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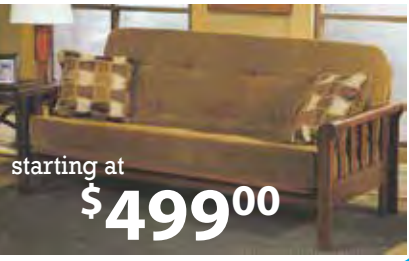


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About the Cover
"Sun-Kissed Paintbrush"
by **Sandy Feutz**/
FeVa Fotos. Feutz is a member of the Grant County Art Guild, which will open its annual members show on May 2 at the historic Hearst Church gallery in Pinos Altos. Read more in this issue's Arts Exposure section.



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Greed, Inc.

Corporate profits are at record highs, while wages slump
and unemployment lingers.

As New Mexico goes whoring after Tesla, let's keep this potential jobs bonanza in perspective, understanding the nature of the modern corporation. Sure, Tesla Motors may be different, given its electric-car do-gooderism and "visionary" CEO, Elon Musk, who's also using his PayPal payout to fund SpaceX. But Tesla is still a publicly traded company, listed on NASDAQ, responsible to its shareholders.

We like to put a halo on certain companies, especially technology innovators like Apple or Google and now Tesla. But even Apple, after all, builds its products in what are little better than sweat shops in China; it then buys its own iPhones through an Irish subsidiary and resells them to itself to escape US taxes on \$64 billion in revenues. Google dodges even some Irish taxes by routing nearly \$11 billion through the Netherlands. While Tesla's jobs would be welcome (though they'd inevitably go to northern New Mexico, bypassing our job-hungry swath of the state), let's not fool ourselves into thinking Tesla is looking out for anybody but itself.

Here's the irony of corporate America in the early 21st century. The US Supreme Court is pondering whether companies such as Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties (both privately held) can have religious freedoms that trump the rights of their employees. It's already held, in the Citizens United ruling on election spending, that corporations have free speech rights under the First Amendment.

Even as the Court weighs whether corporations in effect have souls, two top automakers have been revealed as utterly soulless. In March, Toyota Motor Corp. agreed to pay a \$1.2-billion fine to settle a four-year federal criminal investigation into whether it properly reported safety complaints about the sudden acceleration of its vehicles. "Toyota put sales over safety and profit over principle," said George Venizelos, assistant director of the FBI. "The disregard Toyota had for the safety of the public was outrageous. Not only did Toyota fail to recall cars with problem parts, they continued to manufacture new cars with the same parts they knew were deadly."

Meanwhile, 13 deaths are linked to faulty ignition switches in General Motors vehicles. Though GM has belatedly recalled 2.6 million vehicles, it knew about the problem in 2005 and decided against a fix as too costly—in dollars, that is, as apparently life was cheap for GM executives in those pre-bankruptcy days.

These corporations have rights under the Constitution, it seems, but not responsibilities. We can't send Toyota or GM to jail, and no one is seriously contemplating sentencing their executives to hard time. Under current law, it would be difficult even to "claw back" any of the bonuses or sky-high compensation paid to executives who oversaw these outrages.

We forgive these lapses, however, because corporations are "job creators"—aren't they? Actually, it would be more accurate to think of corporations as "CEO bonus creators." The US economic recovery—from a recession chiefly triggered by the irresponsibility of companies in the financial sector—has lagged in large part due to companies' reluctance to hire. They have increased "productivity"—and hence profits—by squeezing more out of a diminished number of employees, who in turn are too afraid to complain or unionize lest they join their

former peers in the unemployment line.

Given the softness of the recovery, it may be surprising to learn that US corporate profits recently reached their highest level in 85 years. Employee compensation, on the other hand, is at its lowest point in 65 years.

The picture for corporations is actually even better than it seems. Their \$2.1 trillion in pre-tax profits, representing 12.5% of the total economy, tied the record percentage set in 1942. But the effective corporate tax rate that year was nearly 55%, compared to less than 20% last year—a figure corporations and the politicians in their pockets whine about incessantly. So after-tax profits in 2013 reached 10% of GDP, a whopping \$1.7 trillion.

But companies sure haven't been sharing that largesse with their employees. Total wages and salaries, meanwhile, managed to hit just \$7.1 trillion, or 42.5% of the total economy. That's the lowest figure, according to the Commerce Department, of any year previously measured.

Comparing 2013 with 2006, the last full year before the recession began, corporate profits are up 28%. Thanks to a 21% decline in the effective corporate tax rate, however, net after-tax profits were up even more compared to pre-recession levels—36%. Workers haven't fared as well: Total employee compensation, even including benefits such as health insurance, has increased only 5% since 2006—less than the 7% growth in the working-age population over that span.

Anyone who's worked in a big company, especially with any sort of middle-management responsibility, knows the game that's being played. When I was an editor at a newspaper owned by Knight-Ridder, the nation's second-biggest newspaper chain, we labored under an iron rule limiting "FTEs"—Full-Time Equivalents, as in employees or fractions thereof. But even this tight-fisted reign wasn't Scrooge-like enough for some big investors in the company: After I left, Knight-Ridder self-destructed, taking with it what was nonetheless a deserved reputation for quality journalism.

At Microsoft, my next stop on the corporate merry-go-round, managers had to rank their staff on a bell curve, with those graded worst getting minimal raises and one foot out the door. Never mind that I hadn't hired any clinkers; somebody had to be rated "D" or "F," no matter how good their performance. (It will come as no surprise to Microsoft-haters that it, too, participates in tax-avoidance shenanigans, according to a recent *Wired* report, routing \$6.3 billion through a Puerto Rican subsidiary.)

I'm not talking about small businesses here, who face as uneven a playing field in competing with corporate giants as those companies' employees do in gaining their share of profits. The problem is the "titans of industry" and the influence they wield, through increasingly unshackled campaign contributions, in our political life, not to mention our economy. A new Gilded Age is upon us, presided over by a plutocracy heedless of the concerns of the "FTEs" who provide their labor.

The real irony is that we have let this happen so swiftly after such a painful lesson in the perils of unbridled capitalism. Somehow, rather than crawling out of the debris of the recession clamoring for reform (and perhaps tar-and-feathering a few financial executives), we decided that government is the problem—rather than representing the only check on corporate irresponsibility and greed. We've hailed the "job creators," failing to recognize that multinational corporations are more accurately job destroyers. ☹

David A. Fryxell
is editor of Desert
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DESERT DIARY

Irishmen, Priests and Newfies

Plus the love lives of lawyers and pigs.

Annals of inebriation... This tale from **Old Grumps** could of course be told of any ethnic group, much as our blonde jokes could be applied to any hair hue. So here's to...

"An Irishman's been drinking at a pub all night. When he stands up to leave, he falls flat on his face. He tries to stand one more time, but to no avail. Again, he falls flat on his face. He figures he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside, he stands up and, sure enough, he falls flat on his face. The Irishman decides to crawl the four blocks to his home.

"When he arrives at the door, he stands up and

falls flat on his face. He crawls through the door into his bedroom. When he reaches his bed, he tries one more time to stand up. This time, he manages to pull himself upright but he quickly falls right into bed. He is sound asleep as soon as his head hits the pillow.

"He awakens the next morning to his wife standing over him, shouting, 'So, you've been out drinking again!'

"Why do you say that?" he asks innocently.

"The pub called. You left your wheelchair there again."

Lumbering along... Who knew that Canadians had their own ethnic and provincial jokes? We're pretty sure this is our first "Newfie" (as in Newfoundland) joke, courtesy of **The Packrat Out Back**:

"A Newfie decides to travel across Canada to see the Pacific Ocean. When he gets to Nanaimo, he likes the place so much that he decides to stay. But first he

must find a job. He walks into the MacMillan-Bloedel office and fills out an application as an 'experienced' logger. It's his lucky day. They just happen to be looking for someone.

"But first, the bush foreman takes him for a ride into the bush in the company pickup truck to see how much he knows. The foreman stops the truck on the side of the road and points at a tree. 'See that tree over there? I want you to tell me what species it is and how many board feet of lumber it contains.'

"The Newfie promptly answers, 'Dat dere's a Sitka Spruce and she got 383 board feet a lumber in er.'

"The foreman is impressed. He puts the truck in motion and stops again about a mile down the road. He points at another tree through the passenger door window and asks the same question. This time, it's a bigger tree and of a different class.

"Lord tunderin'! Dat's yer Douglas Fir and she got 690 board feet,' says the Newfie.

"Now the foreman is really impressed. The Newfie has answered quickly and gotten the answers right without even using a calculator! One more test. They drive a little farther down the road, and the foreman stops again. This time, he points across the road through his drivers side window. 'And what about that one?'

"Before the foreman finishes pointing, the Newfie says, 'A Yeller Cedar, 242 board feet at most.'

"The foreman spins the truck around and heads back to the office, a little pissed off because he thinks that the Newfie is smarter than he is. As they near the office, the foreman stops the truck and asks the Newfie to step outside. He hands him a piece of chalk and tells him, 'See that tree over there. I want you to mark an X on the front of that tree.' The foreman thinks to himself, 'Idiot! How would he know which is the front of a tree?'

"When the Newfie reaches the tree, he goes around it in a circle while looking at the ground. He then reaches up and places a white X on the trunk. He runs back to the foreman and hands him the chalk. 'Dat's da front a' dat tree fer sure,' the Newfie states.

"The foreman laughs to himself and asks sarcastically, 'How in the hell do you know that's the front of the tree?'

"The Newfie looks down at his feet, while rubbing the toe of his left boot, cleaning it in the gravel, and replies, 'Cuz someone took a crap behind it!'

"He got the job. Three weeks later he became the foreman."

Send your own "Newfie" jokes—or any other type—to diary@desertexposure.com.

Oh, heavenly daze!... A second funny from **The Packrat Out Back**, this with a clerical bent:

"Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on vacation.

They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed, they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

"The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their 'tourist' garb. They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a drop-dead gorgeous blonde in a topless swimsuit came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare.

"As the blonde passed them she smiled and said, 'Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father,' nodding and addressing each of them individually.

"They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests? So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them!

"Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine. After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different colored topless swimsuit, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them, said, 'Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father,' and started to walk away.

"One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, 'Just a minute, young lady.'

"Yes, Father?"

"We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?"

"She replied, 'Father, it's me—Sister Kathleen.'"

Forgive me, Father... Combining two of this month's themes, the Irish and the priesthood, this joke from **GeraldH** is also worth raising your glass to:

"An Irishman goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Church. He is amazed to find a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates in the world.

"When the priest comes in, the Irishman excitedly begins, 'Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be.'

"The priest replies, 'Get out. You're on my side.'"

Don't be selfish! Heard a good one? Share it with the world (or at least our little corner of it) by emailing to diary@desertexposure.com.

Kids say the darnedest things... Parents who've torn their hair out over their kids will find this tale from the **Santa Claran** all too familiar:

"The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees was absent but had not phoned in sick one day. Needing to have an urgent problem with one of the main computers resolved, he dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper: 'Hello?'

"Is your daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice.



Postcards from the edge... Going somewhere? Take along a copy of *Desert Exposure* and snap a photo of yourself holding it "on location" like Lee Sonne of Reserve, who traveled to visit her Aunt Vi at the family farm in Crivitz, Wisc. She writes, "Here I am holding *Desert Exposure* in Marinette, Wisc. The Menominee River behind her is Wisconsin's north-east border and Menominee, Mich., is on the other bank. People living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula call themselves 'Yoopers,' while Wisconsinites call themselves 'Cheeseheads.'"

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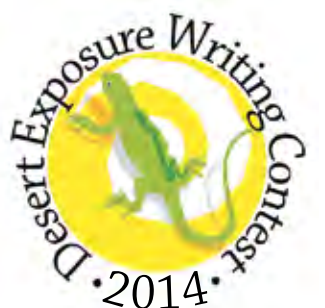
PO Box 191

Silver City, NM 88062

or email to contest@desertexposure.com

Include name and postal address, plus email if available.

Entries cannot be returned!





Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo comes from **Jane Janson** of Silver City, showing her standing in from of the library of Celsus. She quotes Wikipedia: “The library of Celsus is an ancient Roman building in Ephesus, Anatolia, now part of Selcuk, Turkey. It was built in honor of the Roman Senator Tiberius Julius Celsus Polemaeanus (completed in 135 AD) by Celsus’ son, Gaius Julius Aquila (consul, 110 AD).” And she adds, “Fantastic trip.” Whether you’re going to Wisconsin or someplace that requires Wikipedia to identify, snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

“May I talk with him?”
“The child whispered, ‘No.’
“Surprised and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, ‘Is your Mommy there?’
“Yes.’
“May I talk with her?”
“Again the small voice whispered, ‘No.’
“Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, ‘Is anybody else there?’
“Yes,’ whispered the child, ‘a policeman.’
“Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee’s home, the boss asked, ‘May I speak with the policeman?’
“No, he’s busy,’ whispered the child.
“Busy doing what?”
“Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman,’ came the whispered answer.
“Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background through the earpiece on the phone, the boss asked, ‘What is that noise?’
“A helicopter,’ answered the whispering voice.
“What is going on there?” demanded the boss, now truly apprehensive.
“Again, whispering, the child answered, ‘The search team just landed a helicopter.’
“Alarmed, concerned and a little frustrated, the boss asked, ‘What are they searching for?’
“Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle, ‘ME.’”

A rather different take on childhood comes from the **Silver City Greek**:
“Two little boys are going to the hospital the next day for operations. Theirs will be first on the schedule. The older boy leans over and asks, ‘What are you having done?’
“The second boy says, ‘I’m getting my tonsils out and I’m afraid.’
“The first boy says, ‘You’ve got nothing to worry about. I had that done when I was four. They put you to sleep, and when you wake up, they give you lots of Jell-O and ice cream. It’s a breeze.’
“The second boy then asks, ‘What are you going in for?’
“The first boy answers, ‘Circumcision.’
“Whoa!’ the smaller boy says. ‘Good luck, buddy. I had that done when I was born. Couldn’t walk for a year.’”

Pondering the imponderable... This thought-provoking submission is the sound of one of CharlesC’s hands clapping:
“A fellow in New York bought a hot dog from one of the sidewalk vendors, gave him a \$20 bill and he received a veggie dog with the works. When he asked for his change, the vendor said his Zen

master told him that change must come from within.”
Hostile work environment... A little on-the-job humor, passed along by JohnF:
“Do you believe in life after death?” the boss asked one of his employees.
“Yes, sir,’ the new employee replied.
“Well, then, that makes everything just fine,’ the boss went on. ‘After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother’s funeral, she stopped in to see you!’”

The oldest profession... We present this tale from **Pop** with a tut-tut of stern disapproval:
“A well-dressed man walked into a brothel and told the madam that he was there to see Lorna. The madam smiled and informed him that Lorna was available but she was her most desired employee and her price was \$5,000. Without flinching, the man produced \$5,000 in cash.
“The same man returned the next night and again told the madam that he was there to see Lorna. The madam was astonished—no client had ever visited Lorna two nights in a row. But the man pulled out \$5,000 in cash and was escorted to Lorna’s room.
“Again, the man returned the following night and told the madam that he was there to see Lorna. He produced \$5,000 in cash and went straight to Lorna’s room. After their session, Lorna turned to him and said, ‘I have never had a client two nights in a row, much less three. What’s your story?’
“The man said, ‘I am your aunt Margaret’s lawyer. As you know, she died last month. On her death bed, she handed me \$15,000 and made me promise to deliver it to you personally.’”

Annals of agriculture... You learn something new every day, they say. In this yarn from **GeeRichard**, it’s about porcine romance:
“A farmer had five female pigs. Times were hard, so he decided to take them to the county fair to sell them.
“At the fair, he met another farmer who owned five male pigs. After talking a bit, they decided to mate the pigs and split everything 50/50. The farmers lived 60 miles apart, so they agreed to drive 30 miles each and find a field in which to let the pigs mate.
“The first morning, the farmer with the female pigs got up at 5 a.m., loaded the pigs into the family station wagon (which was the only vehicle he had) and drove the 30 miles.
“While the pigs were mating, he asked the other farmer, ‘How will I know if they are pregnant?’
“The other farmer replied, ‘If they’re lying in the grass tomorrow morning, they’re pregnant. If they’re in the mud, they’re not.’
“The next morning the pigs were rolling in the mud, so he hosed them off, loaded them into the family station wagon again and proceeded to try again. This continued each morning for more than a week and both farmers were worn out.
“The next morning the farmer was too tired to get out of bed. He called to his wife, ‘Honey, please look outside and tell me whether the pigs are in the mud or in the grass.’
“Neither,’ yelled his wife. ‘They’re in the station wagon and one of them is honking the horn.’”

Send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales to *Desert Diary*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email diary@desertexposure.com. The best submission each month gets a Desert Exposure mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to *Desert Diary*.





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MLS 30754 \$280,000

This very well maintained property has it all! It is located close to town with a rural setting that is all set up for horses. There is a warm and wonderful 4BR/4BA main house with Saltillo tile. Two upstairs bedrooms each have walk-in closets and their own bathroom with shower. There is also a great studio style guest house with bedroom/living room combo and a large bathroom with shower. Guest house could be rented for income, or it could make a nice vacation rental with horse facility. Below the guest house is a large storage area where the laundry room is located. In addition there is a barn and hay storage building. Broker Owned.



MLS 30906 \$249,900

Beautifully maintained custom built, polished concrete floors throughout, solid doors, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, wood cabinets, high vaulted ceilings and that inside the house. Exterior front and back has a water system for all but native plants, greenhouse with electricity and water, several raised beds, fruit trees and grapes. Back porch is plumbed for gas so you could make an outdoor cooking area. All of this close to town and the golf course.



MLS 30884 \$235,000

This house is huge!! 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3 living areas, Open Kitchen, Island with concrete counter top, two refrigerators side by side in kitchen. One living area has a bedroom and bathroom with its own entrance so it could be segregated as an in-law suite or guest suite. Located on 3 acres in Indian Hills. Horses Allowed. Lots of views.



MLS30901 \$285,000

Very well maintained 3 bedroom 2 bath house near the golf course and close to town. wonderful views, great yard, RV parking. Gorgeous tile work in bathrooms and kitchen. Great living areas. Two fireplaces, one with pellet insert. This a great home for the money.

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TUMBLEVEEDS

Life in a State of Nature

More reader photos of creatures big and small.

Ah, spring in New Mexico! It's the perfect time to snap some candid portraits of the critters who come to visit you and to share them with *Desert Exposure*, contributing to our ongoing quest to see what's out there through the lenses of our readers.

For example, here's one from **Allen and Diana Storm** of Deming, who write: "We sent the attached photo to a neighbor showing them just some of the birds who come in to visit the bird bath in front of our desert home every morning. They suggested we send it on to you."



This bobcat was photograph by **Joel Chinkes** at Hidden River Ranch near Columbus. "First and only sighting in 16 years of looking," he writes.



This is another from **Erin Evans**, photographed on her ranch south of Silver City. "I have a few thousand photos," she writes. "Well, OK, maybe that is a slight exaggeration, but because of where I live, it's pretty neat."

Hi, Roady Yablick, here. Did you know May 18 to 24 is National Dog Bite Prevention Week? It's a good time to check out training programs at Mis Amigos.

Hi, Mom! Happy Mother's Day!



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Mis Amigos Pet Care or by dropping by Mis Amigos
www.misamigospetcare.com



And here's another picture from Denver photographer and frequent Southwest New Mexico visitor **Andy Dimler**. He tells us it's an eastern collared lizard, photographed in the Tres Hermanas Mountains.

Share your own photos of local creatures great and small. Send to editor@desertexposure.com or mail to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, and include your postal address for a little thank-you. 🐾

TUMBLEVEEDS

A Day for Giving

On May 6, Give Grande NM makes it easy to make a difference.

Timing is everything, as the saying goes, and if you're feeling even a little bit generous this month there's no better day to give than May 6. That's been designated as the Day of Community Giving to New Mexico's nonprofits through Give Grande NM (www.givegrandenm.org). To celebrate the 100th anniversary of community foundations, the Community Foundation Coalition of New Mexico will partner with Give Local America to make it easy to give.

Donations as little as \$20 can make a difference to local nonprofits. All donations are tax deductible and will be for the unrestricted use of the donor's chosen charity. Matching funds may also become available from the Community Foundation Coalition.

The 24-hour statewide event will raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits through easy-to-use online fundraising. Beginning at midnight the night of May 5 and continuing to 11:59 p.m. the night of May 6, anyone with a credit card and access to the Internet can donate with just a few clicks. All online donations will be shown in real time on the day of the event. Incentive prizes will also be shown on the website and the Give Grande Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Coalition expects to distribute money raised within 45 days after the event.

"This is really about pulling the communities together, to empower people," says Denise Gonzales,

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Give Grande NM coordinator.

A total of 441 New Mexico nonprofit organizations are registered with the Coalition. Of those, 37 are in Grant County including: The Bikeworks, Bridge Community, Camp Thunderbird, Concert Band of the Southwest, Corporation for Downtown Development, El Refugio, End of the Road Ranch, Glenwood Community Library, Gila Conservation Education Center, Gila Native Plant Society, Gila Resources Information Project, Gila Valley Library, Grant County Community Concert Association, Grant County Community Foundation, Guadalupe Montessori School, High Desert Humane Society, Imagination Library of Grant County, Learning Center for Dyslexia and Academic Success, LGBT Grant County, Life Quest, Literacy Alive, Literacy Link-Leamos, Lotus Center, Mimbres Region Arts Council, Mimbres Valley Health Action League (MVHAL), National Center of Frontier Communities, Serenity Acres, Silver Adult Care Services, Silver City Arts & Culture District, Silver City Astronomical Society, Silver City Gospel Mission, Silver City Main Street Project, Silver City Museum, Silver City Neighborhood Alliance, Silver Regional Sexual Assault Support Services, Southwest Festival of the Written Word, The Volunteer Center of Grant County, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, and West-



offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. You need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout the area, according to organizers. Through the establishment of permanent funds, you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Planned giving programs enable donors to honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of Southern New Mexico for generations to come.

The Community Foundation can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information, see the website at www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn, (575) 521.4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 S. Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

For more information about Give Grande NM, contact coordinator Denise Gonzales at (505) 699-2493, info@givegrandenm.org, or see www.givegrandenm.org.

ern Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Locally, the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the region and its nonprofits. (See "Giving Until It Helps," July 2013.) Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com). Trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list. Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. In a slow news month, not even swear-jar recordings leaked to *Mother Jones* magazine can put our governor back on top of the list.

- 1. (2) **Virgin Galactic**—294 hits (▲)
- 2. (1) **New Mexico drought**—241 hits (▼)
- 3. (3) **New Mexico + immigration**—221 hits (▼)
- 4. (4) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—169 hits (▼)
- 5. (5) **Sen. Tom Udall**—130 hits (▲)
- 6. (7) **New Mexico + Tesla**—110 hits (▼)
- 7. (8) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—93 hits (▲)
- 8. (6) **New Mexico same-sex marriage**—87 hits (▼)
- 9. (-) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—70 hits (▲)
- 10. (-) **New Mexico spaceport**—60 hits (▲)

Leaked recordings led *Mother Jones* magazine to ask, "Is New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez the Next Sarah Palin? Petty. Vindictive. Weak on policy. And yet she's being hailed as the Republican Party's great new hope."



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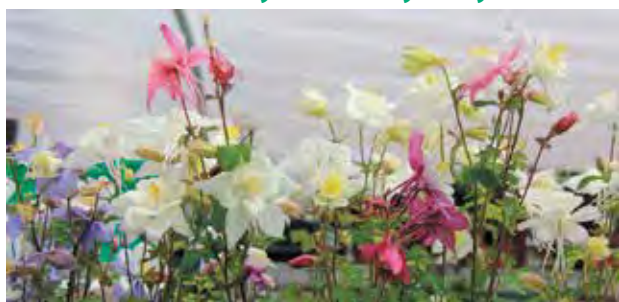
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SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

Fighting in the Fields

Gardening for victory, knitting graffiti, and a friend remembered.

What I needed was a rousing read, a book affirming faith in humanity and our ability to surmount hurdles. The report of the United Nations Panel on Climate Change had put me in a solidly glum mood. Fortunately, Nicola Tyrer's book about the Woman's Land Army in Great Britain, *They Fought in the Fields* (1996), is uplifting nonfiction about courage and the battle for food security. It fit the bill.

In 1939, at the advent of World War II, British agriculture was in a sorry state with 70% of its food being imported, including from North America. The German Reich, on the other hand, was producing four-fifths of the food it consumed. The story of how this massive situation of food insecurity was solved—women supporting the war effort by becoming farm workers—is the basis of Tyrer's revealing book and an electrifying history lesson.

The WLA emerged in its first guise in World War I when in 1919, Great Britain was down to a three-week food supply. Even in this perilous situation, farmers were resistant to training women as milkers, tractor drivers, field workers—even as thatchers and shepherds! Unlike other European countries where men and women farmed together, British farming was male-dominated. Wives did little more than collect eggs, feed the pigs and cows, and tend the kitchen garden.

Nonetheless, 43,000 women applied to help in the first war; half of them were rejected as “unsuited for the task.” The outcome for the chosen ones was ultimately positive—women farm workers did an outstanding job and an attitude adjustment occurred.

Twenty years later, however, sexism resurfaced. As an urgent incentive to grow grain and increase food sources, the government paid farmers by the acre to plow fields. With military conscription, however, there was a shortfall of 50,000 farm workers. Once again, it was urgent that women fill the void.

The leader of this effort was an aristocrat worthy of a “Downton Abbey” role, Lady Gertrude Denman. The daughter of a viscount who had made a fortune in construction, “Trudie” adored her philanthropist father whose progressive leanings encompassed woman's suffrage, home rule for Ireland, old age pensions and sickness insurance.

At age 55, Lady Denman became head of the WLA using her 3,000-acre country estate, “Balcombe Place,” as its headquarters.

Through a vigorous program that included idealistic recruitment posters, about 4,500 “land girls” were placed on farms throughout Britain, in time for the winter of 1939—“the hardest in living memory.”

Early recruits benefited from Lady Denman's impeccable taste: She had the House of Worth in Paris design the comfortably big, but natty, coat that so attracted young women. Later in the war, the coats were no longer available.

Tyrer writes: “To many people the Land Army and the famous uniform are synonymous. Nothing like the breeches and slouch hat had ever been seen before or would be seen again.... The Land Army had no male role model. Agricultural workers wore no uniform, leaving the designers of the uniform free rein. What



Women's Land Army recruitment posters.

they came up with was unique—a blend of countryside colours, the fashion of the day and a sporty look hitherto the prerogative of men's wardrobes.”

Information about the young female recruits is revealed through the author's research, including diary entries, interviews and the WLA monthly magazine, *The Land Girl*. Literary luminaries like Vita Sackville-West were magazine contributors.

Land girls came from modest backgrounds, ranging from factory workers and hairdressers to bar maids and bakers. Their social ranking was well below the women who served in the Women's Auxiliary Service, Red Cross and Intelligence divisions.

Land girls learned every aspect of agriculture, including how to drive and repair tractors. Fighting rats became a task in itself: “In 1949, there were 50 million rats in Britain (5 million more than the human population), devouring the grain that had been so painstakingly harvested.”

Luckier land girls were placed on farms where living conditions included the availability of heat and cooked meals. Less-fortunate recruits were isolated in places like Wales and the Scottish highlands, or had to endure frequent enemy shelling. Many worked in the fields among prisoners of war—and one land girl tells how she learned to make pasta from an Italian POW.

By 1944, there were 66,000 land girls, with one-third of them living in 696 hostels. Group living in hostels offered a better situation than most private farms, where poor food and inadequate bathing facilities were frequently the norm.

The WLA was disbanded in 1949, but 5,000 women decided to stay on the land. In her remarks to the recruits the Queen said, “The story of the Land Army has been one of a great response by women of our country to the call of duty in the nation's hour of danger and need. They could not have done more for their country than they did. By their efforts they helped to ensure that our country contributed its utmost towards its food supplies and for this the nation owes them an everlasting debt.”

In her book's moving post-

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“Pollinators” fiber street art in downtown Silver City.

script, Tyrer writes: “On 19 August 1995 for the first time in 45 years, 80 land girls marched through the streets of London.... They were not of course in uniform. That had had to be surrendered when they left the force. Though most of them were over 70, they all had a determined look, as if they wouldn’t take no for an answer. They looked as if, even now, they were ready for anything.”

I also viewed a DVD of the BBC’s television production, “Land Girls,” commissioned to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II. The five-episode dramatic series (1995) features the high production values, period-perfect costumes, etc., that you expect from the BBC.

Fiber Street Art

With the goal of beautifying unattractive objects such as utility poles and mailboxes, a group who call themselves “Pollinators” are at work on a Tree of Life to adorn the gate at the El Sol Theater in downtown Silver City. Working out of Cecelia Stanford’s studio, the Pollinators use various fibers to create their street projects, including felt, old T-shirts and crocheted flowers.

The Tree of Life will debut June 7 as part of International Yarn Bombing Day. Yarn bombings have occurred worldwide. In Los Angeles, 1,500 knitted “granny squares” were used to cover the Craft & Folk Art Museum.

Other projects, also referred to as “graffiti knitting,” have included sweaters and socks to clothe public sculpture, park benches, bicycle racks—even the balustrades on a pre-Renaissance Italian bridge.

Mary O’Loughlin (575-519-9138), a fiber artist and Pollinator spokesperson, says she is happy to help creative folks develop their own projects for the June 7 event.

Remembering Dorothy

“I want death to find me planting cabbages.”
—Montaigne

Dorothy Eagan possessed a green thumb and wore fashionably cool, but sensible, shoes on her small feet. She loved long walks, books with a capable female protagonist, and the luscious taste of green gage plum butter prepared from the bounty



Dorothy Eagan in her garden.



The plantings in her borders appeared delighted with their placement, which was always *comme il faut*.

In a setting of tepid sunshine and light breezes animating the greenery, our conversation skipped from delight in a plant’s progression to a third-year’s “leap”—to pondering the species of a bird-gift growing around a cobblestone.

We marveled at Dorothy’s beloved roses, elegantly terraced on a brick embankment, and debated the design of a possible trellis. Above all, our friendship shared an unspoken glee sensing a cohesion in nature’s glory.

With its high walls and shady expanses of conifers, Dorothy’s garden personified the sanctuary of her interior self. She was a steadfast friend, but a private person who kept her innermost thoughts concealed in a journal.

Dorothy died in late February, at the end of an unseasonably warm winter.

Her plans for retirement—traveling abroad, studying botanical drawing, writing a children’s book, and of course having leisurely, extended time in the garden—were never realized.

One morning, not long after her passing, I was drinking a cup of tea—seated in my comfortable Dorothy hand-me-down love seat. Through the top of the window, I noticed a dove perched on an elm limb.

This was odd. That particular site did not draw avian curiosity, and I had never observed a dove there.

In the early light a pearl-gray tint radiated from the creature’s delicate feathers. For a long interval its dove eyes locked upon mine, both of us still and attentive. Then a voice whispered: *What are you doing sitting there? It’s a beautiful day.*

I arose and went outside to be with my friend in the garden. 🌿

Southwest Gardener columnist Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.

of a backyard tree.

Our friendship began at the Silver City public library, where she worked until her retirement. The only time that I ever heard her use scolding words was if a library patron returned a damaged book.

A librarian’s sense of order prevailed in her precisely tended garden.

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RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LARRY LIGHTNER

Adventure Vehicles, Part 3

SUV and truck shopping with Larry.

As I related in the last two columns, I began driving Ol' White, my 1985 Ford F150 4WD pickup, in Pennsylvania and then New Mexico, having adventure after adventure. But there have come other vehicles since moving to Silver City; there was the Toyota wagon and the Suzuki XL7 as well as my current truck, a Ford Explorer Sport Trac.

Around the year 2002, I was engaged in a heated, ongoing discussion with a friend of my wife and myself. The friend was ardently against off-roading, especially using ATVs. Finally I took her on an off-road adventure to look for an ancient Indian ruin, and to get there we had to use neglected two-tracks.

Once at the site, I challenged her to find the way back, using the tracks that we had made going in. She couldn't do it, because the machine hadn't left much sign of travel. She had a change of heart right then and there and admitted that she was wrong.

She then suggested that I should start a business guiding the elderly, like herself, on backwoods adventures, and also the flatlanders from out of state. I thought that was a wonderful suggestion and so I began to implement a plan to do so.

I came upon a six-wheel-drive water/dirt machine UTV that seated four adults and purchased it. That same year we found a Suzuki XL7 4WD SUV that would fit my needs also and bought it. With those purchased, I decided to form a sightseeing firm to make the vision come true.

Having learned from the Toyota wagon fiasco (see last month's issue) about unibody construction not being the best for off-highway usage, I researched everything 4WD, finally settling on the Suzuki, which had a true ladder-type frame underneath the body. It also sported a two-speed transfer case to permit slow going in rough places. Sadly, in 2011, even Suzuki went the way of unibody on their SUVs.

My first adventure with the Zuki wasn't even off-highway. We were bringing the truck back from California, having just bought it, and I was coming over the Little Burros, and right at the summit, a buck deer jumped off the highest cliff on the right side and I smacked it plumb full. I now know the meaning of being numb!

That horned critter caused damage to the tune of \$4,200! I was still able to drive the truck and got it home where it sat until it was repaired.

But back to my business venture. I then knew the ranger for the Silver City district and went to him with my plans. He shot the idea right down then and there, declaring he didn't much like ATVs or the idea of using them to guide on the National Forest. My plan was dead in the water, and I now owned two somewhat expensive "toys" plus Ol' White.

I quickly discovered that the Zuki's "yuppie" all-season tires weren't much good when the rough got going. Two-trackin' was all but out unless it was dry conditions, and forget about gooey caliche or deep snow. Those tires kept the Zuki from going where "others feared to tread." That is another lesson to learn: If you're going to go off-highway, get some aggressive tires made for such. I did as soon as those original tires got worn halfway down.

Because of those tires and the smaller size of the truck compared to Ol' White, I have never been stuck in over 12 years now.

There is one major flaw to the Zuki, and from what I can gather, it is the same flaw with all newer vehicles, and that is its ABS braking system. If one is on any type of slippery surface, the brakes lock up and the vehicle tends to slide instead of stop—not good on slick rock or ice or even snow! So far I have been able to react quickly and no mishaps have occurred. The lesson here is to immediately get off the brake pedal when they lock up!

The Zuki has an automatic transmission and I soon learned to appreciate it off-highway—no more

manual gear shifting. By 2007, I was disenchanted with the four-speed manual tranny on Ol' White; hey, I got old!!!

So in 2007 I began to research and pray about another truck, and I did so for a year. Finally I narrowed it down to a Toyota Tacoma 4WD pickup and the Ford Sport Trac; both have ladder frames and two-speed transfer cases and short, five-foot beds and can haul half a ton. I looked hard at the Honda truck version, but it didn't have the transfer case and it sported the dreaded unibody!

My first leaning was towards the Toyota, but having known people with that model, they were all very happy except for their gas mileage; it was abysmal. But the truck is bullet proof, quite reliable in all aspects.

However, I liked the looks of the Sport Trac above the Toyota and for that year, I stopped strangers driving the truck and asked how they liked it and about the gas mileage. They all had great opinions of it and I also noticed that I couldn't find many used ones on car lots, indicating that owners kept them.

Research and talking to owners indicated that the Sport Trac got slightly better gas mileage than Ol' White, so I decided to go for one, if I could find the one that suited me. It took almost four months.

Because of those tires and the smaller size of the truck compared to Ol' White, I have never been stuck in over 12 years now.

Finally I found one, a year old, with low mileage, in Albuquerque, and it had everything that I desired including a V-8 engine. Why the V-8? Well, I allowed that if the V-6 with the same body got such and such mileage, then the V-8 should get better with less effort and more power. I was right! It gets two to four mpg better than comparable six cylinders and it has a six-speed transmission to boot.

That V-8 also pulls my camper and ATV trailer with much less effort, and that matters to me when going up a long hill.

I quickly mounted over-sized, more aggressive tires on "Truck" to give me great traction and higher ground clearance—another lesson for you to consider. The downside is that it has that danged ABS braking system, and I have gotten into some rather hair-raising slides with it. No damage so far, though.

I have been stuck once in the six years that I've roamed off-road with Truck. It was early morning on a muddy mesa and dawn was still an hour away. I skirted a particularly menacing long and deep-looking mud patch and suddenly my truck just stopped!

I backed up and forward until I finally broke free; then I got out. I discovered that I had high-centered on an unseen large stump with my right-side running board, and had bent it all to heck. Drat blabbit.

There was nothing I could do at the time, so I kept on truckin'. At home I told the Missus; she didn't react much, so I went out and took both running boards off and haven't looked back. The only downside is when the same Missus has to enter said truck and has to step up really high with some murmuring.

Another time the blasted ABS locked solid on a dry highway and I had to nurse Truck home. By the time I got there, all four wheels were smoking like Hades. That little misadventure happened just three months out of warranty!

In closing, the best advice I can give you, if you want to go off-roading on two-tracks to get to a hiking or camping location, is to buy the best aggressive tires you can afford, and carry a shovel and a jack. But the most important are those tires; they will keep you from getting stuck 80% of the time.

Keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you too! ☼

When not ramblin' outdoors, Larry Lightner parks in Silver City.



ARTS EXPOSURE • JOHN CATSIS

Going for Gold

The Hearst Church in Pinos Altos has gone from a haven for miners to a gallery where artists seek purchase prizes.

On May 18, 1860, gold was discovered in Pinos Altos. On May 18, 1898, the Hearst Church was dedicated there.

On May 18, 1968, a group of artists was planning the creation of the Grant County Art Guild.

Obviously, May 18 is a significant date in the history of Pinos Altos, the Hearst Church, and the Art Guild.

So, on May 18, 2014, the Grant County Art Guild will help observe the church's 116th birthday and the Guild's 46th. It also will mark the 39th year the Guild has displayed art at the historic church.

The Art Guild's annual Members Only Show will open the season at the church-turned-gallery with an artist reception at 5:30 p.m. on May 2. The show will also be available for viewing from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through May 11. Among the members hoping to have their works selected is this month's cover artist, photographer Sandy Feutz of FeVa Fotos.

The Guild was started in 1968, when about 35 artists got together in Silver City to have a Fourth of July display at the Woman's Club. The show was so successful the artists decided to organize permanently, and thus was born the Grant County Art Guild. Its first president was the late Barbara White.

Various shows were held around town for the next few years, including at the Public Library and the Optimists Club, now the Agape Community Christian School. Guild meetings also moved about. In 1973 they were held at the Red Cross Hall, now the Mormon Student Center at WNMU. Three years later, the Guild established a scholarship for art majors at the university. It also held art classes for children at Gough Park and contributed funds for the construc-



"Santa Elena Glow" by Connie Thibeaup won first place in oils and Best of Show in last year's Grant County Art Guild members show.



The Hearst Church today (top, photo by John Catsis) and with its bell tower (above).

tion of the park's pavilion.

In 1972, Frank Tatsch acquired the Hearst Church from the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. His ownership was fitting, as Tatsch loved both history and Pinos Altos.

In 1975, following extensive repairs, the church was ready for its second life when Tatsch invited the Art Guild to establish a gallery in its renovated interior. In May its doors opened to the public. (Could it have been May 18? After all, that day was a Sunday!)

The following year, a Purchase Prize Show was started, which continues to this day. Artists from across New Mexico are invited to submit their works, from which a single Best of Show is awarded. Frank Tatsch and now his son, "Dink," have purchased the winning art for public display elsewhere.

None of this, including the creation of Pinos Altos, would not have been possible if it had not been for the thirst of a California prospector variously known as Henry or Thomas "Three Fingered" Birch. As he knelt at the junction of Bear and Little Cherry Creeks on May 18, 1860, he spotted several chispas, or small nuggets of gold. He told his two companions, and within days the trio had told others. Everyone was sworn to secrecy. Yeah, right.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

By September, 700 prospectors had converged on what was now called Birchville,

The challenge of finding gold was made more difficult by attacks from Chiricahua Apaches led by Mangus Coloradas, or "Red Sleeves." The Apaches also gave the early settlers of Birchville fits, calling them "los god-dammies Americans." The nickname was based on what they overheard the miners frequently utter as they went about their panning and digging.

Residents' language and social skills improved when families began to move in. By 1866, Birchville became Pinos Altos. The town was incorporated the following year and became the Grant County seat in 1869.

Judge Roy Bean joined his brother, Sam, in operating a mercantile in Pinos Altos, complete with a "fine billiard table." This was before Roy became famous as the "law west of the Pecos" in Langtry, Texas.

Population figures are inconsistent for that time. One unofficial report says 9,000 folks called Pinos Altos home by 1880. There was no census report for 1880, but the 1890 census said the population was 1,015.

There soon became a need for a church in the community. Enter the Rev. Jacob Ruoff, Frank Bell and Phoebe Hearst. The Rev. Ruoff was a Methodist minister who lived in Pinos Altos, but conducted religious services in other nearby communities. He was the force behind the movement to build a new church in Pinos Altos. Bell donated a 50-by-100-foot corner of his Good Enough mining claim and \$500 for its construction. Phoebe Elizabeth Apperson Hearst, widow of George Hearst, held an interest in two mines in Pinos Altos, the Pacific Mine and the Mina Grande.

George Hearst had died in 1891 (no, it wasn't May 18) in Washington, DC, where he was in his fifth year representing California as US Senator. At the time, he was worth \$19 million (that's 1891 money, mind you), which represented 1/712th of the US gross national product. Not bad for a man born to a family of modest Missouri means.

He left behind his widow, Phoebe, 22 years his junior, who by then had her own investment plans. She apparently had never been to Pinos Altos, but she did have an interest in religion and good books. She matched Bell's \$500 contribution, specifying creation of a reading room, so miners could spend happy hours there, instead of at nearby bars and taverns.

This was not the first time Phoebe Hearst invested in her own personal project. She had loaned her only child, William Randolph Hearst, the funds necessary to purchase the *New York Journal* newspaper in 1895. Indirectly, one



Phoebe Elizabeth Apperson Hearst.

might say, she was instrumental in helping to launch the era of "yellow journalism."

Besides the donations from Frank Bell and Phoebe Hearst, local residents did their part to raise construction funds. Ladies held box-lunch socials and bazaars. Men pledged money from their wages. And tavern owners were "tapped" for contributions.

The reading room was not popular at first, basically because miners who were Catholics felt uncomfortable in the building. So the ladies auxiliary sewed curtains to separate the reading area from the rest of the church. Voila! Instant acceptance. Popular magazines of that day, like *Argosy*, *McClure's* and *Puck*, were special attractions. *McClure's* featured a lot of pictures. The miners liked a lot of pictures. And there were newspapers, as well, but it's not known if Phoebe Hearst supplied copies of her son's *New York Journal*.

The 54-year-old widow arrived in Silver City by private railroad car to help dedicate the Gold Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, as it was then officially known. How she made it to Pinos Altos is not recorded.

The church dedication was the last official function for the Rev. Jacob Ruoff. He retired and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Van Valkenburgh. Better known as "Brother Van," he stayed on for many years. Over the years, Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian ministers took turns conducting morning and afternoon services.

In 1909 a special Easter Sunday service marked the church's 21st anniversary.

The church had been built with an external bell tower, made of wood. But when the tower began to deteriorate, it was removed sometime after 1942 and the bell given to a rural church at Mountain Park, northeast of Alamogordo.

As a religious center, the Hearst Church had a short life. The date of its last religious service is lost in history. But the building continued as a social center. Occasion-



Last year's first place winner in acrylics, "Reflections" by Arlene Sarkela.



The former church now buzzes with activity as a gallery. (John Catsis)

ally the Forest Service would show movies there.

As the 20th century began, the population of Pinos Altos waned, mainly because the mines were playing out. Soon, residents with automobiles would travel downhill seven miles to seek religion and diversions in the growing town of Silver City.

From 1909 to 1953, little more is known about the history of the church. We do know that sometime prior to 1927, Gold Avenue was renamed Golden Avenue.

In 1953, the church was considered abandoned. The New Mexico Annual Conference of the Methodist Church deeded the title to a new organization, the Grant County Museum. But the museum was only in the planning stages and never became reality. So the property was deeded back to the Methodist Church in 1964, and duly recorded in Grant County, but the church board did not learn of this until 1971. When church officials checked, they found most of the windows broken and the back door lying on the ground. On August 29, 1972, through a quitclaim deed, Frank Tatsch acquired the church for a reported \$250. When asked about his church affiliation, Tatsch replied: "I don't belong to any of 'em."

Not everyone was happy with the transaction. Silver City Methodist Church members objected to the sale, stating a preference to have the church demolished instead. They were concerned about the potential future use Tatsch would put it to. But the deal had been done.

With the church reportedly in danger of collapsing, new buttresses were built, the foundation strengthened, and a new roof installed. From stained-glass shards found around the building, 130 panes were ordered to replicate the original. Only 50 panes had been found intact.

To accommodate the Art Guild in 1975, display alcoves and special lighting were installed.

In August 2012, Dink Tatsch sold the hearse that had carried Sheriff Pat Garrett to his grave, which had been an attraction inside the church. Garrett, of course, was known for shooting and killing Silver City's most famous one-time resident, Billy the Kid. Historian Cal Traylor of Las Cruces purchased the hearse and donated it to the new Historical Museum of Lawmen, located inside the Doña Ana County



"A Light in the Dark," photograph by Art Guild member Tom Vaughan of FeVa Fotos.

sheriff's office.

The departure of the hearse provided much-needed room for both visitors and additional art. Memories of the old reading area are still evident, as marked by the pot-belly stove near the front door. And overlooking the entire interior are photographic portraits of Phoebe and George Hearst, plus Frank Tatsch. It might be safe to say they are all pleased by the building's new and more permanent purpose. And by the way, there are still books and magazines off in the corner to read.

John Catsis moved to Silver City in 2007 after a long career in broadcast journalism. He wrote about Alaska transplants in our April issue.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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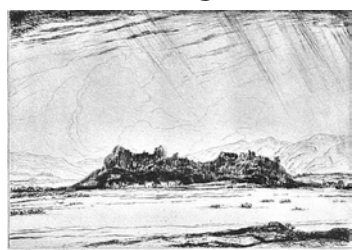
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ARTS EXPOSURE

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Silver City & Grant County

“Radioactive!” a benefit exhibit for Gila/Mimbres Community Radio, KURU 89.1 FM, will open May 1 at **Common Ground Gallery**, with an awards ceremony 5-7 p.m. The exhibit ends June 1. This month the gallery will be open daily except Monday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment. 103 W. Kelly, 534-2087, gmcr.org.

The **San Vicente Artists** will hold their annual Body Beautiful show, May 2-4 at the Artists Lair Gallery at Texas and Market (in the old Elks Lodge). The juried show featuring works depicting the human body, clothed and nude, can be entered from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, May 2 (\$20 for up to three works). An opening reception will be held Friday from 5-7 p.m. www.silvercityartists.org.

The **Mimbres Region Arts Council Gallery** in the Wells Fargo Bank will feature the work of Don Johnson through May 31, opening with a reception May 2, 3:30-5:30 p.m. 1201 N. Pope St., www.mimbresarts.org.

The new gallery in Cliff, **Gila River Artisans Gallery**, with an “eclectic collection of local artists,” celebrates its grand opening May 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with art, music and food. Hours will be Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 8409 Hwy. 180.

Seedboat Gallery has a new show of works by Judith Meyer, “The Inextinguishable,” continuing through June 28. 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136.

Blue Dome Gallery is featuring Southwest scenes by a new artist, Muriel Timmins. Bear Mountain Lodge, 69 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

Donna Foley of **Four Directions Weaving** has opened her studio/gallery at 108 W. Yankie St., sharing the space with Vibrations Gallery. On Friday, May 9, from 3-6 p.m. she’ll celebrate with refreshments and a chance to view her current work of handwoven tapestries, scarves and handbags.



“Inextinguishable” by Judith Meyer, part of a show at the Seedboat Gallery in Silver City.

Mark Bowen. 106 W. Yankie, 534-9323.

Copper Quail Gallery will have a reception for a show of indoor and outdoor modern mosaics and mixed media by Jo Thomas on Saturday, May 24, 1-5 p.m. The gallery is also featuring handcrafted sterling silver and gemstone jewelry with New Mexico turquoise, made by Bruce Williams and Nancy Bailey. 211A N. Texas at Yankie, 388-2646.

Seven area artists will be thinking small next month, featuring their works in a **6x6 Studio Sale** with a reception Friday, June 6, 4-7 p.m., and open studio on June 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. That’s six inches by six inches, the size of all the artworks by Diane Cornelius, Ginna Heiden, Miriam Hill, Deb Hutchings, Gay Marks, Jane Seavers and Thia Utz. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

The **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum’s** Arts Corridor is featuring the work of local artist Peter Goodman. “Peter Goodman: Changing Landscapes” will be on display through August 3.

Goodman’s photographic images celebrate the Southwest, including ranching. The works are photographs digitally manipulated to resemble other media. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

Main Street Gallery and **Big Picture** will host the ninth annual Artist Guild of Southern New Mexico exhibition under the mentorship of Julie Ford Oliver, opening May 2, 5-7 p.m., and on view through the end of May. This annual exhibit features more than 30 affordable eight-by-eight-inch framed original paintings that explore the nostalgia of times past. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

The **West End Art Depot** will host its third annual “We.AD Members + Friends” gallery show, featuring artwork by over 15 artists, opening with a reception May 2, 6-9 p.m. 401 N. Mesilla St., 312-9892, www.we-ad.org.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature two local artists for this month, oil painter Roberta Leavell Widner and digital artist Kurt Van Wagner. The gallery will host a pre-Mother’s Day reception, May 10, 1-4 p.m. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Gourd artists Karen Phillips and Kathe Stark open their exhibit “Ancestral Gourdworks” on Sunday, May 4, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the **Tombaugh Gallery**. The artists will give a talk and demonstration of their work. Phillips is inspired by Native American celebrations, and her work often reflects the spirit of these events, as seen in the masks and spirit dolls she creates from gourds. Stark’s work has evolved to include extensive and intricate wood burned and carved designs adorned with stone, shells, ink, dyes, paints,



Gourd artist Karen Phillips is featured at the Tombaugh Gallery.

Kate Brown’s annual Mother’s Day Sale at her studio in the Mimbres will be May 9-10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

Diane Kleiss will be holding one-day workshops in encaustic at her The Cliffs Studio & Gallery, May 14 and 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes are limited to five and cost \$80, including all supplies. 205 Lyon at Yankie St., (520) 622-0251, doart2@yahoo.com, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts will have a reception Friday, May 23, 5-8 p.m., for new work by Paul Hodvedt and Zoe Wolfe, with special guests Luis Eduardo Tobon and Juan Pablo Solarte. 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

Raven’s Nest Boutique will have an opening reception May 23, 4:30-7 p.m., for “Art for Your Yard” by

GRANT COUNTY ART GUILD MEMBERS SHOW

Opening reception at 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2014

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Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery will feature digital artist Kurt Van Wagner this month.

pine needles and feathers, and whatever else speaks to her. Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

At the **Branigan Cultural Center**, Elizabeth Zarur of the NMSU Art History Department will present opening remarks on the Madonna International Print Exchange to kick off the First Friday Downtown Arts Ramble on May 2 at 4:30 p.m. Zarur will discuss the presence of the feminine in religious iconography of the Southwest. Her talk will be followed by the opening of the show and of “Sabiduría Ancestral/ Ancestral Wisdom,” by artist Corina Gabaldón, 5-7 p.m. Gabaldón will lead visitors through her exhibit in a guided tour on Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. Her paintings are dedicated to promoting and preserving the ancestral wisdom of her Aztec/Mayan heritage. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

The **Picacho Hills Art in the**

Garden Tour will be on Sunday, May 18, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Artists of Picacho Hills and the Picacho Hills Gardeners. Each of the six gardens will have the juried work of three or four artists on display. From Hwy. 70 (Picacho Avenue), take Picacho Hills Drive north. Maps to the various gardens will be available in the commercial area near the bottom of the hill as well as at each garden. Tall red flags will make it easy to locate the gardens.

Deming
The **Deming Art Center** is sponsoring an artist studio tour, May 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and May 18, 12-4 p.m. Details and maps are available at the center

and the Chamber of Commerce. May 17 is also a special “Plein Air Painting Day” at Rockhound Park and Spring Canyon Park. Artists can register at the Rockhound Park visitor center for prize drawings. 100 S. Gold, 546-3663. 🌵

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

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Don Johnson
May 2 – May 31, 2014



Mimbres Region Arts Council Gallery
Wells Fargo Bank
1201 North Pope Street
Silver City, NM

OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, May 2
3:30 to 5:30

Don has lived in Silver City for 18 years. When he's not playing tennis or painting, he works as a pediatrician with Hidalgo Medical Services.

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Plein artists can register at Rockhound Visitors
Center for door prize drawings.

For more information contact 575-546-3663

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

ANN McMAHON PHOTOGRAPHY, 125 Country Road. By appointment. www.AnnMcMahon.com.

ANN SIMONSEN STUDIO-GALLERY, 104 W. Yankie St., 654-5727.

ARTESANOS, 211-B N. Texas St., 519-0804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.

[A]SP."A"OE, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.

AZURITE GALLERY, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.

BARBARA NANCE GALLERY & STONE-WALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.

BLUE DOME GALLERY, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.

CLAYFUL HANDS, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.

THE CLIFFS STUDIO & GALLERY, 205 Lyon St. & Yankie, (520) 622-0251. Diane Kleiss' encaustic multimedia art. By appointment. doart2@yahoo.com, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.

COMMON GROUND, 103 W. Kelly, 534-2087. Tues.-Sun. 1-7 p.m.

COMMON THREAD, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs, Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.

COPPER QUAIL GALLERY, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.

COW TRAIL ART STUDIO, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon. 12-3 p.m. or by appointment, (706) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.

DRAGONFLY STUDIO, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.

FOUR DIRECTIONS WEAVING, 108 W. Yankie St. Mon., Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m. 263-3830.

FRANCIS McCRAE GALLERY, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.

GUADALUPE'S, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gorde Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsey Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybaIngallsART@zianet.com.

LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signal-peak.net.

LLOYD STUDIOS, 306 W. Broadway, (303) 378-0926. Weds-Sat. 11 a.m.-7

p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. lloydstudios.com.

MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.

MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Weds.-Sat 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.

THE STUDIO SPACE, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.

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VIBRATIONS GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.

WILD WEST WEAVING, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.hosanaeilert.com. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

WIND CANYON STUDIO, 11 Quail Run off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574-2308, (619) 933-8034. Louise Sackett. Mon., Weds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment.

WYNNEGATE GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 W. Yankie St., (214) 957-3688. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues.-Wed. by appointment.

YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.

ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910.

Pinos Altos

HEARST CHURCH GALLERY, Gold St., 574-2831. Open late-April to early-October. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mimbres

COTTAGE STAINED GLASS & MORE, Cedar Lane off Hwy. 35, 536-3234. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2-5 p.m.

KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

NARRIE TOOLE, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietoole.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.

Hanover

FIERRO CANYON GALLERY, 4 Hermosa St., 537-3262, www.fierrocanyongallery.com. Thurs.-Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hurley

JW ART GALLERY, Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300. Weds.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., www.jwartgallery.com.

Cliff

GILA RIVER ARTISANS GALLERY, 8409 Hwy. 180. Eclectic collection of local artists. Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mesilla

AADOBE PATIO GALLERY, 1765 Avenida de Mercado (in the Mesilla Mercado), 532-9310. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

GALERI AZUL, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

GALERIA ON THE PLAZA, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.

GALERIA TEPIN, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thurs.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

THE POTTERIES, 2260 Calle de Santiago, 524-0538.

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

ALEGRE GALLERY, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685.

BLUE GATE GALLERY, 311 Old Downtown Mall, 523-2950. Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon.

CRUZ NOPAL, 1175 W. Picacho, 635-7899. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.

CUTTER GALLERY, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

GRIGGS & REYMOND, 504 W. Griggs Ave., 524-8450, Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MAIN STREET GALLERY, 311 N. Downtown Mall, 647-0508. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

MESQUITE ART GALLERY, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. Thur.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 2-5 p.m.

MOUNTAIN GALLERY AND STUDIOS, 138 W. Mountain St. Thurs.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

NMSU ART GALLERY, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545. Tues.-Sun.

NOPALITO'S GALERIA, 326 S. Mesquite. Fri.-Sun., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

TOMBAUGH GALLERY, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281. Weds.-Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

UNSETTLED GALLERY & STUDIO, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285.

VIRGINIA MARIA ROMERO STUDIO, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment. agzromero@zianet.com, www.virginiamariaromero.com.

Deming

ART SPACE GALLERY, 601 S. Silver, 546-0673. Mon., Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., donni@chris-donni.com.

DEMING ARTS CENTER, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

GOLD STREET GALLERY, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200.

READER'S COVE USED BOOKS & GALLERY, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.

STUDIO LEMARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

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CHIRICAHUA GALLERY, 5 Pine St., 557-2225.

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BARBARA MASSENGILL GALLERY, 894-9511/895-3377, Fri.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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I saw this with my horse early on, and I observed it with many of the riders at our boarding facility in California. Most of the owners were busy professionals with cluttered lives, with little time other than weekends to be with their horses. People would show up on a Saturday or Sunday or both and spend hours riding, doing ground work, grooming, and pampering their horses.

Toward the end of the day you'd start to hear raised voices saying things like "stand still" or "you've done this a thousand times" or "stop being such a dink." From the human's perspective, the horses should welcome all this attention after a week of just standing around.

Sometimes, I thought one of the precepts of natural horsemanship influenced these all-day sessions as well. The basic principle is this: You use pressure/release to teach a horse, and once you have applied the pressure you have to stay with it for as long as necessary until you at least get a good "try" towards the desired result. Some owners took this to mean that you keep doing things, for as long as needed with as many reps as necessary, to get the end result you want.

Even well-intentioned trail riders would fall into this trap when they took their horses out on long rides, thinking their horses really needed this after a week of inactivity.

In clinics, I'd notice towards the end of sessions, horses would seem to regress a bit from where they started. My own horse Cody gave me a little education on this point. In the fall of 2002, I was practicing with Dennis Reis for a horsemanship demo at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas (alas, a trip I couldn't make when my horse got very sick), and Cody let me know just what he thought of our long practice sessions. During one of our liberty routines, he stopped, looked at me and pinned his ears, then ran right over me, breaking my glasses, crushing my hat and spraining my wrist. Up to that point, he had been perfect and was being groomed to be the star.

I tried to keep these observations in mind when I started my business. I'd make lessons open-ended in length, leaving more time for breaks, rest and discussion. I'd try to present things in bite-sized pieces, making it clear where we wanted to go and why, but making sure we worked at the horse's pace. This would allow for periods of focus and teaching, followed by periods of relaxation and reward. It would allow the horse to digest what was being taught, and, more important, it would slow the human down and shift focus to the needs of the horse. We could get more done in one session without stressing horse or rider. I'd also make it clear the owner's follow-up work should use the same approach but in much shorter time periods.

Iknew this all made sense, but I was never sure exactly why. My students over the years appreciated the approach and advanced quickly, and I know their horses learned without becoming resistant or sour. But I think people need to know there is some science behind the theories to change attitudes towards horse behavior.

I read an article recently that throws some light on why this happens with horses, why the calmest and best-trained horse can still go off the rails—and why there is no such thing as a "bomb-proof" horse. In the April issue of *Equus* magazine there is an article by Janet Jones, PhD, titled "Too Much Time Together?" I suggest you find it and read it. Jones is a specialist in cognitive science, the study of the brain and the mind, and has been an avid rider and competitor throughout her life.

The article focuses on the fundamental differences between the human brain (goal driven) and the equine brain (stimulus driven). The frontal lobe of the human brain, where planning and organizing take place, represents 41% of the outer surface of the brain and is by far the most highly developed of any species. By contrast only 18% is devoted to vision and 19% to movement and sensation. This area of the brain is so efficient that sometimes we don't even know it is planning our days and setting goals. This human goal-oriented behavior feels good because it is rewarded: We get things done, our friends approve and our bosses and teachers praise us for achieving our goals. It also feels good because the frontal lobe is where dopamine, a chemical substance similar to an opiate or cocaine, is released and received.

By contrast, the horse's brain has no large frontal lobe that is constantly planning. In fact, it has no real delineated frontal lobe at all. The brain of the horse is devoted almost entirely to sensation and movement, just about the opposite of what we carry around under our helmet. As Jones puts it, "Horses don't need much of a frontal lobe. Why out-think a predator when you can simply outrun one instead?" The equine brain also produces far less dopamine. This substance limits the effects of outside stimuli on our awareness, which can be a good thing for humans because such external forces can distract us from our goals and plans. But too much dopamine could be fatal for a stimulus-driven animal that is designed to be aware of all external stimuli for survival.

How does all this relate to what we do with our horses? Clearly, an animal with a stimulus-driven brain must be trained and developed in small steps over a longer period of time. Working at a pace that suits your needs but not those of the horse can lead to exactly the kind of behavior you don't want. From Jones again: "A healthy, well-adjusted horse spends 70% of his day munching forage and drinking water. Reduction of that time causes chronic low-level stress and increases the likelihood of ulcers, cribbing and colic. Handling a horse for hours on end creates physical and mental stresses that are likely to emerge in conflict or injury. We ignore the clock until the horse has little choice but to escalate to bad behavior." When this does happen, we're often surprised and may label the horse as dumb, bad, dangerous or worse.

The message is clear. It is easy to over-stimulate a horse with too much attention for too long a period of time. Remember the old saying that "every gesture means something" to a horse. It also means every activity going on with or around a horse, no matter how familiar, constitutes stimuli to him, things he has to observe, evaluate and react to, either externally or internally. Even a long trail ride, which may be a wonderful, relaxing experience for you, can flood a horse with so much stimulation that he becomes a different horse at some point on the ride. (Ask yourself why so many wrecks happen early or late in a ride, or on a new trail.) Is he being "bad" or just doing what his brain says he must?

You need to train and bond with your horse, and you need to push him a bit beyond his comfort level to help him live in our world. But you need to do that at his pace, not yours. Use that big frontal lobe to say, "That's enough for today. We'll do a bit more tomorrow or the next day, but for now go be a horse." That's what it means to be a good horseman. Your brain gives you the luxury of making that choice. Your horse doesn't have that option. 🌿

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



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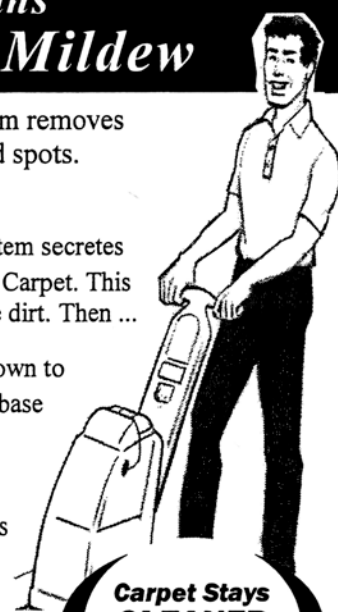
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Unwelcome Guest

The invasive salt cedar, or tamarisk, hogs our scarce water supplies and threatens to overwhelm our floodplains and wetlands.



Salt cedar, or tamarisk, thickets crowding the Rio Grande, just north of Las Cruces. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

Since its introduction more than a century ago, salt cedar, or tamarisk, has become an unwelcome guest, not only along the Rio Grande in south-central New Mexico but also along waterways and around lakesides throughout the Southwest. Indeed, it is so unwelcome in New Mexico that our state legislature appropriated funds for a “Lower Rio Grande Salt Cedar Control Project,” which is aimed specifically at dis-inviting the plant as well as other noxious botanical invaders.

Salt cedar reminds you of an intrusive mother-in-law, who arrives just as you and your spouse are having a serious discussion about dirty socks on your bedroom floor, grubby dishes next to your kitchen sink, empty beer cans on your coffee table, a wet shot glass on your new and expensive end table, a new Browning over-and-under shotgun charge on your credit card, and a flirtation at your recent neighborhood get-together.

The salt cedar—encompassing several species now on the loose in the United States—has spread as an intrusive plant, helping itself to our dwindling water supply, poisoning the soils of our lands, setting the stage for wildfire, usurping riparian growing areas from our native plants, degrading the environment for our wildlife, changing the character of our drainages, and increasing the potential for flooding and sedimentation. Indeed, government agencies rank it as one of the 10 worst noxious weeds in the United States.

Dense salt cedar growth.



feet in height in our part of the world—was imported into the arid Southwest around the 1830s. It would, its importers apparently thought, serve to decorate yards and parks, control erosion, and check spring winds. Promptly escaping its human hosts, it now grows in impenetrable thickets along the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, reservoirs and irrigations ditches, with its new plants shooting up as much as 10 feet in a single season under favorable conditions. It actually thrives in alkaline and saline soils.

Its slender curving trunk and its older branches, according to Oklahoma State University experts, have a reddish-brown bark that becomes “grooved and wrinkled as the limbs age,” dying and becoming potential fuel for wildfire. New branches have a smoother, reddish-brown bark.

The salt cedar puts down a deep and extensive root system, according to Zouhar. Its primary root probes downward 10 or 12 feet, with little branching, reaching for moisture. Then it sends out a profusion of secondary root branches, which may extend laterally for 25 feet or more, well beyond the canopy of the plant. Salt cedar roots within a single thicket may be densely intertwined.

The salt cedar’s leaves give the plant a distinctive character. Greenish, scale-like, narrow and pointed, they measure only about 1/16th of an inch in length. Although they resemble the leaves of our native evergreen junipers or cedars through the spring and summer, the salt cedar leaves turn golden and drop off in the autumn. The leaves, says the US Department



Salt cedar’s lacy appearance in summer.

of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, have salt-secreting glands on their undersides. These serve, during the growing season, to secrete the salt from moisture that passes through the salt cedars rooted in saline soils. The tops of its leaves may become glazed with secreted salt. When they drop, they can leave a salty litter of leaves on the ground’s surface and then in the top soil—an annual event. They also become potential fuel for wildfire.

The plant blooms from spring into late summer or early fall, producing clusters of white to pink flowers at the tips of its branches. Pollinated by bees and other insects, the flowers, about 1/16th of an inch in length, have five distinct petals. At full maturity, a flower forms a capsule packed with tiny seeds.

A mature salt cedar’s blooms produce perhaps half a million seeds, each about 1/25th of an inch in length, with a tuft of fine hairs. A seed may ride on our Southwestern winds for miles, becoming a primary agent for the plant’s dispersal. It may also float in nearby stream waters to a new home. It can hitch a ride in the coats of animals or even on the clothes, boats and trailers of humans. Absent transportation, it may simply fall to the ground’s surface, forming a dense litter. “One hundred seeds per square inch have been produced within a salt cedar forest,” according to a fact sheet produced by the University of Nevada at Reno.

Reproduction

The salt cedar has a tenacious facility for propagation and survival. Under favorable conditions, a high percentage of salt cedar seeds—



New salt cedar plant, which has probably sprouted from the roots of a plant removed by hand and backhoe, Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Numerous other new salt cedar plants have sprouted in the cleared area.

produced throughout the growing season—may germinate within hours, according to Zouhar. They may, in fact, form a veritable carpet of seedlings beneath the plant canopy. Additionally, says Zouhar, a mature salt cedar’s roots may give birth to new shoots adventitiously, or essentially randomly, beyond the plant’s canopy. If a salt cedar’s above-ground portions fall to machine, ax or fire, the plant may simply produce new sprouts from its root crown. If it loses a limb to, say, flood waters, that limb may become an agent for expansion, for if it becomes buried by moist sediments, it can develop its own roots and sprout, growing as an independent plant.

Especially during hard times, when annual precipitation falls, the water table drops, the shallow moisture declines, and soil salinity increases, the salt cedar can become a botanical bully. It capitalizes on its competitive advantage over the native plants. For instance, as Zouhar noted, “The ability of tamarisk to closely regulate photosynthesis and leaf conductance during drought increases its survivability and competitive ability in arid and semiarid rangelands.”

Salt Cedar Habitats

The salt cedar prefers floodplains with saline “silt loams and silt clay loams high in organic matter, intermediate moisture, high water tables, and little erosion,” below 1,640 feet in elevation, according to New Mexico State University experts. But the plant occupies a diversity of other settings, ranging from “hot, arid, desert environments to cold, high, mountain habitats.” It even grows near the Texas Gulf Coast, along the shores and bayous of Galveston Bay, where my family and I once lived.

In New Mexico, the salt cedar has staked claims along the flood plains of all our river systems, including, in our southwestern corner of the state, the Rio Grande, the Mimbres and the Gila. According to a joint study by the US Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the plant has the potential for spreading across more than 13% of New Mexico, staking a claim to some of our most valuable lands.

Salt Cedar Impacts

The salt cedar, in its relentless drive for botanical dominance along our waterways and around our lakesides—the rarest of desert habitats—has impacted our lives and environment adversely in a number of ways.

For example, as a deep-rooted plant that sucks up ground water that evaporates rapidly through its leaves, the salt cedar claims more than its share of the life-giving liquid, especially during times of drought. It lowers the water table, and as NMSU pointed out, it can “desiccate springs, drain pools, and even dry up perennial streams.” While its rate of water consumption has been a controversial subject, some scientists

have estimated that, annually, the dense growths of salt cedar across the Southwest consume more water than do the major cities of southern California.

In its greed for water, resourcefulness and gluttony in colonizing new territory, affinity for saline soils (which it helps sustain), and speedy recovery from wildfire (which it helps fuel), the salt cedar has simply crowded out and displaced various native plants, dramatically reducing biodiversity. According to NMSU, the salt cedar's vegetative cover equals 70% to 80% of the total in some areas, and as a result, more indigenous streamside "woodlands are aging and are expected to dramatically decline" in the coming decades.

Compared with our native riverine plants such as cottonwoods and willows, salt cedar thickets have proven far less accommodating for most of our wildlife, resulting in reduced populations and diversities of birds, mammals and even insects. For instance, along the Pecos River in New Mexico, according to NMSU, "more birds were observed in 96 acres... of cottonwood, willow and mesquite communities than in 48,400 acres of salt cedar." While salt cedar thickets have become home for wood rats and desert cottontails, it has had little to offer other mammals such as beaver or porcupine. The salt cedar has reduced numbers and altered life rhythms within the insect community, which has become a less-reliable food source for nesting and migrating birds.

Contrary to the expectation that it would help control erosion, salt cedar thickets have throttled rivers and streams, causing increased stream flow velocity and flooding in some areas and decreased velocity and sedimentation buildup in other areas. For instance, the salt cedar has, no doubt, contributed to the sedimentation buildup in the Elephant Butte Reservoir, which has lost roughly 30% of its storage

capacity since its construction, according to the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation.

Salt cedar, however, does have some merit. Its flowers in the spring and summer and its golden leaves in the fall bring color to the desert landscape. It offers some refuge to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher as well as to white-wing and mourning doves and to Gambel's quail. Its spring blooms provide early pollen for bees and can facilitate their production of honey. Its detriments far outweigh its benefits, however.

Salt Cedar Control

The salt cedar has proven strongly resistant to management or eradication. It yields to no single control method, according to NMSU: "Only by use of treatment combinations logically applied over fairly long time periods can one expect to minimize salt cedar impacts." The choice of treatments will depend on factors such as location, local conditions, objectives, season, manpower, equipment availability and budget.

The plant has given rise to a number of potential control methods, ranging from hand tools to small and large power tools and equipment to hand- and aircraft-applied herbicides to the imported salt cedar leaf beetle and other biological controls. For any given project, the controls will likely yield only partial success, and they may inflict unintended consequences. They can cost from hundreds to thousands of dollars per acre to apply.

In the final analysis, the salt cedar has defied all treatments and combinations of treatments designed to eliminate it. While the plant may be contained, it is a problem that is here to stay—the unintended legacy of importers nearly two centuries ago.



Desert cottontail, one of the few mammals that has managed to make a home in the salt cedar thickets.

Right: Salt cedar dressed in its golden colors of fall.

Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who has been a contributor for various print and Internet publications over the past several years and who is the author of Texas Unexplained, now available as an e-book from Amazon or iTunes. To read all his guides to plants and animals of the Southwest, see www.desert-exposure.com/wildlife.







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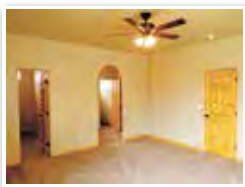

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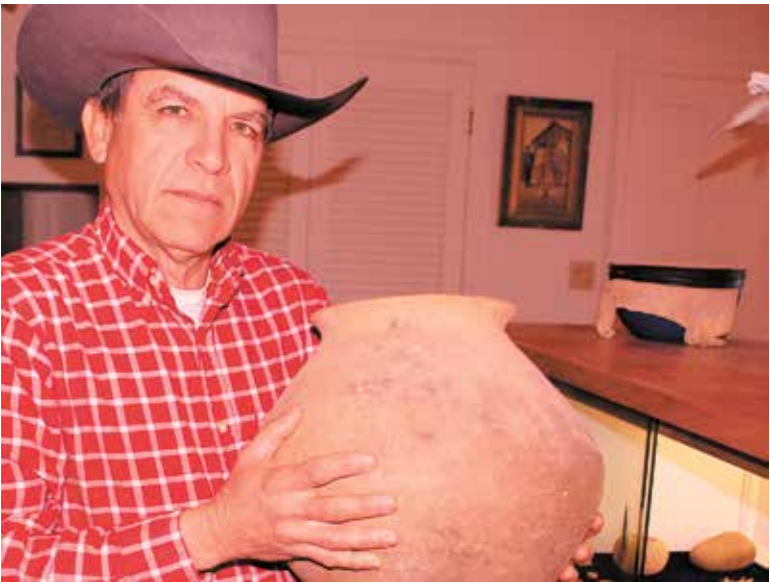


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Cold Case

Former Hidalgo County Sheriff Bill Cavaliere has turned from law enforcement to solving the mysteries of Apacheria’s past.



Portal, Ariz., rancher and former Hidalgo County Sheriff Bill Cavaliere has turned from investigating crimes to investigating Apache artifacts, photos and history. (Photo by Dawn M. Aerts)

Ranchers like Bill Cavaliere are at home in this part of the desert Southwest. As an avid historian, he has been drawn to the heart of the Apache homelands, to fuzzy photographs taken 100 years ago, and to the frayed antiquities left scattered in Apacheria.

Since his retirement from law enforcement in 2012, he’s stepped up efforts to uncover and understand the Apache past in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. He’s ridden with a descendant of the Apache warrior Perico, and his San Simon Valley ranch has become a gathering place for Apacheria researchers.

He says the San Simon Valley has always drawn folks to what he describes as the great moments of Native American history: from the story of raucous cowboys and the plight of ragged Apaches, to handwritten notes made by US Cavalry officers in conversations with warriors like Geronimo.

“I think part of the draw for me has always been about the people,” says Cavaliere of his ranch situated on the eastern edge of the Chiricahua Mountains. “We’ve been in this area many years, so it’s about the lifelong friends that we consider family and the stories of the people who came before us.”

As with turning most pages of history, he says the truth demands both time and patience.

“Researchers have uncovered hundreds of letters, memoirs and journals about Apacheria.... They detail Native American life, from the Yaqui and Chiricahua-Apache, to the Mescalero tribes.” As Cavaliere describes it, the 1850s through the 1880s was a lively time when the likes of Geronimo and the Chiricahua Apache flashed across these lands—refusing to go.

“You might say I’ve always been drawn to the American West,” he says. “History has taken me here.”

As a longtime board member of the Cochise County Historical Society in southeastern Arizona, he periodically submits entries and journals that focus on the details of that time. He recently submitted a lengthy research piece outlining the recorded and unrecorded burial sites that he hopes will bring closure on specific names, dates and locations here. Over the past 15 years, Cavaliere has also focused on bringing local history into the classroom.

Cavaliere, who was born and reared in New Jersey, found himself an agreeable transplant to the New Mexico landscape in 1978. In his early years, he worked in a variety of jobs in Rodeo, and later, with his wife, Jill, raised their family in Playas. In 1998, after completing a police academy in Santa Fe, he was elected Hidalgo County sheriff. In the meantime, he learned the how-to’s of cattle ranching with his father-in-law, Jim Strickland, now deceased.

“You could say I’ve learned a lot of things along the way,” says Cavaliere of life near the US-Mexico border. “That’s everything from working with the US Forest Service, to bartending at the tavern down the road. I’ve worked for local ranchers, like Ed Roos at the Price Canyon Ranch and others, which I think gave me a good view on what local history is all about.”

In the late 1990s, Cavaliere decided to share his findings on Native Americans by leading a small handful of people on tours to Geronimo’s 1886 surrender site, into Skeleton Canyon. He says of the surrounding region, “Now this is where the last native tribes of the Southwest lived freely—this is where they raised their children, fought their battles, and sheltered their people for as long as possible from the US Cavalry (and Mexican raids) that persisted into the 1880s.”

In 2004, Cavaliere began to invite and host guests at his ranch—experts in the field, local historians, archeologists, and descendants of the Apache tribes. “We’ve had people visit here from all over the world—Scotland, Sweden, Germany and Mexico.” He says they come to see the land where the last of the Native American people lived in freedom, and where the Chiricahua people under the leadership of Geronimo finally surrendered to the US government’s will.

His guest book is full of signed notes by celebrated authors and notable politicians: people like Dan Aranda, a writer with *Wild West Magazine*, and Ed Sweeney, the preeminent researcher on the life of Cochise and his people. You’ll see the names of prominent archeologists like Dr. Deni Seymour, along with the great-grandson of the Apache warrior Perico. In May 2013, Cavalier rode with Pascal Enjady, Perico’s great-grandson, and an Apache friend to revisit the Apache homeland trails.

Cavaliere says the Chiricahua Apache still consider this land their home.

“There are people who have lived here for years, but don’t know the legacy,” he adds. Few have ever heard of the Kas-ki-yeh Massacre by Mexican troops,



In May 2013, local rancher Bill Cavalier (center) rode with Pascal Enjady (left), great-grandson of the Apache warrior Perico, and Apache friend Dustinn Craig to revisit the Apache homeland trails.

who killed Apache women and children in the summer of 1858. Only a few more know the details about the last surrender that took place Sept. 4, 1886, in Skeleton Canyon—or the “Two-Year Promise” (of limited captivity) that Apache descendants call the “broken promise.”

He explains that at least two US generals—Nelson A. Miles and George Crook—were acclaimed for the unrelenting raids in Apacheria that eventually imprisoned warriors, along with the old, sick and wounded, mothers and children. That history recounts that the Apaches finally hunted down were numbered at about 35 men, 8 boys and 100 women and children. They were taken to Florida, and later Ft. Sill, Okla., where the people remained captive for 20 years.

But it was in Apacheria that Geronimo and others evaded capture for years. As Cavaliere points out, that provoked the attention of the US Cavalry, Mexican troops and settlers who squeezed them into the Black Mountain Range and farther south to the Sierra Madre of Mexico. To this day, he is fascinated by the many hold-outs, maneuvers and uncanny escapes made by the Apache.



One of the historic photos in Cavaliere’s collection shows from left to right, Perico (holding baby), Geronimo (on horse) Naiche (on horse) and Tsina.

Over the years, Cavaliere has invested hours of detailed research, traveled to actual sites in Mexico, such as Cañon de los Embudos, and listened to numerous experts speak on this history. Some of that effort, he says, was to learn about the obscure accounts of Naiche, the son of Cochise—who, he says, was in the “revered” hereditary line of the Chiricahua Apache and who played a significant role in the saga.

“People will find hundreds of books on Geron-



Cavaliere with research materials, including the most famous photo of Geronimo. (Photo by Dawn M. Aerts)

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Bill Cavaliere and his wife, Jill. (Photo: Dawn M. Aerts)

imo. He was known as the bold one—the dynamic leader, and a flamboyant spokesman at high-stakes talks with US generals. He is the one that the movies portrayed as legendary, and there are plenty of accounts,” says Cavaliere with a smile. “But I think the history goes further—and that may be more about Naiche.”

Though much of Cavaliere’s free time is about natural history and hunting, he’s also developed a penchant for research and analysis. “As a bartender I used to hear a lot of stories from old-timers and patrol agents here. There were the unresolved issues,

conversations about border-type issues, and these old stories would surface.” That led him to examine the old photographs that were snapped, and to study the portraits and the back drops.

“There was one day, in 1979, when I went along to help a rancher with his cattle down in Skeleton Canyon. And he showed me the final surrender site—which was really just a pile of rocks left stacked up by the US Cavalry,” says Cavaliere. “I guess you could say, I had no idea of what really took place in that canyon up till then.”

While Cavaliere continues to study old photographs taken by C.S. Fly and others, he’s also visited obscure historic sites in Mexico and along the Southwest border. He says some of the early images remain puzzling for those attempting to figure out the historic pictures. He says his background as a deputy sheriff has led him to look at situations from many vantage points, and to consider all the evidence.

“In law enforcement, I think you connect with people on a personal level, so I naturally wanted to learn more about the area, the memories people had, and to look for the remnants left behind.” He hopes to attract more history buffs to the San Simon Valley, where he admits that the Apache story may never be fully understood.

“We need to preserve the great moments, to study them, to keep them alive,” says Cavaliere of his fondness for old snapshots and the artifacts he’s collected. “There are more chapters to be written on Apache-ria—it’s still an unfolding saga of the Southwest.”

Dawn M. Aerts is a former Minnesota newspaper journalist who lives in Rodeo.

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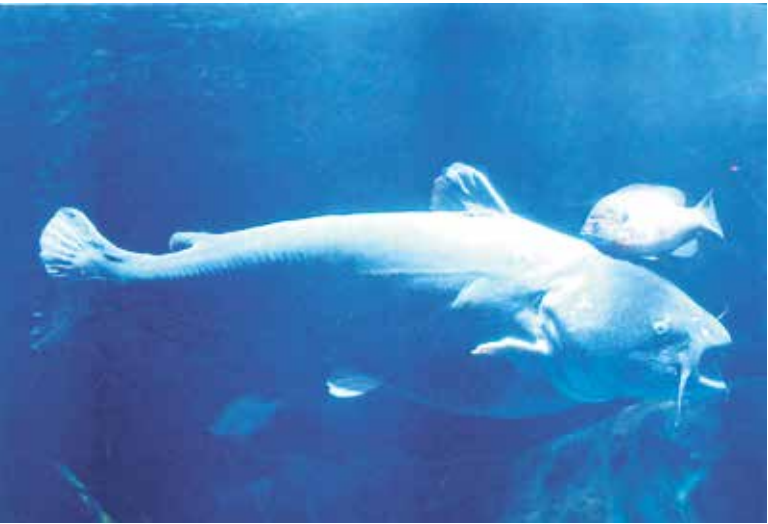
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The Catfish’s Meow

Not much to look at, New Mexico’s abundant catfish are fun to catch and delicious to eat.



Catfish may not have the cachet of bass or trout, but as table fare they’re unrivaled. It doesn’t matter whether you go after blues, channel cats or bullheads, southwestern New Mexico has whiskerfish aplenty.

Despite an ability to grow big and a willingness to clamp down on many different kinds of bait, catfish are accorded respect by too few anglers. Sure, catching a two-pound bass is fun—but catching a 10-pound catfish is even more fun, in the opinion of some anglers, including myself. And around Silver City, catching a 10-pounder isn’t all that difficult. Furthermore, a tasty bonus comes with this action: For every monster catfish that swims in the state’s waters, many smaller catfish, each one just the right size as the main ingredient for a fish fry, are waiting to take the bait. No matter how you cut it, big fish or small, river, lake or pond, a New Mexico catfish angler can’t go wrong.

What’s in a name? Catfish are a diverse group. Named for their prominently displayed “barbels,” which are slender, whiskerlike sensory organs located on the head, the creatures swim in watery environments of many kinds, with species found on every continent except Antarctica. Catfish have no scales but do possess a strong, hollow ray in their dorsal and pectoral fins, through which a stinging protein can be delivered when the fish is irritated.

The diet of catfish is varied, consisting of insects, small fish, frogs and freshwater mollusks, as well as seeds carried in water. Although trolling minnow-imitation lures does occasionally result in a catfish being caught, most whiskerfish are taken on dead or live bait of one kind or another. Chicken livers, shrimp, large worms, fish-belly strips and stink baits are all used to attract catfish.

If you are boat fishing, try to anchor above a known catfish hot spot. The creatures tend to congregate around underwater mounds, so cast and retrieve slowly. Your rod tip will bend as you drag the sinker up the side of a mound. When the tip straightens, you are, more than likely, on the ridge of a mound. Prepare for a strike as you slowly work your bait down the side. Remember: catfish are slow eaters, so be patient before setting your hook.

You don’t need a boat to enjoy great fishing. In many parts of southwest New Mexico, catfish fans pursue their favorite fish from shore. If you’re among them, the following tips may help increase your catch.

Select bank-fishing sites near prime catfish holding areas—perhaps a shore clearing near a river’s outside bend, a spot beside a pond levee or a gravel bar adjacent to a deep hole in a small stream. Ideal fishing sites have brush-free banks that make for easy casting.

When bank fishing on a river, you can fish different locations simply by letting your bait drift in the current beneath a bobber. This activity allows bait to move naturally downstream, flowing through rapids and settling enticingly in catfish holes.

No matter where you bank fish, don’t drop your

guard when landing a big cat. A long-handled net is best for catching large fish; still, there are times when beaching a fish may be necessary. If you anticipate this possibility, keep your drag set and pull the catfish up on land before attempting to remove the hook.

Bodies of water in the Silver City area that may harbor catfish include the Gila River, Bill Evans Lake, Glenwood Pond, Bear Canyon Lake (fishing here is often good for catfish using salmon eggs and homemade dough bait), and Lake Roberts (located in the Gila National Wilderness Area, this body of water features catfish that go for liver and worms). Within the Gila National Forest there are some 500 miles of fishable streams. Quemado Lake in the Apache National Forest offers year-round fishing, with special emphasis on rainbow trout and smallmouth bass, as well as catfish.

Close to Las Cruces, the Rio Grande features bullheads, channel cats and blue catfish. Caballo Lake in Sierra County, south of Truth or Consequences, varies in size by season and drought severity, but when the lake is full, it is over 11,500 acres in area and 18 miles long, making it New Mexico’s third-largest lake. A primary attraction of the lake is catfishing. Also try Snow Lake, Escondido Lake and Elephant Butte Reservoir, where the odds are excellent for snagging a channel or blue catfish.

Catching catfish is most definitely fun, but it can’t compare with sinking your teeth into a fillet that has been cooked to perfection. Now that you’ve gone catfishing and had a profitable time, here are some suggestions on what to do with your delicious-tasting treasure.

- To store in your freezer, follow these guidelines:
- Remove skin from the fillet with a super-sharp knife.
 - Always cut out the bones before packing away.
 - Cut the fillet into meal-sized portions.
 - Wipe any excess water or blood from fillets with a paper towel, then individually wrap in plastic, squeezing air out before sealing completely. Vacuum sealing is an ideal way to store and freeze your catch.
 - After freezing, allow a day to thaw in refrigerator.
 - Before cooking, trim away any freezer-burned portions.

Recipes

A person can never go wrong with an old favorite, **Pan-Fried Catfish**. You’ll need:

2 pounds catfish fillets



This angler is already thinking of dinner time. (Photo by Mary Syrett)



New Mexico Wildlife District Officer Mark Bundren with a large catfish at Ramah Lake. (NM Game and Fish photo)

- 1/3 cup flour
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
 - 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
 - 2 slightly beaten eggs
 - 1 cup cornmeal
 - Cooking oil for frying
 - Lemon wedges
- Rinse the fish under cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Mix the flour with salt and pepper, then spread the mixture on wax paper. Put the eggs in a shallow bowl and the cornmeal on another piece of wax paper. Dust each fillet in the seasoned flour and shake off excess. Dip a fillet into the egg and let excess run off. Then dip in the cornmeal before warming a good-size platter in the oven.

In a large skillet, heat one-quarter inch of cooking oil. When you feel heat rising from the oil, put the fish in and brown on each side. Don’t crowd the skillet; do only a few fillets at a time. Place on a paper towel to drain, then transfer to the platter and continue frying fillets. Serve with lemon wedges.

New Mexico Baked Catfish

- 1/3 cup slivered almonds
 - 2 pounds of catfish fillets
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1 tablespoon barbecue sauce
 - 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - Dash of pepper
- Place almonds in a shallow pan and toast at 300 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove almonds and set oven temperature at 325. Score fish with cuts about two inches apart. Combine lemon juice, sauces and seasonings, then rub mixture into the fish. Place fillets in a lightly greased shallow pan and sprinkle with the almonds. Bake for an hour and a half and serve immediately.

Peppered Barbecue Catfish

First make Three-Pepper Catfish Rub: Combine 3 tablespoons coarse-ground black pepper, 2 tablespoons kosher salt, 1 1/2 tablespoons coarse-ground white pepper, 1 teaspoon onion powder and 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper.

Three hours before you plan to barbecue, mix the rub ingredients together in a small bowl. Cover 8-ounce catfish fillets evenly with the rub, reserving 2 tablespoons of the mixture if you plan on basting the fish. Place the fillets in a plastic bag and refrigerate for three hours.

Prepare a smoker or grill for barbecuing, bringing the temperature to 190 degrees. Remove fillets from the refrigerator and let sit at room temperature for 20 minutes. Place the catfish in the smoker on a small grill rack as far away from the fire as possible. Cook fish for about 90 minutes. When cooked, the catfish will be opaque and firm, yet flaky. Serve warm.

Blackened Catfish with Lemon Butter

- (recipe best prepared outdoors)
- 4 catfish fillets



New Mexico Wildlife Officer Shawn Denny with a flathead catfish caught while surveying Black River. (NM Game and Fish photo)

olive oil
1/3 pound bacon

2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons thyme
2 teaspoons white pepper
2 teaspoons black pepper
2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
2 teaspoons lemon pepper
2 teaspoons cumin *or* chili powder
2 teaspoons crushed rosemary
2 teaspoons crushed fennel seed
1 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon salt.

Fry the bacon and then discard, retaining the grease. Combine all dry ingredients, rub fillets with olive oil, then coat with spices. Drop fish in hot bacon grease and cook until you can easily stick a fork through fillets. Serve with lemon butter, consisting of 1/4 cup melted butter, 1 teaspoon lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce and sliced green onions.

Catfish Chowder
1/2 cup chopped onions
2 tablespoons melted butter
1 pound catfish fillets cut into bite-size pieces
2 cups diced potatoes
1 cup boiling water
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups whole milk
8-ounce can of cream-style corn

Sauté the onion in butter until soft. Add fish, potatoes, water, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Add milk and corn; heat thoroughly, but do not boil. Serve hot.

Southwest New Mexico has enough fast-action angling for whiskerfish to suit the sporting demands of most hungry fishermen. As table fare, catfish are unrivaled. Bodies of water all around the area are filled with good-sized catfish. They may not be all that great to look at, but try telling your full stomach that after eating a mess of what many people, myself included, consider the best-tasting fish around. 🍽️



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Mary Syrett is a freelance writer and photographer who enjoys freshwater fishing.



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More Sounds of Silver City

Meet more of the people behind the performances who make this small-town music scene so big.



Iya Khan will open the 2014 Silver City Blues Fest in Gough Park on Saturday, May 24. (Photo by Dave Cleveland)

Two workshops by Blues Festival musicians will be held on Sunday, May 25. “The History of Funk,” led by Iya Khan, is scheduled for 12:30-1:30 p.m., tickets \$10. Roy Book Binder hosts “Ragtime Blues of my Mentor, the Rev. Gary Davis” from 2:30-3:30, tickets \$20 at the MRAC office or online, www.mimbresarts.org.

Second of two parts

Continuing last month’s round-up of some of the many people who make up Silver City’s unusually lively music scene. Read part one on our website at www.desertexposure.com/201404/201404_sounds_of_silver_city.php.

Dr. Iya Khan is the only local performer on the 2014 Silver City Blues Festival roster (see box). He says he wanted a small town after a lifetime of music in New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Born in Detroit (which he now calls “Destroyed”) into a musical family, he was encouraged to avoid the musician life all together. His father, Ali Muhammad Jackson, Sr., was a bebop jazz bass player and his uncle, Oliver Jackson, was a drummer who had his own jazz quintet. Khan heeded their warnings, earned a degree in psychology, then spent 10 years in advertising in New York City. A Bill Withers encounter changed all that.

Khan chanced upon a poster advertising Withers playing at a bar with a \$5 cover charge. There he heard a simple but creative songster with great stage presence and an often poignant message, having the time of his life. Khan tossed the idea that he was too old to start playing, bought a guitar at a pawnshop, and dived into a stack of books for self-teaching. He picked up the congas then, too.

He wanted less crowding and more sun, so Khan and his mate relocated to California, where they had two children while she worked on her degree and he drove a municipal bus. He was “Mr. Mom,” caregiving and cooking meals in the day, and at “shift change” in the evening, playing as much music in local punk bands as possible, learning the ropes, and paying his dues.

Khan says he never wanted to be an alpha male in those bands, but did want to guide the other players to the sound he was after. To accomplish this he learned to play all the other instruments, so he could do the arrangements of the music. He gained considerable notoriety in LA, but says he was frustrated by the club owners who paid poorly or not at all, taking advantage of young, hungry performers hoping to be seen by some person of importance who might be in the audience.

Khan moved to Las Vegas in the late 1980s. He says, unfortunately, the gangsters really knew how to run that town. Food and drinks for patrons were often free, rooms were discounted, musicians were paid in cash top dollar, \$2,000-\$3,000 a night. He did well in the bars, but another chance meeting helped him step up to playing casinos on the strip. His band, Iya Khan and the Would-Be-Kings (from a movie by

a similar name), landed an audition to become the house band at Mandalay Bay.

Then his keyboardist quit just three days before the tryout gig. With only a bass player, drummer and Khan’s own lead electric jazz guitar, the band was not much more than a “glorified rhythm section with a singer.” Nonetheless, their vamped-up 15-minute opening number of “Papa Was a Rollin’ Stone,” plus “talking smack all night long, tap dancing for my life,” made an impression that put the band in good stead for the next 10 years.

Khan says the niche he created was based on style, but just as important the band was available on short notice and at a reasonable rate. They would open for anybody, which ultimately happened to include Aretha Franklin (who gives a suffocating hug, he says) and James Brown. During long breaks, they toured the US and Europe.

Around 2005, thinking of retirement, Khan went on a pilgrimage up the coast of California, virtually living in a big blue Cadillac with a schnauzer named Laredo. A year of meeting salt-of-the-earth types of people on the beaches and in small towns, experiencing the sweetness of the kindness of strangers, made his outlook on life tremendously upbeat. He met his current companion, best friend, biggest fan and manager, Sue Richardson, on that journey. Together, they tried out Las Cruces and Truth or Consequences before a short trip to Silver City in 2013 reeled them in.

He spends time here playing local restaurants, performing at WNMU, preparing a syllabus for a Funk class at WNMU, and schmoozing downtown. Pick up his CDs at his gigs, and hear him opening the 19th Annual Silver City Blues Festival on Saturday, May 24, at Gough Park around noon.

Asa Martin finished Silver High School, where he was part of a popular garage band, Your Sister Cheryl, about five years ago. When band members went to separate colleges, he started paying his local dues playing solo or with his father, Deputy District Attorney Quinn Martin (see part one). His mother is Gwyn Jones, who hosts “The Morning Show” on Community Access TV of Silver City (CATS).

Losing a leg to cancer has a way of making a young man appreciate life more, according to Asa Martin, who says his diagnosis in 2013 caused him begin pursuing a life in music with much more focus. His songwriting is reflecting more depth as well. His current plan is to head for New York City as soon as possible. He hopes to build a network of followers there, with possible shows near NYU, and multiple open-mic venues. There are also possibilities for him



Asa Martin.



Brandon Perrault, photographed in 2011 for a *Desert Exposure* profile. (Photo by Richard Mahler)

in Austin, Texas.

Martin’s stringed-instrument training began on the violin, with Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler’s Fiddlin’ Friends. He progressed to mandolin, then guitar. He credits the couple, who perform as Bayou Seco (see last section), with helping make him who he is musically, which he describes as a “folkish punk rocker,” with emphasis on the punk.

Locally, he has encountered a problem with having such a young fan base. When he plays in places that serve alcohol, admirers have been turned away, but not because they were not legally allowed, since families also eat in some of the local watering holes. Fans have been asked at the door if they intend to eat. If not, they risk being shut out. If he hears about it, Martin rewards such loyalty with a free CD to those who can’t meet the “two-burger minimum.”

Hear Asa Martin play acoustic or electric shows at local small venues, or pick up his music at Facebook.com/AsaMartinMusic or check out his extended plays (EPs) at AsaMartin.bandcamp.com.

Brandon Perrault (profiled in the February 2011 *Desert Exposure*) is a name nearly synonymous with music in this area. He has been entertaining and growing in ability since 1990. He attributes his initial drive for making music to being the new kid on the block at age 17 at Cobre High School. The family had relocated several times in his childhood, and he thought music could help him connect to his fellow students since he was a stranger.

His rendition of the pre-game “Star Spangled Banner” caused heads to turn, and soon a band called New Moves formed around his vocals. He says that time was a high point in his life, because he was accepted. “Fitting in” and a genuine love of all things musical sparked a vigorous pursuit of learning the guitar with a fellow church member, Eddie Bustillos. Perrault went on to study music and education at WNMU.

Always attracted to New York, he says he was able to start “gigging” there right away when he took a break in 2003. While there, he says he realized he could adjust his style for many kinds of listeners, developing a fan base primarily at the famous Rachel’s on Fire Island. Aside from his day job managing the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater and his current effort at his next solo album consisting of all original music, he is a devoted member of Rhythm Mystic.

The name Dahl-Bredine is apparently Norwegian meaning “A Bunch of Siblings Really Good at Music and All Things Theatrical.” **Peter Dahl-Bredine** is the founder of **Rhythm Mystic**, and he and Perrault, along with Michelle Parlee, Jerry Boswell and Billy Jack Dominguez, have been wowing locals with jazz, Tex-Mex, reggae and blues for some years.

Despite the gradual waning of live dance band music for the less-expensive disc jockey product, Rhythm Mystic continues to attract large crowds of exuberant followers any time they gather for a street dance, old Elks Club night on the town, Q’s get-together, or Hurley’s Gateway restaurant-turned-party hall.

Andrew Dahl-Bredine led the popular band Compas for many years here and is evolving into a remarkable solo artist. Sister **Maria Dahl-Bredine** and her group **Glee Maiden** show their marvelous



Rhythm Mystic takes the stage at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. From left: Peter-Dahl Bredine, Michelle Parlee, Jerry Boswell and Billy Jack Dominguez. (Photo by Jaime Ramirez)

harmonies to open mic aficionados and Farmers Market attendees.

Regular local performers **Edie Steed and Dane Dexter** met at The Twisted Vine, where owner Jim Kolb had frequent live entertainment, and thought a union of their skills would produce something special. It is somewhat curious that a Baby Boomer such as Steed would be so adept at songs popularized nearly a century ago. She explains that her father started a family rather late in life. “He was born in 1900, so I grew up listening to Cab Calloway, the big bands and Billie Holliday. I love that era,” she says. Raised in St. Louis, where the citizenry absorbs the blues and gospel music into their blood by osmosis, “chin up, singing to the moon” à la Judy Garland is a natural for her.

Dane Dexter (profiled in the November 2012 *Desert Exposure*) grew up in the company of early 20th century greats such as Chet Baker, Miles Davis, Count Basie, Billy Eckstein, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and John Coltrane. He arranged music for them, and played with many of them. Initially a trumpeter for a Navy Band (“not THE Navy Band,” he says) in Washington, DC, he went on to teach himself to play the piano. At age 87, he remains a spectacularly smooth musician who offers the perfect keyboard accompaniment for the duo’s schmoozy, schmaltzy flow of great soft background music in Diane’s Parlor once a week.

The **Illusion Band** is definitely a family affair. Monica Garcia and husband bass player Rick have been rocking stages with their voices since their teenage years at Cobre High School. Their nine-year-old son, Ricardo, brings the timbales to bear, and is working on his own trap-set drum skills. Monica’s brother, Joél Santa Maria, adds variety with tenor sax and guitar. Friends Omar Holguin, on guitar, and drummer Steven Montes help make a wall of sound. A rare visit from Paul Naranjo may even throw a trombone in the mix.

They have been together in this particular iteration of the Illusion Band since 2002, and can be seen



The Illusion Band was a highlight of the Grant County Chicano Music Festival last year.

at the Flame Lounge, Q’s Bistro and Billy’s, primarily in the summer.

Illusion tours locally, and has twice had the honor of selection to be part of the Fanfare, at the Tejano Music Awards in San Antonio, Texas. Ricardo Garcia appeared there on stage when he was only three, and scored an interview on a local radio station. Illusion brings a solid set of Tex-Mex, classic rock, and country and western songs.

The Garcias find sheer enjoyment making music and are pleased to offer the younger members of the family something to do, places to go, ways to use and grow their talents, while learning to stay focused and work with others to create something unique and a lot of great memories.

“Out of the mainstream and misunderstood,” is how musician **William Bowen** describes his beloved thrash-metal music. I was hoping to get educated on the genre by meeting this intense, enthusiastic young man, and I did. Heavy metal music, and its many offspring since Black Sabbath laid down the first tracks in 1968, has been about anger and the darker side of life. Black Sabbath member Ozzy Osbourne has gained public renown in his reality show, but was



Edie Steed and Dane Dexter send out their soothing sounds at Diane’s Parlor every week. (Photo by Martha Blacklock)

actually booted from the group in 1979, due to his drug use.

Heavy metal gave birth to thrash metal, Bowen explains, when the melodic approach of British bands such as Iron Maiden and Judas Priest fused with the speed and aggression of punk rock, spawning Megadeath and Metallica. It is the nature of the music to be as extreme as possible, in volume and often in outrageousness, and nearly always in a minor key.

There is plenty in the personal life of a teen to stimulate anger and angst and horror, such as powerlessness, joblessness and the let-down of discovering the world doesn’t necessarily get better when those years are over. Some of the fury about the harsher reality of life drew Bowen to the genre in high school. The lyrics of metal music are often broader, dealing with injustice, dangers of drug use, repulsiveness of war, and political corruption.

Bowen says of his Silver City band, **Toxic Crusade**, that it “celebrates the acknowledgement of the hard side of life. It lets people who need a visceral release of their frustration be part of a community that provides a channel.” He notes that the teen themes are primarily first-world problems in the grand scheme of life, but no less important to the people living through them. Metal is a therapeutic escape, a pressure valve, a purging of pain. Toxic Crusade has two CDs to their credit so far. Other members are guitarist Eli Wilson, bassist Nick Zapata and drummer Alex Angulo.

Music instructor Doug Snyder calls Bowen one of his best students, and says heavy metal is some of the most difficult music to play. It has many layers, weird twists, elaborate structures. Much of what Bowen does is not recognized by the public audience, but requires another musician to fully appreciate. Occasionally, a player discovers a new sound a guitar can make, in a time when one would think that avenue had been exhausted in the more than 500 years since its invention.

Bowen is extremely passionate about music typically shunned, labeled fringe or even outcast. (Even the Grammy Awards only intermittently have a heavy metal

MUSICIANS continued on next page

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MUSICIANS continued

category.) He sees happy pop or folk music about beauty and love as escapes from life, too, and celebrations of that side of existence. About to relocate to Albuquerque, he spends his days as a sandwich artist, and listens to rap and hip hop for ideas to expand his metal repertoire.

Jeanie McLerie and Ken Keppeler, collectively **Bayou Seco** and the core of the **Big Ditch Crickets**, met in Eunice, Louisiana. (*Desert Exposure* profiled the duo way back in April 2003.) They know what a bayou is (slow moving stream in a marsh), up close and personal. Living in New Mexico, they know also what “seco” is (dry). Fittingly, when their style of music is at its peak, it sounds like zydeco crashing into mariachi. Both play the guitar, she rocks on the violin and vocals, while he can wail on a squeezebox with the enthusiasm of a devoted Cajun.

If you buy only one of their 13 albums, I suggest “Sunnyside,” where you will smile through an hour of songs in French, English and Spanish extolling such virtues as green chile and the geography of the Rio Grande.

In 2013, they became the founding members of the Big Ditch Crickets. Most of the members play by ear, and all love entertaining. The music is versatile, wholesome and riotous.

The Big Ditch Crickets recently introduced Grant County to the Contra Dance. First, get a bunch of live musicians and a “caller” together. Throw in people from ages 7 to 90. Let the caller educate them in the simple steps, mix in waltzes, polkas, swings and line dances. Put on a tie or a scarf for a gender reassignment if there are unequal numbers. Make lots of eye contact, make lots of mistakes, laugh, stay alert and come supplied with plenty of whimsy. The area is lucky to have such masterly foot-stomping howling musicians as McLerie and Keppeler to enlighten and enliven us.

This review of local musicians must come to an end, but it has not acknowledged nearly all the talent in our area. Deserving more than a nod are Melanie Zipin (featured back in the March 2004 *Desert Exposure*) and Jeff LeBlanc and the Silverleaves; guitarist and singer-songwriter and portrait sketch artist extraordinaire Esther Jamison; Danny Reyes, the new jazz guru at WNMU; hip-hop artists Sonny Sierra, performing as Sonni Boi, and Chris Escudero performing as Rhythmic. Go hear them all, whenever you get the chance. 🎸

Twana Sparks is a surgeon, humorist and the author of a new book, Ping Pong Balls and Donkey's Milk: The treatment of tuberculosis at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, available at www.createspace.com/4250883 and at Amazon.com.

The Big Ditch Crickets: Front row, left to right, Patrice Mutchnick, Mary Giardini, Ken Keppeler, Jamie Newton. Middle row, Carol Fugagli, Barbara Mora, Denise Smith, Jeanie McClerie, Marie Duverge. Top row, Gayle Simmons, Craig Wentz, Cynthia Coleman, Marion Bowers, Star Belsky.



The boys in the band, Toxic Crusade: Nick Zapata, Alex Angulo, William Bowen and Eli Wilson.

2014 Blues Fest

The 19th annual Silver City Blues Festival, sponsored by the Mimbres Region Arts Council, will be Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, at Gough Park in Silver City, plus a kick-off dance on Friday night. Events at Gough Park are free. For more information, see mimbresarts.org/blues-festival-homepage.

Friday, May 23

9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Kick-Off Dance, Buffalo Dance Hall, featuring Felix Y Los Gatos. \$12.

Saturday, May 24, at Gough Park

12:15-1:15 p.m.: Iya Khan
1:45-2:45 p.m.: Blue Monday
3:15-4:45 p.m.: Memphis P-Tails
5:15-6:45 p.m.: Studebaker John and the Hawks
7:15-9 p.m.: Alvin Youngblood Hart and Muscle Theory
At Buffalo Dance Hall:
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Performers Jam. \$12.

Sunday, May 25, at Gough Park

12-1 p.m.: Roy Book Binder
1:30-2:30 p.m.: Kelley Hunt
3-4:30 p.m.: The Hazel Miller Band
5-6:30 p.m.: Mingo Fishtrap

Headliners:

Alvin Youngblood Hart—“The cosmic American love child of Howlin Wolf and Link Wray!” Known as a “musician’s musician,” Hart’s praises have been sung by everyone from Bob Dylan to Brit guitar legends Eric Clapton and Mick Taylor.

Mingo Fishtrap—*Texas Music Magazine* calls Mingo Fishtrap “the space where melodic pop meets gritty Memphis soul, with a twist of N’awlins funk.”

The Hazel Miller Band—Hazel Miller is not just a great singer, “she is a force of nature,” said the *Rocky Mountain News*. Her voice has been called “stunning, moving and powerful.” She has been a sought-after performer in Colorado for the past 24 years singing blues, jazz, pop and Gospel.



BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Talking with Talaco

A conversation with Palomas’ mayor,
plus hunger among Mexican fieldworkers.

Palomas’ mayor since November is Estanislao Sanchez, more commonly known as “Talaco.” He’s a bit of a fixture on the Palomas scene, after being mayor between 2004 and 2007.

Talaco grew up in the southern Chihuahuan town of Balleza, where his father’s death orphaned him at six months. He has only five years of education, but his mother taught him early to work on their farm, he says, “*como Dios mande*” (as God commands).

He has lived in Palomas since 1970 and is now 74 years old. I interviewed him last month in his spare office at the *Presidencia*.

My first question was whether the current economic boom in Santa Teresa, NM, and San Jeronimo to the west of Juarez is going to affect Palomas at all. (The talk for years has been that economic development in San Jeronimo will bring a road along the border to Palomas and maquiladoras to the east side of town.)

“Definitely, we need a maquiladora urgently to create work for the people of Palomas,” Talaco said. “We have about 1,000 people available for manual labor.”

“We’re talking with a lot of people,” he added. “We’ve talked with the governor and to Adan Gomez, secretary of the economy in Chihuahua. We’ve also talked with three heads of maquiladoras, including Foxconn.” A Taiwanese company that produces Dell computers, Foxconn is the largest employer in San Jeronimo.

He said he’s shown Foxconn his own large facility used for public events, called Terraza San Vicente. “We’ve said they can use it for free. It already has bathrooms, drainage and electricity.”

Talaco has for years owned Terraza San Vicente, a DVD-video rental store, and the San Francisco Restaurant/Hotel, but refused to elaborate on how else he makes money. As he lives very comfortably in town, this has been an issue with political opponents.

He has a daughter who attended Deming schools, went on to Harvard, and now teaches math at the University of Michigan. She also sings mariachi. (Talaco invited readers to watch him and his daughter singing on YouTube at “Cantares de Mexico.”) He also has two sons with professional positions in Texas.

But economic progress for Palomas does not sound imminent, despite his talk. “No one helps us!” he told me, as everyone in power has said in Palomas for years. “Palomas is full of backwardness.”

One area where Talaco will probably make tangible progress is in creating institutions. During his prior *trienio* (three-year term) he created a funeral chapel and a library, which now has a Learning Center doing some exciting things.

One of the projects he’s now planning is a new clinic, which will have six beds and an operating room. It will supplement the Centro de Salud that is already functioning. He’s also working on a new plaza to the west of the main plaza.

He’s improving the DIF office (for social work), where his wife Maria Luisa Loya is the director. But he said they’re not getting any donations from the DIF office in Chihuahua City.

I asked him about the workers in town, who, because of the recession and the closing of the border in Palomas, have to work in the fields in Colonia Victoria to the south. I told him that I’ve heard a rumor that the largest grower, Daniel Leanos, has decided not to hire workers from southern Mexico any more, as they’ve been crowding out local fieldworkers and causing hunger.

Talaco waved his hand and said dismissively, “They have to work with the people that want to work.”

Checking the Colonias

The Saturday before Easter I headed down to Colonia Guadalupe Victoria in a light drizzle, with a large white swath of rain hanging from a cloud behind me.

I visited a few *tienditas* in Victoria. They seemed to have a cozier atmosphere in the rain and chill than they usually have. They are pretty cramped and dark.

I talked to a couple of female cashiers who haven’t heard the rumor I heard about hiring. The second one suggested I go talk to a woman who helps poor people, named Armida Cardoza.

Cardoza had just the week before helped the Red Cross distribute food to needy people. It was an impressive effort, I’d heard, as a number of poor people got up to 25 pounds of food. The kind of assistance local people got always sounded very minimal to me.

Cardoza lives in a middle-class home, very clean and stylish. I sat on a couch in the living room where a television was playing cartoons for her kids.

She talked for about 10 minutes, about the Red Cross and about bringing burritos and soda to the workers, before I realized she was married into the Alvidres family. (In Mexico married women often use their maiden names.) They’re the second-largest agricultural family in the region, although far smaller than the Leanos business.

I told Cardoza about the rumor I’d heard. She told me—and swore it was from experience—that she has asked local workers if they wanted to do extra work and they didn’t want to. She claimed the growers couldn’t do the harvest without the workers from the south. She invited me to take a tour with her during the harvest.

I checked out yet another *tiendita* afterwards, where the couple who owned it, Jose and Ramona, were not all that sure the southern workers displace the locals. But when I asked Jose in a direct way, he woodenly nodded yes, over and over—there is less work for locals.

Ramona said they grew up with Daniel Leanos and think he’s *un buen hombre* and *amable*.

On the way back I stopped off at Colonia Modelo, where I’ve been delivering food for over a year. My friend Oralia was about to eat a special meal with her family the night before Easter, and then get up at 5 a.m. for church. I could see the family dimly through curtains.

Oralia said on average the people in Modelo work three days a week during the harvest, when they used to work six days. She says the growers tell local workers, “There’s no work.”


I was left feeling a little cross-eyed, listening to both growers and workers. It’s like listening to people viewing an object through different ends of a telescope, or from very different directions.

But I think, as someone who has brought food to them for many months, that the most crucial issue is that the hungry people get fed. It sounds as if there should be some mid-way solution—to limit, but not eliminate, the number of workers from the south.

I might invite Armida Cardoza on a tour sometime. ☘

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.






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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Lights Out?

A cat, a power pole and a plan.

Truth be told, I'm not much of a cat person. Although we usually had one or two growing up, they were barn cats more than anything else. We'd put out food and water for them, but their primary mission was to terminate all rodential activity, from mice to gophers, and they were very, very good at their mission. We gave them names, but it really didn't matter because they wouldn't come when you called. Like all cats, they were supremely arrogant bastards covered in fur. Pretty much like every cat I've ever met.

A recent story, however, involving a cat's poor spatial judgment and a pragmatic New Mexican recently caught my attention.

My friend lives in the unincorporated desert northeast of Las Cruces, and enjoys his little slice of desert heaven. He has a piece of land with a dirt road, a house and a shop to work in. Life is good. He has a couple of cats that travel with him between the house and his shop that are pretty good at hanging around and doing cat things. One night in March, however, something caused one of his cats to go a bit crazier than usual and decide to scale a phone pole. A 60-foot phone pole, with lots of wires and buzzy boxes on it.

The cat was discovered in the morning, perched at the very top of the pole, somewhat distressed about his newfound aerie but not capable of doing very much to rectify the situation except trying to look cool while meowing loudly. My friend was befuddled at why the cat was up there, but equally perplexed about how to reduce the feline's altitude. So he called El Paso Electric and was told that they weren't in the business of cat retrieval. Not to be deterred, he pulled up a large box truck against the pole, put a ladder on it, and tried to compel the kitty to jump down to him. Given the gap was still at least 15 feet, the cat wasn't interested in this plan.

So my friend scratched his head and decided what to do next. He called the fire department, and they weren't able to help, although they too called the electric company and were told about the "no gato" saving policy. So he called animal control, and a lady came out to survey the situation. She said there was nothing she could do, either.

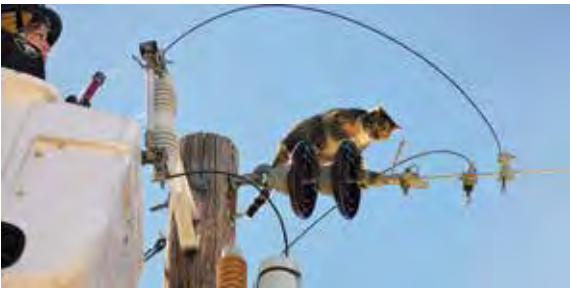
At this point, nobody would help. The animal was cold and distressed, so my friend offered to shoot the cat and put it out of its misery. The animal control officer was appalled by such violent pragmatism. So much so that she called the sheriff's department on him, and a polite young officer advised him on the

dim view that his bosses have about discharging firearms into the air. It wasn't so much a concern about the cat's demise as much as it was about errant ammunition.

Well, now. Other than pulling up a lawn chair and watching the cat expire from exposure, there weren't too many options left. When times get desperate, desperate measures will be employed. He turned to the interwebs, and posted a photo of the cat on the pole on Facebook, where he had a grand total of 12 friends. The thing started going viral anyway, and outraged cat people were registering their righteous indignation over the situation. Before long, El Paso news media were on scene, filming the cat, the owner, and any official who had condemned the critter to a lonely pole-mounted death. Attitudes changed quickly at that point.

El Paso Electric finally relented to provide a bucket truck, and agreed to turn off the power to the pole.

But they wouldn't send one of their workers up in the bucket, so a Las Cruces animal control officer volunteered to fly the friendly skies and grab the cat. Cameras were rolling as the kitty was secured and a small crowd applauded the feat.



Although hungry and a bit pissy about the entire ordeal, the cat is now happy and on the ground, already returning to its natural state of indifferent arrogance and supremacy. My friend is awfully glad he didn't have to shoot the thing, and was amazed at how hard it was to affect a feline rescue. The story not only made in on the four networks, but also was covered by Fox News and even the *Daily Mail* in the United Kingdom.

Does this change my opinion about cats? Not really, no. I still contend that they are little more than meaty sacks of anger with five pointy ends, not good for much more than generating hairballs and peeing on my truck. They seem to be pretty happy with themselves as a species, however, and they engender positive feelings among those who like the company of furry, soulless critters, so I don't mind them so much. I'm just glad this particular cat met with a happy ending.

Henry Lightcap scratches
the furniture in Las Cruces.



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☐ b. almost every month

☐ c. every two to three months

☐ d. a couple of times a year

☐ e. less often

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Body, Mind & Spirit • Bina Breitner

Making Adjustments

You think about adjusting to him, but can you adjust to YOU?

When couples are having trouble, each person is aware of what bothers him or her about the other person: “He’s emotionally distant.” “She drinks too much, and gets nasty.” “I can’t stand his temper.” “He cares more about his mother than he does about me.” “He gets depressed and self-involved.” “She is so controlling.” I could fill a page with complaints I’ve heard—all valid.

What strikes me are two common mistakes. The first is believing you can change your partner. That’s impossible. You can suggest, cajole, strategize, encourage, insist, weep or threaten, but only the other person can actually do the changing.

The second common mistake is trying to adapt without awareness of your own limits.

This one’s less obvious, so let me give you an example. This case involves a woman dissatisfied with a relationship, but it could equally be a man.

Mary had grown up poor, on a farm in Oklahoma with five brothers and sisters, an exhausted mother, and a violent father. In her mother’s generation, fewer people got divorced, so Mary never knew whether her mother had wondered about leaving her father. There wasn’t any money, anyway, and six children had to be taken care of.

Mary was smart and energetic. Given her feisty temperament, she tended to talk back, plus she wanted to protect her younger siblings. She often got the belt. She was very happy to leave home after high school and go to the state college, where she did well.

She got a job, married a professional man... and discovered that he was an alcoholic and occasionally sadistic. She’d gone from the frying pan into the fire. It took her two years of intense emotional distress, but she divorced him. Since then, she’d made her way successfully in the working world. She’d barely escaped one mugging, but otherwise she’d been physically safe.

Now she was involved with Harold, an artistic man who cherished her—but he had a temper. When he blew, he stayed angry for up to an hour, and she wasn’t sure what would set him off. He never hurt her, but he threw a chair once, which scared her.

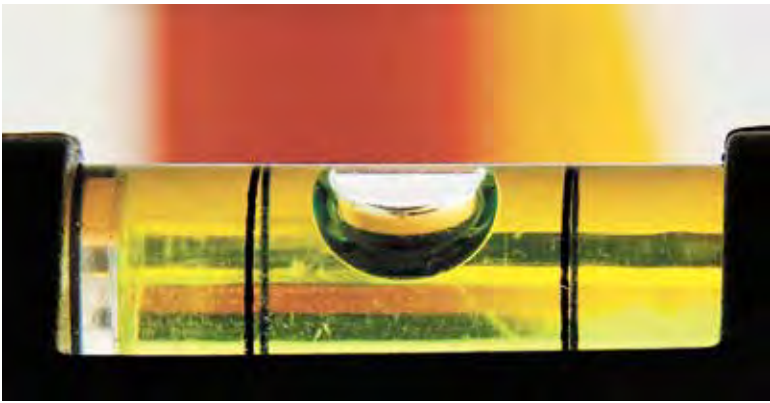
Should she keep seeing him? They were very congenial in many ways, and she wasn’t interested in most men her age (mid-50s). She was inclined to keep her eye on his many good qualities, and adjust.

After all, he was well-intended, smart, tender-hearted, hard-working, affectionate and loyal. She figured men like that didn’t grow on trees.

What Mary hadn’t counted on were her own limits.

The reality was that Harold wasn’t going to harm anyone. He never had. He certainly (consciously) didn’t want to. His anger was untrustworthy, but his blow-ups were temporary, and someone else might have figured out a way to put up with them. But Mary’s history and temperament made this relationship impossible for her. She couldn’t be in the presence of any more shouting, rage or emotional violence.

Her decision didn’t involve the morality of Harold’s behavior, or even his mental health. He and she could have argued a long time about how important a factor his anger was. She could have said he



The second common mistake is trying to adapt without awareness of your own limits.

did thus and such; he could have pointed out he’d never harmed a hair on anyone’s head—he was just blowing off steam. He regretted it, but he wasn’t really out of control.... They’d both have been right. But when it got down to the personal level, Mary was sensitized (by painful experience) to any violent energies. She had

a choice now, which she hadn’t had as a child, and she never wanted to be around “an angry man” again. Goodbye, Harold.

I know women whose husbands’ sexual comments (about them and about other women) feel kind of lively and sexy. I know others—especially those who have been sexually abused in their youth—for whom any “objectifying” comment is upsetting: “It’s so impersonal! He’s talking about my body as if it were a thing put there to turn him on!”

Is the fellow bad for noticing and commenting on attractive women? What counts in this context is how the comments feel to his wife. She might find them sexy. But if they upset her, they’re hurtful. She has limits. She might be able to train herself to react less, but she might not. And if she can’t, he’d better pay attention—or she should leave him, not because of the comments themselves but because he doesn’t care enough what they’re doing to her. Who wants to hang around someone who doesn’t honor how you feel?

And that’s the crux. It doesn’t matter who’s right or wrong. Each person could be right for himself. A well-intended person can make a good-faith effort, but the other person is who she is, with her preferences, her history, her sensitivities.

There can be differences about geography—who likes what kind of landscape. I’ve known several couples who foundered on that rock. In fact, I’m one of them. After growing up in the Southwest and living in various countries, I found myself in frozen, mosquito-ridden, gray New England. Can you tell I disliked

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

it? After almost 30 years, I returned to the Southwest, leaving a rich life and a good man. I simply could not stay any longer in that shadowy cold world. It didn't and doesn't make sense to him. He's not bothered by the climate. He tried to talk me into staying on. But I'd hit the wall. Fortunately, he's adapted.

There are morning people and night people. There are people who need a lot of solitude and others who need a group. There are people who mull things over and others who like to take action. There are people who can eat and drink anything and others who have sensitivities to fats or gluten or dairy or whatever.

People are different from each other, and that's the fun of it. Except when you're hooked up with someone whose differences are difficult for you to accommodate. Then the challenge is to look in the mirror—not at the other person—and ask yourself about your own limits.

Sometimes, if you're reacting to your own history, you can do a lot to calm your reactions. I had a client who found himself lying on the floor and crying when his wife got intensely angry at him. He was just that scared of his mother's anger in his childhood. Once he put the reaction together with the original environment, he responded less painfully to his wife—and he could finally listen to why she was angry instead of collapsing into fear. (She'd been waiting about seven years for him to hear her—part of why her anger had become intense.)

You can also help your partner clear up what's Then and what's Now. If you can't stay up late and your honey is a night owl, you can explain to him that you don't feel well the next day when you go to sleep late; that you need more sleep than he does; that you don't object to his being groggy in the morning so he should allow you the same flexibility at night.

If he still says he wants you to watch late movies with him, you're at one of those moments. Do you tell him again, more loudly, what you need, and start getting angry? Or do you say, "I love that you want me to watch movies with you, and I know it makes you feel loved and connected. I'm sorry my sleep rhythm doesn't offer you that. I wonder what else goes into this, because you're pressuring me and it feels as if you don't really see me."

It might turn out that his father was ill during his adolescence, and the nightly gathering around the TV with Mom and his brothers helped him avoid how lonely and scared he felt. He'd like you to provide the same consolation for something that happened years before.

Because you respect your own limits, you can stay clear. You're not turning yourself into a pretzel, trying to become a night owl. You're not taking his insistent request personally. You know your going to bed isn't "against" him; you just need your sleep. He has the problem, and you can be nice to him. Your limits and his needs are unrelated.

Being respectful of your own limits can be harder than it sounds. We're often taught that's selfish and inconsiderate. Or that whatever you can't tolerate is "normal," so you should adapt. Attending to your own limits might feel too "distant" to some people who like moving in a group, and they will get mad at you: "Who do you think you are, someone special?" Or they'll make you wrong: "We're just going out for a drink—are you such a wuss that you can't even do that?"

There's a lot of pressure to conform, and insecure people feel more insecure if you're different from them.

It also might be difficult to know what your limits are if you haven't been around people who resemble you. Everybody else in your family is gregarious, but you need hours alone with your own thoughts or interests. Unless someone makes that OK, you'll try to blend in. If you weren't reassured as a youngster, you'll have to reassure yourself now (that being different is OK, that your preferences matter). That's not always easy, because you'll have to admit how lonely you felt all those years outside the group. By now, you've learned to dislike your own preference, because it led to emotional isolation.

The pitfall of trying to adapt beyond what's balanced for you is that you'll become resentful. In

the short term, you're doing someone a favor if you adjust to him. In the long term, you're setting him (and yourself) up for disappointment and estrangement, because the fact is you do have limits. Everyone does. Pretending something doesn't matter to you is like false advertising, and pretty soon both you and he will realize it.

So look in the mirror and get to know yourself. Notice what makes you happy and what bothers you. What kind of temperament do you have? What's your rhythm in the world? What do you think about when you're not thinking about anything? Take yourself seriously. It's the only honest way to consider sharing yourself with another person.

Bina Breitner, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) in private practice in Tucson. She can be reached by phone at (520) 820-7930 or (575) 538-4380, by Skype at bina.breitner, or by e-mail at binasun@yahoo.com.


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Body, Mind & Spirit • Tabitha Alterman

All About Fats

Stop fearing fat in your food and start understanding it.

Fat is a macronutrient—emphasis on nutrient. All living things need fat. For optimal functioning, our brains must be more than half fat. We need fat to make and nourish cells; cushion and protect organs and nerves; store vitamins and absorb minerals; and transport hormones and other nutrients throughout our blood. We also need fat for energy.

So why are we so afraid of this essential nutrient?

In his books, *Good Calories, Bad Calories* and *Why We Get Fat*, investigative science journalist Gary Taubes outlines the trajectory that led us to believe fats are bad for us, and saturated fats, even worse. For detailed analysis of the theories that proposed fat to be bad and the research that has thoroughly debunked those theories, you can't go wrong with Taubes' books.



Research indicates that saturated fats such as those in cheese and other animal products may be better for us than we once thought. (Photo by Thomas Gibson)



Consuming healthy fats like nuts and unfiltered oils can lower our risk of disease and help us lose weight. (Photo by Thomas Gibson)

Here's the gist:
In the 1950s, a small but influential group of health professionals linked dietary fat to heart disease. Eventually the American Heart Association, Congress, the USDA and the National Institutes of Health followed suit. By the 1980s, an entire industry had grown up around nonfat and low-fat foods. The low-fat diets of the next two decades were supposed to help people lose weight and reduce their risk of heart disease.

Now consider this: In the 1960s, the calories in the average American diet were nearly half from fat. Today, that number has decreased to about one-third of our calories. Back in the 1960s, only 13% of Americans were obese. Today, more than a full third of American adults are obese. If looking to the past isn't enough validation that lowering fat intake isn't the answer, recent research shows that a diet in which half the calories are fat-derived is not linked to weight gain and disease.

Assessing a mountain of science on diet for more than a decade led Taubes to form these conclusions:

"Much of what we've been taught since the 1970s is simply wrong. This might explain why those same years have seen unprecedented increases in obesity and diabetes. When I started my research, I had no idea that I would come to such contrarian views. But now I think certain conclusions are virtually inescapable:

- Obesity and being overweight are not caused by eating too much fat.
- Easily digestible (refined) carbohydrates and sugar are the primary cause of excess weight.
- Dietary fat, saturated or not, does not cause heart disease.
- The foods that make us fat—easily digestible

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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Breath Empowerment
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Sat., May 17, 11am - 12:30pm \$10
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

carbohydrates and sugars—even-
tually cause the diseases most
likely to kill us: heart disease, di-
abetes and most cancers.”

Taubes is not alone in his view-
point. Numerous scientists, phy-
sicians and investigative journal-
ists are changing their tune about
fat. Last fall, the *British Medi-
cal Journal* printed an article by
cardiologist Aseem Malhotra
showing a mound of research to
indicate that reducing natural fat
(and in its stead increasing sugar,
empty carbs and trans fats) has
led to huge spikes in obesity. Mark
Bittman, the acclaimed *New York
Times* food writer, dedicates a
chapter in his new diet book *Eat
Vegan Before 6:00* to helping dieters understand the
importance of consuming healthy macronutrients,
fat among them. “Fortunately current research has
forced a dramatic change to how scientists view the
role fats play in health and weight loss,” he writes.
Instead of avoiding dietary fats, he wants his readers
to understand better which fats to eat—and then to
eat them.

Good Fats, Bad Fats

Fats are classified according to how saturated
with hydrogen atoms their carbon chains are.

In *The Deluxe Food Lover’s Companion*, Sha-
ron Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst describe the three
classifications of saturation. “Picture a fat molecule
as a train of passenger cars (carbon atoms). If every
seat on the train is filled by a ‘passenger’ (hydrogen
atom), then this is a saturated fat molecule. If there’s
one seat open in each car where a hydrogen-atom
‘passenger’ can sit, the molecule is monounsatu-
rated; if there are several seats available, it’s polyun-
saturated.”

These distinctions are important because these
fats behave differently in the body and in the kitch-
en. Most fats are composed of both saturated and
unsaturated fatty acids, but are grouped accord-
ing to the predominant one. Animal fats, about half
saturated and half unsaturated, are usually solid at
room temperature and referred to as saturated fats.
Fats from vegetables, nuts and seeds are predomi-
nantly unsaturated, and are liquid at room tempera-
ture.

Monounsaturated fats figure largely in the fa-
mously healthy Mediterranean diet. They are associ-
ated with healthy insulin sensitivity, lower both bad
cholesterol (LDL) and triglycerides, and reduce in-
flammation (which leads to a host of diseases). The
very best source of monounsaturated fat is maca-
damia nuts, making macadamia nut oil supremely
healthy. Olive oil, avocado oil, fish oil and many other
kinds of nut and seed oils are also high in monoun-
saturated fats.

Polyunsaturated fats improve cholesterol and
blood pressure, control inflammation, stabilize heart



Most nuts and seeds are good sources of superhealthy monounsatu-
rated fats. (Photo by Thomas Gibson)

rhythms, and protect against all kinds of disease, in-
cluding heart disease and cancer. The famous ome-
ga-3 and omega-6 fatty acids (more on these later)
are polyunsaturated fats. Polyunsaturated fats are
found in sunflower seeds, corn, soybeans, some fish,
flax seeds, walnuts and animal fats (if the animals are
grass-fed).

Typically solid at room temperature, **saturated
fats** occur naturally in animal products such as
meat, cream, butter, lard and cheese. Compared
with unsaturated fats, saturated fats are likely less
healthy—they may have adverse metabolic effects.
Yet, despite a long-held belief that saturated fats
harm heart health, researchers today are beginning
to believe that saturated fats aren’t so bad for us.
“When saturated fat got mixed up with the high
sugar added to processed food in the second half
of the 20th century, it got a bad name,” says pedi-
atric endocrinologist Robert Lustig in an article in
the *Los Angeles Times*. But is saturated fat or added
sugar worse? “The American Heart Association has
weighed in,” Lustig says. “The sugar, many times
over.”


Some fats are decidedly not good for us, namely
man-made **trans fats**. These include margarine,
vegetable shortening, and the fats and oils in many
processed foods. These fats are created when food
manufacturers hydrogenate liquid fats, making them
solid rather than liquid at room temperature, done to
extend shelf life and create appealing textures. We
now know that this is a terrible idea, and can lead
directly to heart disease by spiking bad cholesterol
(LDL) while reducing good cholesterol (HDL). Check
ingredients lists for the words “partially hydroge-
nated.” Any partially hydrogenated oil is a trans fat.
Avoid these like the plague. ❧

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Body, Mind & Spirit • Allison Martin

Scents and Sensibility

Natural alternatives to store-bought plug-ins.

With the sweet scent and aromatherapy benefits of botanicals wafting through your home, you'll never consider a store-bought plug-in again. There are very good reasons to ditch commercial air fresheners. Many contain the known human carcinogen formaldehyde, and commercial air fresheners often also contain phthalates—hazardous chemicals known to cause hormonal abnormalities, birth defects and reproductive problems. Finally, air fresheners need meet no special requirement to be marked “natural,” so beware of false claims.

Banishing bad smells with truly natural air fresheners couldn't be easier—or more beneficial. Nature offers a wide array of great-smelling options that can neutralize odors, while at the same time helping soothe your mind or boost your mood. Instead of fake, potentially harmful scents, opt for these safe ways to replace unpleasant odors with uplifting ones.

Three Natural Odor Neutralizers

Sometimes you need to clear a room of scents, not mask an unpleasant odor with another smell. For this task, turn to three tried-and-true natural odor neutralizers.

Vinegar, despite its distinctive scent, absorbs smells without contributing its own odor to the room. The best way to use it is to place a small bowl of vinegar on a mantle or a high shelf. (Be sure to keep the bowl out of reach of pets, and make sure family members are aware of the room-freshening plan.) Check on it every few weeks, and add a little more vinegar as it evaporates from the bowl.

If you aren't convinced that vinegar won't make the room smell pickled, use **vodka** in the same manner. It also absorbs smells, but is completely odorless.

Baking soda is another natural odor neutralizer.



Vodka absorbs smells, but is completely odorless.



Essential oils from the rosemary plant are antimicrobial and antibacterial.

Sprinkle baking soda over carpets in the evening before bed. In the morning, vacuum the carpets, whisking away the baking soda and any odors lurking in the carpet fibers. If you can't wait eight hours for the baking soda to absorb, waiting just 30 minutes before vacuuming can freshen up your living room noticeably.

Herbal Essential Oils

Herbal essential oils are concentrated botanical oils that retain properties of the plants from which they are extracted. Many of them, such as **eucalyptus**, **lavender** and **rosemary**, are antimicrobial and antibacterial, which makes them great for freshening up around the house. In addition to banishing bacteria and microbes, **tea tree** essential oil is antifungal and antiviral.

One easy way to infuse your home with the scent of essential oils is to make a reed diffuser. Pick one herbal essential oil, or experiment by blending several. You can simply choose scents that smell nice together, or you can incorporate aromatherapy into your all-natural air freshener.

Excerpted from Mother Earth Living, a national magazine that provides practical ideas, inspiring examples and expert opinions about healthy, beautiful homes and lifestyles. To read more articles from Mother Earth Living, please visit www.MotherEarthLiving.com or call (800) 340-5846 to subscribe. Copyright 2012 by Ogden Publications Inc.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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I have lived in Silver City all my life, born and raised here in Grant County. Over the years, I have seen the medical resources in our community grow tremendously, with many more options in choosing a primary caregiver who is suited to your own individual needs. I recently had some issues with my health, which led me to start looking for the right primary care practitioner to follow up on my health and give me the medical attention I was seeking. I knew I wanted a female practitioner and that led me to pick Nellie Gallegos, a Physicians Assistant at Silver Health CARE, as my primary caregiver. My first appointment with Nellie was exceptional, and certainly exceeded my expectations. I felt it was very important to me to be able to open up and communicate with her about my most reserved issues and that made a big difference for me. She made me feel very comfortable and confident. Nellie is very caring, attentive and explains any and all questions, with superb professionalism. She is very thorough in discussing any concern you might have. She is compassionate and will sit with you as long as it takes during your appointment. She is respectful and truly one of a kind. I greatly appreciate the time, effort, and skill that she has devoted to my care. Anyone seeking high quality medical care should consider Nellie. She sees patients at the Silver City and Bayard clinics of Silver Health CARE. I would highly recommend Nellie from my own personal experience and recommend that you choose her for your primary care.



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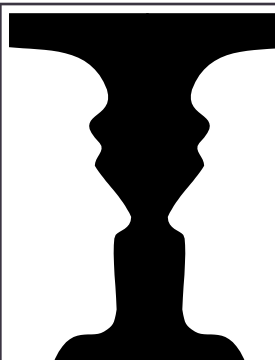


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Sundays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780
HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703
PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

Mondays

AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298
AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.
AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
LEGO MINDSTORMS—Ages 10 and up. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
OLD-TIME COUNTRY DANCING—3rd Mon., 7-9 p.m. Pin Room, Silver Bowling Center. Free.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.
TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

Tuesdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1st Tues. 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
CHESS CLUB—All ages. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 534-1134.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.
KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.
LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.
REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing.

Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.

SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

Wednesdays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.

BAYARD AL-ANON—6 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N. Hudson St., 519-1070.

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

GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.

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

LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-10. 4:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

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

Thursdays

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

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

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

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

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.

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

NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women's Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.

PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.

TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.

WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.

YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

Fridays

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

SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.

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

WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.

YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

Saturdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.

BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸

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

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Ursa Major, the Great Bear

Plus the planets for May.

One of the most well-known constellations in our sky is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. On May nights if you face north and look about two-thirds of the way up in the sky, you can find Ursa Major hanging upside-down facing eastward. The Great Bear is often identified by locating the asterism (informal group of stars) known as the Big Dipper.

The Big Dipper is the hind-quarters of Ursa Major and is composed of seven bright stars, Alkaid, Mizar, Alioth, Megrez, Phocda, Dubhe and Merak. Dubhe and Merak are at the east end of the Dipper and are the pointer stars. If you follow the line formed by these two stars, you will find Polaris and the North Celestial Pole, which is the extension of the Earth's axis of rotation into the sky. All the stars in the sky appear to rotate around this point once every 24 hours. The middle star of the handle of the Dipper, Mizar, is actually a multiple star. Mizar is magnitude 2.1 and Native Americans would use it as a vision test. If the youngster could see the brighter companion, Alcor, at magnitude 4.0 just 12 minutes-of-arc away, they were judged to have good vision.

The Great Bear comes from Greek mythology, in which Callisto was a beautiful nymph whom Zeus lusted after. To keep her husband from Callisto, Hera changed Callisto into a bear. Later, Callisto's son, Arcas, came across Callisto in her bear form and prepared to shoot her with an arrow. To prevent this tragedy, Zeus turned Arcas into a bear as well and put them both into the sky—Callisto as Ursa Major and Arcas as Ursa Minor. Many other cultures have considered this grouping to be a bear, including Jewish and Iroquois.

Ursa Major is the third-largest constellation in the sky, so it contains many deep-sky objects. Most are galaxies, including the Pinwheel (M 101), Whirlpool (M 51) and the Cigar Galaxy (M 82). M 82 is magnitude 8.4 and is an irregular galaxy that is 11.2 minutes-of-arc long and 4.3 minutes-of-arc wide. This galaxy is undergoing a starburst, the rapid and widespread formation of stars caused by interaction with a neighboring galaxy. A Type Ia supernova on the southeastern side of this galaxy was discovered on Jan. 21, 2014. It is the closest Type Ia supernova spotted in 42 years.

Northeast of the star Megrez (Delta Ursae Majoris), there is an area seemingly empty of everything. There are no bright stars, infrared, ultraviolet or x-ray sources. This area is also in the Hubble Space Telescope's continuous viewing field, never blocked by the Earth as Hubble orbits it.

Astronomers took 342 pictures of this area over a 10-day period in December 1995 with the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 through four different filters: near-ultraviolet, blue, red and near-infrared. These images were then combined into a color image that covered just 2.5 minutes-of-arc on each side.

Far from empty, this Hubble Deep Field (HDF) image contains 3,000 objects, almost all galaxies. These galaxies are all different distances from us, giving us an opportunity to study galaxies at many different ages. The most distant in the HDF are some 12 billion light-years away. The wide range of galactic ages allowed astronomers to make an estimate of the star formation rate in the universe. Star formation is estimated to have peaked between 8 billion and 10 billion years ago.

Also of interest was the lack of very faint nearby



High in our northern sky, Ursa Major hangs upside-down. The hind-quarters of the Great Bear is the Big Dipper, a well-known but informal grouping of stars. The two stars at the end of the Big Dipper point to Polaris, the Pole Star. All the stars in the sky rotate around the pole once a day. This takes all the stars of the Big Dipper below our northern horizon except for Dubhe, the northern pointer star.

stars found in the HDF. Astronomers have been trying to determine where the excess mass is in a galaxy. For a number of reasons, they believe there is more mass in a galaxy than we can see; it was thought this mass might be many very faint red dwarf stars in the halo around a galaxy. Since these did not show up in the HDF, the excess mass, now referred to as dark matter, is not made up of red dwarfs. We still do not know what it is, but the search continues.

The Planets for May

Mercury pops out of the evening twilight just after the month begins. Among the constellations, it travels from Aries, all the way through Taurus, and into Gemini as the month ends. Mercury reaches its greatest distance from the Sun on May 25, when it will be magnitude +0.6 with a disc 8.3 seconds-of-arc across in the form of a crescent that is 35% illuminated. When Mercury first appears from the far side of the Sun, it will be almost full. As the month proceeds, it will become less gibbous, reaching the half-phase on May 19. From there, it continues into the crescent phase, becoming thinner every day. Mercury sets around 9:45 p.m. at the end of the month.

Jupiter is four months past opposition and can be found about 40 degrees up in the west as it gets dark, setting before midnight. At midmonth, it is magnitude -2.0 with a disc 33.9 seconds-of-arc across. The King of the Gods is moving slowly eastward in central Gemini.

The God of War is just past opposition and shines at magnitude -0.8. Its disc is 13.3 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. **Mars** is moving westward in central Virgo at the beginning of the month. It

reaches a stationary point on May 21, then turns back eastward and ends the month almost exactly where it started. This is a great time to take a telescopic look at this planet while it is still high in the evening sky, not setting until 4 a.m.

Saturn reaches opposition on May 10, making this a good time to observe the Ringed Planet as well. It is moving slowly westward in central Libra, visible all night. At opposition, it shines at magnitude +0.0. Saturn's rings are 42.2 seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 21.7 degrees with the northern face showing. Its disc is 18.6 seconds-of-arc across.

Venus rises around 4:15 a.m. in the east. Its disc is 15.2 seconds-of-arc across and is 72% illuminated, becoming fuller every day as it heads toward the far side of the Sun. The Goddess of Love starts the month in southern Pisces moving eastward. It cuts

across a corner of Cetus and reenters Pisces. Venus ends the month just over the border in western Aries.

In 2008 comet 209P LINEAR was discovered here in New Mexico at Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research center on the White Sands Missile Range. This month, 209P LINEAR will be coming back around, passing closest to us on May 29. The Earth will pass through the debris scattered along the orbit of this comet on May 24 between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. Models suggest that we will intercept much material from the comet, so this may be a meteor storm with a radiant in Camelopardalis. So set your alarm to see this event and "keep watching the sky"! ☄

For a larger, printable version of the star map, visit www.desertexposure.com.

An amateur astronomer for more than 40 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.





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Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

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

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

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find

a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up-to-date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o *Desert Exposure*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, or email updates@red-or-green.com.

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

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.*

ALOTTA GELATO, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato, desserts and hot drinks: All day.*

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. Karaoke Fri., live entertainment Sat. Barbecue, steak, pasta, pizza: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only.*

CURIOUS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. Contemporary: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.*

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

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B L.*

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

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

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

JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE, 201 N. Bullard St., 388-1350. Coffeeshop.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D, Mon.-Sun. B L.*

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

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L D.*

LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. "Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft

beers and cocktails: Weds.-Mon. L D.*

MASA Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, (505) 670-8775. Tortillas, tacos, chimichangas, burritos, enchiladas, menudo, tamales and more. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.*

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253. Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tues.-Sat.*

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tues.-Sun. L D.

RED BARN, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. Steakhouse: L D.*

RIVER RANCH MARKET, 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328. Grass-fed meats, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods, to-go soups and stews, cast-iron cooking: Weds.-Sat.*

SABOR, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-2737. Mexican, sandwiches: B L D.

SHEVEK & CO., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. Mediterranean: Fri.-Tues. D.*

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

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat. B L, early D.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 534-9565. Coffeeshop, bakery: Mon.-Fri. B L, early D, Sat. B L only.*

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L.*

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. International eclectic: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. "Sandwiches both cold and grilled, wraps and salads that satisfy in a homey yet sophisticated way. Don't miss the German potato salad." (Dec. 2009) American: Mon.-Fri. L, Sat. B L, Sun. B (to 2 p.m.).*

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

appetizers, salads: L D.*

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeeshop, coffee, homemade pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

FIDENCIO'S TACO SHOP, 1108 Tom Foy Blvd. Mexican: B L D.

LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wed.-Sun. B L D.

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. Mexican and American: Mon.-Fri. B L D.

SPANISH CAFÉ, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.

SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: Sun.-Fri. B L.

Cliff

PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.

Hurley

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. "From Friday Steak Night to everyday American and Mexican food, worth hitting Hwy. 180 for." (December 2011) American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

Lake Roberts

LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. Steaks, sandwiches, American: Thurs.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. brunch and D. Tavern with soups, sandwiches, Scotch eggs: Daily L D.

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday midday D.

Mimbres

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

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. "Popular and unpretentious."

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Table Talk

Breakfast is back on the weekends at **Vicki's Eatery** in downtown Silver City. Vicki's is now serving breakfast on Saturdays, 7-10:30 a.m., followed by lunch from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and breakfast on Sundays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 315 W. Texas, 388-5430.

Billy's will be serving a special buffet all day on Mother's Day, May 11, with brunch from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (\$15) and prime rib from 4-8 p.m. (\$22). Hwy 180E, 388-1367.

Mother's Day brunch at **Café Oso Azul** at Bear Mountain Lodge is 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538

Longtime downtown Silver City coffee spot **Java the Hut**, in the Hub on Bullard, has closed.

Shevek & Co. will be open for the Tour of the Gila, with its regular menu plus a special competitors menu. On Mother's Day, May 11, moms get a complimentary dessert or glass of wine. The restaurant will be serving dinner (reservations recommended) May 23-26 throughout the Blues Festival and Memorial Day weekend. The restaurant will then be closed May 27 through June 5 for renovation and cleaning, re-opening Friday, June 6. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168.

Little Toad Creek in downtown Silver City will host a wine party on May 10, 3-9 p.m. Sample 30 -plus New Mexico wines and listen to live music by Greg, Kevin & Charlie at 4 p.m. 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Up in Lake Roberts, **Little Toad Creek Inn & Tavern** celebrates Mother's Day, May 11, with a gourmet brunch, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Then on Memorial Day, May 26, the "Country Toad" has brunch and an "Extreme Croquet Tournament," Bloody Mary bar and live music starting at 1 p.m. 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649

Mimbres Valley Brewing Co. in Deming has closed its doors.

K-Bob's is now officially open at 1660 S. Valley Dr. in Las Cruces, 525-2525.

Although the **Quiznos** sandwich-shop chain has filed for bankruptcy, the location at 2240 E. Lohman Ave. in Las Cruces will reportedly stay open.

Send restaurant news to updates@red-or-green.com.

tious food, powered by a huge solar system." (April 2014) Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.

3 QUESTIONS COFFEE HOUSE, Hwy. 35, 536-3267. "Consistently good food based on the success of the family's Living Harvest Bakery." (December 2013) Buffet: Tues.-Sat. B L.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY Las Cruces & Mesilla ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911.

American: Mon.-Fri. B L.

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

BLUE AGAVE CAFÉ, 1765 S. Main St. (inside Best Western Mission Inn), 524-8591. Southwestern: B.

BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

BRADLEY D AND WILLIAM B, 2540 El Paseo Road, 652-3871. American comfort food: L D.

CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffeehouse, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.

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

DELICIA'S DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.*

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room." (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *

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

GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Hawaiian appetizers: L D.

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

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

JAPANESE KITCHEN, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.

JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "A delicious change of pace." (October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s." (September 2011) Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.

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

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

LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.*

MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*

MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.

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

MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 120 S. Water St., 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Mon.-Sat.: B L early D. *

NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sun.-Tues., Thurs.-Sat. L D.*

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*

PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*

PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D. *

PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.

ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SAVOY DE MESILLA, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. "If you are adventurous with food and enjoy a fine-dining experience that is genuinely sophisticated, without pretension or snobbishness, you definitely need to check out Savoy de Mesilla." (March 2013) American, Continental: B L D.

THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

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

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. "A showcase for St. Clair wines... rooted in the same attention to detail, insistence on quality and customer-friendly attitude as the winery." (July 2012) Wine tasting,

DINING GUIDE
continued on next page

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Alotta Words about *ALOTTA GELATO*

Don't forget to join the fans of *ALOTTA GELATO* on our Facebook page! You'll find an updated list of flavors, fan photos, a poll (what's your favorite flavor?), comments, upcoming events, and much more!

Hooray! It's May! As always, this month is as chock-full of special events as a cup of our Rocky Road gelato is full of "rocks" (we make it with our Chocolate Hazelnut gelato and toss in lotsa sliced almonds and miniature marshmallows). With the Tour of the Gila bike race (April 30th through May 4th), Mother's Day (May 11th), The Blues Festival (May 23rd through 25th), Memorial Day (May 26th), the Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo (June 4th through June 8th), plus several other items I've probably forgotten, this town will be busy! As usual, we'll be selling our famous limited-edition "Pantani Pink" cherry-chocolate-chip gelato in celebration of the Tour. Stop by and see us—oh, and don't forget to buy a gift certificate for Mother's Day, graduation, or any other occasion you want to make special. They're available in any amount, they don't expire, you can use 'em a little at a time to prolong the pleasure, and we have yet to have anybody return one because it didn't fit.

Now that the days are getting longer, we want to remind you that we're open seven nights a week: we're open 'til 9:00 PM Sunday through Thursday and 'til 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday. Think of us as the perfect place to go after dinner, on a date, after you ditch your date, whatever. We have all kinds of drinks (such as coffee, 20-odd kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles), and we also carry irresistible dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies (try one warm, with a dollop of gelato on top!), Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake! Buy a hand-packed pint or a quart of your favorite flavors and share it with your family, friends and neighbors while you all enjoy the best gelato in the state! Thanks for reading; as a token of our appreciation for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

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of our website for details

- Open for dinner; regular menu available
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Sunday, May 11

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RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Ranch to Table, for Goodness' Sake

Silver City's River Ranch Market offers meat raised in natural, healthy, humane environments.

If you want to eat healthy without leaving meat out of your diet, you are likely to find just what you need at the River Ranch Market in Silver City. Shop owner Ceci McNicholl and her husband, Wendel Hann, have been ranchers for more than 20 years, and have adopted what is known as a holistic grazing system—a system that is, in Ceci's words, "gentle with the land, and beneficial to both the environment and the livestock."

Both Ceci and Wendel have advanced degrees in range management, and they rotate their livestock from pasture to pasture in a mixed "fherd" (a word derived from "flock" and "herd") made up of cattle, sheep and goats grazing simultaneously or in sequence on each stretch of land.

"The different classes of livestock eat different things, and the goats, in particular, keep down the weeds," Ceci explains. "After the bigger animals have grazed through an area, we move in our turkeys. Their role is to scatter the cow pats that would otherwise smother grass and provide a breeding ground for flies and other parasites that can make cows sick."

This system, Ceci says, eliminates the need to use pesticides on the land or treat the animals with antibiotics.

"We started ranching this way because we wanted to raise the cleanest, healthiest beef for ourselves," Ceci says, adding with a chuckle, "It has morphed into something much bigger, however. People began buying meat from us at the ranch—friends, and friends of friends. Then I got the idea that I would have a little store as a way to market our meat."

She opened the River Ranch Market exactly one year ago, and it continues to be a work in progress, expanding in unexpected directions in response to customers' needs and requests.

"Right now, it's evolving into a charcuterie," Ceci says. "We've had a local butcher make up several different kinds of sausages for the store from our own ranch meats, and now we're beginning to make our own sausages and smoke our own hams. We've already started barbecuing chicken pieces and pork ribs on Thursdays and Saturdays for takeout, and that's been very popular."

She uses a variety of different sauces in the barbecuing, including Chipotle Habanero (gluten- and sugar-free), Jalapeño (also gluten- and sugar-free), Spicy Honey (gluten-free), BBQ, and BBQ Serrano.

The woodfire-cooked meats are all priced by the pound, with the organic chicken breasts at \$15.74 per pound, organic chicken leg quarters \$8.95 per pound, organic chicken thighs \$9.94 per pound, and baby back pork ribs \$11.49 per pound. "This sounds expensive, but it's by the pound, not by the piece. You can usually pick up several pieces of the barbecued meat for about \$10," Ceci says.

Other fully cooked meats prepared on-site at the River Ranch Market include pulled brisket for \$18.50 per pound and sliced roast sirloin beef for \$17.76 per pound. This is all Ceci and Wendel's Gila River Ranch grass-fed beef, certified by the American Grass-Fed Association to have been fed on grass from birth to harvesting, with no grain at any time in the animal's life.

"I try to make sure all the meats we carry are



Ceci McNicholl barbecues chicken on Thursdays and Saturdays at the River Ranch Market in Silver City. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

'clean'—free of hormones or antibiotics. So I will only buy meat I haven't raised myself if it comes from a single source—in other words, if one person raises it, feeds it and harvests it, and therefore knows exactly what that animal has been fed and how humanely it has been treated throughout its life," Ceci says.

Though meat is the main focus of the River Ranch Market, and Ceci envisions offering full-service butcher shop custom meat-cutting in the not-too-distant future, you can find an interesting assortment of other healthy products there, as well. There are organic, raw, stone-ground nut butters (cashew, almond and hazelnut) made on-site with no salt or sugar, and available for sale at \$20 per pint. Ceci's organic almond sugar-free scones have become so popular at \$2 each that she's hard-pressed to keep up with demand, and her Pure Bliss Chocolate Pudding is not far behind in growing popularity.

"I've got quite a few people hooked on that pudding," she says, and no wonder. "It's made with fresh cream, rich artisanal chocolate, fresh eggs (duck when available) and very little sugar. I make a batch on Wednesday for sure, and as many times during the rest of the week as necessary to keep up with demand."

Ranch eggs, incidentally, are available at River Ranch Market, fresh daily. "These eggs come from our own chickens, which are fed an all-organic chicken feed imported all the way from Montana," Ceci says.

The eggs may explain why Ceci promptly filled a customer's request for a custom-made vegetarian quiche.

"If I have the ingredients, I'll cook almost anything," Ceci laughs. She has been known to custom-roast an organic chicken on four hours' notice, but you're safest to give her at least 24 hours' notice for a special order like that.

The River Ranch Market is located at 300 S. Bullard in Silver City. It's open Wednesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information or to place a special order, call (575) 597-6328 during store hours.

Send Mimbres freelance writer Peggy Platonos tips for restaurant reviews at platonos@gilanet.com or call (575) 536-2997.

DINING GUIDE continued

bistro: L D.

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek, deli: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*

VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday fish fry.

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

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. "Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

Anthony
ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.
LA COCINITA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-

1468. Mexican: L.

Chapparal

EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

Doña Ana

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

Radium Springs

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

LUNA COUNTY

Deming

ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though

some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tues.-Sun. B L.

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

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: L D.

DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL, 1310 W. Spruce St., 544-2228. "Indian food is offered on a separate menu and you have to ask for that menu. The list of dishes is not very long, but the spices and flavor of the dishes that are offered are authentically Indian." (November 2013) American, Mexican, Indian: B L D, Sun. L buffet.

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

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

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-7340. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

"FORGHEDABOUT" PIZZA & WINGS, 2020 Hatch Hwy. 26, 275-3881. "Direct from New York City, Bob Yacone and his wife, Kim Duncan, have recreated an authentic-style New York pizza parlor on the outskirts of Deming." (June 2013) Italian, pizza, wings: Mon.-Sat. L D, Sun. D.

GOLDEN SUN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese: L D.

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

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

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

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican:

Tues.-Sat. L D.*

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

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

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

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. "Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TOCAYO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

Akela

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

Columbus

PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY

Lordsburg

EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. "Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes

on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

Animas

PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

Rodeo

RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ, 195 HWY. 80, 557-2295. Coffeeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve

ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.

CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County

PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.

SIERRA COUNTY

Hillsboro

BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.

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



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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in May

Plus a look ahead into early June.

MAY THURSDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
AMY COFFMAN—Acoustic folk-rock singer-songwriter. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

BROWN BAG—"Railroads of Southwestern New Mexico, Part III" with Joe Gill. The Santa Fe Railway (Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe) as it enters the New Mexico Territory and makes its way to Silver City. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

RADIO-ACTIVE! THE ART SHOW—Opening and awards ceremony. 5-7 p.m. Common Ground Gallery, 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 4. The region's premier bicycle race. Stage 2: Inner Loop Road Race. Begins at Pinos Altos, 7 miles north of Silver City, ends at Fort Bayard (Men 4, Women 3, 4). 61.3 miles. Or begins and ends at Fort Bayard. 75-76.2 miles. 7:50 a.m. www.tourofthegila.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs, DJ Gary Koverman. 8-10 p.m., beginners' lesson at 7 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

LANDSCAPING TO YOUR MAX—Jeff Anderson, ag agent, DA, NMSU-CES. 6 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St., 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

THE MISANTHROPE—Through May 4. By Moliere. Outraged by false flattery and lies, Alceste declares that he will speak only the truth from now on—no matter what the cost! 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsu-theatre.com/events.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
BODY BEAUTIFUL SHOW—Through May 4. San Vicente Artists. Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Artists Lair, Texas and Market (old Elks).

MEMBERS ONLY SHOW—Grant County Art Guild. See story in Arts Exposure section. Reception. 5:30 p.m. Hearst Church Gallery, Pinos Altos. 590-1587.

STRING BEANS—Americana bluegrass. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

SWNM AUDUBON—Filmmaker and author Priyanka Kumar will talk about the first installment of her New West Trilogy, "Take Wing and Fly Here." 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 12th and Alabama. 388-2386.

THE ARTWORK OF DON JOHNSON—Opening for show through May 31. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mimbres Region Arts Council, 1201 Pope St., 538-2505, info@mimbresarts.org, www.mimbresarts.org.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 4. The region's premier bicycle race. Dan Potts Memorial Tyrone Individual Time Trial. Begins and ends at Tyrone. 16.15 miles. 9:30 a.m. www.tourofthegila.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
3RD ANNUAL MEMBER & ART SHOW



The Misanthrope continues at NMSU through May 4.

CASE—Opening for show through May 30. 6-9 p.m. West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St., 312-9892.

9TH ANNUAL ARTIST GUILD OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO EXHIBITION—Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

A.J. CROCE—7-9:30 p.m. \$25-\$35. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

EXHIBIT OPENING—"Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection {size doesn't matter}." Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

MADONNA INTERNATIONAL PRINT EXCHANGE—Elizabeth Zarur of the NMSU Art History Department will speak on "The Feminine in Religious Iconography of the Southwest," followed by the opening of Madonna International Print Exchange and Sabiduria Ancestral/Ancestral Wisdom by Corina Gabaldón. 4:30 p.m. lecture, 5-7 p.m. opening. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. By Jeffrey Hatcher, this play consists of three comic monologues about revenge, blackmail, money, justice, jealousy and murder set in the Riddle Key Luxury Senior Retirement Living Center and Golf Course. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

THE FACE OF LOVE—Through May 8. Directed by Arie Posin, this film is the story of a widow named Nikki (Annette Bening) who, several years after the loss of her husband, meets a man named Tom (Ed Harris) who looks exactly like her deceased husband. Suddenly, a flood of old feelings rush back to her: she's met the love of her life. Again. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

THE MISANTHROPE—Through May 4. See May 1. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsu-theatre.com/events.

Truth or Consequences
65TH ANNUAL FIESTA—Through May 4. Held annually since 1950, Truth or Consequences comes together to celebrate with a parade, rodeo events, dances, tournaments, games and contests (like the popular junk boat race), and much more. Friday night karaoke at Ralph Edwards Park. Parade downtown on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Free. 740-7542, info@torcfiesta.com.

SATURDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
DOWNTOWN EXPO AND BICYCLE RODEO—Booths, food court, beer and spirits garden, bouncy obstacle course for kids. Live music: Danny Reyes, 11 a.m.; Melanie and Jeff, 1 p.m.; Greenwood Misses, 3 p.m. Next to Morning Star on Bullard St. Bicycle Rodeo for children, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., College Avenue near Gila Hike and Bike. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. www.tourofthegila.com.

GRAND OPENING—Music, food and fun. All local artists and handmade items. Pottery, paintings, hand carved wood and chainsaw carved wood, weaving, photography, fine beaded bags, canes, hammered metal pot racks and hooks. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Gila River Artisans Gallery, 8409 Hwy. 180, Cliff, 535-ARTZ.

GREG AND CHARLIE—Original and cover folk and rock. Free. Yankee Creek Coffee House.

HALF THE ROAD—Documentary about women's cycling, post-film panel discussion with pros and team directors. 7 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center.

HELL TO PAY—Rock, blues, country. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 4. The region's premier bicycle race. Downtown Silver City Criterium. 8 a.m.: Women 3, 4, 12.9 miles (20.8km), 12 laps. 8:45 a.m.: Men 4, 16.2 miles (26.0km): 15 laps. 9:35 a.m.: Master Men B, 16.2 miles (26.0km), 15 laps. 10:25 a.m.: Men 3, 21.6 miles (34.8km), 20 laps. 11:25 a.m.: Master Men A, 21.6 miles (34.8km), 20 laps. 12:30 p.m.: Citizens, varies per age group. 1:30 p.m.: Men 1, 2: 32.4 miles (52.1km): 30 laps. 3 p.m.: Women Pro 1, 2, 27.0 miles (43.5km), 25 laps. 4:15 p.m.: UCI Men: 43.2 miles (69.5km): 40 laps. 8 a.m. www.tourofthegila.com.

TOUR OF THE GILA CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES—Make a license plate for your bike and complete bike coloring sheets and word games. Activities are geared towards crafters eight years and older. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

WESTERN FRONTIER GUN AND CRAFT SHOW—Also May 4. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5, 10 and under free. Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. 430-8681.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
19TH TOUR OF GARDENS—Area north of Las Cruces. Visitors may begin the tour in any garden and proceed in any order. Signs in front of the homes help identify the gardens, which are shown on the map provided on the ticket. Extension Service Master Gardeners will be available in each garden to answer questions. Presented by Mesilla Valley Garden Club

Local Programs + Local Audience + Local Support

Earth Matters
Tuesday & Thursday / 10am & 8pm

Local Flavor
Tuesday - Thursday / 8am

Civil Discourse
periodically

Community Calendar
Daily / Noon & 6pm



Silver City Acoustic
Thursday / 6:15pm

Dan's Special Blend
Monday - Friday / 2pm

The Freak Show
Wednesday / 8pm

Roots & Branches
Saturday / 8am

Thanks to our underwriters! Wentz Electric • Silver City Food Co-op • Annie Lessem & Ski Szymanski • Cissy McAndrew
Tour of the Gila • Silver City Farmers Market • All West Communications
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This is What Community Radio Looks Like!

and Desert Daubers Garden Club. Tickets beginning April 8 at: Ashley Furniture Home Store, Boudreau Jewelers and Gallery, Emerald Isle, Enchanted Gardens, Glen Cutter Gallery, Guzman's Garden Center Color Your World, and from garden club members. On the day of the tour, tickets and information will be available at RTD Hardware, 4501 N. Valley. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7. 521-0521, lctog.org.

ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA—Through May 4. Commemorates the victory of Mexican soldiers over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The fiesta features mariachis, folklorico dancers, flamenco dancers, live music, dancing, games; food, drinks, art and crafts available for purchase. Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116 or 117, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

CLASSICS SIX—Also May 4. Janet Sung, violin. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

DIY MOTHER'S DAY—In this do-it-yourself class, you'll learn how to make your own lip balms and sugar scrubs. 12-1 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. See May 2. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

NMSU BASEBALL—Vs. Utah Valley. 6:05 p.m. NMSU Presley Askew Field, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

SAVING DAMSELS—Blues-rock. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE MISANTHROPE—Through May 4. See May 1. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

ULTIMATE GLADIATOR DASH—Burn Lake, 1855 W. Amador, ultimategladiatorash.com.

VERMICULTURE WORKSHOP—Vermiculture is the process of composting with worms. Learn to recycle kitchen waste and create your own vermicast. Space limited, pre-registration required. 9-11 a.m. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

Columbus
A SWEETER POISON—Through May 4. A two-act play written by the late Timothy McAndrews. The play is directed by John McClure III and produced by Columbus Recovery Theatre Company. 7 p.m. Tumbleweed Theatre. 494-0009.

Deming
CINCO DE MAYO—Parade, vendors, entertainment, soloist contest, queen contest, mariachi contest. Courthouse Park. demingvisitor@gmail.com, DemingVisitorCenter.webs.com.

Truth or Consequences
65TH ANNUAL FIESTA—Through May 4. See May 2. Parade downtown on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Free. 740-7542, info@torcifiesta.com.

SUNDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
FIREKEEPER—Indie rock. 7 p.m. Little



Murderers runs at the Black Box Theatre through May 11.

Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

LIVING LIFE IN BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITY—Talk by Rev. Barbara Besser. 11:30 a.m. Free. New Church of the SW Desert, 1300 Bennet St.

TOUR OF THE GILA—The region's premier bicycle race. Gila Monster Road Race. Begins at Gough Park, ends at Pinos Altos. 68.9-103.2 miles. 7:30 a.m. www.tourofthegila.com.

WESTERN FRONTIER GUN AND CRAFT SHOW—9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5, 10 and under free. Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. 430-8681.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANCESTRAL GOURDWORKS—Through June 27. Gourd artists Karen Phillips and Kathe Stark. Opening reception, talk and demonstration. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA—See May 3. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116 or 117, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

CLASSICS SIX—Janet Sung, violin. 4 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

MESILLA VALLEY CHORALE—"Celebrate Music" with the Mesilla Valley Chorale, directed by Nancy Ritchey. Love songs, spirituals and toe-tappers. Oboist Carl Fels. 3 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. See May 2. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

NMSU BASEBALL—Vs. Utah Valley. 6:05 p.m. NMSU Presley Askew Field, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

THE MISANTHROPE—See May 1. 2 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

Columbus
A SWEETER POISON—See May 3. 2 p.m. Tumbleweed Theatre. 494-0009.
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES: 65TH ANNUAL FIESTA—See May 2. Free. 740-7542, info@torcifiesta.com.

MONDAY
5 Cinco de Mayo

TUESDAY
6 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO—7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago. (505) 620-0377.

TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

THURSDAY
8 Silver City/Grant County
SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO GREEN CHAMBER—Monthly meeting. 5:30-7 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard. (Back room.)

ROLLING STONES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY—Josephine Wooden, "Minerals of Hawaii." Potluck 6 p.m., meeting 6:45 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St., 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder septet. 8-10 p.m., beginners' lesson at 7 p.m. \$7, \$9 non-members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BROOK FAULK—Last in Honky-Tonk Music Series. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BUGS—Dr. Carol Sutherland, entomologist, NMSU-CES. 6 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St., 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

THE HARVEY GIRLS—7 p.m. \$2 donation. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

HISTORY NOTES—Dr. Fumi Arakawa on "Archaeology in the Mesa Verde Region: Ancient Ties Across the Southwest." 1 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. See May 2. 7 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

FRIDAY
9 Silver City/Grant County
ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SALE—Through May 10. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Kate Brown Studio, Mimbres. 536-9935, katebrown@gilnet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

GRAND OPENING—Handwoven tapestries, scarves and handbags by Donna Foley. 3-6 p.m. Four Directions Weaving, 108 W. Yankee St.

SPRING CONCERT—Also May 11. Hi Lo Silvers. Directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on string bass, the chorus will sing old favorites, spirituals and songs from Broadway and film. 7 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING—Through May 15. In Rob Meyer's film, birding sustains a grieving 15-year-old's memories of his dead mother while connecting him to fellow high-school enthusiasts. A set of teens, plus Ben Kingsley, capture an intersection of high-school and natural spheres that highlights New

EVENTS continued on next page



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A Fund Raiser to Benefit Bridge Community

Early Sunday Fundraising Supper

with entertainment by **Byron Trammell**

Sunday, May 18, 2014
at 5:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
314 W. College Ave., Silver City, NM

Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage
\$10 per person donation

For more information , please call 575-538-5754

Bridge Community is a project to bring a continuum of care senior living facility to Silver City.

CELEBRATE WITH US

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 11 at the Country Toad



Gourmet Buffet
10am to 7pm

Reservations Recommended

Buffet features include a prime rib, smoked salmon, baked ham, plum & lavender porkchops, brie & apple stuffed chicken breast, crayfish bisque, a variety of quiches, stratas, coffee cakes, fresh salads, fruit, pastas, decadent desserts, and much more!

\$25 adults, \$12 kids under 12, \$5 kids under 5

Includes all you can eat buffet, non-alcoholic drinks, and dessert.

Call 575-536-9649 for reservations.

Enjoy our fine wines, craft beer & cocktails



Memorial Day Brunch & Extreme Croquet Tournament



at the Country Toad
May 26

Bloody Mary Bar, live music, Brunch Buffet 10-5pm - \$15.95

Outdoor music with award winning bluesman, CW Ayon at 1pm.

Sign up to play croquet or just come watch the fun. Outrageous costumes strongly suggested.

Country Toad
1122 Hwy 35, Mimbres, NM
Junction of Hwy 35 and Hwy 15 near Lake Roberts
575-536-9649 • littletoadcreek.com

The Wine Party

May 10, 3-9pm
at the Downtown Toad

Celebrate our new wine list!

Over 30 New Mexico wines



All wines \$2 for 2 ounce tastes \$14 includes 6 tasters and a cheese, fruit, & bread plate

Live Music at 4pm
Greg and Charlie with friends
Kevin Compton and Roger Metcalf



"Summer Sundays"

starts May 18
at the Downtown Toad

Brunch & Live Music

Brunch Specials 11am-3pm

Eggs & Pork chops with red chile

Beer Battered Chicken Fried Steak with Green Chile Country Gravy

Blue Corn Waffle with Pear Ginger Compote

Noon: Michael Batdorf plays country n' blues "mountain music"

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GILA / MIMBRES COMMUNITY RADIO
A Voice and A Choice for Grant County, NM

Earth Matters

A show about earthly matters that impact us all!

Brought to you by:
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Gila Resources Information Project
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance

**Every Tuesday and Thursday
10 am & 8 pm**
via webstream@www.gmcr.org
Broadcasting on 89.1 FM

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SILVER CITY MUSEUM

May 2014 Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 1—Brown Bag program
Railroads of Southwestern New Mexico, Part III with Joe Gill
12 pm to 1 pm Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Saturday, May 3—Tour of the Gila Children's Activities
2 pm to 3 pm Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Saturday, May 10—Craft Class: Create a Clay Pendant for Mom or Yourself!
10 am to 12 noon at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway
For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required.

Saturday, May 17—Book Signing
Wicked Women of the West, with author Donna Birchell
2 pm at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Sunday, May 18—Grant County Chicano Music Project
Gallery Talk with Patricia Cano
12 noon to 1 pm at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Saturday, May 24—Exhibit Opening for
Gila Wild: A Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act
11 am to 2 pm at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Saturday, May 31—Rodeo Kickoff Downtown
Celebrate Our Western Heritage Booth
9 am to 11 am at the Farmers Market, Downtown Silver City, 7th Street and Bullard Street

Ongoing Exhibits
Parece Que Fue Ayer: The Grant County Chicano Music Project through July 20
Original photos and memorabilia of Chicano musicians
Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert through June 8

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City, NM, call 575-538-5921, or click www.silvercitymuseum.org

THE TO DO LIST

Blooming with fun.

May is the month area events come to full flower, starting with Silver City's **Tour of the Gila**, which continues through May 4. Saturday, May 3, brings bicycle racing downtown, by racers and citizens alike, plus an expo (next to Morning Star on Bullard Street) with booths, food, a beer and spirits garden, fun for kids, and live music by Danny Reyes, Melanie and Jeff, and Greenwood Misses.

Then of course **May 23-25** is the 19th annual **Silver City Blues Festival**. Meet the local performer who'll kick off the program and see the complete schedule in this issue's "More Sounds of Silver City" feature.

That same weekend, **May 24**, the Silver City Museum opens "**Gila Wild**," a new exhibit celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Gila Wilderness and the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Visitors to the exhibit, on view through December, will explore the passage of these events, the



Gene Booth.



Artifacts from "Gila Wild."

land, the people, places and things that have ventured in and out of our neighboring wilderness areas. The exhibit will also have hands-on discovery stations with activities for children and adults outlining the "Leave No Trace" principles. At the opening reception, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Wilderness District Ranger Ray Torres will provide opening remarks and be available to answer questions about the Gila Wilderness. Smokey Bear (a New Mexico native) will also put in an appearance.

In Las Cruces, Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, means the **Southern New Mexico Wine Festival**. Enjoy wine samples from some 20 wineries across the state. Food vendors, arts and craft vendors, live music and an education tent are all part of the fun.

The month wraps up with the **MainStreet Downtown Rodeo Day**, May 31 at the Silver City Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon, to get folks in the mood for the following week's **Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo, June 4-7**. Enjoy cowboy singer Gene Booth ("True Gene-ius," February 2013), cowboy poetry and the coronation of the 2014 Rodeo Queen. 🌵

EVENTS continued

England's serenity and beauty. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. MVFS members free. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. See May 2. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY
10 Silver City/Grant County ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SALE—10 a.m.-5 p.m. Kate Brown Studio, Mimbres. 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

CRAFT CLASS—Create a clay pendant for Mom or yourself. Ages 8 and up, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

FARMERS' MARKET—Opening day. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

HURLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW—Cars, food, music, vendors, raffles and demonstrations.

VACCINATION CLINIC—9 a.m.-noon. High Desert Humane Society, Cougar Way.

WINE PARTY—Sample more than 30 New Mexico wines. Original and cover folk and rock by Greg, Charlie and Kevin, 4-6 p.m. 3-9 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LIVE MUSIC—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

MURDERERS—Through May 11. See May 2. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

NMSU COMMENCEMENT—9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

THE LIZARD AND THE SUN—Family workshop based on the Aztec story of The Lizard and the Sun / La Lagartija y el Sol, as retold by Alma Flor Ada. 12 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

SUNDAY
MOTHER'S DAY
11 Silver City/Grant County SPRING CONCERT—See May 9. Hi Lo Silvers. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian

Church, 1915 N. Swan St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

MURDERERS—See May 2. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$8 Thursday. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

NEW HORIZONS SYMPHONY—With Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola, featuring Daniel Vega-Albela and Jorge Martinez-Rios, founding members of the world-renowned La Catrina Quartet in residence at NMSU. Also on the program are Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor and Mozart's Idomeneo Overture. 3 p.m. Free. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

MONDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County NEW MEXICO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY—Information session on tuition-free, virtual public school for students in grades 4-12. Pre-register at www.NewMexicoConnectionsAcademy.com. 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Holiday Inn Express, 1103 Superior St.

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Monthly meeting. Social hour with a sing-along. 10:30 a.m. \$10 lunch. Glad Tidings Church. 537-3643.

TUESDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County COMMUNITY FORUM—Also May 15. "How to Eat Vegetables from Your Garden Every Day of the Year" presented by Susan Van Auken, an experienced local gardener. Learn five steps that will help you eat your own crisp, delicious and bursting with flavor vegetables throughout the year. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op, 520 N. Bullard, Community Room, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO—7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago. (505) 620-0377.

O & COMPANY—Every Other Tuesday. Bluegrass. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

White Sands

FULL MOON HIKE—Hike the moonlit dunes with a ranger. Reservations required. 7:45 p.m. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

WEDNESDAY

14 Silver City/Grant County ENCAUSTIC WORKSHOP—Also May 17. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$110. Cliffs Studio, 205 Lyon, (520) 522-0251, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

READING ART BOOK CLUB—Book for May is *The Painted Girls* Book does not need to be read beforehand. 2:30 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

THURSDAY

15 Silver City/Grant County NEWCOMERS CLUB—Meeting 11 a.m., luncheon 12 p.m. \$10 lunch. Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.

COMMUNITY FORUM—See May 13. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op, 520 N. Bullard, Community Room, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs, DJ Mike D'Arcy. 8-10 p.m., beginners' lesson at 7 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BLESSING OF THE FIELDS—Historic annual tradition celebrating New Mexico's 3,000 year-old farming heritage. Colorful procession around the museum to bless the animals, orchards and vineyard. The Las Cruces Catholic School Praise Band will be a part of the event, after which the Las Cruces Catholic School Ballet Folklorico Colores de Cristo will perform dances. 10 a.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Energy Wellness Class: ways you can boost your energy throughout the hot summer months. 5-6 p.m. Members free, \$3 non-members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountain-viewmarket.coop.

LUSH & LEAN—Irrigation System Basics. Presenter Ken Futrell, Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Products. 6-8 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St., 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

MISS SHEVAUGHN & YUMA WRAY—Psych-rock. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NMSU BASEBALL—Vs. Chicago State. 6:05 p.m. NMSU Presley Askew Field, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP—7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountain-viewmarket.coop.

FRIDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County CYNICAL BIRD—Americana, pop, rock. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ERNEST & CELESTINE—Through May 22. Directed by Stephane Aubier, this

film was nominated for an Oscar as Best Animated Feature. Girl mouse Celestine draws about an imaginary mouse and bear friendship. Celestine ventures above ground and helps a very hungry bear named Ernest break into a candy shop, an act of generosity that sparks a friendship more wonderful than any Celestine could have imagined. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

NMSU BASEBALL—Vs. Chicago State. 6:05 p.m. NMSU Presley Askew Field, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

SATURDAY
17 Silver City/Grant County
CHARITY HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF
TOURNAMENT—Sponsored by the Silver City Woman's Club. Foursome Scramble. Registration includes: course fee, breakfast, lunch, ditty bag, prizes and cart. 8 a.m. \$75. Silver City Golf Course. 538-5431.

ENCAUSTIC WORKSHOP—10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$110. Cliffs Studio, 205 Lyon, (520) 522-0251, www.dianealdrich-kleiss.com.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

MORGAN BROS. BAND—Blues, rock. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

PUSHING THE LIMITS: NATURE—T. C. Boyle's *When the Killing's Done*. Pushing the Limits is a reading, viewing and discussion program for adults in communities served by rural libraries, made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation. 10 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College, 538-3672.

WICKED WOMEN OF THE WEST—Book signing with author Donna Birchell. Jealous dames and larcenous ladies in the Land of Enchantment are the subject of this book. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

ROLLING STONES FIELD TRIP—8 a.m. Info, 388-2010, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANCESTRAL WISDOM TOUR—Local artist Corina Gabaldón will lead visitors through her exhibit *La Sabiduría Ancestral / Ancestral Wisdom* in a guided tour. 10 a.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountain-viewmarket.coop.

JEWELL'S MAGICAL MYSTERY SHOW—7-9 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

NMSU BASEBALL—Vs. Chicago State. 1:05 p.m. NMSU Presley Askew Field, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

SINGING OUT LAS CRUCES LGBTA CHORUS—Also May 18. Music from the 1980s. 7 p.m. \$10. Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. 522-7119.

STEVE SMITH & HARD ROAD—Featuring Anne Luna. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming
ARTIST STUDIO TOUR—Also May 18. Visit with artists in their studios or collective areas. Details and maps available at Chamber of Commerce and Deming Art Center, 100 S. Gold. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 546-3663.

PLEIN AIR PAINTING DAY—Artists can register at Rockhound visitor center for prize drawings. Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Road SE, and Spring Canyon Park. 546-3663.

MIKE MOUTOUX—New Mexico's "Enchanting Cowboy." Music in the Park. 6-8 p.m. Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Road SE, 546-6182, FriendsOfRockhound.org.

SUNDAY
18 Silver City/Grant County
BRIDGE COMMUNITY EARLY SUNDAY SUPPER—A fund raiser to benefit Bridge Community with entertainment by Byron Trammell. 5 p.m. \$10 donation. First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College Ave. 538-5754.

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—Field trip starting at the Royal John Mine Road at the Mimbres Bridge. Hikers are asked to bring water, lunch, a hat and sunscreen and to wear good hiking shoes. 8 a.m. Free. Meet at south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 388-5192.

GRANT COUNTY CHICANO MUSIC PROJECT—Gallery talk with Patricia Cano. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

silvercitymuseum.org.

MICHAEL BATDORF—Country blues, kicks off "Summer Sundays" brunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., with live music starting at noon. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
PICACHO HILLS ART IN THE GARDEN TOUR—Sponsored by the Artists of Picacho Hills and the Picacho Hills Gardeners. Each of six gardens will have the juried work of three or four artists on display. From Hwy. 70 (Picacho Avenue) take Picacho Hills Drive north. Maps to the various gardens will be available in the commercial area near the bottom of the hill as well as at each garden. Tall red flags mark the gardens. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

SINGING OUT LAS CRUCES LGBTA CHORUS—Music from the 1980s. 2 p.m. \$10. Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. 522-7119.

Deming
ARTIST STUDIO TOUR—See May 17. 12-4 p.m. 546-3663.

TUESDAY
20 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO—7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago. (505) 620 -0377.

WEDNESDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County
AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS—Class size is limited. Call Jerry Friedler 590-0540 to register. 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$15, \$20 non-members. First Presbyterian Church 1915 N. Swan.

THURSDAY
22 Las Cruces / Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Spring ball, formal. Ron Thielman Orchestra. 8 -10 p.m., beginners' lesson at 7 p.m. \$7, \$9 non-members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526 -6504.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Energy Cooking Class. 5-6 p.m. Members free, \$3 non-members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

THE D.A.M.N. UNION—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525 -6752.

USS NEW MEXICO SUBMARINERS—The USS New Mexico (SSN-779) is the Navy's sixth Virginia-class fast-attack nuclear submarine. Come learn about this technologically advanced submarine from some of its own crew. 1 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

FRIDAY
23 Silver City/Grant County
19TH ANNUAL SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL—Through May 25. Kick-Off Dance, featuring Felix Y Los Gatos. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$12. Buffalo Dance Hall. mimbresarts.org/blues-festival-homepage.

ART OPENING—New work by Paul Hodvedt and Zoe Wolfe, with special guests Luis Eduardo Tobon and Juan Pablo Solarte. 5-8 p.m. Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

MARK BOWEN—ART for your yard.

Opening reception. 4:30-7 p.m. Raven's Nest, 106 W. Yankie, 534-9323.

NATURE'S GIFTS—Through May 25. Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild quilt show. Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-1620.

THE ROADRUNNERS—7:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
LE WEEK-END—Through May 29. Directed by Roger Michell, this film stars Jim Broadbent and Lindsay Duncan as a sixtiesomething academic duo who celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary by returning to the site of their honeymoon; Paris proves as romantic as ever, but this trip reveals both the deep bonds and the equally deep fissures in their relationship. 25th patron admitted free and small popcorn is 25 cents for all on May 25. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM—Encounter characters who step out of photographs, paintings and vignettes and learn about New Mexico history. 7-10 p.m. \$3, 10 and under free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

Hillsboro
JEFF SCROGGINS AND COLORADO—7 p.m. \$5 donation. Community Center, Eleanora St., www.blackrange.org.

SATURDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County
19TH ANNUAL SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL—Through May 25. Free performances at Gough Park: 12:15-1:15 p.m.: Iya Khan; 1:45-2:45 p.m.: Blue Monday; 3:15-4:45 p.m.: Memphis P-Tails; 5:15-6:45 p.m.: Studebaker John and the Hawks; 7:15-9 p.m.: Alvin Youngblood Hart and Muscle Theory. At Buffalo Dance Hall: 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Performers Jam, \$12. mimbresarts.org/blues-festival-homepage.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

43RD ANNUAL FT. BAYARD WILDERNESS RUN—5K race on roads and trails; 13K New Mexico State Masters Championship trail run. Race starts near the old Ft. Bayard Hospital. 8 a.m. 574-2902, mrgreendreams@msn.com.

GILA WILD—Through December. Exhibit opening for Gila Wild: A Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Visitors will explore the passage of these events, the land, the people, places and things that have ventured in and out of our neighboring wilderness areas. Ray Torres, district ranger, will provide opening remarks and be available during the opening to answer questions about the Gila Wild-

EVENTS continued
on next page

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Sat 5/3	Saving Damsels (Alb Blues Rock)
Thu 5/8	Brook Faulk (Last Honky-Tonk Music Series)
Sat 5/10	TBA
Thu 5/15	Miss Shevaughn & Yuma Wray (Psych-rock)
Sat 5/17	Steve Smith & Hard Road ft. Anne Luna
Thu 5/22	The D.A.M.N. Union
Sat 5/24	Bourbon Legend & Everett Howl Tour Kickoff
Thu 5/29	Sean Ashby (rock guitar virtuoso from Winnepeg, SK)
Sat 5/31	Lillis Urban (Country off-the-Rez)

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Mesilla Valley
Film Society

MAY

May 2-8	The Face of Love , (92min. In English)
May 9-15	A Birder's Guide to Everythin , (86min. In English) ***Free to Members***
May 16-22	Ernest & Celestine (80min. In English) Oscar nomination, Best Animated Feature Film.
May 23-29	Le Week-End , (93min. In English) 25th Patron Admitted Free & Small Popcorn is 25¢ for all on the 25th day

2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287 Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.
The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

Deming Visitor Center

will be hosting on May 3rd @ Courthouse Park

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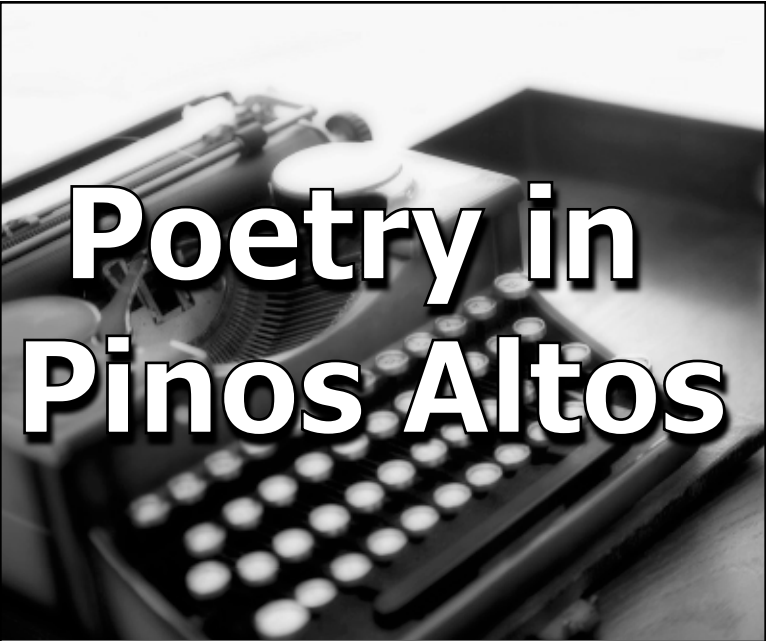
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Open Mic Follows Reading
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May 31, 2014 – Doors Open at 6:30 PM,
Reading Begins at 7:00

Buckhorn Opera House - 32 Main St, Pinos Altos, NM

tumblewordsproject@yahoo.com
Contact Ken at 915-490-6672



Join an interactive discussion about nature and science @ the Silver City Public Library.

Read *When the Killing's Done* by T.C. Boyle!
Videos and discussion on Sat., May 17, 10:00-11:00am.

To sign up, call 575-538-3672 or email ref@silvercitymail.com.

Pushing the Limits is a reading, viewing and discussion program for adults in communities served by rural libraries, made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

the bikeworks

a community bicycle workshop



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ness. Smokey Bear will also be available to greet visitors to the exhibit. The exhibit will remain on view through December. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Jo THOMAS—Modern mosaics, mixed media. Reception. 1-5 p.m. Copper Quail Gallery, 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

LOOSE BLUES BAND—Classic blues, folk, rock and country at the Farmers' Market. 9-11 a.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

STARS-N-PARKS—Mercury and Jupiter low in the southwest, Mars near the meridian, and Saturn in Libra. The Milky Way is on the horizon all around the sky. Scorpius is rising above the horizon by program's end. Presenter: Matt Wilson. 8:50 p.m. \$5 day-use fee or park pass. City of Rocks State Park, 327 Hwy. 61, Faywood. www.astro-npo.org

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BOURBON LEGEND & EVERETT HOWL—Tour kickoff. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—Through May 26. Enjoy wine samples from approximately 20 wineries across the state. Food vendors, arts and craft vendors, live music and education tent. Live music 12-3 p.m. Muddy Hands Blues Band, 3-6 p.m. Latin Funktion. 12-6 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds. snmwinefestival.com.

SUNDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County 19TH ANNUAL SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL—12-1 p.m.: Roy Book Binder; 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Kelley Hunt; 3-4:30 p.m.: The Hazel Miller Band; 5-6:30 p.m.: Mingo Fishtrap. Free. Gough Park. mimbresarts.org/blues-festival-homepage.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—Through May 26. See May 24. Live music 12-3 p.m. Border Avenue, 3-6 p.m. A Thousand Horses. 12-6 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds. snmwinefestival.com.

MONDAY
MEMORIAL DAY
26 Silver City/Grant County MEMORIAL DAY PARTY—Brunch and Extreme Croquet Tournament, Bloody Mary Bar, live music. Outdoor music starts at 1 p.m., featuring award-winning blues performer C.W. Ayon. Sign up to play croquet or just come watch the fun. Outrageous costumes strongly suggested. Little Toad Creek Inn & Tavern, 1122 Hwy. 35, Lake Roberts, 536-9649

Las Cruces/Mesilla
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL—See May 24. Live music 12-3 p.m. Fastlane, 3-6 p.m. Prime. 12-6 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. \$3 discount active-duty military with ID. Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds. snmwinefestival.com.

TUESDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB—Annual Craft Meeting with members bringing and displaying their craft projects. There will be a business meeting after the presentation and refreshments. Visitors are welcome. 1 p.m. Parish Hall, Good Shepherd Church, Texas and 6th St. 388-1705.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO—7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago. (505) 620-0377.

BRAVO BASSOONS—Southwest Bassoon Quartet. Every Other Tuesday. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre,

211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY
29 Silver City/Grant County HEALTH TALK—"What is Chronic Pain? and What You Can Do About It" by Dr. Craig Leicht. 1-2 p.m. Southwest Bone and Joint Institute, 1268 E. 32nd St. 538-4870.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HOPi GOURD RATTLES—A hands-on workshop on the study of material culture through a set of Hopi gourd rattles from the Branigan collection. 1 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

LUSH & LEAN—Noxious Weeds. Dr. Jamshid Ashigh, Weed Specialist, NMSU-CES. 6-8 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Reymond St., 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

SEAN ASHBY—Rock guitar. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County AMAZING ARTHROPODS!—From the Asombro Institute for Science Education. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244.

OPEN HOUSE—Meet Dr. Craig Leicht. Gila Interventional Pain Management, 1302 E. 32nd St.

SATURDAY
31 Silver City/Grant County FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

MAINSTREET DOWNTOWN RODEO DAY—At the Silver City Farmers' Market. Old-time cowboy singer Gene Booth, cowboy poets, coronation of the 2014 Rodeo Queen. Learn about our ranching heritage, courtesy of the Silver City Museum, Copper Cow Belles and the Future Farmers of America. 8 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

POETRY IN PINOS ALTOS—Featuring creative readers from the Tumblewords Project, open mic. 7 p.m. Buckhorn Opera House, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos. (915) 490-6672, tumblewordsproject@yahoo.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
LILLIS URBAN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

MUSICAL POTPOURRI—Members of the cast of *Into the Woods*, which has performances at the Black Box Theatre on July 25-27 and August 1-3, will present selections from Broadway musicals. 8 p.m. \$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—Through June 7. See June 4. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. By Joel Paley and Marvin Laird. Eight-year-old Tina Denmark knows she was born to play Pippi Longstocking, and she will do anything to win the part in her school musical. Anything includes murdering the leading lady! This musical enjoyed a long off-Broadway run that opened with Britney Spears in the leading role. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

SATURDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County 6x6 STUDIO SALE—See June 6. 10 a.m. to 4p.m. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

JUMP INTO SUMMER!—Community fun day. Prizes, food, games, obstacle courses, dancing. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Gough Park. 534-0248.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—See June 4. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ORGANIC AND HOMEMADE PEST CONTROL WORKSHOP—Learn how to deter pests and disease in your garden or farm naturally. Pre-register. 9-11 a.m. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvm Outreach@gmail.com, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

WWE LIVE—WWE Superstars including Randy Orton, Daniel Bryan, The Shield, Kane, the WWE Divas. 7:30 p.m. \$15 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

Deming
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF SCRAMBLE—7:30 a.m. \$55, \$200 team. Rio Mimbres Country Club, 2500 E. Pine St. 543-5060.

SUNDAY
8 Las Cruces / Mesilla RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org. ☼

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or NEW—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.

BEFORE YOU GO:
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.



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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Trooping Along

Tackling Saddlerock Canyon with Boy Scout Troop 930.

You don't need a professional trainer to get good aerobic exercise—just hike with six members of local Boy Scout Troop 930 out in the Saddlerock Canyon area. Recently, on a sunny Saturday morning, I got such a workout. The group included: Kagen Richey, birthday boy Will Kammerer, Steven Cross, Richard Gallegos, Oscar Lopez, Aaron Lopez and Scout Leaders Ryan Cross, Brian Richey and Jamie Lopez, along with a golden retriever named Lego. These “Boy Scout Tenderfoots” were filling a requirement of a one-mile hike for both their Second and First Class awards. The leaders let the boys choose the trail and had them lead the way. With unending energy, they treated every rock outcropping like nature’s jungle gym.

Throughout the morning hike they told me about many Boy Scout activities. Their favorites include cleaning the Big Ditch, camping in Meadow Creek, and spending a week at Camp Wehinahpay near Cloudcroft. At the camp, they can earn badges by learning such things as leatherworking, basket weaving, wood carving, knot tying, Indian lore, compass and map reading, swimming, fishing, rifle, shotgun, first aid, climbing, environmental science and fire building.

They have also assisted the Forest Service with erosion issues by playing a game called “Gold Rush”:



The boys are divided into two teams (Prospectors and Indians) and they have to move rocks from one spot to the erosion area; whoever gets the most rocks over to the erosion area wins. Their most recent such project was last year at the base of Signal Peak.

During our hike, they scampered up a steep incline in moments, while I huffed and puffed, stumbled and fell, sweated and clawed my way to the top (all worth it, my friends, all worth it). I'm proud to say I came home dirtier than on any other hike. I admit I was the last one up to the top; I was not going to be the last one down. How did I accomplish that? I pointed my finger at the troop and told them, “No one goes ahead of me!” Call it “grandma intimidation” if you must; it worked.

Name: Off Trail in Saddlerock Canyon
Distance: Various
Difficulty: 20% hard, 60% moderate, 20% easy

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy. 180 and Hwy. 90 in Silver City, take Hwy. 180 west 12.9 miles to Saddlerock Canyon Road (on the south side of the highway). This road is close to mile marker 100 and is right after Mangus Valley Road. Make a left on Saddlerock Canyon Road. Travel on this dirt road for 1.3 miles, which is where the Gila National Forest sign will be. Soon after the sign, the dirt road divides. Stay to the right. This is Forest Road 810. You know you are correct if you see cattle corrals on your left (a few minutes up the road). At the 2.4-mile mark, park. You are now at the base of Saddle Rock. It is on your left as you look up the road. For this off-trail



hike, you are going to head up the short dirt road to the right. There are many other hiking opportunities here, of varying levels of difficulty.

Hike Description: After a short walk up the dirt road, you'll see a campground. Continue walking up the gap (no trail here) in front of you. It soon becomes very narrow with thick brush. Make your way to the left up the very steep side of the hill. Climb to the top. If you're 12 years old, this will take moments. If your knees are 53 years old, this will take 20 minutes. Once you get to the top, you will enjoy

360-degree views. Continue upward along the ridge and enjoy the many interesting rock formations and views. Spend some time exploring the rocks. Go as long as you dare and then head down the hill to the base of Saddlerock Canyon. Walk along the road back to your vehicle.

After the hike, I asked the boys what they carried in their packs. I got a long list: water, knife and knife sharpener, poncho, snack, first aid kit, cell phone, lighter or matches, and flashlight.

Several also gave me words of advice for my readers: “Think before you do.” “Stay together.”

Interested in learning more about becoming a Boy Scout? Troop Leader Ryan Cross encourages any boy between the ages of 11 and 18 to contact him if they are interested in joining the Boy Scouts. Call him at (575) 538-1694.

“Before joining, you can come and see if you think it's fun and something you'd like to do,” adds scout Will Kammerer.

The reveal of what the “Flying Saucer” from my April 2014 column really is: Russell Ward of the Gila National Forest explains, “The fiberglass dome is actually a water collection and disbursement device called a ‘Wildlife Guzzler’ [pic-



tured below left]. Many were installed in the late 1980s and early 1990s in the Gila National Forest, mostly in remote areas that are extremely dry. Rain or snow hits the fiberglass top and runs down the sides and collects in a tank under the dome. Water is then disbursed to the trough on the side where animals may drink.”

To read more about Linda Ferrara's 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com. See a new collection of her previous 100 Hikes columns at www.desertexposure.com/100hikes.



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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Bare-Faced Truths

A beard grows in New Mexico.

This may come as a surprise to locals familiar with me only as a devilishly handsome, clean-shaven bon vivant and man about town. (Those of you already snickering may leave the room!) Even regular readers who know me only by the inch-high photo at the bottom of my editor’s column—tiny, yes, but dramatically well-coiffed in a silver-haired sort of way and with the clean-cut jaw of, say, a slightly more *mature* Jon Hamm—might have their preconceived notions shattered. But the fact is that for most of my adult life, prior to relocating to the sunny Southwest, I sported a beard.

And now—brace yourselves—I am once again bearded. A bit grayer—way more salt than pepper, you might say—about the chin than the last time I went unshaven, about a dozen years ago, but there it is. A beard. Not one of those “did he just forget to shave?” scruffy patches favored by every male Hollywood star these days, but a man’s man’s beard, the



Don’t be fooled, Trebek! That’s not Sean Connery in the 1990s.

sort of facial hair Brad Pitt no doubt wishes he could grow.

While though my whiskers may mostly be, however, I’m not going for the Santa Claus look. I’ve already dug out

and charged up my beard trimmer from way back when, ready to draw the line before *Miracle on 34th Street* time. No, the goal here is more like Sean Connery in *Medicine Man* or *The Hunt for Red October*. If there’s a cure to be found in the jungle or a Russian sub to be commanded, look no further!

This news will come as a surprise to our daughter, who last got a beard-related shock from me when we visited her on Parents’ Weekend at college and I’d shaved off my beard. That was the first time she’d ever seen my bare chin. Devilishly, I didn’t tell her I’d gone beardless until she showed up at our hotel and saw me. As I recall, she screamed.

Surprise has always been part of my beard saga, which might seem odd given that beards take awhile to grow. (Unless you call that two-day smudge on Brad Pitt’s face a “beard,” that is.) The key is not seeing the person to be surprised for a few weeks once you’ve made the decision to grow a beard. That was the case when, fresh out of college and newly married, I and my bride returned to our hometown for the first time since the wedding. We rang my parents’ doorbell, and I think when they saw me with a beard for the first time Mom and Dad thought twice about letting us in.

My mom in particular may have blamed my wife for turning me into that bearded stranger, but she got over it. Years later, when I visited her after springing the shaving surprise on our daughter, I think my mom kind of missed my beard. She’d gotten used to seeing her boy with one or another of my beard permutations, whether full-face or goatee. (Yes, putting the *devilish* in devilishly handsome.)

My dad no doubt understood: Shaving is a hassle—all too often a bloody hassle. Like me, he was a bleeder, and one little nick from the razor could turn into a multiple-tissue, get the styptic pencil (let me tell you, those sting), *should we go to the emergency room?* drama. He never grew a beard, as far as I know, but it must have been tempting. Why put your face at risk every morning when you don’t have to?

Genetics was a prime reason I first started growing a beard, in fact. I’d begun shaving back in my mid-teens, with a Norelco rotary electric razor I’d gotten for Christmas. (You may recall the TV commercials in which Santa rode such an electric razor like a sled. He obviously did not shave with it, however, which makes the ad seem even odder in retrospect.) My parents no doubt wanted to minimize early-morning trips to the E.R., but the electric really didn’t (sorry) cut it.

Some boys might have been able to pull off a five o’clock shadow look in high school (more accurately a two o’clock shadow, given my beard and the school’s hours). But on me it looked more like a skinny Richard Nixon. Not exactly a “chick magnet” style, and I needed all the help I could get in that department anyway.

I put up with that Nixonian shadow all through high school and college, mostly making do with the electric razor. (Why, I don’t know. My dad of course used a blade—a so-called “safety razor”—and shaving cream applied the old-fashioned way, with a brush. Maybe it was all the blood he spilled with that “safety razor”—accompanied by a soundtrack of cursing—that convinced me the Norelco shaved close enough.) The rare occasions when I went out on a date or with a group of friends that might loosely be construed as date-like, I shaved again before leaving the house at night.

But we had been married only a short time before my wife—who somehow had seen past not only the five o’clock shadow but my wardrobe, gangliness and general absence of suave—suggested I stop shaving. Try growing a beard, she urged. See what it looks like.

The great beard experiment began over a weekend, as I recall, and by the time I went to the office on Monday morning there was already plenty of evidence of what it would look like. (Already I was into surprise mode with my beard, no warning given to boss—fortunately, he had a beard—or co-workers.)

That was the last anyone saw of my chin for the next 20-plus years. I changed jobs, moved from city

to city, became a father. Save for going back and forth from goatee to full beard, my facial hair was the one constant.

Except that my beard started to go gray even faster than the hair on top of my head. I had no illusions about going gray—my dad had been gray-haired since about the time I was born. (Not my fault, honest!) I figured having gray hair was still better than no hair at all. But when my beard started looking, well, *grizzled* and making me appear even older, it was time to contemplate drastic action.

I shaved it off right before going to a lengthy writers’ conference in Hawaii, reasoning that if I hated how I looked there’d be plenty of time to regrow the beard before anybody in my office saw me. I also figured if I got a tan in Hawaii, I didn’t want my chin to miss out.

It was a little over a year later that we picked up stakes for New Mexico. I arrived here clean-shaven and have remained so ever since. I even traded my Braun electric shaver (an upgrade from Santa’s Norelco) for the latest in high-tech, multiple-blade safety razors—a Power Fusion blade that actually vibrates as you shave, thanks to a little battery in the handle. Paired with Trader Joe’s Mango Shave Cream (not tested on animals!), it gave me a smooth-enough face. And my five o’clock shadow hardly showed any more, lacking its former Nixonian hue.

But now that my hair has thoroughly caught up with my graying beard, I got tired of the hassle and the gory nicks in the morning. I got curious, too: What would my beard look like after all these years?

I know it seems odd to grow facial hair just as we’re headed into summer in the Southwest. Isn’t a beard a winter thing? Isn’t it *hot*? Some experts maintain that by shading the face, a beard actually helps keep you cooler. Think of all those furry desert critters—you don’t see coyotes shaving every summer, do you? Besides, I sort of employed my pre-Hawaii reasoning in reverse: If I was going to hide part of my face at some point, why wait and expose it to another sunny Southwest summer?

So here I am, bearded again—no, that’s not a 1990s photo of Sean Connery. Will I keep it? I don’t know, though no, there will *not* be a poll on our Facebook page.

I guess first I’ll have to see how it looks one-inch high. Devilishly handsome enough? Maybe next month. Or maybe I’ll have shaved it off already by then. You know how I love surprises. 🍷

Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell is socking those savings from pricey razor blades and shaving cream right into his 401(k).



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