hurley Community Center
299 Carrasco St.
Hurley, NM
575-527-5756



in Silver City. The park also hosts many seasonal RVers who spend winters on the warm Arizona desert or the south Texas coastline, and come to Silver City to enjoy our cooler summers.

Then there are others who, like us, have chosen to settle full-time into a lifestyle that affords them independent living on a private site that includes their own outdoor space without the need for constant yard work. Part of a community, and at the same time in constant contact with a steady stream of new, diverse and interesting visitors. Able to take advantage of the activities and events of the town from a permanent resident's perspective, but also living in a home on wheels with the ability to take off and discover new worlds with very little preparation.

The benefits of full-time RV park living for seniors

include affordability and choice of accommodations. RVs come in all sizes and styles, and while many used models are available for reasonable prices, new RVs that are roomy, comfortable, and convenient can cost a fraction of even the most inexpensive fixer-upper house. Monthly site rental rates vary with the amenities and location of the park, but all are modest compared to the rental on a small apartment. And whether you want to live amidst the town's bustle or in the seclusion of a mountain hide-away or with the grandeur of a mountain vista, the choice is all yours. Check out the parks in and around Silver City. There may be one that speaks directly to you, and maybe, someday soon, you'll join the legion of happy retirees that now have time for fun instead of the drudgery and expense that accompany home ownership.



Cowboy shooting adds action, flair to target practice

BY LISA MAUE

Looking down the desolate canyon, Capt. Eli muttered to Chico Cheech: “You know, if we build it, they will come.” The captain was not talking about a baseball field and the Chicago White Sox. He was talking about adding stages to hold the first state-wide New Mexico Cowboy Shooting match on a private ranch north of Mimbres. The captain was a major who demoted himself after it was discovered that a ‘Major’ already existed and both names are aliases but the Silver City Gila Rangers went on to host the first, second, third and 2008 state championship matches anyway.

Cowboy Action Shooting is a competitive sport involving pre-1900 replica single-action revolvers, lever-action rifles and double-barrel and pump-action shotguns. Club members don Old West apparel and choose aliases that are registered to avoid duplicate names. Timed scenarios or “stages” are acted out on Western-style sets complete with fixed and moving targets made of steel that “clang” when hit; hence the descriptor “bang and clang.”

“We shoot relatively light loads,” Cheech said. “We don’t want to put holes in the steel, but also a light load means the shooter can recover from the first shot and get ready for the next one.”

A stage might consist of the shooter standing at the bar of a saloon. The bartender says something untoward. The shooter responds with: “Them thar are fighting words” which is actually a cue to the range officer that the shooter is ready. The range officer then starts a timer with a loud beep. The shooter shoots a pistol at 5 targets in a pre-arranged order, holsters that weapon, pulling out another pistol, shooting the same targets in reverse order,

holstering the second pistol, runs to a rifle to shoot the next set of targets, putting the rifle down and picking up a shotgun to knock down the last group of targets. This is but one of many possible scenarios.

The range officer monitors the timer and makes sure that all the bullets are fired. Counters keep track of the order and what targets are hit and which are missed. If a stage is shot clean, the score is the time. If a target is missed, 5 seconds are added. Time is added for more serious infractions.

While speed is important, safety is paramount. The Gila Rangers is a Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) affiliated club, the international governing and sanctioning organization dedicated to ensuring safety while preserving the traditions and history of the Old West.

“The rules and regulations are clear,” Cheech said. “If you drop a loaded gun, you are done.”

Loading and unloading tables are provided at each stage and each shooter checks the last shooter to make sure the guns are unloaded between stages.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 66 ■

Grant County Public Shooting Range

12055 Highway 180E Santa Clara, NM

575-537-5328

Open Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is an outdoor range with skeet, trap, rifle and pistol shooting capabilities. A safety briefing is available and hunters' safety course preferred.



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For more than 10 years now, the award-winning Southwest New Mexico Legislative Guide, covering legislators and legislative issues from nine counties in southwest New Mexico, has been a valuable and sought-after resource. Anyone interested in and involved with New Mexico politics is interested and involved in this publication. If your audience is state government, the legislature, politicians or political aficionados, this publication, which gets in front of some of the most influential people and organizations in New Mexico, is the place to put your message. Covers Grant County, Luna County, Hidalgo County, Catron County, Doña Ana County, Otero County, Sierra County, Lincoln County, Socorro County and Santa Fe.



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The Gila Rangers hold monthly shoots on the second Saturday of the month. Typically, six stages are set up, but, other times, members improvise more informal scenarios.

“It’s all about bragging rights,” Cheech said.

It is also a social occasion. From April through November, many members camp out, arriving on Friday and leaving Sunday afternoon.

“Captain Eli loves to cook,” Cheech said. “He converted

his flatbed trailer into a cook trailer and we’ll cook for everyone. Many members come out just to watch.”

For those unfamiliar with the sport, the first time is free and includes the use of a .22 rifle, ammo and instructions.

“It really is more fun than an indoor range where all you have is a paper target with some holes,” Cheech said. “There is nothing like bang and clang.” To learn more, visit gilarangers.com.



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We are Veterans
We are Mothers
We are Doctors
We are Friends
We are Nurses
We are Family**

**We are your community hospital.
We are Gila Regional.**

